

# OFF THE WALL

## OPENING SHOTS

By Enrico Dubach, URA President



Isn't racquetball great? What other sport can you play regardless of the weather, have a great time with great people, get rid of stress and still get a great workout? Well, I guess a little stress builds when you're playing in the State Singles Championships. But I believe playing under pressure helps us conquer the daily stress and pressure of life.

This year's championships brought all the best players from all corners of the state. There were a lot of great matches. Congratulations to all of the winners. Your Board of Directors ran this year's tournament at the Sports Mall. Everyone pitched in to help

make this one of the biggest and best tournaments we've had in a long time. We tried a round robin format for consolation on Friday night. Everyone seemed to have a good time and we were able to start the tournament on Wednesday instead of Tuesday. Special thanks to Pam and Randy Martin, Marcus Dunyon, and Val Shewfelt for all the extra time they put in. Thanks also to Steven Clark who has been updating the web site with results and schedules, so you don't have to wait for this newsletter.

Following the tournament, we held the annual General Membership Meeting. Randy and Pam Martin were re-elected to the Board and Mike Van Valkenburg was elected to take over Dennis Fisher's position. Even though Dennis hasn't been able to make all the board meetings, his ideas and input have been invaluable to the Board over the last year. Dennis is the coach of the BYU racquetball team and we hope to bring together more of the collegiate

players with the state association.

This year, I presented the annual President's award to Val Shewfelt. Val does an incredible amount of work gathering results from tournaments, processing memberships, and generally helping out with whatever needs to be done. The award is well deserved, so please thank her for her contributions over many years to the Utah Racquetball Association. The other year-end awards are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. The Board selects these recipients based on member input. I thought the choices were excellent and I congratulate all of the recipients.

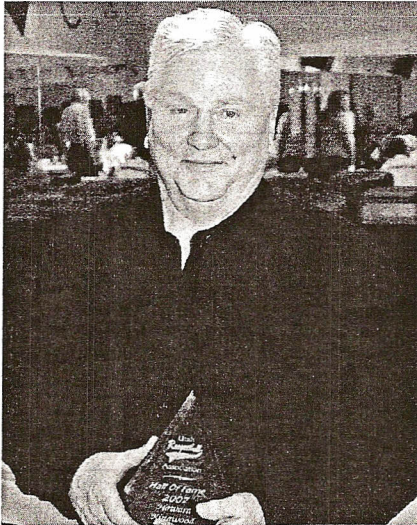
Howard Ringwood was inducted into the Utah Racquetball Hall of Fame. He joins Luzell Wilde, Ruth McGovern and Rick Strout. All of

the inductees were at the banquet while we presented Howard with a special plaque recognizing his early contributions to Utah Racquetball during the 1970s.

Also at the General Membership Meeting, we discussed distributing the newsletter via e-mail rather than printing and sending through snail mail. Most members seemed overwhelmingly in favor of this. We can save a ton of money and then apply the savings more directly towards racquetball. We'll let you know as we progress on this.

On April 22nd, the Board met to elect officers and directors for the 2002-2003 year. I was re-elected for my last year on the Board, while Randy Martin will take over the responsibilities of Vice-President. Marcus Dunyon has done an excellent job the last few years as VP, but he would like to concentrate on other areas of racquetball this year. Marcus is a great player advocate, so if you discuss your concerns with him, he will pass the information to us. Thanks, Marcus, for all you do. Pam Martin and Gene Rolfe were re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer. Directorships were assigned to all Board Members depending on interest and past performance. We are all looking forward to a great upcoming year.

The annual Tournament Directors Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 29th at the Redwood Center. This is when we put together next year's tournament and traveling league schedule. We also discuss improvements and changes for next year. All members are welcome to attend. The tournament directors would love your input and ideas. Next year's schedule will be printed and distributed with the August newsletter. Congratulations to Luzell Wilde for being inducted into the Centerville City Hall of Fame. He received a key to the city from Mayor Mike Deamer (who plays rball occasionally) during a special ceremony on May 7th. Luzell is already a member of the state, national and international hall of fame, so it's great to see him get local recogni-



Howard Ringwood (Photo by Steve Coray)

