



The Different Organizations of Shorin-Ryu

Matsubayashi-Ryu and Their Founders

This is the research paper written by Mike Barnes.

**For the beginning of my quest in learning the traditional style of Okinawan karate
and the requirements for my Shodan test.**

July 29, 2006

Table of Contents

Introduction

United States Matsubayashi Karate-Do Federation 1-4

Shorin-Ryu Karate USA 5-8

Shorin-Ryu Karate-Do Federation 9-12

Okinawan Shogen-Ryu Karate-Do 13-14

Shorin-Ryu Fifty Fifth Anniversary 15-16

World Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate-Do Association 17-24

Closing

Introduction



Well the time has finally come after almost four years of hard training and a lot of sweat for my shodan test. First of all I have to thank God for blessing me with fulfilling a dream and then my wife for all the many years of support and times away from home, and the many hours Renshi and all the other black belts and students who have helped me get to this point of becoming a black belt. As for the up and coming ranks they too will understand that this is not the end of karate but the beginning of many years to come in the understanding of the art of karate. I will have to tell you that doing this paper was not something I looked forward to do, I pushed it to the side many times, but after researching the different organizations and their founders I found myself enjoying the paper more than I had thought. Thanks for all of you help and dedication.

Domo Arigato Mike Barnes

**United States Matsubayashi-Ryu
Karate-Do Federation
Rita Ha Matsubayashi-Ryu**

In this section I will look into some of the back ground of Michael Ritter, the president of our federation, as well as Renshi Gaudoin's Sensei. Sensei Ritter quoted in an article in Karate Profiles Magazine, "I was pretty much a tough street kid and knew how to take care of myself yet martial art was something that he found great interest in." At the age of 12 Sensei Ritter's father signed him up for The National School of Self Defense in the Cincinnati area, Ritter loved the discipline as well as the challenge. James Wax was Sensei Ritter's first instructor at this school. Later as his interest grew in wanting to learn more he began to study in 1967 with Takayoshi Nagamine as well as Shoshin Nagamine. Studying with the Nagamines offered exposure to the elite system of karate. There were times when Takayoshi Nagamine would visit for weeks at a time. Ritter goes on to say, "I was very young and all I wanted to do was be at the dojo and train every moment I had." He wanted to make sure everything he did was up to the standard as well as the tradition of the things he had learned. In school, Ritter said the kids would tease him about being able to take a hit in football, little did they know, he had a 5 foot 2 Karate instructor waiting for him that day who was capable of taking his head off. In 1972, Ritter received his Shodan under Nagamine. Also in 1974, at the University of Cincinnati, Sensei Ritter started a karate continuing education course which became a U.C. accredited course in 1989. Because of his training, Sensei Ritter was very picky about developing capable instructors. During this time, karate was spreading widely and black belts were as easy to get as gumballs. Many traditions were being put to the side. Sensei Ritter believed in all white uniforms with one patch keeping with the Okinawan traditions. My understanding

is that karate was moving in the late 60's and 70's away from the basic traditions and techniques. Sensei Ritter says that real karate is kata and basics, from techniques represented in fighting. One may be able to fight with great speed but the beauty of karate is control and power that only comes from the constant practice of kata. Kata is the foundation as well as the root of the fundamentals of true karate.

The late 60's was becoming hard to find people to teach Matsubayashi so through the help of Takayoshi Nagamine; the World Shorin Ryu was started by Frank Grant. Sensei Ritter was part of this organization till 1986 when there was a falling out. This allowed an opportunity for Shihan Ritter to start his own organization. In 1986, Sensei Ritter went to Shoshin Nagamine and asked to start, The United States Matsubayashi Ryu Karate-Do Federation. After six months Soke granted Sensei Ritter permission to begin his organization. Sensei Ritter became the president and still is today.

Since 1986 Ritter has been president of Ohio AAU All Sports Committee as well as AAU Ohio Karate chairman. He has been on the AAU rules committee and is director of Region 6 karate. While tournament competition is a great learning tool, it's not what karate is about. Sensei Ritter believes it's more about parental support, the kids having fun, and meeting new friends. A lot of times parents want to live out their own dreams in their children and push them to win medals, but this should not be the goal. Sensei Ritter goes on to say, "karate is much more about discipline, respect, and building ones own self esteem. Students of all ages and backgrounds scrub the dojo floor, wear white uniforms representing purity, and seek time to work on and improve themselves. Martial means military and karate does have this type of structure. Some students come into the dojo and have problems offering respect to other students and others have a feeling of superiority.

