



The SURFLINE

The Weekly Newsletter of 94.9 The Surf • WVCB FM
Official Station of the Society of Stranders • CBMA Hall of Fame Radio Station

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IN THIS ISSUE: Ocean Drive Scene • This Week's Surf Countdown • Chart Spotlight: The Castaways • Listening In • I'm Gonna Miss You: The First S.O.S. Weekend • Back to the CBMA's: 2000

Ocean Drive Scene

That's a wrap! Fall Migration closed Sunday night the way it always does, with the Bye Bye Party at Fat Harold's, Jim Quick and Coastline on the stage and Jay Kinlaw on the mic. By Monday morning Main Street had its parking spaces back.

Ten days, a band every night at the Spanish Galleon, and more dancing than anybody's knees will admit to. Sunday afternoon the crowd gathered at the OD Pavilion from 3 to 6 for one more send-off, and this one had a guest of honor: Monty Lee, the shag world's photographer, who is moving away soon. Walk through the Pavilion and look at the pictures on the walls of the people who have partied there. Monty took many of them. Rick & Lesa, No. 6 on this week's Countdown, played Deckerz at 3, the Carolina Kingsnakes were at Captain Archie's, DJ Heavy had Soulful Sunday on the air at noon, and the Beach Boys, those West Coast surfers, closed the night at the Alabama Theatre.

Saturday morning the Countdown caught the whole migration in motion: half the audience still on the sand at Ocean Drive, the other half on the highway home with the radio up. Listening In has the roll call. And for the feature this week we go back to the fall of 1980, when Chris Beachley wrote up the very first S.O.S. weekend for *It Will Stand* and borrowed a Chicago soul record for the title. Forty-six years later it still fits.

Vaughan Penn is No. 1 for a fourth straight Saturday with "Bands on the Beach," and the top three did not move. Below them, eight records climbed. The Tams made the biggest jump, 11 to 5 with "I Tried." The Castaways and the Pink Slips Band are both back for another run, and Marlisa Kay Small's brand-new single was on the bubble three days after it came out. The Chart Spotlight is on the Castaways inside.

Now the attention turns to November. Ballots are in the hands of the CBMA Academy, and voting is underway for the 32nd Annual Carolina Beach Music Awards. - CBMA Members have until Midnight October 1st to submit their ballot. The full list of nominees ran in last week's Surflines, and the Surf family is all over it: Jay Kinlaw three times, Bo Gilbert three times, Jim Quick in more categories than we have room to count, and Jim Morgan in the Radio DJ field.

While the Academy marks its ballots, we open the record books on a year when the voting went this station's way. Back to the CBMA's: 2000 is inside, with a Hall of Fame class that ran from Jerry Butler to the man who sold the records.

CBMA Weekend is November 5-8 at the Ocean Drive Resort and the Alabama Theatre, with the awards show Sunday, November 8, at 3 p.m. That is five weeks. Rest up.

See you on Main Street.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Friday, Oct. 2 - Surf Pink Party at the Tiki Bar 11am-3pm - Cancer Awareness - Wear Pink**
- **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

This Week's Surf Countdown

The September 26th 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	3
4	"My Heart Is Not a Toy"	Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick	6
5	"I Tried"	The Tams	11
6	"Every Road"	Rick & Lesa	5
7	"Sandbar Shuffle"	Vaughan Penn	9
8	"Be Her"	Ella Langley	4
9	"Forevermore"	Gary Lowder	10
10	"I'll Be There"	Too Much Sylvia	12
11	"At the End of the Day"	Rivermist	8
12	"Young Again"	Andy & Oneida	7
13	"Music Makes the World Go Round"	The Holiday Band	14
14	"Wherever There's Summer"	Marsha Morgan	15
15	"Carolina's Home"	Jennifer James	13
16	"Just Love"	R. Mark Black	20
17	"Soul Full of Sunshine"	Gary Alexander	16
18	"Love Is What I'm Talkin' About"	The Castaways	RE
19	"Windows Rolled Down"	Pink Slips Band	RE
20	"NMBSC"	The Tonez	19

On the bubble: "In Way Over My Heart" – Marlisa Kay Small • "Sucker for a Sad Song" – Little Big Town
LW: Last Week • NE: New Entry • RE: Re-Entry • Rate songs for next week at surfcountdown.com

On The Move

The top three held for a second straight Saturday, and almost everything below them moved. Eight records climbed, two records came back, and two brand-new singles are already waiting on the bubble.

