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FLORIDA
LATINO POKER SERIES

MISSISSIPPI
GCPC PREVIEW

NEVADA
PEPPERMILL RENOVATION

CHICAGOLAND
HORSESHOE TURNS 3

MINNESOTA
TWO ROOMS SHUT DOWN

TYNG LOW

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1	Sept. 9, Fri	7pm	No-Limit Hold'em	\$100+\$10
2	Sept. 10, Sat	Noon	No-Limit Hold'em	\$200+\$20
3	Sept. 10, Sat	4pm	H.O.R.S.E	\$100+\$10
4	Sept. 11, Sun	Noon	LIPS Ladies Event	\$100+\$20
5	Sept. 11, Sun	4pm	No-Limit Hold'em	\$300+\$30
6	Sept. 12, Mon	6:30pm	No-Limit Hold'em Seniors Event (50+)	\$100+\$10
7	Sept. 13, Tues	6:30pm	No-Limit Hold'em	\$100+\$10
8	Sept. 14, Wed	6:30pm	No-Limit Hold'em Bounty	\$200+\$50+\$20
9	Sept. 15, Thurs	6:30pm	No-Limit Hold'em	\$300+\$30
	Sept. 16, Fri	Noon	Mega Satellite	\$50+\$5
	Sept. 16, Fri	4pm	Mega Satellite	\$50+\$5
	Sept. 16, Fri	8pm	Mega Satellite	\$50+\$5
	Sept. 17, Sat	10am	Last Chance Mega Satellite	\$50+\$5
10	Sept. 17, Sun	2pm	Emerald Coast Championship	\$500+\$50
10	Sept. 18, Sun	4pm	Emerald Coast Championship Final Table	



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OUR MISSION

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



Christopher Cosenza

Scott Long

AC IS ALIVE AND WELL

It's that time of year when thousands of poker players reach between the mattresses to grab their bankrolls and head to ... Atlantic City? That's right, Atlantic City, America's Favorite Playground.

Ante Up is here to tell you AC is alive and well in the Northeast. Golden Nugget director of poker operations **John Colville** told us he's getting all of his ducks in a row to open another room in the Atlantic City market as the Nugget takes over Trump Marina.

Recently we traveled to New Jersey for our monthly Road Trip feature to meet the poker room managers and get reacquainted with their fine rooms. What we found was a city that has seven thriving poker properties and plenty of action. Pundits were quick to pull the plug on AC when Delaware and Pennsylvania opened their poker rooms, but Atlantic City is a tough town. ... just ask **Burt Lancaster**.

We visited the four Caesars Entertainment rooms (they've come together to offer a unique program for players), stopped by the Taj ("Where the sand turns to gold!"), saw the Trop (where poker got its AC legs) and, of course, genuflected before entering the Borgata, which was jumping with its Summer Poker Open. We discovered there are some really talented people calling the shots in all of these poker establishments and it was a pleasure talking with them. AC poker is in good hands.

Should we have taken the easy road and gone with the World Series of Poker for our cover? Fuhgedaboutit! Why not give Jersey a chance? Our Road Trip feature, on Pages 48-51, takes a closer look at what makes these seven rooms tick, and why you should visit them.

We also have results from the Borgata's Summer Poker Open (congrats to Tyng Low of Flushing, N.Y., for capturing the main event and \$211,484) and a column from *Ante Up* Ambassador **Cris Belkewitch** that focuses on the long-awaited debut of razz in Atlantic City. You'd think with all of the poker history in this town you'd be able to play a stud lowball game, but it took until just recently to get approved.

We'll see you at the tables.

— Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

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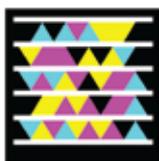
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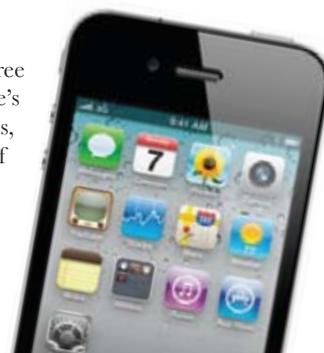


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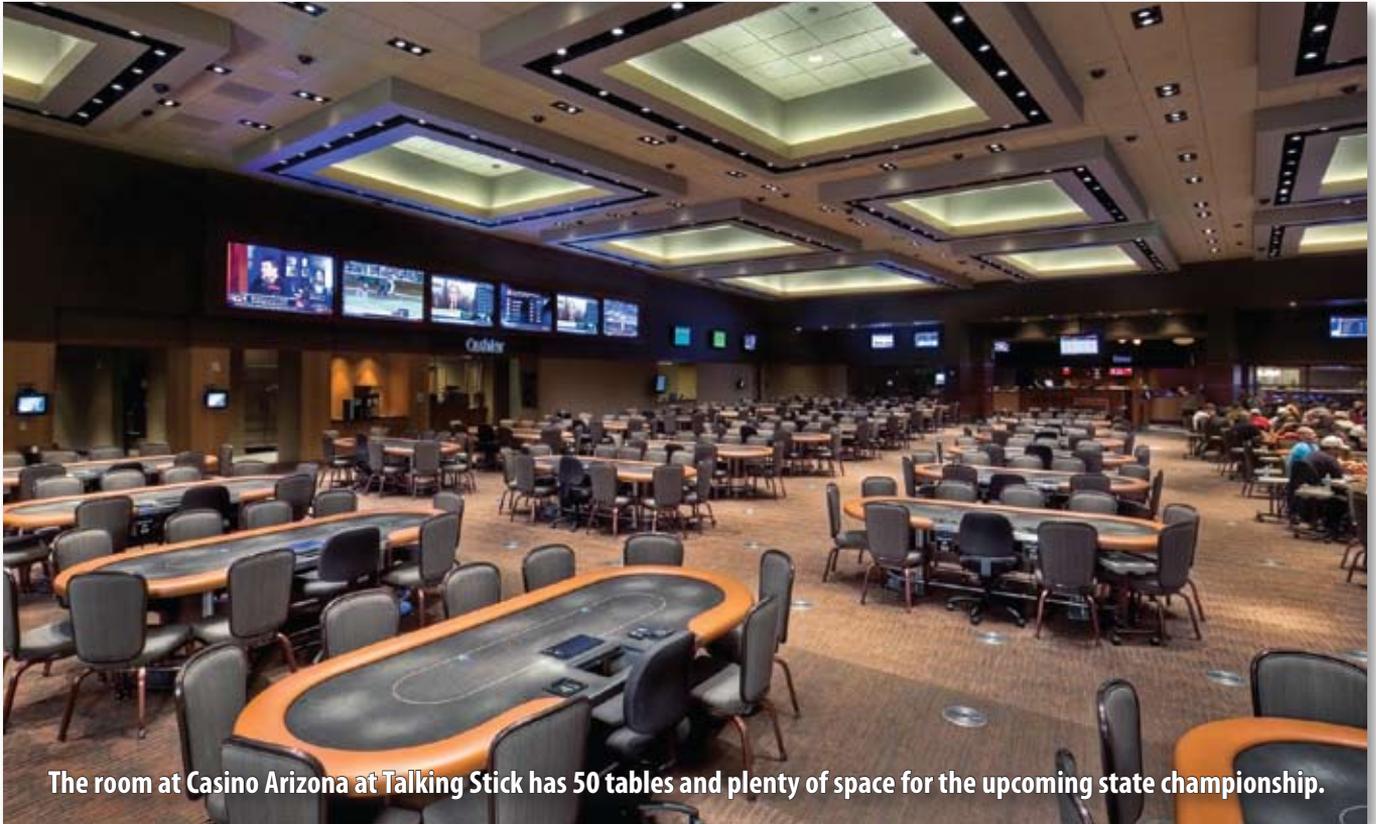


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The room at Casino Arizona at Talking Stick has 50 tables and plenty of space for the upcoming state championship.

