

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts
The National Newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation

The TKD Flash is published by the Academy of Martial Arts, Inc. The Editor is F.M. Van Hecke. The mailing address is P.O. Box 853, Grafton, WI 53024. E-Mail fmvhl@mac.com. Archived at USTF Region V site www.ustf-region5.org Persons submitting photographs, letters to the editor, reactions to published articles or articles will be deemed to have consented to their publication unless specifically specifying otherwise. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission prior to publication. Persons submitting materials represent that they have the right to publish the submitted materials and images and submit the same without seeking compensation. Award-Winning Contributing Staff: Distinguished Stringers Roselyn Romberg, Ricky Todd, Renee' Sereff; and Stringers Corinne Sroykum, Guy Williams, Robert Martin, Mario Manera, Lisa Eastin, David Mason, and Melanie Bunch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On May 7 there will be a testing for **Axe Taekwon-Do** students. Sr. Master **Ricky Todd** will preside.

Also on May 7 the **AAMA Spring Classic Tournament** will be held in Grafton, Wisconsin. Mr. **James Pals**, Fifth Dan, will serve as Tournament Director.



New USTF School in Wyoming! Article, page 2.

On Saturday April 2nd, Wyoming members had their monthly Black Belt Class in Laramie as a demo for the Grand Opening of Wyoming's newest school, **Snowy Range Taekwon Do**. This brings the total number of schools in Wyoming to eight. Mr **Jordan McDill**, 4th degree black belt is Head Instructor.

Mr McDill has been attending classes at the University of Wyoming in Laramie for a couple of years. He has worked very hard to find a location that would allow him to start classes without much success. He has been conducting classes informally at different facilities around town, mostly with a lot of resistance. Recently he hooked up with the Laramie Dance Center and they were very excited to have a TKD class in their facility.

Since this was a demo instead of a regular Black Belt Class Sr. Master Martin invited color belts to participate as well, so we had green and blue belts, as well as our red belt and above for a normal Black Belt Class. All of the Schools in Wyoming were represented for this opening demo. Martins **Casper TKD**, **Rec Center TKD**, **Wyoming TKD**, and **Casper College TKD** all from Casper, as well as **Sheridan TKD**, and **Rock Springs TKD**.

We wish Mr McDill and the Snowy Range TaeKwon Do The very best of luck and the greatest success. Congratulations on being the newest school in Wyoming, as well as the USTF! (Photo: what demo doesn't involve a smashing good time, according to Mr. Jordan McDill?)

--Sr. Master Stan Martin



Also on May 7 a USTF Basic Ho Sin Sool course will be conducted at **Burning Phoenix Taekwon-Do**, Salt Lake City.

From the General's loyal student and our good friend Grand Master Phap Lu next door in Canada, MAY 14,15 2016 WORLD CUP, OTTAWA, CANADA, hosted by www.lustaekwondo.com

On May 14 in Salt Lake City, the **16th Annual Utah Cup Open Tournament**, will be held, with Master **William Dubbeld** and Mr. **Chris Wadium** sharing duties..

There will be a Black Belt Testing at **Burning Phoenix Taekwon-Do** on May 14. We can look forward to yet more "Brothers in Arms."

Flyer's Taekwon-Do will host a Black Belt test on May 21. The Promoter is Master Greene.

The **9th Annual Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament** will be held on May 21 in Bellevue, Nebraska. Good competition, well officiated, as to be expected from these folks.

On May 22 **Maestas Taekwon-Do** will conduct a Black Belt test at Arvada, Colorado.

“The Big Clean-Up” (literally, we clean the dojang within an inch of its life) at the Grafton AMA will be May 22. The event is held annually. Supervisors will be Ms. **Kristi Slattery** and Mr. **Matthew Thur**.

The **New England/New York Regional Black Belt Test** will be held at **Concord Taekwon-Do** on May 22.

On June 3 Mr. **Jeremy Bennett** will lead a Taekwon-Do Camping Trip in Sardis, Mississippi.

A Black Belt test is anticipated in **Wisconsin** on June 4 pending approval of Headquarters.

The **2016 Utah Spring Black Belt Testing** will be held on June 4.

