



The Kensankai Quarterly

Okinawa Shorinryu Karatedo Kobudo

Summer 2026

Kaicho Corner Summer 2026:

Summer is here! I hope you all had a wonderful 4th of July where we celebrated the 250 years since the founding of the United States of America.

I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the camp. A special thanks to the Aoyama Dojo and the Belue family for their work each year to make that event possible.



Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to teach a seminar at Steve Curley sensei's dojo in Santa Rosa, California. Curley sensei passed away earlier this year, but his students continue to faithfully train, and I was honored to be able to spend a few hours with them. It certainly made me think about how difficult it is to adjust to a new reality when a teacher passes on. The beauty of Karate is that our training benefits us physically, mentally, and emotionally. At the same time when we perform a kata or push ourselves to beyond what we think are our limits, we honor those who came before us. Kata are a packaged gift that becomes a tribute to our teachers when performed with pure purpose. At the same time those kata contain the principles that make us better people. Through sincere training we strengthen our mind, body and spirit.

There are two things I ask you to sincerely consider:

First, Jimmy Newton sensei will once again host the Pioneer Gasshuku in Shelby in September. Please make plans to attend. Jimmy sensei brings an eye-wateringly experienced and capable group of teachers from across the Okinawa Karate community. Do not miss this opportunity to learn.

Second, I sincerely believe that a deep understanding of the culture and history of Okinawa is an imperative for all Karateka. As yudansha, we should have an in depth understanding of the origins of our art and of the culture

from which it comes. To that end, I encourage you to enroll in the "Introduction to the History of Okinawa" course at the online ChuraTi Academy website. I am personally committed to the idea of Bunbu Ryodo or "The path of the warrior and the scholar." We must study every aspect of our art as yudansha.

I hope you have a safe, happy summer. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Jason Perry

Kaicho.



Introduction to Okinawa History and Culture course on the ChuraTi Academy website.

As an association we are dedicated to not only the techniques of karate jutsu but the complete understanding of the values, history, and traditions of Okinawa Karate. This course is an introduction to a better understanding of the origins of our art. All are encouraged to enroll and complete the course.

<https://churatiacademy.thinkific.com>



Introduction to Okinawa History and Culture

This course provides Karateka an introduction to the geographical, geo-political, social, and economic influences...

Just for kids

Okinawan Folktale: Son of an Angel She Couldn't Fly Naked



Photo: Stained Glass of Artwork by Shinzan Yamada

Along came Okumashi, a farmer who spotted the clothing. He dropped his tools on the ground and grabbed the cloth, hanging in the bushes. He forgot all about washing his tools and ran off with the angel's clothes. He stashed the robe in his toolshed. Then, remembered, he left his tools back at the spring.

Surprise !

Returning to the spring, he spots a naked woman. She was hiding in the bushes, crying because her clothes were missing. The gentleman farmer that he was, offered to take her to his house, nearby. He gave her clothes and food to eat but never mentioned the robe. As time went by, they fell in love, married and had children. The first child was a girl, followed by a boy. One day, the girl was trying to get the younger brother to stop crying. She sang a song, which mentioned a magic, flying robe, hidden in the shed. The mother overheard and, learned where her angel outfit had been stashed. Upon finding her long lost robe, she put it on. She flew off into the heavens, without saying good-bye to anyone.

Life Goes On

The daughter grew up and married a Ryukyu Lord. The son, not interested in farming, chose to go fishing and exploring. He heard rumors that the Lord of Katsuren Castle was looking for a prince. He wanted someone to marry his beautiful daughter. Janamui (angel's son) went to the castle hoping to check the princess out.

Princes Normally Married Princesses

Plenty of these dudes would visit the castle, all dressed up. Janamui went to visit, wearing simple banana cloth, worn by the working class. A sentry at the castle gate told him, peasants weren't allowed. The princess, hearing the conversation, told the guard, to let the man in

so, she could meet him. She looked him over and, told the Lord, this was the man she wanted to marry. Eventually, Janamui became King Sato, ruler of the entire Ryukyu Kingdom.

Ever wonder if you make a difference?

A mother of a karate student recently shared a wonderful story about her son helping another child who was becoming overwhelmed and on the verge of a meltdown.



He calmly guided the child to take slow, deep breaths and encouraged him to picture a beautiful cherry blossom tree. His kindness and compassion helped the child regain control of his emotions, and the crisis was averted. By the end of the experience, both children felt calmer and better.

Stories like this remind us that the lessons learned in karate extend far beyond the dojo. They teach self-control, empathy, and the confidence to help others when they need it most.



