

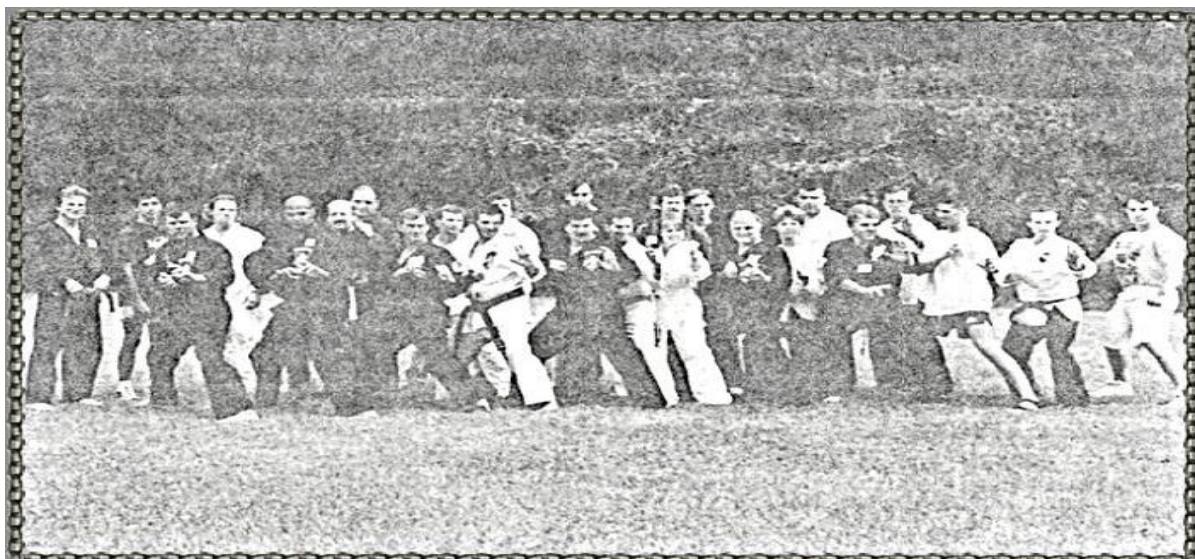
INTERNATIONAL KARATE CONNECTION ASSOCIATION NEWS



NEWSLETTER #3

2nd QUARTER 1995

BACK TO THE DEEP SOUTH



☆ SECOND IKCA ☆ LOUISIANA SEMINAR

In May of 1994 we went to Amite, Louisiana a town about seventy miles north of New Orleans and met some extraordinary people. The seminar we did at that time primarily involved the people of that area. This June we went back, however this time, practitioners from East Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and Florida came, along with those from the immediate area as well as the rest of Louisiana.

Something magical happens when you get a group of individuals who share a common
(continued next page)

THE NIGHT I MET BRUCE LEE

By Chuck Sullivan

It was an ominously dark and tempestuous evening, the cold wind driving the rain almost horizontally. When the huge drops smashed onto the pavement they splattered into a mist giving an ethereal essence to the motion of the people rushing toward the sanctuary of the dojo.

Actually, I don't remember what kind of night it was. I just wanted to try out my creative writing skills. They need work. I'd better stick with the facts.

(please see BRUCE, page 3)



SOME OF THE GANG ON BOURBON STREET

interest and are in perfect harmony with one another. Suddenly, strangers become fast friends and a world of sharing begins. We had a blast at the seminar and socially as well. Except for getting separated on the way to new Orleans and having to find each other on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter on a Saturday night, everything went great.

There were three in-person tests which were passed with flying colors and two more Certified Instructor plaques awarded. Unfortunately in the heat of the activities, festivities and the Louisiana climate we neglected taking photos of the actual awards.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor of Amite, doctor Reggie Goldsby for his overwhelming hospitality. **THANK YOU REGGIE!** That's Reggie on the extreme left of the group photo on page one (if he doesn't want to get in a stance he doesn't have to, it's his yard).

We'd also like to thank our two new Certified Instructors Damon Excell, 3rd Degree Black Belt Kenpo and Bill Sims, 2nd Degree Black Belt Kenpo (first and second in the front row, left) for the trip they made from Atlanta GA to be with us. **YOU GUYS KNOW HOW WE FEEL ABOUT YOU.** They not only helped greatly with the teaching but without Damon acting as the designated driver four our raid to

the French Quarter we might still be somewhere on the back roads of Louisiana. We also wish to thank Mr. Antonio Lopez for the time he so graciously gave us demonstrating and teaching Russian Sambo, one of the most fascinating arts we've seen as done by one of the foremost practitioners in the world. You'll be hearing much more about our relationship with Mr. Lopez in the future.

