



GMA News June 25

Congrats to those who earned GMA's highest honor—the Gentry Certificate:

Miss Aleah Spires, Miss Kylie Yoshida, Mr. Kaiden Cedeno

Congrats to our newest lil dragon graduate: Markus Pasborg

Congrats to our newest black belts: Miss Sarah Voorhees, Mr. Eli Voorhees, Mr. Luke Voorhees.

Break-a-thon Results

Thank you to everyone who worked extremely hard to make our break a thon and annual picnic a success. Our final total was over \$3500. Thanks to all the parents who also helped serve or set up, etc. to make the picnic awesome.

SUMMER ATTENDANCE REWARD and Referral Program

As usual we have our summer attendance reward program starting in June. Look for details on how you can be a part of a celebration at the end of the summer for strong attendance during the hot summer months.

Upcoming Events

June 4-5 th	Rope Dart Camp 9:00-3:30
June 6 th	TKD testing 5:30—no TKD class
June 7 th	Leadership team 9:00-10:30
June 7 th	Demo Team 10:30-12:30
June 7 th	Black belt prep 12:30-2:00
June 7 th	Karate Kid Legends viewing (details below)
June 14 th	Tai Chi at the Farmers Market 9:00-10:00
June 14 th	Demo team 10:00-12:00
June 14 th	HKD black belt testing 12:30
June 16-19	Fathers join us for class.
June 16-20	TKD Day camp 9:00-3:30
June 21 st	Demo team 9:00-10:30
June 21 st	Stickfighting 10:30-1:00
June 24-25	BJJ camp 9:00-3:30
June 28 th	Fuji BJJ tournament
June 30-July 1	HKD camp 9:00-3:30
June 30 th	Lil Dragons testing (beg 4:15, int/adv 5:30)
July 2-5 th	Closed for 4 th of July and instructor/staff training and retreat
July 15-17	Lil dragons camp 9:00-1:00
July 21-25	TKD camp
July 26 th	Stress Shooting FAST 9:00-12:30
July 26 th	Be Safe FAST Adult Basics Course 1:00-4:30

Karate Kid Movie outing

We have reserved a private showing of Karate Kid Legends at Mooresville Showtime Cinema for our students and families on Sat June 7th at 4:30. Tickets are 13.00 per person, which include a small popcorn and drink. What's more, we will treat our students to popcorn and drink, you just pay for the ticket (\$8.00). You must sign up and pay in advance, and we need to know how many family/friends will be joining you in order to work with the theater. Deadline to sign up is June 3rd.



Father's day invitation

After inviting the mothers to join the kids in class for Mother's Day, we would be in trouble if we didn't offer the same to our fathers. Dads, Grand-dads, Uncles etc. are welcome to join their kids in class the week following Father's Day—June 16-19.

Training Anniversary

Congrats to those students who are celebrating a year or multiple years of training with us:

Noah Wilson (BJJ 15 yrs.) Clay Thacker (BJJ 10 yrs.) Caitlin Gibson (TKD 7 yrs.)
Matson Green (TKD 3 yrs.) Jaxson White (TKD 3 yrs.) Emmett Green (LD 2yrs.)
Liam Phelps (KBJJ 2 yrs.) Gideon York (KBJJ 2 yrs.) Brandon Rogers (BJJ 2 yrs.)
Evalyse Jones (TKD 1 yr.) Alex Jones (TKD 1 yr.)

Happy Birthday to these students

Sammy Helms 6/03 Jackson Baker 6/04 Spencer Stephens 6/10 Kathi Guffy 6/12
Ezekiel York 6/15 Kaleb Pope 6/18 John Hirt 6/21 Sara Voorhees 6/21
Braxton Kirk 6/23 Silas McCalden 6/25 Jason Eversole 6/25 Naomi Gluff 6/26
Liam Shepperd 6/26 Carter Richardsen 6/26

Please keep us posted.

A reminder as summer approaches: if you have vacation plans, we would appreciate being kept informed, so we don't worry if we miss you in classes. Fridays are great days to make up any classes that you miss while on vacation. Thanks.

This Month in Martial Arts History (selected from "Dates with Destiny" in *Martial Arts Success* by John Corcoran.

