

Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter

March/April 2011

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The History of Shoshin Ryu Part One: Really Early History

By
Bryan Stanley

In 22 B.C. a wrestling match took place between Taima-Nu-Kichaja and Nomi-Nu-Sukune. During the match Nomi-Nu-Sukune threw his opponent to the ground and then proceeded to kick him to death. This was supposedly the start of what was referred to as jujitsu.¹ If indeed that match was the first use of jujitsu, it bears little resemblance to what we practice today.

The question remains, just how did that sort of violence become what we call Danzan Ryu? If a situation as fraught with peril as the fight in 22 B.C. began the history of jujitsu, then what event started the history of Shoshin Ryu? Every look at history is made through the prism of our experience. Every look at history brings us closer to understanding ourselves. Every look at history offers the opportunity to see not only where we have gone, but where we are going.

Unlike the history of jujitsu, the history of Shoshin Ryu has a hearth from which everything else has spread. One man, made a decision to call his new dojo Shoshin Ryu, and nearly forty years later, because of his ability and inspiration and the dedication of loyal students, Shoshin Ryu has spread nationally and made contacts internationally.

Enough has been written about the history of jujitsu to come to one conclusion, no clear history of the origins of the art exist. Whether it came from China or was a uniquely Japanese creation is an ongoing argument. Regardless of where one stands on the origin debate, more than a few facts can be gleaned from the story of the art to trace it back to some historical roots.

Around 1100 A.D., Shinra Suburo Yoshimitsu was the first person to devise a true form of jujitsu in Japan. Previously a rough wrestling art had been given the name. Yoshimitsu took the techniques which worked from that style, refined others, fashioned a few of his own, and created Daito-Ryu Aiki-Jujitsu.²

Over the course of the next 500 years, hundreds of jujitsu styles were created and practiced around Japan. The story goes that these styles were propagated by samurai. Enough evidence is available to determine that they were. Keep in mind, however, that a samurai had little need to practice with anything other than his sword. A weaponless samurai would have little chance to defeat a sword-wielding equal on a battlefield whether he knew jujitsu or not.

In 1671 a physician from Nagasaki named Akiyama Shirobei Yoshitoki was not satisfied with the jujitsu techniques he had learned, so he went to Tenmangu Shrine and meditated for 100 days. During that time he developed 303 new arts for his system which he named Yoshin ryu, "The School of the Willow Heart," after seeing how a willow tree was so supple and flexible that not a branch was broken during an ice storm.³

The art of Yoshin Ryu splintered into any number of similar schools and styles in the years after Akiyama Yoshitoki's death. Someone taught this and other styles to a man named Tanaka (See **History** on page **THREE**)

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Yudansha Notes

South Coast Jujitsu Back in Action

Sensei Ed Bederov is on the mat. He has two new classes. One is at the Boys and Girls Club in San Juan Capistrano. The address is 1 Positive, San Juan Capistrano, 92675. He has two classes at that location on Tuesdays and Thursdays for little kids and bigger kids. The little kids class runs from 6:00 to 7:00 and the bigger kids class goes from 7:00 to 8:00.

The other class is at a ballet studio at 23091 Del Lago, Laguna Hills, 92653. This adults' class is on Wednesday and Friday from 7:00 to 9:00. Be sure to give him a call if you plan to work out on a Friday night though.

Some Events in Maine

Professor Rich Charlebois will be presenting a Shime clinic on June 12, 2011, at his dojo in Maine. Then on September 18, 2011, he is going to present a Nage clinic.

Get after it and go. Maine is beautiful that time of year. Go for the jujitsu; stay for the lobster.

Words of Wisdom

“If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.” – *Anonymous*

“Great changes may not happen right away, but with effort even the difficult may become easy.” - *Bill Blackman*

“It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare, that they are difficult.” – *Seneca*

"I try to take one day at a time, but sometimes several days attack me at once." - *Ashliegh Brilliant*

“Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.” - *Buddha*

Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame

Professor James A. Marcinkus Inducted in 2004

Professor James Marcinkus, Rokudan, was the co-founder of the Southern California Jujitsu Association. He was also the founder of the Penmar Jujitsu Kai in Venice, California, serving as its chief instructor for seventeen years.

James Anthony Marcinkus was born on September 5, 1948, to Tony and Bertha Marcinkus in Gardner, Massachusetts. At age six, his family moved to Venice, California.

