

**North America**



# WADO INTERNATIONAL KARATE-DO FEDERATION DOJO CONNECTION

## DECEMBER 2006

### SUZUKI CUP 2006

THE SUZUKI CUP WAS INSPIRED BY TATSUO SUZUKI, HANSHI. SUZUKI SENSEI WANTED A TOURNAMENT IN WHICH COMPETITORS FROM THE MAJOR JAPANESE KARATE STYLES COULD COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR THE HONOR OF ONE AWARD, A SHINING STERLING SILVER CUP. HENCE THE SUZUKI CUP TOURNAMENT AND SEMINAR WAS CREATED.

THE 2006 SUZUKI CUP WAS HELD IN PLANO, TEXAS. PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL TOURNAMENT A TWO DAY SEMINAR WAS CONDUCTED BY SENSEI JON WICKS, 7<sup>TH</sup> DAN, WIKF. SENSEI WICKS, WHO LIVES IN ENGLAND, IS ONE OF SUZUKI SENSEI'S MOST SENIOR AND ACCOMPLISHED INSTRUCTORS. TRAINING INVOLVED ALL ASPECTS OF THE WIKF CURRICULUM INCLUDING TANTO DORI (KNIFE DEFENSE) AND TACHI DORI (SWORD DEFENSE).



SUZUKI CUP SEMINAR 2006

ON FRIDAY DAN GRADING WAS CONDUCTED BY SENSEI WICKS AND SENSEI KOSSLOW. AT THAT GRADING **LISA FREE** WAS ADVANCED TO THE GRADE OF **3<sup>RD</sup>** DEGREE BLACK BELT AND **MATT MATSON** WAS ADVANCED TO THE RANK OF **1<sup>ST</sup>** DEGREE BLACK BELT.

ON FRIDAY THERE WAS ALSO A REFEREE CLINIC/CERTIFICATION CLINIC CONDUCTED BY MR. CHUCK SWEIGERT, CHIEF REFEREE OF THE USA NATIONAL KARATE FEDERATION.

THE ACTUAL SUZUKI CUP TOURNAMENT WAS HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER AT THE LUXURIOUS PLANO CENTER. THERE WERE ELEVEN MEN'S TEAMS AND FOUR WOMEN'S TEAM COMPETING FOR THE SUZUKI CUP. IT WAS A WIKF TEAM THAT RETAINED POSSESSION OF THE SUZUKI CUP.



SUZUKI CUP TEAM CHAMPIONS  
VINCENT GARCIA, BRIAN NIXON, JON GROOT

### WIKF USA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THE WIKF USA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD THEIR ANNUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2006 IN PLANO, TEXAS. IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOM KOSSLOW, DOUG JEPPERSON, MICHAEL CIMINO-HURT, AND BRODY BURNS. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WAS CURTIS CAPELING, LEGAL ADVISOR.

IT WAS NECESSARY, FOR LEGAL REASONS, TO REFORM THE CORPORATION, ELECT NEW MEMBERS AND OFFICERS, AND TO REWRITE THE BY-LAWS. THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW SIGNIFICANT CHANGES AMONG WHICH ARE THE FOLLOWING:

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**TOM KOSSLOW, BRODY BURNS, DOUG  
JEPPELSON, MICHAEL CIMINO-HURT,  
ARTURO GIRONA, AND MICHAEL VANATTA.  
BRODY BURNS  
Chief Executive Officer  
Brody Burns**

**LEADERS' COURSE LONDON, ENGLAND NOVEMBER  
11,12, 2006**

BY DAN WALLIS, 6<sup>TH</sup> DAN

KEN CORRIGAN AND I ATTENDED SUZUKI SENSEI'S COURSE THIS PAST NOVEMBER. IT WAS A WHIRLWIND TRIP TO SAY THE LEAST. WE DECIDED TO GIVE OURSELVES TWO DAYS TO SEE A BIT OF LONDON BEFORE THE COURSE SO WE LEFT CANADA TUESDAY, NOVEMBER THE 7<sup>TH</sup> AND RETURNED MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>.

