

ANTE UP



On the Button
with Jerry Yang
.....
Plead the Fifth
.....
Equity folds

Hawkins takes
Florida Million II
.....
Travel guide
.....
Poker terms



AUPT
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FLORIDA
WPT FALL OPEN

LOUISIANA
ON THE RIVER DEBUTS

NEW JERSEY
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Wins the Magnolia Fall Classic
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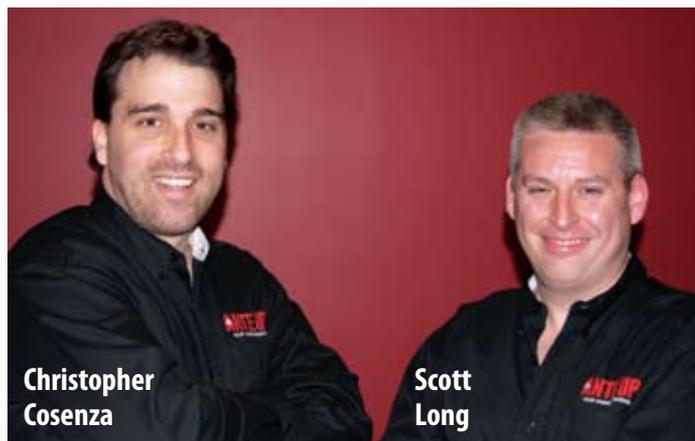
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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



IT'S TIME TO HIT THE ROAD

Whether it's for the bracelet, the ring, the cash, the fame, or simply to tweet a brag, poker players are drawn to big tournaments.

And that's why this month we present our first special advertorial Travel Guide. On pages 40-45, you'll find descriptions of some of the big events planned for 2011 in *Ante Up's* coverage area. We've also provided a clip-out calendar you can magnet to the fridge to help plan your travel plans for the coming year.

It's a packed schedule, and our list just scratches the surface of what's available. Plenty more are sure to be announced as the tournament calendar gets more crowded during the year. And that's an interesting dilemma itself.

Some poker room managers have mentioned to *Ante Up* that the tournament schedule has become too robust, that events that had been special in the past are no longer musts on the schedule as the number of poker rooms — and the events they hold — balloon. There's less of a reason to get on the road or into a plane these days when there's a big event right in your back yard.

It's an interesting point, and certainly not one without a lesson. The more events created, the less special they all become. But that's largely academic. At the end of the day, there are far more players without some hardware to show off than there are poker players with some shiny bling. And as grinders ourselves, the more events on the calendar means the more opportunities for all of us to become stars. And that's never a bad thing.

You'll notice our calendar doesn't just include the biggest events. *Ante Up* was created to give a voice to all poker players, not just those fortunate enough to play at the highest levels. That remains as important to us today as it did the day we launched. Satellites can give us a shot at those big paydays, but monthly or even weekly events

in our favorite rooms will always remain our best shot at the immortality we all crave.

And we're also pleased to bring back our popular Ante Up Poker Tour for a second year. We've revamped it this year to make each event a little more special, but you'll still find plenty of chances to earn points for our Player of the Year award, and get your face on the cover of this magazine. Please support the rooms who host these events and who appear in our Travel Guide, as they are the same ones who make it possible for us to produce this high-quality magazine for the cheapest price possible ... free.

To help you prepare for the rigors of traveling to and playing in major events, our lead strategy columnist Lee Childs offers some strong advice on what you can do to achieve success in this pressure cooker. And he knows what he's talking about: He criss-crosses the country often each year, and has made final tables in the World Series of Poker Main Event and World Poker Tour, and has a WSOP circuit ring to boot.

Here are a few travel tips:

- Always ask for the tournament or poker room rate when booking your hotel. If there's no hotel attached, be sure to ask whether they have negotiated rates at nearby hotels.
- Look into junkets or casino-operated charters, which bundle hotel rooms, airfare and other perks into one package price. Sometimes the price of these are less than airfare.
- Consider nearby all-suite hotels, which might offer a kitchen in your room. With the stress of playing in big events, a home-cooked meal might just be the advantage you need.

Travel safely and good luck. We're looking forward to having you with that trophy in our pages. We'll see you at the tables.

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

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CONNECTIONS

FLORIDA



The Florida Million II crowns a fall champion at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. **12**



- Poker phenom Harrison Gimbel, 20, adds yet another impressive victory to his resumé, the \$5K WPT/Hard Rock Fall Open Main Event title, good for \$330K. **14**

MISSISSIPPI



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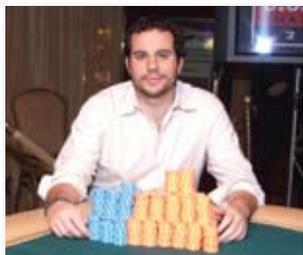


- Kenny "BadHat" Piel is a popular pro poker player from the Tunica area who won the senior event at the Magnolia. But don't define him by a bad hat and some cards. He's also an author, an accomplished musician and a former golf pro. **28**

CONNECTICUT

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NEW JERSEY



Ed Gamaitoni captured the \$5K main event of the United States Poker Championships, pocketing nearly \$168K. But the performances of a few others in undercard events prove noteworthy as well. **30**

ON THE BUTTON



Jerry Yang, the 2007 World Series of Poker Main Event champion, will be publishing his autobiography soon, so we caught up with him to ask about life after his victory, life before his victory and, of course, his book. **61**

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Jill Henson didn't even want to play in Oaklawn's Spa City Open. Now she's \$10K richer. **32**

SPECIAL EDITION



Ante Up presents its Travel Guide, an advertorial look at special events in the upcoming year, plus Lee Childs educates you on poker travel. **40-45**

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JAY HOUSTON

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CHRIS COSENZA

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DR. BLOOMFIELD

Like death and taxes, luck is inevitable when playing poker. You can't control it, but you can accept it and move on. **50**



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\$75,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL

Day I - Tuesday, February 1 at 11AM
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Day 2 - Wednesday, February 2 at 11AM
50 Minute levels

\$15,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL

Tuesday, February 1 at 6:30PM
\$150 Buy-In • 20 Minute levels • 8,000 Units

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Day IB - Saturday, February 5 at 11AM
\$2,200 Buy-In • 60 Minute levels • 25,000 units
Day 2 - Sunday, February 6 at 11AM
Day 3 - Monday, February 7 at 11AM

\$10,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL - HEADS UP

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FLORIDA MILLION II

DEC. 11-12 • PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB • WEST PALM BEACH

HAWKINS: ONE OF FLORIDA'S BEST

Maurice Hawkins edges newcomer Keith Cummings to become the Florida Million fall champion.

By Scott Long

The second Florida Million had its parallels to the inaugural event, right down to a contentious chop discussion and final table filled with qualifiers from the host room.

But this year's Million, which played out Dec. 11-12 at Palm Beach Kennel Club, featured a final heads-up match that had every bit of excitement the original event lost when Charlie Miller and Alexander Gregory reached a deal to give Miller the title and Gregory the most cash.

Maurice Hawkins, a three-time World Series of Poker circuit ring winner from Coral Springs, had to sweat out a victory against Stuart's

Keith Cummings, who was playing in only his second tournament and resisted constant requests from Hawkins to chop three-handed.

"This is what you wanted; you got me heads-up!" Hawkins said to the crowd's giggles just after he eliminated third-place finisher Tom Nasuti to set up the David-vs.-Goliath heads-up match with Cummings.

Cummings, easily a 4-to-1 chip dog to Hawkins, doubled through the eventual champ and then pulled almost even, but was eliminated when both turned trip queens and Hawkins had the better kicker. Hawkins, who was second in chips when the chop was finalized, won \$98,383, and Cummings won \$49,018, fifth-most since he was shorter in chips

than most when the chop came.

"It's just very special to me to do something positive and to keep doing it," Hawkins said of the latest of his impressive victories. "I run good because I live good."

Hawkins, who entered Day 2 in third place with 427,000 chips, was at the center of chop negotiations when play made it to the final table of 10 players. Much like the first Million, the negotiations were lengthy and at times contentious, but eventually the final 10 agreed to chop all but \$50,000 of the remaining prize pool based on chip stacks, with the final three splitting the \$50,000.

When it got down to three-handed, Hawkins and Nasuti, Palm Beach Kennel Club's Player of the Year, were willing to chop again, but Cummings, comfortable with the money he had from the first chop, wanted to play.

"I was just here for the competition. I didn't want to concede the



event. It wasn't the money," Cummings said. "I kept saying I had no business being here, so I was just happy I got this far."

And he got farther when Nasuti got it all-in with pocket jacks and Hawkins eliminated him when his ace-king flopped top pair.

Hawkins, heads-up with the greenest player in the tournament, knew he had everything to lose.

"If he beats me he has notoriety. Not to take anything away from him, but I think I was expected to beat him," Hawkins said. "No one remembers second place. It's not like there's a picture on the front page and they go, 'Who got second place?'"

For the second event in a row, the final table was heavily populated by players who qualified at the host location. Hawkins dismissed any notion of a homefield advantage, but admitted those players did have something going for them.

"We go home to sleep in our beds, and they go sleep in their hotels," Hawkins said.

The final table also saw a player who made a deep run in the first Million. Eric Kolodny, who was 19th in the inaugural event, won \$47,403 this year. Todd Louer actually won the second-most money (\$95,168) by virtue of being the chipleader when the chop was made.

What's next for the final two?

Cummings doesn't plan on playing considerably more, but says he will put his new confidence and hefty bankroll to work in the World Series of Poker circuit event at PBKC in February.

Hawkins also will be there, but not before heading north for some earlier circuit events.

"Maurice is the best player in Florida," PBKC director of poker operations Noah Carbone said. "I'd put him up against anyone."

The third edition of the Florida Million is expected to take place in April, finishing at Daytona Beach Kennel Club.

Final results

- (1) Maurice Hawkins, \$98,383
 - (4) Todd Louer, \$95,168
 - (7) Jerry Argento \$70,684
 - (3) Tom Nasuti, \$52,403
 - (2) Keith Cummings \$49,018
 - (6) Eric Kolodny, \$47,403
 - (5) Max Marion, \$47,403
 - (8) Mike Gilham \$34,018
 - (9) Chase Fredenburg, \$34,669
 - (10) Jack Richley, \$17,856
- The list above reflects monetary payouts while order of finish is in parenthesis.*
11. John "Spyder" McCarthy \$6,950
 12. Tonia Ann Williams \$6,950
 13. Anthony Vitale \$6,950
 14. Jason Shinbaum \$5,550
 15. Donald Albaum \$5,550
 16. Marc Lowe \$5,550
 17. Bruce Berarducci \$4,400
 18. Ou Chhun \$4,400
 19. Thomas Sean Lana \$4,400
 20. Jeff Charlton \$4,400



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Tournament Schedule

Date & Day	Event #	Time	Tournament	Buy-In
Feb. 24 Thu.		10 A.M.	Satellites Begin	
Feb. 24 Thu.	1	12 Noon	No-Limit Hold'em	\$100 + \$25
Feb. 24 Thu.	2	2 P.M.	Limit Omaha 8/B	\$200 + \$30
Feb. 25 Fri.	3	12 Noon	No-Limit Hold'em	\$200 + \$30
Feb. 25 Fri.	4	2 P.M.	7-Card Stud 8/B	\$200 + \$30
Feb. 26 Sat.	5	12 Noon (2 Day)	No-Limit Hold'em	\$300 + \$40
Feb. 26 Sat.	6	2 P.M.	Ladies Event NLH	\$200 + \$30
Feb. 27 Sun.	7	12 Noon	No-Limit Hold'em	\$200 + \$30
Feb. 27 Sun.	8	2 P.M.	Limit Omaha 8/B	\$200 + \$30
Feb. 28 Mon.	9	12 Noon	No-Limit Hold'em	\$200 + \$30
Mar. 1 Tue.	10	12 Noon	No-Limit Hold'em	\$200 + \$30
Mar. 1 Tue.	11	2 P.M.	7-Card Stud 8/B	\$200 + \$30
Mar. 2 Wed.	12	12 Noon	No-Limit Hold'em	\$200 + \$30
Mar. 2 Wed.	13	2 P.M.	Limit Omaha 8/B	\$200 + \$30
Mar. 3 Thu.	14	12 Noon	No-Limit Hold'em	\$200 + \$30
Mar. 3 Thu.	15	2 P.M.	PLO Omaha 8/B	\$200 + \$30
Mar. 4 Fri.	16	12 Noon	No-Limit Hold'em	\$200 + \$30
Mar. 4 Fri.	17	4 P.M.	Super Satellite w/\$50 Rebuy	\$100 + \$25
Mar. 4 Fri.	18	8 P.M.	Super Satellite w/\$50 Rebuy	\$100 + \$25
Mar. 5 Sat.	19	2 P.M. (2 Day)	No-Limit Hold'em Championship	\$1,000 + \$80
Mar. 5 Sat.	20	4 P.M.	No-Limit Hold'em	\$100 + \$25
Mar. 6 Sun.	21	12 Noon	No-Limit Hold'em	\$100 + \$25

General Information

- Daily Super Satellites at 4 P.M. (one day events). Winners will receive an entry into the \$1,000 Championship Event.
- Noon Events are one day unless otherwise noted.
- All two-day events will stop play at 2 A.M. or when final nine players remain, whichever comes first. If final 9 players all agree, play can be completed.
- If 2 or more tables remain, the tournament will restart the following day a 2 P.M. If one table remains and all remaining 9 players do not want to complete in one day, the tournament will restart at 3 P.M.

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WPT/HARD ROCK FALL OPEN

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GIMBEL PROVES HE'S NO FLUKE, TAKES TITLE

By Garrett Roth

At the ripe old age of 19, Harrison Gimbel of Jupiter won the 2010 PokerStars Caribbean Adventure for \$2.2 million. Not even a year later, Gimbel showed the poker world he's no fluke by winning the largest poker tournament in Florida history, the \$5K WPT/Hard Rock Fall Open, a regional event at Hard Rock's Paradise Poker Room in Hollywood.

The historic victory adds another \$333,000 to Gimbel's ballooning bankroll.

"I wanted to represent South Florida and win it for South Florida," he said moments after his victory.

Gimbel, now 20, beat a field of nearly 300 players, including a final table filled with talent such as 2006 WSOP Main Event 10th-place finisher Fred Goldberg (third, \$144K), local pro Raj Vohra (fourth, \$92K) and long-time respected pro Allie Prescott (ninth, \$30K).

"All I had my mind on was first," Gimbel said. "I couldn't even tell you what the other payouts were."

Runner-up Anthony Ruberto, who captured Event 1 and \$19K in this series' first event, won \$275K for second.

The main event was the first of its kind for the WPT, as it was a non-televised, non-title tournament, but it still held the prestige of an actual WPT event. Numerous pros from around the country entered, including Josh Arieh, Jason Mercier, Jeff Madsen and Shannon Shorr. The tournament served as a warmup for the \$10K WPT Main Event, which will return to Hard Rock Hollywood in April.

Gimble said he wanted to win this event for South Florida.



As for Gimbel, he still has some aging to do before he can be let into most American casinos.

"I won't get to play in the World Series of Poker even next year," said Gimbel, who won't turn 21 until Oct. 3.

You've been warned.

\$5K MAIN EVENT

Entries: 298 • Prize Pool: \$1,415,500

1. Harrison Gimbel, Jupiter, \$330K
2. Anthony Ruberto, \$275,242
3. Fred Goldberg, \$144,733
4. Raj Vohra, \$92,103
5. Albert Kim, \$65,788
6. Aaron Schaff, \$56,577
7. Alex Findlay, \$43,420
8. Anthony Pope, \$31,578
9. Allie Prescott, \$30,262
10. Matthew Ehrlich, \$28,947



Event #1 • \$560 NLHE

Entries: 290 • Prize Pool: \$145K

1. Anthony Ruberto, Everett, MA, \$19,000
2. Richard L., Lighthouse Point, \$16,500
3. T.J. S., Jackson, GA, \$14,000
4. Andrew T., Wakefield, MA, \$13,500
5. Joel G., Lake Worth, \$12,000
6. Omar M., Lake Worth, \$11,500
7. Dominick P., Palm City, \$10,800
8. Pierrot M., Miramar, \$9,742
9. David B., Parkland, \$3,117
10. Farhan M., Miramar, \$2,981



Event #2 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 104 • Prize Pool: \$20,800

1. David Williams, Davie, \$4,000
2. Michael M., Hollywood, \$2,765
3. Thomas D., West Palm Beach, \$2,765
4. Alexander C., Miami Beach, \$2,765
5. Alexis S., Miami, \$2,765
6. Yfiem S., Hanover, Germany, \$2,765
7. Geoffrey B., Edmonds, WA, \$832
8. Sam B., Miami, \$666
9. Daniel V., Lake Park, \$562
10. Anthony M., Brooklyn, \$478



Event #3 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 124 • Prize Pool: \$37,200

1. Dwight Barclay, Sunrise, \$9,000
2. Robert Fava, Homestead, \$5,202
3. Bobby Binsky, Hollywood, \$4,500
4. Brian Kerry, West Palm Beach, \$4,058
5. Jorge Perez, Miami, \$4,058
6. William Reilly, Oakdale, PA, \$4,058
7. Paul Balzano, Sunrise, \$1,376
8. Paul Brettler, Ft. Lauderdale, \$1,042
9. Kein Tran, Center Valley, PA, \$856
10. Edward Jaffy, Boca Raton, \$818



Event #4 • \$1,100 NLHE

Entries: 87 • Prize Pool: \$87,000

1. Daniel Shiff, Aventura, \$21,000
2. Richard L., Lighthouse Pt., \$20,000
3. Aleksander G., Sunny Isle, \$17,203
4. Michael L., Punta Gorda, \$8,265
5. Michael C., Boca Raton, \$6,177
6. Adam G., Homestead, \$4,785
7. Scott Z., Davie, \$3,828
8. Sharon L., Pembroke Pines, \$3,132
9. Jeremy G., New York, \$2,610



Event #5 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 131 • Prize Pool: \$26,200

1. Fabian Forbes, Miami, \$8,384
2. Ariel S., Germany, \$4,768
3. Abelard K., Miami, \$3,170
4. Johnathan N., Marathon, \$2,201
5. Jaquelyn S., Ft. Lauderdale, \$1,624
6. Oneil C., Miramar, \$1,258
7. Daniel T., Orlando, \$943
8. Jason H., Boynton Beach, \$629
9. Santana N., Davie, \$603
10. Ariel Q., Hialeah, \$576

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TREASURE CHEST POKER

• Jim Spence won the first Ocala King of the Bars tournament and a gift card to Outback Steakhouse.



• Fredrick Martini, left, won the monthly event, beating more than 140 players to win a \$1,000 seat in the WSOP, plus airfare and hotel accommodations.

• Nic Mastorakis beat more than 100 players at the Stix monthly to win a \$250 gift card.

• James Smith defeated almost 100 players at Stokers in Palm Harbor for a 32-inch LCD TV.

• Omar Lopez, right, won the Battle of the Bars at JJ's in Dunedin. He won for Dockside Bar and Grill.



HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD



Roberto Alberro of Coral Gables captured the November Big Slick tournament and nearly \$18K at the Paradise Poker Room.

PLEASURE ISLAND POKER

It was quite a remarkable two days for Scott Lee.



On Nov. 12 he won the monthly event at Los Pancho's on the Island in Fort Walton Beach, defeating more than 80 players for the \$350 entry into the Pensacola Greyhound Track's \$20K guarantee. He was followed by Geoff Hewlett, Frank "Gator" Crowder Jr., Brian Daugherty, Mike Dougherty, Jack Chaemcheun, Terry Green, Henry Kelley and Loria Walters.

But Lee wasn't done. The next day he won the league's Disabled Veterans charity tournament at Scully's on the Bayou in Fort Walton Beach.

He defeated R.C. Klein heads-up. They were followed by Ed McFadden, Joe Palpallatoc, Walters, Hewlett, Josh Shelby, Jo Lynch, Mike Roberson and Green. Lee earned a three-night stay at the Southern Resorts destination of his choice in Florida's Panhandle.

DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB

The second annual International Series wrapped up Nov. 12 with its main event drawing nearly 140 players and generating a \$68,500 prize pool. In the end, Hal England, Dam Jan Radanou and Francis Potts chopped, taking home \$12,331 each. Here are the remaining winners:



Deep Stack: Ben Littleton, \$2,400

PLO: Richard Thompson

Deep Stack: Fred Hiatt, \$2,135

Young Guns: Brian Russel, \$1250

PLO/8: Troy Wallace

Razz: Steve Wallace, \$750

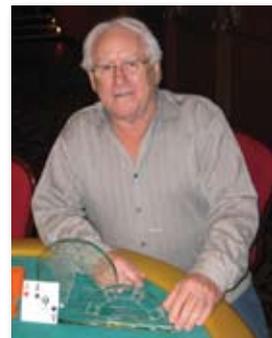
DANIA JAI-ALAI

They were playing for a trip to Atlantic City and a seat in the Winter Borgata Open, all worth a total of \$10,000. But, in the end, the players remaining wanted the cash.

Gary Thurman from Davie took home the trophy from the Nov. 17 Dan Le Batard Celebrity Tournament.

The final 11 players chopped the prize pool, with each getting \$1,161 for their \$79 buy-in. Thurman was chipleader and declared champion.

• In the \$40K guarantee on Oct. 30 it was Juan Carvajal from Miami to the rescue. Dressed as Superman for the Halloween tournament he was chipleader and declared the winner when the final seven players chopped. The top two each received \$7K and the others were paid a little less.



MIAMI POKER STARS

Donna Sirgany has made the final table four times in the league's Top 50 tournament, cashing three times (including a victory that earned her a trip to Vegas and a tournament buy-in). She's played poker for most of her life, but started with hold'em about six years ago.

"Since joining this league, I have made so many good friends, and I get to play cards, too," she said.

The league's main event will be in February with the champion winning a trip for two to Las Vegas and a \$1K tournament buy-in.

For more information check out miamipokerstars.com.



TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURS

Pat Wickersham won the quarterly championship Nov. 7 and a seat into the U.S. Poker Championships at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. Wickerman was followed by Gene Zeller, Nick Quinones, Alex Isuhuaylas, Barbara Frank, Ben Stackhouse, Ron Baldasano, Terry Roszell, Joe Thomas, Jim Valle and Andrew Vargas.



• Jason Lamb won the monthly at Eastriver Smokehouse in Navarre.



ALL IN POKER SERIES



Jordan Hill captured the monthly tournament in Orlando by beating more than 60 players.

He took home the trophy, a 32-inch TV and a seat in the upcoming World Series of Poker qualifier.

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12:00pm Sat & Sun	\$ 65 buy-in	7,500 chips	20 minute levels
7:00pm Friday	\$150 buy-in	10,000 chips	20 minute levels
7:00pm Saturday	\$150 buy-in	10,000 chips	20 minute levels
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NUTZ POKER LEAGUE



Pat Pierce eliminates Scott Long!

Here are the league's recent winners.

- Brandon Matina took down the monthly championship at the Cop Shop, winning a bracelet and a trip to Las Vegas.

