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

Get your Monster Mash ready. The goblins and ghouls will be around Ocean Drive this weekend, and with Halloween landing on a Saturday this year, the costumes, the Countdown and the shag floors all line up on the same weekend.

It starts Friday, Oct. 30, when The Surf gathers at Hoto's for some pre-Halloween fun at the Tiki Bar Be there, and come dressed for it.

On Saturday morning Jay Kinlaw is in the Air Chair for the Halloween edition of the Surf Countdown at 10 Last Saturday, Vaughan Penn's "Bands on the Beach" made it seven straight Countdowns at No. 1. Rick & Lesa had the biggest climb, with "Every Road" up five to No. 5, and their new "Smack Dab (In the Middle of Love)" made its debut at No. 12. The Main Event Band is back with "I Shiver," and the O.G.'s joined the Top 20 for the first time.

One more thing for Saturday night: Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. Set the clocks back an hour and enjoy the extra hour of dancing.

And CBMA Weekend is next week. It opens Thursday, Nov. 5. All eyes are on the Academy's big weekend; our quick guide is inside. While we wait, we go back to 2004, the tenth CBMAs, when The Surf was FM Station of the Year again and Ray Charles, Percy Sledge and William Bell went into the Hall of Fame.

See you on Ocean Drive.

Upcoming Events

- Fri., Oct. 30 — Surf Halloween Party at HOTO's Tiki Bar 11am-3pm
- Sat., Oct. 31 — The Surf Countdown with Jay Kinlaw 10am — Happy Halloween!
- Sun., Nov. 1 — Clocks fall back one hour at 2am
- Sun., Nov. 1 — Joyful Noise with Jim Morgan at 10am
- Sun., Nov. 1 — Soulful Sunday with DJ Heavy at Noon
- Thu., Nov. 5 — Free OD CBMA Pre-Parties at Hoto's and Deckerz
- 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

All Eyes on CBMA Weekend

One week from Thursday, the beach music world comes home to North Myrtle Beach. Here are the high points; the full day-by-day guide ran in Issue 38. Promoters note the lineup is tentative and times and locations may change.

- **Thursday, Nov. 5:** Free pre-parties. Deb & Marlisa (3–7 p.m.) and The Castaways (7–10 p.m.) at Deckerz; Sand Band and a special guest with DJ Billy Cook at Hoto's, 8 p.m.–midnight.
- **Friday, Nov. 6:** The OD/Surf Welcome Party, live from the Tiki Bar at Hoto's on 94.9, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., free. Friday night (pass required): Sand Band and Jim Quick & Coastline at Hoto's, Band of Oz at the Spanish Galleon, Rivermist at Fat Harold's, Ray Scott's Deck Party at Deckerz.
- **Saturday, Nov. 7:** CBMA Scholarship Foundation Benefit Pig Picking at Hoto's, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. ($10 plate). 2026 CBMA Industry Awards in the afternoon, hosted by Chad Sain, Jim Shafer and Ray Scott. Saturday night: The Castaways, Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot, Too Much Sylvia with DJ Jay Kinlaw, and Jeff James and Friends.
- **Sunday, Nov. 8:** The 2026 Carolina Beach Music Awards, presented by Hayes Jewelers, 3 p.m. at the Alabama Theatre (doors 2:15). Tickets: 843-272-1111. After party at the Spanish Galleon with The Embers featuring Craig Woolard, 9 p.m.

The Hall of Fame class of 2026

The Academy announced the class at the Tiki Bar at Hoto's during SOS Spring Safari, and The Surf family is well represented. Our own Jay Kinlaw, the man in the Air Chair every Saturday morning, goes in as a DJ, along with Pat Gwinn and the late Larry Williams. The Sand Band, who play Hoto's on Thursday and Friday nights of CBMA Weekend, go in as a band.

The individual inductees are Tim Cashion, Jerry West, Doug Manning, Jack Stallings, Don Leonard and Julio Eubanks. The Guard in Winston-Salem goes in as a venue, and WFJA 105.5 FM in Sanford, longtime Sunday-night home of 2003 Hall of Famer Big John Ruth's "Big John's Beach Party," goes in as a station.

Six records join the Hall of Fame Songs: Band of Oz's "Ocean Boulevard," "What Kind of Fool (Do You Think I Am)" by Bill Deal & The Rhondels and the original by The Tams , Chairmen of the Board's "Give Me Just a Little More Time," the Swingin' Medallions' "Double Shot (Of My Baby's Love)," the Isley Brothers' "This Old Heart of Mine (Is Weak for You)," and Bruce Channel's "Hey! Baby."

