



Mark your calendars! 2020 Training and Testing Dates

Aug – Axe Taekwon-Do Testing – to be determined	Nov 26th – No Class Thanksgiving
Sep 19th – Casper Taekwon-Do Tournament – Casper, WY	Dec 24th – Dec 31st – Axe Taekwon-Do Close Holiday
Nov 19th - Axe Taekwon-Do Testing	Jan 5th – Return from Break

All articles in this edition are by Sr. Master Todd

A Special Thanks

A special thanks to all of the students that have stuck with me and training in Taekwon-Do during this difficult time. I hope that the 3 hours we spend together each week allow you to escape the pressure of whatever you are facing at this time and lends some normalcy to your life. We are an extended family at Axe Taekwon-Do and at this time we are all facing some difficult challenges with life. So thank you for sticking with your Taekwon-Do family and continuing to train.

**Online Classes
Axe Taekwon-Do**

I delayed the publication of our May & June newsletters in hopes that we would be back in training in the Youth Center by now. March 12th was the last class there and I have been holding online classes by Zoom on Tuesday & Thursday from 6 pm – 730 pm. During each class, I am trying to have you work on your skills and mental knowledge.

This has not a great substitute for our normal classes at the Youth Center. However, at this time this is what we must do during this pandemic. I am still unsure when we can return to the Youth Center in May. I will let you all know as soon as possible. Until then I will continue to offer instruction online through the Zoom platform and hopefully once per week in a local park.

Tuition

We are now collecting monthly tuition. You can pay in person during our scheduled park workout or you can mail your checks to me, payable to Axe TKD. Please mail to 3355 Rahn Blvd, Bellevue, NE 68123. The cost is \$50 per student or \$80 for a family rate.

State of Taekwon-Do

Most events nationwide have been canceled due to the current Covid-19 situation. At this time the Casper Wyoming tournament is still scheduled but we can discuss our attendance at that event closer to the September date. Be patient it will all return to normal. While I think we could participate in a tournament in patterns and breaking I don't know at this time that we could commit to sparring.

Promotion Testing

Sadly our May testing date could not be accomplished due to the current state of Covid-19. I do plan to have a testing in August but if we are not back at our facility we may have the testing in a local park. However, the testing will probably be modified as in no self-defense demonstrations or actual contact with step sparring. Free sparring will be on hold for now also.

Park Training

Hopefully, the weather will allow us to train at least once a week in a park. I do not want to simply switch over to the park workouts for a couple of reasons. First, there are some families that may not feel safe attending the workouts so the Zoom platform allows them to continue training. Second, the weather is not very friendly this time of year with the heat, humidity, and potential storms. I think at this time Tuesday on Zoom and Thursday in the park will be our plan.

Safety

When we meet to train in the park, remember that we still need to be aware of social distancing by staying 6 feet or more away from other students. You can wear a mask if you like but I will ensure you remain apart. During these workouts since it is hot, you can wear a t-shirt, dobok pants, and your belt. I will announce the Zoom or park training information weekly by email.

I hope during this time that you are remaining safe and taking care of yourself. There have been Taekwon-Do students that have suffering during this Covid-19, the issue is real. While it's easy to look at this crisis and make statements it does hit home when it happens to someone we know. So take care of yourself and do the best you can to protect yourself and your family. We will be back kicking and punching in the Youth Center before you know it.

Patterns – Kicks

I was surprised that everyone's patterns looked good during our recent park out. I know it is difficult to train by Zoom but your skills looked better than I had anticipated. Keep working on your patterns and we will fix the small things with your technique when we train together.

Taekwon-Do & Imitators

Often a student will say my friend took Taekwon-Do or I know this school of Taekwon-Do and you might hear me say “fake Taekwon-Do”? Also, if someone points out to me a new “Taekwon-Do” school, it’s not really Taekwon-Do.

If a Taekwon-Do school can’t draw their lineage to the ITF Taekwon-Do as created by General Choi, they are fake Taekwon-Do. This is not a matter for discussion as they are simply a school or “style” calling themselves Taekwon-Do. This argument goes back to 1955 and it has been proven extensively that our Taekwon-Do is the original.

In the USTF we draw a direct lineage to General Choi, since our founder Sr. Grand Master Sereff was his student and we still teach the exact art as it was created. No extra patterns or made up moves. Students from “other Taekwon-Do” backgrounds are not to be blamed for following what was taught to them as they probably didn’t even know the difference. The difference however is great.

This following article is from **Volume 1 of the “Encyclopedia of Taekwon-Do” as written by General Choi Hong Hi, the founder of Taekwon-Do.**

TAEKWON-DO AND IMITATORS

Today, the enormous popularity of Taekwon-Do has created imitators, and whilst at times imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, in the case of Taekwon-Do this is definitely not true. To imitate without full knowledge of the original is dangerous. It is somewhat akin to allowing a child to play with a toy gun, then giving him a real gun and expecting the child to understand the difference without giving him the knowledge of the function and effect of a real gun.

In most instances of imitation, the imitator simply mimics the original without any change. Usually, this does not cause any harm provided the one who imitates does not change the original (in this case Taekwon-Do) by unproven additional techniques, interpretations, philosophy, terminology or systems and methods.

It is when unauthorized changes to the original art of Taekwon-Do take place that these imitators create a highly dangerous and eroding influence upon the concept of Taekwon-Do. Dangerous, because it gives to the students of the imitators a sense of mastery of techniques which are completely unfounded in the knowledge of the true martial art of Taekwon-Do. Dangerous, because a student may become a teacher and all unknowingly imparts his false techniques to others, thus compounding the error of false knowledge. This will lead to an erosion

of confidence by serious students in Taekwon-Do as a proven martial art.

Confusion has recently arisen by the use of the terminology "TAEKWONDO, THE KOREAN ART OF SELF-DEFENSE," I emphasize the word Korean. Today, in the South Korea, it is becoming the practice to indiscriminately apply the word Taekwon-Do to a bastardized imitation of the real original Korean martial art. General Choi Hong Hi has been creating, developing the art of Taekwon-Do since early 1946, in what is now known as the Republic of Korea. It is true that General Choi was born in Korea and at the time of developing and introducing Taekwon-Do he resided there. It is also true that the basis of Taekwon-Do goes back to the ancient past of Korea, but to call Taekwon-Do purely Korean is somewhat like one country claiming to have introduced fire.

The true Taekwon-Do of General Choi knows no boundaries of countries; it is a universal self-defense. It is also an art for which the author of this encyclopedia has devoted his life, not only to retain the purity of the original Taekwon-Do introduced by him in 1955, but to constantly search for ways of improving the original techniques. Only after exhaustive research and proof of improvement and effectiveness is a change to the original approved and incorporated within the overall art of Taekwon-Do.

These volumes are proof of General Choi's tenacity of dedication to keeping the original Taekwon-Do free from unproved imitations, and with the co-operation of all true Taekwon-Do students, no matter what grade, weed out those who seek to destroy his teachings.