



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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OCEAN DRIVE SCENE

Summer Opens on the Strand

Memorial Day flipped the switch, and now the Strand settles into the long rhythm of the season. Ocean Boulevard is busy day and night, the cottages are full, the shag clubs are running, and the bands are booked from here to Labor Day. The countdown to summer is over. Welcome to June on the Grand Strand.

The week ahead looks the way a Strand summer week is supposed to look. Fat Harold’s LIVE rolls on Wednesday nights with the Surf DJs in the booth alongside the Fat Harold’s crew. Friday afternoon belongs to the Tiki Bar deck at HOTO’s. And Saturday morning, Jay Kinlaw counts down the week’s biggest beach hits at 10. Same sand, same sound, all summer long.

Upcoming Events

- June 4: The Tonez in the OD Horseshoe - Free Concert from 6:30pm to 8:30pm - Support the local businesses (Shop, Eat and Drink) on Main Street and enjoy a great show provided by the City of North Myrtle Beach
- June 19: Fundraiser for the Doug Winsted family at Spanish Galleon at 7:30 p.m. and of OZ, Mighty Saints of Soul, Seating and reservations: Call Julian B. Fowler at 843-617-3433.
- September 18–27, 2026 • SOS Fall Migration — the next ten-night chapter on the Strand.
- November 5–8, 2026 • 32nd Annual CBMA Awards Weekend at the Alabama Theater.
- Daily Events in NMB can be found on the [explorenmb](#) calendar

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?
Support Your Favorites - cammy.org

THIS WEEK'S SURF COUNTDOWN

May 30 Chart • Presented by Jay Kinlaw on 94.9 The Surf

Hey there! It's the last Chart of May 2026 — Jay Kinlaw presented these Top 20 songs on Saturday, May 30th. Were you tuned in?

#	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LW
1	“Pretty Lady”	North Tower	1
2	“Choosin’ Texas”	Ella Langley	2
3	“Wait For Me”	Jim Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette	3
4	“I Tried”	The Tams	4
5	“I Shiver”	Main Event Band	5
6	“Bands on the Beach”	Vaughan Penn	8
7	“Every Road”	Rick & Lesa	6
8	“My True Love”	The Tams	9
9	“In Her Own Way”	The Boogah Brothers	10
10	“Cruisin’ Down the Boulevard”	Andy & Oneida	20
11	“Be Her”	Ella Langley	NE
12	“At the End of the Day”	Rivermist	14
13	“Too Late”	Rick & Lesa	13
14	“Carolina’s Home”	Jennifer James	17
15	“I’m Going to Make Her Mine”	Gary Lowder & Smokin’ Hot	7
16	“Baby, You’re the Melody”	Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board	16
17	“Don’t Turn My Heater Down”	Jim Quick and Gary Brown	NE
18	“Hit Me with Them Horns”	Swingin’ Medallions	18
19	“Forevermore”	Gary Lowder	NE
20	“I’ll Be There”	Too Much Sylvia	11

LW: Last Week • RE: Re-Entry • NE: New Entry • Rate songs for next week at surfc countdown.com

Did you know you can go ahead and rate the songs for June 6th? Do it NOW at surfc countdown.com.

On The Move

Stability ruled the top of the countdown this week — the entire Top 5 sat exactly where it stood last Saturday. North Tower holds at No. 1 with “Pretty Lady” for another week, and Ella Langley’s “Choosin’ Texas,” Jim Quick’s “Wait For Me,” the Tams’ “I Tried” and the Main Event Band’s “I Shiver” are all locked in right behind. The real movement came just underneath: Andy & Oneida posted the leap of the week, vaulting “Cruisin’ Down

the Boulevard” a full ten spots from No. 20 to No. 10 — the only record to break into the top half. Jennifer James climbed three to 14, while Vaughan Penn and Rivermist each edged up two.

