

## News from Okinawa December 10, 2013

Dear WMKA Members around the world

I will list up the karate practice trips to Okinawa from overseas including main land of Japan from August to November, 2013.

**Dan Promotion Tests:** We had four dan promotion tests, three of them were for overseas participants and one for annual Autumn test in Okinawa.

**1. August 29<sup>th</sup>;** Mr. Craig Gould won his 3rd dan certificate in Okinawa. He is a student of Mr. Lawrence Uemura Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan in Hawaii USA. He currently lives in China and has been teaching English in China for some years. He is familiar to Japanese character Kanji which was introduced from China thousands years ago. He could read all Japanese Kanji sign boards on both sides of the road. As there are no WMKA Dojo in China, he practices karate by himself. He is also practicing Japanese Kendo in China and he has many Kendo friends there. He was in Okinawa from August 16 to 28.

**Here is a quote: from Mr. Craig Gould in China:** "I have visited Okinawa seven times; however, this was my first visit in the super-hot month of August. The training was so hard! I almost dropped-dead during each class. I would like to express my deep thanks to Arakaki Sensei, Shinjo Sensei, and Miyagi Sensei for looking after me so well. Also, a deep thank-you to Taira Sensei for his kind words during the exam. And finally, thanks to everyone at The Dojo Bar for keeping me fueled! The more I visit, the more I realize how Okinawa is truly a beautiful and special place."

**2. November 16<sup>th</sup>;** We had an annual Autumn promotion test in Okinawa. Mr. Hayato Funakoshi and Mr. Shota Miyaguni promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> dan together.



Left picture ; Tome sensei, Higa sensei, Mr. Gould 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan, Taira sensei, Arakaki sensei & Shinjo sensei

Right picture ; Back row Mr. Funakoshi 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan, Mr. Miyaguni 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan and Mr. Yamazato Kyoshi 8<sup>th</sup> Dan.

Front row; Tome sensei, Taira sensei, Arakaki sensei, Shinjo sensei and Miyagi sensei ( five judges)

**3. October 14<sup>th</sup>**; Mr. Anthony Gibson from Canada promoted to 3<sup>rd</sup> dan. He joined to New Zealand group and stayed in Okinawa about two weeks. Mr. Plaisted kyoshi 7<sup>th</sup> dan and Mr. Herlihy 5<sup>th</sup> dan with their four students came to Okinawa and stayed from October 5<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> and practiced karate at Taira Dojo. They have been students of president Taira for many years and practice at Taira Dojo. We do have a consensus that Soke's students will be hosted by all Dojo Owners in Okinawa. We do have Dojo Owners' meeting how to host your karate practice before you come to Okinawa depend on your schedule.

**Here is a quote from Mr. Gibson:** "It was an honour and privldge to test at the Nagamine dojo in front of such respected masters. I always cherish my visits to Okinawa and the people who make it so special. Arigato Gozaimasu".

**Mr. Herlihy's quote is:** "Training once again at Jitchaku dojo to fine tune kihon, kata and kobudo is always a pleasure and attending the "Gateway to Okinawa" seminar held at the Budokan to support Taira Sensei was also a high light for the kiwi's. Day trips that included historical site visits, attending the amazing "Naha great tug of war " and visiting the many Karate master monuments was very exciting and thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Practising with many WMKA friends was fantastic and we hope to see everyone again in 2014."



Left picture: Mr. Gibson at center with Higa sensei, Tome sensei, Taira sensei, Arakaki sensei & Shinjo sensei

Right picture: New Zealand Mr. Plaisted Kyoshi 7<sup>th</sup> dan, Mr. Herlihy 5<sup>th</sup> dan, Mr. Johnston 1<sup>st</sup> dan, Mr. Hindt 1<sup>st</sup> dan, Ms. Halyard 2<sup>nd</sup> dan and Mr. Gibson 3<sup>rd</sup> dan from Canada.

