



# 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 25 • Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026

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## OCEAN DRIVE SCENE

Ocean Drive had a younger look to it last week with Junior SOS underway. The Junior Shag Association event is for shaggers under 21, and this year marked a milestone — the 25th anniversary of Junior SOS, with dances, contests and workshops filling the schedule. It's a lot of fun and great exercise, sure, but it's also how the dance gets handed down. Watching a floor full of teenagers work the basic tells you the shag isn't going anywhere. Of course, lots of proud parents were on hand.

Meanwhile, there's plenty of buzz around the 2026 Carolina Beach Music Awards, with the nominations process now underway. Voting members have until **Aug. 7** to submit nominations, and there's no shortage of eligible material this go-round — a deep field of songs and artists from the past year. If you're a voting member, don't let the deadline slip up on you.

Two very different items, but both point the same direction: the future of this music and the dance that goes with it.

## Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday the 22nd – Wednesday Nights Done Right at Fat Harold's, 6 – 9 PM. Join Surf 94.9's DJs for all the fun. Jay Kinlaw returns this week.**
- **Thursday the 23rd – Music on Main Free Summer Concerts: Chocolate Chip and Co., 6:30–8:30 PM – Live at The Horseshoe**
- **Friday the 7th of August – Deadline for 2026 CBMA Nominations**
- 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.

## THIS WEEK'S SURF COUNTDOWN

[July 18] Chart • Presented by Jay Kinlaw on 94.9 The Surf

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

LW: Last Week • RE: Re-Entry • NE: New Entry • Rate songs for next week at [surfcountdown.com](http://surfcountdown.com)

**Bubble Songs:** "Young Again" – Andy & Oneida • "Windows Rolled Down" – Pink Slips Band • "Where Did You Go" – Classic Soul featuring Terri Gore

### On The Move

Nobody laid a hand on the top six. "My Heart is not a Toy" holds at No. 1 for Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick, and "Wait For Me," "Choosin' Texas," "Pretty Lady," "Be Her" and "I Tried" all sit exactly where the July 11 chart left them. Below that line the deck got shuffled hard. Jennifer James posted the week's biggest gain, moving "Carolina's Home" eight spots from 18 to 10, and Gary Lowder's "Forevermore" was right behind it with a seven-place climb from 15 to 8. The Holiday Band's "Music Makes the World Go Round" went 13 to 9, and Vaughan Penn's "Bands on the Beach" edged into the top ten's upper half at 7. The steepest fall belonged to Rick & Lesa — "Every Road" slid eleven places, 9 to 20 — though the duo still carries two records with "Too Late" at 14. Main Event Band's "I Shiver" gave up five, and Rivermist's "At the End of the Day" did the same, landing at 13, the spot Allen and Shari Pier thanked voters for on Saturday's show. Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board re-enter at 18 with "Baby, You're the Melody" after a week away. Rivermist's "Heaven's Not That Far Away" is the only record to leave the twenty. And there are three songs bubbling under this week — a crowded doorstep for a chart that just froze at the top.

### LISTENING IN • SATURDAY'S COUNTDOWN - The 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 countdown, and the Carolina coast answered first, as it always does: Ocean Drive and the stretch halfway to Cherry Grove, Little River and Calabash, Garden City and Surfside, Murrells Inlet and North Myrtle, Sunset Beach out on the waterway, Oak Island, Leland, Lake Waccamaw, Bolivia and New Bern. Charles and Kelly

Amos had it going on the sand right in front of HOTO's. Keith and Cheryl Kiser checked in from Fat Harold's while granddaughter Hannah wrapped up another Junior SOS. And Bobby Miller had it cranked up in the air traffic tower at Manteo.