GEARING UP FOR 7TH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Casino Arizona at Talking Stick Resort is looking to have another \$1 million prize pool this year.

Poker players from across the country are getting ready for Casino Arizona's seventh annual Arizona State Poker Championship at Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz., this month.

Director of poker operations **Kent Odekirk** said he's hoping for at least 975 players in the \$1,070 main event, which would surpass last year's 900-player mark and push the prize pool past \$1 million.

"We are expecting similar numbers this year," he said. "Last year's 900 entries allowed us to have a prize pool of \$1 million, which we are continuing this year. Our goal is 975, but we welcome anyone and everyone to come to try their luck and skill. We see a great deal of players from Arizona, but as the championship has grown we have seen more and more players from out of state. In fact, they come from all over the United States and we have had many pros play in the past."

The main event begins Aug. 12 at 9 a.m. with Day 1A, followed by Day 1B (Aug. 13, 9 a.m.) and Day 1C (Aug. 14, 9 a.m.). Day 2 will be Aug. 15 and the final day will begin on Aug. 16 at 1 p.m.

"It has truly become one of the biggest events, not only for the poker room, but for Talking Stick Resort," Odekirk said.

Defending champion is **Ted Goldstein**, a Phoenix resident who won

\$336,368 for first place as a 24-year-old.

"Last year was incredible," Odekirk said. "I can't image what it was like to be so young and win that much money. It was definitely an exciting moment for him."

This year players start with 15,000 chips and a \$15 staff-appreciation add-on earns you another 5K chips. Levels are 45 minutes with blinds starting at 25-50. And if you get eliminated early, Odekirk said there will be plenty of cash-game action.

"We will set aside tables for the tournament and we will continuously reconfigure the room as players are eliminated," he said. "Additionally, we're fortunate enough to have one of the biggest poker rooms in the state of Arizona so there is plenty of space for players to play who are not participating in the championship. We will have tables designated for those not participating."

The room, which has 50 tables, spreads limit games ranging from \$3-\$6 to \$75-\$150 and spread games of \$3-\$300, \$5-\$500 and \$10-\$500. It also is the home to the largest bad-beat jackpot in Arizona history at more than \$500K.

If you plan on traveling for this event the hotel offers a special tournament room rate, but you must be registered for the tournament. Call (866) 877-9897 for more details. If you'd like more information on the tournament call (480) 850-7777.

— **Joe LeGer** is Ante Up's Arizona Ambassador. Feel free to email him at jl_poker@yahoo.com.



Interested in Arizona tournaments and promotions? Turn to our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine.

Beautifully played.



Aug 25 - Sep 5



DATE	EVENT	TIME	TOURNAMENT	BUY-IN
Aug 25	Thu	6PM	Satellites and Nightly Event begin	
Aug 26	Fri	1	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$500 + \$50
Aug 26	Fri	4PM	Limit Omaha 8 or Better	\$300 + \$40
Aug 27	Sat	2	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$500 + \$40
Aug 27	Sat	4PM	Pot Limit Omaha/Re-entry	\$200 + \$30
Aug 28	Sun	3	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Aug 28	Sun	4PM	Heads Up No-Limit Hold 'Em (32 MAX)	\$500 + \$50
Aug 29	Mon	4	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em Seniors Event	\$200 + \$30
Aug 29	Mon	4PM	Pot Limit Omaha 1 Re-entry	\$200 + \$30
Aug 30	Tue	5	12PM 6 Handed No-Limit Hold 'Em Knockout Bounty	\$600 + \$60
Aug 30	Tue	4PM	Pot Limit Omaha/No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Aug 31	Wed	6	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em Multiple Re-entry	\$100 + \$30
Aug 31	Wed	2PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$1,000 + \$70
Sep 1	Thu	7	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em 1 Re-entry 1 Add-on	\$200 + \$30
Sep 1	Thu	4PM	American Cancer Society Charity Event/1 Add-on	\$100 + 20
Sep 2	Fri	8	12PM (1 Day) No-Limit Hold 'Em Turbo	\$200 + \$25
Sep 2	Fri	2PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$1,500 + \$80
Sep 3	Sat	9	12PM (1 Day) No-Limit Hold 'Em Turbo	\$300 + \$35
Sep 3	Sat	4PM (1 Day)	Rebuy Megosatellite	\$200 + \$30
Sep 3	Sat	8PM (1 Day)	Rebuy Megosatellite	\$200 + \$30
Sep 3	Sat Night	Midnight (1 Day)	Midnight Megosatellite	\$270 + \$30
Sep 4	Sun	10PM (1 Day)	Last Chance Turbo Megosatellite	\$300 + \$30
Sep 4	Sun	10	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em Championship	\$3,000 + \$125
Sep 4	Sun	4PM (1 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em Turbo	\$200 + \$25
Sep 5	Mon	12PM (1 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em Turbo	\$200 + \$25
Sep 5	Mon	2PM	Championship Event Final table	

