

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Gi Yu Kyo Kai Seminar

June 8-11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dayton, Ohio USA



What a whirlwind the last few weeks have been! I don't even know where to start. The month started with my dear Father-in Law Randy Geel passing away suddenly on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. I was in Denver for work that week and had to cut my business trip short and travel back to Ohio via multiple airports and planes. Dealing with the pain of watching my wife and her family lose this part of their lives, let alone me losing him from mine was heart wrenching. The sadness was overwhelming. He was always a big part of our lives and our dojo and he loved ALL the folks who train with us. This unfortunate event, then postponed our trip to Japan by one week. We eventually made the trip to the other side of the globe and were greeted by Kato-san and Kikue. We had such a wonderful time with them, such pleasant memories. I am forever indebted to their hospitality. Unfortunately, my old Sensei, was not able to meet with us for one reason or another. That was the only regret I had from this once in a lifetime trip. We did get to experience and challenge ourselves a few times with a new form of budo during our visit. These were/are a great and lasting memory. Needless to say, with all these events, my head and heart were spinning. We got back to the USA and we had less than one week before the annual seminar. The students of The Gi Yu Honbu Dojo were great! They had done all the heavy lifting before I got home. The Dojo was cleaned, the yard work done, the prep work was all done for all our out of town guests. I had no worries as they say. I just needed to show up and teach.

Thursday night started with the usual, no gi training. We worked on some basic wrist control ideas and then to a throw and then knee locks. Really simple and really effective. A HOT time to say the least in the dojo.



Awesome energy and training. After that training we went straight in to the DAN level Black Belt testing. It started with James Sutton testing for YonDan (4<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt) and he had some challenges. He was really close, so the judging panel agreed to let him test again the next day and I am proud to say he passed! On Thursday night after the first exam, we then had Don Baker and Brittney Mooney test for their SanDan (3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Black Belts) ranks. They both did marvelous and passed the challenging exam. After which we had the ShoDan (1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt) contenders. Andreas Syllaba, Chris Zapata and Will

Grilliot all stepped up and gave it their best shot. I was so impressed with what the three of them showcased to the judging panel. They all passed their exams!

Congratulations folks!



Friday morning started with the official first day of the seminar. 継続は力なり *“Keizoku wa chikara nari”* To continue is power was the “theme “ of this year’s special event . The dojo-cho had requested me over the last year to do something special for the 10 year anniversary of the dojo. So we decided to showcase one technique out of each school we study that I thought best exemplified the lineage. It has been a lot of solo study and work to be ready for this event. But I think, I hope it paid off for all our participants. We started the morning with Koto Ryu Koppojutsu Gyokko Ryu Kosshijutsu, KukiShin Ryu Dakentaijutsu , ShinDen Fudo Ryu Dakentaijutsu, ShinDen Fudo Ryu Jutaijutsu, and finished the morning session with Takagi Yoshin Ryu Jutaijutsu. A great showcase of our Koryu unarmed combat ideas.

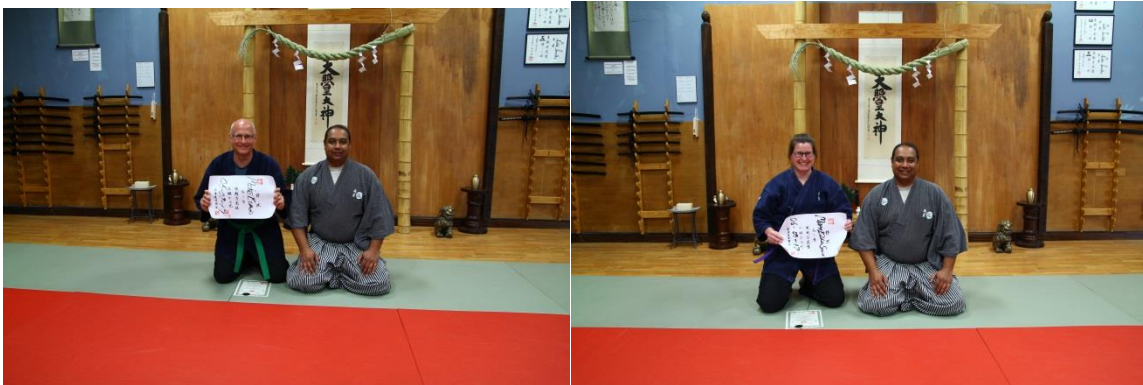


That afternoon we then progressed in to some of the weapons we use in our association. We went to train outside the dojo, since it was such a beautiful day. We might as well enjoy nature with our budo training. KukiShin Ryu Sanjaku Bojutsu then Jojutsu and

Rokushaku Bojutsu. All the stick fighting ideas were covered. We then moved to KukiShin Ryu Sojutsu, Naginata Jutsu and Bisento Jutsu. This concluded Friday's training.