- Rachel Hitterman won the October Iron Man Competition, taking home a trophy and a \$50 gift card.

- Debbie Matula won the October Pointz Race and a \$100 gift card.

- Rich Geiger captured the one-year anniversary bash by beating more than 150 players to win a Sony Dash.

In the event, Pat Pierce knocked out *Ante Up's* Scott Long to capture a WSOP poker set.

- Joe Portillo won the semi-annual grand championship at Buffalo Wild Wings in Trinity.

He outlasted a field of more than 100 players to win a trip to Vegas and a \$1,500 WSOP seat.

- Stephanie Lloyd won the Bullseye Saloon Kick-off, taking home a mini laptop.



Matina



Hitterman



Matula



Geiger



Portillo



Lloyd

CHIP ANA CHAIR



Chuck Kirby won a \$500 gift card at the fall quarterly event. He was followed by Jean Eisenwinter, Elizabeth G., Dave Helyer, Matt Miller, Terry Graham, Michael Cronin, Kathy Blahna, Amanda Sheley and Patty Grimes.

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JAX HOSTS 2ND TELEVISED CHAD BROWN EVENT

The Jacksonville Poker Room at Orange Park Kennel Club will host its second annual Chad Brown Poker Series from Jan. 21-Feb. 1, including a \$5,000 buy-in main event that will be televised to 20 million households.

Chad Brown Poker Series

- Jan. 21: \$130+\$20 satellite, 7 p.m.
 - Jan. 22: \$200+\$25 Mega Stack, 1
 - Jan. 22: \$120+\$30 HHPT, 3
 - Jan. 23: \$500+\$50 satellite, 1
 - Jan. 24: \$28+\$7 satellite, 1
 - Jan. 24: \$105+\$20 bounty, 7
 - Jan. 25: \$500+\$50 satellite, 1
 - Jan. 25: \$100+\$20 PLO/8, 7
 - Jan. 27: \$200+\$25 PLO, 1
 - Jan. 27: \$500+\$50 satellite, 7
 - Jan. 28: \$4,630+\$370 Main Event, 1
 - Jan. 31: \$200+\$25 Mega Stack, 4
- \$150 and \$550 satellites offered daily*

The Chad Brown Poker Series is built around PokerStars' superstar Chad Brown, who designed the structure for the \$5,000 main event. This will equal the richest buy-in for a Florida tournament. Last year's \$880 televised main event attracted 213 players.

The series features seven events, including a \$150 High Heels Poker Tour event, a \$120 pot-limit Omaha/8 event and a \$225 pot-limit Omaha event. Satellites, which range from \$65-\$550, began in December and will run through Jan. 27.

But the highlight is the \$5,000 Chad Brown No-Limit Texas Hold'em Championship, which will start players with 30,000 units with 60-minute levels on each of the two Day 1s (Jan. 28-29), and 75-minute levels for the rest of the event. The final table begins at 1 p.m. on Feb. 1.

Ante Up and Fallah Productions will produce televised coverage of the event, including one-hour broadcasts of a featured table and the final table on several networks reaching 20 million households.

Ante Up has secured a \$79 rate for participants who use the promo code "POKER" when booking at the Courtyard Marriott Orange Park, just down the road from the poker room. Call (904) 854-1500. For more information on the event visit www.jaxpokerroom.com.



Poker pro Chad Brown will be on hand again this year to host his televised championship series in Jacksonville.



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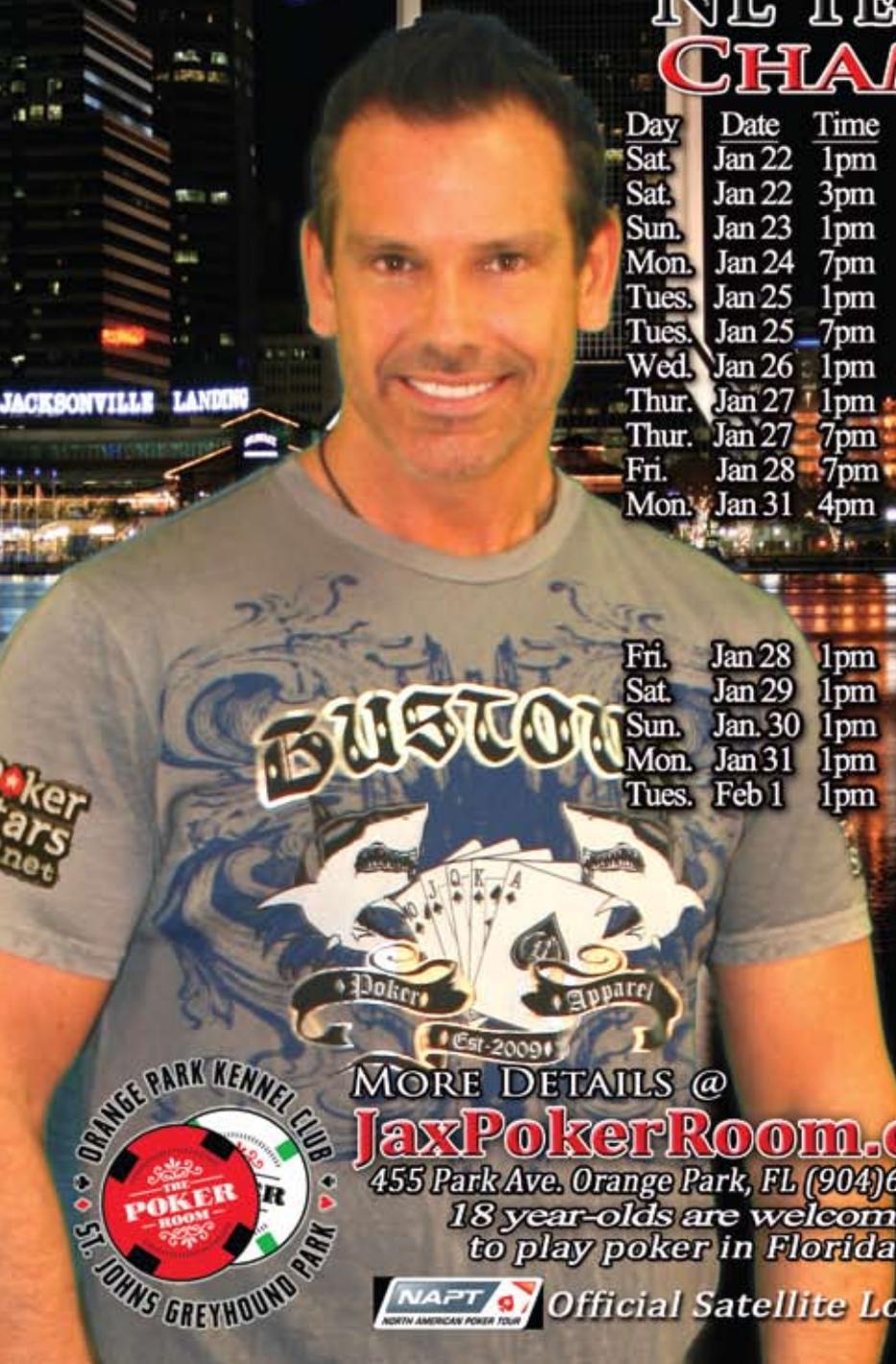
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Sat.	Jan 22	1pm	NLH Mega	\$200+\$25	20,000	30 Min
Sat.	Jan 22	3pm	High Heels	\$120+\$30	10,000	30 Min
Sun.	Jan 23	1pm	CB Satellite	\$500+\$50	20,000	40 Min
Mon.	Jan 24	7pm	Bounty	\$105+\$20	6,000	20 Min
Tues.	Jan 25	1pm	CB Satellite	\$500+\$50	20,000	40 Min
Tues.	Jan 25	7pm	PLO 8orB	\$100+\$20	6,000	20 Min
Wed.	Jan 26	1pm	NLH Mega	\$300+\$30	20,000	40 Min
Thur.	Jan 27	1pm	PLO High	\$200+\$25	20,000	30 Min
Thur.	Jan 27	7pm	CB Satellite	\$500+\$50	10,000	30 Min
Fri.	Jan 28	7pm	CB Satellite	\$500+\$50	10,000	30 Min
Mon.	Jan 31	4pm	NLH Mega	\$200+\$25	20,000	30 Min

\$5,000 Main Event

Fri.	Jan 28	1pm	DAY 1A	\$4,750 + \$250	30,000	60 Min
Sat.	Jan 29	1pm	DAY 1B	\$4,750 + \$250	30,000	60 Min
Sun.	Jan 30	1pm	DAY 2			75 Min
Mon.	Jan 31	1pm	DAY 3			75 Min
Tues.	Feb 1	1pm	FINAL DAY	TELEVISED		75 Min

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If the rest of the world doesn't know Florida has uncapped poker, they will very soon.

Not long after the Seminole Tribe announced a deal to bring a World Poker Tour event to its Hard Rock property in Hollywood (and a smaller regional event in November), the World Series of Poker awarded a circuit stop to Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach that will run Feb. 17-March 1.



SCOTT LONG

"This is a huge step. This is the first non-casino (to host a circuit event)," Noah Carbone, the room's director of poker operations, said. "The racing adds a special twist to it."

It's also just the third circuit location that isn't owned by the newly named Caesars Entertainment, no doubt an easy decision since the company doesn't own a property in the poker-crazed state.

"We're up against a lot of other casinos, but the weather in Florida in February trumped it," Carbone said.

And the credit for landing the event, which attracts large crowds everywhere it's held, goes to advance planning by Carbone and his staff.

"Back in April and May, we said, 'What do we need to do to take the bull by the horns before the limits change?'" Carbone said. "We wanted one of the big tours, so we put out some feelers."

Jimmy Sommerfield, who runs many of the circuit events, will run Palm Beach's, too, in conjunction with the kennel club's tournament staff. The circuit schedule is consistent at every stop, with the exception of two events that the host location can choose. Palm Beach went with H.O.R.S.E. and Omaha/8, both ring events with \$345 buy-ins.

Aside from the normal challenges with running an event of this scale for the first time, PBKC has some unique hurdles to clear. It's the first circuit event with no hotel on site, so the staff has secured deals at three local hotels to give players a variety of lodging options. And the state doesn't allow for temporary tournament tables, so the event will be contained to the fortunately generous 60 tables that Palm Beach has plus two to three that will be added permanently in a new final table area that will overlook the racing track.

That will give the room a capacity of 500 entries per day, plus alternates, and the larger events can have multiple Day 1s. The room is projecting 6,000 total tournament entries.

Single-table and multitable satellites begin Jan. 1 and run through the event, and all will award buy-in chips that can be used toward any event or future satellites.

"If anybody plays tournaments, this is going to be the place to be," Carbone said. "There's going to be nonstop tournament action."



Double Bonus Hold'em

Before the limits changed in Florida, a handful of poker rooms found a creative way to deal a version of Three Card Poker, one of the most popular table games in most casinos. By using their jackpot fund to provide the big payouts common to the game, the game didn't require the house to bank it and thereby was a legal, if not entirely exciting, version of the real thing.

World Series of Poker circuit

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB

Feb. 17-March 1

Ring events

Feb. 17-18: \$300+\$45 no-limit hold'em re-entry (two Day 1s)

Feb. 19: \$500+\$55 NLHE

Feb. 20: \$300+\$45 NLHE

Feb. 21: \$300+\$45 NLHE

Feb. 22: \$300+\$45 H.O.R.S.E

Feb. 23: \$300+\$45 Omaha/8

Feb. 24-25: \$500+\$55 No-Limit Hold'em (two Day 1s)

Feb. 26: \$1,000+\$80 No-Limit Hold'em

Feb. 27: \$1,500+\$100 Championship Event

Feb. 28: \$300+\$45 No-Limit Hold'em

• All events begin at 11 a.m., except the championship (4 p.m.)
\$200+\$35 non-ring NLHE events at 6 p.m. every day from

Feb. 17-27

Feb. 28: \$100+\$25 ladies event at 6 p.m. (non-ring event)

Feb. 26: \$200+\$35 mega satellite at 4 p.m.

Feb. 26: \$300+\$45 mega satellite at 7 p.m.

The game never really caught on in most rooms, and with caps on poker in Florida lifted in July, there's little reason to get that creative with game design these days, unless you're in a hyper-competitive market that includes a behemoth Hard Rock, which can offer house-banked games.

Enter Double Bonus Hold'em, a new offering at Mardi Gras Casino in the poker pressure-cooker that is South Florida.

Played on a blackjack-like table, it has all the appearances of a traditional table game, but like the Three Card Poker variation, it uses the jackpot fund to provide payouts from everything from pairs to royal flushes. Players put up \$5 a hand, with \$4 of it going to the jackpot, and play out a traditional hand of Texas Hold'em against a maximum of six opponents.

The game, created by Titan Gaming, is exclusive to Mardi Gras in South Florida for six months and in Broward County for a year.

Another Big Game

As soon as July 1 hit, many Florida players wondered how big the games would get and what rooms would corner that nosebleed action. Very quickly, regular \$10-\$25 no-limit games broke out in the Tampa Bay and South Florida areas. Now, Daytona Beach Kennel Club in northwest Florida is in the big-game business, too.

In November, the room hosted a \$25-\$50 no-limit hold'em game with nine players, three of them new to the room. Minimum buy-in was \$10,000, but most bought in for more. The game generated a five-player wait list, and they were expecting two tables for the December game. This kind of interest likely will spark DBKC to build a private poker room at the end of its existing room for \$25-\$50 and \$10-\$25 NLHE games.

— Email scott@anteupmagazine.com with questions or comments.

"This is a huge step. This is the first non-casino (to host a circuit event)." — Noah Carbone

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A look at the Louisiana-area poker scene • By Scotty Rushing

WILLIAMS TO CONTINUE HORSESHOE LEGACY

When Dennis Jones vacated his position as poker room manager of the Horseshoe Casino in Bossier City he left behind a pair of proverbial big shoes to fill. Jones, who has served as an assistant tournament director for the WSOP, is widely respected in the poker industry. The unenviable job of filling those shoes falls on Shaun Williams, a Shreveport/Bossier City native and long-time employee of the Horseshoe. Williams is a 42-year-old self-described Air Force brat with strong ties to the community. His wife is a local school teacher, and they have two children.



SCOTTY RUSHING

“I’ve been here since the Horseshoe opened in 1994,” Williams said from inside the poker room. “I started as a dealer and worked my way up from there into a managerial position supervising table games.”

While his experience with the Horseshoe’s Casino operations is vast, the Louisiana Tech grad readily admits he has little experience with poker.

“I don’t have a poker background, but I think having had Dennis here will make the transition easier. We’re not going to change anything. Dennis ran a very successful poker room and I intend to follow his example.”

Williams said he’s aware of the Horseshoe’s legacy when it comes to poker and of the significance of the WSOP brand.

“It’s a lot of history, and you have to be respectful of that,” he said. “I’m very conscious of what the Horseshoe means to poker and vice versa.”

As manager, Williams will be responsible for overseeing the twice-monthly WSOP main event satellites, which attract local players as well as shippers from Texas and Oklahoma.

“Those will definitely continue throughout the rest of the year and again in the spring.”

Assisting Williams in his duties will be a group of three young guns. Joe Hays, Danny Tafoya and Jason Williams will serve as his eyes and ears on the floor. Naming them as supervisors is yet another tip of the hat to Jones, who mentored them during his tenure. These young men form the core of an experienced poker staff, including many dealers who were there when the first card fell.

“At this moment,” dealer Howard Levine said, “every dealer on the floor except one has been here since Day 1. It’s like a family. There are bound to be disagreements from time to time, but working together for this long helps things to run smoothly.”

While Williams is confident in the way the Horseshoe runs its Bossier City room, he’s quick to point out there’s always room for improvement.

“I would love to see us host a WSOP circuit event here in the near future,” he said. “The problem in the past has been a lack of space, but I am suggesting we could host the event in the Riverdome (the Horseshoe’s on-site entertainment venue). I would like to have more space and more amenities, but the priority will always be to appreciate our poker players and treat them with respect. Dennis Jones knew what players wanted and he gave it to them. We’re going to do the same.”

The economic downturn did not leave the local poker scene untouched (neighboring Boomtown recently abandoned its poker room in favor of electronic house games such as blackjack) but Hays said Williams’ team has found ways to maintain a healthy level of interest to keep drawing players to the room.

“We spread a good variety of games,” Hays said. “On the



weekend we spread a \$20-\$40 limit hold’em game that draws players from out of town. We also offer pot-limit Omaha if the players are here and want to play. No one else is doing that locally. Our regular promotions, like Splash the Cash and Aces Cracked, are also very popular.”

Hays longs to see the economy improve and 24-hour action return to the poker room.

“I would like to see us be able to run multiple games 24 hours each day, but there isn’t much we can do about the economy. I think we will get there when things turn around. And things will turn around. They always do.”

When asked about what the possible legalization of online poker would mean to brick-and-mortar poker rooms, Williams and Hays were quick to offer an opinion.

“Certain players will always prefer live poker as opposed to online,” Williams said. “There are just certain nuances that can’t be replicated online, like the ability to observe and read a player. I think online poker is good, and I certainly think that the Horseshoe and the WSOP will be involved in some way if it is legalized, but I just don’t see much of an impact where live poker is concerned.”

“There are certain advantages to playing in a live room,” Hays said. “The biggest one is that a player can come in here, win a sizable amount of money and receive an instant cashout. The player doesn’t have to wait for their money and there is no limit on how much they can cash. We have one player here who plays online and the most he can withdraw at one time is \$5,000. That’s not the case in a live room. If you win \$20,000 you can go straight to the cage and leave with your money.”

As our visit came to an end I couldn’t help but notice Jones had stopped by to say hello. The respected mentor still keeps in touch with Williams and crew. The smile on Jones’ face says it all: Shaun Williams has the Horseshoe Poker Room in Bossier City on the right track.

— **Scotty “The Spokesman” Rushing is a poker professional and sports journalist. When he isn’t playing or writing about poker he’s usually reading about it. Email him at scottyrushing@gmail.com.**



FALL SHOWDOWN



NOV. 14-21 • MOHEGAN SUN • UNCASVILLE

CONNECTICUT

There was no official Player of the Series, but if there were it might go to Christopher Cristillo of Nantucket, Mass., who made three final tables, including a chopped victory in Event 19.

Event #1 • \$235 NLHE

Entries: 513 • Prize Pool: \$90,026

1. Ralph Macri, Redding, CT, \$11,000
2. Tim Lahey, Waterbury, CT, \$4,360
3. Victor Paulino, Boston, MA, \$4,360
4. David Phelan, E.Haven, CT, \$4,360
5. John Cyr, Brooklyn, MA, \$4,360
6. Gerald Kalish, Wilbraham, MA, \$4,360
7. Hoa Quach Thai, Brockton, MA, \$4,360
8. Christopher Cristillo, Nantucket, MA, \$4,360
9. Matthew Burbridge, Attleboro, MA, \$4,360
10. Karlene Murray White, Queens, NY, \$4,360

Event #2 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 56 • Prize Pool: \$10,864

1. Michael Newbold, Newington, CT, \$3,803
2. Martino Camara, E.Providence, RI, \$2,064
3. Kleovoulos Kamais, Farmington, CT, \$1,412
4. Stuart Baker, Sussex, NJ, \$869
5. Eugene Raymond, Fall River, MA, \$760
6. Robert Marotto, N/A, N/A, \$652
7. Amelia Zeghibe, Prospect, CT, \$543
8. Scott (Tuna) Reynolds, Warwick, RI, \$435
9. Todd Meikle, \$326

Event #4 • \$330 NLHE Bounty

Entries: 40 • Prize Pool: \$7,760

1. John Daly, Norwich, CT, \$2,950
2. Thomas Welch, Salem, CT, \$1,823
3. Theresa Wildes-Cook, Plainfield, CT, \$1,823
4. Graeson Burnette-Peake, Lancaster, PA, \$698

5. Christopher Kirkwood, Boston, MA, \$466

Event #6 • \$440 NLHE

Entries: 106 • Prize Pool: \$41,128

1. James Tinker, New Britain, CT, \$8,523
2. Jose Ivan Montes, Bronx, NY, \$8,500
3. Robert Hoyer, Quincy, MA, \$6,080
4. Angel Pimentel, Bronx, NY, \$3,150
5. Frank Lisenio, Holden, MA, \$3,133
6. Christopher Garrity, \$2,774
7. Danny Barbagallo, Newington, CT, \$1,645
8. Ross Santos, Carver, MA, \$1,234
9. Korte Yeo, Worcester, MA, \$1,028
10. Jeffrey Einsidler, Bedford, NY, \$946

Event #8 • \$550 NLHE

Entries: 165 • Prize Pool: \$80,025

1. Timothy Fisher, Manchester, NH, \$20,000
2. Michael Depasquale, Niantic, CT, \$13,500
3. Marcello Delmonaco, New Haven, CT, \$9,491
4. Rohn Long, Windsor, CT, \$9,491
5. Mark Montanari, \$5,202
6. Thomas Aprea, \$4,001
7. Andrew Badecker, Brooklyn, \$3,201
8. Damon Hilton, Gales Fairy, CT, \$2,401
9. David Green, NY, NY, \$1,921
10. Alan Becker, Stanford, CT, \$1,601

Event #10 • \$340 NLHE

Entries: 142 • Prize Pool: \$41,322

1. Leo Sande, New Haven, CT, \$6,596

2. Alex Cohen, Brookline, NY, \$6,596

3. Raymond Hicks, Pelham, MA, \$4,000
4. Christopher Cristillo, Nantucket, RI, \$4,000
5. Michael Castaldo, Palisades, NY, \$4,000
6. Matthew Sciuto, Brentwood, NH, \$4,000
7. Isaiah Cannata, Ansonia, CT, \$2,000
8. Michael Nye, E. Bridgewater, MA, \$2,000
9. Daniel Yanofski, Essex, NJ, \$2,000
10. Joseph Forte, Mineola, NY, \$2,000

Event #14 • \$330 NLHE

Entries: 80 • Prize Pool: \$24,000

1. Adam Kievman, Manchester, CT, \$1,400
2. Charles Davis, Salem, NH, \$1,400
3. Brian Clarke, \$1,178
4. Kenneth Hofmann, NY, \$1,178
5. Marcus Houed, South Plainfield, NJ, \$1,178
6. Walter Hickey, Ashland, MA, \$1,178
7. Sam Samuelson, Glastonbury, CT, \$1,178
8. Peter Shapiro, \$1,178
9. Rene Charland, S. Windsor, CT, \$1,178
10. Bernard Casanova, Farmingdale, NY, \$1,178

Main Event • \$1,650 NLHE

Entries: 205 • Prize Pool: \$298,275

1. Steven Fiorentini, Winchester, MA, \$51,292
2. Michael Quibble, Ledyard, CT, \$38,677
3. Robert Ricciuti, Johnston, RI, \$37,305
4. Avraham Lipman, Brooklyn, \$33,577
5. Yevgeniy Dobkin, Cambridge, MA, \$29,741
6. Raymond Hicks, Pelham, NH, \$14,914

7. Nikunj Gandhi, Stanford, CT, \$11,931

8. Richard Zisk, Middletown, CT, \$8,948
9. Robert Courtney, Milbury, MA, \$5,966
10. Edwin Spencer, Warwick, RI, \$4,474

Event #19 • \$250 NLHE

Entries: 50 • Prize Pool: \$10,670

1. Christopher Cristillo, Nantucket, MA, \$2,084
2. David Wojciechowski, Whately, MA, \$2,084
3. John Curtis, Staten Island, NY, \$2,084
4. Jeremy Mclean, Bedford Hill, NY, \$1,500
5. Shawn Salvant, Worcester, CT, \$747
6. Charles Davis, Salem, NH, \$640
7. David Phelan, E.Haven, CT, \$534
8. Nicholas Bebel, Worchester, MA, \$427
9. Nicholas Pessolano, Springfield, MA, \$320
10. Michael Powers, Providence, RI, \$250

Event #20 • \$230 NLHE Bounty

Entries: 59 • Prize Pool: \$5,723

1. Ian Campbell, New Haven, CT, \$1,145
2. Brian Lawrynovicz, Ellington, CT, \$1,145
3. Joshua Karp, NY, NY, \$1,144
4. Michael Vance, \$558
5. Michael Castaldo, Palisades, NY, \$472
6. Joseph Ziel, Bronx, NY, \$429
7. Eric Siegel, Melville, NY, \$300
8. Theresa Wildes-Cook, Plainfield, CT, \$272
9. Joshua Bruckner, Hickville, NY, \$528

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A look at the Mississippi-area poker scene

MAGNOLIA FALL CLASSIC

PRESENTED BY ANTE UP • NOV. 15-21 • HORSESHOE CASINO • TUNICA

‘NO CHOP’ THERIAC WINS THE MAIN EVENT

The Magnolia State Fall Classic, which Ante Up sponsored, kicked off at the Horseshoe Tunica on Nov. 15, featuring a series of affordable buy-in deepstack events. Though this tournament was creat-

ed for players who might be looking for an alternative to the larger, more expensive circuit events, in its third year the Magnolia drew crowds of casual players and pros alike.



