



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

Volume 1, Issue 19 • Wednesday, June 10th, 2026

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OCEAN DRIVE SCENE

Whew!...Even with the Myrtle Beach Country Music Festival fresh in the rearview—and a national TV crew rolling cameras at Lulu's NMB on Friday morning—the Strand never really slows down. Just look at an ordinary midweek along the Boulevard: the music starts at Duplin Winery in the early afternoon and rolls right through to last call at Duck's, with shag lessons at Fat Harold's, beachfront patios, Irish taverns, and amphitheater stages filling in every hour between. And on the radio, there's plenty of new music coming your way, with artists working the studios to get songs out before the CBMA deadline. The lineup above is only a sample—but down here, the stage is always set.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday the 11th - The Swingin’ Medallions are playing in the OD Horsehoe at 6:30pm
- Fridays •the 12th - Join the Surf crew at HOTO’s Tiki Bar, 11 AM–3 PM – It’s a fun time at mid-day.
- **June 19 • A Night for Doug** — benefit for the Winstead family at the Spanish Galleon (Ocean Drive), doors 7:30 PM. Band of Oz and the Mighty Saints of Soul, with Craig Woolard sitting in. For donation information: Julian B. Fowler, 843-617-3433.
- The [Daily Calendar for NMB](#) is posted every morning

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

June 6 Chart • Presented by Jay Kinlaw on 94.9 The Surf

On Saturday, June 6th... Jay Kinlaw presented the Surf Countdown LIVE from the studio in Ocean Drive North Myrtle Beach. A bunch of new bubble songs were introduced. What do you think of the chart this week?

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

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

Bubble Songs

- "A Night with the Boys" — Jebb Mac Band
- "My Heart is Not a Toy" — Gary Lowder & The Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick
- "Just the Way You Are" — Mighty Saints of Soul
- "Something I Want" — Barry Duke

Did you know you can go ahead and rate the songs for June 13th? Do it NOW at surfc countdown.com.

On The Move

North Tower still won't budge. "Pretty Lady" holds at No. 1 for yet another week, with Ella Langley's "Choosin' Texas" locked in right behind at No. 2 — the same one-two we saw last Saturday. The real noise came just underneath. Langley grabbed the week's biggest leap, vaulting "Be Her" a full seven spots from 11 to 4 and giving her two records in the Top 5. Main Event Band's "I Shiver" edged up two into the Top 3, and Too Much Sylvia's "I'll Be There" climbed five from 20 to 15. But the man of the week was Gary Lowder, who moved two records six places each: "I'm Going to Make Her Mine" with the Smokin' Hot Horns jumped from 15 to 9, and "Forevermore" — this week's Chart Spotlight — rose from 19 to 13.

Not everybody moved up this week. Rick & Lesa gave a little ground on both fronts: "Every Road" eased back seven spots from 7 to 14, while "Too Late" slipped three to 16. The Tams reshuffled their pair, "I Tried" settling back four to land at 8 as "My True Love" nudged up to 7, leaving the two stacked back-to-back. And two fresh faces cracked the Twenty: Jim Quick and Gary Brown debut "Don't Turn My Heater Down" at 17, and the Tonez entered at 20 with "NMBSC." With Jim Quick now holding both a Top 5 and a new entry, there's plenty in motion heading into the June 13 chart.

CHART SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

"Forevermore" — Gary Lowder & The Smokin' Hot Horns — #13

A brand-new record doesn't usually climb this fast. This one's in a hurry.

"Forevermore" is barely three weeks old and already knocking on the door of the Top 10. Gary Lowder released it on May 16, and by the May 30 countdown it had debuted at No. 19. One week later it leaped six spots to No. 13 — one of the bigger moves on the June 6 chart. For a new single carrying no nostalgia behind it, that's the kind of start most records never get.

If Lowder's name seems to be everywhere on the Surf Countdown these days, there's a reason. A singer, trumpeter, flugelhorn player, songwriter, producer, and the bandleader of the North Myrtle Beach outfit Gary Lowder & The Smokin' Hot Horns, he has spent the past decade as one of beach music's most decorated performers.

