

Master Steve Rosbarsky, President-Elect, Montana Taekwondo Association

Greetings to all MTA Members:

It's been another busy and exciting year for the MTA. The following is a recap of the MTA's more recent accomplishments.

MTA Purchases New Mats

After many years of use at dozens, if not hundreds, of MTA-affiliated events and activities, the old mats were finally retired. A brand new set of mats – enough for four 8 meter by 8 meter rings – was purchased by the MTA in time for Master Saltz's Spring tournament in Bozeman.

For those of you who are not aware of it, the MTA is able to provide exceptional support and resources for tournaments, clinics, scrimmages, and other events and activities to members via what is essentially a "tournament in a box." The "tournament in a box" can be rented for a very low cost and is comprised of enough mats four 8 meter by 8 meter rings, 4 computers, 4 flat panel displays, and 4 complete RingMaster electronic scoring systems all contained in the MTA's trailer for easy transport to events anywhere across the State.

The MTA's ability to provide these resources that vastly improve the professionalism and safety of our events, is 100% due to the efforts and contributions of MTA members. The trailer made more journeys across the state in 2008 - 2009 than any year prior and this year looks to be even busier. Our goal is always to provide the best possible environment for Montana Taekwondo athletes, coaches, students, and instructors. We've accomplished a lot in this area and will continue to make strides as the MTA is able to enhance and upgrade the equipment we are able to make available to our members.

MTA Hosts USAT and AAU Qualifiers

As we have for the past number of years, in 2010 the MTA hosted a USAT State Qualifier in Bonner, MT. With athletes from as far away as Washington and Oregon in attendance, it was an outstanding event. The qualifier was followed by a competition clinic and sparring scrimmage, as well as a forms seminar led by MTA President Dan Williams.

For the third year in a row, the MTA will also be hosting an AAU District Championships/Qualifier. The event will be held in Kalispell, MT on Saturday, May 15. For registration materials and information, please go to the MTA web site at www.montanataekwondo.org or contact John Paul Noyes at info@bigskymartialarts.com.

The MTA offers these events to provide opportunities for our athletes beyond the local and State level, and to afford athletes with opportunities to represent Montana on the Regional and National stage. We currently have two U.S. National Champions from

Montana: Alan Bowman of Kalispell won the AAU adult middleweight Black Belt title in 2009, and 14-year-old Abbey Ardiana won the USA Taekwondo 18 to 32-year old featherweight Black Belt division at the 2009 USA Taekwondo National Championships. This is an unprecedented success for Montana athletes and the MTA will continue to do everything it can to help Montana athletes achieve further success.

MTA Hosts Kukkiwon (Black Belt) Examination

As we have done for the past four years, the MTA also hosted a Kukkiwon (Black Belt) exam in Kalispell in 2009, just prior to the Big Sky Martial Arts Championships. The examination board was comprised of Master Noyes (Big Sky Martial Arts), Master Scott Miranti (Big Sky Taekwondo), and Master Steve Rosbarsky (Missoula Taekwondo Center). Kukkiwon rank from 1st Poom (junior Black Belt) to 4th Dan were awarded at the exam. Congratulations to everyone who successfully participated in the exam.

MTA Provides Referee Training and Certification Seminars

The MTA offers its own referee training and certification program, which to date has certified nearly 120 referees and has even grown to extend beyond Montana's borders. In addition to numerous MTA Referee Training and Certification Seminars offered in concert with MTA-affiliated tournaments, the MTA also recently travelled to Powell, Wyoming to provide referee training.

The MTA will be hosting its annual Class A (trainers and certifiers) referee meeting and certification in Livingston on Friday, April 30th at 2 PM. This meeting is mandatory for all Class A referees. The Class A session will be followed by a Class C and B seminar (computer operators, corner judges, and center referees) starting at 6:00 PM.

MTA Referee Training and Certification is offered to provide Taekwondoists with Taekwondo refereeing skills as well as more in-depth and up to date Taekwondo competition knowledge and information. MTA Referee Training and Certification Seminars are open to all who might be interested, including parents. You don't have to be a Taekwondo athlete to get involved in refereeing at the local and state level. To host a seminar at your school or in support of your event, please contact the MTA and Referee Chair John Paul Noyes.

MTA Hosts Competition Clinics

In addition to the competitions clinics and scrimmages hosted in concert with the USAT and AAU Qualifiers, the MTA will be hosting a sparring clinic and seminar on Friday, April 30th in Belgrade, MT at Master Randy Quam's School. The seminar is being provided in concert with Master Dan William's tournament in Livingston the following day, and it will be led by Master Steve Rosbarsky.

MTA Hosts 2010 Montana State Championships

The MTA is also hosting its State Championships in Butte, MT on June 12th. The State Championships is the MTA's premier event and has featured more than 200 athletes at past events and hopes to break the 200 athlete barrier again this year. This year's

tournament will be hosted by Master Martin Martin and Butte Dae Myung Taekwondo and will take place at the MAC in Butte. As always, the event will feature forms and sparring, with the addition of a point style ring this year. Custom medals will be awarded to successful participants.

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The MTA continues to move forward, but we need YOUR support. To be a part of any of the events and activities listed above, you should be a current MTA member or an MTA registered school.

The benefits of a \$25 Individual Membership are:

- * Discounts on all MTA-affiliated tournaments, clinics, and seminars
- * Opportunities to attend all MTA clinics, seminars, and events
- * Access to MTA-hosted training, certifications, and Kukkiwon examinations (instructor approval required).

The benefits of a \$50 Club Membership are:

- * A position and vote on the MTA Board of Directors
- * Opportunities to help lead the MTA and the MTA Taekwondo community
- * Access to MTA equipment and resources (mats, scoring systems) at a low cost.
- * Right to recommend students and participation in MTA Kukiwon (Black Belt) Examinations

And a lot more...

To become a member, simply click the JOIN THE MTA ONLINE!!! Link on the MTA's web site. You can also fill out a hard-copy form (available on the MTA web site) and send it to Master John Paul Noyes at the address on the forms; however, we prefer that you register online if possible.

We look forward to your support in our endeavors to enhance the enhance the Taekwondo experience of all parents, athletes, coaches, students, and instructors in Montana. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions about the MTA or our programs.

Always Forward,

Master Steve Rosbarsky, President-Elect, Montana Taekwondo Association