

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

On October 4 at Sereff Taekwon-Do, Master **Frank Hannon** will teach the USTF-sanctioned Ground Fighting course.

There will be an interschool gup tournament in Massachusetts on October 5.

October 11. USTF Referee Course. Sereff TKD. Come hone those skills!

On October 12 there will be a USTF Referee Course taught in the New England Region by Senior Master **Louis Reyes**.

On October 18, at Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, the **Sheboygan Falls Academy of Martial Arts** will conduct its Fall Tournament. The Tournament Director will be Wisconsin State Director **Jacqueline Karpinsky**, the Promoter

Master Robert Martin Joins Flash Staff

F.M. Van Hecke, Editor of the TKD Flash, the national newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation, announced on September 15th the appointment of Master Robert Martin as an official Stringer for the publication. Master Martin joins the company of Distinguished Stringers Roselyn Romberg and Ricky Todd and Stringers Corinne Sroykum, Renee Sereff, and Guy Williams on the repertorial staff.

Master Martin earned his Black Belt under Master Ron Maestas in 1991 and is currently affiliated with Maestas Taekwon-Do. He has traveled throughout the world in support of our beloved Art and continually displays the knowledge and wisdom reflected in that experience. His submissions to the Flash on behalf of Maestas TKD have uniformly been well-written, detailed, and accompanied by compelling photos. On March 15 of this year he achieved Seventh Dan Master before a distinguished panel of Grandmasters at Broomfield, CO.

On announcing the appointment in the Media Room of Flash Tower to an assembled excited but hushed audience of journalists, Van Hecke stated, "We are proud of this prestigious addition to our publication. The steady provision of timely news by our Stringers and others makes us as good as we are."

Master Martin responded, "I am pleased to work for the Flash. It's not only a way to tell about good work well done, it is a fun, creative opportunity and a way to support local schools wherever they are."





Charles B. Giotto, Hilija Spiessl, Brian Sowers, Anija Spiessl, Sara Wisuri, Duane Wisuri, Jessica Wisur, Eva Wisuri, Robert Ross, Kelly Ross, Faith Ross, and Scott Pyykola attended a Seminar, "Sparring(s) am Plural," at **Marquette Taekwon-do** in Marquette, Michigan on September 6. This club has been around, doing the TKD thing, in excellent and faithful (to the General's teachings) ways, since 1971. Because all participants were Gup Four or above and more

Black Belts and teachers than lower gup levels (there were no children in attendance), the seminar provided an opportunity to go more in-depth and technical on subjects from Three-Step through Foot-technique Sparring, with considerable attention to teaching method. Free Sparring strategy and philosophy occupied the last hours of the day. Mr. Chuck Giotto, the U.P. State Director, sponsored the seminar. The seminar was taught by Sr. Master F.M. Van Hecke. *Photo credit: Kathleen Van Hecke*

Fourth Dan **Marc Mikkelson**. More information at threecatsrule@yahoo.com

On October 18 there will be a gup test at **Concord TKD**.

October 19 is the date for 2014's **Sereff Fall Championship**. The competition will be fast and furious, the officiating the very best. Contact HQ for details.

On November 1 there will be a Black Belt testing at the **School of Classical Taekwon-Do**, Crystal Lake, Illinois. Master **Braxton Miller**, USTF State Director for Illinois, is the Promoter. Students from SOCTKD and the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, Wisconsin, will participate.

There will be a **USTF Class B Instructor Course** conducted November 8th & 9th, starting 8:00 am each morning. This will be taught by Grand Master Mike Winegar. Registrations are due HQ by no later than October 11th. YHE guarantees this series is phenomenal!

The **2014 USTF-UTAH State Championship Tournament** will be November 8 in Salt Lake City.

The **Concord Invitational Tournament** will be November 9 (date subject to confirmation).

USTF-UTAH will have its Fall Black Belt Testing on November 15 in Salt Lake City.

On November 22 Offutt AFB will be the site of another Taekwon-Do testing under the leadership of Master **Ricky Todd**.

On November 23, **Concord School of TKD** will have a Black Belt test for Concord, **Sudbury TKD**, **New England TKD**, and **Victory TKD**.

On the same day, November 23, there will be a Black Belt test at **Maestas Taekwon-Do** in Arvada, Colorado.

On December 6 there will be a Black Belt test at Sereff Taekwon-Do.

The Concord School of Taekwon-Do will host the **USTF National and International Invitational 2015**. at Brandeis University on July 25 & 26, 2015 in Historic Boston Massachusetts.