These traits have no place in a traditional dojo. Ritter believes that if you spend time working on your self you will develop the ability to work with others.

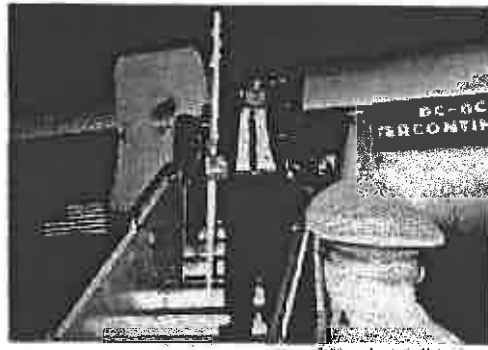
In 1978, Sensei Ritter met his wife Lynn, who started out as a white belt in his school and in 1980 they were married. Sensei Lynn Ritter holds today holds a fifth degree black belt. In 1993, Sensei Ritter opened Ritter's Family Martial Arts in Mason, Ohio; Sensei Ritter opened a second school in Lebanon, Ohio in 2000. Both schools are still in operation today.

To finish up my section on Shihan Michael Ritter I talked with him on the phone and asked him a list of questions some in which I have used already in this portion of my essay there for I will not repeat those. The first part of our talk was about some info for my black belt essay in which he was more than happy to take time to help me with. We talked a little to start out about the beginning of the organization and the problems he had before it came into play with the existing organization with Frank Grant. As I said this was not a great subject to go into, but no matter how the feelings were between the two, Shihan Ritter was respectful not to go into the dirt of the matter. The next question I asked was what makes our organization different for the other Matsubayashi organizations? Shihan replied by saying, "like many other organizations I believe ours to be as close to traditional as possible as well as having a direct line with Soke Takayoshi." He went on to say he has a close relationship with Soke Takayoshi in order keep a good Okinawan tie. Shihan Ritter has six good traditional clubs under his organization. My next question was, "were do you see our organization going in the future?" Shihan replied by saying he would like to spread Ritter Ha Matsubayashi, which I believe is some of his own techniques incorporated into our style. I know Renshi holds very close

to the original style but there are small changes that are made to improve the style. This, I think, is a good thing, since nothing is ever perfect in itself. Even the Grand Master changed things he had learned from his masters. Shihan Ritter also went on to say he is always looking to bring in new clubs into the organization. I asked Shihan what the role of president consist of. He laughed and replied by saying, “a full time job six days a week and as I get older I am finding the need to not do so many kick boxing classes.” In looking at his web page I discovered he is a very busy man, offering after school care as well as classes going on till nine or ten a o’clock at night. This involves a great deal of commitment as well as a love for karate. My next question was about his faith as well as the morals of the dojo. He said that he has a strong Christian faith and attends a Baptist church in his community. Shihan is quoted by saying, in karate profiles magazine, “I want to be the best example to my students. I don’t drink nor do my students. I had karate role models that I respected and I don’t want my students to see me act in inappropriate behavior.” I asked Shihan, “What do you enjoy out side of karate? Again a laugh, “Well I like to go out boating and spending time with the family on Sundays as well as riding my Harley Davison motor cycle. But doing what I do there’s not a lot of time left.” Seeing that I was talking with him on his only day off, I expressed my gratitude for him taking the time to talk with me. He said he enjoyed it also and would like it if I came up there to train with him at his school any time. This to me was a good example of what karate is all about. No matter how big you become in an organization you always have time to give of yourself whether it be teaching students or in my case helping me with my black belt paper.

*All information was found on Shihan Ritter’s home page rittermartialarts.com as well as our phone conversation and Karate Profiles Magazine.

Shorin-Ryu Karate USA



In this next section we will look at the start of Shorin-Ryu Karate USA with Ansei Ueshiro. Ansei Ueshiro was a direct blood descendent of the Okinawan “Bushi” class of warriors. His father, Anho Ueshiro, was his first teacher, along with Entasu Isaenta and Toguchi Seitoku. From these three teachers Ansei Ueshiro gained much of his karate knowledge which formed his strong foundation and love for the art of karate. Later he studied under Grand Master Shoshin Nagamine and was a great asset to his dojo even at such a young age. Eventually he became Chief Instructor at the main dojo in Naha. By request of Grand Master Nagamine he was asked to bring Karate to the United States.

