



# 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 29 • Wednesday, August 19th, 2026

**IN THIS ISSUE:** Ocean Drive Scene • This Week's Surf Countdown • Listening In: Saturday's Countdown • Chart Spotlight —Revisiting "Choosin' Texas": Ella Langley • HOF Song Spotlight — "(You're) More Than a Number in My Little Red Book": The Drifters • The Third Year: The Cammys in 1997 • The Suitcase Challenge, Two Weeks Out

## OCEAN DRIVE SCENE

The Countdown had news at the top for the first time since June. Vaughan Penn's "Bands on the Beach" climbed from No. 5 to No. 1 on the August 15 chart, ending a seven-week run there by Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick. Andy & Oneida made the biggest move of the week, up eight, and the Main Event Band came back on.

Saturday's countdown ran ten to noon and better than a hundred check-ins came across the board, from Cherry Grove to the San Francisco Bay. Two of them came from artists on the chart itself — one at No. 1, and one at No. 10 who had no idea he was still on the chart at all. Jay's spotlight went to Andy Swindell. The full roll, and the Gary Alexander story, in Listening In.

Two anniversaries worth marking this week, and between them they add up to more than a century of working bands.

Earl Dawkins and the Entertainers turned 46. Dawkins put it plainly on Saturday: forty-six years of making music, making memories and having a whole lot of fun, and thanks to the Fan Family for sticking with them. The band was founded in 1980 and had a regional hit almost immediately with "Livin' For The Summer," which put them into the Grand Strand clubs and has kept them there ever since — most recently a run at Ducks Beach Club on Main Street. Forty-six years is longer than most record labels last.

Saturday brought a Super Summer Celebration with Band of Oz at The Cabin, the Old Hickory House on Country Club Road in Brevard. Doors opened at two, Chad Sain handled DJ and emcee duties, the Special Occasion Band played the 3:30 to 5:30 slot and the Band of Oz took it from 6:30 to nine. Ted and Carole Futrelle organized it with Sandi Davis, and by every account out of Brevard they outdid themselves.

Also this week: the Chart Spotlight returns to a record this newsletter covered in April, when it was on its way to No. 1 here. The Hall of Fame Song Spotlight takes up "(You're) More Than a Number in My Little Red Book" — a record the Carolinas made a standard and America never heard at all. And having walked through 1995 and 1996, we come to the third awards presentation the Academy ever held, in 1997, the last one before it moved to the beach.

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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- Thursday the 20th — Music on Main Free Summer Concerts: Thurston Howell, 6:30–8:30 PM — Live at The Horseshoe
- Saturday the 22nd — The Surf Countdown with Jay Kinlaw, 10 AM – 12 Noon
- Tuesday, Sept. 15 — CBMA membership deadline to vote. Join at [cammy.org](https://cammy.org)
- Sept. 18–26 — 2026 SOS Fall Migration
- The [Daily Calendar for NMB](#) is posted every morning

## THIS WEEK'S SURF COUNTDOWN

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*The August 15th Chart • Presented by Jay Kinlaw on 94.9 The Surf*

| #  | SONG TITLE                       | ARTIST                                          | LW |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1  | "Bands on the Beach"             | Vaughan Penn                                    | 5  |
| 2  | "My Heart is not a Toy"          | Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick        | 1  |
| 3  | "Choosin' Texas"                 | Ella Langley                                    | 2  |
| 4  | "Wait For Me"                    | Jim Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette | 3  |
| 5  | "Young Again"                    | Andy & Oneida                                   | 13 |
| 6  | "Pretty Lady"                    | North Tower                                     | 4  |
| 7  | "Be Her"                         | Ella Langley                                    | 8  |
| 8  | "I Tried"                        | The Tams                                        | 9  |
| 9  | "I'll Be There"                  | Too Much Sylvia                                 | 6  |
| 10 | "Soul full of Sunshine"          | Gary Alexander                                  | 14 |
| 11 | "Forevermore"                    | Gary Lowder                                     | 12 |
| 12 | "Music Makes the World Go Round" | The Holiday Band                                | 7  |
| 13 | "Wherever There's Summer"        | Marsha Morgan                                   | 17 |
| 14 | "Sandbar Shuffle"                | Vaughan Penn                                    | 11 |
| 15 | "Just the Way You Are"           | Mighty Saints of Soul                           | 10 |
| 16 | "Every Road"                     | Rick & Lesa                                     | 16 |
| 17 | "At the End of the Day"          | Rivermist                                       | 19 |
| 18 | "Carolina's Home"                | Jennifer James                                  | 15 |
| 19 | "Windows Rolled Down"            | Pink Slips Band                                 | 20 |
| 20 | "I Shiver"                       | Main Event Band                                 | RE |

