

HIGHER LIMITS MAY BE ON THE WAY — SEE WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU **PG. 17**

# ANTE UP

**FLORIDA'S POKER MAGAZINE**

JUNE 2009 | [anteupmagazine.com](http://anteupmagazine.com)



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ANTE UP POKER TOUR

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YOUR BEST BETS

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## FROM THE PUBLISHERS



## ROAD TRIP IS TAKING A NEW TURN

Just the other day, a dealer told us, “that must be a great job you have, driving around the state playing poker.”

Yes, it is.

But you don't have to be the publishers of a poker magazine to see all the poker that Florida offers. And that's been one of our guiding principles since we launched *Ante Up*: to encourage the state's players to make their own rounds of all the great card rooms in the Sunshine State.

For the past nine issues, our Road Trip feature has taken you on tour of Florida's poker regions and the rooms you'll find in them. Now that we've circled the state, it's time to freshen up the Road Trip to keep us all traveling.

This month, we debut our new Road Trip, which you'll find in the center spread on Pages 24-25. While poker alone is reason enough to get in the car, we know sometimes you need a little extra push. So each month, we'll pick a theme of activities, let you know the best bets and throw in some highlights from poker rooms nearby. We kick it off with a month of baseball.

But here's the really neat part: We want you to be our tour guide. Compile your own themed list and email it to us at [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com). The topics are restricted only by your imagination. Maybe you're a biker who wants to tell us about the best biker bars in the state, or maybe you're a duffer who has played every golf course from Pensacola to Key West. Whatever your passion, put together a list of eight or so must-sees, and who knows, maybe you'll see it in print next month.

And speaking of reader interaction, we're also introducing a new feature this month that highlights our Top 5 lists. These lists have taken over Facebook, so we'll give them a whirl here in the pages of *Ante Up*. We kick it off with our Top 5 poker movies, and you'll see very quickly that the two of us almost never agree (yeah, that makes running a business a blast). But we want you to be a part of this, too.

Whether you agree with our lists, or think we've overplayed our hands, chime in at [anteupmagazine.com/forum](http://anteupmagazine.com/forum). And even better, each month, we'll tell you what the next Top 5 list will be. Send us your list and if it's the best we receive, we'll feature it in the magazine and send you some cool swag to show off to your friends.

Remember, you can always tell us what's on your mind with an email to [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com).

And finally, our cover story investigates a subject that's on a lot of poker players' minds: Why is there no parimutuel poker in Orlando? We talked with a lot of folks in the Orlando area who have tried to open poker rooms or hope to open a poker room soon or want to build a gaming facility that will house a poker room. Be sure to read about Minneola mayor David Yeager, who is putting his political life on the line with a proposal to build a megacomplex that would have, among other things, a poker room, a horse track, an ice-skating rink and a five-star resort. He's up for re-election in November, and this likely will make or break his campaign.

We'll see you at the tables (hopefully in Orlando someday).

**Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long**  
Publishers

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## LETTERS

Got a gripe? Bad beat story falling on deaf ears? Drop us a line at [letters@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:letters@anteupmagazine.com) and tell us about it. Leave your name and location.

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Crave some immediate feedback? Log on to [anteupmagazine.com/forum](http://anteupmagazine.com/forum) to talk Florida poker.

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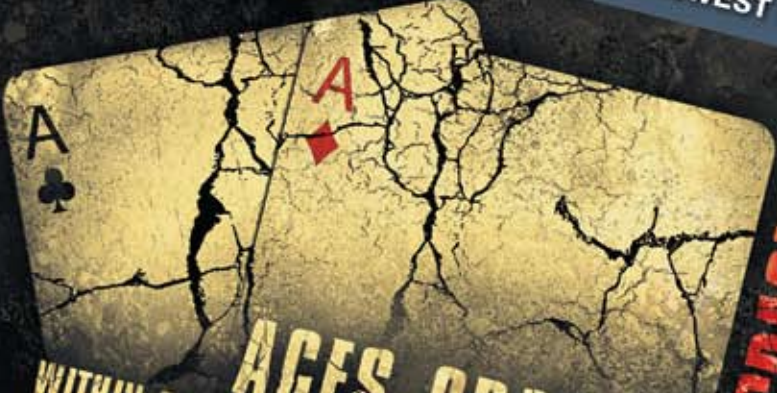
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- 3<sup>rd</sup> place wins complimentary buy-in

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## A different kind of bad-beat story

Most poker players don't want to hear another player's bad-beat story, but in Itzhack Feldman's case you should make an exception. You see he tells people about more bad beats than anyone, only there's a twist.

The Hollywood resident calls all of the poker rooms in the southeast corner of Florida for their current bad-beat jackpots and then posts them on his Web site: [www.badbeatnow.com](http://www.badbeatnow.com).

If you go to this site it will redirect you to a YouTube video that Feldman updates daily. The video is of an old-time movie marquee, except instead of displaying what's playing in the theatre, you get a list of the area card rooms and their corresponding bad-beat jackpot totals.



## Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

The Paradise Poker Room at Seminole Hard Rock in Hollywood has announced its Summer Open Poker Series, June 12-21 and offers \$270,000 in guaranteed prize pools. Buy-ins for the nine events range from \$75 up to the \$1,100 event, a two-day \$150K guarantee tournament that begins June 19.

### Summer Open Poker Series

Tournament	Date	Time	Buy-in	Prize pool
Event 1	June 12	11 a.m.	\$150	\$25K guarantee
Event 2	June 13	1 p.m.	\$150 w/\$75 rebuys	\$20K guarantee
Event 3	June 14	6:30 p.m.	\$75	\$10K guarantee
Event 4	June 15	11 a.m.	\$75	\$6K guarantee
Event 5	June 15	6:30 p.m.	\$300	\$25K guarantee
Event 6	June 16	6:30 p.m.	\$150	\$15K guarantee
Event 7	June 17	6:30 p.m.	\$75	\$10K guarantee
Event 8 (Day 1A)	June 19	11 a.m.	\$1,100	\$150K guarantee
Event 8 (Day 1B)	June 20	11 a.m.	\$1,100	\$150K guarantee
Event 9	June 21	6:30 p.m.	\$75	\$10K guarantee

\* Event 8 survivors from Days 1A and 1B will return June 21 at 11 a.m.

\*\* Satellite Day will be June 18 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$150 buy-in (1 in 10 wins seat to Event 8). Also, a satellite at 7:30 p.m. (\$50) will pay 1 in 28 with an Event 8 seat.



Fred Goldberg



Ward Martin



Steven Karp

## Goldberg wins another event

Hollywood's Fred Goldberg continues his hot streak, winning the \$1,100 Heavyweight Division of the Seminole Hard Rock's April Main Event at the Paradise Poker Room in Hollywood.

Goldberg, who has a World Series of Poker bracelet, also won an event at the Isle's Battles at the Beach in March.

For his Hard Rock victory Goldberg pocketed \$25,550.

But he wasn't the only winner in this tournament series.

Lantana's Ward Martin took down the \$575 Cruiserweight Division and won \$11,910.

Steven Karp, who has a couple of WSOP cashes and two undercard World Poker Tour cashes to his credit, won the \$350 Middleweight Division. The North Miami Beach resident took home \$8,770.

# ISLE'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BEGINS JUNE 12

The Isle's Florida State Poker Championship is back, and it's bigger and better than last year's inaugural effort.

There were four events in 2008, including the main event won by Long Nguyen, but this year's series, which runs June 12-22, balloons to seven events, with five of the tournaments posting a prize-pool guarantee.

"It's an idea we've had for a while and just needed the right property to do it," Isle's director of poker operations Mike Smith said of the state championship. "This year we've added a six-handed event, a ladies event and a Florida Poker Room employees event."

If you're a Florida poker room employee and would like to play in that event here's what you need: a valid Parimutuel Poker Room license or proof of current Seminole poker room employment. Oh, and you'll need \$200 for the buy-in.

The \$900 main event has a \$150K guarantee and begins June 19 as players start with

## Second annual Florida State Championship

Isle Casino at Pompano Park • June 12-22

EVENT	DATE	TIME	BUY-IN	UNITS	BLINDS
6-handed (\$25K guarantee)	6-12	2 p.m.	\$330	6,000	30 mins.
Ladies Championship (2 days)	6-12	7 p.m.	\$200	5,000	30 mins.
NLHE (\$20K guarantee)	6-13	2 p.m.	\$225	5,000	30 mins.
Bounty (\$30K guarantee*)	6-14	1 p.m.	\$330	6,000	30 mins.
Fla. Poker Room Employees	6-15	1 p.m.	\$200	5,000	30 mins.
NLHE prelim (\$75K guarantee)	6-17	1 p.m.	\$550	10,000	30 mins.
Day 1A: (\$150K guarantee**)	6-19	2:30 p.m.	\$900	25,000	60 mins.
Day 1B	6-20	2:30 p.m.	\$900	25,000	60 mins.

Day 2 of the main event is June 21 at 1:30 p.m. and Day 3 starts at 2:30 p.m. on June 22.

\* \$100 bounties are included in the \$30K guarantee \*\* Ante Up Poker Tour event

25K chips. (Please see chart for full schedule or turn to Page 47 for the Isle's ad.)

Last year the Isle held its state championship at the same time as the World Series of Poker, and despite that it still saw at least 221 players turn out for each event. Again the

Isle is running its signature event at the start of the WSOP. With more events, the WSOP and so many guarantees is Smith worried?

"Guarantees always make us a little nervous," he said, "but we've only missed once and hopefully won't miss any of these."

### ISLE'S \$30K GUARANTEE RESULTS

\$440 buy-in • 125 players • April 20

1. Theodore Piper, F. Lauderdale	\$12,750	4. Juan Carvajal, Miami	\$4,250	9. Matt Waxman, Parkland	\$1,150
2. Joe Marchese, Coral Springs	\$12,750	5. Sam Mayer-Backer, Boca Raton	\$3,150	10. Ed Soldiviero, Tamarac	\$1,100
3. Hayden Fortini, Vero Beach	\$6,150	6. Raymond McDonough, Jupiter	\$2,450	11. Patrick Hughs, Ireland	\$1,050
		7. N/A	\$1,850	12. Farid Jattin, Miami	\$1,000
		8. Thomas McGrath, Tryon, N.C.	\$1,400	13. Robert Transue, N. Lauderdale	\$950

## Mardi Gras Gaming

A recent story in *Ante Up* on the virtues of spread-limit games inspired Wil Herrera, director of poker operations at the Big Easy Poker Room, to inform us that his room has converted all of its limit games to spread limit. Flop games are \$2-\$5 spread and the stud games are \$1-\$5 spread.

How are the players enjoying this new structure?

"So far so good," Herrera said.

It's the first room in Florida to try such a bold move.

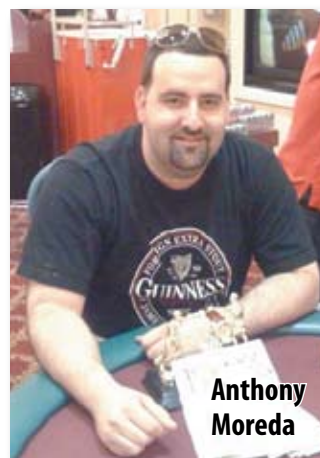


### All In Free Poker

Vanessa Rousso hangs with the boys from All In Free Poker during her recent tour of Florida poker venues in support of her Big Slick Boot Camps. She played in the event that night, too.

## Miami Jai-Alai

Anthony Moreda took down the heads-up tournament at Miami Jai-Alai's Crystal Card Room on April 22. The field was capped at 32 players for this \$150 buy-in event and Moreda pocketed \$2,500 for the victory.



## Charity event ends with a chop

Sergio Cortella may have won the April 18 tournament at the Marriott Hollywood Beach, but the real winner was the Boys & Girls Club of Broward County, which was the benefactor of this event. The tournament, in its third year, honors past board member Dennis Sutton.

There were about 160 players in the field, but when the final table got down to five-handed they decided to chop the \$5,000 gift card and then play for the remaining prizes, including a diamond tennis bracelet from Morningstar Jewelers.

<< Players at the final table watch an all-in play out.



# POKER RETURNING TO CALDER IN NOVEMBER

You might be surprised to learn Calder Race Course in Miami Gardens once had a poker room, opening in 2004 with all the standard games. But the room was small, on the second floor of the grandstand and it housed just 12 tables. At the time it was the first poker room at a thoroughbred horse track on the southeast coast. But at the end of the 2005 season its card room operations were moved to Gulfstream Park and poker went into hibernation at Calder.

Well, Calder poker is about to awaken from its four-year slumber. In mid to late Novem-

ber Calder opens a new 4,000-square-foot 30-table room on the first floor of its existing grandstand. Look for plenty of flatscreen TVs, parimutuel wagering and enough room for poker tournaments.

"We are very much looking forward to bringing back a poker room at Calder," director of communications Michele Blanco said. "And this time bigger and better than before, offering our customers more entertainment and gaming opportunities. It's an exciting time at Calder."

The facility's brass is interviewing for pok-

er room manager and *Ante Up* will follow that story as it develops.

"We have to be competitive in this marketplace," Blanco said. "We're aiming for our casino to open January 2010."

Calder was set to break ground in May on that 104,000-square foot casino that will offer 1,200 slot machines, three restaurants, valet parking service and self-service terminals for wagering on horse races as well as video monitors to show live and simulcast racing.

But before that you can count on a new poker room to explore. — **Chris Cosenza**

## Dania Jai-Alai & Poker



The winners of the Dan Le Batard Celebrity tournament pose with hosts Marc Hochman, far left, and Le Batard (background). The "choppers" were, from left, Ryan Fears, Mark Duper (yes, *that* Mark Duper), Rommel Brioso and Dustin Sher.

## SUPER DUPER CHOPS TITLE

Mark Duper, the former Dolphins star receiver, shared the winnings in the Dan Le Batard Celebrity Poker Tournament at Dania Jai-Alai on April 29.

With more than 200 participants it came down to the final table when Ryan Fears, Rommel Brioso, Dustin Sher and Duper agreed to "chop" the prize money. Each player received \$1,485, but Brioso was declared the official winner and took home the coveted "Le Batard Trophy."

"We love having this tournament at Dania Jai-Alai," 790 The Ticket's co-host Marc Hochman said. "Dan and the guys look forward to it each month ... it gives us a chance to meet and have some fun with our loyal audience, plus introduce them to the beautiful Dania poker room and some great jai-alai."

## Flagler Greyhound Track



From left: Sonny F., Jose Gutierrez, Leonardo Beze and Daniel Pena won the April 25 \$120 bounty tournament at the Magic City Poker Room, which hosts a \$550 WSOP satellite May 30.

## Sports Bar Poker Tour

George Latsos needed to eliminate a good friend on his way to the Season 8 final championship at J.B. Locals Bar & Grill in Tam-arac, and he did just that.

For his victory Latsos earned a sponsorship in a tournament at the 2009 World Series of Poker.

Aside from the main tournament, the season final gives the league a chance to crown its players with the most wins and most points for the season.

Mary Alice had the most wins and earned a gift card and trophy. Deb Rine had the most points for the season and also won a gift card and trophy.





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Shirley Mullen and her booty.

#### HHPT final results

##### Silks Poker Room

April 28

1. Shirley Mullen  
Trinity, \$1,440

2. Tina Itschner  
Tampa, \$1,060

3. Debbie Pullen  
Tampa, \$660

4. Andrea Bauer  
Palm Harbor, \$430

5. Holly Hehenberger  
St. Petersburg, \$310

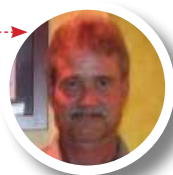
#### Treasure Chest Poker



Above is Brad Kistler, who played for Danny's Curlew and took down the Battle of the Bars last month. He won a \$50 gift card for his efforts.

TCP also donated about 3,000 cans to the Tampa Bay Harvest Group with its Chips 4 Cans promotion that ended May 1.

Pictured at right is Greg Ross, who bested 90 players to win the monthly tournament at Lee Roy Selmon's Bar and Grill in Bradenton.



For his victory Ross earned a seat in the yearly tournament for a chance to play in the WSOP.

## MULLEN WINS HHPT EVENT AT SILKS



For the first time in High Heels Poker Tour history, one of its ladies events made its way to the west coast of Florida. And Trinity's Shirley Mullen is glad it did, winning the tournament and \$1,440 at the Silks Poker Room at Tampa Bay Downs. Fifty women came from all over the state to compete, but in the end it was the local Tampa Bay player who proved too tough to handle.

