



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 27 • Wednesday, August 5th, 2026

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OCEAN DRIVE SCENE

Two things close this week and one of them closes for good. Nominations for the 2026 CBMA Awards are due Friday, Aug. 7. After five o'clock Friday the ballot belongs to whoever got theirs in, and there is no appeal to a deadline. If you are a voting member and you have been meaning to get to it, this is the week it stops being something you can get to later.

On the Countdown, Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick made it six straight Saturdays at No. 1 with "My Heart is not a Toy." The top ten barely moved behind them, but the Pink Slips Band climbed six places, the Tonz turned back up at No. 20 after a week away, and the bubble emptied and refilled with three new names, Bruno Mars among them. The board and the week's movement are inside.

Further out on the calendar, two dates worth a pen mark. The Spanish Galleon has posted its band schedule for Fall SOS — ten straight nights of live music on Main Street, Thursday the 17th of September through Saturday the 26th, doors at 7:30. And 94.9 The Surf is presenting The Beach Music Cruise, February 12 through 17 of 2028, with the station taking the entire ship rather than a block of cabins. Both are inside this issue.

Inside as well: Jackie Gore was the name on a good many check-ins Saturday morning, and this week's Hall of Fame Song Spotlight follows him back to his own breakfast table, where he wrote "I Love Beach Music" in 1978. Alongside it we go back to the first class the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame ever named, in 1995. The Embers were in it. So were five nightclubs.

Upcoming Events

- **Thursday the 6th — Music on Main Free Summer Concerts: Finesse, 6:30–8:30 PM — Live at The Horseshoe**
- **Friday the 7th — Deadline for 2026 CBMA Nominations**
- **Saturday the 8th — The Surf Countdown with Jay Kinlaw, 10 AM – 12 Noon**
- The [Daily Calendar for NMB](#) is posted every morning

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THIS WEEK'S SURF COUNTDOWN

The August 1st 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	"Choosin' Texas"	Ella Langley	3
3	"Wait For Me"	Jim Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette	2
4	"Pretty Lady"	North Tower	4
5	"Bands on the Beach"	Vaughan Penn	5
6	"Young Again"	Andy & Oneida	7
7	"Forevermore"	Gary Lowder	6
8	"Be Her"	Ella Langley	8
9	"I Tried"	The Tams	10
10	"I'll Be There"	Too Much Sylvia	9
11	"Every Road"	Rick & Lesa	14
12	"Carolina's Home"	Jennifer James	15
13	"At the End of the Day"	Rivermist	13
14	"Windows Rolled Down"	Pink Slips Band	20
15	"I Shiver"	Main Event Band	12
16	"Wherever There's Summer"	Marsha Morgan	18
17	"Suspicious Minds"	Jennifer James and Brad Cox	19
18	"Music Makes the World Go Round"	The Holiday Band	11
19	"Too Late"	Rick & Lesa	17
20	"NMBSC"	the Tonez	RE

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

Bubble Songs: "Sandbar Shuffle" — Vaughan Penn • "Cha Cha Cha" — Bruno Mars • "My New Best Friends" — JB and the Get Down Browns

On The Move

Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick took the top of this chart on June 27 and have not given it back since. "My Heart is not a Toy" makes it six straight Saturdays at No. 1.

Underneath it the chart traded in pairs. Ella Langley's "Choosin' Texas" and Jim Quick's "Wait For Me" swapped 2 and 3. Andy & Oneida's "Young Again" and Gary Lowder's "Forevermore" swapped 6 and 7. The Tams' "I Tried" and Too Much Sylvia's "I'll Be There" swapped 9 and 10. North Tower held at 4 and Vaughan Penn held at 5. The same ten records sit in the top ten that were there last Saturday, in very nearly the same order.

The movement is all below the line. The biggest gain on the board belongs to the Pink Slips Band, whose "Windows Rolled Down" climbed six places, 20 to 14, in only its second week on the chart. Rick & Lesa's "Every Road" went 14 to 11 and Jennifer James's "Carolina's Home" went 15 to 12. "Every Road" has now moved up in three straight weeks, from 20 on the July 18 chart.

The Holiday Band's "Music Makes the World Go Round," down seven from 11 to 18. Main Event Band gave back three with "I Shiver," to 15.