Inland, the Piedmont and the Sandhills reported in thick — Reidsville and Eden, Greensboro and Burlington, Salisbury, Kannapolis, Mint Hill and Lewisville, Mocksville and Badin Lake, Rockingham, Coats, Elizabethtown and Troy, on up to Boone, Blowing Rock and Fleetwood, and across to Asheville. South Carolina answered from Greenwood, Inman, Chapin, Due West, Gaffney and Charleston, where Eric Wooten was laying sod while Kat was allegedly doing housework in the air conditioning. Farther out, the signal found Martinsville, Roanoke, La Crosse and Richmond, Virginia; Palmerton, Pennsylvania; New Philadelphia, Ohio; Ocean City, New Jersey; Fort Meade, Winter Park and Fort Walton Beach, Florida; the Warrior River and Gulf Shores in Alabama; Weatherford, Texas; and Greg Richardson rolling somewhere in Arizona. Bud Gardner had it loud and proud from Saskatchewan, and Rea Hanna — the Belfast girl — had it on while getting ready for work.

There was plenty to celebrate. Jeff and Cindy Wall marked 44 years together from the North Carolina mountains; April and Chad Sain celebrated their 16th; Wayne Troutman expressed appreciation for his birthday shoutout; Lori Yandle Stone paired the show with a birthday brunch; and Kimberly and Connelly listened from Raleigh while planning their wedding. Allison Smith had it on in Salisbury getting ready for her niece's wedding, and Delia Gilmore was headed out to watch her youngest grandson bowl. Randy and Robin Horton reported the Embers playing the South Carolina Peach Festival in Gaffney that night, Ginny Moore Pratt was Greensboro-bound for Earth, Wind & Fire and Lionel Richie, and Pam McMahon wrote in from Myrtle Beach Grove Assisted Living and Memory Care after a day at the Tiki Bar with Jay and Jim Quick — they'll be back. Allen and Shari Pier sent thanks to everyone who voted "At the End of the Day" to No. 13. And a tender one from Robin Bass, who thanked Jay for the tribute to Gary — six years on and missed every day. Keith Kiser wrote in too: he and Gary Bass were dorm counselors together at Wingate. He was a great guy, Keith said. Thanks for spotlighting him.

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

## CHART SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

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### **"Where Did You Go" — Classic Soul featuring Terri Gore**

*Surf Countdown Chart Spotlight*

Most records on this chart got here the slow way. This one showed up in the middle of last week. Jim Quick premiered "Where Did You Go" on 94.9 The Surf before lunch, and by Saturday morning it was one of three songs bubbling under the July 18 countdown — a brand-new release with barely seventy-two hours of airplay behind it, already standing on the doorstep of the top twenty. Elsewhere in this issue you will read about a record that needed three years to catch on around here. This one took three days.

#### **Three names, no beginners**

Classic Soul is an award-winning group of three of beach music's finest — Terri Gore, Dr. Warren McDonald and Keith Pollard — and the résumés hold up the billing. McDonald founded The Expressions in the late 1960s, a group that got popular fast across both Carolinas and worked stages with the Drifters, the Coasters, the Temptations, the Four Tops and Clifford Curry. He was an early hand at the Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival, played with Sea Breeze through the 1980s, and later turned up in the last edition of the Fabulous Kays. Pollard started around 1972 on bass and vocals in a hometown outfit called Harmony, Inc., then spent years in a group built on oldies and Motown. Between the three of them there is not a single person in this band learning the format on the job.

## The girl in front of the Tams

Terri Gore made her first public appearance at age five, and the band behind her was Joe Pope and the Tams. Her father is Jackie Gore, former lead singer and guitarist of the Embers and the man they call the Godfather of Beach Music, so the start was about as good as a start gets. What she built on top of it is its own argument: nineteen CAMMY Awards, Female Vocalist of the Year five years running from 1996 through 2000, and two Solo Album of the Year wins, for “Carolina Girl” and “It Don’t Get Better Than This” on Forevermore Records. She has recorded with the Embers, the Catalinas, the Holiday Band, Jim Quick, Russell Thompkins Jr. and the Stylistics, General Johnson and the Chairmen of the Board, and her father’s Legends of Beach. In 2003 she became the first female vocalist in the Carolinas to place two songs on the All-Time Carolina Top 40 Christmas Chart, one of them “Carolina Christmas,” written for her by Tim Cashion — who goes into the Hall of Fame this November alongside Jack Stallings Jr. That same year General Johnson signed her to Surfside, the first woman the label ever took on. Fessa’ John Hook put it plainly: Terri Gore became part of the culture of the Carolinas and of our musical conscience.