At age ten, Jim began to study jujitsu with Prof. William G. Randle in the Santa Monica YMCA's "Junior Judo" program.

In 1965, Professor Randle entered the Holy Cross Brotherhood in Texas and Marcinkus took over the Santa Monica YMCA class even though he was a brown belt. The next year, Professor Raymond L. Law, acting in place of Professor Randle, promoted the seventeen year-old Marcinkus to shodan. Marcinkus continued at the Santa Monica YMCA until 1967 when he founded the club at the Penmar Recreation Center in Venice, CA.

During Professor Marcinkus' seventeen years as chief instructor at Penmar, he promoted approximately forty-five black belts and taught over 1000 students.

Marcinkus was a member of the board of the American Judo and Jujitsu Federation until 1980, when he formed the Southern California Jujitsu Association (SCJA).

In 1980, with more than forty schools in his organization, Jim retired from active teaching at the rank of Rokudan and the title of Professor.

Professor Marcinkus served in the Army Reserve for twenty-three years and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He passed the California Bar Exam in 1981 and worked as a lawyer until his death on February 2, 2000.

Nevada Report

By Myron Dickson, Yondan

Few things are as satisfying as watching young and energetic students work their way up the proverbial “judo ladder.” Professor Randle, in the days he taught junior classes through the Santa Monica YMCA, beamed with delight when making promotions to pink and blue belt. The look on the face of each student as he or she came forward and received that precious home-dyed canvas strip said it all. Yes, I said “home-dyed.” Professor Chubb revealed this obscure tidbit while sharing one evening.

It seems that Sensei Randle would go to the local hardware store and purchase a roll of canvas webbing whereupon arriving home he would cut said canvas into 3-foot strips. Afterward, the economical sensei would dye groups of the strips with boxes of Ritz dye on the stove of his apartment and air-dry them just outside his back door.

The ranking Sensei Randle used in those days came straight from Professor Law’s dojo in Oakland, California where he received his youthful training. Pink Belt had five ranks (1st degree through 5th) each identified by a white stripe added to the end of the belt. Blue Belt continued the process (6th degree through 10th) by the addition of more stripes, this time colored. The white stripes awarded during pink belt were transferred to one end of the blue belt and the colored stripes on the other. Professor Chubb admits that he is a little hazy on the colored stripes but thinks they included at least one green, brown, and a black.

Ironically, this monthly ritual became known as “Yamaguchi’s Dye Factory,” after Yamaguchi’s Department Store which is located in West Los Angeles just a couple of blocks from the Westside Family YMCA, where Professor Randle now teaches jujitsu and where he now purchases the belts he awards.

On the last class of February the Boulder City Jujitsu Club recently promoted to 8th Kyu Caitlynn Martin and Lane Williams. Cyrus Peterson and Weston Martin received 7th Kyu and brand new yellow belt. Michael Anderson, Hunter Dykstra and Rafael Echeverria were awarded 6th Kyu. Skyler Madison, Gavin Morris and Victoria Mulheron each received their green belt and 5th Kyu. Sensei Chubb and his staff congratulated the recipients with the traditional ‘judo throw’ and commend the students for their fine efforts.

(History continued from page One)

Yoshimatsu, and in the late 1800s, he moved to Hawaii and opened the Shinyu-Kai Dojo in Hilo.⁴

On January 28, 1890, Henry Seishiro Okazaki was born in Kakeda, Date County in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan. In 1906 he immigrated to Hawaii and, in 1910, after learning he had been diagnosed with tuberculosis, walked into the Shinyu-Kai Dojo and asked to learn jujitsu.⁵ He was determined to increase his strength and stamina. It was not too long before his health improved. He was so thankful for his newfound fitness that he dedicated his life to learning and teaching jujitsu.

In September 1924, Seishiro Okazaki traveled to Japan for a visit. During his stay he learned nearly 675 new techniques and was awarded a black belt by Jigoro Kano, the founder of judo. He returned to Maui in 1925 and set about teaching his jujitsu, which he called Danzan Ryu. The name Danzan comes from the word that Wo Chung, one of Seishiro Okazaki’s teachers, called Hawaii. In 1929 he moved to Honolulu and started teaching jujitsu at the Kodenkan Dojo he created near his Okazaki Adjustment and Restoration Clinic.

