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May 2022- Important upcoming dates and info

Register by May 13th - USBA/WBA North American- Breaking and Forms Competition!

The USBA/WBA North American Breaking Championships will be May 22nd at the Naugatuck Events Center in Naugatuck. Not only will there be competition in Breaking, but new for this year there will be competition in Open Hand and Weapons Forms! There are divisions for all ages, ranks and genders. We would love to see some of our students show off their forms skills in addition to breaking. In Form Competition you will perform the form you choose and are judged on technique, intensity, and flow. See Master Serrano or Mrs. Serrano if you are interested in competing, registration forms are at the studio. Information can be found online at www.nabreaking.com. If you are not competing please do your best to come out and support Team ECTS!

Special Request for our Little Tigers class and first Kids class

We love our Little Tigers, but they can be easily distracted. Something as simple as someone coming in during their class can cause them to lose focus. With this in mind we would like to request the following. For all parents of the Little Tigers we welcome you to stay and watch, but please be prepared to stay in the seating area for their entire class so as not to take their focus away from the class. If you drop off your child please do your best to come right at 4:30 for pick up and not during the class. For our 4:40 Kids class we would ask that children arrive no earlier than 4:30 if possible. If for any reason students or parents need to enter the studio between 4-4:30 please be mindful of our Little Tigers while they are hard at work. Thank you in advance for your help.

Grandmaster Mel Hebert will be visiting our studio

Grandmaster Mel Hebert from CA will be visiting our studio on May 18th. GM Hebert is a first generation Black Belt under our style's late founder Grandmaster Rossi. GM Hebert was one of GM Rossi's first students and is currently the longest active practitioner in our style. He has also trained with some top names in the Martial Arts world, including World Champions and Olympic Gold Medalists. If you are an AFKTF member bring your log book so he can sign during his visit.

Our focus is more than kicking and punching

Here are our planned weekly themes for May:

Week 1- Self Control- Having control over one's actions, words and emotions.

Week 2- Citizenship- Being a responsible & productive part of your school, community, & country.

Week 3- Compassion- Kindness, caring, and a willingness to help or comfort others.

Week 4- Tolerance- Accepting the differences of others & celebrating the common ground we share.

Week 5- Cooperation- Working together toward a common goal.

Sparring weeks

We try to do sparring the 2nd and 4th full week of the month each month. This month sparring weeks will be May 9th and May 23rd. Please be sure to bring your sparring gear those weeks.

Leadership Team Training- Friday- May 6th, 4-5:30 pm

We will have a Leadership Team meeting/training on Friday, 5/6, 4-5:30 pm. All instructors and assistant instructors are required to attend. Please see Master Serrano if you cannot attend.

Upcoming Events and Special Classes

- **USBA/WBA North American Breaking Championships- Sunday, May 22, 2022- Naugatuck, CT-** Breaking and Forms Competition. Divisions for all ranks and genders. Registration forms available at the studio.
- **USBA/WBA World Breaking Championships at the US Open World Martial Arts Championships- Friday and Saturday, July 1st-3rd, 2022- Orlando FL-** This is one of the biggest competitions in the World. Martial Artists from around the globe compete in a variety of Martial Arts categories. For more information see Mr. or Mrs. Serrano.
- **Special Guest- GM Hebert from CA- Wednesday, 5/18-** GM Hebert will be teaching at some of the classes this day
- **Breaking and Forms practices for North American- 5/14- 1-2:30 pm, 5/15- 1-2:30 pm**

ECTS History- Grandmaster Joseph Rossi- 1919-11/5/1998

Grandmaster Joseph Rossi was born in Waterbury, CT in 1919. At age 15 he joined the local Boy's Club and took up boxing. Fighting under the name Joe Dundee, he became the "Middle Weight Champion" of Waterbury. In 1938, Mr. Rossi joined the US Army and quickly achieved the rank of Sergeant. In 1940 Mr. Rossi moved his military career to the US Navy.

During his military career Mr. Rossi continued boxing and became a "Fleet Champion" in the Navy. While on patrol August 9, 1942, the USS Vincennes (CA-44), the cruiser Mr. Rossi was stationed on, was sunk along with three other ships. Mr. Rossi was reassigned to the USS Hornet Carrier. Mr. Rossi then signed up for Special Forces training in Hawaii. This is where he met his Philippine Master. Out of the 295 men who signed up, only 69 graduated. Mr. Rossi was one of those men.

The intense training included jungle survival and hand-to-hand combat; in particular Kun Tao. He was the recipient of the WWII Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Area Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and the Purple Heart. Mr. Rossi continued his training throughout his military career and after.

In 1968, Grandmaster Rossi co-founded the Connecticut Martial Arts Federation with Grandmaster Harry Hamzy. Grandmaster Rossi was promoted to the rank of Grandmaster in April of 1983 by the Philippine Karate Association. At the time of his passing in 1998 he had certified a number of Black Belts as instructors in the art of Kun Tao. Before his passing, Mr. Rossi had instructed thousands of students and had approx. 20 affiliated studios which he instructed at regularly, was the U.S. representative of the Philippine Karate Association, and had founded the American Filipino Kun Tao Federation. One of his most famous sayings... "Zook 'um cuz".

