



# SKIF-USA

N E W S L E T T E R

SPRING 2013 | VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

## SKIF-USA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Wayne Jones  
Manfred Nagel  
Chris Johnson



SKIF-USA  
presents  
**KANCHO  
NOBUAKI  
KANAZAWA**  
2014 SUMMER USA  
TOUR

**June 7th and 8th**  
**New England**

Rochester Recreation Center  
150 Wakefield St  
Rochester, NH  
[www.maineshotokan-skif.com](http://www.maineshotokan-skif.com)

**June 10th and 11th**  
**Minnesota**

2210 Silverlake Rd.  
New Brighton, MN  
[peakperformancekarate@gmail.com](mailto:peakperformancekarate@gmail.com)

**June 20th thru 23rd**  
**Hawaii**  
[vtakemori@yahoo.com](mailto:vtakemori@yahoo.com)

# MESSAGE FROM SKIF-USA PRESIDENT JIM SHEA



**Jim Shea**  
*President*

I am pleased to welcome the new 2014 board of directors. I am glad you have chosen to serve SKIF-USA and be part of its positive direction, growth and success. We hope to continue to grow and advance our organization by following the precepts of Soke Kanazawa: harmony, continued training and development of the SKIF system, respect and open and friendly communications among all. Our continued success and advancement is not without the support and help of our members and their volunteer leadership and commitment.

On behalf of the SKIF-USA Board of Directors

I would like to welcome you to an exciting 2014 year. We have already begun the New Year with great training opportunities. We enjoyed Murakami Sensei's March tour and are looking forward to Nobuaki Kanazawa Sensei's summer tour and Murakami Sensei's return fall tour.

SKIF-USA is a one of a kind organization and is made up of karateka who enjoy training, promote strong karate-do, and are excited about spreading and promoting Soke Kanazawa's philosophy and unique system of Shotokan Karate-do.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the instructors and members who have supported SKIF-USA and helped make our organization successful and look forward to meeting new friends and renewing old acquaintances.

Kind Regards, Oss!

Jim Shea



**Chris Johnson**  
*Treasurer*



**Wayne Jones**  
*Director*



**Lynda Crimmins**  
*Secretary*



**Ruben Fung**  
*Director*



**Mike Cook**  
*General Secretary*



**Paul Danos**  
*Director*

## WE ARE BACK!

We would like to apologize for our absence but we are now back! And, with our return we have a new look and a new newsletter committee to help make this newsletter even more interesting and informative. Our first newsletter will be dedicated to catching everyone up on a few great events that have taken place since our last newsletter.

We are also working on a new website which we hope to have up and running soon.

Finally, we would like to invite everyone to feel free to send us an article (with photos) about your latest event. Our organization is only as good as our member's willingness to contribute.

Thank you and enjoy,

*Newsletter Committee*



# 11<sup>TH</sup> SKIF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sydney Australia | November 22<sup>nd</sup> - November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012



The 11<sup>th</sup> SKIF World Championships were held in the beautiful city of Sydney Australia. Although the tournament itself was three days, the tournament week started with seminars held on Monday and Tuesday. The Monday seminar covered basics and kumite techniques. On Tuesday we covered a few basics and kata. Dan testing completed the pre-tournament events on Wednesday.

The first day of the tournament started with the Masters (40 and up) and Youth (19 and under) divisions. Although it was a long day, it was also a very successful one, with the U.S. team coming away with 9 medals. The second and third days were the elimination round and finals for the Senior Division (20–39).

The Opening Ceremonies started the second day of the tournament. They included a video from our own Mt. Vernon Traditional Shotokan Karate-do. In 2011, Sensei Nichiporuk's students wrote letters to Japanese students wishing them well after the Tsunami. The video showcased several of the students demonstrating kata and kumite. The ceremony included a performance by Taiko drummers along with several Aboriginal musicians.

