



UPCOMING DATES:

♦ May

10th -



25th - Memorial Day
(dojo closed)

♦ June

6th - Dojo Beach Party
(see pg. 4)

21st -



22nd & 23rd - Testing/Promotions
(during class-time)

23rd - KK Testing

♦ July



4th - Independence Day
(Dojo Closed)

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facebook:

**Orlando
Okinawan
Shorin ryu
Karate-do**

The Shuri Gate

Okinawan Shorin-ryu Karate-do
3340 Curry Ford Road, Orlando, FL 32806
407-897-3642, OkinawanShorinRyu.com



May 2026

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are thrilled to announce the newest
members of our Black Belt family.

**Sensei Diamara Cheatwood &
Sensei Caleb Carver**

Also, several of our Black Belts have
recently earned their next level Dan ranks.

We are blessed to have
such dedicated students!



Sensei Mark Baird - 4th Dan
Sensei Krista Harvey - 4th Dan
Sensei Mike Castro - 2nd Dan



Sensei John Darin
6th Dan



Sensei Diamara Cheatwood - 1st Dan
Sensei Caleb Carver - 1st Dan

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

KinderKarate

Wylder Ross

Children's Class

Annabelle Wilkes

Adult Class

Reese Myers

Welcome New Students

Jude Hughes

Leo Hughes

Tom Hunt

Wylder Ross

Preston Hutchenson

Jeison Saleedo

Sheyla Saleedo

Finley Overton

Rocky Overton

Jakob Santos

Welcome Back

James Hague

Scott Ramsey

April Testing

KinderKarate Class

Wylde Ross white belt yellow tip
Jordan Dang Wong yellow stripe belt orange tip
Gavin Jacobson orange stripe belt
Ethan Ruiz orange stripe belt
Apaullo Hoffmann orange stripe belt blue tip
Gabriel Ruiz blue stripe belt



Children's Class

Sebastian DeSalvo white 3 tips
Jakob Santos white 3 tips
Jude Hughes yellow belt
Leo Hughes yellow belt
Miles Margio yellow 2 tips
Blair Raker yellow 2 tips
Riley McKinnon yellow 3 tips
Zachary Conser orange belt
Mia Margio orange belt
Reeve Stephens orange belt
Remi Spicer red belt
Elliot Boxley red 1 tip
Taylor Hardisty red 1 tip
Alexander Orsaeo red 1 tip
Nicholas Poulos red 1 tip
Michael Wilkes red 1 tip
Amelia Webster blue belt
Annabelle Wilkes blue 1 tip
Essex Dunham purple belt
Charleston Hayes purple belt
Harrison Hayes purple belt



Adult Class

Tom Hunt 8th kyu
Armi Talabong 6th kyu
Larkin Tribou 6th kyu
Bella Manzano 4th kyu
Reese Myers 4th kyu
Theon Spicer 4th kyu



Kudos to our Creative Global School students who excelled in their last promotions on April 16th, 2026!



*Support your dojo
by writing a
review on Yelp!*



The Tonfa / Tuifa by Harrison Hayes, Purple Belt

Are you familiar with the tonfa, or the tuifa as it is known in Okinawa? It is one of the five main kobudo weapons. The following essay is a brief summary of the tuifa's history, description, and current use.

It is difficult to pinpoint exactly where the tuifa originated. While some people believe it originally came from China, some believe it might have come from Indonesia. The weapon's Okinawan origin story is that it was a millstone handle. Many other martial artists think that it is simply a flail like the nunchaku. The tuifa or similar types of weapons can be traced back to many different cultures. It became an available and usable weapon after the Satsuma Clan conquered Okinawa and banned all weapons. The Okinawan people needed protection against the brutal samurai of the Satsuma. If an Okinawan citizen was caught carrying a weapon, it could easily be explained that it was a common tool.

A tuifa consists of three primary structural parts designed for close-quarters combat: the monouchi (main shaft/body), the tsuka (handle), and the tsuka gashira (knob/pommel). It is typically 15-20 inches long, with the handle placed about one-third down the length of the shaft. Traditionally, the tuifa was fashioned from hardwoods, most commonly red or white oak.

Tuifa katas, primarily found in Okinawan Kobudo, focus on using the handle for strikes, blocks, and spinning techniques. Some traditional katas include Hamahiga no Tonfa, Yaraguwa no Tonfa, and various styles of Tuifa Jutsu. These forms often use a pair of tuifa to mimic empty-hand techniques like ura-ken (back fist).

One of the best arguments for the usefulness of the tuifa is the fact that it's still around. Police all over the U.S. (especially in Los Angeles) utilize a single "night stick" called the PR 24. While Okinawans tended to use the tuifa pairs, the single baton has proved very effective for dealing with unpredictable criminal activity.

To sum it up, the tuifa as an ancient weapon that is credited to Okinawa for its popularization when traditional weapons were outlawed. Today, it is popular in karate dojos and in law enforcement worldwide. Learning to use the tuifa as a part of kobudo at our dojo has been a great compliment to my training and karate experience.

Kumite Tournament Winners February 24th, 2026

CHILDRENS CLASS

		1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
	Girls Novice	Mia Margio	Blair Raker	X
	Girls Advanced	Amelia Webster	Annabelle Wilkes	X
7-8 years	Boys Novice	Riley McKinnon	Zachary Conser	Leo Hughes
9+ years	Boys Novice	Jude Hughes	Reeve Stephens	X
7-8 years	Boys Advanced	Alex Orsaeo	Taylor Hardisty	Nicholas Poulos
9+ years	Boys Lower Advanced	Michael Wilkes	Elliot Boxley	X
9+ years	Boys Upper Advanced	Harrison Hayes	Essex Dunham	Charleston Hayes

ADULT CLASS

		1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
	Young Adult Adv. Girls	Lillian Dukes	Bella Manzano	X
	Adult Advanced Girls	Reese Myers	X	X
	Adult Advanced Boys	Caleb Carver	Irwin Firpo	Diego Lasanta

Birthdays

May

June

July

Taylor Hardisty	1st	Theon Spicer	4th	Alexander Orsaeo	5th
Sensei Diamara Cheatwood	11th	Reese Myers	9th	Sensei Conner Lion	7th
Sebastian DeSalvo	12th	Michael Wilkes	10th	Finley Overton	18th
Sensei Michael Barnes	20th	Garrison Hillyer	15th	Sensei Judd Cheatwood	24th
Shihan Geoffrey Gaudoin	21st	Preston Hutchenson	19th	Jude Hughes	29th
		Larkin Tribou	21st		
		Riley McKinnon	26th		

*"Each of you should use whatever gift
you have received to serve others."*

1 Peter 4 : 10



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Sensei Caleb Carver is graduating high school, Class of 2026.

His plan is to go into plumbing with his father.

Way to go, young man!

Sensei Jeremy West and his wife are proud to announce the arrival of their son, Nathaniel Theodore West, born April 1st, 2026.

Welcome to the world, little one!



Save the Date for our 2026 Annual BEACH PARTY!!

When: Saturday June 6th, 2026

Starts at 10:00AM

Where: Alan Shepard Park

299 E. Cocoa Beach Causeway

Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

Watch the dojo ledge for more information!