Players may purchase an additional \$2,000 in tournament chips for a \$10 staff appreciation in all events with an entry fee of \$300 or lower.

\$200 + \$30 Mega Satellites for Championship Event every day at 5PM with \$100 re-entry, \$100 + \$25 No-Limit Hold 'Em Nightly Events, every night at 7PM with \$100 re-entry.

Registration begins at 5PM on August 25. Registration is open from 10AM - 8PM daily. For more information, call 1.228.386.7092. Blind structures and additional details are available at beaurivage.com. Complete rules are available in the poker room.

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RAZZ DEBUTS IN AC

By Cris Belkewitch

Atlantic City has long been one of the nation's hotbeds for poker. *Rounders* filmed a few scenes at the Trump Taj Mahal, the United States Poker Championship is televised there, the now-demolished Sands held a tournament with a million-dollar payday attended by poker's biggest names, and the Borgata hosts one of the World Poker Tour's most popular stops. But for all that AC had to offer there was one thing it was missing: razz.

For as long as poker has been legal in Atlantic City razz never has been on the list of approved variations by the New Jersey Casino Control Commission. It took a while, but the NJCCC has granted the Borgata permission to test razz. At the moment only two tables are eligible to spread razz as per the NJCCC testing guidelines, but the game has quickly gained interest. It comes as no surprise as Atlantic City has long been known as a popular spot for seven-card stud games.

For added player enjoyment, instead of just playing razz they have been spreading H.O.R.S.E. upon request and have plans of including a H.O.R.S.E event in the upcoming Borgata Poker Open this September.

While razz may not be a commercially viable poker variant (there was just one razz event at the World Series this year), it is high on the list of many long-time players and stud enthusiasts. The popularity of mixed games as a whole is growing, however, which makes this decision one that had to be made, and hopefully one that holds up.

The response from the players has been positive, followed by comments on how dumbfounded they are that with all that Atlantic City poker history and its love affair with stud that razz's inclusion has taken so long.

With so much stud being played at the Taj Mahal, razz is expected to be added to the list once testing is over and the NJCCC approves the game full time.



• On a separate note, thanks to everyone who came out for the *Ante Up meetup* in June at Harrah's. It's always great to be able to interact with the fans and readers on a personal level.

PHILADELPHIA: Parx Casino is getting ready to hold its first big

series this month, hosting the Parx Open Poker Classic. The series is boasting a \$500K-combined guarantee across 15 events, including a \$2K main event with a \$250K-guarantee prize pool.

DeepStacks University will be on hand to hold "The Philadelphia Power Poker Course" on Aug. 18. **Mike "The Mouth" Matusow, Michael "Grinder" Mizrachi, Robert Mizrachi, Tristan "cre8tive" Wade** and **Jennifer "Jennicide" Leigh** will be instructing. It will be the first taste of poker celebrity at Parx Casino since the game's recent influx. Attendance is sure to be high.

