

# The Bamboo Warrior

Official Newsletter of Chikubu-Kai

Spring 2007

## From Soke's Desk

## Reflections

### 2007 Chikubu Kai Clinics

January 27	Salem Dojo Salem, Va
February 24	Kokoro Dojo Buena Vista, Va
March 24	Salem Dojo Salem, Va
April 12-15	Texas Clinics Harlingen, TX
<b>May 18-19</b>	<b>Hebiashi Dojo Harrisonburg, Va</b>
<b>June 15-16</b>	<b>Hissatsu-No-Ken Newport News, Va</b>
<b>July 19-21</b>	<b>Summer Camp Buena Vista, Va</b>
August 17-18	Waynesboro Dojo Waynesboro, Va
September 8	Camp Joy Clinic
September 21-22	Kokoro Dojo Buena Vista, Va
October 4-6	Fall Camp Myrtle Beach, SC
December 8	Hombu Dojo Bristol, Va

I sn't it ironic how popular mixed martial arts has become around the world in recent years.? Many people in this world do not know that "mixed martial arts" was started here in the USA back in the early 70's by a Japanese martial artist by the name of Kuniba Shogo.

I can personally tell you that mixed martial arts was not popular in Japan. The late Soke of Seishin Kai (editor's note: this was Tatsuno Kunio) described Goshindo as being "child's play".

Of course this was *after* the death of Kuniba Soke. This was one of the reasons Kuniba Soke moved to the States — to develop his art without the clamor of people like Tatsuno and others.

From day one Kuniba Soke always explained to me the difference between the terms Do and jutsu. He always said the Do meant the modern way (Budo) and Jutsu or Bujutsu meant "martial methods or martial techniques". This term predates the term Budo and signifies old or practical oriented martial arts.

Shortly after the death of Kuniba Soke I used the name of his dojo, Japan Karate Do, as an influence and added the structure which he personally taught me, and called the organization "Nippon Bujutsu Kai" which simply translates in Soke's words "Japan Martial Techniques".

If you carry this further then the proper translation for Goshindo would be Goshin**jutsu**. The term jutsu was used constantly when we developed the police techniques because of the life/death situations.

Just a reflection...

WHP

## **Up Next.....**

**Hebiashi Dojo Clinic  
Harrisonburg, Virginia  
May 18-19, 2007**

The May Chikubu-Kai clinic will be held at Shihan Michael Fletcher's Dojo in Harrisonburg, Virginia on May 18 & 19, 2007.

On Friday, May 18th the training will begin at 7pm and continue until Price Soke dismisses us.

On Saturday, May 19 training will begin at 9am and end at around 3pm.

The cost for Kai members is \$35.

**"I plan to have everyone doing all kata the same. We will concentrate on goshindo from standing to ground both offense and defense. For the Friday night session I want all participants to wear street clothes. This is something new for many people so plan to get it on.**

**I encourage all Sensei to bring as many students as you can and please include your junior students, especially those who have not attended a clinic in the past. Harrisonburg is always a great learning clinic so support the kai and Harrisonburg dojo,,,,, plan to be there.**

**WHP**

**Please bring jo and Iaido. We will work in time for each."**

The Hebiashi Dojo is located at 171E Neff Avenue in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

From I-81:

Exit 247A

Get on Route 33 East from I-81

Turn right at the second stoplight onto University Boulevard

Take a left at the first stoplight, in front of the Hampton Inn (at Valley Mall) and veer towards the right (behind Valley Mall).

The Dojo will be on your right next to the Virginia Employment Commission, Yee "Z" Food, and Classic Cleaners

Take a right at the next intersection only Neff Avenue and a right into Eastside Plaza.

(Directions courtesy of the Chikubu-Kai website at [www.chikubukai.org](http://www.chikubukai.org))

## Up Next.....

**Hissatsu-No-Ken Dojo Clinic  
Newport News, Virginia  
May 18-19, 2007**

The June Chikubu-Kai clinic will be held at Shihan Henry McCoy's Dojo in Newport News, Virginia. on June 15 & 16, 2007.

On Friday, June 15th the training will begin at 7pm and continue until Price Soke dismisses us.

On Saturday, June 16 training will begin at 9am and end at around 3pm.

The cost for Kai members is \$35.

Price Soke asked to remind everyone to bring their Iaido and Kobudo equipment, and plan to train hard!

The Dojo is located at 12650 Jefferson Avenue, inside the Riverside Wellness and Fitness Center.