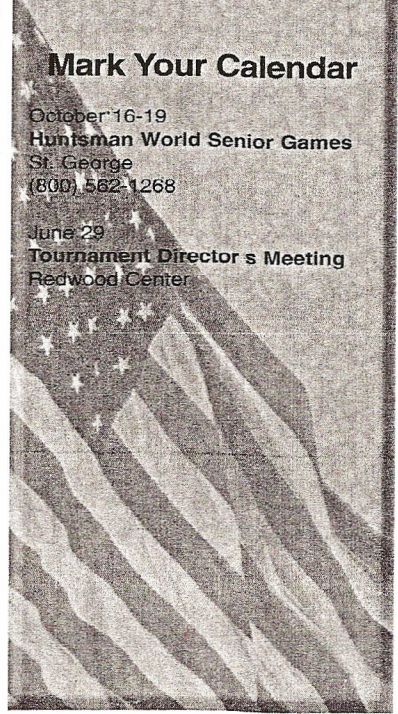
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## Mark Your Calendar

October 16-19  
**Huntsman World Senior Games**  
 St. George  
 (800) 562-1268

June 29  
**Tournament Director's Meeting**  
 Redwood Center



## Off The Wall

June, 2002

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Deadlines for submission of all display advertising, stories and letters are listed below. All advertising must be prepaid. Call for rates and ad specifications.

Aug 2002 issue . . . . . July 20, 2002

URA board meetings are held the second Monday of most months at 7 p.m. at the Redwood Recreation Center and are open to anyone interested in attending. Call if you would like something placed on the agenda.

Check out what's new with racquetball on the web at [www.utahracquetball.com](http://www.utahracquetball.com)

## PRO NATIONALS



By Marcus Dunyon



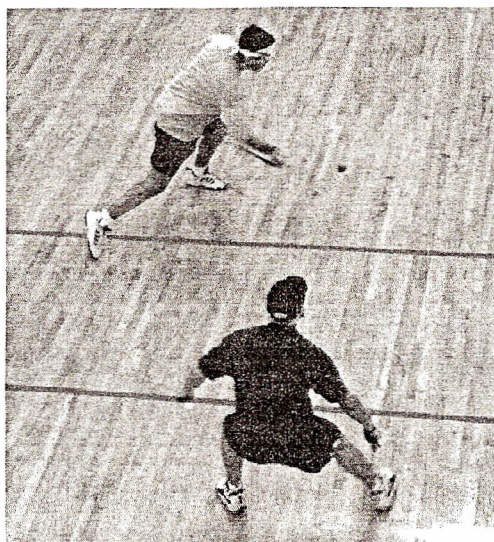
The Pro Nationals sponsored by Pro Kennex were held at the Los Carrabaaros Club in Fountain Valley, California over the Mother Days Weekend. It had a large draw from California and a number of players from around the country. Of course the Pros were playing for a sizable purse. The only top player that didn't attend was Cliff Swain, who had to pull out at the last minute with an injury. There was a smaller group from Utah than in the past, but the timing of the tournament coupled with the fact it was not held in Las Vegas as in the past may have had something to do with the turn out. The club was absolutely beautiful with eighteen racquetball courts, several large swimming pools, tennis courts, outdoor and indoor soccer fields, Jacuzzi pools throughout the facility and a sports club attached to the main building. The local players that played were myself, Kristen Walsh and Brian Pointelin. Kristen made it to the second round in the pro draw where she was upset, Brian won his first match and player into Ruben Gonzales. Although he ended up losing he gave the legend a run for his money. Brian and his doubles partner Dan Lucero played some excellent racquetball and won without any real problems. As for me I made it to the semi-finals losing to the number two seed. I didn't get much of a chance to see the

pros play because I was either playing or vacationing. The finals were played on Saturday night for the women and Jackie Rice won the first two games against Cheryl Gudinas, but Cheryl took the last three games and won the championship on her birthday. The men's final was between John Ellis and Kane Waselenchuk that was won by Ellis in a five game battle. Based on these results, Cliff Swain won his sixth IRT Men's championship, more than any player in IRT history.