JENNIFER GAY

No one was entirely sure what to expect in terms of turnout with it being just a few days before Thanksgiving and amidst a sudden rainy cold spell. What they got was seven days of fantastic action, large fields, abundant prize pools and the southern hospitality everyone has come to expect from the Shoe.

The Southern hospitality ran rampant through the playing fields. At the final table of one of the 7 p.m. events, Lowell Hottman of Lawrence, Kan., agreed to an even chop despite his significant chip lead, saying, “We’ve all had such a good time play-



AI Theriac

ing together, why not?”

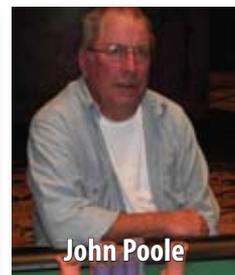
Local pros Bob Talbot, Kenny “Bad Hat” Piel and Mike “White Tiger” Woods all returned from their run at the IP in Biloxi just a few short weeks ago in time to compete against one another in the seniors event. Ultimately, Piel took it down to win \$5,771.

With structures and staffing orchestrated by Horseshoe tournament director Dale Carden and poker room manager Lisa Crompton the tournament series ran seamlessly. The main event, featuring a \$500 buy-in, included a bracelet for the champion and a seat in this month’s Harrah’s Tunica WSOPC event.

Continued on next page



Kevin Linker



John Poole



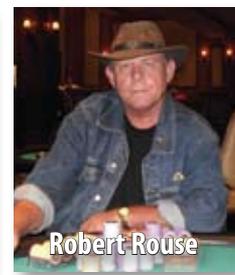
Paul Singleton



Pete Manzanares



Tammy Vuylsteke



Robert Rouse

Main Event • \$550 NLHE

Entries: 113 • Prize Pool: \$54,805

1. AI Theriac, Shreveport, LA, \$19,183
2. Ryan Potter, Southaven, MS, \$13,701
3. Rob Chaney, Crawfordsville, AR, \$7,125
4. Ronald Brown, \$4,384
5. Thang Dang, \$3,562
6. Darrell Murray, \$2,466
7. Ralph Reid, \$1,918
8. Jay Friedman, \$1,370
9. Richard McCrary, \$1,096

MFC Nightly NLHE

Entries: 44 • Prize Pool: \$5,335

1. Shane Barnard, Cordova, TN, \$2,400
2. David Kirksey, \$1,334
3. John Sappenfield, \$800
4. Chun Chen, \$534
5. Samuel Barnhart, \$267

BH/WT Cash Blast

Entries: 38

1. Stan Thorson, Cordova, TN, WSOPC seat

Seniors (40-plus) NLHE

Entries: 85 • Prize Pool: \$16,490

1. Ken Piel, Robinsonville, MS, \$5,771
2. Jeffery Poole, \$4,123
3. Michael Scott, \$2,144

4. Jackie Rutherford, \$1,319

5. Jerry Hall, \$1,072

6. Michael Usselton, \$742

7. George Younger, \$577

8. Bobby Byram, \$412

9. Linda Kennedy, \$330

MFC Nightly • \$160 NLHE

Entries: 55 • Prize Pool: \$6,669

1. Jessie Pyrdom, Memphis, \$2,335

2. Wayne West, \$1,667

3. Mark Thompson, \$867

4. Scott Tilsen, \$534

5. Bert Marcrum, \$433

6. Ronnie Carroll, \$300

7. Charlene Bias, \$233

8. Jeffery Hearn, \$167

9. Kenneth Snyder, \$133

\$340 NLHE

Entries: 73 • Prize Pool: \$21,243

1. Frank Davis, Jacksonville, FL, \$7,434

2. David Rylander, \$5,311

3. James Lockmiller, \$2,762

4. Mark Cooney, \$1,699

5. Happy Nakonewh, \$1,381

6. Richard Hash, \$956

7. Stan Compton, \$744

8. Dale Hinson, \$531

9. Dina Rylander, \$425

Ladies NLHE

Entries: 33 • Prize Pool: \$4,001

1. Tammy Vuylsteke, Hanceville, AL, \$1,801

2. Carolyn Starnes, \$1,000

3. Darlene DeJesus, \$600

4. Elizabeth Blevins, \$400

5. Penny Helton, \$200

MFC Nightly

Entries: 65 • Prize Pool: \$7,881

1. Michael Pelt, Florence, AL, \$2,757

2. Tony Higgins, \$1,970

3. Jeffery Wilson, \$1,025

4. Mason Favazza, \$631

5. Hoyt Lance, \$512

6. JW Smith, \$355

7. Michael Hill, \$276

8. Linda Kennedy, \$197

9. Jerome Jones, \$158

\$230 NLHE

Entries: 91 • Prize Pool: \$17,654

1. Garry Rouse, Gilmer, Texas, \$6,179

2. Bradley Lee, \$4,414

3. Jeffery Barber, \$2,295

4. Stuart Breakstone, \$1,412

5. John Barber, \$1,148

6. William Underhill, \$794

7. John Gilbert, \$618

8. Robert Gregory, \$441

9. Kenneth Sebren, \$353

MFC Nightly • \$150 NLHE

Entries: 39 • Prize Pool: \$4,729

1. Kevin Linker, State University, AR, \$1,467

2. Claude Garrison, \$1,182

3. Kelvin Hall, \$709

4. David Smith, \$473

5. Robert Goodman, \$236

\$230 NLHE

Entries: 82 • Prize Pool: \$15,908

1. Paul Singleton, Dickson, TN, \$5,567

2. Linda Kennedy, \$3,977

3. Luther Lewis, \$2,068

4. Larry Williamson, \$1,273

5. Calvin Kincade, \$1,034

6. Stephen Vuylsteke, \$716

7. William Underhill, \$557

8. William Hinson, \$398

9. Jon McKamie, \$318

MFC Nightly NLHE

Entries: 54 • Prize Pool: \$6,547

1. Pete Manzanares, Broken Arrow, OK, \$2,290

2. Ken Williams, \$1,637

3. James Spaulding, \$851

4. Glen Sovich, \$524

5. Cory Davis, \$426

6. Emmitt Smith, \$295

7. Jennifer Gay, \$229

8. Richard Sanders, \$164

9. Marvin Vining, \$131

\$230 NLHE

Entries: 74 • Prize Pool: \$14,356

1. John Poole, Trinity, AL, \$5,026

2. Shane Barnard, \$3,589

3. Scott Cooper, \$1,866

4. Jerry Hall, \$1,148

5. Jerminie Meekins, \$933

6. Cody Olson, \$646

7. David Mansfield, \$502

8. Stewart Simpkins, \$359

9. Bradley Lee, \$287

MFC Nightly NLHE

Entries: 45 • Prize Pool: \$5,456

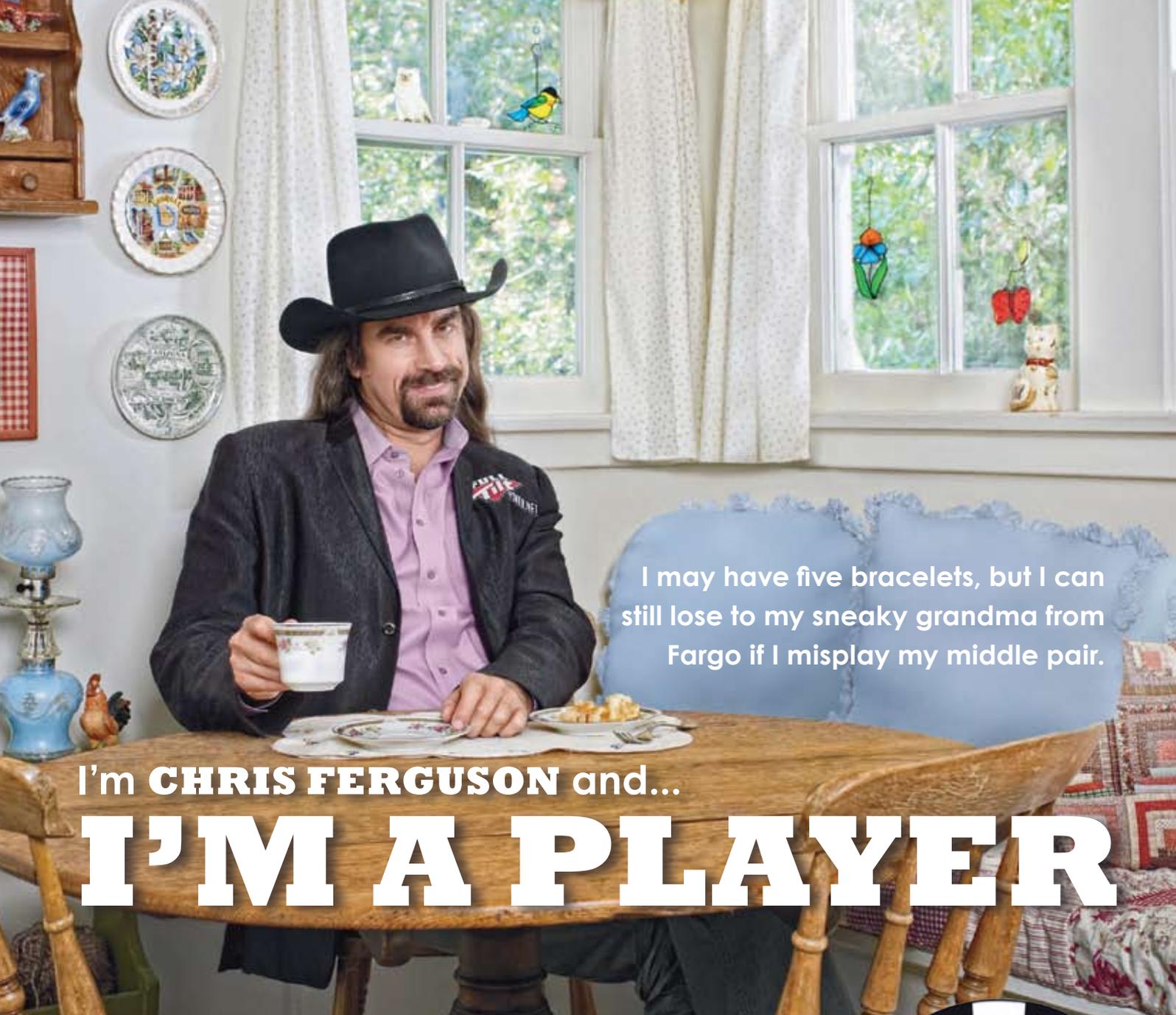
1. Lowell Hottman, Topeka, KS, \$2,455

2. Jeffery Thurn, \$1,364

3. Sam Brackstone, \$818

4. Jennifer Gay, \$546

5. Charles Roberts, \$273



I may have five bracelets, but I can still lose to my sneaky grandma from Fargo if I misplay my middle pair.

I'm **CHRIS FERGUSON** and...

I'M A PLAYER

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JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 15, 2011



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An occasional interview with a local player



Kenny "Bad Hat" Piel is a professional poker player who lives in Tunica, Miss. But to just call him a poker pro is selling him short as Bad Hat is an entrepreneur, an author, a former golf pro and a successful musician. He recently was a guest on the *Ante Up PokerCast*, just before he won the senior event at the Magnolia Classic. Here's a portion of that entertaining interview.

One of the very unique events on the schedule (for the Magnolia Classic) was something you helped create called the Bad Hat White Tiger tournament. Can you tell us a little bit about how that event works? Mike Woods (White Tiger) and I actually came up with the format. It originated with me playing a normal tournament at the Horseshoe in Tunica. A young new player sat next to me and acquired a pretty good-sized stack before what appeared to me as if they moved him to another table. ... Eventually he came back and he was pretty upset. I said, "What are you doing?" And he said, "I went to cash out and they wouldn't give me the money." He took 52,000 in tournament chips up to the cashier and tried to cash out of a \$250 buy-in tournament. He thought he was going to get \$52K.

We had a real good laugh about that and then in our conversation we said, "Well, why can't you cash out? Nobody's done that, why can't you?" So we started working on a format and it took us about four months to develop it to where it would be a plausible fun method to play where everybody would enjoy it and you wouldn't get knocked out right away. You'd still have time to play and the blinds wouldn't go up too fast. So there was a lot to consider.



But we got it all done and we copyrighted the whole thing. ... We license it out to different casinos. Anybody who is interested can contact me at badhatpoker.com.

Speaking of badhatpoker.com, how did you get the idea to create these hats? It was really funny. I was a professional golfer when I started playing poker. That was in 2001 ... and I always wore a golf hat because I had some issues with skin cancer, so I always wore a big-brim hat. I just continued to wear it when I walked into the poker room. What I found was ... people would say "Boy, that's a nice-looking hat ... That's a bad hat! Where'd you get that?" So I didn't want them all looking like me so I told them I bought the last one and they couldn't get one. After a while I had so many inquiries about it ... maybe I oughta be the guy where they can get 'em. So I redesigned the hat, sent the design work off to a manufac-

turer and had them produced.

Your book, *Funny Thing*

About Poker, is a collection of funny stories you've experienced or had relayed to you. You do have that "everyman" look, but did somebody really confuse you with Jerry Yang (who is the subject of our On the Button interview in the back of this issue)? Oh yeah, and the weirdest part was the man was dead serious. He thought I was Jerry Yang because I told him I was. He recognized my jacket. I was wearing a 2007 World Series of Poker (leather) jacket. ... He said, "Where'd you get that jacket?" It says 2007 World Series of Poker right across the top of it. I said, "The World Series." He said, "Did you win that?" I said, "Yeah!" He said, "What event?" I said, "The main event." He goes, "You won the main event?" I said, "Yeah, I'm Jerry Yang." All the other guys at the table are watching this guy going, "Is this guy out of his mind? Does he believe this?"

And the guy says, "Yeah, I know that, we played together before." (laughs) We went on and on and it was unbelievable to me that this guy actually thought I was Jerry Yang.

And the whole story is in the book and it's a lot more detailed than that. ... These are the kinds of things that got me to write the book in the first place. ... We got to the point where we accumulated several stories from T.J. Cloutier, Tom McEvoy and several well-known professional players. ... I thought, boy, I'm gonna put all of these together in a book. It's worked out very well and I'm working on the sequel now called *Another Funny Thing About Poker*.

Continued from previous page

Local favorites Stephen Garrett, Phyllis Milam and Tony Underhill were among the main event's 113 entrants, but after 14 hours only two remained: Ryan Potter of Memphis and Al Theriac of Shreveport, La., who went heads-up for the jewelry, the \$19K first-place prize and the main event seat. After about an hour Potter's pocket eights ran into the pocket jacks and bigger stack of Theriac, sending Potter to the rail with a \$13K paycheck. Theriac was elated.

"I've been playing poker probably four years," Theriac said, "but mostly just in little tournaments. I was just glad to do this for the old folks. I'll be 72 (this month)."

What about retirement? "I'll retire when Doyle Brunson retires, which means never," said Theriac, who said this was the biggest cash of his career. "I gave the money I won to my wife, Delores. She was very

happy. She was there, standing behind me at the final table."

"He's an awesome player," Potter said of Theriac. "Very hard to figure out."

At the beginning of the heads-up battle, talk of a chop circulated through the rail birds. Theriac would have none of that.

"They call me Al 'No Chop' Theriac. I've made a lot of enemies that way, but I don't chop."

As for the bracelet he won? He wears it to his local game at the Horseshoe in Bossier City, La. "It hasn't scared anybody yet," he said. "Everyone here is so proud of me. It really feels good."

WSOPC TUNICA: The Mississippi tournament circuit continues this month as the World Series of Poker circuit stops at Harrah's in Tunica. Supervisor Steve Batewell said the main poker room has expanded to about 30 tables to accommodate the live

action driven by the Jan. 27-Feb. 15 series.

"We're going to use the main event center as our event room, which holds 60 tables," Batewell said. "If we need it, there are 10 tables for overflow in the old Diamond Lounge. It's always extravagant, and though we always have a fantastic tournament, we expect this one to be the biggest we've ever had."

Each day will be a two-day noon event, plus events at 2 and 4 p.m. The three-day main event, which now costs \$1,600 instead of \$5K, begins Feb. 13 at noon.

"We're very excited about this tournament," Batewell said. Poker pro Paul Wasicka won the main event there last year.

— Jennifer Gay is a poker journalist, poker room supervisor and poker player local to the Mid-South region. Her column will focus on the Mississippi-area poker scene. She can be contacted at [facebook.com/aceofjewels](https://www.facebook.com/aceofjewels).

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When people look back at this year's USPC they'll likely only remember Ed Gamaitoni winning the \$5K main event and \$167,616, a fine accomplishment indeed. But what should not be forgotten are the incredible performances leading up to the main event, namely Gordon Eng (three victories, including back-to-back titles), Chris Reslock's five final tables (one victory) and Miami John Cernuto's back-to-back wins in NLHE and stud. Congratulations to all of the winners.



Eng



Reslock



Cernuto

Event #1 • \$400 NLHE

Entries: 159 • Prize Pool: \$55,523

1. Wooyang J. Lin, \$18,879
2. Albert Roh, \$9,440
3. Joseph Iannaci, \$5,554
4. Benny Vanhulle, \$4,443
5. Gregory Donatelli, \$3,332
6. Walter A. Langston, \$2,221
7. Jonah Fliegelman, \$1,666
8. Jere V. Kangas, \$1,389
9. Desmond Gulston, \$1,111
10. Howard E. Wolpher, \$832

Event #2 • \$340 NLHE

Entries: 96 • Prize Pool: \$27,936

1. Dennis Zannoni, \$10,057
2. Thomas Jordan, \$5,587
3. Thea Byock, \$3,073
4. Michael Testa, \$2,375
5. Leidy Goldberger, \$2,095
6. Patrick J. Lynn, \$1,816
7. Fabian Gjerazi, \$1,257
8. Alfie Kaslow, \$978
9. Eric Miller, \$698

Event #3 • \$400 NLHE

Entries: 69 • Prize Pool: \$24,095

1. Gordon Eng, \$8,674
2. Michael N. Damico, \$4,819
3. Chris Reslock, \$2,651
4. Johnathan Vatcher, \$2,048
5. Hamdy Abdalla, \$1,807
6. Wooyang Lin, \$1,566
7. Sean Perry, \$1,084
8. Daniel Brule, \$843
9. Charles Townsend, \$603

Event #4 • \$400 6-max NLHE

Entries: 65 • Prize Pool: \$22,698

1. Gordon Eng, \$8,171
2. Daniel Finlay, \$4,540
3. Hamdy Abdalla, \$2,497
4. Antonio Walker, \$1,929
5. James Deighan, \$1,702
6. Spencer Mensh, \$1,475
7. Guy Cicconi, \$1,021
8. Andrew Difalco, \$795
9. Danny Curca, \$568

Event #5 • \$600 NLHE

Entries: 48 • Prize Pool: \$25,608

1. Fabrizio Sarra, \$11,524
2. Michael T. Noda, \$6,402
3. John Silbernagel, \$3,841
4. Robert M. Pienta, \$2,561
5. Michael D. Moore, \$1,280

Event #6 • \$600 NLHE

Entries: 144 • Prize Pool: \$24,824

1. John Cernuto, \$26,121
2. Sung H. Kim, \$13,061
3. Ronald McDonald, \$7,683
4. Allen Kessler, \$6,146
5. Dzafer Lukolic, \$4,610
6. Eric Panayiotou, \$3,073
7. Tayang L. Wey, \$2,305
8. Joseph Lebrun, \$1,921
9. David Brunetti, \$1,536
10. Hamdy Abdalla, \$1,152

Event #7 • \$600 Stud

Entries: 36 • Prize Pool: \$19,206

1. John Cernuto, \$8,642
2. David Prager, \$4,801
3. Spero Fikaris, \$2,881
4. Steven Brown, \$1,921
5. Chris Reslock, \$961

Event #8 • \$400 Stud/8

Entries: 62 • Prize Pool: \$21,650

1. John E. Womack, \$8,660
2. Bert Twersky, \$4,980
3. Ahmad Gharani, \$2,598
4. Mike Gabarick, \$1,515
5. Jeff Madden, \$1,299
6. Chris Brown, \$1,082
7. Glenn Engelbert, \$866
8. George Kraft Jr., \$650

Event #9 • \$400 Omaha/8

Entries: 93 • Prize Pool: \$32,476

1. Kevin Fowler, \$11,691
2. Thomas Noyes, \$6,495
3. Barry Levy, \$3,572
4. Ray Djangali, \$2,760
5. Sergio Vargas, \$2,436
6. Eric Judge, \$2,111

7. Mark Ashley, \$1,462
8. Michael Block, \$1,137
9. Charles Geier, \$812

Event #10 • \$600 O/8-Stud/8

Entries: 28 • Prize Pool: \$14,938

1. Mohammad Imran, \$6,722
2. Ryan Miller, \$3,734
3. Minh Reslock, \$2,241
4. Carlos Santos, \$1,494
5. Larry Goldstein, \$747

Event #11 • \$600 NLHE

Entries: 72 • Prize Pool: \$38,412

1. Michael Matrone, \$13,828
2. David Schulman, \$7,682
3. Michael Mansfield, \$4,225
4. Michael Sica, \$3,265
5. Jorge Miranda, \$2,880
6. Michael Binder, \$2,496
7. Joon Cho, \$1,728
8. Aziz Wehbey, \$1,344
9. Matthew Hoynowski, \$964

Event #12 \$400 NLHE

Entries: 56 • Prize Pool: \$19,556

1. Tom Dobrilovic, \$7,039
2. Edward Block, \$3,911
3. Brian O'Neill, \$2,151
4. Seth Zimmerman, \$1,662
5. David Hunkus, \$1,466
6. Luigi Santoro, \$1,271
7. Howard Appledorf, \$879
8. Robert Grear, \$684
9. Boris Glikshsteyn, \$493

Event #13 • \$400 PLO/8

Entries: 49 • Prize Pool: \$17,111

1. Chris Reslock, \$7,700
2. Jeffrey Hunter, \$4,278
3. Mohammad Imran, \$2,567
4. Amir Genzel, \$1,711
5. Joseph Astorina, \$855

Event #14 • \$800 NLHE

Entries: 55 • Prize Pool: \$39,479

1. Hung Truong, \$14,212
2. David Wheeler, \$7,896

3. Eugene Bradley, \$4,343
4. James Salters, \$3,356
5. Scott Mataya, \$2,961
6. Timothy Bryan, \$2,566
7. Ira Schwartz, \$1,776
8. Peter Sodano, \$1,382
9. Alfred Adornato, \$987

Event #15 • \$400 NLHE

Entries: 64 • Prize Pool: \$22,349

1. Richard Pyne, \$8,045
2. Jeffrey McNaught, \$4,470
3. Dominic Gaccino, \$2,458
4. James Tarantino, \$1,900
5. Dmitriy Tkachenko, \$1,676
6. Ram Lasker, \$1,453
7. Harry White Jr., \$1,006
8. Gregory Spurdis, \$782
9. Joseph Gay, \$559

Event #16 • \$400 PLO

Entries: 29 • Prize Pool: \$10,127

1. Frank Pugliese, \$4,557
2. Chris Reslock, \$2,532
3. Ernest Vidal, \$1,519
4. Gloria Turner, \$1,013
5. Andrew Krassowski, \$506

Event #17 • \$600 H.O.S.E.