Okinawa: President Taira, Higa sensei Hanshi 9<sup>th</sup> dan, Mr. Higa Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan and Mr. Taira brown belt.

**4. October 24<sup>th</sup>** ; Mr. Steve Woolston came to Okinawa to take a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan Evaluation test in Okinawa from England. He was once in EMKA for a short term but left and now a member of Matsubayashiryu International in Ireland. They practice Matsubayashi-Ryu 18-kata and 7-Yakusoku kumite as same as us. But he didn't have any WMKA Dan Certificate from Soke himself or from any WMKA Dojo Owners. He strongly wanted to learn traditional Matsubayashi-Ryu karate-Do, and to be affiliated into WMKA. He sent his sincere letter to president Taira.

The top three directors discussed it very carefully to answer his letter and accept his request. He passed the test and won 4<sup>th</sup> Dan certificate together with WMKA Dojo Owner License. He is a first authorized WMKA Dojo Owner in England. Please drop in his dojo and help him to spread Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate-Do in England when you visit Europe.

**Mr. Woolston's quote is:** "I am honoured that my dojo has been accepted as full members of the WMKA, and proud to be their first representative in England. During my recent trip to Okinawa I trained twice per day and thank all the Sensei that I trained under for their time and patience; we are now busy working our way through the various corrections to kata and yakusoku kumite. As I am sure everyone in the WMKA around the world is, we are now very much looking forward to the event planned for October 2014 in memorial to Soke Takayoshi Nagamine, and I am sure that we will be lucky enough to make many new friends in Matsubayashi-ryu from around the world."



Both pictures show Mr. Woolston's 4<sup>th</sup> Dan Evaluation Test under President Taira, Tome sensei, Higa sensei & Shinjo sensei in Nagamine Honbu Dojo on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### **Other karate trip groups to Okinawa**

**1. Karate trip from main land of Japan;** Mr. Yuichi Danjo Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan from Osaka ditrict practiced at Nagamine Dojo on August 29<sup>th</sup> . Mr. Katsuhiko Tsukamoto Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan and Mr. Keisuke Satonaka 4<sup>th</sup> dan from Tokai district practiced karate at both Shinzato and Makishi Dojo on October 14 & 15<sup>th</sup> . Unfortunately, I don't have their photos.

**2. Three Karate trip groups from USA between October 8 to 22<sup>nd</sup>.** They were Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Cappiello Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan from New York, Mr. and Mrs. Mastin Scott Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan with his two students from Ohio, Mr. Steve will with his two students from New Jersey. They practiced karate at six Dojos, Taira Dj/Arakaki Dj/Tome Dj/Namanie Dj/Shinzat Dj & Miyagi Dojo. They observed 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan promotion test of Mr. Anthony Gibson in Nagamine Dojo.

They also enjoyed visiting many sightseeng spots in Okinawa.

**Quote from Mr. Cappiello** is "In my opinion that if any one person is serious about Okinawa Karate they should make it a point to get to Okinawa the level of karate is like no where else in this world you can feel the Presence of the great Sensei's who have

passed and the great Sensei's of the present day throughout the dojos and throughout the island of Okinawa. They teach you (The Way) of karate : and in there way you can find humility, respect, honor and to be humble. Okinawa is my home away from home (Thank You Okinawa And all of the people who live there). I will be there for Sokes Memorial in 2014 with all my honor”.

**Quote from Mr. Will is** “We enjoyed our October trip to Okinawa visiting our roots in karate. We got to meet and train with each of the senior instructors of Matsubayashi-Ryu. It shows how we are one big family within the WMKA. We are looking forward to coming back in November 2014 for the Memorial Event for Soke.”



Left picture ; First Row: Gerad Cappiello Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan, Tome sensei Hanshi 9<sup>th</sup> dan, Steve will 5<sup>th</sup> dan and Mastin Scott Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan. Second row; Laurie Gneiding 2<sup>nd</sup> dan, Zach Parr 2<sup>nd</sup> dan, Kise Jyoma brown belt, Masaru Okuma 4<sup>th</sup> dan, Lora Wert 2<sup>nd</sup> dan & Carly Aulicky 3<sup>rd</sup> dan.