## The duet with her father

Her last big one is barely a year cold. Ocean Drive Productions released “Unforgettable” in March 2025, Jackie and Terri Gore taking on the Nat King Cole standard, with Wayne Troutman among the executive producers. It walked into the Surf Countdown at No. 1 on April 5 and was still sitting there three weeks later. There is a particular weight in that choice of song. When Natalie Cole made “Unforgettable” a father-and-daughter duet in 1991, she was singing to a tape — Nat King Cole had been dead twenty-six years. Jackie and Terri got to stand in a room and do it together. That is the record Terri Gore is following with “Where Did You Go.”

## A writer from Monroe, a studio in Moore County

The song came from Julie Honeycutt of Monroe, North Carolina, who goes by Julie Springs in her music life. She came to the group herself, asking whether they would consider recording one of hers. They listened to two. All three of them picked the same one. Warren McDonald credits her with twenty years of writing behind her and says she is up for major awards in Nashville this year, which is not the usual pipeline into a Carolina beach record.

They cut it at Tate Phillips’ Red Radio Productions, a small studio in Moore County, North Carolina, where Tate works his magic behind the board. The record was finished in June. Terri, Keith and Doc have been at work all summer, and McDonald says “Where Did You Go” is the first of several things coming. It arrived the right way — handed to Jim Quick, put on the air at Ocean Drive, and voted onto the doorstep of the chart inside a week. Three songs are bubbling under this week.

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*“Where Did You Go” — Classic Soul featuring Terri Gore • Written by Julie Honeycutt, who writes as Julie Springs • Produced by Tate Phillips at Red Radio Productions, Moore County, N.C., 2026 • Premiered on 94.9 The Surf by Jim Quick, July 15, 2026 • Bubbling under, July 18 Surf Countdown • Rate it for next week at [surfcountdown.com](http://surfcountdown.com)*

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## CBMA CLASS OF 2026 • HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

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### The Catalina Who Pressed the Records: Jack Stallings Jr. Enters the Hall

*Surflife — 2026 CBMA Hall of Fame*

Jack Stallings Jr. joined the Catalinas in 1961 on trombone and vocals, and he stayed ten years. It was a good year to walk in. The band was barely three years out from its first rehearsal in the chorus room at Myers Park High, and 1961 was the year it cut its first single — “Hey Little Girl” b/w “Hey Senorita,” on the Charlotte-based Zebra label. Stallings arrived when the Catalinas were already good and about to get better, and he was there through 1971: the coat-and-tie years, the fraternity circuit years, the years that produced “You Haven’t the Right.”

Then he did the harder thing. He stayed in the business. Booking agent with Hit Attractions. Then Fisher & Stallings Entertainment. Then Stallings Entertainment. And with Bo Schronce, Stallings-Schronce Productions — the name in the fine print on the Fantastic Shakers' "Myrtle Beach Days," cut at Soundcraft Studios in Charlotte, with Schronce and Stallings sharing the producer credit.

He was not playing on the Catalinas' biggest records — he had left the lineup in 1971. He was doing something else. When the band's first album came out in 1980, the label on it read Stallings Entertainment Inc., catalog number LP 01. Side one opened with "Summertime's Calling Me." Side two, track four, was "Miss Grace." His own imprint, his old band, and two records that would later sit at No. 4 and No. 2 on Surf's 2026 view of the All Time Top 100 — on the same piece of vinyl. The Shakers' "Myrtle Beach Days" had come out on the same label two years earlier.

Look at what that meant in 1980. The major labels had no interest in any of it — there was no shag market on anybody's projection sheet in New York. What existed instead was a handful of people in Charlotte who knew how to book a room, fund a session, press a record, and get it into the hands of the DJs and the pavilions. Stallings was one of them, on all four counts.

