

North America



Wado International Karate-Do Federation

DOJO CONNECTION

January 2007

USA Membership Drive

It is time for all WIKF USA members to renew their membership. This can be done in one of two ways. You need to go to the WIKF USA web page at www.wikfusa.com and click on the link "MEMBERS ONLY." After you open this link you will find "INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM". This will allow you to complete the form and pay on line using Pay Pal.

If you would rather use the "DOWNLOADABLE" form to mail then please note that the fees listed on the form are for new members, not renewable memberships, renewable membership should be \$15 for Adults and \$10 for children. Checks should be made out to WIKF.

In some cases your dojo may take care of your renewal for you so please check with your Sensei before completing your membership forms.

News from Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada

Dan Wallis

The Campbell River and Quadra Island clubs held a grading on December 14th. We had thirty people grade. There were several notables about this grading. Fully one half of those who graded were female, both juniors and adults. This is terrific to see. The skill, speed, grade and intensity demonstrated by all who graded made the grading instructors feel very proud.

Here are the results:
What is a ½ grading? Up to 4th kyu one attempts the kyu grading in two parts. From 3rd Kyu on it is a full grading. The ½ grading consists of the following: kihon, renraku waza and the movements of the kata must be shown. The second time one grades for this

level we go back through parts of kihon and renraku waza and then they do all of the Gumites, kata, bunkai to kata, written exam and, of course fighting. We instituted this change some years ago as too many students found the grading too daunting. This way we first concentrate on basics and kata – then we can focus on partner work and refine kata. I'm pleased with the results.

½ 8th kyu:

Gurjot Mann (Junior)
Jason Oakley (Junior)
Kiana Marley (Junior)
Gurleen Mann (Junior)

8th kyu:

Shaun Corkum (Junior)
Ian Silva (Junior)
Barry Oakley

½ 7th kyu:

Michael Blake (Junior)
Makayla Bailey (Junior)
Tessa Bailey (Junior)

7th kyu: (yellow belt)

Lauren McNab
Robyn Budd
Barry Oakley
Erika Makisiadis (Junior)

½ 6th kyu:

Misha Wittingham

6th kyu: (orange belt)

Fraser MacLean (Junior)
Sam Wittingham
Lisa Nygard

½ 5th kyu:

Lisa Bavis (Junior)

5th Kyu: (green belt)

Jon Poirier (Junior)

Richelle Stewart (Junior)

Eamon Simmons (Junior)

Hannah Rohan (Junior)

Rowan Kehn (Junior)

Gwen Puddy (Junior)

Andrea Blesicki

½ 4th kyu:

Andy Olsen (Junior)

4th kyu: (blue belt)

Teresa O'Brien

3rd Kyu: (brown belt)

Chuck Stevens

Trammy Tran

Part of every grading is a written exam. Here is an answer from Chuck Stevens, auto mechanic by trade, to the question: What is taisabake and why is it so important in Wado Ryu Karate:

Taisabake translated "body management" or "body shift" with the root sabaki having the concept of "just enough" which suggests that the minimum amount of body movement needed to avoid an attack and the great efficiency of motion in launching an attack or counter attack is ideal. By moving of line Wado Ryu practitioners stay within range for speedy counter attack and instead of just blocking or retreating they are able to make their opponent pay.

Well done, Chuck.

Campbell River is



located on the eastern side of Vancouver Island. This island's temperature is usually very temperate: lots of rain yet temperatures rarely drop below freezing. NOT this winter. We had a huge cold front come through and left two feet of snow! Within a week it was gone and the rain and big winds and replaced the cold temperatures. What a crazy winter,

Sportsmanship

Michael Cimino-Hurt

We often talk about sportsmanship and integrity in competition, but what we have all seen too often in karate competitions is a forced adherence to rules that has only passed for sportsmanship, and sometimes not even that. Once, I went to a tournament in North Carolina to observe and see if I wanted to bring my students there the next year. As I was watching the black belt competition, one man entered the ring to compete who had on a red karate gi with printing on the back that said *The Red Dragon*, or something like that. He lost the three point match on what I thought were fair calls. Instead of bowing and leaving the ring, he refused to leave and stood there having a tantrum, claiming that he had been cheated and demanding a rematch. He made such a scene that the judges actually *refought the match*. He lost again, and again he had a tantrum, throwing down his gloves in the ring and cursing. Finally, someone who knew him came in and talked to him for a while and he left the ring. I saw him outside the building later, still walking up and down, cursing and saying he had been "robbed".

I didn't even have to think about whether I would bring students to a tournament like that. First, I would never want them to see someone who claimed to have a dan rank, and who was supposed to be a role model for others act, and worse *be allowed* to act, in this way. Second, I would never take any student of mine to any tournament that condoned this kind of behavior even for a second.

This was certainly an extreme example, but even some competitors who act correctly in the ring seem to regard sportsmanship as something that is required for the moment, a set of rules to be put on when necessary and then taken off: "We have to act such and such a way to participate in the tournament or our sensei will get mad, or we might get thrown out of the competition." - something that is needed to score points, to create some temporary semblance of civility that works for them as a route to a medal. We

have all seen this kind of attitude, and in reality it makes a mockery of what true martial arts is all about.