Three brand-new entries cracked the Twenty, and a familiar name kept turning up twice. Ella Langley debuts “Be Her” at No. 11, giving her two records in the Top 11. Jim Quick adds “Don’t Turn My Heater Down” with Gary Brown at No. 17 to go with his No. 3. And Gary Lowder enters solo with “Forevermore” at No. 19 — even as his “I’m Going to Make Her Mine” with Smokin’ Hot took the week’s second-hardest tumble, sliding eight to No. 15. The steepest fall belonged to Too Much Sylvia, whose “I’ll Be There” dropped nine to close out the chart at No. 20. With three fresh titles already pushing in from the bottom, there’s plenty of room to move when the June charts open up.

CHART SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

“Pretty Lady” — North Tower — #1

Some records climb the Surf Countdown. This one moved in and changed the locks.

North Tower’s “Pretty Lady” has held the top spot for the better part of half a year — week after week since late 2025, surrendering it only briefly last winter before reclaiming it and settling right back in. On a chart that turns over fast, where a hot single can come and go in three weeks, that kind of reign is almost unheard of. The voters simply will not let go.

Here’s the part most listeners don’t know: “Pretty Lady” isn’t a new song at all. It was written by Skip Prokop and first recorded in 1973 by the Canadian rock-and-jazz-fusion band Lighthouse. More than fifty years later, North Tower heard a shag record hiding inside it — pulled it into the pocket, wrapped it in their trademark four-part harmony and brass, and turned a half-forgotten ’70s radio cut into the most popular beach record in the Carolinas. Produced by Ocean Drive Productions, the track is the perfect blend of classic songcraft and modern beach energy. It’s the oldest trick in the book and the one this music does better than anyone: find a great song and make it belong to the dance floor.

If anybody’s earned the right to pull that off, it’s North Tower. The band started in 1975 as an a cappella vocal quartet formed by friends at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — the name comes from a section of the Old East dormitory where some of them lived — and those tight, intricate harmonies have been the signature ever since. By 1979, with Gary Dennis and Doug Manning at the center, the quartet had grown into a full Beach Top 40 and show band, and within a year they were on the road full-time. For more than four decades they’ve been one of the South’s great party bands — sizzling brass, big vocals, and a live show that’s played everywhere from Carolina beach clubs to New York and Montreal.

The trophy case backs it up. Their original “Paula” won Original Song of the Year at the 1989 Beach Music Awards; “Chasin’ Dreams,” off their 2004 album *It’s About Time*, became a monster #1 beach hit; and the band is enshrined in the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame. Bandleader Larry Dean — keyboards and lead vocals, a Campbell University man who’s anchored the group for some thirty-five years — once summed up the whole North Tower mission in a single line: making great music with great friends.

That’s exactly what “Pretty Lady” sounds like. And as long as the votes keep pouring in, North Tower isn’t going anywhere. Keep it locked on 94.9 The Surf

“Pretty Lady” — North Tower • Written by Skip Prokop • Originally recorded by Lighthouse, 1973 • North Tower single, 2025

CBMA CLASS OF 2026 • VENUE INDUCTEE

The Guard — Winston-Salem, North Carolina

The beach in beach music has never been only the beach. The 2026 Hall of Fame class makes the point with its venue choice: not a club on Ocean Drive, but a room in the Piedmont, a couple of hours from the nearest wave. The Guard, in Winston-Salem, goes into the CBMA Hall of Fame as a reminder that the music and the dance traveled inland — and found a real home when they got there.

An Inland Home for the Music

Through the golden years of the scene, the Guard was one of the rooms that mattered in the Carolina Piedmont. It was a place where the bands the coast loved could play to a packed inland floor, and where Winston-Salem's shaggers built a culture of their own miles from the salt air. The horn-driven, harmony-rich beach bands that filled the clubs on the Strand found the very same welcome up the highway.

And it was more than a place to hear a band. Like the great shag rooms of its era, the Guard was a proving ground for dancers — a floor where the Piedmont's best worked out their steps, where contests were won and lost, and where the dance itself got handed from one generation to the next.