The poker room applauded Mullen as she exited holding her trophy high above her head.

The HHPT Academy will be at the Hard Rock Poker Lounge in Las Vegas on June 5-6 with a two-day academy (instructors include Karina Jett and Barbara Enright), followed by its first Las Vegas tournament on June 10.

Go to [highheelspokertour.com](http://highheelspokertour.com) for details.

#### Seminole Hard Rock Tampa



Rodney Rodriguez of Longwood, being congratulated by tournament directory Adam Rohani, won first place and \$100,000 in the \$1,100 Spring Extravaganza during the first weekend in April. There were 264 players in the event.



Roy Wegerle of Sarasota, 45, won \$176,231 when his quad fours lost to quad fives during a hold'em hand. The total bad beat was \$352,461.

# \$550 WSOP SATELLITE

APRIL 26 • DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB



It was a busy weekend for the folks at Daytona Beach Kennel Club's poker room as they hosted another World Series of Poker satellite event, this time sending five players to the WSOP Main Event in July at the Rio in Las Vegas.

The facility also held a mini poker-product expo in its lobby and brought in Tiffany Michelle as host. Michelle, famous for being the last lady standing at last year's main event, helped kick off the festivities by signing autographs and posing for photos April 25. She then played in the qualifier the following day, finishing in the final four tables.

"I was card dead," she said. "And I know everyone always says that, but it's true. I guess it's always good to get that deep with no cards. But I got it all-in short-stacked with AQ vs. AJ and you can guess what flopped." (Look for her On the Button Q&A next month in *Ante Up*.)

Jon Davies, who was a good sport, was the first player eliminated and received a copy of *Texas Hold'Em For Dummies*, which Michelle autographed.

## Going to the show

The DBKC poker room is sending these players to the 2009 WSOP.

Le Tran	Barry Elmquist
Scott Burkott	Chetan Patel
Mark Hazlett	Roger Stewart
Katrina Lewis	Anthony Romano
Roger Lacharitz	Dean Stills
Hristos Tsironis	Alberto Herrera
Waseem Tarawneh	Jean-Claude Carmel
Kul Ohri	David Fowler
Thomas House	Danny Wade
Basil Jaisingh	Stacy Wall
Sean Dwan	Michael Holmes
Hung Le	



Here are the five players who won their WSOP Main Event seat on April 26, clockwise from bottom left: Jean-Claude Carmel, Stacy Wall, Danny Wade, Michael Holmes and David Fowler. Flanking the group: DBKC tournament director Michael Limberis (blue shirt) and poker room manager Mark Hayes (red shirt).



Pro Tiffany Michelle said she was card dead in the qualifier.



Ante Up publisher Chris Cosenza follows the action intently.



Patrick Murphy of the Silks Poker Room in Tampa considers a call.

## Special events continue at Daytona Beach Kennel Club & Poker

The Daytona Beach Kennel Club is making good use of its "Official WSOP Satellite Location" moniker by hosting another qualifier June 14 at 1 p.m. It will have a \$150 buy-in and the room will give away 1-5 seats (\$11,500 package for seat and travel).

But DBKC also hosts the inaugural Venetian Deep Stack Charity Poker Classic, benefitting the C.B.T. on June 7 at 1 p.m. It will

have a \$140 buy-in and first place is a \$5K seat in the Venetian's famed main event on July 3, plus \$3,500 for expenses. Prizes for second-fifth are worth about \$5,500, including entry into the Venetian's \$2,100 event on June 26. Every winner receives roundtrip airfare for two, exclusive limousine transportation and \$1,000 in food and beverage credit valid at all of the Venetian's restaurants.



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## STATE REPORT

### CENTRAL FLORIDA: Ocala Poker & Jai-Alai



Paul Peterson won April's \$300 WSOP Main Event satellite at Ocala Poker & Jai-Alai. The field had 64 players as Peterson won a \$10K seat and \$2,500 for travel expenses. The next WSOP satellite will be May 30 at 1:30 p.m. and again will cost \$300. But before that the poker room will be celebrating its one-year anniversary by giving away \$500 every half hour May 23-24.

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# WPTAPL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

APRIL 16-18 • INTERNATIONAL PLAZA RESORT AND SPA • ORLANDO



Dunedin's Dale Rich was 4th and won a cruise for two.



John Greenwell won the national title and a \$10K buy-in to a World Poker Tour event.



Orlando's Justin Ostrander (third) was Florida's highest finisher.



Poker pro and WPT Boot Camp instructor Nick Brancato gives a seminar to some of the players in attendance.

Players from all over America descended upon the International Plaza Resort and Spa in Orlando from April 16-18 for the WPTAPL National Championships — and what a turnout it was.

Nearly 320 players participated, and Florida was well-represented with three players in the top 10.

"We didn't have one complaint," WPTAPL director of business development A.J. Wiley said. "It was a blast. It was great to meet so many players from around the country. Everything went really smooth and we got a lot of support locally. We're going to hold it there again next year."

Orlando's Justin Ostrander earned Florida's highest finish, bowing out in third. Dale Rich of Dunedin was fourth. John Greenwall won the title and a \$10K WPT buy-in.

## Final results

1. John Greenwell
2. David Cook
3. Justin Ostrander
4. Dale Rich
5. Patrick Wood
6. Mike Hustedde
7. Daniel Dominik
8. Sandy Rizzo



The final table of one of the charity events eagerly watches an all-in.



# FT. PIERCE CELEBRATES ONE YEAR OF POKER



The Crystal Card Room at Ft. Pierce, Jai-Alai wrapped up a very successful first year with an anniversary celebration in the poker room on April 28. The poker room was packed (as evidenced by the above photos) and players were treated with gifts and a drawing for a high-definition television.



In other news, John Burke from Vero Beach won the March deep-stack tournament, pocketing \$6,900. There were 186 players for a prize pool of \$23,250. Trent Smith from Maryland took second (\$3,994). The \$150 deep-stack event is every third Saturday of the month at 3 p.m. June's deep-stack will be an Ante Up Poker Tour event.



## Palm Beach Princess



From left: Larry Shawe, Lacy Wills, Rudy Siblesz, Israel Borjas and Francis Ward get together for a snap at Foxwoods in Connecticut for the WPT's main event in April. The players won their seats in satellites aboard the Princess.

## NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA POKER SCENE: Hamilton Jai-Alai and Poker



Steve Harrington, at right, had the losing hand and James Smith, left, had the best hand, but they were both winners as they hit the bad-beat jackpot in April.

The jackpot pool was \$10,000 as Smith's royal flush beat Harrington's aces full of queens.

For more of what poker room manager Carlos Pita has planned for his players check out Hamilton's listing on Page 28.





# HOW WILL NEW LAWS CHANGE FLORIDA POKER?

No limits. Longer hours. New rooms.

The gambling bill the Florida Legislature passed May 8 is reason to cheer for every poker player in the Sunshine State and is nothing short of a game-changer for Florida poker.

Or is it?

In casual chats with poker room managers after the bill was passed, a few aren't yet convinced the changes will have that dramatic of an effect. And since none of us really know until we see it in practice, here's a quick look at some of the possibilities:

## Will players play longer ... and can they afford to?

With no limit on buy-ins or bets, there will be more reason for players to stick around their favorite poker room a little longer than they do now, when the \$100 buy-in max or lack of decent limit games wears on them. But the economy is still in tatters; it's possible players who suffer a big loss at a \$5-\$10 no-max buy-in no-limit game may walk out the door to never come back.

## Will Internet players pull the plug and play live now?

Internet poker is still going strong, and if U.S. Rep. Barney Frank gets his way, it's only going to get stronger. Dozens of top Florida players are known only by unique screen names because they never set foot in a live room. We likely will see these players in live rooms once they can buy-in for more than \$100 and bet more than \$5.

## Will this open a new breed of competition among the state's poker rooms?

Outside of promotions or aesthetics, it's hard for Florida rooms to really differentiate themselves these days. But this law opens up an endless stream of possible creativity in game offerings. Will players bypass the room that's closest to them to drive to that vibrant \$10-\$20 limit game across town? Will they hop on a plane to get to that juicy \$25-\$50 pot-limit Omaha game on the other side of that state? Yes, I think they will.

## Will underground games dry up?

Serious poker players know where they can find a big-limit, and entirely illegal, game on any night of the week. But if they can get the game they want legally in their local poker room, it doesn't make much sense to take those risks any longer.

## Will limit poker make a comeback?

A \$5 bet limit that encourages no-fold'em hold'em has persuaded scores of Florida limit players to try the \$1-\$2 no-limit tables over the past two years. Now rooms will be able to offer a \$4-\$8 game, which is widely believed to be a consistent rake generator. ... but only if people want to play it. I believe it's safe to assume you'll see steady Omaha/8 games now, but whether we'll see consistent \$10-\$20 or even \$20-\$40 limit games is a mystery.

## Will the World Poker Tour or a World Series of Poker circuit event finally come to Florida?

With a \$900 tournament buy-in max, Florida is hardly attractive for a Heartland Poker Tour stop, let alone the WPT and WSOP, where \$10,000 buy-ins are the rule. But with that cap lifted, and the beautiful beaches and tourism draw of Florida, expect the WPT to come calling as soon as a Florida room puts together an attractive enough package. And Jeffrey Pollack, commissioner of the World Series of Poker, told *Ante Up* last year that Florida would be a desirable location for a circuit event, but only if the laws changed. Will Harrah's look to be-

## What's changing

The Florida Legislature approved a sweeping gambling bill May 8 that dictates parameters of a gaming compact with the Seminole Tribe and changes a host of rules for parimutuel permit holders. The state and the Seminole Tribe have until Aug. 31 to agree to a compact, and the new law will take effect once the Legislature approves the compact. Here's what the deal means for Florida poker:

**LIMITS:** No limits on bet sizes or buy-ins for cash games or tournaments, though rooms are free to set limits.

**HOURS:** Parimutuel rooms can stay open 18 hours Monday-Thursday and 24 hours Saturdays, Sundays and select holidays. The "stacking" loophole that allowed rooms to combine permits to operate around the clock has been abolished.

**NEW ROOMS:** Regulations for quarterhorse racing have been established, and qualifying permit holders, such as Hialeah Park in South Florida, can open a room as soon as their first race is concluded. Also, qualifying holders of dormant jai-alai permits may convert those permits to greyhound permits and open new poker rooms. Palm Beach Kennel Club is tentatively planning to do that.

## Have an opinion?

Share your thoughts in the "New Florida poker laws" post at [anteupmagazine.com/forum](http://anteupmagazine.com/forum).



come a player in Florida? I can't see how it can afford not to.

## Will Florida poker players curtail their out-of-state poker trips?

Florida had the fourth-highest percentage of entrants at last year's World Series of Poker, a fact that's likely not surprising to many of us. We support our local rooms, but when we want to play "real" poker, we catch the next flight to Las Vegas, Biloxi or Atlantic City. With "real" poker just steps from our houses, the state's players may choose to make their vacations to non-poker destinations, and leave that poker money right here in the state's economy.

## ...and will Florida now become a poker destination?

Let's say you're a dad in Kansas, looking to take the family on a Disney trip. But you also want to play some cards after you put the kiddies to bed. Do you choose to fly to Disney World in Orlando, where there's no poker (see story, Page 30) and the poker that's closest has bet and buy-in limits? Or do you choose to fly to Disneyland in Los Angeles, where you're just a short car trip from some of the best poker on the planet? Easy choice. But after the laws change here, not so easy. It might be a few years before word gets out that Florida is a true poker destination, and for rooms to make the infrastructure investments that'll prove that moniker, but it'll happen.

Florida is on the poker map now. How big the dot becomes is up to all of us.



SCOTT LONG

# LUCAS WINS 2 WSOP SEATS IN JACKSONVILLE

As anyone who has tried to qualify for the World Series of Poker through a satellite can attest to, winning a seat is very difficult.

Now, imagine the Herculean effort it takes to win *two* seats.

Well, that's exactly what Aaron Lucas of Jacksonville did recently at the poker rooms in Jacksonville.

"Lucky me! It's an indescribable feeling," said the Washington D.C. native who now lives in Jacksonville. "One of my dreams is to just play in the World Series, you know?"

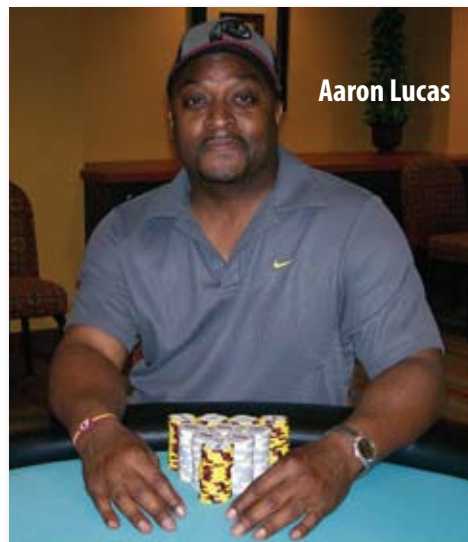
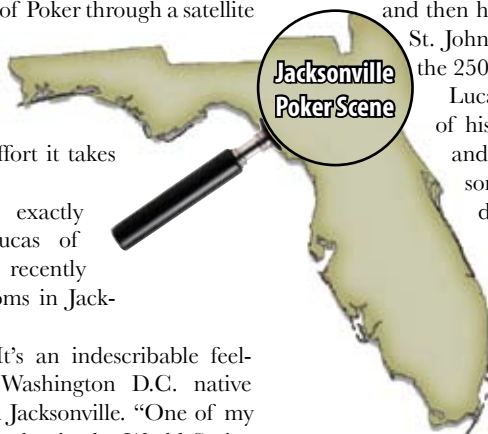
He won his first seat at Orange Park

Kennel Club in the 170-player \$225 event and then his second seat came at St. John's Greyhound Park in the 250-player \$150 event.

Lucas plans to take one of his \$12K prize packages and cash it in to play in some of the WSOP's undercard NLHE events.

The other satellite winners in Jacksonville were Jason Hagan, Ryan Sheehan, William Van Ormer III, Roy Vazquez, Deloris "Boots" Batson, Kerry Goldberg,

Horace Thomas Jr. and Armando Cisnero.



Aaron Lucas

## Southeast Hold'em



Southeast Hold'em owners Rob and Bobby flank World Series of Poker-entry winner Danny Wade, who also won a WSOP Main Event seat in the April qualifier at Daytona Beach Kennel Club & Poker Room (see story page 13).

Wade's victory in the Southeast semi-annual tournament in Daytona means he'll be playing in the WSOP in June.

The league also is sending one of their dealers to the World Series as Steve-O (pictured at right)

won the dealers tournament and earned a seat. Southeast Hold'em has expanded to Daytona and soon will be in the Tampa/St. Pete area along with existing venues in Orlando and Jacksonville. Go to [Southeastholdem.com](http://Southeastholdem.com) for details.

**BI-MONTHLY EVENT:** After the semi-annual was a bi-monthly event in which the top 75 players in the entire league were invited to compete for buy-ins at local card rooms, in this case the Jacksonville poker rooms. Results are at right.



## Final results

Bi-monthly event

1. Chris Weed
2. Steve Pederson
3. Simon Gill
4. Ashley Montoleone
5. Roy Holocomb
6. Scott Monroe
7. Cliff Taylor
8. Ed LeBlanc
9. Jeff Atwood
10. Adrienne Hackworth

## SOUTHWEST POKER SCENE: Naples-Ft. Myers Greyhound Track

On April 18 the poker room at Naples-Ft. Myers Greyhound Track held the first of its three World Series of Poker Main Event qualifiers and 87 players participated in the \$550 event.

The tournament began at noon and was over by 9:30 p.m. as four players are headed to Las Vegas.

The winners were Dennis Martin, Eric Feichthaler, Frank DiMeglio and Terry Mekerchie. They receive a \$10K buy-in plus \$1K for travel experiences.

"Just good, solid poker-playing," poker room manager Cindy Fra said.





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Debbie Kidd signs one of the charity felts for the WPT Celebrity Invitational. At right she poses with poker pro Shawn "Sheiky" Sheikhan, whom she knocked out of the tournament.



## EBRO REGULAR MAKES GOOD ON CHARITY SEAT

Fate, as it turned out, waited until Debbie Kidd got very deep into the World Poker Tour Celebrity Invitational before lowering the boom. In December fate refused to let the part-time Panama City Beach resident go bust in the Charity Poker Challenge at Ebro Greyhound Park, surviving numerous all-ins while behind, ultimately earning the winner-take-all seat to this prestigious event.

