



Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter

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Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai

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Shoshin Ryu Reunion 2013

By Bryan Stanley

I have written about every Shoshin Ryu Reunion and Ohana since 2002. It seems a little redundant after a while. Each one is essentially the same, Friday night registration, Saturday clinics, Sunday contest and banquet.

What can I write about the 2013 Shoshin Ryu Reunion that would set it apart from the others? That is the big question. Okay, let me start with the most obvious first, and probably the moment that meant the most to a lot of us.

On Saturday morning, during the introductions before the clinics, Shoshin Ryu presented Professor Larry Nolte with his Kudan. That was a moment. For those of you who have not read the newsletter before, Professor Nolte has been practicing and teaching Danzan Ryu since 1959 and has been running the same dojo since 1961.

Then, after Professor Nolte was promoted, Professor Bob McKean was awarded Shoshin Ryu's highest honor, the Luciani Service Award. It was all together fitting since Professor McKean has worked so hard to put together the black belt weekend and Ohana 2014.

Professor McKean then presented the Kilohana Martial Arts Association 2013 Ohana Award to Professor Bill Fischer. One could tell that Professor Fischer was quite honored to have received it.

When the clinics started, it was pretty much business as usual, jujitsuka moved from mat to mat from 8:00 to 4:00 and by the end of the day, everyone had had enough. Most were too tired or had been significantly beaten down during the day to complete the last hour of clinics.

Some of the high points were Professor Greg Fernandez throwing clinics, it's not often that we get to work out with a judoka who has years and years of experience. Similarly, one of the great opportunities of the weekend was doing Professor Nolte's knife defense class. He taught what he had been taught and those little nuances made all the difference. On a personal note, I really enjoyed his "move-and-you'll-lose-your-pinky" knife technique.

Saturday night provided an opportunity for people to hang out in the hospitality suite and catch up. It was a good night with a lot of hearty conversation and slaps on the back, lots of laughter and stories of old times, and more than a few philosophical discussions of the art of Danzan Ryu.

Sunday morning Sensei Steve Davis was up bright and early preparing the ballroom for the kata contest. Participants were stretching and getting ready, but before we got to any of that, Sensei Fumio Demura had a two of his students do kata. Okay, in Danzan we do not do weapon katas like that. I am glad. Frankly, I have a bit of a problem when sharp things fly near my groin.

The annual kata contest was about the same size as it has been for the past few years. It was exciting to see dedicated students take the time to present well-oiled kata.

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Advertisements:

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Professor Kevin Dalrymple at his Friday night hang out, the registration table.



Friday night, the hospitality suite. Reconnecting with friends.



More of the hospitality crew.



The calm before the storm. Professor Gallegos's students were up early setting up the room.



Finally! Evidence of mat gnomes. The guys who set up the clinic rooms before everyone arrives.



Hold on a second...Is that...Yes, it's Roger Medlen and Steve McMillian.



Professors Riley and Fischer, dressed up and ready to roll.



Preparing for the day, bright eyed and full of enthusiasm. The only way to start a day of clinics.



Sometimes, when professors line up, it's like wildebeest at the watering hole, no one wants to be on the edge.



Professor Fischer receiving the Kilohana Martial Arts 2013 Ohana Award from Professor Bob McKean.



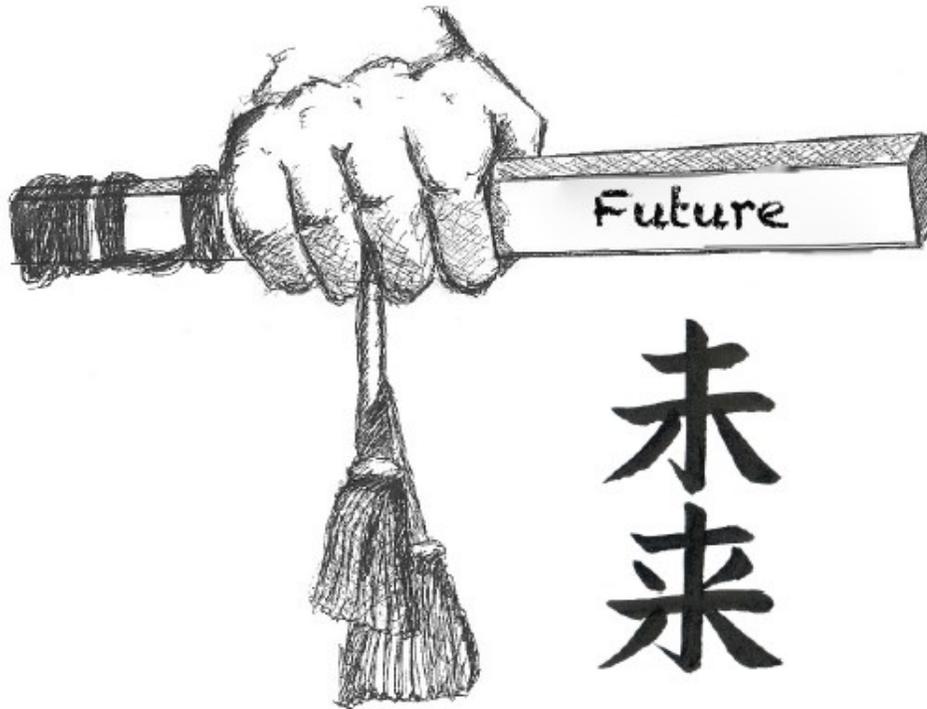
Professor McKean receives the Luciani Service Award for 2013.