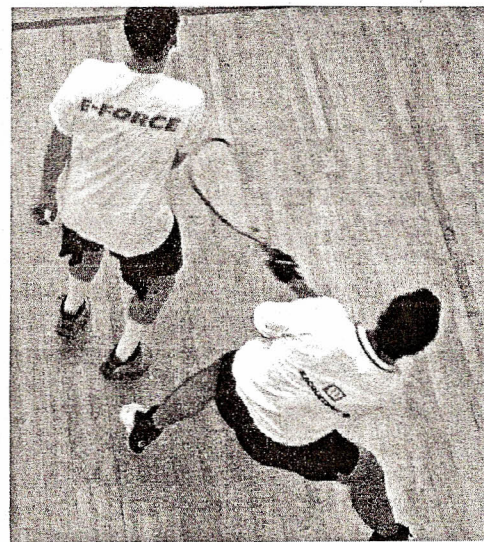
I came away with some interesting thought (at least to me) about his tournament. One thing a player should do is let the referee call the match and never argue with the opponent. It was just as tough finding a referee regardless of whether it's a winner or a loser. Guess what, if you are in a single elimination tournament, the loser can leave and what are the real consequences? In the age groups, a good player from Utah has the same skills, shots and potential to win. The major difference is in playing at a high level longer. In a state like California, a player has so many more players it forces him to play at a higher level for a longer number of matches. But we can compete, and win, guys like Jim Wilking and Luzill Wilde have proven that. Anyway, it was a great experience and I invite you all to think about playing in these national level tournaments, I am quite sure you will totally enjoy it.



2 Adam Anderson, Brad Bona (Spring Smash)



Carlos Benson, Alvaro Mejia (Luck of the Heights)



Matt Christensen, Spencer Crozier (Luck of the Heights)

Photos by Randy Martin



*By Gene Rolfe, URA Treasurer*

Another Utah racquetball has come to an end. Recently, someone at a tournament desk was asked to remove a referee from a match and they didn't know exactly what to do. I feel this is an interesting comment on racquetball in Utah. I think it is a good sign that the issue doesn't come up too often. For the most part, most of us are willing to live with the call and not treat racquetball as a life and death situation. However, there are times when it may be appropriate to change a referee and a way is provided in the rulebook. In this issue I would like to talk about referees and line judges.

I was not aware that the tournament director should have a rules committee consisting of an odd number and that the tournament director should not be a member of the committee. The purpose of the committee is to resolve any disputes that the referee, tournament desk, or tournament director cannot resolve. Most disputes in our tournaments have been resolved at the tournament director level and usually consist of rules clarifications. At times, the members of the board, who were present at the tournament, have also been consulted.

The principle official for each match is the referee and his or her authority begins once the player is called to the court. The referee is designated by the tournament director or their representative. The referee can be removed from the match if all players (or teams in doubles) agree or at

the determination of the tournament director. If one player or team request the removal of the referee and the other player or team does not agree, the tournament director or their representative may accept or reject the request. It is suggested that the match be observed before determining what, if any, action is to be taken. In addition, two line judges and a scorekeeper may also be designated to assist the referee in officiating the match. After the match has started, I have only seen a request for referee changes a couple of times. I feel that a request for the change of a referee should be well thought out and that there should be a legitimate reason. Remember that we are trying to develop the skills of referees, and if at all possible, they should be given the experience to referee. Possible exceptions could be semi-final and final matches, where a more experienced referee should be found.

I will give just a quick overview of line judges and how they can be used. The rules regarding line judges are surprisingly long compared to how many times line judges are used. The rules suggest that line judges could be used for semifinal or final matches, when a player or team requests, or when the referee or tournament director feel it may be necessary. However, the use of line judges is subject to availability and the discretion of the tournament director. The referee and the players designate the position of the line judges. When one player appeals, the referee explains the appeal and the line judges indicate their opinion. The line

judges extend their arms and show a thumb up for agreement, a thumb down for disagreement, or hand flat with palm down for no opinion or if they did not see the play. If at least one player agrees with the referee or if neither line judge has an opinion, the referee's call stands. If both line judges disagree with the referee, the referee must reverse the call. If one line judge disagrees with the referee and the other signals no opinion, the rally is replayed. A player or team can make three appeals per game. However, if either line judge disagrees (thumb down) with the referee's call, that appeal will not count against the three-appeal limit. In addition, a potential game-ending rally may be appealed without charge against the limit--even if the three-appeal limit has been reached.

