



January 29th, 2008

## NEWSLETTER NO. 2

**Welcome to the SECOND annual JKA SKD Newsletter !**

### ***1. A few words from the president of JKA SKD***

Dear JKA SKD members;

2007 proved to be a very exciting year for our organization. Some of the highlights included Sakurai Sensei achieving his "A" level examiners degree, and Melarie Taylor and Manon Quirion, achieving the rank of Godan. Ten of our members attended the spring and fall Master's clinics held at JKA Headquarters in Tokyo. We were invited and became actively involved in several important meetings and discussions with JKA officials and other senior instructors during these clinics. We had the privilege of hosting several senior JKA instructors including Mori Sensei, Osaka Sensei, Naka Sensei, and Sakurai Sensei who returned to his Canadian roots in Quebec for the first time in many years!

Through all of these meetings, and seminars, we successfully achieved two objectives I had proposed when I became president of the JKA SKD: the development of our members, and the growth of JKA Karate-Do in Canada. We laid the groundwork for far more growth in these areas, and many others for the upcoming year.

In 2007, the JKA SKD had 27 member dojos with over 300 brown and black belts registered.

Our first JKA-SKD Nationals competition will take place on March 15th 2008 in Montreal, from which we will form potentially the strongest team Canada has ever had for the summer 2009 Gichin Funakoshi World Shoto Cup! We have many opportunities to strengthen our future due to the friendly connections we established with our domestic counterparts. The long awaited "National Gasshuuku," (training camp) slated for May 2009 to be held in British Columbia, has to be the single biggest Karate event we have ever had in Canada. It will include higher level Dan examinations, instructor qualification courses, and instruction by several senior JKA instructors.

I am very proud of our members' accomplishments and I look forward to working with all of you, from our most senior instructors to our newest karate-ka, to help make 2008 a foundation building year with several high level seminars and by preparing for our strongest Shoto Cup team and the first ever Canadian Gasshuuku!

The Board of directors of the JKA-SKD would like to wish our members and their families a Happy New Year!!

Osu!  
Don Sharp  
President of JKA SKD

### ***2. Launching of the JKA SKD website***

The JKA SKD website (see [www.jkaskd.ca](http://www.jkaskd.ca)) made its debut on November 9th 2007! The website is a platform for our organization and for all JKA SKD club members, and provides information on how to contact all our dojos and on the events open to all members of JKA SKD.



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Thank you to the many collaborators, and in particular to François Mongrain who created this site, integrated all the information and is now acting as the Webmaster. Special thanks to Daniel Liboiron who wrote up sections of the website and is currently working on external sponsorship.

If you have any corrections/comments regarding the website, please let us know by email (click on the "Contact" tab in the website)

### **3. Dan grading in 2007**

Congratulations to the following JKA SKD members that passed their Dan examination in 2007 !

- GODAN : Melarie Taylor and Manon Quirion of Quebec
- SANDAN: Carole Canaan and Bernard Monast of Quebec
- NIDAN: Yoko Suelzle, Glenn McAra, Kathryn Garcia, Chris Chester and Sorin Lemnariu of British Columbia, Jeffrey Cheng, Julie Sylvestre, Joshua Salcedo, and Lyne Guilbeault of Quebec
- SHODAN: Jeannine Walsh of British Columbia, Stephen Biswanger, Cindy Mitchell, Roger Yakmission of Manitoba, Sylvie Brassard, Marko Tokic, Eric Vargas, Dominic D'Abramo, Jordan Stern, Jake Levy, Tori Lenet, Cheryl Weiss, Simon Dayan, Paulette Pinchuk, Vanessa Houde, Mike Jarowyj, Cedrik Gignac, Martin Vallée, Zoungrana René Magloire, Ali Stern, Yael Edery, Dominique Dubowy, Stephanie Lenet, Noemi Grosu and Kris Cowan of Quebec.

### **4. Highlights of JKA camps held in 2007**

#### Montreal Summer Camp, May 24-27<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The Westmount JKA Karate Club was once again honoured to host the 8th annual Montreal Summer Camp with Sensei Mori as invited guest. Participants included members from across Canada and parts of USA.

Within the four day training schedule, this unique camp concept has traditionally rotated JKA dojos in the greater Montreal area therefore maximizing participation amongst all ages and skill levels of karateka. Dan exams were administered up to Sandan level, and an evening BBQ party held at Sensei Ashraf's home followed.

We extend our thanks to Kirkland JKA Karate Club and Nuns' Island JKA Shotokan Karate Club for graciously allowing training session to be held in their respective dojos.

We are looking forward to this year's 9th annual Montreal Summer Camp scheduled from June 5 to June 8, 2008.

