



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

Think the beach goes quiet once the weekend crowd heads home? Take [tonight Wednesday July 15th](#) — a night when most towns are dark, there are better than thirty five ways to spend your evening on the Strand, from Duplin Winery at lunchtime to a live band closing out Duck's at 9. Live music on a dozen decks, bingo, trivia, and yes — Local's Night at Fat Harold's, because it wouldn't be North Myrtle without them...

Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday the 15th** – Wednesday Nights Done Right at Fat Harold's, 6 – 9 PM. Join Us for all the fun - It is Local's Night All Night on Wednesdays
- **Thursday the 16th** — Music on Main Free Summer Concerts: Cassette Rewind, 6:30–8:30 PM
- **Friday the 17th** - Live from the HOTO's Tiki Bar 11 to 3 - Grab Lunch, a cold drink and hang out with your friends at the Surf while listening to the best music in the world.
- The [Daily Calendar for NMB](#) is posted every morning

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

Do you know someone looking to buy a new boat? [Atlantic Marine](#)

THIS WEEK'S SURF COUNTDOWN

July 11 Chart • Presented by Jay Kinlaw on 94.9 The Surf

#	SONG TITLE	ARTIST	LW
1	My Heart is not a Toy	Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick	1
2	Wait For Me	Jim Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette	2
3	Choosin' Texas	Ella Langley	5
4	Pretty Lady	North Tower	3
5	Be Her	Ella Langley	7
6	I Tried	The Tams	4
7	I Shiver	Main Event Band	9
8	At the End of the Day	Rivermist	14
9	Every Road	Rick & Lesa	13
10	Bands on the Beach	Vaughan Penn	6
11	Too Late	Rick & Lesa	RE
12	I'll Be There	Too Much Sylvia	10
13	Music Makes the World Go Round	The Holiday Band	20
14	Suspicious Minds	Jennifer James and Brad Cox	11
15	Forevermore	Gary Lowder	8
16	Heaven's Not That Far Away	Rivermist	15
17	Just the Way You Are	Mighty Saints of Soul	12
18	Carolina's Home	Jennifer James	17
19	NMBSC	the Tonez	16
20	Wherever There's Summer	Marsha Morgan	NE

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

On The Move

Jim Quick's fingerprints are all over the top of the chart. Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Quick's "My Heart is not a Toy," holds at No. 1 for another week, and "Wait For Me" — Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette — sits steady right behind at No. 2. The real jostling starts just below them. Ella Langley now owns two of the top five, as "Choosin' Texas" climbs to No. 3 and "Be Her" jumps to No. 5, while Main Event Band's "I Shiver" slides up into the top seven.

This week's biggest leap belongs to The Holiday Band, whose "Music Makes the World Go Round" vaults seven spots to No. 13. Right behind it, Rivermist's "At the End of the Day" rises six to crack the top ten at No. 8. Rick & Lesa are pulling double duty — "Every Road" moves up to No. 9 while "Too Late" re-enters at No. 11 — and this week's Chart Spotlight, Marsha Morgan's "Wherever There's Summer," debuts on the countdown at No. 20 — the week's lone new entry. A few records gave ground to make the room: Gary Lowder's "Forevermore" cools to No. 15, the Mighty Saints of Soul's "Just the Way You Are" eases to No. 17, and Vaughan Penn's "Bands on the Beach" steps back to No. 10. There are no bubbling-under records this week — but with summer in full swing, there's plenty of road left to run.

LISTENING IN • SATURDAY'S COUNTDOWN Coast to Coast

Two hours out of Ocean Drive and a stream that reaches everywhere — and on Saturday morning the check-ins rolled in the way they always do, loud and proud, from one end of the map to the other. Jay Kinlaw ran the July 11 Surf Countdown, and the Carolina coast led the roll call as it always does, from Cherry Grove and Ocean

Drive through Garden City, Murrells Inlet, Little River and Calabash, and clear on to Atlantic Beach, Oak Island, Carolina Beach and the Outer Banks. — Bobby Miller even had it cranked up in the Manteo airport.