Information packages will be going out shortly, questions or requests for more information can be sent to can be sent to; John Murphy at the Concord School of Taekwon-Do, 77 Powder Mill Rd., Acton MA, 01720 or to j.murphy@concorditftkd.com

The Flash will award both a Pictorial Submission of the Year and a Best Article by a Non-Stringer for 2014 in December. Keep those



Sanjit Bhat, I Dan, started training at the Concord School of Taekwon-Do when he was six. He tested this past year for I Dan. Sanjit, now 13, is a regular participant at tournaments. He competes in all events, and assists as Timekeeper, Scorekeeper, and Judge. Sanjit has medaled at national and international events, including at Maestas in 2010 and at the General Choi Cup in Ottawa in 2012. Sanjit is an avid hiking enthusiast, and loves being out in nature. He is an accomplished trumpet player, now studying at the New England Conservatory. When asked recently what he was most proud of, Sanjit immediately replied that “getting his dad to train, too” made him very happy. Sanjit’s father, **Satish Bhat**, started taking Taekwon-Do four



years ago, is Gup Four Blue Belt, and is as enthusiastic and involved now as his son. Left, breaking, right, hiking.

Submitted by **Roselyn Romberg, DFS**

great photos in a drawer? Why not share them with your fellow practitioners?

AROUND THE COUNTRY

The **Region 6 Battle of the Belts** was held September 20 at Kirksville, Missouri. The Promoter, Sr. Master **William Stephenson**. Hopefully, a report in the next TKD Flash.

The New England Referee Team worked at the 19th New York ITF Tournament on September 28. It appears USTF’s aggressive approach to umpire training has been recognized by non-USTF organizations. Prior examples are GM Phap Lu’s tournament in Ottawa and service of our referees at other schools’ tournaments in Wisconsin, where we furnished the Tournament Director and all contest rings (and have been invited back...)

Ahn Jung-Geun’s Influence on Modern Society

By Patrick Jankowski*

Ahn Jung-Geun, a Korean independence activist noted for his opposition to the Japanese merger with Korea, was born September 2, 1879, and was executed in Ryojun, China on March 26, 1910 for the assassination of the Japanese Resident General of Korea, Ito Hirobumi, the man regarded as the chief architect of the Japanese plans to occupy and rule Korea. The assassination took place on October 26, 1909 at Harbin Station, Manchuria. Ahn shot Ito three times on the railway platform, and was convicted and sentenced to death after 6 trials, the last of which Ahn thought was unfair.

The assassination of Ito by Ahn was praised by Koreans and many Chinese as well, who were struggling against Japanese invasion at the time. Well-known Chinese political leaders



Hirobumi Ito, second from left, steps from the train in Harbin Railway Station, on Oct. 26, 1909. A few minutes later, he was killed by young Korean independence fighter Ahn Jung-geun. / Korea Times



Above, Ahn, below, Ito.



Mr. **Jason Rose**, Center Referee, hustles to reduce the carnage as Sixth Dan **Chad Smith** and Fourth Dan **Jordan McDill** square off at the **15th Annual Wyoming Invitational** held September 13 in Casper, Wyoming. **Tournament**. Sr. Grand Master Sereff will be permitting competition up through Sixth Dans in future. 14 schools from seven states participated. Tournament Director was **Jerry Sisco** and the Chief Referee **Roland Flynn**.



wrote poems acclaiming Ahn. The Japanese government, on the other hand, was outraged by the incident and ordered Ahn's immediate death, even though the judge presiding at Ahn's last trial ordered a stay of execution.

Ahn's legacy lives on in both Asian and American culture. He is regarded by Koreans and Chinese as a hero, and by the Japanese as a criminal or terrorist. In Korea, he was posthumously awarded the Republic of Korea Medal of Order of Merit for National Foundation in 1962 by the Korean Government, the most prestigious civil decoration in the Republic of Korea, for his efforts fighting for Korean independence. A memorial hall was erected in Seoul in 1970 by the South Korean government, and was reopened and re-dedicated on October 26, 2010 to commemorate the 99th year of Ahn's death, and to honor his spirit. Another memorial

hall honoring Ahn was opened on Sunday, January 19, 2014 in Harbin, China.

The Japanese government protested the Harbin memorial and called Ahn a "terrorist." Yoshihide Suga, a Japanese politician currently serving as Chief Cabinet Secretary told reporters, "The co-ordinated move by China and South Korea based on a one-sided view [of history] is not conducive to building peace and stability." South Korea's foreign ministry said it hoped the museum would "set the path for genuine peace and co-operation based on correct historical awareness". Mr Suga, on the other hand, said the "extremely regrettable" monument was "not contributing to building peace and cooperative relations in this region" He went on to say, "We acknowledge [Mr. Ahn] as a terrorist who received the death sentence for killing our first prime minister".