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

## On The Move

The board came apart evenly this week: nine records climbed, nine fell, one held and one came back. What makes August 15 is not the count. It is that the top of the chart finally moved.

"My Heart is not a Toy" had been No. 1 every Saturday since June 27 — seven straight weeks for Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick, the second longest run any record has put together on this chart in 2026. It ends here. Vaughan Penn's "Bands on the Beach" came up from No. 5 to take it, and everything that had been frozen

behind the leader for a month slid down a place with it: Ella Langley's "Choosin' Texas" to 3, "Wait For Me" to 4, North Tower's "Pretty Lady"-- this year's longest running #1 -- down two to 6. The top five had been identical for two weeks running. Not anymore.

The biggest climb belonged to Andy & Oneida. "Young Again" had fallen seven places the week before, 6 to 13, and this week it goes 13 to 5 -- up eight, the largest single move on the board, and back above where the slide started.

Gary Alexander's "Soul full of Sunshine" is in only its second week on the chart. It arrived at No. 14 on August 8 and climbs four to No. 10, which is the kind of follow-through a new record needs and rarely gets. Marsha Morgan's "Wherever There's Summer" matched the four-place gain, 17 to 13.

Two acts are carrying two records apiece. Vaughan Penn has the No. 1 and her latest, "Sandbar Shuffle," at 14. Ella Langley holds 3 and 7. Gary Lowder appears twice as well -- at No. 2 with Smokin' Hot and Jim Quick, and on his own at 11 with "Forevermore," up one. Jim Quick is on two records, at 2 and 4. Only "Every Road" by Rick & Lesa finished exactly where it started, holding at 16.

## LISTENING IN • SATURDAY'S COUNTDOWN

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### **The man at No. 10 didn't know**

Gary Alexander spent Saturday morning doing what the rest of the audience was doing. He had the countdown on from his studio in Nashville. What he did not know, sitting there listening, was where his own record stood. Jay Kinlaw told him in the comments: No. 10 this week, up four. "Soul full of Sunshine" had only entered the chart the Saturday before. Alexander wrote back that he had been listening, that he still could not believe this audience liked it, and that he had started to think the record may have already dropped off the chart altogether.

Nothing about that is unusual, which is exactly why it is worth writing down. There is no trade paper for this music and no national desk keeping score. A record moves on this chart because people who heard it Saturday morning went to [surfcountdown.com](http://surfcountdown.com) and rated it, and the man who made the record finds out where he stands the same way everyone else does -- by turning the radio on at ten o'clock. One week after the Tams and Gary Alexander turned up in these pages, he was out there in the audience with the rest of the Carolinas, waiting to hear his own number called.

