

OKINAWAN KARATEDO UNION
NEWSLETTER EDITION #3 JUNE, 1987

O. K. A. NEWS

February, 1987, date of our last newsletter, we had 78 Dan Rank, 91 Kyu rank and 26 dojos. As of June 1, 1987 we had 108 Dan Rank members, 136 Kyu rank and 29 Dojos. We have a few people that are going to wait until they come to the July clinic to bring their paperwork. So, we are still on the move. We have also, 6 instructors with Dojos that are not Isshinryu that have told me that they are ready when we start accepting outside people. This is because they look at you and see the real backbone of the O.K.U. and they want to be a part of it because of your example. There is an old saying, "One ounce of doing is better than one pound of talking". You all are doing.

We got our second order of O.K.U. patches. I had to send about half of them back because of poor workmanship. As you know, our membership cards and certificates are in and sent out. I hope we didn't miss anyone. If we did let us know. Also, the dojo certificates are in and member dojos should have them by now. Mr. Harrill has been considering ideas from members about the Rank Certificates and Cards. If you have any ideas contact him, you may still have time. It is impossible to contact each one of you about things of this nature in time for everyone to send ideas in. So don't wait on an invitation, contact any of the board members about anything or about any question. Remember the only dumb question is the one you don't ask.

Especially for our board members. In our July meeting we need to pick someone for our special award in October. Do we have our award dinner Friday night before the tournament? Do we want other awards? Are we ready to form a police division or auxillary to the O.K.U.? Are we ready to have a summer camp?

Oh yes, we got \$34.00 in royalties from R & H Sports (Dale Furtwangler) for the use of our logo on jackets and caps. They are beautiful. You O.K.U. tournament promoters, remember we want you to sanction your tournament with the O.K.U. This is another way we can get a little money in our treasure. It takes a little of the green stuff to do anything you know.

ISSHINRYU TRIVIA: Trivia question in February issue: What is Hama - Higa, and what is it famous for?

Hama-Higa is a small island close to Okinawa and it is famous for its study of weaponry, principally the tonfa and Sai-Source-Weaponless Warriors by Richard Kim, Page 19.

Trivia question for June 1987 issue: Back in the 1950's and 60's what was referred to as a round eye on Okinawa?

TOURNAMENT NEWS

The area Isshinryu, and all of the Tennessee Karate Circuit people, have been extremely busy the first half of 1987. Sensei Mark Aycock has been working the Wheeler team hard and it has paid off. They have represented Isshinryu extremely well. Not just by winning several trophies, but by conducting themselves well, and that in turn develops respect and honor for their school, style and the art as a whole - April 25, Salisbury, Maryland. Friendship Tournament sponsored by the Bando and Isshinryu Systems. Put on as benefit tournament with proceeds going to Sensei Rick Niemira. Rick has been sick for some time and his hospital and doctor bills have, of course, been high. Wheelers had six people go, three to compete and three to help with the officiating. It was a great trip up through some of the islands that dot our coastline, a lot of colonial type homes, through two tunnels, under the ocean, and many miles of bridges over the ocean. Our three competitors won four trophies and earned the respect of a lot of people by their spirit, ability and overall conduct. Mr. Niemira was presented with several gifts. The Bando Demonstration team performed in his honor. Master Don Nagle promoted Rick to Roku Dan (6th) and presented him with a red and white belt. And, it was all a surprise to Rick, he had no idea what was going on until the tournament was well underway. The O. K. U. was also represented by Senseis Ed King and Dan Price from Washington, D. C. Some of the Isshinryu greats that were there. Masters Don Nagle, Tom Lewis, Don Bohan, Gary Alexander, Ed McGrath, Harvey Hastings, Toby Cooling, Karl Hovey, Reese Rigby, Dennis Lockwood and many more that slips my memory for the moment. Several traveled thousands of miles to pay tribute and to help a friend. These are the type of people that make me glad that I chose to be a martial artist.

OTHER TOURNAMENT NEWS

O. K. U. Members Tournaments coming up:

Brother Phillips Maynardville, TN June 13

Larry Turner Knoxville, TN June 27

David Ray - Herman Coronett -Spruce Pine, NC Date Not Set

Larry Turner Knoxville, TN September 26 (Date tentative)

Mike Upchurch Indianapolis, IN October 3 (We want a bus load to this one)

Isshinryu Fall Classic October 17 Allen Wheeler Powell, TN (Site undecided)

Wheeler's team and area Isshinryu will be represented at the A.O.K.A. National Championship in Detroit, Michigan, July 18. Last year seven area competitors went to the A.O.K.A. Nationals in Chicago and we brought back nine trophies including the Grand Championship Kurnite trophy won by Mark Aycock. Any area Isshinryu people wanting to go to the A.O.K.A. Nationals contact Mr. Wheeler.

PERSONALS

NORTH TO ALASKA. Sensei Sherman Harrill and his two brothers and father took a hunting and fishing trip to Alaska the first part of May. The trip covered some 2400 miles each way. Sherman said they had a 10 hour ferry trip from the mainland to the Prince of Wales Island, they left on the actual fishing trip from a little town called Kalwock. They got rained on just about everyday, and fishing wasn't really that great. Sherm said they saw just about every kind of big game that there is including a grizzly bear, and some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. They traveled through 600 to 800 miles of high mountains. They saw big horn sheep in places in these mountains that it looked like it would be impossible for any creature to reach except by helicopter. All in all, it was a real good trip.

