

North America



Wado International Karate-Do Federation

DOJO CONNECTION

MAY 2006

Ability, Rank, and Time

Arturo Girona

Early in my training my Sensei asked, "If you have an 8oz cup and a 12 oz cup, both filled to the rim, which one is fuller?"

All of our dojo's have students with different levels of natural athletic ability, competition skills, and so on. Do we grade them higher than those students without those same abilities who work just as hard or even harder at the dojo? Nope. We reward them for being the best they can be according to their abilities. This is why there will always be some people with a lower grade who are physically better than others and conversely there will be people with a higher grade who are not as physically gifted.

That said, there are metrics that are useful in determining a person's level of commitment and preparation. Thirty years of training may not mean much by itself but it certainly indicates something. A person with that many years of training, no matter their quality, must have been exposed to facts and experiences that only that many years bring. That's why most serious dojo have minimum age/time requirements for Dan Grades, and you would be skeptical about a 5th Dan with only 5 years of training, no matter how physically good.

Real life works like that. A PhD doesn't necessarily make a person better than others, but it is something that person has earned through hard work and years of experience. You give that person respect even if you are doing much better financially or otherwise. Dan grades issued by reputable Sensei and years of training are not perfect metrics, but it's the best we've got.

Campbell River Wado Karate Club

Dan Wallis

Hello from the Pacific Northwest! Just in case you are trying to place my fair town, here are a few directional markers. From Seattle, Washington, it would be about a 3 hour drive north to get to Vancouver, British Columbia. From Vancouver it is a short drive to Horseshoe Bay to catch a ferry to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. You then drive for an hour and a half north and there on the middle of Vancouver Island situated on its east coast is Campbell River.

I moved to Campbell River in 1978 from Prince George, British Columbia. I had taught elementary school there for two years before moving to Vancouver Island. I started my dojo in 1980 pledging to keep it open at least 5 years as we had gone through three or four clubs in rapid succession by the time I arrived in Campbell River. I was training in a Shotokan Dojo and traveling back to my home dojo once every couple of months to practice Wado Ryu. The Shotokan instructor had move and asked me to take over the club. I did but changed it to Wado.

I was very fortunate in Prince George to train under Jim Hamilton, then Chief Instructor for Wado in Canada. He was a superb karate technician and keen student of Wado. Jim originally was from Scotland and was one of Suzuki Sensei's earliest students. Each year in Prince George we brought Shiomitsu Sensei out in the winter and Suzuki Sensei in the summer. When I moved to Campbell River I carried on a similar practice of bringing these two wonderful instructors to teach us the essence of Wado. So I kept my promise and the dojo has now been open for twenty-six years! Where has the time gone?

Grading results from March 30, 2006:

Red Belt (MON Grades)

Dakota Mathers
Kiana Marley
Jason Oakley
Ian Silva
Lorne Hamilton
Gurleen Mann
Gurgot Mann

8th Kyu

Connor Kern
Mikaila Bailey
Tessa Bailey
Michael Blake

7th Kyu

Sam Wittingham
Fraser MacLean
Micha Wittingham

6th Kyu

Gwen Puddy
Eamon Simmons
Jon Poirier
Richelle Stewart
Lisa Bavis
Louis Patterson
Hannah Rohan
Genoa Alger
Theresa O'Brian
Rohan Kehn

3rd Kyu

Huy Nguyen



This photo shows our club grading panel: from left to right Dan Wallis, 6th Dan; Jim Le, 2nd Dan; Brian Simmons, 2nd Dan



This photo was taken after a WIKF Winter Course training session at the Academy of Classical Karate-Do in Plano, Texas, December 2004. I have had the pleasure of knowing some these guys since 1984 at the World Championships in Tokyo, Japan. I truly enjoy the spirit of Camaraderie and search for pure Wado these friendships have afforded me.

Left to right: Brody Burns, 3rd Dan; Tom Kosslow, 7th Dan; Dan Wallis, 6th Dan; Doug Jepperson, 6th Dan; Mike Bevins, 4th Dan; Arturo Girona, 6th Dan.

Academy of Classical Karate-Do Promotions

6th Kyu

Slater Ferrell
Rick Honrales

4th Kyu

Michael Perez

3rd Kyu

Maxine Lisot

Las Vegas Ozawa Cup/US Open Doug Jepperson

Hello to all! We just got back from Las Vegas, one of my favorite weekends of karate. They held the Ozawa Cup at the Flamingo Hotel on Saturday and Sunday and the US Open Saturday and Sunday across the street at Caesar's Palace. Both tournaments are international in scale and provided excellent competition. The Ozawa Cup is Ippon Shobu (1point) so you really must be mentally alert since one mistake puts you in trouble. The US Open uses the latest World Karate Federation rules, long matches, high scores and take downs. You must be in superb physical condition to even enter.

Vince Garcia entered the US Open in his kilo division. I was impressed with the condition he got himself into for this competition. I thought he fought well and hopefully gained some confidence about competing at this level. Vincent looks terrific physically and I am certain we will hear more from him the rest of the year.

At the Ozawa Cup Tony Jepperson placed fourth in individual competition and our Dojo placed third in Team competition (Tony, Jon , Matsui). Not bad for our initial efforts this year. Andy Pacejka was in the over thirty-five group and as usual Andy was a great martial artist and put his best efforts in.

We had a number of kyu grades competing who demonstrated excellent skills: Dane Burden in a huge division won a wonderful overtime match. Jim placed third in the Novice Division with Yoshi coming in fourth. We saw Sempai Joe Sheeron still competing at 63 years of age. With Amber and her son Chandler from Arizona I think we covered nearly every division. My biggest problem was trying to get to each ring to see everyone. So I had to give up and try and see everyone fight at least one match. At one point we had Dane Birden, Andy Pacejka, Chandler Kimball, and Tony Jepperson all competing or on deck. The only one I missed was Sempai Joe but I got the report.

We also brought along a number of novice students who were impressed enough to say they wanted to train to try out this competition stuff. We saw many old friends. The weekend was like a high school reunion with groups from Wado-Kai in Arizona, Florida, and California, Wado-Ryu from Utah all represented. A lot of old black belts were

also in attendance. It was a terrific weekend that was over too quickly.

Park City Utah Summer Camp

Sensei Toshio Osaka, 8th Dan Hanshi, Wado-Ryu, will host a summer camp at the Park City, Utah dojo on August 10, 11, and 12. This is a rare opportunity to train with Osaka Sensei, one of the great masters of Wado karate.

Hotel: Best Western Park City
Seminars: children's seminar, adult seminar, advanced Wado technique

Featured Instructors from WIKF, Wado-Ryu and Wado-Kai.

For more information contact:
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WIKF NORTH AMERICAN SUMMER CAMP

You can still register for the North American WIKF Summer Camp to be held at the Estes Park YMCA in Colorado to be held June 8-11th.

Featured Instructor: Jon Wicks, 7th Dan. Four time European Champion and World Champion.

For more information contact:
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“Over the years I have become convinced that every detail is important and that success usually accompanies attention to little details. It is this, in my judgment that makes for the difference between champion and near champion.” – John Wooden, (UCLA Head Basketball Coach Emeritus; 10 NCAA Championships; ESPN Coach of the Century).