It looks as if the Louisiana Connection will be an annual event, at least we hope so. We're already looking forward to next year and another healthy helping of Jambalaya and fried alligator. If you're south of the Mason-Dixon or east of the Ol' Mississippi you oughta be there.



(BRUCE, continued from page one)

What I do remember about that night was that the advanced class was having its usual great workout with Ed Parker at the helm. There was he typical gallery of spectators watching and being duly impressed.

When the class ended we headed for the dressing room to change out of our sweaty gis. When we returned to the mat area we were still barefooted and loitered there shooting the breeze. Mr. Parker was in his office taking care of business.

Within minutes Ed re-entered the mat area with a smaller, younger man following. He introduced him all around as Bruce Lee and had just about enough time to tell us that the kid is one heck of a martial artist before he was called back to take another phone call.

This Bruce guy wasn't at all shy and in a very short time the conversation drifted away from whatever we had been taking about and he had taken the floor. Soon he was telling us how he had just returned from Hong Kong where he had been seeking the **truth** concerning the martial arts. He said that from his observations of Karate and Kung Fu in the United states it was all "BS". That was his word, not mine. He said in Hong Kong however only **95%** was "BS". His claim was that he had been able to go places and see things that we as Occidentals would never have been allowed. In fact, we wouldn't have made it halfway down some of the alleys they were located in.

According to his mathematics, of the 5% of the Hong Kong schools that were not "BS", about half were sincerely trying but missing the mark and the other half was truly **there**. So according to Bruce Lee in the year 1962 when he was twenty-one years of age, only about two and a half percent of the world's martial arts facilities were on the **mark**. (Which didn't make any difference to us because we couldn't go there anyway.) Obviously the Japanese and Koreans didn't even count. At least they never came up in his assessments.

Now you've got to remember, he was talking to a group of black and brown belts, most of whom were older than he. And bigger than he. And devoted to their Art, style system and instructor. I could feel the tension in the air bit either Bruce didn't feel it or he chose to ignore it. Then he did some physical things. I felt the tension dropping and the respect rising. He had me feel his forearm. It was like a piece of metal. I suppose you could have driven your fingernail into the skin, but I really believe that was about it. I'd never felt anything like it, before or since. "Not magic," he said, "just training."

As the conversation went on the mood became lighter and more affable until he dropped the **bomb**. In a very casual manner he said, "Oh, by the way, I saw you doing something earlier (during the class) and I was wondering why you were doing that?" Then he demonstrated what he was talking about. It was part of a technique Ed was teaching. We all exchanged glances and there was obvious confusion among us. Any one watching the class **knew** why we were doing that move. In looking back, Bruce played it for all it was worth. Putting on an innocent air. Finally someone took the bait and asked what he meant, **why** were we doing it? He said, " Oh, I just wondered because it's **wrong**. That's when the tension came back, big time. I had known most of these guys for quite some time and knew them well. I had never seen so many faces turn crimson so fast before. But Bruce wasn't one to let the moment slip away. He seized upon our stunned condition to show us precisely what we had done and then in painful detail he went back over it and showed us how it violated a principal. It **was** wrong. There was no denying it. It wasn't big. It wouldn't ruin your style. It didn't destroy the system, **but it was wrong**."

I wish I could remember what it was he picked up on that night but as I said it wasn't that earth shattering of a thing. It did however make me think. If that was wrong and it really did violate a principle, then what else had we been taught that wasn't quite right? It was then and there I decided to go back over everything I was doing and reevaluate. And I made a vow that I would examine with the proverbial fine tooth comb

everything that was taught to me in the future. Even at that, things get by you. Take last newsletter's article "Then and Now" for example. You can never be too careful. That's one of the reasons Vic and I took so long to put the System together. What ever didn't work was thrown out immediately and whatever was weak followed.