On September 15, 1962 Ueshiro set foot on the main land of the United States when he arrived in the Alaskan territory of the U.S. He was one of the first oriental martial artists to bring karate to the U.S. Ueshiro was brought over by a special visa granted by the U.S. This special visa was obtained by the efforts of James Wax and his students in the United States.

James Wax was the first American to earn his black belt under Ueshiro in Okinawa while he was in military service with the United States Marines. After returning home he opened his first dojo in Dayton, Ohio. James was one of the first American students to help Hanshi Ueshiro get set up in the United States.

Coming to the United States was the easy part the hard part was his new way of life in a foreign land. Ueshiro faced many hardships but for him this was nothing new being a child in Okinawa during World War II, He watched his home land become destroyed during some very violent battles. During this time of war he was left with injuries that disfigured his hands. They were so bad many asked him to wear gloves to hide the scars. As we see too often in today's news coverage, many times the children suffer the consequences of these wars as did Ueshiro. This did not stop Ueshiro but made him more motivated to train harder and become stronger with his hands and body. He also became very well know among his people for his skills in bojutsu among. As I've read of the hardships many of the greats in their study of the art of karate it leaves me with the motivation to continue on no matter what curve balls life may throw at me.

One of the hardships Ueshiro faced in the U.S. was that he had to leave his family behind. But Ueshiro's family understood his love for the art and gave him their full support. Then there were the many other problems such as learning English as well as the American way of life which I'm sure was a lot different than the way he was he was brought up. Not long after his family joined him with here in the United States. Now there was the problem of supporting his family with what he made teaching karate. This hardship didn't stop Ueshiro; he became an entrepreneur in the import/export field. He also became a U.S citizen which was a great honor to all around him.

Master Ueshiro's character, hard work, and love for the tradition of Okinawan karate made him a success in the United States and built many dojos in the East and Midwest that are still a success today. Presently, there are over 100 Shorin-Ryu Karate dojos in the U.S which trace there way back to the roots of Ueshiro.

In great sadness Hanshi Ueshiro died of a stroke in May of 2002. But his teachings and traditions will continue through by those who were touched by his teachings. Robert Scaglione a student of his is a 10th- degree black belt in Cocoa Beach still teaching Hanshi Ueshiro legacy, like all of us learning Shorin-Ryu karate here in the U.S and abroad.

In my studies it has been neat to see how the greats of our style are linked together. For instance James Wax was Shihan Ritter's first karate instructor which I never knew. Even though all of us are part of different styles we are still linked together by the greats that started our love for the art of karate. I read in the forty year anniversary article that Hanshi Ueshiro's wife wrote on their web site that in honor of her husband a white gi was sown with black.



All information was found shorinryu.com

Shorin-Ryu Karate USA



Founded by Grand Master Ansei Ueshiro

Mission Statement

To propagate the art of Shorin-Ryu Karate USA, its kata and techniques, as handed down by our founder Grand Master Ansei Ueshiro.

To preserve and protect the history, traditions, methods and integrity of SRKUSA.

To develop students to their maximum potential in body, mind and spirit; through courtesy, propriety, self-discipline and the ecstasy of hard work fostered by our dojo - the sacred training halls - of Shorin-Ryu Karate USA."



The Shorin-Ryu Karate-Do- Federation Sensei Eihachi Ota

The study of the different styles of Matsubayashi organizations can not leave out one of karate's greats, Sensei Eihachi Ota. In the section, we will be looking at some history and teachings leading up to the start of The Shorin-Ryu Karate-Do Federation started by Sensei Ota. The SKKA was dedicated to the memory as well as the teaching of Grandmaster Shoshin Nagamine, Hanshi 10th degree black belt the founder of Matsubayashi Shorin-Ryu style. It was in Naha City, the capital of Okinawa, Sensei Ota was recognized for being so well versed in his high school karate club that he was asked to join Sensei Shima's private dojo and Sensei Nagamine. Sensei Ota was a typical boy in Okinawa, who enjoyed playing baseball and boxing at the local gyms. Much like us in America, who enjoy the same things but yet have a passion for the martial arts. After training with Shima and Nagamine at an early age, Sensei Ota had shown great commitment for training as well as a very aggressive form of street fighting much different than others taught in Okinawa. Ota was very soft spoken and used this as a tool to throw off his opponents as well as learning each person's weakness in order to defeat them. It was said that one night a senior instructor came to Sensei Ota's parent's house to ask him why he refused his rank of shodan only to find him in the cane fields in the pitch dark practicing his karate. When asked why he refused his rank he replied by saying it was not out of disrespect for his seniors or the dojo but he felt he had a desire to reach a higher potential. He also said the great thing about karate is that you can never reach

