

**ALL JAPAN
SHITO-RYU KARATE-DO SEIKOKAI
ASSOCIATION**



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**SHITO-RYU SEIKO KAI TEEN WEEKEND
(April 25 and 26, 2009)**

By Karen Ng



Karen Ng the author of this article is not only a karate student and aspiring writer; she also is an excellent piano player and won the Performing Arts first prize with her beautiful performance in the contest held that weekend.

I loved the Teen Weekend so much that it is challenging to write something that might possibly match it. I have taken my time, wrote and rewrote different versions of my drafts. It all sounded too choppy and did not meet my

own standards and was not interesting enough.

After sitting around for an hour or so and thinking, I have come up with this, and it sounded better in my head. So allow me to attempt to let you into my mind, and to show you a piece of writing that you should have read a month ago.



We have been on the road for at least three hours and have passed by a Starbucks for a washroom break and I thank our driver for putting up with four girls, dragged out of our beds "early" on a Saturday morning. We reached Wim Tewinkel's house, greeted by a beautiful dog, and ready to meet new people.

Inside Wim Tewinkel's house is the lovely smell of cabins, what looks like a dozen pairs of shoes on the floor, potted plants, and voices. There are tall, blue mountains in the distance surrounding the property and trees everywhere.



During this Saturday at around 11AM, we had kumite practice with Pamela Ross, a lunch break, self-defence with Wim Tewinkel, more kumite with Curtis Gerlinger, and kata practice with Sato sensei.

There are mountains all around, with no apartment buildings to block your view, only the large shade of the trees. Two days in this beauty was not enough. That was the karate workshop on Saturday. Of course, it was a lot more exciting than I have portrayed.



A barbecue followed and people from around came, and the little kids ran across the fields, everywhere, laughing and playing. The most unstable-looking bridge I have ever seen lets you cross over the creek to where the two horses stare you down might be my favourite bridge now.

If there were any fish in the cold water below, they must have thought that several of us might have been crazy. (*cough*some people rave on about Napoleon and some others mimic those who talk about the French Revolution. Others drop worms on people's notebooks.*cough*)

People gathered around a bonfire to warm up their hands from reaching into a tub of cold water containing beverages. They also gathered to talk so that they could see one another's faces in the dark when the sun descended from its moving pedestal in the sky.

At night here, the stars are easier to see. You can spot constellations quicker, and more stars gather in one spot so that it is harder to decipher than in the city when only the brighter ones are seen. Here, there is no need to wonder if it is too hard for your

neighbour to turn off that light so that you can go stargazing.

On Sunday we had the Intertribal Martial Art War Games. Once again, dragged out of bed, we walked the trail for our cross-country race to become familiar with the route, and then we ran it...or at least, ran what we could. There was hitting a tennis ball on a pipe with a long stick as far as possible. "Do you play baseball?" "No." "You should play baseball." Yes...hitting balls with sticks are fun.

There was target shooting with a slingshot. Basically we had to hit cans stacked on one another with a real slingshot using rocks. (Oh no, save us from the violent ones.)



There was also a tug-of-war that was very amusing to watch. Of course, there was lunch, and I have to give a big thank you to everyone who helped make this weekend one of my most memorable.

The Pemberton/Whistler Karate Club did an excellent job of making sure that our weekend was stolen so that we wished we wouldn't have to go to school the next day.

When we first turned into the road into Wim Tewinkel's property, this was how our conversation practically went: "This lane can't be any narrower—" "Look, an apple orchard!" "We're in the middle of nowhere." "Look, pretty mountains!" By the time we left, this was how it went:

"That was really fun." "Aw, we have to leave." "I hope we can come back next year." If this is the middle of nowhere then I like it here. I don't think I have anything negative to say about the Teen Weekend. It was fantastic, I learned and hopefully improved, and I had a lot of fun. Everybody

was awesome and I wished that time could have stretched and everything could have lasted longer.

Here I leave reluctantly, I wish I could remain. Here I'll close and lock the doors, I hope we meet again

Philippines

Sensei Dennis Aquino will host the Second Seiko Kai Asia Cup in Santa Rosa in the Philippines on November 6, 7 and 8, 2009. Mark your calendars now.

Australia

The Australian branch continues to achieve great results. During May we attended a friendly local tournament with 22 competitors being selected for the Seiko-Kai Jnr Team.

Our Synchronised Jnr Girls Kata team came 2nd in the open event. Our Boys Kumite team came 2nd and our Girls Kumite Team won their event.



Everyone received a medal in their entered division.





The next tournament entered was the Queensland State Championships. We selected on 11 competitors to represent Seiko-Kai in this event.



10 competitors received medal with 2 being selected for the State Team.



Switzerland

Congratulations for the Shodan Test success:

- Sensei Ann Amanda: 2nd Dan Karate, from KSS Switzerland
- Sensei Mark: 2nd Dan Karate, from KSS Philippines
- Sensei Marvin: 2nd Dan Karate, from KSS Philippines
- Sensei Marie-Kristine: 1st Dan Karate, from KSS Philippines



- Grandmaster Rizalito successfully did the 9th Dan in Arnis/Eskrima/Kali. If you are interested in Arnis/Eskrima/Kali please don't hesitate to contact him or visit: <http://www.anilaocamps.com>

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