



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

Five days left. Fall Migration opened Friday the 18th and it closes Sunday the 27th, so if you have been saving something for later, later is now. And did you see The Tams backed by members of The Swingin' Medallions on Monday. WOWser! Makes me want to....SHOUT!

Vaughan Penn is No. 1 for a third straight Saturday — "Bands on the Beach" has not moved since it retook the top on September 5. Behind her the bottom of the board turned over. Four records arrived at once: Classic Soul with Terri Gore, the Main Event Band and the Tonez are all back for another run, and R. Mark Black is on with "Just Love". There is a Chart Spotlight on it inside.

Friday morning at the Tiki Bar went the way those mornings go. The Surf Crew read the nominees for the 32nd Annual Carolina Beach Music Awards live from HOTO's, four hours of it, a category at a time between records, with TR's Cancer Fighters working the room for the Oyster Roast raffle. The full ballot is inside.

Tonight Fat Harold's has free chicken bog at 6, with Jim Quick and Coastline on the Harold's stage from 2 to 6. Band of Oz has the Galleon at 8:30 and Sea Cruz is at Deckerz at 7.

Thursday is a doubleheader again. Music on Main has Gary Lowder and Smokin' Hot at the Horseshoe, 6:30 to 8:30, free, bring a chair — and the usual warning applies, the parking lot closes at two and the Horseshoe does not open for chairs until three. Jim Quick and Coastline take the Galleon at 8:30, Rivermist has Harold's from 2 to 6, Christina Black is at Deckerz at 7, and Johnny White is at Ducks at 9. Tram service starts back Thursday night, 7 to 1, free with an SOS card.

Friday, Gary Lowder and Smokin' Hot play Harold's 2 to 6, Too Much Sylvia has the Galleon, the Marsha Morgan Band is at Deckerz at 8, and Switch is at Ducks at 9.

Saturday the 26th is the day to pace yourself. The ACSC Fall Meeting is at the Galleon at 10, Jay has the countdown from 10 to noon, and Fat Harold's runs a Shag Showdown at 1:30, a Vinyl Party at 3:30 and a Hall of Fame exhibition at 4. The Castaways are at Deckerz at 4, and the Main Event Band closes the Galleon board at 8:30.

Then it is over but for the goodbye. Rick Strickland and Lesa play Deckerz at 3 on Sunday and Jeff James at 7, and Fat Harold's closes the migration with the Bye Bye Party, 6 to 10, Jim Quick and Coastline, Jay Kinlaw on the mic.

Make the most of what is left. See you on Main Street.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday, Sept. 23** — Fat Harold's free chicken bog, 6 PM; Jim Quick & Coastline, 2–6 PM
- **Wednesday, Sept. 23** — Deckerz: Sea Cruz, 7 PM • Spanish Galleon: Band of Oz, 8:30 PM
- **Thursday, Sept. 24** — Music on Main: Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot, 6:30–8:30 PM at the Horseshoe, 11 S. Ocean Blvd. Free, bring a chair
- **Thursday, Sept. 24** — Fat Harold's: Rivermist, 2–6 PM • Deckerz: Christina Black, 7 PM • Ducks: Johnny White, 9 PM • Spanish Galleon: Jim Quick & Coastline, 8:30 PM
- **Sept. 24–26** — SOS tram service, free with an SOS card, 7 PM–1 AM
- **Friday, Sept. 25** — Fat Harold's: Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot, 2–6 PM • Deckerz: Marsha Morgan Band, 8 PM • Ducks: Switch, 9 PM • Spanish Galleon: Too Much Sylvia, 8:30 PM
- **Saturday, Sept. 26** — The Surf Countdown with Jay Kinlaw, 10 AM – 12 Noon
- **Saturday, Sept. 26** — ACSC Fall Meeting, 10 AM at the Spanish Galleon
- **Saturday, Sept. 26** — Fat Harold's: Shag Showdown 1:30 PM, Vinyl Party 3:30 PM, Hall of Fame exhibition 4 PM
- **Saturday, Sept. 26** — Deckerz: The Castaways, 4 PM • Spanish Galleon: The Main Event Band, 8:30 PM
- **Sunday, Sept. 27** — Deckerz: Rick Strickland & Lesa, 3 PM; Jeff James, 7 PM
- **Sunday, Sept. 27** — Bye Bye Party, Fat Harold's, 6–10 PM with Jim Quick & Coastline, Jay Kinlaw, DJ
- **Nov. 5–8** — CBMA Weekend, Ocean Drive Resort and the Alabama Theatre; awards show Sunday, Nov. 8, 3 PM
- **The Daily Calendar for NMB** is posted every morning