perfection that each goal you get to there is a harder one waiting to achieve. Also once a student feels he has reached his potential this is his first down fall in the art of learning karate. Sensei Ota goes on saying that a black belt is relatively easy to achieve, however most Okinawan's stop there.

Sensei Ota goes on to say one must continue to develop his skills even up in age, one is never too old to grow. His students have often said, "just look at the Grandmaster Nagamine at he age of 90. He never stopped his pursuit of karate and still was able to throw his students half his age down to the mat." Sensei Ota also told his students that the dojo was open 24 hours 7 days a week so there is never a reason not to train. Even when Ota was going to school to pursue an electronics degree in Tokyo, he used his five foot seven apartment as his dojo because he didn't have time to join a dojo between working to pay for college and studying. He practiced so hard the residents thought there was an earthquake out side. Karatemmen that knew him teased by saying it was safer to be in an earthquake than to spar against him.

In 1969, Sensei Ota left Okinawa and moved to the United States, he kept on training even though he had a motorcycle accident, telling his students if you get hurt on one side that gives you more time to train the other side. It was not until 1973 that Sensei Ota opened his first dojo in the U.S. It was said that he would train his students so hard they would have blood in their urine.

In 1975 Sensei Ota married his wife. She owned a Sake bar for fifteen years in the toughest section of central Los Angeles. Even the police said they felt safest in Sensei Ota's bar. There were times when someone would try to rob the bar even armed with a

gun and Sensei Ota was so fast they never had a chance.

Sensei Ota also teaches the traditional weapons and the importance of keeping them clean as well the respect for each one. He believes that this is a common ground between the different styles where they can come together because the techniques are the same.

Sensei Ota teaches the fastest way to beat your opponent is with quick multiple combinations and the use of distance. It was said that Sensei Ota was challenged to a life and death match by a Japanese kick boxer but after seeing Ota warm up with the use of his fast techniques and combinations thought it better to bow out and lose face than lose his life.

To this day Sensei Ota is known for his kumite skills as well as weapons, he has many members in his organization all over the world. He has also written books and made teaching videos. His kata's are the same as we study but like all styles there may be differences in teaching and performing techniques.

Here are the katas needed for testing in Sensei Ota's organization:

Beginner Level: (all color belts before Green)

1. basic
2. Fukyugata-ichi
3. Fukyugata-ni

Advanced Beginner Level: (Green belt up to 2nd kyu)

1. Pinan Sho-dan
2. Pinan Ni-dan
3. Pinan San-dan
4. Pinan Yon-dan
5. Pinan Go-dan
6. Naihanchi Sho-dan
7. Naihanchi Ni-dan
8. Ananku

Intermediate Kata's (1-kyu & Sho-dan)

1. **Naihanchi San-dan**
2. **Wanshu**
3. **Wankan**
4. **Rohai**

Advanced Level Katas (San-dan & Yan-dan)

1. **Goju-Shiho**
2. **Pasai**
3. **Kata Bunkai**
4. **Teaching ability**

Shihan Dai Kata's (Go-dan & up)

1. **Chinto**
2. **Kusanku**
3. **Teaching ability and bunkai for all 18 kata's**

Thanks to Sensei Ota's Web page where this information was taken and from the books and articles that made this info available.

