

WELCOME TO THE 9th SHIN SHIN RYU TAI KAI

Fellow Kenshi:

I wish to welcome all of you to our 9th Shin Shin Ryu Tai Kai. This year we are honored to have the 11th Soke, Yamada Yoshitaka, come from Japan as our chief judge. We have excellent judges from various styles this year, which we believe leads to a fair and impartial judging system for our Tai Kai. All have distinguished Japan sword backgrounds and have experience in Tai Kai both in the United States and Japan. I thank them all for taking time to attend.

As always, our Tai kai is based on traditional Japanese sword arts. This is not a competition against an opponent, but a chance for all of us to leave our comfort zones and challenge ourselves. It is only through challenging ourselves that we can improve our skills and spirit and, not lapse into mediocrity. Failure to challenge ourselves and mediocrity can only lead to a sword style's demise. It is also a great opportunity for you to reacquaint yourself with old friends and make new ones throughout the various sword styles present. Please take time to visit, introduce yourselves and enjoy the Tai Kai.

I especially wish to thank Tony Alvarez Sensei, Dave Drawdy Sensei, Robin Ramirez Sensei and Bob Elder Sensei's crew for their continual support. We will try our best to reciprocate in the same fashion. It is my sincere belief that only through cooperation can we continue to grow and prosper in Kobudo, especially in these trying times we find ourselves.

I would also like to thank Dan Keupp Sensei and the rest of the Tucson members for their untiring effort. Without their dedicated support events like this would be impossible.

Again, welcome to all of you and good luck,

**Renmeicho Shin Shin Ryu Iai
Kaicho, Mizuhi Kobukai**

Carl McClafferty 