The above is just a brief overview of the use of line judges and the removal of referees. If you have further questions, you may look up the rules at [usra.org](http://usra.org) or there is a link from [utahracquetball.com](http://utahracquetball.com). As always, if you have any questions about rules or future suggestions for articles, you may contact me at [rgrolfe@hotmail.com](mailto:rgrolfe@hotmail.com)



Photo by Steve Coray (Year End Award Winners, Dave Timmons Referee, Alvaro Mejia Most Improved Male, Val Shewfelt President's Award, Heather Woichik Tournament Director, Randy Martin Sportsmanship, Barb Christensen Most Improved Female, Richie Terry Most Improved Junior)

# SPRING SMASH FEB 26- MARCH 2



	First	Second	Third	Cons
<b>Men's Open</b>	Adam Anderson	Brad Bona	Scott Laycock	Ray Griffiths
<b>Men's A</b>	Carlos Benson	Brad Brumbaugh	Alvaro Mejia	Eric Fry
<b>Men's B</b>	Steven Hayward	Daniel Mullins	Grant Stoddard	Brian Sorenson
<b>Men's C</b>	Brian Sorenson	David Cise	Anthony Martin	Steve Brumbaugh
<b>Men's D</b>	Kevin Earl	Cody Sylvester	Sam Sorenson	Devan VanValkenburg
<b>Men's 30-55</b>	Chris Clift	David Cise	Jeff Aiono	
<b>Men's 40-45</b>	Dennis Fisher	Ray Griffiths	Marcus Dunyon	
<b>Men's 50-60</b>	Dennis Fisher	Chris Segura	Larry Blanken	Brent North
<b>Women's B</b>	Barbara Christensen	Janis Gibson	Eileen Sanchez	Laura Bryan
<b>Women's D</b>	Melanie Hanson	Heidi Carver	Heather Woichik	Cassy VanValkenburg
<b>Juniors</b>	Anthony Martin	Cody Sylvester	Devan VanValkenburg	
	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<b>O/A Doubles:</b>	Jerry Montanez/ Eric Carver	Alvaro Mejia/ Carlos Benson	Sean Lucky/ Steve Coray	Wade Burkett / Gene Rolfe
<b>B Doubles:</b>	Jeff Aiono/ Grant Stoddard	Steve Brumbaugh/ Dennis Harper	Mike & Devan / VanValkenburg	Jane Chase / Deanne Hinton
<b>Mixed Doubles:</b>	Perry Allen/ Deanne Hinton	Kevin Earl / Barbara Christensen	Sam Sorenson / Melanie Hanson	

# LUCK OF THE HEIGHTS MARCH 12-16



	First	Second	Third	Cons
<b>Men's Open:</b>	Matt Christensen	Spencer Crozier	Ray Griffiths	Alvaro Mejia
<b>Men's A:</b>	Adam Tueller	Carlos Benson	Alvaro Mejia	Jon Meatoga
<b>Men's B:</b>	Eric Bostrom	David Cise	Mike King	Richard Terry
<b>Men's C:</b>	David Cise	Larry Kramer	Eric Bostrom	Andrew Gale
<b>Men's D:</b>	Korey Walsh	Dave Catalini	Ben Johnson	
<b>Men's 25-35:</b>	Matt Christensen	Chris Gale	Chris Clift	
<b>Men's 40-45:</b>	Alan Jorgensen	Ray Griffiths	Marcus Dunyon	
<b>Men's 50-60:</b>	Alan Jorgensen	Scott Brewster	Larry Hambleton	
<b>Women's Singles:</b>	Diane Burns	Kris Wheller	Barbara Christensen	
<b>O/A Doubles:</b>	Carlos Benson/Alvaro Mejia	Eric Fry/Jon Meatoga		
<b>B/C Doubles:</b>	Brian Harper/Steve Brumbaugh	Steven Hayward/Michael Andrew	Bruce Archibald/Larry Kramer	

# TRAVEL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT & TEAM STANDINGS



	First	Second
<b>Men's Open</b>	Jerry Montanez Marv Jensen	Brad Bona SportsMall
<b>Men's A</b>	Gerry Beltran SportsForum	Adam Tueller SportsForum
<b>Men's B</b>	Robert Lopez SportsMall	Joe Kalademis SportsMall
<b>Women's</b>	Diane Burns Redwood	Kris Wheeler Redwood
<b>Open Doubles</b>	Marcus Dunyon/Brian Pointelin SportsMall	TJ Robinson/Gary Chum SportsMall
<b>A Doubles</b>	Randy Krantz/Robert Lopez SportsMall	Gerry Beltran/Dave Beasley SportsForum
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	Larry Allred/Sarah Campbell Bountiful Rec Center	Richard Terry/Kris Wheeler Redwood