Entries: 15 • Prize Pool: \$8,003

1. James Downend, \$3,601
2. Daniel Hofer, \$2,001
3. Carlos Santos, \$1,201
4. Willard Noyes, \$800
5. Chris Reslock, \$400

Event #18 • \$400 NLHE

Entries: 73 • Prize Pool: \$25,492

1. Gordon Eng, \$9,177
2. Michael Nickerson, \$5,099
3. Harry White Jr., \$2,804
4. Andrew Klein, \$2,167
5. Ronald McDonald, \$1,912
6. Thea Byock, \$1,657
7. Joseph Cramel, \$1,147
8. Desmond Gylston, \$892
9. Jamaal Ford, \$637

Event #19 • \$600 NLHE

Entries: 48 • Prize Pool: \$25,608

1. Joey Weissman, \$11,524
2. Maghgifry Cheikh, \$6,402
3. Wooyang Lin, \$3,841
4. Steven Reese, \$2,561
5. Brandon Guss, \$1,280

Event #20 • \$340 LHE

Entries: 31 • Prize Pool: \$9,021

1. Andrew May, \$4,060
2. Ray Djangali, \$2,255
3. Sal Busacca, \$1,353
4. Charles Townsend, \$902
5. Robert Albrecht, \$451

Event #21 • Seniors

Entries: 52 • Prize Pool: \$15,132

1. Alan Hopkins, \$5,448
2. Edward Wood, \$3,026
3. William Kitzerow, \$1,664
4. James Salters, \$1,286
5. Robert Tinsbloom, \$1,135
6. William Dodds, \$984
7. Marianne Previti, \$681
8. Charles Arthur, \$530
9. Harry Witko, \$378

Event #22 • \$300 Ladies

Entries: 19 • Prize Pool: \$4,844

1. Alida Veliu, \$2,198
2. Maria Kalantzi, \$1,221
3. Margaret Higgins, \$733
4. Dara Duddy, \$488
5. Yee Kitzerow, \$244

Main Event • \$5,250 NLHE

Entries: 96 • Prize Pool: \$465,600

1. Edward Gamaitoni, \$167,616
2. David Gillen, \$93,120
3. Patrick Carron, \$51,216
4. Mike Sica, \$39,576
5. Gerald David, \$34,920
6. David King, \$30,264
7. Trevor Savage, \$20,952
8. Eric Panayiotou, \$16,296
9. Christopher Cappell, \$11,640



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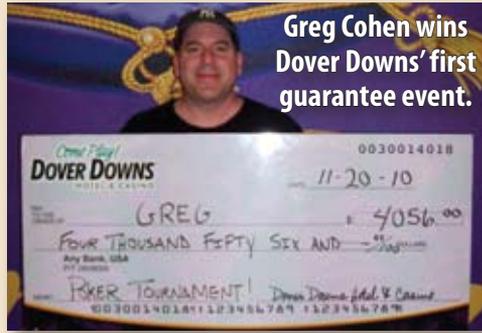
DELAWARE

Players came from at least 10 states to participate in the first guarantee tournament weekend on Nov. 19 at the Crown Royal Poker Room at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino.

"In the last half-hour, more than 150 players registered, which put the total at 206," manager Frank Foti said of the opening \$60 event. "We were thrilled with this high turnout. Those numbers more than doubled the guaranteed pot on Friday and nearly tripled the pot on Saturday."

In the first event, Richard Sacks and Greg Cohen of Rehoboth Beach, Del. were the final two sitting. Cohen pushed all-in with A-8 offsuit and Sacks called with a suited A-3. After seven hours of play, Cohen emerged victorious with the first-place check of \$4,056. Sacks netted \$2,266.

The \$100 event on Nov. 20 drew 141 players as



Greg Cohen wins Dover Downs' first guarantee event.

John Lecato of Bell Haven, Va., won \$4,650 for first place. This month Dover Downs is planning the Delaware State Poker Championship with satellites running right up until the event. For more information check their website on our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine.

NEW JERSEY

BORGATA FALL DEEP STACK SERIES
NOV. 4-15

Event #1 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 266 • Prize Pool: \$53,200

1. Christopher Walker, Elkridge, MD, \$14,449
2. Krzysztof Mochoł, Penndel, PA, \$8,515
3. Sean Sullivan, Sayreville, NJ, \$4,902
4. Andrew Interdonato, Washington, DC, \$3,974
5. Roslyn Quarto, Edison, NJ, \$3,096
6. Kalid Ali, Silver Spring, MD, \$2,580
7. Michael Lamberson, S. Plainfield, NJ, \$2,065
8. Vittorio Faricelli, Maspeth, NY, \$1,549
9. Daniel Reinhardt, Danbury, CT, \$1,033
10. Eduard Barenbaum, Manalapan, NJ, \$671

Event #2 • \$340 NLHE

Entries: 237 • Prize Pool: \$71,100

1. Joseph Alexander, Franklinville, NJ, \$19,311
2. Steven Paone, Staten Island, NY, \$11,380
3. James Lee, Weehawken, NJ, \$6,552
4. Dionysius Bass, Yonkers, NY, \$5,310
5. Paul Fayngersh, Brooklyn, NY, \$4,138
6. Mary Shilale, Summitville, NY, \$3,448
7. Bruce Homan, Millville, NJ, \$2,759
8. Richard Leach, Washington, DC, \$2,069
9. Michael Dentale, Brooklyn, NY, \$1,379
10. Edward Harcarik, Raritan, NJ, \$896

Event #3 • \$450 NLHE

Entries: 232 • Prize Pool: \$92,800

1. Matthew Kupiec, Philadelphia, \$25,204
2. Donn Morrill, Gardner, NY, \$14,853
3. Benjamin Modo, Rosedale, MD, \$8,552
4. David Butkus, Morristown, NJ, \$6,931
5. Kim Findura, Butler, NJ, \$5,401
6. Jeremy Maher, Warren, NJ, \$4,501
7. Daryl Boatwright, Sicklerville, NJ, \$3,601
8. Osiris Torres, New York, NY, \$2,700
9. Paul Georges, Roslyn Heights, NY, \$1,800
10. Wayne Kaufmann, Smithtown, NY, \$1,170

Event #4 • \$560 NLHE

Entries: 325 • Prize Pool: \$162,500

1. Jenny Nguyen, Garden City, NY, \$42,558
2. Vasillios Hrisafinis, Brick, NJ, \$23,644
3. Jia Liu, Brooklyn, NY, \$14,659
4. Victor Paulino, Dedham, MA, \$11,822
5. Hovan Nguyen, Pasadena, MD, \$9,142
6. Michael Dentale, Brooklyn, NY, \$7,724
7. Ian Palomo, New York, NY, \$6,226
8. John Short, Franklinville, NJ, \$4,650
9. Ralph Deangelus, Berlin, MD, \$3,153
10. Alon Shahar, Fresh Meadows, NY, \$2,049

Event #5 • \$200 NLHE

Entries: 118 • Prize Pool: \$20,060

1. Michael Murphy, Wilkes Barre, PA, \$5,838
2. William White, Brick, NJ, \$3,211
3. Aziz Qarghah, Manassas, VA, \$1,849
4. Star Moore, Brooklyn, NY, \$1,557
5. Toby Kasser, Nanuet, NY, \$1,168
6. Thomas Mullen, Washington, DC, \$973
7. John Patrick Creed, Lorton, VA, \$778
8. Robert Parker, Staten Island, NY, \$584
9. Syed Dib, Brooklyn, NY, \$438
10. Daniel Fried, Brooklyn, NY, \$389

Main Event • \$1,100 NLHE

Entries: 317 • Prize Pool: \$317,000

1. Eric Wasserson, Narberth, PA, \$97,165
2. Yat Cheng, Charlotte, NC, \$53,981
3. David Solomon, Plainview, NY, \$33,468
4. James Burnett, Pasadena, MD, \$26,990
5. James Salters, W Hempstead, NY, \$20,872
6. Peter Ippolito, E Meadow, NY, \$17,634
7. Brian Balamuckl, Branchburg, NJ, \$14,215
8. Michael Buttacavoli, Ventnor, NJ, \$10,617
9. Antonio Walker, Willingboro, NJ, \$7,198
10. Philip Neiman, Flushing, NY, \$4,678

GEORGIA

The Atlanta Poker Club held its fall season All-Star tournament Nov. 14 at Zuffly's Place in Atlanta, drawing 63 players to the league's most prestigious event.



Atlanta's Sonya Miller, who has played with APC since September 2009, bested the field to win \$250, a custom silver card guard, the All-Star trophy and entry into the yearly and grand championships.

Miller said she's been playing hold'em since 2005 when she learned the game in college. She says Annette Obrestad, the youngest player to win a World Series of Poker bracelet (she was a day away from 19 when she won the 2007 WSOP Europe main event), is her favorite player.

"Annette taught herself to play online before she played live," Miller said. "She impresses me with her position play."

Since Obrestad has a title, it was about time Miller got one, too, right?

"I needed an accomplishment, and it felt like a huge accomplishment," she said. "I respected everyone I played with in All-Stars. I made the final table for All-Stars in Summer Season '10, and was just excited to be at the final table in two All-Star events, and then to win was great."

ARKANSAS



Henson wasn't even going to play.

In what is being called the most heated battle at a final table since Oaklawn Racing's poker room was created, Jill Henson of Little Rock outplayed Gerald Irvin of Hot Springs (and a 40-player field) to become the Spa City Poker Open champion and the first woman to win a higher stakes tournament at Oaklawn.

"I wasn't even going to come to the tournament," Henson said. "My boyfriend had to make me."

The top two players at the Spa City Poker Open actually met when the poker room opened last year.

"We've been playing together since this place opened," Irvin said. "And we've been friends since. We like to root for each other so that was pretty cool to be the final two. ... She's tough to play against. She's no lightweight player."

"I had no idea how to even play poker when I first came here," she said. "I got good cards the first time and then just kept coming."

Now she has her place among the Oaklawn champions.

"I played against some great competition tonight," she said holding the \$10,000. "I'm glad my boyfriend talked me in to playing."

MISSISSIPPI



The bad-beat winners (along with poker room manger Steve Galle in the jacket and tie).

The Isle Casino Hotel Biloxi's poker room's bad-beat jackpot hit for \$128,104 on Oct. 30. Walter W. was awarded 50 percent (\$64,052) and John G. won 25 percent (\$32,026). The rest of the table was given \$4,575 each.

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ANTE UP POKER TOUR RETURNS THIS MONTH

Walt Strakowski Jr., your time is almost up.

Strakowski, who was player of the year for last year's Ante Up Poker Tour, will have to get back on the road starting this month if he wants to defend his title against thousands of players in *Ante Up's* live tournament series.

Players who finish in the top 10 of any tour stop earn points toward Ante Up's Player of the Year title. The player with the most points at the end of this year's season (which runs Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2011) will be crowned player of the year and win a cover story in *Ante Up*, a featured interview on the *Ante Up PokerCast*, a custom-crafted silver bracelet from Madison Jewelers and other prizes from sponsors to be determined. The rest of the top 10 will receive stories in *Ante Up* and prizes from sponsors to be determined.

The series, limited to Florida in its first year, has been revamped significantly for the 2011 season to put a heavier emphasis on individual events while at the same time allowing for enough events that there's a good variety for players in all of *Ante Up's* expanded coverage area of 25 states.

"Last year's tour was fun, but it's great to get on par with other tours so our players can travel the country for the AUPT," *Ante Up* co-publisher Chris Cosenza said. "Plus this allows all of our readers to have a chance at a coveted title."

Tour stops

We anticipate more than 20 tour stops this year when the schedule is finalized. Here are the confirmed stops:

Jan. 28: Orange Park Kennel Club, \$5K (second annual Chad Brown No-Limit Texas Hold'em Championship)

March 11: Ante Up Poker Cruise Main Event, \$350

Sept. 1: Ante Up Poker Cruise Main Event, \$350

Dec. 16: Ante Up Poker Cruise Main Event, \$350

The scoring system has been changed this year as well. A formula will determine how many points each of the top 10 in a particular event receive, taking into account the event's buy-in and number of entrants.

"The new formula should balance out the players who play several events with those who play fewer, though arguably more challenging, events, ones with bigger buy-ins and larger fields," Scott Long, *Ante Up's* other publisher said.

This year's schedule will continue to evolve as the year goes on, so look for updates on new tour stops in each month's *Ante Up*. Standings will be updated after each event at www.anteupmagazine.com/tour.

PENNSYLVANIA



The Meadows' \$575 Hunters Extravaganza tournament saw James Hoy from Carmichaels, Pa., take home \$16,017 and a Kawasaki ATV, besting nearly 90 players.

Hoy, who said he's played poker since he was 12, cashed the day before in the Meadows' deepstack for \$1,050 and parleyed that into this victory.

The runner-up, Tim Berkey from Pittsburgh, says he quit poker for 25 years and just resumed tournament playing a year or two ago. John Alfera finished third.

1. James Hoy, Carmichaels, Pa., \$16,017
2. Timothy Berkey, Pittsburgh, \$8,233
3. John Alfera, Arnold, Pa., \$5,118
4. Michael Aber, Monroeville, Pa., \$3,783
5. Jason Leadingham, Illinois, \$2,448
6. Bruce Kline, Johnstown, Pa., \$2,225
7. Mark King, Pittsburgh, \$2,003
8. Gerard Donahue, Johnstown, Pa., \$1,780
9. Steven Krecny, Washington, Pa., \$1,558
10. Gary Mentro Jr., Friedens, Pa., \$1,335

KENTUCKY

The Poker Players Alliance announced its new grassroots campaign in Kentucky. With more than 16,000 members in Kentucky, two ongoing legal battles over Internet poker and a crucial governor race next year, the PPA of Kentucky believes it's time to grow and be heard in Frankfort.

The PPA, which is better known as a national organization lobbying Congress for poker player rights, will begin localized recruiting and outreach activities in 2011.

Through support of local poker events, meeting local legislators and face-to-face networking with the help of PokerKY.net and the "Geeks On Poker" radio show, the PPA is making every attempt to reach the local poker community. You can keep track of the PPA-KY on Facebook at Poker Players Alliance of Kentucky

KENTUCKY POKER TOUR: Gordon Berg of Louisville took down the tour's Series No. 2 title, earning a seat in the Kentucky State Championship in June.

For the most up to date calendar of local tournaments and free bar leagues visit www.pokerky.com

KENTUCKY BLUE POKER CREW: Here's a look at all of the KBPC's recent winners.

- Chris Applegate, top right, won the October monthly at Friends & Co., taking down a field of 89 players. He won a trophy and entry into the Grand Tournament of Champions, a 24-max \$10K WSOP satellite.
- Adam, middle right, won the October winner's tournament at Eastland Bowling Lanes. He took home \$100.
- Don McCarty won the October tab tournament. He also won entry into the Grand



Tournament of Champions.

• **Jake Thayer** won a monthly event, beating nearly 80 players to win entry into the WSOP satellite.

• Suge won a recent winner's tournament, good for \$100.

• Brittany Little won a tab event and entry into the WSOP satellite.



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REID BILL WOULD HAVE HURT SO MANY

A commentary by Christopher Cosenza

Garth Brooks has a song called *Unanswered Prayers*, and in it he thanks God for not giving him what he had prayed for in the past because if God had, then he wouldn't have what he has now.

The online poker world almost had one of these moments last month. Harry Reid, the Democratic senator from Nevada, very nearly pulled off the Herculean task of getting an online poker regulation bill put to a vote as part of bigger, must-pass legislation during the lame-duck session. It would've answered a lot of poker players' prayers, but as Garth would point out, that's not always such a good thing.

When players heard online poker regulation might actually get introduced there was joy on Fifth Street. But upon further review this bill smelled as fishy as a postflop check from an under-the-gun raiser. Yes, we all want online poker to be regulated; no one likes legally participating in a game that's thought of as an illegal industry. But at what cost, and at who's expense?

For the uninitiated, everything that happens on Capitol Hill comes with a catch. In this case, Mr. Reid nearly snatched an opportunity to pay back his IOUs to MGM Resorts International and Caesars Entertainment for their contributions to a re-election campaign that saw him squeak past Republican challenger Sharron Angle.

And wasn't Reid an opponent of online poker once? Funny what money can do to a politician's views, isn't it? Once the big boys decided they wanted a slice of the Internet pie it suddenly became very important to Reid to get online poker regulated, and regulated just for his interests. But more on that later.

Think back to when the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act was attached to the SAFE Port Act in 2006. Weren't you about as livid as Phil Hellmuth Jr. after getting his kings cracked by 10-7 offsuit? How could these politicians attach something so clearly thoughtless and ineffective to such an important bill at the stroke of midnight during the last session before an extended break? Oh, wait, that's how

politics work. It's disgusting, and it's sad. And that's exactly what Reid was trying to do. The old "good-for-the-geese-good-for-the-gambler" strategy.

But did we really want to win that way? Did we want Nevada's biggest angle-shooter, pardon the pun, to get us regulation the same way online poker was sabotaged in 2006? Reid's biggest mistake was allowing a draft of the bill to be leaked to the media. Once the Republicans got wind of his intentions (namely Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl), Reid's bill had about as much chance of getting attached to any must-pass legislation as hitting a one-outer on the river.

It's no secret that most of the GOP is dead set against online wagering, and the Republicans were smart in 2006 as no one outside of Congress knew the UIGEA was coming. Hell, most of them didn't even know, either. But this time, Reid dropped the ball, and you know what? In the end it was a good thing. Why?

Imagine if your boss walked up to you tomorrow and said, "Hey, you're fired for at least 15 months, possibly three years, but after that you can come back. Oh, and you can't collect unemployment, and there's no company in this entire state that will offer you a job in your field." What would you do? In this economy finding a job is next to impossible, and not every online poker pro can just go to a live casino or cardroom and make a living. Think about how many states don't even have legal live poker and how many players are making a living in those states by playing online. And even for the states that do have casinos, some of these online pros will never find the stakes they need to earn a living.

One state — Washington — banned online poker years ago, and its senator, Margarita Prentice, was so callous toward her suddenly unemployed online poker-playing constituents that she said, "Let them go pump gas." She must be a descendent of Marie Antoinette.

Isn't that what Harry Reid was saying to the thousands of online

Continued on next page

Want to track the big games? Visit these sites

By John Lanier

Tom "durrrr" Dwan was down \$1 million in two days, mostly at the hands of cadillac1944. The biggest confrontation came when cadillac1944 had the button and raised to \$3K. Dwan three-bet to \$9K and cadillac1944 called. The flop came 10♣-8♣-2♦, and Dwan bet \$13K. Cadillac1944 raised to \$57K. Dwan bumped it to \$189K and cadillac1944 made it \$378K. Dwan called all-in for about \$250K.

Both were draw heavy as Dwan exposed the 9♣-5♣-7♥-6♥, and cadillac1944 tabled the A♣-K♣-6♣-9♦. PokerStove says cadillac1944 wins about 60 percent of the time after the flop. They elected to run it twice, and cadillac1944's hand was the winner after each river card, scooping the massive pot worth more than \$550K.

Combined with losing other pots exceeding half-a-million dollars, Dwan ended up in the red nearly \$750K to cadillac1944 over the course of the lengthy session. Dwan also dropped about \$200K in other matches to finish the day stuck nearly \$1 million.

Are you wondering how I know this? Try these sites:

POKERLISTINGS.COM: This site gives you the top 100 players, sorted by day, week or month. It lists games, earners and follows all the ma-

ajor poker sites to some degree, but follows all hold'em and Omaha games on PokerStars and Full Tilt. If you choose more information on a player you'll get a player report on their tendencies and player type (fish, rock, etc.). There's a breakdown of each player's strengths and weaknesses, as well as advice on how they should improve.

POKERTABLERATINGS.COM: This is a site with a bit more scope. You can look up your stats as well as see current high-stakes poker action for free. You can watch specific cash game hands via their poker re-player feature. On the site's main page you'll find a listing of popular player earnings, a poker wall feature, where people post action happening online in real time.

The site also has a number of custom membership-only exclusive tools, including custom leaderboards, a poker buddy list to show if your friends are online; a real-time table-finder to locate the most profitable tables in action, and a profile search to look up player stats.

There are numerous poker forums that list trends and happenings, but these sites provide a very quick way of keeping up with your favorite nosebleed-action players.

— John Lanier plays as "WildHare" on most poker sites.



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\$35 + \$5, No-Limit Hold'em, 20 Min Levels

Tuesday Evening Poker Academy Class Starts at 7pm
Tournament Starts at 8pm. (3,000 Starting Chips)
\$15 + \$5, No-Limit Hold'em, No Rebuys

Wednesday Evenings 8pm. (3,000 Starting Chips)
\$55 + \$5, No-Limit Hold'em, 20 Min Levels

Thursday Evenings Bounty 8pm. (3,000 Starting Chips)
\$65 Prize Pool, \$25 Bounty, \$10 Fee
\$100 Buy-In, No-Limit Hold'em, 20 Min Levels

Saturday Evening Poker Academy Class Starts at 7pm
Tournament Starts at 8pm. (3,000 Starting Chips)
\$15 + \$5, No-Limit Hold'em, No Rebuys

Sunday Afternoon 2pm. (5,000 Starting Chips),
\$90 + \$10, No-Limit Hold'em, 30 Min Levels

Sunday Mega Stack - Last Sunday of every month - 2pm
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30 Min Levels

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Continued from previous page

poker pros by insisting on a 15-month blackout period and countless subsequent obstacles just so his backers could catch up to the Poker-Stars and Full Tilts of the world?

