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"From Such Humble Beginnings"

Written by Chuck Wedge, Founding President

"It's been tried before, you won't make it!" "This town simply will not support it!" "It must be Country & Western or nobody will join!" Yes – we heard it all; the original 12 of us who wanted to share and enjoy our love of ballroom dancing. Hard-headed lot we were – we shrugged off the "Nay-Sayers," scrounged up a portable sound system, and reserved the ballroom at the Radisson Prince Charles Hotel (no less). Then we ordered 12 of their best dinners, put on our finest evening attire, and thought "at least we'll go down in style." Well, to all of those "Nay-Sayers" out there, all I can say is: "Just look at us now!"

From that humble beginning on March 21, 1993, we formed the Ballroom Dance Society of Fayetteville, 12 strong! In less than a year we voted to become a USABDA chapter. At that point we had 59 members and enough money in the treasury to apply. Is that a first?

Of course, a lot happened along the way. I was elected President (not much competition). Our philosophy: "Promote Ballroom Dancing and Keep the Standards High" has never failed us. Our first big event was in September 1993, with a Harvest Ball. Figuring to break even if by some miracle we could sell 40 tickets, imagine our surprise when we had 75 attend and more than doubled our membership overnight.

That is the humble beginning that the Cape Fear Chapter brings to USABDA, and our 100+ members are proud to join.