



Ken, Jackson & Masa – Oh Yeah, Wives

The Fukada restaurant, hidden away in a Saddleback Valley strip mall, offers authentic Japanese food, no “Asian fusion” stuff. On August 3, 2007, it was a perfect place for a *Yu-Yu-Jiteki* dinner for three couples who live nearby in California’s Orange County. A congenial party of six, all Japanese. Oh wait, there was Jackson, a Kentucky interloper whom Japanese tolerate well enough. All except Jackson ordered buckwheat *soba* noodles that were dipped into a cold soy-based

sauce. Yoshi brought from home a package of *myoga*, backyard-grown, which Fukada chefs chopped up as a garnish. Jackson preferred his food to be hot and fried – oysters, scallops and shrimp. After-dinner drinks on Jackson and Yoshi’s patio featured a Matanzas Creek Winery bottle from Bill and Sandra McIver’s cellar – “2001 Red Wine, Proprietor’s Blend, Sonoma County.” In the photos below, Masa’s Fusako takes a sip at left and Ken’s Harue flashes a lovely smile at right.