June 15, 1917, Birthday of American jiu-jitsu pioneer Wally Jay
June 1961 Black belt magazine is founded.
June 1978 "Good Guys Wear Black" first features Chuck Norris as the star
June 22, 1984, Karate Kid debuts—forever changing the perception and demographics of martial arts in America.
Karate II and III are released in June 1986 and 1989, respectively. As well as the remake in 2010.
Other June movie releases include Mulan (1998) and Kung Fu Panda (2008).

Congrats to those who competed at the TKD tournament in Bedford:

AJ Starodub	2 nd forms	Isach White	1 st sparring	
Jonas Stewart	3 rd sparring	Jenna Berry	3 rd forms	
Jaxson White	2 nd forms	Wesley Yoshida	2 nd forms	2 nd sparring
William Yoshida	2 nd forms		3 rd sparring	



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When Exactly Were the Precedented Times? How the Martial Arts Are Good Practice in Analyzing Change

As we recently prepped and returned from another TKD tournament, I once again find myself balancing the ‘old school’ sparring style that I grew up with and prefer with the tactics that are required to compete in the current game. I have lectured (literally, in college courses) on the differences among martial arts, martial sports, and self-defense, and while the intent of this rant is not to replicate that, some context is helpful. I will assert that the “game” I grew up with, while still a game, was closer, both in technique and mentality, to an actual fight*. Similar arguments can be made about the current state of BJJ competition, judo, fencing, the list can go on...and so can I and have before.

Not only are these arguments not unique, but they are also not new. I remember similar arguments being made about TKD sparring, the old versus new style and the pros and cons of (then) modern training methods over traditional training...30 years ago. I can remember competing during a transition period, when the old timers bemoaned the increasing use of safety equipment and complained it was making competitors soft. No doubt a similar debate raged in Japanese sword schools when the shinai was introduced 500 years ago, or later when the crusty old timers disliked the newer, modern version of this training weapon, introduced in the 1700’s.

A tai chi student recently wore a snarky T-shirt that read “I miss the precedented times.” It is natural to think what we are going through is unprecedented, as we also miss or feel nostalgic for a bygone era. But the question we need to ask is whether things are really that different? Consider this quote, “The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love to chatter in place of exercise.” Some of us, at the risk of sounding like a boomer, would nod in agreement about the current state of the youth. Except this quote is attributed (arguably) to Socrates. It appears our society is not so unprecedented—unless you count that I used an AI based internet search to retrieve the exact quote. Perhaps the more appropriate proverb is, “the more things change, the more they stay the same.”

Ellis Amdur in *Old School*, summarizes this tension as it relates to martial arts as he points out;

“One tension that always exists in any art form is that between the old and new. Imagine, for example, a studio that attempts to merely replicate the art of Picasso...true artists, be they aesthetic or martial, would find themselves confined if not trapped, were they forced to merely repeat what some creative soul discovered long ago. Those with passion will not settle for rote...they, too, must emblazon their mark on the world.

The creative drive, however, can also be problematic. In the art world, the simple fact that something is new, that it hasn’t been done before, is often judged as sufficient to define it as high art. Craft is abandoned, aesthetic is lost, and much art today has a little value as graffiti scribbled upon the walls.

A veteran student actually sees changes in the Ryu, from one generation to another—particularly when a young headmaster takes over—and these changes are, more often than not, for the worse, not for the better...a young instructor may sometimes hone the technology of the Ryu [school], like sharpening a long-dulled blade...on the other hand, changes are often the product of what could be termed “in house innovation.” With everyone unconsciously colluding and with an assumption that the teacher is, by definition, far superior in skill, ineffective technique can be enshrined as almighty.

When one abandons the ritual content as antiquated or irrelevant...what shall be kept and what abandoned is a question of immense importance—with no clear answer. “

Immense importance and no clear answer indeed. Amdur gave specific martial arts examples that illustrate the cautionary tale of taking down a fence...where a fence is put up to protect the insiders from wolves. It does such a good job that the inhabitants never encounter a wolf, and all memory of wolves disappears. This leads to the newer, ignorant



generation, finding the fence unnecessarily restrictive, burdensome, and antiquated, to remove the one thing keeping them from being consumed. Similarly put, David Bentley Hart was talking about modern scientific technology when he wrote this, but one could apply it to 'innovations' in martial arts as well, "But it is no less superstitious of us to think that the power to do something is equivalent to knowledge of knowing what one is doing, or whether one should do it, or whether there are other, more comprehensive truths to which power ought to be willing to yield primacy.

TO BE CONTINUED