



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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Independence Day is here. With the Fourth of July landing this weekend, Ocean Drive is in full red-white-and-blue swing — flags up and down the strand, the grills already going, and the dance floors filling early. Looking back at last Saturday, Jay Kinlaw counted down the June 27 Surf Countdown while the check-ins poured in from a map that just keeps growing. More on that below — along with a holiday-perfect Hall of Fame song and a band joining the 2026 CBMA Hall of Fame.

Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday the 1st** - DJ Jay Kinlaw joins DJ Jimmy Buffkin 6pm to 9pm at Fat Harold’s - LIVE at Fat Harold’s - Tune in to 949thesurf.com to hear what they hear if you can’t be there.
- **Thursday the 2nd** — Music on Main Free Summer Concerts: The Entertainers, 6:30–8:30 PM – Live at The Horseshoe in Ocean Drive
- **Friday the 3rd** - Surf Crew is LIVE at HOTO’s Tiki Bar from 11 to 3
- **Saturday the 4th** — Independence Day on the Strand — Catch Fireworks from the Pier in Cherry Grove
- The [Daily Calendar for NMB Live Music and Events](#) is posted every morning.

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
In Southern Soul at 6	DJ Heavy	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 6–7 PM
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, 7 PM

Looking to buy a New Boat?
[Get a Grady White from Atlantic Marine](#)

THIS WEEK'S SURF COUNTDOWN

June 27 Chart • Presented by Jay Kinlaw on 94.9 The Surf

On Saturday, June 27th, Jay Kinlaw presented the Surf Countdown LIVE from the studio in Ocean Drive, North Myrtle Beach. With the Fourth of July weekend rolling in, the chart had plenty in play. What do you think of this week's chart?

#	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LW
1	"My Heart is not a Toy"	Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick	2
2	"I Shiver"	Main Event Band	1
3	"Wait For Me"	Jim Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette	4
4	"Pretty Lady"	North Tower	3
5	"I'll Be There"	Too Much Sylvia	19
6	"Choosin' Texas"	Ella Langley	5
7	"I Tried"	The Tams	7
8	"I'm Going to Make Her Mine"	Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot	9
9	"Be Her"	Ella Langley	6
10	"Just the Way You Are"	Mighty Saints of Soul	10
11	"Bands on the Beach"	Vaughan Penn	12
12	"At the End of the Day"	Rivermist	20
13	"Heaven's Not That Far Away"	Rivermist	NE
14	"Baby, You're the Melody"	Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board	RE
15	"Suspicious Minds"	Jennifer James and Brad Cox	13
16	"Too Late"	Rick & Lesa	18
17	"Every Road"	Rick & Lesa	15
18	"Be Thankful For What You Got"	The Magnificents	RE
19	"Just Love"	R. Mark Black	NE
20	"NMBSC"	the Tonez	RE

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

Bubble Songs:

"Wherever There's Summer" – Marsha Morgan • "Soul Full of Sunshine" – Gary Alexander • "Love is Blind" – Phil 'Doc' Wilson

Did you know you can go ahead and rate the songs for July 4th?

Do it NOW at surfcountdown.com

On The Move

Second Saturday running, second new name at the top. A week after Main Event Band climbed to #1 for the first time with "I Shiver," the voters handed the crown to Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick — "My Heart is not a Toy" edged up from #2 to claim the top spot. "I Shiver" didn't go far, slipping just one notch to #2, but the message from surfcountdown.com is clear: this race is wide open. Jim Quick had himself quite a Saturday, too — beyond sharing the new #1, his own "Wait For Me" with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette moved up to #3, giving the Best Day Ever host two of the chart's top three.

The biggest leap of the week belongs to Too Much Sylvia, whose “I’ll Be There” rocketed fourteen spots from #19 all the way to #5 — the kind of surge that turns a bubbling-under title into a top-five record overnight. Right behind it, Rivermist had a week to remember: “At the End of the Day” jumped eight places from #20 to #12, and the band landed a second song at the same time — “Heaven’s Not That Far Away” debuts as a new entry at #13, putting Rivermist back-to-back in the heart of the countdown.

There was plenty of fresh blood lower down. Two titles entered new — Rivermist’s debut at #13 and R. Mark Black flying solo at #19 with “Just Love,” his second appearance on this week’s chart. Three more came roaring back: Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board with “Baby, You’re the Melody” at #14, The Magnificents’ “Be Thankful For What You Got” at #18, and the Tonez at #20 with “NMBSC” — re-entering the very night they were headed to Mt. Pleasant. The Tams held firm at #7 with “I Tried” — no surprise, with listeners checking in on their way to see them in Locust — and the Mighty Saints of Soul stayed put at #10.