That is the case for a Hall of Fame plaque that has nothing to do with a trombone. The music needed somebody to handle the parts nobody writes songs about. He handled them for fifty years.

Jack Stallings Jr. enters the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame with the Class of 2026, alongside Tim Cashion, Jerry West, Doug Manning, Don Leonard and Julio Eubanks. The awards will be presented November 5–8 at the Alabama Theater in North Myrtle Beach. Congratulations, Jack — from a station your records helped keep on the air.

## HOF SONG SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

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### **"Ms. Grace" — The Tymes**

*Surf Countdown Hall of Fame Feature*

Some records are made somewhere else and adopted here. Over Memorial Day weekend "Ms Grace" came in at No. 2 on the All Time Top 100 Beach Music Songs — one spot behind "Carolina Girls," and ahead of "I Love Beach Music," "Summertime's Calling Me" and "Under the Boardwalk." America never noticed it at all.

### Ninety-first at home

RCA released "Ms Grace" in 1974. It was written by John and Johanna Hall, produced by Billy Jackson, and sung by a Philadelphia group already eleven years past "So Much In Love." Nationally it barely registered — No. 91 on the Billboard Hot 100, No. 75 on the soul chart. In England it went all the way to No. 1, holding the top spot for a single week in January 1975, which tells you something about January in England and very little about the Carolinas.

### And No. 1 at the beach

The Carolinas did not wait. The year-end 1975 Beach Music Top 20 put "Ms Grace" at No. 1, ahead of the Catalinas' "Summertime's Calling Me" at 2, the Drifters' "Kissin' In the Back Row" at 3 and the Blackbyrds' "Walking In Rhythm" at 4. A record that finished 91st in America finished first at Ocean Drive, and it did it inside a year of release.

It did not get there by itself. Chris Beachley of the Wax Museum got hold of the record and went to work on people, and Fessa' John Hook's account is blunt about the effort involved — Beachley nearly twisted arms to get anybody to listen. That is not a hit falling out of the sky. That is a campaign.



## And then everybody cut it

Once it landed, it landed everywhere. The Catalinas put it on their 1980 album as "Miss Grace," side two, track four, on Jack Stallings' own Stallings Entertainment label. Harry Deal and the Galaxies followed. Kenny James took it in 1989, the same stretch that produced the Beach Music Awards Program version. The Embers folded it into the medley on "I Love Beach Music" in 1979 and were still working it into the Beach Medley in 1981 — carrying the song while it was climbing, and again after it had arrived. Hack Bartley and Shuffle got to it in 2002, and Orleans cut a live version the same year.

## Thirty-seven years, same rung

In 1989, a Night Club & Bar survey ranked it the No. 2 beach song of all time. Over Memorial Day weekend 2026 — thirty-seven years later — the All Time Top 100 put it at No. 2 again. Two surveys, nearly four decades apart, and the record has not moved an inch. When the CBMA created its Hall of Fame Songs category in 2022, "Ms. Grace" went in with the very first class. It had been sitting at the top down here since 1975. The paperwork just took a while to catch up.

*"Ms Grace" — The Tymes • RCA, 1974 • Written by John Hall and Johanna Hall • Produced by Billy Jackson • No. 91 Billboard Hot 100 • No. 75 Hot Soul Singles • No. 1 UK, January 1975 • No. 1, 1975 Beach Music Top 20 • 2022 CBMA Hall of Fame Song, inaugural class • No. 2, All Time Top 100 Beach Music Songs*

## SURF PROGRAM GUIDE

*Live shows 7 days a week from Ocean Drive, the Shag Capital of the World — Listen live at [949thesurf.com](http://949thesurf.com)*

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

**CBMA Membership Deadline to Vote is September 15th**  
**Join the CBMA at [Cammy.org](http://Cammy.org)**

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98 N. Ocean Blvd., Suite 3-N • North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

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*Distribution by Bo the Webguy & [Explore NMB](http://ExploreNMB) - Historical content by Chris Jones*

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