



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 38 • Wednesday, October 21st, 2026

IN THIS ISSUE: Ocean Drive Scene • The Making Waves Land Cruise • Your Guide to CBMA Weekend • This Week's Surf Countdown • Chart Spotlight • Listening In • Back to the CBMA's: 2003

Ocean Drive Scene

Ocean Drive had company all week. The Making Waves Reunion Land Cruise filled the OD Resort from Thursday through Sunday, with The Embers featuring Craig Woolard, Too Much Sylvia and Rhonda McDaniel on the bill, and some of the land cruisers checked in with the Surf Countdown on Saturday morning from their rooms.

On the October 17 Countdown, Vaughan Penn made it six straight Countdowns at No. 1 with "Bands on the Beach," the Pink Slips Band came back to the chart with "Windows Rolled Down," and Marlisa Kay Small's "In Way Over My Heart" made its Top 20 debut.

Saturday was also the day the stream quit. A little before 11 a.m. listeners from Southport to Massachusetts started asking if it was just them. It wasn't. But it came back, and so did everybody. Listening In has the roll call, outage and all.

CBMA Weekend is two weeks out — Thursday, November 5, through Sunday, November 8, at the Ocean Drive Resort and the Alabama Theatre, with the awards show Sunday at 3 p.m. Our day-by-day guide is inside. And while we wait for this year's winners, we go back to 2003, the year The Surf was again named FM Station of the Year and the Hall of Fame welcomed Barbara Lewis and the O'Kaysions.

See you on Ocean Drive.

Upcoming Events

- **Fri., Oct. 23** — Surf Tiki Bar Party Live at HOTO's 11am to 3pm
- **Sat., Oct. 24** — The Surf Countdown with Jay Kinlaw 10am
- **Sun, Oct 25th** - Joyful Noise with Jim Morgan at 10am
- **Sun, Oct 25th** - Soulful Sunday with DJ Heavy at 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

Jay Kinlaw was in the Air Chair for the October 17 Countdown, and a stream outage a little before 11 couldn't keep the listeners away for long. The top three held for a third straight chart, Vaughan Penn stayed at No. 1, Andy & Oneida made the week's biggest climb, and two songs joined the Top 20.

The October 17th 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	5
5	"Be Her"	Ella Langley	7
6	"I Tried"	The Tams	4
7	"Young Again"	Andy & Oneida	10
8	"Sandbar Shuffle"	Vaughan Penn	8
9	"Forevermore"	Gary Lowder	9
10	"Every Road"	Rick & Lesa	11
11	"I'll Be There"	Too Much Sylvia	6
12	"Carolina's Home"	Jennifer James	12
13	"Soul full of Sunshine"	Gary Alexander	15
14	"Music Makes the World Go Round"	The Holiday Band	14
15	"At the End of the Day"	Rivermist	13
16	"Windows Rolled Down"	Pink Slips Band	RE
17	"Wherever There's Summer"	Marsha Morgan	18
18	"Just Love"	R. Mark Black	20
19	"NMBSC"	The Tonez	19
20	"In Way Over My Heart"	Marlisa Kay Small	NE

LW: Last Countdown (Oct. 10) • NE: New Entry • RE: Re-Entry • Rate songs for next week at surfcountdown.com

The top

Vaughan Penn's "Bands on the Beach" is No. 1 for the sixth straight Countdown, with Ella Langley's "Choosin' Texas" at No. 2 and "Wait For Me" from Jim Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette at No. 3. That's the same top three for the third chart in a row. Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick moved up to No. 4 with "My Heart is not a Toy," which gives Jim Quick back-to-back spots at 3 and 4. And Ella Langley's "Be Her" climbed two to No. 5, so she has two of the top five.

Movin' up

Andy & Oneida made the biggest jump of the week, three spots from No. 10 to No. 7 with "Young Again." Gary Alexander, who was listening from Nashville on Saturday, moved "Soul full of Sunshine" up two to No. 13, and R. Mark Black's "Just Love" also climbed two, from 20 to 18. Rick & Lesa's "Every Road" is up one to No. 10, and Marsha Morgan's "Wherever There's Summer" is up one to No. 17. Holding their ground were Vaughan Penn's "Sandbar Shuffle" at 8, which gives him two songs in the top ten, Gary Lowder's "Forevermore" at 9, Jennifer James's "Carolina's Home" at 12, the Holiday Band at 14 and the Tonez at 19.