Raymond Lewis Law was born on November 6, 1899, in the little town of Roundup, Montana. In his early adult years, he came up with an idea to be the “Health Clown” and toured under the sponsorship of several health organizations. He married in 1925 and moved to Northern California where he continued his work. (See **History** continued on page **FOUR**)

Shoshin Ryu So. Cal. Region Upcoming Events

April 10, 2011

Clinic – Come Along Techniques
Professor Carlos Gallegos, instructor
Orange YMCA from 3-5 p.m.

May 2011

Jujitsu Kata Competition
Location to be announced
Date to be announced
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

June 5, 2011

Clinic – Massage
Professor Jim Lambert, instructor
Orange YMCA from 3-5 p.m.

July 9, 2011

Randori Competition
Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

August 14, 2011

Clinic – Judging
Sensei Steve Davis, instructor
Orange YMCA from 3-5 p.m.

September 2 thru 4, 2011

Shoshin Ryu Reunion
Knott's Berry Farm

October 16, 2011

Clinic – Shoshin Ryu hand techniques
Professor Kevin Dalrymple, instructor
Orange YMCA from 3-5 p.m.

November 6, 2011

Sport Jujitsu Competition
Location to be announced
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

December 11, 2011

Open workout
Lee Firestone and Ed Townsend, in charge
Orange YMCA from 3-5 p.m.

(History continued from page THREE)

In 1938 Ray L. Law moved to Hawaii as part of a public relations effort to make the islands more popular. When first arriving, he met his neighbor, Henry Seishiro Okazaki, and soon after, Ray Law started practicing Jujitsu. He stayed in Hawaii until 1939, when he returned to Oakland, California, with Professor Okazaki's blessings to open the first Danzan Ryu dojo on the Mainland. Law's Judo and Jujitsu School would become the fertile crescent of Danzan Ryu on the Mainland. During the next twenty-four years, Professor Ray Law would teach more than 14,000 people and promote 116 black belts.

Among the 14,000 people who went through Law's Judo and Jujitsu School was William Randle. In summer 1954 ten year-old William Randle was staying with his grandmother who lived a mere eight doors down from Law's Judo School. He walked down to the school and on that first night he got a few X marks on his hand to show that he had mastered some strength and coordination techniques, from that point forward William Randle was hooked. Danzan Ryu became his passion. By the time he was seventeen, William Randle was running a jujitsu class at the Santa Monica YMCA.

Michael Chubb was born in Santa Monica, California, on January 8, 1945. His twin brother Dave had a friend named Ron Michelson who was a student of William Randle's. Mike would occasionally practice jujitsu with Ron, and in 1960, at the age of fifteen, Micheal Chubb went to the Santa Monica YMCA with Ron to learn some jujitsu and ended up learning a lot more. *(more to come, stay tuned...)*

¹ Craig, Darrell Max. *Japan's Ultimate Martial Art: Jujitsu Before 1882 the Classical Japanese Art of Self-Defense*. Charles E. Tuttle Company, Inc. Boston. 1995.

² Ibid.

³ *Yoshin Ryu Jujitsu*. Butokan Martial Arts. <http://budokanutah.tripod.com/id15.html>.

⁴ ST. Hilaire, Russ. *20th Century Jujitsu*. <http://www.zenbudokai.com/twentiethjj.html>.

⁵ Ibid.

SHOSHIN RYU



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Shoshin Ryu newsletter. So mark your calendars for a great time!**

www.shoshinryu.com

Shoshin Ryu - Reunion 2011

at *Knotts Berry Farm*

September 2 - September 4, 2011

One Form Per Person

Make Check payable to: *Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai*

Mail to: 5547 E. San Juan Dr. Orange, CA 92869

First Name: *	<input type="text"/>	Last Name: *	<input type="text"/>
Date of birth:	Month: <input type="text"/>	Day: <input type="text"/>	Year: <input type="text"/>
Address: *	<input type="text"/>		
City: *	<input type="text"/>	State: *	<input type="text"/>
ZIP: *	<input type="text"/>		
Phone: *	<input type="text"/>	Email: *	<input type="text"/>
Primary Style:	<input type="text"/>	Dojo:	<input type="text"/>
Rank:	<input type="text"/>		
<i>* Required fields</i>			

Registration Options

Full Package (Clinics, Banquet, T-Shirt and Booklet)	Cost if postmarked and paid for by			
	5/31/11	7/15/11	8/15/11	At Door
Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115
Junior (13 and under)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90
Indicate T-Shirt Size	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL			
Indicate Meal Preference	Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian		
	Junior	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian		