Gary Lowder & Smokin’ Hot now has two in the Top 10, with “I’m Going to Make Her Mine” ticking up to #8. Add five new and returning songs crowding the bottom half, and the back end of this chart is anybody’s game heading into the Fourth. Rate your favorites now at surfcountdown.com.

CHART SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG “Suspicious Minds” — Jennifer James & Brad Cox

A Memphis landmark gets a fresh Carolina duet — and a warm beach-music welcome in its second week on the chart.

A King-Sized Pedigree.

Few songs carry the weight this one does. “Suspicious Minds” came from the pen of Memphis songwriter Mark James — whose catalog also includes “Hooked on a Feeling” and “Always on My Mind” — who first cut it himself in 1968 before Elvis Presley made it a landmark a year later. Recorded during Presley’s celebrated 1969 Memphis sessions, it climbed to the top of the pop chart and became the last No. 1 of his career. Look at the writer’s credit on this brand-new release and you’ll find that very same name: Mark James.

A New Carolina Cut.

Now Jennifer James and Brad Cox have brought it to the beach. Released May 20 on the Sago Music Group label and produced by Cox, their version reframes a record built on push-and-pull tension as a male-female duet — a natural fit for a song about two people tangled between suspicion and devotion, neither quite able to walk away. It is a smart way to take one of the most recognizable titles in American pop and make it feel new again.

Made for the Floor.

Carolina audiences have always had a soft spot for a soulful cover of a classic, and this one arrives with instant name recognition and a groove to match. The give-and-take between two voices keeps it moving, and the familiar melody means dancers know it the moment it drops — exactly the kind of record that finds a home on the shag floor.

On the Surf Chart.

The voters welcomed it right away. “Suspicious Minds” sits at No. 15 on the June 27 chart in its second week on the countdown — a solid early showing for a brand-new release, and one of several covers giving the current Top 20 its mix of classics and originals. Like where it lands? Keep it in the running — rate it now at surfcountdown.com.

“Suspicious Minds” — Jennifer James & Brad Cox • Sago Music Group, 2026 • Written by Mark James • Produced by Brad Cox • Released May 20, 2026 • #15 on the June 27 Surf Countdown

Have you renewed your CBMA Membership for 2026?

Support Your Favorites — cammy.org

LISTENING IN • SATURDAY'S COUNTDOWN - Coast to Coast

Two hours, one little FM signal out of Ocean Drive, a worldwide stream — and a map that, week after week, refuses to shrink. When Jay Kinlaw counted down the June 27 Surf Countdown, the check-ins rolled in from every direction. The Grand Strand and the Carolina coast led the way, but the signal carried a long way past it: Bob and Rosemary Kinnecom tuned in from Martha's Vineyard, Bill and Barb Boehly from Rochester, New York, Cindy Miller from Ocean City, New Jersey, and Mike Baysden from Lake Sunapee, New Hampshire. Jane McEwan listened from a rainy New Philadelphia, Ohio, Mary Kay Meents from Watseka, Illinois, and Tony and Sue Choy from back home in Palmerton, Pennsylvania after ten days in NMB. Out west, the Countdown reached Chris Bumgarner in Weatherford and Naomi Hollingsworth in Montgomery, Texas — and, as ever, Randy and Debbie Kinsolving had it loud and proud in Vienna, West Virginia. Through it all, two names were on a lot of hearts: Mack and Carol Barnhill and Greg Thrift were among many sending prayers for Guy Brooks, who will be missed across this whole family.

Closer to home it was the usual loud-and-proud roll call. The Surf crowd reported in from Cherry Grove, Ocean Drive, Garden City, Little River, Surfside and Myrtle Beach, and from a long string of inland towns — Reidsville, Madison, Martinsville, Mocksville, China Grove, Eden, Asheville, Shelby, Gaffney, and on down to Charleston and Lugoff. Out on the water, folks had it cranked at Lake Tillery, Badin Lake, Lake Murray, Buggs Island Lake and the Warrior River, while Karen Tolbert sent the vibe from the sand at Springmaid, Joy and Dean Bocks from Polly's Landing, and the Hucks & Washington crew from Conway Riverfest. There was plenty to celebrate, too: the Tonez popped back onto the chart and headed for Mt. Pleasant that night, Charlie Sattenfield checked in from Lake Tillery on his way to see the Tams in Locust, and Robert Stone's lovely Lori was getting ready to sing in the NMB All City Choir patriotic concert — with a big happy 40th anniversary going out to Lesa and Curtis Hudson. From Ocean Drive to wherever you are: thanks for listening loud and proud.