"We 100 percent oppose the 15-month freeze and have fought it every step of the way," Poker Players Alliance executive director John Pappas told *Ante Up*. "It is clear the status quo is not tenable in the long term, so some disruption is understandable; we just think 15 months is quite penal for the players."

Indeed. Who cares if these people suddenly have no means to support themselves, and who cares if those working for online sites lose their jobs for anywhere from 15 months to three years. (In early versions of Reid's bill there was verbiage that said established sites would have to wait an additional two years after the first license was issued to ensure a level playing field.)

And so what if disabled players, who find it difficult to go to a casino, will have no chance to play the game our presidents have played in the White House throughout history? Sorry Indian tribes, no rake for you. But the gaming giants who paved the way for Reid's re-election would be able to eat as much cake as they like.

Did the PPA and the online poker giants want this bill to pass? Sure, but they definitely weren't happy with the way it was written. Now they get a second chance. Yes, talk of online poker legislation may have to be put on the backburner for at least two more years. Yes, anti-gambling right-wingers may now choose to ratchet up the enforcement of the UIGEA to put more heat on payment processors, thus making it that much more difficult to play online. But poker players always find a way. Perhaps this two-year period will give online poker advocates time to come up with a better strategy and a better bill, and it will give America another chance to elect the right politicians with the right attitude and the right pull. And next time, be careful what you pray for, OK? ♠

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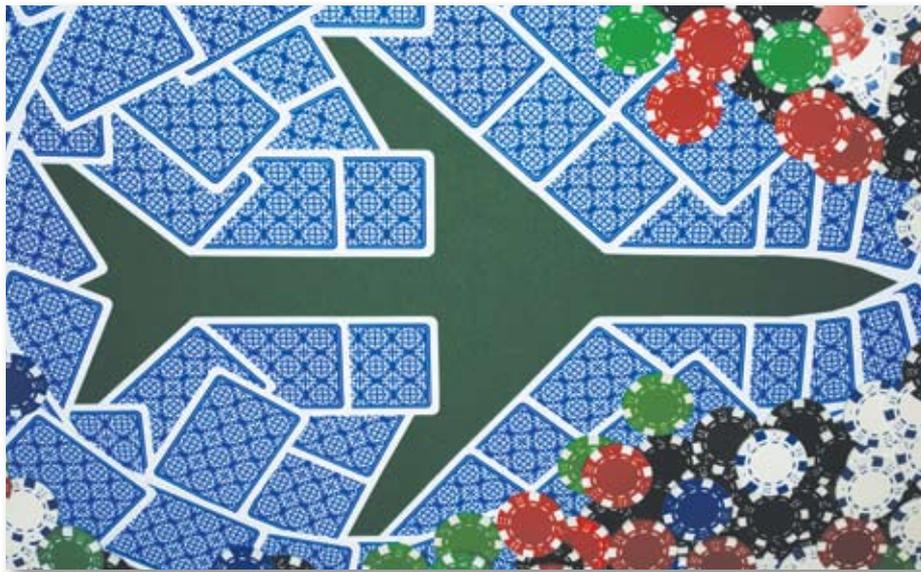
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Have Poker? Will Travel!

With our expansion throughout the eastern United States we'd like to inform you of a few great events coming up this year with our 2011 Ante Up Tournament Travel Guide.

Getting ready to venture outside of your home game or local casinos to play some poker? Well, there's no better time than the present.

First, do what all of us poker pros do and tell your assistant to book a first-class flight, the nicest suite in the best hotel, set up tee times with local pros and celebrities and, of course, line up a few meals at the five-star restaurants near the casinos where you'll be playing.

Yeah right! Maybe for a few of those who've been on TV from Day 1 of the poker boom and have marketing behind them bigger than Microsoft!

For the rest of us, book your travel as you would for any trip, but be sure to call the casinos (if they have a hotel) and ask about poker rates. Many will have good discounted rates, especially if you're going there for a tournament series. Once you're at the casino, get a players card before you even step foot in the poker room. You'll need the card to register for any tournaments, but you also want to be sure to use the card when you're playing cash games.

Depending on how they do things where you are playing, you will want to give the floor person your card or to the dealer at the table to make sure you are "swiped in" at the beginning of your session.

Most poker rooms reward you with comp dollars based on the time you spend playing. And while it won't amount the level of comps you can get donating your money at the blackjack or craps tables, you also won't be donking that money away to the casino along the way, and hopefully not to the other poker players. Those comps can really add up and save you a bunch of money if you're logging some serious

hours at the tables. So be sure to take advantage of the players card and cut some of the damage off your hotel bill.

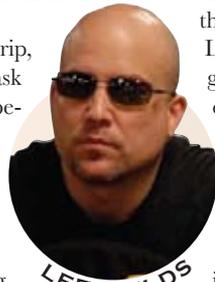
I travel to play poker a lot, and people often ask me about the best places to eat and things to do. If you are in a place like Las Vegas, obviously the choices are basically endless. However, whether it's Vegas, Mississippi, Florida, or West "By God" Virginia, find out where the locals (or frequent visitors) go to eat, and to have a good time.

Last summer, just before my family and I headed to Vegas for the World Series, I read an article by Linda Johnson, the First Lady of Poker. It was about where the locals go to eat in Vegas, and when Linda talks, people listen. We went to several of those places multiple times over the course of the summer and I have the waistline to prove it.

Find some recreational things to do if you have the time. If you're planning a trip of a week or more or simply going someplace you've never been, take in some of the sites and attractions. In fact, this may be the my most important piece of advice: Whether you play poker for a living or get to take a long weekend to go play, be sure to take in some sites and culture so you have more to bring home in your memories than a bunch of poker hands.

Lastly, if you're not sure how to find out all of this information, make use of the social networking sites at your disposal. Send out a tweet and/or Facebook post and soak in the information. You just might be surprised at who might respond and give you the perfect nuggets of information to make your poker trip the best ever.

— Lee Childs, the founder of Acumen Poker, travels the country as a poker pro.





POKERSTARS



PokerStars is finalizing its 2011 North American Poker Tour schedule, but the first event will be the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas Jan. 7-16. Dozens of events are planned at the PCA, culminating with a \$10,300 main event with a maximum 1,600 players. PokerStars has two LAPT (Latin American Poker Tour) events planned already — LAPT Lima April 6-10 and LAPT Rosario June 1-5, both of which feature \$2,500 main event buy-ins. PokerStars also plans three EPT (European Poker Tour) events in 2011, with main event buy-ins ranging from 3,750 euros to 5,300 euros. www.pokerstars.com

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ORANGE PARK (FLA.) KENNEL CLUB

The Jacksonville Poker Room at Orange Park Kennel Club is proud to present the second annual Chad Brown No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Championship Jan. 28-Feb. 1. The buy-in is \$5,000 and will attract players from across the country with a structure designed by Chad: 30,000 in chips, 60-minute day-one blinds moving up to 75 minutes for the remainder.

The championship will be preceded by a week of special events, including \$225 Mega-Stacks and a \$150 High Heels Poker Tour. All players will receive unique North Florida hospitality, including a pre-tournament reception, gift bags, complimentary tournament buffets and access to North Florida's renowned amenities such as world-class golf. It is the second year that the event will be nationally televised to an audience of more than 20-million available viewers on Comcast SportsNet, Bright House Sports Network, Cox Cable and online at PokerStars.net. The programs will be produced by Fallah Productions, with commentary from *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza and Scott Long. Jacksonville's Poker Rooms at Orange Park and St. Johns' 2011 schedules include World Series of Poker and North American Poker Tour satellites, the North Florida Classic and the North Florida Poker Tour. www.JaxPokerRoom.com

ANTE UP SCRAMBLE IN THE SAND, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Ante Up is proud to offer a unique, exciting tournament paradise event in 2011. Hosted at the luxurious all-inclusive Hard Rock Punta Cana resort in the Dominican Republic April 6-10, the event features 10 four-player teams in a series of single-table tournaments that culminate with a heads-up championship bracket. The unique format offers prize money every step of the event, but by playing their cards



ISLE CASINO POMPAÑO PARK, FLA.

Isle Casino Racing Pompano Park's poker room is known as South Florida's favorite amongst the local dedicated poker players. The Isle proved this by receiving four Reader's Choice Ante Up awards in the categories of tournaments, cash games, promotions and staff. They host several large successful tournaments each year, including the upcoming \$500,000 Isle Poker Classic. The tournament consists of six events, five guarantees and runs Jan. 14-24 with a final guarantee of \$250,000.

Mike Smith, director of poker for the Isle, said, "Last year's Isle Poker Classic had the highest turnout with 225 players. We expect even a better turnout this year." The Isle is also hosting its third annual \$1,000,000 Battle at the Beach tournament, which will be the largest tournament to date for the Isle. The \$1,000,000 Battle at the Beach will run April 6-26. www.theislepompanopark.com



MARDI GRAS (FLA.) CASINO

The Best Poker Room in South Florida Just Keeps Getting Better! Talk about playing a hot hand: The Big Easy Poker Room in Hallandale Beach's Mardi Gras Casino is on fire. The beautiful poker room at Mardi Gras has upped the marketing ante with three big announcements:

- The introduction of Double Bonus Hold'em
- No-Limit Hold'em Promotions
- FREE Draft Beer, Wine and Well Drinks

Double Bonus Hold'em is the talk of Florida casino players. This is the ONLY table game in Florida that gives 100% payback to the player with multiple bonuses, including a progressive royal flush jackpot. Why limit yourself when it's so easy to find the big game every day? In the Big Easy, our no-limit hold'em lets you play for the big money. No-limit means better action and bigger pots. The place where "it's always a party" now features "The Big Easy Happy Hours." Every Monday through Saturday, we serve cold, free draft beer, wine and well drinks from 5 p.m. until to 8 p.m. and again from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Then every Sunday, come enjoy free draft beer from noon until midnight. Bigger games, new ways to win and all-new Happy Hours. Three new reasons to make Mardi Gras' Big Easy Poker Room your next stop! www.playmardigras.com



CALDER CASINO

Studz Poker Club is the 29-table card room at Calder Casino & Race Course in Miami Gardens, Florida. Conveniently located just off the Florida turnpike, Studz hosts over 60 guaranteed tournaments monthly. Studz is one of Florida's only card rooms to allow tournament players to take advantage of all promotions.

From high hand jackpots to their flopped progressive straight flush payouts, it makes no difference if you are playing cash games or a tournament. Their daily guaranteed tournaments are at 11am and 7pm, and feature buy-ins ranging from \$40 to \$150. The weekly tournament schedule is highlighted by a \$10,000 guaranteed tournament every Saturday at 11am with a \$100 buy-in.

The main event this month will be the \$25,000 guaranteed deep-stack tournament on Sunday, Jan. 23 at noon with a \$225 buy-in.

Additional amenities include tableside food and beverage service, massage service, and parimutuel wagering on live and simulcast Thoroughbred racing. Calder Casino & Race Course is located on South Florida's Miami-Dade/Broward county line, and offers gaming action with over 1,200 slot machines in the Calder Casino, Thoroughbred horse racing during two consecutive meets, and year-round simulcasting. www.calderracecourse.com/poker



DANIA JAI-ALAI, DANIA BEACH, FLA.

Watch for upcoming special tournaments at the Dania Jai-Alai poker room in 2011 starting with the \$40K guarantee Fun-N-Sun Hold'em Tournament on Jan. 29 at noon with a \$250 buy-in. Tickets may be purchased any time at the cashier cage. Our \$40K guaranteed theme tournaments are not only well-structured and reasonably priced, they're also lots of fun. Play satellites to win your ticket to the \$40K tournament (\$30 for one ticket, \$55 for two). The Fun-N-Sun tournament is a welcome back to the snow birds and everyone, including the staff at Dania Jai-Alai, is welcome to join us wearing their favorite beach clothing.

- Dan Lebatard Celebrity Tournament is once a month on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. is always an exciting night (dates TBD).
- The players' favorite tournament is the \$15K guarantee on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. with a \$105 buy-in and 30-minute levels.
- Daily tournaments at 12:30 and 6:30 p.m., starting with a \$40 buy-in. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., \$40 multi with a \$5 bounty, guaranteed \$1K. Also Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. \$50 freezeout \$1K guarantee. All tournaments are eligible for jackpots and have a guaranteed prize pool. Email poker@betdania.com or call the poker room 954-927-2841 ext. 1414. www.dania-jai-alai.com



TAMPA BAY DOWNS, TAMPA, FLA.

The Silks Poker Room at Tampa Bay Downs offers two tournaments a day (three on Sundays) with buy-ins for all players.

The \$350 monthly gives players 8,000 units (with the optional dealer add-on), and players have multiple opportunities to win tickets into the weekly \$30 satellites for the event.

Other popular events include the "Double Mega Stack" three times a week that give players 20,000 units, and the "Cheap Stack" every Sunday night with a buy-in of just \$20. The Silks also runs numerous special tournament events every month, often hosting High Heels Poker Tour events and many charity events that benefit worthy causes in the Tampa Bay area.

When not playing tournaments, players can enjoy cash games, including a regular \$25-50 no-limit hold'em game. Each day of the week offers different promotions, including \$599 high-hand payouts on Fridays and Saturdays. www.tampabaydowns.com



IMMOKALEE

SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE, FLA.

Seminole Casino Immokalee, where paradise plays! The poker room, winner of the 2009 Ante Up Magazine Reader's Choice as the Best Small Poker Room in Florida offers an exciting gaming experience! Poker players can earn food and beverage comps and extra starting tournament chips for their live raked play. Full schedule of no-limit hold'em and Omaha tournaments, along with private tables, tournaments and all limits are offered.

Qualify for the largest poker tournament in Florida history! \$60 could win you a seat in the \$10,000 televised WPT Hollywood Hard Rock Seminole Showdown. \$60 single-table qualifiers Sunday through Tuesday will get you into our \$530 Super Satellite March 1 or April 12. We are the only WPT-branded poker room in Southwest Florida! The place to play in the Ante Up Poker Tour, too. Join in the action! www.seminoleimmokaleecasino.com



DELAWARE PARK

Looking for tournament poker on the East Coast? Then the Poker Room at Delaware Park is where you want to be, where we host three tournaments daily with the featured event being the \$150 buy-in Saturday night tournament with a \$10,000 guarantee! Morning tournaments (11 a.m. Monday-Friday/noon Saturday-Sunday) are \$65 with 7,500 units and 20-minute levels. Evening tournaments (7 p.m.) are \$65 with 7,500 units and 20-minute levels Sunday-Thursday and \$150 with 10,000 units and 20-minute levels Friday-Saturday. Late-night tournaments (11 p.m.) are \$85 bounty events with 7,500 units and 20-minute levels. If it's cash games you're looking for, we have 45 tables available, so you may be seated in your favorite game. For no-limit hold'em, we offer \$1-2, \$2-5, \$5-10 and higher upon request. For limit hold'em, we offer \$2-4, \$4-8, \$8-16 and higher upon request. Are you looking for something other than hold'em? The Poker Room at Delaware Park consistently runs pot-limit Omaha and Omaha/8. www.DelawarePark.com

HARRINGTON RACEWAY & CASINO, DEL.

Harrington Raceway & Casino is the home of no-ante tournaments. There are no antes ever in tournaments! The schedule features four tournaments every week.

At 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays, the \$60 buy-in gets you 3,000 units. At 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, the \$115 buy-in gets you 8,000 units. All tournaments feature one \$5 add-on for an additional 500 units before the first hand is dealt and one \$60 rebuy up to the first break.

Cash games are available 24/7 and the Bad Beat Jackpot starts at \$70,000 and goes up \$500 every day. In order to qualify you need Aces full of Kings beaten by quads or better and both cards in your hand must play. www.harringtonraceway.com

2011 CALENDAR

CASINO	LOCATION	EVENT	DATE
JANUARY			
PokerStars	Nassau, Bahamas	PokerStars Caribbean Adventure	Jan. 7-16
Isle Pompano Park	Pompano Park, FL	\$500,000 Isle Classic	Jan. 14-24
Isle Lake Charles	Lake Charles, LA	\$15K Mardi Gras Freeroll	Jan. 11-Feb. 19
Orange Park Kennel Club	Orange Park, FL	Chad Brown Poker Series	Jan. 21-Feb. 1
Calder Casino	Miami Lakes, FL	\$25K guarantee deepstack	Jan. 23
Harrah's Tunica	Tunica, MS	World Series of Poker Circuit	Jan. 27-Feb. 15
Dania Jai-Alai	Dania Beach, FL	Fun N Sun Hold'em Tournament	Jan. 29
MARCH			
Seminole Casino, Immokalee	Immokalee, FL	\$530 WPT satellite	March 1
Ante Up	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Ante Up Poker Cruise Main Event	March 7-12
Isle Lake Charles	Lake Charles, LA	Spring Fling	March 17-19
PokerStars	Saalbach-Hinterglemm, Austria	EPT Snowfest	March 20-25
APRIL			
PokerStars	Berlin, Germany	EPT Berlin	April 5-10
Hard Rock Punta Cana	Punta Cana, Dominican Republic	Ante Up Scramble in the Sand	April 6-10
PokerStars	Lima, Peru	LAPT Lima	April 6-10
Seminole Casino, Immokalee	Immokalee, FL	\$530 WPT satellite	April 12
Isle Lake Charles	Lake Charles, LA	Louisiana State Poker Championship	April 25-May 8
Isle Pompano Park	Pompano Park, FL	\$1,000,000 Battle at the Beach	TBA
JUNE			
PokerStars	Rosario, Argentina	LAPT Rosario	June 1-5
AUGUST			
Isle Lake Charles	Lake Charles, LA	Hot Summer Hold'em Series	Aug. 22-28
Ante Up	Port Canaveral, FL	Ante Up Poker Cruise Main Event	Aug. 29-Sept. 2
OCTOBER			
Isle Lake Charles	Lake Charles, LA	Louisiana Fall Poker Classic	Oct. 10-16
DECEMBER			
Isle Lake Charles	Lake Charles, LA	Holiday Hold'em Series	Dec. 5-11
Ante Up	New Orleans, LA	Ante Up Poker Cruise Main Event	Dec. 10-18
EVENTS TO BE SCHEDULED			
Orange Park Kennel Club	Orange Park, FL	North Florida Classic (Spring) and the North Florida Poker Tour (Summer)	
MONTHLY/WEEKLY			
Calder Casino	Miami Gardens, FL	\$25K guarantee deepstack events for \$225	
Dania Jai-Alai	Dania Beach, FL	Dan Le Batard Celebrity event usually the last Wed. of every month	
Delaware Park	Wilmington, DE	21 tournaments a week	
Harrington Raceway & Casino	Harrington, DE	Four tournaments a week	
Mardi Gras Casino	Hallandale Beach, FL	\$15K guarantees	
Tampa Bay Downs	Tampa, FL	\$350 buy-in deepstack is third Sunday of the month	

* Read the Where to Play pages each month in Ante Up for an up-to-date schedule.



ISLE CASINO LAKE CHARLES (LA.)

Isle of Capri Casino Hotel Lake Charles has six big tournament series on tap for 2011, highlighted by its signature Louisiana State Poker Championship April 25-May 8. The Louisiana State Poker Championship features more than \$200,000 in guaranteed prize money over 14 events, six of them bracelet events. Isle of Capri Casino Hotel Lake Charles kicks off its 2011 schedule with the \$15,000 Mardi Gras Freeroll: Men vs. Women from Jan. 11 to Feb. 19. From March 17-19, the Isle of Capri Spring Fling will take place with a \$1,000 buy-in main event. The Hot Summer Hold'em Series features seven days of no-limit hold'em tournaments Aug. 22-28, ending with a \$500 buy-in main event. The Louisiana Fall Classic runs from Oct. 10-16, highlighted by a \$1,000 buy-in main event and \$300 buy-in pot-limit Omaha event. Finally, the Isle of Capri Holiday Hold'em Series Dec. 5-11 features seven days of guaranteed prize pool tournaments, including a \$500 buy-in main event. www.lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com



HARRAH'S TUNICA

The World Series of Poker Circuit events return to Harrah's Tunica Jan. 27-Feb. 15. The eighth stop of the 2010-11 season, the WSOP Circuit events at Harrah's Tunica will consist of nine ring events and offer a variety of poker events ranging from \$100+\$20 buy-ins to \$500+\$55 buy-ins, including no-limit hold'em, Omaha/8, six-handed no-limit hold'em, seniors no-limit hold'em, and the \$1,500+\$100 buy-in Harrah's Tunica Main Event Championship. The Main Event Championship begins Feb. 13 and is a three-day structured event. The winner of the main event will receive a buy-in to the 2011 World Series of Poker in Las Vegas.

"Harrah's Tunica has always been one of the biggest and brightest stops on the circuit," said tournament director Jimmy Sommerfeld. Last year's main event saw Paul Wasicka best 96 poker players including local favorites and more well-known players such as Matt "All in at 420" Stout, Allen Kessler, Tommy Vedes, and Gavin Smith to take home the \$139,000 top prize. Harrah's Tunica is offering special WSOP room rates to players participating in the circuit events. www.harrahtunica.com

Ante Up hosts team tourney in paradise

Ten teams of four players, battling it out in a series of single-table and heads-up matches at one of the most luxurious resorts in the Caribbean for a \$100,000 prize pool, and one team can win it all.

It all happens at the Ante Up Scramble in the Sand April 6-10 at the Hard Rock Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

"We've used this team format at other venues and the players really like it," Scott Long, one of the *Ante Up's* publishers said. "Now being able to do it in paradise makes it the perfect event."

Each team consists of four players, each playing in simultaneous single-table tournaments. The winners of each of the single tables meet in a four-player heads-up bracket, competing to win money for their entire team. The Scramble in the Sand will feature four of these events, and the overall winners will meet again in a final four-player heads-up bracket on the final night where more prize money and the championship title is on the line.

"The problem with most team events that we've seen is there is no way to prevent collusion from teammates," Long said. "This format eliminates that worry, as the only time teammates are at the same table is if they each win their single table and meet heads-up. And that's what makes this event great; if one team wins all four single tables, they win all the money."

The Hard Rock Punta Cana features an eight-table poker room in the middle of one of the largest and most luxurious casinos in the Caribbean, and the resort boasts fantastic guest suites, all of which include Jacuzzi tubs, balconies and stocked bars. All teammates can bring a guest, and the entire group will enjoy complimentary gourmet food, top-shelf liquor, great activities and world-class golf. A golf scramble with a \$1,000 winner-take-all prize also is planned.

Cash games and side tournaments will be available throughout the



entire event.

