



# AJA NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIV, Issue 1

Winter 2011

## Special points of interest:

- 2011 AJA dues are due now. Please see your sensei to submit as soon as possible.

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## 2011: A New Year

George Kirby, Chairman

2010 was a rough year for the country and for many of us personally. The AJA did not escape this, with some board and staff members facing serious financial, medical, and personal issues that limited their ability to function at their normal levels.

I am hopeful that 2011 will be a better year for everyone. Here's what's in my jujitsu basket for 2011:

First, and most important, David Boesel will be getting the AJA Newsletter off the ground. It will be an electronic production. The plan is to have the newsletter sent directly to you via email. Who knows what technologies will be applied to the newsletter? If you'd like to submit an article or news item, send it directly to David at:

[american.jujitsu.association@verizon.net](mailto:american.jujitsu.association@verizon.net).

Second, the BOD will continue its phone meetings once every 2-3 months, or more often as the need arises. One major issue I will be presenting is the need for improved communication among staff so that issues can be resolved in days, not months, which is completely unacceptable to me.

Stepping back from email and using the phone might be one quick solution. There are several other items on the January meeting agenda. Hopefully Karen Curley and Wade Susie (AJA Secretaries) will inform you of such in an upcoming news item.



Third, there will be an AJA Convention this October in Santa Clarita, CA. This year's convention will run in conjunction with Camp Budoshin's 20th anniversary! Camp Budoshin is a well-established one-day "supermarket of martial arts" in California, and if you can make it, it's well worth the money to

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## A Note From The Editor

Dave Boesel

This issue represents the AJA's first attempt at editing and distributing a newsletter via email. The formatting may undergo several revisions as we strive to make improvements with each issue.

To get the newsletter in the hands of each AJA member, we plan to email it. The email ad-

resses to which the newsletter is sent come primarily from the new AJA membership form, so all sensei are encouraged to obtain email addresses from each of their students who have access to email and to record them legibly and accurately.

This is also the first time we have multiple editors working

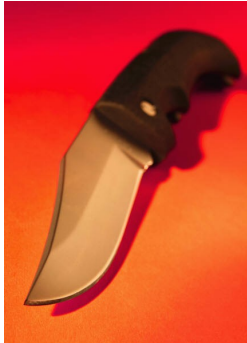
on the newsletter. I'm joined by Associate Editors Will Harris and Dave Clark to bring you a high-quality newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Of course, to bring you a newsletter, we need content. That's where you come in! Even with three editors, we can't be even-

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## How it Works on the Street

Gene Roos



**“Had the assailant known that Mike was a talented jujitsu black belt in my dojo, he might have had second thoughts.”**

Mike was standing in front of the glass-enclosed booth at a Shell station in Hammond, LA, getting ready to pay the cashier, when another man approached him from the right. Mike thought the man was also there to pay for gas, but instead, he pulled out a knife and demanded money. Had the assailant known that Mike was a talented jujitsu black belt in my dojo, he might have had second thoughts.

Mike raised his hands, waved them back and forth, and said, “Anything you want!” At the same time, he pivoted out to the assailant’s right side, grabbed the knife hand, and applied a kote gaeshi wristlock. As the attacker was falling, Mike heard a loud snap at the wrist. The assailant fell to the ground and lay unconscious.

Then Mike put him in a wristlock control hold while the cashier called 911. The police arrived about 30 minutes later, took the assailant into custody, and took statements from Mike and the cashier, who had witnessed everything. The whole incident was captured on videotape. The court case against the attacker is in progress. The only injury to Mike was a small cut on the top of one finger.

This is a textbook case of jujitsu self-defense. By raising his hands and saying “Anything you want!” Mike was signaling compliance to the attacker to put him off-guard. At the same time, the hands were at shoulder height, ready for quick action, and by waving his hands, Mike was creating a distraction.

