



*Birthdays in September*



Happy birthday to the following students of Axe Taekwon-Do: Mr. Toppi and Mr. Johnson, J. Please email Grand Master Todd at [ustfneb@cox.net](mailto:ustfneb@cox.net) if your name is not listed.

***USTF Tournament—Saturday, September 17th, 2022, Casper, Wyoming:***

We had a great showing for the trip to Casper, Wyoming. Congratulations to all that attended and for supporting your instructor and the USTF. The **Grand Champion** for the tournament was Mrs. Ragone, 5th dan. **Individual medals:** Adult Black Belt Patterns: Mrs. Ragone, 5th dan, gold medal. Ms. Grant, 3rd dan, silver medal. Junior Color Belt Patterns: Mr. May, M., silver medal. Adult Black Belt Sparring: Mrs. Ragone, 5th dan, silver medal. Junior Color Belt Sparring: Mr. May, M., gold medal. Mr. May, C., bronze medal. Team Breaking: bronze medal, a team consisting of Mrs. Ragone, Mr. Jensen, and Mrs. Lewis.



*Editors note I am smiling inside.*

***USTF Referee Seminar—Saturday, October 15th, Broomfield, Colorado:***

I taught the USTF Referee Seminar at Sereff Taekwon-Do in Broomfield on Saturday, **October 15th, 2022** and we had 49 students in attendance. The course provided all in attendance with 8 hours of continuing credit. We covered all aspects of how to work as a center referee, corner judge, scorekeeper, time keeper, and running the brackets. Hopefully, everyone left the course more informed and energized to participate in our tournaments. I am not the only person authorized by the USTF to teach this course Authorized referee seminar instructors are allowed to teach it slightly differently. There are no perfect courses and we all come away with things we wish we could have done better. I truly believe this course is really an overview and to become better you **must** perform in a real tournament. No scenarios or lectures will really prepare you for the live performance. Remember you have requirements as red and black belts to not only participate in tournaments as a competitor but also as an official in order to be considered active and promotion eligible. I really appreciate the loyalty and support of my students attending this seminar. Congratulations to the following: **Class A Referee:** Ms. Chamberlin, 4th dan and Ms. Grant, 3rd dan. **Class B Referee:** Mr. MacCaffrey, 2nd dan. **Class C Referee:** Mr. Palmer, 4th dan. Attending for **refresher training:** Mrs. Bowling, 6th dan, Mrs. Ragone, 5th dan, Mrs. Chamberlin, 3rd dan and Mrs. MacCaffrey, 2nd dan.

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Calendar Dates

- Nov 12th—Axe TKD Testing
- Dec 10th –Axe BB Testing Lunch
- Dec 20th—Axe TKD Holiday Party
- Jan 21st—USTF Breaking Seminar

**USTF Tournament—Sunday, October 16th, Broomfield, Colorado:**

The Annual Sereff Taekwon-Do tournament was held on October 16th, 2022, in Broomfield, Colorado. We had a great showing for the trip to Broomfield, Colorado. Congratulations to all that attended and for supporting your instructor and the USTF. The **Grand Champion** for the tournament was Ms. Chamberlin, 4th dan. **Individual medals:** Adult Black Belt Patterns: Ms. Chamberlin, 4th dan, gold medal. Mr. Palmer, 4th dan, silver medal. Ms. Buckley, 3rd dan, bronze medal. Mrs. Chamberlin, 3rd dan, bronze medal. Ms. Buckley. Adult Black Belt Sparring: Mrs. Ragone, 5th dan, gold medal. Ms. Chamberlin, 4th dan, gold medal. Mr. Palmer, 4th dan, gold medal. Ms. Grant, 3rd Dan, gold medal. Breaking: Team 1 consisted of Mrs. Ragone, 5th dan, Ms. Chamberlin, 4th dan, Ms. Chamberlin, 3rd dan, and Ms. Grant, 3rd dan, gold medal. Team 2 consisted of Mrs. Buckley, 4th dan, Mr. Buckley, 4th dan, Mr. Palmer, 4th dan and Ms. Buckley, 3rd dan, bronze medal. *A special thanks to Grand Master Winegar and Grand Master Martin who each “loaned” one of their students to our breaking teams so we could compete with five.*



