



2021 June Newsletter

Mission Statement

The Western Tang Soo Do Federation has been founded for the purpose of instilling discipline and respect in all its members who are willing to endure the sacrifices required to obtain the rank of Black Belt. We are committed to maintaining and handing down the traditions, philosophies, and techniques of traditional Tang Soo Do karate.

The training is designed to benefit the individual practitioner and also to build a team. This will help the members to develop camaraderie and learn the importance of working relationships with all of their associates, both in the martial arts and in other endeavors.

We will stand out in this world as leaders, setting an example to others of what can be accomplished physically, mentally, and morally.

Federation members will learn, teach, and demonstrate respect for others in all their associations. This respect influences family, business, and other relationships, and promotes a healthier lifestyle for all those who are associated with the Western Tang Soo Do Federation.

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WTSDF 2021 March Convention

By: Master Dave Kluge

March testing and meetings were once again held virtually via ZOOM.

The day began at 7:30 PT with Grant Anson testing for his 1st degree black belt in Glenwood Springs, CO. Present on his testing board were: Kwan Jang Nim Mable, Masters Malehorn and Newton and Mr. Chicoine. Present via ZOOM were: Grandmasters Bledsoe and Clark; Masters Kluge, Olds, Leibundgut, Bejanaro and Houser; and Mr. Klokman, Mrs. Nelson, Mr. Hendersson and Mr. Solomon.

Following the test the board convened via ZOOM and concluded that Grant Anson should be awarded his 1st Degree Black Belt. Kwan Jang Nim Mable tied on his black belt in a ceremony following the test.



Grant Anson demonstrating one-step sparring techniques.



Kwan Jang Nim Mable awarding Grant's Black Belt

The next order of business was an advanced test for Mr. Klokman going for his 5th Degree Black Belt in Overton, NV. Although advanced tests are usually only presented before Kwan Jang Nim Mable and Grandmaster Bledsoe (who are the sole determiners of the outcome), Mr. Klokman invited the other black belts to watch via ZOOM. Following the test Kwan Jang Nim Mable and Grandmaster Bledsoe conferred and determined that Mr. Klokman should be awarded his 5th Degree Black Belt. Congratulations to now Master Klokman for a job well done and for allowing the other black belts to watch his test.

Immediately following Mr. Klokman's test the WTSDF Board of Directors held their meeting. Various topics concerning the structure and operations of the organization were discussed in-

cluding the problems and limitations that virtual testing presented. It was pretty much agreed that the sooner we can conduct the organizations conventions in person, the better off we'll all be.

After a break for lunch Arthur Villezcas tested for his 1st. Degree Black Belt in Overton, NV. Grandmaster Bledsoe. Master Klokman and Mrs. Nelson were present with the remainder of the testing board members and black belts observing on ZOOM. The testing board convened following the test and determined that Arthur Villezcas should be awarded his 1st Degree Black Belt.



Grant Anson's in house testing board. l to r: Mr. chicoine, Master Newton, Kwan Jang Nim Mable, Grant & Master Malehorn

Editor's Note:

This *News Letter* is a great forum to share information regarding: promotions, tournaments, school events, seminars, etc., or any special training or experiences you may have had and would like to share with other members of our WTSDF family.

We have a tremendous pool of knowledge, talent, and experience in the WTSDF and each of us has skills and information that could benefit everyone in the organization.

Let's use this forum to share what we have learned over the years and continue to grow together.

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Congratulations to all three of the candidates for an exemplary demonstration of the art of Tang Soo Do. All the time and effort that went into your preparation is a fine example for all of us to follow.

The WTSDF held a Black Belt Council Meeting after the tests and discussed the status of the WTSDF schools, other general business and plans for the July campout.

With the easing of restrictions on gatherings due to COVID 19, it is hoped that our normal gatherings and workouts will resume in the not too distant future.



Solomon Karate Family Camping Event July 9th -11th 2021

With Western Tang Soo Do Federation Members Invited



DRAFT - FINAL TBA

Location:

Strawberry Reservoir Group Campsite. See location and site information [here](#). More information will be sent out about the location and schedule as the date approaches.

Saturday Events

5k FUN Run (all families can participate)
Breakfast
LunchDinner

TBA

Students Events

Back and Side Kicks
Basics Review "Details"
Jiu-Jitsu Lesson
Nunchaku Form
Arm bars (standing, mount and guard positions)
Archery
Tomahawk/knife/shuriken throwing competition
Combate competition

Mr. Chicoine
TBA
Mr. Bejerano /Mrs. Bejerano
Mr. Solomon
TBA
Mr. Bledsoe/Solomon
TBA
TBA

Additional Information:

Saturday's food is provided by Solomon Karate and is included for all the family. Please provide your own food for Friday and Sunday for family members as needed.

