



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 20 • Wednesday, June 17th, 2026

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OCEAN DRIVE SCENE

What a week. Last Thursday night the OD Horseshoe was packed wall to wall — one of the biggest crowds we’ve seen down there in a good while — as the Swingin’ Medallions took the stage and did exactly what they’ve done for sixty summers: they thrilled the crowd from the first downbeat to the last “Double Shot,” and nobody wanted it to end. The party rolled right into Friday, when the Surf Crew set up at HOTO’s Tiki Bar for the midday show and drew a terrific turnout — regulars, first-timers, and a whole lot of folks who just wanted to shake a hand and say thanks. Then Saturday morning Jay Kinlaw counted them down again, with listeners checking in from all over the map (much more on that below). The Myrtle Beach Country Music Festival may be in the rearview, but down here the stage is always set for what’s next.

Upcoming Events

- **Thursday the 18th** — Music on Main Free at the OD Horseshoe True Sol, 6:30-8:30 PM
- **Friday the 19th** — Join the Surf Crew at HOTO’s Tiki Bar, 11 AM–3 PM — a fun time at mid-day.
- **Friday Night 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.
- **July 1** — CBMA 2026 Song Eligibility Deadline.
- 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 13 Chart • Presented by Jay Kinlaw on 94.9 The Surf

On Saturday, June 13th... 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 | "Be Her" | Ella Langley | 4 |
| 4 | "I Shiver" | Main Event Band | 3 |
| 5 | "Wait For Me" | Jim Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette | 5 |
| 6 | "My Heart is Not a Toy" | Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick | NE |
| 7 | "I Tried" | The Tams | 8 |
| 8 | "Cruisin' Down the Boulevard" | Andy & Oneida | 11 |
| 9 | "My True Love" | The Tams | 7 |
| 10 | "In Her Own Way" | The Boogah Brothers | 10 |
| 11 | "Every Road" | Rick & Lesa | 14 |
| 12 | "I'm Going to Make Her Mine" | Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot | 9 |
| 13 | "Bands on the Beach" | Vaughan Penn | 6 |
| 14 | "Carolina's Home" | Jennifer James | 12 |
| 15 | "At the End of the Day" | Rivermist | NE |
| 16 | "Private Number" | The Jesters | NE |
| 17 | "Too Late" | Rick & Lesa | 16 |
| 18 | "Just the Way You Are" | Mighty Saints of Soul | NE |
| 19 | "I'll Be There" | Too Much Sylvia | 15 |
| 20 | "Baby, You're the Melody" | Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board | 19 |

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

Bubble Songs

- "Heaven's Not That Far Away" — Rivermist
- "Jump On It" — Gary Lowder and Rhonda McDaniel
- "Music Makes the World Go Round" — The Holiday Band

Did you know you can go ahead and rate the songs for June 20th? Do it NOW at surfcountdown.com.

On The Move

North Tower holds the top spot for another week — "Pretty Lady" stays at No. 1, with Ella Langley's "Choosin' Texas" right behind at No. 2, the same one-two we had on June 6. Langley keeps climbing underneath it, too: "Be Her" slides up to No. 3, giving her two of the top three. The busiest name on the chart, though, is Gary Lowder. His new duet feature with Jim Quick, "My Heart is Not a Toy," is the week's highest debut, entering at No. 6, while "I'm Going to Make Her Mine" sits at No. 12 — two records in the Twenty for Lowder this week and a Bubble song.

There was real movement up the middle, as well. Andy & Oneida's "Cruisin' Down the Boulevard" and Rick & Lesa's "Every Road" each climbed three spots, to No. 8 and No. 11, and The Tams reshuffled their pair, with "I Tried" at No. 7 and "My True Love" at No. 9. The week also brought a healthy crop of new blood: alongside Lowder's debut, Rivermist's "At the End of the Day" (15), The Jesters' "Private Number" (16) and the Mighty Saints of Soul's "Just the Way You Are" (18) all entered the chart. With four new entries finding room, a few familiar titles eased back to make space — but with Ella Langley and Gary Lowder both running deep, there's plenty in motion heading into the June 20 chart.

CHART SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

"At the End of the Day" — Rivermist — This Week at No. 15

A Fayetteville party band that kept writing its own songs — and just landed another one on the chart.

Five Friends from Fayetteville.

Rivermist came together in July 2014 in Fayetteville, North Carolina — a multi-award-winning variety and party band whose members carry more than two hundred years of combined stage time. Today the lineup is Greg Adair (drums and vocals), Allen Pier (vocals and keyboards), Rick Starling (percussion, keys and vocals), Tony Harrison (bass) and Cliff Bender (lead guitar). Fayetteville/Fort Bragg readers have voted them Best Local Band ten years running, and drummer and bandleader Greg Adair — who checked in from the road during Saturday's countdown — keeps them booked across the Southeast.