The CBMA trophy case backs up the billing — Song of the Year in 2017 for "Should Have Been Loving You," Male Vocalist of the Year in both 2021 and 2024, and Male Entertainer of the Year in 2024, among others. But the thing that matters most for a record like "Forevermore" isn't a trophy — it's that Lowder keeps writing new ones. At a time when plenty of bands lean on the classics, he's among the few still working to add to the canon rather than simply play it.

"Forevermore" fits that mission. Written by Rickie Fox and produced by Scott Frazier and Rickie Fox, it's a fresh original built for the Carolina floor — smooth, modern, and aimed squarely at the shag crowd rather than the oldies bin. It arrives in the middle of one of the strongest stretches of Lowder's career, and if the first two weeks are any indication, it isn't finished climbing. Keep it locked on 94.9 The Surf.

"Forevermore" — Gary Lowder & The Smokin' Hot Horns • Written by Rickie Fox • Produced by Scott Frazier and Rickie Fox • Released May 16, 2026

BEACH MUSIC FAMILY

A Night for Doug

The Carolina beach music family lost one of its own this spring. Doug Winstead — the trumpeter, vocalist, and do-it-all multi-instrumentalist who over the decades lent his talents to the Fantastic Shakers, the Band of Oz, and a long roll of Carolina bands — was killed in an early-morning crash on I-95 in April. He was 67, a Carolina Beach Music Awards Hall of Famer, and the kind of player who'd pick up whatever instrument the song called for.

Now the community he gave so much to is giving back — and the reason cuts close to the heart. Doug and his wife, **Deanna**, had been caring for both of their elderly mothers. With Doug gone, that responsibility falls to Deanna alone, and this benefit is to help her with the ongoing care of both.

On **Friday, June 19th**, the **Spanish Galleon — Ocean Drive, North Myrtle Beach** hosts a Family “Funraiser” for the Doug Winstead family. **Doors at 7:30 — until**, with two bands on the bill: **The Mighty Saints of Soul** and Doug's own **Band of Oz**.

And there's a special added attraction — **Craig Woolard** will join the fun, and he's bringing his saxophone.

Anything you can give will help. Can't make it to the beach? You can still pitch in.

Want to support the Winstead family? There are lots of ways to give. Call Julian B. Fowler at 843-617-3433 or email LiveCarolinaBeachMusic@gmail.com — he'll walk you through the options.

Let's pack the Galleon, play it loud for Doug, and take care of Deanna the way this family always does.

CBMA CLASS OF 2026 • HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Jerry West

Most Hall of Famers get there on the strength of a hit. Jerry West got there the hard way — one bandstand at a time, for the better part of forty years.

A Beach Music Lifer

The CBMA named West to its 2026 Hall of Fame class during SOS Spring Safari, and the official billing tells the story all by itself: “Jerry West — Sugarcreek/Band of Oz / Cat 5 / Catalinas.” Those names cover a huge stretch of the beach music story, from the late-century heyday through the modern revival. West is that increasingly rare figure in the genre — not the man out front with a single signature record, but the career musician who became an institution, a connective thread running through several of the most important bands the music has produced.

The Sugar Creek Years

Long before the beach music years, West came up in Canton, North Carolina — a small mountain town just up the hill from Asheville. In the 1980s he played with the rock group Sugar Creek, a band many will remember from its run on the national showcase *Star Search*. West was a Sugar Creek songwriter, and several of the band's cuts drew “recommended single” notice from Billboard — early proof that his gift wasn't only for performing other people's songs, but for writing his own.

The Band of Oz Years

Most fans know him best from his long run with Band of Oz, where he served as guitarist and lead vocalist from 1996 to 2019 — interrupted only by a year-and-a-half stint in Nashville, working on a project with Atlantic Records, before he returned to the band. When you picture the band on stage through the 2000s and 2010s,

that's Jerry West's voice and guitar you're hearing — helping carry forward a group that had been a cornerstone of Carolina beach music since its founding in 1967 and its own Hall of Fame induction in 1997.