- 1.Kata Fukiyu No, by Eihachi Ota. Karate Illustrated. july 1972. (sensei E. Ota)
- 2.The Kama: One Man's Life, by J. Nagel. Black Belt, July 1983.(sensei E. Ota)
- 3.history of the Okinawa in North America by The Okinawa Club of America.1970,(EIHACHI OTA, PAGE-546~549)
- 4.Ikken Hisatsu: To Stop the Opponent With One Blow, (By EIHACHI OTA , Michael Rovens and Mark Pollard, bugeisha 5.Traditional Martial Artist,Issue #3,Summer 97,(Eihachi Ota)
- 6.THE TONFA OF EIHACHI OTA (BY MICHAEL ROVENS AND MARK POLLARD) (Bugeisha Traditional Martial Artist, issue #5 Spring 98).
- 7.THE KAMA OKINAWAN'S DEADLIEST FARM TOOL.(BY:MICHAEL ROVENS).
- 8.(MARTIAL ARTS ILLUSTRATED, JUNE 1999)
- 9.TRADITIONAL KARATE(An Okinawan Pioneer Eihachi Ota). (Issue Vol,12 No. 4, December, 1998)
- 10. MILLENNIUM ISSUE:(JANUARY 2000 NO. K48341. (FROM: MARTIAL ARTS>).(OKINAWAN MASTER : EIHACHI OTA)
- 11. MASTERS of the japanese fighting arts (December 1999 issue No, k48341)(MARTIAL ARTS LEGENDS PRESENTS), ATRIBUTE TO THE PIONEERS AMERICA'S TRADITIONAL JAPANESE MARTIAL ARTS.
- 12. Martial Art : (A Man of ethics Shorin-ryu's) June 2003.
- As well as this home page shorin-ryu.com



Okinawan Shogen-Ryu Karate-Do Kensei Taba

This was one of the masters I wanted to know a lot more about but the information was one of the hardest to find. I still felt it important to touch base on what I could find out about Grandmaster Taba, as he is known by in his Shogen-Ryu organization. Like many of the organizations written in my black belt paper Taba was also one of Grandmaster Shoshin Nagamine's students, like many of the others, Taba played a big part of The World Shorin-Ryu Karate-Do Federation as Vice President when the Grandmaster was still alive. After Nagamine's death the organization had a power struggles as many organizations do after the death of a leader. Taba being a big part of Nagamine's organization felt he must move karate in a new direction and started Shogen-Ryu in 1997. In my research I found it interesting to find what Shogen-Ryu means. Sho means pine forest, used in respect for the Grandmaster. Gen means from the root of, probably meaning his learning karate from the very ones who started it. Ryu which has two meanings one is style and the other house. After many years of teaching in Okinawa Taba came to Dayton Ohio in February 2006 and started up his dojo called, "The School of Shogen-Ryu Karate-Do," as well as his organization promoting the Shogen-Ryu style. Now there are schools in the U.S as well as Canada and all over the world. Taba carries

many of the same traditions he learned from the Grandmaster but, like other organizations, techniques vary in the way they are taught. Taba's organization's website was still under construction but I was able to get some information from sites affiliated with Taba. So I hope the new up dated web site will share more information on his history. Schools in his organization still teach the 18 kata's as well as the seven yakusoku kumites. He also does not let anyone under 18 have a black belt. It would have been nice to go up north earlier this year to Taba's seminar to see him in person, this I'm sure would have helped me better understand his organization.

All information was found on shogenryu.com as well as other affiliated links.

**Fifty-Fifth Anniversary of the Shorin-Ryu Karate-Do Federation and celebration of
Grandmaster Shoshin Nagamine's eighty fifth birthday**

This is a summary an article from the Fifty-Fifth Anniversary of the Shorin- Ryu Karate-Do Federation and celebration of Grandmaster Shoshin Nagamine's eighty fifth birthday written by Tensei Taba on September 1st 1991. Karate as it is know throughout the world to men and women, young and old, not just as a unarmed fighting style, but also as a sport, An Okinawan culture that we can be proud to share with the world. The righteous forms in sports, mainly in martial arts are present in the idea of Shin-Gi-Iai (heart, art, and body).The concept of karate has been scientifically researched and developed throughout the years, but it has left out the most important aspect of karate the discipline of the Kokoro (the heart). The discipline of the heart can not be achieved in a day but through a life time of seeking it. We believe that Okinawan karate will help one to achieve Shin-Gi-IAI reasoning because the righteous karate of Okinawa is a martial art form that can be practiced whenever, wherever, with out respect to age or sex and even by oneself. An Okinawan proverb says "Kerama Ya Mishiga Matsugeya Miran" which means, we are more likely to over look something worth while that is close at hand. As the proverb teaches, the ideal aspect of this martial has been overlooked. However Nagamine's life from the time of seventeen until the age of eighty-five he sought to explore the aspect of Kokoro through hard training in karate as well as the doctrine of Zen. His motto has always been "Train till death halt one". It has been over 68 years since Mr. Nagamine started karate, and over 55 years since he decided to spread the impartial Shin-Gi-Iai of karate to Okinawa and the world. To commemorate his teachings

we have decided to bring the followers of Shorin-Ryu Karate together from all over the world to celebrate his eighty fifth birthday.

