

# 剣 Kenyu

Volume 13, number 4  
April 1999

## 友 DATEBOOK

1. May 2, Bellevue Junior Taikai, Sun, PNKF Board to follow.
2. May 2, PNKF Men's Team practice, Sun, 4 pm, Seattle.
3. May 7, Bel/Cas/Ren Monthly Jr Taikai, Bellevue, Fri, 7 pm.
4. May 8, PNKF Men's Team practice, Sat, 10 am, Nisei Vets.
5. May 14-15, PNKF Men's Team train trip to Obukan, Fri-Sat.
6. May 15, BCKF Junior Taikai, Steveston, Sat, 1 pm.
7. May 16, final tryout for PNKF Men's Team, Sun, 3 pm, Seattle.
8. May 19, PNKF Men's Team practice, Wed, 7-9 pm, UW.
9. May 28, PNKF Men's Team practice, Fri, 7-9 pm, Northwest.
10. May 29, TENTATIVE Women's Team practice with BCKF in Canada, Sat.
11. May 29-31, Michigan Rensei Seminar, Taikai and Shinsa, Sat, Sun, Detroit.
12. Jun 2, Bel/Cas/Ren Monthly Jr Taikai, Cascade, Wed, 7 pm.
13. Jun 10 thru 14 Fukuoka group visits Obukan, led by Shinohara Tsuchie  
Hanshi 8th Dan.  
Jun 11, Kendo practice, Tigard Jazzercise, Fri, 7 pm.  
Jun 12, Sat, 10-12 am, watch the Rose Parade with the Fukuoka Group  
3 pm, Kendo Enbu (Demonstration) Main Stage of Pepsi  
Festival Center at Waterfront Park  
Jun 13, 1st Obukan Rose Festival Kendo Taikai, Sun, 9 am, Multnomah  
Athletic Club, Portland.  
Taikai Format: Individual Rounds, Goodwill Team  
Kendo Keiko to follow Taikai, Sayonara party following.
14. Jun 19, PNKF Men's Team practice, Sat, 6-8 am, Seattle.
15. Jun 20, PNKF Board, Sun, 11:00 am.
16. Jun 22-27, Shin Ken Kai Dojo Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu Iaido Seminar,  
with Iwata Norikazu, Hanshi 8th Dan, and Terao Yoshiteru, 6th Dan,  
Steveson Martial Arts Centre, Richmond, B.C. Canadian \$60/Day, or  
\$200/Full Seminar
17. All of July, PNKF Men's Team practice every Saturday, 6-8 am, Seattle.
18. Jul 6, Bel/Cas/Ren Monthly Jr Taikai, Renton, Tue, 7:15 pm.
19. Jul 11, PNKF Board, Sun, 11:00 am.
20. End of July, send out for PNKF Board nominations.
21. Jul 25, AUSKF World Championship Team eliminations, Renton, Sun.
22. Jul 30-Aug 6, IKF Foreign Kendo Leaders' Seminar, Kitamoto, Japan.
23. Aug 6/7/8, US Championships, Las Vegas.
24. Aug 9, AUSKF Shinsa, 1st Kyu and up, Mon, Las Vegas.
25. Aug 15, Nisei Week Taikai, Sun, Los Angeles.
26. Aug 21, PNKF Iaido Seminar and Shinsa, Sat.
27. Aug 22, PNKF Kendo Shinsa, Sun, Spokane.
28. Sep 4-6, AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp, Tennessee STI, Memphis.
29. Sep 26, last meeting for current PNKF Board, 11 am, Sun, with  
PNKF Shinpan Seminar to follow.
30. Nov 13, PNKF Taikai, Sat, Renton.
31. Mar 21-27, 2000, 11WKC, Santa Clara, CA.