The check-ins started where they always start. Bo Gilbert in Cherry Grove, careful as ever to specify Cherry Grove, North Myrtle Beach -- not Myrtle Beach. Wayne Troutman from Ocean Drive, Big T and little C in OD, Sue-John Martin and Catherine and Phillip Cardwell in Cherry Grove, Laughton Johnson checking in as DJ Johnson, NMB 843, and Mike Baysden in town. David Avery, Mac McLeod and Figgy and Sweetie had it on in Little River; Rhonda Jacobs and Cindy and Gil Geiger in Calabash; Cassie Biddix's Garden City connection locked in tight; Charles and Kelly Amos on the beach at Surfside; Glenn and Ellen Miller in Murrells Inlet. Mack and Carol Barnhill were back in Paradise, Rich and Patricia Polhemus at Paradise Resort, and Kimmi Lowery reported a sighting of Mr. Beach in his natural habitat. Up the coast: Mike and Cindy Anderson at Oak Island, Victoria and Steve Moore in Bolivia, Ginny Moore Pratt at Carolina Beach, Brenda Harrell Tilton at Pine Knoll Shores. In Charleston, the Doschers and Laura Lee and Tom Viergever, with Ellen Goff Nobles and Michael Nobles on the road to Chucktown and inviting Jay to come along.

Inland North Carolina came in the way it comes, a name at a time. Jim Pendleton in Boone. Jon Hedrick in Thomasville. Margaret Shell Hill in Winston-Salem. James Bogue and Kiki in Burlington. Darlene Himebauch and Delia Gilmore in Raleigh, Ray Rouse in Cary, Gary and Marian Dennis in Clayton, David Waite in Selma, Randy Jones in Pine Level, Tony Davis in Fremont, Elaine Byrd Johnson in Coats. Allison Smith in Salisbury, Sherie Davis in Mocksville, Reba Martin Poole in China Grove, Kimmy Baker Bartleson in Granite Quarry, Norman and Penny Negre in Rockwell, Karen Goins and Keith and Cheris Copeland at Badin Lake, Corky and Sugar Gold in Shelby. Wendy Gibson-Alley poolside in Kernersville with Kristy Alley, Tee and Nancy Stephenson in Stokesdale, Sophia Jacobs in Pinnacle, Curtis and Sharon Southard and the Harrelsons in Reidsville -- the Harrelsons riding, as Phillip put it, with the windows gone and the radio up. Barbara and David Bass in Rocky Mount, Steve Floyd and Debbie Faye at Beechwood golf course in Ahoskie, Roger Barber

in Jamesville, Lee Ipock getting the job done over in the 252. Suzette Smith Holloway in Laurinburg, Gina and Richard Vaughan in Raeford, the Carters in Rockingham, Frank and Meredith Cagle in Troy, and Gennie and Mike Parnell at the Parnell Upper Deck just north of Whiteville.

South Carolina answered right behind it. Len and Terry Rogers in Rock Hill, Buddy Mullis in Clover, Randy and Robin Horton in Gaffney, Mark and Ann Power Craine in Inman, Bobby Cowan in Greenwood, Betty and Benny Bishop in Easley, KB and Teddie Boland in Chapin, Alex Ingram poolside in Lugoff with Bob and Lynne Ingram, Dawn Buckner in Mullins, Robbie and Cathy Clark from LGB, and Art and Peggy Seward with the radio on at King's Korner Restaurant and Catering in Chesterfield.

Then the map opened up. Sherri Blevins at Claytor Lake and Diane Barlow in Wakefield, Virginia, with Adrianna Waddy carrying the Surf up I-95 toward Orange. Kathy Riddle Horne rode the train all morning out of Augusta and Gary Steele had it turned up in Covington, Georgia. Marsha and Richard Andrews checked in from a hot Gulf Shores, Linda and Allen Andrews from a hotter Warrior River, and Viv and Dave McClain from Fort Meade, Florida, where David McClain reported it hot, muggy and buggy and said he was using all his fingers and toes to keep up with the top twenty. Tamara Taylor tuned in from Advance by way of Panama City Beach. Cindy Miller in Ocean City, New Jersey. Bill Boehly in Rochester, New York. Jane McEwan in New Philadelphia, Ohio. Chris Bumgarner loud and proud in Weatherford, Texas.

The chores division reported in on schedule. Len Rogers put up a new mailbox in Rock Hill with the countdown going. Ellen Miller supervised a kitchen renovation in Murrells Inlet. Richard Schumpert got his grandsons through their waffles and was making the fort bigger by the time the top twenty started. Mike and April Stalls listened on the way back to Outta Bounds from the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo in Raleigh, and David Goodyear said it was sounding good out at the Horseshoe.

