

Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter

January/February 2007

Vol. 15 Issue 1

A Conversation with Professor Mike Chubb

by Myron Dickson

- Q. Good evening, Professor. Thank you for taking the time to talk with me. I must confess that I greatly admire you and your years of service to Danzan Ryu.
- A. Thank you, Myron. It is always a pleasure to chat with you. By the way, did you finally make Nidan?
- Q. Not yet Professor, but I'm optimistic. Permit me to begin by asking: What is Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai?
- A. As the name suggests, Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai is a loose association of former Shoshin Ryu hombu black belts.
- Q. You said "loose association," what exactly did you mean by that?
- A. First of all, it was not my idea to start a yudanshakai. Some of the students expressed a desire to continue their relationship with the hombu after they had completed their studies and started dojos of their own. Even after the new senseis had left we would still get together and have contests, clinics, and black belt workouts. When the idea of having an annual banquet eventually came up we decided that it was time to make our group 'legitimate.'
- Q. Who's idea was it to keep the group together?
- A. Professor Len Riley was the first to vocalize a desire to keep ties with the hombu. He was also one of the first to leave and start a program of his own.
- Q. And, how did the incorporation of Shoshin Ryu come about?
- A. Professor Bill Fischer and I decided that it was necessary to protect the several dojos from personal liability. He executed the paperwork and literally walked it through 'the system.' Bill had performed the same task for the S.C.J.A. (Southern California Jujitsu Association) a few years earlier.
- Q. Speaking of the S.C.J.A., why did you feel it necessary to start a completely new organization when, at the time, there were at least two local ones? And, weren't you a founding member of the S.C.J.A.?
- A. I was a founding member as were Professors Bill Randle and the late Jim Marcinkus. The S.C.J.A. was created to meet the needs of local dojos. Prior to that, we were all members of the A.J.J.F. (American Judo & Jujitsu Federation). In fact, several of us from Southern California sat on their Board of Directors. Without going into detail, the Southern California group decided that we could provide for our own people much better than they could so we broke away and formed the S.C.J.A. I did not sit on the new BoD but did attend the regular school heads meetings. I noted, however, that many of the policies that helped me to decide to break with the A.J.J.F. were slowly creeping into the S.C.J.A., that, and the inevitable politics caused me to 'pack my bags' and leave, once again. (See "**Conversation**" on page Four)

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Questionnaire Results

by
Bryan Stanley

During the school heads meeting at the Shoshin Ryu Reunion, a group of senseis wanted to have a questionnaire created to find out what all the senseis wanted out of Shoshin Ryu. After the reunion at a time when the interest in the well being of the organization was at its highest, a questionnaire was created and e-mailed to each of the professors and senseis in the organization.

So what did the professors and senseis have to say?

Before the results and the ramifications get announced, let it be known that not everyone bothered to return their questionnaire. Keeping in that same vein, some of the people who complained loudest at the meeting failed to turn in their answers. That being said, in this case, the squeaky wheel didn't get the grease, those who took the time to respond did.

Question #1: ***Should Shoshin Ryu hold a reunion each year?*** 91% of respondents said they would like to have a reunion every year. That doesn't mean we won't support Ohana, it simply means that we'll have our own thing each year. That is the new plan. Starting in 2008, Shoshin Ryu will have a reunion each year.

Question #2: ***If you answered "Yes" to the above question, what month would work best to hold the reunion?*** It gets a little trickier here. The vote was split. 36% wanted to keep the reunion weekend the same, 36% wanted to move it to May during the Memorial Day weekend. Of the other voices, the rest were not committed or would like to have the reunion in the spring. Since more people were interested in changing the date of the reunion to the spring, the next reunion, in 2008, is being scheduled for May.

Question #3: ***Recently we have had a drop in participation at our national events, what can be done to increase participation among the yudansha?*** This open ended question provided many answers. The gist of them fell into two categories: sensei encouragement and communication. Most respondents felt that sensei, the head guy or gal on the mat, the leader of the dojo, needed to promote the event vociferously. The more that Sensei pushes and promotes, the more the dojo wants to participate. So senseis this falls on you, the ryu needs you to promote the event.

