

The T.K.D. Flash

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The National Newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation

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COMING EVENTS

The INTA Open ITF Taekwon-Do Tournament will be held in **Kilkenny, Ireland**, on March 10 and 11, 2012. Inquiries to Mr. Jerome Wezelman, 18 Verschoyle Drive, Saggart Abbey, Citywest, Dublin 24. These are great folks and great hosts.

We have a date for the Maetas TKD Team Challenge XII – March 24, 2012. Details coming to www.maestastkd.com.

And once again we take the opportunity to remind you of **Sereff World Camp** in 2012; put aside June 24-29, 2012, in Estes Park, Colorado.



On December 4 Master **Braxton Miller** hosted, and Region 5 Director **Steve Osborn** taught, a USTF Referee Course at the **School of Classical Taekwon-Do** in Crystal Lake, Illinois. Here, a bit of the positive Osborn magic: “Hey, anybody can be a dynamite bracketer!”

AROUND THE COUNTRY

On December 3 there was a Black Belt Testing at **Burning Phoenix Taekwon-Do** in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Invitational Tournament, Concord School of TaeKwon-Do

from Roselyn Romberg

On November 5th, Mr. **John Murphy**, VI Dan, hosted the Concord School of TaeKwon-Do's Second Annual Invitational Tournament in Concord, Massachusetts. Competitors, coaches, and referees representing six schools from around New England participated in over twenty patterns and sparring events. Participants ranged in experience from First Graders competing for the very first time to seasoned adult international champions.

Competition in the Color Belt divisions was lively. **Joanne Haley**, of **New England School of TKD**, saw her students win five gold, four silver, and six bronze medals in Gup patterns and sparring. **Syd Gardner's** students, from Boston, took home six gold, eight silver, and five bronze Gup medals. Students from the **Concord School of TKD** earned eight gold, seven silver, and five bronze medals in color belt patterns and sparring.

The Black Belt competitors were exciting to watch. **Alex Gough**, of **Sudbury TKD**, wowed judges with his strong, precise

execution, and took home the gold in I Dan patterns. **Justin Chi**, of Concord TKD, earned the gold in II Dan patterns. Concord's **Adelle Goetemann, Nadav DeSharone, William Wu, Prahkar Satay, Kurtis Chien-Young,** and **Samantha Glasberg** swept the medals categories for Black Belt patterns.

And, of course, Black Belt sparring is always a highlight of any tournament. In addition to standard brackets, this invitational offered opportunities for a number of "mixed events".

Boy/Girl and Dan/Gup rounds made for exciting demonstrations of skill, speed, and precision, and some surprising and energetic pairings.

The fun and excitement of tournament competition offered nearly two dozen Class C Referees opportunities to judge, keep score and time, and bracket. Many look forward to earning their Class B Referee badges in the coming year.

On December 10, 2011, Sr. Grand Master **C.E. Sereff** presided over the Second Dan testing

At the Concord Taekwon-Do Invitational



Above: Gotta be good-lookin' to have a Black Belt and medal at this tournament! Below: Gup level medalists.

Immediate left: Rebecca & Sarah square off; immediate left below, gup level competition. Far left above, Nadav & Prahkar spar; immediate left below, judges in Ring Two. Picture of the week: next page.





Adelle inspires William to back off. The Editor applauds his prudence.

of **Clarke Vestal** to II Dan at, fittingly, the First Avenue Presbyterian Church, Downtown Denver, Colorado

Clarke Vestal is the retired Pastor of the **First Avenue Presbyterian Church** and responsible for having the Taekwon Do class at that location. At 72 years of age Mr. Vestal is a true Taekwon-Do trooper! Mr. Vestal presented

several of his beautiful Bonsai to his instructors.

A reception in his honor was held at the church after the testing.

(Below left, Sr. G.M. Sereff and the testee. Below right, **Jung Sook, Bill Jennings, Ru Rim, G.M. Renee Sereff, Mr. Vestal, Sr. G.M. Sereff, Mssrs. Paul White and Jason Rose.**)





Above: new Second Dan **Elisa Thompson** and her instructor **Mr. Guy Williams**.

Master Van Hecke,

It doesn't seem to me that when I was a teen and young adult that I had as much going on as some of the youth do today. With school and the amount of homework that seems to be handed out to them. And for some that are old enough to have a license to drive, also have a job a few days a week. Whew... How do they put any sports into their schedule? They somehow do though, as many as 3 to 4 nights a week for some. And they do it week after week. The cooperation of the parents is a must. Their friends too are doing the same sports and or supporting them.

