

ANTE UP

YOUR POKER MAGAZINE™

FREDDY DEEB

Popular pro wins Bicycle Casino's historic WSOPC Main Event

CALIFORNIA
SOCAL ROAD TRIP!

FLORIDA
TOURNEY SERIES MANIA!

ILLINOIS
WCPC SEASON 2 FINALE

MICHIGAN
GOLD CASH PROMOS

MISSISSIPPI
GS WINTER CLASSIC

What does the DOJ opinion really mean?

Poker series need to work together

Navarro tip: ventilators

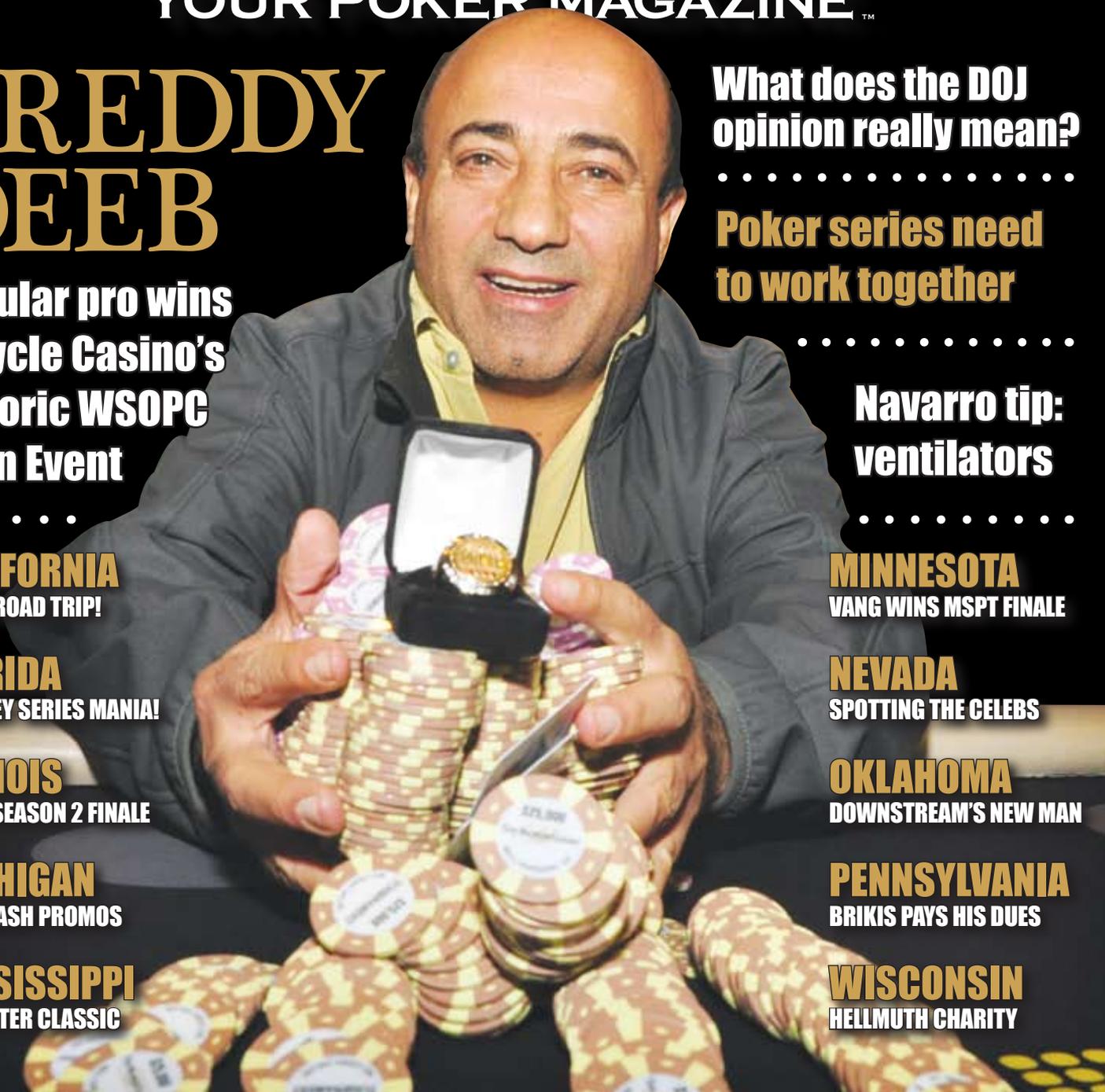
MINNESOTA
VANG WINS MSPT FINALE

NEVADA
SPOTTING THE CELEBS

OKLAHOMA
DOWNSTREAM'S NEW MAN

PENNSYLVANIA
BRIKIS PAYS HIS DUES

WISCONSIN
HELLMUTH CHARITY





POKER PLAYERS WIN CASH FOR EVERY PROGRESSIVE HIGH HAND

FEBRUARY 1-29 EVERY HOUR

High Hand is 4-of-a-kind or better. Live action poker games and single-table tournaments are eligible. Multi-table tournaments are not eligible. There is no limit to the number of High Hand Cash Rewards a player is eligible to win.

FEBRUARY POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

MULTI-TABLE NO LIMIT HOLD'EM

Mondays 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15 + \$25 • Bounty • 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15 • Re-Entry

Tuesdays 12:30PM & 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20 • Re-Entry

Wednesdays 2/1, 2/15 & 2/29 7:30PM • 2/8 & 2/22 • 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15 • Re-Entry

Thursdays 12:30PM & 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20 • Re-Entry

Fridays 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15 • Re-Entry

Saturdays 10AM • \$85 + \$15 • Re-Entry

Sundays 12:30PM • \$100 + \$20 • Re-Entry

DEEP STACK MULTI-TABLE NO LIMIT HOLD'EM

Wednesdays 2/1, 2/15 & 2/29 • 12:30PM • 2/8 & 2/22 • 7:30PM • \$200 + \$40

Fridays 2/3 & 2/17 • 7:30PM \$355 + \$45 • 2/10 & 2/24 • 7:30PM \$500 + \$50

MULTI-TABLE POT LIMIT OMAHA

Sunday 2/5 • 3:30PM • \$85 + \$15 • PLO



DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP NOW
Available on the
App Store
& ON ANDROID MARKET



Details at Seminole Player's Club. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 or older and a Player's Club member to participate. Must be present to win. Management reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.

TAMPA



THE BEST PAYOUTS

FEBRUARY SPECIALS

MULTI TABLE TOURNAMENTS DAILY

DAILY PROMOTIONS INCLUDE:

- HIGH HAND PAYOUTS
- DAILY JACKPOT GIVEAWAYS
- CASH PRIZES & MUCH MORE!

Features

- Smoke-free room
- Complimentary beverage service
- Table-side dining and cocktails
- Chair massage while you play
- 50+ Plasma Tvs & a 120" big screen
- State-of-the-art sound system
- Private high limit room
- Safe deposit boxes available



11225 RACETRACK RD. TAMPA, FL 33626

TEL: (813) 298-1798



**SIMULCASTING
EVERY DAY**

**LIVE RACING
DECEMBER THROUGH MAY**





IN TAMPA BAY



**OPEN
7 DAYS A WEEK
10am - 4am**

TOURNAMENT PROMOTIONS

TOP 5 HIGH HANDS EVERY MONDAY - FRIDAY

- 1ST PLACE \$500
- 2ND PLACE \$400
- 3RD PLACE \$300
- 4TH PLACE \$200
- 5TH PLACE \$100

FINISH IN THE TOP 5 OF ANY MULTITABLE TOURNAMENT AND QUALIFY FOR A MONTHLY \$2,000 FREE ROLL!!

****ALL PRIZES ARE FUNDED 100% BY THE HOUSE, NO ADDITIONAL FEE OR JACKPOT MONEY WILL BE USED.****

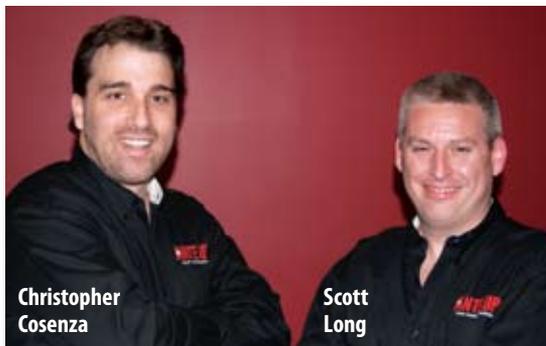
CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE ONLINE!

WWW.TAMPABAYDOWNS.COM



OUR MISSION

Ante Up, YOUR Poker Magazine, is dedicated to America's everyday poker players and their poker rooms.



Christopher Cosenza

Scott Long

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

The California Gold Rush began in 1848 when a nugget of the precious commodity was found at Sutter's Mill. Not long after that, California's Poker Rush began.

Since then, the Golden State has been home to some of the best poker action and variety in the world. *Ante Up* is pleased to spend the next few issues telling you all about it.

We start this month with our Road Trip to Los Angeles and Southern California. Every poker player has heard of the behemoths Commerce Casino and Bicycle Casino, but you'll find plenty of great card games taking the picturesque drive east into the mountains and then south to San Diego.

L.A. poker added to its rich lore in January when the Bike hosted the first World Series of Poker Circuit event near the city. We congratulate world-class pro **Freddy Deeb** for his victory and his appearance on our cover.

In the coming months, we'll fill you in on the excitement coming to the Bay Area, solid offerings near Sacramento and why you should take a drive through the center of the poker-frenetic state.

What's to like about California poker? For us, it's all about the variety. On our weekly *Ante Up PokerCast* (subscribe for free on iTunes), we consistently urge listeners to expand their poker muscles and try something other than no-limit hold'em. California makes it easy for players to do just that. While the variety has curtailed a bit since our last trip there, you'll still find plenty of Omaha (including a five-card version), plus pan and Chinese poker, two games not usually found outside of major tournament series.

And you'll find innovation in tournaments as well, from ironman events that test your bladder to all-in-or-fold tournaments that challenge your starting-hand knowledge, and rare gems such as deuce-to-seven triple draw.

Poker continues to spread in popularity across the nation, but let's not forget the rich history and creativity that's unabated on the Pacific Coast.

We'll see you at the tables.

— Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

What's this?



Download the free QR Reader app to your smartphone at gettag.mobi or in your app store. When you see a tag in this issue, scan it with the app and your phone will take you to vibrant content such as results, photos, stories, maps, videos or even offers from our advertisers.

ANTE UP PUBLISHING LLC

2519 McMullen-Booth Road • Suite 510-300
Clearwater, FL 33761
727-331-4335 • editor@anteupmagazine.com

PUBLISHERS

Christopher Cosenza • chris@anteupmagazine.com
Scott Long • scott@anteupmagazine.com

ADVERTISING

Crystalynn Harris • (316) 619-3188 • crystalynn@anteupmagazine.com
anteupmagazine.com/advertise

AMBASSADORS

- Cris Belkewitch • Atlantic City/Philadelphia • cris.belkewitch@gmail.com
- "Chicago" Joe Giertuga • Chicagoland • chicago.joe@comcast.net
- Rick Gershman • Colorado • rickgershman@gmail.com
- Ken Warren • Iowa • anteupken@gmail.com
- Michael "LasVegasMichael" Hamai • Las Vegas • michael@allvegaspoker.com
- Sammy Wynn • Michigan • anteup@sammywynn.com
- Michael Young • Mid-Atlantic • anteupmike@gmail.com
- John Somsky • Minnesota • john.somsky@gmail.com
- Jennifer Gay • Mississippi • jennifergay80@hotmail.com
- Don Matusofsky • Missouri • anteupdonm@gmail.com
- Mark Rhoades • North Carolina • markr@carolina.rr.com
- Kay Fitzpatrick • Northeast • anteupkay@gmail.com
- Crystalynn Harris • Oklahoma-Kansas • crystalynn@anteupmagazine.com
- Barton Gratt • Pacific Northwest • anteupbarton@gmail.com
- Cordell Howard • Reno-Tahoe • anteupcory@gmail.com
- Troy Lennon • North Florida • anteuptroy@gmail.com
- Garrett Roth • Central Florida • roth@anteupmagazine.com
- "Big" Dave Lemmon • South Florida • bigdave@pokeractionline.com
- R.C. Thorne • Southern Indiana • anteuprc@gmail.com
- Michael Owens • W. Penn./W. Virginia • anteupowens@gmail.com
- Dave Palm • Los Angeles • LA.AnteUp@gmail.com
- Bret Miller • Northern California • anteupbret@gmail.com
- Leslie Pauls • Central California • anteupcali@gmail.com
- Kittie Aleman • Southern California • anteupkittie@gmail.com
- Chad Holloway • Wisconsin • anteupchad@yahoo.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Stephen Bloomfield, Todd Lamansky, Jonathan Little, Joe Navarro, Marc Dunbar, Mike Wolf, Antonio Pinzari and Lee Childs

DISTRIBUTION • SUBSCRIPTIONS

Ante Up is free for poker rooms. Call (727) 331-4335 • Individual subscriptions are \$30 per 12 issues or \$5 per copy • anteupmagazine.com/magazine/

ANTE UP PRODUCTS

- Magazine • AnteUpMagazine.com • PokerCast • Television • Poker Cruises •
- Poker Tour • E-Newsletters • Live Events •

POLICIES

All material in *Ante Up* is copyrighted and all rights are reserved. Reproduction of material without *Ante Up*'s consent is forbidden. We do not endorse services or products advertised, nor are we responsible for ad copy.

FOLLOW US

facebook.com/anteupmagazine



Twitter: [@anteupmagazine](https://twitter.com/anteupmagazine)



THE
MIAMI GARDENS
POKER
CLASSIC

over
\$200,000
guaranteed

event 1	2/3	11am	day 1a	– \$50,000 guaranteed	\$225
	2/4	11am	day 1b	– \$50,000 guaranteed	\$225
	2/4	8pm	day 1c	– \$50,000 guaranteed	\$225
	2/5	12pm	day 2	– \$50,000 guaranteed	
event 2	2/6	7pm		\$10k guaranteed \$50 bounties	\$150
event 3	2/7	7pm		\$5k guaranteed	\$100
event 4	2/8	7pm		\$12k guaranteed re-buy/add-on	\$150
event 5	2/9	11am		\$25k guaranteed \$100 bounties	\$350
event 6	2/10	11am	day 1a	– \$100,000 guaranteed	\$440
	2/11	11am	day 1b	– \$100,000 guaranteed	\$440
	2/11	8pm	day 1c	– \$100,000 guaranteed	\$440
	2/12	12pm	day 2	– \$100,000 guaranteed	



OPEN 24 HOURS

fridays & saturdays starting february 3!

STUDZ
POKER CLUB



CALDER CASINO
& RACE COURSE
A Churchill Downs Company

follow us on:  

StudzPoker.com

for more info: (305) 474.5700

See www.StudzPoker.com for full details. All dates, times, promotions, and guarantees subject to change without notice.
Gambling problem? Call 1-888-ADMIT-IT. The State of Florida assumes no liability in our promotions.

CONTENTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



The Ante Up brass takes a trip to L.A. then through the mountains to visit as many poker rooms in SoCal as possible in three days. **48-52**

ON THE BUTTON



Avery Cardoza is one of the most influential publishers in the gambling world, and now he's writing fiction. **78**

CALIFORNIA

LA: The WSOPC hits La La land for the first time and Freddy Deeb wins the main event at the Bike. Plus, we review the Normandie Casino. **12-14**
SO CAL: Bad beat hits at Pechanga, plus San Manuel renews a rivalry. **12**
NORCAL: Casino 580 is doing everything to give you the Vegas experience. **10**
CENCAL: Capitol Casino is thriving these days, and so is Golden West, which just hired Steve Eisenberg. **10**

AC/PHILLY

The Sands finally has a hotel and tournaments to lure more players to its poker room. **28**

CHICAGOLAND

Windy City Poker Championship wraps up with plenty of star power. **38**

COLORADO

We meet a poker player who makes a healthy profit playing solely premium hands. **26**

WISCONSIN

Phil Hellmuth, a.k.a. Poker Brat, and friends help raise \$110K for a good cause. **37**

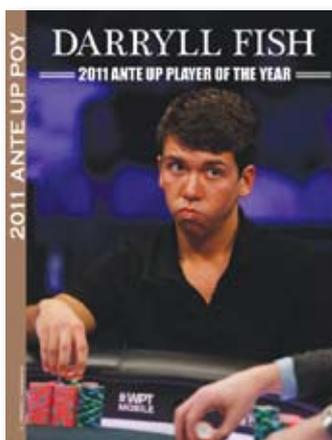
FLORIDA

NORTH: Jacksonville Poker is your BestBet, as its third poker room is set to open this month. Plus, Creek Entertainment's Gretna location has a big opening night for its poker room. **16**

CENTRAL: The Silks Poker Room at Tampa Bay Downs continues to have some of the area's best promotions, and is using its own money to fund them. **18**

SOUTH: Tournament series are spreading like wild fire, giving players plenty of options. **20-22**

2011 PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Who says you can't win without winning? Our 2011 Ante Up Player of the Year, Darryll Fish of Florida, did just that as he rallied in the late half of the year to post impressive final-table appearances and earn enough points for this fine accolade. **46-47**

MICHIGAN

Is there anything finer than free cash to warm a poker player's heart in the winter? **42**

MISSISSIPPI

Miss Poker columnist Jennifer Gay turns clairvoyant and picks a winner at the Beau. **24**

NEW MEXICO

Never underestimate the value of teaching new players in a seminar setting. **42**

IOWA

Almost a year after Black Friday, online pro Bill Slaght still earns a living live. **40**

NEVADA

VEGAS: Celebs are big here, and don't be surprised to find yourself playing against one. **32**

OKLAHOMA

Downstream Casino's poker room has new leadership these days. **36**

NORTHEAST

It won't be long before you'll be able to play poker in a Maine casino. **30**

PACIFIC NW

Ante Up has a new PNW ambassador and his name is Dr. Barton Gratt. **26**

PENNSYLVANIA

Josh Brikis has put in the hard work and it's paying off in spades for him. **28**

STRATEGY



JOE NAVARRO

If your opponent is ventilating, you know he's nervous about something. **57**



JONATHAN LITTLE

You need basic hand-reading skills if you're going to take it to the next level. **54**



LEE CHILDS

You'd be surprised how valuable a good poker education can be to your bankroll. **56**



JAY HOUSTON

There aren't a lot of occasions to slow-play in PLO, but there are a few instances. **59**

DAYTONA BEACH
KENNEL CLUB & POKER ROOM



HPT

HEARTLAND POKER TOUR

February 3-13, 2012 • Florida's only Poker Tour Stop
Log on to www.HPTPoker.com for more information



POKERTICKETS
.COM

Maria Ho



Tiffany Michelle



WIN

An Exclusive Poker Package
Thursday February 9, 2012

- 2:30 pm - Meet & Greet
- 3:00pm - \$250 Bounty Tournament with \$2,000 Prize Pool
- 6:00pm - HPT VIP Party

** Limited seating for this event*

Start Qualifying in February for the
\$65 Spring Fling Deep Stack Qualifiers
to the **\$100,000 Guaranteed Main Event**

Friday March 30th - 6:00pm



Poker Room Hours • Monday-Thursday 10am - 4am • Friday 10am - Monday 4am
960 S. Williamson Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL. 32114 • 386-252-6484 - www.daytonapokergreyhound.com

Must be 18 years of age or older to wager and play in the HPT Tournament. Management reserves the right to cancel change or modify any promotion or tournament without notice. Promotions require card combinations to win cash and prizes. HPT Information available at the Poker Room Host Station or on the website.



Scan this tag for more California poker news or go to anteupmagazine.com/california/

IS THIS LAS VEGAS? NO, IT'S LIVERMORE!

Recently opened in Livermore, the Casino 580 is not your run-of-the-mill small cardroom. The latest addition to the Park West Casino family has a flair that was quite a surprise to me. General manager **Mark Martini** said, "Though we are located in the Bay Area, I want people to feel like they've arrived in Vegas when they visit us."



BRET MILLER

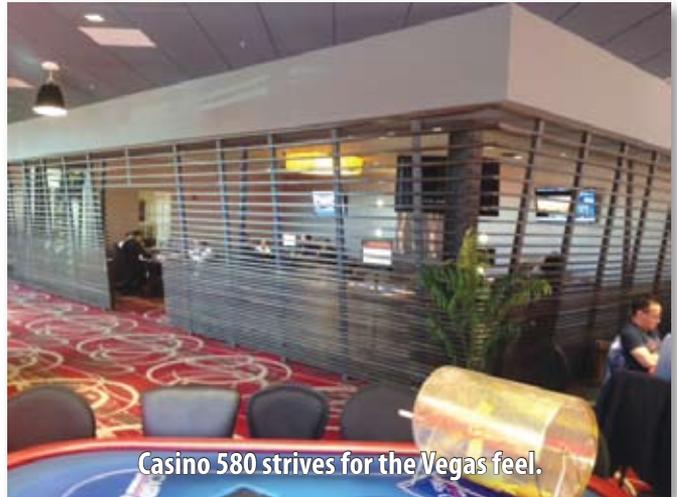
Once inside the club, it's plain to see the Vegas-style décor, from the mood lighting to the custom carpeting.

Along with \$3-\$6 and \$4-\$8 limit hold'em and Omaha, Casino 580 offers spread-limit hold'em (primarily in the evening) and daily no-limit hold'em tournaments. Final-table finishers at each tournament qualify for the monthly leaderboard freeroll event. There are raffle drawings every four hours, straight-flush bonuses and bad-beat jackpots up for grabs as well. Keep in mind the club is new and promotions may soon change.

Educated at Boston University with more than nine years in the gaming industry, Martini has learned what's important to running a successful cardroom.

"I have been listening to the players and will probably change some of our bonuses and tournaments," he said. "I have several ideas that are much different from my competitors, but need a little time to work out the details."

Martini wants to set Casino 580 apart from the competition by offering limo and shuttle service to San Jose and will feature a concert with a popular singer from Vietnam in the lounge this month.



Casino 580 strives for the Vegas feel.

A prominent feature in the club is the high stakes "Dragon" room, which caters to the Asian community. What makes it unique is there's no collection at any of the games offered. The restaurant, Kitchen 580, opened Jan. 10 and features Asian cuisine along with some American favorites.

There's ample parking and 24-hour security. Casino 580 is at 968 North Canyon Parkway (Airway Blvd. exit) off Highway 580 in Livermore.

— **Bret Miller is the Ante Up Ambassador for Northern California. Email him at anteupbret@gmail.com.**

Bad beat hits at Pechanga; Rivalry renewed at San Manuel

More than 250 players in Pechanga's poker room had a great start to the New Year, as Southern California's first Mega Share Bad Beat Jackpot hit for \$157,346 on New Year's Day.

Irene Orona of Perris earned 30 percent of the jackpot (\$47,322) when her six-high straight flush lost to the eight-high straight flush of **Chinh Hoang** of Placentia, who earned the pot and \$31,469 (20 percent). Seven other players at the table got equal shares of \$6,743 (30 percent) while the rest of the hold'em cash players in the room each took home \$122.

The Pechanga Mega Share Bad Beat was reset to \$51,596 after the big win.

RIVALRY CHARITY: San Manuel Casino will host its second annual Rivalry charity tournament supporting the (L.A.) Kings Care Foundation and Anaheim Ducks Foundation on March 1. Like last year, Kings and Ducks alumni will participate in the events, which will include a silent auction, featuring collectable namesake hockey memorabilia and an after-party in the Pines.

The tournament, with a buy-in of \$35, will be played in the casino's Yuhaviatam Room. All proceeds from the buy-in support the teams' foundations. The tournament will feature 450 Ducks fans and 450 Kings fans playing against each other, team alumni, poker pros

and celebrities. They'll be playing for cash prizes of \$10,000.

Kings alumni scheduled to attend include **Marty McSorley, Glen Murray, Daryl Evans, Luc Robitaille, Bernie Nicholls, Ian Turnbull** and **Jim Fox**. Ducks alumni are TBA.

"Coming off such a successful rivalry tournament last year, there was no question of hosting again. Fans helped to raise over \$23,000, and we expect another night of great charitable giving with these two organizations," said **Steve Lengel**, executive director of operations for San Manuel.

CRAZY IN BARONA: We hear a great \$3-\$6 Crazy Pineapple/8 game (with a kill) is dominating the poker room at Barona Casino. This juicy game, which is bad-beat jackpot eligible (it's the Omaha jackpot), has been known to have a wait list so long it could take hours to get in, so get there early.

SOCAL ROAD TRIP: Be sure to turn to Pages 48-52 to read about our recent Ante Up Poker Road Trip to Southern California. We did our best to visit every room in SoCal and to chat with the managers and their staff members. We even had a chance to play in quite a few rooms, and what we found was a fantastic poker environment with dedicated staffs and players. It's a great region for poker!

— **Christopher Cosenza, chris@anteupmagazine.com**



INTERESTED IN CALIFORNIA TOURNAMENTS AND PROMOTIONS? TURN TO OUR WHERE TO PLAY PAGES IN THE BACK OF THE MAGAZINE.

NOW - FEBRUARY 29
POKER ROOM EXCLUSIVE

\$120,000

HOT HANDS & COOL CAR
CORVETTE GIVEAWAY



JOHN L. SULLIVAN
 CHEVROLET.COM

\$4,000 IN CASH AWARDED FROM 5PM - 11PM EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGH FEBRUARY 22

\$89,000 GRAND PRIZE
 DRAWING ON FEBRUARY 29

CASH & PRIZES AWARDED INCLUDING A NEW CORVETTE!



PLAY YOUR WAY
 INTO OUR THREE
WORLD SERIES OF POKER
SATELLITES

◆ MARCH 1 TO MAY 4 ◆

4 WINNERS WILL RECEIVE
 ENTRY INTO THE
\$10,000 WSOP MAIN EVENT
AND \$3,000 IN CASH!

OVER \$88,000
IN CASH AND PRIZES TO 120 WINNERS



THUNDER VALLEY
 CASINO RESORT
 THUNDERVALLEYRESORT.COM

1200 ATHENS AVENUE, LINCOLN, CA 95648 • 877-468-8777

SWEET 16
TOURNAMENT SERIES

EVENT #1	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM • \$5,000 Guarantee \$5,000 Starting Chips • 20 Minute Levels	\$75
EVENT #2	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM • \$15,000 Guarantee \$6,000 Starting Chips • 30 Minute Levels	\$150
EVENT #3	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM • \$5,000 Guarantee \$5,000 Starting Chips • 20 Minute Levels	\$75
EVENT #4	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM • \$5,000 Guarantee \$5,000 Starting Chips • 20 Minute Levels	\$75
EVENT #5	OMAHA 8 OR BETTER \$5,000 Starting Chips • 20 Minute Levels	\$75
EVENT #6	SIX HANDED NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM \$7,000 Starting Chips • 20 Minute Levels	\$100
EVENT #7	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM • \$10,000 Guaranteed with \$25 Bounties \$6,000 Starting Chips • 25 Minute Levels	\$125
EVENT #8	MEGA SATELLITE: DEEP STACK 30K EVENT	\$35
EVENT #9	DEEP STACK • \$50,000 Guarantee \$10,000 Starting Chips • 30 Minute Levels	\$280
EVENT #10	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM • \$5,000 Guarantee \$5,000 Starting Chips • 20 Minute Levels	\$75
EVENT #11	LIMIT HOLD 'EM • \$5,000 Guarantee \$5,000 Starting Chips • 20 Minute Levels	\$75
EVENT #12	OMAHA 8 OR BETTER \$5,000 Starting Chips • 20 Minute Levels	\$75
EVENT #13	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM TURBO • \$5,000 Guarantee \$6,000 Starting Chips • 15 Minute Levels	\$75
EVENT #14	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM KNOCKOUT BOUNTY • \$10,000 Guaranteed with \$25 Bounties • \$6,000 Starting Chips • 25 Minute Levels	\$125
EVENT #15	MEGA SATELLITE: SWEET 16 \$60K MAIN EVENT	\$45
EVENT #16	SWEET 16 MAIN EVENT • \$60,000 Guarantee \$10,000 Starting Chips • 40 Minute Levels	\$385

SPECIFIC DETAILS ABOUT SWEET 16 EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

MARCH 16 - APRIL 1



Scan this tag for more California poker news or go to anteupmagazine.com/california/

NORMANDIE CASINO IS THE HIDDEN GEM OF L.A.

As the only “Original Six” casino that’s left in the Los Angeles area, Normandie Casino has a long and rich history. **Ernest Primm**, who later founded Primm, Nev., opened the Western Club in 1940.

Russ Miller started as a doorman, worked his way up, and eventually took ownership of the club in 1947, renaming it the Normandie Casino. It’s still in the Miller family, owned by his four sons. Miller’s granddaughter, **Michelle Miller Wahler**, is president and August will mark the 65th anniversary of the casino. It’s considered a historical site in Gardena.



DAVE PALM

Normandie Casino has completed some changes (with more planned). These changes range from remodeling projects to a new tournament schedule, comprehensive staff customer service training and new management.

Recently completed renovations include new carpet, chandeliers and a guest services desk, which is front and center when you enter the casino. Bookmakers, the diner, has been partially upgraded. It’s been redesigned to add multiple televisions so you can view your favorite sporting event. Next up is the final phase for Bookmakers, a transition to a full-fledged sports bar, as a big screen and a bar will be added.

Normandie Casino recently promoted **Daniel Nguyen** to casino manager and **John Dao** to tournament director. Both were internal promotions and each have worked at Normandie for more than 20 years. I recently had the pleasure of meeting with John and **Susan Nguyen**, Normandie’s promotions and advertising manager.

“We provide the best customer service,” John said. “It’s just a small casino. Everybody knows it. We’re like a big family here.”

Said Susan: “Even though we’ve been here the longest, we’re not the biggest. A great advantage to that is when you step through the door, we know you by name. You come here all the time, we’ll greet

you; shake your hand; we’ll sit you down. We treat each other like family. There are customers who have been coming here for over 30 years. We know their names, their children’s names and their children’s children’s names. We just want customers to know that we know we are not the biggest casino. Yes, we’re the smallest, but at the same time we take that extra step of getting to know our customers.”

To emphasize that point, she told me more than 100 players logged more than 100 hours at the poker tables in December.

After not having any tournaments for a number of years, Normandie recently started about nine months ago with regular weekly events that run Wednesday to Sunday. This month the poker room hosts two special tournaments: a \$10K on Feb. 19 and a similar event on Feb. 29.

“We do have a lot of promotions in February,” Susan said. “We’re giving \$24,000 in cash giveaway raffles, for poker players only. They receive raffle tickets for specific high hands. Then we do a raffle for cash prizes. We also have an Aces Cracked promotion. For poker players, there’s the ‘It Pays to Play’ promotion, where if they play 100 hours during February, depending on the level of game they play, they get a rack of chips back. On top of that, we also have cash back in points, that actually stacks on top of their 100 hours of play.”

With these promotions, you could receive \$500 for 100 hours of play.

One huge promotion planned during the Super Bowl involves gift cards given out for every score. Before the game, each table will be randomly assigned a team. After each score, one of the scoring team’s tables will be drawn and \$200 will be added to that table’s next pot for a field goal, \$300 for a touchdown.

For more information, go to normandiecasino.com or be sure to read our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine.

— **Dave Palm is Ante Up’s Los Angeles Ambassador. You can email him at LA.AnteUp@gmail.com.**



CENTRAL CAL

Capitol Casino thrives; Golden West hires Eisenberg

Christmas came early for more than 30 lucky players Dec. 17 at the Capitol Casino in Sacramento as the conclusion of the Fall Into Winnings promotion awarded nearly \$30K, 24 flatscreen TVs and a 2012 Ford Focus. The event brought in hundreds of players and awarded \$50 every 15 minutes for six straight hours. Casino owner **Clarke Rosa** was pleased with the event’s success, and Capitol has again started awarding players with raffle tickets to the next drawing.

In addition to the traditional promotions such as bad-beat jackpots, high-hand and royal-flush bonuses, Capitol has a rewards card that qualifies players for drawings and an hourly cash-back program. Daily cash games include \$4-\$8 and \$6-\$12 limit hold’em and \$1-\$3, \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10 NLHE. On occasion the room spreads the area’s only \$10-\$20 NLHE game that attracts the likes of local pro **J.C. Tran**.

Daily tournaments start at \$30 and consistently draw more than 80 players, plus the monthly “Second Saturday” \$220 deepstack NLHE event. A special \$550 version of this event will be Feb. 11, with satel-

lites on Feb. 9 and 10.

Capitol opened its doors in May 2000 and was the city’s first upscale cardroom with more than 17,000 square feet housing a 10-table poker room. It’s downtown so it’s accessible from all major freeways. Visit capitol-casino.com or check out our Where to Play pages for more info.

NEW MAN AT GWC: Golden West Casino hired **Steve Eisenberg** as casino manager, responsible for the daily activities and initiatives of the casino, including player development and employee relations. **Eisenberg** has been in the gaming industry for 27 years, most recently as shift manager at Hustler Casino and senior blackjack floorman at Commerce Casino, where he was named Employee of the Year in 1999.

Eisenberg is “enthusiastic about moving to Bakersfield and is looking forward to using his experience to maintain a high level of customer service while developing new methods of training for floor personnel and dealers.”

Golden West Casino is in its 16th year in Bakersfield; please see its ad on the facing page.

— **Leslie Pauls is the Ante Up Ambassador for Central California and pro poker player. Email her at anteupcali@gmail.com.**



LESLIE PAULS



Bakersfield's

Friendliest

Place to Play!



Open 24-hours A Day, 7 Days A Week

- Fine Dining
- Live Music
- Free Poker Lessons
- Daily Tournaments
- Players Club
- Cash Giveaways
- Aces Cracked
- High Hand Promotion



GOLDEN WEST
CASINO®

- Bakersfield's Place to Play! -

Get the freereader app
at reader.kaywa.com



STAY CONNECTED
Get jackpot alerts & more!



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
goldenwestcasino.com

1001 S. Union Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93307 • 661/324-6936
goldenwestcasino.com

BGC # GEGA - 000371, 002960, 002958, 002302 and 001909 • Problems Gambling? 1-800 GAMBLER
*Golden West Casino has the right to change, modify, or cancel at any time • No Purchase necessary

We gave out over **\$1,000,000** in 2011!



DEEB BIKES INTO HISTORY

Freddy Deeb added to his illustrious list of poker accomplishments by winning the most recent World Series of Poker Circuit championship on Jan. 12 at the Bicycle Casino in Bell Gardens near Los Angeles.

Deeb put on a masterful performance in a career filled with numerous maestro moments. He collected \$171,810 in prize money for his victory, which remarkably was his first cash in a WSOPC event, earning a gold ring to go with his two WSOP gold bracelets.

Deeb is perhaps best known for winning the 2007 WSOP H.O.R.S.E. championship, which had a whopping \$50,000 buy-in. He arrived at the WSOPC final table as chipleader, but lost that lead on two occasions, including being the short stack when play reached four-handed. At one point, he was all-in and needed to pair the board to survive.

While Deeb rightfully stole the spotlight, the player who could've written just as exciting a headline was runner-up **Alexandru Masek**. A recent law school graduate from San Diego, Masek nearly tied the record for most WSOPC wins. Only 26 years old, Masek has four wins, ranking second with **Men "the Master" Nguyen**. A victory would've tied him with **Mark "Pegasus" Smith** of Georgetown, Ky, who won his fifth title last year.

Masek played outstanding poker, but lost a backbreaking late race

against Deeb.

"I'm exhausted!" Deeb said just moments after his victory. "Right now, I'm going to bed!"

With this victory, the 56-year-old Deeb has more than \$3.5 million in career tournament winnings. Aside from his H.O.R.S.E. victory, Deeb won his other gold bracelet in 1996 in deuce-to-seven lowball.

Here are some other highlights from the first WSOPC in the L.A. area:

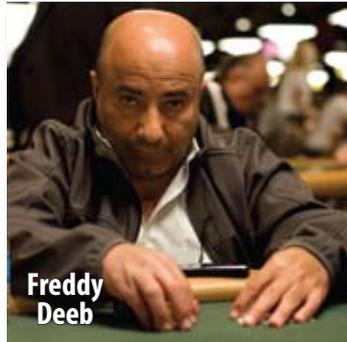
- **La Sengphet** became the first woman to win three open WSOPC tournaments.

Sengphet achieved what many would consider to be her most impressive victory in Event 5, defeating 377 players.

- **Michael Rosenbach**, a 29-year-old pro from Santa Rosa, Calif., won this third WSOPC ring in less than two months. This title came just 45 days after winning two rings at Harveys Lake Tahoe.

- **Jamey Johnson** came to Los Angeles from the small town of Tifton, Ga., traveling more than

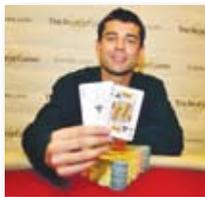
3,000 miles to earn the biggest victory of his career. He posted what was indisputably the comeback performance of the Bike series, roaring back from a ninth-place ranking when the final table began. It was his first time to cash in a WSOP-related tournament.



