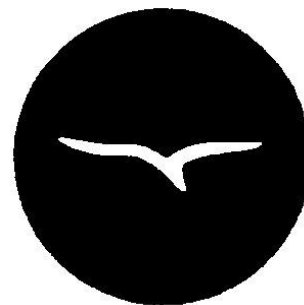




INTERNATIONAL KOJOSHO KARATE FEDERATION



Fall Camp 2026 Theme :: *Deer Enters Heaven*

Volume XXXXIII N2

IKKF Newsletter

Fall 2026

DEER POWER

At first, it seemed bizarre to me that a crane could fight a tiger. At the time, more than 50 years ago, Mr. Absher explained that it was only a “little tiger.” The next two forms, a snake fighting a hawk, were, by comparison, easy to see. But what I really came to love was the dragon, clanking around in his reptilian armor, ready to strike high, riding the wind, or coming up from the floor, hands and legs scissoring, meting out justice. It was hard for me to see the deer as anything more than a cardboard cutout, a kind of a walk-on, someone lined up by a cheap promoter so the champ could show his stuff at small-town fairs across the country.

I mean – a **deer**, fight a **dragon**?

Even after I came to see the animal in the form and marveled at the cleverness of the creation of it, its motion still seemed to be there merely to set the dragon up, kind of a ‘straight man’ in a comedy routine.

But my understanding changed after my mind grew puzzled that it was the deer who strikes first and drives the action with his front hooves when, in the section we used to call ‘dueling dragons’, the two creatures spin with their backs to each other, clash, and bounce off the clash to face each other again. There they are, eyeball to eyeball, so, why doesn’t the dragon attack? Instead, it’s the deer to whom the form assigns the next aggressive move, expressed as a punch. I couldn’t get over it. The deer was forcing the

action. The mighty dragon was in danger. It wasn’t a superior turning he did, it was a get-the-heck-out-of-there, my-life-in-danger pivot. And why would that be?

Puzzling that, it was hard not to notice that it is the deer who responds with a thrusting knife hand when the two creatures spin on each other earlier in the form, and it is the deer who opens the form, attacking.

Without belaboring this, it began to look as though every time the creatures spun, the deer emerged on the offensive. The dragon had his way only when he could force a straight-line attack on the deer. The dragon had to disrupt the deer’s spin to succeed.

It goes almost without saying that this is one person’s opinion. But if you examine the basic motion of the two animals, you see that while the dragon, like a good night watchman, spins by performing a series of checks as it goes, the deer just wants out. It’s not waiting around. It’s out of there. If you get hit by its hooves as it spins, driven by hundreds of pounds of weight, it’s your problem. So, the deer enters the circle more freely. As others have said, it is the circle, while the dragon merely walks it. So, the deer completes its turns by a whisker earlier than the dragon. The next move, almost invariably, belongs to the deer.

Check it out.

(reprinted and edited from the original 2004 newsletter article) -Mr. Neal Singer

國際古城松空手道連盟

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This is the 43rd consecutive year of publication of the IKKF Newsletter.

If you would like to have your article, book or movie review, or personal experience regarding the IKKF, the Kojosho Shinkokai, or any other traditional Martial Art considered for publication please send a copy of your manuscript to the Newsletter Editor at the address below or email to KJS.NL.editor@gmail.com.

You may contact any IKKF affiliated school or individual in any country through the IKKF World Headquarters. Enclose your correspondence to the school or individual you wish to contact in an envelope addressed to:

(Name of School or Individual); C/O IKKF Headquarters;
PO BOX 688; TIJERAS, NM USA 87059

THE INTERNATIONAL KOJOSHO
KARATE FEDERATION is on the World Wide Web at
<http://www.kojosho.com>

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Editor: Geoffrey Comber
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To Fellow Kojosho Karate Students,

Welcome to Kojosho Fall Camp. The Board of Regents (BoR) is happy to have all of you here in La Junta, CO for the weekend. The BoR is continuing to serve the Chief Instructor, Mr. Fredric Absher, to facilitate operation of the IKKF system. Mr. and Mrs. Absher are doing well in Florida and keeping up with each school's progress. 2026 was the year of the Deer for us and this camp closes that journey with Dragon meeting the Deer in our two-man form.