But fate has a funny way of being cruel, tempting Kidd with the ultimate prize, a \$100,000 payday at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles. She worked her way through a field of 584 players (many Hollywood celebs) before finally bowing out in 67<sup>th</sup> place. And fate is not without a sense of humor, giving Kidd pocket aces preflop, only to lose an all-in race vs. 9-10. To add insult to injury, she flopped a set on the hand but lost to a straight on the river.

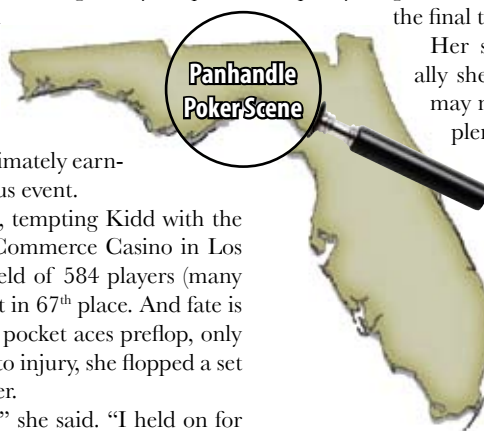
"I went out with the best hand possible," she said. "I held on for

a pretty long time. I believe if that didn't happen I would have made the final table."

Her stack was crippled with that loss and eventually she was knocked out holding pocket eights. Kidd may not have won the event, but she came away with plenty of stories (she eliminated Shawn "Sheiky" Sheikhan) and photos (with Ray Romano, Mike Sexton, Mike "The Mouth" Matusow, Jerry Yang and many others).

"I had a good time. I even played live with a few of them," she said. "I played with (eventual winner) Freddy Deeb for about 10 minutes before he moved to an Omaha table."

And she won more than \$14K in those cash games. It's not a WPT title, but the Ebro regular will take it. — **Chris Cosenza**



Jack Robertson

### Pleasure Island Poker

Jack Robertson had his work cut out for him April 11. After more than three hours of playing in the monthly tournament at Scully's in Fort Walton Beach, Robertson survived a field of 103 players to take down the title.

It was Robertson's second monthly win in two years, but he would tell you this one seemed like destiny. Before the tournament he had a dream he would win the event, and he even dreamed about the clothes he would be wearing. He didn't take any chances, picking out the exact outfit from his dream (pictured) and it proved fortuitous as he got to the final table with a better than 2-to-1 chip lead.

For his victory Robertson gets to play in a tournament at a casino in Biloxi, Miss.

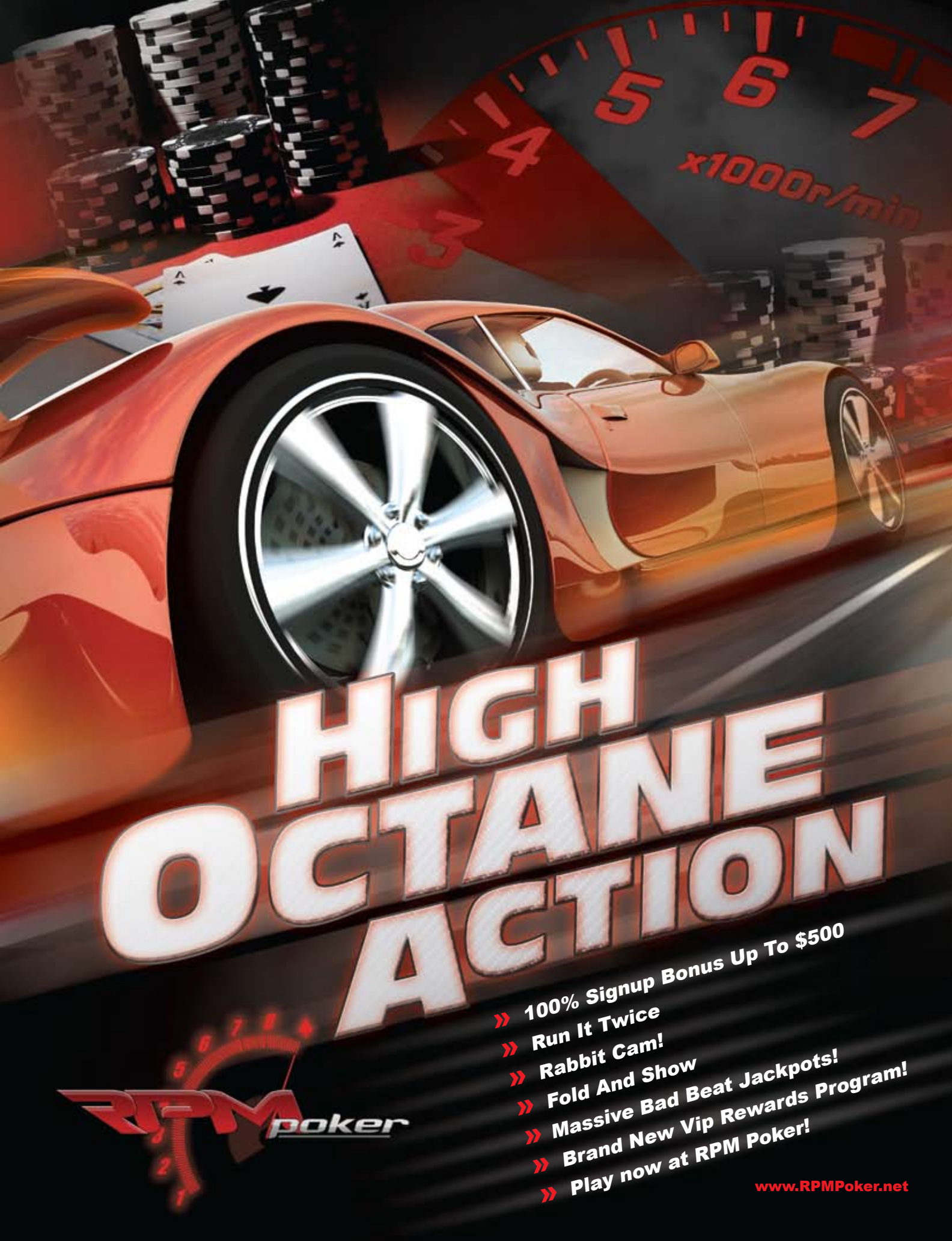


On a more serious note, the Pleasure Island family received some bad news when one of its regulars and most successful players, **Dan Baggish**, suffered a heart attack and died April 2 at the Imperial Palace in Biloxi. He had just finished playing in a poker tournament.

"Dan was a good friend of mine and I will miss his wit and sarcasm at the tables," Pleasure Island's M.C. Walters said. "He was a very strong supporter and promoter of Pleasure Island Poker, as well as a good friend to many of our regular poker players. He was given the title of 'Poker Police,' which he wore proudly due to his being a member of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and being a 'stickler' for the rules."

Mr. Baggish, 62, lived in Shalimar.





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## NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

JOHN LANIER • A look at Florida's online players and beyond



# ONLINE POKER BILL GETS INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

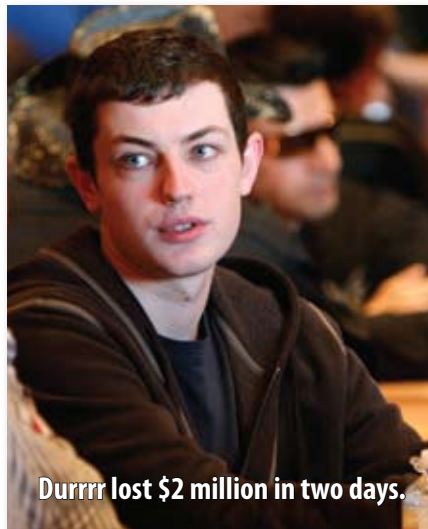
U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., introduced a long-awaited bill that would regulate online gaming in the United States.

The Internet Gambling Regulation Consumer Protection & Enforcement Act seeks to create a framework for federal regulation and enforcement of online gaming, including poker. The bill has the backing of the Poker Players Alliance, as well as large gaming operators such as Harrah's. However, some watchers say its prospects will be a challenge since Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada is against online gaming and no Senate effort is afoot. Frank also is introducing legislation to rollback the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act, the law passed during the Bush administration that made it illegal for U.S. financial institutions to facilitate transfers between its customers and certain online gambling sites.

Elsewhere in the country:

**FLORIDA:** House Bill 425, which passed the House and Senate unanimously, included a short directive to the state's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a review of online poker by Dec. 1 and make a recommendation on whether any laws are necessary to "provide protection and remedies."

**MINNESOTA:** Its Department of Public Safety said it asked 11 Internet service providers to block access to 200 online gambling sites. The state is citing a federal law that requires



Durrrr lost \$2 million in two days.

"common carriers," a term that mainly applies to phone companies to comply with requests that they block telecommunications services used for gambling.

**CALIFORNIA:** The California Online Poker Law Enforcement Compliance and Consumer Protection Act, a bill to regulate online gaming in California, seeks to protect gaming operators licensed in the state while allowing them to expand online.

**NBCSports.com back in poker:** NBCSports.com has re-launched its online poker room, and it's free to play, offering a chance to win cash, prizes, NBCsports.com gear and a grand-prize

## AIPS on PokerStars

Event 5 is June 10 and is an 8-game mixed double stack tournament with an \$11 buy-in. If that's too steep try qualifying via the May 27 freeroll. The eight games include all of the familiar H.O.R.S.E. disciplines as well as Deuce-to-Seven Triple Draw, no-limit hold'em and pot-limit Omaha.

package that includes a seat and \$20,000 buy-in to NBC's 2010 National Heads-Up Poker Championship at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. More than 11,000 people have registered to play.

**You Think You Run Bad At Poker?** Tom Dwan, a.k.a. Durrrr, recently lost \$2 million over two days online in April. You may have seen Dwan on GSN's *High Stakes Poker* this season.

## Poker Stars

The world's largest online poker room has introduced the \$1 Million Turbo Takedown, which has a \$1 million prize pool offered on the last Sunday of every month. Also, its running satellites for the Russian Poker Tour, giving you the chance to qualify for just \$2.22.

Satellites have started for the WSOP. Every player who qualifies for the main event on PokerStars (and signs the terms and conditions and plays the event) will have their account credited with 100,000 VIPs, making them an instant Supernova VIP. Each package includes a \$10K buy-in, \$1K for travel and expenses, eight nights hotel accommodations at the Palms (plus more if you're still in), PokerStars player bag, shuttle bus to and from the Rio and much more.

## ANTE UP POKERCAST PRESENTED BY POKERSTARS

**Ante Up, the longest running poker show on the Internet, is still cranking out the best PokerCast on the planet. Tune in Fridays at anteupmagazine.com or subscribe on iTunes for free.**

The Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (a.k.a. AIPS) is *Ante Up's* monthly fan tournament series on PokerStars.com. Battle the Ante Up Nation for bragging rights, cash and, yes, the ultimate prize — the AIPS banana. And new this year: Every winner gets a PokerStars stuffed monkey! Email us a photograph of you with your banana and monkey to editor@anteupmagazine.com and we'll publish it in the magazine.

For bragging rights, knock out one of the *Ante Up* publishers — Scott "OffDeadline" Long and Chris "aun2112" Cosenza. Don't have a PokerStars account? No problem. Go to anteupmagazine.com/aips and click on the PokerStars banner. Use the code "psante50" to get a 100 percent matching deposit bonus up to \$50!



### Event #5

June 10  
8-Game Mixed  
\$11

### Event #7

Aug. 12  
NLHE Rebuy  
\$1.10

### Event #9

Oct. 7  
Razz  
\$5.50

### Event #6

July 15  
Stud/8  
\$5.50

### Event #8

Sept. 9  
Omaha/8  
\$5.50

### Event #10

Nov. 11  
NLHE Heads-Up  
\$5.50



## STATE REPORT

# ANTE UP POKER TOUR WILL KICK OFF JUNE 6

Do you have what it takes to be Ante Up's Player of the Year?

The Ante Up Poker Tour kicks off June 6, and the player who amasses the most points during the yearlong series of tournaments across Florida will win a unique prize package that begins with a cover photo and story in *Ante Up Magazine*.

"This is a perfect blend of Ante Up's two major goals — giving Florida players the coverage they deserve and encouraging them to travel the state to play in all of our great rooms," said Scott Long, who publishes *Ante Up Magazine* with Christopher Cosenza.



To earn Player of the Year points, just finish in the top 10 of any Ante Up Poker Tour event. No extra entry fee or preregistration is required. Just sign up and play like you would for any other tournament.

The player who earns the most points through May 31, 2010 will be Ante Up's Player of the Year and will win:

- Cover photo and story in *Ante Up Magazine*
- Featured interview on the Ante Up PokerCast
- Custom-crafted bracelet from Madison Jewelers
- More prizes to be added throughout the year.

Runners-up will receive exposure in *Ante Up Magazine* and will be eligible for prizes.

"This is what it's all about," Cosenza said, "playing for sweet prizes, experiencing other poker rooms around the Sunshine State and having a chance to land on the cover of Florida's Poker Magazine."

Players can track their progress and check the schedule of events at [anteupmagazine.com/tour](http://anteupmagazine.com/tour). Ante Up Poker Tour events also will get expanded coverage in *Ante Up Magazine*.



### Race for the Bracelet

- June 6:** Seminole Casino Immokalee, 4 p.m., \$225  
**June 7:** Daytona Beach Kennel Club, 1 p.m., \$140  
**June 12:** Dania Jai-Alai and Poker, 6:30 p.m., \$100  
**June 14:** Palm Beach Princess, 10:30 a.m., \$100  
**June 19:** Isle Casino at Pompano Park, 2:30 p.m., \$900  
**June 20:** Derby Lane, 2 p.m., \$100  
**June 20:** Ft. Pierce Jai Alai and Poker, 3 p.m., \$150  
**June 20:** Gulfstream Park, 6:30 p.m., \$150  
**June 20:** Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai, 2 p.m., \$120  
**June 21:** Tampa Bay Downs, 1 p.m., \$350  
**June 25:** Mardi Gras Gaming, 6:30 p.m., \$100  
**June 27:** Palm Beach Kennel Club, 1 p.m., \$200  
**June 27:** Sarasota Kennel Club, 7 p.m., \$100

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<b>TUES</b>	12 noon	NLH \$90 bounty
	6:30 pm	NLH \$65 re-entry
<b>WED</b>	12 noon	NLH \$30/\$20 re-buys
	6:30 pm	NLH \$90 bounty
<b>THURS</b>	12 noon	NLH \$65 re-entry
	6:30 pm	NLH \$100
<b>FRI</b>	1 pm	NLH \$100 5k chips
	6:30 pm	NLH \$30/\$20 re-buys
<b>SAT</b>	1 pm	NLH \$200 10k chips
	6:30 pm	NLH \$30/\$20 re-buys

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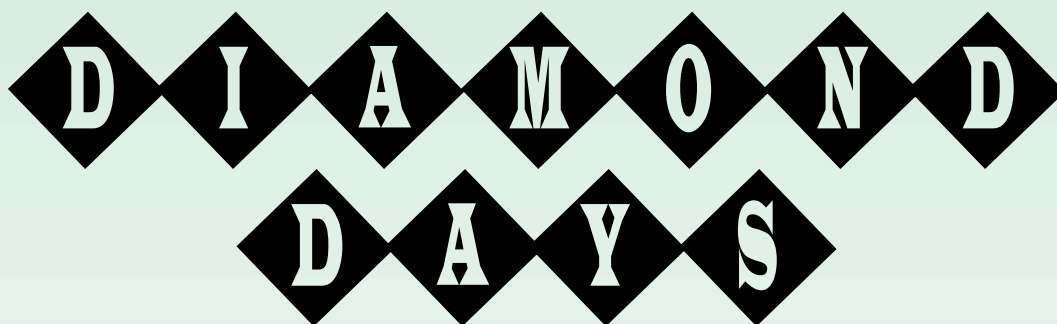
**Pitch:** You won't believe independent league baseball until you see it! Trash talk the opponent (the announcer will egg you on!).

**Poker:** On your way to Pensacola, stop by Ebro Greyhound Park in Ebro and try to hit one of its bad-beat or high-hand jackpots.



