

Samurai News from Honbu



EXTRA! EXTRA!

Oktoberfest!!!



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Shinkendo Seminar in Munich

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From September 24-26, 2004, the Shinkendo-Club Katana of Munich / Fuerstenfeldbruck hosted the first international seminar with Kaiso in Munich, Germany. Obata Sensei has been visiting Europe for 10 years now, so for this year, we invited him not only for the seminar, but for the Oktoberfest as well. The preparations for the seminar took several weeks. We received some financial support from Hans-Joachim Deuser Sensei (German chief instructor) before the seminar, and because of the high number of participants we were able to gratefully give it back after the seminar.

We did some sightseeing the days before the seminar started. The route led us to *Burghausen*, the largest castle in Europe, and afterwards to the salt-mine in Berchtesgaden. Obata Sensei tried the famous Bavarian white-sausage for the first time, and he liked it very much.



Nearly 70 Shinkendoka from all European Shinkendo-countries found their way to the training-hall in Oberweikertshofen, located in the beautiful countryside around 25 km to the northwest of Munich. No beginners attended the seminar, so Obata Sensei led us through a lot of intermediate to advanced tachi-uchi, Tanrengata and Toyama-ryu kata. Brent Hire Sensei once again assisted Obata Sensei not only as a translator but also did a good job as Obata Sensei's assistant-trainer.



On Friday afternoon Brent Sensei practiced tanto-jutsu with the students, while Obata Sensei introduced Nito-Ken to old Europe in a different training hall. It was fun (especially for Sensei), and we were as confused as the rest of the Shinkendo-world.

After we finished practice on Saturday, the local mayor surprised us with some free beer and pretzels. Everybody agreed that this should become standard in the future. The mayor handed over a traditional beer stein to Obata Sensei as a gift.



We would like to thank all of our old and new European friends and are looking forward to meeting them next year somewhere in Europe. And again, special thanks to Obata Sensei for this great seminar.

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