Seoul's foreign ministry fired back with a statement condemning the cabinet secretary. We "cannot repress our astonishment that the chief cabinet secretary, who represents the Japanese government, makes such [an] irrational and ignorant comment. This clearly shows that Japan's governing power still has regressive historic perspective that beautifies and justifies [the] history of imperial invasion," it said. Senior South Korean politicians went even further, turning the accusation of terrorism back on Tokyo. During a meeting of the cabinet Tuesday, Saenuri Party Secretary General Hong Moon-jong said: "If Ahn Jung-geun was a terrorist, then Japan was a terrorist state for having mercilessly invaded and plundered countries around it."

The floor leader of the main opposition Democratic Party took to Twitter to express the same sentiment. "If Ahn is a terrorist, Japan is a nation of terrorism," Jun Byung-hun wrote on his official account. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei also responded to Mr. Suga's comments, telling a regularly scheduled

news conference that construction of the memorial is "justified and reasonable. China does not accept the so-called protest by the Japanese side," Mr. Hong said.

In addition to the memorials there are many modern references to Ahn in ceremony, cinema, martial arts and other media. On March 26, 2010, a nation-wide centenary tribute to Ahn was held in South Korea, including a ceremony led by the Prime Minister Chung Un-Chan and tribute concerts. The North Korean film *An Jung Gun Shoots Ito Hirobumi* [release date not found], directed by former North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, is a dramatized narrative story of the event. The South Korean film *Thomas Ahn Jung-Geun*, released on September 10, 2004, is another dramatized story of the event. Ahn's story is summarized in the song *1909* by the band Scrabble.

In 2009, the Korean navy commissioned the third ship of Son Wonil class submarines, *ROKS Ahn Jung-Geun (SS 075)*, in honor of him.

On Saturday September 20 **Concord Taekwon-Do** conducted a gup level testing. Testing successfully for Gup 9 Yellow Stripe were **Zadie Morse** and **Bhawna Tyagi**. **Ian Kim** and **Manas Kontham** were promoted to Gup 7 Green Stripe, and **Lea Bodmer** to Gup 6 Green Belt. The enthusiastic candidates for Gup 5 Blue Stripe included **Dexter Greer**, sibling sets **Alexander Kim** and **Maxwell Kim**, **Joseph Won** and **Deborah Won**, and **Andrew Pak**, **Anna Pak** and **Joshua Pak**, and **Lauren Kim**, Paul Sorrenti was promoted to Gup 4 Blue Belt. Right, Ian Kim breaks with front snap kick.

--Roselyn Romberg, 1st Dan, D.F.S.





Above: Ahn Jung-geun Memorial Hall, located on Namsan in central Seoul.

Below at left: A diorama depicting the assassination of Ito Hirobumi by Ahn Jung-Geun.

Ahn is commemorated in the martial art Taekwondo with the Joon Gun pattern being dedicated to him.

Ahn even makes an appearance a computer game as a Great Spy character in the PC game Civilization IV expansion pack, *Beyond the Sword*. Ahn’s influence is still very strong more than 100 years after his death, and there are many modern references and tributes to him. His legacy is both a source of pride for the Korean and Chinese people, and of friction for the Japanese.

[*Mr. Jankowski is a Gup One Black Belt Candidate at the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, Wisconsin. He studies with his daughter Alyssa, also a Gup One Candidate.]

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir:

I’ve been trying to contact Mr. _____ and Master _____, but for some reason my e-mails keep bouncing. Do you have more up-to-date information?

Mr. _____

The Editor:

I am sorry, Sir, the addresses I have are the latest from HQ. Maybe just a reminder to all of us--keep your e-mail addresses (and street address and phone) current with HQ and others in the organization with whom you wish to correspond. You’re important to all of us!



Sir:

We recently travelled for two tournaments and are anxiously waiting to travel to Broomfield, Colorado in October for the Sr. Grand Master Sereff Fall Championship on October 19th, 2014. We travelled to Casper, Wyoming on September 13th for the 15th Annual Wyoming Invitational USTF Tournament, hosted by Sr. Master Martin and the Wyoming crew. There were about 90 people in attendance with USTF schools from Colorado, Nebraska, Utah, Alaska, Washington and Wyoming. We spent over 24 hours on this round trip adventure on the road and had a blast. Sr. Master Martin and his crew have their annual tournament every

September and I would encourage everyone to consider this tournament in your travel plans. I have included a picture for our group which included Mr. Smith from Missouri and Mrs. Slocum from Alaska who travelled with us to Casper. I would like to personally thank Sr. Master Martin for the great dinner and social festivities. He is a very gracious host.

