



OKINAWA BUDO NEWS

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- OBK Okinawa Tour March/April 2009
- Tokumura Sensei Seminars Virginia, June 2009

TOKUMURA SEMINARS 2008 “IT’S LIKE A DREAM”

Tokumura Kensho Sensei’s USA visit and seminars were a resounding success. His Michigan seminar introduced for the first time in the USA his Tokushin No Sansetsu Kon (3 sectional staff). Several dojo’s from Michigan & Ohio attended. As is typical of Tokushin kata, it was short, powerful & easy to learn. The Michigan seminar participants were also privileged to be part of a long overdue reunion. Tokumura “Speedo” Sensei reunited with his long time friend and student from Okinawa 1959-1960, Sensei Jake “Jakey” Eckenrode. It was a heart warming and joyful reunion.

Before & after the Michigan seminar, Tokumura Sensei taught classes at the Okinawa Budo Kai. All the students experienced his vast knowledge and kind heart.

The Dallas, Texas seminar brought old friends and new one’s. Participants came from Texas, Michigan, New York, Minnesota and Washington. Tokumura Sensei appreciated the smaller group so he could work on more detail with his

Kobudo. Participants got personal attention from Tokumura Sensei, more than in his other USA visits. The group took Sensei to a Cowboy rodeo and the site of President Kennedy’s assassination. The seminar was capped off by spending many late evenings talking Okinawa karate & kobudo.

The Don Bohan & Rick Nimeira Memorial Tournament in Fredericksburg, Virginia was a one of a kind event that may never be duplicated. Sensei Wayne Wayland created a magic weekend uniting many different factions of Isshinryu & Bando for discussion, camaraderie and competition. It was literally the “who’s who” of Isshinryu and Bando. Many of Isshinryu’s 1st generation Senpai attended. Tokumura Sensei continued to repeat that the weekend was, “like a dream”, because he reunited with several USA Isshinryu Senpai that he had not seen in 48 years. The weekend began with a special dinner. The next day brought seminars from martial arts Senpai’s and a discussion summit. The final day

was tournament competition and a wonderful banquet. Sunday a small group went in search of the grave site of Sensei Rodney Kiaha, a USMC Staff Sergeant who gave his life for his country in Vietnam. Tokumura Sensei & Sensei Jake Eckenrode wanted to pay their respects because Sensei Kiaha was a friend and student at the old Agena Isshinryu dojo in Okinawa 1959-60. The information that he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery was incorrect. We found Sensei Kiaha’s name on the Vietnam Wall. Tokumura Sensei & Sensei Eckenrode paid their long awaited respects to their friend and Isshinryu dojomate. Those present were very moved and honored to be part of yet another reunion. A special thanks to Lt. Col. Ed Wojnarowski, Jr. USMC and his family, friends of Tokumura Sensei, for taking time from their vacation to guide us to Arlington and the Vietnam Wall.

Semper Fi

TOKUMURA 2008 (CONTINUED)

After the Vietnam Wall we attempted to see the USMC Museum in the area but got there as it was closing. Oh well, something to see next time.

Many dojo’s at the Virginia event wanted to again bring Tokumura Sensei to the USA for a huge Kobudo seminar next

year. He has accepted. Several of us will be planning Tokumura Sensei’s 2009 visit and seminar in Virginia. Maybe next year we’ll have time to visit the USMC Museum and the many historical Civil War sites in the beautiful Fredericksburg, VA. area.

I would like to thank Sensei Jake Eckenrode, Sensei Wayne Wayland and the many others that made Tokumura Sensei’s 2008 visit such a memorable one. As he continued to say, “it was like a dream”.

THE MICHAEL VOLANTE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Sensei Tom Perry's annual *Michael Volante Memorial Kid's Tournament* in Warren, Michigan was again a great success. Sensei Perry donates the proceeds of the tournament to charitable organizations. A good group of young martial arts competitors from all styles came to give their best in competition. Many of the State's most notable black belts show up to help out and officiate. This year two senior Isshinryu Sensei's were honored. Sensei Dan Bartley was inducted into the *International Martial Arts & Kick Boxing Hall of Fame*. He was awarded a large beautiful plaque to commemorate this honor.

Also, Sensei Bob White was awarded his 9th Degree Black Belt by the *United Okinawan Budo Association*.

Congratulations to both of these Isshinryu Sensei.

The Okinawa Budo Kai also conducted it's annual demonstration at the tournament. This years team consisted of:

- Sensei Jeff Perkins*
- Sensei Gerhard Weber*
- Mr. Paul Coleman*
- Mr. Dick Gassen*
- Mr. Phil Angelella*
- Mr. Cody Cleveland*

The group performed RyuKonKai Kobudo's Chiken No Eku kata and Nunchaku Jutsu kata. Sensei

Weber and Mr. Angelella performed RyuKonKai's three sectional staff vs bo fighting drill (Sansetsu Kon Jutsu) and Sensei Perkins along with Mr.Coleman performed a shield & machete vs sword fight drill (Tinbe Jutsu). To cap off the demonstration, Sensei Weber along with his Iaido student, Mr. Cody Cleveland performed a Japanese sword vs Japanese sword fighting drill (Toyama Ryu Kunitachi) and a Japanese sword vs bo fighting drill. The crowd was attentive and appreciative.

We always look forward to doing our part for this worthy cause.