Adding to the exclusiveness of the event, *Ante Up* is not accepting direct buy-ins. Teams will need to win their way into the event in one of the participating poker rooms in Ante Up's coverage area. Poker room managers wishing to sponsor a team should call Scott Long at (727) 331-4335 for more details or visit www.anteupmagazine.com/scramble.



HIGH HEELS POKER TOUR

High Heels Poker Tour is gearing up for a very busy 2011. With Tournaments stretching across the U.S. and abroad it's going to shape up to be a banner year. The High Heels Poker Tour and Academy are focusing on making sure women in poker are the highlight of 2011 and their impact that they make in the poker market are represented in every aspect of this industry. This year the HHPT will be holding the first ever Ladies World Poker Classic where women from around the world will converge on the Allure of the Seas in September to participate in this inaugural event. So be on the look out for opportunities to qualify and win your way to this event. The schedule so far for 2011 will bring the HHPT to many venues such as

- January: Beau Rivage and Jacksonville Kennel Club
- February: Gold Strike and Tampa Bay Downs
- March: The Bike, Palm Springs Dinah Shore Weekend, The Isle
- April: Northern Quest in Washington, Caesars
- May: Seneca Niagara, Harrah's New Orleans

www.highheelspokertour.com

ANTE UP TOUR, SERIES AND CRUISES

• The Ante Up Poker Tour is *Ante Up's* live tournament series, revamped for its second season. The AUPT designation is granted to several qualifying tournaments throughout the year. There is no additional charge or pre-registration required for AUPT events.

Just play as you normally would, and the top 10 players in each event receive points toward Ante Up's Player of the Year title. The POY wins a cover story in *Ante Up*, a featured interview on the *Ante Up PokerCast*, a custom silver bracelet from Madison Jewelers and other prizes from *Ante Up* sponsors. www.anteupmagazine.com/tour

• Ante Up's online tournament series, the Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (AIPS), is hosted on PokerStars and features monthly small buy-in events in a variety of games. The current season concludes in February, but look for the 2011 schedule in *Ante Up* when it's finalized. www.anteupmagazine/aips

• Each year, *Ante Up* hosts three poker cruises aboard Royal Caribbean cruise ships. Each cruise offers a professionally staffed and equipped poker room in the ship's Conference Center, offering cash games for all levels and four free poker training courses, including one taught by a professional player. All also feature at least three multitable tournaments — \$100 warm-up event, a \$50 main event satellite and a \$350 Ante Up Poker Tour Main Event with a generous structure. Single-table tournaments are offered whenever the rooms is open.

The 2011 schedule includes a five-night cruise in March leaving from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and visiting Jamiaca and Haiti, a four-night cruise in August leaving from Port Canaveral, Fla., making two stops in the Bahamas, and a seven-night cruise in December leaving from New Orleans, La., visiting Mexico, Jamaica and Grand Cayman. www.anteupmagazine.com/cruise

Poker...You bet it's fun!

Now there are more ways to WIN at Pensacola Greyhound Track, Poker and Racing! Come bet the dogs and check out the weekly Texas Hold'em tournaments!



Monday

\$50 buy in tournament starting at 7 pm

Tuesday

7 pm-12 mid Full House or better win your share of over \$2500

Wednesday

\$100 Deep Stack at 7 pm

Thursday

\$50 Super Satellite tournament for chance at \$20K at 7 pm

Friday

\$50 No Hold Limit at 7 pm

Saturday

\$100 Deep Stack

Sunday

\$150 buy in tournament

11 pm Fri & Sat

Tournament Entry Promotion

ENTER IN OUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR TOURNAMENT

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POKER: THERE'S NOTHING LIKE IT!

BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA

Ever noticed how peculiar poker's vernacular is? It's unlike any other sport or competition.



There's poker and a joker, Hoyle and a Doyle, muck, luck and a buck.



Cards are folded, but never creased, and they can be suited and rags at the same time.



A short stack isn't the breakfast special at the coffee shop.



Fish and chips isn't a meal, but you'll be glad when it's served at your table.



Miracles happen in poker all of the time, yet these miracles never make headlines.

When someone hits a gutshot or a belly-buster why does it feel like you've been punched in the stomach?

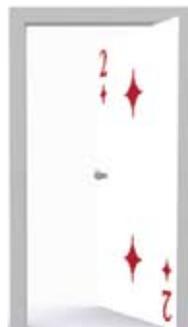


If players don't bet it means they check, yet when they bet they use cheques.



Donkeys are fish (perhaps that's why they're called suckers), and they attract sharks, who actually are sharps.

Paint cards are always dry, yet they make flops wet. Oh, and flops never move.



Married? That's OK, you can still play stud. Speaking of stud, it has plenty of door cards, but only one opens.



Rags and napkins are in abundance, but don't try wiping your mouth with them.

Getting hit in the head with the deck doesn't hurt.

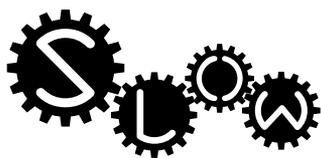


Rainbows have just two colors, but if you play your cards right there's still a pot of gold at the end.



In poker, the button can't fasten anything.

Often you'll have nothing but air, and can never breathe it.



Poker can be played fast or slow while moving at the same speed. And you can change gears without transportation.



Some games have blinds that can see just fine.



Flushes can send your money down the toilet, but you won't be anywhere near a restroom.

Draws can become a suckouts, but suckouts can never be draws.



The juice is sometimes bitter and it definitely can't be drunk.



Runner-runner doesn't mean there's a race, but A-K vs. Q-Q preflop does.

A cooler holds no drinks, but will make you want to order one.



Straddles don't require you to turn your seat around like A.C. Slater.



You're allowed to check dark and bet dark with the lights on.

People SPLASH the pot and dealers WASH the cards, but no one ever gets WET



Aces can be cracked, but the nuts can't.

Jokers are always wild and never funny.



Kill pots won't result in a fatality. ... usually.



Somehow fifth street and the river are the same location. Better have a boat or a full house if you live there.



You can fire a third barrel from under the gun and dodge bullets with no firearms at the table.

Yep, poker is a weird game. Don't you love it?

FROM NOW ON, I PLEAD THE FIFTH

When our forefathers drew up our Bill of Rights they created the Fifth Amendment, which essentially says you're allowed to keep your big yapper shut under any circumstances. You hear it on those TV courtroom dramas all the time, "I plead the Fifth." Perhaps poker players, yours truly included, should've paid more attention in 10th-grade Civics class.



CHRIS COSENZA

A carefully crafted statement at a poker table can induce the desired response (a call or a fold from your opponent), but if you open your mouth and aren't well-versed in table talk, you could very well get the reaction you weren't looking for.

Let's take a look at two hands from our recent Ante Up Poker Cruise aboard the *Monarch of the Seas* en route to the Bahamas.

This first hand comes in a \$1-\$3 no-limit hold'em game. It's six-handed, and after two folds there's a call in the cutoff, a raise to \$10 from the button, who's a competent, yet loose, player. He has everyone at the table covered with about \$400 in front of him.

I looked down at two black 10s with about \$275 in front of me. Normally I might reraise here just to take the pot down because I'd be out of position. But I felt like I might be able to double-through the button player with the right flop, and I thought the raise might be enough to get me heads-up with him. So I just called. Much to my surprise the big blind, from whom I had taken a few pots, called. He was a fairly tight-passive player and was very quiet all afternoon. He had about \$180.

The initial limper folded, so we're three-handed headed to the flop, which was Q-Q-4 rainbow. This seemed like a fairly safe flop for my 10-10, so with about \$30 in the pot I bet \$15. The BB called and the aggressive button folded. So we were heads-up when the 5♣ fell on the turn, putting two clubs on the board.

The pot was about \$60 at this point, and his mere call on the flop had me a little concerned. If he had a hand like Q-J or K-Q, given his penchant for passive play, I think this is how he would've played it. So I checked to see just how strong he was. Perhaps I should've put out a blocking bet, but I really felt like I would get my answer regardless, and why waste \$15-\$25? After all, as Daniel Negreanu once said on our weekly *PokerCast*, "They're just 10s." But the big blind checked.

The river brought a harmless deuce. Like an idiot I checked again thinking we would just table our cards. It really felt like that was the way the hand was going and I'd get some showdown value for my hand. But that's when he woke up and bet \$25 into the \$60 pot. What? Where did that come from? There's no way he had A-3, or 3-6 for that matter. Those hands would've folded preflop, and even if they hadn't, they couldn't have called the postflop bet. Floating just wasn't in his arsenal, especially with the loose-aggressive button still in the hand when a float would have been executed.

Did he really have a queen in his hand? I went into the tank. Yes, it's only \$1-\$3 NLHE and yes, it's only \$25, but regardless of stakes you always need to try to make the best decisions possible at all times. I narrowed his range to three types of hands: any queen, a small pair (sixes through nines) or air. Given the type of player he was I quickly ruled out air. So that left me with a coinflip. I gave nothing away as I contemplated, just sitting there thinking about how the hand played

out. In my mind I was about to fold, and then it happened. The big blind spoke! Here is a guy who said NOTHING all session, and now he pipes up and says, "If you don't have a queen you can't call."

Wow, what does he mean by that? So I started to analyze the hand (and his comment) again. If he had a queen would he really have checked the turn behind me with two clubs and a straight draw (albeit an unlikely one) on board? And if he had a queen would he really tell me I can't call unless I had one, too? Clearly, if I had a queen I would not have checked the turn, and I certainly wouldn't have been in the tank with trip queens. So he must know I don't have a queen, and if he knows that then why is he trying to scare me, or "help" me with some advice?

There is one hand I didn't consider: 4-4. But if he flopped a boat, would he have checked the turn? Maybe, but isn't he hoping I have a queen, and if so wouldn't he bet before the river to protect his underboat?

I deduced his comment was meant to dissuade me from calling and I threw five purple chips in the middle. He turned over 8-8; I showed my 10s and dragged a fairly healthy pot. I said, "I was going to fold until you said that," and he just shrugged.

The next day I was in a \$3-\$6 H.O.R.S.E. game and this hand comes in the razz rotation. I was up a bunch at this point and really enjoying a good session. I had won two of the past three razz hands, showing down a six and a seven, so I felt like people were only seeing strong hands from me.

The door cards on the hand in question were 7-2-10-K-J. I had an ace showing, 3-4 underneath, and I was to the left of the jack. The king brought it in for a buck, the jack folded and I completed to \$3. It folded around to the 10, who called.

The king mucked, and on fourth street my opponent picked up a nine. I got a deuce for four to a wheel. I was first to act and said, "Sorry, I have to bet." He called.

On fifth street he got an eight and I paired my three, only he didn't know that. My board read: A-2-3 and his was 10-9-8. I bet \$6 and said, "I never miss," or something equally cocky and stupid. He called again, which was great because I'm a huge favorite.

On sixth street I actually made trips and he got an ace. He checked to me — since I paired my board he had the best hand showing — and I bet again, and again he called. I suppose I could've checked there but my board was just so strong regardless of the pair that I felt I still had a TON of outs in case he made a nine or eight.

Now I bet in the dark, which was wrong because he obviously still had the best board. The astute dealer pointed this out and I apologized. My opponent checked and I again bet \$6 without looking. He called and I peaked at the K♥, making just a king-low. He showed his 10-low and won a nice pot from me. I chuckled and showed my starters, looking for sympathy, for which I received none.

After we got through the stud/8 rotation I realized dinner was in 30 minutes so I took my nifty little profit and headed for the elevators. In there was my opponent, and I said to him, "Man, how much did I have to bet to get you off that razz hand?" To which he replied, "You wouldn't shut up. I knew you didn't have it."

Touché. I did have any 10-9-8-7-6-5 to beat him, but his point was well-taken, and turns out it's the moral of the story. Our Fifth Amendment is there to protect ourselves from self-incrimination. Perhaps we should start using it more often at the poker table. I know I will.

— Email Chris at chris@anteupmagazine.com.

STRATEGY

JAY HOUSTON • Finding edges

TIGHT SPOT? SHOW ME THE EQUITY

A friend called the other day to ask what I'd do in a certain sit-n-go situation. I didn't think the spot was all that interesting until my friend, who we'll call Derek, acted so surprised by my answer.

Derek absolutely crushes the low-stakes SNGs online, and if he found the information useful then I'm hopeful you will as well.



JAY HOUSTON

It was a 90-player \$12+\$1 turbo knockout SNG. Nine people made the money but there were four players left. The blinds were 2,000-4,000 with a 500 ante and after the blinds were posted, the stacks were roughly the following:

- Derek (Big Blind): 35,000
- Seat 3 (Small Blind): 3,000
- Seat 2 (Button): 2,000
- Seat 1 (Big Stack): 220,000

The under-the-gun big stack raised to 10K and the action folded to Derek in the small blind with A♣K♦. Notice the two short stacks barely have one big blind. What would you do in Derek's situation? Let's break down the options.

OPTION A, MOVE ALL-IN: Seems pretty standard right? A-K and nine big blinds facing a raise? Most people wouldn't even hesitate to choose this as their first answer. Play for the win, right?

OPTION B, FOLD: The two short stacks don't even have one big blind and we can fold our way into second-place money and gamble once we get heads-up.

OPTION C, STOP-AND-GO: Call and if we flop an ace or a king we can shove or check-raise all-in.

You see, A-K loses its value in this situation because Derek's stack size is so small that the big stack should almost never fold if Derek moves all-in. With that being said Derek is usually only a 50-70 percent favorite against the big stack's range. So, best-case scenario, Derek doubles up and only has a slightly better chance of winning the tournament. Worst-case scenario Derek loses a coinflip and goes out of the tournament when he had enormous equity to fold into second place. So I told him I'd fold.

There's a ton of math involved when breaking down the exact edges in shove-fold equity and you can read more about it by looking it up online under "Poker ICM (Independent Chip Model)." But regardless of what you choose to do in these situations, just remember, the goal isn't to win more chips, it's to win more money. So the next time you find yourself in a similar situation, make sure you're making the right decision regarding your overall equity, not just your equity in the hand.

— Jay Houston is an instructor with DeepStacks.com and is a sit-n-go specialist. You can email him at editor@anteupmagazine.com

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LUCK PLAYS A ROLE, YOU JUST NEED TO ACCEPT IT

Luck enters into every contingency and every successful outcome. You would be a fool if you forgot it, and a greater fool if you count solely upon it. Luck is the confluence of time and circumstance.

Our task is to try to figure out how to manage luck. Luck is random and unpredictable, and yet I'm telling you to manage it? Doc must be off his rocker! No, not really, I'm just trying to re-frame how you view luck and how you can use it.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

So, where does that leave us? We already know poker is a game of skill and perception, but it's also a game of luck. How many times have you heard the phrase, "I'd rather be lucky than good," uttered at a poker table? Luck evens out though, and the only way to reach peak performance is to be good. But that doesn't mean you should disregard luck entirely.

I'm not going to advise you to rely on luck because the poker table is the wrong place for luck alone. It may seem counterintuitive, but usually the stakes are not high enough to base the outcome on luck.

As odd as it may sound, playing lucky is a better strategy when the stakes are high and you have little to no control over the outcome. Lotteries, bingo, even roulette are the right venues for luck; there is little skill involved.

Luck, or the perception of luck, however, can be a valuable tool in your poker arsenal, if you take the time to analyze and use it correctly. Tennessee Williams, a great American playwright once said, "Luck is believing you're lucky." This is a very useful idea for the poker player.

Poker requires work, but no doubt luck plays a part; it's just that luck is not controllable. We would all like to be lucky or at least to avoid luck entirely; but since we can't control luck we learn to live with it and develop our skills, including an understanding of chance. Buddha is to have to said, "Being deeply learned and skilled, being well-trained and using well-spoken words; this is good luck." This seems like pretty good advice.

Instead of hoping for luck and engaging in magical thinking you would be better off thinking, "If I develop my poker skills and understand the elements of chance then, and only then, will my poker play prosper and will I have a better chance at peak performance."

Poker is a game of infinite and complex decisions in a somewhat controlled setting. The luck player dreams about reducing the complexity and bringing it down to taking a shot.

The number of decisions made in a poker session probably exceeds those made by most people in a month of work and life. How we make those decisions is not only based on the situation but how we perceive skill, chance and luck.

Don't confuse chance and luck. Chance is not luck. Chance refers to variance and probability. Luck refers to randomness, perception, superstition, etc. But lucky play does happen and the only viable aspect of using luck to your advantage, over the long run, is the perception of luck — your perception and your opponents' perception. You might have a shot at controlling perception of luck without falling prey to counting on luck to win.

No doubt one can get lucky, but the best way to deal with luck is utilizing the perception of being lucky, or your opponents perceiving you to be lucky. Actual luck is uncontrollable. How you and your opponents perceive luck should become another tool in your arsenal.

Chance on the other hand is the weighing of probabilities. Over time the probabilities win, if you play them right. Chance and prob-

ability are figured in an ideal world, but we play in a flawed world. The probability of A-A heads-up is much greater than the probability of A-A winning in a limped pot against six players. Do the math.

Chance is an acknowledgment that there is variance in poker. The chance player understands there are random events that affect the play and makes decisions according to odds and probabilities that they can define. The decisions are how much and when to bet, fold, raise or call. Luck-oriented players ignore these probabilities and rely on attributes of idiosyncratic situations.

A chance player is skilled, relying on math, odds and probabilities. The better comparison would be to pit the chance player, the numbers guy vs. the "feel" guy or the luck player. But as many of you know, I advocate a combination of situational poker and grokking the table — using everything you have to achieve your peak performance.

Luck players play their favorite hands, they rely on superstition and they sometimes win, (especially against me, you might be saying). We call such winning intermittent reinforcement, and it is the strongest kind of reinforcement. It happens randomly and for no reason, so the luck player tries to make sense of it and by making some sense tries to control. Someone plays 9-3 offsuit and wins and then he always plays 9-3 off. Sometimes they win and they start to think this is their lucky hand. When they do hit they are reinforced. Luck plays a factor in the short run only, and the most part we can't control the short run.

However, the perception of luck or superstition can sometimes go a long way to winning.

Research has shown a belief in luck can impact performance. This belief serves a number of functions. It reduces anxiety or stress, it can calm someone down or it can make someone look like a better player. When the deck is hitting you, you might start to play more aggressively, you might intimidate others or your raises and calls might have a greater impact. Believing in their good fortune can help people only in situations where they can affect the outcome. It can't, say, help people watching a horse race on which they've wagered.

So, we can debate whether rushes exist and whether luck exists and the pure math guys will tell you no. But the belief in luck coupled with a strong strategy or game may affect the outcome of the play.

The only real reason to follow a ritual or a superstition is to create a perception or to decrease your stress, to help you stay calm. Decreasing stress and remaining calm increases skill.

I sat next to a guy who was getting hit in the head with the deck. It changed his play. Others sometimes would not challenge his raises, thinking, "He is too lucky for me." The sense that he was getting lucky changed his entire strategy and instead of limping when the bet came to him, he raised. This eliminated many marginal hands and often he won. Was he being lucky or was he playing better because he believed he was being lucky and managed that image at the table, leading others to react to this "luck" aura?

A belief in luck may simply be seen as a positive attitude. When we do anything with a positive attitude we play more toward our peak performance.

Don't become a slave to luck or superstition and don't ignore luck completely. Instead, incorporate your perception of luck into your game to improve it and to take advantage of opponents' perception of your luck; understand probability and develop your skill set; achieve your peak performance and always 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.**

CALL THE FLOOR

Expert advice from poker room managers Jody Russell and Cassie Greene

LAST LIVE CARDS GET THE POT BY DEFAULT

In a \$1-\$2 no-limit game in a Florida poker room, both remaining players checked the river on a board of Q♠-9♠-2♣-2♦-5♥. One player said "nines and twos," but did not show his cards, and the other player mucked without showing. The dealer pushed the pot to the first player. Should the dealer push the pot without seeing the cards? — mcomikey, via anteupmagazine.com/forum

JODY: The dealer pushed the pot to the only player with live cards. There's no need to see the cards here. Completely acceptable in my book, but definitely against house procedure in some rooms.

CASSIE: I agree. It is the player's responsibility to protect his hand. I always wait to see the winning hand for myself before I throw a losing hand away. Once you muck, the other player gets the pot by default.

On the first hand of a new \$3-\$6 limit game in a Minnesota room, I mucked my hand on the turn. On the river, it went check-bet-call. Winning player showed aces full and the other guy folded. I request to see the hand, and the dealer sort of makes me feel like a jerk as he asks the player to expose his cards. Was I a jerk? — Parrothead77, via anteupmagazine.com/forum

JODY: Asking to see someone's cards is taboo to me. I was taught we only ask to see someone's hand if we think there's the possibility of collusion. Don't forget poker was invented by a bunch of guys wearing guns. How do you think people reacted in those days to a player requesting to see a hand? These days people have been taught it's OK to ask out of curiosity. I don't think you were being a jerk; you simply haven't had anyone give you a good reason to not ask.

CASSIE: A lot of players don't realize you're only supposed to ask to see the hand in these situations if you suspect collusion. Some rooms allow anybody to ask to see a called hand for any reason, and the rule is used inappropriately. I think the dealer should call the floor, and the floor should explain the reason for the rule. Usually I will let the player see the hand as a courtesy, then explain that in the future this cannot be done just for curiosity's sake.

I know the rules say the dealer button goes with the small blind, but this always causes an argument in my home game. Here's why: Consider there are three players left in a tournament. Player 1 is the button, Player 2 is the small blind, Player 3 is the big blind. Player 1 gets knocked out. The button moves to Player 2

TDA Rules

Each month Jody Russell will interpret one rule from the TDA.

DECLARATIONS: Cards speak. Verbal declarations as to the content of a player's hand are not binding; however, any player deliberately miscalling his or her hand may be penalized.

JODY: A lot of people have thrown winning hands away because they misread their hand or believed someone else who miscalled a hand.

It's really hard to prove someone has intentionally miscalled their hand, and it's impossible to justify pushing a pot to someone who mucked their hand without showing down. Always show your hand; that's the best policy.

MORE TDA RULES: Go to www.pokertda.com to see all 44 TDA rules.

who was just the small blind, so he should now be the button. Player 3 was just the big blind, so he should be the small blind, so Player 1 on the button has to be the big blind, yes? — Pirate Toot, via email

JODY: That's a very good point, but the problem is 15 hands into heads-up there's going to be an argument about whether the big blind or small blind has the button (especially when there's beer nearby), so we simply give it to the small blind every time. That's Reason 1. The actual reason for this is because giving the button to the small blind forces the button to act first before the flop. Allowing the big blind to have the button is allowing the same player to act last on every betting round, which is an enormous advantage in heads-up play.

CASSIE: This always gets a bit confusing. Here is an easy way to think about it. When you get down to heads-up, the button pays the small blind. The person who paid the highest blind last, gets the button. Player 3 paid the big-blind last hand, so he gets the button.

— Jody Russell and Cassie Greene are veteran poker room managers who also runs the Ante Up Poker Room. Email them at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

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RESOLVE TO BE A BETTER, HEALTHIER PLAYER

It's New Year's resolution time again. Of course, I'm not writing about strategy resolutions like "never min-raise" or "don't go broke in an unraised pot." This is a poker health column, after all, so I've searched through my articles from the past year to come up with 10 practical and useful resolutions to keep you healthy and happy at the poker table.



