

Upcoming Events:

January:
Tenshinsho Jigen Ryu

February:
AKKA in Hungary

June:
AKKA Camp



SOKE'S CORNER

BY: RAY FERRELL, NIDAI SOKE

The past year was a difficult year for many, and some are still digging themselves out of the trenches as we march into 2011. It is understandable that a financial burden might have hindered your martial arts training or perhaps stress from other areas of your life have interfered. Rest periods and personal struggles are a natural part of life and I understand where you are coming from. If you are feeling overwhelmed, remember that the determination that is instilled in us through our martial arts training should not be lost when times get tough, but rather it should be the rallying point to pick ourselves up and drive on.

If you lost the heart or motivation to train in 2010, we want to see you find it again and come back this year. If finances are a serious issue, talk to your sensei. I'm sure the two of you can figure something out and trust me, they want to see you in class. Our doors are always open to those who want to train. It might not be easy, but anything worthwhile is worth the effort.

As a testament to the dedication of true martial artists, AKKA had a record number of seven shodan promotions in 2010. Besides personally congratulating these fine martial artists, I want to use their example that even during difficult times, with the proper motivation and determination, anything is possible. These seven new shodans worked hard and persevered, they embodied commitment and dedication, and at the end of the year they realized what true accomplishment feels like. I urge each one of you to find the same perseverance that these new shodans found last year, and come out and train! Come to class, come to seminars, come to AKKA Camp, keep training, keep fighting, gambatte!

This issue:

Soke's Corner	1
AKKA Vision Camp	2
Jigen Ryu Visits	4
AKKA in Japan	5
AKKA in Europe	6
Announcements	7
Belt Promotions	8



RAY SINIARD'S 2010 AKKA VISION CAMP

Summer camp was a huge success this year with students and teachers coming from all over the country to participate. The hard work and coordination efforts, led by John Fitz, enabled us to hold camp at Catawba College again and take advantage of their top notch facilities. Held between June 4-6, 2010, seminars and workshops were taught over the entire weekend by highly respected and seasoned martial artists.



Shihan Train has Shihan Caldwell demonstrate a Wing Chun Long Pole exercise with a swiffer wetjet.

The line-up started this year with Soke Ron Cherry's UPC workshop. Shihan Garner Train introduced many students to wing chun and then demonstrated some much desired ju-jitsu lessons, with the help of his students Rob and Matt. We are grateful to have Shihan Train with us again this year who traveled all the way from Michigan to attend.

Shihan Kevin Caldwell facilitated the stress scenarios which introduced many people to an eye opening experience into how they perform under the grip of adrenaline.



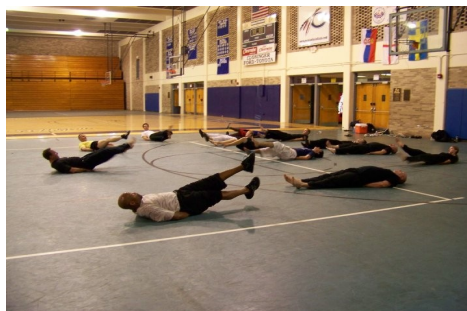
Mike Gentile helped everyone start the mornings off with refreshing chi kung and tai chi lessons before breakfast, then continued more in-depth classes during the day.



Shihan Chuck Blohme

gave some much appreciated lessons in Chinese kempo which brought together a lot of the concepts developed over the three day weekend. Soke Matt Avant taught "Toe 2 Toe" fighting concepts and applications along with Renshi Curtiss Robinson. Shihan Rob Zingg showed many people how not to hurt themselves with nunchaku and gave an in-depth look into some traditional weapons during his popular Kobudo workshops.

Last but not least, Soke Ray Ferrell finished the weekend off with the capstone workout he likes to call the "Warrior Challenge". Soke Ferrell's final course put even the most physically prepared deshi through a gauntlet of intense exercises. Kudos to those brave souls who attempted this course, and even more kudos to those deshi who mustered the determination to finish Soke Ferrell's training session!



RAY SINIARD'S 2010 AKKA VISION CAMP, CONT'D

The crowd at camp this year also included the like's of top sensei from around the country to include Sensei Leavy from Maryland Kempo-Karate, Sensei McDermott from the Bushinkan Dojo, Sensei Assalone from Mooresville, and Sensei Jeeter.