Jujitsu Tournament	Adult		Junior	
	Before 8/15	At Door	Before 8/15	At Door
Per Competitor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20

Partial Packages and Other Items				
Clinics				
Registered before	5/31/11	7/15/11	8/15/11	At Door
Adult Clinics	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Junior Clinics	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40
Additional Banquet Meals				
Adult Banquet \$35	<input type="button" value="None"/> ▾	Chicken	<input type="button" value="None"/> ▾	Vegetarian
Junior Banquet \$25	<input type="button" value="None"/> ▾	Chicken	<input type="button" value="None"/> ▾	Vegetarian
Important Note: Adult and Junior meals may not be available after 8/15/11				
Other Items				
Extra T-Shirts (before 7/17/11) \$15	<input type="button" value="Small"/> ▾	<input type="button" value="Medium"/> ▾	<input type="button" value="Large"/> ▾	<input type="button" value="XL"/> ▾
	<input type="button" value="XXL"/> ▾	<input type="button" value="XXXL"/> ▾		

Promotions

Hachikyu:

Caitlynn Martin	BCJC
Christopher Pelletier	SRY Maine
Lane Williams	BCJC

Sichikyu:

Michael Antonello	SRY Maine
Sagan Charlebois	SRY Maine
Randy Emery	SRY Maine
Coley Grant	SRY Maine
Erik Maheu	SRY Maine
Weston Martin	BCJC
Cyrus Peterson	BCJC

Rokkyu:

Michael Anderson	BCJC
Hunter Dykstra	BCJC
Rafael Echeverria	BCJC

Gokyu:

Robert Grant	SRY Maine
Skyler Madison	BCJC
Gavin Morris	BCJC
Victoria Mulheron	BCJC

Nikyu:

Amy Forbes	SRY Maine
Peter York	SRY Maine

Ikkyu:

Joseph Larsen	SRY Maine
Christopher Charlebois	SRY Maine

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Orange YMCA Winter Sumo Contest

By
Sensei Steve Davis

On Saturday, February 5, 2011, the Orange YMCA hosted its 6th Annual Winter Sumo Competition. Over forty-five competitors attended, which was a great showing because of the last minute venue change. At the check-in all competitors received an event t-shirt and a commemorative patch. A local merchant donated the patches and the \$5.00 entry fee covered the cost of the shirts for all competitors and working officials. During the check in process, all competitors were divided into specific groups based on their age, weight, rank and experience.

As the divisions were being set up, Prof. Carlos Gallegos warmed up the competitors in his usual fashion with an unlimited supply of bicycle crunches and stomach exercises. Most competitors enjoyed the warm ups so much they almost forgot they were actually there to compete in a sumo competition. A special thank you goes out to Prof. Gallegos for his willingness to help and for having a great attitude during the warm ups.

Once the warm-ups were complete and the competitors were assigned to their divisions, the event started with a traditional bow in performed by Professor Jim Lambert. After the flag salute, Professor Kevin Dalrymple, gave a few opening remarks. It took a moment to explain the rules to the competitors and the spectators, then the fun began! Two mats ran concurrently and which provided no shortage of action. Competitors ranged in age from 5 to 14, from white belts to brown belts.

As the day drew on, the intensity and fierceness remained at a fever pitch. Determination and grit started at the beginning bout and lasted all the way through the final match several hours later. Each match received a loud roar from the crowd and applause for both competitors. Only after the final match, did all competitors let out a collective sigh and let down their guard.

While tabulating the scores, a few wrestlers from USA Sumo showed up and performed demonstrations for the competitors and spectators. Everyone was excited because this year, the National Champion for USA Sumo was part of the demonstrations. After being treated to some traditional sumo warm ups, the USA Sumo wrestlers ran several matches among themselves. At the conclusion of their demonstration, some lucky competitors got to compete against members of the USA Sumo Team. In addition, wrestlers from USA Sumo answered questions from competitors and spectators. When it came time to present the awards, members of USA Sumo served as honorary presenters.

Overall the event was a great success and the competitors had fun. As usual, members from Shoshin Ryu displayed the utmost respect for one another and the traditions surrounding this age-old art of competition and skill. Even though there were specific winners for each category, everyone who competed that day showed a winning spirit and attitude. All the competitors for this year's event are to be commended for their efforts and dedication. Additionally, the parents, family members, and friends must also be recognized for their tireless support with driving to practices, going to events and sitting through hours of many competitions. Thank you!