Arrivals

Two songs joined the chart. The Pink Slips Band is back at No. 16 with "Windows Rolled Down," David Howard Faircloth's song and our Chart Spotlight in Issue 30. And Marlisa Kay Small's "In Way Over My Heart" made its Top 20 debut at No. 20, one week after it was up for votes on the weekly voting list and featured in our Chart Spotlight. Marlisa was listening Saturday and thanked Jay and the listeners for their support.

On the voting list

Ratings for the October 24 Countdown close Friday, Oct. 23, at 5 p.m. at surfcountdown.com. New to The Surf this week is Rick & Lesa's "Smack Dab (In The Middle Of Love)," which Jay debuted on Oct. 13. It's the subject of this issue's Chart Spotlight.

Listening In • Saturday's Countdown

Listening in the Rain....

The Countdown started on a gray, wet Saturday across most of the Carolinas. Mike Parnell said the tracks were damp in North Whiteville but promised the musical tracks would dry them out. The Harrelsons, Sharon and Phillip, and Curtis and Sharon Southard both reported a damp, chilly Reidsville. Delia Gilmore had rain in Raleigh, Elaine Byrd Johnson had it in Coats, and Julie Gentry Griffin had cold and rain in Richmond.

The home crowd was out in force. Pam Snider, Billy Walters, Carol Newton (Figgy and Sweetie, as always) and Kare Perhealth were in Little River. Mitzi Jackson Ivey was at the Foxfire RV park in North Myrtle Beach, Frank Cagle listened with Meredith, and the Kennerly crew — Shelby, Finley, Claire and Wyatt — checked in from NMB again. Ellen Cowley Miller checked in from the Making Waves Reunion with The Embers and Too Much Sylvia, having a large time with Tom and Laura Lee Viergever from Charleston, who were listening at the OD Resort. Suzette Smith Holloway checked in from Laurinburg to report that she finally made it to the Tiki Bar, but Jay had already left town.

Then, a little before 11, the stream went down. Agnes Hagan in Canton, Massachusetts, logged the time at about 10:50. Wally Welch wrote "We lost ya" from Waltham, Brenda Ann Hogan lost us in Southport, Carroll Smiley asked if it was down, and Richard Schumpert confirmed it from Knoxville. Dean and Dayle checked the station and got the same answer. When it came back, Agnes was the first to cheer: "Back again. YEAH!" Paul Labin was right behind her, glad Jay was back live.

Some listeners were on the move. Mack Barnhill tuned in on the way to the NC Oyster Festival at Ocean Isle Beach to see Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot. Tim and Cheryl were headed to Durham for Duke and Carolina, Todd and Jennifer Dollar to Milton, and Ellen Goff Nobles and Michael took the beach with them to Boone for her birthday. Allison Smith had it cranked up on the way to work in Kannapolis, and Wendy Schnitz checked in from Blacksburg, Virginia, a day before heading to Myrtle Beach.

All over the Carolinas the radios were on: the Meltons and Chipper the dog in Albemarle, Sherie Davis in Mocksville, Connelly and Kimberly Simmons in Sanford, Tammy Jo Bullard at "golden Holden," Keith and Cheris Copeland at Badin Lake, Reba Poole in China Grove, Sophia Jacobs in Pinnacle, Henry and Shirley Woods and Donnie Woods in Madison, Rita Smith in Eden, Janet Duncan McKay in Hallsboro, Michael Britt in Lumberton, Victoria and Steve Moore in Bolivia, Ginny Moore Pratt at Carolina Beach, Mike, Cindy and Nana at Oak Island, Sylvia Ritchie in the Port City, and Christopher Burrell on a windy Outer Banks. Judy Johnson listened from Thomasville and will be down Tuesday. In South Carolina, Randy and Robin Horton checked in from Gaffney, Betty and Benny Bishop from Easley, KB and Teddie from Chapin, the Ingrams from Lugoff, and Marc and Dru from Charleston.

The reach went well past the coast: the Beech Ridge Barber Shop in Scarborough, Maine; Ocean City, Maryland; Cindy Miller in Ocean City, New Jersey; Bill and Barb in Rochester, New York; Jane Mcewan in New Philadelphia, Ohio; Randy and Debbie in Vienna, West Virginia; Bootsie Howard, the Commodore of the Shag Club, in Fredericksburg; David Johnson and great-grandson Weston in Roanoke; Jay and Izzy in Kentucky;

Marsha and Richard in Gulf Shores; Naomi Hollingsworth in Montgomery, Texas; and "the other Julia Griffin" in Augusta. David McClain had the line of the day again from Fort Meade, Florida: "The elderly are tuned in and loving it."