One record left the twenty and one came back. Out at 16 go the Mighty Saints of Soul with "Just the Way You Are." And the Tonez return at No. 20 with "NMBSC," a record that sat at 16 on the July 18 chart, missed a

Saturday entirely, and is now back on the board — the third time this year that record has gone away and come back. It is this week's Chart Spotlight.

Andy & Oneida are worth a line of their own. "Young Again" entered at No. 7 last week, the highest debut of the summer, and rather than settling it moved up to 6. Records that come in that high usually spend a week proving they meant it.

Five acts have two records on the board this week: Ella Langley at 2 and 8, Rick & Lesa at 11 and 19, Jennifer James at 12 and 17, Gary Lowder at 1 and 7, and Jim Quick at 1 and 3 — Lowder and Quick sharing the record at the top. Vaughan Penn nearly makes six, with "Bands on the Beach" at 5 and "Sandbar Shuffle" bubbling under.

The bubble turned over completely. "Baby Come Back" by Mayer Hawthorne and the Party Pupils, alone under the chart last week, came off without ever entering it. Three songs took its place: Vaughan Penn's "Sandbar Shuffle," Bruno Mars's "Cha Cha Cha" and "My New Best Friends" by JB and the Get Down Browns. Bruno Mars has been up this chart before — "I Just Might" traded the No. 1 spot with North Tower earlier this year — and JB and the Get Down Browns are a six-piece party band out of Chase City, Virginia, with a long book of Carolina and Lake Gaston dates behind them. Rate all three for next week at surfcountdown.com.

LISTENING IN • SATURDAY'S COUNTDOWN

August Opens Loud and Proud

August arrived on a Saturday. By ten o'clock Jay Kinlaw had the Countdown running, and the check-ins came in from a dozen states, two time zones and one cliff over the Mediterranean.

The coast answered first, the way it always does. Wayne Troutman from right there in Ocean Drive, and DJ Laughton Johnson from the 843, live and in living color. Sue-John Martin at Cherry Grove. Rich and Patricia Polhemus at Paradise Resort. Ken and Terry Krotzer with Cindy and Dale Stokes up on 17th in North Myrtle. Figgy and Sweetie — Carol Newton — in Little River. Van Bolick at Carolina Shores, Janet Britt Huggins at Ocean Isle, and Tammy Jo Bullard filing her fingernails in Golden Holden. Dave and Kimmi Lowery from the POI. Ginny Moore Pratt from sunny Carolina Beach, and Mark and Lisa Ledford with their toes in the sand at Wrightsville. Victoria and Steve Moore in Bolivia — and Mark Scott in Bolivia too, which he is entitled to call the big city. Mike and Cindy Anderson on Oak Island. Benjamin Brown was on the move from Leland to Atlantic Beach. Linda Whitfield Styron had it in Morehead City, Thomas Godwin on Goose Creek Island, and Lee Ipock ran DoorDash out of the 252 with the show on. Frankie, Christy and RGB Burney checked in from New Bern — and so did John and Dixie McClain, who will remind you that New Bern is the home of Tryon Palace. Bobby Miller had it up in the air traffic tower at Manteo, which is where we usually find him. KB and Teddie Boland were driving home from Edisto, Dean Feaster had it down in Beaufort, and the Woot — Eric Wooten — and Kat were knocking out chores in Chucktown before the beach. Marc and Dru Ackerman listened in Charleston. Jeff and Bonnie Groce were rolling toward their beach house in North Myrtle.