Christmas Show at the Spanish Galleon
Yacht Rock Christmas with Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot presented by JP Real Estate and 94.9 the Surf. This show is also sponsored by Coastline Glass, SPG Apparel, Synovus Bank and Island Spirits

Tickets with Reserved seating on sale now - click here

This Week's Surf Countdown

Jay Kinlaw presented the October 24 Countdown live on 94.9 The Surf and 949thesurf.com. Vaughan Penn's "Bands on the Beach" is No. 1 for the seventh straight Countdown, and the top four lined up exactly as they did a week ago. Rick & Lesa had the week's biggest climb and a debut on the same chart, and two more records joined the twenty.

The October 24th 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	4
5	"Every Road"	Rick & Lesa	10
6	"Be Her"	Ella Langley	5
7	"I Tried"	The Tams	6
8	"Sandbar Shuffle"	Vaughan Penn	8
9	"I'll Be There"	Too Much Sylvia	11
10	"Soul full of Sunshine"	Gary Alexander	13
11	"Young Again"	Andy & Oneida	7
12	"Smack Dab (In the Middle of Love)"	Rick & Lesa	NE
13	"Forevermore"	Gary Lowder	9
14	"Music Makes the World Go Round"	The Holiday Band	14
15	"Carolina's Home"	Jennifer James	12
16	"I Shiver"	Main Event Band	RE
17	"For Only You"	The O.G.'s	NE
18	"Just Love"	R. Mark Black	18
19	"Wherever There's Summer"	Marsha Morgan	17
20	"In Way Over My Heart"	Marlisa Kay Small	20

LW: Last Countdown (Oct. 17) • NE: New Entry • RE: Re-Entry • Rate songs for next week at surfcountdown.com

Bubble Song
First – Jeff James

The top

Seven straight Countdowns at No. 1 for "Bands on the Beach." Behind it, the top of the chart didn't budge: Ella Langley's "Choosin' Texas" at 2, Jim Quick's "Wait For Me" with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette at 3, and "My Heart is not a Toy," Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot with Jim Quick, at 4. It's the fourth straight chart with the same top three. Penn's "Sandbar Shuffle" held at No. 8, which keeps two Vaughan Penn songs in the top ten.

Movin' up

Rick & Lesa's "Every Road" made the biggest climb of the week, five spots from No. 10 to No. 5. Gary Alexander's "Soul full of Sunshine" went up three, 13 to 10, and into the top ten, and Too Much Sylvia's "I'll Be There" climbed two to No. 9. Holding their ground were the Holiday Band's "Music Makes the World Go Round" at 14, R. Mark Black's "Just Love" at 18, and Marlisa Kay Small's "In Way Over My Heart" at 20 in its second week on the chart.

Arrivals

Three records joined the chart. Rick & Lesa's "Smack Dab (In the Middle of Love)," last issue's Chart Spotlight, debuts at No. 12, less than two weeks after Jay first played it on The Surf on Oct. 13. With "Every Road" at No. 5, the duo has two songs in the top twelve. The Main Event Band is back at No. 16 with "I Shiver," featuring Al Woodruff, the record that went all the way to No. 1 on June 20. And the O.G.'s make their Top 20 debut at No. 17 with "For Only You," a bubble song on the September 5 Countdown.

On the voting list

Ratings for the October 31 Countdown close Friday, Oct. 30, at 5 p.m. at surfcountdown.com. The bubble song this week is Jeff James's "First," the subject of this issue's Chart Spotlight.

Chart Spotlight – New on The Surf

First by *Jeff James*

Grab your favorite cowboy hat and your snakeskin boots. "First" is the first radio release from Jeff James, beach music's cowboy, and it's the bubble song on this week's Surf Countdown. Jeff calls it the perfect "bro" breakup song, and it's made for both floors: shaggers can shag to it and line dancers can line dance to it.

The joke is in the title. The big line starts out like every heartbroken country ballad you've ever heard. He doesn't know what he's going to do without her. Then comes the last word, "first," and the meaning flips. He isn't lost. He's free, with so much he can finally get around to that he just can't decide where to start. That's why Jeff calls it the perfect "bro" breakup song: no tears, no pleading, just a man making a list.

