

HOUSTON WING CHUN ASSOCIATION: A SYNOPSIS

On Labor Day weekend in September, 1990, Kenneth Chung and several other renowned Wing Chun masters came to Houston, Texas, U.S.A. for a martial arts tournament that was being held in a local hotel. This tournament featured a special Wing Chun Masters' demonstration and a Chi-Sau competition.

Victor Hong, who had been studying Wing Chun in Houston, Texas, asked Humphrey Wong to attend the Wing Chun activities. The Wing Chun Masters' demonstration was held on Friday night. At this demonstration, Victor Hong, Humphrey Wong, and Doug Eibeck had the good fortune to meet Kenneth Chung personally. Also, at this time, Victor, Humphrey, and Doug had the opportunity to meet John Adams, one of Ken's students who was originally from the Houston area.

On Saturday morning, Victor Hong and Humphrey Wong sought Kenneth Chung again. Later, Doug met with Victor, Humphrey, and Ken. They spent much of Saturday discussing Wing Chun concepts. Ken's simple and open explanation and display of Wing Chun techniques were intriguing. On Saturday evening, Ken provided a post office box with which to contact him.

On Sunday morning, Victor and Humphrey sought Ken once again. Upon meeting, Ken announced that he had arranged for an impromptu 2 -3 hour Wing Chun mini-seminar in one of the hotel's smaller banquet rooms. Victor, Humphrey and about six other people attended this short workshop. On Sunday afternoon, Ken furnished a telephone number with which to contact him.

Ken departed to attend a martial arts' ceremonial dinner on Sunday evening. After the dinner, Victor and Humphrey met Ken again in the banquet room atrium. They talked in the banquet room atrium for about thirty minutes. At this point, Ken invited Humphrey, Victor and two other people to his hotel room to continue the conversation. Upon arriving in Ken's room, he privately instructed Humphrey and Victor on further Wing Chun techniques, which included the stance and proper punching skills, for about an hour and a half. Thereafter, Ken and Humphrey had an extensive discussion on Chinese history and philosophy. The discussion continued into the wee morning hours. By the time Humphrey and Victor left Ken's room, the hour was very late. An invitation was extended to Ken to return to Houston, Texas in the future. Ken departed Houston the next day.

The following week, an attempt was made to verbally contact Ken by telephone, but the number was a fax line. It was suggested that we contacted Ken by mail. Humphrey then wrote a letter in Chinese addressed to Ken's post office box. This was a letter written in a classic semi-formal format with sincere appreciation. Ken was deeply impressed by this correspondence. Soon, Ken replied with an email. Thereafter, Ken was invited to hold a Wing Chun seminar in Houston, Texas.

Ken accepted this invitation and held his first formal two-day Wing Chun seminar in Houston in January, 1991. About fifteen people attended this first seminar. The first seminar participants include Humphrey Wong, Victor Hong, Doug Eibeck, Dennis Garcia, Daniel Azcarate, and Dr. Marcial Bacani. This was the beginning of the Houston Wing Chun Association.

At first, the Houston Wing Chun Association met in Doug Eibeck's garage. Next, the association held meetings at a local Chinese cultural center. After a fire at the Chinese cultural center, the association used the recreational facilities in the city of Bellaire, Texas. Since then, the group moved to its current location at a Houston gymnastics facility.

The Houston, Texas Wing Chun Association possesses several unique qualities. The association continues to teach the original traditional and classic techniques that were passed down from Grandmaster Yip Man to Master Leung Sheung to Master Kenneth Chung. The association operates on a voluntary basis as a non-commercial, not-for-profit organization. The association offers classes twice a week. In the class, there is an emphasis on Chi-Sau training and free-style sparring in a controlled environment. The workshop has evolved into a quarterly workshop program with Kenneth Chung. The quarterly workshop program emphasizes a philosophy of continuous work-in-progress in conjunction with Ken and the association..

The Houston Wing Chun Association sincerely appreciates Kenneth Chung's deep dedication and liberated generosity to the art of Wing Chun. In spite of his grueling schedule and the inconveniences involved, Ken is exceptionally patient and detail-oriented in his Wing Chun teachings. Occasionally, to mold his students Ken has used humorous analogies to promote a conducive learning environment. Often, he has used exaggerated movements to demonstrate the proper execution of techniques. Overall, Ken has permanently imprinted his superior Wing Chun skills onto the members of the Houston Wing Chun Association. Kenneth Chung's dedication and generosity exemplify the highest level of the art of Wing Chun. We, the Houston Wing Chun Association, are thankful for the honor of knowing this exemplary individual.