I'll never forget an argument I had with Ed Parker many years later about the technique called Thundering Hammers. We argued all the way home from his West L.A. dojo to his home in Pasadena, some forty miles. I told him, a forearm across the midsection wouldn't bend a body over, it would instead have much more of a tendency to stand it up. The body hinges at the hips, not across the stomach. It takes a shot to the groin to bend a body over and it would be the easiest thing in the world to simply change the target and allow the body to take its natural course of action, thereby allowing the technique to be finished the way it was conceived. One thing about our "arguments". They might get heated, but there was never any degree of hostility, we both enjoyed making a point. In this particular case I won a hollow victory. When we pulled up in front of his house, Ed Parker finally said he saw what I was saying and that he was going to change the technique. He never did. I never brought it up again. I taught it my way and he taught it his way.

Unfortunately, I never got the chance to spend time with Bruce to compare notes. I wish I had taken the time. I did stay in close contact with Danny Inosanto for years after he became Bruce's number one disciple.

On a dozen or more occasions Danny would tell me what Bruce had started doing with his classes and I would tell him that I had also instituted the very same kind of training or drill (without any knowledge of what Bruce was doing). Or, I would tell Danny that we had just started doing something that they should think about because it's working so well and Danny would say he couldn't believe it, they had just begun doing the same thing themselves. I remember a direct quote from Dan. He said, "You know Chuck, you and Bruce really ought to get together. I've never known two people more on the same wave length". I wish I had, it would have been fun. Although we never got a chance to work together, whenever we saw each other at a tournament or some function, Bruce and I never failed to stop and talk for a while.

Danny also told me what Bruce said when he told him about the things we were doing at our school and how closely they paralleled his innovations. Bruce said, "**He is in the water... but he is not yet swimming.**" I got a kick out of that. Several years later my wife and I had the pleasure of spending time with Linda Lee, Bruce's widow. At the time she was married to an old friend of mine, an early Kenpo Black Belt. One night when the four of us were out to dinner I told her what Bruce had said about me being in the water but not yet swimming. She smiled at that, undoubtedly recognizing her late husband's verbal style and said, "That's about as good a compliment as Bruce ever gave."

Rest in Peace Bruce.

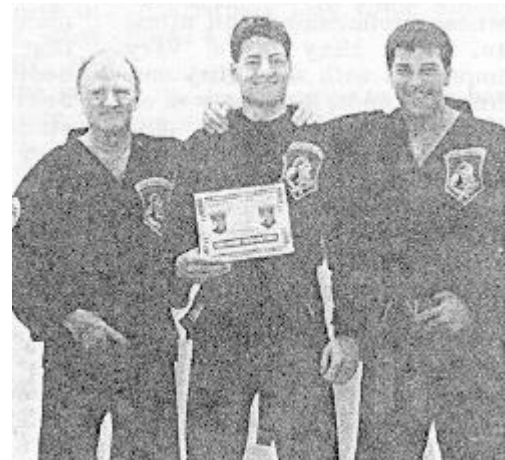


Doug Meeks and Jeff Sterneberg Make the Certified Instructor List



On April 28, 1995 the Napa Martial Arts Academy, a Karate Connection affiliate school in the beautiful California Napa Valley held an open house and demonstration for the townsfolk and invited us to attend. A trip to Napa is always welcome. It's one of the most beautiful spots in the state, as are the people who live there, as is the school itself, with a custom tatami matted area. We've never failed to have anything but a great time there. One of the reasons we wanted to attend was the fact that we were going to award a pair of Certified Instructor Plaques at the event.

As you no doubt recall, the Karate Connection By-laws allow **Certified Instructor** status to be granted to individuals who have achieved the Black Belt level and who take a student through the system to the rank of Black Belt themselves. During the process they are regarded as a **Qualifying Instructor**, then when their student passes the Black Belt test they become a **Certified Instructor** and are no longer required to have their students approved directly by the IKCA Board of Black Belts.



It was a privilege and a great pleasure to award the Title of Certified Instructor to Doug Meeks (above) and Jeff Sterneberg (right) both of Napa California. They are a pair of exemplary instructors and their students show it. As a group, their students are on a par with the best we've ever seen. And over the years, we've seen the best there is. We shot some video during the Friday evening workout before the demonstrations on Saturday. After showing it to our regular workout group, whose proficiency I can attest to, they were very impressed with what they saw from the under belts as well as the higher level belts. The portion we showed them was during an open workout and basically without their awareness of the camera. In other words, they weren't necessarily making an effort for the camera, this was just their regular workout. These people are hot, guys and girls alike. I'd like to pass on a story Doug Meeks told us on our first visit to Napa. I hope it doesn't embarrass him.

