



## Montreal Ninjutsu Gasshuku 2008 10th anniversary

This three-day seminar was held in the countryside of Montreal on a 32 acre location with cottages and a main building. The theme for the *Gasshuku* was the *jutte*. *Ju* (+) is also the number 10 in Japanese and *te* hands. Therefore it was perfect for the 10 annual gathering.



All the *jutte* were handmade by M. Khan Rooney and in collaboration with the Stewart Museum of Montreal. Each participant received gifts for their participation: a *jutte*, t-shirt, scroll with a *gokui* of the *juppo sessho no jutsu* and red wine during the Saturday night DVD lecture on the history of the *jutte*.



Sixty-Five *Bujinkan* practitioners from around the world gathered at this event. People came from Paris France, New York USA, Portland Maine USA, Costa Rica, Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa and Toronto. Making it a memorable event for a seminar that has not been open to the general public.



The *juttejutsu waza* and *kenjutsu waza* were shown by a surprise guest, my *Sensei*. It was a jaw dropping surprise, I never expected him to be there! A real *ninja*, MERCI BEAUCOUP. Many thanks to my students for working in the shadows to make it all happen.



On the Saturday night ranks were awarded to Alex, Jacques, Jon and Patrice to *nidan* after 8 to 11 years of practice with me. And to Franck after 18 years of faithful practice in the *Bujinkan* he has all my support to go for the *sakki* test with *Soke Hatsumi* on our next trip to Japan in early 2009.

Congratulations to all, now *KEIKO KEIKO KEIKO*.

Special medals and awards were also presented to friends of mine for their support in the last decade in both the *dojo* and the *gasshuku*. Dave Hawey was presented with a *Kuki Shinden Ryu Katana* for his participation in my ongoing project for my book (should be out in 2009). Dave is the artist that is doing almost all the drawings for the book.



We all enjoyed the two hours acoustic show by Domenico and Eric around the campfire until the early morning hours.



After all the practice on Sunday I was presented with not one but two late *Edo Yari*. 1 *Sode Garami* and 1 *Futomata*. Many thanks to Joel, Paul, Eric and Kpac.

The seminar ended in the afternoon on the Sunday after three solid days of practice. No injuries were reported and we are all pumped for next year, the 11 annual *Montreal Ninjutsu Gasshuku* (2009). The theme is already set as *rokushakubojujutsu*.

See you there.

Sincerely  
Stephane Meunier

