

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 fmvh1@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 March 5, the **Winter Warriors** tournament at **Giorgio's Academy** in Sudbury, Massachusetts.

On March 11 there will be a Black Belt test at Broomfield, Colorado.

On March 18 there will be a Black Belt test at **Senatobia Taekwon-Do**, Senatobia, Mississippi.

The **New England Regional Interschool Tournament** will be held at Concord Taekwon-Do on March 19.

On March 25 at Arvada, Colorado: **The Maestas TKD Challenge 17**. Contact--Master Robert Martin.

On March 25 at Concord Taekwon-Do, the focus, led by Mr. **Tom Gibbons**, IV Dan, on patterns Toi-Gye through Choong-Moo.



Students in the Pacific Northwest started the 2017 year in the right spirit by having a breaking seminar taught by Master **David Mason** followed immediately by a black belt test on January 21. Five students of Mr. **Brandon Stoppani's Bodystrong TaeKwon-Do** in Sequim, Washington, tested. 2nd Dan candidates were Mssrs. **John Golbeck**, **Troy Phipps**, and **Trenton Phipps**. 1st Dan candidates were Mr. **Larry Muckley** and Ms. **Jaden Rego**. Mr. Golbeck, the most senior in age of all testing, received the high test score, reminding us all that age is just a number. Master David Mason presided. From left seated: Mr. Stoppani, Master Mason; standing, Ms. Rego, Mssrs. Trenton Phipps, Golbeck, Troy Phipps, and Muckley.

--Ms. Linda Allen



Wow! Over 69 kids from 4 schools joined us on January 28 for the **Annual Sereff Junior Tournament and Chili Cookoff**. The gym was packed with lots of parents, kids, instructors and referees plus 17 crock pots of Chili waiting to be judged! We had a few more participants than we expected therefore it went a little longer than usual but the kids were fantastic and of course loved the Pinata at the end! [Editor's Note: what might we learn about love if we were to interview said pinata at this point?]

The purpose of this event is to help the juniors adjust to a tournament in a friendly way, educate and critique referees and the most important thing is to have fun! Mr. **Jason Rose** made sure that happened! We want to thank **Thornton Taekwon Do, Maestas Taekwon Do, New Life Taekwon Do, and Foothills Taekwon Do** for accepting our invitation, Dr. **Shevaun Duiker** and **Bobby Klob** for making sure our kids were safe, and to Sr. Master **Kirk Steadman, Jason Rose, and Cameo Zugschwert** for running the event.



Our chili winners for this event were Grand Master Renee' Sereff, Kui and Mrs. Wright! We want to thank everyone who brought chili and all the fixins' to enjoy after the event! We look forward to the last Saturday of January 2018 for the next one! Invitations will go out in December!

Above left: some winners, and, right, chili can give you wings.

Grand Master Renee' Sereff, D.F.F.

On April 2 there will be a USTF Referee Course at Concord Taekwon-Do taught by Grand Master **Louis Reyes**.

On April 23 Grand Master **Louis Reyes** will conduct a class on Third and Fourth Dan patterns at Concord Taekwon-Do.

The **10th Annual Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament** will be April 22 in Bellevue, Nebraska. Sr. Master **Dustin Stephenson** will be Tournament Director and Fourth Dan **Patrick Finan**, Chief Referee. Contact: Sr. Master Ricky Todd at ustfneb@cox.net or Mr. Kevin Bushor at kbushor@cox.net

On April 30 a Black Belt Test will be conducted at the Sheboygan Falls Academy of Martial Arts, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. High noon. The Promoter is Wisconsin USTF Director Mrs. **Jacqueline Karpinsky**.

On May 13 there will be a combined Black Belt and Gup testing at **Axe Taekwon-Do**.

On May 14 **Concord Taekwon-Do** will host a class on Fifth and Sixth Dan Patterns to be led by GM Louis Reyes. **View Martial Arts & Fitness, Master David Mason, Promoter.**

May 20, a USTF Breaking Seminar will be conducted by Sr. Master **Ricky Todd at Mountain** **USTF NATIONALS** will be held June 24 and 25, 2017, in Broomfield, Colorado. Deadline for Black Belt registration June 1.