Upcoming Events

今後のイベント  空手の日 10月25日

Cave Exploration in Southern Okinawa

July 18 – Sept. 30, 2026

Explore the mysterious world beneath your feet in one of Okinawa's largest limestone caverns



Okinawa has over 600 limestone caverns, and among them, Okinawa World's Gyokusendo is the largest. The cave stretches for over 5,000 meters, and contains more than one million stalactites. For a limited time in summer, caving adventures with a guide are offered for normally closed-off sections of Gyokusendo.

Okinawa Zento Eisa Matsuri

Sept. 04, 2026 – Sept 04, 2026

Over 300,000 spectators fill Koza Sports Park in Okinawa City each summer for the Zento Eisa Matsuri—Okinawa's largest eisa festival. Celebrating Okinawa's heritage of dance with three days of brilliant eisa performances featuring unique drum patterns, singing, and melodies performed on a traditional three-stringed sanshin. The festival culminates with a traditional kachashi folk dance and an amazing firework display.

Those who may have trained in Okinawa, the Nix Hamaya Karate Daiko will also be performing.



Those who may have trained in Okinawa, the Nix Hamaya Karate Daiko will also be performing.

Orion Beerfest in Koza

Sept. 05, 2026 – Sept. 06, 2026

Celebrate summer at the Orion Beerfest with an ice-cold Orion beer, Okinawa's signature brew

Held at the same time each summer as the Okinawa Zento Eisa Matsuri, the Orion Beerfest is the place to go to fend off the summer heat. Enjoy a crisp, cold glass of Okinawa's most popular beer, delivered straight from the brewery, while enjoying live music from famous Okinawan performers.



6th Annual Pioneer Gasshuku

September 11 – 12, 2026

For more information see:

<https://newtons-karate.com/>

NEWTON'S SHORIN-RYU KARATE AND KOBUDO

PIONEER GASSHUKU

6TH ANNUAL

魁合宿

SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2026 • SHELLEY, NC

NEWTON'S KARATE

Register Now!

Le GRAND CENTER

theLeGrandCenter.com

1800 East Marion St.
Shelby, NC 28150

newtonskarate@gmail.com

704-408-0828

Payment Options:

- PayPal: newtonskarate@gmail.com
- Venmo: Newtons Karate
- Cashapp: newtonskarate
- Cash
- Check: Jimmy Newton - 101 Twin Lake Dr. - Shelby, NC 28152

Make check or payable to: Newton's Karate

HOTEL INFO:

Hampton Inn & Suites - Shelby
2011 East Ocean Blvd.
Shelby, NC 28150
704-447-2800

General Kensankai Information

In an attempt to drag the Shorin-Ryu Kensankai organization into the twenty first century (kicking and screaming) a decision to use a business that handles membership called “MemberPlanet” was hired more than a few years ago. It was felt this would streamline our promotion process and member roster more so then the scribbled names on the yellow legal pad kept in Perry Sensei’s top desk drawer. It was a good first step, but the platform ended up not being quite user friendly for our small organization needs.

We have severed ties with “MemberPlanet” recently and hired on a new organization called “MembershipWorks”. If anyone has attempted to sign into MemberPlanet to update your profile or pay dues and have had difficulty, this is the reason why. The good thing about this new arrangement is that it will be integrated through our “shorinryukensankai.org website”. At present we are working out a systematic way to inform everyone who is a non-paid member and those who are paid active members of how to access the membership category and enter their profile data and to update and pay dues.

Kyoshi Tom Harris is hard at work on the IT aspects of this endeavor. Thank God, he did this (and one heck of a lot more) in his long career with NASA. Still there are times when we both stare at the data and with anxiety run our fingers through our hair. Well, I run my fingers through my hair, Tom just polishes his cue ball. Stay tuned, more to come in the future.

Chris W. Coleman, DVM
(828)-606-5807
birddochah@gmail.com



The Dojo Corner

Aoyama Dojo



We would like to thank everyone who attended the

Aoyama Karate Camp in May. It was a fantastic event, and we hope everyone had a great time. We truly appreciate your support and participation. As we look forward to seeing you next year, please save the date—**June 4th–5th—for next year’s camp!**

We can’t wait to see you there!



Congratulations to Adalind and Joshua on their recent promotions.



The Belue Family

Newtown’s Karate

I hope this finds everyone healthy and actively training. This summer has been a busy one.

In addition to regular classes, we wrapped up two youth camps, held some women’s only self-protection course and I got invited to teach some public seminars at a local park.

One of our teens, Brody Thackerson made the AAU National team and earned 2 golds at nationals in Ft Lauderdale and a silver at Worlds in Romania. Another one of our young Shodan, Mackenzie Glaser competed her basic training and is now serving our country in the United States Marine Corps.

We also have Sensei Benjamin Beaver intently promoted to Sergeant for The Cleveland County Sheriff’s Department.