At least two artists were listening too. Gary Alexander checked in from Nashville, promising to convert the town to beach music one song at a time. And Marlisa Kay Small thanked Jay and the listeners for their support of "In Way Over My Heart." Thanks everyone for listening and voting!

Chart Spotlight – New on The Surf

Smack Dab (In The Middle Of Love)

Rick Strickland & Lesa Hudson

Rick Strickland and Lesa Hudson have a habit of turning up on the Surf Countdown, and this week the duo is back on The Surf with a brand-new single, "Smack Dab (In The Middle Of Love)." It's a bright, catchy take on the moment you realize you've fallen and there's no climbing back out, and Rick and Lesa wrote it, played it, sang it and produced it themselves.

Jay Kinlaw was in the 94.9 The Surf "air chair" on Thursday, Oct. 14, and debuted the song on The Surf with Rick and Lesa. Meanwhile, their earlier single, "Every Road," is still riding the Countdown, up one to No. 10 on the October 17 chart.

Musically, the song leans a little toward the country side of the street, and the pair is happy to say so. But don't let that worry you. As Lesa puts it, shaggers will still shag and line dancers will still line dance. The groove sits comfortably in that easy, mid-tempo pocket where a beach music floor and a line-dance floor can share the same song.

Fans got their first taste of it in person. Rick and Lesa worked "Smack Dab" into their sets during SOS Fall Migration, and the thumbs went up all over the room. Two people in that audience were DJs Angelia Skidmore and Sandy Hamilton of WSGE, who liked it enough to ask for the debut. The song premiered on Angelia's Saturday night show during the station's annual fundraiser.

One bit of housekeeping, courtesy of DJ Danny Kimrey: back in the 1950s, The Mills Brothers released a song called "Smack Dab In The Middle." Lesa admits she had no idea until Danny mentioned it. The titles are close, but the songs are not. "Smack Dab (In The Middle Of Love)" is an original, written from scratch by Rick and Lesa.

Written by Lesa Hudson & Rick Strickland • Produced by Rick Strickland & Lesa Hudson • Engineered by Rick Strickland • All instruments & vocals by Rick Strickland & Lesa Hudson • Recorded at Shearin Park Studios • Shearin Park Records • Single release

Making Waves • Ocean Drive's Land Cruise

The Cruise That Never Left the Dock

For three days last week, Ocean Drive was the scene of a Reunion of a recent "Land Cruise" pairing. The **Ocean Drive Making Waves Reunion Land Cruise** with the OD Resort as the host hotel and the boulevard as the deck.

The idea is simple: all the parts of a beach music cruise — a block of rooms, a lineup of bands and DJs, and the same crowd seeing each other every day — without the passports and the open water. The lineup was built for

it. **The Embers** featuring **Craig Woolard** and **Too Much Sylvia** headlined, with **Rhonda McDaniel**, and DJs **Pat Patterson**, **Johnny B** and **Ray Scott** kept the floor going between sets.

And many of the Land Cruise fans joined Jim Quick and the Surf crew at Hoto's on Friday.

Your Guide to CBMA Weekend 2026

Every November, the beach music world gathers in North Myrtle Beach for four days that end with the year's biggest night in the music: the Carolina Beach Music Awards. The 2026 weekend runs Thursday, November 5, through Sunday, November 8. Here's what's planned, day by day. Promoters note that the lineup is tentative and that artists, times, and locations may change, so check again closer to the weekend.

Thursday, November 5 — The Pre-Parties

The weekend opens with free OD CBMA Pre-Parties. There's no admission and no cover. At Hoto's, Sand Band and a special guest play from 8:00 p.m. to midnight with DJ Billy Cook. Over at Deckerz, Deb & Marlisa play from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., and The Castaways follow from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Friday, November 6 — The Surf Welcome Party and Friday Night

Friday daytime belongs to the OD/The Surf Welcome Party, and it's free and open to the public. The Surf Team broadcasts live from the Tiki Bar at Hoto's on 94.9 FM from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with a special guest. If you want to work on your footwork, there are two options from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:

- Free line dance lessons with Rebecca Lapping at the Spanish Galleon
- Shag lessons with Charlie & Jackie at Fat Harold's for \$10, with beginners at 11:00 and intermediate at noon

Friday night is when the passes come into play. You'll need a weekend pass or a nightly pass to get in.