Right picture ; The karate practice groups from New Zealand, Canada and USA who happened to be in Okinawa and observed Dan promotion Test for Mr. Gibson in Nagamine Dojo.

**3. October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>: Mr. Ole-Bjorn Tuftedal Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> Dan from Norway** visited Okinawa and enjoyed karate practice twice a day at five Dojo, Taira Dojo, Tome Dojo, Nagamine Dojo, Shinzato Dojo and Miyagi Dojo. During his stay he practiced with Mr. Woolstone from England and also observed his 4<sup>th</sup> Dan Evaluation test in Nagamine Dojo. They both enjoyed Okinawa together.

**Quote from Mr. Tuftedal is:** "For a European karate teacher it is invaluable to come to Okinawa and practise with and receive instruction from the masters. In the west it is easy to forget about the DO part of karate, but traditional karate-do is about the lifelong Way, working hard learning and through this trying to evolve as a human being.

Many of us are still first generation teachers, i.e. we often come from other styles and have not had the continuous contact with our teachers and with the cultural environment and heritage of Okinawa, and we have not grown up within the tradition. This is equally

important for the technical understanding and development. Receiving corrections and learning more is a fundamental necessity. I therefore want to express my immense gratitude to the teachers that host me on my visits.

A pleasant aspect of my last trip was to attend Steve Woolston's test for 4th Dan at the end of October, and I congratulate him with passing. I also welcome him as being the first English dojo owner to join the WMKA/EMKA. Well done!"

**4. Mr. Martin O'Malley & Mr. Michael O'Neill from Ireland came to Okinawa**, their 2<sup>nd</sup> trip this year, from November 3 to 9<sup>th</sup>. They practiced karate twice a day together with other groups from Norway and USA.

**Mr. O'Malley's quote is:** "During our visit to Okinawa we had the opportunity to work out at six different Dojo, studying under the expert guidance of the most eminent teachers. All of the teachers worked so hard to welcome us to their Dojo, to help us improve our understanding of Matsubayashi-ryu, and to make our whole visit such an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We are looking forward to our next visit Okinawa and to the Memorial Seminar to honour the memory of Soke Nagamine in November 2014".



Left Picture; Michael O'Neil 2<sup>nd</sup> dan, Ole-Bjorn Tuftedal Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan, Sinzato sensei Kyoshi 8<sup>th</sup> dan & Martin O'Maley 3<sup>rd</sup> dan.

Right picture; Michael O'Neil 2<sup>nd</sup> dan, Ed Barron Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan, Miyagi sensei Kyoshi 8<sup>th</sup> dan, Michael Norvel Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan & Martin O'Maley 3<sup>rd</sup> dan.

**5. Mr. Ed Barron Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan and Mr. Michael Norvel Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> dan from Missouri;** They visited Okinawa from November 3 to 10<sup>th</sup>. They practiced at Taira/Arakaki/tome/Miyagi and Nagamine Dojo. They met members from Ireland. They also enjoyed many tour spots in Okinawa. They were the last scheduled group to come to Okinawa this year.

**Quote from Mr. Barron is:** "Thank you for all of your help and support that made my Okinawa trip a great success. I was very pleased with the training that I received from

all of the Dojos that I trained at. I will be forever grateful to all of the Senseis that shared with me their knowledge and wisdom of Matsubayashi-ryu.

My training at the Hombu dojo was the most personal and emotional, this was the last dojo that I trained with Sensei Soke, a great man that I had known, loved and respected for more than 40 years, for which I will remain eternally grateful

I sincerely expect to see all of you in Okinawa to make it success of **“The Memorial karate-Do seminar and exchange demonstration 2014 for Soke Takayoshi Nagamine in Okinawa”** next year.

Sincerely Yours

Riki Nomura, Overseas manager WMKA

Okinawa