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ViewFinder

CAMERA CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SINCE 1975
VOLUME XLIII NO.3 MARCH 2018

CAMERA CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES SECRETARIAT
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The attendance at the February meeting of the Camera Club of the Philippines was one for the books. There is no need to give the exact figure of attendees to gauge the number of people. One only needs to know that the usual buffet fare had to be replenished two additional times. Argument can be made of course that Chef Jessie's food has improved from its usual delectable selections, but it cannot be discounted that lifetime or heretofore-inactive members are returning in significant numbers.

The February meeting mounted two contests: the monthly competition where the theme was "Portal" and the first On-the Spot Competition for the year featuring Intramuros. The monthly theme presented quite a challenge as the very definition of what constitutes a portal was not easy to peg down. At the end of the contest however, the judges seemed to be in agreement that they were looking for more than a door with a lock. They wanted to see a coming and going through doorways and gateways, and a hint of things magical.

In the end, the President, Paul San Pedro (PSP), bagged the First Place Top Photographer award with his photo taken from within a cave in Lower Antelope Canyon, Navajo land in Page, Arizona. At the mouth of a cave stands a backpacker gazing at a what appears to be an eagle, its wings spread out against a cloudless sky,

and just at the top of the mouth of the cave, one sees the sun peaking, forming a natural sunburst, its rays bisecting the darkness of the cave. The shot was the very definition of perfect, so much so that at the members picked it as the winner

himself that he would take a photo of the first person that comes out of that door. He waited quite a bit until an old woman came out and he took the shot. Perennial podium finisher Jijo De Guzman bagged the Third Place Top Photographer Award with his photo, taken from within Dong Thien Cung (Paradise Cave) in Halong Bay, Vietnam. Similar to PSP's photo, a very evident shaft of light cleaves the darkness of the cave, and at the mouth of the cave, where the light comes from, stands a man looking out. Jijo attributes his win to the dramatic lighting and the setting. He really intended to shoot the scene in black and white using the Zone System popularized by Ansel Adams.

Rey Ortiz bagged First Place Top Photographer award with an aggregate score of 8.1025 for his photos of a stupa outside a doorway and the doorway of what appears to be a kitchen looking out into a lighthouse, and around the kitchen hung braided cloves of garlic and bulbs of onions.

With his other photo of two old ladies crossing the mouth of a tunnel in Baguio City rounding off his scores to a total of 8.0075, PSP secured Second Place Top Photographer of the month.

Javi Flores secured Third Place top photographer award with his photo of a druid that is going through a fire ring to get to the Stonehenge and his other photo of the silhouette of a petite ballerina framed by a light-painted near-perfect circle.

For the OTS Intramuros competition, Bien Bautista won First Place Top Photograph with the photo of a guard clad in traditional uniform framed by a window of a building in ruins against the

