

ANTE UP

FLORIDA'S POKER MAGAZINE™



ANTE UP TOUR
RACE FOR THE BRACELET

HEALTHY BET
MEMORY AT THE TABLE

ROAD TRIP
FOOTBALL SEASON!

CRUISIN'
ANTE UP HITS THE WATER

MARC DUNBAR

When gaming interests need a lobbyist to push something through Tallahassee, they call in the Bomb-Thrower.

OCTOBER 2009 | anteupmagazine.com



DANIEL NEGREANU

World Champion & Team PokerStars.net Pro

FRIEND OR FOE?



IN A BRAND NEW TV SHOW ON FOX, WORLD POKER CHAMPION DANIEL NEGREANU TAKES ON TWO ROLES...

DANIEL THE FRIEND: First he sets out to train and mentor contestants as they compete at the poker table against celebrities such as 2008 Playmate of the year Jayde Nicole. Then he takes the most successful competitors up to a new level, to take on some of the world's best poker pros.

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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



AN OFFER WE COULDN'T REFUSE

When you think of Florida poker, you think of *Ante Up*. When you think of poker elsewhere, you think of PokerNews.

And that's why we're very excited about the infinite opportunities *Ante Up*'s new partnership with PokerNews holds not just for us, but for all poker players in Florida and beyond.

A chance encounter with PokerNews founder Tony G while at the World Series of Poker led to laying the groundwork for a partnership limited only to our creativity. PokerNews will introduce *Ante Up* to new fans around the world and provide our existing ones with fresh content and offers, while *Ante Up* will help PokerNews establish a publishing beachhead in the United States in the country's most exciting poker market.

"We're all very excited about this new partnership with *Ante Up*, and we think it can be a very mutually beneficial relationship," PokerNews Editor-in-Chief Matthew Parvis said in announcing the partnership. "They have a great foundation of regional poker coverage, on top of an outstanding podcast and we think that working together will only bring about positive changes for both of our audiences."

So what does this mean for you? Stay tuned, as we expect each month to offer more and more.

For now, the Web-savvy team at PokerNews is working to freshen up the look, performance and features of anteupmagazine.com. In addition to a better Web experience for *Ante Up* fans, you also now have access to tremendous online poker signup bonuses and free-rolls that PokerNews has negotiated on behalf of its

millions of users. To get a glimpse of some of these offers, be sure to check out this month's Online Report on Page 20 and then go to anteupmagazine.com and click through the links.

And if you're a fan of our award-winning weekly PokerCast presented by PokerStars, you'll soon see contributions from the PokerNews team, as well as wider distribution of the show across PokerNews' platform. So scooch over, the Ante Up Nation is about to get a bit bigger.

In the future, we expect to bolster our very strong Florida news report in the magazine with engaging features, opinions and photos from around the world of poker. Don't worry, we're first and foremost Florida's Poker Magazine, something we'll never forget. But we also know our readers have interests beyond the Sunshine State. And the resources of PokerNews will no doubt help us better cover the successes of Floridians in tournaments around the world.

And finally, we're excited to help spread the word about the great stuff PokerNews does for our loyal readers around this state. If you haven't checked out pokernews.com before, you should. Believe it or not, the well-traveled Tony G has never been to Florida. We're hoping to bring him here so our readers can enjoy spending time with one of the game's most memorable characters.

Ante Up and PokerNews: Look for great things ahead.

We'll see you at the tables.

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

ANTE UP

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

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BACK ISSUES

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It's the best poker show on the Internet. Tune in to anteupmagazine.com on Fridays or subscribe on iTunes for free.

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Cruisin' along

The Ante Up Poker Cruise debuted in August, sailing from Tampa to Cozumel. Around 150 poker players partied aboard Carnival's *Inspiration* while playing cash games and tournaments. **24**

LIFESTYLE

Memory loss

Dr. Frank Toscano explores memory at the poker table and how to stay sharp. **42**



ON THE BUTTON



Norm!

ESPN's color commentator for the World Series of Poker, Norman Chad, calls in to the Ante Up Poker-Cast studios and regales the boys with his self-deprecating humor, stories of working with partner Lon MacEachern, how he got started in poker and why wife No. 3 definitely will be his last. ... well, maybe. **52**

STRATEGY

Learning to be a storyteller

Poker pro Lee Childs says if you want to be a good bluffer you need to make sure the story you're telling is believable. **46**

NEWS

Compact signed

Florida poker players have been champing at the bit for this deal to be complete, but this is only another hurdle in a long process, and parimutuel owners aren't happy. **11**

That's Classic!

The fourth annual Palm Beach Poker Classic, which featured an Ante Up Poker Tour event, wrapped up recently at PBKC, and this year it named a player of the year. **12**



A different kind of poker call

Jacksonville's Roy Vazquez, who finished 118th at this year WSOP Main Event, gets a call from the 1010XL Poker Room guys. **18**

COVER STORY



Lobbying is his middle name

Marc Dunbar is a lawyer and lobbyist who looks at gaming laws differently than most people, and if you need a friend in Tallahassee, he's your guy. **34**

ANTE UP TOUR

Brenner's day

The main event aboard the Ante Up Poker Cruise was an AUPT tournament, and Sarasota's Tim Brenner sailed to victory. **30**



Squeeze!

Massage companies are popping up in card rooms all over the Sunshine State, helping players relax at the tables. **38**

ROAD TRIP

Poker and punting

Floridians are crazy for two things: poker and football. October is a great month for pigskin competitions. **28**





FALL OPEN

\$60,000 CASH GIVEAWAY

HIGH HAND AND FOUR-OF-A-KIND JACKPOT

OCTOBER 6 – 12

RECEIVE ONE ENTRY FOR EVERY FOUR-OF-A-KIND
AND THREE ENTRIES FOR ALL HIGH HAND WINNERS.

DATE	WHAT	FREQUENCY	PRIZE
October 6	High Hands	Every 30 minutes	\$500 for NL or \$200 for limit
October 7	High Hands	Every 30 minutes	\$500 for NL or \$200 for limit
October 8	High Hands	Every hour until 6:00pm	\$800 for NL or \$200 for limit
October 9	Cash Drawings	3:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm & 1:00am	\$500 at each drawing
October 10	Cash Drawings	3:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm & 1:00am	\$500 at each drawing
October 11	High Hands	Every hour	\$599 for NL or \$200 for limit
October 12	Cash Drawings	3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm & 1:00am	\$2,000 at each drawing and \$10,000 at the 11:00pm drawing

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Looks like the weather isn't the only thing that's hot in August. Marc Levy of Boynton Beach took down the heavyweight division of the Main Event series at the Paradise Poker Room.

Levy, who earlier in the week had chopped the Ante Up Poker Tour event at the Isle, defeated nearly 80 players in the \$1,100 event en route to his \$27,650 payday on Aug. 15.

Jose Torres of Cooper City bested 139 rounders to win the \$350 Middleweight Division and \$13,440.

The \$575 Cruiserweight Division drew 71 starters and saw Franklin Rojas of Plantation earn \$12,425 for his victory.

\$300K Fall Open: The Paradise Poker Room is hosting a series of events Oct. 2-12 where the total prize pools reach a guaranteed \$300K, including the \$1,100 main event, which starts Oct. 9 and guarantees \$150K.

Fantasy Poker



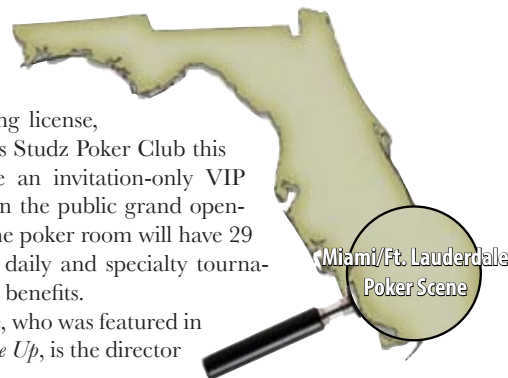
The first Battle of the Bars tournament in Fantasy Poker history recently came together at Clamsters. The event will be every six weeks with the top 20 players from each location representing their home bar.

At this event Julio came in sixth for Clamsters and Mikey G. was fifth for Wahoo's. The top four chopped: Scott K., John R. and Howard Y. of Wahoo's (giving the bar the title) and Chris H. from Clamsters.

STUDZ POKER ROOM OPENS THIS MONTH

Calder Casino & Race Course, which recently picked up its card room operating license, is on course to open its Studz Poker Club this month. There will be an invitation-only VIP event Oct. 22 and then the public grand opening will be Oct. 23. The poker room will have 29 tables offering players daily and specialty tournaments and a variety of benefits.

Christopher Trabue, who was featured in the August issue of *Ante Up*, is the director of poker operations.



Schaffel stays hot, nearly wins Legends

To say Kevin Schaffel is on a roll would be more than an understatement.

The Coral Springs resident, a member of the World Series of Poker Main Event November Nine, finished second Aug. 26 at the World Poker Tour's Legends of Poker Main Event in Los Angeles, pocketing \$471K for his efforts.

Schaffel was the chipleader heading to the six-person final table, but he was beaten by popular pro Prahlad Friedman, who won \$1.03 million for first place.

Schaffel is guaranteed \$1.263 million for his final-table appearance at this year's WSOP and can turn that into \$8.5 million with a victory. Be sure to grab a copy of November's *Ante Up* for a closer look at Schaffel and a preview of the November Nine.



Isle Casino at Pompano Park

The Deep Stack Poker Championships return Sept. 28-Oct. 5. There will be \$230K in guaranteed prize money up for grabs. The event will kick off with a \$100 bounty tournament Sept. 28 at 1:30 p.m. There's also a \$550 preliminary event at 1:30 on Sept. 30 with \$50K guaranteed. The \$900 championship will begin Oct. 3 with Day 1A starting at 2 p.m. Day 1B will be Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. with the two fields combining for Day 2 on Oct. 5 at 1 p.m. The tournament has a \$150K guaranteed prize pool. Also, check out the Isle's ad on Page 8 for details on its \$60K giveaway Oct. 6-12.

Charity Poker & Casino Night

Friends of the IDF's fifth annual Young Leadership Poker & Casino Night, which will be Oct. 17, is an Ante Up Poker Tour stop. The charity event will be at Trump International Beach Resort, 18001 Collins Ave. in Sunny Isles. The poker tournament (and casino) is \$180 pre-sale or \$200 at the door. For more information please call (305) 354-8233 or see the ad on Page 45.



HALLOWEEN TOURNAMENT

October 30th & 31st at 2pm

PLAYERS CAN PLAY
DAY 1A (OCT. 30), OR DAY 1B (OCT. 31),
EACH DAY IS CAPPED AT 200 PLAYERS

Finals November 1st at 2pm
\$225 Buy-in, 10,000 starting chips

& 30 min blind levels

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\$50 ADD-ON FOR 5,000 CHIPS

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Miramar's Chase Lalani, right, poses with Roy Bellamy of 790 The Ticket after the trophy presentation.

Dania Jai-Alai & Poker

Chase Lalani of Miramar took the coveted trophy Aug. 26 after winning the Dan Le Batard Celebrity event. The tournament drew 241 players who paid \$50 to enter.

The final six chopped the prize pool, giving each player a little more than \$1,000. Lalani, being the chipleader, was awarded the tournament trophy and \$1,500.

"This was my first time at the Dania poker room. I loved it and I will be back," Lalani said.

On Oct. 10 the poker room will host a \$250 Ante Up Poker Tour event at 12:30 p.m. Satellites are being offered, but the field is limited to 260, so get there soon because the last event like this at Dania was sold out and left plenty of players on the rail. For more details call 954-927-2841.

Pensacola Greyhound Track

Since being approved to open a poker room early this year, the news out of Pensacola Greyhound Track has been quiet. But now, the Associated Press reports the Poarch Band of Creek Indians has bought a controlling stake in the track and one in Mobile, with the intention of someday adding slot machines. That, of course, would require statewide and local approval. But for now, the Poarch Band says it intends to operate the yet-unopened poker room at Pensacola Greyhound Track.



Pleasure Island Poker

Eddie McFadden may have only needed ace-high to win the final hand, but he showed great skill throughout the tournament as he defeated a tough field Aug. 22 at Scully's on the Bayou in Ft. Walton Beach.

With 76 players qualifying in July, McFadden started with a small stack and made it heads-up against Frank "Gator" Crowder, a former monthly champ.

For his efforts Crowder won a sponsored seat to a tournament at the casino of his choice in Biloxi, Miss.

(Sat, Oct 10th) **10-10 Hold'em**

\$40,000

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FLORIDA FELT

Insight and analysis on poker in the Sunshine State

HOLD YOUR HORSES ON NEW POKER LIMITS

We've cleared yet another hurdle, but many laps remain in the marathon steeplechase toward real poker laws in Florida.

The Aug. 31 signing of a new gaming compact between Gov. Charlie Crist and the Seminole Tribe of Florida was a big, but not unexpected, step. Without a compact by the Legislature-imposed deadline, the state and the tribe would have committed to a high-stakes game of chicken. Smartly, both sides chose the high road.



SCOTT LONG

But now the document returns to the Legislature, where its passage is anything but certain.

Voracious last-minute deal-making in May lead to the passage of Senate Bill 788 which, among other things, removes bet and buy-in limits on poker in the state and expands the hours that poker rooms can stay open. It's exactly what poker players have been clamoring for in this state, but it also was tied to a new compact between the state and the Seminoles.

With a compact signed, all the Legislature has to do is sign off on it. But it's not that easy. The Legislature laid out its plan for the compact in SB 788, but the document Crist and the tribe signed deviated from that blueprint. Among other things, the compact lets the tribe keep blackjack at Seminole Casino Immokalee and it effectively shuts out any expansion of lucrative gaming to parimutuels outside of Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

Legislative leaders were quick to identify "red flags" in the compact that might make passage difficult, and parimutuel owners followed soon after with complaints about the "one-sided" deal. No doubt by the time you're reading this, the chorus of concern has grown louder.

We'd like to think all of this is coming to a head in early October, when the Legislature convenes to vote on the compact. And in one sense, it does. Legislative approval is the stiffest challenge remaining. If enough legislators are convinced the compact and SB 788 is a fair deal, or at least fair enough to avoid the uncertainty of rejection, it'll move on the final stage: federal government approval.

But we're likely to see plenty of wheelin' and dealin' leading up to that October special session, and much of it will focus on something called "exclusivity."

States can't tax Indian tribes for gaming, but can receive payments in exchange for something of value. Something like "exclusivity," or the tribe's right to be the only one dealing certain games. The federal government will take a hard look at how exclusive the deal is for the Seminoles, since Florida will reap an estimated \$6.8 billion over the course of the 20-year deal.

And that's the big roadblock in future negotiations. While the tribe made concessions to the seven Broward and Miami-Dade parimutuels, who may add table games to their slot machines in the future with approval, it was steadfastly against the rest of the state having the same option. Or even the option to add slot machines in the future. Parimutuel owners, expectedly, balked. No one wants to be told they can't add new products for the next 20 years. And the bone thrown

How the compact and SB 788 differ

The gaming compact Gov. Charlie Crist and the Seminole Tribe signed on Aug. 31 differs from the parameters included in Senate Bill 788, which the Legislature approved in May. The key differences:

EXCLUSIVITY: The tribe has exclusive rights to offer table games and Class III slot machines throughout the state, with the following exceptions:

- Other tribes, with a valid compact, can offer the same games. (The Miccosukee tribe is the only qualifying tribe in Florida).

- Class III slot machines are allowed at eight Broward and Miami-Dade parimutuels (Isle Casino, Dania Jai-Alai, Gulfstream Park, Mardi Gras Gaming, Calder Race Course, Miami Jai-Alai, Flagler Dog Track and Hialeah Park), though those eight can not move their licenses to new locations. They are also eligible to offer table games, if approved. Gaming can expand to other locations in the two counties, but would reduce the payments the tribe must make to the state.

- Parimutuels outside of those two counties, if approved, could operate a maximum of 300 historical racing or electronic bingo machines.

REACH: The tribe may offer table games and Class III slot machines at all seven of its casinos. The Legislature had only authorized it for the tribe's Broward and Hillsborough casinos.

VIDEO TABLE GAMES: While the tribe is not permitted to offer craps or roulette, the compact doesn't prohibit it from offering video versions of the games. Miami-Dade and Broward parimutuels previously had asked to be able to offer video versions of table games under their slot machine licenses.

INTERNET GAMING: If the federal or state government authorizes Internet gaming, the tribe would be allowed to reduce its payments to the state. Bills are pending in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate to regulate certain Internet gaming, and a Florida state agency has been charged to report on issues with Internet gaming by Dec. 1.