Take time during camp to meet folks that you don't know, including some of the folks that have traveled to La Junta from other locations. Many of these folks work out with smaller groups or even alone. Working a form or two-man form with them during a break might be fun for both of you.

The black and brown belt evaluations continue to be held every January and July. Jan. 2 is the next date for evaluations and testing, a great way to start the new year. Remember to talk with your instructor to see if you are ready to be evaluated. If you plan to come, please let the BoR know so we can be ready.

We have updated the Kojosho web site, kojosho.com. We have brought it up to date with new wall-paper and cleaner interfaces. With this new look, we should be able to keep it up to date moving forward. It will continue to have a calendar of events, history, black belt listings, and school information. We hope to start using an access-only section for getting instructor information available to our teachers across the world (still to come). Give it a look.

Don't forget to support your local school by paying dues on time. These schools are not big businesses and need everyone's support to make ends meet. The Black Belt fee of \$100/year is required yearly to stay in "good standing" with the system. It helps keep the system functioning and moving forward.

Finally, we are trying to communicate with folks as much as possible. If there is something you want to know, have a question about, or want to suggest, let me know. I enjoy talking to all students of all ranks.

Thank you,
Joseph Paranto
President, IKKF Board of Regents

Evaluations and Promotions

Belt, or rank, evaluations and promotions are an element of modern-day martial arts. The last 50 years of development has found us with colored belts, brown belts and black belts. It is assumed that new students need more feedback, more often, than senior students. Therefore, colored belt evaluations and promotions come quicker than brown belt and much quicker than black belt. The hope is that by brown, and certainly by black belt, students have decided to make karate become part of them and their personal routine. They start to learn that they are in class to make themselves better, learn new techniques, and build more confidence in what they are capable of. The desire of the teacher is that the student allows evaluations and promotions to happen as they need to, but they know that if a promotion is made, it is simply of mile marker along a very long road.

Many of us have grown up with “Testing” as the term to describe that ominous day where we show everything we know to our teachers or Board of Regents (BoR) members. The Kojosho system has been trying to move toward calling our periodic reviews, “Evaluations” to better describe the events as a time to evaluate where each student is in their progress. Yes, it is a test, but it is also a chance to get feedback on where your study is and if you are ready for a promotion. This is one reason we encourage students to attend any time they can.

Kojosho promotions are always decided by the instructor and, at senior ranks, by the BoR. The role the student has in that decision is what they bring to their classes and evaluations. The attention of the evaluators will focus on their attitude, abilities, attendance, and how serious they

are about their karate.

This is true with colored belts, brown belts and black belts. Students should never suggest to their instructor that they expect to be promoted. The instructor and BoR will determine where the student is in their studies and whether a promotion is warranted. Many things are thought through when it comes to promotions:

- Has the student been coming to class regularly, on time, and with a good attitude?
- Has the student kept their class dues or black belt dues paid?
- Has the student taken advantage of other learning opportunities (seminars, camps, one-on-one sessions with senior students)?
- Has the student been in their current rank the minimum time or longer?
- Has the student shown significant growth in their ability to warrant the higher rank?
- Has the student learned the techniques, forms and movements needed for the higher rank?

These things are thought through by the instructor and BoR each time an evaluation or promotion opportunity comes up. Students are not forgotten. No need to remind us of where you are. We always appreciate a student the asks, “What are the things that I need to work on to be ready for my next evaluation?”. Decide where you want to take your skills and capabilities. The promotions will come when they are supposed to.

-From the Board

PROMOTIONS

The Board would like to congratulate each of the following students on their accomplishments.

