



# The SURFLINE

The Weekly Newsletter of 94.9 The Surf • WVCO FM  
Official Station of the Society of Stranders • CBMA Hall of Fame Radio Station

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**IN THIS ISSUE:** Ocean Drive Scene & Upcoming Events • This Week's Surf Countdown • DJ Spotlight: DJ Heavy • Band of Oz Reunion Weekend • Song Stories: The Surf's Modern Era All-Time Beach Top 40 (2018)

## Ocean Drive Scene - The Strand is Warming up...

The O.D. Scene continues to percolate.... Shag lessons for learning the basic or some advanced moves from the pros....the club DJs keep the music flowing...and 94.9 The Surf keeps you in the know. Temperatures are climbing back into the sixties, the sun is out, and Ocean Drive is easing back to life. NEEDTOBREATHE made its North Myrtle Beach debut at the Alabama Theatre and JD Cash had a good turnout for his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The clubs are gearing up for what promises to be a big stretch ahead—the Band of Oz Reunion Weekend is a little over a week away (February 27–28), followed by the DJ Throwdown at Fat Harold's in early March. Spring is coming to OD, and you can feel it.

## Upcoming Events

- February 27th and 28th - Band of Oz Reunion Weekend at the Spanish Galleon
- March 5th - 7th - DJ Throwdown at Fat Harold's Beach Club
- March 13th and 14th - Shag Nationals Weekend at the Spanish Galleon
- April 17-26, 2026: S.O.S. Spring Safari – Ten days of beach music, shag dancing, and Ocean Drive nightlife
- Saturday, May 2, 2026: 9th Annual OD Beach Music Festival – Presented by Carolina Outdoor Power Equipment, 94.9 The Surf and the City of North Myrtle Beach - Tickets will go on sale this weekend!

Check out this [daily events calendar](#) for other local events in the NMB area

### Are you in the Surf Text Club?

Text the Word **SURF** to 877-899-2845 and never miss out on Great SURF Events like the OD Beach Music Festival and The Beach Music Cruise.

Have you renewed your CBMA Membership for 2026?  
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# The Surf Countdown - New #1

## Bruno Mars Takes the Crown on the Surf Countdown

*"I Just Might" Climbs to #1 on Valentine's Day,  
Proving the Carolina Coast Has Room for Everyone*

Jay Kinlaw had a Valentine's gift for his listeners on February 14th, and it didn't come wrapped in a box of chocolates. When the host of the Surf 94.9 Beach Music Countdown unveiled this week's chart, a global superstar sat in the seat usually reserved for Carolina royalty. Bruno Mars and his silky new single "I Just Might" had climbed all the way to number one.

Let that sink in for a moment. On a station that lives and breathes the music of the Grand Strand—where North Tower, Jim Quick, and the Swingin' Medallions are household names—a pop megastar topped the chart not because of hype, but because the listeners put him there. That says something important about what Beach Music actually is in 2025, and what it has always been at its best: a feeling, not a formula.

### A Song Built for the Floor

"I Just Might" earns its place honestly. The track sits at a comfortable mid-tempo pace, roughly 115 to 120 beats per minute, and rides a steady, soulful backbeat that practically dares you to stay in your seat. For line dancers, it's a natural fit—the groove locks in and doesn't let go. For Shag dancers, it runs slightly faster than a traditional walking-tempo number, but experienced couples will find plenty of room to settle into a smooth style, letting the rhythm carry them rather than fighting the clock. West Coast Swing devotees will feel right at home with the high-energy pocket the song creates.

### The Chart Runs Deep

What makes this week's countdown worth studying isn't just the song at the top—it's the company it keeps. North Tower holds strong at number two, Jim Quick is right behind at three, and Jackie and Terri Gore's "Unforgettable" sits at four. Drop down to number seven and you'll find the Swingin' Medallions bringing the horns with "Hit Me with Them Horns," a title that doubles as a mission statement. The Tams deliver the soulful harmonies that have defined Carolina dance floors for decades, while Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot remind everyone why the smooth end of the spectrum never goes out of style.

That's the depth chart of a scene that is thriving, not merely surviving. When a Bruno Mars single can coexist at the top alongside artists who have spent their careers playing Myrtle Beach pavilions and Shag club fundraisers, you're looking at a musical ecosystem that knows exactly what it is.

### Your Chart, Your Call

This chart is yours—every number-one record, every bubble song that crashes the Top 20, every surprise appearance by a national act traces back to the listeners who call in, message, and show up. If you've got a favorite grinding its way up the countdown, make your voice heard. In a world of algorithmic playlists and corporate programming, a chart shaped by actual human beings who actually dance to the music is something worth protecting.