Speaking of poker celebrity in the Philadelphia area, Harrah's Chester is hosting the Philly Poker Championships until Aug. 7 and the Prince of Poker, **Scotty Nguyen**, will be on hand for the \$555 main event Aug. 6. There will be \$225,000 guaranteed over nine events with the main guaranteeing a \$100K prize pool. A \$500 bounty is on the head of the 1998 WSOP champ.

With the WSOP all but wrapped up, save for the November Nine, the combination of the Philly Poker Championships, Parx Open Poker Classic and the WPT Borgata Poker Open in September, the Atlantic City/Philadelphia area has positioned itself nicely as a great place to start your post-WSOP tour.

— **Cris Belkewitch the Ante Up A.C-Philly Ambassador. A member of Team Bustout, his insight can be found at thepokerjourney.net.**

BORGATA SUMMER OPEN

The seasonal series at Borgata continues to bring in record numbers. Congratulations to Tyng Low of Flushing, N.Y., for winning the main event and nearly \$212K.

Event 1 • \$400 NLHE

829 Entries • Prize Pool: \$290,150

1. Austen Johnson, Woodsboro, MD, \$64,734
2. Michael Chiu, New York, \$37,715
3. Paul Fayngersh, Pocono Pines, PA, \$23,080
4. Sorin Cristea, Jersey City, NJ, \$18,999
5. Benjamin Lafferty, England, \$15,480
6. Joel Magun, Voorhees, NJ, \$12,665
7. Kyle Schuricht, Voorhees, NJ, \$10,132
8. Monica Dorenkamp, New York, \$7,599
9. Vladimir Peck, Glenview, IL, \$5,347
10. Jason Notter, Lynbrook, NY, \$3,518

Event 2 • \$230 NLHE

432 Entries • Prize Pool: \$86,

1. Michael Stein, Valley Stream, NY, \$21,412
2. Thomas Ieronimo, Watertown, CT, \$12,361
3. Anthony Lobue, Bronxville, NY, \$7,542
4. Howard Bolte, Philadelphia, \$6,075
5. Ricardo Velasco, Las Vegas, \$4,776
6. Marcellia Keene, Maplewood, NJ, \$3,981
7. Matthew Damon, Astoria, NY, \$3,185
8. Neil Kelleher, Philadelphia, \$2,430
9. Daniel Duckett, Rixeyville, VA, \$1,676
10. Leif Larson, Brooklyn, \$1,090

Event 5 • \$560 NLHE

272 Entries • Prize Pool: \$136,000

1. Robert Wallace, Mahopac, NY, \$36,939
2. Trevor Graffa, Lancaster, PA, \$21,768
3. Theen Wey, Ridgefield Park, NJ, \$12,533
4. Robert Boyko, Yonkers, NY, \$10,158
5. Matthew Mezvinsky, New York, \$7,915
6. Gregg Martinez, Little Silver, NJ, \$6,596
7. John Amerman, Bellmawr, NJ, \$5,277
8. Patrick Halter, Narberth, PA, \$3,958
9. David Price, New York, \$2,638
10. Charles Anzalone, Shorham, NY, \$1,715

Event 6 • \$400 H.O.S.E.

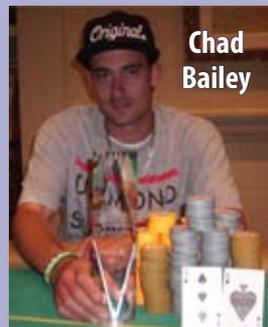
81 Entries • Prize Pool: \$28,350

1. Glenn Engelbert, Erial, NJ, \$9,625
2. Robert Demartino, Manahawkin, NJ, \$5,225
3. Richard Devito, Yonkers, NY, \$3,300
4. Ronald Winkelvoss, Moylan, PA, \$2,475
5. Elaine England, Mechanicsville, VA, \$1,925
6. Robert Reardon, Nantucket, MA, \$1,650
7. Lina Carter, Galloway, NJ, \$1,375
8. Cris Belkewitch, Roselle, NJ, \$1,100
9. Jon Miller, Collingswood, NJ, \$825