Look for the Okinawa Budo Kai Demo on YouTube.com Search: OkinawaBudoKai

DOJO NEWS - PROMOTIONS

On April 8th, *Trent Loos* and *Ryan McManus*, members of the Teen Karate Class, were promoted to **Senpai Sho** (1st Degree Junior Black Belt) in Okinawa Isshinryu Karate Do. They were tested in Isshinryu kata, bunkai and Kobudo. Both did an excellent job in their testing. In June Sensei Mike Byrd was promoted to Roku Dan (6th Degree Black Belt) in

Okinawa Isshinryu Karate Do. **Congratulations to all !**



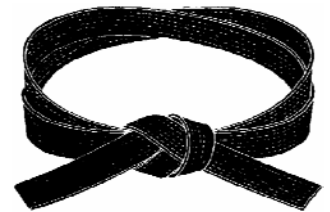
Mike Byrd



Ryan McManus



Trent Loos



UECHI TSUYOSHI SENSEI'S NEW ISSHINRYU ASSOCIATION

Uechi Tsuyoshi Sensei, 8th Dan from Okinawa, has started a new Isshinryu association called the **Isshinryu Okinawa Traditional Karatedo Association**. Uechi Sensei is a member of the larger traditional organization on Okinawa, the *Rengokai*. He is a good man with a good heart and exceptional martial arts skills. In my humble

opinion, Uechi Sensei is the future of Isshinryu on Okinawa. Sensei Karl Hovey of Virginia is the Vice President and North American Director. Our Okinawa Budo Kai Dojo has joined Uechi Sensei's organization in hope of assisting him in the preservation and furtherance of traditional Okinawa Isshinryu Karatedo & Kobudo world wide. For those

interested, log onto the web site at www.IOTKA.com



ISSHINRYU



Discipline & Dedication in the Martial Arts

Recently, OBK Ikkyu (1st Brown) *Byron Williams* broke his leg unrelated to training. His doctor told him that just casting the leg will do fine. Byron asked if he would be able to resume his Karate training. The doctor told Byron that to continue this type of physical activity, he would need an operation to increase the strength of the leg with hardware. Byron said "let's do it Doc" and had the surgery done. Almost immediately after the accident and surgery,

Byron called me and asked if it was OK to come to the dojo and observe classes. He stated that Karate was an important part of his life that he couldn't stay away from even for several weeks. I told Byron he could come to the dojo and punch the bags and makiwara if he wished. He did. Then, when he received his walking cast, Byron asked if he could train in a limited capacity on the dojo floor. I said OK and he showed up for class modifying his training for

the injury.

The discipline in the martial arts is not the military discipline that is often seen in dojos. The real discipline is the dedication to your Karate & Kobudo to show up at the dojo to train even in adverse conditions or when you just don't feel like it. Dedication like Byron's is what training in the martial arts is all about.



Sensei Roy Osborne Musashi Jo Seminar

Okinawa Shorinjiryu 8th Dan, Sensei Roy Osborne, conducted a Jo (short fighting staff) seminar at the Okinawa Budo Kai. The kata was taught to him by Sensei George Garland who had studied Iaido in Japan. The kata, *Renai No Jo*, is reported to come from the lineage of the famous Samurai, *Miyamoto*

Musashi. Students from the United States and Canada attended the seminar. Before the seminar, Sensei Osborne awarded Sensei John Boyle of the Chikashiryu Dojo in Canada his 5th Dan and Sensei Jeff Perkins of the Okinawa Budo Kai his 5th Dan in Okinawa Shorinjiryu Karate and Kobudo. Sensei Boyle

was also awarded a 6th Dan in his own style of Chikashiryu. Sensei Osborne has only awarded four 5th Dan certificates in his 55 year martial arts career.



Okinawa Karate Distinguished Service Award

On July 18, 2008 Shimabukuro Zenpo Sensei, head of the Seibukan Shorinjiryu dojo on Okinawa, will receive the *Okinawa Karate Kobudo Distinguished Service Award* from the RyuKyu Shinpo Press on Okinawa for his contributions to Okinawa Karate and its world wide diffusion. He will also be nominated as an "*Intangible Cultural Asset*" to the

Okinawa Prefectural Government. Shimabukuro Sensei is a member of the Okinawa Rengokai. His father Zenryo was a student of Kyan Chotoku Sensei and dojomate of Shimabuku Tatsuo Sensei. Seibukan has many affiliated dojo's world wide. Congratulations to Shimabukuro Sensei and Seibukan.



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to our students."*

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On Ko Chi Shin



Chinese Boxing Master Tang Daiji (1887 - 1944)

Originally from Fujian Province, China, Tang ultimately moved to Naha Hogashi-machi (Okinawa). While in Naha, he ran a tea company with his elder brother Tang Daixin.

He was known as an expert in Five Ancestor Boxing among the Okinawan karate community of the time. Five Ancestors Boxing is an amalgam of five separate Southern Chinese Boxing systems namely: Ancestral Boxing, Monk Boxing, White Monkey Boxing, Crane Boxing and Tamo Boxing.

Miyagi Chojun of Goju-Ryu exchanged

karate techniques with both Tang Daiji and Wu Hsienhui (Go Kenki).

It is said that only the Crane and Monkey aspects of Five Ancestors Boxing remained in Okinawa, but the complete tradition is being passed on in the Philippines. As an aside, Matayoshi Shimpo (Kobudo) was famous for his Monkey Boxing.

It is speculated that Wanshu, Rohai, Chinto and Seishan kata were imported to Okinawa karate from Five Ancestors Boxing.

(100 Masters of Okinawa Karate by Hokama Tetsuhiro)

橋單馬坐



排破手右



Okinawan Senior Karate Masters



Nakazato Shuguro (Shorinryu)
Miyahira Katsuya (Shorinryu)

Uehara Seikichi (Motobu Undi)
Yagi Meitoku (Gojuryu)

Nagamine Shoshin (Shorinryu)
Higa Yuchoku (Shorinryu)