On August 20 a combined Black Belt and gup testing at **Axe Taekwon-Do** at Offut Air Force Base will take place.



At Salt Lake Comic Con “Fan X,” the possibilities of changes to traditional Taekwon-Do’s uniforms are definitively rejected. Nevertheless, from Left to Right: “Ace” (Ms. A. Gemmell, I Dan); “Volcana” (Ms. Samantha Williams); “Poison Ivy” (Ms. Kristie Firmont, I Dan); “The Joker” (Mr. Eric Gemmell, V Dan); “The Riddler” (a guest, Ms. Hardman); “Killer Frost” (Mrs. Alex Baird); “Catwoman” (Ms. Melanie Bunch, II Dan); “Harley Quinn” (Ms. Abigail Friese); and in the back, “Scarecrow” (Mr. Luis Chavez, II Dan).

Ms. Melanie Bunch, Flash Stringer

On September 17 the **Seventeenth Annual Wyoming Challenge** will be held at the Casper Recreation Center, Casper, Wyoming.

On September 24 the **Second Annual Kirksville Invitational Tournament** will be

held in Kirksville, Missouri. The Tournament Director will be Sr. Master Ricky Todd, and the Chief Referee Master Dustin Stephenson. Questions? mdustinstephenson@gmail.com

Fifty Years of Teaching

Over 150 Instructors and Students gathered in Broomfield Colorado on April 16, 2016. to celebrate over 50 years of teaching by Sr. Grand Master Charles Sereff. The states represented were Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi,

F l o r i d a , Michigan, and Illinois. At 1:00 pm, Sr. Grand Master entered the gym floor for his final class. The first three rows were Grand Masters, Sr. Masters and Masters of the USTF there to honor their instructor. He started class off with the



Student Oath and Tenets of Taekwon Do and then warm ups starting with Right and Left Four Direction Punch. At one point we did platoon groups but no one was disappointed and all left that class with renewed energy to go to their gyms and continue to teach and train! The valuable lessons he taught through history and stories will last each of us a lifetime. Sr. Grand Master thanked his doctors for saving his life and enabling him to keep teaching over his long career. His family joined him on the floor, Kim Sereff, Guy and Terry Sereff, Misty and Jason Carson. The celebration Champagne toast was given by Sr. GM Sereff who toasted us all including himself! A special Thank you to Wendy, Gary, Terry, Karen, Anita, Kathy, Guy and Robin for pouring all that champagne and distributing it with alacrity. Presentations started with Grand Master Paul De Baca presenting his white belt in a shadow box with special embroidery on it. Sr. Master Stan Martin presented a planned Fishing Trip in a book and Sr. Master Earl Weiss presented a special coin in honor of this day. Grand Master Renee' Sereff presented a photo journal of the many seminars and class pictures down through the years along with a plaque with SGM's Bronzed fist inscribed with Congratulations for 50 years of Teaching, "Promoting Over 12,000 First Dans." The class was followed by Das Meyer chocolate cake and pizza plus entertainment by Misty and Jason Carson. (Misty is SGM Sereff's Granddaughter.) A few of those in attendance are pictured here, and the story continues on the next page.

Grand Master Renee' Sereff, D.T.F.

“Promoting over 12,000 First Dans”

Certainly USTF boasts more truly high-ranking objectively tested advanced degrees of Black Belt than any national federation of martial artists in the world. However, what we all remember especially well was our first degree test to First Dan. In commemoration of the occasion of Sr. Grand Master C.E. Sereff’s final class and over fifty years of teaching our Art, Utah State Director James Sroykum took photos of many of those present for Sr. Grand Master’s final class on April 16 by **decade** of achieving their first degrees. They are too many to name here, even the comparatively few active and in attendance, but here they are (and continued on the next page) by decade. To the right, the Sixties. Below, the Seventies.



On October 9 and 10 there will be a USTF Class C Instructor course taught by Grand Master Mike Winegar at **Bodystrong Taekwon-Do** in Sequim, Washington. Promoter: Mr. **Brandon Stoppani**. Teaching the course will be Grand Master **Mike Winegar**. Bound to be excellent and, of course, thorough.

