



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 37 • Wednesday, October 14th, 2026

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Ocean Drive Scene

The weather ran the show this week, from the Gulf of Mexico all the way to Ocean Drive.

Jim Quick's Swamp Soul Gathering on the Gulf at the Flora-Bama Lounge was scheduled to run through Thursday, October 8. Hurricane Isaias, the first hurricane of the 2026 season, had other plans. With the storm aimed at the Alabama-Florida line, the Gathering was cut short by a day.

Then about 150 Coastline Crazies had to get home. Some flew, and the rest pooled into shared rental cars or hitched a ride with those who drove. Everybody made it. Jay Kinlaw was back in the chair Saturday morning, and Faye Young spoke for a lot of people when she told him she was glad he and Miss Robin got home safe.

Home wasn't much drier. By the weekend the remnants of Isaias had reached the Grand Strand, with rain, wind, rough surf and king tides. Shelby Guy Kennerly was on Ocean Drive Saturday morning "watching these crazy waves." It wasn't a beach weekend. It was a weekend to stay in and listen to 94.9 The Surf, and the check-ins came from rainy porches all over the Carolinas. Listening In has the roll call.

The October 10 Countdown, the first in two weeks, had Vaughan Penn's "Bands on the Beach" at No. 1 for the fifth straight Countdown. Too Much Sylvia made the biggest climb, and Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board are back on the chart at No. 16. The Chart Spotlight is on Marlisa Kay Small's "In Way Over My Heart," which went from release to the bubble in three days and is now getting airplay on The Surf and up for votes on the weekly voting list.

We're inside 30 days now. The CBMA Academy's ballots closed October 4th, and the 32nd Annual Carolina Beach Music Awards will be handed out at the Alabama Theatre on Sunday, November 8. Who takes home this year's hardware? We find out in 25 days.

While we wait, we open the record books on 2002. That year Craig Woolard won four awards, Ripete Records had a big night, the Showmen took the Pioneer Award, and The Surf was FM Station of the Year again. Back to the CBMAs: 2002 is inside.

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 three and a half weeks.

Keep the umbrella handy. See you on Ocean Drive.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday, Oct. 14** -- Wednesday Night Done Right with Jay Kinlaw at Fat Harold's, 6 PM
- **Friday, Oct. 16** — Deadline to rate songs for the next Surf Countdown, 5 PM
- **Saturday, Oct. 17** — The Surf Countdown with Jay Kinlaw, 10 AM–12 Noon
- **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 October 10th 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	"I Tried"	The Tams	5
5	"My Heart is not a Toy"	Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick	4
6	"I'll Be There"	Too Much Sylvia	10
7	"Be Her"	Ella Langley	8
8	"Sandbar Shuffle"	Vaughan Penn	7
9	"Forevermore"	Gary Lowder	9
10	"Young Again"	Andy & Oneida	12
11	"Every Road"	Rick & Lesa	6
12	"Carolina's Home"	Jennifer James	15
13	"At the End of the Day"	Rivermist	11
14	"Music Makes the World Go Round"	The Holiday Band	13
15	"Soul Full of Sunshine"	Gary Alexander	17
16	"Baby, You're the Melody"	Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board	RE
17	"Love is what I'm talkin' about"	The Castaways	18
18	"Wherever There's Summer"	Marsha Morgan	14
19	"NMBSC"	the Tonez	20
20	"Just Love"	R. Mark Black	16

LW: Last Countdown (Sept. 26 — no Countdown Oct. 3) • NE: New Entry • RE: Re-Entry • Rate songs for next week at surfcountdown.com

On The Move

The Surf Countdown was back on October 10 after a week off, and the top three didn't budge. Below them there was plenty of motion: eight songs moved up, and the Chairmen of the Board made a return trip to the Top 20.

The top

Vaughan Penn's "Bands on the Beach" is No. 1 for the fifth straight Countdown, and "Sandbar Shuffle" keeps her in the top ten at No. 8. Ella Langley's "Choosin' Texas" holds at No. 2, and Jim Quick's "Wait For Me," with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette, holds at No. 3, so the top three are right where they were on September 26. The Tams' "I Tried" moves up a spot to No. 4. It's a Charlie Sattenfield and Brad Cox song, and it's up for Song of the Year, National Dance Song and Songwriter at next month's CBMAs. Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot's "My Heart Is Not a Toy," with Jim Quick, completes the top five, and Lowder is in the top ten twice, with "Forevermore" at No. 9.

