

AUSKF 2005 Iaido Camp Report

Date: November 12, 2005

To: AUSKF Board of Directors and Officers

From: Dennis Ralutin, President, Southern California Iaido Association (SCIA)

Subject: AUSKF 2005 Iaido Camp report

The AUSKF 2005 Iaido Camp was held at the Charles H. Wilson Park Gymnasium in Torrance, California from Thursday, September 29 through Sunday, October 2. This event was organized by the Southern and Northern California Iaido Associations (SCIA and NCIA, respectively) and co-hosted by the Torrance Kendo Dojo of the SCKF.

Sadanori Ueno sensei, 8 dan Hanshi Iaido and Kiyofusa Takeda sensei, 8 dan Hanshi Iaido returned as guest instructors from the Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei (ZNKR). Ueno sensei is also the current chairman of the ZNKR Iaido Committee. The following instructors from the AUSKF were also in attendance:

Takeshi Yamaguchi sensei (SCKF/SCIA), 7 dan Iaido
Shozo Kato sensei (GNUSKF), 7 dan Kyoshi Iaido
Tatsuhiko Konno sensei (PNKF), 7 dan Renshi Iaido
Yoshitsugu (Pat) Murosako sensei (PNKF), 6 dan Renshi Iaido
Ichiro Murakami sensei (SCKF/SCIA), 6 dan Iaido
Thomas Hooper sensei (AEUSKF), 6 dan Renshi Iaido
Dick Anderson sensei (PNKF), 6 dan Iaido
Henry Asai sensei (SCKF/SCIA), 5 dan Iaido

A total of 98 participants attended the camp, which consisted of a two-day seminar, the AUSKF 2005 National Iaido Tournament and promotional examination (shinkyu shinsa). Ueno sensei and Takeda sensei led the instruction during the seminar and performed various demonstrations of ZenKenRen Iaido and Koryu (Musō Shinden Ryu and Musō Jikiden Eishin Ryu).

The results of the AUSKF 2005 National Iaido Tournament held on October 1 are as follows:

Mudansha Division (1 kyu and below)

1st: Aram Kailian	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
2nd: Gordon Hall	AEUSKF	Ken Zen Institute
3rd: Masako Uragami	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
3rd: Walter Gallo	AEUSKF	Ken Zen Institute

Yamaguchi Hai (1 dan and 2 dan)

1st: Sachiko Prough	EUSKF	Japanese Swordsmanship Society
2nd: Paul Shin	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
3rd: Koji Kurohara	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
3rd: Darrick Lew	PNKF	Bellevue Kendo Dojo

Nakanishi Hai (3 dan and above)

1st: Debi Farmer	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
2nd: Susan Sekreta	AEUSKF	Ken Zen Institute
3rd: Jason Hankins	RMKIF	ZenBuKan
3rd: David Bressler	AEUSKF	Ken Zen Institute

The promotional examination took place on the last day of the camp with 61 candidates testing from various kyu to 6 dan. The testing panels were more stringent this year with 78.7% (48 out of 61) passing compared to 95.7% (45 out of 47) at last year's examination in Boulder, Colorado. Many failed their examination due to time violations. The following individuals received new ranks:

4 Kyu

Cheryl Couch	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
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3 Kyu

Adam King	SCKF/SCIA	Venice Kendo Dojo
Patricia Villanueva	SEUSKF	School of Japanese Swordsmanship
Mark Magpayo	EUSKF	Japanese Swordsmanship Society
Jocelyn Wright	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
Rene Fox	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
Cheuk Ying Tang	EUSKF	Japanese Swordsmanship Society
Robert Souder	SEUSKF	Gulf Coast Kendo Dojo
Sylvain Leroy	AEUSKF	KenZen Institute
Jonathan Kim	SCKF/SCIA	Norwalk Kendo Dojo
Lauren Valdata	SEUSKF	Annapolis Kendo and Iaido Club