On November 5 you can look forward to tournament action in the **2016 Utah State Championships** in Salt Lake City.

Planning ahead (the mark of organized leadership), Sr. Master **Ricky Todd** will promote a testing at Axe Taekwon-Do on November 19.

Utah’s 2016 Fall Black Belt Testing will be held November 19.

On November 20 expect a Black Belt test at Arvada, Colorado, for **Maestas Taekwon-Do**.

Burning Phoenix Taekwon-Do has scheduled a Black Belt test for December 3.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

On April 2 **Coastal Taekwon-Do** in Lincoln City, Oregon, held a Black Belt testing. Mr. **Craig Craddock**, Promoter.

(Continued on Page 9)



Posing in tribute to Sr. Grand Master C.E. Sereff, the parade of decades of First Dan achievement continues. Above, the 1980's; Below, the '90's. Continued on the next page.





And, above, The Millenials, representing those achieving First Dan in the first decade of our new century. On into the future, those achieving First Dan in the 2010's, pictured below.





Af his final class on April 16 Sr. Grand Master Charles E. Sereff yielded to requests and signed autographs for over two hours. Service, even after it's "over." And what's a party without a cake? Here, "the boss" cuts into that cake.



My Beloved Students, Dear Friends, Family:

Thank you so much for Saturday. My last formal class was a high light of my TKD life. Family, friends, students and instructors, so many people on the floor training.

Thank you for all the kind words, the cards and presentations.

Special thanks to Grand Master Renee' Sereff for her hard work in putting this together and to my lovely wife Kim who kept me going despite all the medical issues I have been through. A special thanks to my only grand daughter Misty and her husband Jason Carson for some great music. I shared some special moments with my youngest son Guy.

I feel bad because I didn't get to personally talk to everybody, but as you saw, it was a little overwhelming. It was bitter sweet emotional day.

Thanks to all of you for being a big part of my life's journey.

Sr. Grand Master C.E. Sereff

Bodystrong Taekwon-Do Academy hosted a USTF Weapons self-defense ho sin sool course on April 23 at Sequim, Washington. Mr. **Brandon Stoppani** instructed this course.

On April 30 there was a Third Dan test at **Rock Springs Taekwon-Do** in Wyoming.

Some Thoughts from YHE

The Flash generally doesn't editorialize about a single occasion, but Sr. Grand Master C.E. Sereff's final class was not merely a single occasion--it was a celebration of many, many occasions, each class an occasion, a learning opportunity through many, many years.

We don't know when the Good Lord will take us, but perhaps it is best to celebrate a life well-lived when the products of that life are available. Because it's their celebration and expression of gratitude, too.

I've taught a few classes in my 49 years in Taekwon-Do, and I know what it takes: preparation. Sure, you see the guy up front, your instructor, and you figure, "Hey, it comes easy for him, he's a (*insert Degree here*)."

The fact is, it ain't easy. It takes work to prepare. And preparation requires giving something of yourself. Time. Effort. Concentration.

Is preparation important? Here's what Paul "Bear" Bryant, a giant in his own field, had to say: "It's not the will to win that matters...It's the will to prepare to win that matters."

One of the highest compliments Sr. Grand Master would give, both of a testing student and that student's instructor, was that he or she (the testing student), was "well prepared."

Now, you're probably a winner already if you're reading this, because you're likely a practitioner of Taekwon-Do. You make the

effort to study, to improve yourself. That's being a winner.

But you wouldn't be a winner in the way of Taekwon-Do if you hadn't been prepared and if somebody, prepared, hadn't taught you.

"Chuck" Sereff is a unique sort of person. He seems to have worked his tail off for literal generations to bring us another man's invention, refined it, preserved it, taught it, and never, particularly, asked for thanks. In fact, all I can think he ever asked for was loyalty and the attention that would make you better.

But the fact is, he's made winners. And for that work, that leadership, that sacrifice, those many, many preparations, one can only say a heartfelt thanks.

Every time you step on the floor, tie that belt, bow to that flag, and start your work, honor his legacy of hard work and unceasing preparation.

I always try to.