The weekend also provided a great chance to build and develop camaraderie with students and teachers from around the country, as well as offering an opportunity to learn some uncommon history as the weekend training unfolded. We would like to thank Shihan Zingg who entranced and enticed everyone with his classic stories of chivalry, barroom brawls, and instructions on how to choke out a deer (should you ever be in that situation). Many tales of the old training days were also shared by Soke Cherry, Shihan Train, Soke Avant, and Shihan Blohme. Together, they reflected and described the years of training with the late Soke Albert Church.



On behalf of all that attended camp, Soke Cherry and Soke Ferrell, and the rest of AKKA, would like to thank Marie Siniard for her continued support, who's late husband Ray Siniard the camp was named after. We would also like to thank Mike Kolodziejski and Ronnie Burnett for their contributions that assisted making camp possible for other deshi this year. We hope their generosity is acknowledged and reciprocated for years to come by other dedicated supporters of AKKA and the Ray Siniard Vision Summer Camp. We would also like to thank John Fitz for volunteering so much time and effort to coordinate the facilities which made camp run so smoothly!

For those of you who missed camp this year, the weekend was quite an experience unlike camps in the past. We are currently in the process of planning camp for summer 2011, so mark your calendars for this summer and keep an eye out for further updates! We hope to see you there!



AKKA AROUND THE WORLD

JIGEN RYU VISIT

AKKA has been active in Japan over the last few years as the relationship with the sokeship and yudansha from Tenshinshou Jigen-Ryu has strengthened from the many visits between the United States and Japan. Most recently, our Jigen Ryu friends visited Shihan Robert Zingg's dojo in West Virginia in December 2009 and again in April 2010. These trips were focused on sharing and teaching the basics of Jigen-Ryu and developing a stronger relationship.



These trips were followed by a third visit in July 2010 from Sugiyama Sensei of the Jigen Ryu. Sugiyama Sensei traveled around the country to further refine some of the Jigen Ryu kata they had taught on previous trips. During his visit, Soke Ferrell introduced Sugiyama Sensei to one of the refined delicacies of the south — grits and liver mush! Much to everyone's surprise, Sugiyama Sensei really enjoyed the meal!



AKKA AROUND THE WORLD

AKKA IN JAPAN

In September, Soke Ferrell, Sensei Tom McDermott, and Sensei Luis Feliciano traveled to Tokyo to continue training with the Jigen Ryu and to participate in the demonstration at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, Japan. During this demonstration, the three American senseis performed the Jigen Ryu kata they had learned which included a live cutting demonstration, in addition to performing their Toraken Ryu kata, jujutsu, and bunkai.

This trip strengthened the relationship with the Jigen Ryu hombu as they trained with both Ueno Soke's and lots of Jigen Ryu shihans. Ueno Soke bestowed very high honors upon the visiting sensei and wants them to start teaching Jigen Ryu at their respective dojos as U.S. representatives.

Many thanks specifically to Sugiyama Sensei for his generous assistance both during the preparation leading up to this trip as well as his coordination efforts and the interpretations he provided throughout the visit. He was essential to making this trip possible and we are grateful to him for making things so smooth and enjoyable. Charlie and Kathy Porcel from Miami, FL were also in Japan with the AKKA group and they had some additional nice things to say about the demonstration and training.

This was Soke Ferrell's first trip to Japan (the first of many to come) and he was in heaven eating so much sushi! He commented that the first three mornings for breakfast he had fish and rice until they found a Starbucks and were finally able to order some coffee and a cinnamon roll. The Jigen Ryu are scheduled to visit Shihan Zingg's dojo, Soke Ferrell's hombu dojo, and continue to Sensei Porcel's dojo in Miami in January 2011.



AKKA AROUND THE WORLD

AKKA IN EUROPE

Hombu dojo was most pleased to have Tamas Lengyl visit from Hungary at the beginning of the year. In between all of the training during his visit, Soke Ferrell took Tamas to see the Biltmore House in Ashville, NC and on a dinner boat ride around Lake Norman. During the boat ride, they ate lunch on the boat while Tamas had an opportunity to take in some of the beautiful North Carolina countryside.

Soke Ferrell joined Tamas back in Hungary a few months later to teach at his summer camp in Budapest, where he demonstrated Toraken Ryu kata and bunkai. This trip strengthened the relationship between AKKA and its international students, and helped pave the way for Toraken Ryu schools to open in Hungary throughout the latter part of 2010. Soke Ferrell is planning another trip to Hungary in 2011 to support the new Toraken Ryu schools. We wish them a warm welcome and offer our full support!