Then there's the subject of communication. We need to market better; we need to sell the event; we need to get the word out; all those statements are true. Other ideas were: give students the opportunity to determine what clinics would be taught – good idea. So, why not? Let's give it a try. If you would like to see different clinics at the 2008 reunion, send your ideas to SRYNNewsletter@aol.com and they will be tallied up and used to determine what clinics will be at the next reunion. We'll get the list out before the event – which was an idea someone had – so then you'll know what your money will get you.

Question #4: ***Are you aware of how to apply for funds from the yudanshakai?*** 66% of the respondents said they did not know how to apply for funds from the yudanshakai. To fix the problem, at the end of this newsletter is the new form that will be used for requesting funds.

Question #5: ***If you answered "No" to the above question, what is the best way to get information out to school heads so they understand the process and requirements?*** Two good answers came from this. The first was get the information out via e-mail, the newsletter, and the website. Okay, that is now done. The second idea was to produce a sensei welcome package so when new schools joined Shoshin Ryu, they would be provided with information about the benefits and procedures of membership. However, maybe all this information should be the responsibility of that person's sensei.

Question #6: ***Do you know what the mission statement is for the Board of Directors and Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai?*** It turned out to be a split response. The following is the mission statement for Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai:

(See "Questionnaire," Continued on page five)

Sensei of the Month

Name: Professor Rich Charlebois
Rank: Rokkudan
Dojo: Shoshin Ryu of Maine
Years practicing the martial arts: Twenty-seven
Styles studied: Shotokan Karate briefly, a year of Kodenkan Judo, and Danzan.
Favorite book: David Copperfield by Charles Dickens
Favorite food: Sushi
Favorite movie: The Lord of the Rings Trilogy
Favorite actor: Alan Rickman
Favorite actress: Liv Tyler
Favorite musical artist: Harry Chapin
Most memorable moment in the martial arts: The infamous Lynch brothers' technique with the cane. They were doing Tora Katsugi with a cane. And the one doing the technique meant to put the cane around the other's throat, but he fish hooked him instead and threw him. He laid him out. Everything stopped. It was in a kata contest. Then there was Lou Trammel in a dress, a close second.
Favorite thing about practicing Danzan: Feeling everything flow and then come together.
Four famous people I'd invite to dinner: Jesus Christ, Carl Sagan, Harry Houdini, and Albert Einstein.
Biggest Inspiration: Carl Sagan because of his dogged approach to learning, understanding, and the pursuit of truth.

Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame

Professor Wally Jay Inducted in 1993

Professor Wally Jay began his studies with Prof. Juan Gomez, and he also studied with Prof. Okazaki and he studied Kodokan Judo under sensei Ken Kawachi. He received his instructor's degree from Prof Okazaki after completing the requisite courses in jujitsu and restorative massage.

One of the most gifted technicians in jujitsu today, Prof Wally Jay has been an innovator in jujitsu with the creation of "Small Circle" jujitsu. He is the co-founder of Jujitsu America and is recognized as Soke of his system by the American Fellowship of Soke directed by Dr. Clement G. Riedner.

On May 4, 1991, he received a "Doctor of Science" external degree in the academic field of physical education by the College of Martial Arts. The CMA is an academic program backed by the Great Plains Baptist College of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In June 1991, he received an award from Professor Moses Powell for outstanding dedication and achievement in martial arts throughout the Bay Area. He was inducted into Black Belt Magazine's hall of Fame in 1969 and selected Black Belt Magazine's Man of the Year in 1991.

Professor Jay currently resides in the Bay Area and occasionally teaches jujitsu. He is a 10th Dan recognized by the AJI, Shoshin Ryu, and Jujitsu America.

