



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jack Brown, avid surfer and longtime Cannon Beach resident.

## 'Paddle Out' celebrates life of longtime Cannon Beach resident

A Paddle Out and Life Celebration for Cannon Beach 50-year resident Jack Brown was held on Sunday, Feb. 22, in the Seaside Cove at the bottom of Tillamook Head. About 200 of Jack's community including his family, friends and surfers gathered to celebrate his life. Generations of surfers and residents of the North Coast gathered to feel the connection Jack always brought to his community; one of inclusiveness and love. It began with a service on the beach with nearly 100 surfers in wetsuits and their boards on the rocks, along with another hundred of Jack's community who weren't doing the "paddle out." Long time Seaside resident and director of NW Women's Surf Camps Lexie Hallahan presided.



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Upwards of 100 surfers gather offshore in tribute to Jack Brown.

president at the Australian Ambassador's Dinner for the American's Cup Crews on September 14, 1962, in Newport, Rhode Island.

"I really don't know why it is that all of us are so committed to the sea, except I think it's because in addition to the fact that the sea changes, and ships change, it's because we all came from the sea. And it is an interesting biological fact that all of us have in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and therefore, we have salt in our blood, our sweat and our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea, whether it is to surf (sail) or to watch it, we are going back from whence we came," said Kennedy in capturing the spirit of what humans share with the ocean.

Bunches of flowers were passed around the community on the beach to throw into the shore break and into the center of the "paddle out circle" once surfers made it out to the outer cove. Then the nearly 100 surfers all migrated to the cove riptide to paddle outside together. The day had been blessed with warm east winds, sunshine and a long period four foot ground swells, perfect for the paddle out service. In the

surfer's parking lot on the west side of the Lanai Motel, while surfers were paddling out, Hawaiian music was played by local surfer and Hawaiian Hank Snell, which carried out over the waves to be heard both by them and the people on the rocky beach.

Once to the outer cove, the surfers formed a large circle, holding each other's hands in solidarity and community for their friend, Jack Brown. Local surfer Jon Leiter gave the final life toast in the center of the circle recognizing the great person Jack was for how he was so inclusive in the community and encouraged all of the surfers there to take with them and share that piece of Jack. Flowers were thrown into the middle of the circle followed by lots of cheering and splashing of the ocean, representative of energy being lifted from the ocean (water) to the air and spirit (ether).

After the circle ceremony, surfers paddled back into the waves for hours of party waves, followed by a large bonfire with smoked salmon provided by the Tillamook Head Kopra brothers, David and John. That night, the moon's shape was a perfect smile with the planet Venus, planet of Love, hanging right below the moon in the sky.

# Legion's chili cook-off is a boisterous event



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Chili Cook-off contestants prepare to be judged at the March 28 event in Cannon Beach.

By Carla O'Reilly  
For the Gazette

Anyone walking into the Cannon Beach American Legion hall the afternoon of Saturday, March 28, will not soon forget the impact on the senses of 13 pots of chili steaming with spicy flavor – nor will it be easy to forget the taste treat of sampling from each of the pots!

The event, which will from now on be an annual occurrence, was conceptualized by Post 168 bartender Scott Cameron, with the assistance of fellow bartender and bar manager Dave Butler. Cameron began making chili at the age of 19 in Wisconsin and has since made chili all over the country. He was winner of the 2004 International Chili Society championship, restaurant division, in Las Vegas.

Now a popular and well-known personage in Cannon Beach, Scotty is always thinking of ideas for community events here at the Cannon Beach Legion.



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Ed Higdon, Jr., far right, raked in 3rd place honors along with the Peoples' Choice Award.

He also participates at the Manzanita Farmers' Market each summer.

Though the Chili Cook-Off was crowded and jovial, it was also a judged event, with prizes for the winners. The judging was done by chefs Aaron Bedard and Danny Kaul of the Stepha-

nie Inn, and Dave Bonnett, chef at the local establishment popularly referred to as the "Screw and Brew."

And, the lucky winners were: 1st Place - Steve Helander; 2nd Place - Kate Bestgen, and 3rd Place and Peoples' Choice Award - Ed Higdon, Jr.

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