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

CBMA Reveals the 2026 Ballot at HOTO's

Live from the Tiki Bar | 94.9 The Surf | Friday, September 18, 2026

Same sand. Same sound. Same Tiki Bar.

The Carolina Beach Music Awards came back to HOTO's — Harold's On The Ocean — on Friday, September 18, and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the 2026 nominees went out live on 94.9 The Surf. Jim Quick, CBMA President Peter Carpenter, Chad Sain and the whole Surf Team set up at the Tiki Bar with the ocean over one shoulder and a stack of ballots over the other, and for four hours North Myrtle Beach got the list a category at a time, between records, the way it ought to be done.

If the room felt familiar, it should. This is the same spot where CBMA unveiled the 2026 Hall of Fame class back in the spring during SOS Spring Safari. Lunch, a cold drink, a little sun, and the Surf Crew broadcasting the news as it broke. It has become one of the best afternoons on the beach music calendar, and Friday kept the streak going.

TR's Cancer Fighters Inc. worked the crowd during the broadcast, selling raffle tickets for this year's Oyster Roast. Anybody who bought a ticket during the show got dropped into a second drawing — two tickets to the Carolina Beach Music Awards show and the Industry Awards show in November. Buy a raffle ticket, help the fight, and maybe talk your way into the Alabama Theatre. That's a good Friday. Fitting, too: TR's 18th Annual Oyster Roast is itself on this year's ballot for Event of the Year.

So — and the nominees are...

On Stage

Female Vocalist: Deb Browning • Karen Clayton (The Castaways) • Laura Kepley (The Tonez) • Lesa Hudson • Rhonda McDaniel (Carolina Coast Band) • Terri Gore (Classic Soul)

Male Vocalist: Allen Pier (Rivermist) • Gary Lowder (Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot) • Jonathan Treece (The Tonez) • Rick Strickland • Rickey Godfrey (Carolina Coast Band) • Steve Long (Too Much Sylvia)

Entertainer: Craig Woolard (Embers feat. Craig Woolard) • Gary Lowder (Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot) • Jim Quick (Jim Quick & Coastline) • Karen Clayton (Castaways) • Lesa Hudson (Rick Strickland Band) • Steve Long (Too Much Sylvia) • Townsend Link (The Pink Slips)

Rising Star(s): Groove Harbor Band • Jennifer James • Mac Daddy's Band • Vaughan Penn

Group of the Year: Band of Oz • The Castaways • The Embers ft. Craig Woolard • Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot • Jim Quick and Coastline • North Tower • Too Much Sylvia

Instrumentalist: Art Amaral, sax (Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot) • Brady Hastings, sax (Castaways) • Craig Woolard, sax (Embers) • Guy Brooks, bass (Castaways) • Rick Strickland, guitar (Rick Strickland Band) • Rhonda McDaniel, keyboard (Carolina Coast Band) • Tom Bagley, guitar (North Tower)

On the Record

Song of the Year: "Every Road" – Rick Strickland & Lesa Hudson • "I Can't Wait For The Weekend" – Rhonda McDaniel • "I Tried" – The Tams • "I'll Be There" – Too Much Sylvia • "Love Is What I'm Talking About" – The Castaways • "Pretty Lady" – North Tower • "Pretty Women Everywhere" – Craig Woolard