At the recent Suzuki Cup in Plano, it was with relief that I found that I wouldn't be needed to referee (which you know is an incredibly difficult job), and had the opportunity for once to see almost the entire tournament. What I saw made me as proud as I have ever been. The people competing in this tournament exhibited a generosity of spirit and positive attitude that made me glad to be associated with them. They were there to do their best, and they very much wanted to win, but they were also happy for others' successes. They accepted both victory and defeat with grace and dignity, and I realized that true sportsmanship is not some set of rules, it is the way people of integrity act when they compete. There was no malice hidden behind a screen of reishiki and there certainly was no room there for a *Red Dragon* with an ego the size of Texas and a chip on his shoulder. Looking out from the dais, I felt a sense of warmth and pride to know that these were the people I trained with.

Maybe most people don't know it, but teachers in the traditional martial arts make sacrifices every day to carry on traditions we feel are useful and important in creating a better world. We feel that what we are doing in the dojo is contributing to our society and the lives of our students by offering something that will make the world a better place. When the dojo rent comes due and funds are low, when the our high-school age students leave for college, when the old *rheumatiz* sets in, we all have times when we have to summon up all our spirit to carry on, but it only takes one moment like I had at Plano to keep us at it. When we see that the people we teach are good people, people of integrity, people we are proud of - and feel that maybe we had a small part in helping them become who they are - we know it is all worth it.

WIKF USA Members

Brody Burns, Chairman WIKF USA

I hope you all had a very happy holiday and New Year celebration. At the 2006 Suzuki Cup, Sensei Kosslow nominated me to fill his position as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the WIKF USA to which I agreed and the Board of Directors affirmed. I accept this job with full understanding that Sensei Kosslow leaves large shoes to fill. Tom

Kosslow was appointed by Suzuki Sensei to reorganize and develop the WIKF in the US. He has done an outstanding job as Chairman and the WIKF and WIKF USA owe him thanks for his volunteer work and dedication to the organization. I am confident his hard work will continue to benefit the organization and I am fortunate to have him as a member of the Board of Directors.

Also in December of 2006 the WIKF USA created a Technical Committee to maintain the high standards of the WIKF. This committee is a prestigious one and made up of skilled, senior Wado Instructors in the US. The members must be at least 5th dan and voted on by the Board of Directors. The Technical Committee will assist current and new WIKF USA schools in the implantation and practice of Suzuki Sensei's curriculum, conduct seminars, and sit on dan grade exams. Sensei Tom Kosslow, along with Arturo Girona and Doug Jepperson have accepted positions on the newly formed WIKF USA Technical Committee. I have no doubt these excellent Wado Instructors and practitioners will help the USA maintain the high standards expected by the WIKF.

I expect 2007 to be a year of change and growth for the WIKF USA. Several great ideas have already been put into action to make the organization even stronger and more efficient. I am excited about the future of the WIKF USA! With our new Technical Committee; a committed Board of Directors; an infrastructure of clubs in Utah, Colorado, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and Texas; and with members from New York to Houston, the WIKF USA has a bright and proactive future!

Some of the exciting events planned for 2007 include:

- **WIKF USA Summer Training in Nashville, Tennessee.** Mr. Vanatta and Mr. Cimino-Hurt are hosting this event and promise to put together some excellent training. Look for more information on this in the near future because you'll want to make plans to be there!
- **2007 Japan Trip.** Several of us from the US are leaving for two weeks in April to travel around Japan with Suzuki Sensei and other WIKF students from around the world.
- **2007 Suzuki Cup and training.** This event is planned for Saturday November 3, 2007. In 2006, Wado teams from across the country

came to the Suzuki Cup and fought for the Cup. In 2007, we will invite international teams from Britain, Sweden, Norway, India and other nationally sponsored countries. It has the makings of a World Class Tournament!

- **Formation and selection of a WIKF USA Team to compete in the 2008 WIKF World Championships in Portugal.** The USA will field at least one 5 man team for competition in this tournament. The selection process will be tough but if you are an advanced (black belt) competitor and think you can make the Team, start getting ready!
- **USA Wado Conference.** This event is a non-political, non-organization specific conference aimed at uniting Wado practitioners in the US and promoting the style of Wado-ryu. Last year it drew attendees from Wado-ryu, WIKF, Wado-kai and the US Eastern Wado Federation. It is organized by WIKF Board Member Doug Jepperson and is one of the best things to happen to Wado in the US in many years.

These events are in the planning stages but I hope have solid information available in January so you can plan accordingly. These are just a portion of the items the WIKF USA will be working on in 2007. The website (www.wikfusa.com) will be updated frequently so members can check it out and see what the organization is doing.

As the organization grows and strengthens, the members, students, and instructors all benefit. But the organization needs something back from YOU. It needs your support. The WIKF USA is nothing without its' members and clubs. Our organization is driven by momentum. Right now the WIKF USA has strong forward momentum, so let's all work hard to keep that up! Fly your WIKF banner proud and high because you are a member of a great organization with a rich, traditional background and a strong, bright future!
Happy New Year!