FRANK TOSCANO M.D.

NO. 10: GET THE SHOT. For the past two months I've dispensed plenty of useful tidbits about this year's upcoming flu season. I promise no more flu advice until next fall. Meanwhile wash your hands, stay home if you're sick and get the shot.

NO. 9: PUT IT OUT. Tobacco is a bad thing. Whether you chew it, dip it, sniff it or roll it up into a little stick, set it on fire and inhale the smoke, it's bad. It causes heart disease, lung disease and half a dozen different cancers. Plus, when you come back to the poker table after your smoke break, you smell bad.

But you know this stuff.

Here's some practical advice and some help: The odds of successfully quitting without some kind of help are about 8 percent, about the same as the chance of hitting a two-outer after the flop. Add Chantix and some support counseling and your odds of success look more like an up-and-down straight draw with two to come. Much better. Worth a shot.

NO. 8: CALL A CAB. If you're hosting a home game, you can drink a few beers and maneuver successfully from your table to your bed. But if you drove to your local cardroom to play, it's much better to abstain completely. You may truly believe you're capable of driving home safely after drinking a few but the legal limit doesn't measure "intoxication," it measures "impairment," which, it turns out, is much lower than you'd think. Don't risk it.

NO. 7: PAY ATTENTION. And while we're on the subject of impaired driving after playing poker, don't text, surf, tweet, e-mail or even converse on the phone while you're driving home. Just drive.

NO. 6: LAY OFF THE ELBOWS. Okay, after all the more serious resolutions, this one may be a little trite, but work with me here. Leaning on your elbows for long sessions live or at your computer desk can cause some problems. One of those fluid-filled sac things could pop up at your elbow or you could even irritate your ulna nerve causing a shooting pain down into your hand. Give your elbows a break. Forearms are better suited for leaning.

NO. 5: GET SOME SLEEP. Apparently, there's something macho about staying awake all night locked in an epic battle against fearsome opponents and dodging bad beats and coolers dropped like thunderbolts from above by the Gods of Poker. Forget the romance. There are good studies that prove ignoring your natural sleep pattern is bad for your heart, brain and psyche. Set reasonable limits and listen to your body. When it's nappy time, go to bed.

NO. 4: TIME IS MUSCLE. If you're at risk for a heart attack (think high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, cigarettes, obesity, family history) there are plenty of lifestyle changes you can make to lower your risk. There is, however, one vital thing your local poker room manager could do to help you survive "the big one" if it hits while you're playing. He could purchase an automatic external defibrillator. An AED costs about \$1,700 and might be just the thing you and others like you need to jump-start a failing heart. Ask the manager to spend an hour or two of his rake on one of these nifty devices that are easy to use and just might save your heart muscle and your life.

NO. 3: TIME IS BRAIN. People have heart attacks (see No. 4) and strokes at the poker table all the time. If suddenly your arm feels weak, your foot drags or you begin having trouble finding your words, don't hang around for another orbit or two. Call 911. Your brain is exquisitely sensitive to a lack of blood flow. A blocked artery in your brain may not be painful but still, your brain cells could be dying by the thousands. A stroke center has tricks to get that artery opened again but the window of opportunity snaps shut fast. Don't delay. Get help.

NO. 2: LEARN CCC. People have strokes (see No. 3) and heart attacks at the poker table all the time. Maybe you can be a real hero. There's a new way to do CPR that's easier, more effective and doesn't involve that messy mouth-to-mouth stuff. Continuous Cardiac Compression is simple enough that I can probably teach it to you in this column next month. This resolution, then, is my teaser. Tune in next month and I'll explain how you can save a life.

NO. 1: PLAY MORE POKER. At least one of my resolutions has to be fun, right? Playing a complicated intellectual game like poker challenges your brain, sharpens your thought-processes and staves off dementia. Don't stop at hold'em. Try double flop or triple draw or badugi; it doesn't matter. Just play more so your brain can get some valuable exercise. Tell your spouse the doctor said so.

— An avid poker player, Frank Toscano, M.D. is a board-certified emergency physician with more than 28 years of front-line experience. He's medical director for Red Bamboo Medi Spa in Clearwater, Fla. Email your poker-health questions to ftoscano@redbamboomedispa.com

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WATCH OUT FOR ITSCHNER ... AND K-2

Tina Itschner hasn't been on the poker scene long, but she's grinding her way to many final tables across Florida. I've watched her play and move her head from side to side with her music always playing. She's an unpredictable player (she prefers it that way). It's a strategy that's clearly working for her. She's an up-and-coming player so expect big things from her, and when she's sitting at the table with you, you'll know. I had a chance to chat with her recently.



LAUREN FAILLA

How long have you been playing

poker? I played my first hand two and a half years ago on my sister's birthday. In less than one hour, I was hooked playing Texas Hold'em.

What is your favorite game? Texas Hold'em, followed by Omaha, which I have not yet mastered.

What is your favorite hand? K-2. The reason is because no one ever suspects you would be holding K-2 and when hits, I clean up.

Do you play online? Yes, occasionally, but I prefer to play live-action poker where I can look my opponents right in the eyes.

How did you get involved in poker, and how did it segue into your life and career? My personal life is poker and family. I look forward to every weekend and this has become a family sport. In addition, my husband and I collect and distribute new suitcases and backpacks to kids in



foster care.

How do you feel about the up-and-coming female players? I love the new up-and-coming female players as well as all of the ladies who have paved the way. Being a male-dominated sport, it's great to see the women coming of age. Although, I was disappointed with the female (players) showing at the 2010 WSOP main event.

What is your poker dream? My poker dream is to cash in the WSOP main event and win a bracelet in the ladies event.

If you had some advice to female players what would that advice be? (Don't) be intimidated by other players and play your game. Don't be bullied or bluffed out of a hand.

Do you have a poker mentor or someone who's influenced you? Yes, my brother-in-law, Malcolm, is my poker

sensei. He watches my play and trains me to be a more competitive player. We are still working on the K-2.

Do you still feel you are learning all the time? Yes, every time I sit down at a table or online, I learn something new. This is an ever-changing challenging game and you have to be willing to adapt. Poker is much more than a card game, what do you feel is a large part of the game that drives you? I love the excitement and the immediate adrenaline rush I get every time I play. I am extremely competitive and love to win.

What can we expect from you in the future? I see myself playing higher stakes cash games and tournaments across the country and winning a WSOP bracelet.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Some youngsters have no clue

I'm 64 years old and have been playing cards for money since I was 12. I find it quite humorous when I hear or read of young players stating they're "professional" poker players. Going back only five years ago most of the so-called "hot" new players have disappeared from the poker scene to be replaced by the latest edition of pro players.

Most young new players do not understand playing poker professionally quickly becomes a grind. When your livelihood depends "on the flop" it is very easy to develop some bad habits. Add in leaks, such as prop bets and other gambling diversions, earning a living on the felt becomes tedious at best. It is not much fun to be

felted when you are out of the money and far from home. I believe magazines such as yours should deal with these realities. The vast majority of card players do not show a long term profit. I just want the young guns to know when they see a senior citizen playing at a table with them that they are facing an opponent with many years of experience.

They also should realize I do not depend on the money in the middle of the table to pay my expenses or my way home. All gamblers should get ready for the day when they are down and out in casinoland. Gambling is a heartless endeavor. Don't expect anything different.

John Langley
Venice, Fla.

DON'T CRACK 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.
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FLORIDA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
CALDER CASINO Phone: (305) 625-1311 www.calderracecourse.com/poker	Two guaranteed tournaments daily. \$25K guarantee is Jan. 23 (noon, \$225), see ad on Page 9.	Flopped progressive straight flushes have five different payouts per suit.	\$1K high hands every Friday & Saturday (10a-midnight).
DANIA JAI-ALAI Phone: (954) 927-2841 www.dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (12:30p & 6:30p), including a \$15K guarantee every Friday (\$105, 6:30p).	Hold'em tournaments are included in the bad-beat jackpot.	\$40K guar. (Jan. 29, \$250, noon); Win it or Spin it (up to \$500). Call for details.
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (386) 252-6484 www.daytonaagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily, including Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Saturday DeepStack (\$225, 4p); Sunday Super DeepStack (\$275, 2p).	Bad beats in limit, no-limit (\$125K at press time) and Omaha. Daily high hands paid every hour.	Aces Cracked pays \$25 (limit) & \$50 (no limit); WSOP qualifiers (Jan. 9 & Jan. 30).
DERBY LANE Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7 www.derbylanepoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$330) on Sun.-Thurs. (1p, 4p, & 7p) & Fri.-Sat. (1p, 6p, & 8p). Second Sunday SuperStack (\$330, 1p, 15K chips, 30 min levels).	Daily cash and prize promotions (please see website for times and details).	Win a Sporty F-150 (see ad on Page 31 or visit website for more details).
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (850) 234-3943 www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily, except Friday (\$20-\$330), including a Mega Stack on the last Sunday of month (\$330, 2p, 10K chips, 30 min levels).	Ultimate Big Easy Bad Beat (quad Jacks, \$7.5K at press time); Mini bad beat is \$2K.	Royal flushes \$250; Super High Hand \$200 (Sat.-Sun., 4a-9a); spade royal \$4,999 (Mon.-Fri., 9a-noon).
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (772) 464-7500 www.jaijai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). \$150 DeepStack (Jan. 15). SNGs: Thurs.-Sat., \$65-\$110.	All new bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha. Call for details.	Deepstack event is the third Saturday every month (\$150, 3p).
GULFSTREAM PARK Phone: (954) 457-6336 www.gulfstreampark.com	Daily, (\$40-\$60, 6:30p), including bounties on Mon & Wed, plus Sat. rebuy, (\$40); Tue. PLO (\$25, 6:30p). SNGs: \$60 hold'em or \$45 PLO.	Bad beat: quad deuces; hourly high hands (11a-1a), \$100 (\$300 at 11a, noon, 1p, 2p, 4p, 7p and 12a).	Royals pay \$500. Free drinks and free breakfast. High hands pay \$100-\$300.
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (800) 941-4841 www.hamiltondownsjaijai.com	"Jackpot Bonus Tournament" on Sundays (\$20 w/ rebuys and addons, 3p), tournament high hand is \$75.	Progressive Royal; Hearts pay \$2K (mini royal is 10% of main in any suit).	\$25 paid to first 5 flushes and 5 full houses; Fri. & Sat. High Hand (\$300 for first, \$100 for second).
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 www.theislepompnopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$350), including \$15K guarantee on Tuesdays (\$230, 2p, 13K chips, 30 min levels). SNGs: \$40-\$225.	Bad beat is quad 10s and was \$86K at press time.	\$500K Isle Poker Classic, Jan. 14-24 (See ad on Page 35 for details).
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB Phone: (850) 997-2561 www.jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays, 7:30 p.m., \$50 (2K chips and 15-minute blinds)	Royal flushes win jackpot.	Call for promotions.
MAGIC CITY CASINO Phone: (305) 649-3000 www.flaglerdogs.com	Sundays, low-rake bounty event (\$40, 1p), bounties are \$5. SNGs: \$65-\$800.	High hands (\$150); royals pay \$1K; Big Slick royal pays progressive (\$123K at press time).	\$500 progressive hot table paid (2p & 2a).
MARDI GRAS CASINO Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167 www.playmardigras.com	\$15K guar. deepstack (\$250, Sundays, 2p); Super 7 Shootout (\$177, Mondays, 7p), 7 tables, 7-handed, win your table and advance to the final table.	Royals and bad beats (call for details).	Fat Tuesday \$1K High Hands, (call for times). Free drinks (See ad on Pages 4-5).
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (321) 259-9800 www.mgpark.com	Daily (Sun., Mon., Thurs., Sat.) ranging from \$65-\$120, including Sat. SuperStack (\$120, 2p, 10K chips); Sunday (\$65, 1p, 3K chips).	Bad beat (\$12K) is in hold'em (aces full of jacks beaten by quads or better). Spin to Win Saturdays.	Straight flush wins \$100, royals \$500. See ad on Page 29 for details on January \$15K Shootout.
MIAMI JAI-ALAI Phone: (305) 633-6400 www.fl-a-gaming.com	Daily (\$20-\$165).	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day progressive; see website for more information.	Hourly \$100 high hands plus tickets for Sunday raffle.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT Phone: (877) 242-6464 www.miccosukee.com	Fridays (\$60, 8p). Super Saturday no-limit hold'em tournament (\$60, 8p) gets you 3K chips. Free buffet for all tournament players.	Spade royal flush pays jackpot.	Call for information.
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (239) 992-2411 www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Sun. KO (\$125, 2p); Mon. (\$40, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sat. (\$115, 2p).	Big Slick Royal Progressive (\$25K guaranteed); all other royals pay \$1K.	High hands pay \$100 every two hours every day; Hourly \$1K high hands (Jan. 5 & 20).
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI Phone: (352) 591-2345 www.ocalapoker.com	Daily (\$30-\$500). SNGs: (\$45-\$500).	See website for numerous jackpots and other cash giveaway promotions. Bad beat is \$57K.	Super Saturday High Hands pay \$300 (NLHE) and \$150 (limit) hourly from 8p-1a.
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550). \$5K buy-in Chad Brown Championship satellites (call for dates).	Bad beat in hold'em (\$82K at press time), stud and PLO; royals and steel wheels \$250 (spades \$500).	Chad Brown Championship starts Jan. 21; (\$5K buy-in, Jan.28-Feb.1). See ad on Page 21 for schedule.
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (561) 683-2222 www.pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120), noon & 6:30p. See ad on Page 23.	Visit website or call for information on daily high hands and bad-beat payouts and qualifications.	WSOP circuit (Feb. 17-March 1) includes 10 ring events. Single/multitable satellites Jan. 1-Feb. 27.
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (850) 455-8595 www.pensacolagreyhoundtrack.com	Daily (\$50-\$350); Sun. (\$50, 4p); Mon. & Fri. (\$50, 7p); Wed. & Sat. DeepStack (\$100, 7p); \$20K guar. (\$350, 1p) on last Saturday of the month.	Hold'em and stud bad beats (any quads) and in Omaha (quad jacks).	Full House or better (daily at 10a & Tue. at 7p); Mini Bad Beat (daily from midnight-4a).
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054 www.skcpoker.com	Daily, plus Fri. (\$110, 1p, 25K chips); Sat. (\$160, 2:30p, 15K chips, 30 min levels). SNGs: \$35-\$300.	Progressive jackpots in all games. Bad beat is quad threes (\$10K).	\$440 DeepStack on first Saturday of the month (1p, 15K chips).

FLORIDA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON Phone: (866) 222-7466 ext. 121 www.seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. & Wed., (\$20, 6:30p); Sat. (\$40, 6:30p). SNGs: \$25, \$50, \$110.	Mega-Bad Beat is \$100K min.	Sun. (quads wins \$50); Tue. (quads win posted amount); Thurs. (Aces Cracked wins \$100, 2-10p).
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	SNGs: \$55, \$85, \$135.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$336K at press time).	Call for promotions.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Mon. \$20K guar. (\$300, 6:30p); Tue. \$12K guar. (\$150, 6:30p); Fri. \$10K guar. (\$150, noon); Sat. (\$100, noon).	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$336K at press time). High hands (limit and no-limit) of the hour every day.	Winter Poker Open, Jan. 28-Feb. 7 (See ad on Page 11 for schedule).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including Night Owl every Wednesday (\$40, with \$40 add-on, 12:30a). SNGs: \$50-\$1,075. See ad on back page.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$336K at press time).	See ad on back page for full tournament schedule or call for more information on specials.
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com	SNGs: \$50-\$100 and are now jackpot eligible.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$336K at press time).	In-house bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads. Starts at \$2,500, capped at \$10K.
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7:30p); Thurs. NL O/8 (\$50, 7:30p); Fri. HA (\$60, 7:30p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & Deep-Stack (\$115, 6:30p); Sun. (\$30, 6:30p).	Mega-Bad Beat (quads 10s), plus players get \$100 if Mega hits at any Seminole room. \$10K mini bad beats.	\$60 SNG WPT qualifiers Sun.-Tue. (2p, 4p, 8p, 10p) for \$10K WPT at Hollywood Hard Rock.
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550), \$225 \$10K Mega Stack every Saturday night.	Royals and Steel Wheels \$250 (spades \$500); Super High Hand (Mon.-Thurs.).	Chad Brown satellites (see website; also see ad on Page 21 for tournament schedule).
TAMPA BAY DOWNS Phone: (813) 298-1798 www.tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$850). SNGs: available at any buy-in at any time. See ad on Page 19.	New higher payouts for quads or better; \$599 high hand payouts (Fri. & Sat.).	Promotions every day of the week (see website for details).
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (813) 932-4313 www.luckyscards.com	Daily 2p & 6:30p (\$30-\$60) but 7:30p Fri. & Sat. Ask about Sunday Challenge last Sun. of month (\$115, 1p, 14K chips). SNGs: \$65-\$410.	Quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$150) and royals (\$300). Tournament spade royal progressive.	Aces cracked (\$100, 4p-6p); High hands (\$150, 11:30a-2:30p daily & 11p-2a on Fri. & Sat.).

CONNECTICUT

FOXWOODS CASINO Phone: (800) 369-9663 www.foxwoods.com	Daily (9a-8p). DeepStack events are Mon.-Fri. (\$120-\$340, 6p). SNGs: \$60-\$550. Check website for details.	Hold'em bad beat is quad eights and was \$85K at press time. Stud bad beat is quad deuces (\$10K).	\$400 Holiday Specials (Jan. 1 & Jan. 17). Mega Stack Challenge XIX (Feb. 4-13).
MOHEGAN SUN CASINO Phone: (860) 862-8000 www.mohegansun.com	Daily (\$50-\$200), including \$15K guarantee on Fridays (2p, \$200, 20K chips) & \$10K guarantee on Wednesdays (7:30p, \$120, 12K chips).	High hands paid every three hours daily.	Quarterly \$10K freeroll on Jan. 18 (call for details).

NEW JERSEY

ATLANTIC CITY HILTON Phone: (609) 347-7111 www.hiltonac.com	No tournaments. Poker only spread Friday-Sunday if there's enough interest, and generally only a \$1-\$2 NLHE cash game gets going.	None at this time.	None at this time.
BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY Phone: (609) 340-2000 www.ballysac.com	KO events Mon.-Thurs. (1p and 7p) & Fri. (1p); Fri. (8p) and Sun. (6p). Buy-ins range from \$50 to \$75.	Harrah's AC bad beat decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$293K at press time).	2X Comps (Wed. & Thurs.); High hand (Mon. & Tue.); Cracked Aces every Fri. spins Winner's Wheel.
BORGATA HOTEL CASINO Phone: (609) 317-1000 www.theborgata.com	Daily (11a and 7p, buy-ins vary), including \$15K guarantee for Wed. events (11a and 7p, \$120). \$20K guarantee on Fridays (\$200, 12p & 6p).	Bad beats are quad 10s (\$238K at press time) and quad 2s-9s (59K at press time).	Winter Poker Open (Jan. 19-Feb. 4) includes a \$3,300 Main Event with \$2 million guarantee.
CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY Phone: (609) 348-4411 www.caesarsac.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$50, 3p & \$80 turbo, 9p); Sat. (\$60, 1p & \$80, 9p) and Sun. (\$50, 1p & \$80 turbo, 9p).	Harrah's AC bad beat decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$293K at press time).	Call for promotions.
HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY Phone: (609) 441-5000 www.harrahresort.com	Daily (\$70, 10:15a & midnight); Sun.-Fri. (\$80, 1:15p), Sun.-Thurs. (\$80, 8:15p), Fri. (\$125, 8:15p) and Sat. (\$125, 1:15p).	Harrah's AC bad beat decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$293K at press time).	Call for promotions.
SHOWBOAT ATLANTIC CITY Phone: (609) 343-4000 www.showboatcasino.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$65, 11a, 2p, 7p); Fri. (\$65, 11a, 2p) including a Omaha H/L (\$120, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 11a, 2p, 7p); Nightly (\$50, 11p).	Harrah's AC bad beat decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$293K at press time).	Total Rewards multiplier comps, plus straight flush earns \$20 comp.
TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY Phone: (609) 340-4000 www.tropicana.net	Daily (11:15a, \$62, 10K chips and 7:15p, \$62, 15K chips).	Bad beat is quads and was \$263K at press time. Tournament bad beat is \$56K at press time.	Crack the Straight (see website for details).
TRUMP TAJ MAHAL CASINO RESORT Phone: (609) 449-1000 www.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 is quads (\$96K at press time). High Hands are entered into drawings.	50-50 club (call for details).

* SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted. Poker room managers email roth@anteupmagazine.com

LOUISIANA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
AMELIA BELLE CASINO Phone: (985) 631-1745 www.ameliabellecasino.com	Sunday Poker Challenge (\$50, 1p).	Bad beat is quads over aces full of 10s (\$2,500 at press time).	Early Bird (Thurs.), first 10 who buy in for at least \$100 before 7p get \$20 after one hour of play.
BELLE OF BATON ROUGE Phone: (800) 266-2692 www.belleofbatonrouge.com	Wed. & Sun., (10a, \$50, 1K chips, 15-minute blinds).	Bad beat is any quads (\$92K at press time). \$300 guaranteed cash prizes on Tuesdays.	Aces cracked wins \$100 (Mon., 9a-3p); high hand of the hour wins \$50 (Tue., 9a-3p).
BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS Phone: (800) 366-7711 www.boomtownneworleans.com	Tuesday Freeroll (11a) for players w/ 10 hrs. of play or be a 4 or 5 Star Player, otherwise it costs \$10; Wed. (\$35 w/ \$10 add on, 7p).	Bad beat (quads beaten by quads or better) in hold'em (\$41K) and Omaha (\$11K).	High hands (Mon., Wed., Sat., & Sun.); Splash the Pot (Tue. & Thurs.).
COUSHATTA CASINO Phone: (800) 584-7263 www.coushattacasinoresort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230), including Tue. (\$15, 6:30p) with rebuys & add-ons; Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$20, 7:30p) with rebuys; Sat. (\$220, 2p, 7K chips).	Bad beat was \$109K at press time.	Big Bonus Hands are progressive.
CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S CASINO Phone: (800) 284-4386 www.cypressbayou.com	All tournaments are rake-free. Wed. (\$40 with two \$20 rebuys and add ons, 6:30p); Sat. Super KO (\$60 with two \$20 rebuys and add ons, 3p)	Progressive bad beat: quads (\$102K at press time).	Aces cracked, 1st & 3rd Thursday, 2nd & 4th Monday.
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT Phone: (318) 220-5274 www.eldoradoshreveport.com	Sun. (\$150, 11a); Mon. \$2K Guar. (\$130, 11a); Tue. (\$75 with \$25 or \$50 rebuy/add-ons, 6:30p); Sat. (\$125, 1 rebuy/1 add-on, 11a).	Bad beat: quads (\$23K); mini bad beat is aces full of 10s beaten by quads. Royals pay \$250.	Aces cracked wins \$100 (Fri., 4a-4p). Flush Frenzy (call for details).
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS Phone: (504) 533-6000 www.harrahsneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad beat: quads.	Aces cracked almost every day.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY Phone: (800) 895-0711 www.horseshoebossiercity.com	Daily (\$100-\$400), including last Sunday of the month (\$400, 2p, 10K chips, 30 min levels).	Call for future jackpots.	High Hand; Aces Cracked; Splash Cash. Call for details and times.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES Phone: (337) 430-2407 www.lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Daily except for Tue. & Wed. (\$60-\$90, 6:30p), including Fri. (\$60, noon) & Sat. (\$115, noon) plus a Sunday KO event (\$60, 2p).	Minor Jackpots (paid 24/7); Get paid with quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royal (\$125).	\$15K Mardi Gras Freeroll: men vs. women (women qualify on Tue., men on Wed.) \$0 entry fee, 6:30p).
PARAGON CASINO Phone: (800) 946-1946 x1975 www.paragoncasinoresort.com	Mondays (\$20, 7p, three rebuys); Tuesday (10:30a, \$18); Thursdays (\$20, 7p, unlimited \$15 rebuys and a \$50 add-on); Fridays (\$60, 7p, \$50 rebuys).	Bad beat is \$40K; minor pays quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125). Call for details.	High hand Wednesdays, \$50 every 30 minutes (noon-2:30p and 9-11:30p)

ARKANSAS

OAKLAWN RACING & GAMING Phone: (501) 623-4411 www.oaklawn.com	Daily, including SNGs (\$30) and Sunday \$500 guarantee (\$5, 10a), all play on PokerPro tables. Free Ladies Only Event (Thurs., 7p).	Bad beat paid in all hold'em cash games. Call for details. Daily \$100 high hands.	\$25K Winter Classic qualifiers start Jan. 10 (Mon. & Wed. at 7p); \$5 for \$500 (Tue. at 10a).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING Phone: (870) 735-3670 www.southlandgreyhound.com	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Sat. (\$20, 2p), 3K chips and 15-minute blinds (all play on PokerPro tables).	Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	Player Rewards cards offer comps based on play.

