

MYB NEWSLETTER JAN 2008

Jay and Kristen Alexander in Huntsville, Alabama hosted our 2007 winter clinic for the Midori Yama Budokai. It was another great gathering of talented martial artist who love to share their knowledge and training. The talents that are within MYB are amazing! Again all those who attended left with some new techniques or concepts to study or share with fellow students. We want to thank all those who attended, trained and instructed at the clinic.

This was the first clinic where the organization structure now has a Chairman of the Board for MYB, now Hanshi Ken Baker and a Chairman of the Board, Emeteris, now Hanshi Ron Rogers.

Before the beginning of the workout on Saturday a special moment of silence was given for Hanshi Larry Williams who passed away on October 29, 2007 after a long illness. All in MYB will sorely miss his knowledge and training.

The first couple of hours were with Sensei Ernie Doss from Decatur, AL with the question "What do you do when Seio Naga doesn't work?" The students received counters to counters and different ways to prevent the throw. At the same time in the other part of the gym Sensei Jay Haynes from Colorado Springs, CO was teaching an interesting contrast of concepts between all styles of martial arts such as Muai Tai, Tae Kwon Do, Kungfu, Jujutsu to name a few. The student should have left with the meaning of "gravitational marriage of a technique!" He also shared with the advanced students discussion and practice of breaking down the moves in kata. The student learned there are many variations of techniques in between the moves. Quote: "The fold of the block is the block and the block is the strike."

In the third hour, Hanshi Ron Rogers from Leavenworth, KS again emphasized the different applications within one technique within a kata. He taught the importance of understanding the kata and he challenged the students to be able to do to do four applications for each technique within the kata. "You should know your kata so well you could perform it backwards. He also stated "kata was designed as survival on the streets and for combat application. It was not for sport where there are judges and rules." Sensei Jerry Rufe from Huntsville, AL shared some of Hanshi Rogers's time with working kicks such as the "corduroy kick" where the legs brush the knee and displaced kicking techniques. The students who practiced with him were fortunate to work these kicks and to experience the training that was emphasized in the training with the late Shihan Leo D. Wilson.

In our fourth hour we worked with Hanshi Ken Baker Sensei Jay Haynes in Arnis, the Filipino Stick fighting drills of angles and leverage. Using the same entry with different leverages "causes a little more pain." Sensei Larry Beard and Sensei Patricia Hill of Georgia taught the Yusool Style of self-defense off of grabs. The students experienced a lot of wrist grabs techniques that went into arm bars and takedowns. Many grabs led into elbow strikes and hair pulling techniques.

The fifth hour Hanshi Ken Baker and Sensei Charlie Atkins taught an hour of Kobudo Bo vs. Bokken – A form of Kenjutsu. Jujutsu training with Frank Barry, Kyoshi of Leavenworth, KS taught the instructors how to teach the new student to fall in the takedowns with fewer injuries. O soto gari was shown with one student standing and the other kneeling with the knee turned inside to allow the fall to be safer and to prevent injuries. Kyoshi Barry stated, “Almost any hip throw not requiring a reaping action can be practiced from the “both parties kneeling” position.” Throws requiring a reaping action can be practiced with the tori standing and the uke kneeling.

Announcements were made regarding the next MYB events. The next will be held in Leavenworth, Kansas on the weekend of April 12th 2008 sponsored by Ken Baker, Hanshi. The location will change from St Mary’s University to the Heritage Center in downtown Leavenworth. It is located just two blocks east of their dojo, at 109 Delaware Street. The banquet will also be at a different location. It will be located at the historic Parker Carousel located one block south of the Heritage Center at Cherokee and Esplanade Streets. We will enjoy a great banquet within the settings of the historical Parker Carousel where attendees will receive a tour of the building and experience the history of carousels in the U.S. A special experience is guaranteed!!

The summer MYB program will be in Colorado Springs, Colorado sponsored by Jay Haynes Family Karate Center on weekend of July 19th 2008. This is a new additional clinic and location! We hope many of you will be able to make it!

The Saturday evening banquet was one of fun and merriment as we all were impressed with the Japanese cuisine and the chefs who showed their skills with a butcher knife and spatula techniques! It was also great to meet the newest member of MYB, Miss Claire Marie Alexander. We were excited to see Kristen and new baby at her first MYB. We are looking forward to seeing her in the future.

The great weekend ended with a few hours of workout on Sunday morning at Jay’s Madison school. Open mat training was offered for all those who survived Saturday!

A special note! We believe it was one of the first clinics that Ruth Wilson was unable to be with us. But we know she was enjoying a much-needed break and vacation to Hawaii. We guess this is a good enough excuse! We would like to say we missed you Ruth! All administrative task performed by Ruth have been taken over by Ken and Shelia Baker. We want to thank her for a job that entailed multiple tasking and management in retaining the administrative continuity of MYB for many years!!!!

Again thanks to Jay and Kristen Alexander and their students for their hard work and hospitality for another great clinic.

Please check out the MYB website for latest and greatest from Rogers Hanshi’s Corner and upcoming events as well.

And on another great note, Shelia and I are pleased to announce we are the grandparents of Leandro Alvanir Baker born on 12 December.

Thank you all for your continuing support of MYB. We look forward to seeing many of you at the next clinic on 12 April here in Leavenworth.

Hanshi Baker