

NEWSLETTER
THE AMERICAN JU-JITSU ASSOCIATION

Fall & Winter edition 1999



Remember if you want something in the newsletter no matter how small in content, or something that might be of interest, and things that grab your attention, write them down and pass it to me. E-mail or snail-mail and phone can reach me. They are

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Goings On!

I'm using this edition as a catch-up edition with stuff I managed to forget about or misplaced. Misplacing things is a practiced habit I have developed almost to the point of being a fine art. Having an office at the Federal Building and one at home guarantees that I will bury something under a pile of papers.

The annual Baltimore Shiai was held in the beginning of July, thank goodness for AC in the YMCA. The northern region is growing and we had competitors from New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, with Steve Kovash coming in from Norman, Oklahoma. Competitors included a couple sombo players.

Later in the month Bill D'Urso regional contact for the Federation of Practicing Ju-Jitsuans (De Paquale's group)

hosted a Martial Art College in Springfield, Virginia. I managed to drop by for pleasant conversation and the ensuing banquet. I spoke with Bill Wallace and Joe Lewis about why a normal person would want to fall on the floor. So who says Ju-Jitsu-ka are normal?

On the weekend of August 13 and 14th the Seibukan held its annual summer clinic in Northern Virginia. The President of the Dai-Nippon Seibukan Budo/Bugie-kai, U.S.A., Bill Stockey manages the clinic. Bill is one heck of a Karate-ka!

NOTE: Anyone interested in any of the organizations mentioned herein you could contact me about affiliation. The Daitobukan Dojo is affiliated with the Seibukan, National Martial Arts Assn., and the National Karate jiu-jitsu Union International and the United Sates Judo Association in both Judo and jiu-jitsu. I encourage all you instructors to occasionally go to a camp or clinic as a student and get criticized and sweaty, it's a great leveling effect.

If you have a video set or print collection and want to advertise them here, forward it to me. Everyone must have a library of pertinent references to the martial arts including CD-ROMs, and tapes! Note that Hanshi G. R. Parulski's group Kobushi Multimedia has produced a couple of new CD-ROMs. One has the Shobu-No-Kata or forms of contest skill. On this production is the film of Mifune showing his O-jozu. A new one is Te-Waza of Karate-Jutsu. These are very well done!

On October 23, 1999, Professor George Kirby gave a seminar in Northern Virginia. The Arlington, VIRGINIA YMCA, hosted the event. Sensei Tom Salander is Chief Instructor and is a former student of Renshi, Wade Susie, Chief Instructor at the White Marsh-Fullerton YMCA programs.

October 23 brought not only a mild Indian Summer to Northern Virginia this year, it also brought Professor George Kirby. Professor Kirby taught a daylong seminar on Circle Theory and Application, hosted by the Arlington YMCA.

With Jujitsu students from Virginia and Maryland attending and ranks from Rokyū to Godan, Professor Kirby had something for every one. From basic techniques with a twist to new ways to challenge Yudansha, everyone left with more than enough material to ponder and practice in the coming months.

More than just techniques, the day provided a opportunity for in-depth training with one of the foremost authorities on both the practical and the "art" sides of Jujitsu. Some comments from participants: -"Professor Kirby was very personable and engaging. His instructions were thorough and clear. I was very impressed at his willingness to explain the principles behind the techniques including what would prevent a technique from working. Best seminar I've ever been to!"

--"I felt the groundwork we did really increased my awareness of the human body balance centers."

--"I especially appreciated the attention to specific hand placement and action throughout the small circle techniques."

--"I loved the emphasis on variation -- open-ended approach to performing and finishing techniques."

--"Sensei Kirby's direct and practical approach to the techniques he demonstrated was clearly and powerfully illustrated the effective, flexible fundamentals of jujitsu."

Perhaps one of the strongest and most telling sentiments of the day came from a father who attended the seminar along with his son. The following excerpted from a message a father sent to Professor Kirby following the seminar:

Sensei,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to again thank you for taking the time out of your schedule to come to Arlington this past weekend. I consider it an honor and a privilege to train with you. Additionally, it was an absolute thrill for my son to meet and train with you as well. Patrick has been training in jujitsu since he was 8 years old (he's now 18).