WSOP Circuit, Bicycle Casino, Bell Gardens, Calif., Jan. 1-12



Event 1 • \$345 Re-entry
Entries: 748 • Pool: \$217,668
Winner: Huy Quach, \$44,663



Event 2 • \$555 NLHE
Entries: 191 • Pool: \$92,635
Winner: Stephen Graner, \$25,020



Event 3 • \$345 NLHE
Entries: 313 • Pool: \$91,083
Winner: Adam Bishop, \$20,958



Event 4 • \$555 6-max
Entries: 171 • Pool: \$82,935
Winner: Mike Rosenbach, \$22,035



Event 5 • \$345 NLHE
Entries: 377 • Pool: \$109,707
Winner: La Sengphet, \$25,242



Event 6 • \$555 NLHE
Entries: 289 • Pool: \$140,165
Winner: John Coon, \$34,340



Event 7 • \$1,080 NLHE
Entries: 164 • Pool: \$159,080
Winner: Jamey Johnson, \$42,975



Event 8 • \$345 Omaha/8
Entries: 189 • Pool: \$54,999
Winner: Geb. Goitom, \$14,300



Event 9 • \$345 NLHE
Entries: 295 • Pool: \$85,845
Winner: Tesfaldet Tekle, \$21,025



\$1,600 Main Event
Entries: 549 • Pool: \$798,795
Winner: Freddy Deeb, \$171,810



Event 11 • \$345 NLHE
Entries: 217 • Pool: \$63,147
Winner: Jim Williamson, \$16,412



Event 12 • \$345 NLHE
Entries: 192 • Pool: \$55,872
Winner: MuHyun Cho, \$15,087

Larry Flynt's Holiday Classic, Hustler Casino, L.A., Nov. 26-Dec. 20

Event 1 • \$200 w/re-entry
Entries: 1,370 • Prize Pool: \$219,270
Winner: Paul Chanderson, \$50,000

Event 2 • \$125 NLHE
Entries: 62 • Prize Pool: \$6,200
Winner: Monte Vitzlum, \$2,300

Event 3 • \$200 Bounty
Entries: 87 • Prize Pool: \$14,790
Winner: Nathan Min, \$3,200

Event 4 • \$150 NLHE
Entries: 67 • Prize Pool: \$8,040
Winner: Grisha Hovsepian, \$2,900

Event 5 • \$150 w/rebuys
Entries: 554 • Prize Pool: \$104,095
Winner: Christopher McFarland, \$27,000

Event 6 • \$125 NLHE
Entries: 69 • Prize Pool: \$6,900
Winner: Richard Weis, \$2,450

Event 7 • \$150 PLO
Entries: 38 • Prize Pool: \$7,060
Winner: Cody Shedd, \$2,600

Event 8 • \$150 w/rebuys
Entries: 54 • Prize Pool: \$11,180
Winner: Samy Bazine, \$5,590

Event 9 • \$150 NLHE
Entries: 80 • Prize Pool: \$9,600
Winner: Ron Saxe, \$3,450

Event 10 • \$165 w/re-entry
Entries: N/A • Prize Pool: \$215,355
Winner: Jean Paul Nataf, \$52K

Event 11 • \$125 NLHE
Entries: 39 • Prize Pool: \$3,900
Winner: Alex Freiberg, \$1,500

Event 12 • \$100 w/rebuys
Entries: 59 • Prize Pool: \$12,775
Winner: Chris Neiman, \$4,300

Event 13 • \$150 NLHE
Entries: 76 • Prize Pool: \$9,120
Winner: Nick Phoenix, \$3,300

Event 14 • \$150 w/rebuys
Entries: N/A • Prize Pool: \$75K
Winner: John Paccione, \$26,950

* Re-entry and rebuy events are no-limit hold'em.



FEBRUARY 16-27, 2012

BOOK YOUR SEAT NOW!
POKERTICKETS.com

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT

FLORIDA'S ONLY WSOP STOP!

NEW THIS YEAR \$1 MILLION GUARANTEED EVENT!
WIN SEATS TO THE MILLION GUARANTEE DAILY FROM FEBRUARY 1ST!

EVENT #	DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT	BUY-IN	ENTRY FEE
1A	2/16/12	THURSDAY	11AM	\$555 NL \$1,000,000 GUARANTEE	\$500	\$55
	2/16/12	THURSDAY	7PM	\$125 NIGHTLY	\$100	\$25
1B	2/17/12	FRIDAY	11AM	\$555 NL \$1,000,000 GUARANTEE	\$500	\$55
	2/17/12	FRIDAY	7PM	\$235 NIGHTLY	\$200	\$35
1C	2/18/12	SATURDAY	11AM	\$555 NL \$1,000,000 GUARANTEE	\$500	\$55
	2/18/12	SATURDAY	7PM	\$235 NIGHTLY	\$200	\$35
2	2/19/12	SUNDAY	11AM	\$345 NL (2-DAY)	\$300	\$45
3	2/19/12	SUNDAY	5PM	H.O.R.S.E (2-DAY)	\$300	\$45
4	2/20/12	MONDAY	11AM	\$345 NL (2-DAY)	\$300	\$45
	2/20/12	MONDAY	4PM	\$235 MEGA FOR MAIN	\$200	\$35
	2/20/12	MONDAY	7PM	\$125 NIGHTLY	\$100	\$25
5	2/21/12	TUESDAY	11AM	6-HANDED \$345 (2-DAY)	\$300	\$45
	2/21/12	TUESDAY	4PM	\$235 MEGA FOR MAIN	\$200	\$35
	2/21/12	TUESDAY	7PM	\$125 NIGHTLY	\$100	\$25
6	2/22/12	WEDNESDAY	11AM	\$345 NL (2-DAY)	\$300	\$45
	2/22/12	WEDNESDAY	4PM	\$235 MEGA FOR MAIN	\$200	\$35
	2/22/12	WEDNESDAY	7PM	\$125 NIGHTLY	\$100	\$25
7	2/23/12	THURSDAY	11AM	\$555 NL (2-DAY)	\$500	\$55
8	2/23/12	THURSDAY	5PM	\$345 NL (2-DAY)	\$300	\$45
	2/23/12	THURSDAY	7PM	\$125 NIGHTLY	\$100	\$25
9	2/24/12	FRIDAY	11AM	\$1080 NL (2-DAY)	\$1000	\$80
	2/24/12	FRIDAY	4PM	\$50 SUPER SAT FOR MAIN (20 SEATS GUARANTEED)	\$50	\$20
	2/24/12	FRIDAY	7PM	\$235 MEGA FOR MAIN	\$200	\$35
10A	2/25/12	SATURDAY	11AM	MAIN EVENT (3-DAY)	\$1500	\$100
	2/25/12	SATURDAY	4PM	\$235 TURBO MEGA FOR MAIN	\$200	\$35
10B	2/25/12	SATURDAY	7PM	MAIN EVENT (3-DAY)	\$1500	\$100
11	2/26/12	SUNDAY	11AM	\$345 NL (2-DAY)	\$300	\$45
	2/26/12	SUNDAY	2PM	LADIES EVENT	\$200	\$35
	2/26/12	SUNDAY	7PM	\$125 NIGHTLY	\$100	\$25
12	2/27/12	MONDAY	11AM	\$345 NL TURBO (1-DAY)	\$300	\$45

TOURNAMENT STAFFED AND DIRECTED BY POKER TOURNAMENT CONSULTANTS JIMMY SOMMERFELD, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

High Limit Host Willie Meila 561.312.0728 pokerhost@pbkennelclub.com

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB

MORE WAYS TO WIN | MORE WINNERS | MORE FUN



Scan with your smartphone's QR code reader **DOWNLOAD OUR APP FOR iPhone, iPad AND Android**

Belvedere Rd. 1 Mile West of I-95, West Palm Beach 561.683.2222 x241 **PBKENNELCLUB.COM**





Scan this tag for more Florida poker news or go to anteupmagazine.com/florida/

GRETNA OPENS NEW ROOM TO PACKED HOUSE

The poker room at Creek Entertainment Gretna opened its doors in December with a grand-opening party that packed the house with an excited player base. On I-10 at the Greensboro/Gretna exit just west of Tallahassee in Gadsden County, the poker room offers 24 tables, numerous flatscreen TVs and the Stables Bar & Grill. Players from south Alabama, Georgia and the Florida Panhandle are thrilled to have another poker option. Gretna, a barrel racing facility, is open daily 10 a.m.-4 a.m. and runs 24 hours from 10 a.m. Friday to 4 a.m. Monday.



TROY LENNON

Though Gretna offers to spread all games, the most common is \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em with a \$40-\$200 min-max buy-in.

Bigger games, such as \$2-\$5 NLHE (\$200 min, no cap), run on the weekends, as well as a variety of mixed cash games from H.O.R.S.E., stud, PLO/NLHE, lowball and badugi.

And if you're looking for bigger-buy-in limit hold'em Gretna is more than happy to accommodate the action.

As for tournaments, \$50 events are every Friday and Saturday with a \$3K guarantee, plus Sundays will be \$100 for a \$3K guarantee. The last Sunday every month hosts a \$20K guarantee (\$500) that runs \$100 super satellites Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 1.

Three \$750 events with \$50K guarantees are planned for the last weekend in April and July.

In September, Gretna will combine with sister property Pensacola to host a \$250K guarantee (\$2,500 buy-in) with Gretna hosting the final table of the multiple-day event.

Be sure to check our Where To Play pages in the back of the magazine for promotions. If you're planning a trip to the Tallahassee area and want to play poker, you would do yourself a big favor by stopping by Gretna's poker room.



Creek Entertainment Gretna's busy opening night.

NEW MANAGER: Hamilton Jai-Alai's poker room in Jasper recently named **Mike Girgis** poker room manager. He got his first dealer job at the Orange Park Kennel Club in 2009, then hit the tournament trail from Atlantic City to Oregon, dealing events for the World Series and World Poker Tour. He took over as Hamilton manager at the end of 2011 and is working to improve the facilities and promotions for an expanding player base.

HPT BACK AT DBKC: The Heartland Poker Tour returns to Daytona Beach Kennel Club on Feb. 3-13. The HPT made its Florida debut at DBKC in October, attracting more than 350 players.

Pros **Maria Ho** and **Tiffany Michelle** will host a bounty tournament on Feb. 9, with a \$2,000 jackpot as well as sign autographs and meet the players. The players winning a qualifying seat from Feb. 1-5 get invited to the VIP HPT Party. Please see the ad on Page 9 for details.

— **Troy Lennon is the Ante Up Ambassador for North Florida. Email him at anteuptroy@gmail.com.**



Artist's rendering of the new Jacksonville poker room.

Jacksonville-area poker rooms to become 'BestBet'

North Florida's new poker room, BestBet Jacksonville, is slated to open this month and will be Florida's largest cardroom with 71 tables. BestBet Jacksonville, at Atlantic Boulevard and Monument Road, will have an expansive simulcast facility with numerous 120-inch screens and food-and-beverage service.

It's less than 20 minutes from Jacksonville International Airport and 15 minutes from Jacksonville's beaches.

The first major tournament at the room will be the WPT Jacksonville BestBet Open (April 27-May 2), which will be televised and boast a \$1 million guaranteed prize pool. This main event

comes at the tail end of the room's spring series that begins April 19 and features 14 tournaments (See ad Page 17).

Jacksonville Greyhound Racing and Poker also operates BestBet St. Johns and BestBet Orange Park Kennel Club. All locations offer poker and simulcast wagering.

"We believe our name and logo look to the future while preserving our tradition," BestBet CFO **Jamie Shelton** said. "We are proud of our heritage while staying mindful of the rapidly changing gaming landscape. The BestBet is a platform upon which we will continue to build our leadership and customer-oriented values." ♠



INTERESTED IN FLORIDA TOURNAMENTS AND PROMOTIONS? TURN TO OUR WHERE TO PLAY PAGES IN THE BACK OF THE MAGAZINE.

\$1,000,000

GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL



TELEVISED MAIN EVENT
APRIL 27 - MAY 2, 2012

ANNOUNCING THE
JACKSONVILLE SPRING SERIES
APRIL 19 - MAY 2, 2012

JACKSONVILLE'S POKER ROOMS ARE NOW



bestbet
POKER • SIMULCAST • GAMING

ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB • ST. JOHNS • JACKSONVILLE
JACKSONVILLE – OPENING FEBRUARY, 2012



DETAILS AT JAXPOKERROOM.COM • 904.646.0002
18 YEAR-OLDS ARE WELCOME TO PLAY POKER IN FLORIDA

WPT, World Poker Tour and Card Designs are trademarks of WPT Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

JaxPokerRoom on



SILKS DIPS INTO OWN POCKETS FOR INCENTIVES

Just when you thought you weren't getting any more gifts for the holidays, the Silks Poker Room at Tampa Bay Downs has decided to play Santa all year long. The Tampa room is rewarding players throughout 2012 with marketing money rather than taking it out of players' pockets. Talk about paving the way for casino incentives!

Said director of poker operations **Patrick Murphy**: "By adding house-funded prizes, we hope to increase the number of players in our daily tournaments. Tournament business is what drives traffic. We want to reward our customers with something a little extra."



GARRETT ROTH

The top-five finishers in tournaments each month earn a seat to a monthly freeroll. This freeroll will be the first Monday of the next month at 5:30 p.m. and it will have a \$2,000 starting prize pool, which can grow with optional player add-ons.

In addition, the five highest hands in every weekday tournament will earn tournament buy-in credits that will start at \$500 for the highest hand and decrease by \$100 for each additional hand.

"I think using house money for these promotions shows our commitment to our client base, new and old," Murphy said. "We appreciate them and on top of giving the highest comps in the area, we are now funding promos with our own money. This allows us to keep the player fees down and the prize pools up."

The room also offers numerous other promotions throughout the week, including cash payouts, high hands and quads/straight-flush/

royal-flush bonuses.

"We hope to continue to be the Tampa Bay area's best option for new and exciting promotions with great payouts and provide an equal chance for all our players to come away with some extra cash," Murphy said. There are a few specialty tournaments excluded from these promotions. Please visit tampabaydowns.com for complete details.

WPT DERBY LANE: The World Poker Tour regional series returns March 16-25 to Derby Lane in St. Petersburg with nine events, including an \$1,800 main event (Day 1A is March 23 at noon, 1B March 24 at noon). Also, there will be a \$365 no-limit hold'em/pot-limit Omaha mixed event on March 20 at noon.

Date	Time	Event	Buy-in	Stack
3/16	Noon	Mega Satellite	\$160+\$15	10K
	7:30p	Mega Satellite	\$160+\$15	10K
3/17	Noon	NLHE	\$825+\$75	30K
3/18	Noon	NLHE	\$240+\$35	25K
3/19	7:30p	6-Max	\$150+\$20	17K
3/20	Noon	NLHE/PLO	\$330+\$35	20K
	7:30p	PLO	\$330+\$35	20K
3/21	Noon	Seniors	\$180+\$20	15K
	7:30p	NLHE Turbo*	\$180+\$20	10K
3/22	Noon	NLHE Turbo*	\$180+\$20	10K
	7:30p	Main Event (1A)	\$1,650+\$150	30K
3/23	Noon	Main Event (1B)	\$1,650+\$150	30K
3/24	Noon	NLHE	\$500+\$20	25K
3/25	Noon			

*Daily double event, call for details

— **Garrett Roth is the Ante Up Ambassador for Central Florida and the Where to Play editor.** Email him at roth@anteupmagazine.com and follow him on Twitter @GarrettRoth.



SEMINOLE CASINO

WPT POINT Challenge

Win a \$10,000 Seat for Florida's Premier Poker Event!

February 11

1pm

\$230 Buy-In

This month is the second of three Point Challenge Tournaments. The top two point totals after all three events win a spot in the **\$1 Million** WPT® Seminole Hard Rock Showdown in Hollywood, FL beginning April 18.

So bring your A Game and set the bar high!
Final Point Challenge Event - March 17



OPEN 24/7

506 South 1st Street, Immokalee, FL 34142
800-218-0007 • seminoleimmokaleecasino.com

Where Paradise Plays



WPT and WPT POINT Challenge are trademarks of the World Poker Tour. Seminole Casino is a registered trademark of Seminole Casino. Persons who have been trespassing or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida are not eligible to play at the WPT. WPT, World Poker Tour and Card Sense are trademarks of WPT. All rights reserved. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1-800-522-2244.



DOUBLE HAND POKER



The Only
Double Hand Poker
Game East
Of California

DAILY PROMOS

Mondays & Fridays Only

\$100 High Hands Every 30 minutes from 9am - Midnight

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

\$500 to the Highest Hand from 2am - 3am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

\$100 High Hand of First Hand of the Day

\$100 for Flushes of a randomly selected suite from 9am - Noon

\$100 Highest Hand for each table from 9am - Noon

\$100 High Hand every hour from 10pm - 2am

Friday Night & Saturday Night

\$100 High Hand Every 30 minutes from Midnight - 3am

\$200 High Hand Every 30 minutes from 3am-9am

GAMES OFFERED

Limit Poker - \$2/\$4 \$3/\$6 \$4/\$8 & Higher

No-Limit - \$1/\$2 \$200 \$2/\$5 \$500

\$5/\$10 \$1000 \$10/\$25 \$2,500

Various Pot Limit Games

Such as Omaha Hi-Lo and Pot Limit

HOURS OF OPERATION

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Open	9am						
Close	3am	3am	3am	3am	3am	9am	9am



SERIES MADNESS IS ERUPTING THIS MONTH

Several poker series will dot the landscape in South Florida this month, attracting many of the top U.S. players to the incredible Sunshine State climate at a time when the weather is most pleasant. The tip of the Florida peninsula known as South Florida mainly consists of Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, and each county will host an interesting series.



BIG DAVE LEMMON

The biggest of them all will be the World Series of Poker Circuit at the Palm Beach Kennel Club (Feb. 16 -27), which set state records in its inaugural 2011 event. Across Belvedere Road from the super-convenient Palm Beach International Airport, this historic track (owned by the famous **Rooney** family of Pittsburgh Steelers fame) has two large poker rooms on opposite ends of the facility, a perfect setting for what could be the largest event in Florida history.

The series, expanded from 10 to 12 ring events, will be bookended by an exciting \$1 million guarantee Event 1 and the \$1,500 main event, which will attract the top regulars from this prestigious circuit.

Reed Zhao of Lexington, Ky., won last year's opener, collecting almost \$50K for the victory in the \$345 buy-in event, which had 877 contestants. This year's event could have a first prize nearly five times that.

The circuit and the track have upped the ante considerably, with a \$555 entry fee and the seven-figure prize pool guarantee for Event 1, which certainly is causing some trepidation and maybe a few sleepless nights for PBKC's director of poker operations **Noah Carbone** and poker manager **Tim Wright**.

"It's nerve-wracking, but we have the full support of the company and the WSOP and I believe it will turn out well," Carbone said. "We're going to be with the WSOP over the next three years and we couldn't be happier with this association. ... The staff and professionalism that this branding brings with them is incredible; to us, it's the Rolls Royce of poker."

While the World Poker Tour has expanded recently to all parts of Florida with its many regional events, Carbone feels since PBKC hosts the only WSOP-related event in Florida it makes this special.

"We think that starting the series off with such a huge event will create a tremendous amount of excitement over the 12 days, and that will benefit us in our cash games and satellites," he said.

To reach the \$1 million guarantee, the opening event will need

2,000 entrants, which seems like a daunting task, but PBKC has been awarding seats over the past month or so in a high-hand promotion and numerous satellites. With three opening-day sessions and re-entries allowed, the goal should be accomplished, with 11 extra tables creating plenty of spots for a hoped-for 750 players in each session. Wright said Day 1A entrants will "get three swings at it, if they prefer."

The buzz is so intense that pokertickets.com (handling advance online entries) told Carbone it never had seen such interest in an event so far in advance.

With H.O.R.S.E. and a six-max tournaments among the 12 ring events, plus a non-ring ladies tourney (a special diamond pendant will be awarded) on the agenda, there should be something this year to satisfy everyone. Last year's colorful collection of ring winners included 67-year-old Tampa Bay Ray (**Ray Del Cueto**) and a retired woman (former corrections officer **June Amer**), along with a 23-year-old Miami man playing in his first live tournament (**James Giraldo**) and the youngest-ever WSOPC champ, **John Riordan**, then 19, who took home \$210K for his main event victory by defeating 741 players.

MORE EVENTS: With the Isle Classic completed in Pompano at press time and the WPT regional event known as the Lucky Hearts Open under way at the Seminole Hard Rock, the action is red-hot in South Florida through the end of February. WPT personalities **Tony Dunst** and **Mike Sexton** (and who could forget the Royal Flush Girls?) will be attending the Lucky Hearts main event, which starts Feb. 10 (\$3,500 buy-in/\$750K guarantee).

Before that, Studz Poker Room at Calder Casino & Race Course will host its first tournament series, the Miami Gardens Poker Classic (Feb. 3-12). The six-event series will feature more than \$200K in guarantees, with the main event starting Feb. 10 (\$440, \$100K guarantee).

The room continues to fight for business against its more-established rivals by providing an extremely comfortable and fun experience and definitely appeals to the player looking for value with less money to throw around.

Director of poker **Chris Trabue** said he and his staff continually listen to what players want, and a perfect example is the fact that all jackpot promotions are included in Studz tournaments, including this series. Trabue is hoping the series will attract some new players who are priced-out by the Hard Rock events and "add a bit more to our core group of players."

— **Big Dave Lemmon** is Ante Up's South Florida Ambassador. Email him at bigdave@pokeractionline.com.



Noah Carbone

Bill Bruce

Jimmy Sommerfeld

Tim Wright

"Hear Interviews With The Stars and other Poker Experts"

on our weekly radio show. Monday 11:00 pm Eastern - 8:00pm Pacific
(sometimes a little later, as it follows Yankee Baseball)

POKER ACTIONLINE.COM

The show is broadcast on **WFTL 640 AM** in South Florida and is available

LIVE, ARCHIVED, and in PODCAST format, on

www.pokeractionline.com

TUNE IN
ANYTIME FOR AN
INFORMATIVE
LISTENING
EXPERIENCE!



SKLPAKER.COM



High Hand Promotion
\$599 & \$299 Friday & Saturdays.



Jack Pot Power Hours
Monday-Thursday
11am-1pm & 10pm-1am.



\$440 NL Deep Stack 1st
Saturday of every Month
& **25k starting chips** with
30 min levels.



One Eyed Jacks features
a full service **Bar & Grille**
& table side **massage**
service available.



5400 Bradenton Road | Sarasota, Florida 34234



(941) 355-7744 | Located at the Sarasota Kennel Club



STARS FLOCK TO STAX POKER ROOM OPENING

By Dave Lemmon

With comedian **Jimmy "JJ" Walker** bringing his "Dyn-O-Mite" personality to the proceedings as a hilarious emcee, the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek held a grand opening Dec. 27 to celebrate the new Stax Poker Lounge.

In the second-floor room, fans enjoyed meeting several special guests, including perennial Global Poker Index No. 1 player **Jason Mercier** and former world champ **Huck Seed**. Also on hand were 2010 *Playboy* Playmate of the Year **Hope Dworaczyk** (recently featured on *Celebrity Apprentice*) and **Hosea Rosenberg**, Season 5 winner of the reality food show *Top Chef*. Invited guests joined the celebrities in a 63-player charity NLHE tournament.

The cardroom features 30 tables, seven in a special elevated high-limit area. There's a glassed-in championship table that features miniature hole-card cameras and might be used for a televised final table, considering the World Poker Tour's association with the Seminoles.

The spacious non-smoking room has been nearly full on most nights according to manager **Pablo Perez**, who said tournaments are scheduled three days a week and there are two bad-beat jackpots and several high-hand promotions.

The Stax opening is one of the first public revelations of a \$150-million expansion at Sem CoCo, which will include the doubling of the casino floor to 86,000 square feet, the construction of a seven-floor parking garage with 2,400 parking spaces with nearly 6,000 square



feet of retail space on the ground floor and three new restaurants. All are planned to be open this month.

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek is just east of State Road 7 (U.S. 441) and just north of Sample Road in north Broward County. The facility employed nearly 1,000 construction workers during the ongoing expansion and is completing the hiring of 800 full-time casino employees, many of whom applied for positions at a November job fair that attracted more than 4,000 job hopefuls. When completed, the casino floor will boast 2,300 slot machines and 69 table games, including blackjack, baccarat and pai gow.

SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE



Jason Rodriguez won the first WPT Point Challenge on Dec. 11, earning \$4K. **Michael Green** and **Owen Glantz** each earned \$2,833 for second and third, respectively. The remaining final table players pictured are **Casey Logan, Daniel Gottlieb, Gloria Anez, Robbie Spencer, Dennis Pershing, Charles Benjamin** and **Joe Henke**.

The event attracted 61 players for a \$12,200 prize pool. The next two WPT Point Challenges will be Feb. 11 and March 17.

ISLE CASINO POMPANO

Frank Giordano of New York won the All In For Charity tournament at the Isle Casino. The event, which attracted almost 100 players, benefitted the Women In Distress and the Sun-Sentinel Children's Fund. Giordano's victory earned him a seat in this year's World Series of Poker Main Event. The \$300 buy-in tournament raised more than \$34,000 for the charities.



DANIA JAI-ALAI

Don Pegasus of Ft. Lauderdale took home the tournament trophy Dec. 28 in the monthly **Dan Le Batard** tournament. As the event came down to the final table, nine players agreed to chop the prize pool, each taking home \$535.

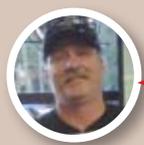


PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB

Inaugural Christmas Classic, Dec. 8-18

- Event 1 • \$550 NLHE**
Entries: 408 • Pool: \$197,880
WINNER: Jacob Schidler
- Event 2 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 65 • Pool: \$6,305
WINNER: Joseph Farrar, \$2,207
- Event 3 • \$230 NLHE**
Entries: 16 • Pool: \$3,104
WINNER: Michael Laake, \$1,862
- Event 4 • \$340 NLHE**
Entries: 41 • Pool: \$11,931
WINNER: Joseph Johnson, \$4,353
- Event 5 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 13 • Pool: \$1,261
WINNER: Jorge Pimentel, \$756
- Event 6 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 39 • Pool: \$3,783
WINNER: Robinel Eugene, \$1,205
- Event 7 • \$230 NLHE**
Entries: 55 • Pool: \$10,670
WINNER: Robert Santiago, \$2,070
- Event 8 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 27 • Pool: \$2,619
WINNER: Scott Sommer, \$1K
- Event 9 • \$230 NLHE**
Entries: 72 • Pool: \$10,368
WINNER: Hassan Sadler, \$2,381*
- Event 10 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 28 • Pool: \$2,716
WINNER: Daniel Sacks, \$1K
- Event 11 • \$230 NLHE**
Entries: 44 • Pool: \$8,536
WINNER: Jeff Charlton, \$2,800
- \$1,080 Main Event**
Entries: 397 • Pool: \$385,090
WINNER: Scott Zakheim, \$84,712
- Event 13 • \$230 NLHE**
Entries: 46 • Pool: \$8,924
WINNER: Philip Stein, \$2,200
- Event 14 • \$120 Ladies**
Entries: 20 • Pool: \$1,940
WINNER: Erica Hite, \$728*
** via chop*

FREE LEAGUES

- TREASURE CHEST:** **Leo Kimi** defeated **Sarah Cucinello** heads-up to capture the monthly event at Stokers in Palm Harbor, good for a trip to Vegas and a \$1K WSOP seat. 
- **Jason Lloyd** won the King in Ocala event and \$50.
- **Chris Cartier** outlasted 64 players to win the final TCP title of 2011 and a \$250 gift card, beating **Maggie Marx** heads-up.
- **Keith Davis** defended the Battle of the Bars for Eddie's to earn Bucs tickets and \$100 in gift cards/certificates. 

ALL IN POKER SERIES: **Kelvin Gomez** won the "Compete for a Seat" on Jan. 8, defeating nearly 40 players for the bracelet, a \$555 seat in an Atlantic City event and accommodations. 



\$1 MILLION
BATTLES AT THE BEACH®

MARCH 1 – 26

\$1.5 MILLION
IN GUARANTEES

See poker room for details.



Get Winning!
POMPANO PARK

CONNECT WITH US   @IsleCasinoPP

POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA

1-877-ISLE-2WIN • www.theislepompanopark.com



WILLIAMS FULFILLS DESTINY WITH BEAU WIN

I'm cashing in my poker chips and switching to playing the lottery. Turns out, I'm a bit of a psychic. Or is it telepathic? I'd like to think I just have an eye for talent. Just around 18 months ago I wrote a column on local Tunica player **Scott Williams** playing his first tournament.

I detailed how he rolled a \$60 single-table satellite win into a main-event seat, and ran deep, busting in 21st place.

Williams has continued to play in large regional events with a moderate amount of success, including a seventh at an IP Biloxi World Series of Poker Circuit event in 2010, a few cashes in ring events in Tunica, and a third in a WSOPC Bossier City event.

On Jan 9, at 9 a.m., after playing 19 hours straight on the third day of Event 1 at the Beau Rivage Million Dollar Heater, Williams etched his name into a small piece of poker history. Securing not only his first five-figure cash, he bested 1,452 players in the largest field in Mississippi history to take home the first-place trophy and \$72,298.

The event, which permitted re-entry on Day 2, was a marathon.

"It was exhausting and mentally draining, but obviously worth every second," he said.

There's a joke among local players that, "Tournament poker is sort of like being punched in the face every day, over and over again, and then every six months or so you get a date with a supermodel." When you finally get there, especially in the case of a noteworthy breakout cash, it makes the agony of all the near-misses worth it. Williams said he's glad he finally got the figurative "supermodel" and though he's in no hurry to get back to the grind, he'll be playing the Beau Rivage main event seat he was awarded with his first-place finish.

By press time the Million Dollar Heater will have wrapped up three weeks of record-breaking numbers, and we'll be on the way to Tunica for the WSOPC event at Harrah's. This event will be one of **Jimmy Sommerfeld's** last events as a tournament director. In early January, after the birth of his first grandchild, he announced his retirement. He intends to focus on spending more time with his family, and traveling less.

Jimmy is a Memphis local, who got his sea legs in the casino industry in Tunica. He's been a cornerstone in the traveling poker circuit and helped shape many of the rules, structures and events for the WSOP. His influence will continue to evolve poker, even after his retirement, but his personality and presence will be sorely missed.

— **Jennifer Gay** is Ante Up's Mississippi Ambassador. She can be contacted at [facebook.com/aceofjewels](https://www.facebook.com/aceofjewels) or at jennifergay80@hotmail.com.



JENNIFER GAY



Winter Poker Classic, Gold Strike Casino & Resort, Tunica, Miss., Dec. 1-11

If one is good, then two is better, right? Quite a few players took that old adage to heart at Gold Strike's Winter Poker Classic (Dec. 1-11) in Tunica, Miss. The series sported 24 events (including a handful of satellites for the \$1,600 main event) and even featured a no-limit deuce-to-seven lowball single-draw tournament.

Michael Sanders of Russellville, Ark., got things started by capturing the first event, a \$125 NLHE tournament that attracted 128 starters. Sanders would earn \$4,095, but he wasn't finished as he earned another WPC title, this time Event 11, a \$130 rebuy tournament good for nearly \$5K.

Sanders wasn't the only multiple-event winner, however:

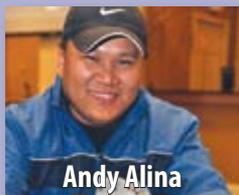
Andy Alina of Hernando, Miss., (Events 4 and 10), **Long Dinh** of Hernando, Miss., (Events 7 and 23) and **J.W. Smith** of Dalton, Ga., (Seniors and NL 2-7) also captured two titles each.

The main event pulled in 112 players to generate a \$162,960 prize pool as **Cory Wood** of Murfreesboro, Tenn., won the title and \$58,666. Wood had to outlast pro and 2009 World Poker Open winner **Jeremy "thechemist83" Gaubert** of Thibodaux, La., who finished second (\$30,962).

Up next at Gold Strike is the Delta Gold Classic, which runs March 23-April 2 and features a two-day, \$1,080 main event on March 31. — **Christopher Cosenza**, chris@anteupmagazine.com



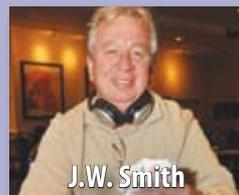
Michael Sanders



Andy Alina



Long Dinh



J.W. Smith



Cory Wood

Event 1 • \$125 NLHE
128 Entries • Prize Pool: \$12,416
Winner: Michael Sanders, \$4,095

Event 2 • \$230 PLO/8
58 Entries • Prize Pool: \$11,252
Winner: Tracy Stimps, \$4,048

Event 3 • \$230 NLHE
120 Entries • Prize Pool: \$23,280
Winner: Toby Bell, \$8,381

Event 4 • \$230 Omaha/8
82 Entries • Prize Pool: \$15,908
Winner: Andy Alina, \$5,727

Event 5 • \$340 NLHE
193 Entries • Prize Pool: \$56,163
Winner: Mitch Franks, \$18,533

Event 6 • \$400 6-Max
54 Entries • Prize Pool: \$15,617
Winner: Josiah Burdett, \$5,309

Event 7 • \$230 NLHE
113 Entries • Prize Pool: \$21,922
Winner: Long Dinh, \$7,891

Event 8 • \$230 Omaha/8
59 Entries • Prize Pool: \$11,446
Winner: Fred Kinnison, \$4,120

Event 9 • \$125 w/rebuys
81 Entries • Prize Pool: \$15,617
Winner: Gerald Beard, \$5,622

Event 10 • \$230 Stud/8
34 Entries • Prize Pool: \$6,596
Winner: Andy Alina, \$2,638

Event 11 • \$130 w/rebuys
54 Entries • Prize Pool: \$13,386
Winner: Michael Sanders, \$4,820

Event 12 • \$230 Seniors
91 Entries • Prize Pool: \$17,654
Winner: J.W. Smith, \$6,356

Event 13 • \$125 NLHE
130 Entries • Prize Pool: \$12,610
Winner: Glenn Ross, \$4,161

Event 14 • \$230 2-7 NL Draw
14 Entries • Prize Pool: \$2,716
Winner: J.W. Smith, \$1,358

Event 15 • \$550 NLHE
98 Entries • Prize Pool: \$47,530
Winner: John Rollins, \$17,111

Event 16 • \$125 NLHE
89 Entries • Prize Pool: \$8,633
Winner: Dennis Crowden, \$3,108

Event 17 • \$230 NLHE
138 Entries • Prize Pool: \$26,772
Winner: Orlando Belington, \$8,834

\$1,600 Main Event
112 Entries • Prize Pool: \$162,960
Winner: Cory Wood, \$58,666

Event 23 • \$230 NLHE
56 Entries • Prize Pool: \$10,864
Winner: Long Dinh, \$3,911

Event 24 • \$125 NLHE
79 Entries • Prize Pool: \$7,663
Winner: Raymond McCullough, \$2,758

INTERESTED IN MISSISSIPPI TOURNAMENTS AND PROMOTIONS? TURN TO OUR WHERE TO PLAY PAGES IN THE BACK OF THE MAGAZINE.



MARCH 16-25

TOURNAMENT SERIES

12
EVENTS

WPT REGIONAL

TOURNAMENT SERIES

\$825+\$75 WARMUP
\$1650 + \$150 MAIN

details at www.derbylanepoker.com

Derby Lane
**poker
room**

10490 Gandy Blvd.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
727 812-3339 ext. 216



HE ONLY PLAYS QUALITY HANDS

He might not be the Most Interesting Man in the World. By his own admission, he's possibly the Least Interesting Man in Poker. But **Sam Soni** might deserve a different title: the Tightest Hold'em Player in Black Hawk.



RICK GERSHMAN

Soni, a restaurant manager who lives outside Boulder, doesn't call himself that. He doesn't even call himself Sam.

He posts regularly on local poker discussion boards, but no one knows him as Sam. When he introduces himself to fellow players, he doesn't use that name, either. We're just happy he let us use his name for this column.

If you play hold'em cash games in Black Hawk and Central City, you've likely played with Soni at some point. He doesn't like to be specific about where he plays, or on what days, or even his usual spreads. That's fair: Poker is a game of withholding information, not handing it over.

For a guy so full of secrecy and intrigue, Soni couldn't have a simpler game.

"I don't really play poker," he said. "I (sit at the table and) listen to audiobooks."

Well, that's not all he does. There are more deserving charities than the house, and Soni's not in the business of feeding the rake with no return. He said he profits regularly, but he often goes an hour or two, sometimes even three, without playing a hand.

He almost exclusively plays only top hands (A-A, K-K, occasionally suited connectors if in the right position) and has no compunction about mucking them if he gets too many callers and the flop doesn't

fit his hand. Here's his strategy in a nutshell:

"Great players are doing things on five, six levels," Soni said. "I see one level. Maybe one and a half."

Soni's strategy wouldn't work everywhere, but when his table selection is solid, he said, it does quite well.

He spends virtually no mental energy on getting reads on other players, trying to calculate their hand ranges, or trying to project any table image other than the one he uses: tight as the lid on a container of sulfuric acid.

"If you get too cute, you lose," he said. "If you deviate from your strategy, you lose. You keep things as simple as possible: play top hands and push hard."

He considers position and the other players, but not a lot. If the table fills with too many sharps, he's out of there. Too many maniacs? Well, that depends. A couple of maniacs are good for Soni, because they never seem to notice he's virtually never in a pot without the goods.

