

# INTERNATIONAL KARATE CONNECTION ASSOCIATION NEWS



NEWSLETTER #17

4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER 1998

*You are Cordially Invited  
TO THE FIRST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
INTERNATIONAL KARATE CONNECTION  
SEMINAR AND TOURNAMENT*

SeaPort Marina Hotel – Long Beach, Calif.  
March 7, 1999

Come and See Competitive Events New to the Martial Arts  
For Particulars Call 714-229-0372

This is the last Newsletter before the Seminar / Tournament of March 7th in Long Beach, California. Your next Newsletter will have the names of the winners and a report of the events.

Being an IKCA Member you have been informed of the upcoming events. However, there might be other Martial Artists with whom you are acquainted, that are not aware, but would like to be. The following is an OPEN LETTER to all Martial Artists regardless of Style or System. If you know anyone that you feel could enjoy or benefit from what will be offered, please feel free to pass this letter on to them. As far as you are concerned, you might also find this letter of interest. It contains several things about the whys and wherefores of the events not covered in the past.

## INTERNATIONAL KARATE CONNECTION ASSOCIATION

Dear Fellow Martial Artist,

We would like to announce the First IKCA Championships. This is not an open tournament to competitors so we are not inviting you for the purposes of support or commitment in any way. We would like for you to come and enjoy yourself and we believe you will have an enjoyable time, because the day involves something foremost in your heart, Martial Arts. The reason this is not an open tournament is because we will be running events that are unfamiliar to practitioners outside the Karate Connection. That's not to say that other Stylists couldn't do

them, it's just that it will take time for them to become acquainted with, and practice for, some of the unique events or the manner in which some of the more traditional events will be presented or judged.

As an example: There is only one Kata in the Karate Connection System. The Kata is what we refer to as The Master Form. All fifty five techniques that make up the system also make up the form. In traditional tournaments that are open to all styles and systems the various Katas, Forms or Sets are pitted against one another. We have never understood how a Chinese based set could be compared to, or judged against, Japanese, Korean or Okinawan Kata, or even a Form front another Chinese system for that matter. Each has a set of moves based upon its own unique philosophies and basics. Each is known to the practitioners of their own discipline and to few others. Personally, I would never presume to be capable of judging something I am totally unfamiliar with. Never having studied a Korean, Japanese or Okinawan system, I would have no way of knowing if the contestant is doing his form correctly or not. I wouldn't even know if he or she did all o f the moves. It has always been a mystery to me as to how the judges cone up with a determination as to performance and what they could possibly have based it upon.

The Master Form on the other hand, being the only form to be performed, will be assessed by judges who know the form completely and intimately. There will be no way a competitor can forget a move, change an angle, drop a kick or even cover up a stutter without it being observed. To insure this, each performance will be judged by a panel whose area of responsibility is limited to only a specific zone. All too often, in a form of this complexity, there are simply too many things taking place simultaneously for one set of eyes to pick them all up. We have proven this to our own satisfaction by judging a performance on video several times, using different methods. First, we would judge the performance in its entirety, deducting for errors as we went along. Next, we tried the three judge method. Tie scores proved that when trying to observe it all at once, we were missing things that were caught watching the form on video three tunes or viewing it only once with three judges in attendance. Here's how the three judge method works: judge number one will be observing only the lower half of the body looking for such things as stance, stance changes and the degree of cock, development and recocking of the kicks as well as accuracy and power. Judge number two is responsible for the upper body. He will be watching all of the blocks and hand weapons to make sure they also are fully developed. He will be judging accuracy and power as well. Judge number three is responsible for the overall content of the form. He will be looking for omissions, wrong angles and poor transitions between techniques, as well as hesitations or a loss of balance during techniques. If a block, hand strike or kick is not powerful or well placed he will not be making the

deduction, because that is the area or responsibility of judges numbers one and two.

It is our intention to find out exactly who, in each division, does this form the very best. With that many eyes picking out even the smallest of infractions, we believe we will achieve our goal. In case there happens to be a tie in the amount of points deducted, the winner will be determined by time. The fourth member of each judging team will be the Official Timekeeper. The faster the form is performed the more likely the contestant is to make mistakes, so if there is a tie, the winner will be the one who took the most chances, by performing it in the least amount of time.