Event 7 • \$400 NLHE

510 Entries • Prize Pool: \$178,500

1. Jared Solomon, Brigantine, NJ, \$43,112
2. Joseph Bovino, Westmont, NJ, \$24,239
3. Alan Goodman, Brooklyn, \$15,582
4. Thomas Parson, Sayreville, NJ, \$12,380
5. Chung Chia, Oakland Gdns, NY, \$9,696
6. Robert Suchocki, Nutley, NJ, \$7,965
7. Athanasios Diakos, Jersey City, NJ, \$6,320
8. Taemee Feuer, Westbury, NY, \$4,935
9. Philip Neiman, Flushing, NY, \$3,463
10. Brandon Guss, Warminster, PA, \$2,251



Chad Bailey

Event 3 • \$450 NLHE

172 Entries • Prize Pool: \$68,800

1. Chad Bailey, Jackson, NJ, \$20,021
2. Rhand Feinstein, Shorehan, NY, \$11,010
3. David Rittmeyer Jr, Towson, MD, \$6,340
4. John Fitzpatrick, Hicksville, NY, \$5,339
5. Scott Brandies, Chicago, \$4,004
6. Frank Cullen, Bedford, PA, \$3,337
7. Will Lewis, Rockaway Park, NY, \$2,669
8. Michael Kalfa, Bayville, NJ, \$2,002
9. Wazir Baksh, Queens Village, NY, \$1,502
10. Felix Mok, Brooklyn, \$1,335

Event 4 • \$400 Omaha/8

120 Entries • Prize Pool: \$42,000

1. Arturo Morgan, Davie, FL, \$12,222
2. Rathe Miller, Philadelphia, \$6,722
3. Frank Pastella, Royerford, PA, \$3,870
4. Antonio Walker, Willingboro, NJ, \$3,259
5. Michael Bickel, Haverstraw, NY, \$2,444
6. Alfred Annunziata, Bayonne, NJ, \$2,037
7. Joel Salman, Oceanside, NY, \$1,630
8. Barry Gassen, Somers Point, NJ, \$1,222
9. Robert Mix, Leesberg, VA, \$917
10. Warren Sharpe, Brooklyn, \$815



Carla Berrios

Event 8 • \$230 Ladies

80 Entries • Prize Pool: \$16,000

1. Carla Berrios, Baltimore, MD, \$5,432
2. Kimberly Edmonds, Toms River, NJ, \$2,949
3. Stephanie Hubbard, Hazlet, NJ, \$1,862
4. Lana Maier, Bound Brook, NJ, \$1,397
5. Jeanelle Roberts, Haverstraw, NY, \$1,086
6. Lisa Colesanti, New York, \$931
7. Maria Durante, Ocean City, NJ, \$776
8. Maria Santos, Jersey City, NJ, \$621
9. Farah Fath, New York, NY, \$466

Continued on next page



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Must be 18 or older to play poker. Must be 21 or older to play slots. The state of Florida assumes no responsibility for any promotion per 61D-14.084. Gulfstream Park reserves the right to change, alter or cancel part of or in its entirety any promotion at its sole discretion. Concerned about a gambling problem? Call 1-888-ADMIT-IT.

RACING • SLOTS • POKER • DINING • NIGHTLIFE

ROCK'S WINNER IS WARY OF MONSTERS

The Poker Room at Rockingham Racetrack held a \$250 big stack tournament on July 4 that drew 157 players. After 11 hours the four remaining players agreed to a chop, with the short stack getting a smaller cut. Chipleader **Jim Sleiman**, of Waltham, Mass., shared some interesting perspectives on his winning strategies.