COMPLIANCE: The Florida Department of Revenue will act as the compliance agency for the Seminole Tribe, not the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, which is the compliance agency for parimutuel gaming.

their way — the option to add a maximum 300 historical racing or electronic bingo machines — is not enough, they say.

So that brings us back to "exclusivity." If negotiators find a way to give the parimutuels a little more, do they do so at the risk that the federal government will reject the deal? If so, we're back to that game of chicken that no one wanted to play in the first place.

Two big hurdles are down.

But two very tall ones remain.

— Email Scott Long at scott@anteupmagazine.com



4th annual

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PBKC's signature series, which featured a \$100 H.O.R.S.E. Ante Up Poker Tour event, also included a \$5K Player of the Year prize that Mike May of West Palm Beach earned. He also won the \$50K main event.



\$50K Guarantee Main Event

Entries: 281 Buy-in: \$500 Prize pool: \$126,450

1. Mike May, West Palm Beach \$18,965
2. Jeremy Osbourne, Port St. Lucie \$17,275
3. Paul Brettler, Ft. Lauderdale \$14,975
4. Eric Brewster, Jupiter \$11,890
5. Andrew Kellsall, Tampa \$10,480
6. Al Zeitler, North Palm Beach
7. Don Cook, West Palm Beach
8. Billy Campbell, Palm Beach Gardens
9. Jason Greenburg, West Palm Beach
10. Tim Bannigan, Delray Beach
11. Ken Weiner, Wellington
12. Spider McCarthy, West Palm Beach



\$10K Guarantee Rebuy

Entries: 184 Prize pool: \$22,380

1. Nicholas Delio, Los Angeles \$4,020
2. Andres Sanchez, Boynton Bch. \$3,500
3. James Locklar, Boynton Bch. \$3,500
4. Kathy Pennell, Lake Worth \$3,000
5. Eric Brewster, W.P. Beach \$3,000
6. Felicia Zimmerman, L. Worth \$1,120
7. Ken Habbén, W.P. Beach \$800
8. Dave MacDonald, Jupiter \$600
9. Thomas Pappas, Ft. Myers \$400
10. Walt Strakowski, W.P. Beach \$280

\$100 H.O.R.S.E./Ante Up Poker Tour

Entries: 119 Buy-in: \$100 Prize pool: \$9,250

The final 11 players chopped for \$820 each.

1. Gail Levine Cohen, Palm Beach Gardens
2. Edward White, Lake Park
3. Allen Green, Wellington
4. Joseph Rossi, Jupiter
5. Thomas Nasuti, Juno Beach
6. Antonio Pinzari, West Palm Beach
7. Stephanie Hughes, West Palm Beach
8. David Katz, Delray Beach
9. Mark Proman, Boca Raton
10. Lesley Mims, Palm City
11. John Bastarche, Delray Beach



6-Handed

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Patrick Maynard | 8. Robert Pencook |
| 2. Howard Spiers | 9. Antonio Pinzari |
| 3. Scott Levine | 10. Eric Brewster |
| 4. Phil Juarez | 11. Spinner Catchem |
| 5. Mike Vasalotti | 12. James English |
| 6. Ed Brooks | 13. Jon Marshall |
| 7. Bruce Campbell | 14. Joe Siegl |



\$20K Guarantee

Entries: 242 • Prize pool: \$40,414

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Quintin Kusala, \$4,550 | 6. Len Piscetotto, \$3,900 |
| 2. Jay Roden, \$4,550 | 7. Gerard Donnahy, \$3K |
| 3. Tom Nasuti, \$3,900 | 8. Randy Johnston, \$3K |
| 4. Manny Leon, \$3,900 | 9. Marc Levy, \$3K |
| 5. T. J. Burton, \$3,900 | 10. Ruth Gaskins, \$700 |



\$10K Guarantee

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. John Kleywegt | 6. Steve Kosches |
| 2. Larry Hawkins | 7. Mike O'Brien |
| 3. Monte Berger | 8. Bill Gould |
| 4. Susan Smith | 9. Kevin Quintavalle |
| 5. Marc Levy | |



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Event	Date	Day	Time	Game	Buy-in	Entry
1	November 2	Monday	2:00 pm, 4:00 pm	Finals Qualifier No-Limit Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
2	November 3	Tuesday	4:00 pm	Finals Qualifier No-Limit Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
3	November 4	Wednesday	2:00 pm, 4:00 pm	Finals Qualifier No-Limit Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
4	November 5	Thursday	2:00 pm	Finals Qualifier No-Limit Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
5	November 6	Friday	2:00 pm	Finals Qualifier No-Limit Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
6	November 7	Saturday	2:00 pm	Deep Stacks No-Limit Hold'em	\$225	\$200+25
7	November 8	Sunday	2:00 pm	Casino/Hospitality Industry NL Hold'em	\$175	\$150+25
8	November 9	Monday	7:00 pm	Razz	\$80	\$70+10
9	November 10	Tuesday	7:00 pm	No-Limit Hold'em	\$120	\$100+20
10	November 11	Wednesday	2:00 pm	WWII Veterans Charity, NL Hold'em	\$80 40 RB 20 Add	
11	November 11	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Young Guns 18-30 yrs. old NL Hold'em	\$120	\$100+20
12	November 12	Thursday	2:00 pm	Chmpnshp. Event (day 1A), NL Hold'em	\$650	\$600+50
13	November 13	Friday	2:00 pm	Chmpnshp. Event (day 1B), NL Hold'em	\$650	\$600+50
14	November 14	Saturday	2:00 pm	Ladies No-Limit Hold'em	\$225	\$200+25
15	November 14	Saturday	4:00 pm	Seniors/50 yrs. & older, NL Hold'em	\$225	\$200+25
16	November 15	Sunday	2:00 pm	Championship Event (day 2), FINAL		

BONUS DAYTIME EVENTS

Bonus Event	Date	Day	Time	Game	Buy-in	Entry
*	November 2-6 November 9-13	Monday-Friday	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Training Table	\$0	
1	November 10	Tuesday	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Boot Camp	TBA	
2	November 14	Saturday	1:00 - 8:00 pm	Vendor Show		
3	November 15	Sunday	1:00 - 8:00 pm	Vendor Show		

BONUS EVENING EVENTS

Bonus Event	Date	Day	Time	Game	Buy-in	Entry
1	November 6	Friday	7:00 pm	No-Limit Hold'em*	\$120	\$100+20
2	November 7	Saturday	7:00 pm	Pot-Limit Omaha Hi/Lo	\$80	\$70+10

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386-252-6484 • www.daytonapokergreyhound.com

Registration is open in the Poker Room from 12:00 noon - 12:00 midnight daily. For more information call 877-311-6484.

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Complete rules are available at the poker room host station.

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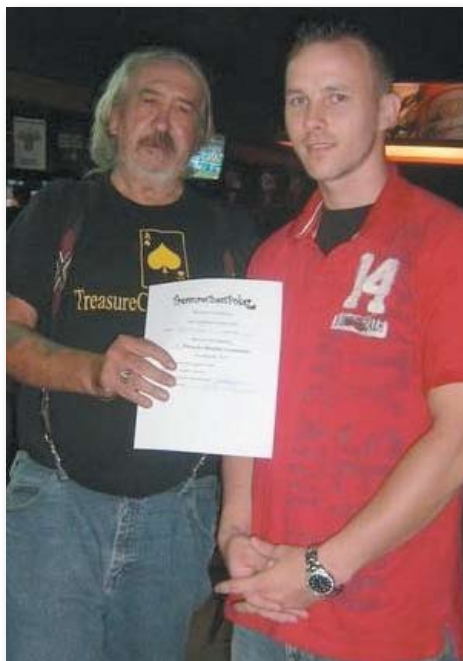


Tracy Ferguson, right, recently defeated 350 players at Pub 44 in New Smyrna Beach to win the Season 12 final. This was Ferguson's seventh final table and second time she has won the tournament.

Here are the final results:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Tracy Ferguson | 6. Jason Randolph |
| 2. Janet Mills | 7. Hoang Le |
| 3. Karl Welzenbach | 8. Jeff Hearn |
| 4. Dan Shafer | 9. Eric Hall |
| 5. Lynn Nolan | 10. Richard Justice |

Treasure Chest Poker



Bobby Quinn, red shirt, won the July monthly, defeating more than 100 players at Bradenton's Last Call Bar in August to win a trip to Las Vegas.

BATTLE OF BARS: Maria Trap, above, with her Last Call Bar of Bradenton challengers defeated Danny's Curlew.

She took home the trophy and a \$50 gas card.

High Heels Poker Tour

The Aug. 2 all-ladies event at the Silks Poker Room had everything, unfortunately that included mistakes in its results. Marsha Wolak of Sarasota finished second and won \$917 while Ann Simsic was third.

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2nd Cruise for Two

3rd \$500

4th \$250

5th \$125



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The **FRIDAY**
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**\$500 + \$35 Buy-In
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**No High Hand Winners
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Daytona Beach Kennel Club



Bob Mowrer, posing with dealer Patrick Conners, won the Frank Scott HOG Radio Tournament on Aug. 6. That's some trophy!



From left is manager Mark Hayes, William Powell, Charles Marotta, dealer Nat Edmonds, Dana Napier, Randall Simcox and Trop Hume. The five players chopped \$15K instead of one winning a Camaro on Aug. 1.



Who says you have to wait for one World Series to end before you can plan for the next one? The folks at Daytona Beach Kennel Club are getting a head start on 2010 by holding a WSOP Main Event qualifier on Oct. 11 at 1 p.m. The \$150 buy-in will get you 10,000 chips and 25-minute levels, starting at 25-50. There will be a \$10 optional dealer add-on that will get you another 1,000 chips. The tournament, which has been designated an Ante Up Poker Tour event, will have room for 500 players (plus alternates) and will pay 1-5 packages (\$10K seat and \$1,500 for expenses).

A NEW SERIES: The Daytona Beach International Poker Tournament will have a variety of events Nov. 2-15, including a razz tournament, a Young Guns event, a Veterans tournament, a PLO/8 event and a few deepstack tourneys. Also there will be a boot camp and vendor show. For more information please see the ad on Page 13.

BAD BEAT COUNTDOWN: Here's a new twist on a bad-beat jackpot. The NLHE bad beat is seeded at \$40K, but once it's capped at \$50K, the qualifying losing hand (quad fives) will decrease every day until the jackpot is hit.

CLASSY LADIES: Robin Deeter took down the Classy Ladies event Aug. 16. She won \$770, a GPS system and a trophy.

SunCruz Port Canaveral



The Central Florida Dealers' Championship recently took place aboard the SunCruz ship during their casino employees party. The tournament cost \$60 (with no rake) and 40 dealers played to a nine-player chop. Players enjoyed free cocktails, free buffet and late-night dessert bar. Daytona Beach Kennel Club, SunCruz and Melbourne Greyhound Park's Club 52 were represented. The nine finalists are pictured, back row from left: Tim Manning, Hercules Veneris, John Martin, Jamie Apicella, Mike Limberis and Nick "The Brush" Jones. Front row, from left: Jesaka Downs, Jenny Green and Corey Helwig.

All in Poker Series



Erik Hikida took home the champion's trophy and two annual passes to Universal Studios after his victory in the monthly invitational on Aug. 15 at Kitty O'Shea's. Hikida has been playing with All in since the end of 2006 and he beat more than 60 players to take home his second champion's trophy.

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PLAYER PROFILE: ROY VAZQUEZ

An occasional interview with a Florida player • Courtesy of Jacksonville's Poker Room Radio Show

Jacksonville's Roy Vazquez Jr. won a \$10,000 seat to the 2009 WSOP Main Event through a \$150 satellite at The Poker Room at St. Johns Greyhound Park. His 118th finish (out of 6,494 players) earned him more than \$40,000. He recently was at the \$5-\$10 no-limit hold'em table at Orange Park when he received an on-air call from the 1010XL *Poker Room Radio Show*. Here's an excerpt:

PRR: Has it sunk in yet? When you lay down at night do you picture yourself with chips between your fingers?

RV: Yeah. They say one of the worst things is when you get knocked out of the main event, and now I know what that feels like, especially as far as I made it, which was unexpected. But in retrospect, to think how far I've gone and how many people I finished ahead of, I can't complain at all.

PRR: Was there any specific hand in that stretch that was particularly costly or put you in a bad position?

RV: No, not really, just the last hand. I got my chips in most of the time, and I must have gone all-in at least 20 times, and either didn't get called or when I got called it held up. But at the last all-in, I had pocket 10s in late position. The blinds were 10,000-20,000 and I raised to 80,000. The button called me then the big blind called. The flop came out A-J-10, two diamonds, so I flopped a set. ... I figured the button had a little more than I did. So I just pushed all-in trying to get all the draws out. I guess he thought it was time to gamble, so he did and called with 7♦-8♦, and hit the 6♦ on the river. ... I got up and congratulated everybody. They took me to the place to get the money. It was a hard walk and hard to call people and tell them I got knocked out. But in retrospect, it turned out to be a good run and a good six days of play.

PRR: You went in there representing an entire city and beat 6,376 players, including some of the best in the world. Next year you can go in there with experience under your belt, without any of the butterflies and say, "Here I am, here's my bankroll, let's go!"

RV: I definitely want to find a way to go back. There are a lot of sporting events out there and this is the one event where you can rub elbows with the pros and the celebrities and it just costs you your buy-in. I teach tennis and I can't say, "Hey, Roger Federer, let's go play a couple of sets." But I can do just that with the pros at this event.

PRR: Was there ever a point sitting at a table with a pro or a celebrity where you were star struck?

RV: No, not really. I was in my room reading the *Bluff Magazine* that they were giving away, and there was this article on table draws. Table draws are really important and I had a really good table draw every day. I never really had any hyper-aggressive pros at my table. There was a big stack to my right that kept stealing my blinds, but I couldn't do anything about that. Luckily, I didn't run into a (Phil) Hellmuth or (Phil) Ivey.

PRR: You can really get intimidated if a big-name pro or super-aggressive pro comes in. It will change your game.

RV: Right. The WSOP format is good for me because I'm pretty patient. We had two-hour blinds the first day and we were set up for two-hour breaks, but our table never broke. So, we played with the same six players all day. I used that to my advantage with the two pros at the table because I had bluffed both of them one time. The biggest thing is that people try to steal blinds and bluff too much early in the tournament. I don't know what they are trying to get away with since the blinds are small that early in the tournament.

PRR: You had some very interesting hands right from the get-go.

RV: Yeah, within the first 45 minutes I had A-K suited and made



a standard raise. I think the blinds were 50-100 and I raised to 300. One of the pros called and I flopped the nut flush. I bet; he called. The turn hit and paired the board. I thought "Oh, no." I bet, but didn't make it any higher than the first bet. He called. Then the river hit another diamond and I bet again. He raised, but he didn't raise enough to make me fold. It was one of those raises I had to call, so I did. He had a Q-J and that was the pair on the board. He made the boat, so I got knocked down to 23,000 pretty early. That was a tough hand to take early on, but I held it together and bounced back. I think that's what they were trying to do with the pros especially; the chips stacks last year were two times the buy-in at 20,000, this year it was 30,000. So I think it's a benefit for the pros; if they get hit early they can still recover.

PRR: What is your poker style?

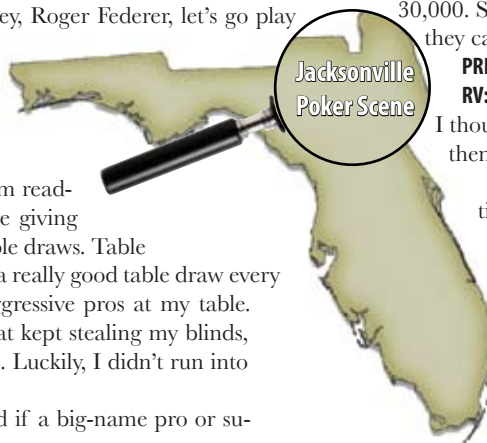
RV: I'm pretty much tight-aggressive. I'd play tight, but if I thought I could get away with a raise, or a steal or a bluff, then I'd go for it. But I didn't do it that often.

PRR: That's a little easier to pull off if you've got that tight image, because you've been showing premium cards most of the time.

RV: I didn't show my cards to anybody unless I went to the river. I wasn't giving any pro a chance to figure it out. I remember I was playing tight enough where I raised with pocket deuces and everybody folded. My image was good for me at the table and I was able to get away with things. Even the last day when I got knocked out, it was a pro from overseas. I had raised from early position and he flipped up A-J in late position and folded and said, "You only play good cards, huh?" And I said, "Maybe."