Throwing weapons will be provided.

Summer seminar uniform is required - camo pants and a white T-Shirt.

Please review camp rules for the location. (No ATVs, No firearms shooting etc.)

Cost: \$ 55.00 per participating persons (access to camping, food and events)
\$ 30.00 per non participating persons (access to camping and food)
\$ 125.00 Maximum cost for Families

ANY QUESTIONS please contact Mr. Solomon - snapkick.brad@gmail.com 702 379 1629 or 435-592-4370

Teaching Tip

From: Kwan Jang Nim Brain Mable

While teaching Tang Soo Do I was also a professional ski instructor for 25 years and one thing our ski school used to highlight a clients performance was to record their technique and let them see what they are doing right and wrong using constructive criticism. This proved to be very successful in that the client gained a better grasp of how to improve with the advice of the instructor. Professional athletes use this technique all the time so why not you? You can do the same thing by recording a student doing a form or whatever and let the whole class view the student on a large enough monitor so all can see well enough and everyone benefits from this learning experience. Have a "Video Night" and give students a chance to see exactly how they are doing or use regular class time.



Bledsoe Karate Club News CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

The following gups (colored belts) advanced March 2021:

Emmitt Villezcas to 3rd RED
Payton Paice to 9th ORANGE
Trig Overson to 10th PURPLE
Beck Freeman to 10th PURPLE

Our newest student was able to advance May 6, 2021
Colton Huff to 11th GOLD

THANK YOU BLACK BELTS -- Bledsoe Karate is very thankful for our newest black belts, Mr. Alex Villezcas (Mr. V1) and Mr. Arthur Villezcas (Mr. V2), who have stepped up to help with teaching classes. Their energy is very contagious in class. Mr. V2 often has us doing sprints while imagining the neighborhood dog is chasing us. It makes all our students laugh. In our quest to keep the two Mr. Villezcas' names separate we have come up with Mr. V1 and Mr. V2. There is a possibility of a Mr. V8 if everyone in the Villezcas family obtains their black belts. Imagine that!

CONGRATULATIONS BECK -- We also would like to have a special shout out to Beck Freeman (10th PURPLE) who just finished competing in the state livestock show in Reno, Nevada and earned Reserve Grand Champion for his pig. Quite the feat at the state level. Congratulations on a job well-done!

We also had a test May 27th with the following results:

Jacob Villezcas advanced to 1st RED.
Payton Paice advanced to 8th BLUE.
Beck Freeman advanced to 9th ORANGE.
Trig Overson advanced to 9th ORANGE.
Colton Huff advanced to 9th ORANGE.

CONGRATULATIONS to all for a job well done, we're very proud of you.



Solomon Karate

By: Mrs. Solomon & Master Dave Kluge

Despite the COVID restrictions Solomon Karate has been forging ahead with workouts, testings and innovative family programs.

April's testing saw advancements for thirty two students. We are very proud of all of you!



Gold Belts

*Cassie Redford
*Takoda Webb



Purple Belts

*Wyatt Alexander
*Ryder Coleman
*Talon Solomon
*Calvon Russell
*Jia Ocho
*Lilly Redford
*Cayden Walton
*Jonathan Williams
*Lily Hansen



Orange

*Jack Collier
*Liberty Solomon
*Soren Lydolph
*Sam Rideout
*Wesley Hunt
*Seth Stevensen
*Mike Davis



8th Blue

*Max Boulden
*Garrett Scattolon
*Jacob Roberts
*Adam Roberts

7th Blue

*Kyler Goddard
*Fisher Adams
*Alec Moylan



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5th Green

*Devin Overcast
*Arie Overcast
*Zack Schaefer

4th Green

*Amber Overcast
*Rosie Hammond

2nd Red

*Dallin Webb

1st Red

*Jett Solomon



We also had some special classes the weekend of Mother's Day. We invited mothers, grandmas, aunts, sisters...etc to our karate classes to join their students. They did great and everybody had so much fun! It is a fun tradition we look forward to year after year.

We look forward to our Father's Day Karate Classes in June!



Despite the restrictions, workouts continue.



We also welcomed a new Solomon to the clan! Ivy June Solomon was born May 7th, 2021 at 10:33 pm, weighing 8 lb. 14 oz. and 20 inches long. She's a good beautiful baby and we're glad she's *finally* here!