Inland North Carolina came in thick. Mike, Dawn and Chipper the dog from a breezy Lake Tillery. Keith and Cheris Copeland at Badin Lake, where Cheris had a big birthday coming Sunday. Delia Gilmore in warm, sunny Raleigh, with Todd and Jennifer Dollar in town beside her, and Ray Rouse down the road in a hot and humid Cary. Big E and Gigi Jones in Eden, and Tim and Cheryl Jenkins in Eden with them. Margaret Shell Hill making memories in Winston-Salem. Sharon and Curtis Southard and Sharon and Phillip Harrelson both in Reidsville, and both, by the sound of it, in the yard. Jon Hedrick remodeling a house in Thomasville. Scott Hart and Reba Martin Poole both knocking in China Grove. Allison Smith in Salisbury, Sherie Davis in Mocksville, Sophia Jacobs in Pinnacle, Frank and Meredith Cagle in Troy, and Randy and Terrie Pope from Cedar Grove — Pope Island to you. Frank and Cyndi Bryant in Stoney Creek. Cathy Hughes Allen in Hamlet, Suzette Smith Holloway in Laurinburg, Richard Vaughan in Raeford, Walter and Jan Spivey in Southern Pines, Wanda and Lee Caviness from the Boro, and Corky and Sugar Gold in Shelby. Wanda Fussell Jaquette and Ronald Teague worked the yard in Foxfire, and Ron would like it known that Jay is welcome to come help when the countdown is over. Michael and Ellen Nobles had it cranked up at Bigun's Bar & Grill in the historic section of Wagram. Roger Barber took it along on a morning walk in Jamesville. Jim Pendleton ran it on the treadmill in Boone, where Doug and Nancy Coley had it on as well. Shawn Briggs listened from Maggie Valley. Ken Shull Jr. and Jill and Wayne McCulloch were both doing yardwork, which by our count makes yardwork the largest single venue on the circuit. And Mike Baysden worked the road through Horry and Columbus counties.

South Carolina answered from Betty and Benny Bishop in Easley, Mark Craine and Ann Power Craine at Lake Emory in Inman, and Hess and Susan Keitt in Spartanburg. Randy and Robin Horton listened in Gaffney before heading to Wilkesboro for the Holiday Band, with Jim Quick & Coastline the next day. Alex, Bob and Lynne Ingram in Lugoff. Bud Gardner on Lake Murray. Dawn Buckner in Mullins. Jimmy Rushing had it playing loud at the ABC store in Lancaster. And Jason L. Butler reported in from McColl, locked and loaded at the 100th Annual Newton Family Reunion — the longest continuously running reunion in the state, he says, and a hundred years is a hundred years.

Then the map opened up. Virginia came in from Martinsville — Deano himself — and from Diane Barlow in Wakefield, Donna Hicks in Charlottesville, Adrianna Waddy in Rapidan, David and Donnetta Johnson in Roanoke, Joe and Mandie Staley in Clifton, Steve Floyd and Debbie Faye Young in Virginia Beach, and Jeff and Jo Setliff. Rita Smith was on the road to Clarksville for Lake Life Live with the Band of Oz and the Konnection Band. Richard and Vera Schumpert made a date of it in Knoxville, and Jeff and Cindy Wall had family around them in Pigeon Forge. Jay and Izzy Kellione checked in from Kentucky. Jane McEwan from New Philadelphia, Ohio, with Tim Gumpf answering from the 740 down in Reedsville. Randy and Debbie Kinsolving cranked the 843 in the 304, out in Vienna, West Virginia. Tony and Sue Choy in Palmerton, Pennsylvania. Cindy Miller on the sand at Ocean City, New Jersey. Linda and Allen Andrews on the Warrior River and Marsha and Richard Andrews in hot Gulf Shores — the same Alabama weather report filed twice by the same family. Gary Steele in Covington, Georgia. Chris Bumgarner in Weatherford and Naomi Hollingsworth in Montgomery, both of them in a hot Texas. Viv and David McClain counted down from the central Florida orange groves and sent a picture of the blossoms to prove it. And David and Angela Avery had it locked and loaded the whole way back from Denver to the Grand Strand.

Tony Chavonne wins the week for reach without much of a contest. He sent Surf love from Positano, Italy. Last week the honor went to Margaret Shell Hill for informing a bear in Alaska that he ought to be listening to Jay on Saturdays. The bar is where it is.

And from wherever they happened to be: Ed and Linda Shiflett, Kim Gamble and Front Row Joe from Windy Hill in the Foothills, Wally Welch, Robbie and Cathy Clark from LGB, Rebecca Bell Roberts, Jan Garrett Meadows, Karon Anderson, Sylvia Ritchie, Lynne Watson Bell, Tony and Carolyn Smith, Grady Thomas, and Bob Clay, who had the Surf cranked on a Grace digital radio and photographed the evidence. Shelby Guy Kennerly turned it up cleaning house after the grandchildren went home. Joy and Dean Bocks had it going at Polly's Landing Campground and Marina.