Directions From I -64 East:

Take Exit 255B, Jefferson Avenue West towards Newport News/Williamsburg Airport

Continue west on Jefferson Avenue (Route 243) for approximately 3 miles

You will pass Jefferson Commons shopping center on the left

Continue west on Jefferson avenue, crossing Bland Boulevard

The Riverside Wellness Center is on the right side just past Rockola Café and the intersection of Turlington Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue.

If you reach the intersection of Denbigh Boulevard, then you have gone too far!

## Quotables....

"There is nothing new under the sun,  
but there are lots of old things we don't know."  
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914); US writer.

## Chikubu Kai Summer Camp 2007

The 2007 Chikubu-Kai summer camp will be held on July 19-21, 2007 in Buena Vista, Virginia.

As in previous years, the camp will be held in the double-decker pavilion at the top of the mountain in beautiful Glen Maury Park. Many thanks in advance to Sensei Gary Cash and Mrs. Rhonda Cash for putting this together again this year.



### 2007 Camp Schedule

<b>Thursday, July 19</b>	12pm-5pm
<b>Friday, July 20</b>	8am-5pm
<b>Saturday, July 21</b>	8am-5pm



The cost for camp is \$125, but if you pre-register prior to June 15 the cost will be \$105. That's a savings of almost 20%!

This is an outstanding opportunity to learn directly from Price Soke, as well as to meet and train together with students from all over the Kai!

Students at all rank levels are welcome at Camp, so whether you've trained for 1 day or 10,000 days, you should plan to attend this once-in-a-lifetime event.

I can guarantee that Chikubu-Kai Summer Camp 2007 will never be repeated!

Sensei Cash has arranged for a block of rooms to be reserved for camp at Country Inn and Suites in Lexington, Virginia. When you call, let them know that you are with the "Karate Camp" and they will offer you a great rate!

### Country Inn and Suites

875 N Lee Highway, Lexington, Virginia 24450

(888) 201-1746

## Jitsu or Do

**A Historical View**  
**Sensei Kevin B. Watson**  
**(reprinted with permission of author from September, 1999 Bamboo Warrior)**

As we continue to study Kuniba-Ryu Karate and Goshin-do, an important distinction comes up in our study and practice: the difference between “jitsu” and “Do”.

Many times in clinics with Price Soke he will mention this difference. In order for us to relate this to our practice, it may be useful to look back on the history of karate during the early part of this century as karate was becoming more and more popular outside of its birthplace, Okinawa.

As karate spread to mainland Japan, its correct transmission from teacher to student was in doubt. Gone, but not forgotten, the days of one-on-one instruction, or at least a small group of students studying in privacy with a teacher, were rapidly being replaced with mass group instruction. This fact alone made it difficult, if not impossible, for a teacher to impart in-depth knowledge of karate to even the most well-meaning or dedicated student.

This situation created a controversy that still exists today, the debate between “jitsu” and “Do”.



The word “jitsu” (also spelled “jutsu”) refers to a technique—more specifically “techniques of homicide”—although to a layman this may sound brutal, all this is meant to imply is a technique or method of self-defense that evolved from direct, life-or-death experience on the part of the teacher who imparted these methods to his students.



The word “Do” refers to a wider, more philosophical view of the martial arts as a path (“path is the literal translation of “do”) wherein the practitioner evolves into a more complete human being—forging their character and self-discipline through the practice of a martial art.

As the era of Samurai declined in Japan, and peace became more commonplace, the martial arts of feudal Japan were systemized into “do” forms. Thus jiu-jitsu became judo, iai-jitsu became iaido, aikijitsu became aikido, and so on.

The reasons for this are too vast to go into tremendous detail, but cultural influences such as Zen Buddhism—a popular philosophy among the Samurai—as well as the modernization of Japan and the preparation along militaristic lines for imminent war (WWII) contributed to the evolution of “do” forms of martial arts.

The masters of old in Okinawa saw this disturbing trend. While they all recognized the need for a moral, philosophical, and spiritual base in karate training (karate-do), they also realized that unless karate was practiced the way they were taught—in a harsh, severe, and physically demanding environment, with the sole focus being the destruction of an opponent intent on doing harm (karate-jitsu)—then the art to which they had devoted their lives would become nothing more than an outdated, ritualistic practice.

This problem, how to balance the scales between jitsu and do, between philosophy and action was one of the driving forces behind one of the most interesting events in the history of karate.