Smoothie/Ballad: "Every Road" – Rick Strickland & Lesa Hudson • "Forevermore" – Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot • "I'll Be There" – Too Much Sylvia • "Love Is What I'm Talking About" – The Castaways ft. Karen Clayton • "Soul Full of Sunshine" – Gary "Alex" Alexander • "Wait For Me" – Jim Quick & Allie Privette

National Dance Song: "Choosin' Texas" – Ella Langley • "Honey" – Lenny Kravitz • "I Just Might" – Bruno Mars • "Just One More" – California Honeydrops

Album of the Year: Best Of The Band – Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot • Power of Two – Rick Strickland & Lesa Hudson • Reaching For The Top – Rhonda McDaniel • Right Place Right Time – Rivermist

Collaboration or Duo: "Getaway Car" – Deb Browning & Michael Fite • "Jump On It" – Rhonda McDaniel & Gary Lowder • "My Heart Is Not A Toy" – Jim Quick & Gary Lowder • "Suspicious Minds" – Jennifer James & Brad Cox • "The Sea Sand & You" – Deb Browning & Townsend Link • "Wait For Me" – Jim Quick, Allie Privette & Mark Black

Songwriter(s): Charlie Sattenfield & Brad Cox, "I Tried" (The Tams) • Guy Brooks, "Love Is What I'm Talking About" (The Castaways) • Jim Quick, "Wait For Me" (Jim Quick, Allie Privette & R Mark Black) • Jonathan Treece, "NMBSC" (The Tonez) • Rick Strickland, "Every Road" (Rick Strickland & Lesa Hudson) • Wayne Free, "I Love Kissing You" (Wayne Free)

Music Video of the Year: "Forevermore" – Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot • "I'll Be There" – Too Much Sylvia • "Lady of The Island" – Rivermist • "No Place Like New Orleans" – Sylvia Johns Ritchie • "Someday at Christmas" – Craig Woolard & Jackie Gore • "The Sea Sand and You" – Deb Browning & Townsend Link

Producer(s): Brad Cox ("I Tried," The Tams; "My Heart Is Not A Toy," Jim Quick & Gary Lowder) • Chris Biehler ("Pretty Women Everywhere," Craig Woolard) • Doyle Wood ("Heaven's Not That Far Away," Rivermist) • Guy Brooks & Karen Clayton ("Love Is What I'm Talking About," The Castaways) • Rick Strickland & Lesa Hudson ("Every Road")

Engineer(s): Brad Cox (“My Heart Is Not A Toy”) • David Rhyne (“I’ll Be There”) • Doyle Wood (“Heaven’s Not That Far Away”) • Guy Brooks & Hubert Dean (“Love Is What I’m Talking About”) • Keith Houston (“Pretty Lady”) • Rick Strickland (“Every Road”)

On the Air

Radio DJ of the Year (Larry Crockett Award): Andy Lucy (97.9 WTRG, Gaston, NC) • Craig Woolard (107.9 WNCT, Greenville, NC) • Eric Bowman (99.1 WDZD, Monroe, NC) • Jay Kinlaw (94.9 WVCO, Loris, SC) • Jim Morgan (94.9 WVCO) • Jim Quick (94.9 WVCO) • Mike Brooks (98.3 WLUS, Oxford, NC) • Pat Patterson (96.5 WPCC, Clinton, SC) • Shaun Lamm (99.3 WZAX, Nashville, NC)

Radio Station of the Year: 96.5 WPCC, Clinton, SC • 97.9 WTRG, Gaston, NC • 98.3 WLUS, Oxford, NC • 99.1 WDZD, Monroe, NC • 99.3 WZAX, Nashville, NC • 102.9 WELS, Kinston, NC