The next Saturday, September 20th we packed up and hit the road for Kirksville, Missouri to participate in the 26th Annual Battle of the Belts USTF Tournament, hosted by Sr. Master Stephenson. There were about 80 people in attendance with USTF schools from Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Illinois. We spent over 10 hours on this adventure and as always enjoyed spending time with our Taekwon-Do brothers and sisters engaged in another great event. This tournament is also held every September and continues to grow. I have included a picture from our group travels to this event also. We had a great dinner with both Sr. Master Stephenson's. The Missouri group is a tight knit group and a great Taekwon-Do family. Of course I am a little biased since I am originally from Missouri myself.

We are looking forward to the Sr. Grand Master Sereff Fall Championship in October. This is the biggest USTF tournament every year and runs at a fast pace. This year we have team breaking, individual patterns and sparring divisions. The students at Axe Taekwon-Do are working hard to be ready for this event. My humble suggestion is for any school, instructor or student that feels they want a challenge in Taekwon-Do to look at all the tournaments we have held in the USTF this year. It just takes a little commitment to travel! I guarantee you my students think it's worth it. I know that I do also. Taekwon!

Master Ricky J. Todd

USTF Director, Region 3

Photos. Above left, the Casper crew, Ms. Slocum, Ms. Bowling, Mrs. Ragone, Mr. Bushor, K., Ms Ragone, Mr. Bushor, J, Master Todd and Mr. Smith, seated. Right, the Kirksville band Ms. Mansfield, Mr. Bushor, J., Master Todd, Ms. Bowling, Ms. Ragone, Mr. Cook, Mr. Ragone, Mr. Bushor, K., Ms. Chamberlin, Ms. Swann, Mrs. Ragone, Mr. Chamberlin & Mrs. Chamberlin.





September 6, 2014, Sr. Grand Master **Charles E. Sereff** taught a special class at Sereff Taekwon Do with a main goal, presenting his personal challenge coins to the Black Belts in class. The inspiration for the coins was presented by Master **Ricky Todd** of Nebraska.

The following was the letter given out with the coins:

As the story goes, during WWI, a Lieutenant ordered small, solid bronze medallions struck, which he then presented to the other pilots in his squadron as mementos of their service together. The coin was gold-plate, bore the squadron's insignia and was quite valuable. One of the pilots in the squadron, who had never owned anything like the coin placed it in a leather pouch he wore around his neck for safekeeping. A short while later, this pilot's aircraft was heavily damaged by ground fire, forcing him to land behind enemy lines, resulting in his capture by the Germans. The Germans confiscated the personal belongings from his pockets, but they didn't catch the leather pouch around his neck.

On his way to a permanent POW facility, he was held overnight in a small German-held French village near the front. During the night, the town was bombarded by the British, creating enough confusion to allow the pilot to escape. The pilot avoided German patrols by donning civilian attire, but all of his identification had been confiscated so he had no way to prove his identity. With great difficulty, he crept across no-man's land and made contact with a French patrol. Unfortunately for him, the French had been on the lookout for German saboteurs dressed as civilians. The French mistook the American pilot for a German saboteur and immediately prepared to execute him.

Desperate to prove his allegiance and without any identification, the pilot pulled out the coin from his leather pouch and showed it to his French captors. One of the Frenchmen recognized the unit insignia on the coin and delayed the execution long enough to confirm the pilot's identity.

Once the pilot safely returned to his squadron, it became a tradition for all members to carry their coin at all times. To ensure compliance, the pilots would challenge each other to produce the coin. If the challenged couldn't produce the coin, he was required to buy a drink of choice for the challenger, if the challenged could produce the coin, the challenger would purchase the drink.

Lt. Col **Patrick Finan** helped Sr. GM Sereff with the artwork and design. One the main reasons they can not be sold is they have Senior Grand Master Sereff's Marine Corp number on the back with the Marine Corp Symbol. Today the armed forces uses our Social Security number but when SGM Sereff



was in the service, they assigned each soldier their

own number. When you work out in his class, he presents these coins. He is sending the USTF Officers, Regional and State Directors these coins as an appreciation of their service to the USTF and him.

On left, a photo of that class, the first recipients of Senior Grand Master Charles E. Sereff's Challenge Coin.