On October 25, 1936 a meeting was held in Naha, Okinawa, attended by many of the greatest figures in the

## Jitsu or Do

**A Historical View**  
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history of karate (1). The purpose of this meeting was to better organize karate so that it could be correctly studied outside of Okinawa. Among those in attendance were Choki Motobu (whom all of us should recognize as the primary teacher of Kosei Kokuba, father of Kuniba Soke), Chojun Miyagi (the founder of Goju-Ryu), and Kyan Chotoku (the founder of one of the main schools of Shorin-Ryu), among others.

At this time in Okinawa, many people did not refer to the art as "karate", but as "toudi", "unante", "toudibutsu", etc. Because of this, and because Gichin Funakoshi (the founder of Shotokan) had immensely popularized karate in mainland Japan beyond anybody's wildest expectations, those at the meeting agreed to use the name of "karate-do" as a standard for the unarmed civilian fighting arts of Okinawa.

In studying the notes from this meeting, however, it appears that this name change was only to clear up confusion in the minds of the public, NOT to "water down" karate so that it's original intent—brutally effective self-defense—was lost.

Well, in this day-and-age we can easily see how karate has become "watered down". TV and motion pictures always have programs showing a hero destroying multiple attackers in totally unrealistic scenarios with equally unrealistic techniques. "Karotty" schools have popped up in every city and town, complete with tournaments every weekend in which people perform "kata" to music in order to win a trophy. If you were to ask one of these "performance artists" to demonstrate any of the bunkai in his winning "kata", he probably couldn't, because he only made it up the night before! (This is funny, but this really has happened).

Kumite— or should I say "freesparring"— has become a game of tag between people wearing so much protective padding that they resemble the Michelin Man. The techniques they use don't even resemble true karate.

So, the question remains— how does one practice the art of karate in a day and age where it is becoming more extinct? How does one practice an art that, although it is Karate -Do, does not waver from it's jitsu application?

Fortunately for us in Chikubu-Kai, the answer is easy: listen to your Sensei, and especially to Price Soke. For people like him, Kuniba Soke, and a few others, karate was and still is practiced as a fighting art. Because of the gift these men have given us (and are still giving for those who will listen) we are extremely fortunate. Without their guidance who knows where we would be?

In closing, remember that "jitsu" and "Do" are just words. Training changes character; reading about it in a book doesn't. Only by experiencing hard training firsthand can you achieve the goals you want in karate training.

I think that this is what the masters of old in Okinawa talked about when they created the names Karate-Do and Karate-Jitsu.

### Bibliography

1. McCarthy, Patrick (translator), The 1936 Meeting of Okinawan Karate Masters, Private Publication, International Rykyu Karate Research Society.

## **Camp Joy Clinic!**

The Bluefield Dojo of Shihan Kirk will host a special clinic on September 8, 2007 at Camp Joy. As you know, Camp Joy was the location where Kuniba Soke conducted his summer camps. Camp Joy has been renovated and is once again a great place to train. I am excited to be able to once again train there.

WHP

## **Report!**

The 07 Texas clinic this past week was a great success. I have to say that I was impressed with the quality of the technique and preservation of style, especially the kids. They are great. I want to thank all who helped and planned the events, Shihan Cantu, Sensei Joseph and Sam. I was told that this was the 18th year that I have been traveling there for Kuniba Soke. Thanks to Shihan McCoy , Sensei Kevin Watson, and D. Duty for their help. I have some great memories of past trips to the great State of Texas and hope to do a few more.

WHP

## **Quotables....**

"Experience is something you don't get  
until just after you need it."  
Laurence Olivier (1907-1989), British actor

## Movin' Up!!!

In the last issue of the newsletter, I missed listing two persons who were recently promoted. Both of these individuals I know personally, and they are students of the arts as well as fine people. I would like to congratulate them and offer my heartfelt apologies at my oversight!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dojo</u>	<u>Sensei</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Ella "Doc" Youngblood	Salem, Va	Shihan Taylor	3 Dan
Renee "Doc" Lamb	Myrtle Beach, SC	Shihan Revell	1 Dan

## Photos!

All of the photographs in this issue of the newsletter were taken by Mark Warren. Mark is a professional photographer and has been a student of Shihan McCoy since 2000. Mark has made all of his Chikubu-Kai photos available online at:

<http://photos.markwphoto.com>

**If I've forgotten anyone, I apologize in advance. Please let me know and I'll correct it ASAP! OSU!**

Chikubu-Kai is dedicated to preserving the arts of Soke Shogo Kuniba