The next innovation to competition lies in the area of Freestyle Fighting. We have felt for a number of years that Point Kumite is not realistic. To stop the action as soon as one competitor puts in a shot, considered by the judges to be stunning or disabling is simply not practical and could ultimately work against practitioners, should they ever have the need to defend themselves on the street. We have all heard the story of a Karateka who lost on the street, only to say later that he couldn't understand it because he was three points ahead when the guy finally got him. What nonsense! The referee of a boxing match doesn't stop the fight for conformation from the other judges as to points. He just keeps a running tabulation in his mind and records it at the end of the round, because what was often a point by one fighter was followed by two points by his opponent, which could never have happened, had the action been stopped to call the first point.

A Continuous Freestyle Match is the only logical solution. We have been hearing lately that some tournaments were going to have this kind of competition. We haven't seen it as yet but it's an idea whose time is long overdue. We welcome it. We stopped calling points in the dojo a long, long time ago. If you get into trouble, fight your way out of it.

In a pre-tournament experiment at our Seminar in Louisiana we came to the conclusion by relying heavily on feedback from the competitors, that two one minute rounds with a thirty second rest between rounds was the best formula. The fighters were able to give the match their full effort without having to save something for an extended period, plus, they had a short interval to reassess their performance between rounds. It isn't the street but it is a far cry from stopping the action every time things are just about to get interesting. This lets the fighters flow and complete or modify strategies during the action.

These two areas are just the beginning of the differences between the IKCA Championships and other tournaments. The following is the part we are most excited about.

Some years ago I began to wonder what would happen if I were attacked from any angle other than straight ahead. In the classes I attended, taught by Mr.

Parker, we never practiced for that possibility, extemporaneously. The attack always came from directly in front of us and we always knew what the attack was going to be; left jab, right roundhouse punch, right ball kick, left roundhouse kick etc. But I wondered what would happen if someone attacked me from say, forty five degrees to the left and I didn't know what he was going to throw at me until I got a glimpse of it coming; or ninety degrees to the right, under the same circumstances. How would I react? Would I be able to pop off one of the great techniques I had spent so much time learning? What would my control be like? Would I freeze up and get nailed? There was a relatively simple way to find out. Spread a group of people (from five to seven) in a semicircle from slightly less than ninety degrees to the right, to slightly less than ninety degrees to the left, and then have someone stand behind me and point at individuals to attack. That way I would have no verbal warning, as to who had been chosen. What a revelation. Truthfully, it was more like a shock!

The techniques I did manage to get off were actually only partial techniques, at best, and were not nearly as controlled as I had anticipated. I found myself turning into an attack coming directly from my left, by switching to my right side, a one hundred and eighty degree turn, because I favored blocking with my right arm. Think about that! Think about the wasted motion and loss of time, when my left arm was already in position for a block. I further found, upon analysis that I had all too often moved forward into blows, when logic tells me I should have been moving away from them, giving myself the advantage of added time, instead of the disadvantage of subtracting time from the equation. Not only that, but I kept repeating the same techniques on each side. Here I was, a Black Belt who had learned, and was teaching, over two hundred techniques (at that time - more later) and I kept getting stuck doing the same technique over and over. I couldn't think of five different techniques under pressure. There were times I couldn't think of even one and just went for targets as best I could. Of course I was using good Kenpo basics and picking out vulnerable targets, I was hitting them swiftly but I wasn't doing techniques and I wanted to do what I had been training for. What's the point of learning all those great techniques if you can't use them when you need them.

All in all, not a good performance and this was in the dojo under controlled conditions, not on the street with people actually trying to take my head off. Needless to say the rest of my peers did about the same. So, what to do? How about a drill specifically designed to address those problems? That's how the "Semi-circle Drill" was born.

To further complicate things, I had roughly the same trepidations about being grabbed from behind, having an assailant try to put a hold or lock on me. The first few times a line of people coming up from behind me, put unknown, random holds on me, my reaction time was unacceptably slow. I had to think about

it before I could react. And as we all know, if you have to think about it, it's already too late! Through practice we can now react in a fraction of a second, which is essential under those conditions. Thus, the "Running the Line with Escape Techniques Drill" was invented.

Lastly, is the subject of striking with all of the accuracy speed and power you are capable of, while keeping the flow of motion smooth and consistent. It's impractical (and against the law) to do it on a live body so we created a life size dummy with all of the targets of the human anatomy, to making certain all the actual targets are being hit. We wanted to be able to see it and feel it and even hear it. And that's how we got the "Striking the Dummy Drill" and ultimately the competitive event.