Radio Show of the Year (Charlie Byrd Award): Best Day Ever Show (Jim Quick) • Carolina Ocean Drive (Mike Brooks & Alan D) • Morgan In the Morning (Jim Morgan) • Surf Countdown (Jay Kinlaw & Bo Gilbert) • The Beat of The Beach (Pat Patterson) • The Craig Woolard Show (Craig Woolard) • The Wave Beach Music Countdown (Eric Bowman)

Syndicated Radio Show: At the Beach w/ Pat Gwinn (Gwinn, Benningfield, Ryan, Douglas) • John Hook’s Beach Music Top 40 (John Hook) • Swamp Soul (Jim Quick & Bo Gilbert) • On the Beach w/ Charlie Brown (Charlie Brown & Chris Beachley)

Internet Show: “Beach Bound and Down” (Townsend Link) • “Carolina Beach Party” (Johnny B) • “Deckerz Deck Party ft. Ray Scott” (Ray Scott) • “Highway 17” (Ben Morris)

Internet Station: Back To The Beach Radio (Rock Hall) • Beach Waves Radio (Townsend Link, Ben Morris & Scott Walker) • Flip Flop Live (Andy Lucy & Jonathon Sharpe) • RIPTIDE Radio (Scott, Henriksen & Dennis)

Internet DJ: Ben Morris (Beach Waves Radio) • Johnny B (Riptideradio.com) • Townsend Link (Beach Waves Radio) • Wayne Free (Beach Waves Radio)

On the Boulevard

Club (Bill Griffin Award): Loafers Dance Club, Raleigh, NC • Lynn’s Dance Club, Charlotte, NC • Memories Beach Club, Atlantic Beach, NC • OD Arcade, N. Myrtle Beach, SC • OD Pavilion, N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Live Music Venue (Cecil Corbett Award): Blackmon Amphitheatre, Mt. Airy, NC • Castaways Keys, N. Myrtle Beach, SC • Deckerz, N. Myrtle Beach, SC • Scallywag’s Bar & Grill, New London, NC • Spanish Galleon, N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Event of the Year: Carolina Beach Music Festival 2026, Carolina Beach, NC • Flem Whitt Beach Music Festival, Hyco Lake, NC • NC Beach Blast Festival 2025, King’s Mountain, NC • Shaggin’ For A Cause 2026, South Hill, VA • Stuart Beach Festival 2026 (Hot Fun in the Summertime), Stuart, VA • TR’s Cancer Fighters 18th Annual Oyster Roast, North Myrtle Beach, SC

Concert Series of the Year: Blackmon Amphitheatre Concert Series, Mt. Airy, NC • Calabash Concert Series, Calabash, NC • Coolin’ Out Concert Series on Main, Stanley, NC • Lake Life Live, Clarksville, VA • Midtown Concert Series (North Hills), Raleigh, NC • Music on Main (Horseshoe), NMB, SC • Shoe Center Customer Appreciation, NMB, SC

Club / Mobile DJ (Richard Nixon Award): Andy Lucy • Eric Bowman • Jay Kinlaw • Justin Rouse • Pat Patterson • Shaun Lamm

Live Production: Bob Blair (Gary Lowder & Smokin’ Hot/North Tower) • Daniel Medley (The Tonez) • Mike Ashworth (The Castaways) • Steve Davis (The Band of Oz) • Steve Jones (Rivermist) • Steven Edwards (The Embers ft. Craig Woolard) • Timm Denning (Jim Quick & Coastline)

Michael Branch Award: Andy Lucy & Jonathan Sharpe (Flip Flop Live) • Abby Lee Carter (Brio Live) • Bo Gilbert (Grand Strand Marketing Group) • Melissa Hinson (OD Mafia) • Pat Patterson (Beach Music 45) • Renee Chesson (Beach Music Cafe) • Wayne Troutman (Ocean Drive Productions)

A Word From the Surf Family

We'll try not to be too obvious about this, but it was a good morning for the folks you hear on this station. Jay Kinlaw — fresh off his Hall of Fame induction announcement in the spring — turns up three times on this ballot: Radio DJ of the Year, Club/Mobile DJ, and Surf Countdown for Radio Show of the Year alongside Bo Gilbert. Bo is up again for the Michael Branch Award and, with Jim Quick, for Swamp Soul. Jim Quick reads like a ballot all by himself — Entertainer, Group, Radio DJ, Radio Show, songwriter, and a pair of duets. Jim Morgan is in the Radio DJ field too.