The farthest reach of the morning belonged to Mike and Diane Vinson, listening from a cool and foggy San Francisco Bay Area, where they had put the Surf on for their hosts and were treating them to the sounds from the right coast. Vinson reported his foot tapping hard enough that he was afraid they might trigger a quake. Three thousand miles is a long way to send a shag record, and it appears to have arrived intact.

The week's business: Betty and Benny Bishop listened from Easley on their 25th anniversary. Wally Welch, heading for a gig on Cape Cod, asked for a happy birthday for Jeana, whose day was Sunday. Rita Smith and a crowd had it on at Summerfest in Eden, with Benjamin Brown driving up to join them, and Tim and Cheryl Jenkins were headed home after a week at North Myrtle. Two working bands checked in from the middle of a weekend run — Allen Pier with Rivermist and Greg Adair, both at Calli Baker's Firehouse that night at 6:30 and Deckerz on Sunday afternoon at three. Mike Parnell noticed the new line in the intro, Hall of Fame inductee, and said it had a good ring to it. Jay's spotlight went to Andy Swindell, which brought Roger Barber up out of Jamesville to say he could not think of a better dude to spotlight, and had Diane Barlow waiting on it in Wakefield all morning.

The rest simply raised a hand from wherever they happened to be. Rae French, Don Mark, Shug Nelson Ward, Cynthia Arthur, Paul Labin, Scott Hart, Shawn Briggs, Bubba Pittman, Ted Carter, Ken Shull Jr., Phyllis Helms, Naomi Hollingsworth, Laura Kepley, Kare Perhealth, Shelby Guy Kennerly, Grady Thomas with Mamma H on board, Bob and Lori Stone, Joy Muldrow Bocks at Polly's Landing Campground and Marina, and Lynne Watson Bell, who said she missed everybody but was glad not to be standing in the heat. Eddie Heglar asked Bo to pick him up at the next stop so he could climb aboard the 94.9 train. By the count on the board, better than a hundred and thirty came through in two hours, out of thirteen states.

One question is still sitting there unanswered. In the middle of everything, Adrianna Waddy asked: do you remember the Spectrum? Nobody got to it Saturday. We will.

Vaughan Penn had checked in early with Tommy, groovin' in Surf City, and by the end of the morning the station was congratulating her — "Bands on the Beach" went to No. 1. So the same Saturday that had an artist at No. 10 wondering whether he was still on the chart at all had the artist at No. 1 sitting in the audience too, checking in from the beach like everybody else. Jay thanked them all for tuning in. From Ocean Drive to the San Francisco Bay — thanks for listening loud and proud.

## CHART SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

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### Ella Langley and “Choosin’ Texas”

#### *Surf Countdown Chart Spotlight*

#### [We have been here before](#)

This newsletter spotlighted “Choosin’ Texas” back in April, in Issue 10, when it sat at No. 2 on the Surf Countdown. That piece ended with a prediction: if the trend held, the record had a date with the top of our chart. It took one week. Ella Langley was No. 1 here on April 11 and again on April 18, the first Saturday of Spring Safari.

So the interesting question this August is not how it got to the top. It is what has happened since. On August 15 the record finished third, behind Vaughan Penn and behind Gary Lowder & Smokin’ Hot with Jim Quick. Her second record, “Be Her,” sat at No. 7, two places below the Tams.

#### [Up there, down here](#)

Nationally, the four months since April have been the biggest of Langley’s life. When she took No. 1 on this chart she had spent roughly four weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100. By late July that number was fifteen and still climbing — the longest run any woman has managed with a country record, past Whitney Houston, past Mariah Carey, past a 1977 mark by Debby Boone that had stood for nearly half a century. Rolling Stone called it the song of the summer. She has been outcharting Taylor Swift and Drake since spring. In April she became the first woman ever to hold two solo records in the Country Airplay top ten at the same time without a co-billed artist.