World Matsubayashi-Ryu (Shorin-Ryu) Karate-Do Association (TM).

World Matsubayashi-Ryu (Shorin-Ryu) Karate-Do Association .

The art of Matsubayashi-Ryu was founded in 1947 by my father, **Osensei Shoshin Nagamine** (1907–1997, see **short bio**). The WMKA was established by him to preserve and perpetuate the art. It has branches throughout the world (see **WMKA Dojo List** and **Membership Section**). As my father's successor, I have dedicated myself to preserving his teachings and the legacy of Matsubayashi-Ryu.



I hope that you enjoy your stay here. The strength of our art is measured by the hard work, character and commitment of our members.



Soke Takayoshi Nagamine

(nagamine@matsubayashi-ryu.com)

Naha, Okinawa

New York, USA



Order Official Portrait

The **World Matsubayashi-Ryu (Shorin-Ryu) Karate-Do Association (TM)** welcomes membership inquiries from Matsubayashi-Ryu dojo around the world. Correspondence regarding Matsubayashi-Ryu and/or membership in the WMKA may be sent to the following address:

- **World Matsubayashi-Ryu (Shorin-Ryu) Karate-Do Association Membership Office**

Fred Christian, Kyoshi, 7th dan

21 Windsor Drive

Belleville, Illinois 62223

tel: (618) 397-8747

e-mail: membership@matsubayashi-ryu.com

The page will answer some of the most commonly asked questions about WMKA membership. More complete details are available from the Membership Office. The information contained here is subject to change.

Fees: The current annual fee for membership is \$100 per dojo and branch (each dojo and branch receive a charter) and \$25 per dojo member. Each member receives a WMKA

Membership Card. Checks should be made payable to the WMKA. Dues must be paid for each dojo member, regardless of age or rank.

Dojo Head: The dojo head must hold at least the rank of 2nd dan. Dojo heads with a lower dan must usually be sponsored by a qualifying dojo owner. Dojo branches can also obtain licenses with proper sponsorship. The relationship between the WMKA and licensed dojo is direct.

Application Materials: An applicant should submit the following to the WMKA Membership Office: (1) a letter describing his or her Matsubayashi-Ryu training background and the operations of the dojo; (2) a list of dojo members, with name, rank and a specification of whether the student is an adult or child; (3) his or her latest dan certificate; and (4) such other information requested by the Membership Office. If the applicant's dan certificate was issued by someone other than Osensei Shoshin Nagamine or Soke Takayoshi Nagamine, arrangements should be made for an evaluation by Soke Takayoshi Nagamine or a senior designee. Outside ranking is not necessarily recognized. Upon approval of initial materials and qualifications, the applicant will enter into a Dojo Owner's Agreement with the WMKA setting forth the details of membership. Membership is not effective until the agreement is completed and accepted.

You are welcomed to submit very preliminary information using our form.

Membership: Belonging to the WMKA means belonging to the rich Nagamine lineage. Soke Nagamine has been actively reaching out to dojos that have become separated over the years and welcomes membership inquiries.

As Matsubayashi-Ryu students and teachers, it is our duty to help preserve and perpetuate the art. One of our responsibilities as WMKA members is learning and performing the 18 kata and 7 yakusoku kumite correctly. We must work hard to keep the kata as taught by Osensei Nagamine pure and unaltered. There is one and only one Matsubayashi-Ryu -- not several. Membership requires adherence to the WMKA's high technical standards.



Patch: WMKA members are authorized to wear the well-known Shorin-Ryu patch shown above. Please see the important **Patch Notice**.

Dan Certificates: Dan certificates are issued by Soke Takayoshi Nagamine to successful candidates who are WMKA members in good standing. Certificates are not issued to non-members. The minimum age for the rank of shodan is 16.