#### NASKA Summer Camp, June 15-17<sup>th</sup>, 2007

This year, NASKA members enjoyed another terrific summer camp. It was our pleasure to welcome once again our very own Yasuo Sakurai sensei and our special guest instructors from the Montreal area, Shahrokh Hoghooghi sensei and Marc Deschatelets sensei. This great trio, along with NASKA instructor Don Sharp sensei offered several challenging classes (some of them outdoors!) for lower and for higher ranks. The instruction was absolutely fantastic! How could it not be with three 5th Dan instructors and one 7th Dan instructor!



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Our training was set in a beautiful setting at Camp Alexandra, near Vancouver BC, complete with its own fire pit and a nearby beach for those relaxing walks after a hard day of training. All of those attending will remember some of the instructors and other members sharing their musical talents on Saturday night in front of a big campfire and roasting marshmallows!

### AKJKAQ Summer camp, June 27-July 1st, 2007

The AKJKAQ 2007 Summer camp was an opportunity for many to train once again with sensei Tatsuya Naka, as this is the 3rd time that Sensei Naka has been the guest instructor at our camp. All the members attending the camp thoroughly appreciated the quality of the training sessions and the pointers he gave us to improve our basic techniques. Sensei Naka, is head instructor of the prestigious club of Takushoku University, has recently had his first experience in acting in the movies with his role in the film Kuro-obi. During the camp banquet, Sensei Naka was enticed by several members to autograph copies of publicity posters of the film. Congratulations to Sensei Naka and thank you to all participants that contributed to make this camp an enriching and memorable experience.

### Osaka Sensei Seminar in B.C., August 2007

JKA members in British Columbia were fortunate this summer to once again have the opportunity to train with one of the JKA's most beloved and respected instructors, Osaka Yoshiharu Sensei. As on his other recent visits, Osaka Sensei concentrated on improving crucial biomechanical aspects of trainees' techniques. Those of us who had had the benefit of training with Osaka Sensei on his previous visits sincerely regretted that we could not show more improvement of these points of our technique since he last saw us! The deficiencies in our own abilities were sharply in contrast with Osaka Sensei's own flawless techniques. Despite his gentle and frequently humorous mode of instruction, Osaka Sensei certainly brought out the best in those of us training with him; perhaps this is because of everyone's awareness of the iconic nature of this great instructor, whose tournament record, prominent role in JKA books and videos, and seniority within our organization have elevated him to a status that is at odds with his modest and unassuming personality.

An additional treat at this event was the presence of JKA Headquarters Instructor Trainee (as he then was), Kumeta Riki Sensei. This dynamic young instructor provided an interesting counterpoint to Osaka Sensei for the kyu grades that received part of their instruction from him. His excellent kumite was demonstrated when he graciously provided a sparring partner for one of our members who was attempting a Nidan examination, an experience that the Dan candidate and the spectators all found very educational!

### Vermont Summer camp, August 24-26<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Fifteen JKA SKD Canada members attended the Vermont Summer camp held in Burlington. On Saturday, some of us dared to try our hand at taiko drumming during the evening's festivities. Sunday after training, many of us headed back to Montreal to attend the World film festival showing of Kuro-obi (Black Belt) co-starring Sensei Tatsuya Naka from the hombu dojo in Tokyo. The director of the film, Shunichi Nagasaki, was there to greet us. The goju-ryu stylist hero, Akihito Yagi, demonstrated his kata for us and posed for photos after the film. A must see for all of our members.



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### Master's Camp at the Hombu Dojo Tokyo, October 2007

Canadian karatekas featured prominently at this training seminar. We were represented from East to West by students and instructors from JKA SKD Canada and the Canadian JKF. The training was inspiring and the entertainment provided for all of us was well appreciated. Tsugiyura Sensei was awarded his tenth Dan Saturday night. Meetings with the President of the JKA and the technical directors resulted in our first Canadian national Gasshuku (training camp) being scheduled to be held next year in British Columbia. Let's try to make it a big success by sending as many students as we can.

### Montreal Fall training camp, November 8 to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The camp started with Reynald Leboeuf's class reviewing kata updates from his visit to the October Master's camp in Tokyo. Thursday night's adult class at Concordia was well attended; Mori Sensei appreciated the new accommodations and Francois Gelinas (founder of the Concordia Club in 1973) enjoyed attending to the new students once again. The camp finished early afternoon on Saturday after an inspiring Dan Examination. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a successful event.