**Special Award from the USTF:**



The USTF and Grand Master Sereff created the Larry D. Jones Service Award. The award was created to honor Mr. Jones who was Mrs. Ragone’s father. Mr. Jones passed away last year but was always a big fan of the USTF and Axe Taekwon-Do. He was present at our testings and events and often traveled at his own expense to other tournaments in Missouri, Wyoming, and Colorado to support us and took many pictures. He was really the official photographer at these events. Grand Master Sereff wanted to honor his memory as a dedication to his service before self and to recognize students who go above and beyond in helping other people.

The Award was presented to the Buckley family who during the Sereff World Camp, a camper from Alaska had a family emergency that required her to leave camp and travel to Kansas to be with her family. She did not have transportation, nor could she fly. The Buckley family volunteered, and took her to Kansas which was quite a bit out

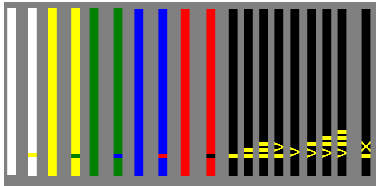
of their way on their return trip to Nebraska. Grand Master Sereff felt that the Award was appropriate for the Buckley family. I know that everyone in our Axe Taekwon-Do family shares in the pride of this award and its recipients for this year. Mr. Jones would not have been happy about the “fuss” over him, but I think deep inside he would be honored.



***Recruiting:***

I sent this out last month and provided each of you with four flyers. I will start following up when how these efforts are going for you. Congratulations to Mrs. Lewis who brought in a new student and had another family call me. To the rest of you, keep trying.

Sr. Grand Master Sereff in the past would always say that once you earn your black belt you owe a debt to your instructor to bring a student into Taekwon-Do that trains until they are a black belt. I have done this a hundred times in my career. I am challenging all of you to step up to this challenge now. Due to COVID, our beginning ranks have dwindled. I will work with the Youth Center again on some ideas to grow the class, but it takes YOU to help. The class has always grown by word of mouth and students recruiting other students. When you see someone watching a class stop by them and introduce yourself. When you are teaching make it exciting, new students want action, self-defense, etc. They don't want gymnastics or the mental knowledge that comes later in training. Remember when you joined what attracted you? Use that with the new students.

***Promotion Testing—Axe Taekwon-Do—November 12th:***

Testing will be held at the Youth Center on **Saturday, November 12th**. I am scheduling this on a Saturday to allow more time as this will be a fairly large testing. The test forms for black belts have been handed out and those for color belts will be handed out soon. We request they are turned in with payment prior to the testing. Testing for black belt ranks: For 4th degree black belt: Ms. Ragone, Mrs. Duralia, Mrs. Chamberlin and Ms. Grant. For 3rd degree black belt: Mr. Garber, A.,

and Mr. Matos, K. For 2nd degree black belt: Ms. McDermott. For 1st degree black belt: Ms. Kelly. The Youth Center will open at 830 am. I plan to have the testing started by 9 am.

Remember if you are in 7th grade or above you will take a written test for every belt promotion. Students in 6th grade and below will take an oral test where they will be asked the following questions:

1. Meaning of your belt
2. Number of moves in your pattern
3. Diagram of your pattern
4. Definition of your pattern

You can refer to <http://www.axetkd.com/PDF/Guide/ParentGuide.pdf>

For assistance with the oral questions.

***Testing Luncheon—November 12th:***

To celebrate this testing and promotion we will have a luncheon at Moran's which is in the location of the former Lanskys at 3909 Twin Creek Drive, Suite 105, Bellevue, Nebraska. Our reservation is set for 1 pm. You can look at the menu at <https://moransbarandgrill> I respect the amount of time that you have dedicated to Taekwon-Do this year so it will be directly after the testing at 1 pm and you will be able to enjoy the rest of your Saturday. This and the testing will be open to you and your guests. The cost for your lunch will be depending on what you order from the menu.