Inland, the Piedmont and the Sandhills reported in thick: Reidsville, Eden, Martinsville, Mocksville, Burlington, Kernersville, Thomasville, Winston-Salem, Salisbury, China Grove, Kannapolis, Gastonia, Shelby and Boone, on down to Rock Hill, Clover, Lancaster and Easley in South Carolina. Farther afield, the signal found Gulf Shores, Alabama; Fort Meade, Florida; Palmerton, Pennsylvania; Rochester, New York; New Philadelphia, Ohio; Roanoke and Charlottesville, Virginia — and Mark O’Ravitz way out in Park City, Utah. Bud Gardner checked in from the road, all the way from Saskatchewan.

There was plenty to celebrate. Gary Lowder & Smokin’ Hot phoned in from NMB, plugging their show that night at the Greg Rowles Legacy Theatre — and sure enough, listeners from Surfside to Ocean Creek Resorts said they were headed there too. Jill McCulloch tipped her cap to Gary’s “great cover for JQ this week,” and Sophia Jacobs in Pinnacle thanked Jay for spotlighting Jackie Wilson before she heads off to summer camp. And a tender one from Wilson, N.C.: Brenda Tilton turned the music up loud for her late husband John on his first heavenly birthday — hoping, she said, that he could hear it too.

From Ocean Drive to wherever you had it on — thanks for listening loud and proud.

CHART SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

“Wherever There’s Summer” — Marsha Morgan

Surf Countdown Chart Spotlight

Summer has an anthem on the chart this year, and it just cracked the Top 20. Released on June 23, 2026 as the title track of Morgan’s new album, “Wherever There’s Summer” wasted no time — it premiered on regional beach-music programs and quickly surfaced among the Surf Countdown’s bubbling-under records before breaking into the Top 20 at No. 20 on the July 11 chart. That’s a familiar arc for a Marsha Morgan record: build it on the decks, let the DJs and the dancers do the rest.

From an Asheville church to the Grand Strand

Morgan’s road to beach music started early and a long way from the coast. Born in Asheville, North Carolina, she was singing gospel in church by the age of four, and years later an invitation to perform at the city’s landmark Grove Park Inn set the rest in motion. Through the late 1970s and into the ’80s she fronted the regional band Horizon and, by her own account, cut the album “In My Room” working with producer-songwriter Paul Davis — the man behind “I Go Crazy” and “’65 Love Affair.” Rock and blues were always in her blood, but the beach won out in the end. Today she calls Myrtle Beach home and ranks among the most sought-after artists on the Grand Strand.

A steady run of new records

The new album shares the single’s name and follows a productive stretch that has kept fresh Marsha Morgan material on Carolina radio — from her 2022 album “From the Mountains to the Sea” through singles like “Boys Will Be Boys” and 2024’s “Knocking’ Down Doors.” “Wherever There’s Summer” was written by Pat Murphy, arranged by Rock Hall and produced by Barry Duke, with John House on guitar. Backed by the veteran Marsha Morgan Band, she has built exactly the kind of catalog that keeps a name in steady rotation on a countdown like this one. With the mercury climbing and the season wide open, a song built around the simple promise of summer is right where it wants to be.

“Wherever There’s Summer” — Marsha Morgan • Written by Pat Murphy • Arranged by Rock Hall • Produced by Barry Duke • Guitar by John House • Title track of her 2026 album, released June 23, 2026 • No. 20, July 11 Surf Countdown • Rate it for next week at surfcountdown.com

CBMA CLASS OF 2026 • HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Eight Hours Every Sunday: WFJA 105.5 Enters the Hall

Surfline — 2026 CBMA Hall of Fame

Every scene needs a signal — a spot on the dial where the shag never stops. For the Sandhills of North Carolina, that spot is WFJA 105.5 FM out of Sanford, and this November the Carolina Beach Music Awards makes it official, inducting the station into the 2026 CBMA Hall of Fame.

The heart of it is Sunday. Every week, WFJA turns over eight straight hours — 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. — to Carolina Beach Music, anchored by two Beach Music Hall of Famers: Sanford's own Johnny Miller, a 2014 CBMA inductee who opens the block with beach classics, and multi-Hall-of-Famer Big John Ruth, a 2003 inductee whose call-in "Big John's Beach Party" keeps the requests coming. The station also carries Pat Gwinn At The Beach, the syndicated R&B and Carolina Beach Music show Gwinn has produced since 2001 — and Gwinn himself joins the Hall in this very class as a 2026 DJ inductee.

