



AJA NEWSLETTER

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I Stopped Counting at One Hundred

by George Kirby

I was curious about something this morning, so I counted the number of third dan or higher yudansha on the AJA's black belt roster. When I got to one hundred, somewhere in the letter "L", I stopped. Why did I stop at one hundred and why did I count only third dan and higher? Because I was curious about the ratio of black belts who were actually teaching in their own dojos as compared to the number of third dans who, in my opinion, should really be out there teaching on their own, perhaps with one or two lower-ranked yudansha helping them.

Yes, there are yudansha who have "retired" or who have gone to the great tatami up in the sky, but what are the rest of you doing? I do recognize that I'm being idealistic here, but aren't you a sensei, a teacher? Don't you have an AJA instructor certification saying that you're qualified to teach? I also realize that some of you are helping

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Annual Northern Region Shiai & Workshop

by Samantha Finley

On July 23, 2017, Daitobukan Dojo at the Towson YMCA once again hosted its annual clinic and tournament of self-defense kata, Shiai. This Northern Region event, which returned last year after a five-year hiatus, drew attendees and competitors from Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. With over 50 students and instructors in attendance, the day was fun and educational for all levels.

The first part of the event consisted of five hour-long seminars led by senseis Terry Feelemyer of Maryland, who taught budoshin ju-jitsu; Bill Stockey of Virginia, karate; Tony Maynard of North Carolina, combat ju-jitsu; George Parulski of New York, aiki-ju-jitsu; and Dave Patton of Virginia, ju-jitsu with an emphasis on gun defense. Themes of the morning included quick, practical techniques and open-handed slaps used in various ways.

A traditional Waza tournament followed the seminars. In Waza, competitors demonstrate their ju-jitsu skills by defending against a series of attacks for a full minute, or ninety seconds at the yudansha

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A History of Sambo

by Scott Anderson

Viktor Spiridonov, who integrated ju-jitsu into the Soviet NKVD and militia training, saw ju-jitsu as the most integrated and effective combative system (as opposed to a martial art) in the 1920s, but he believed that its cultural baggage reduced its effectiveness. If he wanted to teach a border guard to be a border guard, bowing and learning Japanese was relatively useless unless the guard was stationed on Sakhalin Island, which the USSR split with Japan.

In addition, Spiridonov believed that boxing's punches were often more effective than many traditional Japanese strikes, so he began to update ju-jitsu, and ultimately decided that his updates were so extensive that ju-jitsu had become "self-defense". This latter name was simple and to the point, but it was also political, as a very paranoid Soviet regime did not like foreign influences on any of their materials.

In the Red Army, hand-to-hand combat originally was in an appendix to the bayonet fighting course that was actually a manual from the British army. In the late 1920s to early 1930s, the USSR developed their own close quarters combat course that emphasized unarmed techniques and improvised weapons as well as bayonet fencing. That course was based on judo with goshin jitsu supplements closer to what is shown in this work. That work was done by Vasili Oshchepkov, a nidan – the second westerner to earn nidan in Kodokan judo.

Spiridonov and Oshchepkov hated each other, which, in revisionist history, is meant to have strengthened their efforts in developing a better fighting system so that each could surpass the other. It was the rare students of both who were able to integrate their instructors' efforts into SAMBO. Oshchepkov died under arrest under charges of being a Japanese spy, and Spiridonov died of lung cancer from smoking while serving in the field late in WWII.

Content

If you would like to contribute content to the AJA newsletter, please send it to **Newsletter@AJA-email.org**
We're always looking for

- Articles about jujitsu, your students, or your dojo
- Upcoming events
- Personal interest events

I Stopped Counting at One Hundred

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out in your sensei's dojo or have familial or occupational responsibilities that prevent you from running your own dojo. I also realize that some of you don't want to go into "competition" against your own sensei by opening a nearby dojo.

However, if you're a sandan, you should have the technical skill to run your own dojo. If your sensei hasn't provided you with this training and given you experience in teaching entire classes, even without them being present, you've missed an invaluable part of your necessary training. Yes, it may be a challenge to find a community service agency (park department, YMCA, church, other facility, etc.,) to serve as your dojo location – and mats, if you have to buy a few to start with, can be an expense – but everything in life is a "risk" in one way or another.

It's also a "risk" to talk to your sensei about starting your own dojo. Some sensei are very protective of their "territory", which even I can understand. Some may even see it as a sign of disrespect or fear that you're opening up your own dojo because you "don't like the way they're teaching" and want to do things differently.