Everywhere else, in other words, the record got bigger every week. Here it went 1, 1, 2, and has been drifting down ever since. The two curves run in opposite directions, and they have been doing it for four months.

#### [What knocked it off](#)

The date to look at is April 25. North Tower climbed back over Langley that Saturday and took No. 1 with “Pretty Lady,” and the reason given at [surfcountdown.com](#) was not airplay or streams or a label push. North Tower had played a strong Friday night at the Spanish Galleon. It was SOS week, the voting was heavy — one of the biggest weeks in years — and the shaggers who had been on that floor Friday went home and rated the songs on Saturday.

Sit with that a moment. The biggest single in the United States was displaced on this chart by a band that had a good night at a club on Main Street. There is no mechanism anywhere in the national chart system by which that can happen. It is the only mechanism this one has.

#### [This has happened before](#)

Elsewhere in this issue is the 1997 Cammy sheet, and on it is a line that has never repeated: National Shag/Dance Song to Alabama for “Dancin’, Shaggin’ on the Boulevard.” A mainstream country supergroup at the top of a beach music category, in the same year Shagger Magazine handed the group its award for group excellence. And that record did not turn out to be a novelty the Academy rewarded once and forgot. “Dancin’, Shaggin’ on the Boulevard” sits at No. 19 on the Surf’s All Time Top 100 Beach Music Songs — the hundred-record countdown this station aired on Memorial Day, May 25 of this year, voted by the same listeners who vote every Saturday — twenty-nine years after it won. Twenty-nine years later a country record again has two entries in the top seven of the Surf Countdown, and the woman who made them grew up in Hope Hull, Alabama.

The difference is worth naming. Alabama made a shag record on purpose, with the word in the title and the Boulevard in the lyric. Langley did not. “Choosin’ Texas” is a two-step heartbreak song written in a Nashville writing room by four people who were not thinking about Ocean Drive. It got to No. 1 here anyway, because people on this coast heard it and decided it worked, and it came back down here anyway, because they heard

something they liked better on a Friday night. Which leaves the question the Alabama record has already answered and this one has not. There are two ways of being measured on this coast: the countdown, which asks whether a record works right now, and the all-time list, which asks whether anybody still wants to hear it thirty years on. Alabama passed both. Langley has passed the first.

### What the chart is for

National scale buys nothing on this board. Fifteen weeks at No. 1 in America and half a billion streams get you third place behind a Vaughan Penn record. On the same twenty records, Gary Alexander's "Soul full of Sunshine" — two weeks old, no national chart position of any kind, an artist who assumed it had already fallen off — sits at No. 10 and climbing. The Surf Countdown has never measured how big a record is. It measures whether it works here, and those have never been the same question.

Rate "Choosin' Texas" for next week at [surfcountdown.com](http://surfcountdown.com).

## HOF SONG SPOTLIGHT • BEHIND THE SONG

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### **"(You're) More Than a Number in My Little Red Book" — The Drifters**

*Surf Countdown Hall of Fame Feature*

#### The hit America never heard

No. 15 on the Surf's All Time Top 100 Beach Music Songs, as counted down this past Memorial Day. A 2023 inductee into the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame songs class. And in the United States, where the Drifters had been a going concern for a quarter of a century, it did not chart at all. Not pop. Not R&B. Nothing.

#### The group that left

The Drifters and Atlantic Records were finished with each other by 1972. George Treadwell, who had managed the group since the Clyde McPhatter era, was dead; his widow Faye ran the operation, and by the mid-seventies the management company was Treadwell Drifters Inc. At home there were rival Drifters on the oldies circuit and lawyers arguing about the name.

England was different. The Northern Soul scene in the English Midlands had spent years digging up American soul records the American industry had discarded, and old Drifters sides were part of that excavation — which meant that in Britain the group was not a nostalgia act. The Drifters moved, were paired with the English writing and production team around Roger Cook and Roger Greenaway, and put together a run of British hits between 1973 and 1976: "Kissin' in the Back Row of the Movies," "Down on the Beach Tonight," "There Goes My First Love." Of the whole run, only "Back Row" touched an American chart, stalling at No. 83 R&B.