On Friday, February 10, 2017, I was honored to have been invited to attend the retirement ceremony from the US Air Force for of one of my students. Lt Col **Patrick Finan** retired with 24 years of active service to the U.S. Air Force. Mr. Finan is a 4th degree black belt in the USTF and currently serves as the USTF Armed Forces Director. He was gracious enough to have me sit in the reserved seating area which was not expected, but greatly appreciated since I had a close view of the ceremony which was well attended.



I was at first impressed on his important day that when he saw me he came over to me and extended his hand in our traditional Taekwon-Do handshake and gave a slight bow. Again, unexpected since he was in his service dress uniform. This slight extension of etiquette probably went unnoticed, but not by me.

His ceremony was very professional and at times emotional as they tried to cover his 24 years of active service, which is an impossible feat in a short time period. The presiding official, Colonel Robert Billings, the 595th Command and Control Group Commander spoke at length about Lt Col Finan's military and Taekwon-Do background. Col Billings compared his rise through the officer ranks as a student rising through the Taekwon-Do ranks, stopping to share with us some of his accomplishments throughout Lt Col Finan's career. That was pretty impressive for a speaker with no knowledge of our Taekwon-Do history. Lt Col Finan's family was in attendance and the speaker did a great job of including them in this special occasion, with flowers, certificates and coin presentations.

In the end this day was and should have been about Lt Col Finan and his achievements over the past 24 years. He had an outstanding career in the Air Force and he is from strong Air Force family with a sister that is an officer and a father that retired as a Chief Master Sergeant, the highest enlisted grade. Particularly impressive was the flag folding ceremony led by the Bellevue East High School Junior ROTC. This detail was led by Lt Col Finan's son Patrick, a former black belt in the USTF. A heart tugging moment to see the son pass on the folded flag to his father for his retirement. I never cry but I swear something was in my eye at that moment.

Lt Col Finan leaves the Air Force for a position leading the Bellevue East High School Junior ROTC Program, where I am sure he will continue to mold young minds and encourage the youth to consider military service. I am glad to have Mr. Finan as a student in my school and the USTF. His service to his country was appreciated and will be forever.

Sr. Master Ricky J. Todd, D.F.S.



The Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, held its Annual Women’s Basketball Outing on February 19 at “The Al,” Marquette University, Milwaukee. The scoreboard right tells the story. In attendance among other family members and friends of the Academy were Mr. **James Pals**, Mr. **Patrick Jankowski**, Ms. **Alyssa Jankowski**, Mrs. **Valerie Peters**, Miss **Valerie Locklair**, **Katelyn Dick**, **Zach Kelley**, **Gabe Peters**, **Dan Peters**, **Brandon Kelley**, **Tessa Locklair**, and Sr. Master **F.M. Van Hecke**. Above, a bunch of troublemakers, above right, the guys behind the school flag (left, Zach Kelley, right, his brother Brandon), caught the free mini-basketballs.



2017 USTF Technical Course taught by Grand Master **Mike Winegar**, Technical Director of the USTF, on July 22, 2017.

On August 19 there will be a weapons self-defense course at **Sereff Taekwon-Do**. Also, a Belt and Color Belt test at **Axe Takeown-Do**.

On August 26 a Taekwon-Do Tournament will be held at Kirksville, Missouri. Sr. Master **William Stephenson** is the Promoter. Sr. Master **Ricky Todd** will be Tournament Director and Sr. Master **Dustin Stephenson**, Chief Referee.

On September 16, the **18th Annual Wyoming International USTF TKD Tournament** in Casper, Wyoming.

A Black Belt testing will be held November 4 for **Harrisburg Taekwon-Do** and for **Mexico Taekwon-Do** and **Columbia Academy**.

A Black Belt testing will be held at **Axe Taekwon-Do** on November 18.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

On February 25 there was a Ground Fighting Course taught by the able Mr. **Tony Giese** at Casper, Wyoming.

A Black Belt test was held Jan. 28th at **Mountain View Taekwon-Do**.

