



NEWSLETTER

Members of the Board felt that the current AJA standard of the title of "Sensei" should be kept for all Black Belt promotions & the title of "Professor" shall be granted at Shichidan. This titling system is substantially in line with other major Ju-Jitsu organizations in the U.S. [Ju-Jitsu America & the American Ju-Jitsu Federation to name two].

Even though the Board of Directors voted not to set up a Menkyo system this does not prevent sensei from having Menkyo grades if they're awarded by their ryu or other organizations, nor does it prevent them from using such titles as they've done in the past.

A special thanks goes out to a number of sensei & professors who provided input into the decision-making process. Special thanks go to Richard Lab, Timothy Lynch, John Burchall,

Dr. Heribert Czerwenka-Wenkstetten, Kenneth Penland. The Board also had access to a great deal of material from a variety of internationally recognized organizations.

If any sensei would like to receive a packet of all the information as well as all of the correspondence that was in the final packet Board members received, please send \$5.00 to the AJA. The check should be mailed to Prof. G. Kirby, P.O. Box 801854, Santa Clarita, CA 91380.

NIFTY NUGGETS!!

There are over 800 techniques & variations in Budoshin Ju-Jitsu. They can be found in the Budoshin Ju-Jitsu, 5th ed., [a.k.a. "The Big Book"]. An organized sensei can cover all of these techniques & variations in about 4-5 years. By the time you get through that you will have a pretty good understanding of the 30-40 basic moves that form the foundation of any Ju-Jitsu ryu [system]. All of these techniques are on a computer database too. Who says you can't mix tradition with modern technology!

AJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECIDES AGAINST MENKYO TITLES

The AJA Board of Directors finally voted on the issue of whether or not to officially adopt the Menkyo titling system and to make Menkyo grades available from the AJA. After a great deal of deliberation and input from a variety of sources, the Board decided that the AJA should not become involved with the Menkyo titling system at this time or to issue any certificates with Menkyo grades on them.

There were many valid arguments on both sides of the issue. The main argument for the AJA Menkyo system was that it would allow the AJA to set up standardized criteria for the issuance of Menkyo titles. Amazingly, it was for the very same reason that a majority of the Board members voted against adopting the titles. The rationale of the majority was that [1] there was no way to control the awarding of titles by specific ryu, many of which had different criteria for the same titles & thus it was a matter the AJA couldn't effectively control, and [2] since control would be impossible to establish the AJA would be opening a Pandora's Box of discontent among possessors of the titles as there was no standardization.

ASK SENSEI!

In our continuing effort to make this publication more exciting we are starting a new column called ASK SENSEI! If you'd like to ask any black belt or sensei any question here's your opportunity.

If you've been chomping at the bit to ask a question on just about anything here's your opportunity. Please keep your questions specific & to the point.

Just send your question to Dan Carrison, AJA Newsletter editor [address on the back of this newsletter]. Be sure to state the name of the sensei you're asking the question of. Be sure to include your name & address. Only your initials will appear in the newsletter. Include the address of the sensei/black belt if you know it as this will save time.

A copy of the question will then be sent to the black belt. The sensei will then have the responsibility to respond & his/her answer will be printed along with your question. Hopefully your question & the sensei's answer will be in the following issue or shortly thereafter.

-ed.

DOES YOUR DOJO HAVE A WAIVER & RELEASE? YOU'D BETTER!!

NEWS BITS FROM THE BUDOSHIN JU-JITSU DOJO, SANTA CLARITA:

CONGRATULATIONS to ROBERT FARMER and DOUG LILES on their promotions to Green Belt, 6th kyu, and DARRYL LAMONT on his promotion to Purple Belt, 4th kyu!

The dojo will be moving to PETCO, [Bouquet Canyon & Newhall Ranch Road] effective June 16. PETCO is a huge animal supply store & they have a large nice Community Service room in the back -- for community service groups to use. [No jokes please.] If you need a facility for your classes & you're 501[c][3] you might be surprised at what's available in your community.

There are also 1-3 websites functioning for Budoshin Ju-Jitsu courtesy of my black belts & students. Just run "Budoshin" on your internet search platform & you should be able to find at least one.

CONGRATULATIONS

to PAUL HALE who passed his Shodan exam on June 3 at the Burbank Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Dojo. As a surprise I also had his uke, MICHAEL SEBASTIAN go through the mat portion of the exam without prior notice. [I felt he could do it - & he did]. As soon as I get Mike's paperwork he'll be officially promoted to Shodan too. Both have been students of mine for years.

AJA WESTERN REGION FALL '97 TOURNAMENT, Sat, Nov 8, 1997
Teen Center Thousand Oaks
Contact:
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Sandy Chang 213 662 4918

Attention Regional Editors: Please submit materials for next newsletter by Sept 15 for Oct Newsletter. To my knowledge, no materials were sent in for the current issue. - Ed.

"Picky, picky, picky." "No one ever gets hurt in MY dojo." "They've all got insurance." "I never make mistakes." "It scares away students." "It's too much trouble." "They're not worth anything anyway."

These are all the excuses I've heard for sensei not requiring releases & waivers from their students as a prerequisite for participating in their class. Yes, participant releases & waivers may have limited value -- but they have some value, which varies from state to state. It's very important that you have one for every person who steps on your mat!