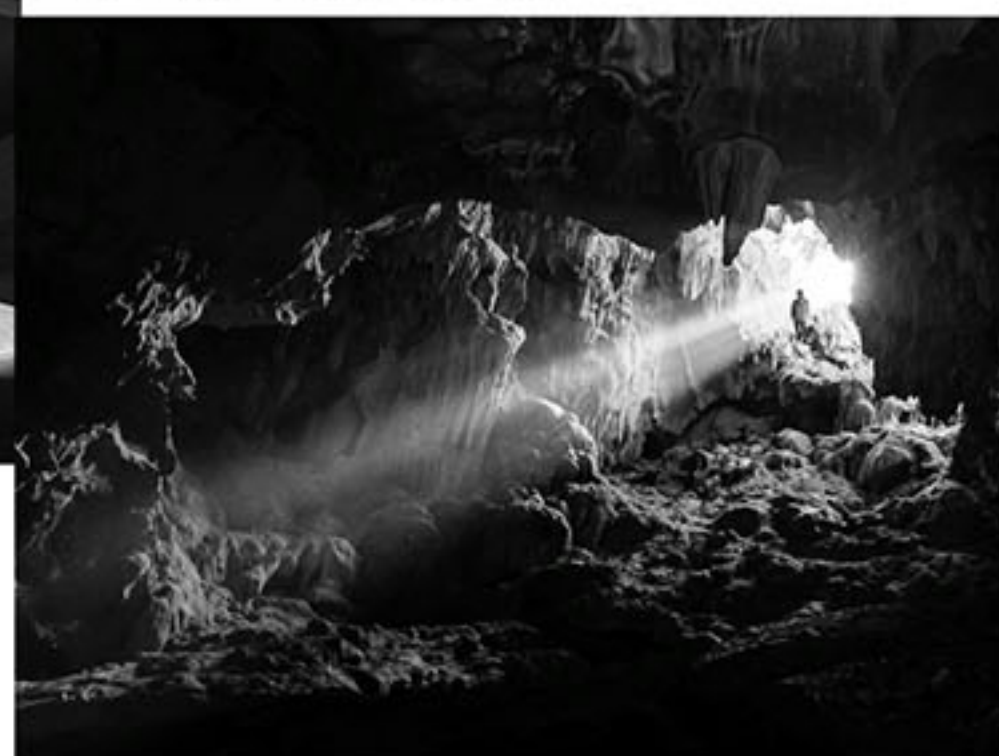
WHIRLWIND AFFAIR AT THE CLUB



First Place: Paul San Pedro



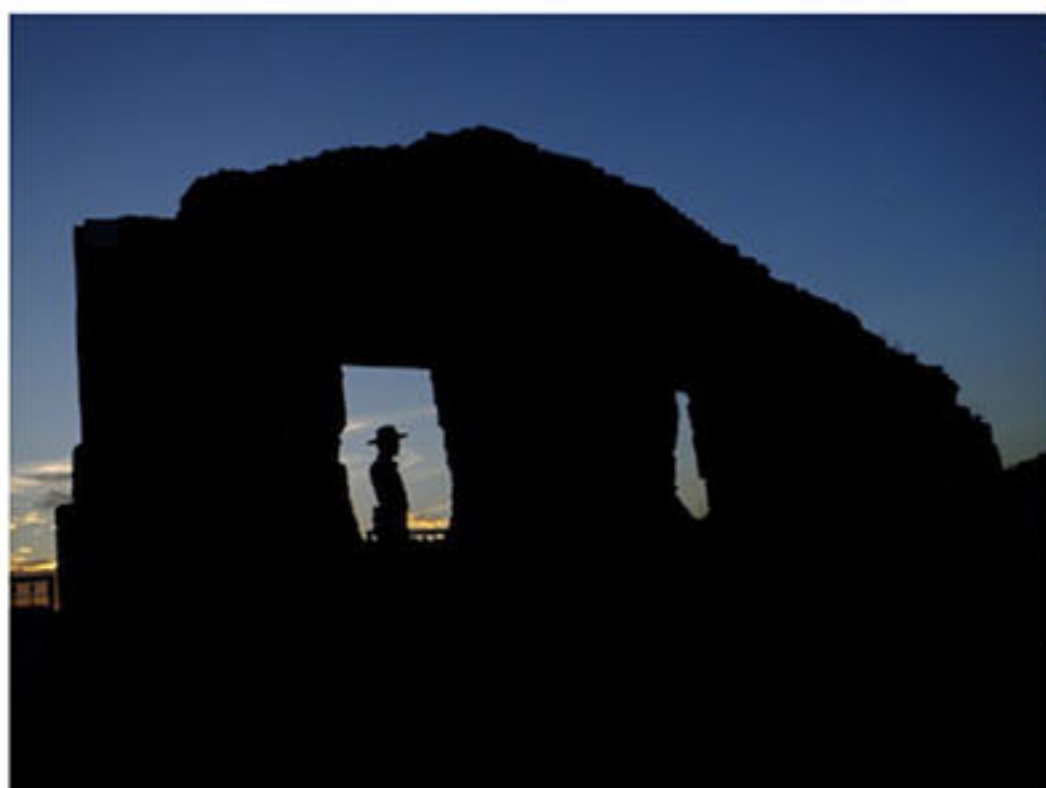
Second Place: Raoul Littaua



Third Place: Jijo de Guzman

found the place so quiet; the empty doorway in such a serene setting fascinated him. He told

around the kitchen hung braided cloves of garlic and bulbs of onions.