Elisa Thompson, who tested for Second Dan on December 2, falls into this category. She is a sophomore at Lathrop High school, has participated in many other sports at the school but always seems to also be involved in TKD. A couple of weekend days she works at Coldstone ice cream parlor.

Mr. Guy Williams

UTAH

On Nov 5th we held our annual State Championship tournament. The competitors represented eight different schools around the state (Dubbeld TKD, Community of Grace/Riley TKD, Butler/Sroykum TKD, Bradbury TKD, Holyoak TKD, Canyons Church/Hill TKD, Morishita TKD, Rocky Mountain TKD) as well as some from Rock Springs. We also want to thank the rest of the Rock Springs group who tried to come but got stuck in the bad weather.

On November 19th we had a black belt testing. Mr. Rob Riley VI Dan, had two special students testing. His son, Mr. Chris Riley tested for 2nd Dan after taking several long years off. He has come back with a vengeance, though and we are very excited to have him back. Another one of his long-time students, Mr. Robert Boyer, reached his goal and tested for his 1st Dan. It is always exciting when those funny young white-belts learn, grow, persevere and reach this important accomplishment.

One of Master William Dubbeld's students Mr. Steve Pastorino came to us a black belt from the WTF, and has worked several years to learn all the patterns, kicks, and training secrets of the USTF. He tested for his 1st Dan, and we'd like to welcome him now as an "official" USTF Black Belt! We'd also like to send another thanks again to all of the partners and families who supported these outstanding students.

Corinne Sroykum, Official Flash Stringer



Above, from left: **Mr. Chris Riley**, **Mr. Steve Pastorino**, and **Mr. Robert Boyer**.

Learning to be an Assistant Instructor

By Roselyn Romberg

In September, the Concord School of TKD kicked off the fall semester of its Assistant Instructor training program. **John Murphy**, Sixth Dan, provides each student with a Handbook of Best Practices for Assistant Instructors. The Handbook includes updated course materials, requirements, and a recommended program of study for all selected candidates. The course includes instruction in all standard technical aspects of TaeKwon-Do. Individual sections are devoted to teaching the mechanics of blocks, punches, kicks, strikes, stances, and sine wave to beginner students.

The training program also addresses the critical, and sometimes overlooked, topic of “how to teach”. Students learn how to demonstrate techniques to novice students and lead drills appropriate to different ages and ranks. They practice giving corrections and teaching proper DoJang conduct. Students learn how to teach breaking and sparring, and proper conditioning. The course also addresses topics such as handling challenging students and maintaining class order and discipline.

The program combines classroom-style instruction with in-class “on the job” practice covering three weekends and three weeks of practical instruction with Mr. Murphy. Prospective Assistant Instructors work first with individuals, then with groups and with full classes, always with at least one Instructor supervising.

The class gives students a chance to gain valuable teaching experience, and helps prepare them for the USTF Instructor course.

An added benefit of the course is the many opportunities it provides younger students and Gups to interact with and learn from older, more advanced students at the school. And many teenage and adult Black Belts have developed friendships and mentoring relationships with students at junior ranks as a result of assisting in classes.

CTKD will be repeating this popular course again in mid-spring, and once more in early Fall 2012.



Pictures from the Concord TKD Assistant Instructor Course. Above left, Jimmy teaches Charlotte; above right, Nadav instructs Victoria; bottom, Hillery leads class.

Senior Master Stan Martin Elected USTF President

By Flash Staff

On December 15, 2011, the ballots of Masters, Senior Masters, and USTF Regional and State Directors were counted by The Grand Masters Committee for the office of USTF President. The field consisted of two excellent and able candidates, Master **Ricky J. Todd** and Sr. Master **Stan Martin**. Both have a strong record of service to the USTF and to our beloved Art. According to Grand Master Renee Sereff, both candidates were well represented in the balloting.

The new USTF President, who will take office on January 1, 2012, is Sr. Master Martin.

Sr. Grand Master **Charles E. Sereff** will retire from his long and distinguished service to Taekwon-Do as our President, and with our thanks and acknowledgement of decades of outstanding effort on behalf of all of us. Effective January 1, 2012, Senior Grand Master Sereff will assume the office of **President Emeritus**.