The ceremonies concluded with a demonstration by Murakami Sensei, Nobuaki Sensei, Suzuki Sensei, Tanaka Sensei, Daizo Sensei, Fumatoshi Sensei and two additional instructors from the Home Dojo.

The demonstration started with a 'team' kata, Nijushio, then moved to kihon ippon kumite, juyi ippon kumite and ended with multiple opponents against a single person. If you have a chance, go to the following link on YouTube to see a recording of their demonstration [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om79MEuk\\_uY&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om79MEuk_uY&feature=youtube_gdata_player).

We would like to thank our coaching staff for their expertise and support of our team. Our coaches were Clay Morton, Jimmy Wong, Paul Danos, Wayne Shockness, Ron Tolentino, Jay Castellano and Lynda Crimmins. We would also like to thank the team members. Without your tireless dedication to the art of karate, we would not have such a successful team year after year. And finally, we would like to thank our family members who put up with our craziness and continue to support us even halfway around the world!

## TEAM MEMBERS

### YOUTH DIVISION (AGE 19 AND UNDER)

Alejandro Gavira  
Sebastian Merlo  
Simon Navia  
Ivan Reggeti  
Livio Zanardo  
Angela Ouimette  
Joseph Tolentino  
Joshua Tolentino  
Juan Andres Perez  
Rio Augusta  
Neriah Gimeno  
Chun (Bebe) Truong

### SENIOR DIVISION (AGE 20-39)

Clay Morton  
Alfred Duchaussee  
Jeffrey Davila  
Daniel Tshimamba  
Ana Rosario  
Jun Zhao  
Amber Kupiers  
Mario Ikino  
Michael Craig

### MASTERS DIVISION (AGE 40 UP)

Ahcene Briguene  
Cedric Rose  
Jay Castellano  
Steven Wong  
Mike Mohammad Razavizadeh  
Norma Prieto  
Nina lobst  
Christopher lobst  
Jimmy Wong  
Anne Marie Lorion  
Julio Gomez-Silva  
Paul Danos  
Ronald Tolentino  
Wayne Shockness  
Lynda Crimmins  
Gina Santori  
Lorri Porter

### MEDALISTS

Juan Andres Perez  
*Silver, Youth Kata, age 16-17*  
Livio Zanardo  
*Silver, Youth Kata, age 18-19*  
Bebe (Chun) Truong  
*Bronze, Youth Kumite, age 18-19*  
Ann Marie Lorion  
*Bronze, Women's Kumite, age 40-44*  
Lorri Porter  
*Gold, Women's Kata, age 45-49*  
Norma Prieto  
*Bronze, Women's Kumite age 45-49*  
Wayne Shockness  
*Bronze, Men's Kumite, age 50-54*  
Cedric Rowe  
*Bronze, Men's Kumite, age 55-59*  
Gina Santori  
*Bronze, Women's Kata, age 55-59*



# SENSEI MURAKAMI VISITS HOUSTON

By Lisa Chen Shamoo, MD



There is something intangible about a karate seminar that transcends everyday experience. When you are in a large room that is full of individuals who are likewise karate obsessed, you cannot fail to be moved by the collective toil poured into a shared vision. For those who have been karate devotees for years, there is the validation of past knowledge and the occasional gem of a new revelation. For those new to the discipline, there is the magic of being part of something larger than yourself, something inspiring and grand.

The training camp led by Sensei Murakami at the Trotter YMCA in Houston, Texas, on March 2–3, 2013 was no exception. Infused with energy, enthusiasm, and just pure fun, the seminar reunited this charismatic, young, standout instructor with students of all ages and ranks. Karate-ka drove for days, from as far away as Chihuahua, Mexico, or flew in from Panama City, solely for the opportunity to participate in these special sessions. Although the seminar was chock full of the solid fundamentals that one comes to expect from a Sensei Murakami seminar, he also brought his own, innovative training style to create a weekend full of unforgettable moments.