There's a reason the beach sound is front-and-center right now. In February 2026, day-to-day operations of WFJA (and AM sister WWGP) passed to Michael Larkin's Wedgewood Radio Group, through a local marketing agreement with his SC Media Partners, while Sandhills Broadcasting retains the licenses. Larkin — a Myrtle Beach-based broadcaster with the Grand Strand in his blood — rebuilt the station around a classic-hits core and made Carolina Beach Music a Sunday centerpiece, the kind of hyper-local, hand-picked programming you won't stumble onto by streaming. "WFJA is committed to locally programmed radio that reflects the community it serves," Larkin said of the relaunch. That commitment is exactly what the CBMA is honoring.

WFJA joins a deep 2026 class. Among the individuals: Tim Cashion, Jerry West, Doug Manning, Jack Stallings, Don Leonard and Julio Eubanks. The DJ honorees are Larry Williams (posthumously), our own Jay Kinlaw of 94.9 The Surf, and Pat Gwinn, with The Sand Band among the bands and The Guard in Winston-Salem taking the venue nod. The awards will be presented November 5–8 at the Alabama Theater in North Myrtle Beach.

Congratulations to everyone at WFJA. From one CBMA Hall of Fame radio station to another — it's good company to keep. Play on.

Did you get a Nomination Ballot for 2026?
Support Your Favorites — cammy.org

CBMA HOF SONG SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

"Brenda" — O.C. Smith

Surf Countdown Hall of Fame Feature

It landed at No. 12 on the Surf Countdown All-Time Top 100 over Memorial Day weekend — and it has earned every spot. A soul singer who had already conquered the national charts found a second home on the Carolina coast, and the record that carried him there went into the Hall of Fame in 2024.

From "Little Green Apples" to the beach

Ocie Lee Smith was born in Mansfield, Louisiana, in 1932, came up through jazz and the Air Force talent-show circuit, and broke through nationally in 1968 with "Little Green Apples," which climbed to No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 and won the 1969 Grammy for Song of the Year (that award went to its writer, Bobby

Russell). It sold over a million copies. But it was the sound Smith found later — warm, easy, made for a slow drag across a wooden floor — that would make him a Carolina institution.

The record that made him a beach star

That record was “Brenda.” Cut for the 1986 album What’cha Gonna Do and written by Charles Wallert with Smith himself, it became his last chart hit in 1987 and, more lastingly, the song that established O.C. Smith as a beach-music star. The album produced three charted singles, and “Brenda” led O.C. and Wallert to a remarkable haul at the third Beach Music Awards: six nominations, five wins. It was named the No. 1 Beach Music Song of 1988, and on the Grand Strand it simply never went away.

Two inductions, twenty-two years apart

Here’s the wrinkle worth getting right: O.C. Smith has entered the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame twice, in two different ways. Smith the artist was elected posthumously in November 2002 — the same year Governor Jim Hodges proclaimed June 21 “O.C. Smith Day” in South Carolina. Then “Brenda” the song entered on its own in 2024, in the CBMA’s Hall of Fame Songs class, alongside “Lady Soul” (The Temptations), “With This Ring” (The Platters), “Myrtle Beach Days” (The Fantastic Shakers) and “Rainy Day Bells” (The Globetrotters). One man, one record, two Cammys.

The minister’s last dance

Smith spent his later years off the stage and behind the pulpit, founding and pastoring the City of Angels Church in Los Angeles for sixteen years. One of his final recordings, a rendition of “Save the Last Dance for Me,” reached No. 1 on the Rhythm n’ Beach Top 40. He died in November 2001 — but every summer, on floors up and down the coast, “Brenda” still calls the crowd back.

“Brenda” — O.C. Smith • from What’cha Gonna Do, 1986 • Written by Charles Wallert and O.C. Smith • No. 1 Beach Music Song of 1988 • 2024 CBMA Hall of Fame Song • #12 All-Time Surf Countdown Top 100

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.

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