Professor Larry Nolte receiving his kudan promotion.

'Ohana 2014

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Any questions contact Bob McKean at cop2rn@aol.com or
Hans Ingebretsen at hansingebretsen@yahoo.com



Once the formalities were over, the real fun began. Professor Dave Williams demonstrates how to defend against the single-leg takedown.



Professor Chubb on the mat where we like to see him.



See...the real fun started.



Something for everyone. Even the Junior students had their own mat. Sensei Randy Carrasco runs the kids through some breathing exercises.



No really, Sensei Steve Davis **LIKES** being kicked in the groin. Even little jujitsuka can do a lot of damage.



Professor Jon Jacques demonstrates some Oku.



I was foolish enough to ask Professor Center about a technique...I let him do it to me. He almost made me cry. Be wary if he doesn't like you.



A sensei never forgets his favorite uki .



Sensei Greg Fernandez working a nage clinic.



Professor Nolte does a knife defense technique. Super interesting and refreshing. A great time was had by all.



Sensei Lee Firestone in action.



Professor Bob McKean putting on the twist.



Junior competitors showing their stuff.



Not to be outdone, the seniors students strutted their stuff later.



"Could we see that same technique from a different angle?"



Professor Randle handing out the reward for hard work.



Kenschokan came to represent...



...so did He No De Ryu.



Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai

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Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai: Dedicated to the art and principles of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu

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Promotions

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Crystal Robison | Shodan |
| Tanner Bethany | Nidan |
| Christopher Chubb | Nidan |
| Dan Sisson | Nidan |
| Orion Davis II | Sandan |
| Peter Goss | Sandan |
| Nick Simmons | Sandan |
| Nancy Soars* | Sandan |
| Bruce Stokes | Sandan |
| Michael Whitaker | Sandan |
| Danny Brewer | Yondan |
| James Franz | Yondan |
| Jeff Kale | Yondan |
| Kathleen Nicholas* | Yondan |
| Chris Nicholas* | Rokudan |
| Michael Tucker* | Rokudan |
| Richer Charlebois | Hachidan |
| Ron Jennings | Hachidan |
| Gregory Fernandez | Kudan |
| Barry Holck | Kudan |
| Jim Lambert | Kudan |
| Larry Nolte | Kudan |

* Promoted in June 2013



The History of Shoshin Ryu, Vol. I

The History of Shoshin Ryu is now available on Amazon.com and on the OutskirtsPress websites. It took nine months to write and was produced through countless interviews with Professors Mike Chubb, Bill Fischer, Len Riley, Jon Jacques, Kevin Dalrymple, Steve McMillan, Roger Medlen, and a host of others. For some it will be a trip down memory lane, for others it will be an essential part of understanding the roots of Shoshin Ryu.

www.outskirtspress.com/bookstore/9781432786458.html

Click the book cover to go to Amazon.com

(Reunion from page ONE)

It turned out to be a pretty quick event, all the registration took place before nine o'clock and the contest started at ten and was finished before one.

The final event of the weekend was the annual awards banquet. It had a slide show of the weekend; it had pictures from the past; it had awards; it had promotions; best of all, it had food.

The keynote speaker at the banquet was Sensei Mike Whitaker of the Golden West Dojo in Westminster, California. His topic was friendship. He talked about how people develop friendship in the dojo. He relayed stories that made us laugh, and passed on ideas that made us think. It was one fine speech and if you weren't there, you missed it.

When the banquet was over many of the attending yudansha went up to the hospitality suite to keep the night rolling. But the 2013 Shoshin Ryu Reunion Weekend was over. For the people who showed up, it was fun to reconnect, learn some new things, and recharge the jujitsu batteries for another year.

One Last Reunion Picture

Professor Medlen asked me to take this. He thought it might be the best portrait this guy has ever had. It very well could be.