## Final Team Standings

- |                      |                               |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. SportsMall 65.27  | 2. SportsForum 57.38          | 3. Redwood 54.68                    |
| 4. Marv Jensen 49.92 | 5. Bountiful Rec Center 44.77 | 6. West Valley Family Fitness 35.35 |
| 7. Alta Canyon 16.07 |                               |                                     |

# STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS APRIL 9-13

**Penn**

**Men's Open**  
**Men's A**  
**Men's B**  
**Men's C**  
**Men's D**  
**Men's 20+**  
**Men's 25+**  
**Men's 30+**  
**Men's 35+**  
**Men's 40+**  
**Men's 45+**  
**Men's 50+**  
**Men's 60+**  
**Boys 18-**  
**Boys 16-**  
**Boys 14-**  
**Boys 12-**  
**Boys 8- multibounce**  
**Women's Open**  
**Women's A**  
**Women's B**  
**Women's D**  
**Women's 35+**  
**Women's 40+**  
**Women's 45+**  
**Women's 60+**  
**Girl's 16-**

**First**

Brian Pointelin  
 Adam Tueller  
 Mike Rubin  
 Cameron Johnson  
 Mike Summer  
 Travis Koeding  
 Brian Gill  
 Steve Black  
 Dave Timmons  
 Jim Derrickson  
 Glen Aitken  
 Dennis O'Brien  
 Tom Nystrom  
 Quang Nguyen  
 Mathew Jones  
 John Sanderson  
 Kory Walsh  
 Kyle Walsh  
 Marianne Walsh  
 Monica Campbell  
 DeAnn Hinton  
 Melanie Hansen  
 Kara Linn  
 Marianne Walsh  
 Val Shewfelt  
 Sylvja Sawyer  
 Kim Walsh

**Second**

Sean Lucky  
 Alvaro Mejia  
 Bill Bowen  
 Michael King  
 Kory Walsh  
 Cameron Johnson  
 Eric Carver  
 Brian Pointelin  
 Sean Lucky  
 Glen Aitken  
 Rick Johnson  
 Dennis Fisher  
 Chris Segura  
 Richie Terry  
 JC Tenney  
 Andrew Gale  
 Drew Brannigan  
 Kara Linn  
 Ning Spears  
 Eileen Sanchez  
 Robin Nielsen  
 Robin Nielson

**Third**

Craig Erickson  
 Eric Fry  
 Eric Fry  
 Eric Bostrom  
 Steve Brumbaugh  
 Ben Kartchner  
 Chris Johnson  
 Phil Burbank  
 Phil Burbank  
 Steven Clark  
 Marcus Dunyon  
 Doug Douville  
 Roger Flick  
 Brad Prestwich  
 BJ Tenney  
 Anthony Martin  
 Jane Chase  
 Val Shewfelt  
 Barb Christensen  
 Heather Woichik  
 Masa Fonoimoana



Photo by Steve Coray

By Marcus Dunyon



I have known Steve for a number of years, even before his hair was totally grey ( he might have been using Greacian

Formula to cover the grey). And one thing I have always admired was his ability to state an opinion and give an interview. Back in the early 90's, he moved away from Salt Lake to work in St. George in what was probably his hey day as a player, so most of us have only seen him on the downside of his career. Wait, to have a downside, first you have to have an upside. HA HA. Anyway here we go with his profile:

**Q.** Steve, where were you born?

**A.** I was born in Salt Lake at Holy Cross Hospital, in a room that has now been sealed and bears a shiny gold plaque on the door. (Editor's Note: the plaque reads "Janitor Closet")

**Q.** How did you get started with Racquetball?

**A.** My father and I used to play squash at the Deseret Gym in Ogden when I was in my mid-teens. It had only two courts and they were always full. So since there were four open racquetball courts, we bought racquets and started to play. That was around 1970. We played a lot with a player named Dave Williams and his father. My first tournament was in 1973 and, being a bit too cocky, I entered the C category. I got beat in that tournament and never have made it out of Men's C.