Turning these drills into competitive events has been much more a pleasure than a chore and the level of interest and excitement among our students is far greater than we expected.

The last event we will be presenting, which we feel is also unique to karate competition, is our "Team Event". Until now all of the, so called, team events in Karate Competition have not been team events at all. What they have been, is one group of people pitted against another group of people, who freestyle in pairs. That's not a team; it's a selection of individuals. A team is "a group organized to work together". This is what each person in this event will be doing, working together. Each team consists of three people. Two of the team members will constantly be moving into position and attacking while the third member defends himself, using the techniques of the Green Belt. Turning these drills into competitive events has been much more a pleasure than a chore and the level of interest and excitement among our students is far greater than we expected.

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## ATTENTION IKCA BLACK BELTS

You have recently received your patch like the one pictured here. As you know it says, loud and clear, that you are an IKCA Black Belt recipient.

Black Belts from other organizations or individual Black Belts are allowed to wear the Karate Connection Club Patch as well as the IKCA Association Patch while wearing the Black Belt they earned elsewhere.

Until now there has been no way of telling at a glance if they are IKCA Black Belts or not, this patch changes that.

There has been a little confusion as to the placement of the IKCA Black Belt patch on the gi. This patch is to be worn above the Club Patch on the front of your uniform (not with the round Association Patch on the right sleeve). The object is to display it as prominently as possible. The patch isn't large, so placement is important.

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## VIDEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The belt ranking system in the Martial Arts was designed, most probably, as a reward program, and it works. As a student you are always looking forward to your next belt. When you reach Black Belt, it's your next degree.

Rank is taken seriously, as are the tests for each promotion. As you know, or perhaps you don't, in the early days of Karate here in the United States, there were only three colored belts, white, brown and Black. What is of more importance is the fact that at that time there were no tests for rank. It was totally unnecessary for Mr. Parker to test anyone, because at that time he taught all of the classes and he knew each and every student personally and he was fully aware of their capabilities and shortcomings. His was the final, and only, determination as to who was promoted and when. There was usually an announcement a week ahead of the promotion date so everyone could sweat it out. "Am I gonna make it this time or will I be passed over"? And if you missed class for a couple of weeks and missed the promotions, there would be none until the next time he decided to do it. No one got promoted in-between.



It wasn't until Mr. Parker had multiple schools and instructors working under him, when he could no longer visit each and every school and make his presence felt that he went to testing the students he had not personally trained. It was also about that time that the colored belt program was instituted. (for more information on that subject, see Newsletter #5 – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 1995).

The Karate Connection on the other hand was conceived upon the concept that, not knowing our students personally and having them in our classes weekly, we needed a method of evaluating what they were doing and how well they were learning the material. So we instituted a series of tests. One for each belt level. That way we could keep tabs on their progress to make certain that they have the understanding that we intended or we could stop the progress until they did. Simple as it sounds, few others have bothered to emulate the process because they have no doubt discovered that it isn't easy. It's very labor intensive. It doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of aggressive intercommunication and affinity on our part as well as our students but by working together we can achieve a level of teaching and learning, heretofore unattainable, and distance is of no consequence. Is it exciting? You bet it is. It's the most exciting thing we've ever been involved with, since our introduction to the Martial Arts. But enough about history and what the Karate Connection is all about. This article is what testing in the Martial Arts is all about.

We had never thought about giving an award for an outstanding video performance when video testing was first conceived. It came about quite naturally. In 1995 Tom Ford of Everett Washington sent us his test for Brown Belt and it was so impressive we decided, on the spot, it had to be acknowledged, above and beyond just a promotion. Receiving a promotion for a job well done is what testing is all about but what about a truly extraordinary performance? One that someone spent an unusual amount of time and effort on. How can that go unmentioned? If we only tell the person who did it, it would be a crime. So we decided to acknowledge it to the membership-at-large. Thus, the Video of the Year Award was born. It was never intended to be a competition and we don't really think of it as such.

We have more students today than we did back in 1995 so naturally we receive more video tests than we did back then. In the process we have come upon a bit of a dilemma. There have been a number of tests that qualify for extra recognition but they fall into decidedly different categories. How, for instance, can you judge a test for Purple Belt against a test for Black Belt? Or a test for 1st Degree Black Belt, in which all of the techniques for Brown and Black Belt are done with a partner, against a test for Degrees in Black Belt, in which only the Master Form is required. To further complicate matters, there is the question of a Junior Black Belt, where the student is under sixteen years of age and in some cases as young as ten, or less. How can any of the above be judged against one another?

