

North America



Wado International Karate-Do Federation **DOJO CONNECTION**

FEBRUARY 2006

SUMMER TRAINING CAMP

Come train with the Elk at 8,010 feet this June! The **WIKF North American Summer Training Camp** will be held at the Estes Park Y.M.C.A. in Colorado **June 8-11th**. The 5,100-acre Center is next to the picturesque Arapahoe National Forest just outside the quaint town of Estes Park. It is located within walking distance of the spectacular Rocky Mountain National Park with opportunities to hike, horseback ride, rock climb campfires, even shopping and entertainment.

Our guest instructor will be Sensei Jon Wicks, 7th Dan. Sensei Wicks is a 4 time European Kumite Champion and World Champion. He is Suzuki Sensei's most senior European student. Having trained with him in the past I can assure you he is excellent.

Morning training will be in T-shirts and sport shoes in the beautiful outdoors. Evening training will be indoors in karate uniforms. The training will take place Thursday evening thru Sunday morning. Advanced Wado techniques to be covered include kumite drills and strategy, Tanto Dori (knife defense), Idori (kneeling defense), and Tachi Dori (sword defense).

Dan grading will also be held for those who qualify.

Cost: 3 FULL DAYS \$150 for Kyu Grades and \$175 for Dan Grades. Current WIKF members will receive a \$50 discount on the training price.

**For more information contact
Sensei Mike Bevins at
mbevins@ichibankarateclub.com
Or call 303-875-0959**

About The Japanese

The modern Japanese word for February is "ni-gatsu". In the old days (the Heian period from 794-1185) it was known as "kisaragi." February is still quite cold in Japan and there are many snow and ice festivals held throughout the country this month.

February 11th is known as National Foundation Day (Kenkoku-kinenbi). It is a National Holiday but it is not actually a specific historical event. The holiday is based on the myth that the first Emperor of Japan ascended to the throne on this day.

Valentines Day is celebrated in Japan but it is a bit different. In Japan it is the women who give presents to the men. Unlike here sending a Valentine's Card is not common nor is the greeting "Happy Valentines Day" widely used.

Belt Examinations

Some students dread belt examinations while others anxiously await the opportunity to take one. But why does your instructor give you a belt exam in the first place when he sees you in class all the time and probably knows better than you do what you are capable of?

Maybe the best way to understand this belt exam ordeal is to think using an analogy from other sports. Many other sports have practice and scrimmages where the coach can stop the action and point out errors and allow do-overs until the player(s) gets it right. However a scrimmage is not a game no matter how close to a game situation you try to make it. It looks like a game but it's not the same as "game night." On game night the players must take to the field or court and demonstrate the skills and knowledge they learned in the practices. There is a

time limit and there is a limit to how much feedback a player can receive. Do-overs are not usually allowed.

When a karate student participates in class it is very much like the practice or scrimmage game. But class time isn't the same as testing time. The belt exam is a time when the student is expected to show that they are self-directed, self-reliant, and self-assessing. A belt exam is an evaluation. Evaluation comes from the French word "evaluer" which means to value. An evaluation is the process of sorting, selecting, and labeling which we call grading or ranking. Its purpose is to depict the progress of the student against external standards, norms, or performance.

We congratulate all of the following students on their recent promotions

From the **Academy of Classical Karate-Do** in Plano, Texas:

Julian Shaffer	6 th Kyu
Ujwal Madhavapeddi	8 th Kyu
Stephen Norviel	5 th Kyu
Nancy Norviel	5 th Kyu
Lindsey Kufel	5 th Kyu
Sean Patrick	5 th Kyu

From the **Newnan Karate Center** in Newnan, Georgia:

Donald Holcomb	4 th Kyu
Andrea Knoll	4 th Kyu

New WIKF Dojo

In January the members of the Board of Directors for WIKF USA voted to admit to our group, **Vanattas Karate Institute** which is located in Tennessee. The school is headed by Mr. Mike Vanatta, a 7th Dan student of the late Cecil T. Patterson. Mr. Vanatta's dojo has approximately 143 students with some 20 adult black belts and 27 youth black belts. Sensei Vanatta has trained in the past with Suzuki Sensei and was excited about being a part of our organization. We are equally excited to have him join us.

New Team Name

In anticipation of the continued growth of WIKF and in an attempt to gain more recognition for our organization the Academy of Classical Karate-Do

has changed the name of their competition team. Formerly known as TEAM KOKORO it will now be known as WIKF-TEXAS. This is consistent with larger organizations such as IKF and TKO. The hope is that this team name will also help bring recognition for our organization with the AAU and NKF organizations as we register competitors under the WIKF banner.

I think it would be pretty neat if one day we could have WIKF-Texas, vs. WIKF Tennessee, vs. WIKF-Utah, vs. WIKF Canada etc., etc. at the annual North American Suzuki Cup.

Santa Sensei

Ken Corrigan, 7th Dan, Canada

We always have the final class of the year prior to the Christmas break with a visit from "Santa Sensei" Once again Santa Sensei came and gave out sweets to the hard working students at the NECHAKO KARATE CLUB. However, should a student not be practicing and preparing for their next grading with the spirit that has been handed down to us from Suzuki Sensei, then Santa Sensei must give them a piece of coal. This year Santa Sensei gave Kevin Spears the piece of coal, and Kevin has promised Santa Sensei that he will start fresh in the new year to follow Sensei Suzuki's guidance, and will ensure he practices at home as well as in the dojo so that he can be the best he can be. Try to remember that Santa Sensei knows who has been good and who has not been practicing at home.

As we can see Santa Sensei has not had Suzuki Sensei to the North Pole in some time, and he still has the large belly that shakes like a bowl full of jelly. More sit ups will have to be in order for Santa Sensei so that he can be ready for Suzuki Sensei's visit to the North Pole.

New Years Day training was a success again this year. Every year the Nechako Karate Club members have New Years Day training in the morning with a luncheon that follows. Many students came, trained hard, had fun, and good food. This is a great way to a New Year.

(Ken had included some pictures with this article but I wasn't able to download them for some reason. I got it too late for the January edition so you are only getting to read it now. I would like to hear of any traditions your dojo may have....Tom)