The Floor Outlives the Building

The doors are long closed and the floor is gone, but the music outlives the building. Every time a DJ drops a classic shag side, a little of the Guard is back on its feet. This November the CBMA makes it official: the inland room that helped carry the music takes its place in the Hall of Fame, right alongside the clubs on the coast.

The Guard — Winston-Salem, North Carolina

2026 CBMA Hall of Fame • Venue Inductee • Ceremony November 5–8 at the Alabama Theater

HOF SONG SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

“What Kind of Fool (Do You Think I Am)” — The Tams & Bill Deal & the Rhondells

The 2026 CBMA Hall of Fame song list did something it almost never does — it put one title under two different acts. “What Kind of Fool (Do You Think I Am)” enters the Hall this year credited to both the Tams and Bill Deal & the Rhondells. The story of why is the story of beach music in miniature: one great song, cut twice, six years apart, by two rooms full of people who heard two completely different records in it.

The Tams and the Chart That Disappeared

The Tams cut it first. Ray Whitley wrote it, Joe Pope sang the lead, and the record arrived right at the end of 1963. By rights it should have a clean chart history. It doesn't — and the reason is one of the strangest decisions in the history of the record business. On November 30, 1963, Billboard stopped printing its R&B singles chart and did not bring it back for fourteen months, until the end of January 1965. The Tams' record broke wide open right in the middle of that blackout.

So to see how big it really was, you have to look where the chart kept running. Billboard's rival, Cash Box, never stopped printing its R&B chart — and there the Tams went all the way to the top. On the national pop side the record reached the Top 10. A song that the official Billboard R&B record books show as never charting was, in fact, one of the biggest R&B sides of 1964. It just happened during the months nobody was keeping score.

And it would not quit. The record crossed the Atlantic and became a cornerstone of Britain's Northern Soul scene, where the Tams found a whole second life — their “Hey Girl Don't Bother Me” went all the way to number one on the UK singles chart in 1971, years after its American run had ended.

Bill Deal Flips It Over

Six years later, a Virginia Beach band took the same song and built something entirely different out of it. Bill Deal & the Rhondells heard horns where the Tams heard harmony. Deal sped it up, dropped a hard backbeat under it and a wall of brass on top, and turned a smooth vocal record into a fast, driving shag floor-filler. His version reached the national Top 40 in 1969 — the biggest hit of his career.

It was part of a remarkable run. In 1969 alone, Deal landed three hits built on beach music's own catalog — "May I," "I've Been Hurt," and "What Kind of Fool" — the last two both first recorded by the Tams. Deal never hid where the songs came from. He took the Tams' songbook, added a section of Virginia horns, and rode it from the Carolina clubs all the way to the national stage.

Two Records, One Floor

That is exactly why the CBMA put both names on the same line. Play the Tams' version and the Bill Deal version back to back and you can watch the dancers shift gears — the smooth, easy glide of 1964 giving way to the double-time drive of 1969. Same words, same melody, two completely different nights on the hardwood. Jay Kinlaw, himself a 2026 Hall of Fame inductee, has been known to spin them one after the other just to watch it happen.

*"What Kind of Fool (Do You Think I Am)" — written by Ray Whitley
The Tams, 1963 • Bill Deal & the Rhondells, 1969 • 2026 CBMA Hall of Fame Song*

94.9 THE SURF PROGRAM GUIDE

Live shows 7 days a week from Ocean Drive, the Shag Capital of the World — Listen live at 949thesurf.com

SHOW	HOST	TIME
Morgan In The Morning	Jim Morgan	Mon-Fri, 7-11 AM
Best Day Ever Show	Jim Quick	Mon-Fri, 11 AM-3 PM
The Traffic Jam	DJ Heavy	Mon-Fri, 3-6 PM
Southern Soul at 6	DJ Heavy	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 6PM-7PM
The Surf Countdown	Jay Kinlaw	Sat, 10 AM-12 Noon
Fat Harold's LIVE	Surf DJs join Fat Harold's DJs	Wed, 6-9 PM
A Joyful Noise	Jim Morgan	Sun, 7-10 AM
Swamp Soul	Jim Quick	Fri, 7PM

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