Patrick recalls seeing Sensei Wade Susie using your "orange book" with the beginner techniques and the pictures of you demonstrating them when he was training in the children's class during his first years of training. Seeing you and training with you (and ESPECIALLY being able to serve as your uke special it was. He described you as "real and genuine person" and meeting you as "completing the circle". Your gracious gesture of giving him the Budoshin Jujitsu patch was something he will remember for a long time. He couldn't wait to get home and have it sewn on his gi and proudly displayed at last night's class.

I'm obviously quite proud of my son and thankful that both of us have had the opportunity to train in Budoshin Jujitsu. It has impacted us in ways too numerous to articulate here.

Thank you again for "completing the circle". I can only hope to have the opportunity to train with you again.

Many of us feel the same way. Fortunately, this was not our last opportunity. Professor Kirby has already agreed to return again NEXT (during most of the day), was like making real something from his child-hood. During our drive home he couldn't stop talking about the day and just how fall!

Domo Arrigato!

Arlington YMCA Dojo promotions
Bentley, Kate J. 4 kyu 10/19/99
Connolly, Robert L. 4 kyu 10/19/99
Egbert, Daniel 6 kyu 9/21/99
Gaul, Daniel 6 kyu 10/19/99
Gaul, James E. 6 kyu 10/19/99
Johnston, Eric 7 kyu 9/21/99
Owings, Stephanie J. 5 kyu 10/19/99
Reis, Kevin 5 kyu 10/19/99

Last year, when we started AJA+ dojo membership [AJA+ membership means your dojo is covered under the AJA Liability/Accident policy] there was an extra \$25 fee. This fee was to make sure that the policy was adequately funded. Due to the positive response, the additional \$25 fee was cancelled & refunded to AJA+ dojo. In 1999 there was also an additional \$25 fee for dojo that bought into the policy after its issuance, effective January 1, 1999. For the year 2000, this \$25 charge is cancelled due to a change in carriers by MIC Insurance Brokerage. This means your dojo can become an AJA+ dojo at any time during the calendar year for no additional charge beyond your normal annual AJA dojo fee of \$25. The individual AJA+ student membership is still \$27/calendar year.

This policy gets better every year. If your dojo has a policy with another carrier, consider becoming an AJA+ dojo when it's renewal time. It can only save you money. See the attached information page regarding our AJA policy elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have any questions please contact Prof. G. Kirby, P.O. Box 801854, Santa Clarita, CA 91380-1854 or e-mail him at senseigk@budoshin.com

NEW OHARA BOOK! If you do NOT want to be notified when it comes out please e-mail me.
SEMINAR in mid-January for JJ Brown & Black Belts, at Petco, Santa Clarita, CA. E-mail G. Kirby.
KEEP BUDOSHIN JU-JITSU #1: Click on the "Budoseek" on the title page of my website www.budoshin.com

Birth of a Dojo

It all began when Thomas Salander, a black belt of mine, asked if I could take over teaching two ju-jitsu classes a week at a YMCA where the instructor was leaving. I had a pretty full schedule and the "Y" was 72 miles away; however, it was near Salander's home, so I threw the ball back to him. "Why don't you teach it?" I asked him. He caught the ball, if a bit hesitantly. "Well, uh, okay" he said. We brought some people from the Baltimore class down to the Arlington, Virginia, YMCA to get started and did a demonstration and some teaching. Then Tom started teaching two nights a week for 1.5 hours each. My black belts and I subbed for him on rare occasions when necessary, but Tom runs his dojo 99% of the time.

Since we didn't know how well this would work, Thomas and all of his students were registered as students of my dojo under the AJA. With his great success, we decided that late in 1998 he should apply to become a separate dojo under the AJA with him as sensei beginning in 1999. The AJA BOD has granted this status.

The Arlington Dojo has classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-9pm. Once or twice a month they have a Saturday practice session. Once every couple of months they have a womens self-defense seminar, free and open to the female public. Women dojo members assist and participate. The Y provides this as a community service.

