

May 2018 Newsletter
Goju-Ryu Karate-Do Kyokai

www.goju.com



Greetings

By Dwight Scales

My fellow karateka; We are very excited that it is time for our Spring seminar with Yamakura Shihan! The weekend after Mother's Day, Friday May 18 and Saturday 19, we look forward to seeing you in Toledo Ohio.

Shihan's seminars will be held Saturday, May 19, at the Imagine Clay Community School located at 1030 Clay Avenue, Toledo Ohio 43608.

The times for the seminars will be: White Belts - 9:00 am until 10 am
Green/Brown Belts - 10:15 am until 11:45 am
Black Belts - 12:30 pm until 3:00 pm.

Costs for the seminars will be: \$15 for one session
\$20 for two sessions
\$25 for all three.

Friday, Mr. Ed Myers has graciously offered to open his dojo for those of you who may want to get in some extra practice. Please join us for an informal workout from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm.

Mr. Myers' address is: 11568 Reed Road Whitehouse Ohio 43571.

The weekend events will conclude with our annual business meeting and dinner. This will be held at The Ocean Garden Buffet. Its location is 821 W. Alexis Road, Toledo Ohio 43612. We will be discussing some very important topics related to our organization. We look forward to your input.

Please take the time to contact me (cell - 419.304.1666, email - 1940dscales@gmail.com) to let me know how many will be joining us for dinner.

See you soon in Toledo!

From Your Web Team

By Eric Naujock

First, I would like to welcome Mrs. Helen Muth to our web team. She is currently working to find the pain points on the website and look at what people want to the website to become. I am aware that we have much work to do to help make the site into a more useful resource. Later this year we may be looking at a rework of the website. Joomla is upgrading to v 4 and will be using Bootstrap 4. The upgrade will eliminate support for browsers older than IE 11. Some of the items I have already had requests for are.

- Mobile design - Use it on your phones.
- Documentation - Yes, how do you use the thing.
- Improved contact information - How to reach people better.
- Online catalog - A catalog of products that we offer and the pricing.
- Online Store - The next step after the catalog is working.
- Social media Tie-ins - Get the content on the site into the social media streams.
- Easier access - This one is a bit harder to define.

We should be around during the annual gathering May 18th and 19th. Please feel free to talk to either or both of us about what you would like to have the website become. And how it could help your school or group.

A Journey Begins

By Trish Ballweg with Kim Barrington

I found thru the years that I gained children's trust quicker if I approached them with laughs and giggles. I would bring out a Goofy hat to get their attention. I would let them know that I was the only one who could act goofy in class.

Patrick Conner began his journey in our children's class, he really responded to the laughs and giggles. It relieved his frustration in the beginning.

We quickly realized that Patrick would be no ordinary student. He has been an exceptional student. As the younger students progressed to the adult classes, I would tell them black belt doesn't happen until your 17 or 18. He always arrived ready to work out and tried hard. He knew he needed to pay close attention and listen. It was hard to slow him down. He was learning quickly and moving up in rank. He listens intently as others are helping him to improve a skill or application of a move. Even though he was only expected to be at the adult class, he would come early to work out with the children and without asking he helps other students. Patrick did better because he learned by helping others, it also helped him learn.



Somewhat shy and respectful of his knowledge in karate, he keeps his participation a secret from those that don't need to know such as his school friends. He never complains about how hard I push him. Patrick never gives up and perseveres thru it all. He has earned my respect with his dedication to his training. At age 13, I felt he had attained the skills I would expect any adult to have for the rank of black belt. I was trying to make him wait. I would not be afraid to sit back and let him run a class. When asked how does it feel to be a black belt, he answered he doesn't feel like a black belt. I asked why and he said he hasn't learned enough. I replied to him that is the first sign you are a black belt because your training has just begun. He's come along way from that little kid.

A special thanks goes to Gary Mazzotti, Morley Peura and Trish Ballweg for helping with Patrick's testing for Blackbelt.

My Karate Life

By Patrick Conner

I was in 4th grade when I signed up for a self-defense class through 4H. It lasted for about a month meeting once a week. Sensei Kim was leading it. At the end, I wanted to continue training. And so, I started coming to practice and got my first gi. The first practices I had no idea what I was doing. But I kept practicing and kept showing up to practices. Sensei said I didn't have to come to all three practices each week, but I wanted to. I enjoyed going. Soon, I was staying for both kid and adult classes.

I listened and paid attention in the classes. I definitely made mistakes, but I tried hard to learn from them. It was fun too. From hearing stories about Goofy from Sensei Kim to being picked on by all the black belts, I have learned not only Goju/Ryu but I have also made friends in the class. They maybe older than me, a lot older, but they still crack good jokes.

I made rank fast. I love katas and learned them quickly. I enjoy the different moves that each one has and the discipline it took to learn each one. My favorite kata is Uke no kata because of the blocks and crescent kick. When we weren't working on katas, I enjoy working on the different self-defense techniques with Sensei Kim and Sensei Morley. I also work out with Sensei Dave and Sensei Gary. We work on breaking down the kata to know how to use the moves in different situations.

I am proud that I have earned Shodan. I worked hard and want to continue to learn and work on my confidence. I like working with the other younger students. I like sharing what I have learned.



Is Dog Training for Dogs or Humans?

By Modesto Anthony Lugo

Everyone meet Chance! He's our one-year old, 50+ pound Boxador. Half Boxer and half Labrador. I hadn't heard of this type of mixed breed until we adopted Chance. It's funny how when we learn of something new it expands our view and notice things that had already existed. Similar to Kata applications. When we learn it, it expands our view in which we can see more than one.



We weren't looking to get a second dog since we have a six year Beagle, Ms. Carlie (Or, Carlie-girl, as I like to call her). But when my wife began looking at puppy pictures and sharing them, we decided to visit the SPCA in Queensbury, NY, just to look. Going to look at cute adorable puppies is like going to the supermarket early in the morning, while they're preparing the hot foods and baking bread, when you haven't eaten anything else since last night's dinner. I think you get the idea.



Anyway, to my point of this article. Chance has been training since he was a few months old. He started with Puppy training, which I refer to as white belt. He graduated to Apprentice training, which earned him one stripe on his white belt. Then Master Dog training, three stripes. And his most recent was Dog Manners, promoting him to green belt. Notice how I'm jumping ranks. Dogs mature more quickly than we do early on. So the first year of our friend's life is equal to about 15 human years. And I'm referring to maturity, not actual dog years, which would equal 7 years of every one human year.

Our plan is to help Chance become a certified Therapy Dog. So, he'll need one more class, Advanced Dog training, which in my opinion, will promote him to brown belt. He'll need to take this training before he can actually prepare for Therapy dog training in order to obtain the Canine Good Citizen certification. In watching and reading about Therapy dog training and the preparation, I was amazed and inspired at how much goes into getting them ready. Getting them to behave politely when meeting strangers, sit politely for petting, appearance and grooming, sit down and stay in place, come when called, etc., etc., etc. I was impressed at how well they did. In my opinion, these dogs have definitely achieved shodan level. I'm sure Chance will do well. Or, should I say...I'll do well. Because let's face it, dog training is actually for us humans. I've learned a great deal in the last year. I can say that dog training isn't for everyone. Just as karate isn't for everyone. You have to be persistent, dedicated and willing to train your pup to advance onto the next level. It keeps us active and inspired as we see our friends learn and grow into who we aspire them to be. Until next time. Train well and have fun.



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