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

The Carolina Beach Music Awards brought fans to North Myrtle Beach from all over this past weekend, and it was good to see the community turn out to honor the musicians and the people who work behind the scenes.

The Academy's 32nd year closed Sunday at the Alabama Theatre with the 2026 Carolina Beach Music Awards. Craig Woolard is Entertainer of the Year. North Tower's “Pretty Lady” is Song of the Year, and Rivermist's “Right Place Right Time” is Album of the Year. Laura Kepley and Steve Long are the Female and Male Vocalists of the Year, Too Much Sylvia is Group of the Year, and Vaughan Penn, who has two songs on this week's Countdown, is the Rising Star. The Castaways' “Love Is What I'm Talking About” with Karen Clayton won three awards, and Monroe's WDZD 99.1 and its DJ Eric Bowman took three radio awards between them. The full list of the weekend's winners is just below.

On the Countdown, Andy & Oneida's “Young Again” held No. 1 for a second week, and Miranda Lambert's “Sunset Marquis” jumped six places to No. 2. It's this week's Chart Spotlight. Right behind it at No. 3 is Ella Langley's “Choosin' Texas,” which the Academy named National Dance Song on Saturday. Five songs returned to the Top 20, including Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board, who came back the morning after “Give Me Just a Little More Time” went into the Hall of Fame.

The Christmas lights are coming out fast. First comes the Yachts for Tots Kick-Off Party with theBand of Oz at the Spanish Galleon on Saturday, Nov. 28. Bring a new, unwrapped toy. Then Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot bring the Yacht Rock Christmas Show to the Galleon on Sunday, Dec. 13, with Christmas favorites alongside smooth yacht rock staples.

And here's one for next year's calendar: the Four Tops will headline the 9th Ocean Drive Beach Music Festival on Saturday, May 1, 2027, with Band of Oz and Jim Quick & Coastline. Early bird tickets are on sale now. The story is below.

See you on Ocean Drive.

Upcoming Events

- Sat., Nov. 14 — The Surf Countdown with CBMA Hall of Famer Jay Kinlaw, 10 a.m.–noon
- Sunday Nov 15 — A Joyful Noise with Jim Morgan, 7–10 a.m., and Soulful Sunday with DJ Heavy, noon–3 p.m.
- Friday Nov 27 — Yachts for Tots Kick-Off Party with the Band of Oz, Spanish Galleon, 7 p.m. Bring new, unwrapped toys.
- Sun., Dec. 13 — Yacht Rock Christmas Show with Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot, Spanish Galleon
- Sat., May 1, 2027 — Ocean Drive Beach Music Festival with the Four Tops, Band of Oz and Jim Quick & Coastline, gates 10 a.m.
- The Daily Calendar for NMB is posted every morning

This Week's Surf Countdown

Surf Countdown Top 20 • Saturday, November 7, 2026

This Wk	Last Wk	Title	Artist
1	1	**“Young Again”**	Andy & Oneida
2	8	“Sunset Marquis”	Miranda Lambert
3	3	“Choosin’ Texas”	Ella Langley
4	4	“Wait For Me”	Jim Quick with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette
5	2	“Bands on the Beach”	Vaughan Penn
6	7	“NMBSC”	The Tonez
7	RE	“Just Love”	R. Mark Black
8	RE	“Music Makes the World Go Round”	The Holiday Band
9	19	“Windows Rolled Down”	Pink Slips Band
10	9	“I Shiver”	Main Event Band
11	6	“Sandbar Shuffle”	Vaughan Penn
12	16	“For Only You”	The O.G.’s
13	RE	“At the End of the Day”	Rivermist
14	5	“Every Road”	Rick & Lesa
15	12	“Where Did You Go?”	Classic Soul with Terri Gore
16	14	“Forevermore”	Gary Lowder
17	RE	“Baby, You’re the Melody”	Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board
18	10	“My Heart Is Not a Toy”	Gary Lowder & Smokin’ Hot with Jim Quick
19	RE	“Bad Is Bad”	Boogah Brothers
20	18	“Soul Full of Sunshine”	Gary Alexander

RE – Re-Entry NE – New Entry

At the top

“Young Again” is No. 1 for a second straight week. Last Saturday Andy & Oneida jumped from No. 11 to the top for the first time; this week they stayed there, on a weekend when half the beach music world was in North Myrtle Beach.