The song was written by Sylvia Johns Ritchie and Bill Nevitt and comes out on Daxwood Records, the label behind Sylvia's own releases, including her 2023 single with Mike Taylor, "Goin' Down Swingin' Tonight," and Rivermist's "Pucker Up." It was recorded at JK Loftin's Cape Fear Studio in Wilmington, with Loftin producing, engineering and playing guitars. Jeff sings lead and background vocals. Sylvia plays piano, Frank Mills is on bass, Rick Murray on drums, Rusty Smith on trumpet, and R. Mark Black on sax. Tony Murnahan of Stwrongtone Media shot and edited the official video, which went up on YouTube on Oct. 23. Search "Jeff James FIRST" or go to youtube

You can catch Jeff live during CBMA Weekend. Jeff James and Friends play Deckerz on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Written by Sylvia Johns Ritchie (BMI) & William John "Bill" Nevitt Jr. (BMI) • Daxwood Publishing (BMI) • Produced and engineered by JK Loftin • Recorded at Cape Fear Studio, Wilmington, N.C. • Daxwood Records distribution • Video by Tony Murnahan (Stwrongtone)

Listening In • Saturday's Countdown

After last week's rain and stream outage, Saturday's Countdown came in loud, proud, and clear. Henry and Shirley Woods called it a beautiful, sunny morning in Madison, Tee and Nancy Stephenson had sunny Stokesdale, Ginny Moore Pratt had sunny Carolina Beach, and Bill and Barb found it cold but sunny in Rochester, New York. Ray and Margaret Isom wished everyone a happy fall from Galax, Virginia.

It was Barbecue Festival day in Lexington, and the Surf crowd turned out. Pam Snider listened from Lexington on "Big BBQ Festival Day," Sherie Davis had it turned up on the way, and Kimmy Baker Bartleson missed the show because she was at the festival seeing Band of Oz and Jim Quick & Coastline. Football called, too. Alex Ingram listened with Bob and Lynne Ingram at Williams-Brice Stadium before the Gamecocks beat Tennessee, Tim and Cheryl were headed from Eden to the Tar Heel game, Michaele Autry was taking her granddaughters to cheer on Carolina, and Connelly and Kimberly Simmons listened from Raleigh at their grandsons' flag football game.

The bands were getting ready. Michael Fite listened "Loud & Proud" from Calabash while The Mac Daddy's prepared for their show that night at Deckerz, and Randy Riggs was loud and proud from Calabash too. Frankie Burney checked in from White Oak, N.C., at Jerome Jam XIX. Wally Welch listened before heading off to play Waltham's Halloween Parade on a flatbed truck with his band. And Janet Britt Huggins, listening in Elizabethtown, is looking forward to the Tonez at Beast Fest in Bladenboro this Friday night.

There was plenty to celebrate. Michael Nobles sent a shout-out to his bride, Ellen Goff Nobles, on their 29th anniversary. Mitzi Jackson Ivey marked her birthday from Foxfire ("59.95 and holding"), and Bob Clay thanked Jay for recognizing their 50th anniversary. Tara Fotch wished a happy heavenly birthday to Jay's mama: "She

certainly raised a phenomenal young man." Tony and Sue Choy are back listening loud and proud from Palmerton, Pennsylvania, after some time away, and Sue is home and doing well.

CBMA fever is building. Wayne Troutman checked in from Ocean Drive with his tickets for the Hall of Fame induction already in hand. That's Sunday at the Alabama Theatre, and this year it includes Jay himself. Greg Adair can't wait to see Jay, the crew and all the Surf listeners at the CAMMYs: "Y'all come early so we can see who we've already met and meet the ones we haven't met!" Lynne Watson Bell, listening from Blowing Rock, will see everybody in a couple of weeks.

The home crowd was on. Shelby Guy Kennerly reminded Jay, "You know we are listening here in Ocean Drive!" Bill and Terry Gregory were at the OD, Mike Baysden and Frank Cagle (with Meredith) in North Myrtle Beach, Eddie and Linda Heglar at Windy Hill, Van Bolick at Carolina Shores, and Figgy and Sweetie and David and Angela Avery in Little River. Karan Edmondson Roblin and Glenn and Ellen Miller checked in from the Inlet, Charles and Kelly Amos from Surfside Beach, Lori Yandle Stone and Pilot Bob from the car in Myrtle Beach, Robbie and Cathy Clark checked in, Bobby Miller with Beth Lyne Marlowe in Georgetown, Dawn Buckner in Mullins, Shawn Briggs had it on at House of Heroes Comics and Collectibles and Dean, Joy, Tiffany and Ralph at Polly's Landing Campground and Marina.

