

# Sensei Says

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With ten years of experience it is almost a given that our annual campout at the coast will end with everyone going home full of great memories. This year was no exception. Although attendance was down a bit (a mere 75 campers this year), the enjoyment level was in no way adversely affected. It seems all the dull people were the one's who stayed home this year!

Besides Shihan Dennis Dallas being our special guest, six of his students drove out from Helena, Montana to join us. They were a rowdy bunch and claim to have enjoyed themselves – they were laughing so loud we couldn't tell if they were having fun or not! The Montanans all promised to return next year, and I hope they bring more of their kind with them. As their teacher Shihan Dallas pointed out, "They didn't come all the way out here to not have fun!" An important lesson for all of us.

Another thing Shihan Dallas said to me was quite profound, "Why do you do this?"

I was frantically trying to get everything done before our noon departure for the coast. There was so much to remember to do!

Make sure I take care of Shihan... think of everything that anyone else might forget... make sure everyone has a ride, a pillow, a tent...

Oh, that's right, I haven't packed yet!

I calmly drive Shihan to the golf course for his 9:30 tee time; then I race home, drag out all my camping supplies, pack the car, and hustle back to pick him up at 11:00.

It was a very pleasant morning at Laurelwood, he pointed out. His game was very relaxed, and he played very well. (Three over par, if I remember correctly.)

He looks at his watch and sees I am five minutes late. "No problem, sir, we have plenty of time for you to go back to the house and shower before we leave at noon."

"Why do I do this?"

Actually, the coast trip seems to be getting too easy and just isn't enough of a challenge. So I am taking on an even more ambitious camp, and you are all invited!

On September 20 -22 Camp Lane will be all ours. It is a 15 acre campground with an old-fashioned lodge, industrial strength kitchen, basketball courts, baseball diamond, soccer field, horseshoes, tetherball, the Siuslaw River, "tree houses" for indoor sleeping – even hot showers. And it is only 45 minutes from Eugene! We will have a weekend of martial arts training and other fun activities for kids and adults.

"Why do I do this?"

So I won't have time to golf!

- Alan Best