The big mover is Miranda Lambert. “Sunset Marquis” entered the Top 20 at No. 8 on Halloween and jumped six places to No. 2. With Ella Langley's “Choosin' Texas” holding at No. 3, the same day the Academy named it National Dance Song, the Countdown has two country stars in its top three. Jim Quick's “Wait For Me” with R. Mark Black and Allie Privette holds at No. 4. On Sunday it won Collaboration or Duo. Vaughan Penn's “Bands on the Beach” is No. 5, and on Sunday she was named Rising Star.

Movin' up

The Pink Slips Band's “Windows Rolled Down” made the biggest climb of the week, ten places from No. 19 to No. 9, and into the top ten. The O.G.'s, last week's Chart Spotlight, moved “For Only You” up four to No. 12, its second straight climb. The Tonez' “NMBSC” edged up a spot to No. 6.

Back on the Chart

Five songs came back into the Top 20 this week, and two of them landed in the top ten. R. Mark Black's “Just Love” is back after a week away and is the highest of the returns at No. 7. That puts him on two of the top seven, his own record and Jim Quick's “Wait For Me.” The Holiday Band is right behind at No. 8 with “Music Makes the World Go Round,” also back after one week off. They won Group of the Year at the 2004 CBMAs.

Rivermist, Sunday's Album of the Year winners for “Right Place Right Time,” are back at No. 13 with “At the End of the Day,” which was last in the Top 20 on Oct. 17. Ken Knox and the Chairmen of the Board return at No. 17 with “Baby, You're the Melody,” back after three weeks away and the morning after the Chairmen's “Give Me Just a Little More Time” went into the Hall of Fame. And the Boogah Brothers are back at No. 19

with “Bad Is Bad,” which reached No. 17 at the end of August. Barry Herndon of the band was listening from Raleigh when it played. You'll find him in Listening In below.

Listening In • Saturday's Countdown

Friday night Jay went into the Hall of Fame. Saturday morning he was back in the Air Chair, and the Facebook thread filled up with congratulations.

Mopsi Eudy Pittman was there for it: “So glad I was able to attend the HOF Inductions last night!” Mandie Jo Staley, listening in Sunset Harbour with Linda and Joe, said her mom was honored to be there too, and added, “I know Ed was looking down smiling and is so proud of you.” Richard Schumpert, in Tennessee, told Jay to “savor this moment.” Gene Mason in Albemarle went with “Hercules, Hercules, Hercules!” Sharon Southard and Curtis in Reidsville saluted “the HOF'er Supa Jay,” Darlene Himebauch was driving down “with HOF Jay and the Countdown for company,” and Ray Rouse in Cary opened with “Good Morning Mr. Mayor!” Tony Choy, in Palmerton, Pennsylvania, had the practical advice: “pace yourself this weekend.” Bootsie Howard sent “a big well deserved congratulations” on behalf of the Fox Point Shag Club, and congratulations also came from Billie Ridgeway, Sherie Davis, Margaret Shell Hill, Tony Davis, Lynne Watson Bell, Wendy Gibson-Alley, Shirley Woods, Joy Muldrow Bocks, Jane McEwan, Ginny Moore Pratt, Cindy Anderson, Brenda Stanley, Laura Lee Viergever, Lori Yandle Stone, Elaine Byrd Johnson and Jill and Wayne McCulloch.

A lot of listeners were already at the beach. Charlie Satterfield checked in from Hoto's, congratulating the new Hall of Famers. The next day he went home with an award of his own, Songwriter of the Year with Brad Cox. Dean and Billy checked in from the OD resort. Ellen Cowley Miller and Glenn were riding the train from Murrells Inlet for the BBQ, and Michael Nobles and Ellen were already “outside staking our claim in the bbq line.” Dawn Melton admitted the Meltons should have been at Hoto's, but they were at Blueberry's instead with breakfast, a Bloody Mary and an espresso martini. Cindy Smith and Ronald Wishall tuned in “from under the water tower.” Pam Snider was headed from Little River to Main Street and then the Industry Awards. Suzette Ledbetter Young and Spike were in town for the Cammys. Faye Young, with Steve Floyd and Debbie, and Lee Ipock, “listening from the 252,” were planning on the Alabama Theatre Sunday, and Greg Adair signed off with “See you tomorrow, everyone!” Adrianna Waddy was at the Montpelier Races in Orange, Virginia, with a six-hour drive ahead of her, “the Good Lord willing.”

Some couldn't make it this year. Fran Braddock and Steven were outside in Little Mountain, S.C., starting the Christmas decorations, “wishing we could have made it to Cammy weekend.” Randy Kinsolving and Debbie in Vienna, West Virginia, were “bummed we can't be there this year to see you accept it.” Richard Andrews and Marsha in Gulf Shores missed their first CBMA in seven years.