Across the Carolinas: the Reidsville bunch, Sharon and Phillip Harrelson and Curtis and Sharon Southard; Jon Hedrick in Thomasville; Mike, Dawn and Chipper in Albemarle; Keith and Cheris Copeland at Badin Lake; Reba Martin Poole in China Grove; Sophia Jacobs in Pinnacle; Roger Barber in Jamesville; Steve Floyd and Debbie Faye at the Beechwood golf course in Ahoskie; Ronald Wishall and Lee Ipock (Swansboro) from the 252; Thomas Godwin in Garner; Ray Rouse in Cary; Janet Duncan McKay in Hallsboro; Suzette Smith Holloway in Laurinburg; Victoria and Steve Moore in Bolivia; Mike and Cindy on Oak Island; Jim Pendleton and Marlisa Kay Small in Boone; Wanda and Lee Caviness in "the Boro"; and Beth Dittmar in "the Ville." In South Carolina, Betty and Benny Bishop checked in from Easley, Randy and Robin Horton from Gaffney (packing for Islamorada), Delia Gilmore from Greenville, and Laura Lee and Tom Viergever from Charleston.

And well beyond the coast: the Beech Ridge Barber Shop in Scarborough, Maine; George Carter Jr. and Terri in western Michigan; Jane Mcewan in New Philadelphia, Ohio; Ed and Melanie in the Derby City; Jay and Izzy in Kentucky; Richard Schumpert in Knoxville; Wendy Schnitz in Blacksburg, Virginia; Pat Ottaviano in Virginia Beach; Kenn Ward and Shug in Midlothian; Andy Pulliam in LaCrosse, Virginia; Bootsie Howard in Fox Point; Linda and Allen Andrews on the Warrior River; and Marsha and Richard Andrews in Gulf Shores. Rea Hanna, "the Belfast girl," was on her way to Florida to board a ship for seven days in the Caribbean. Randy and Debbie Kinsolving had the line of the day from Vienna, West Virginia: "gettin' the latest countdown from the 843 in the 304 on the 949." David McClain was close behind from the orange groves, where the robins in the oak tree were "rockin' on with JJ. They are true rockin' robins."

The music got some love too. Diane Barlow loved R. Mark Black's song, Sophia Jacobs hoped Vaughan Penn would steal the show again, Donna Hicks asked for a favorite, and Laura Kepley thanked Jay for the Spotlight. Janet Britt Huggins wondered whether someone hand-picks the songs on Saturday leading up to the Countdown, because "they are always awesome." And Carroll Smiley thanked Harold Worley and Bill Norman for bringing The Surf back to life. Thanks everyone for listening and voting!

Back to the CBMAs: 2004

Ten years in: Craig Woolard's big night, The Surf again, and Ray Charles in the Hall.

The tenth Carolina Beach Music Awards were held Nov. 21, 2004. FM Radio Station of the Year went again to WVCO, The Surf 94.9, the sixth year of the station's twelve-year run, and WLWL "Big Wave 770" in Rockingham was AM Station again.

Craig Woolard's night

The big winner was Craig Woolard. He was Male Vocalist and Entertainer of the Year, and he and Marsha Hancock took Collaboration/Duo for "Cruisin'." Twenty-two years later he's still at the center of CBMA Weekend: The Embers featuring Craig Woolard play the awards show and headline the Hayes Jewelers After Party.

Holiday Band repeated as Group of the Year, and "It's You" won Ballad/Smoothie, with Mike Taylor and Mike Hayes taking Songwriter for it. That made two straight Songwriter awards for Taylor. The Rickey Godfrey Band, Collaboration/Duo winners in 2003, won Song of the Year with "Can't Change My Heart" and Group Album with Soul Sensations, and Bobby Simmons was Producer for "Can't Change My Heart."

Molly Askins was Female Vocalist, Butch Barnes of Band of Oz repeated as Instrumentalist on saxophone, and Batson & Chase were the Rising Star. Hack Bartley, the 2003 Rising Star, came back with Blues Album for Hack Is Back with The Shuffle, and Roy Roberts won Blues Song with "I Slipped, Tripped, and Fell In Love." Paul Craver won Solo Album with Where Ever Love Is Found. The Memphis All Stars' "Lovin' My Baby" was National Shag/Dance Song. Keith Houston won Engineer for Love, Laugh and Live, which also took Compilation Album for One20inc, and One20inc received the Michael Branch Award.

Radio, clubs and the industry

Ray Scott, a three-time AM DJ winner, crossed over to win the Larry Crockett Award as FM DJ. Charlie Brown (Ed Weiss) was AM DJ, and Fred Rouse repeated in Syndicated Radio with Coast to Coast Favorites with Fred Rouse. Fat Harold's was Club of the Year again (Bill Griffin Award), J Michaels in Garden City took the Cecil Corbett Award for Live Music Venue, and the Triangle Beach Music Festival in Garner repeated as Event of the Year. Chad Sain was Club/Mobile DJ; next week he co-hosts the Industry Awards with Ray Scott and Jim Shafer. Sam West and Sarah West-Kemp received the Shad Alberty Award for National Shag Dancing.