#### The record

Written by Roger Greenaway and Tony Macaulay. The 1976 lineup was Johnny Moore, Clyde Brown, Joe Blunt and Billy Lewis. It entered the British singles chart on December 18, 1976 at No. 47 and peaked at No. 5 on January 29, 1977, twelve weeks on the chart — so the release year is 1976 but the peak belongs to 1977, and most sources get that wrong. Official Charts lists the label as Arista; several pressings on Discogs read Bell. Bell was folded into Arista in 1975, which makes both defensible depending on territory and pressing.

#### Two dance floors, one group

Northern Soul in the English Midlands and the shag on the Carolina coast had nothing to do with each other and nothing much to do with the American mainstream. Both kept the same group working. One of them made this record a hit; the other made it a standard, and voted it 15th greatest of all time fifty years after the country it was made in ignored it completely.

*"(You're) More Than a Number in My Little Red Book" — The Drifters • 1976 • Written by Roger Greenaway and Tony Macaulay • Lead vocal Johnny Moore • No. 5 UK, January 29, 1977; twelve weeks on chart • Did*



*not chart in the United States • 2023 CBMA Hall of Fame Song • No. 15, Surf's All Time Top 100 Beach Music Songs, May 25, 2026*

## CBMA • THE THIRD YEAR

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### The Last Charlotte Cammys: The 1997 Awards

*Surflife — Carolina Beach Music Academy*

The third Carolina Beach Music Awards was the last one held away from the beach.

The Cammys started in Salisbury in 1995, moved to Charlotte for 1996, and stayed in Charlotte for 1997. The following year the show relocated to North Myrtle Beach and the CBMA Weekend as everyone now knows it — the Friday and Saturday club nights, the Sunday afternoon Band Fair, the Sunday awards — was born out of that move. Everything that happened in 1997 happened in the old configuration: an inland show honoring a circuit whose center of gravity was still very much inland.

Read the 1997 winners list with that in mind and it stops looking like a list. It looks like a map.

### A brand-new band takes the night

The Men of Distinction won three awards in 1997, a remarkable haul for a group the Academy had just named New Group/Artist of the Year. The same night they were introduced as newcomers they took Song of the Year for “It Won’t Be This Way Always” and Group Album for Step It Up and Go.

There is a second half to that story. One year later the Academy inducted the Original Men of Distinction into the Hall of Fame and recognized the group in the Artist division of its Lifetime Achievement roll. The Cammys crowned the new lineup and enshrined the old one within twelve months of each other.

### Danny Woods and the Entertainer award

Entertainer of the Year went to Danny Woods of the Chairmen of the Board, and it is worth stopping there. Across the first thirty-one years of the award, 1995 through 2025, Entertainer has gone to only seven acts. Billy Scott took the first one. Jim Quick has taken eighteen. The Fantastic Shakers, Craig Woolard, Scott Fine and Gary Lowder account for most of the rest. Danny Woods is the single name on that list who came to the Cammys as a member of a 1960s national soul act, and 1997 is the only year he won it. The Academy inducted him into the Hall of Fame nine years later, in 2006.

### Gore and Woolard, year two

Terri Gore won Female Vocalist for the second straight year and also took Solo Album for Carolina Girl. Craig Woolard won Male Vocalist for the second straight year. Neither result looked like the start of anything at the time. Both were. Gore won the category again in 1999 and 2000, shared it in 1998, and entered the Hall of Fame in 2010. Woolard’s 1997 win was the second of sixteen Male Vocalist awards, a total nobody in any CBMA category has approached except Jim Quick in Entertainer.

### The year the country charts came shagging

National Shag/Dance Song went to Alabama for “Dancin’, Shaggin’ on the Boulevard.” Alabama was at that point one of the largest touring acts in American country music, and the record was a deliberate, unmistakable shag song. Shagger Magazine gave the group its Award of Group Excellence the same year, citing the CD and the music video together. No other year in the category’s history has a mainstream country supergroup at the top of it. Nor did the record fade once the ballots were counted: it stands at No. 19 on the Surf’s All Time Top 100, as counted down on Memorial Day this past May, ahead of a good many records that never left the Carolinas at all.