KAY FITZPATRICK

Are you a professional player? Not a professional. I own three stores in the Boston area (Boston Flower Bouquet) and those keep me pretty busy. I play no-limit tournaments several times a week at the Rock and Foxwoods.

Was there a pivotal hand for you in this tournament? We were down to five tables, and I had A♣-J♣ under the gun. I called, and so did Seat 5 and the small blind. The big blind doubled the bet, I called along with Seat 5, so it was three-way action.

The flop came K♥-5♣-6♣ giving me the nut-flush draw. There were more chips in the pot, about 120K, than in my stack at this point. The blind checked, so I pushed all-in and Seat 5 folded. The blind snap-called and flipped over pocket aces. The turn was the 4♣, giving me the nut flush. Now I had a huge stack. I never looked back after that hand. The guy with the aces was really pissed about my play.

Could you lay down pocket aces? Maybe, pocket aces, kings, you know,

they're not really monster hands. They are just a pair. Whenever I have pocket aces and get called, I am uncomfortable. Early in the tournament, one of the room regulars made a move I really respected, folding pocket kings on a raggy rainbow flop.

When another player made a huge bet against him, he tanked for a while, then laid down the kings, saying it was too early in the tournament to play a big pot. It was an excellent fold, his opponent turned over pocket aces. Big pairs sometimes are big losers. When you have suited or connected cards, you have more options going for you.

How long have you been playing? Three years, and I'm ready to move up to the next level and will be playing \$300-plus entries twice a month at Foxwoods.



Best Player Series

The River Room in Milford, N.H., has relaunched its popular "Best Player in New Hampshire" championship this year. There are daily qualifying tournaments, and players accumulate points for entering and additional points for cashing. The top 15 percent point-winners advance to a \$30K championship event on Jan. 7. The series runs through Dec. 21. Check the riverpokerroom.com for tournament times and more information.

— **Kay Fitzpatrick is a freelance journalist who recently wrote a series of strategy blogs for Everest Poker and is an avid player at New England's poker rooms.**

Continued from previous page



Jon Chehanske

Event 9 • \$230 NLHE

285 Entries • Prize Pool: \$57,000

1. Jon Chehanske, Howell, NJ, \$15,481
2. Ketan Patel, Machipongo, VA, \$9,122
3. Chris Rich, N Massapequa, NY, \$5,253
4. Claude Petroy, Monroeville, PA, \$4,257
5. Deon Itwaru, S Ozone Park, NY, \$3,317
6. Todd Richter, Glen Gardner, NJ, \$2,765
7. Joseph Brand, Fairlawn, NJ, \$2,212
8. Benjamin Chan, New York, \$1,659
9. Tammy Lloyd, Wilmington, DE, \$1,105
10. Tim Dougherty, F. Meadows, NY, \$718

Event 10 • \$400 PLO

93 Entries • Prize Pool: \$32,550

1. Jay Zimmet, Englishtown, NJ, \$11,051
2. James Kinney, Matthews, NC, \$5,999
3. Michael Farahnick, New York, \$3,789
4. Jeremy McWhorter, Bridgept., CT, \$2,842
5. Yosef Tarlow, Morristown, NJ, \$2,210
6. Gregory Kolo, Rocky River, OH, \$1,894
7. David Kimmel, Budd Lake, NJ, \$1,579
8. Tom Ieronimo, Watertown, CT, \$1,263
9. Abraham Faroni, Penn Valley, PA, \$947

Event 11 • \$230 NLHE

830 Entries • Prize Pool: \$172,000

1. Peter Moffatt, Philadelphia, \$38,374
2. James Vencil, Col. Heights, VA, \$22,357
3. Joseph Dittmar, Hicksville, NY, \$13,681
4. Joseph Graci, Massapequa, NY, \$11,262
5. Javier Prescott, Rich. Hill, NY, \$9,177
6. Chikeung Lau, Richmond, VA, \$7,508
7. Joshua Karp, Bayside, NY, \$6,007
8. John Borger, Kunkletown, PA, \$4,505
9. Yevgeny Gans, Sykesville, MD, \$3,170
10. Jon Lamattina, St. Island, NY, \$2,086