The top

"Bands on the Beach" is No. 1 for a fourth straight Saturday. Vaughan Penn has held the spot every week since she retook it on September 5, and her second record is climbing with it. "Sandbar Shuffle" moved 9 to 7, its best showing this month. Ella Langley's "Choosin' Texas" has been at 2 for the same four weeks, and Jim Quick's "Wait For Me," with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette, holds at 3.

Right under them, "My Heart Is Not a Toy" moved 6 to 4. Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot's record with Jim Quick held No. 1 for five straight weeks this summer, and 4 is its highest spot on any September chart. That puts Jim Quick's name on two of the top four. Lowder is carrying a second record too, and "Forevermore" went 10 to 9.

Movin' up

The Tams made the biggest climb of the week, six places, 11 to 5 with "I Tried." Last week we called it the most-traveled record on the board: 11, 9, 5 and 11 across four Saturdays. Now it is back to 5. The points reset every week, and this record keeps proving it. It is also up for Song of the Year.

Brad Cox also produced "My Heart Is Not a Toy," so his two ballot records are sitting side by side at 4 and 5. R. Mark Black's "Just Love," last week's only brand-new record, picked up four places in its second week, 20 to 16. With "Wait For Me" at 3, Mark Black is now on two records in the Top 20. Too Much Sylvia's "I'll Be There," another Song of the Year nominee, went 12 to 10 and is back in the top ten. The Holiday Band's "Music Makes the World Go Round" and Marsha Morgan's "Wherever There's Summer" each moved up one, to 13 and 14.

Arrivals

Both arrivals are returns. The Castaways are back at 18 with "Love Is What I'm Talkin' About," the same number where the record started its first run in April. More on that in the Chart Spotlight below. The Pink Slips Band is back at 19 with "Windows Rolled Down," the band of Entertainer nominee Townsend Link. That record first showed up on the bubble in July, was at 18 on September 5 and 20 on September 12, and is now on its second run of the month. The Tonez round out the Top 20 with "NMBSC," and Laura Kepley and the band thanked everybody who voted for it in Saturday's check-ins.

On the bubble

Two songs are waiting. One is Little Big Town's "Sucker for a Sad Song." The other is Marlisa Kay Small's "In Way Over My Heart." The Little River singer released it Wednesday, it went live on The Surf at 11:30 that morning, and it was on the bubble by Saturday.

Listening In • Saturday's Countdown

Counting Down the Music and the Miles

SOS Fall Migration was winding down Saturday morning, and you could hear it in the check-ins. When Jay Kinlaw opened up the Surf Countdown, part of his audience was still on the sand at Ocean Drive and the rest was either home or on the highway home, radios up.

Kathy Dorton gave the morning its motto: "Counting down the music and the miles until home!" She and Jim Shafer called it some of the best live music ever. Greg and Denise Cope were headed back to Asheville after, in their words, the best week at SOS dancing the nights away. Count and Charlotte Riddick were on their way home too, but first Charlotte made sure Jay remembered to get his shells from Mopsie Pittman. Betty and Benny Bishop had already made it back to Easley. Angela Kosko was out on I-24, heading toward Myrtle Beach with 629 miles still to go.

Plenty of people hadn't left yet. Delia Gilmore was listening at Ashworth, and Bootsie Howard had the Fox Point Shag Club out on the beach. Wendy, Robert and Murphy were in Myrtle Beach for the whole Fall Migration. David Avery didn't make it, but he said the Countdown got him a little closer to home from Shelby.

The Countdown Train was running again. Mike Parnell punched his ticket and noted that seats were available, "but the music doesn't allow sitting." Sharon and Curtis Southard had their tickets in Reidsville, Ray Rouse was aboard in Cary, and Sherie Davis was ready to roll in Mocksville.

It was also a college football Saturday. Eric Wooten and Kat were tailgating at The Citadel in Charleston. David and Donnetta Johnson were on the road to his alma mater, Bluefield University. Keith and Cheryl Kiser were getting ready for App State and NC State in Raleigh, and they told Jay he'd been their good luck charm all season. Kimberly Willis Simmons tuned in after her grandson's flag football game.

The signal went well past football country. Wally and Jeana waited out a nor'easter in Waltham, and Cindy Miller listened from a flooded Ocean City, New Jersey. Bill and Barb Boehly said it was just as cold in Rochester, New York as it was on the coast. Adrianna Waddy checked in from a foxhunt in Rapidan, Virginia.

