



Rod Hager - 2017

ROD HAGER

Born in Charlotte, NC on July 7, 1966 to Ron and Martha Hager, Rod has been a lifelong resident of Cornelius. In his teens, he began watching his parents and developed a love for the music. At a formative meeting of the Lake Norman Shag Club he met his first partner, Dana Brown Barton. They competed together for several years, winning their first major prize – a trip to London. They were featured dancers in “SHAG the Movie” and taught lessons to junior shaggers at Groucho’s in Charlotte, N.C. In 1988, they won the Non-Professional Division at the National Shag Dance Championships, placing in the top five overall. Rod later partnered with the first female “Keeper of the Dance” Sarah West Kemp and competed professionally. He is a three-time member of the NSDC Dance Team and cofounded and co-choreographed “Eight is Enough” winning the first team competition at the Grand National Dance Championships in Atlanta. He has judged the National Shag Dance Championships and the Grand National Dance Championships multiple times. He is married to his beautiful wife, Nicole, and still lives in Cornelius with their three children, Braxton, Brayden & Blakely, one dog, two cats, and occasionally two raccoons.