Words of Wisdom

"Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, and most fools do." – *Ben Franklin*

"When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane." – *Unknown*

"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within." – *Elizabeth Kubler-Ross*

"Anyone can give up; it's the easiest thing in the world to do, but to hold it together when everyone else would understand if you fell apart, that's true strength." – *Unknown*

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'" – *Mary Ann Radmacher*

(“**Conversation,**” continued from page **one**)

Q. From those experiences how do you feel that Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai is any different?

A. When Bill Fischer and I sat down to figure out what to do with ‘our thing’ I said that I would not succumb to the same mistakes that the other two organizations had made. I felt both had infringed upon the private domain of the dojo senseis.

Q. How so?

A. Well, first of all I am a big proponent of the right and obligation of the sensei to determine the rank of his/her students based upon firsthand knowledge of those students, both their talents and their character. This, of course, is contrary to the position of most organizations. I can hear them now: How can you maintain the integrity of the system if you don’t have uniform testing by a panel of peers? To partially answer that let me ask a question: Aren’t you also saying that you don’t trust the sensei? Or, that the sensei is incapable of making those kinds of decisions? I’ve always felt that by having the sensei solely responsible for the ranking of his/her student puts the onus squarely on them to make their students the best that they can be. As many of you know, I have never suffered from lack of confidence in my own ability to determine a student’s belt ranking nor have I shirked from my duties as a sensei of accepting full responsibility for my decisions and subsequent actions.

Q. Obviously, this is a sensitive issue...

A. Make no mistake about this: making responsible decisions and having the courage to defend them is an integral part of the learning process which **MUST** be part of a sensei’s own development. Removing the tough decisions is no benefit in the long run. Besides, who among us hasn’t promoted someone and then later regretted it?

Q. Where else do you see infringement?

A. The use of rank to make a sensei perform in a prescribed matter. For instance, advising a sensei that by attending a certain function might adversely affect their future rank.

Q. Does that sort of thing really go on?

A. More than you know.

Q. Getting back to the question of what makes Shoshin Ryu different from the other organizations...what are the benefits of membership?

A. Liability insurance for senseis and students alike as well as secondary medical coverage, bi-monthly newsletter, annual convention, clinics, contests, national and international rank recognition, issuance of rank certificates, free patch, membership card. In addition, we recognize individual achievement through several annual awards.

Q. The other organizations offer much the same, perhaps even more.

A. I know. There is a great misconception of what SRY is and what it is not. My original intention was spelled out in the bylaws: (1) teach Danzan Ryu jujitsu to anyone who is able and worthy, (2) assist those who are teaching it, either financially, administratively, and/or technically and, (3) recognize those who have devoted a significant portion of their lives to teaching it. We render financial assistance by providing mats and/or other necessary start-up costs within our power and resources. Administratively, we help set up classes, provide literature, promote programs, and offer seminars on first aid, CPR, child abuse, and sexual harassment. Technical assistance is provided, when necessary, through clinics, contests, and through programs like the Visiting Professor, designed to permit travel of professors at the request of member dojos. Recognition for those who have devoted years to the promulgation of Danzan Ryu, outside of SRY, is accomplished through the Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame, presented annually.

Q. You make the organization sound strictly service-oriented. Is this intentional?

A. Exactly. SRY was created to support the efforts of the member dojos, not direct them, not to interfere!

(See “**Conversation,**” continued on page **five**)

(Questionnaire continued from page two)

“Teach Danzan Ryu Jujitsu to anyone who is able and worthy; assist those who are teaching Danzan Ryu; recognize those who have devoted a significant portion of their lives to teaching Danzan Ryu.”

If you need more information about this, read the interview with Professor Mike Chubb in this newsletter.

Question #7: *If a Brown Belt/Black Belt weekend was created for the purpose of instruction, information, and goodwill, would you attend?* 91% of the respondents said they would attend. So in 2007 will be the first attempt at a Brown Belt/Black Belt weekend. More information will follow. If you have any ideas about the format, send your suggestions to SRYNewsletter@aol.com.