The week's business came in with the rest of it. Greg Adair was putting PA and backline into a band battle in Fayetteville — Steve Jones and Jones Pro Sound doing the honors — with Rick Starling and his wife BJ on the judging panel, and he asked for prayers, which under those circumstances is fair. He also thanked everybody who has been voting for Rivermist. Cynthia Arthur wrote in about Jay's interview with Vaughan Penn earlier in the week. Bonnie Groce sent congratulations to Andy and Oneida, dear friends of hers, which this newsletter seconds after their No. 7 debut a week ago. And Richard Andrews put in a word for "Sand Bar Shuffle," which is a good one.

Corliss Gold spoke for a fair number of people Saturday morning. She was excited about Jackie Gore being featured and of the firm opinion that he is the greatest. Turn to this week's Hall of Fame Song Spotlight and you will find that we agree.

From Ocean Drive to Positano — thanks for listening loud and proud.

CHART SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

The Tonez and "NMB SC"

Surf Countdown Chart Spotlight

It started on a Wednesday

The record came out on March 18, a Wednesday, and Wednesday is New Plays day on the Surf. Jim Quick had it on the air that same day, which is what the band was thanking him for on their page that afternoon. Three days later Jay Kinlaw had it bubbling under the Countdown. This past week, The Tonez are back on the Surf Countdown at No. 20 with "NMBSC."

Salisbury

The Tonz are from Salisbury, North Carolina, which is a hundred and ninety miles from the town in the title. Jonathan Treece plays lead guitar and sings, Laura Kepley sings lead, Bradley Swaringen is on drums, Micah Eubanks on bass, Eric Morris on keys, Ken Davis Jr. on trombone, Bob Conrad and Johammee Romero on trumpets, Andrew Giammalvo on saxophone, with Daniel Medley running sound. Seven of them sing lead. Nothing in the show is on tape.

They took the CBMA Rising Star Award in 2020, and Kepley has been nominated three times for Female Vocalist and for Entertainer of the Year. Their working book runs from the Temptations to Chris Stapleton and carries five of their own songs inside it — “Empty Chair,” “Caught Up,” “Love is Real,” last year’s “Flip Flops,” and this one.

“NMB SC” runs three minutes and three seconds. Treece wrote it, and it came out on the band’s own Set Sounds LLC. “Flip Flops” was engineered by David Rhyne at Traffic Sound Studio, with Kepley directing the video, and this record was made by the same hands. Outside the Grand Strand it went to radio through Tim Johnson on Good Morning Lincolnton at WLON, and it reached No. 5 on Eric Bowman’s Wave New Beach Music Countdown. Bowman is one of the DJs on the Beach Music Cruise elsewhere in this issue.

A hundred and ninety miles

A correction is owed here. When the song first bubbled under in March, this newsletter referred to “the Tonz from NMBSC,” having taken the title for the band’s hometown. It runs the other way. The band is inland and the song is about the coast — written by a Piedmont guitar player about a place he drives to, which is a different thing from a beach band singing about its own front porch, and probably a truer picture of how most of this music has always been made.

Turn ahead a few pages in this issue to the Hall of Fame’s first class. Five nightclubs went in that night in 1995 and four of them were inland — Greensboro, Charlotte twice, and Bennettsville. The awards show that named them was held in Salisbury. Thirty-one years later a Salisbury band has a record on the Ocean Drive countdown named for Ocean Drive, and it is still on there because people keep voting it back. The traffic has always run both directions.

You can see the Tonz at the Spanish Galleon on Saturday, September 19, the third night of Fall SOS, and they are aboard the Beach Music Cruise in February 2028. Both are inside this issue. Rate “NMBSC” for next week at surfcountdown.com.

“NMB SC” — The Tonz • Written by Jonathan Treece • Set Sounds LLC • Released March 18, 2026 • 3:03 • Premiered on 94.9 The Surf the day of release by Jim Quick; also debuted on Good Morning Lincolnton, WLON, with Tim Johnson • Bubbling under, March 21 Surf Countdown • Chart debut No. 20, June 6; peak No. 16, July 4 and July 18; seven chart weeks and two re-entries through August 1 • No. 5, The Wave New Beach Music Countdown with Eric Bowman • Booking: thetonz.com • Sources: Surf Countdown chart archive, March 21 through August 1, 2026; Apple Music and Spotify release data; thetonz.com; the band’s Facebook page.