Students from Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Nebraska attended a USTF Referee Course at Broomfield, Colorado on February 18. This was the 25th year anniversary of Sr. Master **Kirk**



Steadman teaching this course! There were 29 refreshers and 24 first time applicants. and the results of the course were very good with everyone passing, however, many did not have the experience or age and therefore will be considered Pass In Training. Congratulations to all of our new USTF Referees. Below are course participants and instrutors and, on left, Sr. Grand Master **C.E. Sereff**.

Grand Master Renee Sereff, D.F.S.



On February 16 a gup testing was held at the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, Wisconsin. Presiding were Dr. **Rick Bauman**, 6th Dan, Mrs. **Mary Lubner**, 5th Dan, Ms. **Chris Langlois**, Fourth Dan, Ms. **Valerie Locklair**, First Dan, F.M. Van Hecke, 8th Dan, and, assisting, Ms. **Rachel LaPorte**, 1st Dan, Mr. **Matthew Thur**, 3rd Dan, and Mrs. **Valerie Peters**, 1st Dan. The Corner was ably handled by Ms. LaPorte, **Shantanu Chaudhuri**, Gup 1, and **Yash Jha**, Gup 2.

The following tested for Gup Nine High White Belt: **Eric Wall** and **Sophie Wall**. For Gup

E i g h t
Y e l l o w
B e l t ,
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Larkin Van Hecke, **Benjamin Lorenz**, and **Brandon Kelley**. Testing for Gup Seven High Yellow Belt were **Daniel Peters** and **August Schultz**. Testing successfully to Gup Six Green Belt were **Luis Giraldo**, **Christopher Giraldo-Valencia**, **Zachary Kelley**, **Gabriel Peters** and **Andrea Carranza-Gomez**. Candidates for Gup Five High Green Belt were **Noah Friberg** and **Aniela Van Hecke**. Testing for Gup Four Blue Belt was **Sevastyan Belousov** and Gup Three High Blue **Shaunak Chaudhuri**. Above, from left, Noah Friberg, August Schultz, Dan Peters, and Aniela Van Hecke; below, Matilda Van Hecke with airborne bag work. And a lot of red hair.



Our USTF Ambassador Master **Denise Moormeier** secured our invitation to the **18th Irish National Taekwon Do Association Open International Championships** on Saturday and Sunday Feb. 4th and 5th at Gormanston Park, County Meath. The USTF Delegation that attended, guests of Master **Brendan**



O'Toole, and **Lucia** and **Anne McCarthy**, were Grand Master **Renee' Sereff**, Grand Master **Stan Martin**, Master **Denise Moormeier**, Master **Robin Johnson**, Ms. **Louise Fox**, Mrs. **Jo Anne Haley** and Mrs. **Roselyn Romberg**. We were all given the best treatment including a Masters Dinner held at the City North Hotel. Not only were we all picked up by the McCarthy sisters, we were taken care of with the utmost respect. As each USTF member left, each was taken to the airport and those who were left were taken to the Armstrong Hotel for dinner and a Celtic Night show, put on the Paddy Wagon for a great tour of the Cliffs of Moor, given a great tour of the Guinness Storehouse, a great tour of Glasnevin, Irelands History Carved in Stone and a trip to the Mountjoy Prison, where the McCarthy sisters work! To put it mildly, we had a great time! Special congratulations to Mrs. Romberg who had not signed up to compete but offered to do so when the division for Senior women needed competitors. She did the USTF proud! In the photo are the Grand Masters, Sr. Masters and Masters in attendance. Below, Black Belts line up.

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





Irish Nationals images
captured by Distinguished
Flash Stringer Roselyn
Romberg.





Sir:

On Thursday, February 16th, 2017, **Axe Taekwon-Do** at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska hosted a quarterly promotion testing. Twenty-eight students tested for various ranks from 9th gup, White Belt Yellow stripe through Red Belt Black Stripe. The testing board was composed of Sr. Master **Ricky Todd** 8th Dan, USTF Region 2 Director, Mr. **Kevin Bushor**, 6th Dan, USTF Nebraska State Director and Ms. **April Bowling**, 5th Dan. Mr. **Sean Toppi**, 4th Dan served as the testing director.

