



## **Fran Reed**

In October 1988, Fran Reed was registered as a Charter Member of the Cape Fear Shag Club. Her selfless work had started years earlier by building a community of shaggers by serving as their teacher, DeeJay and mentor for the Carolina Shag and its music. The club now spans over 33 years of continuous service to community, yet the culture of shaggers that Fran helped pioneer has been a vital source of social and community outreach for decades. Fran's enthusiasm for teaching the dance with precision, grace and poise was her trademark. Her students left Shag Lessons with homework; to practice, and that perfecting the *basic* enabled you to dance with anyone!

Fran's classes were full of fun, steps with repetition, practice and with a rotation of partners. Mirror-steps, steps named for students, like The Double Pam, The Milton, The Lou and The Carolyn, were named for her students as a tribute for her love for them. Soon the beginning of a social calendar and life that had no bounds was opened for many! Lifelong friendships were created, marital unions committed and a family of volunteers joined together by the love of dance, the lifestyle and sheer joy of the music coupled with the hardwood floor. Fran was DeeJay at numerous clubs such as: The Tiki Lounge, Odyssey's, Johnnie Rockets, Boogies, Corvettes, Ramada Inn's Carolina Lounge, Chantilly's and Shanty's at Carolina Beach. Fran also taught private lessons to meet the needs of the shy shagger. She worked with her students where they were in their skill level. She was the teacher of national champions on the Shag circuit. Her innovative talent show, "Puttin on the Hits", lives today and highlights shaggers as they pantomime, sing, act and dance their way into Cape Fear Shag Club History.

As a longtime Chairman of the Social Committee, Fran led the organization and implemented countless Shag Club special events and Shag Dance demonstrations in the streets, to nursing homes and museums. They always boasted great food, intricate decorations and entertainment that transpose time. Reunions of groups, classes and seasonal special occasions are Fran's specialty. Her love of people and her care and concern of others sets her apart in the Shag world. She performed numerous Shag demonstrations with the legendary, Hall of Famer, Chicken Hicks, Cape Fear Shag Club Hall of Famer, and instructor Rodney Grooms and many others. When you think of Cape Fear Shag Club and where most people; to date have learned to shag over the years, you think of Fran Reed, our "Miss Grace".