- **Hoto's:** Sand Band and Jim Quick & Coastline with DJ Mike Brooks, 7:00 p.m.–1:00 a.m.
- **Spanish Galleon:** Band of Oz with DJ Shaun Lamm, 8:45 p.m.–midnight
- **Fat Harold's:** Rivermist with DJ Jimmy Buffkin, 9:00 p.m.–12:30 a.m.
- **Deckerz:** The Deckerz Deck Party with Ray Scott, 4:00 p.m. until

Saturday, November 7 — Pig Picking, Industry Awards, and Saturday Night

Saturday daytime is free, with no passes required. From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the CBMA Scholarship Foundation Benefit Pig Picking takes over Hoto's and the Tiki Bar. BBQ plates are available for a \$10 donation. WLWL's Gary Smith hosts a music showcase featuring "The OG's Band," with DJs Townsend Link and Ben Morris. Every plate supports the scholarship fund, so come hungry.

Saturday afternoon brings the **2026 CBMA Industry Awards**, ending at 6:00 p.m. Chad Sain, Jim Shafer, and Ray Scott host. Admission takes a Saturday pass or a \$10 cover. If you want a guaranteed floor seat, you can buy one for \$15 extra on Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the OD Resort lobby.

Saturday night requires passes again:

- **Hoto's:** The Castaways with DJ Pat Patterson, 7:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m.
- **Spanish Galleon:** Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with DJ Johnny B, 8:30 p.m.–midnight
- **Fat Harold's:** Too Much Sylvia with DJ Jay Kinlaw, 8:00–11:30 p.m.
- **Deckerz:** Jeff James and Friends, 6:00–10:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 8 — The 2026 Carolina Beach Music Awards

Everything builds to Sunday afternoon. The 2026 Carolina Beach Music Awards show, presented by Hayes Jewelers, starts at 3:00 p.m. at the Alabama Theatre at Barefoot Landing. Doors open at 2:15. The Embers, Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot, Too Much Sylvia, and Jim Quick & Coastline are all scheduled to perform. The show requires an Alabama Theatre ticket, which you can get by calling 843-272-1111.

When the show ends, the night continues at the Spanish Galleon with the Hayes Jewelers After Party, from 9:00 p.m. until. The Embers featuring Craig Woolard perform with DJ Eric Bowman. Doors open at 8:00 p.m.

Back to the CBMAs: 2003

The Surf, Holiday Band and a Hall of Fame class with "Girl Watcher" in it.

The ninth Carolina Beach Music Awards were held in 2003. **FM Radio Station of the Year** went to **WVCO, The Surf 94.9**, the fifth year of the station's twelve-year run, and **WLWL "Big Wave 770"** in Rockingham repeated as **AM Station**.

Holiday Band's night

The big winner was **Holiday Band**. They were **Group of the Year**, *Southern Soul Revue* won **Group Album**, and "I'm Man Enough" won **Song of the Year**, with Mike Taylor taking **Songwriter** for it. **Keith Houston** won both **Producer** and **Engineer** for *Shut Up and Shag*, which also took **Compilation Album** for KHP Music.

Paul Craver, inducted into the Hall the year before, came back as **Male Vocalist**, and *Let the Music Play* won **Solo Album**. **Susan Trexler** was **Female Vocalist**, **Jim Quick** was **Entertainer**, and **Butch Barnes** of Band of Oz was **Instrumentalist** on saxophone. **Hack Bartley & Shuffle** won **Rising Star**.

Delbert McClinton's "New York City" was **National Shag/Dance Song**. The Coastline Band won **Blues Song** with "Swamps of the Old Santee," and Men of Distinction won **Blues Album** with *Down South Jukin'*. The Rickey Godfrey Band won **Collaboration/Duo** with "Never Let You Go," and Bo Schronce won **Ballad/Smoothie** with "Where Do I Go."

Radio, clubs and the industry

Fred Rouse won the **Larry Crockett Award** as FM DJ and **Syndicated Radio** for *Coast to Coast Favorites with Fred Rouse*. **Ray Scott** won AM DJ for the third time. **Fat Harold's** repeated as Club of the Year (**Bill Griffin Award**), **Thirsty's 2** in Greensboro took the **Cecil Corbett Award** for Live Music Venue, **Gary Bass** repeated as Club/Mobile DJ, and the **Triangle Beach Music Festival** in Garner was Event of the Year.