Movin' up

Too Much Sylvia made the biggest climb of the week: "I'll Be There" jumped four places, from No. 10 to No. 6. Jennifer James's "Carolina's Home" was up three, from No. 15 to No. 12. Andy & Oneida's "Young Again" climbed two spots back into the top ten at No. 10, and Gary Alexander's "Soul full of Sunshine" went up two to No. 15. Ella Langley's "Be Her" moved up a spot to No. 7, giving her two songs in the top seven. The Castaways' "Love Is What I'm Talkin' About" went from No. 18 to No. 17 on its second run up the chart, and the Tonez's "NMBSC" went from No. 20 to No. 19.

Arrivals

Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board are back, re-entering at No. 16 with "Baby, You're the Melody." Surfline readers know this one: it charted for two weeks in May and was our Chart Spotlight song on May 27, and now it's making a second run. The Chairmen's name runs all through this issue. The Chairmen of the Board was the group General Norman Johnson led after he left the Showmen in 1968, and in Back to the CBMAs: 2002 the Showmen get their Pioneer Award the same night General Johnson and the Chairmen won Original Song for "Bless Your Heart." General Johnson died sixteen years ago this week.

On the voting list

Marlisa Kay Small's "In Way Over My Heart," on the bubble September 26, is getting airplay on The Surf and is up for votes on this week's list at surfcountdown.com. It's the subject of this week's Chart Spotlight. Ratings for the October 17 Countdown close Friday at 5 p.m.

[Listening In • Saturday's Countdown](#)

Soggy Saturday, Loud and Proud

The Surf Countdown came back on October 10 after a week off, and most of the check-ins started with a welcome back. Mack and Carol Barnhill were tuned in. Linda Shiflett said she was listening to the best DJ and missed seeing him. Mike and Diane Vinson in Leland were glad to have Jay back to brighten their day, and Dave and Kimmi Lowery were glad to hear him back in the Air Chair. Emerson Etheridge Jr. went with "Welcome back, Kotter."

The storm came up next. Jay had just come home from the Gulf ahead of Hurricane Isaias, and listeners were following it. Todd Bennington was glad Jay escaped Isaias, and he had the signal coming in strong in Cherry Grove. Ginny Moore Pratt welcomed him back from "Hurricane Alley" and reported a rainy day at Carolina Beach. Randy and Debbie Kinsolving, in Vienna, West Virginia, were praying for the Flora-Bama hosts and everyone else in the storm's path. Richard Schumpert told Jay to be careful down there; it was raining cats and dogs in Knoxville. Sharon and Phillip Harrelson sent prayers from Reidsville for the people dealing with the hurricane. Richard Andrews almost missed the post. He was in Gulf Shores, out cutting tree limbs.

The travelers were home, and the check-ins said so. Corky and Sugar Gold in Shelby were glad everybody got home safely. So was Pam Snider in Little River. Jill and Wayne McCulloch had gotten home themselves Friday afternoon, and Faye Young and Steve Floyd said they'd see Jay at the CBMAs.

Everywhere else, it rained. Mike, Dawn and Chipper the dog were listening in a chilly, damp Albemarle. Delia Gilmore had a chilly, wet Raleigh, and Kimberly Willis Simmons and Connelly had a rainy one and told Jay they missed him last week. Eden checked in three times, and it was raining for all of them: Rita Smith, Tim and Cheryl Jenkins, and Billie Ridgeway. KB and Teddie Boland had rain in Chapin, Henry and Shirley Woods in Madison, and Mike and Cindy Anderson at Oak Island, with Nana visiting. Linda and Allen Andrews were on a rainy Warrior River in Alabama. Joy and Dean Bocks were camped at Polly's Landing Campground and Marina, in the rain and glad Jay was back.

The Countdown Train ran anyway. Mike Parnell reported “no caboose on this train,” steaming forward with the rated hits of the week, and said North Whiteville was a little wet but on board. Ray Rouse had the radio loud and proud on a soggy Saturday and was on the train too. He asked Jay to wish his son Cameron a belated happy birthday; Cameron turned 27 on October 5. Sherie Davis had it turned up in Mocksville, and Curtis and Sharon Southard were loud and proud in Reidsville.

There was some celebrating. Corky and Sugar Gold were still marking their 46th anniversary. It was game day for Mike Stalls (“Go Pirates”), Christopher Alvin Burrell sent “Go Heels” from the Outer Banks, and Linda and Allen Andrews added a “Roll Tide.”