Bruno Mars may hold the crown this week. But on the Carolina coast, the real king has always been the crowd.

# THIS WEEK'S SURF COUNTDOWN

February 14th Chart • Presented by Jay Kinlaw on 94.9 The Surf

Rank	Song Title	Artist
1	I Just Might	Bruno Mars
2	Pretty Lady	North Tower
3	Wait For Me	Jim Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette
4	Unforgettable	Jackie and Terri Gore
5	In Her Own Way	The Boogah Brothers
6	At the End of the Day	Rivermist
7	Hit Me with Them Horns	Swingin' Medallions
8	Late Great Heartbreak	Old Dominion
9	Bottle Rockets	Scotty McCreery with Hootie & the Blowfish
10	Every Road	Rick & Lesa
11	My True Love	The Tams
12	Cruisin' Down the Boulevard	Andy & Oneida
13	I'm Going to Make Her Mine	Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot
14	I'm On My Way to a Better Place	Big John Thompson and Jerry West
15	Baby, You're the Melody	Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board
16	Carolina's Home	Jennifer James
17	Patience	Harold Smith with Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot
18	A Juke Box Playing 45's	Too Much Sylvia
19	Pretty Women Everywhere	Craig Woolard
20	God is Great	Pink Slips Band

**BUBBLE SONGS:** Sugar with My Coffee – Steve Cheek • I Don't Understand – MT Jones •  
Carolina's Calling – I-42 Band • Down and Dirty – The Smyle Band  
Vote for next week's countdown at [surfcountdown.com](http://surfcountdown.com)

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## DJ SPOTLIGHT

### DJ Heavy – The Traffic Jam & Southern Soul at 6

Darrell Harris—better known as DJ Heavy—was a Durham, North Carolina radio institution long before he landed at 94.9 The Surf in August 2022. His “Blue Light Basement Party” was a Raleigh-Durham area number-one rated radio show for thirteen years. He toured the country with the Blues Is All Right tour in the late nineties, working alongside Bobby “Blue” Bland, B.B. King, Lenny Williams, Percy Sledge, and Sir Charles Jones. He was the house DJ at the Sheraton near Raleigh-Durham airport, where he met artists passing through town—including, the Rolling Stones, who invited him to hang out in the presidential suite for three days.

The name DJ Heavy? It dates back to when Harris weighed nearly 490 pounds. He’s since undergone major weight-loss surgery and survived a harrowing bout with malabsorption that put him in the hospital for months. He went from a hospital bed to a wheelchair, from a wheelchair to a walker, from a walker to a cane—and then had to do it all over again when he relapsed. Heavy credits his recovery to faith and sheer determination.

His path to the Surf began about twenty years ago over breakfast at Mammy’s Kitchen in Myrtle Beach. The Surf was playing in the restaurant and Heavy thought: “I could work for that station. They play everything that I love.” It didn’t happen right away. Years later, when the station was adding to its lineup, Jim Quick—who had known Heavy for thirty-plus years since legendary shag DJ Big John Ruth introduced them—picked up the phone. Within a week, Heavy had sold his house in Durham and moved to Ocean Drive. His first show debuted August 15, 2022. Today Heavy hosts The Traffic Jam (weekdays 3–6 PM) and Southern Soul at 6 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday). He brings encyclopedic knowledge of R&B, blues, and beach music to every show, mixing songs with stories from his years on the road. His approach is simple: “When I’m on the air, I try to make you feel like you’re in my living room.” And his signature sign-off has followed him from Raleigh to Ocean Drive: “I love you and ain’t a doggone thing you can do about it.”

DJ Heavy is celebrating his birthday at OD Arcade on Sunday, February 22nd, 2026  
No COVER - Everyone is Invited

You can watch [Wayne Troutman’s “Surfside Story” with “DJ Heavy” here](#)

#### CATCH DJ HEAVY ON THE SURF

The Traffic Jam — Mon–Fri, 3 PM–6 PM - Southern Soul at 6 — Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 6 PM–7 PM

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## Band of Oz Reunion Weekend: How It All Began