That's not a Surf brag so much as a reminder of what this scene actually is: a few dozen people who play the records, book the rooms, run the boards, and drive the vans, all showing up on each other's ballots year after year. Different rooms, same heartbeat.

Voting details are on the way. Mark your calendars now — CBMA Weekend runs **November 5–8 at the Ocean Drive Resort and the Alabama Theatre in North Myrtle Beach**, with the awards show itself taking the Alabama Theatre stage Sunday, November 8, at 3 p.m. Four days of music, memory, and the people who keep this sound on the air and on the dance floor. We'll have plenty more as the date gets closer.

Congratulations to every nominee. See you in November.

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 with Harper Sanders	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
A Joyful Noise	Jim Morgan	Sun, 7–10 AM
Swamp Soul	Jim Quick	Fri, 7 PM

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This Week's Surf Countdown

The September 19th Chart • Presented by Jay Kinlaw on 94.9 The Surf

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

On the bubble: "Good On You" – Maoli

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

On The Move

Four records came on at once, the first arrivals in weeks, and a fifth is sitting on the bubble. Three of the four are returns and one is a true debut. Everything that held its footing moved up to make room, and the top of the chart did not budge.

The top

"Bands on the Beach" is No. 1 for a third straight Saturday. Vaughan Penn has not given the spot back since she retook it on September 5, and she is carrying a second record too — "Sandbar Shuffle" moved 12 to 9. Under the Surf Countdown rules no artist may have more than two songs ranked in a given week, so Penn is carrying the most any single act can carry.

So is Ella Langley. "Choosin' Texas" held at 2 and "Be Her" is at 4, with Jim Quick's "Wait For Me" at 3 sitting between them — back to the number it held two Saturdays ago. Two artists at the two-record limit in the same week, and four of the top four spots between them.

Movin' up

Two records tied for the biggest climb of the week, both five places. Rick & Lesa's "Every Road" went 10 to 5 after two straight Saturdays parked at 10, and Rivermist's "At the End of the Day" went 13 to 8. Gary Lowder's "Forevermore" picked up four and landed in the top ten at 10, and Marsha Morgan's "Wherever There's Summer" picked up four to 15. The Holiday Band moved three to 14, Jennifer James two to 13, and "My Heart is not a Toy" one to 6.

Gary Alexander's "Soul full of Sunshine" has now sat at 16 for three straight weeks, which on this chart takes a kind of patience.

The most-traveled record on the board this month belongs to the Tams. "I Tried" has gone 11, 9, 5 and 11 across four Saturdays. The points reset every week and nothing carries over, and no record proves that better right now.

Arrivals

The Saturday after the nominations were read, four records arrived at the bottom of the board — and every one of them has a 2026 CBMA nominee on it.

Three are returns. Classic Soul with Terri Gore is back at 17 with "Where Did You Go?" — the record was at 19 on August 29 and 20 on September 5, so 17 is the best it has done in three runs, and Gore is nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year. The Main Event Band returns at 18 with "I Shiver," and the band closes out the Spanish Galleon's migration board on Saturday the 26th. The Tonez come back at 19 with "NMBSC," the exact number it held on September 5 — and the record Jonathan Treece is nominated for writing.

The one true new entry is at the bottom. R. Mark Black debuts at 20 with "Just Love" — the same Mark Black credited on "Wait For Me" at No. 3. More on that below.

On the bubble: Maoli's "Good On You." Rate next week's countdown at surfcountdown.com.