The signal reached a long way. Wally and Jeana were at Oktoberfest in North Conway, New Hampshire, and the Beech Ridge Barber Shop had it loud and proud in Scarborough, Maine. Char Dansberger said good morning from Tucson. Cindy Miller was in Ocean City, New Jersey, Jane McEwan was in New Philadelphia, Ohio, Joe and Mandie Staley were in Clifton, Virginia, and Wendy Schnitz was in Blacksburg. Bootsie Howard had the Fox Point Shag Club tuned in from Fredericksburg, as always. Count and Charlotte Riddick were listening from Cancun on their way to Atlanta and then Norfolk, and Cathy and Steve Vogel streamed it on vacation at Fripp Island.

The Carolinas showed up like they always do: Mullins, Rockingham, Salisbury, Pinnacle, Windy Hill, North Myrtle Beach, Gaffney, Little River (three times), Leland, Murrells Inlet, Georgetown, Elizabethtown, China Grove (twice), Winston-Salem, Lugoff, Greensboro, Easley, Badin Lake, Paradise Resort, LGB, and FloTown. Russell Helms was cranking it up in the Queen City. Steve Floyd and Debbie Faye were “chillin’ on the Chowan” in Tunis. And on Ocean Drive, Big T and Little C were listening, as always.

Marlisa Kay Small, whose new single was on the bubble on the last chart, checked in after the show: “Great show today!”

David McClain had the best line of the morning, from Fort Meade, Florida: “The elderly are listening... Got the hearing aid turned up.” It’s good advice for a rainy Saturday.

Chart Spotlight

Marlisa Kay Small, “In Way Over My Heart”

A love story from a CBMA-nominated songwriter, a Carolina Opry piano man at the board, and a debut on The Surf at 11:30 on release day

Getting airplay. Marlisa Kay Small released “In Way Over My Heart” on Wednesday, September 23. 94.9 The Surf played it at 11:30 that morning, and by Saturday it was on the bubble on the September 26 Countdown, just outside the Top 20. Two weeks later it’s getting airplay on The Surf and is up for votes on the weekly voting list at surfcountdown.com, where listener ratings decide which songs make the next Countdown.

Release day. “TODAY IS THE DAY!” she posted that morning. After the song premiered with Jim Quick on The Surf, it went on to play at other stations in the beach music world.

The writer. Charlie Sattenfield wrote it, and Marlisa thanked him “for writing such a beautiful love story.” He’s one of the busiest writers on this year’s CBMA ballot, with several songs in play for 2026. The Tams recorded his “**I Tried**,” co-written with Brad Cox, and it’s up for Song of the Year, National Dance Song and Songwriter.

The producer. She credits Tim Sidden Productions “for working his magic” as producer. Sidden grew up in North Wilkesboro and was playing piano on gospel and country sessions at Granite City Recording Studios in Mount Airy while he was still a teenager. In 1990 he came to Myrtle Beach as the pianist for Calvin Gilmore’s Dixie Jubilee, then spent the rest of his fourteen years with Gilmore as featured pianist and orchestrator at the

Carolina Opry, close to 5,000 shows in all, before he moved to Nashville in 2004. Beach music kept bringing him back. He produced “We Are Beach Music,” the 2017 CBMA Collaboration of the Year, and was co-owner of Cat5.

The song. Marlisa calls the peppy, upbeat tune a love story, and she dedicated it publicly: “to the man I sing this song to, Jeff Tallent — you make these words mean even more.” Melissa Hinson did the photography, and Debby Page Summitt helped get the record out. Marlisa had one request for listeners: “Listen, share, and think of that special someone who has your heart.”

Been here before. Surf voters already know her. In 2023 her duet with Jerry West, “Love Really Hurts Without You,” finished No. 13 on the Year-End Chart, one spot behind Little Big Town. In 2024, “Sunshine & Summertime” with Deb Browning got her two CBMA nominations, for Song of the Year and Collaboration/Duo. Little Big Town and Marlisa were side by side again on the September 26 bubble, three years later.

The singer. Marlisa came to the Grand Strand in 1996, and today she owns Marlisa’s Wig Studio & Day Spa at 1561 Highway 17 North in the heart of Little River. It’s a full-service salon, open to the public, offering massages, facials, reflexology, spa manicures and pedicures, gel nails and hairstyling. It’s also where her best-known work happens. Marlisa was diagnosed with stage four cancer in 1991, and thirty-five years later she says she isn’t defined by it. She’s inspired by the strength she sees in other survivors, in people just learning about their illness, and in people going through treatment. Anyone in cancer treatment who comes to the Wig Studio gets a custom new wig, free of charge. She has fitted patients from Ocean Isle, Sunset Beach, Calabash, Holden Beach, Longs, Little River and North Myrtle Beach. She has also shipped wigs across the country and overseas, working from a photo the patient sends. Her nonprofit, Wigs for Cancer, Inc., has been doing that work since 2010.