First Place: Bien Bautista



Second Place: Jay Jaucian



Third Place: EJ Lagrimas

himself that he would take a photo of the first person that

comes out of that door. He waited quite a bit until an old woman came out and he took the shot.

WHIRLWIND AFFAIR AT THE CLUB

darkening blue sky. He did not mean to take this photo, he was actually taking a photo of the flag waving at the

distance, but as soon as he turned to his right and saw the window (of opportunity), he lowered his exposure and waited for the right moment for his winning shot.

Jay Jaucian won Second Place Top Photograph in the OTS with a photo of a well-lit street framed by the

yellow posts and the green passengers' seats of a kalesa. He wanted to shoot the Walled City through the eyes of one of its institutions: the kutsero. It was a technically difficult photo as it involved a hand-held long exposure shot.

EJ Lagrimas, a recently inducted probee, shot a photo of silhouette of street kids surrounding a light source outside the main archway of the Manila Cathedral. EJ hung out with the street kids for most of the day, he had snacks with them, learned of their rivalries, and they snuck him in some guarded areas like the 'trambiya.' For his efforts, EJ bagged the Third Place Top Photograph for the OTS.

Going into the OTS tournament, Jay Jaucian never had any doubt that he would bag First Place Top Photographer. He was so confident that he submitted two very similar photos, usually a no-no in competitions. His first photo won Second Place Top Photograph. His other photo was still from the vantage point of the kutsero from within a kalesa, only there was passing car on the right side leaving a trail of light in its wake and with the horse's derriere occupying a very central position in the picture. The usually flippant Jay could think of many titles of this photo but he preferred to keep them to himself.

Bien Bautista's score in his other photo of the Manila Cathedral taken from the right side gained him Second Place Top Photographer award for the OTS. Jijo won Third Place Top Photographer with his well-timed photo of a kalesa passing across the blue-lit Ayuntamiento De Manila taken with a fish-eye lens and his photo of a hat vendor against a wall crisscrossed by the roots of a tree.

In the Master Cup competition, Javi is in pole position, but he knows that there is no such thing as a lead with only two monthly contests and only one OTS competition having been concluded. With the usual strong field of competitors in the CCP, especially with PSP in fighting form, nothing is ever for certain. The evolving story as of February, however, is that Jijo and Rey Ortiz are side-by-side in their respective rankings of 3rd and 4th respectively. The possibility that either of them could win his 4th Master Cup is not remote.

The members, as in the January meeting, stayed on all the way to the very end, with the raffle sponsored by PSP being one good reason for not leaving. Joey Montalban won the raffle and brought home an LED television larger than the one raffled off in January. The enthusiasm at the February meeting was palpable and infectious, so much so that the Fun and Games night held later in the month was likewise well-attended. It is hoped that the passion does not ebb and translate into well-meaning efforts for the good of the CCP.