DELAWARE

DELAWARE PARK Phone: (302) 355-1050 www.delawarepark.com	Daily (\$60-\$150), including a \$150 event on Fridays and Saturdays (7p). Saturday's event will now be a \$10K guar. (10K chips/20 min levels).	Bad beat with descending qualifier (quad nines) was \$55K. Mini is aces full of kings (\$1.5K at press time).	Aces Cracked; High Hand; free tournament entries. See ad on Page 18 for details.
DOVER DOWNS HOTEL & CASINO Phone: (302) 674-4600 www.doverdowns.com	Twice daily (noon, 7p); Sun.-Fri. (\$65, noon) & (\$80, 7p); Sat. (\$80, noon) & (\$120, 7p).	Bad beat (aces full of jacks) was \$106K at press time.	Royal flushes win a Crown Royal shirt.
HARRINGTON RACEWAY Phone: (888) 887-5687 www.harringtonraceway.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$60, 11a, 3K chips); Wed. (\$115, 7p, 8K chips); Sat. (\$225, 4p, 15K chips). Tournaments limited to first 70 players. See ad on Page 49.	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was \$70K at press time.	Call about high hands and aces cracked promotions.

GEORGIA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

DIAMOND CASINO SAVANNAH (GA.) Phone: (912) 897-3005 www.diamondcasinosavannah.com	Call for information.	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
EMERALD PRINCESS II (GA.) Phone: (912) 265-3558 www.emeraldprincesscasino.com	\$125 NLHE event every Saturday night. Please see ad on Page 49.	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (N.C.) Phone: (828) 497-7777 www.harrahscherokee.com	Tournaments and cash games on PokerPro tables. SNGs: Tuesday and Sunday (\$115).	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
SUNCRUZ AQUASINO (S.C.) Phone: (843) 280-2933 www.suncruzaquasino.com	Mon. cruise (7p, \$110) and Fri. cruise (11a, \$110). SNGs: \$60	Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	Quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200).

MISSISSIPPI

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
AMERISTAR VICKSBURG Phone: (601) 630-4996 www.ameristar.com/vicksburg	Thursdays, (\$70, 7p) with one optional add-on.	Mini bad beat (quads over aces full) pays 10% of full bad beat (any quads).	Call for details.
BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO Phone: (228) 386-7092 www.beaurivage.com	Daily at noon & 6p (\$120-\$340), including \$20K guarantee first Saturday of the month (\$335, noon, 4K chips, but 2K more for \$10 add-on).	Aces cracked (\$200) from Tue.-Thurs. (4a-noon); \$5K cash giveaways Sunday-Friday.	Southern Poker Championship runs Jan. 6-27 (call for complete schedule).
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-8999 www.boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad beat is aces full of kings (More than \$50K). Mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks).	Aces cracked (24/7) wins up to \$100.
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT Phone: (662) 357-1136 www.goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340). \$5K guarantee on the first Sun. of the month (\$230, 1p). \$15K guarantee on first Sat. \$15K (\$340, 1p). Both have 30-minute levels.	Call for bad beat and royal flush totals. Cash drawings (\$100 hourly) Tuesdays (1-10p).	Ask about Graveyard Cash Drawings (Mon.-Fri., 3a-9a); Get Paid to Play (call for details).
HARD ROCK BILOXI Phone: (228) 374-7625 www.hardrockbiloxi.com	Daily at 3p (\$25-\$55). Chip stacks, bonus chip offers and blinds vary. Website has all details. SNgs: \$75, \$125, \$235, \$550.	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads (\$24K at press time). Ask about jackpot hands.	Ask about Aces Cracked, 4 of a Kind, and Splash the Pot promotions.
HARLOW'S CASINO Phone: (662) 335-9797 x144 www.harlowcasino.com	Tuesday & Saturday (\$60, \$5 add-on, 7:30p). SNgs: Thursday & Friday (\$40, 6p).	Bad beat is aces full of 10s beaten by quads or better.	Hourly high hands on Wed.; Friday Flat Screen Frenzy (Tickets to raffle on 1st Friday of every month)
HARRAH'S TUNICA Phone: (800) 946-4946, x33760 www.harrahtunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110), including a Thurs. \$1.1K Guar. (\$35 w/ rebuys, 1p) and a Thurs. (\$50 w/one free rebuy, 6p).	Bad beats in hold'em, Omaha and stud. Progressive Royal Flush pays jackpot.	Call for current promotions and see WSOPC ad on Page 27.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS Phone: (866) 758-2591 x4026 www.hollywoodcasinobsll.com	Monday and Wednesday (\$30, 6:30p).	High hands win \$50 Wed., plus Thurs. lucky table progressive \$50, \$100 or \$150. (10a-10p).	Early Bird Special on Fri.-Sun. (10a-2p); Aces Cracked pays \$100.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA Phone: (800) 871-0711 x5005 www.hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$70).	Hold'em bad beat (quads or better) must be in \$3-\$6 or higher and there's a new Omaha jackpot.	Sunday \$1K guar. (\$10 gets 500 chips, \$5 toke gets 1,500, \$10 rebuys & \$20 add-on for 10K, 2p).
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA Phone: (662) 357-5608 www.horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$65-\$160), including Sat. \$10K guarantee (\$150, 4p) with 10K chips (2K more for \$10 add-on); Sun (\$100, 2p) Super Deep Stack (15K chips).	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em. Flush Frenzy (\$100) if you make a flush in every suit during your session.	Call for more promotions.
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA Phone: (888) 946-2847 x8554 www.ipbiloxi.com	Daily (\$60, noon, 4K chips).	Poker Squares Sun. & Mon. (\$1K up for grabs daily).	Aces cracked pays \$100 on Tuesdays.
ISLE CASINO BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-7967 www.biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Daily (\$40-\$60); Mon. (\$45, 3p), Tue. (\$60, 2p), Wed. (\$40, 7p), Thurs. (\$45, 2p), Fri. (\$60, 3p), Sat. (\$60, 3p); Wed. & Sat. events are KO/re-buy.	Bad beat available in numerous games, but Hold'em is aces full of queens (\$88K at press time).	Aces Full or Better (Sun.-Fri., 10a-12a).
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA Phone: (800) 456-0711 www.samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$80), including a \$3K Guar. on Saturdays (\$20, 7p). SNgs: \$60-\$120.	Bad beat is any quads. Ask about the Live Action Bonus (Sat. & Sun., 7a-11a).	Spin-N-Win (Mon.-Fri.). Call for details.
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO Phone: (866) 775-4773 x3766 www.silverflipper-ms.com	Mon. (\$45, 6p), Thurs. (\$75 KO, 7p), Sat. (\$45 turbo KO, noon), Sun. (\$65 Omaha, 6:30p). SNgs: \$45, \$65 (2K chips, 10 players).	Bad beat is \$75K in hold'em, \$2,200 for Omaha. Mini is aces full of deuces (\$550 to loser).	Aces cracked wins up to \$300 (Tue., Thurs. & Fri.). Splash the Pot (Mon. & Wed., 11a-9p).
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) Phone: (601) 650-1234 www.pearlriverresort.com	Daily, (\$35-\$60), including a \$2,500 guarantee on Saturdays (\$60, 2p). Start times for events are Mon.-Thurs. (7p) & Fri.-Sun. (2p).	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad 7s) and stud (quads). Diamond royals (\$500).	\$3,500 freeroll is last Sunday of every month (5p). Call for details. 4 aces pay \$50; high hands (\$100).

WEST VIRGINIA

HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN Phone: (800) 795-7001 www.ctowntables.com	Open 24 hours now, but no tournaments yet.	None at this time.	None at this time.
MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM Phone: (304) 387-8458 www.mountaineerpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$225, 12:15 & 7:30); Wed. (10:30a), Sundays (\$65, 2p).	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was \$18K at press time; ask about new payouts.	Poker Cash Giveaways; See website for complete details.
MARDI GRAS CASINO AT TRI-STATE Phone: (800) 224-9683 www.tristatracetrack.com	Generally events are Sun. (2p), Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p) & Wed. (7p) and buy-ins vary (\$40-\$125).	Bad beats in hold'em is aces full of jacks (\$72K at press time), Omaha (\$10K) and stud (\$3K).	Call for promotions.
WHEELING ISLAND CASINO Phone: (304) 232-5050 www.wheelingisland.com	Sun-Fri. (\$40, 10a); Sat. (\$150, 3p, 6K chips), plus events every night (\$40-\$65, 7p). Heartland Poker League (Sat., \$60, 5K in chips 10:45a).	Bad beat was \$35K at press time.	Quads or straight flush spins the wheel; Early bird special on Mon. Tue. and Thurs. (call for details).
THE GREENBRIER Phone: (304) 536-7806 www.greenbrier.com	The poker room open only to guests; call for information.	N/A.	N/A.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
BENNING STREET POKER ROOM Phone: (603) 298-6688 www.benningstreet.com/poker	Mon. & Wed. Freeroll w/rebuys (7p); Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$25 w/ rebuys, 7p); Sat. (\$25 w/ rebuys, 6p); Sun. (\$125, 2p).	Call for details.	Freeroll tournaments throughout the week (call for details).
GRANITE STATE POKER Phone: (603) 396-0389 www.granitestatepoker.com	Fri. (\$50, 6p.; \$250, 7p. for VIP members; \$100, 8p); Sat. (\$50, 1p & \$100 KO, 4:30p); Sun. (\$50, 4p & \$50 rebuy, 7p).	Call for details.	Ask about satellites to PokerStars NAPT events.
THE LODGE AT BELMONT Phone: (877) 872-2501 www.thelodgeatbelmont.com	Daily (\$5-\$50). Times vary by day and are (1p, 4p, 4:30p, 5p, 7p). Call for details on special event tournaments.	Call for current jackpots.	Eastern Poker Tour events (call for details).
POKER ROOM AT HAMPTON FALLS www.seabrookpoker.com	Check website for details.	Check website for details.	Check website for details.
RIVER CARD ROOM Phone: (603) 249-5548 www.riverpokerroom.com	Daily (\$5-\$60). Times vary by day. Many of the tournaments have optional rebuys and add-ons. See website for complete schedule.	Call for details.	Mini-Monster (Wed. & Fri.); River 4000 (call for details).
ROCKINGHAM PARK Phone: (603) 898-2311 www.rockinghampark.com	Daily (\$50-150). Start times vary from 2p-9p (see website for schedule).	Call for details.	Eastern Poker Tour events throughout the month (see website for complete schedule).
SEABROOK GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (603) 474-3065 www.seabrookgreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$30-\$140); Start times ranging from 11:15a-10p. See website for complete schedule.	Call for details.	EPT events all month, including a New Year's DeepStack on Jan. 1 (\$250, 1:30p).

NEW YORK

SENECA NIAGARA Phone: (877) 873-6322 www.senecaniagaracasino.com	Mon. (\$90 KO, 10a & 7p); Tue.-Wed. (\$60, 10a & 7p); Thurs. (\$35, 10a & 7p); Fri. (\$90, 10a & \$140, 8p); Sat. (\$190, 11a); Sun (\$45, 10a & \$60, 6p).	Bad Beat Progressive (quad 2s) in hold'em (\$18K at press time), (quad 9s) Omaha, and (quad 7s) stud.	Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
SENECA SALAMANCA Phone: (877) 860-5130 www.senecagames.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 11a & 7p); Thurs. (\$90, 6p); Sat. & Sun. (\$60, noon).	Bad Beat Progressive (quad 2s) in hold'em (\$44K at press time), (quad 9s) Omaha, and (quad 7s) stud.	Preferred Player Rewards and numerous monthly promotions (see website for details).
TURNING STONE RESORT Phone: (800) 386-5366 www.turningstone.com	Daily (\$70-125). Mon.-Fri. (noon & 7p); Sat.-Sun. (11a & 7p) including a DeepStack Turbo KO on Sat. (\$125, 7p) and Sun. (\$70, 7p).	Bad beat was \$164K at press time.	Winter Meltdown series (Jan. 4-9). 12 events (\$70-\$500) w/main event Jan. 8 (\$500, 11a).

PENNSYLVANIA

HARRAH'S CHESTER Phone: (800) 480-8020 www.harrahscchester.com	Call for information. Will host a WSOP circuit event April 28-May 9. Check anteupmagazine.com for full story.	Bad beat (quad deuces) was \$140K at press time.	Call for current promotions.
HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL Phone: (717) 469-2211 www.hcpn.com	None at this time.	None at this time.	None at this time.
MEADOWS CASINO Phone: (724) 503-1200 www.meadowsgaming.com	Twice daily (\$40, 10:30a & \$65, 7:30p), including a DeepStack bounty event on Saturdays (\$225, 3p). Feature events are on Sundays.	Call for information.	Big Poker Weekend (Jan. 7-9) five events with main event Jan. 8 (\$330, 1:30p, 25K chips).
MOHEGAN SUN/POCONO DOWNS Phone: (570) 831-2100 www.mohegansunpocono.com	Daily (\$60-\$120, noon & 7p), including a Sat. Knockout (\$120, 7p, 10K chips). SNGs are running around the clock.	Bad beat or high hands coming soon.	Jan. 27 (\$280, 7p, 10K chips, 20 min levels).
MOUNT AIRY CASINO Phone: (570) 243-5184 www.mtairycasino.com	Pending state approval, planning MTTs and SNGs.	Bad beat is aces full of kings.	None at this time, though high hands may be coming.
PARX CASINO Phone: (215) 639-9000 www.parxcasino.com	Call for details.	N/A	N/A
RIVERS CASINO Phone: (412) 231-7777 www.riverscasino.com	Daily (\$65-\$555). Tournament times vary by day (see website for full schedule).	Bad beat is aces full of jacks.	Call for information.
SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM Phone: (877) SANDS-77 www.sandsbethworks.com	Likely coming between January and March, and the room recently received state approval to add 11 tables.	Bad beat (quads) was \$183K at press time and is a one-table winner.	None at this time.

* SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted. Poker room managers email roth@anteupmagazine.com



WITH JERRY YANG

Jerry Yang, a.k.a. The Shadow, is one of the most likable members of the poker community. The 2007 World Series of Poker Main Event champion recently sat with *Ante Up*'s Scotty Rushing to discuss life after the main event and the upcoming July release of his autobiography.

How has life changed for you since becoming world champion? First of all, my wife and I were both working before my win. I have six children and they were very small then and it was a struggle just like any typical middle-class family; we had the mortgage, the car payment, the school lunches and the things you have to pay. Obviously, my win changed our lives financially, of course, and my wife and I were able to quit our jobs. That was especially important for her because I had dreamed of having her be able to stay home and take care of the kids while I would be the provider and we were not able to do that. So, it was just a very good feeling to be able to do that.

After your win you pledged to donate 10 percent of your winnings to various charities. Can you tell us how you went about fulfilling that promise? Sure, and thank you for asking that question. You know, I went to Loma Linda University and I remember seeing the Ronald McDonald House at the university hospital and seeing families with kids who had cancer. So, before I even went to Vegas I made a pledge to God that if I could just win the tournament I would donate 10 percent to charity and I chose the Ronald McDonald House, the Make-A-Wish Foundation and also Feed the Children.

The reason is that, as a child, I was always sick. Hungry, just no food. Hopeless. It was especially this way in the refugee camp where I lived for four-and-a-half years. I chose those three organizations for a very specific reason: to help kids. Even today I still tour the Ronald McDonald houses around the country and visit with the parents who have children there. Some of these children are waiting to die. It really changed my life to do that, and made me appreciate my life and the lives of my children and what I have today. I am going to continue to do more of that. I have personally raised more than \$800,000 on my own, especially for children's charities and after the win I kept my promise and actually donated more than 10 percent, over a million dollars. I will continue to do even more.

You make no secret you're a religious man. Did your spiritual beliefs have anything to do with that pledge? Oh yeah. I could have given the money directly to the church but I really felt like God was speaking to me and saying, "You have seen the kids hungry." So, I just followed my heart.

To win the WSOP main event you really have to overcome a lot of obstacles (the cards, the great players, fatigue) but you overcame a lot of obstacles just to make it to the United States. Do you think your experiences as a refugee helped you develop the qualities needed to succeed at poker, and at life in general? Absolutely. I think that has a lot to do with it, not just in poker, but in life. I remember as a young kid, we didn't even have a ball to play with. I



had never seen a ball my whole life until I came to America. I had seen people play, but I had never touched it or kicked the ball. As a little boy in Laos, whenever our parents would kill a pig, all of the little boys would get in line and wait for the bladder. This truly happened. They would give it to the first boy in line and he would blow it up and tie it and we would use that as a ball to kick until it broke.

Having lived in the refugee camp and seeing a brother and sister of mine die right in front of my eyes, that really changed my life and made me want to work hard. Even today, my kids help me in my restaurant and I try to teach them that nothing comes free, even in America. This is how I put it to them: There is no free lunch, even in America. You have to work hard for what you have. There are a lot of people out there who don't even have 1 percent of what we have so I try to remind my children of that and hopefully they will grow up to be good citizens and kind and do for others also.

Obviously, we want to talk to you a little bit about your autobiography, which will be released in July. How exciting is that and what can we expect from your book? I am very excited. This is truly a dream come true. The publisher is Medallion Press in Chicago and the book is titled *All-In, from Refugee Camp to Poker Champ: The Jerry Yang Story*. It's about my life as a little boy in Laos, my escape from Laos to Thailand and it talks about the struggle we went through in the jungle. Crossing the river with bullets flying above us. I heard kids drowning and adults praying for some-

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

one to save their drowning children. Having a bloated stomach from hunger. And then I talk about coming to America, the land of milk and honey if you will. We came here and were in one of the poorest projects in Nashville. I couldn't believe it. This was America. I learned that a good education was the only option for me. So, the book is all about my life and it ends with the final table of the 2007 WSOP main event. I have a lot of people behind me on this, my charities, some politicians and celebrities. It's going to do very well, I think.

You own a restaurant called Pocket 8's. How is that working out for you? We are so proud of that. You know, I opened the restaurant at a time when the economy was not very good, about a year ago, and a lot of people said, "Are you crazy?" I said to them that sometimes you have to take a chance in life, and the construction cost was low and so far I am doing fairly good despite the economy. I feel very certain that the economy will turn around. Obviously, I named it after the last hand I held in the 2007 WSOP. I am so proud of it because I am able to give jobs to some of the young students in town and provide good food for the community. I am a happy man!

It seems like more and more we're seeing a lot of players who started on the Internet end up at the WSOP main event final table. That wasn't really the case for you, was it? No. I never played on the Internet before my win. I have always been a live tournament player. I didn't play very much anywhere before I won ... only about two years. Nowadays I play a little online. I like it, I really do. The only thing is, when you have six children you can't really play as much as you want. I wait until my children are in bed and that's when I start playing.

Where do you stand on the legalization of Internet poker? I do support online poker, I really do. Some players do better online and some do better live. We should really have the option there for everybody and as long as the online gaming companies are regulated and nothing fishy is going on there I think we should support that.

Does the Shadow have another main-event run left in the tank? Definitely! It's every player's dream to win it twice, or even more. You know, the last guy to win it back-to-back was Johnny Chan and I don't have to do that, but just to win it twice would go down in history as a great moment in poker. With the field size today it's very, very difficult to do but anything is possible. I would love to do that again. I will continue to play in it every year for as long as I live!

When you walk into that room at the Rio and there are pictures on the wall of past champions, Doyle Brunson, Johnny Chan, Jerry Yang, how does that make you feel? The feeling can't be described. No words can explain it. I have to say the feeling is wonderful to be up there among the greats. Even though I haven't been playing that much to be among those champions is a great honor, and I am very thankful.

If you could give one piece of advice to Jonathan Duhamel, winner of the WSOP main event in November, what would it be? Everyone has their own agenda, their own goals and objectives. I would say do what you can for the poker community and be there for the fans. I tried to take an active role in that, you know. Going on Facebook and chatting with the fans. And so many of them tell me, "Jerry, you are so good to talk to us." I've heard a lot of pros don't do that. I think that is the very least that I can do. So, I hope he will do that and help the poker community grow. And I think he will. ♠



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January Tournament Schedule

Multi-Table No Limit Hold'em

Mondays 12:30PM • \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry • 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15
Tuesdays 12:30PM • \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry • 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20
Wednesdays 1/5 & 1/19 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15 • 1/12 & 1/26 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15
Thursdays 12:30PM • \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry • 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20
Fridays 12:30PM • \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry
Saturdays 10AM • \$85 + \$15
Sundays 1/2, 1/16, 1/23 & 1/30 12:30PM • \$100 + \$20 • 1/19 10AM
\$125,000 Free Roll Tournament

Deep Stack Multi-Table No Limit Hold'em

Wednesdays 1/5 & 1/19 12:30PM • \$200 + \$40 • 1/12 & 1/26 7:30PM • \$200 + \$40
Fridays 1/7 & 1/21 7:30PM • \$355 + \$45 • 1/14 & 1/28 7:30PM • \$500 + \$50

Night Owl No Limit Hold'em

Wednesdays 12:30AM • \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry

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