The distraction, combined with the assailant’s reaction time, gave Mike the fraction of a second he needed to step out and pivot on his left foot (tai sabaki) and grab the right wrist (of the knife hand) with his left hand. Then pivoting back in to face the attacker, Mike grabbed the knife hand with his right as well, turning it in a vertical direction. Mike finished the throw by withdrawing his left foot and turning further counter-clockwise. Finally, even though the attacker was – or appeared to be – unconscious, Mike took no chances, holding onto the wristlock while kneeling and keeping him under control until the police arrived. ♣

*Gene Roos is Sensei at the Aiki Jujitsu Dojo in Metairie, LA and is a Director of the AJA.*



**Gene Roos demonstrates the technique used by Mike against the armed assailant at a gas station in Louisiana.**

## Giving Back to the Community

**Karen Curley**

Once again this past Autumn, Sensei Wade Susie and Karen Curley, from the White Marsh Dojo in Maryland, contributed time and candy for the Halloween celebration at the Gribbin Center. The Gribbin Center is a Catholic Charities day work center for developmentally challenged adults. Sensei Wade and Karen filled and distributed 80 bags of candy to individuals and staff. The Halloween party included music, snacks and a costume parade.

Sensei Wade encourages his students to give back to the community, and this is one way he does just that. The White Marsh Dojo has contributed to the Gribbin Center in a number of ways over the years.

Instructors built a gazebo and two bridges nestled among flowers, plants, and a large fountain. To encourage physical activity, they also planted a vegetable garden for the Center's participants to tend and installed a volleyball net. Indoors, they erected a Christmas garden with two sets of trains and a trolley. Program participants enjoy blowing the train whistle as they watch the trains go by.

Community service is a large part of belonging to the White Marsh Dojo. ♪

*Karen Curley is Sensei at the White Marsh YMCA Dojo in Baltimore and Co-Secretary of the AJA.*



## Upcoming Events

### Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Seminar

*When:* March 26, 2011  
*Where:* Northeastern Martial Arts Center  
 Rochester, NY.  
*Contact:* Marty Noel ([martynoel@aol.com](mailto:martynoel@aol.com))

### AJA Eastern Shiai

*When:* July 2010  
*Where:* Daitobukan Dojo  
 Towson, MD YMCA  
*Contact:* Dennis McCurdy ([jujutsujohn@netscape.net](mailto:jujutsujohn@netscape.net))

### Camp Budoshin (20th Anniversary) & AJA Convention

*When:* Early October 2011  
*Where:* Southern California  
*Contact:* George Kirby ([senseigk@budoshin.com](mailto:senseigk@budoshin.com))

### Budoshin Jujitsu Seminar featuring George Kirby

*When:* November 5, 2011  
*Where:* Arlington Budoshin Jujitsu Dojo  
 Arlington, VA YMCA  
*Contact:* Thomas Salander ([thomas@budoshin.com](mailto:thomas@budoshin.com))



**“I’m hoping that 2011 will be a great year for you and for the AJA.”**

## 2011: A New Year

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attend. Hopefully a couple of board members will be among the 16 instructors who volunteer their time to teach at Camp Budoshin. By the way, there are a lot of things for the rest of your family to do in and near Santa Clarita (besides Magic Mountain!)

Fourth, a new, revised version of my first book will be published this spring by Black Belt Communications. I think it’s being done in conjunction with their 50th anniversary. What’s really unique about this book is that it will show you how all of my books and DVDs are tied together. I really consider it an

honor being asked to update one of Black Belt’s most consistent sellers. I am hopeful that it will make as great an impact as the original version did. I’ll keep you posted on this.

Fifth, I’m hoping that this year’s Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Summer Camp (a three day event held in August) will be bigger than ever. This camp is geared towards brown and black belts of any ryu of jujitsu. So if you’re teaching the art, you need to come to camp. The camaraderie is really great too!

Last, I hope that you will become more involved in the AJA. The real success of the

AJA depends upon you—your attitude towards the AJA and your participation in AJA activities. Find out from this newsletter what’s going on. Contact other sensei and AJA officials if you have any questions. If you **c o n t a c t m e** ([senseigk@budoshin.com](mailto:senseigk@budoshin.com)), I will usually respond within a few days. I’ll also add you to my email list for my own newsletter if you’re interested.

