

## **Club Profile: School of Hard Knocks**

### Montgomery County, Texas

Hard Knocks. In the dojo, as in life.

The club members named their dojo the School of Hard Knocks because the powerful lessons and skills learned in the dojo have tremendous application in their everyday lives, said Edie Connelly.

Offering instruction in traditional Kodokan judo in Montgomery County since 1985, the club caters to numerous black belts, seven USA Judo certified coaches, two international-level referees and two national referees. Edie's husband and Hard Knocks Head Sensei Andrew Connelly is a 7<sup>th</sup> degree black belt. The club numbers more than 100 members total.

And then there is Bingo. Her curriculum has been a bit different. A little pug, she has been a student at the School of Hard Knocks since she was eight weeks old. Pictured below in the group shot on the far, far left, Bingo has "a black belt in gi-bag sleeping ... and in treat-mooching," said Edie Connelly, who along with her husband, Head Sensei Andrew Connelly, adopted Bingo 11 years ago. "She is definitely one of the club," and any gi bag left open is fair game.

Head Sensei Connelly was 11 years old in 1965 when his mom put him in a judo class at a YMCA in Connecticut. That's where it all began. Later in the Army Rangers he was chosen to instruct other soldiers in that elite fighting force in hand-to-hand combat. He also served as a member of the Army's All Star Sports Clinic traveling to high schools across the country introducing young teens to various Army sports.

"Anyone who shares the love of judo is invited to visit our school," said Edie Connelly. For more information, go to the club's website at [WWW.SOHKJUDO.COM](http://WWW.SOHKJUDO.COM). The club is also on Facebook.