

TANG SOO TIMES

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PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep 2 thru 4 - Dojang closed. Labor Day weekend.
Sep 9 - Regional Black Belt testing. Dojang closed.
Sept 18 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
Oct 13 to 15 - Region 8 Championships. No classes.
Oct 23 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.

MONDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

Sep 4 - No classes. Labor Day.
Sep 11 - Regular adult class.
Sep 18 - Gup test. No adult class.
Sep 25 - Black Belt class. Red belts and above.

MASTER'S CORNER

It's September! School is starting. Fall is just around the corner. An entire cycle will soon be completed. It's September. To karate people, and to Tang Soo Do stylists in particular, it is time for the fall cycle Dan testing. According to the Dan Manual, it is the end of one life cycle and the beginning of the next. Although students do the actual testing for promotion, to an instructor this is the time for his test. He is being tested to determine if he has performed his job of preparing his students for this important step. If the instructor is successful and his students pass the test, they enter a new stage of training. No longer does the instructor hold their hand as they move along the learning cycle. From now on they must seek out knowledge and pass it along to classmates. Their training is something they must do by and for themselves. Tests come few and far between. However, they must always be ready. They are students, they are teachers, they are Black Belts, they are warriors! As we send you four to do battle, we wish you Godspeed.

NEW STUDENTS

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

NICHOLAS SNYDER

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.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

This award will resume in September when all the children return from summer vacation.

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Phil Pollock submitted this article.

Some time back, I was given a prompt to discuss at the Dan Pre-test. I feel I left everybody hanging. My mind will often go blank if under what I feel is a good amount of pressure and this is just another thing that I have to work on. This, indeed, shows that Tang Soo Do is more than just a physical art and challenges the practitioner not only in body, but also in mind.

The topic given to me was "As soon as one thinks of himself as having humility, he has lost it." A person such as this expects reward or praise for all good deeds where as one with humility does not. A person with humility does not show off no matter what the event may be. The number one killer of black belts is ego and therefore it is essential to strive for humility but forget the fact that you are doing it. People who exhibit a certain quality do not go around saying they have it, otherwise it would not be true. One who is thought to be "nice" doesn't think that or they turn out to be less "nice" and more conceited. Of course, it is good to inspect your own achievements, but when it comes to dealing with humility one must be careful. Be able to state facts about yourself without exaggeration. Know what you can do and can not do, but do not get caught up in what you are good at too much or you will fail in your quest. As it is said, "There is always something that needs to be worked on." No one can ever escape this.

FEATURE ARTICLE

This is an open letter to the students testing for promotion in the September cycle Dan test to be held Saturday Sept 9.

We have four students testing for either the Black Belt or for advanced rank at the testing cycle in September. We could have had more, but their time is not here yet. Their time will come, just as surely as the sun will rise and the seasons change. For the students testing, this will be a very emotional time for them. Years spent with one goal in mind has finally come to fruition. It is truly the end of one cycle and the beginning of another. To an instructor it too is an emotional time. He sees these students as a parent sees a child. As white belts they were little children and the instructor has seen them grow and mature into young adults. It is now like watching the child leave home.

Do not be mistaken. Reaching the level of Cho Dan (1st

degree) just means that you have finally learned all the basic techniques of Tang Soo Do. You can now spend the rest of your life trying to perfect them. As a Cho Dan you will learn one empty hand form and one bong form. It will take you about three years to be ready to test for E Dan. There is much more than memorizing a hyung to be ready for that step. For you two testing for E Dan (2nd degree) you will learn two empty hand forms and one weapon form in the 4 years it will take you to be ready to test for Sam Dan.

I'm not telling you this to be mean or to break your spirit, but rather to let you know that there is so much more to being a Black Belt than just wearing one. I'll be able to teach you all the forms you need to know to be promoted in just one week, however, it will take you several years to really "learn" them. I know your goal at this point is to become a Master. The night I received my Black Belt along with three others, one of the people receiving their Black Belt stood there and said his goal was to become a Master. He quit before making E Dan. This testing cycle has the highest ratio of E Dan candidates to Cho Dan candidates in the history of our Association - 40%. That is: 4 E Dan candidates for every 10 Cho Dan candidates. Normally it is 10 to 15%. The drop out rate is high. Tang Soo Do is something you can do for the rest of your life. Don't stop now.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

THE MARTIAL WAY IS A DISCIPLINE DEVOTED TO THE PERFECTION OF CHARACTER, NOT THE COLLECTION OF PRIZES. BEWARE OF RANK; TRAIN TO ACHIEVE PERSONAL EXCELLENCE, NOT CERTIFICATES AND BELTS. ALL SYSTEMS ARE ARTIFICIAL. THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE MARTIAL WAY.

2000 UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 9 - Black Belt test. No classes.

Sep 18 - Gup Test at Dojang. No adult class.

Oct 13 to 15 - Region 8 Championships. No classes.

Oct 23 - Gup Test at Dojang. No adult class.

Nov 20 - Gup Test at Dojang. No adult class.

Dec 18 - Gup Test at Dojang. No adult class.