Other folks had other Saturdays. Doris Anderson was at the Pork Festival in Elizabethtown, and Janet Duncan McKay and Patrick were at the Pecan Festival in Whiteville. Kimmi Lowery was loud and proud before heading out to watch her 7–1 Demon Deacons, and Alex Ingram was listening with Bob and Lynne Ingram at Williams-Brice Stadium before the Gamecocks played. Jill and Wayne McCulloch had just come from a veterans' breakfast at church. Lance Adcox and Amanda, in Little Washington, N.C., were celebrating their fifth wedding anniversary. Happy anniversary. Phillip and Sharon Harrelson in Reidsville have their Festival accommodations booked already, and Laura Lee Viergever in Charleston still has that Lawrenceville Beach Music CD if Jay wants it. And Barry Herndon of the Boogah Brothers was listening in Raleigh the morning “Bad Is Bad” came back onto the Countdown.

The map ran from a chilly Montreal, where Kimberly Willis Simmons and Connelly were listening, to Willis and Montgomery, Texas, with stops in Kentucky, Tennessee, New Philadelphia, Ohio, Palmerton, Pennsylvania, Vienna, West Virginia, and Gulf Shores. Georgia sent Covington and Augusta. Virginia sent Carson (on the Alexa), Wakefield, Midlothian, Roanoke, Blacksburg and Orange. North Carolina sent Salisbury, Reidsville, Madison, Winston-Salem, Kernersville, Pinnacle, Albemarle, Raleigh, Cary, Garner, Coats, Fremont, Little Washington, Elizabethtown, Whiteville, Laurinburg, Rockingham, Carolina Beach, Oak Island, Sunset Harbour and the Foothills. South Carolina added Charleston, Little Mountain, Greenwood, Easley, Gaffney, Columbia and Surfside Beach, plus a big Little River contingent and the home crowd in North Myrtle Beach, Main Street and Ocean Drive.

Tony Smith had the last word: “Big t and little c are listening right outside your window.”

Thanks for listening. And congratulations, Jay.

Chart Spotlight

“Sunset Marquis” • Miranda Lambert

No. 2 this week • No. 8 on Oct. 31 • first week in the Top 20 was Halloween

Beach music has always borrowed from its neighbors. Over the years the shag floor has taken in Motown and Muscle Shoals, Chicago soul, blues, and more than a little country. Miranda Lambert's “Sunset Marquis” is the latest arrival from Nashville, and it got here fast: in the Top 20 at No. 8 on Halloween, No. 2 a week later.

A hotel with a past

The song is named for the Sunset Marquis, the hotel in West Hollywood that musicians, actors and writers have used as a hideaway for decades. Lambert is one of them. “I've been staying at the Sunset Marquis for close to 20 years,” she says. “It has this timeless energy that feels like stepping into another era.” She wanted the record to put listeners in the room with her and her co-writers. “Every time I'm there,” she says, “you never know who you're going to run into or what kind of memories you're going to make.”

The hotel's rock-and-roll history got its own film this summer, *If These Walls Could Rock*, which came out on digital platforms Aug. 14 with interviews from Bruce Springsteen, Ringo Starr, Slash, Dave Grohl, Sheryl Crow and Cyndi Lauper. “Sunset Marquis” is in it.

The record

Lambert wrote the song with her Pistol Annies bandmate Ashley Monroe, Waylon Payne, David Garcia and Jesse Frasure, who co-produced it. The groove is pure '70s, breezy and mid-tempo, the kind of country-disco sound that runs all through her new album, and Kris Wilkinson's string arrangement gives it a late-night glow. The visualizer has Lambert in a Cat O'Nine bodysuit beside a vintage red convertible under neon lights.

MCA released “Sunset Marquis” on Aug. 7 as a preview of *Crisco*, Lambert's tenth studio album, which came out Oct. 2. It's the album's twelfth and last track. Lambert and Frasure produced the whole record, which also includes a duet with Chris Stapleton, “A Song to Sing,” and a cover of Jim Croce's “I'll Have to Say I Love You in a Song.” “I've always loved every corner of country music,” Lambert says, and making this album “reminded me that those things don't have to be separated.”

Beach music fans have been saying the same thing for about seventy years. Countdown voters have taken this one to No. 2. Give it a listen Saturday morning and see if it can catch “Young Again.”