PRR: Is it fair in a field of 6,600, with a \$10K buy-in, to crack the top 200 and only cash \$40K? It seems like you're short-changed.

RV: The pros had that conversation at our table. They did feel it was very top heavy, to put \$10K up and only return \$40K. Those guys can probably make more money in a cash game quicker. For me, it is what it is. I got in for \$150 and turned it into \$40K. So I can't complain too much.



OCTOBER PokerFest

It's a Full House of Tournament Excitement

OCTOBER 8 - OCTOBER 11

@ The Poker Room at St. Johns Greyhound Park

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Bad Beats, High Hands, Royal Flush Giveaways and Daily Tournaments

PokerFest Schedule:

Thursday, October 8

2 p.m. – No Limit Hold'em, 6k in chips, 18-minute blinds. Entry, \$120

6:30 p.m. – Pot Limit Omaha 8 or Better, 4k in chips, 18-minute blinds.
Entry, \$65

Friday, October 9

2 p.m. – No Limit Hold'em, 6k in chips, 18-minute blinds. Entry, \$225

7:00 p.m. – Ladies Only No Limit Hold'em, 4k in chips, 18-minute blinds.
Entry, \$65

Saturday, October 10

2 p.m. – Main Event Mega Stack, 20,000 in chips, 30-minute blinds. Entry \$330. Players in the Main Event will play until 11pm or until they reach the final table. All remaining players will return for more play on Sunday, October 11. Six-Handed Super Stack at 4pm, 6,000 in chips, 18-minute blinds, \$120.

Sunday, October 11

2 p.m. – Main Event winners return for a showdown.

BOOT CAMP & WORLD SERIES SATELLITE WEEKEND

October 16 – Susie Isaacs & Tom McEvoy Boot Camp

2 to 6 p.m. • Boot Camp admission is \$200
Limited availability

October 17 – World-Series Satellites

Poker Room at Orange Park Kennel Club
2 p.m. • \$150 buy-in

October 18 – World-Series Satellites

Poker Room at St. Johns Greyhound Park
1 p.m. • \$150 buy-in



Hall-of-Famers and WSOP Multi-Bracelet champions.



St. Johns Greyhound Park: 6322 Racetrack Road
Orange Park Kennel Club: 455 Park Avenue
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NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

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



HERE'S HOW TO DEPOSIT MONEY ONLINE

Many players have asked me about getting money into online sites. They're concerned about the safety of payment processors and giving someone access to their checking account. You don't need to make a deposit to play online poker, but if you want to play for real money you do.

You can try your luck playing freeroll tournaments if you don't have any money. The European World Series of Poker's inaugural main event champ Annette Obrestad says she has never deposited money into an online site, earning her bankroll via freerolls, so it is possible. But for the rest of us less-talented players there are other alternative methods:

Credit cards: Good ol' fashioned plastic still offers a fast and easy payment method to make direct deposits to your poker account. Some credit-card banks will refuse this method of payment to poker sites, however.

Immediate deposit: This payment system allows you to use any Visa or MasterCard to immediately purchase a calling card, which then can be used to get equal credits in your poker account.

ePassporte: This site (and other similar ones) has developed a system of payment that protects identity and money with the recognition and the world acceptance of Visa. Use your Visa to deposit money with ePassporte, then transfer that money to the poker site. Warning: There may be high fees associated with these methods.

PrePaidATM: This is an online money-transfer service that functions like an ATM card, debit card and money-transfer card all in one. Simply deposit money into your PrePaidATM using a credit card, PayPal, electronic check, bank wire, Quick Collect or card-to-card transfer and begin making deposits.

Direct Checking Access: Here's the method that probably gives people the most concern. The sites take your bank's routing number and checking account number. They then directly debit your account for anything you deposit. Once again, not all banks will honor this method. You might get a call from your bank related to suspicious activity on your account if you use these methods.

PokerStars

The world's largest online poker room is now offering a \$600 bonus for first deposits, which is vastly better than the \$50 bonus it had been offering forever. If you use marketing code **ANTEUPMAG** and signup code **STARS600** you will be eligible to earn 100 percent of a \$600 bonus. Go to anteupmagazine.com and click the ONLINE POKER ROOMS link for details.

PokerStars also is giving you a shot at playing on TV for \$1 million. Qualify for the Million Dollar Challenge (see ad on Pages 2-3) and you could be taking part in this exciting new TV show where you'll get to play heads-up against celebrity players and Team PokerStars Pros.

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CODE: ANTEUPMAG

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ANTE UP POKERCAST PRESENTED BY POKERSTARS

The Ante Up PokerCast is the longest running poker show on the Internet. Tune in Fridays at anteupmagazine.com or subscribe on iTunes for free.

Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series

The Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (a.k.a. AIPS) is our PokerCast's monthly fan tournament series on PokerStars.com. Square off against 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!

If you're fortunate enough to win an AIPS event then email us a photograph of **you with your banana and monkey** to editor@anteupmagazine.com and we'll publish it. 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 and click on our online poker rooms link. Use marketing code ANTEUPMAG and signup code STARS600 to get a 100 percent deposit bonus up to \$600!

XTR Steve won our most recent AIPS event, a NLHE rebuy tournament Sept. 9.



AIPS schedule

Event #9	Event #10	Event #11	Main Event
Oct. 7	Nov. 11	Dec. 9	Jan. 13
Razz	Heads-Up	Badugi	H.O.R.S.E.
\$5.50	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$11

AIPS primer

This month's AIPS event is razz. Here are some Web sites to help your razz game.

surferspoker.com/advancedpokertips/moreonrazz.html
howtoplayrazzpoker.com/razz-tournament-strategy.htm
holdemreview.com/razz-poker-strategy/

PokerStars sponsors HHPT

PokerStars.net, the world's largest poker school, announced its sponsorship of the High Heels Poker Tour, which is based in Ft. Lauderdale.

Founded in 2007, the HHPT was created to empower women who want to become champions in the growing world of poker. Like PokerStars, the HHPT seeks to provide the best competitive environment where women can explore, develop and continue growing and learning top strategies to perfect their "A" game.

The PokerStars sponsorship will include support for HHPT's growing roster of tournaments. The tour consistently has events in Florida, including one at Tampa Bay Downs on Oct. 10 to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation (see ad Page 45).

"PokerStars has all of the attributes in an online partner that female players crave: an incredible variety

of quick, entertaining games that range from low buy in sit-and-go tournaments and cash games to serious tournament play, all in an environment where women can learn the game, develop their skills and truly become champions," said Lauren Failla, an *Ante Up* columnist and founder of the High Heels Poker Tour. "With champions like Vanessa Rousso, Katja Thater and Vicky Coren, our players have a whole new set of role models to emulate and challenge, online and at the tables."

HHPT will share its grand finale, a \$1K buy-in, at the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure in January. For more information about HHPT's upcoming schedule go to highheelspokertour.com.

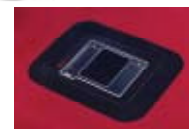


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Palm Beach Princess Casino also offers a NEW State-of-the-art Sports Book. Featuring race, Keno, high quality digital TV screens and co-mingle wagering with prominent tracks. The Palm Beach Princess Casino Poker Room heats up by hosting the Ante Up Poker Tournament on the first Sunday day cruise of every month. With a \$3,000 estimated prize pool, the final three players will also receive a pre-paid entry into the monthly \$10,000 WPT Satellite Tournament.

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Palm Beach Princess Casino is the only "World Poker Tour" officially sanctioned venue in all of Florida. The monthly tournaments for Poker guests count towards qualification in mainstream high profile televised events.

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We were sailing along ...

The first Ante Up Poker Cruise was a smashing success, from the open-bar meet-and-greet to great tournaments and cash-game action. Thanks to everyone who attended, and we look forward to seeing new and old faces at our next Ante Up Poker Cruise on March 25-29!



Poker room manager Cassie Greene follows the action on the first night, when all 10 poker tables were filled.



Chris Cosenza hangs with Dan Frank of Top Set Player Management, who lost a bet to a cruiser who drank a bottle of wine in less than 10 seconds.



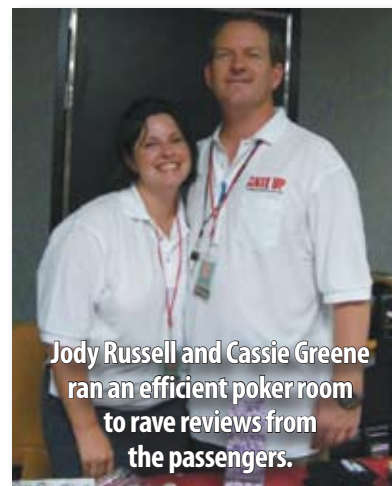
The Ante Up cruise featured six multitable tournaments, several SNGs and a wide variety of cash games.



Mike Fasso of St. Pete Beach takes part in one of many cash games.



Sam Minutello of Sarasota Kennel Club studies his opponent as Karim Baruque deals the cards.



Jody Russell and Cassie Greene ran an efficient poker room to rave reviews from the passengers.



Ante Up online columnist John Lanier is always a threat at the tournament table.



Scott Long and Mike Fasso take part in the \$150 Ante Up Poker Tour event on the final full day of the cruise.



Jason Hawley is creator/designer of Design Playing Cards, which passengers were excited to use.



Ante Up Healthy Bet columnist Frank Toscano cashed in the Ante Up Poker Tour event.



Players sport their Twift.com hats, just one of the gifts Ante Up sponsors gave to every cruiser.



A variety of cash games got going, from pot-limit Omaha and no-limit hold'em to H.O.R.S.E. and limit games with bets not found on the Florida mainland (at least not yet).



Cassie Greene always had a smile during the cruise.



Amenity Pro provided table-side massages for players in the poker room.



Karim Baruque was one of the friendly and talented dealers. Cruisers remarked they were among the best they've seen.



Joanie Tronco Saddik, David Hall and Jason Hawley enjoy the dining room. Cruisers were assigned to early dining so they wouldn't miss any of the poker action.



Scott Long runs down what to expect on the cruise during the open-bar cocktail party that welcomed everyone aboard the first day.

A special thanks to cruisers Lindsey Iwanoff of Amenity Pro, Liz Lanier and Joanie Tronco Saddik. They spent a lot of their time during the cruise taking the bulk of the photos used in this issue.



ANTE UP POKER CRUISE



MARCH 25-29, 2010

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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

Royal Caribbean International reserves the right to impose a fuel supplement on all guests if the price of West Texas Intermediate fuel exceeds \$65.00 per barrel. The fuel supplement for 1st and 2nd guests would be no more than \$10 per guest per day, to a maximum of \$140 per cruise; and for additional guests would be no more than \$5 per person per day, to a maximum of \$70 per cruise.

Take us on your trip!

E-mail your unique poker road trip to editor@anteupmagazine.com, and if we use it, we'll run your photo and give you some great Ante Up swag! Each trip must be themed (golf courses, biker bars, fishing holes, you name it!), and include as much of the state as possible.



Oct. 24: Norfolk State at Florida A&M

Bragg Stadium, Tallahassee

Football: Yes, there's a quality football game here. The big attraction is the Rattlers' famous "M" band, that's consistently recognized as an in-state band. And it's homecoming, so you know the band is playing. **Flop:** Take the short drive to Monticello and enjoy the Kennel Club's cozy poker room.



Oct. 23-25: University of Florida Swamp Bowl

Recsports Fields, University of Florida, Gainesville

Football: Hey, not everyone has what it takes to play for the NCAA National Championship, so for most of us, collegiate flag football rec leagues are where the action is. On this weekend watch men's teams, women's teams and college teams battle for Gator Pride.

Flop: You're close enough to take the post-game party to Ocala Poker Room, which just debuted its version of 3 Card Poker.

Oct. 30: Las Vegas Locomotives vs. Florida Tuskers



Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg

Football: History is littered with the names of pro football leagues, but the United Football League attempts that fate with its debut season. The Tuskers call the Citrus Bowl home, but the game in St. Petersburg.

Flop: Just north on Interstate 275 is the Tropicana Field, which features 364 days of promotions in its 25,000-seat stadium.

WHO HAS THE BETTER KICKER?

It's no coincidence "Florida" and "football" begin with the same letter. That's how intertwined the two are. The ol' pigskin is popular no matter the level in these parts. October offers some of the best helmet-cracking action of the year. So here's our perfect road trip of football and flops:



Oct. 25: San Antonio Land Shark

Land Shark

Football: The Land Shark is into a controversial stadium named after a shark. **Flop:** Just a couple of miles from the stadium, the Poker Club opens to the public. Director Christopher Truitt is the head of the club.

Florida A&M

ame going on, but the
Marching 100" band
novator of marching
now it'll be a great show.
and Jefferson County



Oct. 31: Florida vs. Georgia

Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, Jacksonville

Football: More than 100,000 fans are expected to converge on Jax for what's dubbed the "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party." Those who remain sober enough will also see the best college football team in the land.

Flop: Follow the St. Johns River to St. Johns Greyhound Park and its wide variety of games.



Oct. 17-18: All Florida Day rugby championships

Hickory Point Park, Tavares

Football: Don't be such an American! We can share the game of football, can't we? If you're looking for rugby, this is your best bet in October when just about every team in the state converges on this series of soccer fields to do battle.

Flop: Oh, Orlando, why doth you tease us so? Still no legal poker for money here, but check out any one of the number of free leagues that hosts events every night and dream about a day when this area wakes up to reality.

Saturdays: Treasure Coast Pop Warner League

Football: Come out to see the future NFLers in their first organized games ... before Bobby Bowden starts offering them scholarships and Scott Boras starts telling them to hold out of training camp.

Flop: After you cheer on the Ft. Pierce Greyhounds, head over to Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai, especially for its deepstack tournament, which falls on the third Saturday of every month and is always designated an Ante Up Poker Tour event.

Oct. 2: Byrnes High vs. St. Thomas Aquinas

Brian Piccolo Memorial Stadium, Ft. Lauderdale

Football: The Gators get the press, but Florida has two No. 1 teams this year. The Raiders of St. Thomas Aquinas are the top high school team in the country, and this game will be broadcast live on ESPN.

Flop: You're a short drive from Dania Jai-Alai, which always has some unbelievable specials and promotions.

About Ante Up's Road Trip

With 31 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.

BRENNER SAILS TO VICTORY

In the Tampa Bay area Tim Brenner is known as one of its top players. So when he triples his stack after about 15 hands you know he's going to be tough to beat.

Brenner, who is a dealer at Sarasota Kennel Club's One-Eyed Jacks poker room, went from 10K starting chips to about 30K inside the first 30 minutes of play and cruised to his first Ante Up Poker Tour victory.

Brenner's win came aboard Carnival's *Inspiration* during the first Ante Up Poker Cruise. Very early on Brenner flopped a full house holding K-7 and got someone to commit all of his chips when he turned top two pair. Just a few hands later Brenner felted another player when he flopped a set of sixes against someone holding A-10 on an A-6-10 board.

From there it was, ahem, smooth sailing for the 32-year-old Tarpon Springs High graduate. Ultimately he chopped when he got heads up with Andrew Krause of Land O'Lakes, but Brenner had more chips so he settled for a bigger portion of the prize pool, the coveted 1,000 AUPT Player of the Year points and a complete set of Design plastic playing cards, which were autographed by the company's owner-designer, Jason Hawley.

But the final table had some drama, including a moment from One-Eyed Jacks' poker room manager Sam Minutello, who told Brenner if he busted him he was fired. Brenner, throwing caution to the wind, knocked out his boss in seventh place when he flopped a set of fives and Minutello's top pair didn't improve. As of press time, Brenner is still employed at One-Eyed Jacks.

Cheri Murphy, wife of Tampa Bay Downs poker room manager Patrick Murphy, finished eighth, while *Ante Up* columnist Frank Toscano finished fifth.