"I can't tell you how many times I have a set of kings, nothing scary on the board, haven't played a pot in 90 minutes, and I'm reraised to the max," he said. "I might as well have a sign on my head saying 'Just fold,' but someone's always sure I'm full of (it). It's like they never even noticed I was there."

Soni's game hasn't always been so elementary: "I read a lot of poker books, (Mike Caro's book on tells, advanced strategy. I used to be more aggressive, switch it up. But if you pick the right tables, you don't need all that. ... I could never be a pro. They'd kick my ass (at the table). I don't want to do that. I like the way I play."

— Rick Gershman is Ante Up's Colorado Ambassador. You can email him at rickgershman@gmail.com.

"If you get too cute, you lose. If you deviate from your strategy, you lose. You keep things as simple as possible: play top hands and push hard." — SAM SONI

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

A look at the Oregon-Washington poker scene

It may be cloudy, but PNW poker is bright

Editor's note: Dr. Barton M. Gratt is our new Pacific Northwest Ambassador. He'll be reporting about the exciting events and interesting poker personalities that come from this region. Dr. Gratt is a long-time PNW poker player and an author of several poker books, including How to Become a Successful Professional Poker Player and Paid To Play Poker.



DR. BARTON GRATT

Poker is big and booming in the Pacific Northwest. Our constant overcast, gray and sometimes rainy skies make for an ideal backdrop for playing poker. Most PNW poker players are experienced and skilled, as poker has been played in the region since the days of the Yukon Gold Rush (1897). From this long-standing historic background, a large, experienced and motivated base of poker players evolved, all thriving in the PNW

despite the gloomy skies and the rainy weather. In addition to a large number of players, the PNW is one of the best, if not one of the toughest, places to play poker. Win regularly playing poker here and you can win playing poker anywhere in the world.

The PNW has a large number of fun cardrooms to play poker (for a list of some of them be sure to check our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine).

All of these casino cardrooms are busy with exciting promotions, thrilling tournaments and loyal followers. I look forward to covering these great poker rooms and personalities. Please contact me with your thoughts on PNW poker and how I can better serve our poker community.

— Dr. Barton Gratt is the Ante Up Ambassador for the Pacific Northwest. Email him at anteupbarton@gmail.com and you can read more from him at pokerstoriesandmore.com.

INTERESTED IN COLORADO OR PNW TOURNAMENTS AND PROMOTIONS? TURN TO OUR WHERE TO PLAY PAGES IN THE BACK OF THE MAGAZINE.



WE'VE GOT THE NUTS

FEBRUARY POKER EVENTS

SUPER FOOTBALL FUN DAY

Sunday, February 5

\$2,000 SUNDAY FREEROLL NLH TOURNAMENT

1:00pm: February 5; 3:00pm: February 12, 19 and 26

DAILY

First Ten at 10:00am get \$10

TUESDAYS

10:00am: \$45 No Limit Crazy Pineapple Hi/Lo Tournament

THURSDAYS

10:00am: \$45 Limit Omaha Hi/Lo Tournament

7:00pm: \$90 PL Omaha Tournament

FRIDAYS

10:00am: \$45 NLH Tournament

SATURDAYS

Noon: \$150 NLH Tournament



POKER
ISLE CASINO HOTEL BLACK HAWK



Get Winning!
BLACK HAWK

401 Main Street, PO Box 777 • Black Hawk, CO 80422 • 1-800-THE-ISLE • www.theistebblackhawk.com

© 2012 Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc. Must be 21. Management reserves all rights. For complete details, please see the poker podium. Gambling problem? Call 1-800-522-4700.



Scan this tag for more Pennsylvania poker news or go to anteupmagazine.com/pennsylvania/

HARD WORK PAYS OFF FOR BRIKIS

The past five years have been anything but average for Pittsburgh poker pro **Josh Brikis**. After graduating from Penn State with a degree in business, he discovered poker when a friend invited him to a weekly \$20 home game. The weekly game quickly turned into a passion for him and he began playing online and traveling to the Borgata in Atlantic City.

Brikis, a.k.a. Brikdog24, spent hours reading online forums and checking hand histories to improve and compete at a higher level.

It wasn't long before he was crushing online and winning daily tournaments at the Borgata. His results speak for themselves. He earned his first five-figure score of \$18K by winning a Mountaineer Casino tournament. Two months later he was

runner-up for a World Series of Poker Circuit ring (\$27K). After that, he chopped the Borgata Deepstack for \$90K and won a \$1,500 event for \$119K.

In his first five years as a pro, he has made 14 final tables, won three events and cashed 44 times, including nine at the WSOP. He finished 55th in the 2010 WSOP Main Event for \$138K and now has more than \$1.5 million in career tournament earnings. He and his wife, Kristen, are expecting their first child in May.



MIKE OWENS



What's been the highlight of your career? My second-place finish in 2009 at the WSOP in the \$5K six-max no-limit hold'em for \$619K was obviously my defining moment and biggest cash. Also, having five cashes at the 2010 WSOP, a final table and a deep run with TV coverage in the main event was also big for me.

Which do you enjoy playing more, cash games or tournaments? I love tournaments and pretty much hate cash. ... I just get bored with cash games and I love the thrill of tournaments and the chance to get big scores.

What's the most off-the-wall prop bet you have ever made? I don't get too into the prop-betting. I did win a Steelers-Jets bet and a friend wore my Steelers jersey in the Borgata main event last year.

What's your biggest splurge after a win? I bought my Range Rover with a check for \$60K after the '09 score.

What hobbies or interests do you have outside of poker? I enjoy golfing, hanging out with family and friends and going to Steelers/Pens/Pirates games.

If you knew someone taking their first trip to the WSOP, what advice would you give them? If you're playing the main event, just get rest, eat well and be patient. The structure is amazing and it allows you to play a lot of poker.

— Mike Owens is the Ante Up Ambassador for Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. He's a poker player, journalist and creator of CheckRaze.com. He can be reached at anteupowens@gmail.com.



Scan this tag for more New Jersey poker news or go to anteupmagazine.com/newjersey/

ATLANTIC CITY/PHILADELPHIA

Sands expands, tournaments finally on schedule

By **Cris Belkewitch**

It's been a longtime coming, but the Sands in Bethlehem, Pa., is finally expanding.

Much has been made about the new poker rooms popping up in Atlantic City, but the Sands expanding to 30 tables from 27, this is another game-changer the Atlantic City-East Pennsylvania region. Why? The Sands has a new 300-room luxury hotel and will offer tournaments for the first time.

The expansion opening takes place the weekend of Feb. 19, a.k.a. Presidents Day weekend. So if you're fortunate enough to have a day or two off then, make sure you visit the Sands since more tables means less waiting.

Low buy-in daily tournaments are a staple and quite popular with regulars. The addition of more tables and a long-awaited tournament schedule means the Sands is taking steps to ensure it's doing right by its customers.

Poker room manager **David Urie** has mentioned in the past that he would like to do a tournament series, and now that the Sands has approved tournaments and a hotel, players and cardrooms on the East Coast should take notice.

NEW JERSEY

The daily tournament grind in Atlantic City has seen a few chang-

es for the New Year. The Golden Nugget is the new kid on the block offering four tournaments a day in its new luxury poker room, which looks absolutely amazing, and has plans for a few tournament series' in the coming months. The Showboat has increased the starting stacks for all of its daily tournaments to 20K (from 15K), giving players more bang for their buck.

• The most interesting resolution heard at the table: to hit a piece of a bad-beat jackpot. **Michael Zinkin** of Egg Harbor, N.J., has come close a number of times: "I've been at tables next to the table that hit; I've been stuck in a tournament when it hit; I've even left a table 10 minutes before it hit. (To hit one is) one of my goals this year."

Atlantic City always has been full of bad-beat chasers, but this takes it to a whole new level.

"I'm not even going to play the Harrah's casinos because I don't want to just get a piece from being at another casino. I want to be at the table," he said. The four properties under Caesars Entertainment (Caesars, Harrah's, Showboat and Bally's) have one centralized jackpot and all players seated at cash games across all four casinos share a piece of the jackpot when it's hit.

"I met a guy that hit it twice," he said. "I just want to be at the table and get myself a big piece. I feel like it's coming this year."

— Cris Belkewitch is the Ante Up Atlantic City Ambassador. A member of Team Bustout, his insight can be found at thepokerjourney.net.



THE SECOND ANNUAL
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO

SHOWDOWN



MARCH 28 - APRIL 23, 2012

WPT TELEVISED MAIN EVENT • APRIL 18 - APRIL 23, 2012

\$10,000 BUY-IN

NATIONALLY TELEVISED. WINNER RECEIVES A CUSTOMIZED TROPHY AND IS AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED INTO THE 2012 WPT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.
FOR DETAILS CALL 954.585.5111 OR VISIT SEMINOLEHARDROCKHOLLYWOOD.COM/POKER.



1 SEMINOLE WAY, HOLLYWOOD FL, 33314



HOLLYWOOD, FL

PLAY HARD



Must be at least 18 years old to play. See brush stand for complete details. Persons who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are not eligible.
WPT, World Poker Tour and Card Design are trademarks of WPT Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.

NEW CASINO, TABLE GAMES COMING TO MAINE

Maine is moving forward with plans to build a casino in Oxford. The casino will offer slot machines plus live table games, such as poker, roulette, blackjack and more. The state is in the licensing process and expects the facility, in the southwest part of the state, to open in June. The casino has yet to announce a formal name.



KAY FITZPATRICK

Further north, Hollywood slots will bring in live table games, and will change its name to Hollywood Casino Bangor. Owned by Penn National, which operates many casinos in other states, the Hollywood casino has 1,000-plus slots and is an off-track betting facility. The casino is across from Hollywood Raceway with a full schedule of harness racing from May through November.

An onsite hotel provides deluxe accommodations for overnight stays.

At the Maine Gambling Control Board's last meeting in December, members discussed various aspects of implementing table games.

"Basically, we're adopting standard industry practices," MGCB executive director Patrick Fleming said. "We're modeling the rules mainly on those of Mississippi casinos. Everything should be familiar to experienced table-game players. We'll be starting with low stakes at first."

Fleming said table games most likely will be introduced in Hollywood Bangor in March.

The Oxford casino is expected to be open in June. Though the facility will be licensed for 1,500 slots, it will start with 500 machines and 10 table games.

The Oxford casino is locally owned. "The plan for Oxford is to build a destination four-season full-service resort," Fleming said. "It's located near the Bethel ski area and there's plenty of outdoor recreation nearby."



DEEPSTACKS AT NIAGARA FALLS: The DeepStacks Poker Tour launches its inaugural event on Feb. 15 at the Seneca Niagara Casino in upstate New York. DeepStacks has signed on several well-known pros, including **Mike Matusow** and **Michael Mizrachi**, who will play in a three-day event that starts Feb. 17 at noon and features a guaranteed \$200K prize pool. The event will be televised and hosted by commentator **Joe Stapleton** alongside analyst and Team DeepStacks Pro **Tristan "Cre8ive"**

Wade. For more information, visit deepstackspokertour.com.

NEW POKER PARTNERSHIP: It was standing room only on Jan. 2 when 178 players turned out to play in a special New Year's charity event put on by Eastern Poker Tour and Helping Hands Poker at the Foxboro VFW. The organizations have joined forces and are co-hosting regular charity tournaments, primarily in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

"We'll be hosting a \$110 bounty tournament at the Foxboro VFW every Monday, and \$90 tournament at the American Legion in Dedham every Wednesday," EPT president **Glenn McCrory** said. "Plus special fundraising events that feature sit-n-go (tournaments), satellites and \$1-\$2 no-limit cash games besides the main tournament."

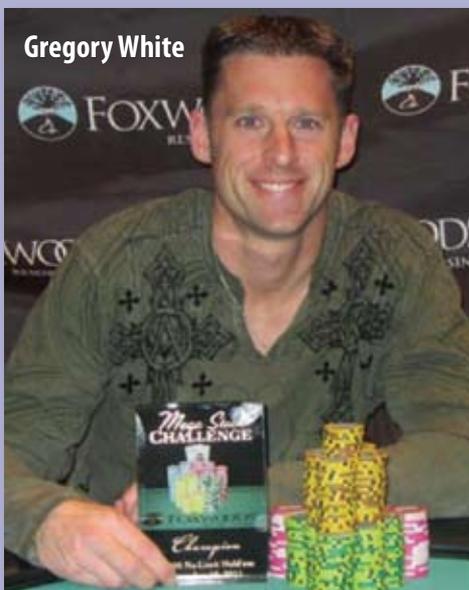
Check out helpinghandspoker.com/events and easternpokertour.com for dates and locations.

— **Kay Fitzpatrick is Ante Up's Northeast Ambassador. She's a freelance journalist who recently wrote a series of strategy blogs for Everest Poker and is an avid player at New England's poker rooms. Email her at anteupkay@gmail.com.**

CONNECTICUT

Mega Stack Challenge, Foxwoods Casino, Mashantucket, Conn., Dec. 3-11

- Event 1 • \$600 NLHE**
Entries: 353 • Prize Pool: \$181,477
Winner: Fred Paradis, \$26,887
- Event 2 • \$180 NLHE**
Entries: 296 • Prize Pool: \$44,504
Winner: Shu Liang, \$9,258
- Event 3 • \$230 NLHE**
Entries: 238 • Prize Pool: \$46,172
Winner: Soheb Porbandarwala, \$11,128
- Event 4 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 193 • Prize Pool: \$18,721
Winner: Dimitrios Psaras, \$1,664
- Event 5 • \$300 NLHE**
Entries: 652 • Prize Pool: \$164,434
Winner: Martinho Camara, \$32,192
- Event 6 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 248 • Prize Pool: \$24,056
Winner: Michael Nye, \$4,500
- Event 7 • \$230 NLHE**
Entries: 188 • Prize Pool: \$36,472
Winner: Gregory Spirito, \$4,812
- Event 8 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 176 • Prize Pool: \$17,072
Winner: Craig Love, \$2,210
- Event 9 • \$230 NLHE**
Entries: 174 • Prize Pool: \$33,756
Winner: Burton Bramble, \$4,830
- Event 10 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 174 • Prize Pool: \$16,878
Winner: Vitaly Adler, \$4,515
- Event 11 • \$400 NLHE**
Entries: 290 • Prize Pool: \$98,455
Winner: Matthew Miller, \$19,750
- Event 12 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 217 • Prize Pool: \$21,049
Winner: William Krooss-Tadas, \$3,500
- Event 13 • \$300 Bounty**
Entries: 216 • Prize Pool: \$43,675
Winner: Jeffrey Davis, \$7,266
- \$1,200 Main Event**
Entries: 321 • Prize Pool: \$339,393
Winner: Gregory White, \$80,189
- Event 15 • \$180 NLHE**
Entries: 221 • Prize Pool: \$33,227
Winner: James Dabkowski, \$8,008
- Event 16 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 251 • Prize Pool: \$24,347
Winner: Frank Hamilton, \$4,639



Gregory White

The \$1,200 main event of the Foxwoods Mega Stack Challenge attracted 321 players to generate a \$339,393 prize pool. There were 58 players who returned at 11 a.m. the next day and it took 14 hours to declare **Gregory White**, left, champion. White of Vernon, Conn., and **David Stefanski** of East Lyme, Conn., chopped, giving Stefanski \$69K but White the title, trophy and \$59K. The next Mega starts Feb. 4.



Scan this tag for more Mega results and news.

MID-ATLANTIC

For tourney-promo info see our **Where to Play** pages in back

BAD BEATS EVERYWHERE

The Crown Royal Poker Room at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino produced Delaware's largest bad-beat jackpot on Dec. 18, good for \$184,393. Dover Downs also holds the second- and third-largest bad beats in the state's short poker history.



MICHAEL YOUNG

Lee Merkle of Camden, Del., walked away with a check for \$92,196 (50 percent) for his "losing" hand of quad fives in a hold'em cash game.

Craig Storton of Pasadena, Md., won \$46,098 (25 percent) for his quad aces. The other lucky seven players at the table each received \$6,585, representing the final 25 percent.

Unique to Dover Downs is the large seeded amount for the bad beat, which was reset at \$109K after the payout. Dover Downs has paid nearly a half-million since the the Delaware Lottery approved bad-beat jackpots last year.

• The poker room at Hollywood Casino Charles Town saw a Christmas Eve bad-beat jackpot hit as nine players shared \$55,885. In a \$3-\$6 limit hold'em game, **James O'Conner**, from Alexandria, Va., had his quad sixes beaten to take home \$27,942. The bad beat was the first to be paid at the regional gaming destination, as the casino instituted the bad-beat jackpot just two weeks prior.



• Rolled Up Poker and the Lupus Foundation of America will host a star-studded tournament at the Holiday Inn in Richmond, Va., on April 7. The goal is to raise money for LFA to make the world aware on what Lupus is, and to help with research to find a cure. Poker pros scheduled to attend: **Jerry Yang**, **Greg Raymer** and **Andy Bloch**.

Buy-in is a \$65 donation (\$55 if pre-registered) and includes an autographed copy of Yang's book *All In*. Unlimited rebuys are available for \$40 through the first break, with \$10 add-ons available before the first hand and at the first break. Players start with 6,000 units (2,000 more for first add-on, 3,000 for second add-on) and levels are 20 minutes. Players knocking out a pro earn a \$50 bounty. For more information and registration visit rolleduppokerclub.com.

— **Michael Young** is the Ante Up Ambassador for the Mid-Atlantic area. Email him at anteupmike@gmail.com.

KENTUCKIANA

French Lick brings back dealers

By Don Lawson

After years of using PokerTek electronic poker tables, French Lick (Ind.) Casino has switched back to a four-table poker room with live dealers.

"It was what our players wanted," player services manager **Rob Denbo** said. "We had a large poker room when we opened."

But after a remodel and a dwindling player base, the decision was made to switch to electronic tables. As time progressed, players started asking for live dealers again. The week before Thanksgiving, they got their wish. Denbo said the response has been great.

"We usually have two tables going through the week," he said. "They start at noon and go all day."

With the success of the switch, the casino is looking at adding tournaments and other special events. Stay tuned. ♠

CHECK OUT ALL THAT THE CROWN ROYAL® POKER ROOM AT DOVER DOWNS HOTEL & CASINO HAS TO OFFER!

TOURNAMENTS

\$5,000.00 GUARANTEED TOURNAMENTS

Every Friday except February 24, 2012
Buy-in: \$100 Chips: 10,000 • Begins at 7 p.m.

\$10,000.00 GUARANTEED TOURNAMENTS

Friday, February 24, 2012
Buy-in: \$150 Chips: 10,000 • Begins at 7 p.m.

BOUNTY TOURNAMENT

Every Sunday
Buy-in: \$80 Chips: 10,000 • Begins at 7 p.m.
WIN a bounty for every player you knock out!

WEEKLY TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENTS

Monday – Noon • Buy-in: \$50	Friday – Noon • Buy-in: \$65
Tuesday – 7 p.m. • Buy-in: \$75	Saturday – Noon • Buy-in: \$80
Wednesday – Noon • Buy-in: \$50	7 p.m. • Buy-in: \$120
Thursday – 7 p.m. • Buy-in: \$75	Sunday – Noon • Buy-in: \$65

PROMOTIONS

SUPER BOXES Sunday, February 5th

During the "BIG" game. The first 100 seated poker players will receive a box corresponding to numbers representing the score in the BIG GAME! \$500.00 in chips will be awarded at the end of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarters and \$1,500.00 in chips at the end of the game. Every other player at the table of the winner of each quarter will win \$50.00. PLUS, food, jacket giveaways and more

\$3,000.00 POKER FREE DRAW

Third Sunday of The Month
3 hours of consecutive play = one entry

ROYAL FLUSH during any CASH game

Any player that get a ROYAL FLUSH will receive an Dover Downs Hotel & Casino Poker Room Jacket and \$50.00 in Chips.
PLUS, all other players at the table will receive \$50.00 in Chips.

HIGH HAND

Monday thru Friday • 9 p.m. - Midnight, 2 - 5 a.m., 5 - 8 a.m. & 2 - 5 p.m.
Player having the high hand, in any CASH game, for each time session will receive \$100.00 in Chips

BAD BEAT

Over \$118,000.00 at time of publication
Must have a qualifying hand of Aces Full of Jacks beat.

GAMES OFFERED

Limit Poker: \$2/\$4 • \$3/\$6 • \$4/\$8
No-Limit Poker: \$1/\$2 • \$2/\$5 • \$5/\$10
Various Omaha and Stud Games available upon request
doverdowns.com/casino/poker-room

302-857-CARD



CHECK US OUT ON



Come Play!
DOVER DOWNS
HOTEL & CASINO

All games and other terms, games controlled by the Delaware Lottery. Not available in play.



Scan this tag for more Las Vegas and Nevada poker news or go to anteupmagazine.com/nevada/

POKER CELEBS OFTEN GRACE CARDROOMS

Many visitors and locals in Las Vegas are enamored with the idea of “poker celebrities.” People that, 10 years ago, wouldn’t have stuck out in a poker room let alone anywhere else. Those days are long gone, and now it’s common to see various well-known players posing for pictures, signing autographs and even kissing babies. Though many have mixed opinions on this,



MICHAEL HAMAI

I have no problem admitting playing alongside **Chris Moneymaker** one night at South Point was indeed a memorable experience, and to boot, he was as nice as could be. Poker “celebrity sightings” are rather commonplace in Las Vegas and some casinos have taken it a step further and hired well-known celebrities to help promote their poker rooms.

During the World Series of Poker, the poker celebrities are obviously seen at the hosting venue, which for the past few years has been the Rio. The rest of the year, however, the celebrity sightings vary and are often spread throughout the Strip and beyond.

Though historically the Mirage was the den of the high-stakes pros, that room has since adjusted to modern times, and the Mecca of high stakes celebrity players is largely confined to Bellagio and Aria. The Bellagio, for the longest time, has hosted the Big Game, which was usually a limit mixed game with limits as large as \$4K-\$8K (often with a \$100K cap per hand). Common celebrities seen in this game are **Doyle Brunson, Sam Farha, Barry Greenstein, Eli Elezra, Daniel Negreanu** and **David Benyamine**. A smaller, but dedicated high-stakes game has been spread frequently at Aria. **Jean Robert Bellande** hosts this game, which is usually \$300-\$600 and sports the likes of **Patrik Antonius, Phil Hellmuth** and **Ben Lamb**.

Recently, a dedicated group of slightly lesser known celebrities have been frequenting the M Resort because of an arrangement **Karina Jett** has made to host a \$100 H.O.R.S.E. tournament every Tuesday. This tournament often gets 40-60 players and celebs such as **Gavin Smith, Chip Jett, Mark Gregorich** and **David Plastik**.

It’s common to see well-knowns playing \$2-\$4 limit or \$1-\$2 NLHE, for any number of reasons. Often, these games can be a lot of fun because of the action high-stakes players can bring to a game that’s below their skill level. **Antonio Esfandiari** is known to occasionally sit in a \$1-\$3 NLHE game just for entertainment. **Scotty Nguyen** pops into the Harrah’s poker room on occasion since it has a larger-than-life photograph of him on the wall. **Orel Hershiser** may not be best known as a poker player, but the Vegas local can often be seen playing \$2-\$5 NLHE at his local casino, the Red Rock Resort in Summerlin (a high end community on the west side of Las Vegas).

The idea of a “Poker Ambassador” for a specific room is not a new concept. Most of these hired players help promote a room by hosting special tournaments where they’ll be playing, or playing in a cash game (usually at nosebleed levels), and allowing the visiting players to watch. One of the first rooms to publicly do this was the Wynn poker room in 2005. Negreanu came on board and offered to play anyone heads-up for up to \$500K. In his contract was a stipulation that he confine his cash-game play to the Wynn, which eventually resulted in the relationship parting ways.

There was a time when **Michael “Grinder” Mizrachi** was the ambassador of the Planet Hollywood poker room, and as recently as December, the tradition continues with 2006 World Series of Poker champion **Jamie Gold**, being hired as ambassador of the Tropicana’s new room.

Gold is taking it a step further by not insisting on playing only high limits. He’s often seen playing \$2-\$5 or \$1-\$2 NLHE. He has facilitated the creation of special rules such as straddling from any position, running it twice and the allowance of table talk when heads-up.

When you decide to play poker in Las Vegas, you’ll have many opportunities to see and play alongside those same players you see on TV. Just remember they are people like everyone else, and common courtesy should be used

when approaching for a photo or autograph request. Good luck!
— **Michael Hamai** (a.k.a **LasVegasMichael**) resides in Las Vegas and is content manager and editor of **AllVegasPoker.com**. You can follow him on Twitter @**LasVegasMichael** or email him at **Michael@AllVegasPoker.com**.



You can find **Barry Greenstein** regularly in the **Big Game at Bellagio**.

**LAS VEGAS
POKER ROOM
REVIEWS, NEWS
AND PROMOTIONS!**



**EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT THE VEGAS
POKER SCENE!**

THE BEST POKER ROOM IN LAS VEGAS



LET'S PLAY
POKER

JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 21, 2012

	DATE	BUY-IN	12 pm EVENT	BUY-IN	3 pm EVENT
Thursday	1/26/12	\$340	No Limit Day 1a**	\$150	No Limit Big Bounty
Friday	1/27/12	340	No Limit Day 1b**	150	No Limit Big Bounty
Saturday	1/28/12	340	No Limit	230	No Limit
Sunday	1/29/12	550	No Limit	340	Omaha 8/B
Monday	1/30/12	340	No Limit	150	No Limit Big Bounty
Tuesday	1/31/12	450	No Limit Big Bounty	340	H.O.R.S.E.
Wednesday	2/1/12	340	No Limit	150	No Limit Big Bounty
Thursday	2/2/12	340	No Limit	340	Triple Barrel P.L.O.
Friday	2/3/12	340	No Limit	150	No Limit Big Bounty
Saturday	2/4/12	550	No Limit	340	Ladies Sponsored by LIPS
Sunday	2/5/12	120	LIPS Mega 11am		
Monday	2/6/12	340	No Limit	150	No Limit Big Bounty
Tuesday	2/7/12	450	No Limit Big Bounty	340	Omaha 8/Stud 8
Wednesday	2/8/12	340	No Limit Day 1a**	150	No Limit Big Bounty
Thursday	2/9/12	340	No Limit Day 1b**	340	Triple Barrel P.L.O.
Friday	2/10/12	550	No Limit	150	No Limit Big Bounty
Saturday	2/11/12	340	No Limit	230	No Limit
Sunday	2/12/12	1,070	No Limit	340	H.O.R.S.E.
Monday	2/13/12	340	No Limit	150	No Limit Big Bounty
Tuesday	2/14/12	450	No Limit Big Bounty	340	P.L.O. / P.L.O. 8
Wednesday	2/15/12	340	No Limit	150	No Limit Big Bounty
Thursday	2/16/12	340	No Limit	340	Triple Barrel P.L.O.8
Friday	2/17/12	550	No Limit	150	No Limit Big Bounty
Saturday	2/18/12	275	Super Satellites		
Sunday	2/19/12	2500	No Limit		
Monday	2/20/12	(2,500 NL)	Day 2 @ 2 pm		
Monday	2/20/12	150	Daily Noon Resumes		
Tuesday	2/21/12	(\$2,500 NL)	Day 3 @ 4pm		

All \$450 buy-ins and below are re-buy events. Join us for two nightly tournaments: 7 pm \$175 No limit with 10,000 starting chips and 30-minute levels. 10 pm \$120 No limit with 8000 starting chips and 20-minute levels.

Starting chips: for the \$340 NL, \$450 Bounty, \$340 NL Ladies Event and all \$340 PLOs will be \$10,000 and \$2,000 additional chips. Starting chips for the \$550 NLH, \$550 P.L.O. and \$1,070 NLH will be \$12,500 and \$2,500 additional chips. Starting chips for the \$340 Omaha 8/B, \$340 H.O.R.S.E., \$230 NL, OE and \$175 NL will be \$8,000 and \$2,000 additional chips. Starting chips for \$2,500 NLH will be \$15,000 and \$5,000 additional chips. Starting chips for \$120 No-Limit will be \$5,000 and \$3,000 additional chips. Daily events have \$5 optional staff bonus. All other events have a \$10 optional staff bonus.

Total cash prize: Payouts are based on the number of participants that enter the tournament. 3% of prize pool of prize pool is withheld for poker room staff. Open to the public. All participants must be at least 21 years of age and have a Grazie® card.

Follow us on Twitter @Venetianpoker
"Like" us on Facebook @ Venetian Poker Room
For information call 702.414.7657 | venetian.com

THE
VENETIAN
LAS VEGAS

Registration for each 12 pm DSE event begins at 9 pm on the day prior to each event. All 3 pm events begin the day of the event. Tournament play begins at 12 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, and 10 pm respectively unless otherwise noted. Registration for all 7 pm & 10 pm events begins 2 hours prior to the start of the event. Free DeepStack logo'd merchandise with every tournament entry while supplies last. \$340 and \$550 tournaments will be played until the Final Table has been reached or until 2 am (whichever comes first). Play will resume at 2 pm and will continue until a winner has been declared. \$1,070, \$2,500 events will play until 2 am. Play will resume at 2 pm and play until the Final Table has been reached. Play will resume at 4 pm on day 3 and will continue until a winner has been declared.

All 7 pm, 10 pm, \$150 Big Bounty, and \$230 events are one day events. Tournament winners earn points to qualify for Best Overall Players cash awards. Ladies, \$150 Big Bounty, 7 pm, 10 pm and super satellites do not qualify for tournaments and do not qualify for DeepStacks Overall Points Race. All prizes will be paid in casino chips. 1% will be withheld from all DeepStack 1 tournament prize pools for best overall points winners. Super Satellite for \$2,500 event will begin at 12 pm, 4 pm and 8 pm. Registration opens at 10 am. Starting chips will be \$5,000. Single table satellites will be available every day from 8 am until 2 am.

WPT RUNNER-UP FINISH IMPORTANT TO SOI

The World Poker Tour celebrated its 10th anniversary with the **Doyle Brunson Five Diamond World Poker Classic** in December at the place where it all began: the Bellagio.

The series also featured the Bellagio's second \$100K Super High Roller. **Jason Mercier** bested a field of 25 to win top honors and a \$683,767 payday along with a \$25K WPT Championship seat. The win brought the 25-year-old's lifetime tournament earnings to more than \$7.3 million.

James Dempsey won the \$10K main event, topping a talented field of 413 and a final table that included defending champion **Antonio Esfandiari**, 2010 November Niner **Soi Nguyen**, who was second to Dempsey, and **Vanessa Selbst**, who was hoping to make history by becoming the first female WPT champion.

Ante Up's **Todd Lamansky** had a chance to chat with Nguyen, who returned to a major final table for the first time since his 2010 WSOP run, earning \$517K for his runner-up finish at the Bellagio.

How did the 2010 WSOP change your life? During the break period it was super, super chaotic: interviews, a lot of PR events, public appearances, and you know, just face recognition. I can't go to a cardroom now and not be recognized. In any tournament I've played since then, I mean, definitely there will be at least one or two people at the table asking me if I am Soi Nguyen. It also makes it a little bit easier sometimes as far as the nightlife goes and wanting to get into certain clubs and stuff like that, so it has its pluses and minuses.

Are you still selling medical supplies? Yes, I've been with Team Makena for 12 years now.

So you are still working? You sound a little shocked there, Todd.

If it were me I'd almost certainly quit my job. I enjoy my job. My boss is probably the best boss in the world and I have a great rapport with, No. 1 my boss, and my employees there. It would take a lot for me to leave this company.

How long have you been playing poker? Growing up Vietnamese, gambling is just naturally instilled in us right at birth. I can remember when I was 3 or 4 years old around New Year's (and our new year is late January, early February and it's celebrated for three days) we'd get envelopes from our aunts and uncles filled with money and we would

be gambling for three days in a row, as kids. There'd be tables for all the little kids, then the teenagers, the adults, and the elders. It was just one house full of a bunch of people playing cards. There was a variation of Vietnamese poker, which is kind of a five-card stud game, but we'd (only) play with nines through aces. We wouldn't play with any cards eight and under, so those games got pretty big.

I started playing hold'em with my friends when I was around 15 or 16, and when I say my friends, keep in mind the friends I kept around me growing up, some of them have been very, very successful in poker ... **Nam Le, Tommy Le, Tran Le** (also **Chino Rheem** and **Steve Sung**). We played as kids for fun and I saw the way they succeeded, but I took a different road, I guess, because I got married at a young age, had a kid, so I really needed to focus on my career and a reliable source of income.

Do you play cash games? I play some cash games, but I don't really play them at the casinos. I do play in a game probably once every two months and it's a private home game. It's a pretty intense game. We start off at \$10-\$25 and go \$25-\$50 by the end of the night.

Are you strictly a NLHE player? I started to branch out a little bit, especially online. Pre-Black Friday I was picking up PLO. Love the game. It's such a great game. Hopefully, I want to learn more, experience more of it.

Unfortunately, work and my ability to drive to casinos has limited it, but it is definitely on my agenda to, for lack of a better term, master the game of PLO. And not to say I've mastered the game of no-limit, either. But that's the great thing about poker: Every single time I play, every single session I play, I gain something from it.

What's next for you? I'm going to play as many WPT events as I can this year but I'm not going to travel to play them. I'm not going to go back East because it's going to take me too far away from my work and everything like that, so at least the West Coast events, especially the Bicycle event and the LAPC at the Commerce Casino. I can still come in early to the office, punch in for a couple of hours, get some work done and then take off to the casino.

Basically, the events in California and Vegas are my primary targets for 2012, and hopefully, more final tables and either a bracelet or a title. ♠



Soi Nguyen

TV poker leads to Marshall's HPT Peppermill win

Lloyd Marshall, a retired veteran from Hawaii, admitted he only just recently learned to play poker from watching it on TV. Now he'll have to learn from himself as he captured the televised Heartland Poker Tour event at the Peppermill Casino in early December.



"It is an honor to show people I can do it," said Marshall, who earned \$55,565 for his victory.

Daniel Holhos, a youth soccer coach from nearby Incline Village, Nev., was playing in his first major tournament and finished second (\$30,640).

The Peppermill, with its recent expansion, was a fine setting for Marshall's victory as poker room manager **Mike Gainey** has made every effort to provide the best for his players.

Some of poker's most popular players made the trip to the Biggest Little City in the World, including world champs **Jerry Yang** and **Jamie**

Gold, and well-known pros **Dennis Phillips, Kathy Liebert** and **Chad Brown**. All busted on Day 1, except Brown, who bubbled the money with pocket threes against fours. Yang and Gold offered seminars during the week for tournament players.

The main event drew 119 players for a prize pool of \$171,360.

"This is the most fun I've ever had," said **Joe Christman** of Pacifica, Calif., who earned \$16,835 for third.

Mark "Poker Ho" Kroon was fourth (\$13,470).

Past HPT champs **Mary Jo Belcore-Zogman** and **Eric Stocz** made the final table. Belcore-Zogman, the 2008 HPT Player of the Year, made her third final table but couldn't survive as the short stack and finished sixth (\$8,420). She and her husband, **Dan**, have 15 HPT cashes combined.

Stocz, a former NFL player with four HPT cashes added \$10,100 to his bankroll with his fifth-place showing.

— **Ante Up Reno Ambassador Cordell Howard** contributed to this report.

February 6-March 1 • Monday-Thursday

EARN COMPS WHILE YOU PLAY

\$2 AN HOUR  **24 HOURS A DAY**

HEART FLUSH PAYS ON VALENTINE'S DAY

HEART
STRAIGHT FLUSH
\$300

HEART
ROYAL FLUSH
\$500

HEART FLUSH WITH
KING AND QUEEN
\$50

BOTH CARDS IN PLAYER'S HAND MUST PLAY. STRAIGHT AND ROYAL FLUSHES ALSO RECEIVE POSTED AMOUNTS.

BIG GAME SUNDAY SPECIAL EDITION!



**\$100
FIELD GOAL**
**\$100
TOUCHDOWN**
**\$200
SAFETY**

LIVE PLAYERS ELIGIBLE • RANDOM SEAT DRAWING
BIG GAME SUNDAY, FEB. 5 • FREE HOT DOGS 2PM
JERSEY DRAWING AFTER EACH QUARTER

RANDOM SEAT DRAWINGS FOR SOUTH POINT GIFTS

February 6 Thru March 1 ♦ 11am-11pm
Every Half Hour Win Pull-Overs, Shirts,
Jackets, Coolers, Hats and More!
(While Supplies Last)

No-Limit Texas Hold'em Daily "BOUNTY" Tournaments

Mon. Thru Sun. • 10am, 2pm & 7pm • \$60 Buy-In

FREE ONLINE POKER

\$100,000
In Cash & Prizes
Per Month

SOUTHPOINTPOKER.COM



For Complete Rules Visit SouthPointCasino.com

For live game information, visit us at BravoPokerLive.com



HUNTER: BIG DOWNSTREAM PLANS

Oklahoma saw major changes to key properties in 2011 (management changes), but that hasn't dammed up the flow of players to Downstream Casino. New poker room manager **Dale Hunter** has brought a new feel to Downstream, ensuring his players another exciting year of action.



CRYSTALYNN HARRIS

I recently chatted with Hunter, 27, who attended Missouri Southwestern, to get the scoop on how he got into poker, how he acquired his position and what he plans to do for Downstream in 2012. Here's the scoop:

How did you get into the poker industry? I have played poker since I was young and have always enjoyed it. I started dealing at a local casino when I was about 21 and I stayed there for four years until **Elliott Schecter** hired me as a shift manager. I have been here at Downstream for about a year-and-a-half.