On the other hand, life goes on. Part of life is that kids grow up, leave home and, if the parents have done a good job, their kids will also eventually do well on their own. If, as a sensei, you've given your black belts the skills they need, they should succeed on their own. Seeing your kids (or black belts) go out into the world and succeed on their own is one of the greatest rewards in life.

I do recognize that it may be difficult to find someplace to teach, as the market in many areas may be saturated. However, if you are persistent in finding a location, you will succeed. One of the most common (and illogical) "reasons" I've run across as to why a community agency doesn't want to consider another martial arts program is that they already have one. When I started my current program I was initially told that the agency already had one jujitsu program. I responded that the agency also had three or four karate programs, so why couldn't there be two jujitsu programs? If you do your background research on an agency and its programs you can usually effectively counter many of their reasons not to add your program while keeping it professional.

Yes, running your own dojo is a challenge. It IS hard work, requiring a LOT of patience the first year or two as your dojo gains, and hopefully secures, a foothold in the community. However, there are tons of rewards. Seeing students progress gives you a sense of accomplishment and success. Seeing students continue, hopefully moving on to higher ranks and hopefully even black belt, builds "family" and its own rewards. Remember, you've got your sensei, other sensei within the AJA, the AJA itself, and even me to help you succeed – and we all want you to succeed, as that helps your dojo and the AJA grow. Plus it also creates a great deal of credit and respect for your

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I Stopped Counting at One Hundred

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sensei – because they gave you tools to help you succeed.

I do have the same problem even with some of my yudansha. I know that some have familial or occupational constraints that preclude them from starting their own program and our area for multiple miles around is oversaturated, with a martial arts school on seemingly every corner. However, I also make sure my second and third dan black belts are in frequent teaching situations. All of them can teach an entire class. Some even cover my classes if I'm absent for two or three weeks at a time. For me, that's part of their training.

If you're a third dan or higher black belt and you're not teaching, either in your sensei's dojo or on your own, I do question how you got that high in rank. After all, yudansha grades ARE teaching grades. If you're not teaching, you're not really learning your art. If you're not teaching you, won't learn what subtle mistakes you're making in your own execution of techniques. This is because your students will mimic your moves and try to follow your instructions. When they foul up you also need to look at what you're doing and what you're saying. This is where you find your own mistakes in executions and explanations.

You also have to realize that you have a responsibility to see your dojo, the art, and the AJA grow. If your sensei ends up with more students than he can handle, then maybe an additional dojo – or an extra night your sensei's program is offered with you teaching it – is an option. Both more students and more dojo helps the AJA grow. If you're sandan or higher, or even a lower-ranked black belt, this is your responsibility. If you're not helping your sensei in these areas then you're not meeting your responsibility as a black belt or to your sensei, dojo, and the art. As a third dan, this should be a given, and you should be an example for lower ranked yudansha.

Your goal as a black belt is to grow, not only by improving your own technical skills, but also as a teacher – because that's what the black belt represents. Are you meeting that goal?

Recent Yudansha Promotions

Name	Rank	Date	Dojo
Emmanuel Hamwright	Shodan	July	Ho'on Dojo
Samantha Finley	Nidan	October	Towson Daitobukan Dojo
Brian McClernan	Yodan	November	Ho'on Dojo

Annual Northern Region Shiai and Workshop

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level. Whereas last year, a judge dictated every attack in a predetermined order, this year, each uke was instructed prior to the match to provide at least one punch, one kick, one grab from the front, and one grab from the rear, in any order and intermixed with other techniques as they saw fit. The revised approach was intended to provide balance, giving each competitor a similar set of circumstances while allowing them to be surprised by each attack. This seemed to provide a happy medium between last year's policy and the opposite extreme, uninstructed ukas who may provide inconsistent and unbalanced sets of attacks. There were fewer youth attendees this year than in 2016, and for that reason there was no Youth Gedan division.

At the end of the day, awards were presented to the winners of the Waza tournament as well as Scott Finley, a member of the Board of Directors, for his service as the AJA's webmaster. After bow-out, attendees were invited to dinner at a nearby Japanese teppanyaki restaurant.