**It started in 1967 with a bunch of grammar school and junior high kids from Grifton, North Carolina, calling themselves The Avengers** and getting hauled to gigs in Ray Houston's Chevy station wagon. Nobody in the car was old enough to drive. Nearly sixty years later, the band those kids became—the Band of Oz—is a Beach Music Hall of Fame inductee (1997), a North Carolina Music Hall of Fame inductee (2016), and one of the most enduring acts in the genre's history. The core group came out of Rose High School's stage band in Greenville, NC, went full-time in 1976, and never looked back. They recorded their first single, "Shaggin'," in 1978. General Johnson of the Chairmen of the Board co-wrote and produced their breakthrough "Ocean Boulevard," which was voted Beach Music Song of the Year. And their 1995 hit "Shama Lama Ding Dong" became the People's Choice Song of the Year at the Cammys—and remains one of the most requested beach music songs of all time. Through decades of personnel changes, the music kept going. As drummer David Hicks, who joined in 1976 and is still behind the kit, once put it: "I was told 35 or 40 years ago that this beach music thing is going to die out. I said, I'm going to let the market tell me when that happens. And it just never did."

Now the Spanish Galleon is about to host what may be the most significant Band of Oz event in years—a full reunion weekend, February 27–28, and it's nearly sold out. If you haven't locked in your spot yet, time is running out.

Deborah and Andy Hubble are bringing together current and former members of the legendary Band of Oz for a full reunion weekend, February 27–28, at Ocean Drive Resort in North Myrtle Beach. A handful of tickets remain available for what promises to be an unforgettable celebration of one of beach music's most enduring institutions.

The lineup reads like a who's who of Band of Oz history. Saturday night's main event features the current band alongside former members Big John Thompson, Jerry West, Rick Strickland, David Franks, Chris Keaton, and Tim Clark—voices and talents spanning decades of the band's remarkable run.

But the weekend starts strong Friday night with the Special Occasion Band and the Mighty Saints of Soul, plus appearances by Jim Quick, Chad Sain, and Barry Herndon. Saturday afternoon keeps the music flowing with Fantasy Band from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Only a few room packages at Ocean Drive Resort are still available which include accommodations, two T-shirts, and tickets to all events. Visit [OceanDriveResort.com](http://OceanDriveResort.com) for packages

For fans who've been following the Band of Oz across the decades, this reunion is the real deal.

## SONG STORIES

## The Surf's Modern Era All-Time Beach Top 40: A Look Back at July 4th Weekend, 2018

Back over the Fourth of July weekend in 2018, 94.9 The Surf counted down the Modern Era All-Time Beach Top 40—a listener-voted list of the best beach music songs from the contemporary era. It was a snapshot of where the genre stood at that moment, and looking back at it now, it holds up remarkably well.

At number one: King Tyrone & the Graveyard Ramblers with “Mama’s Drinkin’ Liquor Again,” a song that captured the rowdy, fun-loving spirit of the modern beach music scene. Jim Quick and Coastline landed at number two with “Turn Me Over,” and Too Much Sylvia claimed the three spot with “Stepped Right Out of My Dream”—a song that remains a shag floor staple. Mayer Hawthorne’s “The Walk” at number four was an example of how the beach music community has always had an ear for crossover material, adopting songs the mainstream never tagged as beach music.

The list told you a lot about who mattered in modern beach music. Band of Oz appeared three times (“Build Me Up” at #8, “I Can’t Think” at #11, and “Dance to the Radio” at #33). Gary Lowder & Smokin’ Hot showed up three times. Too Much Sylvia had three entries. Jim Quick had two as a solo act and with Coastline. The Entertainers placed twice. These were the workhorses of the genre—the bands putting out new music year after year, keeping the pipeline full.

Then there were the surprises. Rod Stewart’s “Sexual Religion” at #7. Charlie Puth and Meghan Trainor’s “Let’s Marvin Gaye” at #15. Justin Timberlake’s “Can’t Stop the Feeling” at #27. Kelly Clarkson and Vince Gill’s “Don’t Rush” at #28. Lisa Stansfield closing out the list at #40 with “8 3 1.” The shag community has always been selective about which pop and R&B songs it adopts, but once a song gets the stamp of approval on the dance floor, it belongs to beach music forever.

Almost eight years later, many of these songs are still in heavy rotation at The Surf and on shag floors across the Carolinas. Some of these artists—Jim Quick, Gary Lowder, Craig Woolard—are still charting new material on the Surf Countdown. Others, like Ms. Jody (“Still Strokin” at #12), represent the southern soul side of the genre that DJ Heavy champions every afternoon. The Modern Era Top 40 wasn’t just a holiday weekend countdown—it was a time capsule of a genre that keeps reinventing itself while never forgetting where it came from.

*Source: 94.9 The Surf Modern Era All-Time Beach Music Top 4th, July 4th Weekend, 2018*

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