WMKA Dojo Listing: WMKA member dojos in good standing are also listed in the WMKA Dojo Listing at this website. The Dojo Listing is very helpful to people moving around the country or the world. It also helps to facilitate dojo visits.

We hope that you will consider WMKA membership, not because of what you can "get" but because of what you have to "offer" to the art of Matsubayashi-Ryu. Service to the art is a privilege as well as an obligation.

These are the listing for all the World Matsubayashi Associations

WMKA Dojo Headquarters

World Matsubayashi-Ryu (Shorin-Ryu) Karate-Do Association

Headquarters (World Honbu)

Soke Takayoshi Nagamine, Hanshi, 9th dan (nagamine@matsubayashi-ryu.com)

3-14-1 Kumoji

Naha City, Okinawa, Japan

WMKA Membership Office

Fred Christian, Kyoshi, 7th dan

21 Windsor Drive

Belleville, Illinois 62223

WMKA Business Office

Brian Strickler, 4th Dan

3860 E. Main St.

Columbus, Ohio 43213

WMKA Dojos of Argentina

Dojo Akamine

Shigehide Akamine, Kyoshi, 7th dan ([hfournier@fibertel.com.ar](mailto:hfourrier@fibertel.com.ar))

Rafaela 3177

1702 Ciudadela - Provincia de Buenos Aires

Republica Argentina

Dojo Arakaki

Seiko Arakaki, 5th dan

Murillo 724

1414 Buenos Aires

Republica Argentina

Dojo Higa

Horacio Higa, 5th dan
Av. Centenario 1160
1642 San Isidro - Provincia de Buenos Aires
Republica Argentina

Dojo Garcia

Juan Garcia, 3rd dan
Perito Moreno 2518
5500 Godoy Cruz - Provincia de Mendoza
Republica Argentina

WMKA Dojos of Australia**Okinawan Shorin-ryu Franklin-Dojo**

Darrell J Franklin, 3rd dan (lmbrook@ozemail.com.au)
9 Commerce Lane, P.O. Box 796
Taree N.S.W., Australia

Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate Assn of Australia

John Carlyle, 3rd dan (jcarlyle@tsn.cc)
18 Isabella Street
Wingham N.S.W., Australia 2429

WMKA Dojos of Canada**Anshin School of Karate**

Steve Trombley, 4th dan (steve@anshindojo.com)
1077 North Service Road, Unit 36
Mississauga, Ontario Canada L4Y 1A6

Japan**Kodokan Nagamine Karate Dojo**

Soke Takayoshi Nagamine, Hanshi, 9th dan (nagamine@matsubayashi-ryu.com)
3-14-1 Kumoji
Naha City, Okinawa, Japan

Kodokan-Makishi Dojo (Naha Branch)

Yasuharu Makishi, Kyoshi, 8th dan
Naha City, Okinawa, Japan

Kodokan-Taira Dojo (Urasoe Branch)

Yoshitaka Taira, Kyoshi, 8th dan
Naha City, Okinawa, Japan

Kodokan-Arakaki Dojo (Ozato Branch)

Toshimitsu Arakaki, Kyoshi, 7th dan
Naha City, Okinawa, Japan

Kodokan-Toma Dojo (Koza Branch)

Minoru Toma, Renshi, 6th dan
Okinawa City, Okinawa, Japan

Kodokan-Tome Dojo (Tamishiro-son Branch)

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All information was taken from Matsubayashi-ryu.com

In closing

I found it interesting to see the hard times many of the founders went through in order to bring karate to where it is today. Many faced war, poverty and even physical limitations. But this didn't stop them from living out their dreams. I know that their dreams are being fulfilled by the type of teaching I receive from each of you to get me where I am at today. It was also interesting to see that karate has some of the same attributes as government. When a major leader dies like Grandmaster Nagamine, there is a power struggle between key members in the organization that feel they needed to move karate in a new direction. It was also interesting to see how closely we are all woven together, kind of like Adam and Eve, all the founders trace back to the very beginning of karate.

My research was very limited in good information, but the internet sites were very helpful. I used only the official web sites in order to try and get correct information. Also I was happy to have been able to interview Shihan Ritter which was very helpful. I hope that you will find this paper as interesting as I have. My hopes are that I can help others reach there potential and pass on what I have learned.