Congratulations!
from all of us in your WTSDF family.



Vegas Tang Soo Do

By: Mrs. Dottie Douglas & Master Eden Bejarano

Master Eden Bejarano is busy keeping Vegas Tang Soo Do alive and well. In addition to working out with her kids she organizes special black belt workouts, and often drives out to Overton, NV so her students can receive additional instruction. There is a schedule testing for Chaya and Azael at the end of June.

Master Bejarano's three oldest are attending Brazilian Jujitsu 2-3 times a week and are really enjoying it. They just earned their first stripe on their belt which is a good accomplishment since BJJ doesn't have many belts so they depend on a stripe system.

Our organization has remained close with Mr. Natividad, and Mrs. Bejarano often goes with her kids, and sometimes other black belts, to work out with his group. We wanted to mention that Mr. Natividad is in an assisted living facility close by in Henderson. He is doing well, in fact he recently put on a karate demonstration at the facility. He just never stops, and we continue to wish him well.

Master David Douglas (in Riverton, UT) tested two of his kids April 17th. Nathan (14) was promoted to 6th green and Rachel (12) was promoted to 8th blue. His oldest daughter, Lydia, is graduating high school and will be attending college at Southern UT University in Cedar City.



***Future Brazilzn Jujitsu Fighters
Azael, Benicio, and Chaya Bejarano***

On a sadder note, Master Tena Houser has informed us that her husband Richard has been diagnosed with throat cancer (contained) and is poised to do radiation and chemo for 6 weeks. He will have surgery in mid August in Las Vegas. We all send prayers his way for a complete recovery.

Congratulations Graduates

By: Master Dave Kluge

On May 22nd two of our recent black belts, Gabriela Bartnik and Grant Anson, graduated from Glenwood Springs High School. Both were outstanding members of the National Honor Society and will be continuing their education attending different universities.

Ms. Bartnik will be attending the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO this fall, but has not yet declared a major course of study.

Mr. Anson will be attending Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ this fall majoring in Business Marketing.

The WTSDF congratulates each of you for your stunning high school careers, and wishes you enduring success as you continue your education, and pursue your professional careers. We're sure you will make the WTSDF and your families very proud in all your future endeavors.



The Bartniks: Joanna, Mark , Gabi & Cuba



***"The Graduates"
Gabi & Grant***



***Proud Parents Dave & Jill
with Grant***

Meet The Board

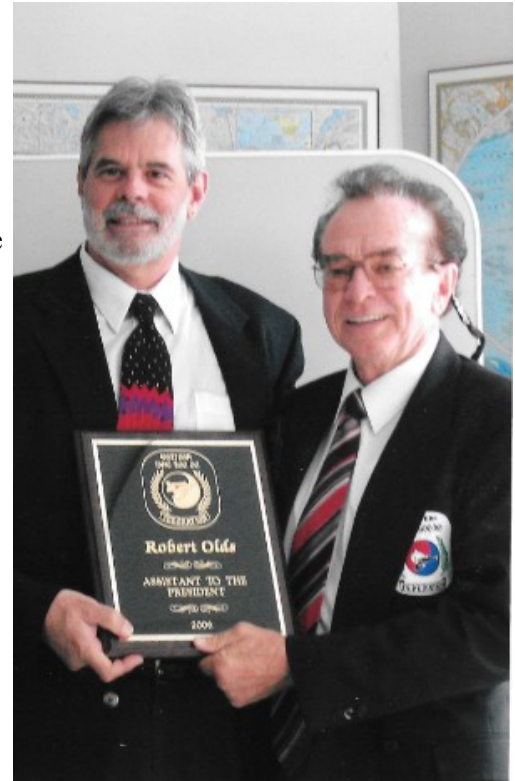
By: Master Dave Kluge

In this section we feature a member of the Board of Directors so you can better know the people who help give the organization direction, and keep it running smoothly. In this News Letter we are introducing **Master Robert Olds - 5th. Dan.**

From track and field events, to competing on the University of Nevada, Reno boxing team, to skiing and karate, Master Robert Olds has always had an interest in, and been involved with sports.

His martial arts career started early when his older brother Chuck, who was a boxer, “volunteered” him to be his sparring partner. Later when he attended the University of Nevada, Reno he fought on UNR’s boxing team, and even had several amateur fights along the way. That same brother would later introduce him to Grandmaster Dick Douglas in 1979, which would initiate his study of karate. Before that however, he moved to Sacramento, CA and worked at Cal-Expo race track conditioning, and eventually driving (he earned his Qualifying License) Standardbred horses in harness races. When he decided to get a “real job” he moved back to Reno, studied and got his Journeymen’s license in iron working and moved to Las Vegas to work construction, which brought him to Grandmaster Douglas’ studio.