Question #8 and question #9: *Should a Shoshin Ryu Sensei Training Course be offered at the reunion? If you answered “No” when would be a good time to offer such a course?* 66% said yes, so that may be one of the courses offered at the next reunion. But the “no” responses had some great observations. Such as, what would the course offer? If it’s going to be about technique then it might be a waste of time. How to handle advertising and back office issues may be more useful.

As for when the course gets offered some suggestions were to offer it at the Brown Belt/Black Belt Weekend. Shoshin Ryu does have a sensei training course, perhaps it’s time to dust it off and offer it again.

Question #10: *How should Shoshin Ryu membership cards be used at Shoshin Ryu functions?* Use the membership cards for entrance into events, fast track members who have their cards, and discounts on Shoshin Ryu merchandise were the common answers to the question. They are all possible. Be prepared in the future to produce your membership card at Shoshin Ryu events.

The questionnaire provided information for the entire yudanshakai to consider. In many ways the responses are going to impact the future of Shoshin Ryu. Like most things, however, none are permanent and most are perpetually open to change.

(“Conversation,” continued from page four)

Q. Which explains why you said ‘loosely associated’ earlier...

A. Yes! Whether intended or not, in most organizations the members support the existence of the organization. In Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai, the organization exists for the members. We literally inverted the pyramid.

Q. So, everything is left up to the individual sensei...

A. Yup. We provide services, period. If you want someone to spoon-feed you, join one of the other groups; they’ll be glad to charge you more and make all the major decisions for you.

Q. I’ve been a member of SRY for several years. I had no idea...

A. I’ve always tried to make sure my students could stand on their own two feet, not stand on mine. An integral part of that education is to allow them to make their own decisions and their own mistakes. I think I do them a better service by teaching them how to conduct themselves in the real world than just how to protect against assault. The real world attacks in much more subtle ways and is a lot more vicious.

Q. How do you think you prepare them for the ‘real world?’

A. By instilling in them the virtues of courage, honesty, loyalty, integrity, humility, compassion. The emphasis of our senseis should be on producing leaders. All true leaders share these qualities. And, today, we need moral leadership more than ever before in our history.

Q. What happened to just teaching them self-defense?

(See “Conversation,” continued on page six)

(“Conversation” from page five)

- A. Not a thing. In fact, the process occurs simultaneously. Keep in mind, though, we spend less than one percent of our waking hours on the mat, and even less time defending against would-be assailants, the rest of it is spent in the real world just trying to cope. Don't I owe it to those who put their trust in me to prepare them with as many tools as possible? I not only need to know how to defend myself, when the time comes, but also how to walk away. To walk away with dignity and self-confidence is the essence of mastery of your art. Defeat your enemy without drawing your sword. I'd call that 'artistic perfection.'
- Q. Where does 'leadership' come into this? And, how do you transmit it to the student?
- A. The root of martial discipline is service; without it there can be no honor. Without honor there can be no purpose. Without purpose, there can be no point to the effort. Leadership is the natural product of sacrifice, service, and self-denial. You cannot avoid it.
- Q. And, how do you begin this process?
- A. Through observance of the rituals and formalities of the dojo. At the hombu, students are invited to recite the 'Six Pearls of Wisdom' after each of the kid's classes.
- Q. What are the 'Six Pearls of Wisdom?'
- A. Obey your parents; Do your chores with a smile on your face; Learn as much as you can in school; Be a good citizen; Help one another; and, Be thankful for what you have.
- Q. Our time is about up, Professor. Permit me to ask one last question: If it's not too personal, may I ask what made you decide to retire from the mat and resign from the SRY Board of Directors?
- A. I've spent over forty years on the mat and during that time I steadfastly maintained that if it no longer was fun I'd get out. Frankly, I have always envisioned myself being buried under a dojo mat, when the time came.
- Q. And the fun ran out?
- A. You can only deal with greedy, self-serving, and arrogant people for so long. I know an organization structured the way ours is tends to attract all types, most with good intentions, but a few, whose only goal is to 'get what they can,' inevitably find their way in. I cannot abide with those who would rather have a hand out than a hand up. I wasn't raised that way. There are others, too, within the larger Danzan Ryu community, whose motives are less than honorable as well. It is disheartening to see that. I've made many wonderful friends in the course of those four decades and I've had the opportunity to meet many talented martial artists...many whom I've idolized in my youth. I've no regrets; the journey was well worth taking.
- Q. Professor, thank you again for your time and for your insight.
- (Myron Dickson is a freelance writer who lives in Southern California. He has contributed several articles to the Shoshin Ryu Newsletter as well as other martial art publications.)*