The dojo is located in the Arlington YMCA at 3422 North 13th Street, Arlington, Virginia, 22201. The phone number is 703-525-5420. The web site address is members.aol.com/koshinage. Tom holds a nidan certificate in Budoshin Ju-Jitsu and a shodan in Chin-na Karate. I congratulate him for an excellent job as sensei of the Arlington AJA Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Dojo.

Wade Susie, Godan, Sensei of the White Marsh/Fullerton YMCA Dojo

Martial Arts Demo

On Saturday, April 24, 1999, members of the White Marsh/ Fullerton YMCA DOJO put on a ju-jitsu and karate demonstration at the Seven Oaks Elementary School Spring Festival. Students ranged in age from 6 to 51 years of age. They demonstrated self-defense techniques

against punches, kicks, clubs, knives, etc. They practiced rolling and falling and threw their opponents to the mat. They also sparred with each other and practiced grappling. In addition, they performed several martial arts katas. From the smallest student up, they broke boards with different body parts, and Mark Burton broke a piece of ranch rock with his palm heel. Sensei Wade Susie, 5th dan broke 3 concrete slabs with inner strength using his palm of his hand. Finally, Sensei Susie lay on a bed of nails and had a black belt break a concrete block on his stomach with a sledgehammer. The following members participated: Wade Susie, Karen Curley, Mark Burton, Bill Needer, Vernon Davis, Dennis Jones, Mary Ellen Levin, Mary Martin, Ryan Levin, Ian Paxton, Heather Rubin, Joshua Rubin, Gabrielle Strim, Marisa Levin, Joey Connally, Shane Connally, Chad Kahler, and Emily Martin.

Recent Promotions at White Marsh: Godan: Will Harris; ikkyu: Matthew Shadrach and Alianna Wonders; nikyu: Mary Ellen Levin and Matt McGuirk; sankyu: Matthew Bourne; senior purple: Bobby Stegman; advanced green Belt: Larry Feinberg, Nathan Stern, Gabrielle Strim; green belt: Mary Martin, Richard Martin, Emily Martin, Chad Kahler, Greg Feehley; yellow belt: Pete Sisson, Thomas Griffin, Glen Rubin, Nicole Nolan, Garrett Sisson, Connor Sisson, and Justin Wingard. Congrats to all!

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER COLUMN!

On October 23-24, 1999 (Last October already!), the White Marsh/Fullerton YMCA dojo presented a Halloween hayride and haunted hike for children and adults in the community. All proceeds went to the Y" Partnership with Youth charity that funds programs for those who can't afford it. A farm tractor pulling a hay-filled cart served to transport the Halloweeners on the hayride. Hikers were led in-groups of 10 through the woods where they experienced a variety of frightening situations acted out by the martial arts students. There they saw monsters and graveyards, a hanging man who came to life, trolls, a woman buried alive, Jason and his chain saw, a huge spider and a flying witch. The hike was planned and organized by Wade Susie. Participating martial arts students were: Karen Curley, Matthew Shadrach, Vernon Davis, Alianna Wonders, Mike Parks, Mark Burton, Mike Holtzer, Ian Paxton, Bobby Stegman, Bill Needer, Mike Levin, Mary Ellen Levin, Ryan Levin, Richard Martin, Mary Martin, Ben Thompson, George Boden, Matt Boden, John Boden, Clym Ehoff, Ed Gerner, Pablo Fernandez, Sarah Fernandez, Cindy Fernandez, David Fernandez, and Sandy Whaler. The total raised was \$2500. This is a yearly event with the "Y" and was recently done this year too. On October 22 and 23, members of the White Marsh/Fullerton YMCA Dojo put on

a haunted hike through the woods at the Y. Under the direction of Sensei Wade Susie, students ranging from white to black belt helped haunt the woods. There were ghouls and ghosts as well as a flying witch and a buried lady. Jason was there with a chain saw along with the mad surgeon at his operating table. Watching clips of the best horror movies scared waiting hikers. The jujitsu students who helped run the event included members from both the youth and adult classes. Even though Friday night's hike was rained out, Saturday's success hike alone raised \$1150. The jujitsu students had a great time while serving a good cause.

