



## **Johnie Davis**

“Johnie D” has been a “fas dancer” since the age of 15 when he learned steps and moves from his friend’s older sister that later became the SHAG. He frequented many venues (juke joints and beer joints) and met friends with the same taste for music and the dance.

Johnie met Donnie Jones at one of those joints, The Back Alley Lounge, one hot summer night in July 2002 and she introduced him to the Cape Fear Shag Club where he has been a member ever since.

Johnie was elected as President of the Cape Fear Shag Club for two terms and under his guidance the membership grew to more than 260- members, the highest in the history of the Club. Johnie attended many of the Association of Shag Club annual meetings and brought back new ideas to the Club. During his tenure, the Club enjoyed numerous bus trips to other shag clubs, held beach cookouts (where he did most of the cooking), held fundraisers, had yard sales, and put on the now famous “Puttin on The Hits,” which showcased the talents of many of our members and which Johnie emceed. Johnie also chaired and emceed several shag contests at Shanty’s as well as two during the Carolina Beach Music Festival held at the Sea Witch Tiki Bar and Restaurant and a one held at the Lazy Pirate Restaurant. He convinced the owner of the Sea Witch to install a professional lighted dance floor and to allow the door cover charges to go to the contestants as well as the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce. It has been said by many that the Sea Witch contests were the best shag contests ever held in this area. They can still be viewed on YouTube.

Johnie and his wife, Donnie, have been very strong supporters of shagging by representing the Cape Fear Shag Club at many charity venues such as elementary schools, the Wilmington Museum, the NC Battleship and a Shriner’s convention, to name a few. Together they have danced competitively in Wilmington, Carolina Beach, Atlantic Beach, and Ocean Drive. They always give invitations to new friends to visit and join the Cape Fear Shag Club.

A true testament to his dedication to shagging is in 2021 Johnie was inducted into The Living Legends of Dance by the Ocean Drive & Grand Strand Shag Association.

Johnie, as well as being a member of the Cape Fear Shag Club, is a Charter Member of the OD Pavilion Shag and Social Club. His now favorite saying is “the older I get the better I used to be.” His favorite fas dance song is “Going to New York” by Jimmy Reed and his favorite slow song is “Me and Mrs. Jones” by Billy Paul. Just for listening, he enjoys anything by Big Joe Turner.

Johnie brings a lot of “fun” to the Cape Fear Shag Club with his humorous emails, joking personality and fun events, but is remembered by the long-standing members of the club for the hard work and dedication exhibited and, that through consistent efforts, how he helped to grow the membership to the largest in the club’s history to date. If you were not a member during his leadership period, you missed some fun times.