Senior Belt Promotions July 2026

5th Dan
Gabriele Cai Reil

1st Kyu
Bronwen Link
Linda Kalish

2nd Kyu
Rebecca Bulgrin
Aryn White
Hadwyn Link

Colored Belt Testing

Portland – Lewis & Clark School
No Promotions

Clayton – Garden School – 7 Aug 2026

Andrew Vandiver	3rd Kyu Brown
Nicole Sanguenza	3rd Kyu Brown
Faith Reif	4th Kyu Purple
Yuan Sanguenza	4th Kyu Purple
Elizabeth Reif	4th Kyu Purple
Bo Scott	5th Kyu Blue
Johnna Scott	6th Kyu Green

Colorado – Deer Dojo – 9 May 2026

Tommy Martinez	Jr. Brown with White Stripe
Koliah Trujillo	Jr. 4th Kyu Purple
Greyson Ridgwell	Jr. 4th Kyu Purple
Leia Ridgwell	Jr. 4th Kyu Purple with White Stripe
Jake Proctor	Jr. 4th Kyu Purple with White Stripe
Jasper Duskin	Jr. 5th Kyu Blue
Isaac Martinez	Jr. 5th Kyu Blue
Jimmy Goodrich	Jr. 5th Kyu Blue with Black Stripe
Azlynn Mills	Jr. 5th Kyu Blue with Black Stripe
Brendon Dutton	Jr. 5th Kyu Blue with Black Stripe
Rani Goodrich	Jr. 5th Kyu Blue with White Stripe
Aspen Marlow	Jr. 5th Kyu Blue with White Stripe
Leonard Weiss	Jr. 5th Kyu Blue with White Stripe
Lily Kaufman	Jr. 6th Kyu Green
India Siefkas	Jr. 6th Kyu Green
Julian Quintero	Jr. 6th Kyu Green with Black Stripe
Tony Martinez	Jr. 6th Kyu Green with White Stripe
Jed Proctor	Jr. 6th Kyu Green with White Stripe

Kristin Langston	3rd Kyu Brown
Kohrin Trujillo	6th Kyu Green
Colton Scofield	6th Kyu Green
Sidney Cisneros	7th Kyu Yellow
Allie Ridgwell	7th Kyu Yellow

Colorado – Deer Dojo – 5 Sept 2026

Rachel Hernandez	3rd Kyu Brown
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Albuquerque – Moon School – 17 Jun 2026

Gabriel Weiss	4th Kyu Purple
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Albuquerque – Moon School – 30 Sep 2026

Ari Brichta	5th Kyu Blue
Cassandra Wilson	6th Kyu Green
Christopher Weiss	Jr. Brown/White with 3rd Red

**“It is not asked of us that we never fall.
It is asked of us that we always get up”**

Sixty Years Ago

A long, long time ago in a city far away... Well, not SO far away...

In 1966, Mr. Absher opened his first Dojo in Las Cruces, NM. It was a Tae Kwon Do school under Grandmaster Kim Soo and located at the New Mexico Mounted Patrol Building.

The New Mexico Mounted Patrol (NMMP) is an independent state law enforcement agency created in 1941. Despite the term “mounted” in the name, it is not an equestrian unit. Its job is to augment full-time staff of other agencies as requested by the Governor, State Police Chief or other local agencies.

Mr. Absher was asked by the NMMP to train their officers, so his first school opened up in the building. It turned out that one of the NMMP officers was the father-in-law of our own Mr. Grijalva and, so, he invited his son-in-law to join the training.

The school later moved to Church St. in Las Cruces. In addition to the move, the class structure started transitioning from Taekwondo to more Kojosho until by the late 1970's only Kojosho remained.

“The simplest is the most difficult to discharge superbly.”

Announcements

* **Annual Black Belt dues** are a part of the responsibility of being a Black Belt in all traditional systems. All Kojosho System Black Belts share this tradition. Kojosho Black Belt dues are quite modest compared to the amounts required in most other organizations. In recent years the income from these annual dues has been used to fund improvements at the IKKF World Headquarters, and to help support System tournaments and special classes.

