

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

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On May 24 there will be a testing in Charlotte.

On April 5 Mr. VH conducted a patterns seminar in Neenah WI hosted by Dr. John Butitta.

Five day summer TaeKwon-Do camp, Boone, NC. Questions? Call Mr. Jeremy Kempka 704-563-6800. July 24-27.

Mr. VH taught a class for Black Belts at the Academy of Martial Arts, West Bend, on April 4.

Fox Valley TaeKwon-Do in Neenah WI is headed by Dr. John Butitta. Dr. Butitta, a physician, is a Third Dan (U.S.T.F.-I.T.F.). Mr. Chris Bauer, First Dan, tested with us last November and did an excellent job. The club meets at the YMCA on Commercial Street and teaches both adults and children. More critically, it teaches them well. Mr. VH is very pleased to note that Fox Valley TaeKwon-Do is our newest member of the Association. We look forward to their continued presence in our midst and to Dr. Butitta's leadership.

An important reminder: if you have events, personal milestones, papers or essays you'd like published, the Flash is here for you. There is no reason not to take advantage of the opportunity to get your name or your students' names published. Just tell us about your event, your students' victories, your news, or email your text to Mr. VH fmvh@execpc.com. We'll help you edit, if you wish.

On Saturday, May 10, the Spring Classic M.A.T.A. Tournament will be held at Kettle Moraine Luther H.S. in Jackson. This is an important opportunity to kick off the season of tournament competition. The Association supports this tournament.

It is appropriate to note that our country was recently involved in an international conflict. There is in our free and happy country disagreement as to whether we are in a battle with a monster, although Mr. VH does not recall the use of human shields by such luminaries of this century as Mao and Stalin. Wars are a reminder that it is important to be strong and that the price of weakness can be sorrow and death. But whatever one's position on the conflict, certainly we can be united in our prayers for the well-being of our troops, their leaders, and the citizens of Iraq.

The Academy of Martial Arts, Sheboygan has moved from the Boy's and Girl's Club to their new permanent location at 1201 Michigan Ave., in Sheboygan. Classes are held at 5:30 & 6:30 Monday through Thursday and 9:00 am on Saturday mornings. Come and visit the new facility. Look for information in the near future for the Grand Opening celebration. Congratulations to their faculty and student body on their continuing survival through a trying period and to Mrs. Jacqueline Karpinsky for her incomparable leadership.

On April 13 there was a Gup test at the American Martial Arts Center in Middleton. A total of 10 students tested. Second Dan Lily Chang cornered ably, Mr. Love assisted, and Mr. VH presided.

Mr. Paul Schneider and Tony Shircel competed at Missouri Nationals, a U.S.T.F. sponsored tournament in Columbia MO the week end of the 12/13th. Tony placed First in both Patterns and Sparring competing in the Black Belt Division. (Not bad for a Gup One, eh?) Mr. Schneider placed Third in both Patterns and Sparring in Second Dan adult male competition. Once again, Cheeseheads rule!

On April 13 at the American Martial Arts Center in Middleton there was a short seminar on stepsparring basics run by Mr. VH.

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Mr. Paul Schneider would like to travel to NC for the TKD Summer Camp and is looking for anyone who'd like to travel along with himself and a few others to save a buck. Anyone interested can call him at 1-920-683-3532.

Mr. Schneider is also looking for those interested in travelling around the midwest to compete in sanctioned U.S.T.F. tournaments. For his coaching track record, see this and the previous issue of the *Flash*.

May 3, Bluefield W.Va. Tournament hosted by Mr. Tony Henderson. ITF format, and we support it.

There's a test at the Sheboygan Academy on May 18.

July 19, testing in Mooresville.

Congratulations to Jeanne Weeks on her appointment as Planning Committee Director for the AAMA (N.C.)

The NC Annual AAMA Tournament will be Sept. 20.

Black Belt test, Illinois, May 25

Another in the excellent series of MATA officials' seminars will be led by Mr. Paul Metz at the Academy of Martial Arts, West Bend, on May 3. Time-keeper/Score-keeper at 11:30. Referees at 1:00.

Testing in West Bend, May 31.

Comments made on Completion of a Black Belt Test in 2003

by F.M. Van Hecke

When you're a White Belt, you're told that the color of your belt is representative of innocence and purity, the absence of knowledge. You're a blank slate, a *tabula rasa*, the philosophers would say, onto which your future is not yet written.