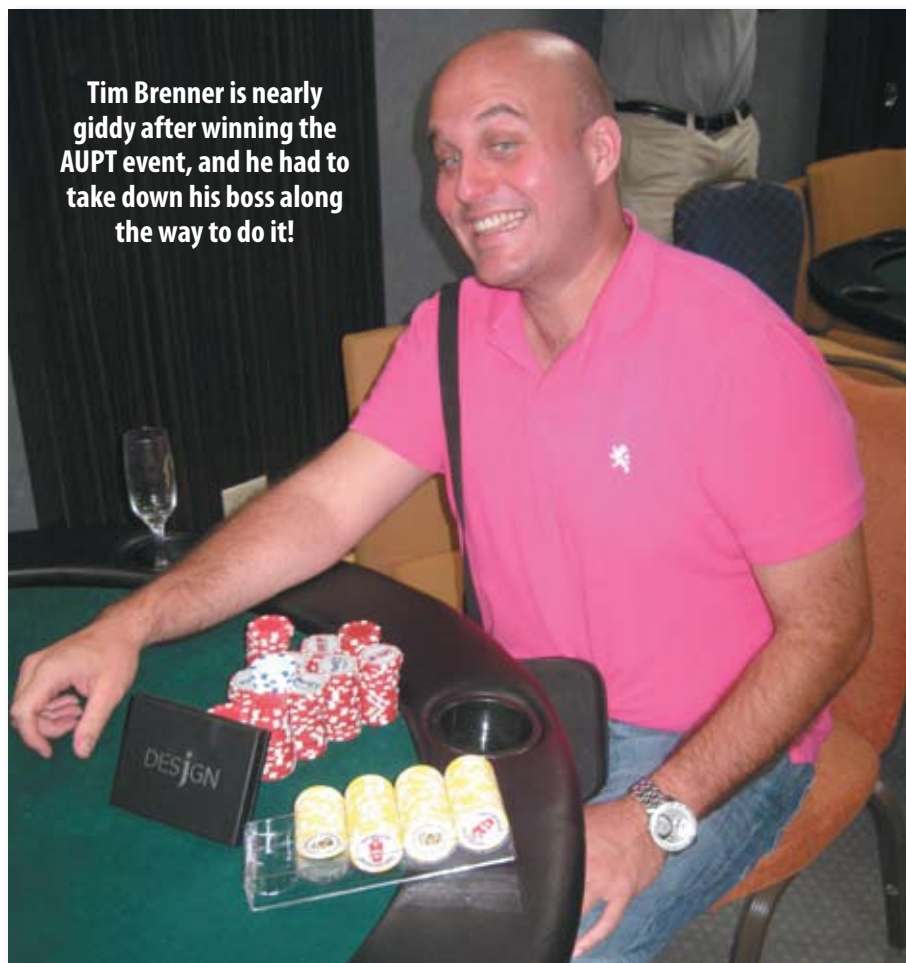
Ante Up friends (and home game regulars) Steve Pessin and Mike Fasso finished third and fourth, respectively.

POY LEADER: The AUPT has a different leader atop the Player of the Year Race for the Bracelet for the first time. Walt Strakowski of West Palm Beach continues to grind out final tables and is now in first place with 3,100 points, edging out Ft. Lauderdale's Ken Basilio, who held the top spot for two straight months. Basilio has 2,100 points and is followed closely by Hollywood's Robert Beyra (2,000).

The AUPT player of the year not only wins a custom-designed bracelet from Madison Jewelers, but the winner will be featured in a cover story in *Ante Up* and will be the subject of an interview on the *Ante Up PokerCast*.

AUPT FOR CHARITY: The Friends of the IDF's fifth annual Young Leadership Poker & Casino Night is an official Ante Up Poker Tour event. It will be Oct. 17 at Trump International Beach Resort, 18001 Collins Ave. in Sunny Isles. The poker tournament is \$180 if you prepay, otherwise it's \$200. Call (305) 354-8233 or see the ad on Page 45.

Tim Brenner is nearly giddy after winning the AUPT event, and he had to take down his boss along the way to do it!



Players settle in for the start of the final table aboard the *Carnival Inspiration* on Aug. 23

**Mistakes? Omissions? Please let your poker room manager or tournament director know.
Or you can feel free to contact us at editor@anteupmagazine.com.**

August results

ANTE UP POKER CRUISE AUG. 23

1. Tim Brenner, Sarasota
 2. Andrew Krause, Land O' Lakes
 3. Leonard "Steve" Pessin, Tampa
 4. Mike "Bard" Fasso, St. Pete Beach
 5. Frank "Doc" Toscano, Clearwater
 6. Cheri Murphy, Tampa
 7. Sam "Deuce" Minutello, Treasure Island
 8. Mike Laake, Tampa
 9. Rick Bunting, Danbury, Conn.
 10. James Kott, Sarasota
- * Fasso and Kelly Jamruk receive 100-point bounties for knocking out Ante Up publishers.

DANIA JAI-ALAI AUG. 7

1. Angelo Colangelo, Davie
2. Roberto Herrera, Coral Springs
3. Jason Sosler, Hollywood
4. Franklin Rojas, Plantation
5. Bobby Miller, Sunrise
6. Rodolfo Tomarcho, Miami
7. Cary Estandford, Miami
8. Pete Maestrous, Delray
9. Bill Banks, West Palm Beach
10. Andre Bryan, Miami

EBRO GREYHOUND PARK AUG. 2

1. John Sexton
2. Alex Povallitis
3. Daniel McGill
4. Bert Curry
5. Peter Hess
6. Steven Nousiainen
7. Barry Champion
8. Russell Ellison
9. Chase Zbikowski
10. Richard Stevens

FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER AUG. 15

1. Andrew Kisson, Port St. Lucie
2. Jim Dials, Melbourne
3. Misty Abelin, West Palm Beach
4. Dan Shea, Port St. Lucie
5. Frank Bajraktar
6. George Stierlin, Port St. Lucie
7. Sheffield Abood, Ft. Pierce
8. Mike Grzech, Okeechobee
9. Graig Rogers, Ft. Pierce
10. Mickey Smith, Vero Beach

GULFSTREAM PARK AUG. 8

1. Luis Cristobol, Coral Gables
2. Daniel Hassan, Madrid, Spain
3. Mark Collins, Atlanta, Ga.
4. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach
5. Alberto Dominguez, Hollywood
6. Orlando Comrie, Davie
7. Mitchell Abrahams, Miami
8. Diana Bernal, Davie
9. Declined points
10. Harvey Walfish, Hollywood

ISLE CASINO AUG. 17

1. William Franzese, Coral Springs
2. Toufik Beloualhi, Sunrise
3. Joseph Marchese, Pompano Beach
4. Lawrence Strenk, Delray Beach
5. Marc Levy, Boynton Beach
6. Doron Malinasky, Hollywood
7. Celio Carriagi, Plantation



Ocala winner
Glen Blumberg

8. Raj Vohra, Lake Worth
9. James Hamburger, Delray Beach
10. Raymond Nalbadian, Tamarac

OCALA POKER & JAI-ALAI AUG. 29

1. Glen Blumberg, Alachua
2. Carleen Heath, Belleview
3. Paul Petersen, Gainesville
4. James Gibson, Crystal River
5. Casey Issac, Jacksonville
6. Doug Griffiths, Gainesville
7. Peter Nadeau, Gainesville
8. Raul Merlo, Gainesville
9. Ron Durham, Lake City
10. Declined points

ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB AUG. 21

1. Russell Ledbetter, St. Augustine
2. Ray Jenny, Apopka
3. Mark Pye, Orange Park
4. Paul Barnett, Jacksonville

5. Eddie Uehara, Waldo
6. Aaron Lucas, Jacksonville
7. Holly Hehenberger, St. Petersburg
8. Mike Depasquale, St. Augustine
9. Raymond Witt, Lake City
10. Declined points

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB AUG. 26

1. Gail Levine Cohen, Palm Beach Gardens
 2. Edward White, Lake Park
 3. Allen Green, Wellington
 4. Joseph Rossi, Jupiter*
 5. Thomas Nasuti, Juno Beach
 6. Antonio Pinzari, West Palm Beach
 7. Stephanie Hughes, West Palm Beach
 8. David Katz, Delray Beach
 9. Mark Proman, Boca Raton
 10. Lesley Mims, Palm City
- *Rossi got an additional 100 points for knocking out Scott Long.

PALM BEACH PRINCESS CASINO AUG. 2

1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach
2. Ross Blow, Stuart
3. Mattie Bott, West Palm Beach
4. Dominic Basile, Jupiter
5. Ken Basilio, Ft. Lauderdale
6. Frank Culotta
7. Mark Gabrielli
8. Tony Donnino
9. Cynthia Watson
10. Declined points

SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB AUG. 29

1. Dana Bragdon
 2. Willie Petrast
 3. Freddie Ospina
 4. Paroy Shaw
 5. Rich "Gator" Carver, Sarasota*
 6. Evan Lapychak
 7. Declined points
 8. Kim Eikeland
 9. Walter Behrmann
 10. Brandon Nash, Port Charlotte*
- *These players received 100 points extra for knocking out Ante Up publishers.

SEMINOLE H.R. HOLLYWOOD AUG. 14

1. Shin Thong Phen, Ft. Lauderdale
2. Andres Becerra, Miami
3. Robert Beyra, Hollywood
4. Casey Cohen, Plantation
5. Kevin McClendon, Hollywood
6. Declined points
7. Ladd Quan Gaddn, Cocount Creek
8. Dwayne Hadley, Miami
9. Robert Zelinka, Delray Beach
10. Scott Marcus, Miami

SEMINOLE IMMOKALEE AUG. 1

1. Jay Roden, Estero
2. Louis Merola, Ft. Myers
3. Jerry Caentrell, Ft. Myers
4. Randy Frank, N. Ft. Myers Beach
5. Paul Smith, Cape Coral
6. Elmo Mariathasan, Ft. Myers
7. Frank Dineglio, Naples
8. Declined points
9. Mitchell Smith, Cape Coral
10. Jonathan Ronsisvalle, Naples

ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK AUG. 23

1. Nancy Ridos, Jacksonville
2. Steve Mitche, St. Augustine
3. Les Crosby, Jacksonville
4. Declined points
5. Hirem Nabil
6. Bobby Sikes, Folkstor, Ga.
7. Raymond Witt, Lake City
8. Herb Gartner, Jacksonville
9. Erick Fisher, Jacksonville
10. Haseif Hall, Jacksonville

TAMPA BAY DOWNS AUG. 16

1. Steven Reuther, Sarasota
2. Brian Capobianco, Tampa
3. Jeff Jensen, Dunedin
4. Art Gisonni, Clearwater
5. Bill Anderson, St. Petersburg
6. Charles Vasquez, Spring Hill
7. Eric Moffett, Tampa
8. Andre Papangelou, Dunedin
9. Tom Nguyen
10. John Standiford, Hudson



**Ante Up Player of the Year bracelet
provided by Madison Jewelers.
Go to www.madison-jewelers.com.**

Race for the Bracelet

Points are earned by finishing in the top 10 and are distributed as follows: 1,000, 700, 500, 300, 250, 200, 175, 150, 125 and 100. Players also receive a 100-point bounty for eliminating an Ante Up publisher from an event. Here are the Ante Up Player of the Year leaders as of Aug. 1. For complete results be sure to log on to anteupmagazine.com/tour

1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach	3,100
2. Ken Basilio, Ft. Lauderdale	2,100
3. Robert Beyra, Hollywood	2,000
4. Peter Nadeau, Gainesville	1,525
5. Brian Capobianco, Tampa	1,400
6. Scott Long, Safety Harbor	1,350
7. Raymond Witt, Lake City	1,300
8. Luis Cristobol, Coral Gables	1,175
9. Jerry Cuiello, Port St. Lucie	1,175
10. Jay Roden, Estero	1,100
11. Tim Brenner, Sarasota	1,100
12. Randy Johnston, Boynton Beach	1,100
13. Mitchell Abrahams, Miami	1,075
14. Salvador Ruviva, Ocala	1,000
14. Lou Calabrese	1,000
14. Angelo Miele Jr., Davie	1,000
14. Dean Christopher, Tampa	1,000
14. Frank "Big Kahuna" Scygolski, WPB	1,000
14. Shin Thong Phen, Ft. Lauderdale	1,000
14. Nancy Ridos, Jacksonville	1,000
14. Harrison Gimbel, Jupiter	1,000
14. Harvey Freedman, Plantation	1,000
14. J.C. Harris, Miami Beach	1,000
14. Angelo Colangelo, Davie	1,000
14. Diego Tejado, Levittown	1,000
14. Fred Garcia, Naples	1,000
14. Richard LaMonaco	1,000
14. Sue Samies	1,000
14. Russell Ledbetter, St. Augustine	1,000
14. Mark C. Adams	1,000
14. Glen Blumberg, Alachua	1,000
14. David Glisson, Savannah, Ga.	1,000
14. Steven Reuther, Sarasota	1,000
14. Trevor Samuels, Miami	1,000
14. Andrew Kisson, Port St. Lucie	1,000
14. Chris Day, Naples	1,000
14. Dana Bragdon	1,000
14. Gail Levine Cohen, P.B. Gardens	1,000
14. Joe Loiacono, Bonita Springs	1,000
14. John Hopkins, Clearwater	1,000
14. John Sexton,	1,000
14. William Franzese, Coral Springs	1,000

**The Ante Up Poker Tour
champion will win a cover
story in *Ante Up*, an inter-
view on the Ante Up
PokerCast and a custom
bracelet from Madison
Jewelers.**

Upcoming events

- Sept. 26:** Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai, 2, \$120
- Sept. 26:** Sarasota Kennel Club, 7, \$100
- Sept. 27:** Derby Lane, 1, \$100
- Oct. 1-2:** Isle Casino, 2 p.m. and 1 p.m., \$900
- Oct. 3:** Seminole Immokalee, 4, \$225
- Oct. 4:** Palm Beach Princess, 10 a.m. \$100
- Oct. 4:** Ebro Greyhound Park, 2, \$100
- Oct. 10:** Dania Jai-Alai, 12:30, \$250
- Oct. 11:** Daytona Beach Kennel Club, 1, \$150
- Oct. 17:** IDF Charity event, 8:45 p.m., \$200
- Oct. 17:** Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai & Poker, 3, \$150
- Oct. 17:** Tampa Bay Downs, 1, \$350
- Oct. 23:** Orange Park K.C., 7:30 p.m. \$100
- Oct. 24:** Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai, 2, \$120
- Oct. 24:** Palm Beach K.C., 1, \$200
- Oct. 24:** Gulfstream Park, 6:30, \$150
- Oct. 25:** Derby Lane, 1, \$100
- Oct. 25:** St. Johns Greyhound Park, 4, \$100
- Oct. 31:** Sarasota Kennel Club, 7, \$100



**Special note: The
Daytona Beach
Kennel Club and
Poker Room
joins the Ante Up
Poker Tour this
month. Its event
will be a 2010
WSOP Main Event
qualifier. For more
on this please
turn to page 16.**

**Updated schedule at
anteupmagazine.com/tour**

Dania Jai-Alai

Phone: (954) 927-2841
www.dania-jai-alai.com
Tournaments: Daily \$25 with \$5 bounty, 12:30, plus M&W, 6:30; \$55 T&Th, 6:30, Sun, 8; \$100, 9K chips, Fri., 6:30; first Sat. of the month, 12:30 (\$150, rake is just \$10); \$70 Omaha/8 Sun., 4 p.m.
SNGs: \$30 or \$50 between 2-5 p.m.
High hands: \$50 hourly 1-8 p.m.; royal flush \$500.
Bad beat: Stud, Omaha/8 and hold'em; call for details.
Special event: Oct. 10 (12:30 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour, \$250.
Promotions: Noon-12:30 p.m., \$5 bonus with first buy-in of \$20 or more; free drinks to cash game players all day, plus free sandwich from 1-3 p.m.; coffee and sweets served at 3 p.m. to all players; Happy Hour 5-7 p.m.

Daytona Beach Kennel Club

Phone: (386) 252-6484
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 7.
SNGs: \$40-\$220.
Special event: Oct. 11 (1 p.m.), 2010 WSOP Main Event qualifier (and AUPT event), \$150 (10K chips, up to four \$11,500 packages awarded); Nov. 2-15, Daytona Beach International Poker Tournament (See ad on Page 13 for details).
High hands: M-Su every two hours \$50-\$100; royals pay \$250-\$500; payouts depend on game and limits. Royals in tournaments pay \$8,296.
Bad beat: Quad fives in hold'em or stud. Check out story on Page 16 for new Bad Beat Countdown details.
Promotions: Daily spins for winners of drawings (tickets for quads or better) must have player card at time of drawings and spins at 4, 7 and 10 p.m. (various prizes, up to \$250)

Derby Lane

Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7
www.derbylanepoker.com
Tournaments: Daily, (1, 4 and 7 p.m. Su-Th and 2, 6 and 8 p.m. F-Sa), and pays the bubble over 60 players and two bubbles with more than 100; The Friday 535 is the third Friday of every month (Oct. 16, 6 p.m.) \$535.
High hands: Royals (hold'em, stud).
Special event: Oct. 25 (1 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour event (\$100).
Promotions: Derby Lane Poker Run Oct. 26-Nov. 1 (see site for details); **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. (For more promotions and details please see ad on Page 15.)