Industry and CBMA Appreciation awards went to Ross Pritchard and Debbie Fair. Fan of the Year was Ms. Jane McEwan.

The Industry Showcase

The 2004 Industry Show lineup was a snapshot of who was making the records that year: Karen Benfield, Dink Perry, Batson and Chase, Mark Roberts, Donny and Susan Trexler, the Attractions, Gary Brown, Hack Bartley, Rickey Godfrey, Casey York, Joel Jones, Rick Strickland and Tim Cashion. Two of them are still in the news. Rick Strickland is half of Rick & Lesa, on the Countdown right now with "Every Road" at No. 5 and "Smack Dab (In the Middle of Love)," last issue's Chart Spotlight, at No. 12. And Tim Cashion goes into the Hall of Fame next month.

The Hall of Fame class of 2004

Five went in: three national soul voices every shag floor knows, a Sumter keyboard man who never stopped playing, and the bass voice behind "Ocean Boulevard."

Ray Charles. Born in Albany, Georgia, in 1930 and raised in Greenville, Florida, he fused gospel and rhythm and blues with "I Got a Woman" and "What'd I Say," and took "Georgia on My Mind" to No. 1 in 1960. He died June 10, 2004, and the Academy inducted him later that year. Some people in the Carolinas remember Ray from a May 9, 1960 Germans club concert at UNC.

Percy Sledge. He was working as an orderly at Colbert County Hospital in Sheffield, Alabama, and singing weekends with the Esquires Combo when he cut "When a Man Loves a Woman." It went to No. 1 on both the pop and R&B charts in 1966 and became Atlantic Records' first gold record. "Warm and Tender Love," "It Tears Me Up" and "Take Time to Know Her" followed. He died in Baton Rouge on April 14, 2015, at 74.

William Bell: Hall of Fame and the Joe Pope Pioneer Award. Born William Yarbrough in Memphis in 1939, he was one of Stax Records' first stars with "You Don't Miss Your Water" in 1961. He co-wrote "Born

Under a Bad Sign," cut "Private Number" with Judy Clay in 1968, and went to No. 1 R&B and No. 10 pop with "Tryin' to Love Two." He started his own Wilbe label in 1985, and in 2017, at 77, he won the Grammy for Best Americana Album with This Is Where I Live.

Tommie James. "TJ" grew up in Sumter, S.C., playing piano before he was six. At 16, at Edmunds High School, he joined his first R&B band, the Marquis, in November 1960. The next summer he and singer Hank Martin moved to the Nomads, renamed the Duprees in 1962, who played three-night stands that summer at the Pavilion in Myrtle Beach. At Clemson he formed the Footnotes, then joined the Caravelles, who toured the Southeast opening for and backing national R&B acts. That was also where he first learned to manage a band.

In 1970 he helped organize Second Nature with several of the original Nomads/Duprees. The band recorded through the 1970s, including the 1975 album Second Nature, Vol. I, cut in Atlanta for Bang Records, the label that launched Neil Diamond. Three members went on to Nashville careers, among them songwriter Archie Jordan, who wrote hits for Ronnie Milsap. TJ stayed home in Camden, added horns in 1981, and moved the band toward the songs people were calling beach music. In 1982 he worked with Warren Moise and General Johnson on the Christmas beach music hit "Christmas, The Best Time of the Year," and in 1985 Second Nature scored again with "Who's That Guy," featuring Vicky Ross. Reunited with Archie Jordan, he made the CD Second Nature, Musically Yours, whose single "Only You Will Do" was a top 10 beach song of 2002. When he was inducted, after 44 straight years in bands, his program bio said he had never missed a gig. Twenty-two years later, TJ remains active in beach music circles.

Big John Thompson: Lifetime Achievement. If you know "Ocean Boulevard," "Southern Belles," "Over the Rainbow" and "Far Away Places," you know his voice. A Burlington native, he bought his first guitar at 12 from Don's Music City in Greensboro, and was soon playing bass guitar and singing with the Weejuns. That bass voice took him to The Embers, the Monzas and Band of Oz, and he also played behind Donna Fargo and Stella Parton. And shaggers still talk about his cover of "One in a Million." Twenty-two years after his induction, "Ocean Boulevard" goes into the Hall of Fame itself as one of the six 2026 Hall of Fame Songs.

Twenty-two years later

Much of the 2004 board has since gone into the Hall. Keith Houston in 2008, Butch Barnes and Hack Bartley in 2017, Ray Scott in 2019 and Rickey Godfrey in 2023 just to name a few. On November 8, at the Alabama Theatre, the Academy names its 2026 winners and inducts its 2026 class.

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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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