The following gups were promoted: Red Belt Black Stripe: **Luke Blasey**. Red Belt: **Melody Param**. Blue Belt Red Stripe: **Jack Blasey** and **James Grgas**. Blue Belt: **Cassy Kribell**, **Lizzy Linder**, **Kiel Matos** and **Keenan Matos**. Green Belt: **Ryan Brockman**. Yellow Belt Green Stripe: **Jorga Carleton**, **Dameon Garber**, **Allison Loftus**, **Paul Shawan** and **Anniyah Simone**. Yellow Belt: **Alysia Garber**, **Elianna Grgas**, **Caroline Maytan** and **Nate Moore**. White Belt Yellow Stripe: **Gryphon Colon**, **Kyndall Eagle**, **Aubrey Eagle**, **William Fleming**, **Christian McKoy**, **Lydia McKoy**, **Calvin McKoy**, **Noah Moore**, **Micah Moore** and **Naomi Patino**.

The students were tested on all physical and mental aspects of Taekwon-Do in accordance with the USTF testing syllabus. Since 1988, USTF Taekwon-Do has been taught to both military and non military students at the Offutt Air Force Base Youth Center. We welcome any USTF member traveling through our area to stop in and train! For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.axetkd.com> or facebook at AXE Taekwon-Do.

We look forward to seeing all students at our 10th Annual Axe Taekwon-Do Invitational USTF Tournament on Saturday, April 22nd, 2017, come prepare for Nationals! More information on our website.

Photos: Group (top) and, left above, Naomi Patino [Ed. note: who will be good at breaking things.]

Sr. Master Ricky J. Todd, D.F.S.

Four-and-a-half years ago, 18-month old **Samantha Gabrielli**, comfortable in her car seat, munched contentedly on Goldfish during the 4pm Beginner Gup class for ages 5 to 8 at Concord TKD. Her older brother, **Michael**, and sister, **Kaitlyn**, were new Gup 10 White Belts. [Photo right: SG 18 months]



By the time mother **Lee Ann** started to train, 3-year-old Samantha insisted on attending class too. Mr. **John Murphy**, VI Dan and head of the school, obligingly provided a Dobok, with a comely pink belt, to Sam's delight. [Photo left above: SG 3 years]



"Little Samantha" joined in warmups, practiced kicks and punches on the heavy bags, and enjoyed playing at the back of the DoJang while the adults did patterns. That satisfied her for a while, until Instructor "Big **Samantha**" **Glasberg**, III Dan, surprised her with a set of pink pads, setting in motion sparring rounds with all the Black Belts in the school. [Photo right above: SG on the attack!]

Fast forward just a few years. Mom is now a Gup 4 Blue Belt, and siblings Michael and Kaitlyn are Gup 1 Black Stripes. And Samantha, now 6 and in First Grade, becomes official! [Photo right bottom: SG 1st real class!]

Roselyn Romberg, D.F.P.



**You're Invited
to the
Maestas TKD
SCHOOL
Challenge**



**March 25, 2017
Arvada, Colorado**

**WINTER WARRIORS TOURNAMENT
AT
GIORGIO'S ACADEMY OF TAEKWON-DO**



**SUNDAY, March 5th
12:30pm**

**COMPETITORS ALL AGES, ALL RANKS
REFEREES ALL AGES & CLASSES
Jumping Contents, Patterns, Sparring, Breaking**

PATTERNS REVISITED

**AT THE
CONCORD SCHOOL OF TAEKWON-DO**

Toi-Gye through Choong-Moo
Mr. Tom Gibbons, IV Dan, Instructor



**SATURDAY March 25, 2017
1:30pm TO 3:00pm**

**REGISTRATION FORMS
AVAILABLE FROM INSTRUCTOR**



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INTERNATIONAL
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June 24th & 25th, 2017
Broomfield Middle School
Broomfield, Colorado, U.S.A.

For more information, contact USTF Headquarters
at (303) 466-4963 or Email rsereff@rmi.net

www.USTF-ITF.com