HOF SONG SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

“I Love Beach Music” — The Embers

Surf Countdown Hall of Fame Feature

Most anthems get assigned after the fact. Somebody writes a song, a place adopts it, and thirty years later nobody can remember quite how the arrangement was made. “I Love Beach Music” skipped that step. It arrived already knowing what it was.

Jackie Gore wrote it at his own kitchen table.

Write it down

The story, as the Embers have told it for years, begins with a college date — an audience of students young enough to be the band’s children who knew the catalog better than the band did. Gore drove home turned around by it. His wife listened to him try to explain what he had just seen and gave him the advice that produced the record: write it down. He sat down the next morning with a guitar and did.

What came out was not a song about a girl or a night or a heartbreak. It was a song about the music itself and about the people standing in front of it, which is a thing almost nobody attempts, because it is nearly impossible to do without sounding like an advertisement for yourself.

The roll call

Gore's solution was to stop describing and start naming. The lyric is a list. "Sixty Minute Man." "Walking Up a One Way Street." "Up on the Roof" and "Under the Boardwalk." "Summertime's Calling Me." "Ms. Grace." The Showmen twice over — the 39-21-40 shape, and "It Will Stand." "What Kind of Fool Do You Think I Am." The outro calls out the Tams, the Clovers, the Catalinas — and the Embers, which in 1979 was either nerve or accuracy, and reads now as accuracy.

The Hall caught up later

Consider what has happened to that list since. When the Carolina Beach Music Academy created its Hall of Fame Songs category in 2022, three of the five records in the inaugural class — "Sixty Minute Man," "Under the Boardwalk" and "Ms. Grace" — were songs Gore had already named. The next year the Academy took "Summertime's Calling Me" and the Showmen's "39 Shape," both on the same list, and inducted "I Love Beach Music" itself alongside them. The 2026 class added "What Kind of Fool Do You Think I Am." Gore was not predicting anything. He was writing down what the floor already knew, and the Academy has spent four years ratifying his ballot.

Two records, one song

There are two versions in circulation and most people have a favorite without knowing why. The single came first on eEe, horns and rhythm section and nothing else. A second version added strings. The album followed the same year — eEe EEE-1070, produced by the band, engineered by Steve Haigler, mastered at Masterfonics — and carried a string arrangement by Duke Hall. It is the strings most people hear in their heads, because the strings are what radio kept.

What it did

It never troubled the national charts. What it did instead was travel. The Embers opened for the Rolling Stones, played the Olympics and President Clinton's inauguration, and turned up in a Pepsi commercial. In 2000, at the request of Governor Jim Hunt, they played a reception in Ottawa at the residence of Gordon Giffin, the United States Ambassador to Canada. North Carolina had named the band its Official Musical Ambassadors, and that is what the title turned out to mean in practice. And Anheuser-Busch sponsored the band for ten years during the 1980s with national distribution, a run large enough to have a chapter of its own in *The Embers: The Bobby Tomlinson Story*. That is a set of credits that would look implausible on any band that had not spent forty years working three hundred nights a year.

The band that sang it

Jackie Gore and Bobby Tomlinson founded the Embers in Raleigh in 1958. Gore fronted the band for better than thirty-five years before leaving in 1995. Both men went into the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame in 2001, the same night. The band itself went in earlier than that — in the first class the Hall ever named. Other members who were on the song include Gerald Davis, Craig Woolard, Johnny Hopkins, Doug Strange, and Johnny Barker. The Embers are members of the South Carolina Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame and 2016 inductees of the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame.

Elsewhere in this issue we go back to that first class, in 1995. Three of the four acts named in the outro of "I Love Beach Music" were in it. The fourth, the Clovers, went in the year after. Gore was writing about a hall of fame sixteen years before there was one to write about.

"I Love Beach Music" — The Embers • Written by Jackie Gore • eEe Records, 1979 • Album eEe EEE-1070, produced by the Embers, engineered by Steve Haigler, mastered at Masterfonics, strings arranged by Duke Hall • Single issued without strings • 2023 CBMA Hall of Fame Song • No. 3, Surf's 2026 All Time Top 100 Beach Music Songs • Sources: Discogs and 45cat release data; cammy.org Hall of Fame rolls; North Carolina Music Hall of Fame; The Embers: The Bobby Tomlinson Story.