CBMA Weekend 2026: The Winners

Three days, three ceremonies. The Hall of Fame class went in Friday night, the Industry Awards were handed out Saturday afternoon, and the Carolina Beach Music Awards closed it out Sunday at the Alabama Theatre. Here is the complete list.

Hall of Fame Induction • Friday, Nov. 6

Category	Inductees
DJs	Jay Kinlaw • Pat Gwinn • Larry Williams (posthumously)
Band Members	Tim Cashion • Jerry West • Doug Manning • Jack Stallings • Don Leonard • Julio Eubanks
Band	The Sand Band
Venue	The Guard (Winston-Salem, N.C.)
Station	WFJA 105.5 FM (Sanford, N.C.)
Songs	“Ocean Boulevard” (Band of Oz) • “What Kind of Fool” (Bill Deal & the Rhondels / The Tams) • “Give Me Just a Little More Time” (Chairmen of the Board) • “Double Shot (Of My Baby's Love)” (Swingin' Medallions) • “This Old Heart of Mine” (Isley Brothers) • “Hey! Baby” (Bruce Channel)

The Surf's Jay Kinlaw went in with fellow DJs Pat Gwinn and the late Larry Williams. Tim Cashion, the 2005 Rising Star we wrote about last week, made the trip from Rising Star to Hall of Famer in twenty-one years. And the six new Hall of Fame Songs reach from Bruce Channel's 1962 “Hey! Baby” to Band of Oz's “Ocean Boulevard,” with Big John Thompson's bass voice on it.

2026 Carolina Beach Music Awards • Nov. 7–8

Award	Winner
Entertainer of the Year	Craig Woolard
Female Vocalist	Laura Kepley
Male Vocalist	Steve Long
Group	Too Much Sylvia
Rising Star	Vaughan Penn
Song of the Year	“Pretty Lady” — North Tower
Album of the Year	“Right Place Right Time” — Rivermist
Smoothie	“Love Is What I'm Talking About” — The Castaways ft. Karen Clayton
Collaboration or Duo	“Wait For Me” — Jim Quick, Allie Privette, R. Mark Black
Songwriter	Charlie Satterfield & Brad Cox — “I Tried,” The Mighty Tams
Instrumentalist	Art Amaral, saxophone — Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot
Video of the Year	“I'll Be There” — Too Much Sylvia
National Dance Song *	“Choosin' Texas” — Ella Langley
Producer *	Guy Brooks & Karen Clayton — “Love Is What I'm Talking About,” The Castaways ft. Karen Clayton
Engineer *	Guy Brooks & Hubert Dean — “Love Is What I'm Talking About,” The Castaways ft. Karen Clayton
Radio Station*	WDZD 99.1 FM — Monroe, N.C.
Radio DJ*	Eric Bowman — WDZD 99.1 FM, Monroe, N.C.
Radio Show*	The Wave Beach Music Countdown — Eric Bowman
Syndicated Radio Show*	“At the Beach with Pat Gwinn” — Pat Gwinn
Internet Radio Station*	Riptideradio.com — Scott, Henriksen & Dennis
Internet DJ*	Johnny B — Riptideradio.com
Internet Radio Show*	“Carolina Beach Party” — Johnny Barkley
Club/Mobile DJ *	Jay Kinlaw
Club *	OD Arcade — North Myrtle Beach
Live Music Venue (Cecil Corbett Award) *	Deckerz — North Myrtle Beach
Concert Series *	“Music on Main” (Horseshoe) — North Myrtle Beach
Live Production *	Bob Blair — Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot / North Tower
Event*	TR's Cancer Fighters 18th Annual Oyster Roast
Michael Branch Award *	Melissa Hinson — OD Mafia
Shad Alberty Award	Grayson Free & Autumn Jones

** Presented at Saturday's Industry Awards. All other awards were presented Sunday at the Alabama Theatre.*

The story of the weekend

Craig Woolard is the 2026 Entertainer of the Year. Beach music fans have known that voice for decades, first out front with the Embers and then with his own band, and Sunday the Academy gave him its top award.

The most decorated record of the weekend was the Castaways' “Love Is What I'm Talking About,” featuring Karen Clayton. It won Producer and Engineer on Saturday for Guy Brooks, Karen Clayton and Hubert Dean, then took Smoothie of the Year on Sunday. Radio had a sweep of its own in Monroe, N.C.: Eric

Bowman won Radio DJ, his Wave Beach Music Countdown won Radio Show, and WDZD 99.1 FM won Radio Station. Online, Riptideradio.com won Internet Radio Station, Johnny B won Internet DJ, and Johnny Barkley's “Carolina Beach Party” won Internet Radio Show.

