

The T.K.D. Flash

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The National Newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation

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2020 Kids' Art Contest

The Flash Annual Taekwon-Do Kids' Art Contest for 2020 is on!

In past years we've had great entries from all over the U.S. And we hope for even more in 2020.

Anybody under 14 is eligible. [Older folks may submit and share, but they will only be winners because they are, in fact, winners (but not in the contest).]

How can YOU enter?

Entries may be scanned and e-mailed as attachments to fmvh1@mac.com. In addition,



Group picture from the August 1 USTF-Georgia test (in no particular order because of Social Distancing) Master **Denise Moormeier** VII Dan (Region 5 Director), Mr. **Omar Welch** III Dan (Georgia State Director), Ms. **Jillian Welch** (II Dan candidate), Mr. **Patrick Rush** I Dan (Head Instructor Flyers Richmond Hill Taekwon-Do), Mr. **Michael Lester Sr.** I Dan (Assistant Instructor), Mr. **Michael Lester Jr.** I Dan, Mr. **Graeden Rush** I Dan, Mr. **Eli Smith** I Dan, Mr. **Devon Padrick** I Dan, **Trey Gamblin**, **Antonio Cain**, **Mia Cain**, **Dontae Flagler**, **Kody Lewless**, and **Mallika Lester**. See next page.



Master Mooremeier and new First Dans Mr. Eli Smith and Mr. Antonio Cain.

Master Mooremeier, Mr. Welch and new Second Dan Jillian Welch.



actual original artwork may be submitted to “Flash Art Contest” at P.O. Box 853, Grafton WI 53024. However, original artwork should be submitted with an understanding it may not be returned (unless a suitable container or envelope for return is included).

Along with your entry please submit your name, rank, age, and the name of your school. **All entries must be submitted by October 15.**

Imagine entering and winning an art contest on your martial arts resume’!

Good luck to all competitors.

[Editorial Note: We believe it is now appropriate to include notice of upcoming events. We apologize if we note events cancelled by their promoters.

Stay safe out there!]

COMING EVENTS

On September 6 a Black Belt test will be held at **Lone Wolf Taekwon-Do** in Cadillac, Michigan. Mr. **Jim Alger** is the Promoter.

On September 19, the USTF Step Sparring seminar at **Mountain View Taekwon-Do & Fitness**, Washington State, is cancelled.

De Baca Taekwon-Do will be having a testing on September 19th in Broomfield Colorado. Testing for 6th Dan will be Mr. **Mark Lynton**, Mr. **Scott Foster**, and Mr. **Mike Gimelli**. Testing for 4th Dan will be Dr. **Howard Weinberger**. Testing for 3rd Dan will be Mrs. **Jennifer Weinberger**, Mr. **Eric Weinberger**, and Mr. **Brian Weinberger**.

Testing for 1st Dan will be Mr. **Michael Axinn**, and testing for 5th Gup Green Belt will be **Mary Sisko**. This will be the first testing since the passing of GM De Baca, and all De Baca students are committed to carrying on his legacy in the USTF and in Taekwon-Do.

On September 26 (alternative dates possible) a Black Belt test will be held at



Sr. Master **Ed Newcomer**, right, his niece Molly Campbell, left, and Lt. Col. Steve Roets of the South Africa Police Service visit a rhino crime scene inside Kruger National Park in South Africa. See next page.

A LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA

As I prepare to depart Southern Africa after five years as the USFWS Law Enforcement Attaché in the region, I am having to say goodbye to some good friends and colleagues in various African police agencies. Although I'm sorry to see this adventure end, I'm looking forward to being back in the US. My five years in Southern Africa has gone by too quickly. I've had some notable successes and some notable failures in our ongoing battle to help the world combat international wildlife crimes involving African species. Right now, I'm scheduled to return to the Los Angeles field office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement. Earlier this week, with proper social distancing, I joined my friend Lieutenant Colonel Steve Roets and his wife for a goodbye dinner. Before I left their house in Pretoria, he gave me this cool patch from his South Africa Police Service unit. In 2015, shortly after I arrived in Africa, I met Steve and we immediately hit it off. He treated me as a fellow law enforcement officer and not as an American intruding on his turf. We developed a strong professional relationship and friendship and he helped me on many occasions as I tried to figure out the best way to proceed or the best person to contact about an issue. Steve retired this year after a distinguished career in the SAPS. In 2016, Steve allowed my niece, Molly, who is majoring in wildlife biology at Colorado State University, to visit a rhino crime scene and showed her how to collect DNA evidence. There are many examples of where I've worked with police officers across the nine countries in my area of responsibility to successfully disrupt wildlife crimes. Africa is a very dangerous place to do wildlife law enforcement and we've lost a few officers over the past five years, including one who I knew and patrolled with in Kruger National Park. It's been an honor to play a very small part in this fight to save our planet's wildlife treasures.