The stage has always been part of it. As Ms. South Carolina Senior America 2018, she competed in Atlantic City, used the platform to raise awareness for Wigs for Cancer, and placed in the top ten. Her performance of Martina McBride’s “I’m Gonna Love You Through It” got a standing ovation. She was Rotarian of the Year for 2009–2010, raised money for the North Strand Homeless Shelter, has been recognized by the Veterans Center, received the Martin Luther King Community Service Award in 2017, and is a member of the North Myrtle Beach Ladies Club. Last week the Tiki Bar at HOTO’s turned pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and this is a good record to keep that going. As she once put it, “Singing is therapy for me.”

Rate it, and the rest of the ballot, at surfcountdown.com by Friday.

“In Way Over My Heart” — Marlisa Kay Small • Written by Charlie Sattenfield • Produced by Tim Sidden • Photography by Melissa Hinson • Released September 23, 2026 • On the bubble, September 26th Surf Countdown • Getting airplay on 94.9 The Surf and up for votes on the weekly voting list • Previously on the Surf: “Love Really Hurts Without You” with Jerry West, No. 13, 2023 Year-End Chart

Back to the CBMAs: 2002

Four for Craig Woolard, a big night for a Bishopville record label, and a Pioneer Award for the group that gave us “It Will Stand”

The Carolina Beach Music Awards met for the eighth time in 2002. **FM Radio Station of the Year** went to **WVCO, The Surf 94.9, Myrtle Beach**, the fourth year of the station’s twelve-year run. **WLWL “Big Wave 770”** in Rockingham repeated as **AM Station**, and the **Rhythm and Beach Top 40 Countdown** repeated as **Syndicated Radio**.

Craig Woolard's night

A year after Billy Scott's three-award night, the big winner was **Craig Woolard**, with four. He was **Male Vocalist**. "**Love Don't Come No Stronger**" was **Song of the Year**. He shared **Producer** with **Chris Biehler**. And he won **Collaboration/Duo** for "**That's Summertime to Me**," sung with **Gary Brown, JD Cash** and **Johnny Barker**. Three weeks ago, during Fall Migration, the Spanish Galleon marquee read "The Embers with Craig Woolard."

Gary Brown won a second award that night, **Solo Album** for *Brownie*. Twenty-four years later he's on this month's Surf ballot with Jim Quick on "Don't Turn My Heater Down." Johnny Barker had won Producer and Engineer in 2000; the year after this ceremony, he went into the Hall of Fame.

Band of Oz ended Coastline's two-year hold on **Group of the Year**, and they also took **Group Album** for *Over the Rainbow*. The album took its name from the Jerry West-sung ballad that won **Ballad/Smoothie** two years earlier. **Molly Askins** was **Female Vocalist**, following Susan Trexler. **Jim Quick** was named **Entertainer** again, **Sea Cruz** was the **Rising Star**, and **Keith Houston** was **Engineer**. **DK Davis** won **National Shag/Dance Song** with "**Return to Sender**."

General Johnson won **Original Song** for the second year running, this time for "**Bless Your Heart**" with the Chairmen of the Board. That same night, the Academy honored the group where his career began.

The Showmen: Joe Pope Pioneer Award

General Norman Johnson started the group in Norfolk, Virginia, as a 12-year-old, and they were called the Humdingers before they became **the Showmen**. In 1961 and '62 they went to New Orleans to record for Minit under Allen Toussaint. "**It Will Stand**," their tribute to rock and roll, reached No. 61 in 1961 and charted again when it was reissued in 1964. Neil Sedaka liked its beat so much that he borrowed it for "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do." Then came "**39-21-40 Shape**," the record that a label misprint turned into "39-21-46," and that's the title that stuck. Johnson left in 1968 for Invictus Records in Detroit and the Chairmen of the Board.

That record has a long history with this newsletter. Two issues ago we went back to Chris Beachley's magazine *It Will Stand*, published out of **The Wax Museum** in Charlotte and named for the Showmen's record. In 2002 the Wax Museum won **Retail Outlet of the Year** on the same night the Showmen got their Pioneer Award.

General Johnson died sixteen years ago yesterday, on October 13, 2010, in suburban Atlanta. He was 69.

