

In Honor and Memory of All Who Have Loved the Ocean,
We Cordially Invite the Residents and Friends of Mantoloking to the

Third Annual Mantoloking Memorial Paddle Out—

A Gathering and Ceremony

To Celebrate the Lives of Our Late Friends and Family

And to Share Our Memories of the Beach and Sea.

Saturday, July 2nd, 2011

9:30 A.M- 10:30 A.M.

At Downer Avenue Beach



What is a Paddle Out?

A “paddle out” is an ocean enthusiast's version of a standard memorial. In this ancient Hawaiian tradition, participants paddle out on surfboards from the remembered person's favorite local surf break or beach. Once they reach a designated spot in the water, they arrange themselves in a circle. Leis or flowers are often tossed into the middle of the circle while someone leads the group in a short memorial prayer and moment of silence. Our event will be unique in the sense that we are celebrating the lives of many individuals, not just one.

What if I don't feel like going into the ocean?

No need to worry! If you love the beach but don't like getting wet, we encourage you to join the Beach Link. The Beach Link is similar to the paddle out, but members of this group join together to form a horizontal line close to the shore. The Beach Link then faces the ocean and the paddlers, participating in the ceremony from the water's edge.

What if I do not have a surfboard?

This event is BYOB (Bring Your Own Board) for those who plan to paddle out. We cannot guarantee that extra boards will be available, but we will do our very best to have some on hand.

What else will take place at the ceremony?

The event will commence with a few introductory remarks and an overview of the parts of the ceremony. There will also be a small tent set aside for the writing of Memory Shells—these personalized shells will then be placed into the ocean during the ceremony and sink to the ocean floor. After the short ceremony in the ocean and on the beach, all are encouraged to stay for a day of community gathering, photo opportunities, light refreshments, and fun in the sun.

Is this a religious ceremony?

Yes *and* No. This event does not cater to any one faith or set of philosophical beliefs. All are invited, and the Paddle Out is for anyone that recognizes the strong presence of the ocean and the shore in their lives. This ceremony honors our close connection to nature and those with whom we have made so many memories on the beaches of Mantoloking.

What if the weather doesn't cooperate? What if the ocean is too rough?

Event organizers will make the call. We will likely postpone the ceremony in the event of poor weather. If the ocean is too rough for a large crowd to paddle out safely, we will still gather on the beach and celebrate on sand rather than sea.

Is this event free?

The event is completely free but badges *are required* for beach access.

I still have questions. Can I help out with the ceremony in any way?

All other inquiries should be sent to Mark Koechling at MantolokingPaddleOut@gmail.com.