2 Kyu

Walther Tobias	NCKF/NCIA	San Francisco Kendo Dojo
Christopher Howell	SWKIF	Omaha Kendo Kai
Elizabeth Pesek	SWKIF	Omaha Kendo Kai
Jeremy Yamashiro	RMKIF	Zen Bu Kan
David Cunningham	SEUSKF	Memphis Iaido Club
Jared Williams	RMKIF	Zen Bu Kan
Jeffrey Meyers	RMKIF	Zen Bu Kan

1 Kyu

Walter Gallo	AEUSKF	KenZen Institute
Masako Uragami	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
Fred Sumida	SCKF/SCIA	Venice Kendo Dojo
Katalin Nieves	SEUSKF	School of Japanese Swordsmanship
Aram Kailian	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin
Gordon Hall	AEUSKF	KenZen Institute

1 Dan

Jeffery Keffer	SWKIF	Memphis Iaido Club
Don Crittenden	SEUSKF	Memphis Iaido Club
Robert Eitel	SEUSKF	Annapolis Kendo and Iaido Club
Paul Tigh	SWKIF	Dallas/Ft. Worth Kendo and Iaido Kyokai
Rod Faghani	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY

2 Dan

John Suzuki	PNKF	Musokai
Steven Sasaki	SWKIF	Omaha Kendo Kai

3 Dan

Darrick Lew	PNKF	Bellevue Kendo Club
Thomas Helm	NCKF/NCIA	San Francisco Kendo Dojo
Dick Beckstead	RMKIF	Zen Bu Kan
Sachiko Prough	EUSKF	Japanese Swordsmanship Society
Jaime Flores	AEUSKF	Capital District Budokan
Alan Sakamoto	PNKF	Musokai
Andre Dulce	PNKF	Musokai
John Prough	EUSKF	Japanese Swordsmanship Society

4 Dan

Dennis Ralutin	SCKF/SCIA	OCB Kendo Dojo
Cynthia Tanabe	NCKF/NCIA	Salinas Kendo Dojo
Dan Gandee	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
Isabella Church	GNUSKF	Shidogakuin NY
Bijan Sadrian	AEUSKF	KenZen Institute
Samuel Okuno	SCKF/SCIA	Norwalk Kendo Dojo
Ken Ogawa	NCKF/NCIA	San Francisco Kendo Dojo

5 Dan

Susan Sekreta	AEUSKF	KenZen Institute
Aniceto Seto	PNKF	Musokai

Two suggestions were put forth for future camps:

1) The next camp should focus on individual practice and instruction from the AUSKF sensei. A great deal of insightful and meaningful information was given by the Japanese sensei at this and last year's camps. However, little time was allotted at this year's seminar for individuals to practice and apply the Japanese senseis' advice.

2) Individual dojo (or regional federations, if possible) should consolidate their members' application forms and payments for easier processing by the camp organizing committee.

The following venues are currently under consideration for the AUSKF 2006 Iaido Camp:

Omaha, Nebraska (SWKIF)
Cincinnati, Ohio (ECUSKF)
To be determined in New York, New Jersey or Pennsylvania (EUSKF)

The camp was an overall success and could not have been such without the cooperation and hard work from the camp co-organizers, Dennis Ralutin (SCKF/SCIA), Richard Hill (NCKF/NCIA), David Nakanishi (NCKF/NCIA) and Bella Church (GNUSKF). Several volunteers from the SCKF/SCIA, NCKF/NCIA and GNUSKF also contributed their time and effort, namely Hiromi Olson (wife of Brian Olson of the SCKF) for the difficult job of translating for the Japanese sensei. Special recognition is also given to Tim Yuge sensei of the Torrance Kendo Dojo for securing the Wilson Park Gymnasium as the camp venue and making the bento arrangements.

Dennis Ralutin
Co-Organizer, AUSKF 2005 Iaido Camp
President, Southern California Iaido Association