* **All Black Belts please note that annual Black Belt dues for 2026 are now due.** Board of Regent Dues are also due for 2026. Dues can be sent to:

Mr. John Braly

4 Vista Montana Place, Placitas, NM 87043

* If you are looking for **locally available Karate gear** - weapons, uniforms, belts or other merchandise – David Erler, son of the late Ed Erler, maintains a selection of items. You can reach him at his westside dojo at (505) 898-1313.



Mixed (up) Martial Arts

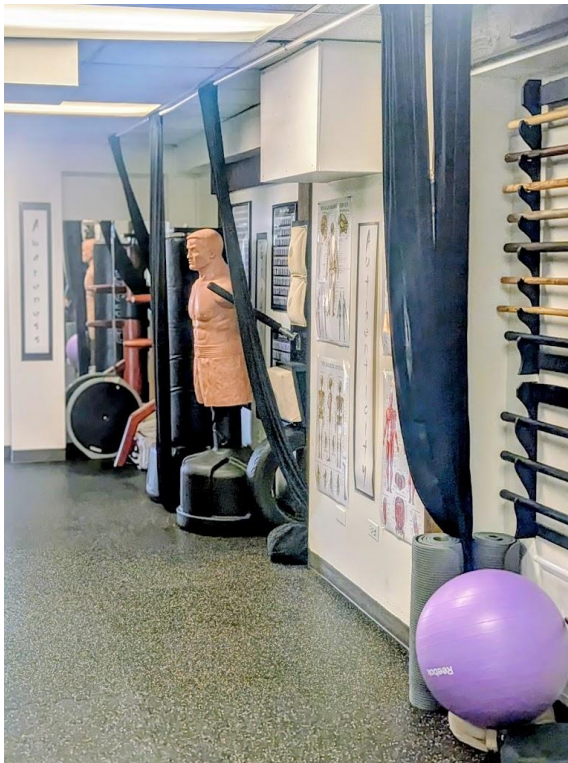
New Denver Dojo Getting Started

Allan Nolan recently opened a new Kojosho training space in Greenwood Village, Colorado, in the south Denver area, renting from an already-established Tai Chi school. The facility is located at 5650 Greenwood Plaza Blvd #100, providing a dedicated space for students in the surrounding communities to train and learn Kojosho.

His goal in establishing this space is to create a place where students can develop not only their martial arts skills, but also the confidence, discipline, knowledge, and character that are central to Kojosho. I especially want to introduce more people to the depth and practicality of our system while maintaining the traditions and philosophy that make Kojosho unique.

Allan reports, "Classes began in May, and I am working to build my first group of students. While it is still very much in its early stages, I am excited about the opportunities ahead and about introducing Kojosho to students who may not otherwise have access to our system. The response and interest so far have been encouraging, and I am continuing to focus on building a strong foundation rather than simply growing numbers."

Several of our Kojosho black belts have already been to the dojo to train, including Mr. Paranto and Rachelle Endean. If anyone is in the central Denver area and interested in coming by and working out, please reach out to Mr. Nolan. We all look forward to seeing where this new space goes and, hopefully, to introducing many new students to Kojosho in the years ahead.



- Mr. Allan Nolan

From the Lewis and Clark Campus School



small but mighty group completed a great West Coast camp in Portland in September. Karateka from Berkeley, CA and Albuquerque, NM joined the locals for 2 days of fun. Study included a deep dive in Dragon and Deer. Weather was great, no rain was seen.

- Mr. Joseph Paranto

From the Garden School

Testing went well. The students are all getting better. I am very pleased to see them progress more and more in their studies.

I am getting closer to finishing the remodeling of the building. A few of my students helped put up the load bearing support beam.

