

# TANG SOO TIMES

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PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 20 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.  
Nov 23 - Thanksgiving. No classes.  
Nov 25 - Thanksgiving weekend. No classes.  
Dec 18 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.  
Dec 25 - Christmas. No classes.  
Jan 1 - New Years day. No classes.

## MONDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

Nov 6 - Regular adult class.  
Nov 13 - Regular adult class.  
Nov 20 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.  
Nov 27 - Black Belt class. Red belts and higher.  
Dec 4 - Regular adult class.

## MASTER'S CORNER

Here it is November. We have almost 60 active students. You know what! If several students hadn't prepaid November's tuition, I would not have been able to pay November's rent because there is over \$330 in unpaid October tuition. We are trying to keep the monthly rates down and I was seriously considering raising the monthly tuition rates across the board. However, I do not think this is fair to the people who do pay on time. So, effective January 2001, if your tuition isn't paid by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, there will be a \$5 late fee assessed. If you haven't paid by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, do not bother paying at all. You will have to drop out for the remainder of the month. That month will not count towards any promotion; it will be as if that month did not exist. Any classes attended will not be counted. I do not want to do this, but we all have obligations. I need to pay the bills and teach you Tang Soo Do. Part of the discipline of Tang Soo Do is for you to fulfill your obligations.

## NEW STUDENTS

We would like to welcome the following new students to our Dojang and to the worldwide family of Tang Soo Do:

CHUCK MCCALL	BOBBY LEACH	STEVE LEACH
CHRIS MCCALL	DEBBIE LEACH	TERRY BROWN

Train often and train hard. You are on the steep portion of the classic learning curve and every class should reveal something new and exciting to you. If you ever have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a senior student.

### **FEATURE ARTICLE**

Sam Dan Joe Centrone submitted the following article. He calls it, "The One-Percenters."

On Monday night, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, four of our students were promoted: two to E Dan, second degree Black Belt, and two to Cho Dan, first degree Black Belt. It was a very special night for the students, their families and all of us here at Pal Che.

It is sometimes understandable when others think of us as a cult or some type of weird group of martial clones. They see the formalities of our tradition: the bowing, the saluting to foreign flags, and saying they could never bow to anyone, or worse yet, salute a foreign flag. They listen to the unfamiliar way that we address one another and the Korean terminology we use. They look confused when they see us, one moment trying to inflict pain upon someone and next assisting them up and bowing or hugging them. Outsiders cringe when we talk of honor, integrity, and respect, words uncommon in today's society yet much in need. Yes, in looking at us from the outside, it is easy to see why others view us as extreme. I can also understand why some people would want to avoid training in the big windows of Chester Pike and Glenolden Avenue.

A few years ago I wrote an article about training in those very windows. Like another student, I had reservations about training in the windows of such a busy intersection. We are taught that those who know do not say, and here I was in plain sight of anyone driving past the dojang. Never being one to hide, I continued.

Ten years have since passed, now I could not be prouder than to be observed in those same windows. Once embarrassed by my lack of ability to kick or jump high, or look cool doing fancy techniques, I now take pride in knowing that over 400 students have passed through the doors and I am still here.

Am I brainwashed? Perhaps, but I like to think of it as an addiction. I am addicted to training, going out on the floor each night and giving it all I've got. I'm addicted to pushing others to reach their potential, and encouraged by others to always strive to reach mine. I am addicted to sweat; it is the nectar of hard work. I'm addicted to pain, for it has become my closest friend, letting me know I am alive. I am proud to step out on floor each night and lead the class in warm up drills. When you see me smile or laugh it is because I am happy to see others who understand and are willing to make these same sacrifices. I am honored that when I am at a World Tang Soo Do function others refer to me as "Raver's Boy," because I know they respect Master Raver's values and teaching philosophy.

At last years Black Belt clinic Master Conrad referred to us Tang Soo Do students, as the "one-percenters," claiming that only one percent of society is willing to do what it takes to become a Black Belt. If you were fortunate enough to be at the Black Belt promotion on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, you had a chance to hear what the other ninety-nine percent won't hear unless they come inside our steam covered windows.

Each of the graduates spoke of others first before ever mentioning themselves. Thanking their families, instructors and fellow students. They talked of the changes Tang Soo Do has made in them and how their lives had improved since their start. By speaking of others first, they understand what Tang Soo Do at Pal Che is all about, putting others before themselves. This is not a cult at all but rather caring and generous. In today's society it is unusual, I believe this is the very thing that makes others uncomfortable to be around us.

Outsiders will never fully understand us and what we do. We try fruitlessly to explain it to them but we eventually get a look that we are boring them. Our families, patient as they are, act as though they are listening, but even they get tired of the same old stories and "had to be there jokes." They don't understand that our good-natured and sometimes harsh ribbing of one another is a sign of affection and respect. No different than other families, we can say it but you can't.

We have all run into that person who used to take karate and always wanted to come back but never had the time. If you were there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> you got to hear Adam describe the aching he felt as he watched classes from across the street. The desire burning in him to return. He knew what went on inside those windows and proved he had what it took to come back better than ever.

If you were there watching you would have seen the humbled yet proud look in John's eyes as he thanked others for helping him reach second degree. Having spent many nights after class with John, I know how much it means to him to train and teach at Pal Che.

Next was Karen, listening to her passionately describe her journey from beginner to black belt was like hearing a writer describe her inspiration for a great love story. It brought a tear to my eye.

Last was Phil, never one with words, he managed to say enough to make us all very proud of his accomplishments. He indeed has come a long way. I'd bet Phil, like myself, is also proud to be in the big windows on Chester Pike.

The bottom line is this. There are no secrets about what we do. We do not cast spells or perform magical tricks on our students. We do not meditate to hypnotic mantras. We train hard! That is it! We sweat, bleed, ache, and sometimes cry

together night after night. We have shared the births of our children and the deaths of our loved ones. We partied together at weddings and cried in our beers after breakups. Our group is not an exclusive one, but few are willing to pay the membership dues.

We are not a cult, nor are we clones of the way. We are a misfit band of one-percenters, all cutting individual paths to reach the same mountaintop.

**THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

**BLESSINGS COME FROM YOURSELF, AND SO DO CALAMITITES.**