Sr. Master Ed Newcomer

Senatobia Taekwon-Do. The Promoter is Mr. **Jeremy Bennett.**

Also on September 26, there will be a Black Belt test at **Big Dog Taekwon-Do** in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

A Black Belt test will be held at **Mountain View Taekwon-Do and Fitness**, at which candidates

will participate from Mountain View and also **Bodystrong Takeown-Do** and **Rainier View Taekwon-Do** on October 10. Promoter, Sr. Master **David Mason.**



On Thursday August 27, Senior Master **Dustin Stephenson** was promoted by Grand Master **Bill Stephenson**, his father, under the auspices and authority of Senior Grand Master **Charles E. Sereff**.

The event was originally to have taken place at the annual Missouri tournament the last weekend of August, 2020. The event had to be cancelled per the COVID-19 crisis. This promotion is unique in history as creating the first Father- Son Grand Masters of the USTF!

Grand Master Dustin Stephenson attained the rank of I dan at the age of 10 years when his father was a III Dan. Both Father and Son

continue to teach and run **Kirkville Taekwon Do** in Kirkville, Missouri. Although the celebration will have to wait until the COVID-19 crisis subsides, we send our sincere congratulations for this great accomplishment!

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





Sir:

Here you will see what our students get to do up here in Alaska at **Fairbanks Taekwon-Do**. Once a week, Thursday evening, we have a class outside in the parking lot (masks and social distancing of course). This has been one of the rainiest years on record for

Fairbanks, but on Thursdays it clears up for class. Our warm-up is an obstacle course with many different challenges. Photos include both the warm-up course and the classes.

Master Guy Williams, D.F.S.



Maestas Taekwon-Do held a color belt test on August 20th, 2020. We promoted eight



students to their new ranks. Due to the pandemic we were not able to have spectators in the gym. We hosted via Zoom to immediate family and Ms. **Clare Johnson**, 6th Dan, did commentary for everyone. High test score went to Ms. **Rachel Powers**. Ms. Powers is pictured here below with Master **Robert Pettijohn**. The group is pictured above. We are looking forward to hosting a black belt testing on October 3rd, 2020.

Ms. Marsha Wright, F.S.





On August 25th **Axe Taekwon-Do** in Bellevue, Nebraska hosted a promotion testing. Eight students tested for various ranks from 9th gup, White Belt Yellow stripe through 5th degree black belt. The testing board was composed of Sr. Master **Ricky Todd** 8th Dan, USTF Region 2 Director, Master **Kevin Bushor**, 7th Dan, USTF Nebraska State Director, and Ms. **April Bowing**, 6th Dan. A special guest was in attendance for the testing, Grand Master **Kirk Steadman**, 9th Dan, USTF Region 1 Director. Mr. **Sean Toppi**, 4th Dan served as the testing director.

The following black belts were promoted. Mrs. **Deborah Ragone** was promoted to 5th Degree Black Belt. Mrs. **Sharon Buckley** and Mr. **Keith Buckley** were promoted to 4th Degree Black Belt. Mr. **Jack Blasey** and Mr. **Paul Grgas** were promoted to 2nd Degree Black Belt.

The following students were promoted to the following color belt ranks: Red Belt Black Stripe: **Hope McDermott**. Yellow Belt Green Stripe: **Marsaili Kelly**. Yellow Belt: **Ryleigh Lavine**.

Since March, due to Covid-19 Axe Taekwon-Do has been training by Zoom and in a local park. While the overall numbers are down at the school, the training intensity and spirit remain high. We have located an indoor facility for training during the next few months and will return to the Offutt Youth Center once the facility resumes instructional classes.

The photos show the group on this page, and on the next, Mrs. Ragone with a five-board break with side piercing kick, Marsaili Kelly during her test, and Mrs. Rangone punching through tiles.

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