I’m hoping that 2011 will be a great year for you and for the AJA. However, we all have to work at it. ♪

## A Note From The Editor

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rywhere. So we need you to write and submit articles or other material for publication. The material you submit could be a story like the one submitted by Gene Roos found on page 2, tips on training, reflections on jujitsu as a martial art, or a range of other subjects related to jujitsu or your dojo. Remember, if it’s about your dojo or students, then it’s about the AJA.

The subject or story is more important than the form it takes, i.e., writing style, organization, etc. It’s the editors’ job to make it readable! Just give us your info and we’ll format it and get it into the newsletter.

You don’t need to be a member of the board of directors or even a black belt to submit an article. We welcome submissions from all AJA members. After all, this is your

newsletter.

Please send submissions to: [american.jujitsu.association@verizon.net](mailto:american.jujitsu.association@verizon.net).

Thanks in advance for your assistance in producing a first rate publication!

In case you’re wondering who the editors are, here’s a brief bio on each of them:

### Dave Boesel

Sensei Boesel holds the rank of Godan and runs the Kaiwan Budokai in Arnold, MD. He also holds a black belt in Tomiki Aikido and has several years experience in Shorin Ryu karate.

### Dave Clark

Sensei Clark holds the rank of Shodan and is the founder of the Dave Clark Jiu-Jitsu Consortium in Brandon, FL.

### Will Harris

Prof. Harris holds the rank of Shichidan and is a member of the White Marsh Dojo in Baltimore, MD where he assists with teaching duties. He also has several years experience in Chin-na Karate and Nihon Ryu Jiu-Jitsu. ♪



## About the American Ju-Jitsu Association

The American Ju-Jitsu Association was founded in 1972, by George Kirby and William Fromm at the request of their sensei, Jack Seki, for the purpose of bringing different ryu of the art together in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and respect. Since that time it has grown from two dojo to approximately twenty-four, plus international affiliates. The AJA has established itself as a reputable organization within the martial arts community and works closely with other major Ju-Jitsu organizations in the United States and internationally in areas of mutual concern.

The AJA is a non-profit amateur athletic association registered with both the state of California and the United States government [IRS code 501(c)(3)]. It is a non-profit corporation with a charitable foundation status. Although originally recognized by the IRS as a "social club" because there was no other way to recognize the AJA as an amateur athletic association, formal recognition of the AJA as a true amateur athletic association, according to the criteria of the United States government, was secured in 1976 under the Sports Act of that year. To our knowledge, the AJA is the only martial arts organization in the U.S. that is classified by the IRS as an amateur athletic association. ♣

## 2010 Yudansha Promotions

### SHODAN (1st Dan)

Bender, Tim	7/10/10	White Marsh
Finley, Samantha	3/22/10	Daitobukan
Finley, Scott	3/20/10	Daitobukan
Parsons, Donald	9/25/10	Reston YMCA
Wong, Tony	5/20/10	Reston YMCA

### NIDAN (2nd Dan)

Culmore, Michelle	4/1/10	Kaiwan Budokai
Roundtree, Steven	3/10/10	Reston YMCA
Salan, Luis		Quest Academy

### SANDAN (3rd Dan)

Wonders-White, Alaina	7/10/10	White Marsh
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### ROKODAN (6th Dan)

Boden, George	4/12/10	White Marsh
Burton, Mark	7/10/10	White Marsh
Tucker, Marc	8/15/10	Budoshin Ju-Jitsu

### SHICHIDAN (7th Dan)

Harris, Will	7/10/10	White Marsh
Jones, Bruce*	4/10/10	Reston YMCA

\* Note: Bruce Jones also received his 7th Dan from EJJU 4/10/10

## AMERICAN JU-JITSU ASSOCIATION

PO Box 801854  
Santa Clarita, CA 91380

### Board of Directors

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[www.AmericanJujitsuAssociation.org](http://www.AmericanJujitsuAssociation.org)