One of my favorite moments of pure whimsy was the kumite free-for-all that followed from Sensei Murakami's instructions to spar 1 vs. 3, then in groups of eight, and ultimately, with anyone in the entire room. I have never seen such wide smiles following any training drill. Also, no one in the room failed to be soundly impressed when two seven-year-old girls completely nailed a three step sparring drill that had many of their seniors thoroughly confused. With utter precision, they completed the three steps, oi-zuki jodan, oi-zuki chudan, and maegeri, complete with blocks performed in full counter rotation. And the rapid fire, back and forth maewashi geri jodan-fest between Sensei Murakami and Shireen Hayatghaibi showed us all just how lightning quick that kick could be.



The weekend was rife with opportunities for new friendships as well. It was inspiring to train with the spirited team from Mexico and then later to discover that their outstanding form and technique was surpassed only by their friendliness. Many friendships were renewed between members of visiting dojos as well. As the seminar drew to a close, fond wishes were expressed for safe travels, with hopes that we could train together again in the months to come.



# DOJO SPOTLIGHT: GOLDEN TIGER SHOTOKAN KARATE

We will feature a different SKIF-USA dojo in our newsletter from time to time. This edition introduces one of our newer members, the Golden Tiger Shotokan Karate Dojo

based in Maryville, Illinois, which is located about 20 miles across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. Sensei Nathan Balakrishnan, a native of Malaysia, was surprised when the founder of the dojo called him and asked if he would like to take over the organization.



He had previously trained with Sensei Christopher Smaby in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and occasionally trained at the Golden Tiger dojo after he started his position as an Area Manager for Rockwell Automation in St. Louis. After much consideration, he agreed to become the chief instructor and spent the first few months focusing on improving his students' technical skills while investigating which international Shotokan organization would be the best fit for his dojo. With the encouragement of Dr. Wayne Jones and assistance of Sensei Paul Walker, Golden Tiger Shotokan Karate became a member of the SKIF-USA in late 2011. His assistant instructor, Shaun Moats, has served on the Website Committee and is playing a key role in its redesign.

Sensei Balakrishnan and his students enjoyed hosting Kancho Nobuaki Kanazawa during his summer tour on July 2nd and 3rd last year (see accompanying article on Kancho's summer tour). He and his family traveled to Japan a



few days after the seminar concluded and he made a point of training at the SKIF Headquarters in Tokyo. He enjoyed training with Sensei Murakami and meeting Soke

Hirokazu Kanazawa. According to Sensei Balakrishnan, "training at the Honbu dojo was an inspiring and invigorating experience and everyone should definitely make a point of doing so if they get the chance." Sensei Balakrishnan was later invited to train at the Goju-Ryu Wauchishindoukan Karate Dojo, on the island of Amami Oshima where his wife's family lives. The chief instructor, Sensei Satoshima, was very welcoming and insisted on loaning him his personal karate gi to wear and the local newspaper wrote an article about his visit that included a photo of him training. He is now back in the States where he and his students are looking forward to another year of working with SKIF-USA and plan on training with visiting instructors from Japan.



## KANCHO'S SUMMER TOUR

After teaching in New England the previous weekend, Kancho Nobuaki Kanazawa stopped off in St. Louis July 2-3 during the annual SKIF-USA summer tour to give his very first seminar in the region. Although his plane was delayed, Kancho managed to have a late dinner at his host Nathan Balakrishnan's home (grilled bear meat was even on the menu!). The next day was spent showing Kancho some of the major attractions and included a tour of the Anheuser Busch-Inbev brewery followed by an evening training session for all participants and an additional one for more advanced ranks. The participants

enjoyed dinner with Kancho at a well-known Italian restaurant after the sessions were over. Kancho continued his emphasis of proper kihon and kumite drills along with kata instruction on the second day before he concluded the event with a dan exam. He seemed to have enjoyed his first trip to the area and was then off to Texas to continue the tour. Participants came from a number of states, including Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Minnesota, and Arizona.