Ebro Greyhound Park

Phone: (850) 234-3943
www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com
Tournaments: Big Stack Sundays, (\$100, 2 p.m.).
Special event: Oct. 4 (2 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100; Monthly poker shootout, Oct. 31 (see ad on Page 35 for details).
High hands: Royal flush jackpots and two high hands per day.
Promotions: Bonus Days, every Friday in October (plus Oct. 12 and 31), \$100 given away every 15 minutes. Get aces cracked on Halloween and win \$100.
Bad beat: Quad deuces.

Flagler Greyhound Track

Phone: (305) 649-3000
www.flaglerdogs.com
Tournaments: Sun. 2 p.m. Winner Take All (\$25); Mon., 7 (\$75).
SNGs: \$65-\$800.
High hands: \$200 all day; non-heart royals win \$1K, heart progressive at \$104K at press time.
Promotions: \$500 progressive hot table; \$10K giveaway Sept. 26 (visit Web site for details).

Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai and Poker Room

Phone: (772) 464-7500
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 Sat. every month, 3 p.m. (\$150).
SNGs: Thurs.-Sat. (\$65-\$110)
Special event: Oct. 17 (3 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$150.
High hands: Call for details.

Bad beat: Aces full of queens (hold'em, \$169K at press time), quads (stud) and quad jacks (Omaha).
Other: Free coffee & doughnuts 11:30-1 p.m. M-Th.

Gulfstream Park

Phone: (954) 457-6336
www.gulfstreampark.com
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: Oct. 24 (6:30 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$150.
Promotions: 2nd Mercedes-Benz Challenge. (See ad on Page 5.)

Hamilton Jai-Alai & Poker

Phone: (800) 941-4841
hamiltondownsjaialai.com
Tournaments: Super Bounty Sunday 2 p.m., \$35 (\$10 bounties, 100-player cap); Rake Break Saturday, no rake on \$40 entry, 5 p.m. (2K chips, \$20 add-on gets 2K more, plus \$10 add-on at first break gets another 1K chips)
High hands: Fri.-Sun. \$500; spades royal \$2,433; mini-royal \$243.
Bad beat: Aces full of kings (\$5K).
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.

Isle Casino at Pompano Park

Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123, x5124
www.theislepompanopark.com
Tournaments: \$40-\$440.
SNGs: (\$60-\$225).
Special event: Oct. 1 (2 p.m.) and Oct. 2 (1 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour (DeepStacks Main Event Days 1A and 1B), \$900.
High hand and bad-beat jackpots: Call for details or visit Web site.
Promotions: \$60K Cash Giveaway, Oct. 6-12 (See ad on Page 7 for full details)

Jefferson County Kennel Club

Phone: (850) 997-2561
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
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: Royals win \$599; any steel wheel in Omaha/8 wins \$200; straight flushes pay \$100, quad aces pay \$50 and any quads pay \$25. Special \$500 NLHE jackpot.
Bad beat: Aces full of jacks (HE), quad jacks (O/8), aces full of kings (stud).
Promotions: All quads payouts are doubled in limit games only.

Melbourne Greyhound Park

Phone: (321) 259-9800
www.mgpark.com
Tournaments: \$65-\$120, including a heads-up event on Friday nights at 7.
Promotions: Call for details.

Miami Jai-Alai

Phone: (305) 633-6400
www.miamijaialai.net
Tournaments: Sat., 3 p.m., \$20 (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).
High hands: Progressive royals; \$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
Tournaments: Saturday, 7 p.m.
Promotions: Call for current offers.



DON'T SEE YOUR EVENT?*

Tell your poker room managers to email us at editor@anteupmagazine.com

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track

Phone: (239) 992-2411
www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com
Tournaments: Sun. bounty 2 p.m. (\$125); Mon. 7 (\$65); Tue. 7 (\$45); Wed., 7 (\$65); Thurs. noon and 7 (\$65) and Fri. 7 (\$65). Deep stack events third Sat. every month, noon.
SNGs: Six-player (\$125-\$550)
High hands: \$200 hourly until 11 p.m.; all royals pay \$5K.

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai

Phone: (352) 591-2345
www.ocalapoker.com
Tournaments: Daily (\$65-\$240).
SNGs: (\$45-\$80).
Special event: Oct. 24 (2 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$120.
High hands: Every hour, Mon. and Thurs. 6-11; Tue. 1-4, Fri. 2-5 and all day Saturday.
Bad beat: Any quads.
Promotions: Happy Hour, M-F 5-7 p.m. 75-cent drafts; half off on sandwiches/wraps M-F 1-3 p.m. Call for details or see ad on Page 50.

Orange Park Kennel Club

Phone: (904) 646-0002
www.jaxpokerroom.com
Tournaments: Daily (\$30-\$150).
Special events: Oct. 17 (2 p.m.), WSOP qualifier, \$150; Oct. 23 (7:30 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100.
High hands: Royals \$250 (but spades pay \$500).
Bad beat: Call for details.
Promotions: Super High Hand, M-W, noon-3, hourly high hand wins \$100 and other players at winning table get \$25; aces cracked, Tue. and Thurs., 3-6 p.m. First pocket aces to get beat every 30 minutes wins \$100. (See ad on Page 19 for more promotions and details on boot camp with Tom McEvoy and Susie Isaacs.)

Palm Beach Kennel Club

Phone: (561) 683-2222
www.pbkennelclub.com
Tournaments: \$65-\$200.
Special event: Oct. 24 (1 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour, \$200.
SNGs, high hands and bad beats: Call for details.
Promotions: Players Club Rewards Card; Hourly high hands can spin the wheel for prizes. Call for details.

Palm Beach Princess Casino

Phone: (561) 818-5771
www.palmbeachprincess.com
Special events: Oct. 4 (10 a.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100 (Top three in this event also win seats into the monthly \$10K WPT satellite).
Schedule for WPT satellites: Oct. 17 and Nov. 14 (\$335).

Sarasota Kennel Club

Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054
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, 40-minute blinds.
SNGs: \$35-\$300.
Special events: Oct. 31 (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: Quad sixes. Jackpot was at \$75K at press time.
Promotions: Tournament Daily Double — Cash in 1 p.m. & 7 p.m. tournaments on same day and win a share of the Daily Double Jackpot. Win both tournaments and earn more.

Seminole Casino Brighton

Phone: (866) 222-7466
www.seminolecasinobrighton.com
Tournaments: Mon. \$65, 6:30; Wed. \$20; Sat. \$100, 6:30.
SNGs: \$42-\$250.
High hands: Any four aces wins \$50, straight flushes win \$100 and progressive royals win a minimum of \$1K (spades win posted amount).
Promotions: Tuesday is "Rolling Cash Fever" — \$500 drawings at 8 p.m., 10 p.m. and midnight (drawings roll over if unclaimed). Full houses or better earn entries; Thurs., aces cracked between 4-7 wins \$100; Fri., double-reward punches; Sun., Senior day, buy \$40 and receive \$15 in free slot play.

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

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

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

Phone: (866) 502-7529
seminolehardrockhollywood.com
Tournaments: \$75-\$1,100.
SNGs: \$60-\$1,050.
Special event: Oct. 2-12, Fall Poker Open (call for details).
High hands: 10 a.m.-midnight gets \$50, plus a free entry into a specified tourney (\$100 value). Royals win \$100.
Bad beat: Offered daily.
Promotions: Poker Comp Dollars reward program with a poker player card; beginning at 6 a.m., first 20 hold'em hands to make quads get \$50, plus a free entry into a specified tourney (\$75 value).

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Phone: (866) 502-7529
www.seminolehardrocktampa.com
Tournaments: \$100-\$550.
SNGs: \$125-\$1,075.
Bad beat: Quads or better.
Promotions: Full houses earn entries into cash giveaways. Call for details.

Seminole Casino Hollywood Classic

Phone: (866) 222-7466
seminolehollywoodcasino.com
SNGs: \$25-\$50.
High hands: M&F, noon-midnight, quads pays \$100, straight flushes pay \$150 (hold'em only), also on Wed. if the playing makes the posted four-of-a-kind they win \$1K.
Special event: Aug. 30, Sunday tournament, \$75 (10:30 a.m.)
Promotions: Mon. & Wed., starting at 10 a.m. and again at 2 and 6 p.m., first 10 hold'em players to get aces cracked win \$100; Tue. & Thurs., (11 a.m.-11 p.m.) every half-hour a hold'em table will be picked at random and its next pot will be splashed with \$100; M-Th. (midnight to noon), every half-hour a player will be picked to spin the Whammy Wheel and players can win up to \$500 in free play.

Seminole Casino Immokalee

Phone: (866) 222-7466
theseminolecasino.com
Tournaments: Wed., 7 p.m. (\$35); Thurs., 7, (\$50); Fri., 7 (\$60); Sat., 1, KO event (\$50); Sun., 7, \$115, 10K chips, 20-minute blinds.
Special event: Oct. 3 (4 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$225.
High hands: Quad aces win \$100, straight flush wins \$200; progressive royal flushes.
Bad beat: Aces full of jacks (\$30K).
Promotions: Weekly \$2K high hand freeroll; hourly spins T&Th on poker wheel. (See ad on Page 55 for details.)

St. Johns Greyhound Park

Phone: (904) 646-0002
www.jaxpokerroom.com
Tournaments: \$30-\$150.
Special events: Oct. 18 (1 p.m.), WSOP qualifier, \$150; Oct. 25, (4) Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100.
High hands: Royals \$250 (but spades pay \$500).
Bad beat: Call for details.
Promotions: Super High Hand, M-W, noon-3, hourly high hand wins \$100 and other players at winning table get \$25. (See ad on Page 19 for more promotions and details on boot camp with Tom McEvoy and Susie Isaacs.)

SunCruz — Port Canaveral

Phone: (321) 799-3511
www.suncruzcasinoc.com
Tournaments: \$115.
SNGs: \$40-\$60.
Promotions: Call for details.

Tampa Bay Downs

Phone: (813) 298-1798
www.tampabaydowns.com
Tournaments: \$20-\$540.
SNGs: \$60-\$535.
Bad beat: Jackpots are available in live games and tournaments. See Web site for amounts and details.
High hands: Bonus payouts and drawing tickets for any quads or better. Weekly drawings held Mondays at 5 p.m. Winners need NOT be present to win. Winners will be posted online and in the poker room. Winners will have from the time of the drawing until the following week's drawing to claim prizes. Monthly grand prize drawing held last Wednesday of the month.
Special events: Oct. 17 (1 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$350; Halloween Tournament, Oct. 30 (Day 1A 2 p.m.) and Oct. 31 (Day 1B 2 p.m.), \$225, 10K chips, 30-minute blinds, \$25K guaranteed for first place. (See ad on Page 9 for more details.)
Promotions: Double or Nothing
SNGs: Tournament is over when it reaches five players in a 10-handed game or three players in a 6-handed game. Players start with 2K units.

Tampa Greyhound Track

Phone: (813) 932-4313
www.luckyscards.com
Tournaments: \$45-\$200.
SNGs: \$65-\$500.
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 p.m.



Special note: The Studz Poker Club at Calder Race Course in Miami Gardens is set to open to the public Oct. 23. Check out our November issue for its listing and promotions.

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



Marc Dunbar lobbies for Gulfstream Park and quarterhorse racing interests.

BOMB-THROWER

When casinos and parimutuel facilities need someone in their Tallahassee corner, they turn to lobbyist Marc Dunbar.

By Scott Long

In politics, if you want a friend, get a dog.
If you want a bill passed, get a lobbyist.
And if you want a lobbyist fully immersed in the complicated reality of Florida gaming law, get Marc Dunbar.

For 12 years, Dunbar, 38, a shareholder at the Tallahassee law firm of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar, has lobbied successfully on behalf of Gulfstream Park and quarterhorse racing interests. And he's expanded his profile by teaching gaming law at Florida State University and launching FloridaGamingWatch.com, a Web site that chronicles Florida gaming news.

"There isn't a single other industry that I can think of that billions of dollars in profit or loss hang on a regulatory interpretation or a law that's changed," said Dunbar, who found his way to where he is today through a series of serendipitous events.

After law school, he sought to get out of the shadow of his successful father, Pete Dunbar, and blaze his own path. He found himself studying gaming issues from cruises-to-nowhere to sweepstakes on behalf of clients, every one of them connecting to the previous one.

"It was all of these weird little crossroads that, even though I didn't think that was where I'd be, (gaming law) always crossed my path," Dunbar said.

But the path was cemented when Doug Donn became chairman of Gulfstream Park and set out to bolster the track's lobbying.

"What he wanted to do was change the paradigm for parimutuel lobbying," Dunbar said. "He wanted a young lawyer bomb-thrower."

That bomb-thrower? Marc Dunbar, who just happened to be the son of Donn's fraternity brother, Pete Dunbar, and came highly recommended by former Florida Rep. John Culbreath.

At the time, Gulfstream Park had the fewest racing dates of horse racing tracks, no year-round simulcast offerings or a card room.

"I very quickly realized that it wasn't going to be through my charm to get Gulfstream these privileges. So what I did was just immerse myself in the law," Dunbar said. "I started to find things that didn't make a lot of sense, and I recommended ways to challenge the status quo. And through legislation and litigation, was able to claw out the privileges that Gulfstream was seeking. It was through constant warfare."

Dunbar's approach was not without peril, nor warning. Before taking on the assignment, he sought the advice of his father and his father's contemporaries, who agreed that challenging the longtime status quo would result in threats from competitors. Dunbar has survived three investigations and became the so-called "pariah" of the industry when he testified against video lottery terminals because he thought the state's regulatory apparatus needed to be fixed first.

Dunbar also quickly wondered why the parimutuel industry didn't work together more often.

"This doesn't make any sense. Why don't we all just get the same privileges and then we won't have the lottery and the tribes picking our pockets?" Dunbar said he wondered as he began his work. "But the impediment is there are a handful of parimutuel owners who say 'I'm going to be the big dog.' And it's gradually destroying the industry."

Contributing to the problem is term limits, which has ushered in a



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Continued from previous page

new wave of legislators not accustomed to the old-school backroom deals — and who have no tolerance for it, Dunbar said.

“They don’t care about that old way of doing things.”

To that end, Dunbar has been pushing what he calls a parity agenda — issues that level the playing field for all parimutuels and advance common goals.

“What we’re fighting for benefits everyone,” he said of issues such as wide-area progressive jackpots for slot machines. “I’m optimistic that we’ll start to see everyone on the same page.”

Dunbar may have rocked the boat a little more with a new initiative — FloridaGamingWatch.com — just before this year’s session. The brainchild of public-relations executive Allison North Jones and former associate Dan Russell, the Web site is a clearinghouse of sorts for Florida gaming news. During the session, it used Twitter to “tweet” legislation updates, keeping people across the country up to date on proposals in near real-time.

“If all of these operators know what the laws are, they can make their own decisions, and there is a lot of filtering that goes on among these parimutuel advocacies,” said Dunbar, who also said legislators and the media followed the tweets. “It shined a big giant light on what was going on, and I think that kept some of the cockroaches at bay.”

Florida has grown into a major player in the nation’s gaming industry, but it has struggled to keep up with its growth.

“We’re as backwoods of a gaming jurisdiction as you can find,” Dunbar said. “It’s because Florida has expanded gaming by loophole, litigation, caveat over here. No one has sat back and said, ‘OK, boys and girls, we’re now the fifth- or sixth-largest gaming state in the country, what should our regulation look like?’”

Dunbar points out that five state agencies play a role in gaming issues, and the vast majority of slot machines in the state — so-called “gray market” machines — are regulated not by the state, but by cities or counties.

“It’s an absolute joke,” he said.

Fixing the regulatory apparatus is paramount to Dunbar, who hopes the state eventually hires outside experts knowledgeable in casino gaming to help it navigate through its growing status among the country’s gaming elite.

That effort was dealt a blow when longtime Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering director David Roberts resigned in July. With Gov. Charlie Crist leaving office, it’s unlikely a permanent successor will be named until the next governor takes office.

“It’s a big loss, and you’re not going to be able to replace him in the next 18 months, because it’s a lame-duck job,” said Dunbar, who nonetheless is confident progress is being made. “I’m very optimistic that the gears are going in the right direction.”

And that’s important, Dunbar said, as the parimutuel industry looks for ways to survive, and thrive, in an ever-competitive marketplace.

Dunbar expects we’ll see more players consolidating efforts. Tampa Greyhound Track no longer offers live racing, farming it out to Derby

Lane, essentially making it a stand-alone poker room and off-track-betting facility. Jacksonville Greyhound Racing does the same thing, holding its races at Orange Park Kennel Club while maintaining a poker room at St. Johns Greyhound Park, and it’s planning a second stand-alone poker room. Palm Beach Kennel Club sought legislative relief last session to open a second poker room in Palm Beach County.