It seems Doug was just about to quit teaching and devote himself to private workouts because he found it frustrating trying to teach a system of Kenpo that had so many techniques and forms that nobody seemed



The Napa Gang

To the man, these guys are EXCELLENT

able or dedicated enough to learn. Just about the time his students were becoming good they found other interests and were gone. Very frustrating! About that time he saw the Karate Connection's ad for a FREE VIDEO. His first reaction was, "Free video... sure... You buy fifteen and then they'll give you the sixteenth free." But as he read on he found that for four bucks he could see a half hour of what the Karate Connection had to offer. He said, "For four bucks, why not?" Shortly after viewing the Preview Video Doug went to his wife and said, "You've been wondering what to get me for Christmas, here's what I want... this set of videos." The way he tells it, she looked at him and asked, "Doug you own about fifteen hundred dollars worth of Karate videos right now... what makes these so special?" He said, "Because these are the last Karate videos I'm ever going to have to buy." To which she responded, "You got 'em!"

This is the part I didn't want to embarrass Doug with but I thought it was special and wanted to share it with you.

The videos came a month or so before Christmas and when Doug found out he asked, "So where are they?" She said they were a Christmas present and he could watch them Christmas Day. He didn't push it. He simply got up in the middle of the night, almost every night, closed the bedroom door quietly, snuck one into the VCR and with the sound barely audible watched for an hour before returning it to its hiding place and going back to bed. He told he hadn't been that happy to see Christmas Day come since he was a kid.

We are so happy to have had an influence on Doug and then in turn on Jeff. There are people involved in Kenpo today who would never have had the opportunity had Doug not turned around and started teaching again.

**Congratulations
Doug and Jeff**

**AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING
VIDEO PERFORMANCE
PLANNED**

Most of the video tests we receive are judged Pass, Pass On Condition or Fail, but once in a while a test comes along that's so good it eclipses a passing performance, placing itself in a class of its own. We feel such efforts should be acknowledged with more than just the usual promotion. Beginning in 1995 and each year thereafter we plan to recognize such accomplishments. A letter of congratulations to those in contention and a certificate to the winner will be awarded for the BEST VIDEO TEST for that year.

The thought came to us when we received the tests of Thomas E. Ford of Everett, Washington.



Pictured above, Thomas E. Ford with us during a visit in June. He's a heavyweight who moves like a lightweight. Even on **Leaping Thunder** he really gets off the ground.

Each of his tests was graded above the 90% required to recognize rank from another style, as per the First Amendment of the IKCA By-laws. He told us they would be and he was right. By the time he had turned in his Brown Belt test we knew there had to be some sort of extra recognition for such outstanding efforts.

As of now Tom's Brown Belt test is the benchmark which one must better in order to upset him from winning the BEST VIDEO TEST AWARD for 1995. The test can be for any rank. It isn't exactly an Academy Award but we felt we had to do something.



Tom visiting the grave sight of Bruce and Brandon Lee at Lake View Cemetery, Seattle WA.



THE KARATE CONNECTION'S FIRST JUNIOR BLACK BELTS



**Shane Beahn (left) and Travis Physioc
with their Instructor Vic LeRoux**

As you know from the By-laws, children of any age are eligible to receive their Black Belt when they have passed the same tests required for an adult. The only difference is a child must wait until their sixteenth birthday to begin their promotions for rank in black belt. What they receive is simply a plain Black Belt, no first degree stripe.

We are very proud of the effort and achievement of these kids. They have the understanding, knowledge and ability of any Black belt, except in miniature. They are able to perform all the techniques, Master Form and freestyle at a Black Belt level with anyone their own size.

These two youngsters were trained in person by Mr. LeRoux. We have not, to date, had anyone achieve Junior Black Belt status by video. We hate to make assumptions but we feel, if and when it is done, it will be with the aid of a Qualifying or Certified Karate Connection Instructor. It's difficult enough for an adult to adhere to the discipline necessary to learn something as complex as an entire system of Karate by video but to expect a child to do it alone is probably asking the impossible, or at least the improbable.

Travis and Shane are both currently training with our advanced adult class. The advantage they have is that they can work with each other and don't have to burden an adult with working with a child, something we've always tried to avoid. Neither the child nor the adult gets much of a workout when they're forced upon each other. The up-side is that these kids grow so fast it won't be long before they're looking down at us and when we ask how old they are they'll say something like, "I'm fifteen years old, Sir," in a baritone voice from a six foot two inch physique. We can't wait to see these kids in just a few short years.





