

Aikido London Newsletter

Dec. 31, 2009

2009 in review...Shuygokan Dojo: We were pleased to host on several occasions members and instructors from the Shuygokan dojo in Detroit. Larry Castleberry Sensei and his group have visited our dojo from time to time to share our dedication to Yoshinkan Aikido.

It is fantastic to have a group, so similar to ours, where the desire to improve and learn techniques as taught by Amos Parker Shihan is foremost in their training.

On Friday, June 26, 2009, **Ando Shuseki Shihan** (8th degree Black Belt) visited Aikido London. Ando Shihan taught one class at Aikido London. The event sold out in less than two weeks. Ando Sensei dazzled everyone with his strong technique and demonstration. At the end of the seminar, Ando Sensei encouraged everyone to continue to train hard. He was joined by Homma Sensei from Japan and Stephen Ohlman Sensei from Barrie, Ont.

Road trip...A group of Aikido London members travelled to Indianapolis, Indiana to train at the Tiger Lily Aikido dojo. Teddie Linder Sensei, hosted Amos Parker Shihan (8th degree Black Belt), for a series of Aikido seminars. The training was grueling and fun at the same time. This event allowed our members to test their skill and technique on Aikidoka from across North America. Parker Shihan was impressed with the level of technique by the Aikido London contingent. To the point where he chose each member at least once to demonstrate his technique. The fellowship was wonderful, making the weekend a great experience

Aikido London Camping trip... This was a first for our group, July 16 – 19, 26 of us (families and friends) camped at the Pinery Provincial Park. It was great fun, swimming in the lake, cooking meals over open fires, sitting around watching the raccoons and nature. A great time was had by all.

Christmas Party... Wasn't it a party!!! Santa Claus showed up and entertained everyone. We were joined by approx. 140 adults and children. A special thank you goes out to all the adult members and parents for bringing in something for the potluck lunch.

Osoji...Last class of the year...On Dec 22 2009 the last class of the year was celebrated. As is tradition in our dojo, each instructor has an opportunity to share their favorite technique with the members. The last techniques are taught by Hennessy Sensei. At the end of the class, we stacked the mats and began the remodeling of our dojo. Many long days and hard work however the results are there for everyone to see. In a word our dojo looks SPECTACULAR. Thank you to all who helped.

Black Belt promotions... Dwayne Johnson was promoted to 4th Dan, making him one of the top 25 most senior black Belts in North America. Rob Howe and Aaron Steenholdt were promoted to 3rd Dan. Garry Harper and Bob Trodden were promoted to 4th Dan during our visit to Indianapolis. In Dec. Parker Shihan was promoted to 9th Dan, only 1 of 5 people ever to reach 9th Dan in the history of Yoshinkan Aikido.

2010... First class of the year is Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010. Class will follow the same schedule as in the past.

Seminars...Aikido London plans to host 2 seminars in 2010.

The first will be the weekend of **April 23rd – 25th**. We will host **Amos Parker Shihan (9th degree)** for a weekend series of seminars. The seminars will be held at our dojo and limited to 40 participants. Cost will be \$125US on a first paid first registered basis. All local Yoshinkan Aikido dojos will be invited.

The second seminar will be held on **Saturday, February , 2009. Mark Lemmon Sensei (6^h degree Black Belt)** will visit Aikido London. Lemmon Sensei will teach two classes at Aikido London. Again, we will limit this event to 40 participants. Cost for the event will be \$50. All local Yoshinkan Aikido dojo's will be invited. Registration will be based on a first paid first in basis.

Road trip...We have been invited to attend a seminar in Sacramento, California hosted by Steven Miranda Sensei featuring Amos Parker Shihan (9th Dan). The series of seminars will run from June 24 – 26. Cost is \$125US.

Camping...due to the overwhelming requests we will arrange for a visit to the Pinery again this year. Dates: TBA.

Promotions... March, 2010 is *Bring a Friend Free* month.

Please see Hennessy Sensei who will provide you with an invitation to bring a friend to as many classes as you want for the month of March.

We have new (adult sizes only) t-shirts available for sale \$25.00 each.

Student Handbooks...2010 Student Handbooks will be available the beginning of May. Handbooks will be available, once the honbu dojo, in Japan, selects the new mandatory techniques. *The 2010 Student Handbook will be available for \$15 per copy.*

Black Belt Testing...Aikido... During Amos Parker Shihan's visit Black Belt testing for 4th Dan and above will arranged. Regular Black Belt testing will be scheduled for Thursday, June 24 and Nov. 25, 2010. These tests will begin promptly at 7:30pm.

Kenjutsu...Black Belt testing will be held on Tuesday, June 22 and Nov. 23, 2010. These tests will begin promptly at 7:30pm.

As is our custom all candidates will receive a written invitation to test. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Training DVD's / Equipment / Weapons...If you are in need of any equipment, weapons or a dogi please let Hennessy Sensei know. He will look after all orders and sales.

We are in the process of completing the production of DVD's for both the Aikido Adult, Children's & Kenjutsu curriculum.