“It’s a legitimate policy debate on why what’s happening successfully in the Jacksonville and Tampa markets shouldn’t happen all over the state,” Dunbar said. “That’s the next big debate that will be coming in the Legislature in the next two to three years.”

More immediate is the re-emergence of quarterhorse racing, of which Dunbar is squarely in the middle of lobbying efforts. Dunbar says the 10 or so applications that have been filed for new tracks have resulted in just three permits — in Gretna, Jasper and Marion County — to join Hialeah Park, which will be reborn as a quarterhorse track.

“There’s an incredible amount of interest in resurrecting the industry, and the people involved in those three tracks are horsemen and very much into running the racing. The poker makes it go,” said Dunbar, who expects the state will see its first race in 2010 and the state’s tracks forming a circuit, with horses breaking their maidens in Gretna and Jasper before moving on to Marion County and finally to Hialeah, where slot machines will mean the biggest purses.

“Florida will quickly become a force in quarterhorse racing across the country,” he said.

When he’s not pressing his agenda in the halls of government, Dunbar is pressing it in the halls of higher education. For three years, he’s taught gaming law at his alma mater, FSU, a suggestion that came from his father and validated by Dunbar’s struggles in dealing with government officials.

“I was frustrated by trying to have conversations with the (Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering) lawyers, and not have them understand what I was talking about,” Dunbar said.

He had 46 students the first year, and some of them have moved on to prominent roles in the state’s gaming industry. Legislative staff and state regulators have audited the class,

and legislators have visited the classroom from time to time, too.

“That, I think, is an indication that there’s a need for this kind of education,” he said.

So what’s the future hold for Florida gaming?

Dunbar reminds us again of the infighting among parimutuel interests.

“In my last 12 years of experience, we start out the session the same way. If we can get on the same page, and are not proposing a significant expansion, the Legislature is very receptive,” he said. “I think the vast majority of the industry wants a level playing field, wants to stop the fighting. And it’s a question of whether those players step up and take control of the industry, or they stay on the sidelines and let it be driven by others who have a more parochial interest to their advocacy. And that’s the \$64,000 question.”



“I started to find things that didn’t make a lot of sense, and I recommended ways to challenge the status quo. And through legislation and litigation, was able to claw out the privileges that Gulfstream was seeking. It was through constant warfare.”

— Marc Dunbar



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Poker pro Daniel Negreanu is a fan of tableside massages . . . you should be, too.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF SQUEEZE PLAY

Tableside massages are becoming more and more popular in Florida poker rooms.

By Philip Chien

Ever run bad at the table? Did that last suckout by the guy in Seat 5 stress you out? Maybe you need to have someone loosen you up a little. That's where a massage therapist can help.

Many poker rooms are making things more enjoyable with tableside massages these days. You can have a professional massage therapist give you a neck and back massage while you play. And it's not that expensive. The typical rate is \$1-\$2 per minute, plus anything you want to tip the masseuse. Players typically pay for massages with poker chips, but some give cash. Most massage companies have a time minimum, such as five minutes, but others will let you try it out for a minute or two to decide whether you like it.

Most casinos use independent companies to provide massage therapists. Two of the leaders in Florida are Casino Massage Services and Amenity Pro, yet their founders are as different as night and day.

Two Florida players, who enjoyed getting massages at the table during trips to Las Vegas, launched Casino Massage Services. Amenity Pro began with two women who worked in the Las Vegas casino industry, yet they aren't players . . . or even massage therapists.

Amenity Pro provides massages at seven poker locations in Florida. "People are very startled when they find out two women run the business," co-founder **Lindsey Iwanoff** said.

Amenity Pro started operations in Florida in September 2007. Iwanoff previously worked for Amenity Pro's sister company, CASINO'SSAGE,

which has been providing massages in Las Vegas casinos since 2003.

"(Poker room massages have) come a long way," Iwanoff said. "I knew we could bring it to Florida, I've lived in Florida most of my life."

Iwanoff notes an Amenity Pro exclusive that was designed by the sister company: Their massage therapists have a specially designed cushion the player can relax his/her head on while getting the massage.

Casino Massage Services operates in six Florida poker rooms and two locations in West Virginia.

"Everybody loves the massages," co-founder Jason Levoy said. "It keeps the players happy. It's just an extra service for the (casino) to add. The feedback has been nothing but great, we haven't had any negative feedback from the customers or casinos."

The companies have similar business models. They find licensed massage therapists (LMT) who work as independent contractors, then obtain the licenses for the masseuses to work in Florida casinos, insurance, uniforms and the other business functions. Finally, the company contacts casinos and works out a deal to "rent" for access rights.

The differences between Las Vegas and Florida are greater than the differences between the massage companies. Iwanoff said in Vegas most casinos are within a relatively short driving distance, but in Florida she has to travel as far north as Jacksonville and as far south as Naples. But it's easier to deal with management in Florida. She said Vegas casinos





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CASINO
POMPAÑO PARK



Continued from previous page

are extremely large operations that take a lot of effort to talk to the right person while in Florida it's much easier to make the appropriate contact.

Most poker players are men, so almost all poker massage therapists are women.

"We've tried (having male LMTs) a few times," Levoy said. "It's been a little bit unsuccessful. We would prefer if it was successful; if it was it would add another dimension to our company."

Iwanoff agreed: "Unfortunately when male LMTs work in the poker room they get frustrated. It's hard for them to make a living."

Both companies have male LMTs on call for clients who would prefer a male masseuse, especially for "Ladies Nights" and ladies tournaments. Women aren't as squeamish about getting massages from somebody of the same sex as guys are.

"One of our top customers is a female (poker player) and she always gets her massage from a female," Levoy said. "I've been told more often than not from ladies that they'd rather get a massage from a lady than a man."

The masseuse gets a percentage of the fee for each massage, plus tips. A good masseuse can make more money in tips than the base pay and develop a clientele of players who use them on a regular basis.

"It's definitely a rapport-based environ-



Poker pro Theo Tran got a massage from Amenity Pro when he played in a recent Florida poker event.

ment," Iwanoff said. "Because most poker players play on a regular basis the masseuses get to know their players quickly. You'll get regular clients more rapidly than if you work in a spa."

Nancy has been an LMT with Casino Massage Services since 2007. Before that she worked as a therapist in a doctor's office for four years. She works five hours a day, four days a week and could work more if she wanted.

"I love my job," she said. "I have so much fun in there. It's like it's not even work."

Nancy said the LMT asks the player how many minutes of massage they want. "Sometimes somebody will be really enjoying the massage and ask for more minutes (during the massage)."

"(The LMTs) have never disrupted any of our games," said Pat Garrity, manager at Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai, which has 28 poker tables. "Players seem to enjoy it. We want the players to have a relaxed enjoyable time while they're here."

Poker massages have avoided the bad reputations that massage parlors have had as fronts for prostitution. Poker massages are at the table and only above the waist.

"All of our massages are performed in an open area," Iwanoff said. "There are no massages behind closed doors. The dealers watch the girls' backs, even the players get protective over the girls. (If somebody sexually harasses a girl) there's other people around them who will put them in their place whether it's management, the dealer, or other players."

"If (misconduct) did happen," Garrity said, "I would be there to take care of it. We would handle the situation by telling whoever's doing it to cease and desist all negative activities."

The players, massage therapists and casinos all like poker-room massages, and it's a growing activity.

"It's just a fun social environment for everybody," Levoy said.

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UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T DODGE...

BULLEYS

Editor's note: This is Part II of Chris' three-part series as he looks back at his World Series of Poker trip.

The summer continued to go bad as I found myself 0 for 18 going into the World Series of Poker Main Event. Of course, if there's ever a tourney that can make up for that, it's the main event.

My starting table was filled with a bunch of people I didn't recognize, but it surprisingly wasn't as easy as I had hoped. About half of the table played really well. Like most of the Series, I was having a tough time building a stack and found myself hovering around the 30K starting stack for the first two levels.

Luckily the main event structure is so good there wasn't much to worry about early on. Level 3 turned out to be a nightmare, though, as I had to keep making big laydowns, including folding a set on the river after I put about a third of my stack in the pot.

I fell to 8K going into Level 4, which was going to be the last level of the day. I was desperate got my chips in with 8-8 only to run into 10-10. But an 8 flopped to give me some new life, and I doubled up to 16K.

From there, I was able to get involved in some pots with the one big weak spot on the table and chip up to 32K before the day ended, which would give me plenty of room to work with going into Day 2 as the blinds would start at just 200-400.

Day 2 began like all my other days, with nothing going right. I found myself down to 20K quickly, but things would be different this time. In a matter of 10 minutes I went from 20K to 100K, right near the top of the leaderboard. My rush began when I won a pot with A-J against A-10 to push me past 30K.

A few hands later I picked up K-K with a raise and re-raise in front of me. So I put in a very small four-bet hoping my loose image would get me paid off here. One player flat-called and then I took down the pot on the flop to push myself to about 50K. On the next hand I looked down at Q-Q after a young Swedish kid had raised, and someone else had called. I put in a raise again to 4,200, and this time the Swedish kid came over the top and made it 12,400. Once the other guy in the hand folded, I shoved my 50K and received a quick call by J-J.

That wouldn't be the end of my big swings, however, as I found fluctuated between 50K and 100K over the next few hours. Finally, at 300-600, it would all come crashing down. I had about 100K, and a player who was tilting really bad after I won numerous pots off him in the past hour opened for 2,100 from under the gun. Again I had K-K and had my eyes set on his whole stack. There was no need to slow-play against this guy as he was tilted so bad, there was no doubt in my mind he would at the very least call my re-raise. So I made it 6,900 and he quickly moved his 50K into the middle. I called even quicker and flipped over my kings. He seemed to have an annoyed look on his

A tip on tipping

Every once in a while Ante Up readers want advice from our pros.

Bryan "Stizz" Pickard says he's been notching some pretty big cashes as of late and isn't sure how much to tip. So he asked for advice from Chris Dombrowski, and here's his response.

In most of the tournaments that I play, a percentage of the prize pool is taken out for dealer tips. When this is the case, I'll usually just round my cash

down to the nearest hundred or thousand (depending on the size of the score), and give the remainder to the dealers. For example, if I were to cash in a tourney for \$1,650, I would leave \$50 for the dealers, on top of the amount already taken out of the prize pool, leaving myself with \$1,600.

Whereas if I cashed for say, \$20,350, I'd round it down to \$20,000 and leave \$350 extra. In the event there's no money taken out of the prize pool for dealers, I'll tip somewhere around 3 percent usually, using the same sort of method to determine exactly how much. Hope this helps.

— Chris

face which made me think I got him good ... until he slammed A-A on the table.

No help for me on the board, and my stack was cut in half. A few hands later I picked up Q-Q and opened to 1,500, only to have some guy move all-in for 50K more. I was very confused with the play to say the least. I had seen him showdown A-A before, and he hadn't just moved all-in with them then, so I couldn't see why he would now, and with my loose image at this table I figured he might do this with J-J to protect his hand, so I made the crying call for my stack, and he turned over A-A, too. Once again, the board bricked and my Series was over.

Next month I'll wrap up my look back at the World Series and my Vegas trip from this past summer.

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

MEMORY LOSS AT THE TABLE? REMEMBER TO REMEMBER

I had been card dead for several hours, so when I looked down at 9-9 I felt excited, but cautious. I figured if overcards appeared on the board I'd let the nines go unless I flopped a set. I raised three times the big blind and got one late-position caller, a regular I'll call "Joe."



The flop was 2-5-8 rainbow so I led out for two-thirds of the pot. Joe immediately shoved, a big overbet. He also had me covered. Could he have a better overpair? Or maybe he flopped a set? Or was he drawing to connectors? Three weeks earlier, Joe and I had played for hours at the same table. Now I was trying desperately to remember what his shove meant.

If I was Jill Price, I could've remembered easily. Price, a middle-aged school administrator from California, has been blessed (or cursed) with the most amazing memory ever studied. She can remember every detail of her life for the past 30 years (dates, public events, television shows, even what she had for lunch every day since she was 14). You can read about her odd talent in her book called *The Woman Who Can't Forget*.

It turns out her ability probably isn't all that helpful at the poker table after all. Her memory works mainly for autobiographical events, things that happen to her or that she has heard about. Her ability to memorize a long number or a poem or to remember how Joe played three weeks ago probably isn't really any better than yours or mine. It does make you wonder how memory works and what you could do to improve your memory at the poker table.

I believe in the "attic" theory of memory. Once the attic is full, you can't put anything more up there unless you take something out first. For me to remember how Joe likes to play small pairs, for example, I'd have to forget the names of one of my kids. Now I truly love Alexa and what's-his-name, but I'd also like to become a better poker player, so what am I to do?

In 1970, when I was a Duke University sophomore, a sadistic psychology professor assigned to my class the task of memorizing the first 50 digits of the irrational number "e," the base of the natural logarithms, to prove some point about how memory works. I sat in

an alcove of the library with classmates chopping this number up into three- and four-digit chunks and trying to assign some memorable meaning to each chunk. Today, nearly 40 years later, I can still rattle off those 50 digits, but I can't for the life of me remember what educational point my professor was trying to make. Clearly, he didn't understand it then any better than I do now.

The truth is, how memory really works is still pretty much a mystery. Anyone who claims to understand it deeply is a world-renowned neuroscientist or just guessing, but it's certainly clear that memory is not like an attic. With that disclaimer in mind, here are a few general guidelines for improving your memory at the table.

First, understand the process. Pay attention to the play at the table before you can notice something worth remembering. If you're watching the dog races or surfing the Internet, you're not paying attention. Second, look for a pattern. "He plays well," is not a pattern. "He slow-plays sets," is. Once you recognize a pattern, think about it. Break it into simple chunks. Think about it again. Resolve to remember it.

Exercise your memory regularly. As people age, those who engage in complex mental exercises like crossword puzzles or poker (hurray!) stay sharp longer. Finally, drink some coffee. Recent studies on rats and humans with dementia seem to show large doses of caffeine actually improve memory. How much you'd have to drink to have a measurable effect is not really clear, so don't go crazy on Red Bull.

Back to the hand with Joe. I let my wife's birthday fade out of my brain and suddenly was able to remember Joe usually raised preflop with premium pairs. I then erased my cell number from my memory (I never call myself anyway) and could now remember he liked to slow-play and trap with sets. Finally, I gave up the words to *Gilligan's Island* and suddenly could recall that during the tournament Joe shoved on me twice with nothing but a draw. I was confident now. It was a classic semi-bluff. I called his all-in and he flipped up 6-7 suited for an open-ended straight draw. My nines held and I took down a juicy pot.

As I searched the parking lot trying to remember where I parked, I resolved to stop on the way home for a double espresso.