## St. Petersburg

**Poker:** Go for a big score in Tampa Bay's monthly \$350 tournament on June 21. \$10,000 is guaranteed.



Spring Training is long gone, but you'll find plenty of great professional baseball all summer long in Florida. When he's not at the poker table, you'll find *Ante Up* publisher and season-ticket holder Scott Long cheering on the Clearwater Threshers at Bright House Field. Here's his pitch for the perfect June poker road trip.

### Pitch: Th



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E-mail your unique poker road trip to [jackpot@pokernews.com](mailto:jackpot@pokernews.com). If we use it, we'll run your photo and give you a \$100 cash prize. Your trip must be themed (golf courses! biker bars! casinos! you name it!), and include as many



## About Road Trip

With 30 poker rooms and dozens of free poker leagues all across Florida, you don't need a reason to make a road trip. But in case you do, each month we'll give you a unique road map to Florida fun and poker.



### Jacksonville Suns

#### Jacksonville

**Pitch:** Bask in the sunshine as you watch Florida's only Class AA team. The Suns, a Marlins affiliate, offer "Fifty-Cent Family Feast Nights" on Tuesdays.

**Poker:** Grab some expertly prepared sushi from the Aces Up sushi bars at The Poker Rooms at St. Johns Greyhound Park or Orange Park Kennel Club.



### AAU National Baseball Championships

#### Kissimmee

**Pitch:** Get a sneak peek at the major-league heroes of tomorrow (ages 9-19) at this national championship event at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex on June 21-July 1.

**Poker:** You won't find poker for money in Orlando (see cover story, pages 30-33), but numerous free poker leagues have events every night of the week.



### Roger Dean Stadium

#### Jupiter

**Pitch:** Catch some great Class A baseball at the only stadium in the country that is home to two minor-league baseball teams, the Palm Beach Cardinals and the Jupiter Hammerheads.



**Poker:** If you still haven't won your seat to the World Series of Poker, Palm Beach Kennel Club is running satellites through May 30.

### League All-Star Game

The annual game pitting the best Class A players in Florida against each other comes to Hammond Stadium on June 20. And be sure not to miss the Home Run Derby beforehand.

**Poker:** Go to Seminole Casino Immokalee, home of the first Ante Up Poker Tour event, and ask poker room manager Rick Connell to tell you one of his great stories about Tony Nguyen.

### Fox Sports Florida Fantasy Auction

#### Miami Gardens

**Pitch:** The Baltimore Orioles are in town for interleague play on June 23, and you can bid on unique Marlins prize packages to benefit the Florida Marlins Community Foundation.

**Poker:** The Florida State Poker Championship is running June 12-22 at the Isle Casino. Buy-ins range from \$200 for the ladies event to \$900 to the main event.



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# SET SAIL ON THE ANTE UP POKER CRUISE AUG. 20-24

What's better than taking down a pot with 7-2 off? Taking down a pot by bluffing with 7-2 off on your way to Cozumel! And that's where the Ante Up Poker Cruise presented by RPM Poker is headed Aug. 20 aboard the Carnival *Inspiration* out of Tampa for four nights of great poker action on the Gulf of Mexico.

"Cruising is the best value for your vacation dollar these days, and when you add in a bustling poker room with great games at great limits, you have the perfect late summer getaway," said Scott Long, who publishes *Ante Up Magazine* with Christopher Cosenza.

"RPM Poker is a quickly growing site known for unique features like 'run it twice,' monster bad-beat jackpots and 'show one card,'" said an RPM Poker spokesman. "And we're really excited to be working with *Ante Up* on the Ante Up Poker Cruise."

Ante Up will transform the *Inspiration's* huge conference room into a casual card room with pro dealers and games, limits and tournaments for all players.

"It's bigger than some poker rooms around the country, and the view, obviously, is remarkable," Cosenza said.

Jody Russell and Cassie Greene will run the poker room.



Cassie and Jody

Russell, former director of poker operations at Tampa Greyhound Track, and Greene, a veteran poker manager, have staffed several poker cruises and know what it takes to make this unique setting one that players will remember.

"I have always been impressed by *Ante Up* magazine and its staff," Russell said. "This cruise is sure to be a

'who's who' of Florida poker and it's an honor to be chosen as poker room manager for our maiden voyage at sea. We have a great team lined up that's certain to impress everyone."

Cash games will have buy-ins for the casual player up to the serious rounder. The highlight of the daily tournament schedule is a \$150 buy-in Ante Up Poker Tour event that will have a generous structure.

The poker room's schedule maximizes poker action while giving players the freedom to enjoy all the great things about cruising, like all-you-can-eat fine dining, Las Vegas-style shows and relaxing by the pool with a frosty cocktail.

"We also want a cruise that players feel comfortable with bringing non-playing spouses and friends on board," Long said. "So we've planned an open-bar cocktail party, spouses mixer and even a beginners' poker class followed by a low-limit friendly game."

Fares start at \$359 per person based on double-occupancy — a rate that's guaranteed through June 19. The Ante Up Poker Room is a private affair, so players must book through Ante Up's travel agent, Mary Kolb of GO Travel Orlando — (727) 733-3498 or [mkolb@gotravelorlando.com](mailto:mkolb@gotravelorlando.com).

For the most up-to-date information go to [anteupmagazine.com/cruise](http://anteupmagazine.com/cruise) or call (727) 331-4335 with questions.

"It's a great chance to play some poker, relax on the high seas and meet our great readers and listeners," Cosenza said. "I hope everyone comes out and tries to check-raise me on the river ... or on the gulf in this case."



## Ante Up Poker Cruise presented by RPM Poker

Aug. 20-24 • Carnival Inspiration • Tampa to Cozumel

### SCHEDULE

- **Thursday, Aug. 20:** Leaves Tampa at 4 p.m., open bar cocktail party and eight hours of poker.
- **Friday, Aug. 21:** 16 hours of poker while at sea.
- **Saturday, Aug. 22:** Port call in Cozumel, eight hours of poker while at sea.
- **Sunday, Aug. 23:** 12 hours of poker action while at sea.
- **Monday, Aug. 24:** Arrive in Tampa at 8 a.m.

### GAMES

Games and limits spread will be decided on board based on demand, but expected offerings include:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| • \$1-\$3 NLHE (\$50-\$200 buy-ins)    | • \$2-\$4 limit hold'em    |
| • \$2-\$5 NLHE (\$200-\$500 buy-ins)   | • \$10-\$20 limit hold'em  |
| • \$5-\$10 NLHE (\$500-no max buy-ins) | • \$4-\$8 limit Omaha/8    |
|  | • \$2-\$4 limit H.O.R.S.E. |

### TOURNAMENTS

Several \$50 multitable events, a \$150 Ante Up Poker Tour event and SNGs.

### TO BOOK

Mary Kolb at GO Travel • (727) 733-3498 • [mkolb@gotravelorlando.com](mailto:mkolb@gotravelorlando.com)  
Fares start at **\$359** per person, based on double occupancy, and are guaranteed through **June 19**.

### WIN YOUR WAY ON-BOARD!

You'll have multiple chances to win your way aboard coming up:

#### TAMPA BAY DOWNS

**June 18, 6 p.m.:** 100-player max freeroll sponsored by the WDAE Poker Club. Winner gets a cruise package for two. For registration details, visit [www.620WDAE.com](http://www.620WDAE.com). Also that night, SNGs will be run all night awarding cruise packages.

**June 21, 1 p.m.:** 2nd & 3rd in the \$350 event win a cruise package for two.

**July 19, 1 p.m.:** Top two in the \$350 event get a cruise package for two.

#### SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB

**May 29:** \$85 SNGs open to close that award cruise for one for top 2 finishers.

**June 12:** \$85 SNGs open to close that award cruise for one for top 2 finishers.

**Also:** Eight players of the month in May and June win a cruise for one.

#### SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE

"Poker Cruise Month" The highest hand every Thursday (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) and Sunday (11 p.m.-3 a.m.) in July wins a cruise package for two.

#### OCALA POKER

**June 5, 7 p.m.:** \$65 tournament pays cruise package for two plus cash for the top 2 finishers, based on a full field of 100, as part of "Full Boat Month."

#### RPM POKER

Online satellites to be scheduled. Check [anteupmagazine.com/cruise](http://anteupmagazine.com/cruise).



RPM POKER PRESENTS

# ANTE UP POKER CRUISE

AUGUST 20-24, 2009

TAMPA TO COZUMEL ABOARD THE CARNIVAL INSPIRATION!

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TOURNAMENTS • SNGS

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[WWW.ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM/CRUISE](http://WWW.ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM/CRUISE)



All prices are per person, based on double occupancy, cruise only and include taxes and gov't fees. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Ships Registry Bahamas





### Dania Jai-Alai

**Phone:** (954) 927-2841  
[www.dania-jai-alai.com](http://www.dania-jai-alai.com)  
**Tournaments:** \$25 with \$5 bounty daily at 12:30, plus M&W at 6:30; \$40 w/40-player max, Sat. 4; \$50 w/high hand award Tue. at 6:30; \$50 with \$250 player bounty Thurs. at 6:30; \$100 w/9K chips & 30-minute blinds Fri. at 6:30; \$55 every Sat., 6:30 and Sun., 8.  
**SNGs:** \$30 or \$50 between 2-5 p.m.  
**High hands:** \$50 each hour 1-8 p.m. daily; royal flush and mini-royal jackpots for each suit.  
**Special event:** June 12 (6:30 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100.  
**Promotions:** Progressive bad-beat jackpots in stud, Omaha/8 and hold'em; every Wed. night a hot dog & fries, wings (3), 20-ounce soft drinks, 16-ounce drafts, frozen drinks or regular soft serve cone are each just 99 cents.

### Daytona Beach Kennel Club

**Phone:** (386) 252-6484  
[daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom](http://daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom)  
**Tournaments:** Daily, including Wed. Ladies Day (\$25) at 1 p.m.; Sat. deep-stack (\$225) at 2 and Pot-Limit Omaha/8 (\$65) at 6:30.  
**SNGs:** \$40-\$220.  
**Special events:** June 7, 1 p.m., Venetian Deep Stack (charity and AUPT event), \$140; June 14, 1 p.m., WSOP satellite, \$150.  
**High hands:** M-Su every two hours; high hands win \$50-\$100; royal flushes in cash games \$250-\$500, all payouts depend on game and limits. Any royal in tournaments pays \$1,486.  
**Bad beat:** Quad fives.

### Derby Lane

**Phone:** (727) 812-3339 ext. 7  
[www.derbylanepoker.com](http://www.derbylanepoker.com)  
**Tournaments:** Daily, (1, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Su-Th and 2, 6 and 8 p.m. F-Sa), and pays the bubble with 60-plus players and two bubbles with 100-plus.  
**High hands:** Royals (hold'em, stud).  
**Special event:** June 20 (2 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour/Monster Deep Stack, 10K chips.  
**Promotions:** Diamonds are Forever — Players getting a diamond straight flush Su-Th win a share of \$2,500;  
**Aces Cracked** — Every day in the first two hours get aces cracked and win a rack of chips.

### Ebro Greyhound Park

**Phone:** (850) 535-4048  
[www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com](http://www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com)  
**Tournaments:** Big Stack Sundays, (\$150, 2 p.m.); World Series Wednesdays (\$30 w/\$20 rebuy, 7)  
**High hands:** Royal flush jackpots and two high hands per day.  
**Bad beat:** Quad deuces.

### Hamilton Jai-Alai

**Phone:** (800) 941-4841  
[hamiltondownsjaialai.com](http://hamiltondownsjaialai.com)  
**Tournaments:** Super Bounty Sunday (every other Sunday) 1, \$35, high hand of tournament gets \$100; Double Prize Pool Sunday (every other Sunday), 1, \$20, limited to 100 players and prize pool is matched with jackpot money; Fri. 7 (w/rebuys), \$65; Sat. bounty, \$100.  
**High hands:** \$100 at 5 and 10 p.m. W-Th; F-S-Su wins \$500. Progressive spade royal wins a minimum of \$1K jackpot, mini-royal wins 10 percent of main.  
**Bad beat:** Aces full of kings (\$10K).  
**Promotions:** "Splash the Pot Mondays" \$50 added to a random pot every hour; "First to Hit" runs weekdays until 7 p.m., paying \$100 to the first player to make a straight flush each day, plus \$50 to the first four players to make quads and \$25 to the first six to make a flush.

### Flagler Greyhound Track

**Phone:** (305) 649-3000  
[flaglerdogs.com](http://flaglerdogs.com)  
**Tournaments:** Sun. 2 p.m. Winner Take All, 50-player limit (\$25); Mon., 7 (\$75).  
**SNGs:** \$65-\$800.  
**Special event:** May 30, 2, WSOP satellite, \$550.  
**High hands:** \$200 all day; non-heart royals win \$1K, heart royal progressive (over \$40K at press time).  
**Other:** \$500 progressive hot table (visit Web site for details).

### Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai and Poker Room

**Phone:** (772) 464-7500  
[www.jaialai.net/poker.php](http://www.jaialai.net/poker.php)  
**Tournaments:** Mon. 7 p.m. (\$75); Wed. bounty 6:30 (\$100); Sat. 1:30 (\$100); Sun., 4 (\$55). Deep stack is third Saturday of every month, 3 p.m. (\$150).  
**SNGs:** Thursday-Saturday (\$65-\$110)  
**Special events:** May 23, WSOP satellite (\$175); June 20, Ante Up Poker Tour (\$150), 3 p.m.  
**High hands:** Every two hours Monday and Tuesday (call for payouts).  
**Bad beat:** Aces full of queens (hold'em), quads (stud) and quad jacks (Omaha).  
**Other:** Free coffee & doughnuts 11:30-1 p.m. M-Th.

### Gulfstream Park

**Phone:** (954) 457-6336  
[www.gulfstream.com/casino/poker](http://www.gulfstream.com/casino/poker)  
**Tournaments:** Daily at 6:30 p.m. (\$60-\$150), plus bounties M-W-F and Sat. Special, (\$150, 8K units).  
**SNGs:** \$60-\$120 (10 players, pays three spots).  
**Special event:** June 20, 6:30, Ante Up Poker Tour, \$150, 8K chips.  
**Promotions:** Play in the nightly qualifiers and earn points until June 7, when top 50 point-earners will play for three WSOP Main Event seats. See ad for details.

### Isle Casino at Pompano Park

**Phone:** (954) 972-2000 x5123, x5124  
[www.theislepompanopark.com](http://www.theislepompanopark.com)  
**Tournaments:** \$60-\$550.  
**SNGs:** (\$60-\$225).  
**Special event:** June 12-22, Florida State Poker Championship (includes AUPT event). See ad and story.  
**High hand:** Quad 8s or better Sun.-Mon. in a jackpot eligible hold'em game earns a Spin 2 Win turn; Tue.-Wed. every two hours starting at 3 p.m. pays \$200 for limit hold'em or Omaha but \$500 for NLHE game. Winners also receive entry into Friday \$60 satellite for Florida State Championship; all royal flushes win \$599.  
**Bad beat:** Every Thursday \$25K added to hold'em mini-jackpot all day. Call for details.

### Jefferson County Kennel Club

**Phone:** (850) 997-2561  
[www.jckcpokerroom.com](http://www.jckcpokerroom.com)  
**Tournaments:** Fri.-Sat., 7:30, (\$50).  
**High hand:** Royal flushes win jackpot.

### Mardi Gras Gaming

**Phone:** (877) 557-5687 x3167  
[www.playmardigras.com](http://www.playmardigras.com)  
**Tournaments:** Mon.-Sat., \$35, 11:30 a.m.; Sun.-Thurs., \$45, 7 p.m.; daily \$35, 2 a.m.; Sundays, \$145, 11:30 a.m. (includes buffet).  
**SNGs:** \$55-\$110.  
**High hands:** Royal flushes win \$599; any steel wheel in Omaha/8 wins \$200; straight flushes pay \$100, quad aces pays \$50 and any quads pay \$25, but all payouts double in NLHE.  
**Bad beat:** Aces full of jacks (HE), quad jacks (O/8) and aces full of kings (stud).  
**Promotions:** Happy Hours are Mon.-

Fri. from 1-3 a.m., 8-10 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. All quads payouts are doubled in limit games only.

### Melbourne Greyhound Park

**Phone:** (321) 259-9800  
[www.melbournegreyhoundpark.com](http://www.melbournegreyhoundpark.com)  
**Tournaments:** \$65-\$880, includes shootout, ladies, heads-up and bounty events.  
**SNGs, bad beats and promotions:** Call for details.