I then turned the dojo over to the Dojo-cho who set up Kyu level testing. Mike Elrod tested for SanKyu (Green Belt) and passed with a spirit (I was told) that was admirable by the testing panel. He broke his foot in the middle of the sparring part and continued on! Mary Ellen Smith was next, as she was testing for her NiKyu (Purple Belt). She showcased her skills very well and they both passed their exams! Congratulations to you both.



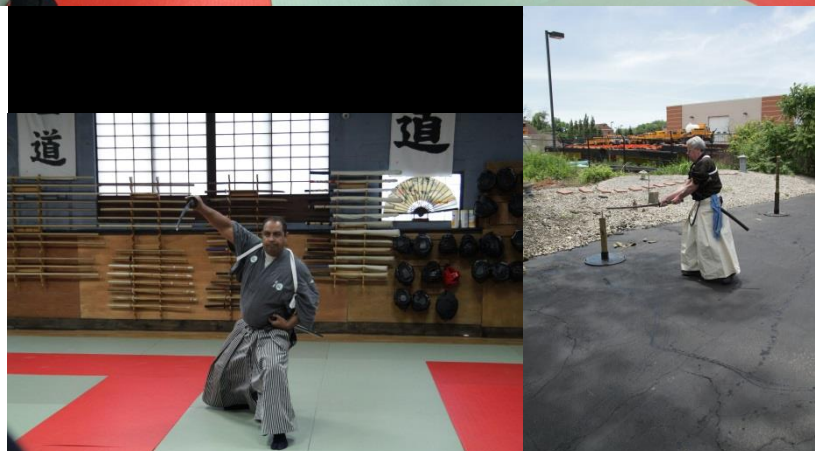
That evening was the traditional seminar banquet. It was a very nice time to mingle and meet our student's significant others, kids, family members and their friends. I announced the student of the year winners. The criteria for winning are as follows: *Class Attendance, Technical Skill Advancement, Understanding of Koryu Arts, Selflessness, Character Development, Sincerity, Humbleness, Confidence and Honor*. Each Black Belt, across the globe gets to place one vote for anyone in each category. Whoever has the most votes, wins. This year's KYU student of the year was Chris Zapata. He has been "living" at the dojo, cleaning, fixing and helping out. His taijutsu has also grown in leaps and bounds. The DAN level student of the year, was none other than my brother, Jaye Sandhu. He has given his time tirelessly to the junior students to help them and has been quite a force to reckon with when it comes to budo! Congratulations gentlemen! They were both given their plaques and a new engraved cutting sword to Chris and engraved tanto to Jaye.



That evening, the students of The Kyo Kai presented me with 2 beautiful paintings. Just wonderful. The speeches that Aman Brar, Chuck Van Dine, WS Bumgarner and Jaye Sandhu gave brought tears to my eyes. They were so sincere, honest and heartfelt, I am honored to be a part of your lives.



Saturday morning started with Togakure Ninpo Taijutsu, ShinKen Gata Jutaijutsu, Gi Yu Dojo Suwari Gata Jujutsu, Jinen Ryu Iaijutsu / Bikenjutsu / Ni To Jutsu, KukiShin Den Ryu Bikenjutsu, Togakure Ninja Biken. After the morning session we went into the afternoon live cutting training. Everyone went through a safety check and debrief and then off to cutting all the tatami that was prepared (thanks Sam Foster!) for everyone. I can honestly say, EVERYONE has gotten a LOT better at this! It was wonderful to watch.



We then tested Dojo-cho Aman S. Brar for his RokuDan (6<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt) and he passed with flying colors!

Well done.



That evening the “party bus” arrived to take everyone to dinner and then a night in fabulous Dayton Ohio, lol! I unfortunately had contracted the stomach flu a few days earlier (not sure how I made it through all the training) and decided it would be best for me to go home and rest. I was hesitant and upset I missed out on all the fun, but from what I heard, everyone had a great time visiting the “best of the best” of Dayton Ohio. Again LOL!

Sunday morning was the last session of the seminar and we went into training with KukiShin Ryu and Jinen Ryu Jutte Jutsu. We moved into KukiShin Ryu Kodachi Dori and then Jinen Ryu Tessen Jutsu, Kusari Fundo Jutsu and Tanto Jutsu.



Quite a lot of techniques and martial ideas. At the end of it all, all these movements come back to fundamental body movement, or taijutsu. I left the students with ***“Gi and Yu”, Justice and Courage. You must have Honor to understand Justice AND you must have Strength to have Courage. Carry those ideals with you, every day, in everything you do. You WILL be a leader and force of positive goodness in our communities, in our world! Never Quit, Never Stop, To Continue is True Power.***

Sukh