

Region 9's ninth annual Championship was hosted by Mr. John Costa's Costa's Tang Soo Do on the weekend of April 13 & 14, 2007 at the Quaker Farms School in Oxford, Connecticut. The weekend started on Friday night with the Demo competition. Four teams presented creativity demos: Northern Star Karate, Porco's Academy of Karate, Master Beaudoin's Academy of Karate and Haney's Academy of Karate. Master Hull's Northern Star Karate took first place with an impressive demo.

An all rank Gup clinic followed with Kwan Chang Nim leading forms, Master Efrain Valentin and Master Rachel Valentin presented a team based session, Mr. Costa lead an agility session



and Ms. Jennifer Couture-Macri taught a Kama Form.

Saturday morning all the Dan divisions competed starting promptly at 9 am with Ms. Debbie Berardi acting as MC. The rings ran very smoothly and soon we were busy judging the Gup rank's weapons competitions.

Opening ceremonies started promptly at noon followed by a brisk warm up and the Championship was officially begun. The Championship cups were returned by last year's winners and the 2007 Grand Champions announced.



2007 Region 9 Champions Left to Right: Adult Female: Lauren D'Amico, Senior Male: Ahmed Hernandez, Adult Male: Chris Perry, Grand Master Shin, Adult Female: Karin Roumanis, Teel Male: Jael Valentin, Teen Female: Lizbeth Torres

winners and the 2007 Grand Champions announced. This marks the second championship in a row that Mr. Hernandez won the Senior male division. Mr. Ben Haas, Scholarship Committee Chairman,

then announced Ms. Sarah Esty from J. C. Karate had been selected for this years Scholarship. Rank was presented to

Region 9's newest black belts from the Spring test along with advanced rank to our new E Dans and Sam Dans. Northern Star Karate then performed their winning creativity demo after which the rules were explained, legal and illegal techniques for the championship demonstrated, and the championship oath given.

The Gup competitions went very smoothly with Master Porco projecting ring assignments on the wall using an overhead projector as they were announced by the head table. This allowed the parents and students to easily see where they were supposed to be for their divisions,

eliminating much of the confusion sometimes seen at these large competitions. The judging was finished by about 4 pm and it was time for closing ceremonies.

We then adjourned to the Colonial Tavern Restaurant for our championship dinner. This year we had a PlayStation setup running "Dance, Dance, Revolution" a fast paced dancing based game which was a tremendous hit with our younger members. Grand Master Shin brought some copies of the DVD made of the 2006 World Championship, and after dinner an LCD projector was setup to play the DVD while everyone relaxed with dessert.

Grand Master Shin wasn't scheduled to leave until Sunday afternoon which allowed him time in the morning to conduct a Ki Gong class with the studio owners and high rank black belts. After about two hours of improving our Ki we had an affable lunch and then it was time for Kwang Chang Nim to leave for home. Due to a storm his flight was canceled, and Mr. Costa who was driving to Delaware that day drove him home.

Master Haney would like to thank everyone at Mr. Costa's school who worked very hard sponsoring this event, along with all the dan members who contributed and judged, and all the students who competed for making this a very successful regional championship.

Respectfully,
John Roumanis V.M.D.
Sam Dan