

Myrtle Beach Drum Circle's 7th Anniversary

by Judi Burton

Families and friends gathered in and around the Myrtle Beach State Park Pavilion Saturday, June 26, to celebrate the Myrtle Beach Drum Circle's 7th Anniversary. Three generations of partygoers made tribal music, played with glow sticks, or just simply sat and enjoyed a warm summer evening at the beach, as an impressive full red moon rose above the crashing waves. A white bed sheet was hung on the wall of the pavilion where children crowded around to finger paint their mural masterpiece. Hula hoopers danced to the rhythmic beat and refreshments crowded the picnic tables. Positive energy swirled around the celebration like the sage smoke that wafted through the scene. Although Drum Circle founder Cheryl Christopher was not in session that night (but instead attending a friend's wedding in Maryland), we had a very nice chat on the phone about how the drum circle started.

Seven years ago, Cheryl had just come back from the annual Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival and was starting to enjoy her newly acquired drum. She had been to Grateful Dead concerts in the past and had wanted one after watching drum circles form in the parking lots after the shows. Cheryl mentioned to Scott Mann of Wave 104 FM that she would like to start a drum circle on the Strand for anyone interested. Enthused, Scott used his airtime to send out a siren for all listeners to attend the drum circle Cheryl was organizing. With only two weeks to prepare, amazingly 30 people showed up. If you've ever been to a drum circle, 30

is a very "round" number. The attendees begged for more, and Cheryl and the group agreed to meet monthly on the Saturday night closest to the full moon. Being the brightest night of the month, the full moon makes it easier to see the drums and adds magic to the nighttime event.

The ritual has gained many newcomers and lost only a few since the first beats pulsed across the shore. Everyone is encouraged to join in, and those who may be shy are invited to watch. Those without drums are encouraged to ask fellow drummers to loan one of their spares. There are no instructors and the rhythm is free form. "Just relax and close your eyes and you will fall into the beat," advised Cheryl.

To find out more about the Myrtle Beach Drum Circle, visit the group on Facebook under Myrtle Beach Full Moon Drum Circle Group or email Cheryl at MBDrumCircle@yahoo.com for updates. Schedules are posted in the Natural Awakenings Events Calendar.

Drum Circle Etiquette:

- ☯ If you borrow a drum, wear no jewelry or long sleeves
- ☯ A drum with something on top means "don't touch"
- ☯ Smoking is not allowed in the park
- ☯ No alcohol in the park
- ☯ Clean up before you leave
- ☯ Have lots and lots of fun!

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