We don't feel it fair to even try. So, we have decided to do something similar to the Motion Picture Academy Awards, where there are different categories. The only distinction being, that unlike the Academy Awards, where they are obligated to find someone to fit the award, we aren't. If there are no tests that qualify for a particular category, there just won't be an award for that category. How's that for simplicity?

This year we received three truly outstanding video tests. There were a number of others that were of excellent quality, in fact, the overall quality has been steadily improving as the years have gone by, but three were above and beyond in excellence.



The first was a Purple Belt Test from St. Louis MO. The gentleman is the student of one of our Black Belts who earned his belt through video testing. This is his qualifying student. I suppose the thing that makes his Purple Belt Test really outstanding is the fact that he almost failed his Orange Belt Test. When Mr. LeRoux informed his instructor of the problems on the Orange Belt Test the man obviously made the determination that he wasn't going to hear that again. So, when it came to his student's Purple Belt Test they unquestionably worked extra hard and it showed. He looked like a different Martial Artist. He was crackling, whereas, for Orange he was moving through it with apprehension, unsure of his moves. What a difference!

The second is a young man who did all of his training at a School whose instructors earned their belts through video testing. The head Instructor was a previous Kenpo Black Belt. The training their students receive is the very best it can be. They are both IKCA Certified Senior Instructors on the Family Tree, having over ten Black Belt Students under them.

The third was a young man who received his Black Belt without an on-site instructor. He did it all through video. On his Test for his Second Degree Black Belt he did the Master Form in One Minute and Forty Three Seconds and it was absolutely stunning. His movements were crisp and precise and at the end when he walked to the camera I could hear his breathing. So help me, it was just about normal, which is incredible! That's not to say the Form was perfect, there would have been deductions had it been in tournament competition with a panel of judges, but it was GREAT! Once again we are reminded of how the IKCA Black Belts were correct when they voted to keep the test for degrees as it was conceived. As soon as you see the Master Form being done like that you know the techniques, if done individually, would be done to the same level.

The fourth is a ten year old boy who has been in the Art for five years. His instructor is one of our local Black Belts, He has other Black Belt Students but this is his Certification Student with the IKCA. Junior Black Belt is for students under the age of sixteen. This kid is really junior. He has six years until he can hang his first degree on his belt. Can you imagine, if he's this good now, what he will be like in six more years?

Each Karate Connection student who gets promoted has proved, on video, that they are deserving, which is many times more difficult than doing a group test with your peers and being judged by a panel of your friends.

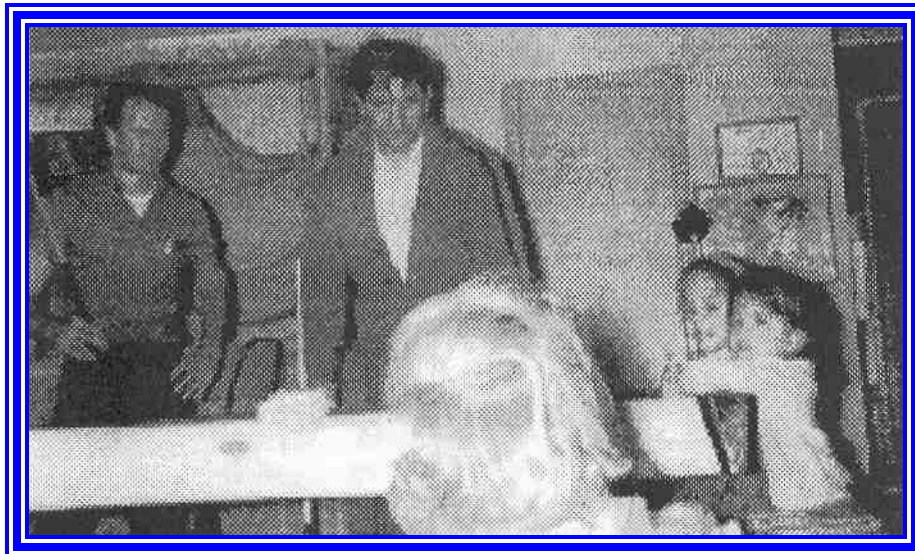
In most schools, I know the tests are only a formality to a predetermined promotion. With the Karate Connection the test is the determining factor - **PERIOD!** You don't do it right - you don't wear the belt. REMEMBER - Nobody said we were going to make it easy - all we said, is that we were going to make it possible.