Greg Thrift was in Millboro, Virginia for his niece's wedding. Chris King Goff listened from Winter Park, Florida, Jane McEwan from New Philadelphia, Ohio, Tony and Sue Choy from Palmerton, Pennsylvania, and Randy and Debbie Kinsolving from Vienna, West Virginia. David McClain was out in the orange grove.

The Carolinas showed up like they always do: Albemarle, Cary, Newton Grove, Stokesdale, Troy, Greensboro, China Grove (twice), Garner, Thomasville, Southern Pines, Badin Lake, Madison, Salisbury, Granite Quarry, Pinnacle, Gaffney, Lancaster, Lugoff, Bluffton, Oak Island, Carolina Beach, Calabash, Murrells Inlet, Little River, Conway, FloTown and Main Street in OD. Lynne Watson Bell listened in Blowing Rock, and Jim Pendleton had it loud and proud in Boone, "near Lynn Bell." Christopher Alvin Burrell said the beach club music was jamming on the Outer Banks. Lee Ipock listened from the 252 while he made his deliveries.

A few shout-outs made the roll call. Susan Fricks Spivey asked Jay to wish Sue and Tommy Williams a happy belated 22nd anniversary. Laura Kepley and The Tonz thanked everyone who voted for NMBSC. Randy and Robin Horton said it was great seeing Jay on Main Street Wednesday.

Harriet had the best line of the morning: "I am happy to be awake another day!" So are the rest of us.

Chart Spotlight

The Castaways, "Love Is What I'm Talkin' About"

Sixty-five years in, eleven CBMA nominations, and a spring record back for a second run

Back again. "Love Is What I'm Talkin' About" came out in March. It came onto the Surf Countdown at No. 18 on April 11, went 19 and 20 the next two Saturdays, and was back at 18 on May 9. On September 26 it started a second run, at 18 again, the same number where it began. It came back on the same Saturday the band was playing Deckerz, a week after the 2026 CBMA ballot was read on this station.

The song. Guy Brooks, the band's bass player, wrote it. He and Karen Clayton produced it, and Brooks engineered it with Hubert Deans. Karen sings the lead, and the Academy put the record in the Smoothie/Ballad field as "The Castaways ft. Karen Clayton," so this one belongs to the slow end of the dance floor.

The ballot. The Castaways are all over this year's ballot. The record is up for Song of the Year and Smoothie/Ballad, and it put Brooks and Clayton in the Producer field and Brooks and Deans in Engineer. Brooks is also nominated for Songwriter and Instrumentalist. Karen is up for Female Vocalist and Entertainer, sax man Brady Hasting for Instrumentalist, sound man Mike Ashworth for Live Production, and the whole band for Group of the Year. That makes eleven. "We are so thankful for all of the support," the band posted.

The voice. Karen Clayton comes from Timberlake, North Carolina, and grew up in a musical family. Before the Castaways she spent more than twelve years with Rawhide, a country and R&B band founded by her uncles that played Saturday nights at the Carolina Country Club in Ruffin. She joined the Castaways in 2005 and won Female Vocalist of the Year at the CBMA's in 2021 and again in 2022. She writes too, with credits on three Castaways CDs.

The band. The Castaways started in Durham in 1961. They are not the Minnesota group that had "Liar, Liar" in 1965. These Castaways played the Carolinas and Virginia for more than forty years before they ever charted, and when a record finally did in 2005, the Academy named them the best new group of 2006. The awards kept coming after that: Collaboration in 2009 for a duet with Bo Schronce, and Blues Album in 2012. Today there are eight of them on stage, horns included, and the albums run from I'm Just Sayin' and Give It Up to Movin' On, Generation Six and Forever Summer.

Sixty-five. This spring the band turned sixty-five. The Castaways held their 65th Anniversary Reunion at Fat Harold's Beach Club on Sunday, May 24, from 2 to 6, the same spring this record was making its first run. Now it's back, with eleven shots at a Cammy on November 8. Rate it and the rest of the chart at surfcountdown.com.

"Love Is What I'm Talkin' About" — The Castaways featuring Karen Clayton • Written by Guy Brooks • Produced by Guy Brooks & Karen Clayton • Engineered by Guy Brooks & Hubert Deans • Released March 2026 • No. 18, September 26th Surf Countdown

I'm Gonna Miss You

Forty-six years ago, Chris Beachley named the feeling every SOS ends with. He borrowed the name from a Chicago soul record.

Every SOS ends the same way. The last band packs up at the Spanish Galleon, Main Street goes quiet, and on Sunday or Monday morning the cars head out of Ocean Drive toward Asheville, Easley, Shelby and Roanoke. The music is still going on the radio, and everybody is already missing it.