***Promotion Eligible or Active Student:*** What does this mean? This term comes up several times in the booklets for testing and in correspondence. Here is a guide to help you:

Every black belt rank has certain requirements including a “minimum” amount of time that a student must train to be considered “active”. You cannot test or be considered for testing unless you are active. I know that our testing director for the USTF, Grand Master Sereff explains this to people all the time. She entrusts the officers of the USTF to also clarify this, however as the testing director she has the final say on all black belt promotions.

First, you must be active, to be active you must be teaching in your own school or training with a senior, a minimum of 4 times per month. This is clearly listed in the Black Belt Test Syllabus “Black Book”. This time starts over after every promotion. In short, it only matters how much you are training during your current test cycle. For example, if you were extremely active in all ranks up to 6th degree black belt and then started training once a month, you would not be considered active for promotion consideration to 7th degree black belt. The USTF encounters this during promotion consideration for 7th degree and above from students who were active years ago but are no longer active. While their past dedication is appreciated they cannot continue progression in the Taekwon-Do ranks.

While we appreciate all the hard work you did to get to a certain rank, you would remain there until you satisfied the minimum requirement of training 4 times per month and the other certifications. Many students have active lives, injuries and have a limit for whatever reason for the amount of time they can train, and that is fine, just understand if you are not meeting that minimum amount of time during your current cycle you are not considered active. Other items that can make you not promotion eligible are certifications, time, age, tournament participation, tournament officiating, etc.

#### **Certifications:**

##### **For promotion to 1st degree black belt:**

Students 13 and above must be a USTF certified class “C” referee.

Tournament competition is required and you must have attended at least one USTF tournament.

Students must be actively training for a minimum of six months as a red belt black stripe before testing.

There is no age limit.

##### **For promotion to 2nd degree black belt:**

Adult students are required to become USTF certified class “B” referees.

Tournament competition is required and you must compete in at least one USTF tournament each year.

Students should attend the USTF Ho-Sin-Sul seminar (the black book states must but it should).

Students must participate as an official in at least two USTF tournaments.

Students must accumulate a minimum of 8 hours attendance credits per year prior to testing for 2nd dan.

Students must be actively training for a minimum of 18 months as a 1st dan before testing to 2nd dan.

There is no age limit.

##### **For promotion to 3rd degree black belt:**

Tournament competition is required and you must compete in at least two USTF tournament each year.

Students should attend the USTF Ground Tactics course and the USTF Knife and Weapons Course.

Students must participate as an official in at least two USTF tournaments.

Students must accumulate a minimum of 8 hours attendance credits per year prior to testing for 3rd dan.

Students must be actively training for a minimum of 24 months as a 2nd dan before testing to 3rd dan.

Students must be 16 years or older to test.

**Promotion Eligible or Active Student:** What does this mean? This term comes up several times in the booklets for testing and in our correspondence. Here is a guide to help you:

**Certifications:**

**For promotion to 4th degree black belt:**

Tournament competition is required and you must compete in at least three USTF tournaments prior to testing.

Students must participate as an official in at least three USTF tournaments.

Students must accumulate a minimum of 8 hours attendance credits per year prior to testing for 4th dan.

Students must be actively training for a minimum of 36 months as a 3rd dan before testing to 4th dan.

Students must be 19 years or older to test.

**For promotion to 5th degree black belt:**

Tournament competition is required and you must compete in at least four USTF tournaments prior to testing.

Students are required to become USTF certified class “A” referees.

Students must participate as an official in at least four USTF tournaments.

Students must accumulate a minimum of 8 hours attendance credits per year prior to testing for 5th dan.

Students must be actively training for a minimum of 48 months as a 4th dan before testing to 5th dan.

**For promotion to 6th degree black belt:**

Tournament competition is required and you must compete in at least five USTF tournaments prior to testing.

Students must participate as an official in at least five USTF tournaments.

Students must accumulate a minimum of 8 hours attendance credits per year prior to testing for 6th dan.

Students must be actively training for a minimum of 60 months as a 5th dan before testing to 6th dan.

**For promotion to 7th degree black belt:**

Students must participate as an official in at least six USTF tournaments.