Congratulations to the Winners of this year's Video Of The Year Awards - we will be announcing the winners and making the awards at the Tournament in Long Beach.



# YE OLD PHOTO ALBUM

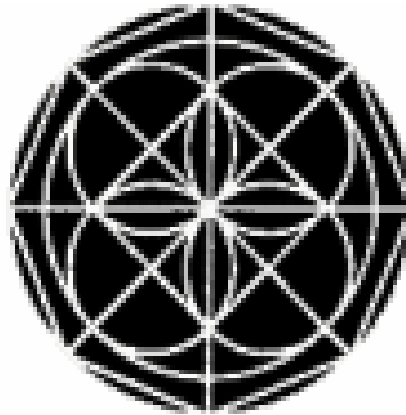
It isn't often you get to see Ed Parker in street clothes but he did have a life outside the dojo. In the photo below Ed is lining up a shot. This was on one of the many weekends our families got together at one another's house for some barbeque, relaxation and fun for the kids. These two pictures were taken in the family room at my home sometime in the very early sixties.



Neither Ed nor I were very good pool shooters even though I had the table there to practice on anytime I wanted; although if I had time to practice anything in those days it would have been Kenpo. On the right are two of Ed's daughters. That head full of blonde hair in the foreground belongs to my daughter.



Here's another photo of Mr. Parker in civvies. The lady is his wife Leilani and the other gentleman is Professor William K.S. Chow, Mr. Parker's instructor and long time friend.





# PROMOTIONS



**We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your promotion. We know what kind of dedication and perseverance it requires to earn rank in the Martial Arts and we wish to pay our sincerest respects to you for having shown what it takes to appear on this list.**

Jeff McLaughlin	Springdale, AR, USA	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt</b>
Dalan Haas	Rossmoor, CA, USA	<b>Junior Black Belt</b>
Ray Gregory	Anaheim, CA, USA	<b>Brown</b>
Kristena Moreno	Long Beach, CA, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Ernie Gallegos	Long Beach, CA, USA	<b>Purple</b>
Chris Vu	Long Beach, CA, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Ken Brown	Ontario, CAN	<b>Green</b>
Ricardo A. Perez, Sr.	Falfurrias, TX, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Mark Salinas	Falfurrias, TX, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Ricardo R. Pena	Falfurrias, TX, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Christina Trask	Premont, TX, USA	<b>Orange</b>
William Trask	Premont, TX, USA	<b>Orange</b>
April Seefeldt	Manitowoc, WI, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Tara Rutherford	Manitowoc, WI, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Maureen Lehman	Cato, WI, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Nick Lehman	Cato, WI, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Cameron Wehunt	Two Rivers, WI, USA	<b>Yellow</b>
Julio Lopez	Bellflower, CA, USA	<b>Purple</b>
Robert Contreras	Bellflower, CA, USA	<b>Green</b>
Peter Stewart	South Australia	<b>Orange</b>
Giulian Balasso	South Australia	<b>Orange</b>
Rod Martens	Billings, MT, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Rienk Eelkema	Muscatine, IA, USA	<b>Orange</b>
John Willis	Garberville, CA, USA	<b>Blue</b>
Dustin Carlisle	Hampton, GA, USA	<b>Purple</b>
Cory Gilbert	McDonough, GA, USA	<b>Purple</b>
Glenn Wallace	Philadelphia, PA, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Joseph L. Stover	Deland, FL, USA	<b>Blue</b>
Coleman West	Deland, FL, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Zachary Sievert	Deland, FL, USA	<b>Orange</b>
David A. Deaton	London, KY, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Robin Freeze	North Platte, NE, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Jeremy White	Klebb City, MO, USA	<b>Orange</b>
Ron L. Collins	Pittsburg, KS, USA	<b>Orange</b>



