

3rd Annual Veggy Open Rocks the Rio!

11 of the finest participated one way or another towards this record breaking event. Scooter, Smithers, T Wally, Gil, Freckles, Grandpa Ronny, along with rookies Redneck, Dexter, Travy, Grigsby, & Cuz-Rory enjoyed fun in the sun for a nice long weekend. We definitely missed original members Vinny, Derfy, & K Codo and look forward to you joining us again next year.

Scooter & Gil got a nice surprise as they walked into the Rio to see Dexter dominating the Black Jack tables. Later on that evening, Travy & Grigsby made their presence known at the world famous Gold Coast. It was especially nice to see the Reif family at the Gold Coast. Even though Freckles arrived after midnight on Thursday, He was the first one in bed as the Veggy Open members took charge of the Rio. Joe Smithers was cutting the rug at Club Rio as he had 2 fine looking ladies competing for that Peoria made dancing machine! The huge rooms were very accommodating as 7 vagabonds were scattered throughout the freezing cold air-conditioned room the 1st night.

The Wildhorse has seen better days, but the golfing was very competitive as 9 aces were competing for the Veggy Open green jacket. Thanks to the tip of the hat, Grandpa Ronny won the Veggy Open with an 80. Redneck & Freckles finished just behind the old dogger. We look forward to next years presentation of the "jacket." The Badlands was one of the finest golf courses any of us have ever played. This awesome & challenging target course will be tackled again next year. Redneck & Freckles shot in the mid 80's at this very tough course.

We never seemed to find the \$3.99 buffet, but we ate well and nobody went hungry. Cuz-Rory caught a tape worm and has lost 14 pounds since the Open. Scooter, Gil, Dexter, & T Wally especially enjoyed Fatburgers @ 4:30 am the last day.

Except for craps, the gambling was good for everyone. Gil had 4 queens with a huge bet in Caribbean stud. "I hate that game" because the dealer didn't qualify, so he got ripped off about \$1000.00. Also, unlike many years ago(15?), it was nice to see Gil & Dexter smiling at each other while playing at the same table!

The 11 Veggy Open hard bodies at the pool was the talk of the Rio all weekend. Most guests thought we were there for a body building contest instead of a golf tournament. They were especially impressed with Scooter, who they nicknamed Orka. The young and old admired the fit and trim bodies of the Veggy Open members. After all the gawking, pictures & autographs, things settled down and we were able to enjoy the beautiful pools and waterfalls at the Rio.

We enjoyed listening to various bands at the Tropicana on the last night. The lounge manager recognized the Veggy Open entourage and gave us a front row table with comped drinks & cigars. A poignant time from the show was when the attractive

female lead singer picked out one of the Veggy Open members and sang "beautiful stranger" directly to him. The Tropicana missed our company this year and is trying to woo us back. Next years event will take place on the strip at the Flamingo Hilton from August 17-20. We will check out one of the comedy clubs on the strip as well as all the various casino's lounge shows.

A final thought from T Wally. I like to have things planned way in advance so there is always something too look forward to. The Veggy Open is a fun event, and all who participate have a great time. I have been fortunate throughout my life to have great parents & great friends to grow with throughout high school and college. Now my life has also been blessed with a great wife and 2 great kids. As I was relaxing(recovering) at home on Monday after the Veggy Open weekend, I sat down that morning to read my daily devotional from Promise Keepers. I found it interesting that it was talking about friendship, so I have made a copy for all of you to enjoy.

Thanks to all who participated in this annual event. We have a great group of guys who still can have a lot of fun together. Next years event should be even better. As always, I look forward to the next time we get together!

God Bless,

T Wally

Monday, August 23

This Week's Theme: **Friendship**

Too Tired

Key Bible Verse: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up (*Ecclesiastes 4:10*). *Bonus Reading:* *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*

Ask men how they think they're doing in the pursuit of good friendships, and you'll hear comments like the following:

"Friendships? You can't be serious! I'm on the 7 A.M. American flight to Chicago every Monday morning. Home on Thursday night. Soccer leagues every Saturday morning. My wife expects some sort of time for the two of us Saturday night. You expect me to be in church on Sunday morning. And I spend Sunday evening getting ready for Monday morning. Tell me where friends fit in."

"I think friendships are essential. But have you ever tried making one? Call five guys—get four answering ma-

chines. Suggest a weekend in the White Mountains. You'll hear that no one can get away. Even try for a lunch, and you'll have to plan it three months in advance. I'm too tired for friendships. I'm working an average of two hours more every day (and earning less in buying power, by the way). It's not unusual to have to go in on Saturdays. Just getting a Monday evening when I can make it through the football game before I fall asleep is a great luxury. I'd love to have some friends . . . maybe next year."

—*When Men Think Private Thoughts*

Personal Challenge:

- *What barriers keep you from forging friendships?*

Thought to Apply: There is no wilderness like a life without friends. —BALASAR GRACIÁN Y MORALES (17th century)