When Schecter left, was it an easy decision to apply for the position? Yes. In fact, I worked very closely with Elliott so I felt confident about applying for the position when he left. I actually accepted the job the Friday before our last Heartland Poker Tour main event. My GM took me to dinner, offered me the job and I accepted immediately.

So do you still have time to play poker now that you're running the cardroom and if you do, what do you play? (laughs) Not as much as I used to. I do visit other cardrooms on occasion to play, but the new position is demanding. I don't have as much time now to indulge in a game. I prefer Omaha \$5-\$10 no-limit over hold'em. I don't have a problem with the other games; it's just my favorite.

Speaking of Omaha, isn't there a \$6-\$12 Omaha/8 with a kill going on right now in your room? Yes, actually that game runs every Thursday and it has really created buzz in the room. That game is a good example of the great year we have in store here. Bigger, better for 2012. That's our goal. We will be getting players excited about other card games aside from hold'em and introducing those games this year. In the past we have not done as many weekly tournaments, but players can expect to see more of those on this year's schedule, too.

What about your long-term goals? We plan to dominate the market and stand apart from Tulsa. Downstream continues to grow and we will continue to bring exciting poker to this region by reinventing Oklahoma poker.

So what changes have you made that have improved the room since you have taken over as manager? That's a good question. We've got a great group

of people here, players and staff alike and boosting morale is important. Players can expect a warmer welcome than in previous years and our friendly atmosphere will make regulars feel at home, new players feel like regulars, and when they leave and return again, we will still know their name.

I remember that theme song from the show Cheers. Yes, like that. We are a poker family here and it is going to be a big exciting year for Downstream. We have our Heartland Poker Tour event coming up Feb. 16-26 and we have implemented a new event for this tour and that will be a re-entry H.O.R.S.E. event. We also have our Four States Poker Championship in May-June, a big event in August (details to be determined) and a winter event in November.

It's a great opportunity to show players that change is not always a bad thing. Just like in poker, change can mean your hand has improved.

When players ask why they should play at Downstream Casino, what do you tell them? (laughs) What reasons can you come up with NOT to play at Downstream?

Seriously, though, our customer service is fantastic and it continues to improve. Game integrity is very important to us; we have great dealers, efficient staff, a wonderful variety of regulars and part-time players. We have excellent games at a variety of stakes. We are where poker players like to be and you don't have to take my word for it because we will show you as soon as you get here.

• River Spirit Casino recently paid the biggest bad beat in Oklahoma worth \$274,178. At 6:44 p.m. on Christmas, **Jason Miller's** quad kings were beat by a club royal flush. Poker room manager Justin Buckley described the moment: "The board was A♣-Q♣-8♠-K♣ with the K♦ coming on the river. The table went nuts, yelling and screaming and jumping out of their chairs."

The opposing player held J♣-10♣ and earned \$54,838. Miller received \$109,676 while the other 32 players in the room each received \$3,427. River Spirit's bad beat is now around \$105K and building every day.

• One of the largest tournaments in the state returned to Hard Rock Tulsa on Jan. 26 for the seventh annual Oklahoma State Championship of Poker. The series had 21 events in 10 days, with buy-ins starting at \$125. Though most of the events will have been concluded by press time, you can still make the \$100K guarantee on Feb. 2.

For more information call (918) 384-6648.

— Crystallynn Harris is the Ante Up Ambassador for the Oklahoma-Kansas area. You can email her at crystallynn@anteupmagazine.com.



Players can expect a warmer welcome than in previous years and our friendly atmosphere will make regulars feel at home, new players feel like regulars, and when they leave and return again, we will still know their name. — **DALE HUNTER**



Jason Miller's quad kings were beat by a club royal flush.



VANG CAPTURES MID-STATES FINALE

Kou Vang captured first place and \$64,465 on Dec. 12 at the final event of Season 2 of the Mid-States Poker Tour at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Minn.

The \$1,100 event attracted 230 players, including Vang, whose wins include the 2010 Fall Poker Classic main event, a Midwest Poker Classic bounty event and a World Series of Poker Circuit ring.



JOHN SOMSKY

Vang, whose career earnings are about \$263K, had the lead with 619K chips when the final table started. Heads-up rival **Everett Carlton** entered the final table with 501K chips. Carlton, also no stranger to Minnesota poker events, has made five MSPT final tables.

Heads-up play ended quickly with Vang's A-J holding up against Carlton's 8-6.

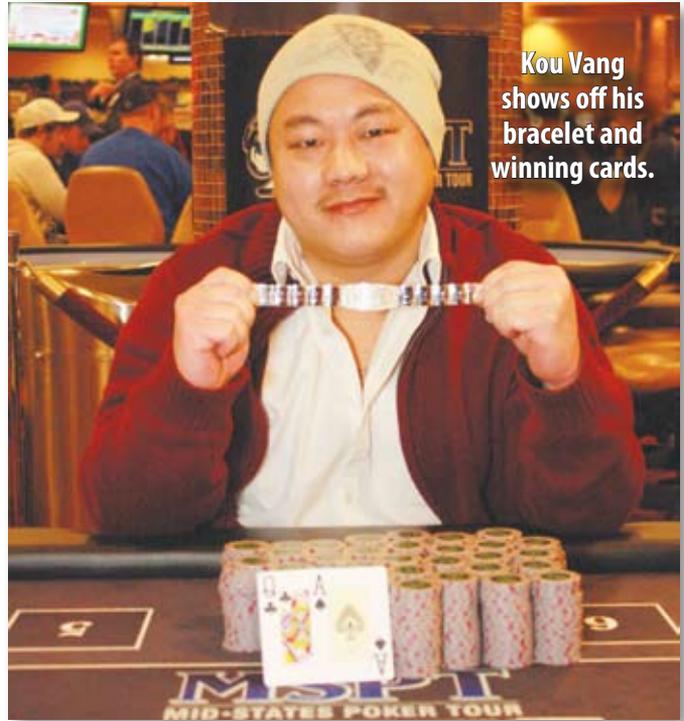
The final table included hole-card information broadcast online after a 15-minute delay.

This was made possible by using a table with RFID technology that allows software to automatically show the hole cards of each player as the game is played.

MSPT POY: The MSPT 2011 Player of the Year is **Nathan Fair**, who earned 1,700 points by way of a second- and third-place finishes plus two more cashes. Carlton was runner-up (1,350).

HPT AT CANTERBURY: The Heartland Poker Tour announced a stop at Canterbury Park for April 20-30. The HPT will film two episodes of its nationally televised show during that event.

"We are excited to host Heartland Poker Tour at Canterbury Park," senior director of card casino operations **Michael Hochman** said. "An event of this stature is a perfect fit for Minnesota's premier poker



Kou Vang shows off his bracelet and winning cards.

room. The opportunity to offer what could be the largest poker prize pool in state history is great news for our players."

— **John Somsky** is the Ante Up Ambassador for Minnesota. You can email him at john.somsky@gmail.com.



Hellmuth's charity tournament raises \$110K

On Dec. 17, I attended the second annual **Phil Hellmuth's Hold'em** with Agrace HospiceCare charity event in Madison because Hellmuth invited me to be one of the tournament's "celebrities" thanks to my position with PokerNews and *Ante Up*.



CHAD HOLLOWAY

More than 250 played in the event, which featured food, a raffle, silent auction and a full-day tournament hosted by Hellmuth, all to raise money for Agrace HospiceCare.

Joining me as celebrities were an eclectic mix of local celebrities and poker pros. They included 2007 World Series of Poker Europe champion

Annette Obrestad: 1998 WSOP fourth-place finisher, **Dewey Weum;** and pros **Eddie Blumenthal,** Mark "Poker H0" Kroon, Mike "Wisco" Murray and Anthony "D1rtyR1v3r" Nardi. Some of the celebrities included NFL and UW Badgers player **Derek Engler,** NBC 15's **Carleen Wild,** **Charlie Shortino** and **Leigh Mills,** pro golfer **Jerry Kelly** and Badgers women's hockey coach and



member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team **Mark Johnson.**

As far as the tournament, that title went to **Laura Schultz,** who overcame some stiff competition. **John Orr,** a Wisconsin businessman, was the final-table bubble boy in 10th place, advancing such players as **Morgan Machina, "Madtown" Jerry, John Green,** Nardi and Kroon. The latter almost defended his title, ultimately finishing fourth. Schultz defeated Green heads-up to claim the title and trophy.

A slew of attendees were chosen for private heads-up poker games the next day with Kroon (winners: **George King, Mark Stevens** and **Gary Rice**), Obrestad (winners: **Scott Saunders, Wayne Harris** and **Dick Solis**) and Hellmuth (winners: **Mike Saunders, Paul Guyette** and **Josh Nelson**).

It was another successful event as about \$110K was raised. All signs point to a third go in 2012, so mark you calendars for the weekend before Christmas.

— **Chad Holloway** is Ante Up's Wisconsin Ambassador. He's a senior writer for PokerNews.com and a member of Team Blue Shark Optics. Email him at anteupchad@yahoo.com or follow him on Twitter @ChadAHolloway.

INTERESTED IN MINNESOTA OR WISCONSIN TOURNAMENTS? TURN TO OUR WHERE TO PLAY PAGES IN THE BACK OF THE MAGAZINE.



WCPC BECOMES STAR-STUDDED AFFAIR

The Chicago area had a champions battle during the Windy City Poker Championship in mid December as one World Series of Poker champion, two World Poker Tour champions and four Heartland Poker Tour champions were in attendance.

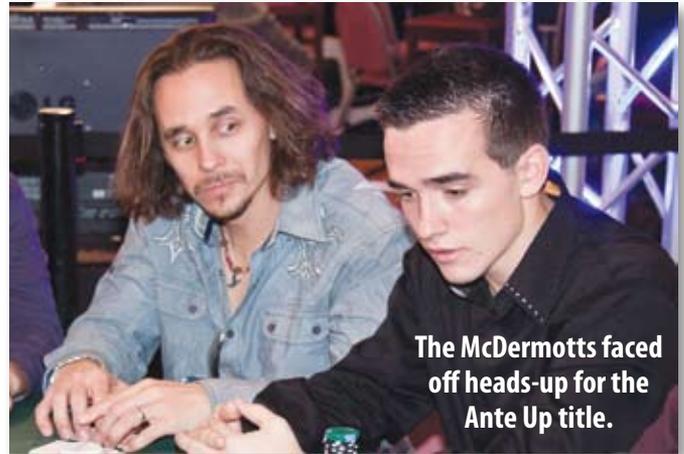
Colorful high-stakes amateur **Rick Raheem** (made famous from his stint on Fox's the *Big Game*) was there along with fellow *Big Game* Loose Cannon **Nadya Magnus**. Raheem flew in a soldier from the East Coast who fought in the Iraq war.

"The WCPC tournaments are unique, giving local players a chance to battle it out with the top players in the world," said **Dick Carlson**, playing in his third WCPC event.

Amanda Musumeci and **Jamie Kerstetter**, who both cashed in the 2011 WSOP main event, were on hand as well.

The four-day event kicked off with the *Ante Up Magazine-Chicago* Poker Championship as **Nancy Fallah** returned to try to defend her title and 2009 champ **Leroy "Talk Show" Carver** and 2010 winner **Mike Sabbia** were there.

For **David McDermott**, co-creator of the WCPC, this tournament may be his most memorable. The savvy veteran, runner-up at the Chicago Poker Classic six-handed event in 2010, found himself facing his son, **David Jr.**, for the *Ante Up* Championship. David Jr., an 18-year-old business major at Illinois State, showed he was just as talented as his dad.



The McDermotts faced off heads-up for the Ante Up title.

His aggressive style in his first live tournament proved too much for his father, winning the *Ante Up* Championship.

The High Roller Winner Take All Invitational for the second year drew a star-studded field, including **Jerry Yang**, **Richard Roeper**, **Faraz Jaka**, **Chad Brown**, Raheem, **David Kaplan** and last year's champ **Nick Brancato**. Two female amateurs, **Meg Bertini** and **Nikki Griffith**, were among the field, too.

Continued on next page

All WCPC photos by Jason Finn

FREE ROLL X 3

\$1,000 Guaranteed Prize Pool

Tue & Thur at 6:30 pm

Sat at 1:00 pm



POKER

Dania at Jai-Alai



US 1 at Dania Beach Blvd. Dania Beach Phone: (954) 920-1511 www.betdania.com



CHESTER JOINS LUMIERE PLACE AS MANAGER

With the new year comes exciting changes for the Lumière Place poker room: a new manager, new tournament structures and a national tournament series.

Anthony Chester, with experience from the Venetian and Delaware Park, has been named manager.

While reviewing the day-to-day operations, he has implemented the deepstack-type tournaments he helped create at the Venetian.

“The tournament schedule is going to follow my true deepstack background,” Chester said. “We are going to give a better blind structure and a little bit more chips. The three-hour tournament we run will turn into a five-hour tournament.”

Daily 7 p.m. tournaments have been added to a schedule that includes a daily noon event. A weekly pot-limit Omaha tournament has been added.

The 100th event of the Heartland Poker Tour has been announced for March 2-11 and will be hosted by both St. Louis Pinnacle Entertainment properties: Lumière Place and River City. Qualifiers will be at Lumière Place. More qualifiers and the main schedule of events will be at River City. Judy’s Velvet Lounge at River City will be converted to a dedicated tournament room and maintained as a non-smoking area. The TV final table will use the main stage and provide spectator seating and video monitors throughout the area. Shuttle service

will be offered between the locations and Lumière offers several hotel options.

Chester was seen as a critical piece to make this HPT venture work.

“(Pinnacle) has said they want to make the Lumière and River City the main stops for poker in St. Louis,” he said. “They really want to focus and they are enthused about the game of poker and want to make it a prominent aspect of why people come.”

GATEWAY POKER CLASSIC: Harrah’s St. Louis hosted its inaugural Gateway Poker Classic from Dec. 1-11. The series had 30 events with most days hosting three tournaments.

This series featured events with a number of interesting variations, including a Jack-N-Jill event (63 teams entered) four different Omaha disciplines, H.O.R.S.E., six-max, seniors and ladies.

The series drew more than 2,700 players for a combined prize pool of nearly \$575K.

As for the \$1,100 two-day main event, which attracted 118 players for a \$114,460 prize pool, **Tom Cronin** of St. Peters, Mo., proved unbeatable, capturing \$34,340 for first place. The event is expected to return this year.

— **Don Matusofsky** is Ante Up’s Missouri Ambassador. You can email him at anteupdon@gmail.com.



Gateway Poker Classic

Entries: 118 - Prize Pool: \$114,460

1. Tom Cronin, St. Peters, MO, \$34,340
2. Mark Koeln, St. Louis, \$21,223
3. Andy Campbell, Naperville, IL, \$15,111
4. Daniel Lowery, Charleston, AR, \$10,977
5. William Difani, M'land Hts., MO, \$8,131
6. Donald Baumer, Troy, IL, \$6,138
7. Ricky Sumner, Union, MO, \$4,721
8. Travis Barks, Hillsboro, MO, \$3,698
9. Greg Phillips, St. Charles, MO, \$2,948

INTERESTED IN MISSOURI TOURNAMENTS AND PROMOTIONS? TURN TO OUR WHERE TO PLAY PAGES IN THE BACK OF THE MAGAZINE.

Continued from previous page

“The \$1,500 winner-take-all event was a great experience, giving me the chance to play with a caliber of player I usually don’t get to experience,” said Bertini, who won her seat that afternoon in a \$75 satellite. For Griffith, who lost her mother to cancer, this was a special experience knowing proceeds from this event went to cancer research.

Sitting a few seats from Griffith was **Chad Brown**, who has battled cancer. He played the WCPC to support the H Foundation, a charity group that donates funds to basic cancer research.



Paul Fisher, the third amateur at the table, faced **Jaka** for the title, but in the end Jaka showed why he’s one of the world’s best by winning the event.

The McDermotts took center stage again by making the main-event final table. Heads-up winner **Jim Casement** also made the final table and 2008 HPT Player of the Year **Mary Jo Belcore-Zogman** was one of the short stacks.

Oak Brook businessman **Tony Parille** took top honors.

“At the start I didn’t know who they were but quickly realized they were very good players,” Parille said of playing against his final-table opponents earlier in the event. “I studied them closely, then I applied what I learned during the final table.”

— **Crystalynn Harris, Kirk Fallah and Jason Finn** contributed to this report. More photos can be seen at chicagopokerclub.net. “Chicago” Joe Giertuga is Ante Up’s Chicagoland Ambassador. Email him at chicago.joe@comcast.net.



Tony Parille took top honors in the main event.



Black Friday surprised millions of poker players across the country and left many without a source of income. It wasn't long before Iowa poker pro Bill Slaght soon found himself . . .



BACK AMONG THE LIVING

There were many casualties from the fallout of Black Friday (April 15, 2011), none more devastating than an online pro looking to keep his home and start a family. Because of that day that will live in poker infamy, I compete against one of these players in my local casino, a result of him having to ply his trade live to earn a living.



KEN WARREN

Bill Slaght (a.k.a. CrazyHorse76), is a former online player of the year in his 30s with a house in a small midwestern town. He has a wife and he wants to start a family, but things aren't what they used to be. He graciously agreed to talk to *Ante Up* about some of his struggles and how he is dealing with his new life.

How long have you considered yourself an online pro? About four years.

So four years ago you started gravitating away from the live games and concentrating online? Yes, it happened gradually. For a long time, I played both. As I started finding success online and increasing my volume, I played less and less live. For a year or so prior to Black Friday, I was nearly 100 percent online.

You just mentioned Black Friday. Did this sudden change surprise you? Very much so. I was actually playing that day. I started at about 11 a.m. then at around two in the afternoon I got a couple of messages from friends from the online community to check the message-board threads. Then shortly after that U.S. players could not register for tournaments on PokerStars anymore. Yeah, it came out of nowhere.

How has your life changed since Black Friday and how have you coped with the loss of your livelihood? It has been tough. I went from working from home and being able to work as much or as little as I wanted. Now I travel out of town a couple of times a week and really don't have another option as far as games. I do play at our local casino but about

the only thing available is \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em.

Do you follow any circuit or just jump in occasionally to what is available? I've been to the World Series of Poker the last three years. I've been there a total of four times and I go to other things around here when they come up. I will be looking to travel to more live tournaments in the near future.

Do your backers support you in the live games as they did in the online world? No. I play strictly on my own money now, which is the way it always was until August 2009. I very much appreciated my backers, but it just isn't feasible for them to support me live. Online I could play like 300 tournaments a week and live I can only play maybe five. The buy-ins are considerably higher for live tournaments. Also, the backers were hurt badly. I couldn't even speculate on the amount of money that (the backers) have tied up online.

Without asking for a hard number, will you share a percentage of what you are making now compared to before Black Friday? I'm definitely making less than I did when I had full availability of the online sites. It has probably, at least, cut my earnings in half on average. My biggest issue is just the availability of games. If I travel out of town to play in a good cash game I may not get to sit in another strong cash game for a week or two. There's a lot of pressure there when I feel I have to win every time I play because I can't play as often as I did before. Also, online, once I became staked, I played strictly tournaments and I've played very few tournaments since Black Friday.

Make a guess as to how long until we see online poker back up in the United States? I think it will happen in 2012. I think it's pretty likely some might say it's optimistic, but it really is only a matter of time. It probably won't be an instant fix and we are right back to the level we were, but in the long run the return will be a good thing for all of us. There should be more sites and more competition, which should mean better rake for us and a larger player pool.

Some say once regulation is in place that we may see a second boom. →

Continued from previous page

Do you agree with that? I'm hopeful and I think it's pretty likely. However, I really don't think it will be like it was in 2006. I hope I'm wrong, but I just don't think it will ever be that good. To anyone that's playing now that didn't play in 2006 it's almost impossible to explain the difference. The game has changed so much. It is significantly tougher now than it was five years ago. I wish I had started full-time a year or two earlier than I did because the games were so much softer.

Do you think you can hold out from having to find a steady job until online play comes back? Oh yeah. I would not describe it as holding out. I'm still playing and I'm making money. We're doing OK. It's just a difficult transition as far as the availability of games. Then the change from tournaments to cash games because they are different and it takes some adjusting. This is my career this is what I intend to do. I have had several people ask me if I was going to get a "real" job. They don't realize that this is my job. I do have a college degree, but I don't plan on turning in any resumes any time soon.

There was a big exodus of young players to other countries; did you ever discuss that with your wife? I'm glad you brought that up. We got married over two years ago and bought our first house right after our wedding. I'm a little older than most of the online professionals, so between having the house and being married I have no intentions of moving anywhere to play online poker. If I was younger and unmarried I would probably already be in Canada or Mexico. If it was just a matter of telling a landlord I was moving and packing a bag I would have already done it.

Do you enjoy live games and much as online play? If I had to pick just one to play for the rest of my life, I'd probably pick live poker. I enjoy the friendly interaction with the other players. While I've made quite a few good friends in the online community, I would say I enjoy live more. But I gravitated to online mostly for the convenience and the fact that I could play 20-24 tables if I like. There are certainly pros and cons to each, but I

Iowa senator planning Internet poker bill

After the U.S. Department of Justice's Wire Act opinion was released (see Page 60 for more) state lawmakers have begun to move toward online poker legislation.

According to numerous reports, Iowa Sen. **Jeff Danielson** told plans to draft an Internet poker bill in Iowa soon. He said this spark intrastate online gambling and allow Iowa to make a compact with others who have approved the same measures, such as Nevada and the District of Columbia.

In December, the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission released a report requested by the state Legislature, saying intrastate online poker could generate \$13 million to \$60 million a year in revenue. Based on a 22 percent tax rate, that would mean revenue to the state of \$3 million to \$13 million.

will certainly shift back to online once all the smoke clears. I will make a point to play live at least a few times a month as well. I still truly enjoy poker and am very thankful that I am able to play a game that I love as my living. But, I need to go with what works best for my family time-wise as well as financially. My wife and family will always be first.

Is there anything else you would like to share? Yeah, first I'd like to say thanks to *Ante Up* for allowing me the opportunity to do this interview. Second, I would say the transition may not have been as rough for me as it is for many online players. I mean this is what I did before I took up online play. So I'm really just returning to my roots, but it's frustrating that I'm basically stepping back to where I was five years ago. I was working for much more. All in all, I guess I really can't complain too much. I get to play a game for a living that I really enjoy.

— **Ken Warren** is the *Ante Up* Ambassador for Iowa. You can email him at anteup-ken@gmail.com.

\$65 Buy-in

AZUNIA TEQUILA SHOOTOUT TOURNAMENT

Sunday, February 19th ~ 1pm

\$10,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL

SAVE the Date!

Limited to first 300 Entries...Don't be shutout....buy your entry in advance!
Corner of Wickham & Sarno Rds. Exit 183 off I-95 www.mgpark.com (321) 259-9800



NOTHING WARMS MORE THAN COLD CASH

What is worse than a cold deck? Catching cold cards in cold weather. Welcome to Michigan in the dead of winter. I bet you're like me and prefer cold hard cash over cold hard winters. And what is better than cold hard cash? Free frosty Franklins ... as in Benjamins.

Every Tuesday until Feb. 21, Greektown Casino's poker room will give away up to \$1,200 a day in their Frosty Cash Drawings promotion. That is \$100 an hour, every hour, from

11:30 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. The cool thing about the Frosty Cash Drawings is rollover. Yep. That's right. If the winner is not present to claim the cash, that prize rolls over into the next drawing.

Players are entered into drawings by making a straight or better. How hard can that be, really? Players seem to do it to me all

of the time. For three weeks in February, there may be an upside to getting your flopped straight beat by a rivered runner-runner flush. Both players in this type of hand qualify for the Frosty Cash Drawing.

This promotion is not just for cash games. Hit a qualifying hand in one of Greektown's tournaments and you're entered into the drawing.



SAMMY WYNN



And if your straight or better gets beat, don't fret. You still get entered into the drawing.

You'll need a Club Greektown card to participate. There's no charge to sign up, plus, you receive one entry into the drawings just for registering.

You must be present to win, just as you do to take down a table share of hitting a bad-beat jackpot.

Speaking of bad-beat jackpots, the one at Greektown is more than \$100K for quads over quads or better. The other Michigan casino poker room bad-beat jackpot estimates (as of press time) are listed below, from high to low:

MGM Grand Detroit: roughly \$73K for quads over quads or better.

Firekeepers Casino: \$61K-plus for aces full of jacks or better losing to quads or better.

Soaring Eagle Casino: nearly \$32K for quads over quads or better.

MotorCity Casino: about \$9K for quads over quads or

better.

Scoring even a table share of these jackpots would help me forget about cold cards. ... and cold weather.

— **Sammy Wynn is Ante Up's Michigan Ambassador. Contact him by email at anteup@sammywynn.com or through his website at motorcityrounder.com.**

NEW MEXICO

Seminar at Star increases players

As a regular player you always want to see new players come to the game. If I can encourage others to learn hold'em, I do. Getting new players on the felt is the job of a poker room manager, so a brainstorming session with Santa Ana Star's **Dan Higginbotham** led us to start a new-player seminar.

On Jan. 8, after inviting as many people from the free-poker leagues as we could find, we hosted the seminar and, after 90 minutes, hosted a sit-n-go for the students. The winner, Walter Wong, received a seat into the \$40 nightly tournament.

The seminar, which was a hit among the small crowd, will be every second Sunday at 2 p.m., allowing for players who have some familiarity with hold'em to

enjoy the game in a casino setting.

• The Heartland Poker Tour will visit Route 66 Casino on July 20, making it the biggest tournament in New Mexico history, surpassing a \$500 event at Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso.

New Mexico isn't known for its tournaments or tournament players, but one local recently had great success in big tournaments. **Michael McTernan** of Albuquerque finished seventh for \$19,132 in the November edition of the Venetian Deep Stack Extravaganza. McTernan, a.k.a. Mike M.C., took the trip to Las Vegas not long after hitting the big end of the bad-beat jackpot at Sandia Resort Casino.

— **Chip Sandidge is Ante Up's New Mexico Ambassador. Email him at anteupchip@gmail.com.**



CHIP SANDIDGE

ARIZONA

Arizona's John Dibella wins PCA, \$1.775M

John Dibella, a 43-year-old stock trader originally from Arizona, won the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure for \$1,775,000. The married father-of-two only came to this year's PCA to play some of the smaller side events but won a live \$1K satellite into the \$10K main event. Now, he's won one of the biggest poker prizes in the world.

Dibella bested a 1,072-player field and a tough final table that included his heads-up opponent, Internet pro **Kyle Julius**, as well as **Faraz Jaka**, **Xuan Liu**, 2009 PCA runner-up **Tony Gregg** and Dutch pro **Ruben Visser**.

Dibella said he was totally overwhelmed by his win, calling it "surreal."

"I make more money at poker than as a day trader, but I'm not going to call myself a professional just yet. I'm a recreational player, but maybe I'll take it a bit more seriously from now on. It's definitely much safer than my day job."

Xuan Liu, 25, from Toronto, who finished fourth for \$600,000, was the first woman to reach a PCA Main Event final.



Over \$200,000 Paid Out In Two Months!



HIT A ROYAL HOLDING THE ACE AND WIN BIG!

All Station Casinos Poker Rooms

Available BIG HIT Suits



Daily Progressives start at:

Hit a Royal In – And Win! 	\$5,000
Hit a Royal In – And Win! 	\$5,000
Hit a Royal In – And Win! 	\$5,000
Hit a Royal In – And Win! 	\$10,000



STATION CASINOS^{LLC}

PALACE STATION . BOULDER STATION . TEXAS STATION . SUNSET STATION
SANTA FE STATION . GREEN VALLEY RANCH . RED ROCK . ALIANTE STATION

Progressive resets every Tuesday at noon if hit.

Details available in the Poker Rooms. Must be 21 or older. © 2012 Station Casinos LLC, Las Vegas, NV

STATIONCASINOS.COM | Like us on Facebook.com/StationCasinos

Know Your Limits! If you think you have a gambling problem, call 1-800-522-4700.

WIN ANTE UP CRUISE PACKAGES HERE

Players have the opportunity to win at least 16 Ante Up Poker Cruise packages at poker rooms across the country in the coming months:

Tampa Bay Downs

The Tampa, Fla., poker room will host a cruise satellite on Feb. 12. The \$60 buy-in tournament at 4 p.m. guarantees one cruise package for two for the March 17 cruise out of Tampa, Fla. Players start with 3,000 units, and can get an additional 3,000 with a \$20 add-on (\$10 to dealers/\$10 to prize pool). The room will give up to four more cruise packages away in other promotions.

Naples-Ft. Myers Greyhound Track

The Bonita Springs, Fla., poker room will give away one package for the Tampa cruise each to the highest hand from open to 2 p.m., 2-5 p.m., 5-8 p.m. and 8-11 p.m. on Feb. 29.

Daytona Beach Kennel Club

The Daytona Beach, Fla., poker room will guarantee three cruise packages in a \$140 buy-in satellite at 6 p.m. on Feb. 14. Players get 8K chips (2K more with a \$10 add-on). Levels are 20 minutes.

Suncoast Hotel & Casino

The Las Vegas-area poker room will give away two packages with \$1,000 airfare allowance for the Port Canaveral cruise on March 13 and two more on June 12. Players get one ticket for the drawing for every 20 hours of live play between Jan. 19 and March 5 (March 13 drawing) and April 1 to June 1 (June 12 drawing). The poker room



will hold \$125 satellites on Feb. 19, March 18 and April 15 that will award one cruise package and \$1,000 in airfare allowance for every 17 entrants.

More giveaways will be announced soon. Be sure to visit our website at anteupmagazine.com/cruise for the up-to-date schedule. Poker room managers wishing to hold satellites or giveaways should call **Scott Long** at (727) 331-4335.

Three Ante Up Poker Cruises are planned for 2012: March 17 out of Tampa, Fla.; Aug. 27 out of Port Canaveral, Fla.; and Nov. 10 out of Baltimore, Md. Rates start at \$369 per person and every cruise features cash games and tournaments for all levels, free poker courses and an open-bar cocktail party. ♠

LISTEN ON FRIDAYS TO THE AWARD-WINNING,
LONGEST RUNNING POKER SHOW ON THE PLANET!



Subscribe for free on iTunes or listen each week on our website.

ANTE UP POKERCAST



Co-hosts
Chris Cosenza
and Scott Long
of Ante Up
Magazine

RECENT EPISODES

JAN. 12
Our POY Darryll Fish

JAN. 5
Chinese Poker

DEC. 30
White Friday?

DEC. 23
Lee Childs

DEC. 16
Avery Cardoza



SCAN THE TAG OR GO TO OUR ARCHIVES AT ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM

Editor's note: This chapter excerpt continues Ante Up's poker book series and comes from Tri Nguyen's How I Made My First Million Playing Poker.

"Sir, you just got owned."

What is the first thing you think of when you read that phrase?

If it were directed at me, I would feel a little embarrassed. My face would get a little hot.

Sir, You Just Got Owned

My stomach would feel a little squirmy. In poker, I feel owned when someone outplays me. Getting outplayed usually means my opponent bluffed me with a worse hand and took down the pot. It is probably the main reason why I want to call river bets a lot. I don't want to fold the best hand and calling ensures that I was correct, even though I lose money while confirming my read.

My fear of getting bluffed, or getting outplayed, was accidentally cured by a friend. I was grinding online and received an email with the subject, "Owned Much?" I open the email and as it was loading, I could feel my friend's enthusiasm and excitement because I couldn't wait to see how he owned his opponent.

I was ready to see what type of monster bluff he had pulled because that's what owning someone means to me; you bluff them out of a pot. Since my friend is a great player and a sicko at times, I was thinking of all kind of crazy scenarios in my head. Did he 3-bet bluff all-in on the turn with king-high? Did he overbet shove the river with 5-high and win the pot without a showdown? I couldn't wait to see.

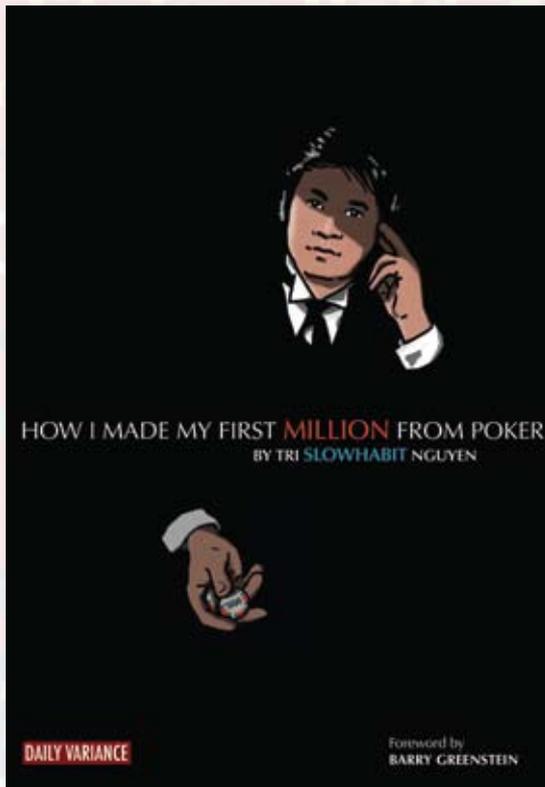
Well, when I finally got to the hand history it was a little anti-climactic. It was a tiny pot. There was no bluffing involved. All the hand history showed was my friend losing the minimum with a very strong hand against the nuts. He was really proud of that fact that he saved a lot of money and, indirectly, had owned his opponent.

This was a huge revelation for me because I didn't know you could own someone else by losing a hand. And that's when I started folding more. In fact, it makes folding enjoyable because I know I owned my opponent since he has a strong hand and I can sense the frustration that he is feeling. I know they are frustrated because I can remember the frustration I feel when I repeatedly have the nuts and my opponent keeps folding and doesn't pay me off. Then I realized that is another way to own your opponent. If he has a good hand and wants you to call, you outplayed him by folding. And since I love outplaying people, I keep folding against nits.

Another form of owning people is to value-bet thin. There's no better feeling than value-betting with a marginal hand and getting snap-called by a worse hand. I'm not talking about tank-calling; that's comparatively routine. I'm talking about the instant call you get once you placed your bet. Like he knew it was coming and was waiting to snap your head off. And since he called so fast, you thought you were toast, only to find out a worse hand called and you still couldn't believe what just happened.

I'm not sure if there's a better owning situation than getting snap-called by a worse hand. I live for those moments and

it's when I'm happiest at the poker table. If your interpretation of being outplayed means something else, take solace in the fact that sometimes, no matter what you do, you aren't going to win the hand, especially if you are at a positional disadvantage. The sooner you accept this fact, the less annoyed you'll be. Nothing is going to change this idea, until you get the mighty button and have position. Then you can outplay others and can smile and say to yourself "Sir, you just got owned." ♠



DARRYLL FISH

2011 ANTE UP PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Our 2011 Ante Up Player of the Year is **Darryll Fish** of Hallandale Beach, Fla. Known as DFish online, Darryll had a late surge last year to capture the title, including a pair of top-10 finishes at two Florida WPT events. He has nearly \$2 million in tournament winnings, including a WCOOP title, and is a Florida native. We recently chatted with him on our *Ante Up PokerCast* about his accomplishments.

You've always done well playing live, but it's no secret you were an online beast. When Black Friday put a kink in online play, was there any part of you that looked forward to playing more live? It's funny you ask that. Everybody always asks, "How did you react to Black Friday and how did it affect you?" And I had already began to make more of a transition back to live cash games a few months prior to Black Friday because I was getting a little burned out with the whole online tournament grind. I was actually more prepared for it than most. I was kinda already preparing myself for more of a live grind anyway, so it was an easy transition for me.

You're a Florida resident and when we got true uncapped poker you said you were ecstatic. Has it lived up to your expectations and where do you play most? I was pretty pumped for the laws to change, having been born and raised in Florida and having played all over the place down here from the time it was \$2 straight limit. (laughs) It was pretty exciting. I was living in Vegas at the time and had moved back in preparation for the laws to change. It hasn't quite lived up to my expectations yet, because it's still early in the process of everything. In the grand scheme of things we don't even have a real casino yet, and I think that's coming in the future. It's really hard to look at the past year or so and judge based on such a small sample. The games have been good, mostly \$5-\$10 and \$10-\$25 is the biggest there is. I have no problem with the games. I play mostly at the Hard Rock (in Hollywood) and the Isle of Pompano.

How tough is life on tour these days, especially since the pool got so much harder after Black Friday? Live poker is not what it used to be. When I first started playing poker really seriously I played mostly live in cash games and casinos. It was just amazing how easy the money was, and even now the smaller-stakes games are toughening. The tournament circuit has gotten so difficult. I've had more success in the Florida tournaments than anything else and I would say those are much softer on average. I'm not going to toot my own horn saying I beat the best players in the world (laughs), but at the same time all the fields on average are getting tougher live because of Black Friday. It definitely

makes you work harder and I feel like I have, and that's why I've done so well.