Radio, clubs and the industry

John Hook won the **Larry Crockett Award** as **FM DJ**, two years after he went into the Hall of Fame. **Ray Scott**, the first AM DJ winner in 2000, won the **AM DJ** award a second time.

Fat Harold's won the **Bill Griffin Award** for **Club of the Year**, and the **T Bird Deck / H's at OD** in North Myrtle Beach took the **Cecil Corbett Award** for **Live Music Venue**. **Gary Bass** was **Club/Mobile DJ**, and **Michael Norris & Lee Ann Best** won the **Shad Alberty Award** for national shag dancing.

Lifetime Achievement honors went to two clubs, **Doc's** in Waterloo, S.C., and **JB Pivots** in Charleston, along with the **Fat Jack Band** and radio's **Randy Rowland**. **John Clark** received the **Sara Helms Award**. Industry and CBMA Appreciation went to **Jad Mahaley** (Kids), **Shorty and Cathy Cash** (Scoreboard), **Francis Gordon** and **Chris Biehler**. **Joe Neff** was **Fan of the Year**.

The Hall of Fame class of 2002

Five went in: a record man, a singer and shagger from North Myrtle Beach, a band, a radio host and a soul singer America knew from the pop chart.

Marion Carter. In 1979 Marion Carter and Pete Smolen started **Ripete Records** in Bishopville, S.C., out on Elliott Highway in farm country, nowhere near a big city. Ripete made the compilations shag dancers bought, mixing Carolina beach classics with national R&B records from the mid-'50s to the early '80s, all chosen for the swing-style backbeat. The label also put out new records by the Drifters, the Clovers and Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs. 2002 was Ripete's night. Carter went into the Hall and also received the **Michael Branch Award**, the same award that went to Bo Gilbert in 2024. *I Love Beach Music 2* won **Compilation Album**, and the **Ripete Records Artist Showcase** that spring was **Event of the Year**. Pete Smolen died August 2, 2023. Carter is enjoying retirement.

Paul Craver. Lester "Paul" Craver was a North Myrtle Beach shagging icon and a recording artist, and his hit was "**Mr. Beach**." That's the record we mentioned last week with Willis Blume's Shagtime band. He was a veteran. He died in January 2020 at MUSC in Charleston, at 71, and his memorial service was held at Ocean Drive Presbyterian Church with military honors.

Breeze. The band formed in the early 1980s in the Wilson/Rocky Mount Area with Dink Perry out front. They recorded two 45s and a cassette, and after some turnover, began operating out of Charlotte in the 1990s releasing three popular CDs *Something Serious* (1995), *Second Wind* (1996) and *By Request* (1998). Several prominent names in beach music came through The Breeze with Charles Bone and John G. Franklin joining Dink to write and produce their familiar hits. The Breeze Band played the 2000 Cammys, backing Jerry Butler for his induction into the Hall. KHP issued a popular *Think Dink* CD compilation of Dink Perry and The Breeze Band's popular recordings in 2007.

Charlie Byrd. He is not the jazz guitarist. This Charlie Byrd was the host of *The Charlie Byrd Beach Blast*, which ran Sunday nights on WDLX in Washington, NC, and later *Saturdays with Charlie*. A generation of Carolina listeners grew up on the show, and at least one DJ says it's the reason he went into radio. A friend summed him up: "A class act. It was always about the music, never about Charlie." His profound impact on the industry is permanently recognized today through the Carolina Beach Music Awards (CBMA), which names its prestigious "**Radio Show of the Year**" category the **Charlie Byrd Award** in his honor.

O.C. Smith. Ocie Lee Smith was born June 21, 1932, in Mansfield, Louisiana, and sang with Count Basie from 1961 to 1965. In 1968 he had "The Son of Hickory Holler's Tramp," and then "**Little Green Apples**," a No. 2 pop record that sold a million copies; its writer, Bobby Russell, won the Grammy for Song of the Year. The record the shag floors kept was "**Daddy's Little Man**" in 1969, No. 9 on the R&B chart. Later he became a minister and founded the City of Angels Church in Los Angeles, where he preached for sixteen years. He died of a heart attack on November 23, 2001, less than a year before the Academy inducted him.

Twenty-four years later

A lot of the 2002 names are still working. Craig Woolard continues to play the Galleo, Band of Oz is still booked for all the big events, Jim Quick is heard on the radio and seen with Coastline at Fat Harold's Every SOS, and The Surf is still on the air. On November 8, at the Alabama Theatre, the Academy names its 2026 winners.

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.

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A Weekly Publication for 94.9 The Surf • WVCO FM

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