Sr. Master Martin began his studies in Taekwon-Do in 1971 and took his First Dan Black Belt on August 18, 1975. He not only has the “complete package” of coursework completed and Instructor and Referee Certifications, he has covered the gamut of positions in his service to USTF, having been a State Director, a Regional Director, and an Executive Officer. Most recently he served as USTF Vice-President.

In 1983 Sr. Master Martin was given the Thomas J. Lipton Boys Club Sportsmanship Award, the first time the award was given in the United States. His legacy in Wyoming includes a

solid reputation for excellence as an instructor and as an instructor of instructors.

An avid hunter of elk, deer, and pheasant, Sr. Master Martin is perhaps an even more interested in pursuing American Indian artifacts. (Is archeology just another form of hunting?)

President-elect Martin is married to Carol, and says that he is surrounded by those people and things he loves and enjoys. He says this makes him believe he’s the luckiest man alive.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir:

I have taken to marketing my school on the internet. I’ve found that when you take out an ad in our local newspaper, couponing program at the grocery store or pay for “value packs” you are really paying for access to everyone, which includes people who could care less about new



The TKD Flash congratulates Sr. Master Stan Martin on his election as President of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation. We have great confidence that Sr. Master Martin has the skills and dedication necessary to continue the finest tradition in Taekwon-Do and carry forward the legacies of our Founder, Gen. Choi, Hong Hi, and Sr. Master Martin’s distinguished predecessor, President Emeritus Grand Master Charles E. Sereff.

recreational experiences for their children and are outside our target demographics.

The internet, on the other hand, is pretty cheap, and you can make sure if you're working with a professional to include the right terms to turn up when people search for what we offer in our area. (Experience tells us that people will travel no more than 30 minutes by road for our classes.)

Once somebody calls, they get me on the phone (forwarded from the school number), and I have a definite scripted sales pitch which usually can most often get them in the door.

Once they are in the door, we present a clean, pleasant-looking school environment complete with cute kids and good-looking faculty, including ME!

When they look at our bulletin boards, they see the Flash, so we look serious and "connected," as well as pictures of smiling adults and kids in TKD activity. (And our school announcements.)

We even have a second bulletin board with face pictures of faculty with their names and pictures of students. We take a photo of each student upon application with a school point-and-shoot camera we keep on premises. They next day I pick up the camera (or take it home with me when I'm the teacher), print the picture off, put the chld's first name on it, and put it up on the board so fellow students and faculty (who check it out before class) know enough to make the new student welcome. Plus, the new student gets to see pictures of classmates, which makes the newbie feel more at home. Since they are told to address faculty as "Mr." or "Ma'am," this gives them a quick review of what to call us. And they enjoy watching their pictures climb higher on the wall as they get promotions.

I'm sharing this simply because I haven't seen much about these issues in the Flash and I thought they might be of interest to my fellow school owners in USTF.

A School Owner

EDITORIAL

Normally it is the practice of the TKD Flash to do a bit of retrospective and appropriate thanks to our contributors and readers in the final issue of the year. Our December issue, however, was one of the most lengthy and content-intensive in our history and left little room. That said, we suppose January is not too late.

The Flash now enters its twenty-fourth year of publication, having grown from little more than a two-page regional association newsletter for the Editor's affiliated schools to the national newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation. Much is owed to the vision of Sr. Grand Master Charles Sereff and Grand Master Renee Sereff in accepting a stranger, most cordially, into their confidence.

We owe our contributors a great deal. Indeed, without them, their articles, pictures, and notices of events, your Editor would be hustling mightily churning out "fill," not something unknown among us professors but nevertheless not a welcome task.

Our readers have proven most enthusiastic, kind and supportive, not only in their comments to us, but in their promotion of the publication among their students and fellow martial artists. (Perhaps more than one has been won over to USTF and Traditional Ch'ang Hon Taekwon-Do through their wisdom in promulgating the positives we have.)

So, our gratitude to all of you--you help make it all worthwhile.

On a final note, your Editor cannot resist the temptation to comment upon the elections recently held for USTF President. In an age where "martial arts" have become almost synonymous with egoism, here-today-gone-tomorrow thinking, and show-biz baloney, we are very blessed in USTF. We have a unified system joined with humble and earnest leadership, leadership which has grappled with the question of continuation of principles and practices beyond the lives of individuals. As has been said in another context about others, we stand tall. Because we stand upon the shoulders of giants.