Nearly all of your live cashes are NLHE with a few PLOs sprinkled in. Do you dabble in the mixed games? I really like all forms of poker to some extent. I really like Omaha Hi-Lo, that's actually my favorite game. It's just not spread as commonly in tournaments other than the World Series, so naturally the results are going to come more in the tournaments that are more common. But I also have trouble playing limit-format tournaments for a few reasons, like they're boring as hell (laughs), the structures are shit most of the time, it's kinda pointless I feel like, so I mostly stick to the ones I won't get bored in and start playing any two. (laughs)

What does it mean to win an accolade such as Ante Up Player of the Year? It's always rewarding. It gives you a sense of entitlement and gives you some motivation. It shows you actually accomplished something, which is something people always wonder what the difference between cash games and tournaments is. And that's one of the differences, the feeling of competition, the fact that you're winning something, there's some notoriety to it. I mean, I don't play poker for fame or notoriety, but it still feels good. It definitely motivates you and makes you want to do more of the same thing you've been doing.

What's your feeling on these circuits and tours being piled on top of one another? Do you feel it will hurt the poker economy? It's kinda crazy because this stuff just started happening this past year or so. It's good and bad. It creates action but at the same time it makes everything smaller. People look at that and say, "The fields are small; poker is dying," whereas they don't realize there's just the same field in four cities across the country. It's give-and-take, but overall I think it's a good thing because it shows poker is growing and the worst ones will die off. It's survival of the fittest, and especially in Florida, things are really booming so I really feel like it's a good sign for the future.

It's obvious you're an elite player, but do you still get your chops busted for having the last name Fish? (laughs) Well, first of all I don't know about calling myself an elite player, but if you guys want to say that I'll take it. (laughs) I definitely do. Even the regulars at the casinos I play at they always give me shit about it. I've obviously heard it my whole life, even before poker I had to deal with it in school for whatever reasons. It's one of those things I've learned to live with, and I kinda feel like it's a good thing overall for poker, but it's definitely something you have to have thick skin for. (laughs) ♠

Fish hooks POY title, by a nose

Darryll Fish of Hallandale Beach, Fla., didn't need to win an Ante Up Player of the Year qualifying tournament to win this year's Player of the Year title.



Instead, he clawed out two top-10 finishes in the final two months to go with another in the first month of 2011 to squeeze past **Anthony Ruberto** of Hollywood, Fla., for the title.

Ruberto had ousted **Sam Barnhart** of Little Rock, Ark., from his almost season-long reign atop the leaderboard when he won the World Poker Tour main event at the Jacksonville Poker Room at Orange Park on Nov. 19 (Fish placed sixth in that event). Less than three weeks later, Fish finished runner-up to **Dan Clemente** in the Winter Poker Open main event at Seminole Hard Rock Tampa to cement his title by just 19 points. Fish also finished eighth in the Isle Poker Classic main event at Isle Casino Pompano in January. He wins a custom silver bracelet designed by Madison Jewelers of Virginia Beach, Va.

The 2012 Ante Up Player of the Year race has begun. Visit anteupmagazine.com/tour for the schedule, with new events added each month.

Final 2011 Ante Up POY standings

1. Darryll Fish, Hallandale Beach, FL, 1,226	26. Jared Hubbard, Farmington, MN, 684
2. Anthony Ruberto, Hollywood, FL, 1,207	27. Victor Coelho, Tampa, FL, 681
3. Samuel Barnhart, Little Rock, AR, 1,155	28. Harrison Gimbel, Jupiter, FL, 664
4. John Riordan, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, 1,121	29. Brian Hawkins, Ft. Myers, FL, 662
5. Mike Morton, Mays Landing, NJ, 1,058	30. Kevin Deng, Port St. Lucie, FL, 661
6. Taylor Von Kreigenbergh, Stoneham, MA, 1,040	31. Jesse White, Summer Shade, KY, 651
7. Farhan Madhani, Edgewater, NJ, 978	32. Tom Aprea, East Marion, NY, 647
8. Dan Clemente, Hernando, MS, 932	33. Tony Spinella, Plattsburgh, NY, 641
9. Corey Burbick, Davie, FL, 931	34. Sam Soverel, Tampa, FL, 636
10. Chris Conrad, Tampa, FL, 896	35. Ray Leone Sr., St. Augustine, FL, 634
11. Christopher Tryba, Las Vegas, 889	36. Matthew Ezrol, Coconut Creek, FL, 613
12. Alexander Venovski, Clermont, FL, 884	37. Matthew Waxman, Parkland, FL, 603
13. Nick Schwarmann, Orlando, FL, 817	38. Justin Zaki, Tierra Verde, FL, 600
14. Scott Zakheim, Davie, FL, 803	39. Ali Alawadhi, Longwood, FL, 594
15. Connor Drinan, Arlington Heights, IL, 794	40. McLean Karr, Ft. Wayne, IN, 578
16. Allen Bari, West Orange, NJ, 752	41. Rebecca Koransky, Longwood, FL, 578
17. Steven Tait, Centerton, AK, 743	42. Ronald Lee, Long Beach, MS, 576
18. Doug Lang, Tampa, FL, 739	43. Jason Mullen, North Mankato, MN, 568
19. Curt Kohlberg, Western, MA, 735	44. Ganesh Letchumanan, Falls Church, VA, 561
20. Alexander Kuzmin, Moscow, 731	45. Austin Buchanan, Winter Park, FL, 560
21. Mukul Pahuja, Hicksville, NY, 717	46. Matthew Beisher, Reno, NV, 558
22. David MacDonald, Jupiter, FL, 708	47. Fred Goldberg, Hollywood, FL, 554
23. Rod Rodriguez, Longwood, FL, 703	48. David Diaz, Memphis, 548
24. Scott Hastings, Springfield, MO, 695	49. Ly Do, San Antonio, TX, 540
25. Dan Santoro, North Bellmore, NY, 685	50. Ronit Chamani, Johannesburg, SA, 531


 A map of Southern California showing counties from Santa Barbara to Imperial. Three pushpins are placed on the map: a red one near Los Angeles, a yellow one near Orange, and a green one near San Diego.

SOUTHERN CAL

The Southern California market is mostly represented by huge cardrooms in Los Angeles and plush casinos in the Inland Empire. *Ante Up* visited as many of the major rooms in the SoCal region as possible over a three-day period. Here are our findings:

By Christopher Cosenza

Historians can trace the roots of poker to another continent thousands of years ago, but if aliens visited our planet today they'd think California is where poker was born. Of course, why aliens are interested in poker is for another time; all we know is they prefer draw games.

The state is so big and the cardrooms so plentiful that we're forced to break this road trip into three parts: Northern, Central and Southern. This month we'll explore Southern California, and break that up into two parts as well: L.A. and SoCal. We couldn't visit all rooms, so please remember to check our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine for tournament and promotional details.

LOS ANGELES

In L.A. you'll find cardrooms (no slots, but versions of blackjack, pai gow, baccarat, etc.), while tribal casinos (mostly south of L.A.) have slots but roulette and craps still must be played with cards. L.A. is home to the three largest cardrooms in the country so it's only natural to begin here.



Bicycle Casino | 562-806-4646

thebike.com | @bicyclecasino

Host to the popular online show *Live at the Bike*, this massive cardroom has a major tournament in eight of the 12 months of the year, including the first WSOPC event in L.A. (See recap Page 14). The gaming floor is huge and has a good variety of games and limits. One of the casino's few weaknesses is about to become a strength as it's planning to open a hotel, which will be a game-changer. With the Bike no longer having to watch tournament players leave to play cash games where they sleep (Commerce), things are about to get real interesting in L.A.

Hawaiian Gardens Casino | 562-860-5887

thegardenscasino.com | @gardenscasino

The famous tents will be renovated soon, but the fun, stress-free atmosphere will remain the same. Hawaiian Gardens is a relaxed poker room with friendly dealers and surfboards that hang from the ceiling to indicate what games are where. Tournaments are daily (\$30-\$150) and promotions include a prize wheel and jackpots. Be sure to tell the live parrot who lives in the glass case at the entrance that *Ante Up* says, "hey."





Commerce Casino | 323-721-2100

commercecasino.com | @commercecasino

With nearly 200 tables (many are California games) the Commerce is beyond massive, sporting the title of world's largest cardroom. The low-limit area is appropriately in the lower level where you'll find mostly hold'em and some stud, while a second room closer to the hotel hosts the bigger games and the mixed variety. The Commerce cash games are hard to beat in part because it's the only casino with a hotel (Crowne Plaza) in L.A., so it's no surprise it hosts some of the largest tournaments in the world outside the WSOP, including its signature event, the L.A. Poker Classic, which is running this month.

Normandie Casino | 310-352-3400

normandiecasi.com | @nc247

After some recent renovations, the Normandie is prime for your poker dollar. From the entrance's oversized canopy to the golden decorative ceiling panels and long brass bar, the Normandie has a warm, almost dinner-club feel that's welcoming. Unlike many cardrooms, the brush stand is centrally located right at the entrance, giving you instant access to what's being spread. Tournaments have increased, including a popular \$10K guarantee bounty event that costs \$100. Other smaller guarantees are spread throughout the week.



Hollywood Park Casino | 310-330-2800

playhpc.com | @playhpc



In an effort to reinvigorate action, HPC renovated and moved its poker room closer to the main entrance, throwing a grand-opening party in November (See anteupmagazine.com for details). HPC is unique in that it's the only L.A. casino that has thoroughbred racing on site. Also, new to the room is ocean poker, which is hold'em played with a sixth community card, known as the ocean card. Lots of action! And don't forget the Winter Hold'em Series (Feb. 24-March 4).



Hustler Casino | 310-719-9800

hustlercasi.com | @hustlercasi

Touches of the elegant life **Larry Flynt** likes to live can be found all throughout Hustler, including gorgeous chandeliers. The layout is circular, with a high-limit area in the middle and tables surrounding it. It's one of the smaller L.A. cardrooms so there aren't a lot of huge tournaments, but it holds at least three series a year (January, March, October) and was running a fine Player of the Week promotion during our visit.

SOCAL

Agua Caliente Casino | 888-999-1995

hotwatercasino.com | @aguacalienteCRS



This Palm Springs casino is an impressive property, and manager **Jerry Sandau** is doing some fine things with his poker room. During our visit he had just rolled out new comfortable chairs and a \$75 tournament that featured \$25 bounties. When the room is busy they have

paggers to make sure you don't miss your opportunity to play as you wander the property. And don't forget to take advantage of the free-drink station.

Barona Casino | 619-443-2300

Barona.com | @baronacasi

From a greeter who waves as you drive in, to the free lemonade (or hot apple cider when it's cold outside) offered when you enter the building, a relaxed, friendly atmosphere is everywhere at Barona. And it carries over to the poker room, where staff members wear golf shirts, including **Tim Malinowski**, a young, motivated manager who has been here since the beginning (nearly 20 years). We saw NLHE, plus \$3-\$6 and \$4-\$8 hold'em games with kills and crazy pineapple. Tournaments are modest (\$40) with nice guarantees (\$2K on weekends). The room moved to its more spacious, quieter location near the food court a few years ago. Feel free to call ahead; they'll put you on the list.

Sycuan Casino | 619-445-6002 | sycuan.com | @sycuancasi

It's been nearly a year since this room was renovated, and it looks as new as ever. The tables were extremely active and even had a juicy \$1-\$3 stud-8 game. World Series of Poker qualifiers started up again recently and the room continues to have a strong tournament presence. Manager **Tim Briggs** makes sure promotions are plentiful, including drawings and progressive jackpots. Dealers were strong and friendly.

Continued on the next page

Continued from previous page



Pechanga Resort & Casino | 951-693-1819

pechanga.com | @pechangacasino

This gorgeous property has a large poker room, and in the center is a raised area for some of the cash games. Above that is a huge three-sided scoreboard TV to display the day's most important sporting events. It complements the flatscreen TVs that ring the massive room — you'll never feel squished at Pechanga. Manager **Richie Lopez** does everything in his power to listen to his players and make the experience as enjoyable as possible. Dealers were friendly and efficient. Comps are \$1.50 an hour and chiprunners, like in so many California rooms, come to you if you want to cash out.

Morongo Casino | 888-667-6646

morongocasinoresort.com | @morongocasino

This 21-table room, separated from the casino and glassed off, spreads a great five-card Omaha/8 game and has a fine staff. When we arrived they were holding their semiannual staff tournament and personable manager **Duane Sandoval** was having a blast with his crew. There's a thirst station in the room and plenty of action at the tables. Tournaments are daily (\$30-\$100) and there are a lot of promotions, including a bad beat in hold'em and Omaha.

San Manuel Casino | 800-359-2464

sanmanuel.com | @sanmanuelcasino

This place was jumping on a Wednesday morning. A freeroll tournament (they host \$33K and \$100K freerolls regularly) helped the cause, but there were plenty of cash games in this cardroom, which was sprawling. On March 1, the poker room hosts the second annual Rivalry charity tournament between players from the L.A. Kings and the Anaheim Ducks. Proceeds benefit the teams' respective charities. (See story Page 10 for details.) Also, ask about the double jackpots and money wheel.



Ocean's 11 Casino | 760-439-6988

oceans11.com | @oceans11_casino

Billed as the largest poker room in San Diego County, Ocean's 11 has good action, largely in part to the proximity of Camp Pendleton. It just celebrated its 15th anniversary on Jan. 28 with \$200 cash drawings all day. The split-plan room is having a renovation, but you won't miss the huge mural of the original *Ocean's 11* guys (think **Sammy** and **Dean**, not **Brad** and **George**). They have tournaments and promotions every day.

Pala Casino | 760-510-5100

palacasino.com | @palacasino

Poker room manager **George Arsenis**, who's been at Pala for about two years (but in the business for 17), does a great job with his beautiful 15-table room. What stood out most were the busy tournament schedule and the thoughtful promotions, namely the Chase for the Dough. The more hours you clock the more money you get from the \$15K pool. Arsenis strives for a family atmosphere, and judging by how many regulars are in the room every day, we'd say he has achieved that. There are plenty of small tournaments with quality guarantees or even added money.



Harrah's Rincon | 760-751-3100

harrahsrincon.com | @harrahs_rincon

As a longtime World Series of Poker Circuit host (March 15-26), you can expect WSOP touches throughout the room, but what's not expected is the location. This poker room is on the second floor, away from the main casino, for an intimate setting. During our visit, the Pay for Play promotion was introduced (\$5 per hour in promo chips for first 20 hours played, \$10 for hours 21-40). We were told the comp system rates poker players the same as \$10 per hand blackjack players, which is tough to beat. There are modest daily tournaments (\$30-\$125) at noon and 7 p.m. and, of course, Total Rewards are outstanding.

Viejas Casino | 619-445-5400

viejas.com | @viejascasino

The 15-table poker room has had some changes recently, including moving to the second floor in a glassed-off area free of casino noise. We were told some new promotions were rolling out, including \$2/hour in comps and \$10 free just for getting into a game. Players get preferred parking and there were a ton of promotions, including freerolls. Ask about the "overs" game and look for the cashier just outside the poker room. Tournaments are cheap and generally twice a day.



MEGA Share Jackpot is up to
\$100,000! *at the time of printing

\$157,346

MEGA SHARE JACKPOT HIT JANUARY 1ST IN THE **PECHANGA POKER ROOM!**



Irene Orono's Bad Beat
won her **\$47,322** of the jackpot! All 257 players
in the Poker Room shared in the jackpot, each
receiving \$122!

HIGH HAND CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

**HIGH HAND
COMPETITIONS**
1PM - 10PM

MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, & SUNDAYS
1ST \$200 • 2ND \$150
3RD \$100 • OMAHA \$50

**\$10,000 HIGH HAND
CASH DRAWINGS**
2PM - 12AM

FRIDAYS, FEBRUARY 10TH, 17TH, 24TH
\$1,000 PER HOUR

EARN ENTRIES EVERY DAY
FOR QUALIFYING HIGH HANDS:

**JACKS FULL OR
BETTER IN HOLD'EM**

**ACES FULL OR
BETTER IN OMAHA**

PECHANGA POKER

Management reserves all rights. Must be 21 or over to enter Casino. If you think you or someone you know has a gambling problem, the 24-hour Problem Gambling Help Line can help. Call 1.800.522.4700.

PECHANGA POKER ROOM 951.770.5155 | 877.711.2WIN | PECHANGA.COM
45000 PECHANGA PARKWAY | I-15 • TEMECULA

Continued from previous page

AROUND SOCAL

Lake Elsinore Casino | 951-674-3101

lercasino.com | @pokeratthelake

While just about every poker room manager will tell you their room is the friendliest, Lake Elsinore puts it in writing. The slogan on its website reads: California's Friendliest Cardroom. Affordable tournaments are king at the Lake, including \$20 events that have a \$1K guarantee every day at 10 a.m. except Friday (when they have a \$3K guarantee re-entry event for \$30) and Sunday. These events have two \$5 rebuys and a \$5 add-on, plus \$20 per-table bounty and 1,500 starting chips. Levels are 20 minutes for the first three rounds, 15 minutes thereafter. Ask how you can qualify this month for a 50-player \$25K guarantee event. Also, the Lake has bad beats in hold'em, Omaha and stud games.

**Soboba | 951-665-1000**

soboba.net | @sobobacasino

Just as *Ante Up* rolled off the presses Soboba wrapped up its \$125 C.A.S.A. charity event, featuring 2007 World Series of Poker champ **Jerry Yang** (who also put on a free 30-minute Q&A clinic and gave away autographed copies of his book with every entry), on Jan. 28. The 14-table poker room has a relaxed atmosphere and even Player Appreciation Days (ask for details). There's a snack bar with breakfast and dinner specials, and the usual games are spread (limit and no-limit hold'em, Omaha with and without kills).

**Crystal Casino | 310-661-4808**

thecrystalcasino.com

The Crystal Casino is just southeast of Los Angeles, right off Freeway 91 (10 minutes from LAX) and is a new player to the L.A.-area market, with more than 230 hotel rooms, boasting "best poker rates" on its website. The 14-table poker room's best tournament is the \$30 event on Fridays and Saturdays (7 p.m.) with a \$5K guarantee, 1K chips, \$10 rebuys and add-ons.

Quechan Casino | 877-783-2426

playqcr.net

This 10-table room opens daily at 10 a.m., but at 5 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. The tournament that caught our eye was the \$75 event with a \$5K guarantee twice a month on Saturdays. Another cool attribute for Quechan is its website lists the poker room's "13 rules to live by," a nice way for you to brush up on what to expect when you visit. One rule you might want to be familiar with is Rule 13: Blind chopping is not permitted. So if you're in a cash game don't muck those cards thinking you'll get your small blind back.



There are plenty of promotions to go around as well, with Aces Cracked Wednesdays and Splash the Pot Thursdays, among others.

Lucky Lady Card Room | 619-287-6690

luckyladycardroom.com

A smallish San Diego room (five nice tables), Lucky Lady has convenient parking and the same 10 a.m., \$25 NLHE tournament every day. It has 4K chips, one \$20 rebuy in the first three levels (4K chips) and 15-minute blinds. You can usually find \$3-\$6 limit hold'em and NLHE up to \$5-\$10, and there's Omaha and lowball (upon request).

Village Club | 619-425-3333

vccardroom.com | @villageclubcr

The Village Club, just east of I-5 in Chula Vista (about halfway between downtown San Diego and Tijuana), has been around since 1946 and has the usual hold'em and Omaha cash games on its seven tables. Jackpots have paid more than \$1 million since inception. The events are affordable and World Series of Poker seats have been given to tournament winners in the past.

Spotlight 29 Casino | 760-775-5566

spotlight29.com | @spotlight29

Just southeast of the Palm Springs area off I-10, Spotlight has eight tables and tons of promotions, including many centered around, yes you guessed it, \$29. We like the Two Dollar Tuesdays, however, when the max rake on limit games is \$2, including Omaha. The poker room also hosts the Coachella Valley Championship, recently concluded with its \$100K prize pool.

Palomar Card Club | 619-280-5828

palomarcardclub.net

A seven-table room, Palomar is in San Diego and offers valet parking and plenty of large-screen TVs. The best promotion is the Early Bird Special, which pays \$40 after playing cash games from 9 a.m. till noon. Also, \$3-\$6 limit players earn \$20 food comps all day. Speaking of food, they have vending machines and a deli case, but if you're not happy with the selection then they'll run out to a local eatery and pick up your order. ♠

I don't wear sunglasses indoors,
but I can still demolish the
table with a flush on the river.
I'm **RICH GARBARINO** and



I'M A PLAYER[®]

HARRAH'S RINCON
MARCH 15 - 26, 2012

WSOP[®] CIRCUIT.
ARE YOU A PLAYER?

**Players are eligible for National Championship
points in some events. For more information,
call (760) 751-3184 or visit us online at WSOP.com.**



Must be 21 or older to gamble. Know When To Stop Before You Start.™ Gambling Problem?
Call 1-800-522-4700. Owned by the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians. Managed by HCAL, LLC. ©2012, Caesars License Company, LLC.



Scan this QR code for more columns by Jonathan Little

YOU NEED BASIC HAND-READING SKILLS

When you're in a tough situation at the poker table, it's necessary to sit back and put all the pieces of the puzzle together to come up with an optimal decision. While you may end up losing the hand, as long as you figure out your opponent's range with fairly high accuracy, you'll win in the long run.



JONATHAN LITTLE

This hand took place in the \$10,000 WPT event at the Hard Rock Hollywood in Florida. I had been playing a fairly loose aggressive game during the first level, though I wasn't playing overly crazy. The blinds were 50-100.

I raised with $J\spadesuit-J\heartsuit$ to 300 from early position, the cutoff, button and both blinds called. We were all deep-stacked with around 30,000 chips. The flop came $Q\heartsuit-J\clubsuit-4\spadesuit$. The blinds checked to me and I bet 850 into the 1,500 pot. Everyone folded to the small blind, Ali Eslami, who called. Ali had lost a few small pots to me earlier in the day so I thought he might be trying to win his chips back, which is almost always a mistake. At this point, it's important to try to nail down your opponent's range. He could have a queen, jack, four, or an open-ended straight draw. I think we can discount hands such as $Q-Q$ or 4-4, as he would probably raise the flop, so in general, I think his range is fairly weak. It's also worth noting he may decide to float here with something like A-10 or maybe even air like 5-5.

The turn was the $8\heartsuit$. He checked and I bet 1,600. He made it 4,100. Here, he's trying to represent a monster, like a set, which I already ruled out, a straight, which does make sense, or nothing.

Since there are few combinations of straights and a lot of combinations of nothing, I think we have a pretty easy call because if I

raise, he'll fold all of his bluffs and continue when he has a monster. It's important to not force your opponent to play optimally by (essentially) turning your hand face up, which is what most amateur players would do in this spot.

We're calling here not because we're scared we're beat, but because we don't want to force him to fold all of his non-nut range.

The river is the $10\heartsuit$, putting a one-card straight out as well as a backdoor flush. He bet 5,850 into the 11,400 pot and I made a fairly easy call. Though a ton of draws got there, it's unlikely he would show up with too many of them because I have the $J\heartsuit$ in my hand. This means he could not have $J\heartsuit-10x$ and the pair of jacks plus backdoor flush-draw hands. I was also getting 2-to-1, which is always nice. Interestingly, if I had $J\spadesuit-J\heartsuit$ in this spot instead of $J\spadesuit-J\heartsuit$, I think this would be a close spot because he could have many more combinations of straights and flushes. It's always important to remember to take hands out of his range when you have a key card in your hand. When I called, he quickly mucked his hand.

Hand-reading is a skill every poker player must develop. If you find yourself constantly confused about your opponent's holding, you're not thinking during every hand or you're not paying attention. Pay attention to every hand at the poker table, even when you aren't involved. I often see players playing on their phones or watching TV when they aren't involved in a hand. This is a huge mistake. If you have more information about your opponents than they have about you, you will find the money coming your way in the long run.

— Jonathan Little is the Season 6 WPT Player of the Year and is a representative for Blue Shark Optics. If you want to learn to play a loose-aggressive style, which will constantly propel you to the top of the leaderboards, check out his poker training website at FloatTheTurn.com.



LITTLE



FLOP



TURN



RIVER



ALI ESLAMI

Interestingly, if I had $J\spadesuit-J\heartsuit$ in this spot instead of $J\spadesuit-J\heartsuit$, I think this would be a close spot because he could have many more combinations of straights and flushes. It's always important to remember to take hands out of his range when you have a key card in your hand. When I called, he quickly mucked his hand.

GET THE EDGE WITH

BLUE SHARK OPTICS

PRO POKER EYEWEAR



"The Most Powerful Poker Tool in the market!" Jonathan Little

"It's a small investment for a huge edge!" Hoyt Corkins

Blue Shark Optics



Dark sunglasses



Dark Sunglasses Belong in the Sun... Not at the Poker Table!

THE OFFICIAL POKER EYEWEAR OF THE WSOP



use code AntelUp2011 for a 10% Discount

WWW.BLUESHARKOPTICS.COM



Scan this QR code for more columns by Lee Childs

SPONSORED BY ACUMEN POKER

GOOD INSTRUCTION IS INVALUABLE

A common theme I hear from my students is how much they gain from a couple of hours of dedicated hand analysis or lecture vs. the many books they've read. As an instructor, there's nothing better than learning of a success story soon after a training session, hearing



LEE CHILDS

how they implemented the strategies into their game and how much it helped them. This is what makes the process so rewarding for me.

As poker players, if we don't invest time and money into training (group sessions or one-on-one), we're doing ourselves a great disservice by not elevating our game as high as it can be.

The past couple of training sessions I've done have really helped me get a stronger grasp on this. I taught an Inside the Minds session at the Borgata and I ran a couple of small-group classes on the last Ante Up cruise. After each of

these sessions, there were more than a few students with immediate success.

After the class at the Borgata, the students entered a nightly tournament and out of 193 players, six of the 18 players in the money were from our class. One student cashed in six of her first nine tournaments after the class, with four final tables, capping it off with a second-place finish in a World Series of Poker Circuit ladies event. We also had a student win \$7,000 in a nightly tournament just one day after taking

the class. And my favorite testimonial from the cruise was when one player complained about how much better his opponents got after taking the class and how it really cut into his profits. That's the kind of bad-beat story I like to hear!

If you want to get better, you need to get training. There are a lot of knowledgeable instructors out there and most of them teach because they want you to get better. When I do my sessions, I'm at my students' disposal and the only time they leave with questions is when they don't ask them. The guys I work with feel the same way and teach because we want you to crush at the tables. I'm looking forward to the next Ante Up Poker Cruise in March where I will be running a few classes and then will be heading to the Borgata in April to teach a couple of Inside the Minds sessions there. I will have a star-studded cast of instructors joining me there, so if you're looking for some high-quality instruction, please check out the details at facebook.com/insidetheminds. If you can't make it on the cruises or Borgata, look for classes in your local area or check out some of the training sites online. Set your ego aside and let those of us who have spent lots of time and money making mistakes help you bypass all of that. I can assure you it's much less expensive than just doing it all on your own. Decide to Win!

— Lee Childs is a professional poker player and coach. He's the founder and lead instructor of Acumen Poker and Inside The Minds. Check out his sites at acumenpoker.net and facebook.com/insidetheminds.

Play with world champ Jerry Yang!

4th annual

BUTCH SMITH POKER CLASSIC

APRIL 22 • NOON

Palm Beach Kennel Club

JUST \$50!

allinforfirefighters.com



ACUMEN POKER

“DECIDE TO WIN”



Let professional poker player and WSOP circuit champ Lee Childs help you elevate your poker game.

- Group Training Sessions
- Individual Training Sessions
- Individual Coaching

www.acumenpoker.net



IF THEY NEED TO VENT, THEY ARE WEAK

Recently I sat with a few poker players who had come up to me to say hello. While there I took the opportunity to validate something I suspected. I asked, "How many of you have ever heard of ventilators?" There were some chuckles; one guy asked if that was anything like a little battery-powered fan with a squirt bottle. Another said he thought I had mentioned it somewhere but wasn't sure. It was confirmed: Most people really don't know about ventilators and that's almost forgivable except for poker players and law enforcement officers.



Humans are interesting, so interesting that thousands of books have been written about human behavior, cataloging and explaining the things we do. One area rarely written about is how humans relieve social anxiety or situational stress by the use of ventilators.

Even the great zoologist and anthropologist **Desmond Morris** spends little time exposing this feature that we exercise with greater variety than any primate. I have talked to professional poker players about ventilators and they never mention it except, of course, once I point it out and then they remember, "Oh yeah, of course, so and so does it."

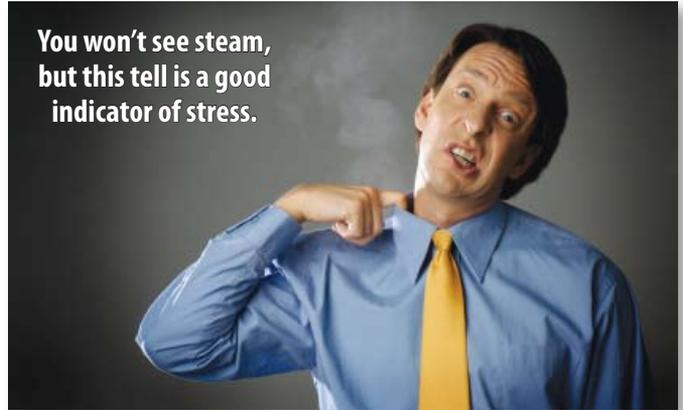
Before I list the ventilators let me first say I do recognize that we ventilate ourselves all the time if the temperature becomes significantly warm. However, the presence of others in close proximity can cause us to ventilate ourselves also, as can a difficult college test or an interviewer's piercing questions. In these cases, you may find yourself ventilating your shirt by pulling or tugging at it away from your body. We do this to relieve physical as well as psychological discomfort.

About 35 years ago when I first got into law enforcement, I began to observe that suspects often ventilated themselves while the innocent did not. This served me well, not in detecting deception, but rather, in seeing which questions caused the suspects discomfort such, "Where were you last night?" I used it to gauge comfort and discomfort; the same as in poker, because ventilators suggest there are issues (e.g., hot room, someone sitting too close, don't like what you just said, don't like my hole card or I am bluffing).

What can cause psychological discomfort at the table? The same things as in life: insecurity, doubt, fear, apprehension, a sense of weakness, vulnerability or anxiety; all the things we associate in poker with being weak or marginal or with reluctantly being forced to act.

Because ventilators are associated with physical or psychological discomfort they can be reliable for the careful observer. Here are five ventilators you can look for while playing. When you see these ventilating behaviors, put them in context. By that I mean do they show up when someone is forced to call or raise or when they have gone all-in

You won't see steam, but this tell is a good indicator of stress.



or perhaps while deliberating? Chances are something is bothering the individual and with all of the other information you have gathered at the table, this may give you a significant advantage in discerning what the other player is thinking, feeling or fearing as they contemplate their next move or after going all-in.

- Look for players to run their fingers through their hair multiple times in quick succession. Women incidentally are less likely to do so.
- Players who wear hats will lift their hat completely off the head or angle it upward in such a way as to let in air.
- Female players ventilate slightly differently than men when it comes to hair. If they have hair down to the neck they will lift up the hair at the nape of the neck brushing the hair upward, an effort to allow air to cool the neck.
- Look for players who pull on their shirt buttons or the front of their shirt by lifting it away from the skin. This may be repeated by both hands lifting up the shirt simultaneously just above the pectorals. The lifting of the shirt allows air to flow beneath the fabric cooling the skin.
- Pulling at the collar is also often missed. This tell (behavior) was popularized by comedian **Rodney Dangerfield**, who would immediately tug at his neck collar when he was verbally getting into trouble.

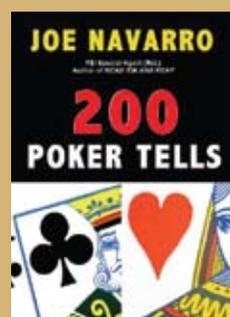
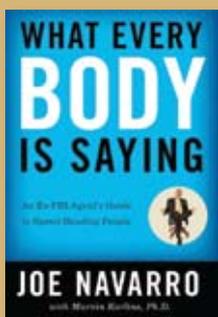
These then are just a few ventilators you can look for at the poker table. Because ventilators are associated with physical or psychological discomfort, in context, they should give you a good read as to whether a player is marginal, weak or threatened. For additional poker tells or to learn more about ventilators please check out my book *200 Poker Tells*.

— **Joe Navarro** is a former FBI agent specializing in human behavior. He is the author of the international bestseller *What Every Body is Saying* and *200 Poker Tells*. Follow him on Twitter at @navarrotells. Additional information available at joenavarro.net.

— POKER TELLS EXPERT JOE NAVARRO —

TWO GREAT BOOKS, ONE GREAT MIND

Pick up Joe Navarro's books on Amazon.com and visit www.jnforensics.com



GOOD READS, DYNAMICS ARE KEY

There will come a time when you will have played quite some time with certain players. You'll know their styles and views on the game. It's important to keep tabs on this history, which should dictate future lines of action. These reads are the most important aspect of live mid-high stakes poker.



MIKE WOLF

Playing ABC poker and making use of concepts such as hand selection and position are all one really needs to beat the smaller stakes.

When moving up, though, the dynamic between players is of utmost importance. It's the primary reason why I play poker. I may sound insane, but I think it's a thing of beauty. Crushing people becomes an art. The creativity involved in constructing ranges and execution is tantamount to that of an artist. It's a matrix of prior hands played together, your perceived image, timing, everything really. When playing small stakes, I think it's OK to play your hand in a vacuum.

"I have a big hand on a draw-heavy board, therefore I bet." It's simple. Like painting by numbers. But when you move up it becomes, "I think he thinks I'd be betting on this draw-heavy board if I had a hand worth protecting, therefore I bet with six-high trying to represent a made hand." Pretty cool, huh?

I'd like to give you an example of an interesting dynamic I had while playing cash games on the recent Ante Up Poker Cruise with fel-

low columnist **Lee Childs**. He's a solid player and I respect his play a lot. It just so happens I was seated on his left in our cash-game sessions. On the ship, Lee liked to open pre flop a lot. He c-bet close to 100 percent and profited tremendously from doing so.

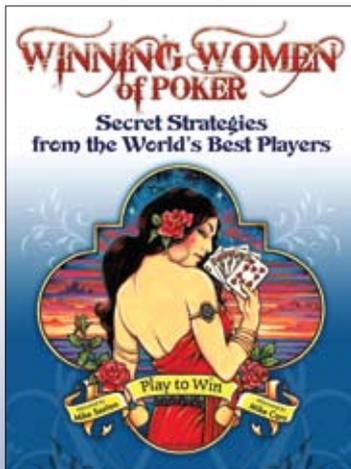
I decided I was going to three-bet him as much as possible on the cruise. Doing so with a polarized (really bad hands and really good hands) range helps me get paid off when I have two kings or two aces. Also, it makes my decisions easier because I know what I'm going to do if he plays back: fold junk, but continue with my value range.

I wanted to give the illusion I was some aggro-20-something who's heavy handed when it comes to three-betting. I knew he'd adjust; that's what great players do. I told myself no matter what I had when he decided to take a stand I was going to pile it in. I figured he would get semi-tilted that I was three-betting any two cards and play back at me light.

We played one pot heads-up where I had 7-4 suited and he (said he) had 10-2. It went raise, reraise, re-reraise. Now if you look at that hand in isolation you'd think we were both nuts. But looking at our history it makes perfect sense. Remember, the dynamic of a situation affects hand strength. Things become relative. If one of us had J-J we're getting the money in, happily. Against a different player folding J-J pre flop to the fourth bet is standard.

Set up interesting dynamics, then exploit them.

— **Mike Wolf is a team pro at surebetpoker.net. Email him at MichaelJWolf33@gmail.com and follow his adventures on Twitter @mikewolf7.**



WINNING WOMEN OF POKER IS A HIT!

"Knowledgeable and, at times, fascinating essays from 14 of the game's best women players into a handsome, first-of-its-kind book."
— LUCKYDOG POKER

"Winning Women of Poker is a collection of strategies and advice from countless women who have stepped up to the table and dared to throw down winning hands."
— MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

To order call 1-888-352-2665 or go to nolimitpokerbooks.com.

POKERAWARDSONLINE.COM

Finest Awards in Crystal, Glass,
Marble, Resin & More

TEL : 1-888-534-2098 / 770-447-9699

FAX : 1-888-282-2401 / 770-448-1298

E.mail : Pokerawards@aol.com

Championship Trophy

Price \$ 10.00 & Up

No Etching charge
No Set-up Charge
No Logo Charge

Same Day Delivery Available

Venetian Texas Hold'Em

M1405
11.5"

1st Place

Champion Texas Hold'EM

It's a Beat!

Quality Trophies

BETTING ERRORS

ART OF LOSING ISN'T HARD TO MASTER

Attention tournament players: You're in a tough business. I recently asked a fellow pro what he thought a good winning percentage was in tournament play. He said if you cashed 15-20 percent of the time consider yourself a winning tournament player. He said most tournaments pay the top 10 percent so cashing is difficult.



I have a different outlook when it comes to tournament play: Knowing you must beat 90 percent of the field to cash tournaments can become expensive.

When you factor the low-end payout is usually only 1 percent of the prize pool you must seriously think about where your money may be better spent. Of course, the lure of the big payout is the major attraction.

My friend **Joe Conti** played in the 2008 World Series of Poker Main Event and finished 666th, the last player to cash (\$21,230). The player in 667th place (the bubble) got nothing. Joe earned a nice payday for the \$10,000 entry . . . or did he?