First Place: R



Second Place: Pa



Third Place: Javi Flores

CONTEST

PORTAL

B&W

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	ENTRY 1	ENTRY 2	TOTAL
1	Ortiz, Rey	4.0075	4.0950	8.1025
2	San Pedro, Paul	3.8575	4.1500	8.0075
3	Flores, Javi	4.1000	3.8875	7.9875
4	Montifar, Raul	4.0700	3.8100	7.8800
5	De Guzman, Jijo	3.6822	4.1200	7.8022
6	Guingona, Jojo	3.9700	3.6675	7.6375
7	Antonio, Joey	3.7575	3.8550	7.6125
8	Roxas, Manolo	3.6825	3.8450	7.5275
9	Mesuga, Boyet	3.8000	3.7150	7.5150
10	Sison, Roberto	3.5150	3.9850	7.5000
11	Littua, Raul	4.1247	3.3750	7.4997
12	Samson, Adel	3.6075	3.8900	7.4975
13	Venturina, Nap	3.8987	3.5475	7.4462
14	Bautista, Bien	3.8925	3.5525	7.4450
15	Castillo, Quincy	3.6350	3.7700	7.4050
16	Villarica, Udsie	3.6675	3.7125	7.3800
17	Cancio, Tony	3.6605	3.6950	7.3555
18	Chavez, Annabelle	3.3750	3.9800	7.3550
19	De Leon, Rudy	3.6694	3.6850	7.3544
20	Veloso, JR	3.6400	3.6725	7.3125
21	Riingen, Leo	3.5400	3.7500	7.2900
22	Garrido, Jun	3.7050	3.5700	7.2750
23	Apuya, Armand	3.5800	3.6875	7.2675
24	Lagrimas, EJ	3.7250	3.5122	7.2372
25	Lagonera, Jake	3.4100	3.8225	7.2325
26	Fedelino, Boyet	3.4425	3.7875	7.2300
27	Grabador, Evan	3.6225	3.5725	7.1950
28	Yu, Philip	3.4400	3.7400	7.1800
29	Bautista, Emir	3.4000	3.7525	7.1525
30	Mondoñedo, Billy	3.6175	3.5325	7.1500
31	Yuson, Fred	3.4822	3.6675	7.1497
32	Ocampo, Nesty	3.6700	3.4775	7.1475
33	Viñas, Chito	3.3750	3.7700	7.1450
34	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
35	Lilles, Tony	3.7625	3.3475	7.1100
36	Reyno, King	3.5750	3.5225	7.0975
37	Balagtas, Kiko	3.5675	3.5125	7.0800
38	Mills, Bimbo	3.3075	3.7700	7.0775
39	Aliling, Jan	3.6550	3.4075	7.0625
40	Lagdameo, Dindin	3.6247	3.4175	7.0422
41	David, Ruth	3.3650	3.6400	7.0050
42	Buenaventura, Jorge	3.4750	3.5275	7.0025
43	Chan, Rocky	3.5025	3.4325	6.9350
44	De Vera, Arps	3.5450	3.3875	6.9325
45	Gozum, Lito	3.2150	3.7175	6.9325
46	Quimel, Lito	3.1575	3.7100	6.8675
47	Cachero, Eric	3.1875	3.6575	6.8450
48	Paraan, Renee	3.3200	3.5000	6.8200
49	Hermogenes, Jimmy	3.4400	3.3625	6.8025
50	Uy, Patrick	3.5825	3.2175	6.8000
51	Santos, Raffy	3.3250	3.4625	6.7875
52	Santos, Tito	3.4125	3.3625	6.7750
53	Serrano, TG	3.1875	3.5700	6.7575
54	Gaite, Manny	3.4800	3.2575	6.7375
55	Del Rosario, Fred	3.3350	3.3925	6.7275
56	Lopez, Ardie	3.1125	3.5675	6.6800
57	Castro, Gerry	3.3825	3.2725	6.6550
58	Gutierrez, Gutch	3.3075	3.3200	6.6275
59	Montalban, Joey	3.2500	3.3550	6.6050
60	Valera, Stephen	3.3475	3.2300	6.5775
61	Valmonte, Cha	3.2650	3.2900	6.5550
62	Cumagun, Jaime	3.2450	3.2875	6.5325
63	Jaucian, Jay	3.3300	3.1925	6.5225
64	Benitez, Manette	3.2625	3.2350	6.4975
65	Burgos, Mark	3.2500	3.2175	6.4675
66	Buendia, Paolo	3.2125	3.2325	6.4450