Alabama was not the only national name on the 1997 sheet. Boz Scaggs took Blues Song for “Sick and Tired.” Blues Album went to Best of Both Worlds by Nappy Brown and Kip Anderson — Brown the Charlotte-born

singer the Academy had honored a year earlier with its 1996 Outstanding Achievement Award for blues, and Anderson a South Carolina soul singer the Academy would induct into the Hall of Fame in 2019.

## The inland map

The venue and broadcast awards are where 1997 tells on itself. Show Club went to Club Faces in Dunn, North Carolina, the third of four consecutive wins for a room ninety minutes from the ocean. FM Radio Station went to WNCT 107.9 in Greenville. The Larry Crockett Award for FM Radio DJ went to Steve Hardy, whose Original Beach Party on WNCT is generally cited as the longest continuously running Carolina beach music show on the air. Event of the Year went to the This Magic Moment Original Rhythm & Blues Festival, and in the same ceremony the Academy gave an Industry Appreciation award to Harry Turner, author of the book *This Magic Moment* and a co-founder of the festival that carried its name.

For readers of this newsletter, one number stands out by its absence. 94.9 The Surf did not win FM Radio Station in 1997. WVCO won it for the first time in 1999 — and then held it twelve consecutive years, through 2010, the longest run any station has ever had in the category. The station entered the CBMA Hall of Fame in 2011.

## Categories that opened and closed

Roadies of the Year was presented for the first time, to the Embers road crew — Wesley Young, Mike Camp, Tommy Nichols and Gaylon Pope. It was given only three times, to the Embers crew in 1997, the Band of Oz crew in 1998 and the Fantastic Shakers' Preston Honeycutt in 1999, and then retired. Almost no other music organization in the country has ever given one at all.

The Sara Helms Award was presented for the first time, to the Sara Helms family, and continued through 2003. And Live Recording was presented for the last time: Coastline's Live Bait closed a category that had run only three years, following the Georgia Prophets at Club Faces in 1995 and the Band of Oz at Red's in 1996.

Several familiar awards were simply not on the board. Songwriter was not presented in 1997 and would not return until 2003. Ballad/Smoothie was skipped. Club of the Year — the Bill Griffin Award — did not yet exist; it began in 1998. Neither did Fan of the Year, which began in 1999.

## The Hall of Fame class of 1997

Eight names went in, and the Academy's own sub-rolls show how.

Georgia Prophets — Billy Scott's band. Scott had co-founded the Cammys with Curtiss Carpenter two years earlier and had won the first Entertainer and Male Vocalist awards himself; in 1997 he watched his old group go into the Hall while he was still running the organization. Scott was not individually inducted until 2013.

Band of Oz — inducted the same year they won Group of the Year, the only act in the 1997 class honored and awarded on the same night.

Clyde McPhatter — posthumous, twenty-five years after his death. The Durham native founded the Drifters, sang with Billy Ward and the Dominoes, and cut "A Lover's Question," "Treasure of Love" and "Without Love (There Is Nothing)."

Sonny Turner — the Platters' lead singer from 1960 onward, and the recipient of the 1997 Joe Pope Pioneer Award, which carries Hall of Fame membership with it. The Academy returned to his catalog in 2024, placing "With This Ring" in the songs Hall of Fame.

Bo Schronce — entered through the Artist division of the Lifetime Achievement roll. The timing is what makes it unusual: he won Male Vocalist of the Year in 1998, 1999 and 2000, three straight, after going into the Hall of Fame. The Academy honored him for his career and then watched him have his best competitive run.

Tom Wicker — entered through the Club division of the Lifetime Achievement roll, credited for various clubs in Charlotte.

Chuck "Boo" Baron — entered through the Radio division of the Lifetime Achievement roll after stints at WAYS and WKZQ.



