



TOM VARNEY (2006)

Tom Varney, having moved to central Virginia from eastern Kentucky (Hatfield and McCoy area) in the mid-80's, tuned his radio to B103.7 one Sunday afternoon while working in his garage, and was quickly introduced to beach music. He would often share that listening to the live Sunday Afternoon Beach Music Party with Steve "Mr. Beach" Leonard fueled his drive to know more about this dance. It was then he discovered Carolina Shag as an adult, and pursued it with zeal. Tom discovered the dance, as well as authentic R & B music, and jumped in with both feet.

Tom was active in the Richmond Shag Club (RSC) and served on the RSC Board of Directors, as RSC President in 1997 and 1998, and served on numerous committees.

Honing his shag skills as a club competitor, in 1994 Tom and his partner, along with 2 other couples from the RSC, competed in the 1st Team Competition at Club Faces in Dunn, NC, representing the Richmond Shag Club, and they took 1st place. He again competed in the Club Faces Team Competition in 1996 where a 1st place trophy was returned to the Richmond Shag Club.

Tom served as an RSC instructor, and mentor to countless beginners. He became an institution in the central Virginia Shag community and a longtime favored dance partner at club parties and N Myrtle Beach at SOS. He was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in Fall of 2012 while at SOS in North Myrtle Beach, SC..