CBMA CLASS OF 2026 • HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE THE SAND BAND

Some bands chase the next thing. The Sand Band just keeps doing the thing that works — Carolina beach music with a whole lotta soul, played all over the Sandhills and the coast for crowds that come to dance.

Out of the Sandhills.

Formed about twenty years ago in Pinehurst, North Carolina, The Sand Band built its name the old-fashioned way — on the bandstand. A true variety-and-dance outfit, the group moves easily from Carolina beach and shag to Motown, rhythm and blues, and the dance hits of the 1970s and '80s — and it carries a handful of original songs of its own. "There's something for everyone," says keyboardist and vocalist David Kellis, who credits the band's tight harmonies and hand-picked, crowd-pleasing set lists.

The Lineup.

The band runs seven deep: David Kellis on keys and vocals, Daryle Lemonds and Steve Lapping on guitars, Rick Martin on bass, Henry Baldwin on vocals, Don Ennis on saxophone, and Tim Short on drums — most of them singing, which is where those signature harmonies come from. There's beach-music royalty in the family, too: guitarist Daryle Lemonds is married to acclaimed vocalist Terri Gore — the "Original Carolina Girl" and daughter of Embers great Jackie Gore — who frequently appears with the band.

A Surf No. 1.

Surf listeners have known them for a while. The band's "Missing You" spent 14 weeks at No. 1 on the 94.9 The Surf Top 40 and finished 2011 as the No. 2 song of the year — the kind of staying power that turns a working band into a chart fixture. More recently, their 2023 reading of the Sam Cooke classic "I'll Come Running Back to You" became another Carolina radio favorite, lingering on the beach-music charts long after its release.

Good Company.

They have kept good company, too. Over the years The Sand Band has shared stages with — and backed — an impressive roll of soul, R&B and country names: Percy Sledge, William Bell, Jerry Butler, Delbert McClinton, the Drifters' own Bill Pinkney, and Alabama co-founder Jeff Cook, among many others. Not every group can step in as the backing band for artists like those; this one has, time and again.

Into the Hall.

Along the way the CBMA has recognized the group with nominations including New Band of the Year and Ballad of the Year. This November, The Sand Band joins the 2026 Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame — recognition for a band that has spent years putting decades of musicianship behind a Carolina groove built for the floor. Welcome to the Hall. The induction ceremony will be held November 5-8 during the 32nd Annual CBMA weekend. Get your tickets now.

The Sand Band — Pinehurst, NC • Carolina Beach, Shag, Motown & Soul • “Missing You” — 14 weeks at No. 1 on 94.9 The Surf • 2026 CBMA Hall of Fame Inductee

HOF SONG SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

“Under the Boardwalk” — The Drifters

The greatest summer-at-the-beach record ever made — and a perfect Fourth of July spin.

Born of Heartbreak.

Few songs sound this much like summer, and fewer still were born under such a cloud. The Drifters recorded “Under the Boardwalk” in New York on May 21, 1964 — one day after the group’s lead singer, Rudy Lewis, was found dead. With the session already booked, Johnny Moore stepped to the microphone and sang lead, and the result was one of the most beloved records of the era: a warm, bittersweet daydream of sun, sand and a girl, out under the boardwalk.

A Lasting Classic.

Written by Kenny Young and Arthur Resnick, the single climbed to No. 4 on the pop chart and never really left the air. For Carolina audiences it became something more — a cornerstone of the beach-music canon and a standard on every shag floor from Ocean Drive on down. The Drifters’ Carolina ties run deep: Bill Pinkney and the Original Drifters were among the very first names enshrined when the CBMA Hall of Fame began in 1995.

Everybody’s Song.

Part of what makes a record timeless is how many other artists keep reaching for it — and few have been covered as widely as this one. The soul duo Sam & Dave cut a version in 1974, Rickie Lee Jones gave it a loose, jazzy turn in 1983, and John Cougar Mellencamp put a heartland spin on it in 1986. The next year, actor Bruce Willis scored a surprise hit with his own rendition; Lynn Anderson carried it to the countryside in 1988; and Bette Midler added it to her catalog in 1989 as well — proof that the boardwalk never really closes.

First Class.

When the CBMA added a Songs category to the Hall of Fame in 2022, “Under the Boardwalk” was in the inaugural group — taking its place alongside “My Girl,” “Sixty Minute Man,” “Carolina Girls” and “Ms. Grace.” And there may be no better record for the Fourth of July weekend: pure boardwalk, pure summer, pure beach. Keep it locked on 94.9 The Surf.

“Under the Boardwalk” — The Drifters • Atlantic Records, 1964 • Written by Kenny Young & Arthur Resnick • No. 4 pop hit • 2022 CBMA Hall of Fame Song (inaugural class)

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