

Bud,

I'm not real good at this so I'm just going to write you a letter and tell you the story longhand, you can condense it to make it work for the website.

It was in the fall of 1979 when I broke down in Texas and a Mr. Cryer gave me a job at Gilley's both teaching dance and doing odd jobs. One night while I was waiting for my students I started working on a dance. I had the first 20 step counts done when my students started coming in. That night while I was teaching 2 step my notebook containing the new and as yet unnamed dance and 5 other dances disappeared.

Things got really busy for me and I didn't get back to the dance for a few months. I was invited to a New Year's party in Nashville and flew there with 3 friends; Becky Schofield, Russell Kirpatrick and Russell's date (sorry I don't recall her name). Dinner music was a band playing big band and dinner music, kind of an opening for the headliners who were all country. They were playing a lot of cha-cha music and I started playing with my new dance. Miss Schofield wrote the steps out long hand on a napkin while I was on the floor dancing. If you have ever noticed the Tush Push (not yet named at that time,) feels like 2 different dances. The first 20 steps are very different from the last 20, the cha-cha steps being added months after the beginning was written. I was seated that night beside Jackie Ward, who invited me to come to Memphis and perform the new dance on Dancing USA the dance show he co-hosted with Melanie Greenwood. This was the first time the dance was performed for the public.

Becky wrote the dance down after returning to the hotel and washed the napkin. She returned it to the hotel the next day.

After filming wrapped up on Urban Cowboy, I stopped on my way home in Memphis to perform the dance. Several months later I returned to teach the Tush Push (now named by my students) for the show. Some people then started calling it the Tennessee Tush Push because that is where it was finished and first taught on TV.

I returned to Charleston and during that time was teaching at "The Hollow" (west of the Ashely), "The Lazy B.", "Our Place" and the "Cowboy Club" in Myrtle Beach where Alabama used to play.

I organized a dance group called the Low Country Dancers and we performed all across the southeast from Valentine's Day to the first of November.

In 1985 after finishing the filming of Pale Rider and the North South miniseries I moved to Wichita, Kansas where I met my beautiful wife Martie Green who has been my dance partner, my teaching partner and my soul mate ever since.

I know this rambles but I have faith that you can make sense of it and make it understandable.
Thanks again for everything

Jim

Enc: a few dances written before Tush Push, Santee Shuffle, Shotgun (named after my racehorse), Nevada, Rawhide, Southern Flea, Flying 8 , Rocky Mountain Shuffle,

More to come ... kind of like Johnny Cash's car, this website is being done "one piece at a time"