As big as these things are- another milestone that would probably go unnoticed is a young man who saw someone getting picked on and stepped up to the bully. His mom said he pretty much said what we’ve rehearsed in class - “hey bro, leave him alone that’s not cool...and the bully left the other kid alone! That’s the short version but you get the idea!!

These are 43 completely different scenarios with one common denominator. Karate training has helped them stand up, set goals and do what's right, and that's not always an easy task.

To be at a point in my life where I am around such a variety of students in different walks of life and see them achieve milestones has really been a very rewarding experience. We need to always try to be role models for our students and push them to achieve what they think they may not be able to do.

We have the power to change the energy in the room and set people to be on a course to be successful and the best version of themselves.

In other dojo news- we promoted 4 Shodans and 5 Nidans. I hope they stay the course to see what a rich and fulfilling road it is. We are gearing up for next month's Pioneer Gasshuku which has a super line up of world class teachers.

I am very excited to see everyone, grow and learn.

Thanks for taking time to read some of my thoughts and updates. If anyone one ever needs me for anything, please don't hesitate to reach out!

With gratitude,
Jimmy Newton

Small Forest Karate



Many of the Small Forest Karate Dojo were able to attend camp. Everyone had a great time at the Aoyama Karate camp and engaged in some excellent training with all the instructors teaching there. Thank

you so much to the Belue family and company for putting on the great event.



Sensei Avaneel Scales attained her Nidan promotion during the quarter. Congratulations to her on her hard work and new rank. In addition, Sofie and Henry received their Yonkyu and Cindy her Ikkyu.



The yudansha at the dojo have been working on Akamine sensei's Chiken Tsunakaki no Eaku after our intense and very enlightening visit to Akamine Sensei's Dojo in Okinawa. A special thanks to Sensei Tim and An Chi Jurgens for their efforts and kindness during that, once in a lifetime, adventure. Congratulations to all the students who had promotions during the past quarter.

Each journey begins with a step. Enjoy each step of your karate journey.

With thanks,
Thomas Harris

RVA Karate

Dave Ednie and I had a great time at the Summer Camp in Flat Rock this year. It was Dave's first time interacting with the rest of the association and he said he really enjoyed training with everyone. All of us at RVA Karate are very grateful for the ability to associate and learn with the rest of the Kensankai. Dave said that Sensei Jason reminds him (in a good way) of his previous Sensei he had at a Matsubayashi-Ryu dojo in Long Island.



We had our first dojo baby born on July 29th to Sensei Keisha Williams and her husband Clinton. The baby shower was earlier last month. Sensei Keisha is an excellent karateka who also trained with me under



Sensei Mike Eggleston and developed a strong work ethic and attention to detail in her training under him. I'm thankful for her generosity and eagerness to assist me in teaching these past

2 years. Our dojo is excited to see their family grow with the new healthy baby boy, and we're looking forward to the time when baby-san can put on a gi and join Sensei Keisha in class.

-Sensei Aaron Payne

Traveling?

You can still train while you travel:

Kensankai Dojos:

- **Aoyama Dojo;** Ben & Jamie Belue.
14 Reeds Way, Flat Rock, NC.
(828) 6067855
<https://www.aoyamadojo.com/>
- **The Renbukan Dojo:** Kevin Roberts;
182A Bradley Branch Road, Arden, NC
28704 <http://www.therenbukan.com>
- **Small Forest Karate:** Tom Harris.
796 Poquoson Ave, Poquoson, VA 23662.
(757) 868-8798
<http://www.smallforestkarate.com/>
- **Newton's Karate:** Jimmy Newton.
1620 S Dekalb St., Shelby, NC 28152.
(704) 408-0828 <https://newtons-karate.com/>

- **Shorin-Ryu Karate and Kobudo Kensankai Dojo;** Joe Lanier:
1901 Hwy 414, Travelers Rest, SC
- **Okinawan Shorin-Ryu Kensankai Karate & Kobudo Dojo;** Patrick Lang D:
2314 Asheville Hwy, Unit C,
Hendersonville, NC 28791.
(828) 697-6878
<http://www.hendersonvilleshorinryukarate.com/>
- **RVA Karate - Aaron Payne:** 10800
Center View Dr., Richmond, VA 23235.
(804) 348-8034
<https://rvakarate.com>
- **Taylor's Karate Academy:** Dave Johnson;
4308 Glade Rd, Mount. Airy, GA 30563
(706) 716-0225

Traveling Continued:

If you are traveling somewhere else in the country and want to train or are traveling overseas and need an introduction to a dojo in the area, please contact Jason Perry at

Jason.perry@shorinryukensankai.org.

Resources

List of Dojos in Okinawa:

<https://okic.okinawa/en/>

YouTube Video:

[Getting to Know Japan: The History of Karate in Okinawa-Colonel Jason Perry](#)