Ripete Records received the Michael Branch Award, a year after its founder, Marion Carter, received it. DJ Billy Smith received the Sara Helms Award. Two Industry and CBMA Appreciation awards went to **Newton's Southwest Restaurant** in Cary and to Skipper **"Waterdog" Hough**. Fan of the Year was **James Douglas Harrell**, known as "Get Down Doug."

The Hall of Fame class of 200

Ten went in: two national acts every shag floor knows, a soul pioneer from the South Carolina upstate, three Catalinas, two radio men and a pair of Greensboro clubs.

Barbara Lewis. She wrote and sang "Hello Stranger," the 1963 Atlantic record that became one of the great slow-dance and shag records on the coast, and followed it with "Baby I'm Yours" and "Make Me Your Baby" in 1965.

The O'Kaysions. The band from Wilson, North Carolina, took "Girl Watcher" into the national Top 10 in 1968. We featured it back in Issue 11.

Cornell Blakely: Joe Pope Pioneer Award. "Bouncing" Cornell Blakely was born in Greenville, S.C., in 1928. In the early 1960s he recorded at Motown's Hitsville studio in Detroit, and those sides came out on Rich, a small Nashville label, including "I Want My Share" and "I've Got That Feeling" in 1963. Back home he worked in radio, where listeners remember him on WHYZ in Greenville, and he later owned WKMG in Newberry. He died December 2, 2013, at 85.

Gary, Johnny and Lynn Barker: Lifetime Achievement. The Barker brothers came out of a musical family in Statesville, and for more than half a century they were the heart of the Catalinas. Gary, a guitarist and singer, joined the band in 1965. When lead singer Tommy Black was killed in a plane crash in 1968, it was Gary and Johnny who kept the shaken band from breaking up. Johnny co-wrote "Summertime's Calling Me" with Wayne Jurnegan and produced it himself, and after it came out on Sugarbush in December 1975 it became the Catalinas' signature record and one of the anthems of the shag floor. Johnny also ran Barker Productions and worked with the Embers and the Entertainers. Lynn played piano and sang, and the three were together on stage again when Johnny and Lynn rejoined the band. The Catalinas were in the Academy's charter class in 1995, when Gary was also honored on his own, and the band went into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame in 2013. Johnny Barker died October 25, 2023, at 78.

Dale Van Horn. On the dance floor he is "That's Summertime To Me," still found on lists of the all-time great beach records. He also helped tell the music's story: he wrote liner notes for *The Beach Music Anthology*, and with Hall of Famer Steve Roddy produced the radio history "Beach Music, The Sound of the South." He worked at WLNC in Laurinburg and fronted the Ocean Drive Band. He died in 2001, two years before the Academy inducted him.

Big John Ruth: Lifetime Achievement, Radio. Over a legendary multi-decade career, he became a fixture of Sunday radio in the Raleigh-Durham area. He is most famous for hosting "**Big John's Beach Party**," a highly rated weekly show that has aired on major regional stations and still airs on Sunday nights on **WFJA 105.5 FM**

Thirsty's and Thirsty's 2 hold a legendary status as the premier beach music and Carolina Shag clubs in Greensboro, North Carolina. Owned and operated by **Thurston and Linda Reeder**, these clubs served as a critical inland sanctuary for the "Beach, Boogie & Blues" culture for decades.

Twenty-three years later

Much of the 2003 board has since gone into the Hall: Keith Houston in 2008, Gary Bass in 2015, Butch Barnes and Hack Bartley in 2017, Susan Trexler and Ray Scott in 2019, Jim Quick in 2020 and Rickey Godfrey in 2023. Jim Quick was named Entertainer again last year, and Ray Scott will be on the Deckerz deck and co-hosting the Industry Awards next month. 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.

The SURFLINE

A Weekly Publication for 94.9 The Surf • WVCB FM
98 N. Ocean Blvd., Suite 3-N • North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
949thesurf.com • surfcountdown.com

Distribution by Bo the Webguy & Explore NMB - Historical content by Chris Jones
Contact Bo at 843-564-2610 or bo@949thesurf.com for questions regarding The SURFLINE