North Tower won twice. “Pretty Lady” is Song of the Year, and Bob Blair's Live Production award covers North Tower and Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot. Smokin' Hot also has the Instrumentalist of the Year, saxophonist Art Amaral. You can hear him at the Spanish Galleon on Dec. 13. Too Much Sylvia won two as well: Group of the Year, and Video of the Year for “I'll Be There.”

Several winners are on the Countdown right now. “Wait For Me,” with Jim Quick, Allie Privette and R. Mark Black, won Collaboration or Duo and holds at No. 4. Rising Star Vaughan Penn has two songs in the Top 20, “Bands on the Beach” at No. 5 and “Sandbar Shuffle” at No. 11. Album of the Year winners Rivermist returned this week at No. 13. And Ella Langley's “Choosin' Texas,” Saturday's National Dance Song, is No. 3.

Pat Gwinn had a weekend like Jay's. He went into the Hall of Fame Friday night, and on Saturday “At the Beach with Pat Gwinn” won Syndicated Radio Show. Charlie Satterfield, who checked in with Jay from Hoto's Saturday morning, and Brad Cox won Songwriter for the Mighty Tams' “I Tried.” Melissa Hinson of the OD Mafia received the Michael Branch Award, and Grayson Free and Autumn Jones received the Shad Alberty Award. TR's Cancer Fighters 18th Annual Oyster Roast is Event of the Year. And North Myrtle Beach took the room awards: OD Arcade for Club, Deckerz for Live Music Venue, and Music on Main at the Horseshoe for Concert Series.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners.

Yachts for Tots Kick-Off Party

The Band of Oz at the Spanish Galleon

Friday, November 27 • 7:00 p.m. • Spanish Galleon, North Myrtle Beach

Bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Intracoastal Christmas Regatta's Yachts for Tots drive.

Sponsored by Gone Coastal Carts North

To sponsor or reserve seats, contact Bo the Webguy at 843-564-2610.

Christmas Show at the Spanish Galleon

Yacht Rock Christmas with Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot

Sunday, December 13 • Spanish Galleon, North Myrtle Beach

Christmas favorites alongside smooth yacht rock staples. Something for everyone.

Presented by JP Real Estate and 94.9 The Surf. Also sponsored by Coastline Glass, SPG Apparel, Synovus Bank and Island Spirits.

Tickets with reserved seating on sale at odchristmas.com

Four Tops Headline the 2027 OD Beach Music Festival

The Four Tops are coming to Ocean Drive. The 9th Ocean Drive Beach Music Festival is set for Saturday, May 1, 2027, with the Four Tops headlining and Band of Oz and Jim Quick & Coastline on the bill. The stage goes up again in the parking lot between Main Street and First Avenue South, and you enter at First Avenue South. Gates open at 10 a.m., and the music runs until 5:30 p.m. CBMA Hall of Fame DJ Chad Sain emcees, along with the Surf's own DJs and show hosts.

Three acts, sixty years

For sixty years the Four Tops' records have been staples on the shag floor: “I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch),” “It's the Same Old Song,” “Reach Out I'll Be There.” If you've danced at the beach, you've danced to them.

The rest of the bill has been in the news all weekend. Band of Oz's “Ocean Boulevard” went into the CBMA Hall of Fame Songs Friday night. Jim Quick, the 2005 Entertainer of the Year, won Collaboration or Duo on Sunday for “Wait For Me,” which is No. 4 on the Countdown, and he's on the air with you every weekday from 11 to 3 on the Best Day Ever Show.

Tickets

Advance general admission tickets are available at odmusicfest.com. A very limited number of early-entry tickets let you in before the gates open. Reserved tent spaces are available only to 2027 sponsors, and you can mark your interest in sponsoring on the ticket order form. The festival is presented by Carolina Outdoor Power Equipment, the City of North Myrtle Beach and 94.9 The Surf. Line-up, pricing and availability are subject to change.

Christmas is coming, too. A pair of festival tickets fits nicely in a stocking.

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
Swamp Soul	Jim Quick	Fri, 7 PM
The Surf Countdown	Jay Kinlaw	Sat, 10 AM–12 Noon
A Joyful Noise	Jim Morgan	Sun, 7–10 AM
Soulful Sunday	DJ Heavy	Sun, Noon to 3PM

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