CHART SPOTLIGHT

R. Mark Black, "Just Love" — at No. 20

Two names, one chart, one Saturday

There are two ways onto this chart. One is to have your name on the record. The other is to have your name on somebody else's. This week R. Mark Black managed both.

Seventeen places above it, at No. 3, sits "Wait For Me" — Jim Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette — a record that has not left the top four all month. Same man, two rows on the same page, two different billings.

The collaboration is on the CBMA ballot twice over. "Wait For Me" is nominated for Collaboration or Duo of the Year, credited to Jim Quick, Allie Privette and Mark Black, and again in the Smoothie/Ballad category, with Jim Quick nominated for writing it. Those names went out over this station from the Tiki Bar on Friday morning. The follow-up charted the next day.

The man behind it

Black is a Clover, South Carolina, man — Clover High School, then saxophone at Appalachian State, with later study at the Union Institute and the University of Glasgow in Scotland. He taught school for a stretch after ASU, then joined the Charlotte group the Fabulous Kays, playing saxophone and keyboards and singing.

In 1995 he joined the Embers, and stayed almost ten years. Those were label years — two different deals, the last with Bluewater Records of New York, at the time a subsidiary of Universal Music. One of his labelmates was George Benson. A beach music horn player out of Clover and one of the great jazz guitarists, same letterhead.

After the Embers he went back to teaching, three years in Conway, and built something there worth pausing over: a program that ran reading music, composing music and recording technology together, pre-K through fifth grade, with workstations in the classroom. By the time he left, every child in that school was reading music and writing music of their own. He wrote and scored the school's musical specials himself.

These days he works for the Jack Tankersley Agency in Mount Pleasant and serves as musical director of the East Coast Party Band, Mount Pleasant's musical ambassadors. He also turns up with several other regional groups, including the longtime Charlotte powerhouse Mo Money Band.

His own catalog starts with the album *Make Your Mark* in 2018 — “Same Power,” “Pump and Thump,” “Old Time Saturday Nite” — and runs through “Who's Lovin' You” and “Whispers (Getting Louder)” in 2019, “Shag Shack” and “What About Me” in 2020, and “Let Me Make Love to You” in 2022, with guest turns on “Who's Gonna Love You Baby” alongside Phil Wilson and on the Rhythm and Beach Superband's “Kick It Up a Step.”

The record

“Just Love” runs 4:29, and Mark did not make it by himself. He built it with Fitz McGill, Daniel Rodriguez, Rusty Smith and David Rhyne, and thanked all four for lending him their talents. Rhyne's name is on this year's CBMA ballot as well, nominated for engineering Too Much Sylvia's “I'll Be There.”

Mark calls it “truly a creation/labor of LOVE.” Four and a half minutes, four friends on it, six months between the release and the chart. That is what that phrase usually costs.

Where “Just Love” goes from here is up to the voters, and back at 20 on this chart has gone both directions before. What is already true is this: on the Saturday after the nominations, one man's name turned up twice in twenty records. Not many do that.

LISTENING IN • SATURDAY'S COUNTDOWN

All Aboard: The Countdown Train Rolls Through SOS Weekend

The Surf Countdown with Jay Kinlaw came on the air Saturday morning the way it always does — and the way it never quite does, because this was SOS weekend, and half of Jay's audience was either standing in Ocean Drive or driving hard to get there.

Jay ran the countdown as usual, with a special SOS Spotlight on The English Drifters. And as usual, the check-ins started before the first record and didn't stop.

The train metaphor took over early. Bootsie Howard told Jay to keep chugging it. Randy and Debbie Kinsolving were full steam ahead from Vienna, West Virginia, blowing the whistle loud and proud. Sharon and Phillip Harrelson boarded at the station in Reidsville. Mark and Ann Craine reported simply, “The train has arrived” — from Paradise in OD, no less. Down in central Florida, David McClain and company were, in his words, doing the locomotion with the locomotive.