Recent promotions included:

Karen Curley, Godan
George Boden, Sandan
Bill Needer, Nidan
Dennis Haslup, Green Belt
Mike Levn, Purple Belt
John Horst, Green Belt
Steve Diesenberg, Advanced Green Belt
Patrick Jones, Ikkyu
Mary Martin, Yellow Belt
Richard Martin, Yellow Belt
Dennis Jones, Ikkyu
David Holtzer, Nikyu

Legion of Martial Artists

Poem

Daito-ryu, or Hakko, or Ketsugo, or Goshen JuJitsu, Tae Kwon Do or Tang Soo or Hapkido or Karate-Do
Open hand or jump or wrestle or animal-whatever
We are brothers and sisters of hand-to-hand combat
The art we learn is War through sparring, Randori
controlled fighting technique-participating in defense or offense or neither or both simultaneously and immediately
"Hey partner, care to attack me with a punch, kick, or knife?"

Here in the safety of O'Sensei's Dojo training over and over again so that when/if an assailant makes the mistake of assuming we are victims and when/if they can surmount our parries, counters & tempers & techniques & natural abilities

They probably will be in no condition to make any more Foolish mistakes like that again anytime very soon.
We, the legion of martial artists share our Knowledge and Bodies so that if/when the Grim Spectre of approaches us violently from its cowardly alleys and streets of Darkness we will have numerous opportunities to "cheat" Him or beat him, or throw, kick, strike, choke, strangle, hold or put him in submission

Yes! This is what our training is all about.

Submitted by KJ of Tashi Gene Roos' Dojo in Metairie, LA.

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Am off to a seminar U. S. Society of Classical Judo, in Waynesboro, PA, December 11, 1999. Reg Heefner is bringing in Robert Anderson, Rokudan, recently returned from Japan who will be instructing in Atemi-waza or striking techniques.

FROM THE BIG CHEESE! CLEANING OUT THE GARAGE

If you own your own home you've been through this a number of times. Cleaning out your garage is a memorable experience because you find stuff that you didn't know you had -- & it brings back memories. So you sort through everything -- or as much as you can -- save some & get rid of the rest.

I have boxes of stuff accumulated from over 30 years in the martial arts & I can't bear to get rid of any of it. It's part of me. Some of it's books, awards, correspondence, old promotions, photo albums, manuscripts that never went anywhere, paraphernalia sent to me by other sensei. It's a collection that keeps growing year by year. I'm not exactly sure what to do with it.

I do know I'll be around for many more years so the number of boxes will inevitably increase. At some point someone will "get" all this stuff and I hope that there will be some things of value in all the boxes that they will choose to keep.

Our lives are much like garages. We put stuff inside us, sometimes repackage it or resort it, and carry it with us -- whether it is good or bad. Sometimes we're able to clean out our personal garage, we feel better and life goes on. Somehow it's easier to do this with our internal garage than it is to do so with the material things we have that signify who we are and what we have accomplished thus far.

I do clean out my personal "garage" every once in a while because I feel it's necessary to maintain my sense of balance & perspective. Sometimes I can do small "clean out jobs" by meditating, contemplating and putting things in a different perspective. Sometimes I even hope that a "box" will grow feet and walk out of my personal garage on its own. Amazingly, that occasionally happens as problems and conflicts resolve themselves over time. I suppose that's natural.

It may also be possible because I've learned that many times you can choose your own battles and you don't have to deal with every conflict you're confronted with. This drives some people crazy – who want immediate solutions – but patience does have its virtue. These same people are sometimes amazed at the outcome and their respect for you grows.

What does this have to do with the martial arts? Maybe everything and maybe nothing. If you wonder why higher ranked students and sensei seem to be more at peace with the world it's because they've learned how to let go – to clean out their personal garage. If they have a good sensei they have learned how to deal with conflict from a different viewpoint.

The "different viewpoint" will make a good topic for a future editorial.

-George Kirby, Kudan

On Monday, December 7, 1999, Sensei Wade Susie (godan) promoted three of his ju-jitsu students at his YMCA dojo in Baltimore, MD. Vernon Davis received the rank of nidan while father and son Dennis and Patrick Jones each earned the rank of shodan. A panel of five other black belts participated in the testing procedure. Sensei Susie said that each of the candidates did a fine job during the test; he is proud of all three of them.

Regards from your editor