I FLEW FROM CAMPBELL RIVER ON TUESDAY DEPARTING AT 1:30PM. I ARRIVED IN VANCOUVER AT 2:30 AND MET UP WITH KEN AT 3:00PM. OUR FLIGHT LEFT VANCOUVER AT 5:30PM AND WE HAD A NINE HOUR DIRECT FLIGHT TO LONDON. WE ARRIVED AT HEATHROW AIRPORT THE NEXT DAY AT ABOUT NOON AND THEN WE TOOK A COMBINATION OF TRAINS AND "TUBES" TO GET TO CROYDON. THE LAND TRAVEL TO OUR HOTEL TOOK US LONGER THAN WE EXPECTED BUT WE WERE READY TO CHECK IN BY ABOUT 2:30 PM. UNFORTUNATELY FOR US, THE HOTEL WASN'T READY FOR US. THEY SAID COME BACK IN AN HOUR SO KEN AND I WANDERED AROUND CROYDON TO GET THE LAY OF THE LAND. THAT TURNED INTO TWO HOURS BUT WE GOT SETTLED AND RESTED A BIT. FEELING REFRESHED WE DID THE ONLY THING A TOURIST IN ENGLAND CAN DO – WE WENT LOOKING FOR A PUB WHERE WE PROCEEDED TO TRY TO GET GROGGY AGAIN TO FINISH THE FIRST DAY IN THE U.K. THURSDAY I DRAGGED KEN AND ONE OF MY STUDENTS WHO NOW LIVES IN BIRMINGHAM, DAVE NOLAN, OUT TO SEE ONE OF THE WORLD'S HERITAGE SITES STONEHENGE. THERE WE STOOD ON THE PLAINS OF SALISBURY LOOKING AT WHAT MY TWO COMPANIONS SAID WERE ABOUT 16 STONES STICKING OUT OF THE GROUND. (MMM, I HAD SOME WORK TO DO WITH THESE TWO!)

BEFORE THEM WERE THE REMNANTS OF WHAT SCHOLARS HAVE CONSIDERED TO BE EVIDENCE OF A MONUMENT THAT MIGHT BE USED FOR ANYTHING FROM HUMAN SACRIFICE TO ASTRONOMY. ALTHOUGH WHAT IS LEFT ISN'T MUCH TO SEE TO THE NAKED EYE, TO THE IMAGINATION'S EYE IT WAS A RESPLENDENT FEAST.

**Secretary  
Tom Kosslow  
Chief Financial Officer  
Dale Gatchalian**

STONEHENGE WAS BUILT IN THREE PHASES USING AN ESTIMATED THIRTY MILLION HOURS OF LABOUR. THE FIRST STAGE OF STONEHENGE WAS BUILT AROUND 3100 BC AND CONSISTED OF EARTHWORK (OR HENGE) COMPRISING A DITCH AND A BANK, AND AUBREY HOLES. THE SHAPE CREATED WAS A VERY LARGE CIRCLE THAT HISTORIANS THINK SERVED A RELIGIOUS PURPOSE. IT LOST PROMINENCE FOR SOME 1,000 YEARS BEFORE THE SECOND PHASE WAS CONSTRUCTED.

DO WE START TO GET A SENSE OF ITS TIMELESSNESS NOW DAVE AND KEN?

THE SECOND PHASE OF THE HENGE INVOLVED STONE. THE 82 BLUESTONES ( 4 TONNES EACH) WERE DRAGGED ON ROLLERS AND RAFTED VIA RIVER AND DRAGGED AGAIN OVER 240 MILES FROM WALES TO THE SITE TO FORM AN INCOMPLETE DOUBLE CIRCLE. ADJUSTMENTS WERE MADE TO THE ORIGINAL EARTHEN CIRCLE USING STONES AND THESE WERE ALIGNED TO THE MIDSUMMER SUNRISE.

THE THIRD STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION AT STONEHENGE OCCURRED ABOUT 2000 BC AND SARSEN STONE WAS BROUGHT TO THE HENGE FROM ABOUT 25 MILES AWAY.