Then came the roll call, and it was a wide one. Gary Steele had the Top 20 turned up in Covington, Georgia. Linda and Allen Andrews checked in from the Warrior River. Jeff Shattuck and Monica Meares were listening from FloTown. Marc and Dru Ackerman were bass fishing the Cooper River. KB and Teddie were rolling toward the Holy City, Kimmy Bartleson was on the road to Asheville, and Richard and Marsha Andrews had come all the way from Gulf Shores, Alabama, and were almost to OD on I-95.

Jane McEwan listened from New Philadelphia, Ohio. Wally and Jeana Welch from Weare, New Hampshire. Cindy Miller from Ocean City, New Jersey. Tony and Sue Choy from Palmerton, Pennsylvania. Naomi Hollingsworth announced that Montgomery, Texas was in the house. Mike and Cindy Anderson were visiting grandchildren in Crofton, Maryland. Richard and Vera Schumpert put it best from Knoxville: they couldn't be at Ocean Drive for SOS, but the show got their minds a little closer.

And the Carolinas turned out the way the Carolinas do — Blowing Rock, Raleigh, Troy, Boone, Coats, Murrells Inlet, Carolina Beach, Calabash, Hallsboro, Pinnacle, Thomasville, Eden, Southern Pines, Elizabethtown, China

Grove, Harrisburg, Laurinburg, Mocksville, Madison, Lewisville, Summerville, Goose Creek, Murphy, Little River, and the Big Community of North Whiteville. Lori Yandle Stone was at East Port Golf for the O.D. Shag Club Charity Golf Tournament. Alex Ingram was at the tailgate for the Gamecock game. Tammy Jo Bullard checked in from Golden Holden while filing her fingernails.

Running underneath all of it was one steady note: congratulations on the CBMA nominations. Ed and Linda Shiflett called it well deserved. Sherie Davis sent a BIG congratulations from Mocksville. Jason and Cindy Wall, Richard and Patricia Polhemus, Julie Griffin, Tony Choy — the line formed early and stayed long.

Harold Smith offered the only piece of advice all morning that wasn't a location: "Busy week for our DJ Jay. Relax in between."

He won't. See you next Saturday.

MEET BROTHER BRIAN AND THE SURF CREW

Brother Brian Kosko: The Force Behind the Surf's Presence Everywhere

Anytime you see a Surf DJ out on the boulevard — a remote at a sponsor's lot, live from HOTO's on a Friday — somebody put that there. Usually it was Brother Brian and the Surf Crew.

Brian Kosko is a retired United States Navy lieutenant commander. His wife Angela is a retired Navy commander, which means that for a good while there she outranked him, and we will leave the two of them to sort out what that is worth. After the Navy, Brian spent several years as a defense contractor while Angie finished out her commitment. Now the pair of them — and often Brian's brother Rick, an Army veteran known up and down the boulevard as Ponytail Rick — are the reason a radio station that lives on North Ocean Boulevard keeps turning up everywhere else.

None of that happens by itself. A remote is not a microphone and a folding table. Somebody loads it, hauls it, sets it up, gets power to it, stands by it all afternoon and then packs the whole thing back into a vehicle at the end of a long hot day, so that the voice you hear on the air sounds like it just strolled up and started talking. That is the job, and the Surf Crew do it week after week without asking for a credit.

Brother Brian is on the air himself on Fridays at 2 p.m. He is at every 94.9 remote there is. Rick and Angie are generally close by.

You heard Brother Brian on Friday morning at the Tiki Bar, one of the voices reading the 2026 CBMA nominees out of HOTO's. And the Saturday before that, Brian and Angela checked in to the Surf Countdown from the Horry Georgetown Home Builders show at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center with the station playing — which is about right. Even on a day away they are working the room for this station. Brother Brian, Angie and Ponytail Rick are the behind-the-scenes magic that makes it all happen.

Thanks to them for always being there, and for keeping the Surf on the air.

The SURFLINE

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