CBMA HALL OF FAME • THE FIRST CLASS

Seven Bands, Four Radio Men and Five Nightclubs: The Hall's First Class, 1995

Surfline — Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame

The Carolina Beach Music Academy will induct its Class of 2026 at the Alabama Theatre in November — Tim Cashion, Jerry West, Doug Manning, Jack Stallings, Don Leonard and Julio Eubanks; DJs Larry Williams, posthumously, along with our own Jay Kinlaw and Pat Gwinn; the Sand Band; the Guard in Winston-Salem;

and WFJA 105.5 FM in Sanford. We have spent the summer writing about them one at a time, and with that class now complete it is worth walking back to the beginning to see who was in the room first.

Fourteen bands played the first awards show, held in Salisbury, North Carolina, in 1995. The Hall of Fame class named that year ran to twenty-four entries, and it reads less like a ballot than like a map of where this music actually came from.

The seven bands

Joe Pope & the Tams. Bill Pinkney & the Original Drifters. Maurice Williams & the Zodiacs. Bill Deal & the Rhondels. General Johnson & the Chairmen of the Board. The Embers. Gary Barker & the Catalinas. Seven groups, and between them very nearly the whole working repertoire of a Carolina beach club on a Saturday night.

The seven individuals

Clifford Curry and Janice Barnett went in as artists in their own right, along with Bill Pinkney, Maurice Williams, General Johnson and Gary Barker — each honored a second time, individually, the same night his band was honored — and Bob Meyer. Harvey Fuqua of Harvey & the Moonglows took the first Joe Pope Pioneer Award.

Janice Barnett is the name in that class that turns up least often in the retellings, and she is worth a paragraph. She came up through the Reggie Saddler Revue, one of the Black revues that worked the Carolina club and college circuit through the sixties, and on the same first night she entered the Hall she also took the Collaboration award with Billy Scott for “Something About You.”

The radio men

Four went in together: John “John R” Richbourg, whose fifty-thousand-watt signal out of WLAC in Nashville is the reason a great many Southern teenagers heard this music at all; Larry Crockett, honored posthumously, and with the Academy’s FM radio award named for him ever since; Ray “Rockin’ Ray” Gooding; and Woody Windham.

And five nightclubs

Cecil Corbett’s Beach Club in Myrtle Beach. Bill Griffin’s Castaways in Greensboro. Paul Scroggins’s Pauls in Charlotte. Larry Presley’s Cellar, also in Charlotte. And Gene Crow’s Coachman & Four in Bennettsville, South Carolina. Five rooms — and only one of them at the beach.

That last detail is the one worth sitting with. The first class the Hall ever named put five nightclubs on the wall alongside the Drifters and the Tams, and four of the five were inland. Whoever assembled that ballot understood something the histories often miss: that this music was carried as much by the people who booked it and housed it as by the people who played it.

The other 1995 list

It is worth keeping the two 1995 lists straight, because they get run together. The Hall of Fame class is one list. The competitive awards handed out that same first night are another — and that one belonged to Billy Scott. He took seven: Entertainer, Male Vocalist, Solo Album, Ballad/Smoothie, Line Dance Song, the collaboration with Janice Barnett, and a share of the Founders Award with Curtiss Carpenter. Nobody has swept a CBMA night like it since. The Band of Oz took Group and Group Album, Susan Trexler took Female Vocalist, and the Coastline Band won both New Group and Song of the Year for “You’re the Boss — You’re the Best.”

Scott was not the only man there carrying more than he could hold. General Johnson took Songwriter and Original Song for “Gone Fishin’,” entered the Hall of Fame twice on the same night — once with the Chairmen of the Board and once on his own — and was named a third time in the appreciation awards, with Mike Branch, for Surfside Records. Curtiss Carpenter won three: Club/Mobile DJ, the FM radio DJ prize, and his half of the Founders Award. Duane Evans took Producer and Engineer on the first night either was given. Clifford Curry, going into the Hall that evening as an artist, also won Blues Song for “Boogie Woogie Country Girl.”