The recognition kept coming. In 2009 the CBMA named West both Male Vocalist of the Year and Instrumentalist of the Year, and he sang the lead on “Build Me Up,” that year's Song of the Year. When he's off the road, he's still in his home studio, writing.

Cat 5 and Now The Catalinas

Jerry West spent decades with Band of Oz (joining in 1996 and remaining a key member for about 24 years), then helped form and played with Cat 5, a modern variety act stocked with circuit veterans—which for many younger shaggers was their first introduction to a man who had already spent decades shaping the sound. He is now tied to The Catalinas (a group whose roots run back to the 1950s and '60s and whose roster carries real prestige in beach music circles) and officially joined them in early 2025. Being identified with both the Catalinas and Band of Oz puts him in a small fraternity of players who have worked inside two of the genre's pillar institutions.

Many inductees are remembered for a song. Jerry West is remembered for a career. When the 2026 class was announced, the word that kept coming back from musicians and fans alike was “long overdue” — and on a circuit that has always run on its lifers, there may be no higher praise. Welcome to the Hall.

Jerry West — Band of Oz / Cat 5 / The Catalinas • 2026 CBMA Hall of Fame Inductee • Ceremony November 5–8 at the Alabama Theater

HOF SONG SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

“This Old Heart of Mine” — The Isley Brothers

Some records are born for the beach. This one had to find its way there.

A Motown Record, Built to Last

“This Old Heart of Mine (Is Weak for You)” came out on Tamla in January 1966, written by Motown's great Holland–Dozier–Holland team with Sylvia Moy and cut at the company's Studio A in Detroit. The Funk Brothers laid down the track, Mike Terry's baritone saxophone gave it that unmistakable Motown bottom, and Ronald Isley sang one of the finest leads of his early career over the top. The story goes that Brian Holland and Lamont Dozier first had the Supremes in mind for it, then decided the Isleys' pleading delivery was the better fit. They were right: the record reached No. 12 on the pop chart and No. 6 R&B, the biggest hit of the brothers' Motown years.

Why the Shaggers Claimed It

On paper it was a Detroit pop-soul single. On the Carolina coast it became something else entirely. “This Old Heart of Mine” has just about everything a shag floor asks for — a relaxed mid-tempo groove, a clean backbeat, bright horn lines, a romantic lyric, and a vocal that's soulful without ever getting rough. It sits right alongside the Tams, the Drifters, the Impressions, the Temptations, and the Four Tops in the Carolina canon, and it has stayed on beach music radio for the better part of sixty years.

What sets it apart is that nobody built it for this market. Records like “May I,” “I've Been Hurt,” and “What Kind of Fool” were aimed at the shag crowd from the start. “This Old Heart of Mine” became a beach standard the slow way — through decades of radio play, DJ loyalty, and packed shag-club floors that simply refused to let it go.

The Long Life of a Standard

Plenty of Motown sides were hits. Far fewer became standards, and this one belongs to that smaller circle. It crossed the Atlantic and found a second home on Britain's Northern Soul scene, where a 1968 reissue climbed all the way to No. 3 on the UK chart — higher than it ever reached at home. Two decades later Rod Stewart and Ronald Isley cut it again and put it right back on the radio for a whole new generation. Closer to home, it ranks No. 20 on John Hook's Beach Music Top 40 for 1966 — and the proof that it never really left is as fresh as this past Memorial Day, when it turned up at No. 92 on 94.9 The Surf's All-Time Chart, a full sixty years after release. From Hitsville U.S.A. to Ocean Drive, it's exactly the kind of journey that made this music what it is — and exactly why it belongs in the Hall.

"This Old Heart of Mine (Is Weak for You)" — The Isley Brothers • Written by Holland–Dozier–Holland and Sylvia Moy • Tamla, 1966 • 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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A Weekly Publication for 94.9 The Surf • WVCO FM
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