

## 2018 Gi Yu Kyo Kai Annual Seminar Recap

06/18

By:

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成功する事よりも、失敗しない事の方が重要だ

*“Seikou suru koto yori mo, shippai shinai koto no hou ga juuyou da”*

***“It's more important to not fail than to succeed”***

Another wonderful gathering of warriors was held on June 21-24, 2018 in Dayton Ohio, USA. Covering the Topics of KukiShin Ryu HanBojutsu, Kihon Happo Jujutsu, no Gi Grappling & TameshiGiri. What an awesome event. The energy was high, the training was fantastic, and the comradery was infectious! Our theme behind this year's seminar was to look at our basic movements (Kihon Happo) of our Budo and character. Thinking about always winning, especially if you “lose” can be deflating and crushing to the spirit. By switching the way we think and switching our internal thought process from “winning” to “not losing”, we can find success in all we do and still keep our spirit and confidence strong. Instead of always trying to win, how about trying not to fail? The shift in mindset may help you overcome adversity in combat and ultimately in day to day life.



We started this event on Thursday evening with our no Gi (uniform) grappling class. After a warm up of handstands, cartwheels, squats, rolling, shrimping and neck bridging we went into the main topic of the night's class. The practice session consisted of using the Kihon Happo without the advantage of a uniform to grab. We practiced the techniques standing and on the ground. Lots of insightful learning took place that evening with every student looking to senior sempai to set the example of excellence in movement.





After the exhausting training session, we went in to our DAN (Black Belt) level testing. We had two students challenge the SanDan (3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Black Belt) exam. Unfortunately, only one of them passed, but it was a great learning opportunity for both students because of the constructive critique they both received (pass or fail) from all the experienced Sensei and Dojo-cho that were part of the grading committee. A BIG Congratulations goes out to Matt Wooton who PASSED his 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Black Belt exam!



The next morning we started the Kihon Happpu jujutsu study. Three long hours of perfecting the basics along with working on Kaeshi Waza (reversal techniques) of each of basics. As in physics, where for every action there is a reaction, for every technique there is a counter measure. We worked through Omote Gyaku, Ura Gyaku, Muso Dori, Musha Dori for this session.





After a quick lunch break we then started to explore the KukiShin Ryu SanJaku BoJutsu (HanboJutsu) 3 foot stick fighting. A review of the basic on guard postures, basic striking, catching and choking movements were the first concepts we worked on.



Exciting and dynamic movements of escape, counter and striking were reviewed. Target identification along with actually reaching the striking objective was a key skill most over looked in training. Another basic skill with the 3 foot stick was to be able to catch and “choke” an opponent’s limbs.



After the days Keiko (training) I left the responsibility of the Kyu (non-black belt level) testing to WS Sensei, Aman Sensei and Chuck Sempai. All the Other Black Belts were also in attendance adding their observational opinions on the five students who were challenging the Green, Purple and Brown Belt exams. Unfortunately, the two Green Belt candidates did not pass their exam. However, I am quite certain they learned a lot about the flaws in their techniques and more importantly about themselves. Mike Elrod and Jordan McGuire both passed their Purple Belt exams and Mary Ellen Smith passed her Brown Belt exam. Well done!



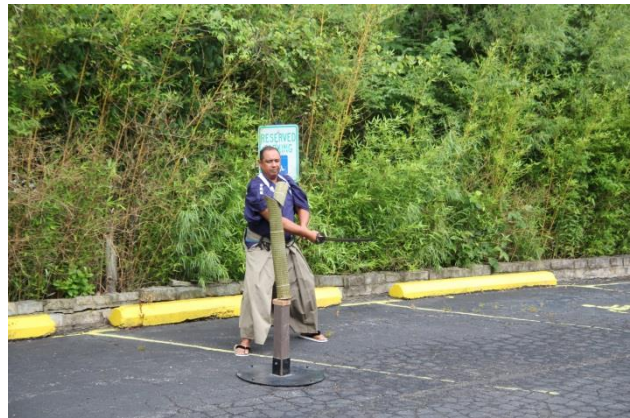
Onward and Upward! Gambatte!

That evening we held the Annual Banquet. As per tradition we held it at Ariake Japanese Sushi Restaurant in Dayton Ohio. Miko-san and Sasaki-san as always treated us wonderfully. The atmosphere and food were terrific. We had our awards presentation which consisted of congratulating all the students who passed their rank exams along with encouraging the students who needed to try again. Lessons learned from failure will lead to success. Our KYU and DAN level student of the year awards were then presented to this year's winners. These awards are voted on by all the black belts from all over the globe. The fact that your peers and/or senior students think so highly of you, is such an honor in my opinion. The criteria for the recognition were based upon several characteristics: *Class Attendance, Technical Skill Advancement, Understanding of Koryu Arts, Selflessness, Character Development, Sincerity, Humbleness, Confidence and Honor*. The winner of this year's KYU Student of The Year was given a very nice recognition plaque, a new cutting katana and a comic book give from Sukh Sensei's personal collection. Jordan McGuire was the recipient of this prestigious award. Matt Wooton was nominated by the awards committee to be recognized for The DAN Student of The Year. He was given a nice recognition plaque, a Tsuba Collection display case and a funny comic book from Sukh Sensei's personal collection. Congratulations to both of you and thank you for setting a great example for all of us!



The cadre then presented me with a wonderful present of an antique Japanese Arrow head from the 1800s mounted to a nice plaque. Once again I thank all of you for all your wonderful gifts, interactions and your commitments to The Gi Yu Kyo Kai and your communities!

The next morning was live blade sword cutting or Tameshi Giri. We began by reviewing the basics first. Drawing the blade, sheathing the blade, basic postures and cuts were reviewed. Then we transitioned outside the dojo to start the actual tatami cutting. From what I could see, everyone continues to improve greatly at this crucial skill. I often feel we do not do this type of training enough. So, taking advantage of every chance to practice tatami cutting should be a part of everyone's training regimen.



The afternoon session was a continuation of the Kihon Happo and Kaeshi Waza movements. We reviewed the basics of Oni Kudaki, Gan Seki Nage, Ichimonji no Kihon, Jumonji no Kihon. Unfortunately, we ran out of time for Hicho no Kihon. Of course we also practiced the counters to each of these techniques.



That evening was a fun time for all. We had a nice dinner at a local restaurant and then visited some “watering holes” in the local area. A lot of great conversation, bonds being built, a lot of fun and quite frankly some funny memories that will last a lifetime. I took a moment to sit back and watch everyone, all these budoka (warriors) and watch their interactions with one another. It was so wonderful and refreshing. It warmed my heart to see this community genuinely caring for one another and engrossed in one another’s lives and experiences. The community continues to strengthen, grow and thrive. I guess we all need to take a step back every once in a while and “smell the roses” so to speak. Enjoy the moments given to us when they are given to us.

Sunday morning was the last session of the 2018 seminar and we went right back to KukiShin Ryu SanJaku BoJutsu. This time delving in to the Shoden No Gata Scroll and working on the techniques of this Densho.



What another memorable training event. I mentioned to all our participants that time is flying by, life IS truly short and we should make the most of it. We should grasp opportunity when it arises and participate actively in that opportunity in the things we have a passion for. If not, some day it may be gone, and that specific opportunity has already passed you by. Don't let the meaningful things in life pass you by. Don't let daily budo pass you by. Don't let the 2019 Annual seminar pass you by!

See you soon!

Sukh