### 24th UW INVITATIONAL KENDO TOURNAMENT, April 10, 1999

#### Senior Non-Degree 0-4 Kyu

- 1st place - D. Soler, UW  
2nd place - A. Oki, Cascade  
3rd place - R. Tuttle, Meadowbrook  
3rd place - S. Yen, Seattle

#### Senior Non-Degree 1-3 Kyu

- 1st place - T. Swenson, Renton  
2nd place - T. Antush, Highline  
3rd place - G. Chan, UW  
3rd place - G. Ham, UW

#### Women's Open

1st place - W. Nakano, Steveston  
2nd place - M. Hayashi, Vancouver  
3rd place - A. Arsenault, Highline  
3rd place - E. Marsten, UW

#### Yudansha 1-3 Dan

1st place - T. Sasaki, Spokane  
2nd place - R. Barr, Bellevue  
3rd place - Y. Takemoto, Vancouver  
3rd place - N. Akitaya, Vancouver

#### Yudansha 4 Dan and Up

1st place - D. Taguchi, Sunrise\*  
2nd place - Y. Taguchi, Sunrise\*  
3rd place - B. McCarry, Highline  
3rd place - D. Anderson, Bellevue

#### Team

1st place - Bellevue  
2nd place - Sunrise

\*father and son match

Shoji Inspirational - Elisabeth Marsten and Jin Shin

FROM THE PNKF MEN'S TEAM COACH - The second and final round of eliminations for the PNKF Men's Team will be Sunday, May 16, at the Seattle Kendo Kai starting at 3 pm. It will be Round Robin, and the top seven will go to the US Championships in Las Vegas. Judges 4th Dan and up are needed to help with the eliminations.

BOOK REVIEW Several of our Japanese Ken-Yu have reacted very enthusiastically to the news that there is a new book available in English about Sakamoto Ryoma, RYOMA: LIFE OF A RENAISSANCE SAMURAI, by Romulus Hillsborough, San Francisco, Ridgeback Press, 1999. List price, \$40. One said to us "Ryoma and his friends had Samurai spirit with wisdom," and added, "I personally, love Ryoma Sakamoto. He is a real man!" Another wanted to share with us that in Japan, people can stay in the very old hotel in which the assassination of Ryoma took place. Ryoma looms large in the mythology of Japan's emergence into modernization. Many people believe that without him, Japan might not have kept its independence from foreign domination, and may have met the kind of colonial oppression suffered by some of the other Asian countries. He is also considered to be something like the father of the Japanese Navy, in that he was one of the early visionaries to realize that this island nation would need a modern fleet to defend itself and protect and promote commerce. Ryoma himself is such a romantic and exciting figure that it is simply fun to read about him, but then in addition he is so central to the main currents of his period that as his tale unfolds, one is also encountering many of the most influential personages of that era. Although Ryoma was passionate about the highest ideals and values, he was also the kind of warrior who plans on winning. He reminds one of the song, "I'm going down town with a razor and a gun... I'll cut him if he stands, and I'll shoot him if he runs." He felt his life had been saved by a Smith and Wesson revolver, so he added one to his customary equipment. Perhaps the single greatest influence on his life was his sister Otome, and unfortunately he had just given her his favorite pistol shortly before those assassins burst into his room (...to be continued). RYOMA is available through your favorite bookseller, such as Amazon.com, but readers of the KENYU may obtain it for a 15% discount with postage waived simply by contacting the publisher Ridgeback Press directly through the 1 (800) 832-6134 phone number. All they have to do is identify themselves as members of the PNKF.

THE LAST WORD Ryoma spent the night at an inn in the castletown. Early the next morning a young samurai came to escort the celebrated Tosa swordsman to the official martial arts training hall of Choshu. "Sakamoto-sensei, we've all been waiting to see a demonstration of your excellent swordsmanship," Kusaka's messenger said. Ryoma's reputation was still that of the distinguished former head of the Chiba Dojo. There was not a swordsman in all of Hagi Castletown who was not aware that Ryoma had defeated the esteemed Katsura Kogoro in a fencing match several years before. --Romulus Hillsborough, RYOMA: LIFE OF A RENAISSANCE SAMURAI.

KENYU - Monthly Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation

KENYU ONLINE - <http://weber.u.washington.edu/~kendo/kenyu.html>

Tom Bolling, Editor - 7318 23rd Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA 98115