Part of the following is a reprint from last months newsletter. We felt we should repeat it for the benefit of those just now coming on board with the IKCA.

Somewhere near the beginning of the Orange Belt Tape the statement is made that we have been responsible for literally hundreds of promotions to various belt levels over the years and that **no one has ever been promoted that didn't deserve his or her belt** and that it **would not begin with this program**. That policy has existed throughout our Martial Arts history and still does.

The failure rate for video tests is about two out of five for Orange Belt. Sometimes it seems we're being too hard on those testing by video but when we analyze the performances and can see how their mistakes will compound themselves in the future, we know **it's our obligation to the student** to make the corrections and insist upon seeing those corrections on another test before we can let them advance to the next level.

Of the two out of five that fail about half don't continue with us. The assumption here is, they thought they were going to send in their test and automatically be promoted which in essence would be buying their promotion. **Never happen!!** Of the half that continue most never fail another test, once they discover what's expected of them they put out the effort and do just fine. There have been occasions where a student has failed the same test twice before passing it. It takes a real dedication to do that and we applaud that kind of persistence. There was one case where the student failed the same belt level three times but hung in there. He wanted it real bad.

Our heart-felt congratulations go out to each and every one of our students who made the grade on this promotion list. We only make it **possible**, we don't make it **easy**!

If at times you see a name repeated at what seems rather close intervals between promotions, please keep in mind that many of our students are already Black Belts from other styles or even schools of Kenpo. These Black Belts are required to go through our entire program (all belt levels) in order to attain Qualifying Instructor status. It's natural that their rate of progress would be a fraction of that of a beginning Karate student.

MARCH 1995

Oleaf Lambard
Susan Fournell
Michael Fournell
Harold McGill
Clayton A. Pait
Gerald Tedesco
Christopher E. Luebkin

Pretoria, South Africa
High Bridge, NJ, USA
High Bridge, NJ, USA
Lithonia, GA, USA
Hartsville, SC, USA
Patchogue, NY, USA
Phoenix, AZ, USA

Orange
Orange
Orange
Orange
Purple
Purple

1st Degree Black Belt

Charles N. Page	Dexter, MA, USA	Blue
Billy Kapps	Long Island, NY, USA	Orange
Frank Leyva	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Rocio Leyva	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Mathew Wilson	Ft. Davis, TX, USA	Purple
Charles Zucker	Victorville, CA, USA	Orange
Mark Hunton	Winston-Salem, NC, USA	Orange
Russell Fuson	Mishawaka, IN, USA	Orange
Lawrence Zieffle		Orange
Larry Hessing	Alberta, CAN	Purple
Glen Russell	Louisville, KY, USA	Orange
Timothy C. Andersen	Alberta, CAN	Orange
Warren T. Duggan	Alberta, CAN	Purple
Don Ariail	Lawrenceville, KY, USA	Orange
Gary Catherman	Sinton, TX, USA	Orange
Tim Rightenour	West Yellowstone, MT, USA	Orange
Phil Gagnon	Chicago, IL, USA	Orange
Bernie Douglas	Ontario, CAN	Green
Amy Cheung	Ontario, CAN	Green
Steve Oakley	Los Alamitos, CA, USA	Orange
Nick Oakley	Los Alamitos, CA, USA	Orange
Eric Oakley	Los Alamitos, CA, USA	Orange
Robby Barnett	Rossmoor, CA, USA	Orange
Chris Barnett	Rossmoor, CA, USA	Orange
Evan Rosenthal	Los Alamitos, CA, USA	Orange
Jordan Rosenthal	Los Alamitos, CA, USA	Orange
Monica Ortiz	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Stuart Chester	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Tony Facchini	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Joshua Jones	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Ashley Gomes	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Sarah Peffer	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
John McKinney	Vallejo, CA, USA	Purple
Amanda Mullins	Napa, CA, USA	Purple
Patrick Wamsley	Napa, CA, USA	Orange

APRIL 1995

Tom Darzes, Jr.	Pleasant Hills, CA, USA	Brown
Joey Cadena	Falfurrias, TX, USA	Purple
Shaun Aghili	Walnut Creek, CA, USA	Orange
Bruce Camise	Princeton, FL, USA	Orange
David W. Little	Brewer, ME, USA	Blue
Mike Moody	Napa, CA, USA	Blue
Boyea Termansen	Napa, CA, USA	Green
Reggie Goldsby	Amite, LA, USA	Green
Gerald Tedesco	Patchogue, NY, USA	Blue
James V. LaSpino	Rochester, NY, USA	Orange
Mike Barone		Orange
Reggie Hamilton	Thomasville, NC, USA	Purple