In the fall of 1980, Chris Beachley wrote about that feeling for Issue 16 of *It Will Stand*, the magazine he published out of The Wax Museum, his record store in Charlotte. His subject was the very first S.O.S. weekend at North Myrtle Beach. He knew what song to use for the title. He called the piece "I'm Gonna Miss You... (the S.O.S. weekend)."

The record. "I'm Gonna Miss You" came out of Chicago. The Artistes formed at Marshall High School in 1958. Three of them, Marvin Smith, Jesse Bolian and Larry Johnson, wrote the song. Carl Davis produced it for Brunswick, and it was released in September 1966. It reached No. 9 on the R&B chart and No. 55 on the pop chart, and then it did what so many Chicago soul records did: it moved to the Carolina coast and stayed. Sixty years later, Surf listeners voted it No. 70 on the station's All Time Top 100.

It isn't really a goodbye song. It's a song about the day after the goodbye. The singer knew from the start he'd found the one, and he fought to keep it to himself. Now it's over, and he's left with lonely nights and a memory he knows he'll carry for good. The record opens and closes on the same long sigh of a title, as if he can't stop saying it. That made it the right title for Beachley. By 1980 everyone who shagged knew the tune. Anyone who'd ever driven home from Ocean Drive on a Sunday also knew the feeling.

The Weekend of the Bald and Gray. The first S.O.S. weekend was a reunion, with none of the ceremony it has now. The *Sun News's* Holley Caughman covered it, and Beachley reprinted her report. North Myrtle Beach Mayor Joe Saleeby, "a beach digger from way back," arrived at Fat Jack's at 3 p.m. and read an official proclamation. It declared the week of September 11–16 as S.O.S. (Society of Stranders) Week and asked citizens to respect what it called the "Bald and the Gray Reunion."

Saleeby had been coming to the beach since 1955 and was a member of the Society himself. "I lived on nabs and Pepsi for weeks, slept on floors and did all of the things you were supposed to do," he said. He called it "the largest and most unique reunion in the world." He and Oak Tree Inn owner Gordon McMeen put the crowd at about 5,000 over five days: a thousand in their three motels and four thousand more on the beach. The mayor also made a prediction. The second week of September would be S.O.S. week from then on, he said, and next year would bring four times as many people.

The dance floor. Beachley was there for the dancing. He saw Weejuns, French Shriners and bare feet on the floor, and all the old steps came back: pivots, boogiewalks, flybacks. For a lot of those dancers, he wrote, "dancing was just like riding a bicycle, once they hit the floor, it all came back to them." The real steppers danced and the crowd made a circle around them, the way it used to. He also spotted exactly one disco-shag couple, and he complained that the UPI photographer took their picture instead of "some 'real shaggers.'" He finished with a warning...Too many overnight experts were teaching homemade steps, he said, and "maybe S.O.S. needs to also stand for 'Save Our Shag.'"

Then and now. Put Beachley's 1980 pages next to this fall's schedule and the continuity is remarkable. His photo of the Spanish Galleon carried the caption "a shrine on the beach," with more than 15 years under the same ownership. Forty-six years later, the Galleon had a band every night of the Fall Migration: The Embers with Craig Woolard, Band of Oz, North Tower, The Tonez, Jim Quick and Coastline, Too Much Sylvia and Main Event Band. The five-day reunion is now ten days on Main Street, and there's a spring migration as well.

The shag he worried about also came through. This fall there were dance workshops at Duck's, Fat Harold's and the OD Arcade, with experienced dancers passing steps to newer ones. Beachley saw the same thing in 1980, when he described older shaggers teaching younger ones steps. SOS did turn out to stand for Save Our Shag.

The drive home. Beachley ended his piece on the road, back to work at The Wax Museum. He'd spent the whole weekend inside, and the closest he came to a tan was "my left arm hanging out the window driving back home." He was sad to leave on Sunday but already ready for next year, because he still had some S.O.S. sand in his shoes.

The Surf Countdown heard the same drive home last Saturday. Greg and Denise Cope were headed to Asheville after "the best week at SOS." Angela Kosko had 629 miles still to go. Kathy Dorton could have been writing for *It Will Stand*: "Counting down the music and the miles until home!"

Forty-six years later, it's still the same song. We're gonna miss you. See you in the spring.