- Mr. Mateo Arguello



Kojosho Moon School Presents at Aki Matsuri

The Albuquerque Kojosho team supported the Aki Matsuri, Japanese Fall Festival on Sept. 27 at the New Mexico State Fairgrounds. This yearly, one-day event, has been part of Albuquerque for 40+ years. Its goal is to promote Japanese culture, heritage and customs with the community, as well as to offer the community a day of Japanese-inspired festivities. Kojosho was invited to provide a demonstration for the 3rd year in a row. The demonstration included Mr. Levin, Mr. Paranto, Mr. Link, Ms. Reil, Ms. Swann, Mr. Weiss, Mr. Brichta and Mr. Domingez. The team did a great job at showing the basic techniques, hard line kata and the Kojosho forms.

Other martial arts presented at the event included. Kyudo (Japanese Archery), AKKA Karate, and Shin-Budo Kai Aikido. The martial artists demonstrations were in between other artistic events including a couple of Taiko (Japanese drum) demonstrations. Mr. Paranto was the overall event Master of Ceremonies for one of the two stages at the event.

- Mr. Joseph Paranto

KOJOSHO SYSTEM CALENDAR

All events are at the Moon Dojo in Albuquerque unless otherwise noted

2026

Jan 10 Black and Brown Belt Evaluations
 Feb 21 Instructor's Seminar
 May 23-25 Spring Camp at Apple Valley, NM
 July 11 Black and Brown Belt Evaluations
 Sept 12 Instructor's Seminar
 Sept 19-20 "Left Coast" Fall Camp, Portland, OR
 Oct 10-11 Fall Camp in La Junta, CO

2027

Jan 2 Black and Brown Belt Evaluations
 Feb 20 Instructor's Seminar
 May 28-30 Spring Camp at Apple Valley, NM
 July 10 Black and Brown Belt Evaluations
 Sept 11 Instructor's Seminar
 Sept (TBD) "Left Coast" Fall Camp, Portland, OR
 Oct (TBD) Fall Camp in La Junta, CO

KOJOSHO CLASS SCHEDULES

Moon School	Mon/Wed	6:00-7:00	Beginners & Juniors	Hamilton Link
1813 Moon St NE	Mon/Wed	7:00-8:00	Intermediate and Advanced	Various Seniors
Albuquerque, NM				
(505) 607-9373	Fri	6:00-7:00	Sparring (all Ranks)	
	Sat	10:00-11:00	3 rd Person	
	Sat	9:00-12:00	Open	
Deer Dojo	Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs	4:45-5:30	Kids (4-5 & 6-7)	Nate and Cindi Trujillo
2222 San Juan Ave	Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs	5:30-6:15	Kids (8-10)	
La Junta, Co	Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs	6:15-7:00	Kids (11-12)	
(719) 469-4290	Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs	7:00-7:45	Beginners	
	Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs	7:45-8:30	Intermediate	
	Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs	8:30-9:00	Advanced	
Garden Dojo	Tues/Fri	5:30-6:30	Kids	Mateo Arguello
721 Baca St, Clayton, NM	Tues/Fri	6:30-7:30	Adults	
(575) 303-3016				
ENMU Ruidoso Kojosho	Tues/Thurs	5:00-6:00	Kids	Regina Lane
(575) 802-3996				
Roswell Kojosho	Mon/Wed	6:00-7:00	Mixed	Trey Nesselrodt
222 E 3 rd St, Roswell, NM	Contact ahead	TBD	TBD	
trey@nesselrodt.com				
Portland School	Mon/Fri	12:40-1:40	Beginners	Jim Proctor and John Knight
Lewis & Clark College				
(503) 422-9106				
Las Cruces Kojosho	Mon/Thurs	4:30-6:00	Mixed	Jack Diehl
jacknlori@q.com	Contact ahead	TBD	TBD	
Denver Bear Dojo	Tues/Thurs	5:30-6:30	Kids (10-12)	Allan Nolan
5650 Greenwood Plaza	Tues/Thurs	6:30-7:30	Teen/Adults	
Blvd #100				
beardojo@icloud.com				