



## Wado International Karate-Do Federation DOJO CONNECTION

April 2006

### Dojo Visits

Sensei Girona conducts a children's class at Anton Phillip's **Karate Academy USA** Dojo in Boynton Beach, Florida



Sensei Girona (middle) with several of the adult members.



Sensei Kosslow recently visited with students from Sensei Mike **Vanatta's Karate Institute** in White House, Tennessee. Unfortunately he failed to take his camera and so there are no pictures of that visit at this time. (Off with his head!).

### Cherry Blossoms

Doug Jepperson

Osaka Sensei spoke to me recently of the Cherry Blossom festivals currently going on in Japan because this is the cherry blossom season. The cherry blossom embodies so much of what the Japanese value esthetically.

The beauty of the cherry blossom is coupled with the knowledge that they will only be there for us to see for a short time. This is very much like the Chado (Way of Tea) ceremony saying, "Ichi-go, ichi-e" roughly translated as "One chance, one encounter." It urges a student to approach each class as if it were to be the only one he/she gets. Some Japanese add the bittersweet sentiment, train as though your sensei is going to die after the training session and you will not get another chance to learn from him again.

(I have been to Japan during the Cherry Blossom time and they truly are beautiful. In my dojo we place fresh cut flowers in the front of the dojo as a reminder of the same thing. TJK)

### About Japanese Surnames

Until the Meiji period (1868-1912) most Japanese did not have surnames. They would instead refer to themselves as being from a particular region. The names taken by Japanese people in the Meiji period were either those already in use by the upper classes, or were created by locals people and sometimes jut made up. This might explain why there

are over one hundred thousand different surnames in Japan today.

Have you ever wondered what the Japanese equivalent of “Jones” or “Smith” might be? Roughly speaking one out of every ten Japanese has a surname listed in the top ten list that follows.

- #1 Satou
- #2 Suzuki
- #3 Takahashi
- #4 Tanaka
- #5 Watanabe
- #6 Itou
- #7 Nakamura
- #8 Yamamoto
- #9 Kobayashi
- #10 Saitou

Just for the record the name Ootsuka (spelled with 2 o’s) was listed as number 88 in frequency. There may be another spelling that is listed differently but I didn’t find it.

### **Courage to Train** **Doug Jepperson**

As I have previously mentioned I have been meeting with Osaka Sensei just about every Tuesday. These meetings have turned out to be some of my very best Wado training. The impetus for these meetings is Osaka Sensei’s concern for the next phase of Wado, the phase that he may be largely responsible for. So he is taking the time to point the way for me. We have discussed the Tea Ceremony and why Otsuka Sensei took our Reigi (etiquette ) from the Tea Ceremony and not one of the martial arts.

A couple of weeks ago he was going over in great detail the method of discovering the “natural” movement , how to achieve it and how to teach it, that Wado practice must contain.

Last week we discussed the “courage to train.” Not courage like someone entering a burning building to save a child. No, the courage to set aside your ego and be willing to place yourself in an uncomfortable situation, just in case you will have the opportunity to learn.

A good example happened more than ten years ago. There was a middle aged school principal that had come to Salt Lake City for a special meeting of his peers to discuss and evaluate education methodology. These guys are not well known for being courageous or particularly exciting. But this

principal from Georgia was also a martial art student and a friend of mine.

He called me as soon as he arrived and we made plans to get together but first he wanted to train at the famous Sugarhouse Dojo. This place is Toshio Osaka’s hombu. Sensei Suzuki had told our less than imposing principal that other than himself Osaka was the only other Wado instructor with the true Samurai spirit. So our principal was keen to meet and train with Osaka and his students. I had trained with my friend from the “peach State” , I knew he was not timid about hard training, but his was different and he was a middle aged elementary school principal whose days of violence were getting a little dusty. At Sensei Osaka’s dojo there were only young rough fighters who were keen to “make their bones” at any interloper’s expense that dared enter their dojo. I tried to explain this but he was keen because of what Suzuki Sensei had said and he persisted so I told him what time classes were.

I could not train that night because I was teaching at my own dojo. He said Osaka Sensei had welcomed him into the dojo, but once class started treated him like any other student. My friend enjoyed the training be he said he had concerns because he had to attend meetings the next day with the Board of Education who might take a dim view of the representative from the Peach State attending with a new black eye. I met with him and laughed,” What were you thinking to participate in kumite?” He replied the t he “wanted to do the whole class.” Other than the effects of the black eye he was beaming after class with that glow that comes only after an extraordinary experience.

To this day I do not know what Tom told his education buddies, but we in Salt Lake knew that he had the courage to jump into the deep end of the pool, when most of his peers were content to read about methods of learning and teaching. He wanted to experience first hand slightly different methods of learning and teaching. So the next time you see Tom Kosslow you might look to see if you see something different. Osaka Sensei did.

(Published under protest. Doug said he would send it to everyone anyway if I didn’t publish it. Sounds a lot like blackmail to me. By the way just for the record I told them I had to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night and ran into the door and that was how I got the black eye. Weak but it flew.)

