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Training with Soke

From July 9-13th TKFI sent over thirty competitors to compete in the USA Karate National Championships. Because there were competitors coming in from four of our domestic dojos, this tournament was an awesome experience to connect and compete as a team. Ranging from all ages and ranks, altogether TKFI competitors brought home thirty seven medals. Unfortunately for me I did not perform as well as I would have liked to at this event, and after the tournament was finished and I had returned home, the only thing I wanted to do was to get back to training. Therefore, I was thrilled when I heard that I would be able to make a weekend trip down to the Hombu Dojo. On Saturday morning Tony Shihan and his family, Marita Grover from Ichiban Karate, my fellow dojo-mate Joel Clark, and I all made the trip down to Grants Pass.

As soon as we arrived we received a very warm welcome and went right into training that lasted most of Saturday evening. Soke and his wife Ida graciously hosted us and let us stay the night so that we could be back at it Sunday morning. Training alongside those of us who traveled down, from the Hombu Dojo there was also Jim Sensei and a few students that could not miss this great opportunity to train. The training consisted mainly of kata, bunkai, and kumite drills. As it always is, training with Soke and other members of TKFI is an amazing experience that really shows the strength of our integrated organization. It is impossible to spend a weekend with Soke and not be affected in some way by his wisdom and vast understanding of karate. To train at a seminar like this, one must empty their figurative cup filled with all the ego and pride they possess in order to be filled with the great teachings that Soke and all the instructors of TKFI have to offer. As always, I left Grants Pass with new instructions and things to work on. All in all, this past weekend was a great opportunity to train with Soke along with students and teachers from different dojos and it really showed the collaboration that we truly have in TKFI.