Sumo Contest Results

5-6 yr Group A

1. Jada Banks-Orange YMCA
2. Garrett Anders – Orange YMCA

7 yr Group B

1. Diego Morones-Orange YMCA
2. Emma Martin-Orange YMCA
3. Derrick Grayer-Orange YMCA

5-6 yr Group B

1. Christian Duran-Kaito Gakko
2. Brandon Wong-Orange YMCA
3. Jessica Ramirez-Kaito Gakko

8-9 yr Group A

1. Mackenzie Davis-Orange YMCA
2. Garrison Carrasco-Kaito Gakko
3. Ryan Cote-Saddleback Jujitsu

7 yr Group A

1. Malia Carrasco-Kaito Gakko
2. Jacob Ensebio-Kaito Gakko
3. Garret Liao-Orange YMCA

8-9 yr Group B

1. Nicalos Ponce-Kaito Gakko
2. Erica Iligan-Lincoln Baptist Church Jujitsu

8-9 yr Group C

1. Jayden Ramirez-Kaito Gakko
2. Katrina Lio-Orange YMCA
3. Andrew Pelayo-Kaito Gakko

10-11 yr Group B

1. Jackie Bui-Kaito Gakko
2. J. Parker Colton-Kaito Gakko
3. Ashley Cote-Saddleback Jujitsu

14 yr Group A

1. Kaylene Davis-Orange YMCA
2. Brandon Iligan-Kaito Gakko

8-9 yr Group D

1. Mathew Allen-Kaito Gakko
2. Donovan Banks-Orange YMCA

12-13 yr Group A

1. Kaylene Davis-Orange YMCA
2. Andrew Longmore-Orange YMCA
3. Adele Townsend-Orange YMCA

10-11 yr Group A

1. Cailee Taylor-Orange YMCA
2. Timothy Townsend-Orange YMCA
3. Kenneth Bui-Kaito Gakko

12-13 yr Group B

1. Adam Sharif-Orange YMCA
2. Joshua Ramirez-Kaito Gakko

The View from Boulder City

By Myron Dickson

(Note: This is the first in a series of observations made by Myron Dickson, longtime student and friend to Professor Chubb. Mr. Dickson shares a uniquely close relationship with his friend and mentor. The content of each article is intended to shed some light into the innermost thoughts of the professor and significant events and personalities that have shaped his world. – Ed.)

Some things just have to be seen before they are believed. This was uppermost in my mind as I bowed into the dojo and took a seat with the other parents. Not that my son and daughters were there to learn but rather to witness Professor Chubb's reemergence onto the mat at the junior class. It has been several years since his self-imposed retirement and I, for one, wanted to see if the old guy still had it in him. For any of you out there who have "pushed the envelope" of sanity to teach children, you know what I'm talking about. I hear Professor Rory Rebmann takes kids as young as three years old at his Amador dojo in Livermore, California. You'd think that his hair would be white as snow but what few strands remain appear to be as youthful looking as ever.

Professor Chubb began his study under Bill Randle at the Santa Monica YMCA. Randle was no stranger to youth classes as he was a product of Professor Ray Law's junior program himself. I'm told Professor and Mrs. Law had hoards of kids on the mat on any given day. Professor Chubb even witnessed first hand the almost hypnotic spell the "Pied Piper" of jujitsu had on the youths of the YMCA Summer Youth Program. The gymnasium was regularly packed with Randle's junior students as they gleefully tried to master the various strength and coordination stunts he absconded with when moving from Oakland to Santa Monica.

But I digress. My point is that Sensei Randle often used these "stunts" as teaching aids in his senior class where Chubb was enrolled. Whether he "mastered" the list of 150 will always be a bone of contention as most of the members of the senior class are no longer available for debriefing. Sensei Chubb did, however, manage to inculcate forty-five of the little nuggets into his junior belt ranks when he started the Boulder City Jujitsu Club in 1995.

So there I sat grinning and waiting for that cherished moment when Professor Chubb would once again attempt to demonstrate "Hook Foot behind Head." I must confess that the thought of the sexagenarian stuck in some contortion of his own making, yelling for "Help!" I actually was prepared to render, gave me a moment of sheer pleasure, but it never happened, he introduced his new class to the strength and coordination stunts with "Frog Jump."

I was not completely disappointed in the evening's festivities, however. I drew some comfort in hearing the gasps and groans emanating from the direction of our beloved leader as he led the class in exercises.