### Miami Jai-Alai

**Phone:** (305) 633-6400  
[www.miamijaialai.net](http://www.miamijaialai.net)  
**Tournaments:** Saturdays, 3 p.m., \$20 w/rebuys, 1,500 chips, 15-minute levels. (Extra 1K chips for \$5 dealer token, unlimited \$20 rebuys in first four levels for 2K chips, \$20 add-on gets 3K chips); Sundays, 1:30, \$45 (\$10 bounties).  
**Special event:** June 24, 1:30, \$150 (8K chips).  
**High hands:** \$100 every hour (win three a day and get an extra \$500); Four aces or a straight flush (with two cards in the pocket) wins \$100.

### Miccosukee Resort

**Phone:** (877) 242-6464  
[www.miccosukee.com](http://www.miccosukee.com)  
**Tournaments:** Super Hold'em Saturday, 7 p.m.  
**SNGs:** NLHE, 7-card stud and Omaha/8.  
**Promotions:** Call for current offers.

### Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track

**Phone:** (239) 992-2411  
[www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com](http://www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com)  
**Tournaments:** Sun. bounty 2 p.m. (\$125); Mon. 7 (\$65); Tue. 7 (\$45); Wed., 7 (\$65); Thurs. noon and 7 (\$65), Fri. 7 (\$65) and Sat. 2 (\$125).  
**SNGs:** Six-player (\$125-\$550)  
**High hands:** From noon to wins \$300, plus Fri. & Sat. from 7- 11:30 p.m. win \$1K; diamond royal flush pays \$10,000, other suits pay \$5K.

### Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai

**Phone:** (352) 591-2345  
[www.ocalapoker.com](http://www.ocalapoker.com)  
**Tournaments:** Daily (\$65-\$240).  
**SNGs:** (\$45-\$80).  
**Special events:** May 30, 1:30 p.m., WSOP satellite, \$300, two seats plus \$2,500 travel; June 5, 7 p.m., Ante Up Cruise Satellite, \$65, two packages, plus eight more spots paid, based on full field of 100 players; June 20, Ante Up Poker Tour, 2 p.m., \$120. (See ad for details)  
**Bad beat:** Any quads.  
**Promotions:** Aces cracked on M&Th pays \$100, 4-8 p.m. See ad for more specials in June (Full Boat Month) and Father's Day event.

\* Please call the poker room to confirm, and ask for hours of operation, games spread, details, rules and limitations.



## DON'T SEE YOUR EVENT?\*

Tell your poker room managers to email us at [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com)

### Orange Park Kennel Club

**Phone:** (904) 646-0002  
[www.jaxpokerroom.com](http://www.jaxpokerroom.com)  
**Tournaments:** Daily, except Tuesday (\$30-\$65).

**Special events:** May 31, WSOP Main Event satellite, 1 p.m., \$150, 10K chips.

**High hands:** Royals \$250 (but spades pay \$500).

**Promotions:** Shuffle Up-N-Wheel: Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6-11 p.m. the high hand each hour gets a shot to spin a wheel to win cash for themselves and their table. Games eligible are 7-card stud and hold'em; Super High Hand, M-W-Th, noon-3, every 30 minutes high hand wins \$100 and players at winning table get \$50.

**Bad beat:** Call for details.

### Palm Beach Kennel Club

**Phone:** (561) 683-2222  
[www.pbkennelclub.com](http://www.pbkennelclub.com)

**Tournaments:** \$65-\$200; bounty tourneys on Tuesdays at noon (\$65+\$25).

**Special events:** WSOP satellites every Sat. at 1 p.m. in May, \$200, \$10K seat + \$1K travel guaranteed; June 27 (1 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$200.

**SNGs, high hands and bad beats:** Call for details.

### Palm Beach Princess

**Phone:** (561) 818-5771  
[www.palmbeachprincess.com](http://www.palmbeachprincess.com)  
**Promotions:** Call for offers.

### Sarasota Kennel Club

**Phone:** (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054  
[www.skcpoker.com](http://www.skcpoker.com)  
**Tournaments:** \$35-\$100, including \$40 Friday Night Madness, 8K chips; Titanic Turbo (20K chips, 10-minute blinds, \$80 buy-in); Saturday \$330, 3:30 p.m., 9K chips, 45-minute blinds.  
**SNGs:** \$35-\$300; May 29 & June 12 \$85 SNGs for Ante Up Poker Cruise packages.

**Special event:** June 27 (7 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100.

**High hands:** Progressive jackpots; quads (hold'em), quad 10s (stud) and straight flushes (Omaha) or better.

**Bad beat:** Call for details.

**Promotions:** Rack Attacks and Rays Days. Every time the Rays score someone in the room wins \$50 and if the Rays win someone wins \$150; players of the month for May and June will Ante Up Poker Cruise packages.

### Seminole Casino Brighton

**Phone:** (866) 222-7466  
[www.seminolecasinobrighton.com](http://www.seminolecasinobrighton.com)  
**Tournaments:** Sundays, 6:30 p.m.

\$40 no juice with one optional \$40 add-on; Mon. & Wed., 6:30, \$20 with optional \$20 add-on; Tue. & Thurs., 6:30, \$40 w/rebuys in first hour.  
**SNGs:** \$42-\$250.

**Promotions:** Fridays offer double punches on reward cards, plus aces cracked between 4-7 p.m. wins \$100; double punches given to the first player to buy-in to a live game on Saturdays; Seniors 55 or older receive \$55 for a \$40 buy-in to a live game. If they're dealt 5-5 in the hole, they win a gift. They also may buy a hot dog and drink for \$.50. Any four aces wins \$50, straight flushes win \$100 and any quads win a gift.

### Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

**Phone:** (866) 222-7466  
[www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com](http://www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com)  
**SNGs:** \$55, \$85, \$135.  
**Bad beat:** Aces over jacks.  
**Promotions:** Call for current offers.

### Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

**Phone:** (866) 502-7529  
[www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com)  
**Tournaments:** \$100-\$1,100.  
**Special events:** Memorial Day (May 25), noon \$35K guaranteed prize pool, \$350 buy-in; Summer Open, June 12-21 (see story).  
**SNGs:** \$140-\$1,050.  
**High hands:** Prizes vary.

### Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

**Phone:** (866) 502-7529  
[www.seminolehardrocktampa.com](http://www.seminolehardrocktampa.com)  
**Tournaments:** \$100-\$550.  
**SNGs:** \$125-\$1,075.  
**Bad beat:** Jacks full or better.  
**Promotions:** Starting at 10 a.m. every day, the first 25 players with quads or better receive a free entry into the Super Saturday tourney (a \$100 value).

### Seminole Casino Hollywood Classic

**Phone:** (866) 222-7466  
[www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com](http://www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com)  
**SNGs:** \$25-\$50.  
**High hands:** Sat.-Sun., every hour from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. top-two hands get \$100; Every Wednesday from 9 a.m. till noon every high hand for that hour gets \$100; royals M-Th win \$500.  
**Promotions:** Mon.-Tue., starting at noon, then again at 3 and 6 p.m., first 10 players to get aces cracked win \$100; Wed. starting at 2 p.m. and again at 6 p.m., first 10 players to get aces cracked win \$100; Thurs., starting at 3 p.m. and again at 6 p.m., first 10 players to get aces cracked

win \$100; Fridays, from 1-midnight, every 30 minutes a table will be picked at random and its next pot will be splashed with \$100. Mini Cooper Mayhem: Quads or better Monday or Tuesday receives a ticket to May 26 drawing to win a Mini Cooper. Double entries awarded between 4 a.m.-11 a.m.

### Seminole Casino Immokalee

**Phone:** (866) 222-7466  
[www.theseminolecasino.com](http://www.theseminolecasino.com)  
**Tournaments:** Wed., 7 p.m. (\$35); Thurs., 7, (\$50); Fri., 7 (\$50+\$5+\$5 dealer token); Sat., 1, Knockout (\$60); Sun., 7, \$115, 10K chips, 20-minute levels.  
**Special events:** \$20K WSOP freeroll, June 8 (call for details); Ante Up Poker Tour, June 6 (\$225, 15K chips).  
**High hands:** Quad aces win \$100, straight flush wins \$200; progressive royal jackpots begin June 1.  
**Bad beat:** Aces full of jacks (hold'em), Aces full of kings (stud).  
**Promotions:** \$10K freeroll, first Monday of the month. Players qualify with aces cracked or flush beaten 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. After 2 p.m. a full house beaten.

### St. Johns Greyhound Park

**Phone:** (904) 646-0002  
[www.jaxpokerroom.com](http://www.jaxpokerroom.com)  
**Tournaments:** \$30-\$200, including shootouts, bounties and deep stacks.  
**Special event:** Ladies Only, May 30, 7 p.m. \$65.  
**High hands:** Royals \$250 (but spades pay \$500).  
**Promotions:** Super High Hand, M-W-Th, noon-3, every hour high hand wins \$100 and players at winning table get \$25.  
**Bad beat:** Call for details.

### SunCruz — Port Canaveral

**Phone:** (321) 799-3511  
[www.suncrucasino.com](http://www.suncrucasino.com)  
**Tournaments:** \$115.  
**SNGs:** \$40-\$60.  
**Promotions:** Call for details.

### Tampa Bay Downs

**Phone:** (813) 298-1798  
[www.tampabaydowns.com](http://www.tampabaydowns.com)  
**Tournaments:** \$20-\$540.  
**SNGs:** \$60-\$535.  
**High hands:** Standard and progressive jackpots are available and may change from week to week. Visit the facility's Web site for details.  
**Special events:** June 7 freeroll limited to first 300 players for a trip to Vegas and \$30K. Register online; June 21 (1 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour (\$350).  
**Promotions:** Rays dueling rack attacks for all televised games. Players can rack up to \$500 and win tickets to Rays games every inning the Rays score. The tickets for the games are given away in the room two days before the home game. Also, between 8-9 p.m. and 9-10 p.m. the first player each hour to win a hand with aces full wins a pair of front-row press-level seats. They're not included with the rack attacks, which are done for every televised Rays game. (See ad for more promotions.)

### Tampa Greyhound Track

**Phone:** (813) 932-4313  
[www.luckycards.com](http://www.luckycards.com)  
**Tournaments:** \$45-\$200.  
**SNGs:** \$65-\$500.  
**Special event:** May 31, (\$115), 1 p.m., high hand in tournament wins a \$1,500 WSOP seat to Event 54 on June 29.  
**High hands:** Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royal flushes (\$599). Plus high hand wins \$100 on Sundays from noon-3 and 8-11 p.m.; spade royal progressive jackpot.  
**Other:** Aces cracked wins \$100, noon to 2.



\* Schedules and events are subject to change; SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted.

# WELCOME TO ORLANDO

UNLESS YOU'RE A POKER PLAYER!

**ON ONE SIDE ARE CONSERVATIVE  
FLORIDIANS UNWILLING TO BRING  
MORE "GAMBLING" TO THEIR CITIES...**

**... ON THE OTHER SIDE ARE CITIES  
AND PARIMUTUELS STRUGGLING IN  
A HORRIFIC ECONOMY.**

## WHO WILL WIN?

**By Christopher Cosenza**

**M**aybe Disney World is a cover for a secret Mafia family. Mickey Mouse is the godfather and Donald Duck, Goofy and Pluto make up his caporegime. How else can you explain why the Orlando area — the heart of Florida — is without parimutuel poker?

No poker at Orlando Jai-Alai. No poker at Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club.

"I think it's because of the Disney family-friendly kind of thing," said David Yeager, mayor of Minneola, a town about 15 miles northwest of downtown Orlando that he hopes to transform into an entertainment mecca with, of course, poker. "They say (a gaming facility offers) a lot of bad elements. Well, let me tell you, if you look at the police reports on (International) Drive, family-friendly has bad elements already. So that doesn't hold water."

Perhaps it's just gambling in general Orlando and its neighbors oppose.

"Here's the funny, stupid part I guess," Yeager said. "If you go to conventions, guess what they have? 'Well, tonight we're having casino night! Here's fake money (to gamble with) and then we'll auction prizes off (with your winnings).' Well, that's gambling, guys! That's gambling, and it happens every night in Orlando. Every night. So, we're helping who?"

If you detect sarcasm in Yeager's comments you're right. His town of about 8,000 residents is having an economic crisis and he wants gaming to help save them. He's taking steps to make Minneola a destination for those who want to enjoy all of the Orlando attractions — but have some adult fun afterward.

"Disney, if they like it or not, probably could get some people



that actually want to come here and spend Disney during the day and go to Minneola (at night). So they're bringing money to me (and) to you and the economy's going to be good. ... Will it pass by a great margin? No, but will (approval for a county vote) pass? Absolutely, (but) that's in my mind, OK? That's in my mind."

And apparently only in his mind. On May 5 Lake County commissioners turned down his request for a countywide vote, mostly citing election cost as the catalyst for the rejection.

Yeager still wants to build a complex that would include a five-star resort hotel, a shopping area, a 3,000-seat entertainment facility, more than 150,000 square feet of convention space, an ice-skating rink, a horse-racing track, and, obviously, a poker room.

Clearly Yeager thought he had enough "County Fathers" on his side to send this to a countywide vote, despite the conservative nature of Lake County. Now he faces raising the money himself.

"I have to take care of this town, and that's what I'm gonna do," he said. (See accompanying story) "They tell me it's the Bible belt, and I respect that very, very much. But if you look at the Seminole Compact now, even the school boards are getting behind them because it's a great way to generate money. ... We need money. Children's education is important and this is just perfect timing."

### Is now the time for other parimutuels?

Yeager's sentiments are shared with other Orlando-area entrepreneurs and parimutuels (and yes, there are gambling facilities in the vicinity of Disney World, though most were established before Walt came to town). Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club has been in business for more than 70 years, holding its first meet in 1935. Make no mistake; greyhounds are king here with a 12-month racing season. But that doesn't mean the SOKC wouldn't like a share of the poker pie.

"I can't speak for any of the other Orlando-area parimutuels," SOKC general manager Mark Loewe said, "but since (Penn National Gaming) purchased the facility in November 2007, we have been working closely with the surrounding community in building professional relationships and moving toward attaining approval for a card-room license."

State law mandates parimutuel facilities get approval from local government in to offer poker.

Loewe, who has been with SOKC since February 2008, says PNG has a lot to offer locals who'd like to play poker at his facility in Longwood, about 10 miles north of Orlando.

"Being a large gaming company we can bring a wealth of experience and professionalism to the expanded operation," he said. "That being said, we want to do it properly through the approval process in place and working with the community as a whole. ... Given the opportunity I believe we can establish a very successful operation. It will not happen overnight, but long term it will be a positive for the Orlando area."

And again, it all comes down to the economy. SOKC has had more than 10 years to try to bring poker there — first with Collins & Collins' SOKC Inc., and then with PNG — but is choosing now to seriously pursue approval.

"Any additional choices that we can offer to

our patrons will help the bottom line," Loewe said. "Many patrons from this market are driving considerable distances to play at existing venues, so I believe we will be able to draw well and generate additional revenues, which will also benefit the greyhound owners and trainers."

### The War on I-4

If someone living in the Orlando area wants to play poker at a parimutuel facility, they have to drive to Daytona Beach, Ocala, Melbourne or Tampa — at least an hour drive just to play cards.

That was the thought behind DeBary Downs, which later became known as the DeBary Town Center and Equestrian Park (it eventually would have housed a poker room). The developer, Green Bridge Co. of Iowa (renamed locally as DeBary Real Estate Holdings to win favor with the public), met an incredible amount of opposition to its project, which ultimately met its demise on Dec. 13 when the DeBary City Council voted 3-2 against after a six-hour meeting. The family that owns Green Bridge also founded the Isle of Capri casinos and is planning to build a quarterhorse track and poker room in Ft. Myers.

The situation in DeBary grew ugly, with dueling Web sites, billboards, television/radio commercial campaigns and lawsuits being doled out like candy on Halloween. And this ugliness is nothing new to parimutuels. Orlando Jai-Alai, which held its first season in 1963, has been trying to get poker approval for years, but the government continues to stand in its way.

"In the early days," Orlando Jai-Alai general manager Santi Echaniz said, "when poker became legal (with) a positive vote from the local county board of commissioners, owner Hort Soper hired a consultant to be our intermediary with the county to feel them out about how they would vote. We were basically told not to even bother trying to have it come to a vote because it would not pass. That was true from then until now."

