



JERRY NICHOLS (2018)

Around 1990, there were only two opportunities each month for people to dance on the Virginia Peninsula, one of which was developed and cultivated by Jerry and his wife, Lana (VSHOF, 2017). They obtained permission from NASA, arranged for instructors (including themselves), arranged for Deejays (also including themselves) and hosted the events at a dance venue located at the Langley NASA Research Center in Hampton, VA.

- Began dancing Country and Western (CW) in 1982 in Yorktown, VA.
- Started teaching in 1984; taught the Two Step, East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing, Waltz, Cha-cha, Hustle, Night Club Two Step; plus all the popular line dances.
- Member of the performing group, "Two-Steppin' Panhandlers"^H (1984-1995)
- Traveled and danced in NC, TN, TX, NY, FL, CO, plus traveled to England to teach CW dance; also judged a British C/W dance competition.
- Taught partner and line dancing on the local TV program "Ramblin Count" at the "Rhinestone Cowboy" nightclub in Newport News in the 1994-1997 timeframe.
- Taught partner and line dancing at the "Banque" in Norfolk in the mid 1990's.
- Instructor for partner dances at three national events for "The Atlantic Seashore Country Western Dance Competition Events" in 1994, 1995, and 1996.
- Deejayed and taught for the Newport News Moose C/W dances (2001-2004).
- Began learning the Carolina Shag dance in 1998, taking lessons at the Heartbreak Alley nightclub in Hampton, Boogie On The Bay Shag Club (BOTB) lessons from Marsha Ruth & Keith Abernathy (later, Tom Edwards), and at the Omni Hotel in Newport News from Cindy Goree (Black) & Larry Black.
- A local recognized current shag dance instructor with wife, Lana, for well over 12 years teaching beginner, beyond beginner, and intermediate shag.
- Taught shag, two-step, & other dances, for the "Two Left Feet" dance studio, Newport News, Va., 2016-2018
- Member of "Boogie on the Bay" (BOTB) Shag Club and "Colonial Shag Club" (CSC) since 2001; Virginia Beach Shag Club 2003-2005.
- Chaired the CSC's "Dance Development" effort for nine years; 2007-2015.
- Provided shag instruction at Yorktown's "Shaggin on the Riverwalk" event for 9 years; 2007-2015.
- Served on the CSC's Board of Directors; 2011 and 2012.
- Currently and for past several years, a member of a team of three on CSC's Venue Search Committee
- Currently (2017) the Vice President of the CSC in Hampton Roads area.
- Past Chair of CSC's Music/DJ Committee, doing the weekly scheduling of CSC's 5 primary & 3 alternate DJs
- Appointed to the 2018 CSC's Nominations/Elections Committee, serving as Committee Chair.
- Co-chaired CSC by-laws committee to rewrite the bylaws and continues service on this committee.
- Provides critical electrical and sound technical expertise for CSC when needed.
- Developed a dance syllabus for beginner shag lessons for Colonial Shag Club; established consistency among CSC instructors; also helped develop a "CSC Shag Manual" in 2015.
- Provided technical expertise for purchase, set-up, and installation of CSC's sound system.

Jerry has always "mixed and mingled", and is still known to this day as being a welcome partner to both the beginner and experienced dancers. He has maintained these qualities throughout his dancing career. He is always on the dance floor and he is known as one of the best "dance leads". Jerry has been instrumental in promoting many types of dancing throughout the Hampton Roads area, and internationally, for over thirty years; and for the last eighteen years more specifically "the shag" and "beach music".

One of Jerry's favorite sayings is; "To Teach is To Learn Twice".