

KOSHUKAI 2007 Austin Texas

In June of 2007 many of our Members descended upon Austin, Texas to participate in the Koshukai 2007. As has become tradition for this event, it was dedicated to the memory of Master Seiyu Shinjo. The event hosted Grand Master Kiyohide Shinjo and his Okinawan entourage which included Isao Kinjo, Shuichi Shinjo, Shota Tsukayma, Naoshi Tafuku and Mitsukini Teruya. Also in attendance were the senior members of the American Kenyukai including Alan Dollar, John Spencer, Jim Foley, Mike Nazar, and newest Kenyukai inductee, Ric Martin. As we all know, Alan and Ric are the original architects of the Koshukai and through their hard work and leadership have created a tradition which should be carried on by the future leadership and participants in Uechi Ryu Karate Do-Kenyukai. Attendees included participants from as far away as Germany and Canada and various locations throughout the United States.

As has been the custom of events that have been held in Austin, Texas, the Koshukai was a successful blend of Karate training, social camaraderie, fellowship and unique social events



around which participants could get to know more about each other and our honored visitors. The training started with Master led classes for Sensei only followed by three days of intensive training and capped off by a promotional test on Saturday, June 16th.



Approximately 20 candidates were promoted in ranks ranging from Shodan through Rokudan, after which we had the honor of witnessing Masters Alan Dollar and John Spencer being promoted to Hachidan. Congratulations to all successful candidates.

An added inspirational element was included in the training sessions, ending all work outs with what became known as "The WOD", or a short but intensive Work Out of the Day wherein the participants were introduced to Cross-fit training and everyone came to know "burpees". While the training was serious and demanding, the energy and the response to the overall work outs produced an energy and an enthusiasm that everybody took home to their respective dojos.



In addition to the training component of the Koshukai, there was a dinner and an organizational business meeting for Kenyukai Sensei. An updated directory listing current information for all members was issued, and various aspects of the organization and other topics were discussed. The exchange of ideas was meaningful. In response to the request of Grand Master Shinjo, the American Kenyukai Association was officially established as an entity with its own autonomy as part of the Okinawan Kenyukai Association.

The direction for current and future leadership of the American Kenyukai was discussed and established. The dinner event was hosted by Sensei Mike Nazar.



There were social opportunities galore including dinners and socials at Mike and Sue's home, Sensei dinners, traditional Okinawan dancers, impromptu gatherings at the Hotel which may now be considered notorious by the hotel staff, and perhaps the social highlight of the event wherein the Austin dojo hosted a party boat cruise complete with jet skis, music and refreshments on Lake Travis.

Some of the images and pictures are priceless, including Grand Master Shinjo and Master Kinjo together on a jet ski. The event was miraculous in the sense that given the weather patterns that were prevalent during the Koshukai, the weather was perfect right up until the time the party boats docked, at which point it poured! In Texas, that's called a "turd floater" (cow turd floater that is).



Nazars and the Austin dojo hosted a grand sayonara party which included live music, food and refreshments. Junkyard Jim Foley took the stage, joining the band for Red House, which has now become an infamous YouTube overnight sensation.

Most of the Florida guests were introduced to the Nazar swimming pool at the "gentle leading" of their Sensei, Ric Martin as punishment for not attending the promotional exam.

In closing, it was a great honor for Sensei Nazar and the members of the Austin dojo to host the Koshukai. The Austin dojo expresses its sincere thanks to all participants and most especially, to Grand Master Shinjo for his trust and confidence in extending to the Austin dojo the honor of hosting such a rich and traditional event.

The next Koshukai will be held in Clearwater, Florida in 2009 and hosted by Master Ric Martin and his Team. The Austin dojo will be present and looks forward to seeing everybody in Florida.

Until then, choreigwa.

Sensei Mike Nazar
Rokudan