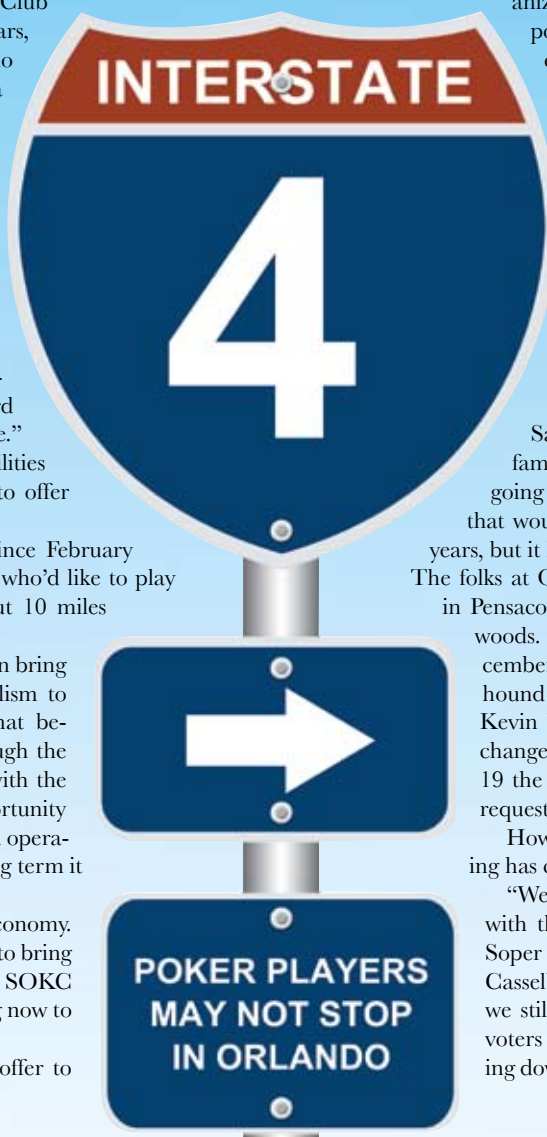
Echaniz, a former jai-alai player who played that first season in Orlando, said Soper even wanted to combine efforts with its gaming neighbor to acquire poker rooms for both properties.

"Mr. Soper approached the owners of Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club (the Collins family and more recently Penn National), about going to the county together to try to make a deal that would be tempting during these tough budget years, but it has not happened."

The folks at Orlando Jai-Alai are hoping what occurred in Pensacola might trickle down to their neck of the woods. The Escambia County Commission in December voted 3-2 against allowing Pensacola Greyhound Track to expand into poker operations. But Kevin White, the District 5 commissioner, had a change of heart and demanded a revote. On Feb. 19 the commission reconvened and approved the request.

However, Echaniz says as far as he knows, nothing has changed in his area.

"We haven't heard of any shifts in opinion even with these hard economic times," he said. "Mr. Soper made a very generous offer to the City of Casselberry to share our increased revenues but we still got nowhere. Sometimes I wonder if the voters knew what their elected officials were turning down, if they would approve. ... I don't believe



Continued from previous page

all county and local commissioners are personally opposed to poker. Maybe some actually have a moral objection, but most simply don't want to be the one to vote for an 'expansion of gambling.' "

Susan Doerner, a commissioner with Casselberry since 2002, says that's precisely why she won't approve poker at the fronton.

"I think any expansion would be a negative," the second-term commissioner said. "I would not support it. ... In terms of the types of jobs that it actually brings in, as well as the monetary input, it is not that dramatic. ... It's not a high range of jobs that it provides. It's mostly service-entry level... In the past I've heard it would provide hundreds of jobs, but I haven't seen anything that actually shows that."

Fellow Casselberry commissioner Jon Miller, who's been in office since November 2006, says he's not so much against a gambling expansion as he opposes its location on U.S. Highway 17-92.

"Specifically, there, I would say yes," Miller said, when asked if he would contest Orlando Jai-Alai getting a poker room. "I'm not necessarily opposed to gambling as a whole. I guess my concern is depending on where you put it. If it was more in the Lake Mary area where it kind of appealed to a higher clientele then I think it makes more sense. Our city has dealt with the influences of adult entertainment in our community for years. Not as much as a moralistic standpoint but more from a financial standpoint, it made it very difficult to redevelop our city, as far as bringing in new economic development. ... That strip there isn't necessarily going to attract the highest clientele. I see folks getting off the bus and going over there. If I thought it was going to be a higher clientele base perhaps it would be different."

The economic windfall Florida's other frontons (and tracks) have enjoyed from poker didn't seem to interest Miller, who still seemed more intrigued in attracting players with larger bankrolls and patrons of "higher" stature. When pressed about the tough times and asked if the Casselberry commissioners should reconsider he said: "I understand at the state level what it means for everybody, and I'm a person who'll go to Vegas. I guess I kind of see it as the difference between Vegas and Reno, if you will, depending on where the gambling and gaming take place. I just don't think where we are ... it would necessarily appeal to a demographic to uplift the community as we develop economic redevelopment in the area."

Is Miller, whose term in Seat 2 ends in 2010, saying the fronton is something he despises having in his city?

"No, I appreciate Orlando Jai-Alai and what they do. (But) if you expand the gambling and gaming tables ... you're not going to attract the high rollers at the current location."

Sounds like Orlando Jai-Alai needs a new address.



Orlando Jai-Alai's location is a point of contention.

## Play for free if you like

One business that has reaped the rewards of no parimutuel poker has been free poker leagues, which dot the Orlando area like measles on a 2-year-old. The granddaddy of the half-dozen or so free leagues in Orlando is the World Poker Tour Amateur Poker League. The WPTAPL has about 15,000 players in the Orlando area (about 30K statewide), averaging 35-40 players per tournament at 23 venues (29 events per week). But **A.J. Wiley**, director of business development for the WPTAPL, says his league is successful because of what it offers, not the lack of a permanent card room in Orlando.

"We are very successful in areas of Florida such as Tampa where there are local parimutuels and, of course, the Hard Rock," Wiley said. "Our league provides the opportunity to players who are interested in playing in cash tournaments or games to hone their skills and learn at no risk. I would say the card rooms have benefited from free bar poker leagues such as ours."

Wiley says it's the relationships his league has with local rooms in other areas that help make the WPTAPL successful, and he'd look to embrace that with any of the Orlando-area rooms that eventually come to fruition.

"I would do what I can to work with the card rooms to cross promote," he said. "We do that very successfully in other parts of the country, including in the Tampa area with The Silks (at Tampa Bay Downs). Ultimately, most of our players are out for some free entertainment and feel their game needs work. That being said, members who are ready to make the transition to cash games have a smooth (path) and a solid relationship with local card rooms."

The presence of poker in a parimutuel setting in the Orlando area is inevitable. But with so many opinions on how to (or not to) usher in poker, the inevitability needle is still leaning toward never.





# HE'S FIGHTING CITY HALL FROM THE INSIDE

By Christopher Cosenza

Sacrifice is a word not often associated with politicians, especially during an election year. Most do whatever they can to stay in office, and the last thing they want to do is rock the boat as constituents prepare to make their way to the polls.

Not David Yeager. Politics be damned.

"I don't do business that way," said the 51-year-old mayor of Minneola who admits he may be sacrificing his political career here. "Oh, OK, I'll be quiet — because the election's come up — to make everybody feel good." No, I have to represent the people. I have to find ways to get the economy kicked off and make a difference. I don't play politics. I just go out there, put my ideas out there and let's go forward. It's not about 'Do I worry about coming back?' I worry about doing the best job while I'm here, and if the people don't embrace that I understand."

Yeager, born and raised in Baltimore, has served for four years as mayor of this tiny town just 15 miles northwest of Orlando. But with an unemployment rate in his town nearing double digits, Yeager knew he needed to brainstorm something big to help the roughly 8,000 people who live there. And in February he came up with one word: destination. Yeager wants to make Minneola a destination within a destination.

"My whole dream is basically a Fountainsbleau Hotel in miniature," said Yeager, who admits he isn't a gambler. "Ice-skating, bowling, parimutuels, horse racing, a big lagoon pool. I mean a resort. So people could actually go to Disney in the day and come to the resort for the weekend. ... If you've ever seen the Fountainsbleau Hotel it's pretty impressive, and it's been there 50-60 years."

The complex would be at the Hills of Minneola site on the east side of the new turnpike interchange in Lake County.

"You're looking at lots of jobs," he said of the adult-themed complex. "You're looking at a lot of offshoots of jobs. The turnpike interest will be built faster because if this gets moving and the momentum gets going the people who are developing this area will say 'OK, we have a driving force to get going because right now our economy is in the hole.'"

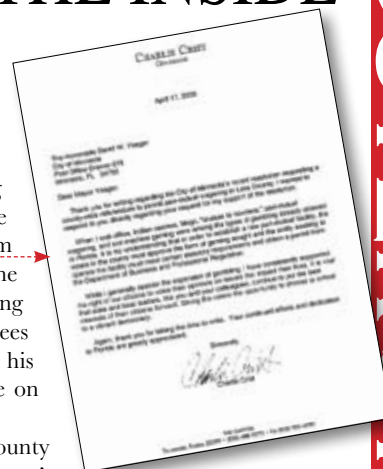
Yeager had some early success, getting his city council in March to pass a resolution 4-1 seeking a countywide vote on the project, and Clemont recently got behind him as well, passing its resolution by a vote of 5-0. He also recently received a **fax** from Gov. Charlie Crist confirming he isn't exactly in favor of gambling expansion in Florida, but he agrees with Yeager in that the people in his county should be allowed to vote on what they want.

But on May 5 the Lake County commissioners turned down Yeager's request for a countywide vote to build the complex. Some commissioners were against gambling, some were against having Minneola shoulder a result that the county would vote on, but mostly they were against the cost of the election. So what's next; is the idea dead?

"I will have to go out and raise the money on my own," Yeager said. "And what I want to do is basically the same thing (President Barack) Obama did, grassroots. Here we are, here's what we need to do and here's what we need to raise. And I believe there are enough gamblers out there that'll drop \$100 and have a hat and a T-shirt for the cause. ... This truly is going to be the cash cow for the area. ... They can't say no to me if I fund it myself anyway."

The cost for a countywide election would be around \$317K. Is that a concern?

"No, not if you do it my way," he said. "Government is by the people, for the people, am I correct? So if I don't have a multimillion-dollar parimutuel behind me pushing it down people's throats, this is truly the way to do it. It's for the people, by the people. Let the people speak. If it's no, it's no; if it's yes, it's yes. This is the way to do it; this is the way government is supposed to be in the first place."



Minneola mayor David Yeager

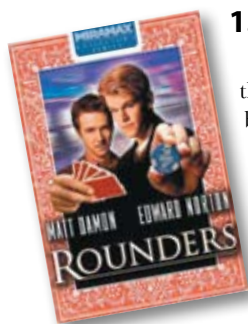


Photo courtesy of the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau



Yeah, we know. You took up poker not long after watching Mike McDermott crush Teddy KGB's stash of Oreos. And because of that, *Rounders* will forever be the best poker flick on the Big Screen. But there are others out there, and *Ante Up* publishers Chris Cosenza and Scott Long compare their favorites here. What's your opinion? Sound off at [anteupmagazine.com/forum](http://anteupmagazine.com/forum).

### CHRIS' PICKS



#### 1. Rounders (1998)

It's what started it all. Without this masterpiece there's no Chris Moneymaker, and there's no poker boom. Plus, John Malkovich's over-the-top thick-accented portrayal of Teddy KGB is perfect, even if his Oreo "tell" is as ridiculous as his striped jumpsuit.

**Classic line:** "It's got earthy tones, a smooth draw and enough kick to win me the Hi and the Lo."

#### 2. The Sting (1973)

Paul Newman, Robert Redford, poker and a train? Nuff said. But it's cool to see the cheating side of poker, and it makes me appreciate how far the game has come. I don't usually get into non-*Godfather* '70s cinema, but George Roy Hill deserved the Oscar he won as best director (plus he directed *Slap Shot* so you gotta love that!)

**Classic line:** "What am I supposed to do? Call him for cheating better than me?"

#### 3. The Cincinnati Kid (1965)

The "Hollywood" hand at the end precludes me from giving this a higher ranking, but without this movie there likely isn't a *Rounders*, so I'm grateful. And our home game wouldn't be nearly as entertaining without making fun of the guy we call Lance, who always calls five-card stud.

**Classic line:** "Gets down to what it's all about, doesn't it? Making the wrong play at the right time."

#### 4. Lucky You (2007)

The fact this celluloid nightmare appears on my list is a testament there aren't many good poker movies (why'd we pick this topic again?). But anything with Drew Barrymore and Robert Downey Jr. can't be too bad (well, it can, but if you like poker you'll appreciate it). John "World" Hennigan steals the show, and listen for Sammy Farha saying "Raisy Daisy."

**Classic line:** "You want sympathy? You'll find it between 'shit' and 'syphilis' in the dictionary."

#### 5. Maverick (1994)

It's not exactly a "great" poker movie (actually it sucked, but I refuse to list *California Split*, *The Gambler* or *A Big Hand for the Little Lady*). It does, however, have a winner-take-all tournament at the end (think *Poker After Dark*, but with 5-card draw and a lot of sweat). Plus it features a hilarious Mel Gibson (back when it was OK to like Gibson) and a smokin' hot Jodie Foster (back when it was OK to think Foster was smokin' hot).

**Classic line:** "I'm getting too old for this shit!"

### SCOTT'S PICKS

#### 1. The Cincinnati Kid (1965)

Five-card stud. Ann-Margret (purrrrr!). And the perpetually cool Steve McQueen. That's enough to warrant the top spot, but the ultimate compliment? The flick is 44 years old, but the story (insert young Internet phenom vs. old school veteran) will always be in style.

**Classic line:** "You're good, Kid, but as long as I'm around, you're second best."

#### 2. Rounders (1998)

We all think we're Mike McDermott. We all secretly wish we were Worm. And we all want to date Jo or Petra (or both). But aside from Johnny Chan backing down to some young punk, it's hard to imagine that a more real poker movie will ever be made.

**Classic line:** "Gin, always gin."

#### 3. The Grand (2007)

To make my list, a movie has to have staying power. So, yes, it's a risk ranking a newborn this high. But it's safe to say no one will attempt a poker "mockumentary" ever again. And if they do? Well, they won't be able to top the dead-on caricatures of "modern" poker.

**Classic line:** "It is apparent that you have no concept of pot odds. There are a number of books available in the gift shop that explain it quite thoroughly."

#### 4. California Split (1974)

Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's not so much of a poker movie as it is a gambling movie. But I'm a sucker for nostalgia, and seeing the old California card rooms where players did the dealin' is a slice of the not-so-distant past that you just don't see anywhere else. And you're going to laugh your ass off.

**Classic line:** "Goddammit, lady, you don't throw oranges on an escalator!"

#### 5. Honeymoon in Vegas (1992)

Reecally stretching here. Aside from one (though pivotal) scene, poker is absent in this wedding-gone-awry comedy. But, hey, I got married in Vegas, so there's some sentimental stuff going on here. And where would poker be without Las Vegas? And where would Las Vegas be without the Flying Elvises, Utah Chapter?

**Classic line:** "'Like unbeatable' is not unbeatable."



**NEXT MONTH'S DEBATE:** Best poker hand nicknames. Send your list of five to [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com). One lucky reader will win some cool swag for having his or her list printed!





## RPM POKER

Travelin' with Wesley Chapel's Chris Dombrowski

## BEING ON THE ROAD HAS UPS AND DOWNS

My name is Chris Dombrowski and I'm a 22-year-old professional poker player from Wesley Chapel. I began playing poker about five years ago in college and got hooked immediately. By the time I turned 21 I had tons of success online, and a decent amount of live experience from playing overseas.

In my first year playing live in the United States I posted a win in a Heartland Poker Tour event, 13th place in a World Poker Tour event and four cashes at the World Series of Poker, which hopefully I can improve on this year. I recently signed a deal with RPM Poker, and as a Florida native, writing for *Ante Up* feels great!

For the past two months I've been playing some live events around the country. I began my trip near the end of February with the L.A. Poker Classic. My buddy, Aditya "intervention" Agarwal roomed with me for the trip, as he usually does when we travel. We arrived just in time for the main event, the only tournament we planned to play in L.A. It attracted nearly 700 players and had a great structure that would allow a lot of play in the coming days if you could get a hold of some chips on Day 1. Lucky for me I did just that and was able to go into Day 2 with a strong stack. Unfortunately, Day 2 didn't go nearly as well, and I made a few small mistakes midway through the day to cost me most of my chips. I could never recover and was eliminated in the last level of Day 2 when I lost a coin-flip.

