



ISKF Alaska Region Newsletter

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September 2005

Campaign Kick-off for 2006 ISKF Nationals in Anchorage, Alaska

On Saturday, July 2nd, ISKF Alaska members met at the Anchorage Boys and Girls Club for a special training, followed by the unveiling of the official poster for the 2006 National tournament in Alaska.

The poster design contains an image of Master Nakayama in a stance from the kata Sochin, next to the big dipper constellation. Master Nakayama's image is of special significance on the poster because he visited Alaska in 1985. Many Alaskan senior students remember training with this legendary individual who was so important to the early development and dissemination of Shotokan karate as we know it today in the U.S. and the world. Master Nakayama's calligraphy is also well known for its strength and beauty, and while he was in Alaska he presented to ISKF Alaska the calligraphy MU which is also a part of our Alaska Nationals poster. The picture at the right includes from L to R: T. Nakazawa, B. Brocies, Y. Ogawa (Honorary Chair of our 2006 fund raising effort) and K Hagensieker, who designed the poster.



39th ISKF Master Camp

Master Okazaki welcomed everyone to the 39th ISKF Master Camp and International Goodwill Tournament held at Greenlane, PA on June 2005. This year's camp saw visits from guest instructors, Mr. Kenro Kurasako of the JKA Headquarters in Japan and Mr. Hideo Ochi, Chief Instructor of the JKA in Germany. These highly esteemed instructors joined ISKF Masters: Sensei Okazaki, Mr. Mikami, Mr. Yaguchi, Mr. Koyama and Mr. Takashina in bringing karate-ka the best instruction worldwide. Alaska karateka who attended camp this year included Sensei Tony Nakazawa, Kevin and Janet Hagensieker, Susan Jones, Mike Tavoliero, Nora Kelly, and Craig Lewis. Special recognition and congratulations are due to **Sensei Cathy Cline** who achieved the rank of 7th dan at Master Camp, and is now the highest ranking woman in the ISKF organization. We are also proud of other Alaska karateka achievements at camp: **Susan Jones** was awarded 4th dan and joins Lynette Nakazawa, Kevin Hagensieker, and Diana Stevens as yondans of the Alaska region; **Janet Hagensieker** passed her judges examination, with her practical exam being as a judge at the International Goodwill Tournament that takes place after Master Camp training; **Craig Lewis** was accepted into the ISKF Instructor Training Program and began his course training at Master Camp—Craig is one of the youngest karate-ka to be accepted into the program and received special permission from Master Okazaki to enroll.

Master Yaguchi Celebrates 40th Anniversary

This year marked the 40th year that **Yutaka Yaguchi, Chief Instructor of the Mountain States Region**, has been in the United States. This special anniversary was celebrated with past and present students, instructors, and ISKF Masters Okazaki and Takashina at the annual Colorado summer camp in mid-August. Sensei Cline is a student of Yaguchi Sensei and was also present at the event. At our recent Alaska summer camp, she shared a few of the stories and warm memories of Yaguchi Sensei's devoted students and friends. We wish him the very best for the years ahead.

Alaska Summer Camp 2005

Another successful summer camp was held on August 18-21 at Birchwood Camp. We are again very grateful to **Master Okazaki and Sensei Cathy Cline** for their time, energy and exceptional instruction, even more so this year as Okazaki Sensei underwent a very long and circuitous journey to Alaska due to weather and flight cancellations. We also want to thank **Sensei Todd Hardy** and his students from Whitehorse, YT who joined us in training this year.

A ceremony was held to rededicate the pavilion floor at camp, which was rebuilt from materials purchased from the fundraising efforts of the **Eagle River and Anchorage Boys and Girls Club dojos**. Students from **Sensei Kevin Hagensiaker's** art class painted the Shotokan tiger on the floor and have agreed to do touchups each year as a tradition. At the Sunday afternoon banquet, the annual ISKF National Meritorious Service Award was presented to **Gilbert Wilson** of the Anchorage Boys and Girls Club dojo for his many years of service and support to the ISKF region. The winner of the Shotokan Award for "best camp spirit" was Andy Rembert, who was awarded a tuition scholarship to 2006 Master Camp. **Sensei Kevin Hagensiaker** displayed the work of his karate and art student, **Annette Wolfe**, who designed this year's camp shirt. Susan Jones acknowledged all the people who assist her each year in carrying out the many jobs that make for a successful summer camp. As usual, a big thanks was given to all karateka who attended camp to train and test. Congratulations to the students receiving new Alaska dan ranks: **Andy Rembert - Nidan, James Peters - Shodan, Richard Peters - Shodan. At the Annual ISKF Alaska Region Board meetings held at camp the following officers were confirmed for ISKF Alaska Region: Mr. Holness, President; Mr. Andrews, Vice-President; Mr. DuBois, Secretary; Mr. Toms, Treasurer. Congratulations and Thank You for your continuing leadership.**

Dojo Happenings – From the Eagle River Dojo

The Eagle River Dojo has moved to a new location in Eagle River. Sensei **Kevin Hagensiaker**, Sensei **Becky Hesser** and Sempai **David Horst**, Dance Instructor **Amy Lindsey**, and the **Eagle River students and family members** have worked very hard this summer to get the new facility ready and to move dojo supplies and other belongings. A big job was the construction of a new dojo floor. Eagle River Dojo instructors and students were active in fundraising for the move and also contributed much time and labor to the new floor and other preparations. We are up and running on our new floor and very excited about the change of venue. A very large THANK YOU to all who helped get the dojo finished and to those of you that have been helping by training regularly for the past several years. All your efforts have paid off and we have a wonderful place to train due to your efforts.

After having been in the same location for over seventeen years, which itself was an upgrade from the older dojo above the vet clinic on Eagle River Loop, we have upgraded again. Thanks to the Nakazawas for all their good years of instruction and guidance and to the visiting Senseis, Cline, Koyama, Yaguchi, Golden, and of course Master Okazaki for their contributions to our teaching.

We are proud of our new dojo, and hope you will all find time to come and help us in our efforts to follow Sensei Nakazawa's advice and "Keep training". **An official dojo dedication will be scheduled in the near future, and we hope that everyone in the region who can attend will be here to participate.**

Upcoming Events

- The Fall Kubota Cup will be held on October 29, 2005 in Fairbanks. Please contact your dojo instructor if you are interested in competing.
- Master Koyama kyu and dan testing for Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau will be December 2 – 5, 2005.

Words from Sensei Nakazawa

Our thoughts and prayers are with Master Mikami and the ISKF Southern Region as they are dealing with the aftermath of Katrina. As you know, the ISKF Nationals scheduled for November 2005 are cancelled. Master Okazaki in a recent letter to the ISKF regional directors made a special request for donations to help out the ISKF Southern Region and all of our fellow ISKF karateka and many friends in the Southern Region. I am sharing with you Master Okazaki's request: ***"I am asking that all of our clubs in each region make a monetary donation so that we can assist Mr. Mikami with the rebuilding expenses of his regional headquarters. Please make all checks payable to: IKA. Once Mr. Mikami can return to Metairie he can assess the damages and we will send all donations to him at that time."*** If you can make a donation, any amount, please give them to your dojo Sensei, who will be getting them to Sempai Beckie Brocies who is coordinating this effort for the ISKF Alaska Region and will forward these donations to ISKF Headquarters. My thanks to you for your consideration of this special request from Master Okazaki. – Sensei Nakazawa