**Q.** Who were some of the players who played back when you started?

**A.** Well, Abe Lincoln comes to mind. Let's see, the Sayes brothers were the dominant players at the time. Loretta Peterson and my sister, Pat, were two very good female players. John Clift played well, but was having some trouble with his backhand.

**Q.** You have been a promoter of racquetball in a number of ways. Tell me about your involvement.

**A.** I've served on the board as the Vice-President under Tim Storey and again later as the Newsletter Editor with Rico. As Vice President, my job was to smooth all of the feathers that Tim tended to ruffle. Actually,

Tim was a real strong President.

I have been sponsored by Ektelon off and on, and was once named the least coordinated player in Utah, a distinction I still seem to maintain. I've been a racquetball program director for the Prospector Athletic Club and Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center, where I ran leagues, lessons and tournaments. Later, Rick Strout and I created and ran Team Utah, which was a program for serious players who wanted help with proper technique, training and conditioning. (Editor: So, what happened to you and your game?)

**Q.** Tell me a little about yourself .

**A.** I'm real weird, so I've never been married. Also no kids, but lots of careers. Seriously, most of my experience has been in software training and visual communication (photography, web design, etc.).

**Q.** You have been around as you admit for a long time. In what ways has racquetball changed?

**A.** The game in much faster due to the new equipment. It has made racquetball a power game, with a lot less emphasis on touch shots. I don't know whether it has helped the game or not, but it was inevitable.

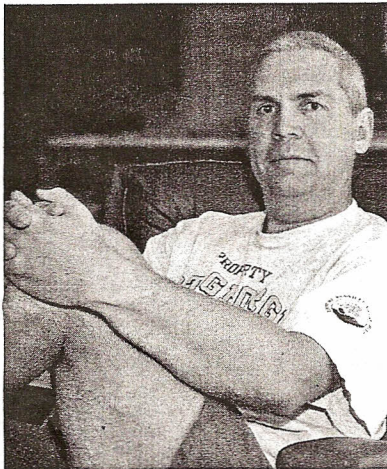
**Q.** If you could change a rule in racquetball , what would it be?

**A.** Double bounce for anyone over six feet tall or 200 pounds.

**Q.** You spent over a year in Buffalo, New York. Tell me about the state of racquetball there.

**A.** Buffalo is isolated from the rest of New York, so they have a hard time drawing players from outside the area. These days they have just a few courts left in not many facilities, so they hold fewer tournaments. But they make up to some degree by being very serious about their travel league. The players' performance in league play helps determine statewide rankings (along with the limited tournament play). There are some really tough Open players there. And believe it or not, the Women's and Junior programs are much stronger in Utah. I have a real concern about competitive racquetball surviving in Western New York.

**Q.** What do you enjoy most about



Racquetball?

**A.** Chicks dig it! Seriously, the relationships and camaraderie. I used to play to try to win tournaments - now I play to get some exercise, be involved and be around the gang. I like to balance competitiveness with laughter. Hey, this is supposed to be a GAME.

**Q.** What is the strong point of your game.

**A.** I think adaptability. By that, I mean the ability to adapt from singles to doubles, or to adapt during a match to my competitor's game. Or even to what my body can offer on any given day. Some players have only one style of game. If it is working, that's great. But if it's not, they need to have something else to go to. They have to adapt. These days I have to adapt to being suddenly old.

**Q.** Okay, I like to give players a chance for a parting shot. What is yours?

**A.** I do have a pet peeve. It is that so few people actually give back to the sport. And it is consistently just a few people making a significant contribution - people like Enrico, Val, Marianne, Ruth, and others. (Okay, and Marcus. Sheesh!) I greatly respect those that do. It doesn't take any great training, just a willingness to help and some follow-through,

Steve is currently helping out the URA by taking pictures and providing help with our newsletter. I consider myself lucky to be able to call Steve my friend - he and I have spent more hours than we care to count discussing everything from racquetball, to business, to life, to ways of keeping him from getting a date. Or was that ways for him to find a date? Well, you'll have to ask him. If you want to take a look at some additional photos taken by Steve, go to his website at, [www.corayphoto.com](http://www.corayphoto.com).