SOUTH TO THE CARRIBBEAN. Sensei Roop and his wife Clare have gone on a two week vacation down to the Carribbean area. They got away without me finding out just where they were going. But, I just imagine they will be doing some scuba diving and deep sea fishing. Who knows, they might find a sunken pirate ship laden with all kinds of treasure. Maybe we can get the results of this trip in our next newsletter.

Tennessee Police Olympice at Chattanooga, Tennessee, June 3.

John Myers and Larry French from the Powell Dojo took part in the Olympics. Larry won 3rd place in Kumite, John won 3rd place in Katu and 2nd place in Kumite. I wish that more of you police officers would take part in your State Olympice like this. Tony Thomas won the Police Officers National Championship in, I believe, 1980. An old friend, James Hobby, was one of the tournament officials. James was a great competitor a few years back. I don't know if he is competing any now or not.

CLINICS AND SEMINARS

We have two Isshinryu Clinics at Wheelers dojo remaining for 1987. July 11, 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. This one is our big one. We will have some special clinics during this one, that you don't want to miss.

September 12 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m. You instructors that live close to Knoxville. If you need the instructor time for 1987 these two are your last chance. I have cut the one in November. We are hoping to have Master Doug Perry at our dojo for a clinic late this year or early next year. Master George Dillman will be in Knoxville this fall. Try to make it to Mr. Dillman's clinics when possible. He has some very great information on Kata, nerve center and pressure points. Also, Joe Lewis will probably be here at Powell, either late in 1987 or early in 1988. Because of my heavy schedule for the rest of 1987 the Central Michigan Clinic is the only out of town one that I will consider for the rest of the year.

The good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, April 28, 29, 30, 1988, Master Angi Uezu will be in Powell, TN. If this holds up we will not have our regular Instructors Clinic the 2nd Saturday of May. This would be his first visit to East Tennessee since 1967. We will start right to work on it and keep you posted as it developes.

DOJO NEWS

Isshinryu people in east central Illinois have been real active. Tom Skoza says in the Monticello Champaign area, Isshinryu is being taught by someone, somewhere 5 days per week year round. Tom has just found out what a pleasure and how satisfying it is to teach Isshinryu to children.

Dan Jones has become a policeman on the Monticello Police Department. Dan says he has always wanted to be a policeman. So congratulations to Dan.

Joe Smith (another police officer) recently gave a seminar on the legal aspects of self defense. Over 70 Isshinryu students attended. You fellas in Illinois keep up the good work.

Don and Jan Roberts in the Atlanta area have put a yellow belt into their promotion program at the 7th Kyu level. They feel like this gives their new people, especially youngsters, an added incentive to learn their basic technique charts. They also start each class with a recitation of the Karate Creed. This helps them to put them into a focused frame of mind as well as teaching them the responsibility of learning karate tech. Jan looking forward to seeing a VCR tape that Don and Jan dojo have been working on. Especially the self defense part of it.

By the time this newsletter gets out, Don and Jan will probably be into their new dojo and store. Don is going full time karate and supply business. We hope the very best for you.

POWELL DOJO:

At Powell, Tennessee Dojo we have really been working hard and we would like to encourage others to do likewise. In March, we had one of our biggest rank promotions ever. In all we had over 40 promotions. That is far too many to try to list here. The June (19) promotion will be about half that number. Our tournament competitors have been doing real good. That is the results of hard work. We have put on several demonstrations for the area churches, civic clubs and charities. June 20 will be kids day at the dojo. All of the area kids are invited in to play games and receive treats.

August 1st will be our annual cookout at the dojo. There will be two drawings for two real nice prizes. Also, hot dogs, hamburgers, sandwiches and soft drinks and games for all ages. We look for a real busy summer.

The Manchester School of Karate in Tennessee has recently undergone exciting new growth. Sensei Tommy Duke, 3rd Dan and Ronnie Vanzant who has just been awarded 2nd Dan, are staying very busy with their 6 classes a week.

Sensei Vanzant started a kid's class the middle of August, '86, meeting once a week. This quickly grew to 2 nights a week and now has added more sessions to meet the growing enrollment. An expanded and remodeled dojo offers much more equipment on which the kids can train.

Isshinryu attracts a good group of children who take pride in their abilities and accomplishments. Lori Toneff has achieved honor roll all year. Jason Huskey earned his wolf and bear badges in scouts; Josh Sain received his wolf badge. Christie Prater also received scholastic recognition in school. Many others are also involved in baseball and other civic activities, but the children are very dedicated to their Karate as the advancement in their belts indicate.

February of this year, a tournament was held at the Manchester dojo. There was much participation and enthusiasm. It was a good experience for the students.

The parents and children all share the pride with Sensei Duke and Sensei Vanzant in the growth of their dojo.

Next issue of the Newsletter is scheduled for September. Get that news in!! Help us to help you.

Yours in Karatedo,
Allen Wheeler