The prize pool of \$64,431,779 was divided among the 666 players like this: 604-666 earned \$21,230; 541-603 earned \$23,160. Having beaten more than 90 percent of a field of 6,844 entries the payoff was only about double the buy-in; not what you would call a good return on investment for the achievement.

Even the large fields don't seem to be a major detractor to a deter-

mined player. The risk-reward ratio seems worth the challenge, and the allure of fame and fortune certainly add to the fascination.

But most players won't enter the WSOP main. They will, however, enter many low-priced tournaments, which can quickly eat up the average player's bankroll. It's only a \$100 or \$350 tournament, which doesn't seem like a lot of money, but seldom do these events offer the proper ROI.

In cheaper tournaments the rake can be large compared to the ROI. Don't get me wrong; I'm all for the house making money, without the house we wouldn't have a safe place to play. But the average player doesn't realize the price to chase a small payoff. These players often don't have the skill required to go deep in tournaments. The proof is in the results. Over the years I've made a study of many players, professional and amateur, and a consistent pattern evolved: The better players make the money, while the unskilled players fall by the way side.

I'd like to think an average player who would like to protect his bankroll would be inclined to play cash games at a comfortable level. Cash games, when played properly, ensure an enjoyment level that's seldom enjoyed in tournament play. Every cardroom offers a variety of games and limits. Tournament play is for the player who has an iron will and can accept rejection consistently. The art of losing isn't hard to master for the unskilled tournament player.

— **Antonio Pinzari is the former host of *Poker Wars* and has been playing poker professionally since the '70s.**

POT-LIMIT OMAHA

WHEN TO SLOW-PLAY YOUR MONSTER IN PLO

When is it correct to slow play on the flop in pot-limit Omaha by checking behind in position? The answer is rarely. For the most part it's correct to never get tricky in PLO because you need to balance your ranges so often that betting tends to be the most optimal play in the long run.



Imagine you're heads-up, in position and looking at a flop of 10-9-4 with two hearts and you hold 10-10-x-x. You should never really check behind in this situation for a few reasons: If your opponent has a set then

you're missing a golden opportunity of getting it in as a huge favorite.

If your opponent has a draw, you're making him pay for that draw if he calls. If he check-raises with his draw we can get it in as a favorite most of the time.

BALANCING YOUR RANGE: So when SHOULD we check behind? Most people would argue the exception comes when there's a locked



board (e.g. a flop of A-4-4 when we have A-A-x-x).

The logic in checking behind is: Your opponent usually doesn't have much and you can possibly get him to bet into you on the turn with nothing.

Most people are hoping for that incredibly slim chance that the turn is something like a king and your opponent has K-K-x-x, but re-

lying on coolers like that is not the way of the optimal ninja, now is it?

Even on this locked board I'd still not slow-play in most scenarios, and here's why: If your opponent has a four, he's not folding and you're missing massive value on later streets.

You need to balance your range. You should be continuation-betting with most of your hands in this spot. Your opponent can still make a move on you with air and may even reverse float with a hand such as K-K-x-x or Q-Q-x-x.

The reasons for betting are better than the reasons for checking behind. Of course there are millions of scenarios in PLO, and checking behind is probably optimal against an insanely aggressive opponent known to barrel off his stack, but sticking to this rule will do you right most of the time. I know it's not groundbreaking advice to bet when you have top set, but it's pretty important to freshen up on the fundamentals of why you're putting money in the pot.

— **Jay Houston is a Team Pro with DeepStacks and a PLO specialist who crushes the mid-stakes online cash games.**

DOJ OPINION WASN'T THAT ENCOURAGING

Much attention has been given to the Department of Justice's opinion regarding the Wire Act and how it relates to online poker. Many herald the memorandum as the critical document that will lead state and federal governments to embark on the legalization and regulation of Internet gambling. Forgive the cold water of this article, but here's the unfortunate truth: None of this is happening any time soon.



MARC DUNBAR

From a legal standpoint, the DOJ essentially said what all credible gaming lawyers have known for some time, which is the Wire Act applies only to sports betting and should not be relied upon as a general prohibition to Internet gambling.

Deep in the bowels of the DOJ a handful of lawyers were holding on to an antiquated interpretation that had long been rejected by federal courts. The memorandum, which was released this fall, merely was the official statement.

Now, to the politics: I sat on a panel last summer at the Global Internet Gaming Symposium and Expo in San Francisco and was asked to handicap the prospects of legal Internet gambling in the United States.

I was in the minority with senior officers from major casino companies pontificating that no later than 2013 would there be legal Internet gaming, particularly poker, in the United States. My view was that gridlock in Washington, D.C., would get worse, a Republican Con-

gress would prevent anything from passing in 2012, and a Republican president would never sign such a measure if elected in November.

My advice to the industry was to plan to walk in the wilderness for another 5-10 years if you're expecting the federal government to authorize Internet poker.

I felt it would have to happen at the state level, but that it wouldn't happen in the near term by any meaningful state with the population needed to generate a truly liquid Internet poker industry.

The problem (and political reality) is the states are as dysfunctional as the federal government when it comes to tackling such an issue. Incumbent gambling operations can't agree on how to divide the pie. For a first-hand example, look to California and the past couple of years of failed efforts to pass an Internet poker bill.

Overlay the efforts out of Las Vegas to essentially define the market players in advance so the entrenched gambling behemoths can control the pie if it's ever served up by the federal government or even a sizable state, and you have a recipe for gridlock and status quo.

As I apologized at the beginning, sorry for the cold water, but the big news about the DOJ memo is overblown and will be forgotten in a few months. If you're good in live games and have a favorite poker room, you can smile and know that nothing is coming soon via the Internet to take the pigeons from your table.

— Marc W. Dunbar represents several gaming clients before the Florida Legislature and teaches gambling and parimutuel law at the Florida State's College of Law. Follow him on Twitter (@FLGamingWatch) or his website (floridagaming-watch.com).

WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE

- *28 POKER TABLES
- *TABLE SIDE FOOD & BEVERAGE
- *TABLE SIDE MASSAGE

- *DAILY TOURNAMENTS
- *BAD BEAT JACKPOT
- *DAILY HIGH HANDS



OCALAPOKER.COM

HOURS OF OPERATION:
MON THRU THURS - 12PM TO 4AM | FRI & SAT - 12PM TO 6AM | SUN - 12-12

4601 NW CR 318 | REDDICK, FL | 32686 | 352-591-9667

EMAIL US AT INFO@OCALAPOKER.COM

APRIL 30th - May 4th, 2012

BATTLE ON THE BEACH

\$250,000 PRIZE POOL



Todd Brunson



Linda Johnson



T. J. Cloutier



Kathy Liebert



Eric "Rizen" Lynch



Nick Brancato



Jan Fisher



Nick Binger



Rick Fuller

Join These Top Pros for the Ultimate VIP Poker Trip!

Enjoy 5 days of exciting poker action at the fabulous Westin Resort & Casino in beautiful Aruba. You'll play 8 tournaments and learn from 5 advanced poker seminars. So join the battle in Aruba and take your shot at \$250,000 in prize winnings.

Call (866)WPT-BOOT or Register Online at WPTBOOTCAMP.COM



THE WESTIN
RESORT & CASINO
ARUBA



TOURNAMENT SERIES NEED ORGANIZATION

The cover of our January issue proclaimed, “WPT Invades Florida!” and featured the winners of four World Poker Tour events in the Sunshine State during a two-month period.

It was a worthy cover, and validation that after being mired in financial troubles, the World Poker Tour has emerged as every bit the force it was before trouble begot its previous owners. The WPT’s new regional series is an answer to the World Series of Poker’s successful circuit. But managers and players are justified in wondering just how much is too much when it comes to tournament series?

It’s a point that crystallized further for me as I updated Ante Up’s Player of the Year website with the first qualifying events of 2012.



SCOTT LONG

On Jan. 21, players had to choose between Choctaw Resort’s World Series of Poker Circuit Main Event in Oklahoma or Beau Rivage’s Million Dollar Heater Main Event in Mississippi. The events are far enough apart distance-wise that it’s hard to say they’re directly competing, but no doubt they draw from the same pool of players in the middle of the map.

More acute is the dilemma facing South Florida players. On Feb. 10, they’ll choose between Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood’s WPT Lucky Hearts Poker Open Main Event or the main event of Calder Casino’s first tournament series, the Miami Gardens Poker Classic.

Fortunately, the spreading popularity of multiple Day 1s mitigates the situation a bit with casinos that are mere miles apart, like Calder and Hard Rock are, but all the same, I imagine players (and managers) would prefer signature events not overlap.

Sometimes even back-to-back events can cause concern. Take the WPT’s double-billing in the Tampa Bay area in December. Players didn’t have to choose between playing at the Hard Rock Tampa or Derby Lane because of the schedule. But did they have to choose because spouses and children were expecting something nice under the tree on Dec. 25 and only one in every 10 tournament entrants goes home happy?

Tournaments are status symbols for poker rooms. Rarely are they big moneymakers, at least not directly. But don’t think for a minute any poker room is happy taking a loss or breaking even on a major series. When you consider the time and effort required to plan and pull off a successful event, coupled with the ever-increasing need to guarantee larger prize pools and the hefty fees brands such as the WSOP, WPT and Heartland Poker Tour command, it’s hard to imagine anything else that causes more gray hair on the heads of poker room managers these days.

So what, if anything, can be done about series overload? Or should be done?

Let’s start with the second question.

Animal Planet would be far less entertaining to watch if cheetahs

lived in one place and gazelles lived in another. If so, the cheetahs would lose their aggressiveness and gazelles would never improve their elusiveness. There’s something to be said for competition. What doesn’t kill us makes us stronger, and that applies to tournament series as much as it does wildlife.

With a neat, tidy, never-overlapping tournament schedule, there’s less incentive for tournament directors to be creative and deliver on what players want.

It’s a fair point, but here’s the thing: Nature has a way of overcorrecting. It’s not just the weak series that disappear in that winner-take-all environment. Good, but not great, series could disappear as well before they have the chance to make it to that next level. And that leaves players with too few, rather than too many, options. That’s a bigger problem.

So let’s agree that we should be doing something.

COORDINATION BETWEEN ROOMS: We can start with what can’t be done. We can’t add a 13th month to the calendar. Or a 14th. So every time a poker room decides to get into the tournament series game, the calendar looks a little smaller and our problem gets a little bigger. We’ve been told Los Angeles poker rooms try to coordinate their series

schedules. A similar movement was rumored to be afoot in South Florida, though it obviously didn’t prevent the Hard Rock-Calder February conflict. Perhaps there’s a role for the Tournament Directors Association or similar organization to play here. A calendar clearinghouse, of sorts, letting rooms lay claim to a block of dates in a specific region so potential conflicts can be headed off before they become conflicts.

BETTER PLANNING FROM BRANDS: Sponsoring organizations can do a better job of policing this as well. The WSOP has little overlap in its nearly yearlong series. Should the WPT look to do the same? I like Skittles, but I know if I eat one, I’m eating the whole bag. And then I’ll be sick. Sometimes too much of a good thing can be bad for you. The Tampa tangle in December is an early warning of what can happen when a brand competes with itself.

COMPRESS SERIES SCHEDULES: We’re starting to see this with some that schedule two events each day. Sure, it may force players to choose between events in an individual

series, but I’d guess that players would prefer that to having to choose between two signature events in competing series.

BUY-INS FOR ALL LEVEL OF PLAYERS: Tiers of events can solve some of the problem, too. Not every series needs a \$2,500, \$3,500 or \$10,000 main event. There’s a market (I’d argue a pretty large one) for a series that caps out at \$500, with several \$100 events leading up to it. That kind of series can complement a richer one in the same market at the same time, as it might attract groups of players to the region since there’s something for everyone.

In the end, it likely will take a little bit of all of this. Let’s hope it works. Hundreds of poker rooms in the United States don’t attempt poker series. We don’t want those who do to stop.

— Scott Long is co-publisher of Ante Up. Email scott@anteupmagazine.com.





AMERICA'S FREEROLL SITE

Congratulations! Grrrinders Big Winners!



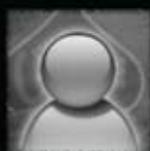
mirek78
Cashes: 72
Earnings: \$2398
Winner: 2012 WSOP Entry



Bravelassie
Cashes: 51
Earnings: \$2455
Winner: 2011 Jennifer Harman Throwdown



acm4life
Cashes: 24
Earnings: \$2033
Winner: 2011 WSOP Entry



tellyman
Cashes: 29
Earnings: \$2680
Winner: 2011 WSOPC Hammond Entry

This Week on Grrrinders

MONDAYS

\$1620 WSOP Seat Package

TUESDAYS

\$200 Main Event w/ special cash bounties

WEDNESDAYS

\$500 Main Event

THURSDAYS

\$100 Tournament every hour 4-9pm EST

FRIDAYS

\$1000+ Seat Giveaways to major events

SATURDAYS

\$1000 Cash

SUNDAYS

3x \$200 Tourneys

- Play in over 1,000 Monthly Tournaments for Cash & Prizes
- No Deposits – No Buy-ins – No Wagers – ZERO Risk
- Vibrant Social Community with thousands of blogs
- Free player advice, strategies, ebooks, and training
- Play all tournaments from the comfort of your home or office
- No software to download
- Premium memberships start as low as \$24.95 per month



NEW TREND AT THE POKER TABLE? STAGS!

The next wave in poker is weakness; weakness as strength, not real weakness; just the perception of weakness. The next change follows what **Mohammad Ali** said, "Float like a butterfly; sting like a bee."

A tight-aggressive style, which was once popular, was replaced with looser aggressive play. Once this new style took hold it was time to start thinking about the next change. Once change is solidified, new change occurs.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

I would predict the response to this new form of aggression will be a newer tight-aggressive style that's a more sophisticated version of what many of us learned. It is TAG with refinements. I call it STAG: Sophisticated Tight Aggressive Game.

Aggression is the current trend in poker; three bets, four bets, five bets. Betting with a wide range of hands.

We all know trends are followed by another trend, and in this case it's one that compensates for aggression.

Kano, a marital arts master, said, "In short, resisting a more powerful opponent will result in your defeat, whilst adjusting to and evading your opponent's attack will cause him to lose his balance, his power will be reduced, and you will defeat him. This can apply whatever the relative values of power, thus making it possible for weaker opponents to beat significantly stronger ones. This is the theory of *ju yoku go o seisu*."

Using the power of the other person to beat them, much like in

older forms of marital arts, is certainly applicable to the next change in poker.

The aggressive player looks and feels powerful; use that perception of power against opponents.

Some folks don't feel comfortable playing four- or five-bet aggressive poker. It's stupid to compete with a seemingly stronger opponent on his terms. Change the rules; use them to your advantage.

A simple hand shows how this works: The aggressive player in the cutoff seat has 7♥-8♥; button has A♥-4♥. The flop is three hearts. The cutoff proceeds to bet every street. The button calls until the river, then makes a valuable raise.

This requires great patience and vigilant eye to determine when you can turn the tables.

If aggression doesn't come naturally to you, find your comfort zone and expand it by the judicial use of STAG. Timing and position are essential to this new style of poker.

Sun Tzu said, "To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill." Why butt heads when you can turn the enemy's aggression against him?

Remember, however, if you become too predictable you'll get trapped or earn small payoffs. Be prepared to change gears; change your style occasionally and play a more sophisticated type of tight-aggressive play. And above all keep your head in the game.

— **Dr. Stephen Bloomfield is a licensed psychologist and avid poker player. His column will give insight on how to achieve peak performance using poker psychology. Email questions for him at editor@anteupmagazine.com.**

CRACKING UNDER PRESSURE?

Stephen Bloomfield, a.k.a. the Doc, is one of Florida's leading psychologists. He wrote **Head Games** in the late '80s to help competitors of every type use the skills he had learned about the effects of the mind on performance. After five years of playing poker in Florida, Mississippi, Las Vegas, Connecticut and occasionally online, Doc is sharing his skills with Ante Up readers through periodic columns, titled **Head Games**. Doc offers support to some of the region's best professionals and amateur players with one-on-one advising sessions and group workshops.

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO
EDITOR@ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM

TAKE 'EM OUT
OUTPLAY. OUTCLASS. OUTLAST



MotorCityRounder.com

ANTE UP

YOUR POKER MAGAZINE™



SCAN THIS WITH
YOUR PHONE TO
VISIT OUR WEBSITE

presents

ANTE UP STORE



NOW OPEN!



ANTEUPSTORE.COM

**Great ANTE UP gear and
dozens of other great poker
products all in one place!**

♠ ANTE UP PO

ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM/CRUISE

**WE HAVE THREE GREAT CRUISES IN 2012,
AND ALL OF THEM INCLUDE:**



**PROFESSIONAL STAFF!
PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT!**



FREE POKER COURSES!



OPEN-BAR COCKTAIL PARTY!



TABLESIDE MESSAGES!

PLUS: All-you-can-eat meals, shows and activities!

POKER CRUISE

MARCH 17-22, 2012

ROYAL CARIBBEAN'S JEWEL OF THE SEAS

Sailing from Tampa, Fla., and stopping in Cozumel, Mexico, and Costa Maya, Mexico!
Rates start at **\$579** per person*

BOOK TODAY!

**ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE THROUGH ANTE UP TO PLAY
IN THE POKER ROOM, PER ROYAL CARIBBEAN POLICY.**

QUESTIONS? CALL SCOTT LONG @ 727-331-4335

ALSO BOOK OUR OTHER 2012 CRUISES TODAY!

AUG. 27-31

Monarch of the Seas

Sailing from Port Canaveral, Fla.

Stopping at Royal Caribbean's private island
in CocoCay and Nassau, Bahamas!

Rates starting at **\$369** per person*

NOV. 10-17

Enchantment of the Seas

Sailing from Baltimore, Md.

Stopping in Port Canaveral, Fla., and Nassau
and CocoCay Bahamas!

Rates starting at **\$599** per person*

GROUP RATES AVAILABLE!



*All prices are per person, based on double occupancy, and include taxes, government fees and port charges. Limited number of staterooms available at these introductory rates. Ships Registry Bahamas

Royal Caribbean International reserves the right to impose a fuel supplement on all guests if the price of West Texas Intermediate fuel exceeds \$65 per barrel. The fuel supplement for 1st and 2nd guests would be no more than \$10 per guest per day, to a maximum of \$140 per cruise; and for additional guests would be no more than \$5 per person per day, to a maximum of \$70 per cruise.

ARIZONA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
BUCKY'S CASINO (928) 771-6779 • buckycasino.com	Mon. & Thurs. (10a & 6p); Tue. Ladies Night (6p); Wed. & Thurs. (6p); Sat. KO (10a), call for details.	Progressive high hand (Mon.-Fri.); progressive Aces Cracked (Sat., 11a-11p); Splash Pots every half-hour (Sun., 11a-11p).
CASINO ARIZONA AT TALKING STICK (480) 850-7777 • casinoaz.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$60, 11:15a); Tue.-Wed. (\$130, 7:15p); monthly event, Feb. 4 (\$330, 11:15a); monthly Super Bounty Big Stack event, Feb. 11 (\$225, 11:15a).	Aces Cracked (daily, 2a-10a).
CASINO DEL SOL (800) 344-9435 • casinodelsol.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$15, 10a) Mon. (\$35, 7p); Wed. Omaha/8 (\$45, 7p); Thurs. (\$85, 7p); Sat. Omaha/8 (\$15 w/rebuys, 9a) & (\$35, noon); Sun. (\$20 w/rebuys, 11a & \$15, 7p).	Splash pots (Mon.-Fri. & Sun.); high-hand giveaways (Mon.-Fri.).
CLIFF CASTLE CASINO (928) 567-7952 • cliffcastlecasinohotel.com	Mon., Tue., Thurs., Fri. & Sun. (\$25, 10a); Wed. (\$60 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Sat. (\$120, noon).	Aces Cracked pays \$100; high-hand bonus; royals pay \$100.
DESERT DIAMOND (520) 342-1810 • ddcas.com	Tue. (\$75 w/\$60 rebuy, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks beaten by quads and Omaha; player comps for live play; Splash Pots pay \$50; Aces Cracked.
FT. McDOWELL CASINO (480) 837-1424 • fortmcowellcasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30, noon); Mon. (\$50, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$5, 7p); Wed. (\$30, 7p); Fri. KO (\$120, 7p); Sat. (\$5, noon), (\$10, 4p) and (\$20, 9p); Sun. (\$50, noon) & (\$10, 7p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads over aces full of deuces and Omaha is quad fours; mini jackpot is hold'em is aces full; high hand (daily); Aces Cracked.
HARRAH'S PHOENIX AK-CHIN (480) 802-5000 • harrahssakchin.com	Tue. Omaha (\$25, 7:30p); Thurs. (\$10 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Fri. (\$40, 7:30); Sat. (\$40, 12:30p & 5:30p); Sun. (\$25, 12:30p); ask about WSOP satellites.	Splash Pots pay \$25 every half-hour starting 7:15a (weekends) & 9:15a (weekdays); \$5K freeroll (40 hours min.); Super Sunday pays up to \$100/touchdown, Feb. 5.
VEE QUIVA CASINO (520) 796-7777 • wingilriver.com/vee-quiva	Sun.-Thurs. (\$30 w/\$20 rebuy, 11a); Wed. (\$10 w/rebuys, 7:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royals pay \$500; Aces Cracked.
WILD HORSE PASS HOTEL AND CASINO (800) 946-4452 • wingilriver.com/wild-horse-pass	Mon. & Thurs. (\$30, noon); Tue. & Wed. (\$50, 7:30p).	Aces Cracked pays up to \$200; high hands; splash pots (daily); royals pay \$200 (daily).

ARKANSAS

OAKLAWN RACING & GAMING (501) 623-4411 • oaklawn.com	Mon. (\$30 w/\$10 rebuys, 7p); Tue. (\$5, 10:30a); Wed. (\$50, 7p); Thurs. ladies-only freeroll (7p); Sun. (10, 10:30a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Weekend Warrior (earn up to \$85 in free play); daily special jackpots (call for details).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING (870) 735-3670 • southlandgreyhound.com	Mon.-Tue. (\$20, 2p); Wed. (\$35, 2p); Thurs. KO (\$30, 7p); Sat. KO (\$35, 5p). 2K freeroll (call for details and dates).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of jacks beaten by quads); player-reward cards offer comps based on play.

CALIFORNIA

101 CASINO (707) 795-6121 • the101casino.com/casino	Tue. & Thurs. (\$50, 7p); monthly events on Feb. 11 & 25 (\$115, 1p); monthly event, Feb. 4 (\$295, 1p); ask about WSOP main event qualifiers.	Double Super Bad-Beat Jackpot in hold'em (Sun., 9a-midnight); Aces, Kings and Queens Cracked (daily); Squeeze Baccarat and Mexican Stud now playing.
AGUA CALIENTE CASINO (888) 999-1995 • hotwatercasino.com	Sun. \$4K guarantee (\$60, 10a); \$7.5K guarantee monthly freeroll, Feb. 4 (10:30a).	High hands; Rack Attack (call for details).
ARTICHOKE JOE'S (650) 589-3145 • artichokejoes.com	Mon. (\$28 w/\$20 rebuy & add-on, 11a); Tue. (\$25, 11a); Wed. & Sun. (\$49 w/\$20 rebuys & \$40 add-on, 6:45p); Thurs. (\$48, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$100K; bad beat in Omaha; royals pay \$500.
AVIATOR CASINO (661) 721-7770 • theaviatorcasino.com	Wed. \$500 added (\$25 w/\$20 rebuys, 6:30p); Sat. \$500 added (\$25 w/\$20 rebuys, 2p); Sun. KO (\$65 w/\$25 bounties, 2p) & Mexican Poker (\$30 w/\$20 rebuys, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Mexican poker.
BARONA RESORT (619) 443-2300 • barona.com	Mon.-Thurs. \$1.5K guarantee (\$40, 6:30); Sat. & Sun. \$2K guarantee (\$40, 10:30a).	Aces Cracked (Mon.-Fri.); Morning Rack Attacks (Mon.-Fri.).
BAY 101 (408) 451-8888 • bay101.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$120, 9:30a); Sat. (\$200, 9a); Sun. varies (call for details); monthly event, Feb. 11 (\$530, 9:30a).	Earn double points and WPT vouchers for future events (call for details).
BICYCLE CASINO (562) 806-4646 • thebike.com	Daily (\$40-\$75).	Jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, stud and Mexican poker.
CACHE CREEK CASINO (530) 796-3118 • cachecreek.com	Wed. (\$55 w/\$50 rebuy, 6p); Sat.-Sun. (\$55 w/\$50 rebuy, noon).	Aces Cracked pays \$50 (Mon.-Fri., 10a-10p); quads pay \$250 (Mon.-Fri., 6a-6p); high hands; cash drawings (call for details); Splash the Pot (Mon.-Fri., 2a-9a).
CALIFORNIA GRAND CASINO (925) 685-8397 • calgrandcasino.com	Sunday (\$50, 10:30a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; high hands; receive bonus chips in cash games (call for details).
CAPITOL CASINO (916) 446-0700 • capitol-casino.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$30, 10a); Fri. (\$30 w/\$30 add-on, 10a); Sat.-Sun. (\$60, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$50K minimum; high hands pay \$200 (daily); royal-flush bonus (all suits); Aces Cracked spins wheel.
CHUMASH CASINO RESORT (805) 686-1968 • chumashcasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$35, 10:15a); Tue. (\$60, 7p); Wed. (\$35, 7p); Thurs. (\$40, 7p); Sat. (\$10 w/rebuys and add-on, 10:15a); Sun. (\$70, 10:15a).	High-hands pay \$500 (Mon., Fri. & Sat.); Splash the Pot (daily).
CLUB ONE CASINO (559) 497-3000 • clubonecasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$14 w/rebuys, 10a); Mon., Wed.-Fri. (\$50, 7p); Sat. Omaha/8 (\$14, 10a); Sun. player appreciation freeroll with \$1K added (2:15p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; bad-beat jackpot in Omaha and Omaha/8 is quad 10s and pays \$5K.
COMMERCE CASINO (323) 721-2100 • commercecasino.com	Daily (\$55-\$220) at noon & 7p (Mon.-Fri.) and 1p (Sat.-Sun.); LA Poker Classic runs through Feb. 28 (\$65-\$10K) w/main event, Feb. 24 (\$10K, noon).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha.
DIAMOND JIM'S CASINO (661) 256-1400 • diamondjimscasino.net	Daily at 10:15a; Mon. (\$35, 6p); Tue.-Wed. (\$65, 6p); Sat. (\$30, 1:30p); Sun. (\$65, 1:30p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha.
GARDEN CITY CASINO (408) 244-3333 • gardencitycasino.com	Daily (\$125-\$330) at 10a; nightly Sun.-Wed. (\$150-\$180) at 8p; Thurs. (\$180, 10p); Garden City Winter Series runs until Feb. 3. \$1K events on Feb. 4 & 10.	Call for promotions.
GOLDEN WEST CASINO (661) 324-6936 • goldenwestcasino.net	Mon.-Thurs. (6:15p); Mon. (\$40); Tue. (\$35); Wed. (\$60); Thurs. (\$60); Fri. (\$30, 9a & \$40, 6:15p); Sat. (\$30, 2:15p); Sun. (\$40, 2:15p). See ad Page 13.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; high hands; cash giveaways; Aces Cracked.
HARRAH'S RINCON (760) 751-3100 • harrahsrincon.com	Daily (\$30-\$125) at noon & 7p (Mon.-Fri.) and 1p (Sat.-Sun.); LA Poker Classic runs through Feb. 28 (\$65-\$10K) w/main event, Feb. 24 (\$10K, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Aces Cracked (daily); high hands (Mon.-Thurs.); Splash the Pot.
HAWAIIAN GARDENS CASINO (562) 860-5887 • thegardenscasino.com	Daily (\$30-\$150); Mon.-Fri. (1p & 6:45p); Sat. (10a & 1p); Sun. (2:15a & 1p).	\$100K bonus jackpots (daily); win up to \$10K in cash drawings (call for details).
HOLLYWOOD PARK (310) 330-2800 • playhpc.com	Daily (\$40-\$75); Mon.-Fri. (11:30a & 6:30p); Sat. & Sun. (11:30a & 4:30p); monthly \$15K guar., Feb. 3 (\$40 w/\$10 rebuys, 6:30p); \$200K Winter Series, Feb. 24-March 4.	Progressive tournament jackpot; earn points for tournaments.
HUSTLER CASINO (310) 719-9800 • hustlercasinola.com	Mon. (\$140, 7p); Tue. (\$125 w/\$100 rebuy, 7p); Wed. (\$125 w/\$100 rebuy, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$120 w/\$100 rebuy, 7p); Sun. (\$125 w/\$100 rebuy, 3p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
JACKSON RANCHERIA CASINO (209) 223-1677 • jacksoncasino.com	Mon.-Thurs. & Sun. (\$25, 10a & 7:30p); Fri. (\$25, 10a & freeroll, 2p); Sat. (\$25, 10a); Sun. \$5K guarantee (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; get paid (\$100) w/aces full; high hands (Mon.-Thurs.); royal-flush progressive jackpot caps at \$500.
LAKE ELSINORE CASINO (951) 674-3101 • lercasino.com	Daily (\$20, 10a); Mon. & Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Tue. Omaha (\$20, 10a); Wed. KO (\$60, 7p); Fri. \$3K guar. (\$37 w/\$10 rebuys, 10a); Sat. (\$20, 10a); Sun. \$5K guar. (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud.
LIVERMORE CASINO (925) 447-1702 • livermorecasino.net	Mon.-Sat. (\$40 w/\$20 rebuys and add-on, 11a & 7p); Sun. KO (\$80, 11a & 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush bonus; first-time players receive bonus chips (see website for details).
LUCKY BUCK/CASINO 580 (925) 455-6144 • theluckybucket.com	Daily (\$25 w/\$20 rebuys, 9:30a).	Bad beats in hold'em (aces full of jacks) and Omaha (quad nines); mega bad beats in hold'em is quad eights; royals pay \$200; high hands pay \$100; raffles (daily).
LUCKY CHANCES CASINO (650) 758-2237 • luckychances.com	Mon. (\$65, 9:30a); Tue. (\$175, 9:30a); Wed. (\$65, 9:30a); Thurs. (\$120, 9:30a); Sun. (\$225, 9:30a).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud (payouts doubled Sun., Mon., Wed. (6-8p)); Aces Cracked pays up to \$300; Rack Attack pays up to \$500.
LUCKY DERBY CASINO (916) 726-8946 • luckyderbycasino.com	Tue. KO (\$75, 6:30p); Sat. & Sun. (\$40, 10a).	Player points accumulated through live play (call for promotions).
MORONGO CASINO (888) 667-6646 • morongocasinosort.com	Daily (\$30-\$97); Mon.-Fri. (10a & 7p); Sat (11a); Sun. (11a & 6p) including Fri. KO (\$97, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; Aces Cracked; get paid for royals; high hands.

* SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted. Poker room managers email roth@anteupmagazine.com

CALIFORNIA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
NORMANDIE CASINO (310) 352-3400 • normandiecasi.com	Guarantees include Wed. \$2K (\$50, 7p); Thurs. \$2K (\$50, 7p); Fri. \$3K (\$80, 7p); Sat. \$2.5K (\$70, 6p); Sun. \$2K (freeroll w/\$10 rebuys, 1p) & \$2.5K (\$70, 5p).	Double bad-beat jackpot (daily); Aces Cracked (daily); cash back rewards (call for details); monthly \$10K guaranteed events, Feb. 12 & 26 (\$100, 2p). Call for promotions.
OAKS CARD CLUB (510) 653-4456 • oakscardclub.com	Mon. KO (\$140, 6:15p); Tue. (\$120 w/re-entry, 6:15p); Wed. (\$100 w/\$80 rebuy, 6:15p); Sat. (\$120 w/re-entry, 11a); Sun. (\$125 w/\$100 rb, 1p); Feb. 4 (\$330, 11a).	
OCEAN'S 11 CASINO (760) 439-6988 • oceans11.com	Mon. & Wed. (\$60, 10a); Mon.-Thurs. (\$65, 7p); Tue., Thurs. Fri. (\$40, 10a); Sat. & Sun. \$10K guar. (\$135, 10a).	Progressive jackpots in hold'em (\$20K minimum) and Omaha (\$5K minimum); hold'em jackpots increase to \$40K minimum (7:30a-9:30a); cash drawings.
PALA CASINO (760) 510-5100 • palacasi.com	Mon. (\$50, 11a & 7p); Tue. \$1.5K guar. (\$40, 7p); Wed. \$250 added (\$30, 7p); Thurs. (\$100, 6p, 20K chips); Fri. 2K guar. (\$35, 7p); call for special monthly events.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of 10s beaten); high hand; \$3K cash giveaway (Sun.); Chase for the Dough (play 80 hours and receive \$499).
PECHANGA RESORT (951) 693-1819 • pechanga.com	Mon. (\$30, 10a); Tue. KO (\$35, 10a & 7p); Wed. KO (\$25, 10a); Thurs. Survivor (\$35, 10a); Fri. (\$25, noon); Sat. (\$25, 10a); Sun. (\$35, 10a).	Graveyard Easy Money (call for details); Splash Pots; high hands.
QUECHAN CASINO (877) 783-2426 • playqcr.net	Sat. & Sun. (\$35, 1p); \$1K weekly freeroll on Thursdays (6p).	Aces Cracked (Wed.); Splash the Pot (Mon., Tue., Thurs.); Faces Cracked (Mon.).
SAN MANUEL CASINO (800) 359-2464 • sanmanuel.com	\$33K and \$100K Cash is King freeroll tournaments held regularly – qualify by collecting high-hand stamps in live action (see website for details).	\$100K super bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; double jackpots (Mon. & Wed.); hourly high hand (Tue. & Thurs.); Money Wheel (Fri.).
SOBOBA CASINO (951) 665-1000 • soboba.net	Daily (\$0-\$50), including Thurs. \$2.5K guarantee (\$50, 7p); Sat. \$1.5K guarantee (\$15, 10a & 4p).	Cash giveaways (Sat., 1p-3p & 7p-2a); get paid to play (player comps).
SYCUAN CASINO (619) 445-6002 • sycuan.com	Mon.-Sat. (\$21 w/rebuys, 10a); Mon. & Thurs. (\$36, 6:30p); Tue. & Wed. qualifiers (\$45, 6:30p); Fri. (\$54, 6:30p); Sat. & Sun. (\$54, 6p).	Progressive jackpots in hold'em (aces full of jacks beaten by quads) and Omaha jackpot (quad eights); Cash Splash; high hands; Poker Yahtzee; call for details.
TABLE MOUNTAIN CASINO (559) 822-7777 • tmcasi.com	Tue. \$1K guarantee (\$35 w/\$40 rebuy, 7p); Thurs. \$2K guarantee (\$55 w/\$60 rebuy, 7p); tournaments have optional dealer add-on.	Progressive royals; high hands.
TACHI PALACE CASINO (559) 924-7751 • tachipalace.com	Tue. (\$50, 7:15p); Wed. (\$60, 7:15p); Fri. & Sat. (\$35 w/\$10 add-ons, 11:15a); Sun. (\$100, 11:15a).	High hands pay \$50 (daily); Kings Can't Lose (Mon.); Aces Cracked (Thurs.).
THUNDER VALLEY CASINO (916) 408-7777 • thundervalleyresort.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 1p); Fri.-Sun. (\$60, 11a); Sun. KO (\$100, 7p); monthly \$20K guar., Feb. 4 (\$250, 11a); monthly event, Feb. 12 (\$250, 9a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high hands (call for details). See ad Page 11.
VIEJAS CASINO (619) 445-5400 • viejas.com	Mon.-Sat. (\$15 w/rebuys, 10a); Mon.-Wed. (\$27, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$40 w/rebuys, 6:15p); Fri. & Sat. (\$47, 6:15p); Sun. varies (call for details).	Poker squares; \$7 military nights (Sat.); 2X drawing tickets (call for details).

COLORADO

AMERISTAR BLACK HAWK (720) 946-4108 • ameristar.com/Black_Hawk.aspx	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads).
GOLDEN GATES CASINO (303) 582-5600 • goldencasinogroup.com	Daily (\$40-\$300) at 10a, noon, 3p and 7p w/an event on Sunday (\$100 w/\$100 rebuys, noon).	Early bird specials; players can earn \$5 per hour in cash back (call for details).
ISLE CASINO BLACK HAWK (303) 998-7777 • black-hawk.isleofcapricasinos.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$45, 10a); Wed. (\$65, 10a); Fri. (\$75, 2p); Sat. (\$90, noon). See ad on Page 27.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Super High Hand (Mon.); hourly high hand (Tue.-Thurs.).
LADY LUCK CASINO (303) 998-7777 • isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$60, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 2p); Sun. (\$100, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is a decreasing qualifier.
LODGE CASINO AT BLACK HAWK (303) 582-1771 • thelodgecasino.com	Daily "no juice" tournaments (\$60) at 10a, noon, 3p & 7p (call for details). Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of kings); qualify for Poker Bingo (call for details).
MIDNIGHT ROSE CASINO (719) 286-6060 • triplecrowncasinos.com	Mon. (\$40, 7:30p); Tue. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Wed. (\$60, 7:30p); Thurs. (\$60 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Fri. (\$120, 7:30p); Sat. & Sun. (\$60, noon & \$120, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high-hand jackpot (get entered into grand-prize drawing for winning \$500 or more, call for details).

