



DON RUTH (2017)

Don Ruth has been a fixture in the dance, shag, and beach music scene in the Tidewater area for over 25 years in addition to a variety of other forms of dance and music prior to that. A list of Don's dance involvement and DJ accomplishments follows below.

- Don was invited with some classmates to attend a birthday party/dance at Elizabeth Manor Country Club which inspired their mothers to sign the kids up for dance classes at the Mildred Duncan School of Dance.

- 5th Grade ('56): class pushed desks to the wall every Friday afternoon for dancing.
- Every summer for eleven years, his father attended a four-day Masonic ritual school on the VPI campus (a cheap vacation for Don & his mother). Kids old enough to be on their own during the day hung out in a dorm rec room. Don gained instant acceptance by bringing his record player one year, but three girls got tired of him just playing the music. They decided to teach him to dance. They were cute, so he didn't argue. (1957-1958)
- Don joined Portsmouth DeMolay Chapter, attended their two formal dances each year (1959-63). The DeMolay Chapter obtained an old Scout building in 1960 and had a few casual dances using Don's record player again. When they began holding weekly dances, Don served as the first DJ at Chevalier Club. (1961-62)
- He joined staff of VPI student radio station (WUVT) as DJ & Record Librarian. (1964-65)
- Family took lessons and joined Western Branch Cloggers (1980) and Don helped found the Free Spirit Cloggers as dancer & DJ/announcer. Later, he served as DJ/announcer for Dixie Gold Cloggers when his kids joined that group. Then he helped found the East VA Cloggers as a dancer, DJ/announcer and treasurer.
- Joined Boogie on the Bay (BOTB) Shag Club at its first public meeting in 1991. Don served several years as Membership Chair; served on the By-Laws Committee; served one and two-year terms as President; helped represent the club through two law suits and an IRS audit; served as DJ for numerous parties, dinners, dances and bashes. (1991-2016)
- Franklin Shag Club - Member (2013 to present)
- Represented BOTB at several ACSC Workshops (SOS / Fayetteville / Danville / New Bern).
- River City Shag Club - Assisted founding members get club started. Joined the following year.
- Regular attendance at SOS (Since 1992)
- Inducted into the National Boppers Hall of Fame in 2001

Don's record of DJ appearances and commitment to DJ service is impressive, including:

- Lifetime Membership, Association of Beach & Shag Club DJ's (ABSCDJ's)
- Member of National Assn. of R&B DJ's since 2000
- Served as house Beach & Shag DJ at the Holiday Inn Portsmouth for 16 years. (1992-2008)
- DJ @ Georgio's Famous Pizza (NMB) for Jr. Shaggers (1994)
- DJ @ Steppin' Out (Va. Beach) - Shag Nights from 1994 until the club closed on 2009.
- DJ @ Portside for Street Dances sponsored by BOTBSC and VBSC.
- DJ several times for River City Shag Club (RCSC) @ City Meeting Place (Elizabeth City)
- DJ for River City Shag Club Annual Shag Classic (6 years)
- DJ @ Duck's - DJ Throwdown VII (1998)
- DJ @ Club Savoy (Jacksonville, FL) - NBHF Weekend (2002)
- DJ @ Roger's Sports Pub for Boogie on the Bay Shag Club. (2008-2012)
- DJ @ Duck's & O.D. Beach Club for Va. Shag Club Parties (4 years)
- DJ @ Big Woody's Bar & Grill, Sunday Shag Nights. (2013-2015) & Friday Shag Nights. (2016-Present)