Students must accumulate a minimum of 8 hours attendance credits per year prior to testing for 7th dan.

Students must be actively training for a minimum of 72 months as a 6th dan before testing to 7th dan.

***The USTF does not a book nor published requirements for promotion to 8th degree black belt or 9th degree black belt.***

From my experience for promotion consideration to the senior master or grand master status you must do the following:

- Be actively teaching your own school or assisting in a school.
- Be supporting the USTF by attending seminars, courses, testings, etc.
- Keep a list of what you have done for the USTF, events per year, etc., as this will be reviewed prior to being considered for the top two ranks.
- The 7th degree testing is the last physical testing in the USTF. After that you are considered for promotion by what you have done to further the USTF and Taekwon-Do.

All of these requirements and more are clearly listed in the Black Belt Testing Syllabus which is available for purchase.

**Wrapping up 2022:****Axe Taekwon-Do**

Axe Taekwon-Do was formed in 2004 at Offutt Air Force Base. Grand Master Todd and Master Bushor formed Axe Taekwon-Do which is an authorized school under the United States Taekwon-Do Federation.

USTF Taekwon-Do has been active at Offutt Air Force Base, Youth Center since 1988. The classes were originally founded by Mr. Vince Dowd, a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree black belt from Colorado. In 1989, the late Sr. Master Gary Meek took over the classes and renamed the school Meek's International Taekwon-Do. In 2004, the school was renamed Axe Taekwon-Do and Grand Master Todd and Master Bushor took over the teaching.

Classes are taught on Tuesday & Thursday.

Beginners: 5:30—6:30 pm

Advanced: 6:30-8:00 pm

Offutt Air Force Base Youth Center  
Building 5085  
Bellevue, Nebraska  
Phone: 402-294-5152

Direct Contact Instructors

Grand Master Todd  
Phone: 402-650-4399  
Email: ustfneb@cox.net

Master Bushor  
Phone: 402-321-7545  
Email: kbushor@cox.net

**Black Belt Holiday Luncheon:** I am considering holding our annual black belt holiday luncheon on Saturday, December 10th. More details will be coming on this as we plan the event. The details and location will be announced soon.

**Class Holiday Party:** We will hold our annual class holiday party in December before Christmas. The party will be during class time on Tuesday, December 20th. More details will be coming on this as we plan the event. Typically we have a chili or whatever competition where the winner will receive a free month of Taekwon-Do. With the changes to your payment procedure at the Youth Center, this will not be possible but I will come up with some other prize. Mrs. Ragone will be in charge of the planning for this event and will be working with others on specific tasks for the event.

**Class Holiday Break:** Last year our holiday break around Christmas was not well received. I think this was due to a lack of communication on my part with the Youth Center. If we have a break this year it would be on December 27th and the 29th. If the Youth Center is not in favor of that we will have classes.

If you have any questions comments or concerns you can contact me at: ustfneb@cox.net or rtodd@pheblaw.com. Also you can call or text 402-650-4399.

**USTF Breaking Seminar—2023:** I will be teaching the USTF Breaking Seminar in Senatobia, Mississippi on Saturday, January 21, 2023. The course will be hosted by Master Bennett. I will have the flyer posted soon on the Axe Taekwon-Do website. All students yellow belt green stripe and above who are older than 12 are invited to attend. Students under 12 years of age can attend with their instructor's permission. I am the instructor for all Axe Taekwon-Do students, and I will grant permission to the younger students that want to attend. The cost for this event is \$75.00 for initial attendance and \$50 for a refresher. The seminar will run from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. This seminar will provide all black belts with 8 hours of attendance credit.

Several students have expressed interest in attending. This event is about 10 and 1/2 hours from Bellevue. In comparison, it takes us about 10 hours to travel to Casper for that tournament. Since I am teaching the seminar the USTF will fly me to that event. There are many options for anyone interested in going, carpooling, motels, Airbnb, etc. I will consult with Master Bennett on areas near Senatobia that are the best.

I do not want **any** students to feel they must attend this because I am teaching it. I sincerely appreciate your dedication and loyalty to me as your instructor and the art of Taekwon-Do. However, if you want to attend you are invited.