THESE STONES ARE A MASSIVE 50 TONNES EACH. HISTORIANS CONJECTURE THAT THESE

STONES HAD TO BE MOVED USING SLEDGES AND ROPES ( PERHAPS AS MANY AS 500 MEN PULLING WITH 100 MEN IN SUPPORT MOVING THE LOG ROLLERS IN FRONT OF THE SLEDGE). THESE STONES FORMED AN OUTER CIRCLE WITH A CONTINUOUS RUN OF LINTELS. AT ABOUT 1500 BC THERE WAS A FINAL RE-ARRANGEMENT OF THE BLUESTONES IN THE HORSESHOE AND CIRCLE THAT CAN STILL BE SEEN

TODAY. WHAT HAD ATTRACTED THESE PEOPLES BACK TO THIS SITE OVER SUCH AN EXPANSE OF TIME? WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE AND WONDER.

SO ONCE WE HAD EXHAUSTED OUR THIRST FOR THE MYSTERIES OF THE HUMAN CIVILIZATION WE WENT INTO THE TOWN OF SALISBURY TO QUENCH OUR OTHER THIRST (THIS BECOMES A RECURRING THEME THROUGHOUT THE STAY).

FRIDAY WAS SPENT ON A WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN LONDON AND IT WAS A FABULOUS DAY. WE WALKED OVER LONDON BRIDGE, CHECKED IN WITH THE QUEEN AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SAW THE TOWER OF LONDON, BIG BEN, THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TRAFALGAR AND LEICESTER SQUARES, AS WELL AS PICADILLY CIRCUS. WE ATE (AND IMBIBED) AT THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB AND WE SHOPPED AT THE INCOMPARABLE HARRODS DEPARTMENT STORE. WE SAW MORE STATUES OF THE FAMOUS (SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL AND LORD HORATIO NELSON) AND THE FORGOTTEN FAMOUS THAN WE COULD ATTEND TO AND SO WE MERELY WALKED BY MANY WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A NOD. IT IS NOT THAT WE WERE DISINTERESTED, JUST OVERWHELMED. WE PLEDGED TO BE MORE ATTENTIVE TO THE PUBS LATER THAT DAY AND WE TRIED NOT TO PASS BY A PUB WITHOUT STOPPING IN TO ENJOY THE ATMOSPHERE. WE DID AND WE JUST CAUGHT THE LAST TRAIN BACK TO CROYDON.



**LEADERS' COURSE: NOVEMBER 11 AND 12, 2006**

SENSEI PREFACED THE COURSE BY GATHERING US ALL TOGETHER AND SAYING HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THERE WERE ONLY 4 TEAMS COMPETING IN TANTO DORI AT THE WIKF WORLDS IN TEXAS AND A

PALTRY TWO TEAMS COMPETING IN THE SAME EVENT AT THE LAST EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS. AS HIS SENIOR STUDENTS HE FELT IT WAS IMPERATIVE WE ALL KNEW THE BASICS OF TANTO DORI VERY WELL AND THAT WE ALSO COULD TEACH COMPETITION TANTO DORI. THUS THE FORMAT FOR THE NEXT FOUR TRAINING SESSIONS WAS DETERMINED.

EVERY SESSION FOCUSED SOLELY ON TANTO DORI. WHEN HE INTRODUCED ONE OF THE TANTO HE WOULD TEACH IT AS BASICS AND THEN HOW TO ADAPT IT FOR COMPETITION. ALWAYS SENSEI FOCUSED ON REALISM. IKITA, IKITA (MAKE IT ALIVE, ALIVE) KEPT COMING TO MIND. HE WAS INSISTENT THAT WHEN PERFORMING IN COMPETITION THERE SHOULD BE FEINTS, MOVEMENT, DECEPTION AND REAL TIME SPEED IN THE ATTACKS. I KEPT THINKING ALL THE WHILE "WADO IS MOVEMENT AND MOVEMENT IS WADO" AND THIS PRINCIPLE UNDERSCORES EACH OF THE TEN TANTO. I FOUND THE COMPETITION APPLICATION OF TANTO DORI VERY DIFFICULT TO DO WELL: HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO STAY RELAXED AND TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY. THE GENIUS OF SENSEI IS CLEAR TO SEE!

ALL TOLD THERE WERE ABOUT 50 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE OVER THE TWO DAYS OF TRAINING. THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED: CANADA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, NORTHERN IRELAND, ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, FRANCE, BELGIUM, SWEDEN, ITALY, SPAIN, AND FINLAND.