The FM radio DJ award carries Larry Crockett’s name today, and Crockett went into the Hall of Fame that same first night, posthumously. Whether the award already bore his name in 1995 or took it afterward, the Academy’s register does not say.

One room did better on the night than any of the five nightclubs going onto the Hall of Fame wall. Club Faces in Dunn, North Carolina took the show club award, and the live recording award went to *Georgia Prophets Live at Club Faces* — the same building honored twice, once for being open and once for what somebody taped inside it. Dunn sits on I-95 in Harnett County, an hour south of Raleigh and nowhere near a beach. Count it alongside the four inland rooms in the Hall class and the evening runs five inland clubs to one on the sand.

The rest of the sheet reads like a directory of everyone who touched the record between the studio and the dance floor. Judy's House of Oldies in North Myrtle Beach won Retail Outlet, and Rufus Oates was recognized separately for his work there. WRDX won FM station, and two of its people, Tom Harrell and Mary Anne Laningham, were named on their own. Chris Beachley was honored for the Wax Museum, Marion Carter for Ripete, Tim Eaton for Metro Records and Studio East, Gary Gibson for Gutter Productions and Loafer's. The reigning national shag champions were brought up as well — Sam West and Sarah West, with William Greene and Kristin Leggett holding the junior titles. Sam West was still winning eighteen years later, taking the Academy's Shad Alberty Award for national shag dance champions in 2013 with Jessica McAlhany.

[The complete 1995 roll](#)

Thirty-one competitive awards were presented that first night, plus twelve industry and appreciation honors. Here is the whole sheet, with the category names and winning titles as the Academy's archive carries them.

AWARD	1995 WINNER
Female Vocalist	Susan Trexler
Male Vocalist	Billy Scott
Entertainer	Billy Scott
Group Vocalist	Earl Dawkins, the Entertainers
Group	Band of Oz
New Group/Artist	Coastline Band
Songwriter	General Johnson
Song of the Year	"You're The Boss — You're The Best," Coastline Band
Original Song	"Gone Fishin'," General Johnson & Chairmen of the Board
Line Dance Song	"Don't Let Go," Billy Scott
Ballad / Smoothie	"Until This Night," Billy Scott
Blues Song	"Boogie Woogie Country Girl," Clifford Curry
Collaboration / Duo	"Something About You," Janice Barnett & Billy Scott
Live Recording	<i>Georgia Prophets Live at Club Faces</i>
Group Album	<i>Let It Roll</i> , Band of Oz
Solo Album	<i>Billy Scott</i> , Billy Scott
Blues Album	<i>Ruff Stuff</i> , NC Heaters
Gospel Album	<i>Colorblind</i> , John P. Kee
Producer	Duane Evans
Engineer	Duane Evans
FM Radio Station	WRDX
FM Radio DJ — Larry Crockett Award	Curtiss Carpenter
Syndicated Radio	<i>The Charlie Byrd Beach Blast</i>
Club / Mobile DJ	Curtiss Carpenter
Richard Nixon Assoc. DJ Award	Steve Hardy, WDLX

AWARD	1995 WINNER
Live Music Venue / Show Club	Club Faces, Dunn, North Carolina
Publication	<i>Shagger Magazine</i>
Retail Outlet	Judy's House of Oldies, North Myrtle Beach
Michael Branch Award	Insight Talent
Event	Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival
Founders Award	Billy Scott & Curtiss Carpenter

Industry and CBMA Appreciation Awards

HONOREE	RECOGNIZED FOR
Tom Harrell	WRDX Radio
Mary Anne Laningham	WRDX Radio
Marion Carter	Ripete Records
Chris Beachley	The Wax Museum
Tim Eaton	Metro Records / Studio East
Gary Gibson	Gutter Productions / Loafer's Beach Club
General Johnson & Mike Branch	Surfside Records
Rufus Oates	Judy's House of Oldies
Sam West	National Male Shag Champion
Sarah West	National Female Shag Champion
William Greene	National Junior Male Shag Champion
Kristin Leggett	National Junior Female Shag Champion

Twelve of the thirty-one categories on that first ballot no longer exist. Line Dance Song lasted two years. Group Vocalist lasted two. Gospel Album was presented exactly once, to John P. Kee. Original Song, Blues Song, Collaboration/Duo and Live Recording were all dropped or folded into something else. Publication ended in 1999, Retail Outlet in 2002, the blues categories after 2012, and the FM radio station award was consolidated with the AM category in 2020. The Richard Nixon Assoc. DJ Award went away as well. Only New Group/Artist survived by changing its name — the Academy calls it Rising Star now. Read as a set, the 1995 sheet is a clean snapshot of an industry that still had record stores, print magazines and a line-dance craze.