The Literary Ninja

Zen in the Art of Archery by Eugen Herrigel

81 pages

\$10.00

The obvious question is “How can this book help me with jujitsu?” What Mr. Herrigel went through studying archery is so similar to learning a martial art that no explanation is necessary. In fact on page twenty-five he makes a reference to learning “the gentle art.”

This book starts with a description of Zen and then travels through the author's story of learning archery in Japan. It has all the successes and pitfalls that one goes through learning any discipline. Consequently, it fits perfectly with studying jujitsu, and it's a pretty good story.

On the Literary Ninja's scale of White to Black belt I'd give *Zen in the Art of Archery* a Green belt.

-- *The Literary Ninja*

Ask the Doctor

Dear Dr. Rich,

First, I want to say that I'm 24 years old. I was working on some combination techniques last week. My partner grabbed my hair more gingerly than I expected. When I laughed and told her to grab more securely, she protested that my hair seemed to come out easily. She offered me her hand as evidence. There they were about a dozen hairs, complete with the roots, between her fingers. She really had not pulled very hard at all. Should I be worried? My dad has a receding hairline. Is my fate sealed?

Sincerely,
Al O'Pecia

Dear Al,

One would think that nothing about the human body could be easier to understand than hair. After all, it's not that complicated. Hair is not alive (except for the root), has no DNA (except for the root), and can readily be collected from the barbershop floor for scientific study. Alas, not so. We cannot all be blessed with Professor Center's hairline. Some of us--I swear, I'm not bitter--have to settle for being more aerodynamic.

I am often astounded that patients will take diabetes in stride, ignore chest pain, walk on a broken ankle, but come rushing in to see me when that "thinning" starts. People do NOT like to lose their hair.

Anyway, hair loss certainly can be a normal consequence of genetics. It runs in families. Your doctor can prescribe a medication in the form of a pill or topical lotion that may stave off, at least temporarily, your hair's eventual demise.

Of more concern, certain medical illnesses can cause hair loss. Thyroid disorders, certain medications or poisons, autoimmune disorders, and even severe stressors can all cause increased chrome-dome-ism. Al, based on your family history, it sounds like you may be earning your naked scalp the old fashioned way. Still, seeing a lot of hair with the roots can portend one of those potentially treatable medical issues. You ought to go see your doctor about it.

In empathy,
Dr. Rich

(Got a medical question for Dr. Rich? Contact him at DrRich@trfponline.com)

Coming Events

Monday, January 1, 2007: Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 7, 2007: Region One will have the next All Belts Workout at the Downey YMCA at 2:00. The last workout was a big success and anyone who is interested should come and join the fun. School heads meeting to follow.

Saturday, February 27, 2007: Sumo contest in Anaheim. Cost is \$5 for members and \$30 for non-members. The time and location are pending. Contact Steve Davis at sdavis@anaheim.net for more information.

Yudansha Notes

All Belts Workout at South Coast

On Sunday, November 12, interested members of Region One got together for a workout. Led by Professor Carlos Gallegos, the group broke into three rotating groups and practiced throws with Professor Kevin Dalrymple, Shime with Professor Jon Jacques, and striking with Professor Gallegos.

The afternoon proved to be a worthwhile experience with white belts and black belts alike learning and refining techniques.

Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Request for Funds Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

1. To what dojo do you belong? _____

2. Are you a member in good standing? Yes No

3. How does the money you are requesting fit in with the mission statement of Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai? (Teach Danzan Ryu Jujitsu to anyone who is able and worthy; Assist those who are teaching Danzan Ryu; Recognize those who have devoted a significant portion of their lives to teaching Danzan Ryu.)

4. What are you requesting the funds for?

Mats _____

Financial hardship for memberships _____

Instructional based travel (ie., have a professor come and workout with your class) _____

Other _____

If you have marked other, please explain what your request is.

Important: All requests must have approval of the board of directors before they will be paid.

Mail this form to: Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai
c/o Professor Bryan Stanley
5092 Robinwood Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

Or e-mail this completed form to: owen2aji@gte.net or SRYNewsletter@aol.com



Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai

Membership form

Please check one: _____ New member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthdate _____ Sex: M / F Phone(s) _____

e-mail address _____ Dojo affiliation _____

Instructor _____ Your current rank _____

Dues/ fees: \$25.00 per year. Membership dues include mandatory liability and supplemental medical insurance. Membership is for the current calendar year from January through December 31.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parental consent if under 18 years _____

Mail to: **Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai**
C/O Prof. Kevin Dalrymple
5547 E. San Juan Dr.
Orange, CA 92869

Phone: 714 - 538 - 4622

Please enclose your check payable to Shoshin Ryu

For more information, visit us at www.Shoshinryu.com

2nd Annual Winter Classic Sumo Competition

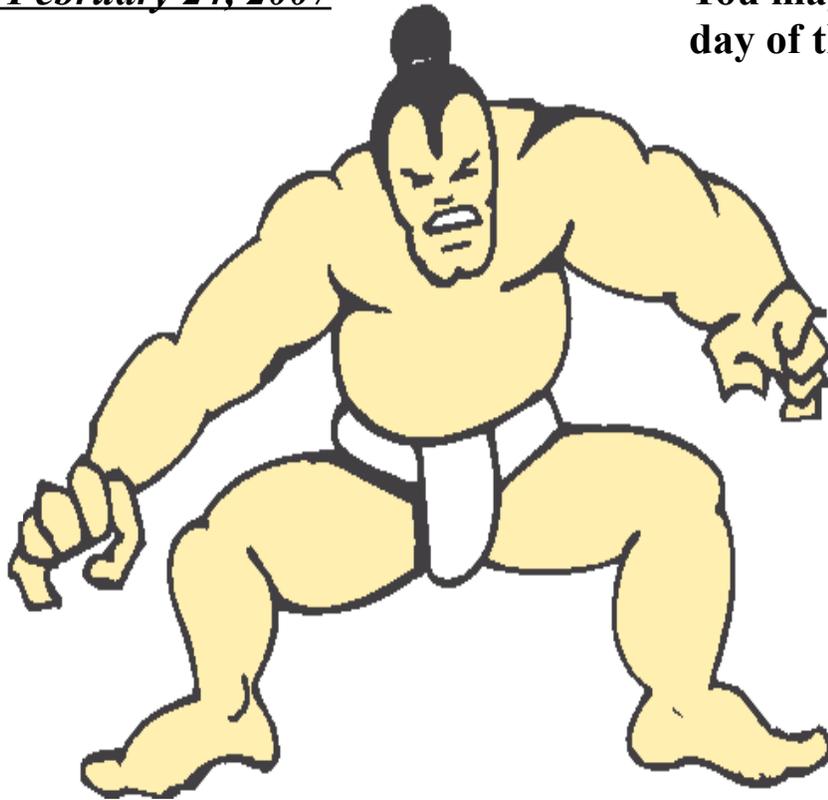
(Ages 4 to 17)

Hosted by the Orange YMCA Jujitsu Club
Professor Kevin Dalrymple

Contest Fee: \$5 for Shoshin Ryu members
\$30 for non members (Fee includes 2007 membership)

Saturday, February 24, 2007
Anaheim

You may sign up the
day of the contest



Email Steve Davis for more information at
sdavis@anaheim.net