Lawrence C. Vaught	LaVale, MD, USA	Brown
Dustin Alves	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Tyson Schevmmenn	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Marshal Knight	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
John Sly	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Travis Lopez	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Kiki Pepinia	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Elizabeth Movrado	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Dallon Vose	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Jed Noonkester	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Jay Alvarez	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Zachary Skigen	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
John Huffsmith	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
George M. Reed	Dover, DE, USA	Orange
Joe Lansdale	Nacodoches, TX, USA	Orange
Charles Raven Schmid	Amhurst, MA, USA	Orange
Demetrius Travis	Salem, WV, USA	Purple
Clay Carmichael	Lenoir City, TN, USA	Orange
Casy Carmichael	Lenoir City, TN, USA	Orange
Mathew T. Wilson	Fort Davis, TX, USA	Blue
Jason Greving	Roswell, NM, USA	Orange
Michael Hyatt	Perry, UT, USA	1st Degree Black Belt
Lisa Fredricksen	Phoenix, AZ, USA	Purple

MAY 1995

Herman R. Jones	Cypress, CA, USA	Orange
Thomas E. Ford	Everett, WA, USA	2nd Degree Black Belt
Ken McMillin	Phoenix, AZ, USA	5th Degree Black Belt
Lawrence R. Sayoc	Buena Park, CA, USA	Orange
Leilani C. Reyes	Buena Park, CA, USA	Orange
Philip Duczynski	Dearborn Heights, MI, USA	Orange
Heidi Schafer	Fairbanks, AK, USA	Orange
John Barnett	Redondo Beach, CA, USA	1st Degree Black Belt
Timothy Beers	Hawthorne, CA, USA	1st Degree Black Belt
Dan Skidmore	San Pedro, CA, USA	Blue
Vicki Imamura	Garden Grove, CA, USA	Blue
Hugo Garcia	Long Beach, CA, USA	Green
Jim Miller	Columbia, GA, USA	Orange
David A. Neubacher	Idaho Falls, ID, USA	Orange
Ronald L. Brohawn	Woodbine, MD, USA	Orange
Steven A. Crawford	Kansas City, KS, USA	Orange
Anthony Johnson	Excelsior Springs, MO, USA	Orange
Robert A. Shatto	Kansas City, KS, USA	Orange
Shaun C. Comley	Kansas City, KS, USA	Orange
Bryan Swann	San Jose, CA, USA	Brown
Tom Rightenour	West Yellowstone, MT, USA	Purple
Steven Mosley	Gainsville, GA, USA	Orange
Gerald Tedesco	Patchogue, NY, USA	Green
Michael Falls	Lewisburg, WV, USA	Orange

Shaun Aghili	Walnut Creek, CA, USA	Purple
Ray Gong	Alhambra, CA, USA	Orange
Luis Cardenas	Fontana, CA, USA	Orange
Fred Crouch	Clovis, CA, USA	Orange
Carl Britt	Reading, PA, USA	Purple
Jeffrey K. Blay	Schenectady, NY, USA	Blue
Ron Woods	Alberta, CAN	Purple
Timothy Charles Anderson	Alberta, CAN	Purple
Al Perhacs	Morrisville, PA, USA	Brown
John Cheatham	Santa Maria, CA, USA	Orange
Richard Panzarella, Jr.		Orange
Caleb Fuentes	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Kiki Gomes	Napa, CA, USA	Purple
Rick Frazier	Napa, CA, USA	Purple
Laura Amador	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Alex Amador	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Victor Castro	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Ryan Scott	Napa, CA, USA	Blue
Jackie Dietrich	Napa, CA, USA	Blue
Brian Woodwiss	Napa, CA, USA	Blue
Jake Pardee	Casper, WY, USA	Orange
Alana Oldham	New York , NY, USA	Orange
Dan Heerdt	Naperville, FL, USA	Orange
Frank J. Bachara	California City, CA, USA	1 st Degree Black Belt
Michael Fournell	High Bridge, NJ, USA	Purple
Susan Fournell	High Bridge, NJ, USA	Purple
Glen Russell	Louisville, KY, USA	Purple