More Than a Cover Band.

They tour mostly as a high-energy classic-rock and R&B cover act, but the bigger story is the original music. Rivermist earned the CBMA "Rising Star" award in 2023 and CCMA Vocal Group of the Year honors in 2021, and their single "Right Place Right Time" became a chart-topper and a 2025 CBMA Album- and Video-of-the-Year nominee. Originals like "Beach Life" and "Lady of the Island" have spread across charts and dance floors well beyond home — the mark of a party band that decided to add to the songbook, not just play from it.

Give It a Listen.

Released January 14, 2026 and written by keyboardist Allen Pier, "At the End of the Day" is a heartfelt romantic anthem about sweeping someone away to a place where two hearts can run free. It rides a comfortable mid-tempo groove, layered with the band's signature harmonies and custom keyboards and built on the pop-rock-meets-R&B cadence Carolina dancers love. It debuted at No. 15 on the June 13 chart — and it isn't the only Rivermist record in play this week, with "Heaven's Not That Far Away" sitting right behind it among the bubble songs. Rate it now at surfcountdown.com — and keep it locked on 94.9 The Surf.

"At the End of the Day" — Rivermist • Written by Allen Pier • Released January 14, 2026 • New on the June 13 Surf Countdown at No. 15 • rivermistband.com

LISTENING IN • SATURDAY'S COUNTDOWN

The Countdown is Coast to Coast

Two hours, one little FM signal out of Ocean Drive, a worldwide stream — and a map that just keeps getting bigger. When Jay Kinlaw fired up the June 13 Surf Countdown, the check-ins came rolling in from all over: the Grand Strand and the Carolina coast, sure, but also the North Carolina mountains, the Virginia and Tennessee hills, the Gulf Coast of Florida, the lakes of the Piedmont — and well beyond. Folks tuned in from Canton, Massachusetts (80 degrees and climbing), from Rochester and Ocean City up North, from New Philadelphia, Ohio, from Weatherford and Montgomery, Texas, Athens, and — our favorite long-distance dispatch of the week — from the College World Series in Omaha, where Tim and Cheryl Jenkins had the Surf on between innings.

Closer to home it was the usual loud-and-proud roll call. Wayne checked in from Ocean Drive, Billie from NMB, and crews reported in from Murrells Inlet, Cherry Grove, Garden City, Little River, Carolina Beach, Holden Beach and Surfside. Inland, the signal found Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Salisbury, Shelby, Gaffney, Reidsville, Hamlet, China Grove and Boone — and out on the water, listeners had it cranked on the ICW, the Ashley River, Lake Tillery, Badin Lake, Lake Gaston, the Warrior River, and Buggs Island Lake, where Greg Thrift reported that his wife Wendy had “hooked a nice one” mid-broadcast.

And then there's the color only this audience delivers. Ed Jones wrote in from Eden, “heading your way tomorrow.” Richard Schumpert and Vera made it a date in Knoxville. And Dave McClain summed up the whole spirit of the thing from “orange tree country” in Florida: he plays the Countdown *with the windows open*, he says, so the trees get to boogie — which is, when you think about it, exactly why this music travels the way it does. From Ocean Drive to wherever you are: thanks for listening loud and proud.

BEACH MUSIC FAMILY

A Night for Doug

It's here.

This Friday, June 19, the Carolina beach music family gathers at the Spanish Galleon in Ocean Drive for A Night for Doug — the “Funraiser” benefiting the family of Doug Winstead. The trumpeter and do-it-all multi-instrumentalist (Fantastic Shakers, Band of Oz, and a long roll of Carolina bands) and CBMA Hall of Famer was lost in an early-morning crash on I-95 this April at 67. Doug and his wife, Deanna, had been caring for both of their elderly mothers; with Doug gone, that responsibility now falls to Deanna alone, and every dollar raised goes toward that ongoing care.

New this week, there's a trove of rare auction items on the auction block as well, with proceeds going straight to the cause: among the highlights are a guitar and a drum head both signed by Band of Oz, a one-of-a-kind framed BOZ poster, a drum head signed by two members of Alabama, BOZ-engraved decanters and glassware paired with 10-year Whistle Pig and Eagle Rare bourbon, a handmade T-shirt quilt and BOZ pillow, Fantastic Shakers collectibles, a stack of hard-to-find 45s, and — straight from Deanna — four pairs of Doug's own show shoes.

Doors open at 7:30 PM, with two bands on the bill — The Mighty Saints of Soul and Doug's own Band of Oz — plus a special added attraction: Craig Woolard is sitting in, and he's bringing his saxophone.

