

October 2015

Some of the travelers at the Carlsbad Caverns visitors center



## Members and guests of the SCA Filipiniana Club ventured to New Mexico in the middle of summer, and what a trip that was! Following is a first-hand account from club president Josie Baker.

A group of 54 seniors made the five-day, four-night bus trip to New Mexico. I am happy to report that we all came back safe and sound with old friendships intact, new friendships formed, and the discovery that there lies among us many hidden talents.

I was dreading the 10-hour bus ride on both the front and back ends of the trip. The fear was totally unfounded. I've never been with a big group of seniors where I did not suffer the consequences of constant complaints about a lot of things. This group was happy, cooperative, very pleasant and totally young at heart. I am missing them already.

Sure, we had a serious problem when the bus broke down two hours away from our first hotel stop. We did not panic and managed to entertain ourselves during the three-plus hours we waited to get the bus fixed.

And entertained, we were. Lionel Santiago became the star of the five-day bus ride. He kept coming up with fresh hilarious jokes delivered with perfect timing that kept the group asking for more. He is also a good singer. Wife Edna said that Lionel honed his "gift" from his frequent get-togethers with his Navy buddies.

Many contributed. Ninda Telan sung Edelweiss with gusto on three separate tries – she declared the next time she sings this song, she will be perfect. And did you know?

- P.J. Jose can ad lib in ways funnier than Jay Leno!
- Tony Sison has musical potential. Josie Olegario, Fil's legal wife, can tell green jokes like a PRO.

- Glis Rufino can translate a lot of his medical-practice experience into colorful stories.
- Carmelo can tell quiz jokes in English.
- Tess Cruz delivered that "serena-bading" (mermaid) joke like no other.

I know I will not remember all the "numbers" but believe me, the long bus rides were quite entertaining.

In New Mexico, we visited Carlsbad Caverns, Santa Fe, Taos, Plaza, Pueblo, Santuario de Chimayo and also drove by the Painted Desert/Petrified Forrest in Arizona.

The trip was planned and directed by Manny Mallannao with assistance from Carmelo Beley and Tess Cruz. I could not imagine achieving better results if we had hired a professional tour company. Thank you all for a job well done! Do not miss our next fun trip. Stay tuned!

Information about our events is shared through email communications, board and general membership meetings, Spirit articles and our website. If you are not receiving emails, be sure to contact our membership chair, Cici R., at [cici724@gmail.com](mailto:cici724@gmail.com) to ensure we have your correct email address.

*A few photos are shown here, but for more extensive coverage please visit [www.scafc.org](http://www.scafc.org). The photos taken by Jerry Wang and Carmelo Beley are put together in a video produced by Jerry Wang.*



The men resting in Petrified Forest



Inside the Big Room, Carlsbad Caverns



Petrified Forest: a tree stump morphing into a rock



Club photographers Rowena Wang, Carmelo Beley and Ador Salvador



Rowena Wang and Eleanor Sorenson (aka Yvanna) try to get help from passing motorists



El Santuario de Chimayo