Sources

Chris Beachley, "I'm Gonna Miss You... (the S.O.S. weekend)," *It Will Stand*, Issue 16, Fall 1980, pp. 14–15
94.9 The Surf, All Time Top 100, No. 70, May 2026
The Artistics – Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Artistics)
SoulTracks: R.I.P. Larry Johnson of The Artistics (soultracks.com)
Discogs: The Artistics – I'm Gonna Miss You / Hope We Have, Brunswick 55301

Back to the CBMAs: 2000

A Chicago legend, a Baltimore original, a record man and a DJ who had just spent a summer on this station

The Carolina Beach Music Awards met in North Myrtle Beach in November 2000, the sixth ceremony and the third at the beach, and the Academy opened the new century by retiring a piece of the old one. The Richard Nixon Associated DJ Award, last given to Mike Lewis in 1999, was gone. In its place came the first AM Radio DJ award, standing beside the Larry Crockett Award for FM. Ray Scott won it, and listeners here know how that story continued: Scott came to 94.9 The Surf, won the Larry Crockett Award here in 2009, and went into the Hall of Fame in 2019 and now he's got Riptide! The late Steve Hardy of WNCT in Greenville took the FM award, and WVCO was in the second year of its twelve-year run as FM Radio Station.

Holiday's year

On the record side, 2000 belonged to Holiday. The Burlington band's Turn It Up won Group Album and Blues Album, and their "Turn It Up" was named Song of the Year. Coastline took Group and Jim Quick took Entertainer. Terri Gore repeated as Female Vocalist and added Solo Album for *It Don't Get Better Than This*, and Bo Schronce closed a three-year run as Male Vocalist. Band of Oz won Ballad/Smoothie with "Over the Rainbow," Jerry West's lead vocal. Heart and Soul and the Bill Lyerly Band tied for New Group/Artist, and Hardway Connection's "It Must Be Love" took National Shag/Dance Song.

Johnny Barker won both Producer and Engineer on the same night the Entertainers, the band he had co-owned with Earl Dawkins since 1991, went into the Hall of Fame. Barker, the Catalinas and Embers veteran who wrote "Summertime's Calling Me," followed them in 2003.

The Hall of Fame class of 2000

Jerry Butler. The Iceman sang lead on the Impressions' "For Your Precious Love" in 1958 before he was twenty, then cut "Only the Strong Survive" and "Hey Western Union Man" with Gamble & Four in Bennettsville. He sang "Girl Watcher" on The Tonight Show and American Bandstand, and received a Lifetime Achievement Cammy in 2000.

The Entertainers. Earl Dawkins founded the band and co-wrote its first rnd Huff. The CBMA had inducted the Impressions in 1996, so Butler went in twice. In 2000 he was a sitting Cook County commissioner in Chicago who still sang on weekends. He died at home on February 20, 2025, at 85.

The Legendary Orioles. Baltimore’s pioneers of “It’s Too Soon to Know” in 1948 and “Crying in the Chapel” in 1953, years before Elvis sang it. After Sonny Til’s death in 1981 the group carried on as the Legendary Orioles. They received the CBMA’s Joe Pope Pioneer Award, its sixth.”

Donnie Trexler. The Summerfield singer fronted Bob Collins and the Fabulous Five on “If I Didn’t Have a Dime,” then joined the O’Kaysions at Bill Griffin’s urging and took over lead vocals when Donnie Weaver left. His first night out front was Labor Day weekend 1969 regional hit, “Livin’ for the Summer.” Their album Don’t Let Your Love Grow Cold won Album of the Year at the 1988 Beach Music Awards. Dawkins was inducted individually in 2010 and still leads the band.

John Hook. Fessa’ John Hook launched WRDX, Beach 106, in Salisbury in 1986, the first full-time beach music station in the country. He consulted WVCO in 1998 and 1999 and emceed the station’s live weekend remotes through the summer of 1999. The books, the SiriusXM show and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine came later.

Dan E. Lockemy. Host of At the Beach out of Florence, and for thirty years the voice of Darlington Raceway. He was already calling races at the Track Too Tough to Tame when the Academy inducted him, and in 2024, his final season, Darlington named its PA booth for him.

Rufus Oates. The one inductee who never sang a note or spun a record on the air. Oates sold records at his Beach Music Center in Myrtle Beach, and the National Association of Rhythm & Blues Dee Jays named its annual achievement award for him, first given in 2000, calling him a gentle man who truly cared about DJs. His daughters, Judy Collins and Jeannie Elmore, carried on the trade. On the night Rufus Oates went into the Hall of Fame, Judy’s House of Oldies in North Myrtle Beach won Retail Outlet of the Year.

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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