Hattie “Chatty Hattie” Leeper — trailblazing Charlotte radio legend entered as Lifetime Achievement winner.

Look at the last three together. In its final Charlotte year the Academy put a Charlotte club operator, a Charlotte radio veteran and a Charlotte radio pioneer into the Hall of Fame on the same night. Then it packed up and moved to the ocean.

### THE COMPLETE 1997 WINNERS

| AWARD                              | 1997 WINNER                                                            |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Entertainer                        | Danny Woods (Chairmen of the Board)                                    |
| Male Vocalist                      | Craig Woolard                                                          |
| Female Vocalist                    | Terri Gore                                                             |
| Group                              | Band of Oz                                                             |
| New Group / Artist                 | Men of Distinction                                                     |
| Song                               | “It Won’t Be This Way Always,” Men of Distinction                      |
| Group Album                        | Step It Up and Go, Men of Distinction                                  |
| Solo Album                         | Carolina Girl, Terri Gore                                              |
| Collaboration / Duo                | “Cowboys to Girls,” Sammy O’Banion & Leeta Miller                      |
| National Shag / Dance Song         | “Dancin’, Shaggin’ on the Boulevard,” Alabama                          |
| Compilation Album                  | Boogie Beat 2, various artists, Ripete                                 |
| Blues Album                        | Best of Both Worlds, Nappy Brown & Kip Anderson                        |
| Blues Song                         | “Sick and Tired,” Boz Scaggs                                           |
| Live Recording                     | Live Bait, Coastline                                                   |
| Producer                           | Marion Carter                                                          |
| Engineer                           | Johnny Barker                                                          |
| FM Radio Station                   | WNCT 107.9, Greenville, North Carolina                                 |
| FM Radio DJ — Larry Crockett Award | Steve Hardy                                                            |
| Syndicated Radio Show              | The Charlie Byrd Beach Blast                                           |
| Club / Mobile DJ                   | Gary Bass                                                              |
| Richard Nixon Assoc. DJ Award      | Eddie “EZ” Zomerfeld                                                   |
| Live Music Venue (Show Club)       | Club Faces, Dunn, North Carolina                                       |
| Event                              | This Magic Moment Original Rhythm & Blues Festival                     |
| Retail Outlet                      | Judy’s House of Oldies, North Myrtle Beach                             |
| Publication                        | Shagger Magazine                                                       |
| Michael Branch Award               | Insight Talent                                                         |
| Shad Alberty Award                 | Sam & Sara West                                                        |
| Roadies of the Year                | Embers road crew — Wesley Young, Mike Camp, Tommy Nichols, Gaylon Pope |
| Sara Helms Award                   | The Sara Helms family                                                  |
| Shagger Mag. — Group Excellence    | Alabama, Dancin’, Shaggin’ on the Boulevard CD and video               |

| AWARD                                | 1997 WINNER                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shagger Mag. — Individual Excellence | Michael Norris & LeAnn Best, 1997 National Shag Dance Champions                      |
| Industry & Appreciation              | Harry Turner — author, This Magic Moment; co-founder, This Magic Moment R&B Festival |

*Not presented in 1997: Songwriter • Ballad/Smoothie • Club of the Year (began 1998) • Fan of the Year (began 1999) • Instrumentalist (began 2003) • Live Production (began 2007)*

## THE 1997 HALL OF FAME CLASS

| INDUCTEE             | ENTERED AS                             |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Georgia Prophets     | Band                                   |
| Band of Oz           | Band                                   |
| Clyde McPhatter      | Artist (posthumous)                    |
| Sonny Turner         | Joe Pope Pioneer Award, 1997           |
| Bo Schronce          | Lifetime Achievement — Artist          |
| Tom Wicker           | Lifetime Achievement — Club, Charlotte |
| Boo Baron            | Lifetime Achievement — Radio           |
| Chatty Hattie Leeper | Lifetime Achievement — Radio           |

*Sources: Carolina Beach Music Academy awards register and Hall of Fame inductee rolls, cammy.org.*

## The SURFLINE

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