CONTEST

INTRAMUROS OTS

DIGITAL FILE

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	ENTRY 1	ENTRY 2	TOTAL
1	Jaucian, Jay	4.1550	4.0475	8.2025
2	Bautista, Bien	4.3425	3.3750	7.7175
3	De Guzman, Jijo	3.6850	4.0280	7.7130
4	Flores, Javi	3.7375	3.8937	7.6312
5	Antonio, Joey	3.6625	3.9250	7.5875
6	Montalban, Joey	4.0875	3.4500	7.5375
7	Lagrimas, EJ	3.3747	4.1075	7.4822
8	Uy, Patrick	3.6000	3.8000	7.4000
9	Benitez, Manette	3.7250	3.5907	7.3157
10	Cumagun, Jaime	3.4850	3.8250	7.3100
11	San Pedro, Paul	3.6500	3.6537	7.3037
12	Ortiz, Rey	3.4125	3.8875	7.3000
13	Chavez, Annabelle	3.6875	3.6112	7.2987
14	De Leon, Rudy	3.6625	3.6125	7.2750
15	Lagonera, Jake	3.4750	3.7625	7.2375
16	Sonora, Jeff	3.6950	3.4875	7.1825
17	Balagtas, Kiko	3.5000	3.6575	7.1575
18	Castillo, Quincy	3.8562	3.2925	7.1487
19	Yuson, Fred	3.5250	3.6000	7.1250
20	Samson, Adel	3.6350	3.4875	7.1225
21	Montifar, Raul	3.3625	3.7500	7.1125
22	Resurreccion, Paul	3.4250	3.6650	7.0900
23	Santos, Raffy	3.6875	3.3700	7.0575
24	Burgos, Mark	3.4875	3.5562	7.0437
25	Reyno, King	3.4750	3.5250	7.0000
26	Grabador, Evan	3.8250	3.1550	6.9800
27	Cancio, Tony	3.0500	3.9275	6.9775
28	Castro, Gerry	3.7500	3.2150	6.9650
29	Sto. Domingo, Raymund	3.3250	3.6375	6.9625
29	David, Ruth	3.5875	3.3750	6.9625
31	Mondoñedo, Billy	3.5125	3.4250	6.9375
32	Menor, Gene	3.6012	3.3250	6.9262
33	Yu, Philip	3.6250	3.3000	6.9250
34	Garbanzos, Gino	3.3700	3.5375	6.9075
35	Mills, Vicente	3.3000	3.6062	6.9062
36	Buenaventura, Jorge	3.6250	3.2750	6.9000
37	Chan, Rocky	3.6000	3.2825	6.8825
38	Tangco, Raul	3.3250	3.5530	6.8780
39	Buendia, Paolo	3.2625	3.6125	6.8750
40	Lagdameo, Dindin	3.5525	3.3000	6.8525
41	Aliling, Jan	3.4000	3.4012	6.8012
42	Ocampo, Nesty	3.4625	3.3000	6.7625
43	Quimel, Lito	3.0750	3.6850	6.7600
44	Apuya, Armand	3.3562	3.4000	6.7562
45	Sison, Bob	3.4550	3.2000	6.6550
46	Gaite, Manny	3.1625	3.4875	6.6500
46	Viñas, Chito	3.6000	3.0500	6.6500
47	Gutierrez, Gutch	3.0500	3.6000	6.6500
49	Villarica, Udsie	3.0500	3.5500	6.6000
49	Valmonte, Cha	3.0250	3.5750	6.6000
51	Lilles, Tony	3.3500	3.2375	6.5875
52	Cachero, Eric	3.1000	3.4530	6.5530
53	De Vera, Arps	3.2000	3.3250	6.5250
54	Hermogenes, Jaime	3.2375	3.2750	6.5125
54	Gozum, Lito	3.1125	3.4000	6.5125
56	Santos, Tito	3.0500	3.4500	6.5000
57	Fidelino, Boyet	3.4125	3.0700	6.4825
58	Valera, Stephen	3.0750	3.2625	6.3375
58	Venturina, Nap	3.0750	3.2625	6.3375
60	Garrido, Jun	3.2250	3.0750	6.3000
61	Del Rosario, Fred	3.1125	3.0500	6.1625
62	Paraan, Renee	3.0875	3.0650	6.1525
63	Ang, Garrick	3.1000	3.0500	6.1500

You want to know the secret of three-time back-to-back-to-back Master Photographer Jijo De Guzman in shooting landscapes? Read on.



Rey Ortiz



Paul San Pedro



Landscape Photography for Starters

You want to know the secret of three-time back-to-back-to-back Master Photographer Jijo De Guzman in shooting landscapes? Read on.