Have I lost any potential students by requiring a release for my programs? In 30 years of teaching experience the number who have refused to sign a release - & thus have not been able to be in my classes - don't even fit on one hand.

Have I ever had to use a release? Not yet -- but that's why I also carry liability insurance -- because it could happen if I'm negligent. I keep my eyes on the mat & my attention on my students because they're my responsibility.

Have I ever had to use a Medical Release for a child? Just once in 30 years! I'm sure glad I had it though. I couldn't get in touch with the parents for 2-3 hours. By the time they got to the hospital the emergency was all over & there ultimately wasn't a serious injury. However, if a child in your charge needs medical attention and you don't have a medical release on file you may end up at the short end of the stick. There's really no excuse!

Enclosed in this issue are two items for your review. The first is the participant release & medical waiver currently being used by my dojo. It's up to date. Before you decide to use it you should check with your attorney to see what's applicable in your locality if anything needs to be changed. If you'd like a "life-sized" copy of the release send a SASE to G. Kirby, P.O. Box 801854, Santa Clarita, CA 91380-1854. Write "RELEASE" on the back of the envelope.

The second item is a current issue of "Tales from the Dragon." Written through ABA, Inc. Which has given permission to reprint this article. I believe the information in it is critical especially for sensei - for a variety of reasons. If you'd like the address of ABA, Inc., send a SASE to G. Kirby, P.O. Box 801854, Santa Clarita, CA 91380-1854.

Read "Tales from the Dragon" even if you don't want to wade through the Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Dojo release. It's worth reading just on its own.

Picky, picky, picky? Not if you want to protect yourself and keep teaching!

-Prof. George Kirby

Team Self Defense!

The Marine Corps has made a few changes in Boot Camp training. One recent change is the introduction of team self defense. On the pugil stick course, recruits no longer face off "one on one." Two recruits face two other recruits and fight as teams, so you're not fighting only for yourself, but also for your buddy. If he is "killed" then you must defend yourself against both of the "enemy," who close in on you intelligently, as a team. So, team work is emphasized while defending and attacking.

Interestingly, the same principles we practice in the dojo against multiple attackers are taught by the Marines. They teach getting one attacker between yourself and the other attacker, as well as lateral movement and balanced footwork. They also are great believers in the kiai.

It was fascinating to see self defense taught as a team concept. Of course it makes much more sense for Marines who will be on patrol together, than for civilians who travel alone. But it made me wonder if there was a place in the Dojo for team self defense practice. After all, we can be together with loved ones or friends when attacked. It might be good to have some team self defense concepts to rely on. -Ed.

CAMP YAMA BUSHI

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at Camp deBonneville Pines
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Open to all martial arts!!
for information contact
Mark & Jan Wald
310 453-4474 or 800 484-2678 x3820

???Have you moved recently???
If you have, clip this and mail
to: AJA Membership, P.O. Box 1357,
Burbank, CA 91507-1357 U.S.A.

AJA Member Number: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____

On Feb 2, 1997, Sandra Chang tested for Shodan at the Ro-Jen JuJitsu & Karate Dojo in Los Angeles (Shihan Robert Wong, Chief Instructor). The following is one page of her two page answer (edited due to space limitations) to the question: "What is the philosophy of Ju-Jitsu?"

Ju Jitsu does not depend on size, weight or strength of the practitioner. It teaches the defender to utilize his own body weight and customize techniques that best compliments his ability. The proper coordination of his movements with the hips is very important because power is generated there (the Ki, energy, is generated two inches below the navel). When everything snaps into place, the throw is completed with perfect execution. Concentration and focus are critically important elements to a Ju Jitsu artist. Concentration is the ability of the defender to be aware of his surroundings, the space between himself and the opponent, and to react at the right moment the opponent initiates his attack. Proper distance is crucial because every person has a circle of space around him, its limit is defined by the tips of the fingers when his arms are extended. When the uki violates this space by stepping into the boundary of the circle, it is time for the defender to react. If he is too close to the attacker, the technique will be compromised, and he may be grabbed by the attacker. If he is too far away, the defender has mistimed his reaction and again, ruined the technique. The practitioner can always step towards the opponent, taking his circle of space with him, and react to the attack there. The point of impact when the defender meets his attack to initiate the throw is called focus. No matter what speed the assailant commits to, the defender is able to control it. He readjusts it to suit his own celerity. Focus is maintained through the duration of the throw and into the submit. Once the defender chooses to release the attacker, the defender reverts to concentration mode; he is wary that the opponent may strike again or become aware of potential enemies nearby.

Breathing at the certain times is essential during the technique because it properly uses the defender's Ki. Breathing in during the initiation of throw allows the energy to build up, (absorbing it into the body from the floor upwards), and exhaling it at the completion of a throw releases the energy.

The well-accomplished Ju Jitsu practitioner has a wealth of knowledge. He has the physical ability of applying the techniques, spiritual control of his Ki and that of his attackers, moral judgment (the belief of nonviolence), and the mental alertness to react in space and time, understanding the assailant's body dynamics.

AMERICAN JU-JITSU ASSOCIATION

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