HD videos of every match are available on YouTube; just search "Daitobukan" to find the official channel or go directly to

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC99TuUoZunVoSL8r6XBZhDQ>

2017 Northern Region Shiai Results

Click a results table for a link to the playlist for that division

Yudansha

Place	Name
1st	David Racine Jr.
2nd	Mike Balog
3rd	Kendrick Smith

Adult Jodan

Place	Name
1st	Daniel Robertson
2nd	Thomas Dineen
3rd	Stewart Burke

Adult Chudan

Place	Name
1st	Thomas Horn
2nd	Dominic Calabria
3rd	Dayna Aldridge

Adult Gedan

Place	Name
1st	Karl Laursen
2nd	Christopher Burke
3rd	Todd Hawkins

Youth Jodan

Place	Name
1st	Coral Burke
2nd	Zion Coldiron
3rd	John Grieco

Youth Chudan

Place	Name
1st	Marianne Harden

Your Striking Techniques May Not Affect the Attacker in Some Cases

by Gene Roos

Defending yourself by punching and kicking an aggressor in an attack situation may not have the effects you may expect, or they might be greatly diminished. Listed below are some of these exceptions, because the attacker may have

1. Consumed a considerable amount of alcohol
2. Certain types of illegal drugs in his system
3. A mental condition has made parts of his body insensitive
4. An adrenaline rush (before and during the attack)
5. A type of work causes his body to experience high vibrations for an extended time each day (such as a machinist operating an air hammer)
6. Practiced some martial arts using internal Ki (Japanese) or Chi (Chinese) where various parts of the body do not experience pain
7. Been born with a condition where certain areas of the body do not experience pain

One of the strengths of jujitsu is that most techniques do not require striking to be effective. If you think any of the above might apply to your attacker and you are unable to escape, focus on techniques that do not rely on pain compliance.

Concussion Awareness Students and Parents

Injuries or concussions are very rare in AJA dojos. However, they do occasionally occur. Here is some useful information from the CDC on concussion awareness for [students](#) and [parents](#). For general information, go to

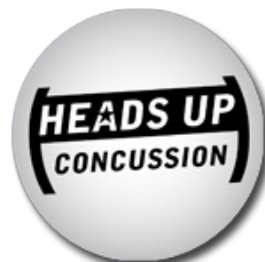
www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/index.html

Concussion Awareness Training & Certification

If you're an instructor and NOT yet Concussion Awareness Training certified go to www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training to take the FREE 30 minute course, pass the FREE exam, and secure your FREE Concussion Awareness Training Certificate. This is an

insurance coverage requirement.

Also, make sure you're making the information presented in Students & Parents: Concussion Awareness available to your students and their parents on a regular basis, either by printing up the documents and handing them out in class or providing students and parents with the links so they can download the information themselves.



AJA Update

by Dave Boesel

Professor Tony Maynard Awarded 10th Dan

AJA's National Standards and Certification Board has awarded Professor Tony Maynard 10th Dan, the association's highest rank. Professor Maynard, who has practiced and taught jujitsu for over 50 years, is the founder of the American Combat Jujitsu System. He is a Grand Master in the All Japan International Jujitsu Federation and the recipient of many national and international awards, including the Wally Jay award. A former student of Jay's, Professor Maynard has special expertise in Small Circle Jujitsu. In addition to his jujitsu experience, he is also ranked in karate and judo.

Jujitsu Competitions

AJA's Board of Directors has approved a proposal for the AJA to partner with the U.S. Jujitsu Federation (USJJF), and USJJF has confirmed the partnership. This affiliation will enable AJA members to compete in national and international jujitsu contests. It also offers the opportunity to get to know other jujitsuka in America and elsewhere; to develop seminars on a range of topics; to participate in referee training; to exchange information and views; and in general to benefit from mutual cooperation.

AJA members will have their first chance to compete in national contests on Saturday, April 14, 2018 when USJJF holds its annual National Championships in Bel Air, West Virginia. Among many other events, the contests will include rehearsed pair demonstrations, self-defense against freestyle attacks, and kumite. For details, see [USJJF National Championships](#). You can also learn more about the USJJF by clicking on the buttons at the top of the page, e.g., "Home," "Events," etc.

Recent Mudansha Promotions

Name	Rank	Date	Dojo
Steven Fung	Shichikyu	September	Towson Daitobukan Dojo
Darrin Fox	Sankyu	September	Ho'on Dojo

Sensei

To have your students' unregistered promotions featured in the newsletter, please send them to
Newsletter@AJA-email.org

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.

Board of Directors

Position	Name	Email
President & Chairman	David Boesel	President@AJA-email.org
Vice President	Jeff Wynn	VP@AJA-email.org
Secretary	Kristine Wiscarson	Secretary@AJA-email.org
Treasurer	Marc Tucker	Treasurer@AJA-email.org
Western Region Director	Tony Damigo	WRDirector@AJA-email.org
Southern Region Director & International Competition Coordinator	Thomas Salander	SRDirector@AJA-email.org
Northern Region Director	Paul Klara	NRDirector@AJA-email.org
Director	Gene Roos	Director@AJA-email.org
Director	Scott Finley	Webmaster@AJA-email.org

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Materials Coordinator	Jeff Rice	Materials@AJA-email.org
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