CONNECTICUT

FOXWOODS CASINO (800) 369-9663 • foxwoods.com	Daily (\$60-\$300, 9a-8p); Mega Stack Challenge, Feb. 4-12 (\$120-\$1,200) w/\$200K guar. main event, Feb. 11 (\$1,200, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad eights) and stud (quad deuces).
MOHEGAN SUN CASINO (860) 862-8000 • mohegansun.com	Daily (\$60-\$200), including Tue. & Thurs. \$4K guar. (\$80, 10a); Wed. \$10K guar. (\$120, 7:30p) & Fri. (\$200, 2p); Sat. (\$125, 10a); monthly \$30K guar., Feb. 26 (\$330, 10a).	High hands paid every four hours daily, seven days a week.

DELAWARE

DELAWARE PARK (302) 355-1050 • delawarepark.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$65, noon, 4p, & 7p); Fri.-Sun. (\$65-\$340, noon, 4p & 7p); Sat. (\$30-\$60, 9a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em with descending qualifier; mini bad beat; high hand pays up to \$250.
DOVER DOWNS HOTEL & CASINO (302) 674-4600 • doverdowns.com	Mon. & Wed. (noon); Fri.-Sun. (noon & 7p); monthly \$3K freeroll, Feb. 19. See ad on Page 31.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks; Crushed Quads pays \$500; royals win poker room jacket and the rest of the table gets \$50 (see website for details).
HARRINGTON RACEWAY (888) 887-5687 • harringtonraceway.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$60, 11a); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuy & add-on, 11a); monthly \$5K guarantee, Feb. 17 (\$115, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of kings beaten by quads.

FLORIDA

BESTBET JACKSONVILLE (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Poker room opens late February, call for details and dates.	Poker room opens late February, call for details and dates.
BESTBET ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$50-\$150) at noon & 7p; Fri. Big Stack (\$150, noon) & Sun. PLO/8 (\$70, noon); \$560 super sat. into WPT main (April 27-May 1), Feb. 25. See ad Page 17.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500); hourly high hands (Sun.-Thurs.).
BESTBET ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$50-\$150) at noon & 7p; Fri. Bounty (\$120, 7p); Sat. Mega Stack (\$150, 7p); \$150 six handed big stack event, Feb. 26; see ad Page 17.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500); hourly high hands (Sun.-Thurs.).
CALDER CASINO (305) 625-1311 • caldercourse.com/poker	Daily guarantees 11a & 7p (\$40-\$100) w/a \$10K guarantee on Saturdays (\$100, 11a); Miami Gardens Poker Classic, Feb. 3-12 (See ad Page 7 for details).	Flopped progressive straight flushes have five different payouts per suit; high hands pay \$100 every half hour (Sun.-Thurs.) & \$500 every half hour (Fri.-Sat.).
CREEK ENTERTAINMENT GREYNA (866) 946-3360 • creekentertainmentgreyna.com	Fri. & Sat. \$3K guar. (\$50); Sun. \$3K guar. (\$100); monthly event, Feb. 26 (\$500). See ad Page 71.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; first 30 players with full house or better wins \$200 (daily, 10a & Thurs. and Sun. from 7p-midnight).
DANIA JAI-ALAI (954) 927-2841 • dania-jai-alai.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30, 1p); Mon.-Tue. & Sun. (\$65, 6:30p); Wed. & Sat. (\$85 w/\$25 bounty, 6:30p); Thurs. \$1K freeroll; Fri. (\$105, 6:30p); Sat. & Sun. (\$65, 1p). See ad Page 38.	Progressive flopped quads; royals pay \$500; high hands pay \$200 (Fri., 8p-midnight); hourly Splash Pots (daily, 2p-6p & 8p-midnight); call for more.
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB (386) 252-6484 • daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily (\$35-\$275); Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Sat. KO \$2.5K guar. (\$140, 7p); Sun. Super DeepStack \$7K guar. (\$275, 1p). See ad Page 9 for HPT Feb. dates.	Bad beat in limit, no-limit, Omaha and stud; early bird (Mon.-Fri., 10a-11a); Prime Time (Mon.-Thurs., 5p-9p) & (Fri., 5p-1a); Super Sat. (noon-11:30p); Sun. (1p-5p).
DERBY LANE (727) 812-3339 x7 • derbylanepoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$330) on Sun.-Thurs. (1p, 4p, & 7p) & Fri.-Sat. (1p, 6p, & 8p). See ad Page 25 regarding March WPT Regional event.	Daily cash and prize promotions; high hands; tournament high hands; see website for more promotions, which includes Ante Up cruise giveaways.
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK (850) 234-3943 • ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$20-\$220) on Sun.-Fri. (8p), Sat. (2p, 8p, midnight). See ad Page 19	Big Easy Bad Beat is quad fives; Big Easy Backup Jackpot; mini bad beat is aces full of jacks; royal flushes pay \$250.
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER (772) 464-7500 • jaijai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud (see website for rules and payouts); quads pays \$100-\$220 (daily).
GULFSTREAM PARK (954) 457-6336 • gulfstreampark.com	Daily (6:30p); Mon., Fri., Sun. (\$60); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80); Wed. (\$100). Mon.-Wed. tournaments have bounties and Sat. is a rebuy. See ad on back page.	Bad-beat jackpot is quad 10s; high hands pay \$400/hour from noon-midnight and \$250 (daily, 11a & 1a-3a); royals pay \$500 (see website for times and payouts).
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER (800) 941-4841 • hamiltondownsjaijai.com	Almost Freeroll \$600 guarantee Sundays (\$5 w/\$30 add-ons, 3p).	Royal flush jackpot (daily); progressive high hand (Wed. & Thurs.); progressive quads (Mon. & Sun.); high hands pay \$500 (Fri. & Sat., 1p-2a); Aces Cracked

* SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted. Poker room managers email roth@anteupmagazine.com

FLORIDA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK (954) 972-2000 • x5123 • theislepompnanopark.com	Daily (\$100-\$350); Mon.-Wed. & Fri.-Sat. (noon, 7:30p); Thurs. (7:30p); Sat. & Sun. (noon). Battles at the Beach, March 1-26 (See ad Page 23).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; high-hand jackpots in hold'em and Omaha. Ask about the \$100K Buckets of Cash High Hands Giveaway.
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB (850) 997-2561 • jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays (\$50, 7:30p, 2K chips, 15-minute levels).	Royal flushes win jackpot.
MAGIC CITY CASINO (305) 649-3000 • flaglerdogs.com	SNGs daily (\$65-\$800); call for details.	Big Slick Royal Progressive; high hands pay \$150; progressive Hot Table pays minimum of \$500 (daily); Hot Table 100 spins wheel (Sat., 2p, 6p, 10p & 2a).
MARDI GRAS CASINO (877) 557-5687 x3167 • playmardigras.com	Tue. Omaha/8 (\$100, 7p); Thurs. \$1.5K guarantee freeroll (7p).	Buy a rack, get a \$20 stack (daily, 10a); high hand jackpots; 26 progressive jackpots; \$250K given away in monthly promos (call for details).
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK (321) 259-9800 • mgpark.com	Mon. (\$65, 1p & 7p); Tue. (\$35, 2p & 7p); Thurs. KO (\$90, 7p); Fri. \$5K guar. (\$45, 7p); Sat. (\$120, 4p, 10K chips); Sun. (\$65, 1p). \$10K guar., Feb. 19, 1p, \$65, see ad Page 41.	Bad beat in hold'em; straight flush pays \$100; royals pay \$500; Aces Cracked (Wed.); Spin to Win (Sat., 1p & 3p); prog. high hand (Sun., 1p-3p-5p-7p-9p-11p). See ad below.
CASINO MIAMI JAI-ALAI (305) 633-6400 • casinomiamijai.com	Daily (\$20-\$165).	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day are progressive; hourly \$100 high hands plus tickets for Sunday raffle.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT (877) 242-6464 • miccosukee.com	Friday and Saturday (\$110, 8p). Free buffet for all tournament players.	Spade royal flush pays jackpot; high hands pay \$200 (Sun.-Thurs.) and \$300 (Fri.-Sat.).
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK (239) 992-2411 • naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Mon. (\$50, noon & \$50, 7p); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sat. (\$115, 2p); Sun. KO (\$125, 2p); Feb. 4 (\$275, noon).	Diamond Big Slick Royal Progressive pays minimum of \$25K; all other royals pay \$1K; high hand (daily); \$1K hourly high hands, Feb. 8 & 22; celebrity event, Feb. 16.
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI (352) 591-2345 • ocalapoker.com	Mon. (\$30, 7p); Tue. (\$35, 7p); Wed. (\$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 7p); Sat. (varies); Sun. (\$30, 7p). See ad Page 60.	Bad-beat jackpot is in hold'em and Omaha; Aces Cracked; high hand (daily); royals pay \$500 (daily).
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB (561) 683-2222 • pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$550) at noon & 6:30p; WSOP Circuit, Feb. 16-27 w/main event, Feb. 25 (\$1,600, 11a). See ad Page 15.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (\$200K at press time), Omaha, and stud.
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK (850) 455-8595 • pensacolagreyhoundtrack.com	Daily (\$50-\$100); Mon., Fri. and Sun. (\$50, 7p); Tue. & Fri. (\$50, 2p); Wed. deepstack (\$100, 7p); Sat. deepstack (\$100, 7p). See ad on next page.	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad jacks) and stud (quads); full house or better (daily, various times, call for details); mini bad beat (daily, midnight-4a).
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB (941) 355-7744 x1054 • skcpoker.com	Daily (\$40-\$440) including Fri. (\$110, 1p, 25K chips); Sat. (\$160, 1p, 15K chips, 30-minute levels); deepstack on first Sat. of month (\$440, 1p). See ad Page 21.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad deuces); progressive jackpots in all games; \$599/\$299 high hands (Fri.-Sat.). See ad Page 21.
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON (866) 222-7466 x121 • seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$20, 7p); Sat. (\$50, 7p); Sun. (\$40, 2p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; progressive spade royal flush; Aces Cracked pays \$100 (Thurs.); quads pays up to \$100 (Sun.-Tue.); Rolling Cash Fever (Wed.).
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK (866) 222-7466 • seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	Call for information on scheduled single-table tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Daily (\$35-\$300); WPT Lucky Hearts Poker Open runs through Feb. 14, which includes a \$750K guarantee, Feb. 10-14 (\$3,500). See ad Page 29.	Hourly high hands in limit and no-limit (daily); gift card promotion for hours played (call for details); quads jackpot pays in Feb. (Wed. & Thurs., 2p), call for details.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including Wed. (\$240, 7:30p). See ad Pages 2-3.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud.
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC (866) 222-7466 • seminolehollywoodcasino.com	Thurs. freeroll (\$500 winner-take-all, 6p); Sun. (\$35 w/rebuys, 2p).	Aces Cracked (Mon.-Thurs., midnight-8a); Four of a Kind Frenzy (Thurs.); high hands (Fri.); Four of a Kind Wheel Spin (Sat.).
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE (866) 222-7466 • theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7:30p); Thurs. Omaha/8 (\$50, 7:30p); Fri. HA (\$60, 7:30p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & deepstack (\$115, 6:30p); Sun. Tahoe Buy-Back-In (\$30, 4p).	\$100 progressive hand of the day; \$2K progressive royals; \$1K high hand/\$199 runner-up (Fri.-Sat., midnight-4a); \$230 WPT Challenge, Feb. 11 (See ad Page 18).
TAMPA BAY DOWNS (813) 298-1798 • tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$200); Mon.-Sat. (1p & 7p); Sun. (1p & 4p); monthly \$10K guar., Feb. 19 (\$350, 1p). See ad Pages 4-5.	Progressive payouts (quads and higher); Mon. & Wed. wins up to 5X the players buy-in; \$599/\$299 high hands (Fri.); get paid for quads, straight flush and royals.
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK (813) 932-4313 • luckycards.com	Daily (\$20-\$80); Sun.-Thurs. (2p & 6:30p); Fri.-Sat. (2p, 7:30p). Sunday Challenge, last Sun. of every month (\$115, 1p, 15K chips).	Rise & Shine starts at \$500 (daily, 11:30a-4p); quads (\$50-\$75), straight flushes (\$150) and royals (\$300) from Sun.-Thurs. (4p-11p); high hands pay 2Xs (Fri.-Sat., 4p-11p).



◆ TOURNAMENTS ◆

Mon: Deep Stack 1pm & 7pm

Tue: Hold'em 1pm & 7pm

Wed: Ladies Only Hold'em 7pm

Thu: 100 Player Bounty 7pm

Fri: \$7,500* Friday Night 7pm

Sat: Super Stack 1pm

Sun: Deep Stack 1pm

**Guaranteed Prize Pool*



GO ALL IN...AND WIN!

Daily Jackpots, Bad Beats

High Hand - Sundays

Cracked Aces - Wednesdays

Spin-to-Win - Saturdays

Promotion details posted in Club 52.

Follow us on Twitter @club52melbourne or www.mgpark.com

New Show **GROUCHO'S COMEDY CLUB** Saturdays 8:30pm

1100 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne FL, Exit 183 off I-95 (321)259-9800

No Limit To The Winning



CREEK
ENTERTAINMENT

GRETNA
POKER ROOM



**\$750 BUY-IN NO LIMIT TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT,
\$50K GUARANTEE, APRIL 28 AND 29 FEATURING GREG RAYMER**



**\$500 BUY-IN NO LIMIT TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT,
\$20K GUARANTEE, LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**

**\$100 SATELLITES FOR THE 20K GUARANTEE EVERY THURSDAY AT 7PM
AND SUNDAY AT 1PM EXCEPT THE LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**



FULL HOUSE OR BETTER PROMOTION DAILY

**BUY-INS START AS LOW AS \$50, NO LIMIT TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT,
3K GUARANTEE, EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY AT 7PM**



IF YOU MAKE A FULL HOUSE AND LOSE, YOU ARE STILL A WINNER!

- THE FIRST 10 PLAYERS WHO LOSE WITH A FULL HOUSE WILL BE PAID \$200.
- EACH PLAYER DEALT IN THE HAND WILL BE PAID \$50.
- PROMOTION RUNS EVERY TUESDAY, STARTING AT 10 AM.

1-850-875-6930
www.CreekEntertainment.com

18 TO PLAY • 21 TO DRINK

I-10 Exit 174, Gretna Florida,
just 15 miles west of Tallahassee

Poker Excitement Guaranteed



**\$700 Buy-in, No Limit Texas Hold'em \$50K Guarantee,
March 31 - Two Day Event**

GREG RAYMER WILL BE RUNNING A SEMINAR ON APRIL 21



**\$350 Buy-in, No Limit Texas Hold'em Tournament,
\$20K Guarantee, Last Saturday of each month**

**\$100 Satellites for the 20K guarantee every Thursday
at 7 pm and Sunday at 1 pm**



Full House or Better Promotion Daily



**\$100 Buy-in, No Limit Texas Hold'em Tournament,
every Wednesday and Saturday at 7 pm**



**\$50 Buy-in, No Limit Texas Hold'em Tournament,
every Monday, Sunday, and Friday at 7 pm, Saturday
and Tuesday at 1 pm.**

**PENSACOLA
GREYHOUND TRACK
& POKER ROOM**

Must be 18 or older to play, 21 or older to drink.
For info call (850) 455-8595
Poker Room (850) 456-9800
www.PensacolaGreyhoundTrack.com

Follow us on Facebook Pensacola Poker Room
951 Dog Track Rd • Pensacola, FL 32506
Compulsive gambling, call 1-800-522-4700

Track and related races, call Greyhound Pets of America, Inc. (850) 455-8595. Operated by PG Gaming Authority.

ILLINOIS

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
HARRAH'S JOLIET (815) 740-7480 • harrahsjoliet.com	Thurs. (\$125, 7p, 4K chips, 20-minute levels); Sunday (\$125, 4p, 4K chips, 20-minute levels).	Mega bad-beat jackpot (quad eights); mini bad-beat jackpot (aces full of kings); get paid for straight and royal flushes.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO AURORA (630) 801-7471 • hollywoodcasinourora.com	Wednesday (\$160, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad fives.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO JOLIET (815) 927-2175 • hollywoodcasinojoliet.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
PAR-A-DICE CASINO (309) 698-6693 • paradicecasino.com	Mon. (\$115, 7p); Sun. (\$115, 11a & \$50, 7p).	No jackpots or promotions.

INDIANA

BLUE CHIP (219) 861-4820 • bluechipcasino.com	Tue. (\$80, 6p); Wed. (\$60, 6p); Fri. (\$80, noon); Sun. (\$80, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high hand of the hour (Mon.-Thurs, 10a-2p) pays \$50 per hour.
CASINO AZTAR (812) 433-4000 • casinoaztar.com	Monthly event, Feb. 12 (\$100, 1p).	Aces Cracked (Sat. & Sun.); Hot Seat (Wed.).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO LAWRENCEBURG (812) 539-8000 • www.hollywoodindiana.com	Daily (\$80-\$150) at 11:15a & 7:15p.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; WPT satellite freeroll for top tournament point-earners (call for details).
HORSESHOE HAMMOND (219) 473-6065 • horseshoehammond.com	Mon. & Thurs. (\$200, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$100, noon); Fri. & Sun. (\$200, noon); monthly event, Feb. 25 (\$500, noon); Chicago Poker Classic, Feb. 25-March 7.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays out \$100K guaranteed.
HORSESHOE SOUTHERN INDIANA (812) 969-6000 • horseshoe-indiana.com	Daily (\$50-\$81); Mon. (noon); Tue. (noon, 7p); Wed. (7p); Thurs. (noon); Fri. (midnight); Sat. (noon); Sun. (3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MAJESTIC STAR II (219) 977-7444 • majesticstarcasino.com	Wed. (\$55, 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Fri. (\$130, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 1p & \$105, 7p); Sun. (\$55, 11a & \$60, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of kings; tournament bad-beat jackpot.

IOWA

DIAMOND JO CASINO NORTHWOOD (641) 323-7777 • diamondjo.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$50, 7:30p); Sat. (\$100, 2p); Sun. (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
GRAND FALLS CASINO (712) 777-7777 • grandfallscasinosort.com	Mon. Omaha/8 (\$40, 1p); Tue. (\$40, 1p); Thurs. (\$40, 6p); Sat. (\$60, noon); Sun. (\$100, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; get paid for straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$200).
HORSESHOE COUNCIL BLUFFS (877) 771-7463 • horseshoecouncilbluffs.com	Mon., Wed., Sat. (\$60, 10a); Tue. (\$60 w/\$60 re-entry, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$70, 7p); Sun. (\$40, 10a & 2p).	High-hand jackpot (quads or better).
ISLE CASINO BETTENDORF (563) 359-7280 • bettendorf.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. KO (\$60, 6:45p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$40, 6:45p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of 10s) and Omaha (quad 10s); call for special poker player hotel rates on high volume weekends.
ISLE CASINO WATERLOO (319) 833-2183 • waterloo.isleofcapricasinos.com	Monday (\$45 w/rebuy and add-on, 6:30p); Sunday Poker League (\$50, 6:30p).	High-hand jackpots in hold'em for straight and royal flushes (call for details).
MESKWAKI CASINO (641) 484-2108 • meskwaki.com	Tue. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7p); Wed. KO (\$45, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 7p); Sat. & Sun. (\$30, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush jackpot.
MYSTIQUE GREYHOUND PARK (563) 585-2964 • mystiquebq.com	Thursday (\$40, 6p); Friday (\$60, 1p); Sunday (\$50, 1p).	Straight flush progressive jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud pays 10 jackpots (call for details).

STAY INFORMED!

ONLY \$30 FOR 12 ISSUES



Subscribe online with a credit card at www.anteupmagazine.com or send a check or money order payable to:
Ante Up Publishing LLC • 2519 McMullen-Booth Road • Suite 510-300 • Clearwater, FL 33761
 Yes, please sign me up for 12 issues of Ante Up Magazine. Enclosed is \$30.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Email: _____



ANTE UP

YOUR POKER MAGAZINE

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

IOWA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
PRAIRIE MEADOWS CASINO (515) 967-8543 • prairiameadows.com	Tue. (\$30, noon); Wed. (\$30, 7p); Sun. (\$60, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks losing to quads; straight flush pays \$200.
RIVERSIDE CASINO (319) 648-1234 • riversidecasinoandresort.com	Mon. limit Omaha (\$30, 11a); Wed. KO (\$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 6p); Sat. (\$30, 1p); Sun. (\$50, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of kings) and Omaha (quad 10s); player comps (call for details).

KANSAS

PRAIRIE BAND CASINO (785) 966-7777 • pbpgaming.com	Mon. & Thurs. (\$65 w/rebuy, 7p); Thurs. (\$45, noon); Sun. (\$45, 2:15p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
--	--	------------------------------

LOUISIANA

AMELIA BELLE (985) 631-1745 • ameliablellecasinocom	Sunday Poker Challenge (\$50, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot is quads over aces full of 10s.
BELLE OF BATON ROUGE (800) 266-2692 • belleofbatonrouge.com	Sunday (\$50, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot is any quads; Aces Cracked (Mon. & Wed., 9a-3p); Aces Cracked happy hour (Mon.-Thurs., 6p-7p); hourly high hand (Tue. & Thurs., 9a-3p).
BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS (800) 366-7711 • boomtownneworleans.com	Tuesday freeroll (11a) for 4- and 5-star players; Wed. (\$35 w/\$10 add-on, 7p); Sat. (\$110 w/\$10 add-on, noon).	Bad-beat in hold'em (quads) and Omaha; high hands (Mon. & Wed.); Aces Cracked (Tue. & Thurs.); 24-hour Flush Fever (Thurs., 11a) pays \$50 for all four flushes.
COUSHATTA CASINO (800) 584-7263 • couchattacasinoresort.com	Daily, including Tue. (\$20 w/rebuys, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$130, 7:30p); Sat. (\$220, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S CASINO (800) 284-4386 • cypressbayou.com	Wed. (\$40 w/two \$20 rebuys & add-ons, 6:30p); Sun. (\$40 w/\$20 rebuys & \$50 add-on, 1p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; Aces Cracked pays \$100 (Thurs.); cash games run on non-tournament days.
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT (318) 220-5274 • eldoradoshreveport.com	Tue. (\$65 w/\$25 or \$50 rebuy and add-on, 6:30p); Wed. (\$100, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$200, 6:30p); Sat. (\$115 w/add-on, 11a); Sun. (\$190, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; Aces Cracked wins \$100 (Mon.-Fri.); Splash the Pot pays \$100 (Mon.); high hand (Thurs.).
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS (504) 533-6000 • harrahneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); Aces Cracked.
HOLLYWOOD BATON ROUGE (225) 709-7777 • hollywoodbr.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of 10s beaten by quads.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY (800) 895-0711 • horseshoebossiercity.com	Mon., Wed., Sat., Sun. (\$100-\$200 w/rebuys & add-ons), including Thursdays (\$200, 6p).	High hands (Sun. & Wed.); Aces Cracked (Mon., Tue., Fri.); Splash Cash (Thurs.). Call for details and times.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES (337) 430-2407 • lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Fri. (\$60, noon & \$90, 6:30p); Sat. (\$115, noon); Sun. KO (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; minor jackpots daily; cash giveaways Mon.-Thurs.
L'AUBERGE DU LAC CASINO (337) 395-7777 • ldldcasino.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; player comps earned on a tier basis (call for details).
PARAGON CASINO (800) 946-1946 x1975 • paragoncasinoresort.com	Mon. KO (\$20 w/\$15 rebuys, 7p); Tue. (\$18, 10:30a); Fridays (\$60 w/one \$50 rebuy, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; get paid (24/7) for quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125); high hands pay \$50 (Wed.).

MICHIGAN

FIREKEEPERS CASINO (269) 962-0000 • firekeeperscasino.com	Wed. (\$70, noon); Sun. (\$70, noon); Winter Freezout (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.
FOUR WINDS NEW BUFFALO (866) 494-6371 • fourwindscasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$25, noon); Mon. (\$30, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$10, 7p); Wed. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$30, 7p); Sat. (\$30, noon & \$50, 7p); Sun. (\$30, noon & 4p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
GREEKTOWN CASINO (313) 223-2999 • greektowncasino.com	Mon. (\$75, 11a & 7p); Wed. (\$75, 11a & \$225, 7p); Thurs. (\$45, 11a & 7p); Fri. & Sat. (\$75, 11a); Sun. (\$75, 11a & \$100, 7p); monthly event, Feb. 25 (\$340, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MGM GRAND DETROIT (313) 465-1777 • mgmgranddetroit.com	Monthly freerolls (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MOTORCITY CASINO (313) 237-7711 • motorcitycasino.com	Tue.-Thurs. (\$65, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha.
SOARING EAGLE CASINO (989) 775-7777 • soaringeaglecasino.com	Mon. (\$60, 6:30p); Tue. (\$13 w/rebuys, 6:30p); Wed. KO (\$45, 6:30p); Sun. (\$60, 12:30p); monthly event, Feb. 25 (\$175, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; Soaring Hand jackpots increase daily (call for details).
TURTLE CREEK CASINO (231) 534-8888 • turtlecreekcasinocom	Tue. KO (\$60, 7p); Wed. (\$40 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Thurs. (\$10 w/\$10 rebuys and add-on, 7p); Sun. (\$120, 2p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads.

MINNESOTA

CANTERBURY PARK (952) 445-7223 • canterburypark.com	Mon., Wed., Fri., Sun. (\$45, 10:30a); Mon. & Sun. (\$100, 6:30p); Tue. (\$45, 6:30p); Wed. (\$235, 6:30p); Sat. (\$180, 10:30a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; high hand/hr (Mon., 9a-mid.); Quads Board (Thurs., 10a until all quads have been hit); Aces Cracked (Tue., 10a-6p).
GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS (800) 626-5825 • grandcasinomn.com	Daily (\$30-\$160) including a Fri. deepstack (\$160, 6:15p) and Sun. (\$110 w/re-entries, 2:15p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royals pay \$1K; Aces Cracked (Mon.-Fri., 10a-6p).
NORTHERN LIGHTS CASINO (218) 547-2744 • northernlightscasino.com	Mon. KO (\$30, 6:30p); Tue. (\$30, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$50, 6:30p); Sat. (\$60, noon); Sun. (\$40, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; Aces Cracked (Tue.); high hand (Mon. & Sun.).
RUNNING ACES HARNES PARK (651) 925-4600 • runningacesharness.com	Mon. freeroll (7p); Tue. (\$45, 2p & \$125, 6p); Wed. (\$45, 10:30a & \$65, 6p); Thurs. & Sun. (\$45, 2p & \$125, 6p); Fri. (\$65, 10:30a); Sat. (\$65, 9:30a & \$235, 2p).	Aces Cracked (Tue.); Aces Cracked Double the Pot (Thurs.); Aces Cracked progressive (Fri.-Sat.); Mid-States Poker Tour, Feb. 15-19.
SHOOTING STAR CASINO (218) 935-2711 • starcasino.com	Tue. (\$30 for ladies & \$40 for men, 7p); Fri. & Sat. (\$45, 7p); Sun. KO (\$60, 2p).	High hands (Mon. & Wed.); bonus hand promo (Tue. & Thurs.); hot seats (Tue. & Thurs.); weekly flush bonus (Mon.-Thurs.).
TREASURE ISLAND RESORT & CASINO (651) 388-6300 • treasureislandcasino.com	Wed. (\$60, 6p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Island Cup Deep Stack events on Mondays (\$70, 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Aces Cracked (Thurs., 10a-6p); get paid for quads (\$44), straight flush (\$75) and royals (\$100).

MISSISSIPPI

AMERISTAR VICKSBURG (601) 630-4996 • ameristar.com/vicksburg	Thursdays (\$70, 7p) with one optional add-on.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO (228) 386-7092 • beaurivage.com	Mon.-Thurs. (6p); Tue. & Thurs.-Sun. (noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Aces Cracked.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI (228) 436-8999 • boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad-beat jackpot (aces full of kings); mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks); Aces Cracked pays \$100 (24/7) and \$100/\$200 (Mon.-Thurs., 4p-7p).
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT (662) 357-1136 • goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340).	Bad-beat jackpots (call for details); win \$100 every other hour (Mon.-Fri., 3a-10a); get paid to play (25 hours minimum).
HARD ROCK BILOXI (228) 374-7625 • hardrockbiloxi.com	Mon. (\$35, 3p); Thurs. (\$25, 3p); Fri. (\$45, 3p); Sat. (\$50 w/add-on, 3p); Sun. (\$55, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot (aces full of queens beaten by quads); Hard Rock Jackpot Hands; Four of a Kind Blows My Mind.
HARLOW'S CASINO (662) 335-9797 x144 • harlowscasino.com	Tue. (\$65, 7:30p, 10K chips; 25-minute levels); Fri. (\$35 w/rebuys).	Bad-beat jackpot is aces full of 10s beaten by quads or better; bad-beat bonus (\$10K); mini bad-beat jackpot pays \$2K; Cash for Quads (Wed.); Aces Cracked.

* SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted. Poker room managers email roth@anteupmagazine.com

MISSISSIPPI (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
HARRAH'S TUNICA (800) 946-4946 x33760 • harrahstunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110); Thurs. \$1.1K guar. (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p) Thurs. (\$50 w/one free rebuy, 6p); WSOPC, Feb. 3-13 w/main event, Feb. 11 (\$1,600, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud; progressive royal single-table promotion (call for payouts).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS (866) 758-2591 x4026 • hollywoodcasinobsl.com	No tournaments available at this time.	Aces Cracked (24/7) w/double prize hours (10a-2p & 10p-2a) pays up to \$200 (call for details).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA (800) 871-0711 x5005 • hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$40). Mon., Wed., Thurs. (6p); Fri. & Sat. (7p); Sat. & Sun. (2p); Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 w/rebuys & \$20 add-on, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads, must be in \$3-\$6 or higher) and Omaha.
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA (662) 357-5608 • horseshoetunica.com	Mon. & Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$100, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$50, 6p); Sat. \$10K guar. (\$150, 4p); Sun. (\$100, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; Flush Frenzy (\$100) if you make a flush in every suit during your session.
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA (888) 946-2847 x8554 • ipbiloxi.com	Daily (\$60, noon).	Poker Squares pay up to \$1K (Sun. & Mon.).
ISLE CASINO HOTEL BILOXI (228) 436-7967 • biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$45, 2p); Tue. KO (\$60, 2p); Wed. KO (\$40 w/rebuy, 7p); Thurs. (\$45, 2p); Fri. (\$60, 2p); Sat. KO (\$60 w/rebuy, 2p); Sun. (\$20 w/rebuy, 7p).	Progressive straight and royal flush (daily); Omaha's Wheel Them Out (Sun.-Thurs.); high hand (Sun.-Thurs.).
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA (800) 456-0711 • samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$70), including a \$3K guarantee on Saturday (\$20, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; high hands; ticket drawings.
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO (866) 775-4773 x3766 • silverslipper-ms.com	Mon. Turbo KO (\$45, 6p); Thurs. KO (\$75, 7p); Sat. Turbo KO (\$45, noon); Sun. PLO (\$65, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; Aces Cracked wins up to \$300 (Tue., Thurs., Fri., Sat.). Splash the Pot (Mon. & Wed.).
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) (601) 650-1234 • pearlriverresort.com	Daily (\$35-\$60), including a \$2.5K guarantee on Sat. (\$60, 2p). Start times for events are Mon.-Thurs. (7p) & Fri.-Sun. (2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad sevens) and stud (quads); diamond royals pay \$500.

MISSOURI

AMERISTAR ST. CHARLES (636) 949-7777 • ameristar.com	Mon. & Tue. (\$45 w/rebuys & add-on, 7p); Wed. & Thurs. (\$55, 7p); Fri. (\$75, 7p); Sat. (\$75, 2p); Sun. (\$55, noon).	Progressive high-hand jackpot pays quads, straight flushes and royals.
AMERISTAR KANSAS CITY (816) 414-7000 • ameristar.com	Monday Ladies Only (\$50, 7p); Tue.-Thurs. (\$85, 7p); Fri.-Sun. (\$65, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
BORDERTOWN CASINO (800) 957-2435 • bordertownbingo.com	Daily at 2p and 7p; Mon. (\$20); Tue., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. (\$30); Thurs. (\$30/\$45); monthly deepstack event, Feb. 11 (\$100 w/\$50 add-on, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
HARRAH'S NORTH KANSAS CITY (816) 472-7777 • harrahsnk.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$50, 1p & 7p); Fri. & Sat. (\$50, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); Aces Cracked pays \$100.
HARRAH'S ST. LOUIS (314) 770-8100 • harrahsstlouis.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 1p & 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 1p & \$160, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 1p & \$125, 7p); every other Sun. (\$60, noon & 5p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha.
LUMIERE PLACE (314) 881-7777 • lumiereplace.com	Daily (\$60, noon); Heartland Poker Tour coming in March (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high hands (twice daily).
RIVER CITY CASINO (888) 578-7289 • rivercity.com	Daily (\$35, 3p); Heartland Poker Tour coming in March (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Aces Cracked (daily).

NEVADA

ALIANTE STATION (702) 692-7484 • aliantecasino.com	Daily (\$30, noon); Mon., Tue., Sun. (\$50, 7p); Wed.-Sat. KO (\$65, 7p).	Multiroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed.
ARIA (866) 359-7111 • arialasvegas.com	Twice daily at 1p & 7p (\$125, 10K chips, 30-minute levels).	No jackpots.
ATLANTIS CASINO RENO (800) 723-6500 • atlantiscasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, 11a & 7p); Sat.-Sun. KO (\$75, 11a).	\$1K rakeback for monthly hours; daily bonus hands for quads or better; poker room comp points (call for details).
BALLY'S LAS VEGAS (702) 967-4111 • ballyslasvegas.com	Daily at 11a, 4p and 8p (\$75, 5K chips, 20-minute levels).	High hands pay quads (\$50), straight flush (\$250) and progressive royals (starting at \$1K); Round Table Royals pays \$100-\$500 to entire table when royal hits.
BELLAGIO (702) 693-7111 • bellagio.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$120, 2p); Fri. & Sat. (\$540, 2p); Sun. (\$330, 2p).	No jackpots.
BINION'S GAMBLING HALL (702) 382-1600 • binions.com	Daily (\$60-\$100) at 10a, 2p, 7p and 10p.	High hands; quads pays (\$50); straight flush pays (\$100); royals pay (\$250); Monday Night Football promotion (call for details).
BOULDER STATION HOTEL & CASINO (702) 432-7777 • boulderstation.com	No tournaments. See ad on Page 43.	Multiroom progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed; high hand (Wed.); Aces Cracked (Thurs.); \$500 high hand (Sun.).
CAESARS PALACE (702) 731-7110 • caesarspalace.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$70, 9a; \$110, noon; \$70, 3p; \$110, 7p; \$85, 10p); Wed. PLO (\$110, 6p); Sat. & Sun. (\$235, 2p); Winter Poker Classic, Feb. 10-March 1 (call for details).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K (24/7); high hands (24/7); payouts for quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$500).
CANNERY CASINO (866) 999-4899 • cannerycasinos.com	Nightly (\$25, 7p); \$10K monthly freeroll (play 40 hours to qualify).	Progressive high-hand jackpot; Aces Cracked (daily).
CIRCUS CIRCUS LAS VEGAS (702) 734-0410 • circuscircus.com	Mon.-Sat. (\$45 w/\$20 add-on, 2p); Sunday freeroll, 2p (play 15 hours to qualify).	High hands; Aces Cracked pays \$50; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royals (\$200); football parlay card with quads or better (call for details).
COLORADO BELLE HOTEL CASINO (702) 298-4000 • coloradobelle.com	Daily (\$30, 10a); Mon.-Fri. & Sun. (\$50, 7p); Sat. KO (\$100, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha/8 and stud; Aces Cracked pays \$25-\$100 (24/7); Super Beat pays \$10K guaranteed; quads of the day pays \$100-\$400.
ELDORADO HOTEL CASINO (775) 786-5700 • eldoradoreno.com	Tue.-Thurs. (\$60, 6p, 6K chips, 20-minute levels); play in any live hold'em game after tournament and get a \$20 bonus.	Progressive bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and stud; quads or better is paid daily.
EXCALIBUR HOTEL AND CASINO (702) 597-7777 • excalibur.com	Daily (\$25, 9a; \$40, 1p & 5p; \$30, 8p) w/one rebuy and add-on; \$500 first-prize guarantee on Sat. (\$40, 9p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full beaten by quads); spin the wheel pays \$20-\$300 for quads or Aces Cracked.
FLAMINGO LAS VEGAS (702) 733-3111 • flamingolasvegas.com	Daily (\$70, 10a, 6p and 9p); daily (\$60, 12:30a); daily KO (\$80, 2p); Friday freeroll \$1.5K guarantee (9a); monthly freeroll \$5K guarantee.	High hand pays quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royal (progressive by suit); Aces Cracked pays \$100 (8a-2p); bad-beat bonus: \$2,500 for quads or better beaten.
GOLDEN NUGGET LAUGHLIN (702) 298-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily (\$45, 8K chips) at 10a, noon, 3p, 7p, and 10p; Sun. \$2,012 guarantee (\$60 w/\$20 rebuy, noon, 8K chips, 20-minute blinds).	Double high-hand progressive (9a-2p); Aces Cracked pays \$50.
GOLDEN NUGGET LAS VEGAS (702) 385-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily (\$65) at 11a, 3p, 7p, 10p, 1a, and 4a.	High hand between 2a-2p wins twice the jackpot.
GRAND SIERRA RESORT (775) 789-2000 • grandsierraresort.com	Daily (\$45, 10a); Sun.-Thurs. (\$60, 6:30p); Fri.-Sat. (\$80 w/\$20 bounties, 6:30p).	Aces Cracked pays \$50 (Sun.-Thurs.).
GREEN VALLEY RANCH (702) 617-7777 • greenvalleyranchresort.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. Omaha/8 (\$40, 7p); Tue. & Thurs.-Sun. (\$40 w/rebuys, 6p); Wed. H.O.R.S.E. (\$40, 7p). See ad on Page 43.	Multiroom progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed; progressive quads high hand (daily).
HARD ROCK LAS VEGAS (702) 693-5000 • hardrockhotel.com	Daily (\$55, noon & 8p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad aces); progressive high-hand jackpot pays quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
HARRAH'S LAS VEGAS (702) 369-5000 • harrahslasvegas.com	Five tournaments daily: (\$25, 8a); (\$60, 10a & 3p); (\$25, 1a); (\$80 w/\$20 bounties, 8p); monthly \$10K guar. freeroll (30 hours min. to qualify; call for details).	Mini bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full and pays (\$500/\$200/\$50); high hands; Aces Cracked pays \$100 (9a-2p); Splash Pot football promo (call for details).
HARRAH'S LAUGHLIN (702) 298-4600 • harrahslaughlin.com	Monthly cash-added tournaments (up to \$3K added to prize pools).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.
HARVEYS LAKE TAHOE (775) 588-6611 • harveystahoe.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. & Wed. (\$50, 6p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$75, 6p); Fri. (\$95, 6p); Sun. (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); progressive rewards jackpot is quad nines or better; get paid for straight flushes and royal flushes.

* SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted. Poker room managers email roth@anteupmagazine.com

NEVADA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
IMPERIAL PALACE (800) 634-6441 • imperialpalace.com	Mon.-Fri. at noon, 3p and 8p (\$40); Sat. & Sun. (\$25 w/rebuys, 9a).	Aces Cracked; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
LUXOR HOTEL & CASINO (702) 262-4000 • luxor.com	Daily (\$35, 10:30a); (\$60, 12:30p); (\$60, 8:30p).	High hand (24/7) pays quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$500).
M RESORT (702) 797-1000 • themresort.com	Daily (\$55, 10a & 6p); Tue. H.O.R.S.E. (\$100, 7p).	Progressive high hand; bad-beat jackpot in Omaha.
MANDALAY BAY 702-632-7777 • mandalaybay.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 10a; \$50, 3p & 7p); Fri.-Sat. (\$40, 10a; \$50, 1p; \$100, 5p); Sun. (\$50, 11a & 2p; \$100, 5p).	Tiered high-hand bonus (Mon. & Thurs.) pays to flop it (\$500), turn it (\$250) and river it (\$125); football promotion (Sat. & Sun., 10a-10p); call for details.
MGM GRAND LAS VEGAS (702) 891-1111 • mgmgrand.com	Daily (\$80) at 11:05a & 7:05p.	No jackpots.
MIRAGE (702) 791-7111 • mirage.com	Daily (\$60, 11a & 7p).	Static bad-beat jackpot in hold'em includes a table-share payout; Aces Cracked pays up to \$150 (daily, 8a-2p); high hands; flopped royals pays table; football promos.
MONTE CARLO RESORT & CASINO (702) 730-7777 • montecarlo.com	Daily (\$50, 9a) & (\$60, 6p & 11p); Thurs. & Fri. (\$40, 2p).	Increased uncapped progressive high-hand jackpot is quads or better with a new progressive table share (call for details).
MONTEGO BAY HOTEL & CASINO (775) 664-4000 • wendoverfun.com	Mon. (\$30, 8:30p); Thurs. (\$40, 8:30p); Fri.-Sat. (\$30, noon); Sun. (\$40, 8:30p); all tournaments have rebuys.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush jackpot; quads get paid.
THE ORLEANS (702) 365-7111 • orleanscasino.com	Daily (\$75, noon & 7p) except Fri. (\$125, 7p); variations include hold'em, Omaha/8 and H.O.R.S.E.	\$50K progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament player of the month includes top point earners who will receive their share of a progressive prize pool.
PALACE STATION (702) 367-2453 • palacestation.com	No tournaments. See ad on Page 43.	Multitroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. High hand of the hour (Mon.-Fri., 3a-11a).
PALMS CASINO (702) 942-7777 • palms.com	Sun.-Fri. (\$65, 10a); Wed. KO (\$75, 7p).	Early bird promo pays \$25 every hour between 8a-1p; earn up to \$200 per day by playing live cash games.
PEPPERMILL RESORT CASINO (775) 826-2121 • peppermillreno.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$35-\$115) at 2p & 6:30p; Sat. (\$115, 1p & 6:30p); Sun. (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p & 6:30p).	High hands; get paid for straight flushes and royals.
PLANET HOLLYWOOD (702) 785-5555 • planethollywoodresort.com	Daily (\$70) at 10a, 2p and 7p.	High-hand jackpots; quads pay \$100; straight and royals are progressive starting at \$250.
RAINBOW HOTEL & CASINO (775) 664-4000 • wendoverfun.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Quadzillas pay \$500; Aces Cracked pays \$100; Splash Pots pays \$50.
RED ROCK CASINO (702) 797-7777 • redrocklasvegas.com	Daily (\$100, 10a); Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 6:30p); Thurs. & Sun. KO (\$70, 6:30p); Fri. Omaha/8 (\$60, 5:30p). See ad Page 43.	Multitroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed.
RIO CASINO (702) 777-7777 • riolasvegas.com	Daily (\$55, noon); (\$55, 3p); (\$65, 6p); (\$75, 9p); (\$55, midnight).	Progressive royals start at \$1K; cash drawings pay \$100 (5a, 7a, 9a and 11a); Graveyard Trip Comps (daily, 3a-noon) pays \$3 per hour instead of \$1 per hour.
RIVER PALMS CASINO (702) 298-2242 • river-palms.com	Fri. (\$60, 6:30p); Sat. (\$60, 2p).	High hands pay quads, straight flushes and royals; Aces Cracked.
RIVERSIDE RESORT (702) 298-2535 • riversideresort.com	Daily turbo at 10a, 5p and 11:30p (\$15); Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat. (\$50, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; Aces Cracked in hold'em and Omaha; high hands pay quads (\$25-\$50), straight flush (\$100), royal (\$300).
RIVIERA HOTEL AND CASINO (800) 634-3420 • rivierahotel.com	Daily (\$60) at 7a, 11a, 7p and 11p; monthly freerolls.	High hands (call for details).
SAM'S TOWN LAS VEGAS (702) 456-7777 • samstowntlv.com	Daily (\$23, 10a) & daily (\$30 w/rebuy, 1:30p); Fri.-Sat. deepstack (\$45 w/rebuy, 7p & 11p); Omaha/8 and pineapple tournaments available.	Uncapped progressive high hands; Aces Cracked pays \$50 (midnight-noon & 4p-9p); bad-beat jackpot (aces full of 10s beaten by quads) pays \$10K.
SANTA FE STATION CASINO (702) 658-4900 • santafestationlasvegas.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$45, 7p); Mon.-Sat. (\$45, noon); Fri.-Sat. (\$45, 6p).	Multitroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed.
SOUTH POINT HOTEL CASINO (702) 796-7111 • southpointcasino.com	Daily KO (\$60) at 10a, 2p and 7p (unlimited re-entries during first hour). See ad on Page 35.	Progressive bad-beat jackpot pays \$25K minimum; players earn comps while playing (call for details).
STRATOSPHERE (702) 944-4915 • stratospherehotel.com	Daily at 11a, 7p and 11p (\$45 w/\$20 add-on).	Royal- and straight-flush progressive jackpots; high-hand jackpot; get paid for quads, straight flushes and royals.
SUNCOAST HOTEL & CASINO (702) 636-7111 • suncoastcasino.com	Daily at 10a & 7p; Mon. & Tue. (\$45 w/\$20 add-on, 7p); Wed. & Sun. KO (\$65 w/\$20 bounties, 7p); all 10a tournaments are \$45 w/\$20 add-on.	High-hand bonus for quads or better; earn comp dollars for playing live games.
SUNSET STATION (702) 547-7982 • sunsetstation.com	No tournaments. See ad on Page 43.	Multitroom progressive bad-beat jackpot; Splash the Pot (Tue.); Make 4 Flushes pays \$400 (Mon. & Thurs.); Aces Cracked double the pot (Wed., Sat. & Sun.).
TEXAS STATION (702) 631-1000 • texasstation.com	Thurs. & Sun. (\$25 w/\$20 rebuy, 10a). See ad on Page 43.	Jumbo Jackpot is quad fours beaten.
TREASURE ISLAND (702) 894-7111 • treasureisland.com	Daily (\$50) at 11a, 2p, 7p and 10p.	High hands pay up to \$500; quads spins wheel; straight flush spins w/2X multiplier; royal spins w/5X multiplier; cash back promotion pays up to \$599 (call for details).
TROPICANA (702) 739-2222 • tropicv.com	Daily at 10a, 2p, 8p and midnight (call for schedule).	Player comps; cash giveaways (call for more promos).
VENETIAN RESORT (702) 414-1000 • venetian.com	Sun.-Fri. (\$150, noon); nightly (\$120, 7p); Tue. KO (\$150, 7p) & Omaha/8 (\$100, 2p); Wed. H.O.R.S.E. (\$100, 2p); Sat. (\$340, noon); monthly is, Feb. 4 (\$550, noon).	DeepStack Extravaganza runs until Feb. 21 (\$150-\$2,500) w/main event, Feb. 19 (\$2,500, noon). See ad on Page 33 for schedule. No promotions.
WENDOVER NUGGET HOTEL & CASINO (702) 770-7000 • wendovernugget.com	Tue. (\$10 w/\$10 rebuys, 7p); Thurs. (\$20 w/\$10 rebuys, 8p); Fri. (\$50, 8p); Sat. (\$50, 8p); Sun. (\$40 w/\$10 bounty, 3p).	\$30K bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (call for info on more jackpots).
WYNN LAS VEGAS (702) 770-7000 • wynnlasvegas.com	Daily (\$120, 7p); Sun.-Fri. (\$150, noon); Sat. (\$340, noon); Wynn Classic, Feb. 22-March 15 (\$550-\$5,170) w/main event, March 12 (\$5,170, noon).	No jackpots.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

LAKE REGION CASINO (877) 872-2501 • thelodgearbelmont.com	Daily (\$5-\$50). Times vary by day (1p, 4p, 4:30p, 5p, 7p). Big-stack events on Saturdays (\$50, 7p, 15K chips).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (call for details).
MANCHEVEGAS POKER (603) 668-6591	Daily (\$5 w/rebuys-\$60); Mon.-Fri. (5:30p & 8p); Sat. & Sun. (noon, 4p & 8p).	No jackpots.
POKER ROOM AT HAMPTON FALLS (603) 601-2486 • thepokeroomnh.com	Daily (\$80-\$150) at 11a (Sat.), 1p (Fri.-Sun.), 3:30p, 4p (Sat.-Sun.), 5:30p, 7:30p and 9p).	High hands pay \$50 (Fri.-Sun.); royals pay \$100 (Mon.-Thurs.); Aces Cracked pays \$25 (Mon.-Thurs.); call for details.
RIVER CARD ROOM (603) 249-5548 • riverpokerroom.com	Daily (\$5-\$60). Times vary by day. Many of the tournaments have optional rebuys and add-ons. See website for complete schedule.	Mini-Monster (Wed. & Fri.); River 4,000 (call for details).
ROCKINGHAM PARK (603) 898-2311 • rockinghampark.com	Daily (\$50-\$250). Start times vary from 2p-9p (see website for schedule).	Tournament bad-beat jackpot; call for other jackpots and promotions.
SEABROOK GREYHOUND PARK (603) 474-3065 • seabrookgreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$30-\$200); tournaments times vary (see website for schedule); Sat. deepstack (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$80, 1:30p).	Tournament bad-beat jackpot; call for other jackpots and promotions.

NEW JERSEY

BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-2000 • ballysac.com	Daily (\$55-\$80); Mon.-Thurs. & Sat. (1p & 7p); Fri. (1p & 8p); Sun. (1p & 6p); Wed. & Sun. are turbos; winners of tournaments will be invited to the \$10K TOC Freeroll.	Harrah's AC multitroom bad-beat jackpot starts at quad queens and decreases Wed. if not hit; high hand (Mon. & Tue.); bonus comps (Wed. & Thurs.); Aces Cracked (Fri.).
BORGATA HOTEL CASINO (609) 317-1000 • theborgata.com	Daily (\$100-\$340); \$10K guar. (Mon.), \$30K guar. (Wed. & Fri.).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad 10s; mini bad beat in hold'em is quad deuces-nines.

* SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted. Poker room managers email roth@anteupmagazine.com

NEW JERSEY (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY (609) 348-4411 • caesarsac.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$120, 1:15p & 9:15p); Fri. (\$120, 1:15p & \$200, 9:15p); Sat. (\$200, 1:15p & 9:15p); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multiroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
GOLDEN NUGGET ATLANTIC CITY (800) 777-8477 • goldennugget.com/atlanticcity	Call for details.	Call for details.
HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 441-5000 • harrahsresort.com	Daily at 10:15a, 1:15p, 8:15p and midnight (\$70-\$125).	Harrah's AC multiroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
SHOWBOAT ATLANTIC CITY (609) 343-4000 • showboatcasino.com	Daily \$65 (11a, 2a & 7p); nightly \$60 (11p); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multiroom bad-beat jackpot starts at quad Queens and decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit; Sun. & Mon. night football promos (call for details).
TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-4000 • tropicana.net	Daily (\$62, 11:15a & 7:15p), including a Fri. (\$122, 7:15p) and Sat. (\$122, 11:15a & 7:15p); midnight tournaments run Sun.-Thurs. (\$42) & Fri.-Sat. (\$62).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; "3-8" special promotion jackpot (call for details); tournament bad-beat jackpot is quads over aces full of kings.
TRUMP TAJ MAHAL CASINO RESORT (609) 449-1000 • playtajpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$230) at 12:15p, 4:15p, 7:15p, & midnight, including two deepstacks on Saturdays (\$230, 7:15p) & (\$120, 4:15p & midnight).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); high hands are entered into drawings to win \$1K; 50-50 club (call for details).

NEW MEXICO

BUFFALO THUNDER CASINO (505) 455-5555 • buffalothunderresort.com	Tue. & Fri. (6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; mini bad-beat jackpot; early-bird special.
HARD ROCK ALBUQUERQUE (505) 724-3800 • hardrockcasinoabq.com	Daily (\$20-\$50) at 2p & 7p, including Fri. & Sat. (\$50, 7p); many tournaments have rebuys and add-ons.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot; Deuces Never Loses (call for details).
INN OF THE MOUNTAIN GODS (575) 464-7777 • innofthemountaingods.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$20, noon); Mon. (\$35, 7p); Tue. (\$35, 6p); Wed. KO (\$55, 6p); Thurs. (\$25 w/rebuys, 6p); Sun. (\$55, 2p).	Aces Kicked & Kings Kracked wins a T-shirt (daily); bonus chips (call for details).
ROUTE 66 CASINO (505) 352-7866 • rt66casino.com	Daily (\$25-\$55); Mon.-Fri. (10a); Tue. & Thurs. (7p); Sat. (1p); Sun. (7p).	Action Aces (Mon.-Thurs.); Splash the Pot.
SANDIA RESORT (505) 796-7500 • sandiacasino.com	Tue. (\$40, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Sun. (\$40, noon); monthly Omaha event, Feb. 1 (call for details); Big Dog event, Feb. 18 (\$150, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha.
SANTA ANA STAR CASINO 505-867-0000 • santaanastar.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30, 11a); Tue. (\$30, 7p); Wed. PLO & Thurs. KO (\$40, 7p); Fri. (\$100, 7p); Sat. (\$40, 11a) & H.O.R.S.E. (\$40, 7p); Sun. Omaha/8 (\$40, 11a) & (\$40, 7p).	Splash the Pot (Mon. & Tue., 8p-midnight); get paid for quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royal flush (\$250).

NEW YORK

SENECA NIAGARA (877) 873-6322 • senecaniagaracasino.com	Daily (\$35-\$190); Mon.-Thurs. (10a & 7p); Fri. (10a); Sat. (11a); Sun. (10a, 7p); DeepStacks Poker Tour Western NY Poker Championship, Feb. 15-19 (\$135-\$1,500).	Progressive bad beat jackpot in hold'em (quad deuces), Omaha (quad nines) and stud (quad sevens); Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
SENECA SALAMANCA (877) 860-5130 • senecagames.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 11a & 7p); Thurs. (\$90, 6p); Sat. & Sun. (\$60, noon)	Progressive bad beat jackpot in hold'em (quad deuces), Omaha (quad nines) and stud (quad sevens); Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
TURNING STONE RESORT (800) 386-5366 • turningstone.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$60-\$100) at noon & 7p; Fri. (\$70, 2p & \$90, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 11a & \$125, 7p); Sun. (\$125, 11a & \$70, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot is in hold'em (quad deuces); royals pay \$100.

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (N.C.) (828) 497-7777 • harrahscherokee.com	Tuesday (\$60, 6p); Saturday (\$120, 10a); Sunday (\$120, 2p).	Call for information.
SUNCRUZ (S.C.) (843) 280-2933 • suncruzaquasino.com	Tuesday (\$220, 7p); daily freerolls (call for schedule).	Bad-beat (aces full of jacks beaten by quads); get paid for quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200).

OKLAHOMA

CHEROKEE CASINO ROLAND (800) 256-2338 • cherokeecasino.com	Mon. (\$50, 7p); Wed.-Sun. (\$30 w/rebuys, 1p); Wed. \$2K guarantee (\$60, 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 7p); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuys, 5p); Sun. (\$60, 5p).	High hands; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
CHEROKEE WEST SILOAM SPRINGS (918) 422-5100 • cherokeecasino.com	Daily (\$30-\$80, 7p); Mon., Wed., Fri. (\$30, 10a); Tue., Thurs., Sat. (\$50, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K.
CHOCTAW RESORT CASINO (580) 920-0160 • choctawcasinos.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$60-\$115) at 2p & 7p; Sat. (\$225, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads.
DOWNSTREAM CASINO RESORT (918) 919-6000 • downstreamcasino.com	Daily (\$25-\$60); Mon.-Sun. (11a); Mon.-Thurs. (7p); Fri. (2p); Sat.-Sun. (3p); Heartland Poker Tour, Feb. 16-26 (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
FIRELAKE GRAND CASINO (405) 964-7263 • firelakegrand.com	Mon. (\$30, 11a & \$30 w/rebuys, 7p); Tue.-Wed. (\$15, 11a & \$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$30, 11a & \$70, 6p); Sat. (\$120, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
FIRST COUNCIL CASINO (580) 448-3015 • myfirstwin.com	Tue. \$1K guar. (\$25 w/\$20 rebuys, 7p); Wed. \$1K guar. (\$40, 7p); Thurs. \$1.5K guar. (\$65, 7p); Sat. \$1.2K guar. (\$55, 3p); Sun. (\$70, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; splash pots pay \$100; high-hand bonuses.
HARD ROCK TULSA (918) 384-7800 • hardrockcasinotulsa.com	Daily; ask about future satellites to major events.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR BARTLESVILLE (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarelm.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30 w/\$10 rebuys and add-on, 2p); Sat.-Sun. KO (\$30, 1p); \$5K quarterly freeroll tournament (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR TULSA (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarelm.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, noon); including Mon. PLO (7:30p); Sat. KO (\$60, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
RIVER SPIRIT CASINO (918) 299-8518 • creeknationcasino.com	Sun.-Fri. (\$50, 9:30a); Mon. (\$40 w/rebuys and add-on, 7p); Tue. (\$50, 6p); Wed. (\$60, 7p); Thurs. & Sun. KO (\$70, 7p); Sat. KO (\$70, 9:30a).	Progressive bad-beat in hold'em (quads); Omaha bad-beat jackpot pays \$5K; progressive tournament bad-beat jackpot and royal flush; Aces Cracked; high hands.
RIVERWIND CASINO (405) 322-6000 • riverwindcasino.com	Daily (\$40-\$100) at 11a; Sun.-Thurs. (7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
WINSTAR WORLD CASINO (580) 276-4229 • winstarcasinos.com	Mon. (\$60, 1p & \$115, 7p); Tue. (\$100, 7p); Wed. (\$60, 1p & \$60 w/re-entries, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$115, 1p); Fri. (\$220, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads or better and pays \$20K minimum.

OREGON

CHINOOK WINDS CASINO (541) 996-5825 • chinookwindscasino.com	Mon. KO (\$55, 6p); Tue. Omaha/8 (\$45, 6p); Wed. (\$45, 12:30p); Thurs. KO (\$55, 12:30p); Sat. (\$95, 2p); Sun. (\$60, 6p).	Tournament royal flush bonus pays \$200; Boss Bounties pays up to \$200; live game bonus (call for details).
ENCORE CLUB (503) 206-8856 • encoreclub.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$25 w/rebuy, noon, 2p & 4p, 10p), (\$30 w/rebuy, 6p), (\$50-\$100, 8p); Sat. freeroll (noon); (\$10K guar., \$120 w/rebuy, 7p); Sun. freeroll (noon).	All weekday tournaments have guaranteed prize pools.
SEVEN FEATHERS CASINO (541) 839-1111 • sevenfeathers.com	Monthly events on Feb. 5 & 19 (1:30p); freerolls are held Wed. & Fri. at 6p.	Monte Carlo Board (aces full or better) paid out daily; \$100 hourly high hands (Sat., noon-midnight).
SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO (503) 879-2350 • spiritmountain.com	Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$25 w/\$10 rebuys, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$90, 7p); Fri. (\$70, noon); Sat. (\$120, noon).	Spin the Wheel (Fri. & Sat.); Sunday Super High Hands; Monte Carlo Payouts (Mon.-Thurs.).
WILDHORSE RESORT (541) 278-2274 • wildhorseresort.com	Tue. (\$30 w/\$25 rebuy & add-on, 6:30p); Wed. (\$30 w/\$25 rebuy & add-on, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$55, 6:30p); Sat. (\$60 w/\$55 rebuy & add-on, 1p); Sun. (\$35, 1p).	Call for promotions.

* SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted. Poker room managers email roth@anteupmagazine.com

PENNSYLVANIA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
HARRAH'S CHESTER (800) 480-8020 • harrahscchester.com	Daily (\$60-\$195). Starting times are Mon.-Fri. (10:30a & 6:30p) and Sat.-Sun. (11:30a & 6:30p).	Bad beat in hold'em (call for details).
HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL (717) 469-2211 • hcpn.com	Mon. (\$60, 12:15p); Tue.-Fri. (\$80, 12:15p); Tue.-Thurs. (\$60, 7:15p); Sat. & Sun. deepstack (\$100, 11:15a); Sun. KO (\$125, 7:15p); SNGs available on demand.	Call for future jackpots.
MEADOWS CASINO (724) 503-1200 • meadowsgaming.com	Daily (\$40-\$225); Mon.-Sat. (10:30a & 7:30p) including Fri. (4p), Sat. (3p) and Sun. (1p and 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MOHEGAN SUN/POCONO DOWNS (570) 831-2100 • mohegansunpocono.com	Mon.-Fri (noon & 7p) & Sat.-Sun (10a & 7p); Mon. (\$35); Tue. (\$60 & \$75); Wed. (\$35 & \$50); Thurs. (\$60); Fri. (\$75 & \$120); Sat. (\$60 & 120); Sun. (\$60).	High-hand promotion (call for details).
MOUNT AIRY CASINO (570) 243-5184 • mtairycasino.com	Fridays (\$100, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of kings.
PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS & CASINO (866) 374-3386 • ericcasino.com	Mon. (\$75, 7:30p); Tue. (\$50, 12:30p); Wed. KO (\$75, 7:30p); Thurs. (\$50, 12:30p; Feb. 25 (\$125, 11:30a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
PARX CASINO (215) 639-9000 • parxcasino.com	Tue. (\$120, 7p); Wed. (\$120, noon); Thurs. (\$120, 7p); Sat. (\$230, noon).	Call for details.
RIVERS CASINO (412) 231-7777 • theriverscasino.com	Daily (\$65-\$555); Sun.-Fri. (noon & 7p); Sat. (noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of jacks).
SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM (877) SANDS-77 • sandsbethworks.com	See our story on Page 28 regarding tournaments coming.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads).

WASHINGTON

7 CEDARS CASINO (360) 683-7777 • 7cedarsresort.com	Wed. (\$75, 6p); Thurs. Omaha/8 (\$65, 6p); Sat. (\$80, 1p); Sun. (\$65, 6p); \$777 added monthly event, Feb. 24 (\$77, 6p).	Double Hours (Thurs. & Sun.); call for details.
ANGEL OF THE WINDS CASINO (360) 474-9740 • angelofthewinds.com	Daily (\$40, 10a) including Fri. (\$75, 6:30p); many tournaments vary between hold'em, Omaha/8 and crazy pineapple (call for schedule).	High hands and bonus high hands (call for details).
CLEARWATER CASINO (360) 598-8700 • clearwatercasino.com	Daily (\$25 w/\$5 rebuys, 11:30a); Tue. Beat the Boss KO (\$50, 6p); Wed. (\$50 w/\$20 add-on, 6p).	Daily Double jackpot; get paid for quads, straight flush and royals; Lightning Strikes & Thunder Rumbles jackpots (call for details).
LITTLE CREEK CASINO (360) 427-7711 • little-creek.com	Mon. (\$25 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Tue. KO (\$35, 7p); Wed. (\$45, 6p); Thurs. (\$55, 7p); Fri. KO (\$35, 6p); Sat. KO (\$35, 5p); Sun. Omaha/8 (\$35, 5p).	Extra tournament chips (two hours of live play required); call for details.
MUCKLESHOOT CASINO (253) 804-4444 • muckleshootcasino.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$65, 7p); Sat. (\$40 w/rebuys, noon).	\$500K Super Bad Beat Jackpot; \$20K Baby Bad-Beat Jackpot; high hands pay \$100 every half hour (daily).
NORTHERN QUEST CASINO (509) 242-7000 • northernquest.com	Mon.-Fri. KO (\$40, 10:30a); Wed. (\$20 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Mon. & Thurs. ladies night (\$20, 7p); Sat. KO (\$75, 10:30a).	Call for promotions.
SNOQUALMIE CASINO (425) 888-1234 • snocasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30, 10:30a); Sat. (\$60, 11a); Sun. KO (\$60, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks beaten by quads; hourly high hands pay \$100-\$300; Monte Carlo board (call for details).
SWINOMISH NORTHERN LIGHTS (360) 293-2691 • swinomishcasino.com	Daily at 12:15p & 7p; Mon.-Tue. & Sun. (\$22); Wed. (\$11 w/rebuys & \$33); Thurs. Omaha/8 (\$22) & \$33; Fri. (\$22 & \$55); Sat. (\$27 & \$33).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; mini bad-beat jackpot; royal flush bonus.
TULALIP RESORT CASINO (360) 716-6000 • tulalipresort.com.com	Mon.-Fri. (10:30a); Sat. (11a).	Aces Cracked.

WEST VIRGINIA

HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN (800) 795-7001 • ctowntables.com	Tuesday (\$150, 11a); Wednesday (\$250, 7p).	Call about the bad-beat jackpot.
MARDI GRAS CASINO AT TRI-STATE (800) 224-9683 • tristateracetack.com	Daily (\$45-\$150); Mon. (1p); Tue. (7p); Wed. (7p); Thurs. (1p & 7p); Sun. (2p).	Bad-beat jackpots in Omaha and stud.
MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM (304) 387-8458 • mountaineerpoker.com	Daily (\$25-\$100); Mon., Fri. & Sat. (12:15p); Wed. (10:30a); Sun. (2p); monthly event, Feb. 25 (7:30p).	Bad beat is aces full of kings; high hands pay \$100 (call for details).
WHEELING ISLAND CASINO (304) 232-5050 • wheelingisland.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 7p); Fri. Turbo (\$50, 7p); Sat. KO (\$75, 7p); Sun. KO (\$50, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; quads or straight flush lets you spin the wheel; early bird special (Mon., Tue., Thurs.).

WISCONSIN

HO-CHUNK GAMING AT MADISON ho-chunkgaming.com • (608) 223-9576	Mon. (\$33, 1p); Tue. (\$22, 7:30p); Wed. (\$55, 7:30p); Thurs. (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$88, noon); Madison Poker Championship running every Fri. & Sat. (call for details).	Hot Seats; rakeback (call for details).
HO-CHUNK GAMING AT NEKOOSA ho-chunkgaming.com • (800) 782-4560	Wed. (\$45, 6:45p) and Sat. (\$60, 4:15).	Call for promotions.
HO-CHUNK GAMING AT WISCONSIN DELLS ho-chunkgaming.com • (608) 356-6210	Tue. (\$55, 1p); Thurs. (\$90, 6p); Sun. (\$55, 3p); monthly event, Feb. 5 (\$100, 3p); bounty event, Feb. 19 (\$220, 10a).	Call for promotions.
MENOMINEE CASINO menomineecasinoresort.com • (715) 799-3600	Mon. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$40 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Sat. (\$60, noon); Sun. (\$35 w/\$10 rebuys, 2p); 500 Poker Challenge, Feb. 18 (\$500, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of tens and Omaha is quads; Aces Cracked pays up to \$150.
ONEIDA MASON STREET oneidabingoandcasino.net • (920) 494-4500	Mon. (\$35 w/rebuys, 7p); Wed. (\$65 w/rebuy, 7p); Thurs. (\$55, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Aces Cracked pays \$100; royals pay \$200.
POTAWATOMI BINGO CASINO (414) 645-6888 • paysbig.com	Monday KO (\$165 w/\$10 add-on, 6p); Wednesday Omaha (\$110 w/\$10 add-on, 8p); Sunday (\$110 w/\$10 add-on, 3p).	None.

MORE BANG, LESS BUCK!

ANTE UP IS A NATIONAL PUBLICATION
WITH A LOCAL PUBLICATION'S
ADVERTISING PRICES!
ADS START AT JUST **\$250!**

CALL **316-618-3188** TO ADVERTISE!



Q&A

WITH AVERY CARDOZA



Avery Cardoza is a leading authority on gambling and the founder of Cardoza Publishing, the largest gaming publisher in the world. He's recently published his first work of fiction, *Lost in Las Vegas*, and talked about it and other topics on the *Ante Up PokerCast*.

You have such a rich history and we want to talk about that, but let's start with *Lost in Las Vegas*. What prompted you to turn to fiction? I didn't plan this book, this book just sort of happened. It sort of came out of a dark period in my life when a lot of things went wrong and one day I started writing and the book started forming. I had no plans to write the book.

You started writing this 10 years ago; what took so long to complete it? Writing fiction is a very difficult thing to do. This book, for some reason, was the most miserable experience of my life. I worked very hard on it. I worked 40-hour stretches; I'd work every day; it was just a terrible experience. So I can't tell you why it was so difficult. It wasn't something I planned; it just sort of came out of me.

The book follows the exploits of John and Ludo, two friends who remain optimistic about their trip to Vegas even after it starts less than ideal. Tell us a little more about it. Basically these two guys come to Las Vegas to have a nice little trip. ... and everything goes wrong. They meet a woman, who one of them falls head over heels in love with instantly, and somehow she drags them through a whole other world. I'm sure that's not happened to anyone, meeting some woman and then going crazy afterward. (laughs)

These guys are soon out of their element. One of them ends up in a poker game and they're playing for a big dollar, and John thinks it's a dollar, and then he finds out it's a big dollar. (laughs) He loses all their money and they happen to be playing with a bunch of killers who just use this game to blow off steam. So these guys take all their money, their IDs, their credit cards, everything. ... These are just things that could happen almost to anybody except that these guys are geniuses at it. (laughs) And it goes downhill from there.

Were the book's crazy characters based on people from real life or just an amalgamation of characters you've met? In general there are certain things that were inspired by people. And I might have met a crazy woman in my day; I'll leave it at that. (laughs) But most of the characters in the book are just figments of my imagination. They just came to me.

The book has been described as *Pulp Fiction* meets *Pulp Vegas*. The dialogue between John and Ludo had us thinking of John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson. Was that the style you wanted to achieve? I wasn't really influenced by any other book or movie. I used to be a big reader and at the time I was writing this book for 10 years I didn't read any book, I didn't want to be influenced by any book. I barely even saw a movie. ... It's just the way it came out of me. ... I always wanted to write a novel, but I

didn't want to write a comedy. The irony is this thing people are calling it the funniest book they've ever read. (laughs)

Why is Mike Tyson in a lot of "Vegas trips gone awry" stories? I saw the *Hangover* and I thought they did a great job, very funny. But I wrote that (Tyson) scene eight years before they came out with the *Hangover*. ... It's just a coincidence. Mike Tyson is a Vegas figure and I used to live down the street from him actually. I don't know him, but he just seemed to come into a scene. He's part of Vegas and I thought that would be kind of fun. And that's how he came about.

You wrote your first book, *Winning Casino Blackjack for the Non-Counter*, in 1981 when you were 24 and had been banned from every casino in Las Vegas.

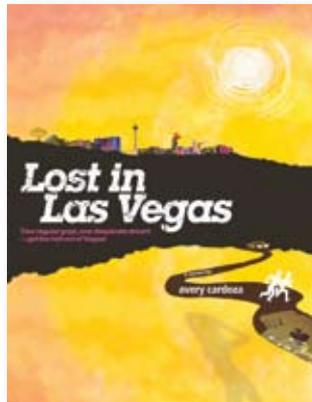
Can blackjack still be beaten these days with six-deck shoes and 6-5 payouts on naturals? Sure, you can still beat blackjack, and there are several ways to beat blackjack. Card-counting is at the heart of many of them. There are some very advanced and difficult techniques called shuffle tracking and there are a few other things that might be less than legal. But the game can be beaten; it's a little more difficult now.

With so many poker books on the shelves these days, are there still poker titles that haven't been written? Poker's a deep game, and there's a lot of good stuff coming out still. I think there's a good poker book that can be written basically on the proper play from a psychological perspective and a math perspective. Ultimately the game comes down to math.

Let's just talk about no-limit hold'em. And we could apply this to other games. When you make a bet, you want your opponent to call you, because you want more money in the pot, or you want to get rid of him. Let's say you're trying to get rid of the opponent and take the pot for free. When you make that bet, what's the chances that this guy is gonna call you?

Now you sit there, you've played with him a little bit, you try to study him, you're trying to read other people and you're trying to block them from reading you. ... So if you could really boil down the math and say all right, in this particular situation, against this type of player I have a situation where my opponent will fold seven out of 10 times. And it's not an exact science because you never know, you're taking educated guesses, but if you take enough educated guesses and study enough, you could start developing a situation where your whole game is really about betting. ...

When you play a good NLHE poker player, the cards are not the most important factor in a situation; it's the dynamics revolving around is he gonna call me or not. ♠



LIVE DEALERS!

FREE CLASSES!

♠ ANTE UP POKER CRUISE

MARCH. 17-22, 2012

PLAY **POKER** ABOARD THE JEWEL OF THE SEAS!

RATES STARTING AT **\$579**, WITH PORT STOPS
IN COSTA MAYA, MEXICO AND COZUMEL, MEXICO!

SAILS FROM

TAMPA!

**ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE THROUGH ANTE UP TO PLAY
IN THE POKER ROOM, PER ROYAL CARIBBEAN POLICY.**

QUESTIONS? CALL SCOTT LONG @ 727-331-4335



ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM/CRUISE



*All prices are per person, based on double occupancy, and include taxes, government fees and port charges. Limited number of staterooms available at these introductory rates. Ships Registry Bahamas

Royal Caribbean International reserves the right to impose a fuel supplement on all guests if the price of West Texas Intermediate fuel exceeds \$65 per barrel. The fuel supplement for 1st and 2nd guests would be no more than \$10 per guest per day, to a maximum of \$140 per cruise; and for additional guests would be no more than \$5 per person per day, to a maximum of \$70 per cruise.

CASH GAMES!

FREE FOOD!



KINGS QUEENS

From the best thoroughbreds in the country to slots, poker and fine dining, Gulfstream Park lets you roll from one good time right into another.



- \$400 High Hands Every Hour, noon-midnight, everyday
- \$10,000 Bad Beat Jackpot - Guaranteed
- Multi Table Tournaments Nightly at 6:30pm

GULFSTREAM
RACING & CASINO PARK

BREAK FROM THE P A C K

901 S. FEDERAL HIGHWAY
HALLANDALE BEACH, FL 33009
954-454-7000 • GULFSTREAMPARK.COM

FOLLOW US  