I spent the next day away from the tables hanging out with some fellow poker players. After a great dinner at Nobu, we all decided to go to Vegas since the Wynn Classic would be starting in a few days, and one of my friends, Hevad "RainKhan" Khan, had just bought a house there. So at 3 a.m. we took a limo to Khan's house.

His house was amazing. There was an office with four desktops so we could all play online, a movie theatre and a huge pool with a grotto over the hot tub. We spent about two weeks there and played a couple of events at the Wynn. I made a couple of deep runs, finishing 15th and 17th in prelims, but ran pretty bad deep in the tournaments and didn't make any final tables. While the tourneys weren't as successful as I had hoped, I was very happy with my play and ready to play some more big events.

Intervention and I were able to finish watching all five seasons of the *The Wire* while we were there, since our friend James "Mr\_BigQueso" Collopy told us it was the best show ever created, and not watching it would be total blasphemy. Consider our minds blown; the show was incredible.

I also got the chance to go to Craftsteak at the MGM Grand for the first time. The dinner was amazing! They brought out every type of steak, so we got to have some of each one. It was a pretty expensive dinner, but luckily Mr\_BigQueso came out to dinner and was nice enough to lose credit-card roulette. If you're not familiar with credit-card roulette, it's a credit-card elimination game; the last card standing pays for the whole meal. When-

ever Mr\_BigQueso comes out, it's more or less a sure bet that I'll be eating for free; he runs so bad!

Anyway, the next \$10K I played was the Bay 101 Shooting Stars in San Jose. Intervention's uncle lives in San Jose, so we stayed with his family for a few days. We got there the night before we had to play so there was no time to register until the day of the tourney. I was a little lazy and got there a few minutes late, and all of players registering late were put at the same table.

Of course, all the other people registering late were really good players, and I ended up getting stuck at the toughest table I've ever played. The table was loaded with players I respected, and unfortunately it wasn't going to break at all on Day 1. I did a good job chipping up most of the day, but after the dinner break things just went downhill and I couldn't seem to win a pot. I limped into Day 2 with about 25 big blinds and was eliminated in the first level in a very unspectacular standard hand.

After Bay 101, we flew back to Vegas to kill some time before Foxwoods began. We spent most of the time playing online at RainKhan's house, and we all did pretty well. RainKhan and I went to Foxwoods from there, and Intervention went home to India to play a tournament and see his family. I played a couple of prelims at Foxwoods, was able to build some stacks, got killed in the middle stages and eventually fizzled out of all the prelims by the evening.

I had high hopes for the main event at Foxwoods. I finished 13th there last year, running QQ into eventual-winner Erik Seidel's AA. I was also playing really well, so now seemed like a good time for my luck to turn around. Unfortunately my aces got cracked twice, all-in preflip both times in the last level of Day 1 and I was sent packing.

PokerStars' Spring Championship of Online Poker was going on at the same time so I spent the next few days playing those tourneys online and hanging out with some other online players at Foxwoods. I grew up about 30 minutes from Foxwoods and a lot of my family lives in the area so I stuck around Connecticut for a week, met up with some friends and visited family for Easter. They were all shocked when I told them I was playing a \$10K buy-in tourney online while we were eating dinner. Again, I was eliminated with aces all-in preflip.

I took a train to NYC the next day, spent a few days hanging out with some friends in the city and then flew back to Tampa later that week. While my trip was unsuccessful for the most part, I was happy with how I played and tried not to get too down on results even though I'm on a pretty big downswing. I'm happy that I'm back home now, though, where I can just grind online 50-60 hours a week, where there is a lot less variance than live poker.

—Chris Dombrowski is a member of the RPM Poker team and lives in Wesley Chapel. Email him at [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com).



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DR. FRANK TOSCANO • A look at how to stay healthy at the poker table

## FORGET ABOUT YOUR STACK; TAKE CARE OF THAT SAC

When *Ante Up* asked me to write a health column for its magazine (presumably because I wasn't a good enough poker player to write an actual poker column), they suggested "Maybe poker players get carpal tunnel or something." Well, generally, they don't. But they do get something similar in a different spot.



*Ante Up* columnist Joe Navarro cured Phil Hellmuth of one of his most obvious tells, hugging himself when he bluffs. Now when Phil's in a hand he plants his elbows on the rail and covers his lower face and neck with his hands. His tell is gone, but he may be trading it for some elbow problems. Let me explain.

If you wiggle the skin overlying the boney tip of your elbow, you'll notice that the skin is loose and slides rather nicely in all directions. The same thing happens over your knees,

and to a lesser extent over

your hips and shoulders. There's a slippery sac just below the surface of the skin called a bursa that allows this movement to occur. There are places in your body you wouldn't want loose skin, of course. It would be difficult to look cool shuffling poker chips if you had slippery bursas under your fingertips. But having bursas over major joints makes it easier to flex them smoothly.

Like any small, dark, moist, enclosed space in your body, if bacteria can get in they're sure to like the accommodations. It turns out there are plenty of bacteria not very far away living in the folds of the skin you just wiggled in the last paragraph. Add a little bit of microtrauma from leaning on your elbows for 15 straight hours playing poker, and the bacteria can migrate into the bursa and set up shop. The resulting bursitis might be just a little extra fluid in the sac, but it *can* turn into a rip-roaring infection.

If the bursitis is not particularly painful and not red or hot it's probably just inflamed and not infected and probably will resolve itself over

time, especially if you leave it alone and stop leaning on it. Even a swollen bursa the size of a golf ball can be absorbed by the body.

But if it starts to get **red, hot and painful**, or if you're running a fever, the strategy is different. Now you have a real infection. The physical structure of the bursa makes it difficult for antibiotics to get in to the actual sac where the bacteria are camping out, so the correct treatment is drainage. *This is not something you should try at home.* The skin needs to be cleaned, properly numbed and the bursa opened with a scalpel. Packing the cavity with gauze for a few days helps encourage drainage. With proper drainage antibiotics are not always necessary, but most doctors prescribe them anyway. Hot soaks will help this resolve even faster.

Internal medicine doctors usually shy from anything having to do with cutting, but family doctors, general surgeons, orthopedists and even walk-in clinics often handle this sort of problem. If you must you can always visit someone like me in the vast health-care safety

net called the ER, but you'll have to wait your turn among heart attacks, vomiting babies and drunks whose dogs ate their pain pills. The key point is do not heat up a needle and try to stab this thing yourself. You'll probably do more harm than good.

This condition isn't limited to brick-and-mortar rail-leaners. Internet poker junkies who prop up their head for hours at a time staring at their screens can get it, too. Just keep in mind that if you have a small painless collection of fluid then stop leaning on your elbow and it probably will get better. Once it gets red, hot and painful, seek help from a physician.

One more note for the real poker professionals out there: This clearly is a work-related injury and qualifies for workers comp coverage. You DO have workers comp don't you, Phil?

— 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. Email your poker-health questions to [ftoscano@redbamboomedispa.com](mailto:ftoscano@redbamboomedispa.com)

If your elbow looks like this don't take a picture of it; go see Frank!



Can't stop gambling • Become agitated when trying to cut back • Gamble to keep gambling to recover losses • Increase bets to keep the excitement going • Argue with family about gambling • Think about gambling all the time

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Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, Inc.



## WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

JOE NAVARRO • Ex-FBI guy shares his nonverbal secrets

# BECOME A DIFFERENT KIND OF LIP READER

What do you see as the single biggest tell among your students and casual observations at the poker tables? — FRANK, TARPON SPRINGS



Frank, I like that question because as it happens, there are some tells that are extremely accurate. For instance, lip-pursing, where you look like you are going to kiss the air, is about 95 percent accurate that the person doing it does not like his hand, is uncomfortable with his situation, or will fold. Of course, since *Read 'em and Reap* came out, I catch some people doing this as a bluff. Good luck.

What are universal tells even pros give off without knowing it? — WOODCUTTA VIA ANTE UP FORUM

I find that with major players when they have a rag hand that's when they're most verbally aggressive and then when they have the nuts they're quiet. They think no one notices. It's part of the survival instinct that when we're frustrated and feel challenged we engage the fight response, which in modern terms is to argue, vilify, call people stupid, or stare them down.

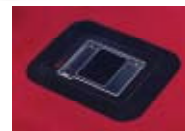
— Ex-FBI counterintelligence officer Joe Navarro of Tampa specialized in behavioral analysis for 25 years. He's a star lecturer with the WSOP Academy and has penned *Read 'Em and Reap*, which you can find on Amazon.com. Email Joe at editor@anteupmagazine.com and he'll answer your questions.



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## ACUMEN POKER

**LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way**

# DON'T GET TRAPPED WHILE IN POSITION

Last month I talked about the importance of tightening up in early position, entering pots aggressively and raising to reduce the opponents you have to fight on the felt. Now let's focus on the situations you're looking for in late position to help make poker easier and to allow you to win larger pots while losing smaller ones. This is all accomplished through the power of position. The more pots you play in position the larger they'll be when you win and the smaller they'll be when you lose.



LEE CHILDS

It's that simple. ... as long as you apply these concepts appropriately and consistently.

There's one key concept about playing in late position that is vital to becoming a better poker player: choosing hands that play well against your early position opponent's range.

When I'm in late position after an early raiser, all I really need to do is think about his range of hands. If someone raises in the first few spots and I have no other information on this opponent other than his position, I will treat him logically and assume he has a big ace or a pair, likely a big pair.

I only want to choose hands that play well against his range. This means I'm looking for small pairs, suited connectors or suited one-gappers. I don't want to play hands such as A-J, K-Q or K-10 since his holding likely dominates those hands (e.g. A-A, K-K, Q-Q, A-K based off of an early position raise). If I were to play one of those "trap" hands and then hit the flop, I might be in a situation where I'm likely to lose a big pot.

I'd rather have small suited connectors or a small pair in this situation. If I hit the flop (meaning two pair, a set or better) my opponent isn't likely to have hit the flop with his big cards. In addition, my opponent is likely to pay me off trying to protect his big hand. I can remember when I started playing and would look down at 6-7-suited vs. an early position raiser and think, "Well, I need to fold here; he obviously has a better hand than me." Man, was I wrong. These are precisely the hands I'm looking for because if that flop happens to come J-6-7, someone with A-A, K-K or Q-Q is likely going to send a lot of chips my way. And if there are two cards of the same suit on that flop he'll be fighting hard to protect his overpair as players generally get scared of flush draws.

You *must* stick to connectors with no gaps or only one gap. You also *must* be playing the suited connectors because you can potentially flop a 15-out draw (straight and flush) where you are a favorite to win the hand. With just an eight-out draw (straight only) you'll likely not get the right price to draw when your opponent makes a continuation bet on the flop. I also like to play connectors with maximum range (i.e. 4-5 through J-10) as they have three cards on either side to help you make your straight.

There are a lot of other factors involved to help you decide when and where you can play these hands, such as the *rule of 5 and 10* and *relative chip stack*. I'll go into more detail on these in future columns and you can always e-mail me at [lee.childs@acumenpoker.net](mailto:lee.childs@acumenpoker.net) if you're interested in detailed explanations or training on these or other more advanced topics. Decide to Win!

— Lee Childs is founder and lead instructor of Acumen Poker. He also is an instructor with the WPT Boot Camp. Check out his site at [www.acumenpoker.net](http://www.acumenpoker.net).



## WOMEN IN POKER

LAUREN FAILLA • Founder of High Heels Poker Tour

## ENRIGHT: HALL OF FAMER, STILL A POKER STUDENT

The first time I met Barbara I didn't know what to expect. It's been a whirlwind every since. I have so much respect for her as a person and as one of the most important players in the poker world. Her accomplishments are many and her personality reflects a woman who doesn't let adversity keep her from her goals. We've shared many laughs, red sweaters and table talk. What you'll get is Barbara, right, wrong or indifferent. Uncut is how she is and makes no apologies for it. Her biggest fan (besides me) is the love of her life, Max. I've spent some time with Max without Barbara on the WSOP circuit and have never in my life seen a man love a woman like he loves Barbara. I hope you enjoy this look into her life.

**How long have you been playing poker?**

I came out of the womb with a deck of cards in my hands. (33 years professionally)

**What's your earliest memory of playing poker?**

Inside the womb ... When I was 3 years old my brother and I used to play heads-up for whatever we could find around the house: buttons, chips, pennies, whatever. Susie Isaacs has a photo of us at that age for proof.

**What is your favorite game?**

Post office! Oh, you mean poker games. I love stud and split games. I think it takes a lot more thinking and focusing although I do love pot-limit and no-limit hold'em.

**What is your favorite hand?**

Rolled-up aces in stud. Pocket aces in hold'em. A-A-2-3 double-suited in Omaha Hi-Lo.

**Do you play online? If the answer is yes, where and how often?**

Everywhere and almost every day. I play with the PicClub, which has a group of pros and celebrities that go to different sites affiliated with the PicClub. Right now we're doing the Bluff Poker Tour among others. Some of the sites we play at quite often are True Poker and Ironduke. They have the Latin Series of Poker satellites at True Poker where a seat can be won for just a couple of bucks.

**Tell me a little about your personal life and how it interacts with poker, in the early years and now.**

In the early years I had to sort of sneak away to play poker because it was a bit of an unethical thing to do. I didn't want people to know how I was making my money as it was looked down upon by some. When my son was very little and in school, I would get up, send him off and then I would go to Gardena to play and make sure I was home before he got home. Now when I say I play poker, people look in amazement and want to hear all about it. Just like you right now.

**How do you feel about the female players that are up and coming? Do you find them too aggressive? Are they a good representation of the game and a good representation for women?**

Some are and some are not. I think no matter how tough and strong your play is at the table, you should always act like a lady. There is never a need to be rude to others to show what a great

player you are. I have seen some very sweet and tough female poker players, Cyndy Violette for example, is always sweet and always a lady. On the other hand, there are also some good female players that are rude. I guess they want to show how tough they really can be. They know who they are, but that sort of behavior is really not necessary to show you are great. Also, I believe you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

**You're the only woman in the Poker Hall of Fame and the Women's Poker Hall of Fame. Do you think that fact sometimes gets overshadowed? Do you think you don't get enough press because of all the hype that's placed on sexiness vs. substance in poker?**

Since poker has become very popular and shown on so many TV shows, it has become more of a sexy thing than a poker thing. I really think it should be more about POKER and less about SEX. In my opinion, they should be kept in perspective. Often times the TV shows will try to make great players out of average players just to expose their sexiness. Then the great players get little exposure because they might not look as good as the young hottie they are trying to promote and turn into a player. There are so many different styles of play today, (old school vs. new school) and ALL of it should be shown for the public instead of just the new-school style. By the way, I have been playing new-school style ever since I started playing. I always thought I had invented it. At that time I was called a maniac. These days a player like that is called super-aggressive.

**What would be your advice to a female player considering poker as a career?**

Always have a backup job or means of income just in case you fail. Have plenty of money to live on and keep that separate from your bankroll.

**Have you ever had a poker mentor?**

Yes. When I first started playing in Gardena there was a very nice man who took me aside and told me when I play jacks-or-better draw poker, I should never call with queens once the pot has been opened. He also explained why. Another man bought me a book called *Play Poker, Quit Work and Sleep Till Noon* by John Fox. That book changed my life forever. Before reading and studying that book, I was ready to give up on poker. After memorizing every word and applying it to my game, I made a lot of money in Gardena, enough so that I did quit my job as a hairstylist. I still kept my weekend job as a cocktail waitress because I loved doing it.

**Do you still feel you're learning all the time or do you feel you've mastered the game?**

I believe one can never stop learning. I love to learn and love to read not only poker but many other non-fiction books. As long as I keep on learning new things I'm happy. It's great exercise for the brain.

— Lauren Failla writes a monthly column for *Ante Up*, tracking the progress of women in poker. Email her at [lauren@highheelspokertour.com](mailto:lauren@highheelspokertour.com).



Barbara Enright still is the only woman to reach the final table of the WSOP Main Event.