Like a blankbook, a book with no printing meant to be written in, the kind you can get in the stationery stores, you have been filling your pages over the last several years in hope of an end to each chapter. Through Yellow Belt, through Green, through Ilgup you've written chapters hoping to cross that line to Chodan where the first Part of the book ends and the next Part begins.

This is true of all of life. As our parents used to tell us more words and our schools and friend help us complete sentences, our institutions and work have contributed paragraphs.

But the Chapters, the Parts, are not all there is, there is the author--you.

[Some say there is another Author, but He's really more of a publisher.]

The book is not complete, there's a ways to go, and you're still writing, are still going to make choices. We don't know where and when, even in mid sentence, the book will end.

On the plane coming down here I realized that the

remarks I was going to make today were in the file I usually carry with me to tests. I also realized that that very file was at that very moment sitting on my dresser at home. Rather than rewrite just then, I thought I'd read a bit, just to relax, and I found a poem by Daniel Mark Epstein, a poet who I think has a lot to say. I'd like to read it to you: it's called "The Frame."

In the heat of writing about you
In a blankbook, my special one,
I skipped a page, wastefully.
When I thought I was through,
Turning back to where I'd begun,

I noticed this white space,
Speechless, peaceful, pure as only
Silence ever could be
Or will be, ever again:
The hush after hard rain,

Of a rosebud blowing open;
The lull that comes darkly
After someone has misspoken
And nobody knows what to say;
The quiet that fills a room

When death visits the house,
As the spirit hovers in place,
And grievors have not yet
Seen it rise above the bed
And turn the color of air.

In the rush to finish my verse a
About you, I left a space--
An empty foursquare frame.
And there I saw your face,
More haunting than any poem.

So take note of it:
both author and work, the yin
and the yang, expression and
reality, both, you.

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Mr. Jeremy Kempka leads students to the U.S.T.F. Nationals (see results, other side)



Mr. Ben DeLeon conducts a JuJitsu Seminar at the American Martial Arts Center, Middleton

Association of Academies of Martial Arts

2003 USTF National Medal Winners

Patterns

Gold

Scott Reynolds
Stacie Mariotis
Alexandra Buckley
Eric Wagner, Sr.
Justina Hauss
Cathie Holland
Linda Daniels
Tony Shirceel
Tyler Zack
Josh Andrews

Silver

Nick Popowycz
Nicole Hucks
Brendan Pope
J'nai Adams
Aaron Lucas
Scott Vaughn

Bronze

Paul Schneider
Ted Nanas
Anna Leonard
Tim Ellis
Kostas Mariotis
Jeanne Weeks
Janet Barnes
Chris Rankin
Hayley Ellis
Jeffrey Engelhardt
Tyler Kiser
Kristin Hosey
Blaine Daniels
Dylan Powell
Tim Wagner

Referees/Coaches

Tony Henderson
Anthony Yodice
Ramon Peleaux

Participants

Jeremy Kempka
Mike Tucci
Mike Whitaker
Eric Wagner Jr.
Evan Peleaux
Jay Kiser
Tabitha Ireland
Stephanie Castelan
Andrew Smith
Johnny Sousa

Sparring

Gold

John Barnes
Tina Hansen
Stacie Mariotis
Kostas Mariotis
Nicole Hucks
Jeanne Weeks
Tony Shirceel
Kristin Hosey
Andre' Briggs
Josh Andrews

Silver

Tyler Kiser
Justina Hauss
Alexandra Buckley
Angela Woppman
Johnathan Woolwine
Blaine Daniels

Bronze

Scott Reynolds
Nick Popowycz
R. J. Tester
Ron Grant
Helen Schirazi
Curtis Crews
Ryan Buckley
Anna Leonard
Brendan Pope
J'nai Adams
Gary Pope
Skip Lucas
Eve Powell
Scott Vaughn
Chris Rankin
Tyler Zack
Greg Mauger

Breaking

Gold

Nick Popowycz
Stacie Mariotis
Jeremiah Woolwine

Silver

John Barnes

Bronze

R. J. Tester

Overall Medal Count

23 Gold
13 Silver
33 Bronze
69 Total Medals Won!

**You are now a member of the #1
International Taekwon-Do school in the
Nation. We have more USTF national
champions than any other school. Be proud
of your training and accomplishments!**