Landscape Photography for Starters
1. Choose a side-light scene. Side-lit

scenes (light coming from the left or right) are easier to manage in terms of exposure and contrast. They are also easier to work with while using neutral density (ND) and graduated neutral density (GND) Filters. Lastly and most important of all, they usually offer longer moments of soft light which gives you more time to work and get the best output possible.

2. Shoot during soft light. Here in the Philippines, 15 minutes before and after the sunrise and the sunset are usually the best times to practice Landscape Photography. Get to the shooting spot least 30 minutes before so that you

will still have time to study the scene and decide on your composition and framing. The duration of soft light is longer as you go father from the equator and get nearer to the poles.

3. Get 3-stop ND and GND Filters. ND Filters give you more leeway to manipulate your exposure triangle to produce the output you want. But the assortment can be intimidating for beginners. I strongly suggest that you initially get a 3-stop density and take it from there. The same density goes with a GND filter but start with a soft GND. The hard and reverse can just follow. Beware of filters that can cause color cast to your scene. The most trusted brands right now are Hitech Firecrest, Lee, and Nisi.

4. Get a nice tripod. Just like filters, tripods are essential to landscape photography. They help you stabilize your camera when working with slow shutter speeds or long exposures. They also help in taking multiple shots from the exact same spot. It's also best to use a ballhead. My favorite tip for buying a tripod is this: Get the biggest one that you are willing to carry. With that

said, carbon fiber models are generally lighter.

5. Don't be lazy Need to wake up at dawn? Long drive? Tough hike? You'll need to dip in water? Need to save money for that trip? DO IT!

Landscape Photography isn't easy but just like any other photography genre, the more you do it, the better you'll become. Also, if you have the passion for it, the rewards will be worth much more than the efforts.

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MASTER PHOTOGRAPHER'S CUP FEBRUARY

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	TOTAL
1	Flores, Javi	17.0929
2	San Pedro, Paul	16.8675
3	Montifar, Raul	16.7775
4	De Guzman, Jijo	16.7076
5	Ortiz, Rey	16.5605
6	Guingona, Jojo	16.3811
7	Cancio, Tony	16.3057
8	Bautista, Emir	16.0545
9	Lagrimas, EJ	15.9152
10	Antonio, Joey	15.8893
11	Lagonera, Jake	15.7497
12	Chavez, Annabelle	15.7208
13	Garrido, Jun	15.649
14	De Leon, Rudy	15.6254
15	Lilles, Tony	15.444
16	Reyno, King	15.3795
17	Balagtas, Kiko	15.358
18	Villarica, Udsie	15.315
19	Aliling, Jan	15.2987
20	Ocampo, Nesty	15.2899
21	Riingen, Leo	15.2688
22	Viñas, Chito	15.2648
23	Sison, Bob	15.2438
24	Littaua, Raoul	15.2391
25	Apuya, Armand	15.1475
26	Hermogenes, Jimmy	15.0691
27	Roxas, Manolo	15.0339
28	Garbanzos, Gino	14.9175
29	Gozum, Lito	14.8227
30	Lagdameo, Dindin	14.8192
31	Yuson, Fred	14.7665
32	Venturina, Nap	14.7658
33	Serrano, TG	14.7525
34	Mills, Vicente	14.7175
35	Yu, Philip	14.6752
36	Santos, Raffy	14.6497
37	Mondoñedo, Billy	14.643
38	Chan, Rocky	14.6222
39	Gaite, Manny	14.5975
40	Paraan, Renee	14.5892
41	Fidelino, Boyet	14.5686
42	Benitez, Manette	14.5531
43	Del Rosario, Fred	14.5175
44	Valera, Stephen	14.5005
45	Bautista, Bien	14.4944
46	Cumagun, Jaime	14.3925
47	Quimel, Lito	14.3725
48	Santos, Tito	14.365
49	Burgos, Mark	14.3025
50	Velasco, JR	14.3015
51	Gutierrez, Gutch	14.1747
52	Castillo, Quincy	14.134
53	Buenaventura, Jorge	13.9537
54	Jaucian, Jay	13.9257
55	Castro, Gerry	13.7572
56	Uy, Patrick	13.7444
57	De Vera, Arps	13.6675
58	Cachero, Eric	13.6474
59	Valmonte, Cha	13.5574
60	Montifar, Miko	8.1934
61	Mesuga, Boyet	7.515
62	Samson, Adel	7.4975
63	Grabador, Evan	7.195
64	Risma, Vicoy	7.162
65	David, Ruth	7.005
66	Lopez, Ardie	6.68
67	Camarillo, Sonny	6.625
68	Montalban, Joey	6.605
69	Buendia, Paolo	6.445

In January, the Fellowship and Wellness Committee headed by two members whose lives are the very essence of joie de vivre, Aposento owner and Past President Fred Yuson and Jay Jaucian, began planning an event where members could really come together. They picked a date, a venue and the games. There was a hint of unease at the outset: Would members be ok with playing poker? Do we have enough players of Ping-Pong? Will they take billiards seriously? Isn't February 25 a Sunday? Why did we pick Sunday?? The lead up to the event was nail biting. The committee even had a countdown and a miting de avance. The President was on board and he put in some serious backing, making personal calls to some members to attend.

In the end, there was nothing to worry about, the notion of free flowing booze and a night out with friends was more than enough to send the members coming in droves, even on a family day like Sunday. For an event auspiciously dubbed Fun and Games night, the evening lived up to its name. For the first time, members came together not to compete using photographs but with a deck of cards, chips, ping pong rackets and cue sticks. The more than ample space of the Fred's home accommodated the high-spirited members. The highlight of the evening, the one that stopped everyone dead in their tracks, and really merited the approval of all concerned, was the food: it was delectable treat of Tomahawk steaks provided by Fred Yuson and cooked by Jerry Tieng and Tony Lilles; lechon provided by PSP; Pastillas from Bulacan by Mark; and of course there was duck pao, cold cuts, palabok, lots of dessert and single malt. Before everyone

EAT PLAY LOVE

after Rocky edged Javi Flores out when the two went all in as soon as it was announced that the steak was ready. The heads up was settled after dinner. Mark had an A9. Rocky raised pre-flop, representing high cards. The flop had a Queen in it. Rocky went all in. Mark felt he had the board dominated; he called. The turn yielded an ace. The river yielded another ace. That was the end of that. Mark won first place and some cash, Rocky second and Javi third. At the ping-pong table, the Cha Valmonte and Eddielu Arellano ended up in first and second place respectively,



began eating, they first worked up an appetite. At the poker table, Rocky Chan dominated the game at the outset with a series of aggressive plays. One time, however, he got checked by Jay Jaucian who played trash hands of 6-3 non-suited and the flop came out 6, 3 and another card.

Eventually, the poker table became the scene of a heads up between Rocky and Mark Burgos,



although Garrick Ang, Manny Gaite, and Miko and Raul Montifar were great contenders. So many ping-pong balls were lost that day along the tree line. Ruth David arrived late, but with the skills she displayed against Cha in a friendly match, Cha concedes that Ruth would have aced the game.

At the billiard table, JR Velasco was going to leave nothing to chance: he brought his own cue stick, which he said came from the man Efren 'Bata' Reyes himself. JR swept a best of three game with Nesty Ocampo for the first place spot in the competition, although Nesty said that he just gave way to JR whose feelings would have been devastated had he lost while using the revered cue stick.

The singing competition took place when everyone had had their fill and amply loosened by alcohol. The probees dominated the competition with Cha Valmonte bagging first place with her cover of Norah Jones' Don't Know Why. Emir Khan garnered first place with his soulful rendition of Your Love by Alamid. Quincy Castillo won third place when he serenaded Anna Barlund with Celeste Legaspi's Bulong Bulungan. Adel Samson, PSP and Jay judged the competition.

At very solemn ceremonies befitting the occasion (please see photos as proof), PSP awarded the winners with gold trophies procured by TJ Tan.

If joy, according to C.S. Lewis, were an event that anyone who has experienced will want to do so again, then that evening in February 25, while in the company of friends old and new, was joy, and members would want nothing but to do it all over again.