Thirty-one classes on, the roll runs to hundreds of names and the 2026 class joins them in November. But the first twenty-four are still the argument: seven bands, seven artists, four radio men, five nightclubs and a Moonglow.

Sources: Carolina Beach Music Academy Hall of Fame inductee rolls and awards register, cammy.org; CBMA history of the awards; complete 1995 award-category master list compiled from the CBMA archive. • Note: cammy.org lists Woody Windham in the 1995 Hall of Fame block and dates his Lifetime Achievement radio honor to 1996.

FALL SOS • TEN NIGHTS AT THE GALLEON

Ten Nights on Main Street, September 17–26

Surfline — World Famous Spanish Galleon, North Myrtle Beach • Doors 7:30 PM nightly

The Spanish Galleon's band schedule for Fall SOS is posted — ten consecutive nights of live music with doors at 7:30 each evening. S.O.S. cards get you free admittance at all shows.

Two acts draw two nights apiece: the Embers with Craig Woolard on the 18th and again on the 21st, and Band of Oz on the 20th and the 23rd. The Tonez have the 19th. Jim Quick & Coastline takes Thursday the 24th. Too

Much Sylvia has Friday the 25th, which is a nice piece of timing, with drummer Don Leonard going into the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame six weeks later. Main Event Band closes it out on Saturday the 26th, the same morning the SOS Association holds its meeting at the Galleon at 10 a.m.

DATE	BAND
Thursday, Sept. 17	Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot
Friday, Sept. 18	The Embers with Craig Woolard
Saturday, Sept. 19	The Tonez
Sunday, Sept. 20	Band of Oz
Monday, Sept. 21	The Embers with Craig Woolard
Tuesday, Sept. 22	North Tower
Wednesday, Sept. 23	Band of Oz
Thursday, Sept. 24	Jim Quick & Coastline
Friday, Sept. 25	Too Much Sylvia
Saturday, Sept. 26	Main Event Band

Reserved seating and a limited number of reserved tables are available. Contact Julian B. Fowler — himself a 2023 Hall of Fame inductee — at 843-617-3433 or livecarolinabeachmusic@gmail.com.

THE BEACH MUSIC CRUISE • FEBRUARY 2028

The Whole Ship: 94.9 The Surf Presents The Beach Music Cruise

February 12–17, 2028 • Margaritaville at Sea Islander Package • Key West and Grand Cayman

94.9 The Surf is presenting The Beach Music Cruise, sailing February 12 through 17 of 2028 aboard the Margaritaville at Sea ship Islander, with port calls at Key West and Grand Cayman. The Surf is not booking a block of cabins on somebody else's cruise. The Surf is taking the whole vessel — every deck, every lounge, every rail — for five days. No other passengers. Just our people, from the gangway to the last night at sea.

Aboard: the Swingin' Medallions, the Band of Oz, the Embers featuring Craig Woolard, Too Much Sylvia, Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot, the Tonez, Rivermist and the Castaways. Behind them Special Occasion Band, Mighty Saints of Soul, Konnection Band, Martin & Davis, Andy & Oneida, Allie Privette, Steve Jarrell, Freddy Tripp, John G. Franklin, Vaughan Penn, Retro Ray and Jason Jackson. DJs Ray Scott, Eric Bowman, Johnny B, Shaun Lamm, Dan E. Lockemy and Mike Brooks. Chad Sain hosts as emcee, and J.Q. is aboard from 94.9 The Surf.

Book early. Over 60% of the rooms were booked in the first week. A first-ever full-ship charter with that lineup on it is going to sell out, and when it does there is no second boat.

CBMA Membership Deadline to Vote is September 15th
Join the CBMA at Cammy.org

The SURFLINE

A Weekly Publication for 94.9 The Surf • WVCO FM

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

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