Sidebar: Chuck Olds used to hunt with Mr. Douglas and around the campfire in the evenings (Chuck being a professional boxer) the discussion often turned to the effectiveness of boxing vs. karate as a means of self-defense. After several evenings of opinionated discourse Mr. Douglas invited him to his studio to test their philosophical positions. Once at the studio the debate began in earnest, and after several minutes of some rather energetic discussion, Chuck decided to take karate lessons from Grandmaster Douglas. The rest, as they say, is history.



“One of my favorites of Mr. Douglas and myself.”

Master Olds tested and earned his 1st Degree Black Belt in 1983 under the United Fighting Arts Federation in front of Grandmaster Chuck Norris. He earned his 2nd Degree under the National Tang Soo Do Congress from Grandmaster Pat Johnson, and all subsequent Degrees under the Western Tang Soo Do Federation from Kwan Jang Nim Dick Douglas.



“One of the few times I ever scored on Grandmaster Bledsoe.”

He has moved several times over the years and worked out with various schools along the way. In Napa, CA finding no Tang Soo Do schools, he worked out with a Tea Kwon Do studio under Master Soo Lee. In 1991 he moved to Tahoe City, CA and worked out with a school associated with the World Tang Soo Do Association and, though he didn’t test for it, was awarded a 2nd Degree Black Belt.

Loyalty is very important to Mr. Olds, so despite all the moves he has made and the different schools he has worked out with over the years, he has only affiliated himself with Tang Soo Do and the lineage of Kwan Jang Nim Dick Douglas.

His suggestion to other martial artists is to make the commitment. “Get the mindset that you’re going to do it and look forward to the next challenge. It’s as much mental as it is physical, your attitude

is everything.” After his 5th Dan test Grandmaster Bledsoe told him, “I could see that you came to test.” That meant a lot to him because others could see that he was determined and focused on his goals.

Success in martial arts has given him confidence that, “I can accomplish whatever I set mind to do. That helped me when I went back to school to obtain my Optician’s degree.” (Master Olds is one of only two Opticians licensed to fit contacts on the state of Nevada.) “It gave me the confidence that I can be the best in my profession.”

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Master Olds has never had to use his training to physically defend himself. “Mostly because it’s kept me out of confrontations by recognizing a bad situation developing, and avoiding it before it becomes physical. There’s a confidence you portray that people recognize.”

He said Grandmaster Douglas really emphasized setting goals and working for them and not let obstacles stop you. I learned to focus and apply myself to accomplishing my goals, not just in karate, but also in my professional life.”



First Qualifying race at Cal-Expo race track in Sacramento, CA

Of the more memorable moments in his martial arts career are: Testing in front of Grandmaster Chuck Norris, Grandmaster Pat Johnson and Kwan Jang Nim Dick Douglas.

After earning his 1st Dan, Grandmaster Douglas told him, “Now that you’ve mastered the basics, you can start to learn.”

Working through the injuries, the great people he’s met over the years, the seminars and “King of the hill” sparring at our conventions are all part of the memorable moments. “We have great people in our organization and I’m proud to know them and be part of it.”



Playing the blues. “Grandmaster Douglas also felt music should be part of your life.”

His advice to beginning martial artists, “If you want to do it, commit yourself to it and make it happen. Look forward to achieving the goals you’ve set. Be proud of the organization, it’s got a lot of great people in it.”



Patrolling at Homewood Mountain Resort Lake Tahoe, Nevada

“I became a hill leader for the Homewood Mountain Resort at Lake Tahoe and was chosen as the outstanding patroller for the 1995 season. I became both a toboggan instructor and emergency care instructor and was the testing and training adviser until my retirement. During that time Homewood Mountain Resort was selected as the outstanding small patrol in the National Ski Patrol organization. Again I attribute my success from the commitment and training in Tang Soo Do.”



Rendering first aid at top patrol with Whitney, the avalanche patrol dog.



“My new hobby, driving my cooper on track day at Laguna Seca Raceway, Monterey, CA”

WTSDF Family Tree

By: Mr. Gordon Chicoine

A special thank you to Mr. Chicoine from all of us in the WTSDF for an excellent job up dating our family tree.
Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Western Tang Soo Do Federation Black Belt Family Tree

