



Kevin Colton loses a few fingers -- and saves his neck -- in the knife-to-knife drills during one of Bob McKean's realistic, "Knives in the Woods," seminars.

Bob McKean's combat knife course

Lessons in reality and camaraderie

By Robert Hodgkin and Kevin Colton

Imagine a knife museum: more than 200 weapons are on display, with everything from double edged, serrated edges, ice picks, scalpels, hatchets, razors, even shovels. OK, this is not your typical Danzan Ryu knife class!

Welcome to "Knives in the Woods," one of the best knife course trainings that we've ever experienced. We found out about this opportunity at last year's American Judo & Jujitsu Federation (AJJF) convention, when Sensei Bob McKean provided some brochures about the upcoming class. Always looking for opportunities to learn, spend time with friends (and play some war games), we decided to go for it.

Situated deep in the Northern Califor-

nia redwoods, this was an ideal setting for training. In spite of the two flights and a two hour drive, we were ready on Friday evening for some action! With 25 to 30 cohorts, we enjoyed a fascinating history of blades, their wide variety of uses, and how many creative ways there are to put a sharp edge to just about anything.

The next morning, decked out in army fatigues, elbow pads, knee pads, groin protectors and eye protectors, we began with basic cutting drills using live blades. We learned to cut both deeply to the bone and with efficiency of motion. Then it was on to working with partners and using training knives. We defended from reaches, punches and kicks. Then we defended against a single knife attack. We finally finished with knife to knife (both partners trying to cut each other and at the same

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Introductory classes can keep students in your dojo

By Nancy Bigham

Senseis: How often does this happen to you? You are teaching class, you are the only instructor there and a new person shows up who wants to join. The class ends up geared to the new person and the regular students get basics once again.

If you have the time and space, you might want to create an introductory class.

Matt Bigham and I are co-senseis of Kodai No Bushido Dojo in Santa Clara, California. When we first started our current dojo, we had a few kyu ranks and only one black belt on the mat most evenings. We found that when a new person started, we would pace the class around that person. As a result, the more senior students weren't getting what they needed. New students would often come to one or two classes and drop out. As sensei

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In Memorium

Prof. Jack Wheat

Feb. 23, 1919 - Oct. 20, 2004

By Daniel W. Saragosa

John Robert Wheat, known affectionately as Jack Wheat, passed away Oct. 20, 2004 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was born in Seattle on Feb. 23, 1919, and lived an active life.

Prof. Wheat was a pioneer as a deep sea diver with the U.S.



Jack Wheat

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