

# Sensei Says

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Mark your calendar for the 10th Annual BMAI Coast Trip, which will be July 12-14. What started ten years ago as a day trip to train on the North Jetty and Devil's Triangle has become a tradition that keeps getting bigger and better year after year.

Last year we had 100 people camp out for two nights, and I hope we can top that number this year. The outdoor training experience is awesome, and the chance to spend a weekend enjoying each other is priceless.

If you are not much of a camper, this is a safe time for you to discover the outdoors. With 100 campers on the scene, you really don't need to worry about having forgotten anything. Whatever you need can doubtlessly be found in seconds within the depths of someone's backpack (or SUV). And you've never seen so many s'mores fixin's in your life!

Dennis Dallas, my senior and good friend, will be our special guest this year. Shihan Dallas will be arriving July 10 and staying with us through the weekend. Hopefully we can persuade him to share some of his 30+ years of experience with us while he is here. He is a master of karate, taekwondo, judo, and hapkido; and he has had a dojo in Helena, Montana for the past 20 years. His title is "Shihan" (literally meaning "example"), which is the Japanese title for "master."

A tradition that I seem to have unintentionally started a few years ago (besides the greased watermelon competition) is to teach a new kata at the campout. There are dozens of karate kata that are not part of our school's regular curriculum, and the coast trip is a good opportunity to expose my students to some of them. Over the past three years I have taught the kata Gekisai Daichi, Saifa, and Paipuren. I'm sure everyone has been practicing them daily and is ready for another!

This year I hope to teach a kata called Pachu. The kata has an intriguing history. Pachu belongs to the Ryuei-ryu style of Okinawan karate. Ryuei-ryu was practiced in secrecy from it's founding in the mid 1800's until the 1980's. It was a family style of karate, and for over 100 years few people outside the family were even allowed to see it. Fortunately for us, about 15 years ago it was decided to share it with outsiders in order to help keep the style alive. I learned the kata recently from Shihan John Sells, the only person authorized by the headmaster of Ryuei-ryu to teach the system's kata in the U.S.

I might not be "officially authorized" to teach the kata, but I think karate is far too beautiful to have a veil of secrecy thrown over it. It will be a pleasure to get to share a kata with you that has such a cherished tradition.

Hmmm...beautiful campground, good friends, guest instructor, a secret kata...that should be enough to make you want to go. I hope you can make it.

- Alan Best