

Revisiting An Ancient Education Method

By Master Guy Edward Larke

Higher education has been a part of nearly civilization throughout most of human history. Every era has seen new and more revolutionary advances in how to better oneself and one's neighbors. Now we are in the so-called Information Age. All negativity aside this has got to be one of the most exciting times in history in terms of the gathering and distribution in our existence on this planet.

Despite high speed internet connections, Black Berries, and internet universities, the most effective learning tool arguable is the spoken word. Whether you think of CNN, William Shakespeare's works or the bards of Medieval Europe, information being shared by word of mouth is universal and as old as the history of humankind itself. Seminars are a reinvention of the oldest and still relevant methods of using this form of communication. Basically they are synthesis of lectures, hands-on workshops and networking.

Now to say that all seminars are life changing would be a gross over exaggeration. Some poorly managed ones are riddled with poor management, overblown egos and poor planning in general. Even though they are the minority, the bad ones seem to overshadow the good. For the most part however, seminars are informative, entertaining, thought provoking, safe and overall a positive experience shared by all. In short what the martial arts are all about. Besides to be successful in your chosen field you have to continually educate and upgrade your skills. Doing any less, you will fall behind as if you were a computer programmer still running Windows 98 on your computer.

Saying all that I would like to point to one of the more successful seminar hosts in North America. To those who have read the last few issues of this periodical the name Robert Ott is not a mystery. His passion, tragedies and insights have been the subject of more than a few articles. Like you and I he attended countless seminars in the arts (250 +). He got to experience the good, the bad, and ugly that surrounded him.

That fueled him with a passion to provide what he always wanted in an event. His most famous one to now, was his first Super Summer International Korean Martial Arts Seminar in 2009. He considered every possible angle of the seminar. Details such as the location, transportation, appropriate meals, accommodations, quality instructors, and entertainment were arranged far in advance. As any other industry professional would do he tried to make the second bigger and better using the learning curve. The upcoming third event is a culmination of all his and his fellow masters' experiences (both failures and successes).

The carefully chosen location is next to Summit Lake in the Northwest part of this country. Not only is the air clean so are the surroundings allowing extracurricular activities such as swimming, Wave runners, ATV rides, BBQ fire pits and hiking.

The carefully selected instructors include Chief Master Ott, Sin Moo Hapkido Grandmaster Kenneth P. Mac Kenzie, Kong Shin Bup Grandmaster Rudy Timmerman, Chief Master John L. Godwin (Tang Soo Do

and Hapkido), Chief Master Kevin Janisse (Kong Shin Bup), Taekgyeon master and champion Master Yang Jae-Sik, Tae Sool Won founder Grandmaster Troy Trudeau, and myself. The presentations and classes will cover every feasible aspect of the Korean martial arts.

Another important factor for everyone these days is the economy. As mentioned previously no one can single handedly destroy inflation, drop fossil fuel costs or fix unemployment. Everyone is feeling the pinch it seems. Master Ott understands that just as well as you and I. Although he can't fix airline costs he enlisted two well respected travel agents (one in the U.S. and one in Canada) to minimize costs in that regard. Another step he made was keeping the costs for attendance low and allowing discounts for early reservations. Allowing for that almost assuredly increases the possibility of a high attendance. In addition he is famous for always making sure all attendees leave with magazines and other mementos of the event. This upcoming one will be no different.

In this issue contains details of the upcoming event this August.

Is Chief Master Robert Ott's seminar a worthy example of a successful seminar? Is it all what it's cracked up to be? There's only one way to know for sure... and in saying that I hope to see you there!