Curious about something you saw in this Newsletter? Do you have a random thought or question about training, an upcoming seminar, a trip abroad, or anything else? Send an email to torakenryu@gmail.com and check back during the next newsletter to see if your question has been featured! We will make our best effort to respond to every legitimate email.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SWORD AND JUJUTSU CLASS AT HOMBUR In October, Soke Ferrell began teaching a sword and jujutsu class at hombu dojo in Charlotte, NC on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30pm. Soke Ferrell is looking for anyone who is interested to attend and you do not need any prior martial arts experience. If you are interested let Soke Ferrell know.

MARYLAND KEMPO-KARATE ACTIVELY TEACHING AGAIN

Maryland Kempo-Karate is active again as of September 2010 and Sensei Kevin Leavy is happy to say that he has a great place to train! We are extremely grateful for our friends at Garfield JiuJitsu in Arnold, MD for giving Sensei Leavy and MKK a home! Sensei Leavy will be teaching the Shorinji Toraken Ryu kempo-karate curriculum on Thursdays at 8:00pm after the Brazilian JiuJitsu class. The dojo is located at 1244 Ritchie Highway, Unit 3, Arnold MD 21012 (across from Anne Arundel Community College). It's a great warehouse space, fully matted! Contact Sensei Leavy to join class, he looks forward to seeing you there! www.MarylandKempo.com

MARYLAND



2011 TENSHINSHOU JIGEN-RYU KENJUTSU AND IAIDO SEMINAR

Headmaster Kagenori Ueno and several other instructors from Japan will be conducting a series of seminars covering the basic and advanced techniques of both Iaijutsu and Kenjutsu of the Tenshinshou Jigen Ryu. Cutting practice will also be conducted. Anyone from any style who is interested in classical Japanese sword arts is welcome to join. Please return an email to one of the hosting schools below if you plan on attending:

Jan 21-23: Zingg's Karate Center, 111 West Second Avenue, Suite B, Ranson, WV 25438
Contact: **Shihan Robert Zingg:** rzingg@email.com

Jan 25-26: Academy of Kempo-Karate, 5760 Oak Dr., Charlotte, NC 28216
Contact: **Soke Ray Ferrell:** rayshihan@aol.com

Jan 28-30: Elite Martial Arts, 9851 NW 58 St. #113, Doral, Florida 33178
Contact: **Sensei Charles Porcel:** charlyporcel@yahoo.com



CONDOLENCES TO SOKE CHERRY AND FAMILY Soke Cherry's brother, Adrian Cherry, 70 years old, had been battling cancer for a few years and passed away on Saturday Oct 9, 2010. Please remember Soke Cherry and his family in your thoughts and prayers as we are terribly sorry for their loss.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CURIOSITY!? If you have any suggestions (perhaps a seminar topic you'd like to see?) or anything you are curious about regarding AKKA, our martial arts, history, a technique, etc - send an email to torakenryu@gmail.com and check back during the next newsletter to see if your question has been featured! We will make our best effort to respond to all of your emails if your question is not featured in our next newsletter. Perhaps it will be the next seminar topic!

YUDANSHA: BLACK BELT TRAINING E-MAIL LIST

AKKA yudansha are encouraged to participate in black belt training throughout the year. Don't be forgotten! Send an email to be included on the email list: torakenryu@gmail.com



YUDANSHA PROMOTIONS - 2010

AKKA had a record setting year for yudansha promotions in 2010. Never before have this many people even attempted to test for shodan in a single year, much less all of them pass and get promoted. Soke Ferrell is very proud to have this many active yudansha who have remained committed to their training and helping out at the dojo. The countless hours these men have put into their training, teaching class, and assisting with running the Hombu Dojo cannot be ignored. Please congratulate these seven hard working men in their accomplishment. If anyone knows how difficult the road can be, these men saw it through and all of them had fantastic tests. Great job guys!!!



John Kashino - May 19

Mike Kolodziejski - July 14

Corey Hughes - July 18

Scott Zothner - Sep 29



Will Sharp - Oct 23

Jon Dunham - Dec 11

James Lefler - Dec 29



Its not over yet! 2011 is shaping up to be another promising year for yudansha promotions as well!