— 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

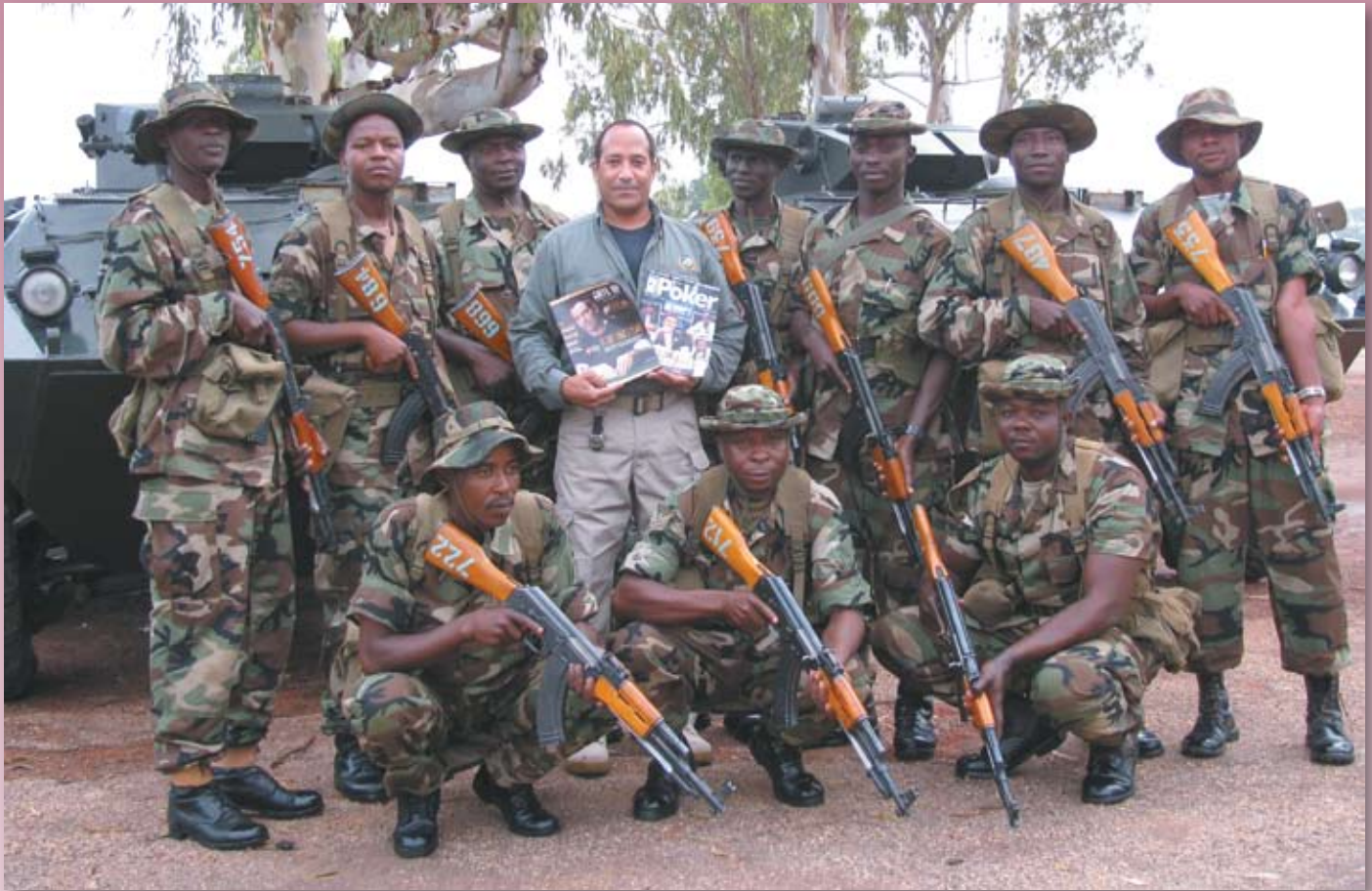
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DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

TRAIN YOURSELF TO RELAX AT THE TABLE

How important is keeping your head in the game and your game in the moment? I recently played in a Summer Sizzler tournament at the Orange Park Kennel Club and busted out early. Two of us had ace-king suited, but unfortunately three of us were all-in on the flop. The Q-J offsuit flopped a straight with a board of A-K-10. OK, a doomed hand. So, I sat in on a juicy \$2-\$2 no-limit hold'em table, but I can't stop thinking about that hand. I ignore my own advice and learn a valuable lesson as I get felled.



Playing poker at your peak involves achieving a state of relaxed activation and keeping your head in the game (and in the moment). Relaxed activation is the basis of mental control and involves commitment to your game.

Though it sounds simple, it requires work. But, if you put in this work you should see positive results. Telling someone to relax when they're stressed or tilting is, at best, paradoxical and usually ineffective; it just doesn't work. On the other hand, if someone can achieve a state of relaxed activation, he simply can't be stressed. This is the no-tilt zone. These states cannot co-exist.

The use of relaxation techniques can help players at all levels perform better. It's well-known that peak performance is a product of maximum effort, stress-free activation and concentration. This form of mental control can be learned with practice.

Relaxation and concentration are keys to peak performance, but you don't want to be so relaxed you can't focus. It's essential to reach a balanced state of activation and relaxation. This is not the kind of relaxation where you're chilling at the beach or dozing while watching television. It's when someone is in the zone.

Have you ever watched Chris "Jesus" Ferguson play a tournament? He takes time each hand to focus. Also, because he does the same thing every time, he doesn't give off any tells. Watch Tiger Woods get ready to putt: activate relaxation. Each of these peak performers attempts to achieve a state of relaxed activation to focus every time he has to perform.

This sort of relaxation is a calm and peaceful state of mind, free of distraction, but one in which you're in the right frame of mind to act appropriately and decisively to win. Your state of mind is one in which you can focus on the task and not be thrown off by minor problems, distractions or setbacks.

Being in a state of relaxed activation allows you to use your people-reading skills, your math knowledge and your fundamental poker skills. Some people like to block out distractions with headphones. For some this works well, for others it means vital information is being missed. Part of the game is to gather as much information as possible. You can listen to music that motivates and focuses you while blocking out excess noise. This noise, however,

can be valuable to the calm, relaxed and trained listener. I advise using headphones only when you need them.

Being calm and relaxed helps you avoid the dreaded tilt. "Semi-tilt" is probably worse than a full-blown tilt. Most players understand the tilt advice of getting up, walking around and taking a few minutes off when they're tilting. But the small tilts, the ones when you should've won but you slow-played and let the other guy catch up on the river, these could be the worst situations because they just build up and make us play badly: playing more marginal hands out of position, calling when we should be raising, etc. This is the time when all of our fundamental skills, our strategy, our tactics, our ability to read and realistically play the probabilities go by the wayside and we donk off our money ... and then we arrive at full tilt.

How can you avoid this? Learn to identify it and have the tools to deal with it. But there is a catch: Work! Learn how to relax and use that relaxation at the table. This is done by practicing relaxation techniques. There are plenty of books, relaxation tapes or professionals to help you. Commit to this regimen and allow 15 minutes a day to this process. Try it for a month and keep track of how you're doing.

Find a quiet place where you won't be interrupted. Find a comfortable chair and set an alarm or timer. Sit upright, place your hands on your knees and your feet firmly on the ground. Breathe in through your nose as you count to three. Hold the breath as you count and exhale as you relax; repeat. Do this for five minutes, three times a day. Once you've trained yourself to relax using this technique you'll be ready to use it at the table. If you play a bad hand, make a mistake or get distracted, you can immediately close your eyes, breathe in through your nose, hold it, breathe out and get back into the right frame of mind to play at your peak. You will have trained your mind and body to relax, and when you breathe like this, your body and mind respond quickly to these cues. If you're concerned about tells, make this part of your routine.

If things get worse, leave the table and do a couple of minutes of practiced breathing exercises to get your head back in the game. A poker player I was consulting told me he would use a bathroom stall to do his breathing when he needed to because he had ultimate privacy.

Once you practice enough usually only a breath or two will create a relaxed and activated state of mind. There are more advanced techniques that include muscle relaxation, guided imagery and visualizations. These take more work and usually need a personal consultation.

If you use the techniques of my September column (go to anteupmagazine.com) along with this one, you can start to achieve your peak performance by keeping your head in the game.

— Dr. Stephen Bloomfield is a licensed psychologist and avid poker player. His column will give insight on how to achieve peak performance using poker psychology. Email him at editor@anteupmagazine.com



Chris "Jesus" Ferguson is a master at being relaxed at the table.

CHIP CHATTER

SUSIE ISAACS • No lady's written more on poker.

MEET MS. POKER, HERE AND IN JACKSONVILLE

Greetings Floridian poker players and anyone else lucky enough to pick up a copy of *Ante Up!* If you're wondering who Susie Isaacs is, please check out last month's issue of *Ante Up!*, you'll know almost as much about me as I do. In short I've written about poker and poker players since 1986. I'm a professional poker player (back-to-back ladies world championships in 1996 and '97), author (most published woman on the subject), teacher and speaker.



SUSIE ISAACS

I'll be playing in the High Heels Poker Tour charity event at Tampa Bay Downs on Oct. 10 (See ad below) and I have an up engagement planned with my friend, the famous Tom McEvoy, at both Jacksonville poker rooms. Over the Oct. 16-18 weekend there will be a one-day boot camp and we'll play in their satellite for seats into the 2010 WSOP Main Event. Be sure to join us.

Here's a little taste of what you can expect from me at the boot camp. I have a "Five P" poker theory. The P's are patience, position, perseverance, psychology and practice. After a bad beat it's OK to add a sixth P ... Patron! Then go home with a designated driver.

I came up with my "Five P" theory some years ago when Tom and I were on the agenda of another poker forum. As I presented it the first time I noticed Tom taking notes. I was thrilled at the prospect that he thought part of my presentation was worthy of his note-taking. But I warned him if he used it in future engagements that would be fine,

just be sure to give me credit. So if you ever hear Tom use three, four or five P's of poker without giving me credit, please let me know so I can sue him!

Now for a shorthand version of the theory:

Patience, so easy to say, so difficult to master. In tournament play, it is imperative; in ring games you can run out of patience and play badly, but you'd better be rich or have a "real" job. Be patient and wait on the proper starting hands in the proper position, which brings us to the second "P."

Position is one of the strongest tools in poker. What you might discard in early to middle position, you may raise with in late position.

The third "P" is perseverance. Never give up. In ring games you may give up for a day or a week, but if you love poker like I love poker, you always come back with a new attitude. In tournaments, I don't care if you're down to one or two chips. The old adage, a chip and a chair, is exactly right. When I won my first WSOP bracelet, I had taken three bad beats during the first round of play and was down to three green chips (\$75). I was short-stacked all the way to the final table and then wham! At five players, I caught fire and went on to win.

Psychology: It's most important in no-limit hold'em. The game is as much a mind game as a card game.

Practice: You'll never be good at anything if you don't practice, practice, practice.

—Susie Isaacs is the most published female author on the subject of poker and she has a new novel *White Knight, Black Nights*. Visit www.susieisaacsbooks.com for details.

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TO BLUFF, YOUR STORY NEEDS TO MAKE SENSE

Ah, the thrill of the bluff. Putting your opponent on a hand that's better than yours and executing that well-timed bluff to push him off his hand and rake in those chips that would've gone to him if the cards had been shown. This is no simple continuation bet, but a planned series of events where you tell a believable story with your betting and convince your opponent he just simply must be beat.



LEE CHILDS

That's fun right? Many people actually just love to bluff. They like to fire chips into the pot and hope to win with sheer aggression. Sure, this works sometimes, but not against your most savvy opponents. If you fall in love with the bluff and like to try to run over your opponents, you better tell the right story with your betting or you will find yourself heading to the rail scratching your head thinking, "Man! How could he call that bet?" If you are overly aggressive and bluff too often, your opponents are going to start to notice. More important, you have to ask yourself if you're telling the right story with your betting. If the story is not cohesive then even some of your not-so-savvy opponents may pick up that something "just isn't right here" and that curiosity will lead them to pick off your bluff.

I recently played a hand online where I ignored this advice and made a bet on the river that wasn't consistent with my betting story. If I had been on my "A" game and thinking clearly about how the hand was played, I would've cut my losses and moved on to a more profitable situation. I'll tell you how the hand played out and then what I did to put the pieces together – including hitting up my opponent for advice. Yes, folks, take your ego out of the game and do everything you can to learn.

The game was a six-handed \$100 buy-in with one rebuy and one add-on. It's a daily tournament that typically attracts some of today's best players. It's particularly appealing because so many people try to play it with only \$100 or they play it too fast like it's a normal rebuy, so there ends up being a lot of dead money in the prize pool. It also becomes a very deep-stacked tournament, thus increasing its appeal to the skilled players.

About three hours into the tournament we were at the 250-500 level with a 50-unit ante and I was sitting on a very comfortable stack of more than 76,000. I was first to act, but since we were playing a six-max tournament this essentially meant I was in middle position. With the 8♠-7♣ I made my standard raise to 1,250. The small blind, who I knew to be a very strong player, was my only caller. He started the hand with about 33,000. The flop was Q♣-10♣-5♥ and my opponent checked. Being heads-up and in position, I make a continuation bet (c-bet) here just about 100 percent of the time. So I bet 2,100 and my opponent called.

The turn brought the 9♥ and my opponent once again checked. I picked up an open-ended straight draw and decided this was a good spot to take a free card and exercise some pot control. This is a fine line to take in this spot, but I also really need to be thinking about what I'm going to do on the river in case I miss. I didn't really have a plan for that except I thought I could represent any club on the river, so a bluff might work if he checked.

The river was the A♦. My opponent thought for a while and then led into this 7,900 pot for 3,995. To me, this looked like a blocking bet and that my opponent may have actually been on the flush draw with an ace in his hand or maybe even have a queen, setting his own price for a showdown. If this was the case, he probably was willing to call that much, but doesn't want to face a bigger bet. Knowing my opponent is very good, I thought he was capable of laying down such a hand if I came over the top.

So I raised to 13,500, trying to make it appear as a value raise because it won't look like I'm threatening his stack and may look like I actually want the call. My opponent went into the tank and eventually called with K♣-Q♠. How could he make that call? Turns out it's actually not that hard to make that call when you take time to think about the hand the way my opponent did. I contacted him on a popular online forum site and asked him to explain his thought process.

Here's the way he put the hand together, which is how I think I would've put it together if I were looking at it from his point of view AND playing my best game. Neither of which I did in this hand.

When I checked that turn, my opponent can safely rule out K-J, which would be the nuts at that point, because if I held the nuts, I would certainly bet for value and to price out the two flush draws. He intentionally led into me an amount that would look like a blocking bet for two reasons: If I had a better hand than his, I would almost certainly just call (since I don't have the nuts and he knows this), and if I raised him he would almost be assured it's a bluff because he knows I'm a solid player and unlikely to raise him on the river without the nuts.

Say I had a hand like Q-Q, 10-10, A-Q, A-10 or A-A. Once he led into me on the river knowing I don't have KJ, I can't raise him with any of these hands because I don't know that HE doesn't have K-J. I would just have to call with these hands or I would be making a big mistake. I WOULD have bet the turn with K-J and I would ONLY raise on the river with a winning hand if I had K-J. My story didn't add up and my opponent was able to call my bet with a high degree of confidence. Notice he didn't raise me; that would just be foolish. There's no reason to risk the rest of his chips in the rare case he was incorrect and I played the K-J poorly or raised in a spot I shouldn't.

He made the call based on what's likely the case after reading my the betting story. My betting story told him I was bluffing and props to him for making the correct call.

When you're attempting bluffs, make sure you're really paying attention to what story you're telling and what story your opponent is telling. A very important lesson from this hand centers around evaluating whether your opponent could have the nuts. Also be aware if your betting story has effectively ruled out the nuts from your hand.

If you're able to rule out that your opponent is holding the nuts and yet they raise you on the river, you will find they are more often bluffing than raising for value. All of the betting in a hand tells a story. Pay attention to the story and you will be able to make better-timed bluffs and more educated calls. Decide to Win!

— Lee Childs is founder and lead instructor of Acumen Poker. He also is a Lock Poker Pro and an instructor with the WPT Boot Camp. Check out his site at www.acumenspoker.net.

Tune in to the Ante Up PokerCast on Fridays at anteupmagazine.com/podcast to hear

Lee Childs analyze listeners' play during our Hand of the Week segment.

Send your hands to podcast@anteupmagazine.com.

WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

JOE NAVARRO • Ex-FBI guy shares his nonverbal secrets.

What happened to strong means weak?

I recently went on the Ante Up Poker Cruise and got involved in a hand with a woman who was new to the game. I had pocket aces and raised preflop. The flop came with a paired board and two clubs. I bet and she re-raised me. It was an emphatic raise; she slammed the chips into the felt. Then I noticed her breathing heavily. I thought long and hard about it and made the call for all of my chips. She had flopped trips and I was out. Was she nervous because she knew she was taking down a big pot? When she slammed the chips it seemed like she was trying to force me out, plus I used the strong-means-weak reasoning. I got it all wrong, but can you tell me the mistake I made with my reading of her non-verbals? — WILLIAM, VIA EMAIL



JOE NAVARRO

The woman was breathing heavily and she slammed her chips into the felt. Anything we do that requires a lot of energy (slamming down chips) is an emotional exclamation. It means she feels strongly about what she perceives she has.

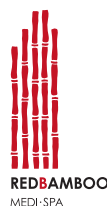
The heavy breathing takes place as part of oxygenating when we have something "good" going our way. I notice you don't mention her face. Perhaps there were cues there of high comfort such as arched brows that said, "I feel strong and confident," maybe her shoulders were relaxed and her torso leaning forward which would have meant, "I am strong and confident." It's not that it was a bad read, it's that it wasn't a perfect or complete read of her. Remember, you have to read the body, the whole body, not just the face or the hands.

— 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*. Email Joe at editor@anteupmagazine.com and he'll answer your questions.

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Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

Remember why we tip

Congratulations and happy first anniversary for you and your incredible magazine! It has become my poker bible.

Regarding your article on tipping dealers (*Let's talk about tournament totes, Sept. 2009*), If I'm in a cash game (usually \$1-\$2 or \$2-\$2), I'll give my dealer a dollar chip when I win a pot even if the pot contains just three or four chips. However, if I win a BIG pot, I'll give them at least two or three.

If I'm in a tournament and an add-on is offered then I don't tip the dealer ... unless I win something. I don't use a percentage, just whatever my fingers "peel off the roll."