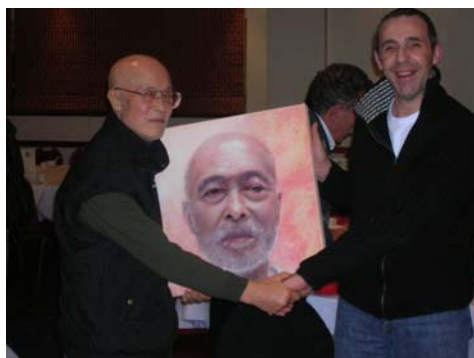
SUZUKI SENSEI WAS STRONGER AND HEALTHIER THAN HE WAS AT THE JUNE COURSE BY ALL ACCOUNTS OF THOSE SENSEI'S WHO HAVE ATTENDED BOTH COURSES. IT WAS VERY GRATIFYING WATCHING HIM PERFORM ALL OF THE TEN TANTO DORI WITH HIS ECONOMY OF MOTION AND GRACE IN A 78 YEAR OLD FRAME THAT HAS SUFFERED THROUGH A MASSIVE MEDICAL TRAUMA ONE SHORT YEAR AGO. HE TRULY IS AMAZING. I HAVE TRAINED WITH SENSEI SINCE THE MID 70'S AND ALTHOUGH TIME HAS WEATHERED AND BEATEN AT HIS BODY THESE PAST THIRTY YEARS, HIS PERSONA, SPIRIT AND THE TECHNICAL SKILL IS STILL THERE.

WE WERE BOTH HONOURED AND HUMBLLED TO HAVE OUR SENSEI COME OVER AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO TECHNIQUES KEN AND I WERE PRACTICING. HE STILL HAS THAT KNACK OF SHOWING HOW "WITH A LITTLE MORE OF THIS AND PUT YOUR ARM LIKE THAT" THE PAIN CAN BE INCREASED EXPONENTIALLY. IT WAS ALSO GRAND TO HEAR HIM SAY TO KEN (OKAY AND

ME TOO), “HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU...” AS WE OFTEN FELL SHORT OF HIS INSISTENCE ON PERFECTION. I HOPE ELANI LETS ME HAVE A COPY OF THE VIDEO SHE WAS TAKING AS IT SHOW KEN PRACTICING ATEMI WAZA ON ME(WITH THAT SILLY SMILE ALWAYS ON HIS FACE). I ENDURED WITHOUT RETALIATING PARTICULARLY WHEN SENSEI WAS WATCHING. ONCE IN AWHILE I WOULD GET THE CHANCE SAY TO SENSEI WHEN HE HAD JUST THROWN KEN TO THE THINLY-COATED CONCRETE FLOOR, “SORRY SENSEI, I MISSED THAT. COULD YOU DEMONSTRATE ONCE MORE?!” ALWAYS IT SEEMED SENSEI WAS PLEASED TO DO SO.

THOSE FOUR TRAINING SESSIONS WERE WORTH THE LONG TRIP ACROSS NORTH AMERICA AND THEN OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO BE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE INVITED TO ONE OF HIS COURSES.

ON THE SATURDAY EVENING WE WENT OUT TO DINNER AND A STUDENT FROM BELGIUM, A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST, RENDERED THIS MASTERPIECE OF SENSEI. WOW!



WE LIMPED AWAY ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON HAVING REKINDLED FRIENDSHIPS FROM YEARS PAST. I HADN'T SEEN

DAVE ALLSOP(ENGLAND) AND RAY YOUNG(SWEDEN) IN OVER 15 YEARS. TO OTHERS SUCH AS OUR CHIEF INSTRUCTOR SENSEI FUKAZAWA (FRANCE),MATHIEU BEYSEN(BELGIUM) AND FRANK ABREU(DOMINCAN REPUBLIC) WE REFLECTED BACK ON THE WIKF WORLDS IN TEXAS. THERE WERE ALSO NEW FRIENDSHIPS FORMED AS A RESULT OF DONNING OUR GI'S AND SWEATING TOGETHER UNDER THE EVER-WATCHFUL EYE OF OUR MASTER. IT WAS QUITE A TRIP.

KEN AND I HAVE RESOLVED TO ATTEND HIS COURSES AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE. IT IS SENSEI'S WISH THAT WE KEEP TRUE TO THE CORE VALUES OF WIKF AND THAT CAN ONLY BE DONE BY ENSURING CONSISTENCY OF TECHNIQUES.