Jose F. Ormeno	Sellersville, PA, USA	Purple
Jason Keirse	Orange City, FL, USA	Green
Andy Hartman	Orange City, FL, USA	Blue
Robert Franko	DeBary, FL, USA	Purple
Samuel D. Wilkinson	Premont, TX, USA	Orange
Jay Wood	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Jonathan Douma	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Ryan Brennan	Napa, CA, USA	Blue
Jose Martinez	Napa, CA, USA	Green
John Gehre	Napa, CA, USA	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt</b>
Michael Blass	Winston, CT, USA	Brown
Roger Freeze	North Platte, NE, USA	Purple
Glenn LeBlanc	Calhoun, GA, USA	Purple
Erik Arthur	Torrance, CA, USA	Orange
Kristina Fossum	White Bear Lake, MN, USA	Orange
Chris Moen	White Bear Lake, MN, USA	Orange
Nathan Cariveau	White Bear Lake, MN, USA	Orange
Erick Benavies	Cerritos, CA, USA	Orange
Tim Burns	Lynnwood, CA, USA	Orange
Alex H. Barrera	San Jose, CA, USA	Brown
Martin Slavenwhite	Nova Scotia, CAN	Orange
Shane Thompson	Billings, MT, USA	Orange
Rod Martens	Billings, MT, USA	Purple
Rod Larson	Muscatine, IA, USA	Brown
Anthony Hockley	Australia	Green
Howard Singer	Garden Grove, Ca, USA	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt</b>
Marvin Mc Dougle	Calhoun, GA, USA	Blue
Michael Techlowec	Pisgah, AL, USA	Purple
Liam McCusker	Australia	Orange
Guillermo Reyes	Netherlands Antilles	Orange
Richard Liedel	Netherlands Antilles	Orange
Cyuard Granville	Netherlands Antilles	Orange
Daniel R. Proffitt	Billings, MT, USA	Orange
Ricardo Baart	Netherlands Antilles	Purple
Wes Faulk	Nigeria	Green
Blair Faulk	Nigeria	Green
Erik Arthur	Torrance, CA, USA	Purple
Chris Davidson	Marysville, WA, USA	Blue
Randy Bittner	APO Military	Orange
Derron Alexis	Lynnwood, WA, USA	Orange
Eric Marshall	Everett, WA, USA	Orange
Eddie Grant	Everett, WA, USA	Orange
Miles Hopkins	Everett, WA, USA	Orange
John Ferry	Turlock, CA, USA	Orange
Lori Fiengold	Pembroke Pines, FL, USA	Purple

Michael Harris	Webster, TX, USA	Blue
Elease Woolley	Wasco, CA, USA	Purple
Wilfrido Justina	Netherlands Antilles	Brown
Johnny M. Avila	Fresno, CA, USA	Orange
Brenda King	Richmond, CA, USA	Green
Tony Johnson	Sioux Falls, SD, USA	Purple
Brian T. Rutledge	Fayetteville, TN, USA	Purple
Darrell T. Griffith	Austin, TX, USA	Orange
Morgan Corder	Garden City, ID, USA	Blue
James R. Blankenship	Minneapolis, MN, USA	Orange
Jason D. Ramey	Ft. Stockton, TX, USA	Orange
Robin Gary Boss	Lancaster, NH, USA	Orange
Matthew Hammer	Marina, CA, USA	Green
Mary Lower	Susanville, CA, USA	Orange
Steve Arbiz	Langhorne, PA, USA	Orange
Justin Wechsler	Glendale, AZ, USA	Brown
Doug Wheeler	Huntington Beach, CA, USA	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Black Belt
Matthew Wilson	Redding, CA, USA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Black Belt
Heith Lang	Pisgah, AL, USA	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt
Fortunato Marin	Bellflower, CA, USA	Orange
Mark Morelli	Tucson, AZ, USA	Blue
Thomas Smith	Hardin, MT, USA	Blue
Joey Trujillo	Bakersfield, CA, USA	Green
Mike Cerutti -	St. Louis, MO, USA	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt
James Catuccio	Scotia, NY, USA	Blue
Tobias Berg	Beerfelden, GER	Purple
Kenny Keing	Gardena, CA, USA	Junior Black Belt
Jack Ackerman	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Yellow
Sara Blaser	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Yellow
Dan Rush	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Yellow
Barb Rush	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Yellow
Cameron Wehunt	Two Rivers, WI, USA	Yellow
Scott Buth	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Orange
Jason Fink	Two Rivers, WI, USA	Orange
CJ Gordon	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Orange
Jason Laurence	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Orange
Tom Rutherford	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Orange
Daniel Sanchez	Paramount, CA, USA	Brown
James L. Taylor	Northport, AL, USA	Blue
Tim Stuart	Brewer, ME, USA	Purple
Robin Kolenick	Deland, FL, USA	Brown
Erik Arthur	Torrance, CA, USA	Blue
Sergio Lopez	Hermosa Beach, CA, USA	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt