

## About Us

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**THE BIRTH OF ESKRIMA BIRADA**The Birada Eskrima is the next generation system derived from the evolution of the Dos Manos stick fighting technique hierarchy.

It was in the 1800's during the Spanish rule, that a renowned Arnisador from San Carlos Pangasinan named Don Salvador Cayabyab introduced a modified form of stick fighting derived from the Dos Manos style and named it Sais Tiros ( 6 strikes ). This technique took advantage of the opponents reaction and attacks that consisted of six strikes which was quick and non telegraphic in execution. The Sais Tiros continuously evolved and was modified by the next Cayabyab generation who was Don Cirillo ( his son ). Don Cirillo conceptualized the Doce Tiros ( 12 Strikes ) technique which included both orthodox and unorthodox strikes to the original six strikes taught by his father the technique further evolved and was modified to the Quarenta y Dos Tiros ( 42 Strikes) arnis system. The Quarenta y Dos Tiros concept of attack and defense was tested during the encounters of Guerillas with the Japanese soldiers. It was during these fights that Don Cirilo, Don Guillermo ( the son ) and Pedro ( the grandson) with the use of their 'Barang' ( Machete ) proved the battle effectiveness of this technique. Unfortunately with the untimely death of Don Guillermo from the hands of Makapili's ( Filipino spies for the Japanese ) only Don Cirilo and Pedro Cayabyab was left to propagate the art. Don Cirilo together with Pedro ( Mang Pedring ) continued to develop the Quarenta y Dos Tiros system and attested to its effectiveness during many stick fights and duels that they experienced and eventually became two of the most respected and unbeatable Arnisador's in the entire Luzon area. When Don Cirilo passed away Pedro (Mang Pedring) inherited and continued to develop the art. Tradition dictates that the passing of an art is through direct inheritance from father to son, this was not the case with Mang Pedring's children, since they were not interested in learning the art that is now being passed to them. Because of this Mang Pedring's martial art, that was handed down from generations was threatened of extinction since he has no one to pass it to. But all these changed when he got a visit from a long distant relative that took deep interest with his art, and his name is Rogelio 'Roger' Solar. Grand Pasantis Birador (GPB ), Rogelio 'Roger' Solar started martial arts at a young age initially with Okinawan Karate under Carlos Lomboy & later first learned eskrima through his uncle Disiong Banaag who used to bring such tools to his father for home use such as the bolo and sickle. Then later again studied Filipino Martial arts under Grandmaster Ernesto Presas Sr. ( Founder of the Kombatan system ). At this point Roger grew and matured to one of the finest martial artists around, his mastery of various arts includes empty hands ( which includes Karate, Kickboxing, Judo, Ju-jitsu, Aikido, Grappling, Arnis de Mano and Mano mano) and weaponed ( such as Bo, Sai, Kendo, Arnis, Itak, Daga, Dulo-Dulo, Balisong ( Fan Knife ), Rope, Bangkaw ( long staff ) and Nunchaku ) techniques and systems. He became a renown and respected instructor having achieved the level of Master in Philippine Fighting Arts within the Kombatan international martial arts community and was also awarded 4th Degree in The Dragon's Hall of Martial Arts by Grandmaster Pepe Yap. Grandmaster Ernesto Presas Sr. even nominated him at the World Head of Family Sokeship Council Hall of Fame in Orlando Florida, USA as Instructor of the Year. Unfortunately his successes and accomplishments eventually became the envy of some of his peers in the organization, and to undermine him they tried to discredit his past contributions to the group by falsely accusing him of different wrong doings. Although being backbitten by his colleagues he remained loyal to the Kombatan hierarchy, but after realizing that corruption, politics and conflicting policies already took hold within the organization he finally lost hope and left the organization in 2002. Three years prior before leaving Kombatan, Roger remembered the old man called Tiyo or Mang Pedring that his Dad used to mention ( later affirmed by a close friend and student named Ronald Frias ) of having an unorthodox Arnis method and technique at their home town in San Carlos, Pangasinan. His curiosity grew about this strange way of stick fighting. Roger visited Mang Pedring one weekend which started his study of the Quarenta y Dos Tiros , which he further integrated to the fighting methodology he himself has mastery . This became the foundation that led to the development of the Birada Eskrima and Birada y Mano martial art technique. From time to time Roger visited Mang Pedring and the bond that developed between them became the seed for the continuance of this martial art . He still remembers what his Tiyo Pedring told him beforehand 'Roger, I'm now an old man, now I am passing to you the art that was handed to me by my great grandparents, use it in good things. I now have taught you everything that I know. Study, master and refine it, always be aware of whom you teach, you are now my successor ' Roger took nearly four years in testing, training and finalizing the whole system ( Sistema Birada ). Painstaking effort was given during its translation with the different primary fighting tools ( hands, foot, stick, knife and rope ), and finally to certify its efficacy he then applied it to modern day dynamic martial arts. Sistema Birada was initially launched in Australia on November 2003, and with the successful outcome of applying the Birada techniques, he gained membership and recognition from various international martial art organizations like The International Traditional Burmese Kickboxing Federation, The United Kingdom Ju-jitsu Association and The Academy of International Martial Arts & Health. Several titles such as Saya/Master in Bando Burmese Boxing , 6th Degree in Yawara Military Jujitsu, and 3rd Degree in Seibu-Kaikan Karate-do was awarded to him. This is a very important and historic event for Roger ( and Birada ) since he was the first ever Filipino to be given such rankings and titles in Australia . This ultimately boosted the Sistema Birada methodology of fighting and training, and thus continues to gain several affiliations from various martial art groups and clubs.

Sistema Birada was founded for the continued propagation and existence of the Filipino Martial Arts in this dynamic age. And finally to instill discipline and moral values upon students. To strengthen not only the body but the spirit as well.

**Birada Motto: 'The most effective techniques are the proven ones'**

GPB