



Yoshitoshi, Tsukioka (1839 - 1892)

Yamabushi Series, Tengu "Tsukahara Bokuden receiving instruction from Enkai of Huguro Mountain"

Events Schedule

August Tucson Tai Kai
Time and Place, coming soon.

Pima College Demo

The *Yamakawa Dojo* performed at Pima College during the Japanese language speech contest this year. Our display of *Iai kata* from the *Sekiguchi Ryu* tradition impressed the audience and made several impressions on their low hanging banner as well. This was followed by some *Kumitachi* and *Tameshigiri*. Our program was well received by the students and guests as indicated by their rapt attention and the "oohs and aahs" after exciting cuts. Many members of the crowd were given pieces of *Goza* to keep as proof of our cutting prowess. The Pima College contest committee kindly gave our members attractive T-shirts and a certificate to thank us. I am sure we will be invited to perform next year.

SGR Leadership

Dr. Gettings and Mr. McClafferty were both promoted to higher positions within the *Sekiguchi Ryu*, during the last visit by *Yamada Soke*. Mr. McClafferty is now the *Okuden Hanshi - Sho Shihan no Kokusai Renmei*. This means he is in charge of all *dojo* outside of Japan. Likewise, Dr. Gettings is now *Kyoshi Shihan* for the entire United States.

Within Japan, *Yamada Soke* has *Mizoguchi Shihan* (*Mizoguchi Masato*), as his *Okuden Hanshi Shihan* of all *Sekiguchi Ryu Iai dojo*.



Mizu Hi Kobukai

To clarify, the *Mizu Hi Kobukai* is a separate organization. The Current leader is **Kai Cho McClafferty**. Dr. Gettings is the **Shihan** of this organization as well.

The *Mizu Hi* is a domestic, organization dedicated to the study of Japanese sword techniques that were collected by the late Kenneth Mack. Some variants of these *kata* are documented in Donn Draeger's book, Japanese Swordsmanship. The *Mizu Hi Kobukai* is actually a study group dedicated to Mr. Mack's teachings as well as the study of several other styles of martial art.

The current focus of the group is the study of *Mizu Hi Shinto Ryu*, *Sekiguchi Ryu*, *Nakamura Ryu* and *Tameshigiri* techniques. The Tucson branch has the added advantage of Dr. Gettings experience with *Batto Do Ryu Seiken* techniques.

Shihan Gettings is encouraging everyone to polish their *Mizu Hi Kata* and *Kumitachi*. There are plans in the near future to hold testing sessions for *Den* ranking (*Shoden*, *Chuden*, *Okuden*). Please see your club secretary (*Shoki*), for a list of requirements.

Tucson Tai Kai

The annual Tucson *Tai Kai* is in the planning stage. So far, it has been announced for the end of August

Post War Japan

After World War II the Japanese people were forbidden by law from practicing martial arts. The martial traditions of *Kenjutsu*, *Kyujutsu* and other arts were eventually modified to become *Kendo*, *Kyudo* and the like and reintroduced when it was more acceptable. The new organizations were specifically designated as non combative in nature. In some cases the "Do" in the title was written with the implication of, "The pursuit of a peaceful way". This orientation is in accord with Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution. Amended in 1947, its provisions state;

The Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.



Japanese Constitution of 1889, revised 1947.