An occasional column from a Florida dealer

# Dealers need to be efficient, but no shortcuts

By Chaz Allen

*Editor's note: This is Part 2 of Chaz Allen's look at dealers around Florida.*

This month I want to compare lazy or shortcut dealers to professional dealers. And please feel free to write *Ante Up* at [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com) and let them know if you agree or disagree with my observations. This magazine is a good forum for dealers to be heard. But I can venture to bet that the dealers who object to my comments are the lazy or shortcut dealers.

My goal always has been to develop a dealer into a professional, to constantly improve their skills so they may be able to get a job at any room, not just the second- or third-string rooms. My other goal is to elevate some of the poker rooms that put up with second-rate dealers; improve their dealers and it will improve their poker room.

Another thing I've always had a problem with are dealers who don't rake in the chips before they deal the next round. They think they're saving time but they give fresh dealers, who are observing, bad habits. Many times as a floor manager I've been called to a table because a player is complaining that another player



Chaz Allen

didn't call a bet. The dealer took too long to rake in the chips and doesn't know whether the player called because the bets got mixed together.

As a player have you not gotten steamed because a dealer didn't make sure everyone had completed their action only to find out the flop, turn or river had to be pulled back and reshuffled when the first card made your hand? None of this ever would have happen if the dealer did his/her job and raked in the chips before dealing the next round.

Granted, things like this can still happen if procedures are adhered to, but the occurrences are far fewer. Dealers think they're saving time, but by calling the floor and holding up the game the dealer has wasted time while likely upsetting some players and hurting his tip. A professional dealer can maintain proper procedures and still get out management's expected hands per half hour.

— Chaz Allen is director of Professional Dealer And Player School, Inc. and recently served as poker room manager at Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai. If you're a dealer and would like to respond to his comments or would like submit a column please send it to [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com).

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

### Reader: Allen's dealer column is spot on

I just read Chaz Allen's article in your magazine (*We need more quality dealers and fewer comedians, May 2009*) and my first thought was "Finally someone who thinks like me!"

I'm a business student (two months from graduation) from Argentina, though I go to school in Miami. I play poker part-time as well as work in the university (Florida International).

I've played poker in more than 20 casinos in Florida, California, Nevada, Argentina and Europe, and Florida casinos have by far the worst dealers. Not only are they slow, make mistakes, don't know the rules, etc. but also they get too friendly with the players.

Last week I was playing at Miccosukee in Miami and after the hand was over the dealer, instead of picking up the cards, shuffling and dealing a new hand, started telling Seat 5 a bad-beat story from a hand he played the previous week. I could not believe my eyes when I saw that. I instantly remembered the dealers at my favorite poker room in the world (the Venetian in Vegas), where dealers are quick, professional and efficient in every aspect of their jobs. I thought, "What did we do wrong here in Florida? Why are dealers not improving?"

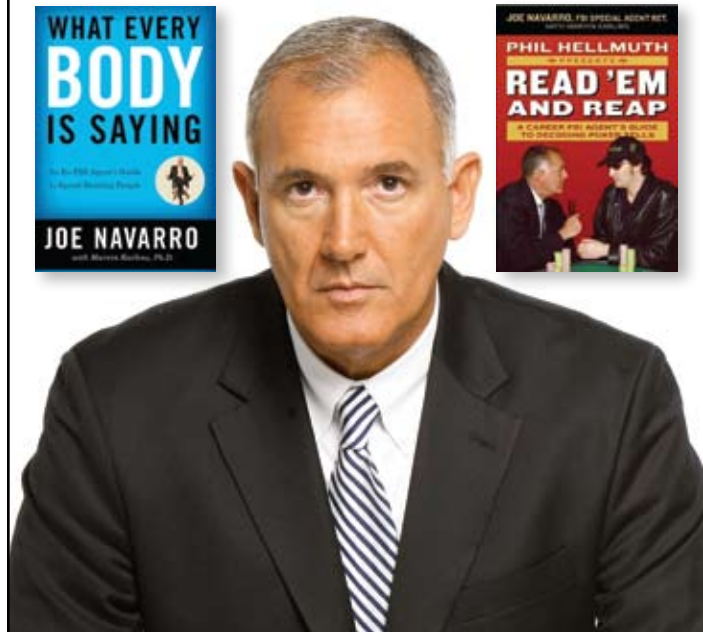
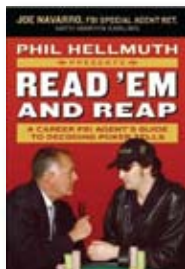
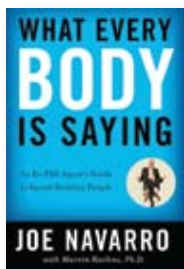
After I graduate I expect to find a job working the floor at one of the poker rooms here in Miami or its surroundings. Hopefully I'll be able to answer my own questions and make an improvement in Florida poker.

Thanks for writing the article and I'm looking forward to reading more of them.

Brian Saslavchik  
Miami

— Want to respond? Send us an email at [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com).

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## Q&amp;A

## WITH HUCKLEBERRY SEED

The national heads-up champ discusses his victory, his unique name, his wild prop bets and his affection for the game of razz.

**W**hat's the reason you tend to shy away from the media? In the past I never really enjoyed it. I never had any desire to be on TV, that just wasn't my thing. I liked playing poker and doing whatever else I liked to do, so I just didn't do it because I didn't have a passion for it. I never meant to be famous, but now that I am I'm just trying to embrace that and give a little back to the game.

**Are major victories bittersweet because of the spotlight and demand for interviews, etc?** No, I'm OK with it now. I'm actually starting to enjoy these interviews a lot.

**Would you prefer the poker boom never happened so you could just go back to making a great living without anyone knowing who you are?** No, not really. I love the fact that poker's been embraced all around the world and everyone loves the game that I love. It's great to see the game flourish like that.

**Congratulations on winning the NBC National Heads-Up Championship.** Thanks a lot. That win meant a lot to me. It actually was one of the first wins where I actually felt like a team feeling, like I was playing for a team because I play for Full Tilt. Last year when it got down to the final four players it was all Full Tilt players. But this year I was the only Full Tilt player left so I kinda felt like I was playing for the team.

**How did you get such a strong reputation in heads-up play?** Well, I'm taller than everybody; I think that's intimidating, right? (laughs). Heads-up can be a game of intimidation ... to prepare for a heads-up tournament you've got to play a lot of heads-up. I've had a long poker career, 20 years, and I've played a lot of heads-up so I feel I'm ready. ... I'm just more concerned about getting my sleep and being fresh, getting a little workout in.

**One of our local players here in Florida faced you in the third round, Glen Chorny. What did you think of his play?** It was an interesting match. We had a little friendly conversation before the match and we found out we had played each other on Full Tilt before so we did have a little history together. It was definitely a tough match.

**Who was your toughest opponent along the way?** Sammy Farha. Not necessarily because he played the toughest against me, but because I had low mental energy in that match. I just wasn't playing my best. I was at a mental low and that made the match tough for me.

**Vanessa Rousso is the Queen of Florida poker. How was she as an opponent and did you pick up anything on her?** She reminds me a lot of these young Internet players who are so open with their information. The final match was two out of three, so after the first match she really wanted to kibitz, and was like "What did you have on this hand?" and she came out right away and said, "I did this, and this is what I had. What did you have in this hand?" But I didn't really want to go there. (laughs)



**You have more than \$4.6 million in tournament earnings, but this \$500K win was your largest cash since taking down the world title in 1996. Do you feel like this win completes your comeback?** I had a few years there where I went through a period of depression and problems in my life and I wasn't really focused on poker. So that was part of the reason why I didn't have any big tournament wins. Plus tournaments are hard to win and there's a lot of luck and variance involved... whenever you win a big tournament you are lucky to get through all those people.

**You've won two bracelets in razz. Why is it one of your favorite games?** It's a great game. It started out being one of my worst games. I didn't really understand it because I was just a natural hold'em player. Then I started working on the game and then after a couple of years I saw the beauty of the game. ... When you start out as a hold'em player you're not keeping track of all the cards and all the suits like in stud and stud/8. In razz you gotta keep track of the cards, but not the suits, so it's not that hard to remember the cards. I do like that, coming from hold'em going to a stud game. That was one nice thing about it. ... now I'm daydreaming about razz hands (laughs). ... It's not my most natural game so it did mean a lot to me to succeed in razz when it was one of my weaker games.

**Do you think we'll ever see a resurgence in razz?** I'd like to explain to you how lowball games originated. People were playing high games, making flushes straights and what not, and the people that couldn't win would just sit and complain, "I never get a pair. I never get anything. I always have completely nothing." And then they were like why don't you play a game where the lowest hand wins? "Oh I'd win every day; I'd break you all!" (laughs) And that's how the games started. Everyone

Continued on Page 46



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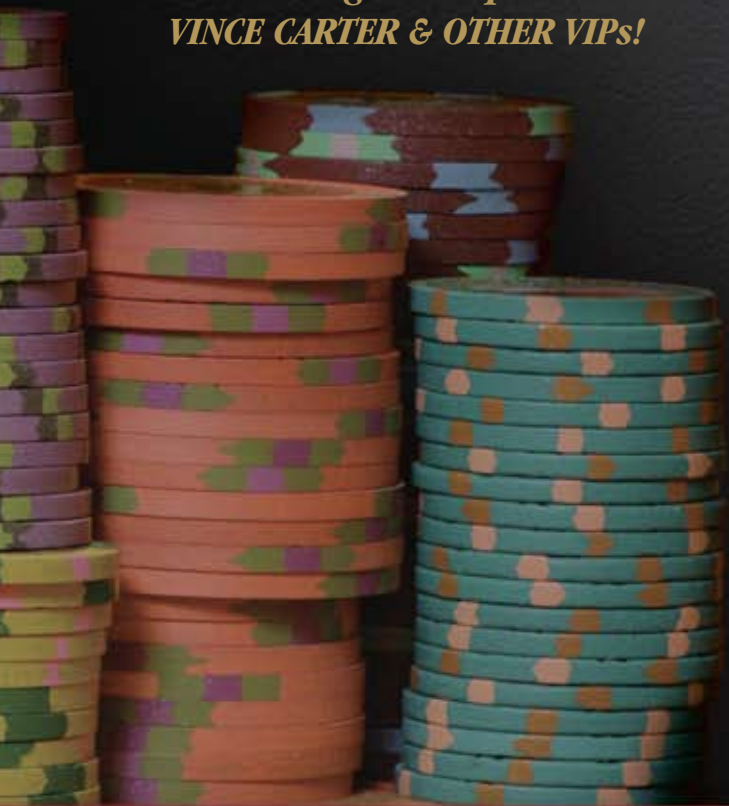
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Hobe Sound's Vanessa Rousso glances at her cards during her best-of-3 match with Huck Seed in the heads-up final. Rousso didn't beat Seed, but she won the EPT High Roller in Monte Carlo on May 3, pocketing nearly \$1 million.

Continued from Page 44

who couldn't win at the high games weren't in tune with the fact that they were just playing poorly. They just thought it was the luck. These people thought they were just gonna crush the world because they never get anything. ... I think that's how the game got started.

**Your dad also had an affinity for Mark Twain, right?**

Yeah, when I was 7 years old I realized I had a unique name so I went to my dad and was like why did you pick the name **Huckleberry**? And he said "Well, if you ever become a famous baseball pitcher you wouldn't need a nickname." (laughs). ... My dad was a real good athlete so I guess he thought I might be a famous athlete someday.

**What is the sickest prop bet you've ever**

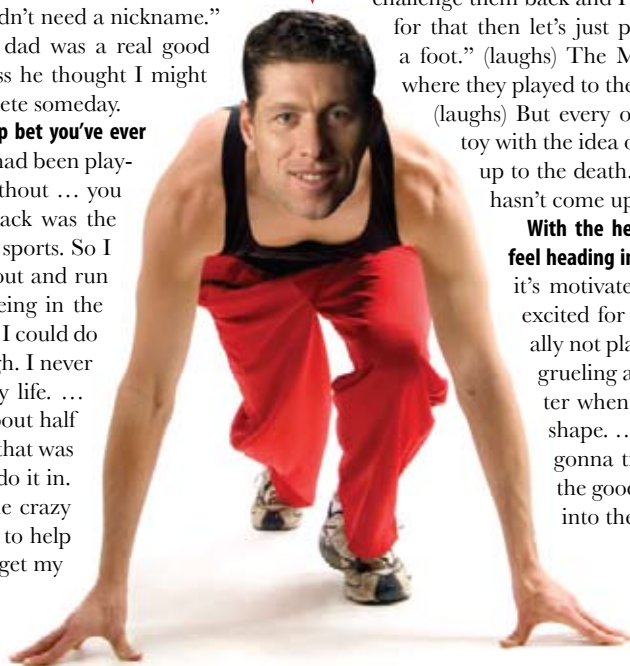
**accepted?** When I was in my low 20s I had been playing poker every day for like a year without ... you know, only walking to my car and back was the only exercise I was getting, and I love sports. So I made a bet where I was going to go out and run a marathon in a certain time with being in the worst shape I'd ever been in. I thought I could do it but I knew it was going to be so tough. I never ran more than five or six miles in my life. ... We went out to the track and I ran about half the way and walked half the way and that was enough to win the time that I had to do it in. But I made it though. (laughs) ... The crazy bets a lot of times are just motivation to help get out of that poker chair and try to get my body back in shape.

**Your latest prop bet is to run a mile in under 4:39 by the end of the year. You just turned 40. Do you really think you can do it?** Yeah, I just brought that up to my dad to see if he thought I could do it and he thought I could.

... I'm a little bit of a **track-and-field fan** and my little brother is a distance runner, so once in a while I dabble in the track and field. Yeah, I think I'm gonna be able to do it. I made a big bet with Doyle Brunson years ago and I trained hard for a year and I lost the bet. I just felt like it was my gym fees or something. (laughs) I was in shape and it was worth that money I lost!

Sometimes it's fun to bet things besides money. I haven't really made a bet like that. Sometimes when people are challenging me I'll challenge them back and I'll be like "All right, if you wanna play for that then let's just play for a finger, or we could cut off a foot." (laughs) The Mayans or the Aztecs had that game where they played to the death. ... That's serious stakes there. (laughs) But every once in a while I think of that and I toy with the idea of challenging someone to play heads-up to the death. (laughs) So far one of those matches hasn't come up.

**With the heads-up win under your belt, how do you feel heading into the WSOP this year?** It's a great win; it's motivated me to step up my game. I'm real excited for the World Series. Right now I'm really not playing that much poker. It can be really grueling at the World Series. I seem to play better when I just relax and get in good physical shape. ... But it was a really good win and I'm gonna try to hang on to the winning feeling, the good grooves I was in and try to carry that into the World Series for sure.





# FLORIDA STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

## JUNE 12 – JUNE 22

	BUY-IN	UNITS	ROUNDS
<b>EVENT 1 – FRIDAY, JUNE 12 AT 2:00PM</b> 6 Handled NLH – \$25,000 guarantee	\$300 + \$30	6,000	30 minutes
<b>EVENT 2 – FRIDAY, JUNE 12 AT 7:00PM</b> Florida State Ladies Championship Play will end at 1:30am and resume at 7:00pm next day	\$175 + \$25	5,000	30 minutes
<b>EVENT 3 – SATURDAY, JUNE 13 AT 2:00PM</b> No Limit Hold'em – \$20,000 guarantee	\$200 + \$25	5,000	30 minutes
<b>EVENT 4 – SUNDAY, JUNE 14 AT 1:00PM</b> Bounty Tournament – \$100 Bounties No Limit Hold'em \$30,000 guarantee, including bounties	\$300 + \$30	6,000	30 minutes
<b>EVENT 5 – MONDAY, JUNE 15 AT 1:00PM</b> Florida Poker Room Employees* Tuesday, June 16 at 3:00pm and 7:00pm Satellites for event 6 – \$60/\$40 rebuys	\$175 + \$25	5,000	30 minutes
<b>EVENT 6 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 AT 1:00PM</b> No Limit Preliminary – \$75,000 guarantee Thursday, June 18 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm Satellites for event 7 – \$60/\$40 rebuys	\$500 + \$50	10,000	30 minutes
<b>EVENT 7 – FRIDAY, JUNE 19 AT 2:30PM</b> Florida State Championship: Day 1A \$150,000 guarantee	\$800 + \$100	25,000	60 minutes
Saturday, June 20 at 2:30pm Florida State Championship: Day 1B	\$800 + \$100	25,000	60 minutes
Sunday, June 21 at 1:30pm Defending champion, Long Nguyen			60 minutes
Monday, June 22 at 2:30pm			60 minutes

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