



ISKF Alaska Region Newsletter

www.ISKF-Alaska.net

Celebrating 25 years of Shotokan Karate in Alaska 1982-2007

August 2007

The Daigaku Story

We are pleased to start our presentation of the ISKF Alaska Region Dojo's with Sensei Charles Holness, 5th Dan, and the Daigaku Shotokan Karate Club.

The Daigaku Shotokan Karate Club has a reputation for endurance and persistence. The club began with the Anchorage Community College in 1983. The following year (1984) Sensei Nakazawa worked with the University of Alaska, Anchorage to have the classes part of the university curriculum. Sensei Charles Holness became the Chief Instructor. The club was named the University Karate Club. From 1992 to 1997 the club moved to several locations. First, with the help of Sempai Beckie Brocies, the Dojo was moved to a location in East Anchorage. The growing student population and high costs of operating an independent dojo forced the club to move to another location in East Anchorage where the club stayed until 1995. High rent closed the Dojo until 1997, when Rick Kenny (now deceased), was able to secure space at the Mountain View Recreational Center. In 1999 the recreation center building was totally renovated forcing the club into temporary "HOMELESSNESS"!

During this homeless period the club name changed to "Daigaku" (which is the Japanese word for "big school"). Since the club had not been at the university for several years, students explored different names. Jennifer Frazier, a long standing student of Sensei Holness since 1985, had lived in Japan for 3 years, offered Daigaku. The decision was unanimous and our club name was changed to read: Daigaku Shotokan.

In 2000, the new Mountain View Recreational Center reopened and Daigaku returned to the Mountain View Boys and Girls Club. We were able to teach several under-privileged and low income children the art of karate. Due to conflicts in the scheduling of classes we were yet again made homeless, but throughout this period students were able to train at the other Dojo locations around town. In 2005, Steve and Cheryl Phillips requested that the Baxter and Daigaku dojos combine and train at the Baxter Elementary School (through Community Schools). Steve and Cheryl are two very special people who have contributed much of their time to Alaska Shotokan Karate, but they recently had to take a leave of absence due to medical issues. We are sad to have lost Sensei Cheryl Phillips in 2006.

Daigaku Shotokan Karate Club now trains at the Spenard Recreational Center. Since September of 2006, advanced and beginning adult and children classes are offered two days a week, Wednesday and Fridays. Senseis Charles Holness and Susan Jones both volunteer their time. They were recently featured in the Municipality Parks and Recreational newsletter for Volunteer of the Month for the month of May. We are also very fortunate to have Catherine Pinch and Mike Tavoliero teach and training with us. Ms Pinch moved to Anchorage from Master Yaguchi's Dojo in Denver and recently was promoted to 6th Dan.

DAIGAKU SHOTOKAN CLUB reflects the Niju Kun #11 principle through applying "continuous heat" to keep karate alive, not getting cold through excellent leadership of Sensei Holness and dedicated Sempai and students.



Alaska Summer Karate Camp update from Susan Jones, 2007 Camp Director

August 16 – 19, 2007 Birchwood Camp in Chugiak, will host special guest instructors Cathy Cline, 7th Dan, Northwest Regional Director and Chief Instructor for Western Washington Shotokan Karate Club and Hiro Okazaki, 7th Dan, National ISKF Team Coach. This year's camp will feature a unique combination of great instruction, intensive karate classes, lectures, outdoor recreation and rank testing. The camp is open to anyone 9 years of age and older and all ranks are encouraged to attend. There is a special day camp for younger children. Come and help us celebrate 25 years of Alaska Shotokan Karate in Alaska. We expect a full camp, register early to assure a spot at camp. Parents are encouraged to attend the Saturday BBQ and the Sunday awards luncheon. Full registration package is available from your shotokan dojo and on the web site at <http://www.iskf-alaska.net/> — See you at camp! Susan Jones (sjones.alaska@gmail.com)

Calendar of Events

2007

- August:** Aug 10 Kyu Testing at Fairbanks Dojo, Sensei Nakazawa
Aug 16-19 Alaska Summer Camp, Sensei Cathy Cline and Sensei Hiro Okazaki
Aug 20 Dan and Kyu Testing at Juneau Dojo, Sensei Hiro Okazaki
- October: Oct 6 Alaska Moving Arts Center 20th Anniversary Reception**
~~Oct 12-14 ISKF Pan Am Tournament in Caracas, Venezuela~~ **Cancelled**
Oct 19-21 ISKF US National Tournament in San Francisco, CA
- December: Dec 7-10** Dan and Kyu Testing, Master Yaguchi in Anchorage & Juneau (**Date change**)

2008

- Winter:** Jan-Mar Kangeiko Training/Alaska Shotokan State Tournament *TBA*
- Spring:** April Dan and Kyu Testing *TBA*
- July:** TBA Alaska Shotokan Karate Camp 2008
- August:** TBA ISKF Shotocup World Tournament in Toronto, Canada

Note from Sensei Nakazawa – Keep Training!

As part of ISKF Alaska Region's 25th year celebration, this month we are recognizing the Daigaku Dojo, Sensei Holness and its members who have contributed significantly to teaching karate since 1983. **They are to be congratulated!** Their commitment to Master Okazaki's philosophy to "Keep Training" is an inspiration to us all. Next month we will hi-light the Alaska Moving Arts Center. 20 years ago the Alaska Moving Arts Center (AMAC) opened its doors. AMAC has also been home to the Eagle River Shotokan Karate dojo as well as being the Main Dojo for ISKF Alaska. Additionally, future editions of the newsletter will introduce Sensei Catherine Pinch, 6th Dan, and feature interviews with Master Okazaki and Master Yaguchi on their training under Master Nakayama. This is especially timely as this year is also the 21st anniversary of the passing of Master Nakayama. Lots of interesting information for ISKF Alaska karate-ka!

For submission of newsletter items, please send them to ISKF Alaska Region (ISKF@alaska.com)