Can't make it to the beach? You can still pitch in. To give, call Julian B. Fowler at 843-617-3433 or email LiveCarolinaBeachMusic@gmail.com, and 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

Pat Gwinn

Some Hall of Famers spend their careers on a bandstand. Pat Gwinn spent his behind a microphone — and used it to keep Carolina beach music and classic R&B alive on the air for more than fifty years.

From a Press Box in Union.

Gwinn got his start at WBCU in Union, South Carolina, running the board as a student during college football broadcasts — and before long he was the station's youngest morning host ever. From there he worked his way through a string of regional powerhouses, WSSL, WMYI and WANS among them, and served as morning host and operations manager at WZLI in Toccoa, Georgia. Across half a century, that voice became one of the most familiar in Carolina and Georgia radio.

At The Beach.

In 2001 he launched the show that made his name. “Pat Gwinn At The Beach,” a two-hour weekly celebration of Carolina beach music, soul and classic R&B, has grown from a single local broadcast into a nationally and internationally syndicated program, carried by affiliates across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. He keeps the dial busy beyond the flagship, too, with specialty programs like “Pat Gwinn’s Soul Vault” and the listener-driven “Beach Music Countdown” — and the show has drawn repeated CBMA nominations for Best Syndicated Show along the way.

Telling the Story.

Off the air, Gwinn is still spinning the same yarn. He contributed a chapter — fittingly titled “It’s The Story That Never Ends” — to John “Johnny Redpants” Warren’s UK soul-music book series, sharing a half-century’s worth of perspective on the records he’s built a life around. And he’s taken to the screen as well, producing and directing additional scenes for “Shaggers Have More Fun,” Tim Green’s upcoming documentary on Grand Strand shag culture, drawing on decades of Ocean Drive connections to put figures like Smoking Joe Mayes and Judge Jesse Caldwell III on film. It’s slated to reach theaters in 2026.

Two Halls in One Year.

That long run is being honored thrice in 2026. Along with his recent induction into the South Carolina Entertainment & Music Hall of Fame, Gwinn enters the CBMA Hall of Fame in November, where he joins the Surf’s own Jay Kinlaw and the late Larry Williams in this year’s DJ class — three voices, the CBMA noted, that have shaped how Carolina hears its music. Add a recent Radio Personality of the Year Reader’s Choice Award, and it’s a milestone year for a broadcaster who has spent fifty of them making sure this music never left the air. Welcome to the Hall.

Pat Gwinn — “Pat Gwinn At The Beach” • 50+ years on the air across the Carolinas and Georgia • 2026 CBMA Hall of Fame DJ Inductee • Ceremony November 5–8 at the Alabama Theater

HOF SONG SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

“Ocean Boulevard” — Band of Oz

Some bands chase a beach hit. This one wrote the street it lives on.

A Carolina Original.

By 1982, Band of Oz had already been at it for fifteen years — a bunch of eastern North Carolina kids who’d started out in the mid-1960s and slowly built themselves into a Carolina institution. Their fourth single changed the trajectory. Issued that year as a 45 rpm vinyl single on Surfside Records, “Ocean Boulevard” was written and produced by no less a figure than General Johnson of the Chairmen of the Board, together with

Warren Moise — and it became a cornerstone of the modern Carolina beach music era, the record that would define the band.

The Song of the Year.

“Ocean Boulevard” was voted Beach Music Song of the Year, and the band took home Best New Group honors at the awards show that season. The single opened the door to their first album, “Keep Keepin’ It Up,” and announced a group that would go on to log five-plus decades on the circuit — a run that earned Band of Oz its own CBMA Hall of Fame induction back in 1997.

Why has it lasted? Because it does everything a shag floor asks of a record — an easy mid-tempo glide, a clean backbeat, a warm vocal and a hook built around the one stretch of road every beach-music fan can picture. And the proof that it never left is as recent as this past Memorial Day, when it landed at No. 10 on 94.9 The Surf’s All-Time Top 100 — more than forty years after release, still a request-line staple and a sing-along the second the band counts it off. That a homegrown original could stand shoulder to shoulder with the Motown and soul classics on the Carolina canon is exactly the point — and exactly why it belongs in the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame.

“Ocean Boulevard” — Band of Oz • Written by General Johnson and Warren Moise • Surfside Records 45, 1982 • No. 10 on 94.9 The Surf’s 2026 Memorial Day All-Time Top 100 • 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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98 N. Ocean Blvd., Suite 3-N • North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

949thesurf.com • surfcountdown.com

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Contact Bo at 843-564-2610 or bo@949thesurf.com for questions regarding [The SURFLINE](http://TheSURFLINE.com)