### Winnipeg training camp, November 23 to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The JKA-SKD Winnipeg dojo again hosted a successful training camp with Master Mori, coordinated by Sensei John Selinger. The three JKA dojos in the city participated in the camp; JKA Shotokan Karate-Do Winnipeg (Sensei Selinger), Pan Am Karate Club (Sensei Shane Boyce), and Centennial Karate Club (Sensei Joel Crisp). A few visitors from other Winnipeg dojos also participated, as did Sensei Melarie Taylor from Montreal.

Both days, general classes were held for all ranks, as well as more intense training for brown and black belts.

The highlight of the camp was the opportunity for open discussion with Master Mori, with senior belts asking many questions and gaining new insights into particular techniques and refinements of both kata and kumite moves.

The next training camp with Master Mori is tentatively scheduled for November 21-22, 2008. Winnipeg hopes to welcome other karateka from across Canada to its next camp.

### Special training camp, Nuns' Island and Montreal, November 22-26<sup>th</sup>, 2007

In November Montreal karate-ka were privileged with a visit from Sakurai Sensei 7th dan from Japan. Sakurai Sensei had lived in Montreal and taught Karate here over twenty years ago. It had been twelve long years since he last came here, when he had accompanied Sugiura Sensei and Imura Sensei who were visiting from the hombu dojo in Tokyo. His visit this year came on the heels of his taking first place in kata in the All Japan JKA Masters Championship for the sixth time since 2002.

Sakurai Sensei is one of JKA's most outstanding instructors. His superb technical skills along with his terrific personality and teaching abilities have endeared him to the many people who have had the opportunity of training with him. It is everyone's wish to see him return in the near future.

Thanks to Senseis Mark Deschatelets, of Kirkland JKA Karate Club, and Shahrokh Hoghooghi of Nuns' Island JKA Shotokan Karate club for jointly organizing and hosting the event. Thanks also to Melarie Taylor of Shidokan International for hosting the Monday night class at the Concordia University dojo.



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### **5. Coming events in 2008 organized by members of the JKA SKD**

The following events, organized by members of the JKA SKD, are open to all JKA SKD members.

| <u>Dates (in 2008)</u> | <u>Event</u>   | <u>Contact</u>   |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Feb 9                  | Kick-A-Thon organized by Shotokan Karate Tora Dojo in Montreal   | <a href="mailto:sheriandchuck@sympatico.ca">sheriandchuck@sympatico.ca</a> |
| Feb 16-17              | Winter Camp organized by the Association de Karaté JKA du Québec in Montreal<br>Guest instructor: Mr. Masataka Mori                            | <a href="mailto:karate.jka@videotron.ca">karate.jka@videotron.ca</a>       |
| March 14-16            | Montreal Spring Camp, Concordia University 21 <sup>th</sup> JKA Tournament and JKA SKD National Tournament organized by Shidokan International | <a href="mailto:shidokanint@qc.aira.com">shidokanint@qc.aira.com</a>       |
| June 5-8               | Montreal Summer Camp organized by the Westmount JKA Karate Club  | <a href="mailto:westmountjka@videotron.ca">westmountjka@videotron.ca</a>   |
| June 13-14             | Karate Marathon held by Nuns' Island JKA Shotokan Karate Club in Nuns' Island)   | <a href="mailto:jkanunsisland@videotron.ca">jkanunsisland@videotron.ca</a> |
| June 20-22             | NASKA Summer Camp in Chilliwack (Cheam Centre YMCA), British Columbia  | <a href="mailto:naska.seminar@gmail.com">naska.seminar@gmail.com</a>       |
| June 25-29             | Summer Camp organized by the Association de Karaté JKA du Québec in Montreal   | <a href="mailto:karate.jka@videotron.ca">karate.jka@videotron.ca</a>       |
| November 7-9           | Montreal Fall Camp organized by Shidokan International   | <a href="mailto:shidokanint@qc.aira.com">shidokanint@qc.aira.com</a>       |
| November 21-22         | Winnipeg Fall Camp organized by JKA Shotokan Karate-Do Winnipeg  | <a href="mailto:jdick@winnipeg.ca">jdick@winnipeg.ca</a>                   |

Please note that the Annual General Meeting of the JKA SKD will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Montreal.

### **6. News about Passports**

A Green JKA International Passport issued by JKA HQ is required to attend the seminars held at JKA headquarters in Tokyo. Green JKA Passports are now available through the JKA SKD (cost is \$15/unit). To purchase a Green JKA Passport, please contact the JKA SKD by mail or by email.

### **7. Have any comments?**

Do you have any comments regarding this Newsletter? Any other topics you would like to see addressed in future Newsletters? Would you like to publish an article in the next Newsletter?

Please let us know! You can reach us at the following email address: [administration@jkaskd.ca](mailto:administration@jkaskd.ca)