I think most people have forgotten where "tips" came from. The acronym means "To Insure Proper Service." If I'm at a restaurant and the service is very bad, I don't tip. I won't reward poor performance (which is why pooling tips is a very bad idea). If the service is good but the food is lousy, I tip because it's not the waitress' fault that the chef doesn't know how to cook.

I don't tip based on an arbitrary percentage that a restaurant or poker room has created. Emily Post can go soak her head! To be rewarded for proper service one must earn it.

Barbara Aucoin
 Belleview

VERBAL IS BINDING

Got something to say? Email us at letters@anteupmagazine.com and be sure to give us your name and hometown and we'll print it.

Nothing wrong with '\$2 to you'

I see nothing wrong with the dealer saying "two to you" in the situation described in Chaz Allen's article in the August issue (*Dealers' words can affect so many outcomes*).

This is the scenario: It's a \$2-\$4 limit hold'em game and the blinds are posted. After pitching the last card, the dealer points at the first player to act and says, "two to you." I actually prefer it over "It's your action," because the player may respond with "How much?" That can slow down a game. "It's \$2 to call" or "It's \$2 to play" or "It's \$2 to stay" is good.

Said Allen: "The dealer just told that player he has to bet \$2."

We have to assume a player is paying a little attention to the action. I would hate to think of how long it would take to deal a hand if every option were offered to each player on

every betting round.

A good dealer (in control of the table) will move the game quickly and efficiently. How many times as a player have you seen a good dealer push back a bet to a player when the dealer knew he did not intend to raise in the big blind: "Sir, you're already in."

But Allen was right about dealers needing to get out of the \$2 poker mentality. Wait till big-bet poker comes to Florida. Ask Doyle Brunson or Johnny Chan if they want to be told what each bet is when the action gets to them.

Nick Ciavarella
 Lackawanna, NY

Hawkins didn't deserve ink

Shame on you for not doing your research on Maurice Hawkins before publishing your story.

Maurice is a good player yes, but he has been banned from the Seminole Hard Rock completely, forever! The staff there just had enough of his B.S. I have heard that the ban carries through to all of the Seminole properties. I certainly hope so. (*Editor's note: It does.*)

Still a devoted reader, and really enjoy your mag, almost always.

Steve Rosen
 Hollywood

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WOMEN IN POKER

LAUREN FAILLA • Founder of High Heels Poker Tour

LADIES = BUYING POWER

Are women getting more of a piece of the proverbial “poker pie?”

This is a question a year ago I would have said no to, but apparently this is changing. Within a short time, many businesses within the poker community have recognized the impact the female demographic brings to the table.

Specifically, the upcoming Canadian Poker Expo (canadianpoker-expo.com) in Toronto is dedicating a special area for women and their businesses, as well as businesses that cater to the female demographic. The women’s zone has been designed to show the poker community this niche market has the “buying power” to drive the poker industry and start turning some heads. Other businesses are following suit, including Ksino style shirts (ksinostyle.com), which will launch a women’s line in 2010, and Poker Nations (pokernations.com).

I anticipate in the next few years there will be a shift in products that were targeted to the male player will become mainstream. When the economy rallies, those who were skeptical of the female buying power will see women do “hold the financial cards.” Women represent the vast majority of the buying force in this country, and for a poker market that relies so heavily on buy-ins and prize pools, that fact equates to dollar signs in every aspect of the poker market.

For now, female poker players will continue to maneuver through the poker world and take what they can get. But look out: Women will be there till the river, and more than likely we’ll have the best cards on and off the felt.

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



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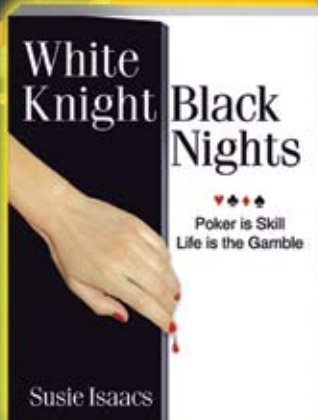


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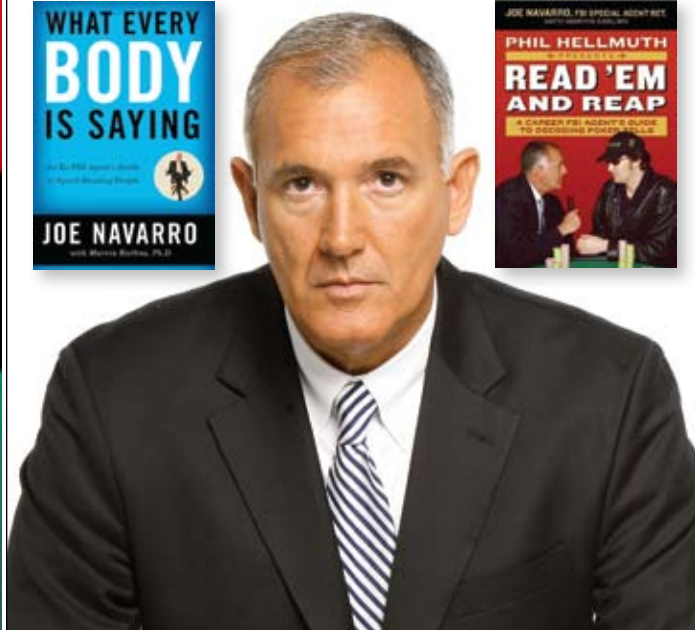
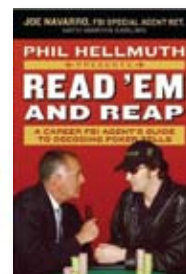
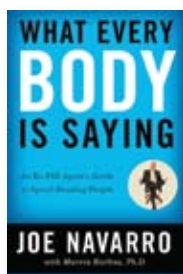
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Design Playing Cards is proud to be the official card of *Ante Up Magazine*! Scott Long, well-known co-publisher at *Ante Up*, recently offered this assessment of Design: "From the first time we saw Design's unique cards, we were entranced by the creative designs." At Design, the passion is playing cards and designing them well. From easy-to-see and classy indices to the stunning back and face designs, this passion resonates which each shuffle and deal.

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THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Stephen Bloomfield, a.k.a. the Doc, is one of Florida's leading psychologists. He wrote **Head Games** in the late '80s to help competitors of every type use the skills he had learned about the effects of the mind on performance.



After five years of playing poker in Florida, Mississippi, Las Vegas, Connecticut and occasionally online, Doc has decided to share his skills with Ante Up readers through periodic columns, titled Head Games. In addition Doc will be offering support to some of the region's best professionals and amateur players with one-on-one advising sessions and group workshops.

Q&A

WITH NORMAN CHAD

For seven seasons Norman Chad has entertained the poker world with his self-deprecating humor as color commentator for ESPN's World Series of Poker. Here he talks about life in the booth, why he'd never invite A.J. Benza out for a drink, what it was like to be interviewed by the American Mustache Institute and his nearly unhealthy affection for Mr. Phil Ivey.



A new deal has been signed to extend the WSOP and ESPN relationship until 2017. What do you think about that and does this mean you'll be along for the ride? It's good news for both ESPN and the World Series. It's really been a great union of the two, and of course the boom has coincided with ESPN doing more hours. As far as, "I'm along for the ride," that is a separate issue. I may be along for the ride and I may be dumped off at the nearest Greyhound station. I don't know which one is going to be true at this point.

Your partner in the booth, Lon McEachern, is a good friend of Ante Up's. How would you describe your relationship with him? Well, I look up to him ... because he's five or six inches taller than me. (laughs) We get along great. I didn't know Lon before the poker began in



2003, and we spend an awful lot of time in the studio together. I always tell friends of mine he's got one of the tougher jobs in broadcasting because he's gotta sit next to me for so long. He's pretty easy going and I am not as easy to be with. You can check my old Rolodex and I'll give the names of the ex-wives that'll tell you I'm not easy to be with. (laughs) My relationship with Lon has exceeded the

length of any of my several marriages, so I gotta hand it to him, he's very easy to get along with.

Lon's had a chance to work with Gabe Kaplan; would you like a chance to work with A.J. Benza? (laughs) If we were on the same side of the street something would be wrong with the street. (laughs) I don't know A.J., but I just think we're cut from a different cloth. Lon and I are more like Yin and Yang, oil and vinegar, ya know? A.J. and me would be like nitrate potassium and some type of energy drink. I just don't think it mixes.

You've been taping shows all week, and we've asked Lon this before, but can you take us through your process for making a show? I had no idea what the process was when I started because I really didn't do much broadcasting. I remember walking into Binion's in 2003 ... and I said to (the producer), "Where's our vantage point?" And he kinda cocked his head and said, "What?" And I thought I was using too fancy of a term, "vantage point." So I said, "Where do we do the broadcast from?" He says, "You can't possibly be that stupid. We don't do the broadcast here;

we do it all afterwards." I had no idea. ... Obviously they have to edit down all the footage from all the hours of poker they're doing and they edit down to one-hour telecasts. And every time they get down to a one-hour telecast, which used to take a lot longer than it does now but it takes several weeks and a lot of manpower, Lon and I then go into a studio, which happens to be in New York. We sit down with a monitor in front of us, which is like a 19-inch TV set, and then we call the action as if we're there. ... Even though I enjoy doing it, I have no idea why I went to college for five years. It gives you no preparation for this particular type of work.

How difficult was it to turn around the November Nine show last year in such a short period of time, and do you anticipate it being easier this year? It wasn't that much different. First you sober up Lon (laughs) and you just drive him into the studio. You get him upright; we get that booming voice going. We just show him pictures of like, women in *Vogue*, and he just peps up a lot. (laughs) There just wasn't much difference; there wasn't as much preparation. When we do a regular broadcast I get to see it a couple days beforehand and I'll watch it to see what's going on. Here we were just pretty much calling the hands as we saw them.

Speaking of the November Nine, every year you make it a point to pick Phil Ivey to win the main event, only this year he actually might do it. So, who has more pressure on him, Phil Ivey with years of high expectations weighing on his shoulders, or you, with millions of viewers dying to hear what snappy one-liners you've had stored up after so many years of disappointment? I don't think it's close! I think I have more pressure! I don't even think Phil watches poker. I don't even think he knows I exist. I've walked up to him a couple times to talk to him and he hands me his valet parking thing and asks me to go get his car. (laughs) Obviously I feel fortunate. I try to give myself some props with the production team that there were dozens and dozens of reasonable well-known players when we started in 2003 that I could've picked, and I could've stuck with them. And I do think I ended up sticking with a guy who is a pretty darn good player. He almost made the final table in 2003, he had at least one other deep run after that, so this is his third or fourth deep run in the last seven or eight years, so I think I got the right guy and I feel good that he made the final table, and everything else after





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Continued from previous page

this is gravy.

How did you con ESPN into giving you this job? There was no con involved, however it was an accident of fate. I was doing some other work for ESPN at the time and they decided to expand their poker. ... They asked me to come on just to consult with the production team ... pretty much because they didn't know anybody else who had a gambling problem who worked at ESPN. (laughs) They knew that I played poker in a California card room a couple of times a week, and so I was literally conferring and consulting with this production team by emails and by conference calls.

Some time after that they called me up and I had no expectation what the phone call was gonna be, and they said, "We got an odd question for you. Have you ever considered doing poker commentary on television?" And I told him, "Jeez, it's every 5-year-old's dream to do poker commentary on TV." (laughs)

I mean, what the heck is he talking about? It didn't even exist! He might as well asked me if I ever dreamed of opening up a **7-11 on Jupiter!** It did not exist! So I actually told him I had to get back to him.

I thought about it for a couple of days and I called my best friend who I went to college with and I told him I got this offer and he says, "So?" And I told him I didn't know if I was going to do it. He goes, "Why wouldn't you do it?" And I said I don't know, it's poker on TV. And he said, "YOU HAVE NO CAREER!" (laughs) And I said that's a good point, so I called them back and told them I'd do it. ... Now I'm sitting here talking to you. It's really been a bad career arc when you think about it. (laughs) I could be working for Xerox in shipping and receiving right now ... but because of the poker boom it brings us to this very moment. You can't figure out life. (laughs)

How often have you been confronted about your comments and do you have any stories you can share? I get confronted once in a while, not as often as I used to. I had no credibility when I first started, but now I have, with the poker community, a little credibility but still not much more than zero. They don't like getting called out on the carpet.

A few times early on when I called people out I did have people who came to their defense. The early one that was rather infamous in the poker community was Josh Arieh during the (2004) main event. Erick Lindgren, who I get along with very well, actually I had an email exchange with him, and Josh was upset. Daniel Negreanu and a couple of other people talked to me about it and thought I might have been out of line.

Back then they started a **Web site** to get me fired, and they had T-shirts and everything. I remember talking to Josh and talking to Erick 'cause I wanted one of the T-shirts; they were pretty nice. (laughs) And I just wanted to let them know I could give them 50, 60, maybe 80 different reasons why I might get fired at any time, but their Web site wasn't one of them. So I said have a great time, I hope you do well with it, and the Web site I think kinda died off. But, yeah, people have come up to me when they were upset.

Sometimes when I talked about strategy, which I should virtually never talk about because I'm really not that good of a hold'em player, people come up to me to correct me. ... I've apologized to several players when it's a strategy thing, and I regret when I bring up strategy too often. I'm much stronger on, you know, shirt colors and stuff like that. (laughs) Fashion isn't my strength, but compared to whether a

guy should be raising with jack-10 offsuit in middle position at some stage of a tournament, I'm much stronger on talking about somebody's shirt. So I stick to fashion.

We've seen you play in mixed events at the Series. How disappointing is it for you that there doesn't seem to be a healthy enough audience to broadcast mixed events on ESPN? I've been a big advocate of showing games other than hold'em and I've lost that battle. I love ESPN and I love my production team and they all disagree with me. I just think for the long-term health of poker it's better if everyone is learning and liking all the games. And all the games were popular before TV poker. When I played home games for years ... nobody played hold'em, we played everything but hold'em.

So I've been kinda bothered that everything points towards hold'em. I walk into card rooms, and particularly small ones, and all they have is hold'em. So we did some of them, and we don't do them anymore. I'm hoping we do them again in the future. I don't like my chances. I think the audience is there. I don't think the ratings are that much different for Omaha or H.O.R.S.E. than they are for hold'em. Sometimes I'm told I'm wrong. I think people tune in to watch the people, the stories, the characters, I almost think the poker is incidental. I wish the people could see the other types of poker because they're pretty enjoyable and they were being played beforehand anyway.

Most of the Ante Up Nation knows you through your ESPN gig, but what they may not know is you're also a very average sports columnist, an occasional fill-in on *Pardon the Interruption* and you're a sub-par author as well. Which of these outside endeavors do you enjoy most? (laughs) You know, I don't have therapy scheduled for like another 10 days, but you went with a "very average this and sub-par that," it's a lot to absorb. (laughs) Actually my real job, and it's not even a job, before doing poker is a sports columnist. And I've remained a weekly sports columnist, and I love writing once a week. It's a humor column and actually the sensibility I bring to the sports column is pretty much the same sensibility I bring to the poker telecast. I really don't take the stuff that seriously, I just try to have fun with whatever is happening in sports. So I love doing the sports column; it's pretty much just watching sports on TV at home and it's called *Couch Slouch*.

When you're courting a future ex-Mrs. Chad, do you let her know ahead of time about your habit for making fun of your marriages in front of a national audience? The current Mrs. Chad, I don't believe she's a future ex-Mrs. Chad. I hope not. This is my third and, hopefully, final marriage. I'll kill her before I get divorced. (laughs) Actually if I kill her I'll have to get married again, so she'll kill me before we get divorced, so it'll be my final marriage. (laughs) She's aware of my marital history, she's aware of my sensibility and she actually has very little interest in poker. ... She's been an angel dropping out of the sky.

Which is the greater honor, being interviewed by the American Mustache Institute or by Ante Up Magazine and why? Boy, I think this is called lesser of two evils. (laughs). I never expected either interview. I didn't know what the American Mustache Institute was. I thought I was on *Candid Camera* and someone was trying to play an April Fool's joke on me. Who asks questions about your mustache? (laughs) On different parts of the interview that was a high and low point of my life. (laughs) And the same can now be said with you. You play the hand you're dealt. If I didn't start doing poker in 2003, which is a statistical improbability, I'm not sitting here talking to you today. So we were both dealt a bad hand is what I'm trying to tell you. (laughs)



This is my third and, hopefully, final marriage. I'll kill her before I get divorced. Actually if I kill her I'll have to get married again, so she'll kill me before we get divorced, so it'll be my final marriage. — Norman Chad

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