Event 12 • \$450 6-Max

142 Entries • Prize Pool: \$56,800

1. Scott Wardell, Tabernade, NJ, \$16,529
2. Angel Modica, Astoria, NY, \$10,193
3. Darren Sylvin, Morris Plains, NJ, \$7,576
4. Lyle Diamond, Brick, NJ, \$5,647
5. Thomas Balla, Bellerose, NY, \$4,270
6. Allan Lubin, Watchung, NJ, \$3,030
7. Lawrence Sharp, N. Whales, PA, \$2,342
8. Dennis Aiello, Kinnelon, NJ, \$1,791
9. Roope Salminen, Helsinki, \$1,240
10. Frank Montesana Jr, Brooklyn, \$826

Event 13 • \$560 Stud

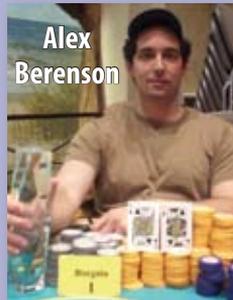
15 Entries • Prize Pool: \$7,500

1. Ed Betlow, Morris Plains, NJ, \$3,274
2. Dave Cardenas, Ventnor, NJ, \$1,818
3. Glenn Engelbert, Erial, NJ, \$1,091
4. Wilton Brown, Lexington Pk., MD, \$728
5. William Buckley, Phillipsburg, NJ, \$364

Event 14 • \$1,090 NLHE

102 Entries • Prize Pool: \$102,000

1. Michael Dentale, Brooklyn, NY, \$10,000
2. Albert Kinder, Pine Hill, NJ, \$10,000



Alex Berenson

3. Adam Cook, Glen Burnie, MD, \$10,000
4. Andy Esposito, Oceanside, NY, \$10,000
5. Maxx Dansky, New York, \$10,000
6. Fritz Stoner, Lancaster, PA, \$10,000
7. Chris Brozenick, G'town, MD, \$10,000
8. Dan Spanton, N Plainfield, NJ, \$10,000
9. James Farrell, Blue Point, NY, \$10,000
10. John Kostelac, Enola, PA, \$8,940

Event 15 • \$1,090 6-Max

94 Entries • Prize Pool: \$94,000

1. Alex Berenson, New York, \$31,913
2. Abr. Korotki, Beth. Bch., DE, \$20,059
3. Farid Jattin, Miami, \$15,045
4. John Dibella, W Harrison, NY, \$11,170
5. Emmanuel Digilov, S. Island, NY, \$7,978
6. Adam Levitan, Philadelphia, \$5,015

\$2,700 Main Event

323 Entries • Prize Pool: \$807,500

1. Tyng Low, Flushing, NY, \$211,484
2. Farid Jattin, Miami, \$117,481
3. Austen Johnson, Woodsboro, MD, \$72,845

4. Andrew Klein, Ocean, NJ, \$58,746
5. Brian Altman, Longmeadow, MA, \$45,430
6. Nik Frangos, Mays Landing, NJ, \$38,380
7. Salah Siraj, New York, \$30,939
8. Tony Sivolella, Florham Park, NJ, \$23,107
9. Paul Freeman, Seabrook, NH, \$15,666
10. Michael Dentale, Brooklyn, \$10,183

Event 17 • \$450 NLHE

260 Entries • Prize Pool: \$104,000

1. Maksim Rozenfeld, S. Island, NY, \$28,246
2. John Ciofalo, Newburgh, NY, \$16,644
3. Steven Cho, Derwood, MD, \$9,584
4. Allan Lubin, Watchung, NJ, \$7,768
5. Adam Shuvall, Montvale, NJ, \$6,053
6. Mike Dichiaro, Woodcliff Lk, NJ, \$5,044
7. Travis Greenawalt, Columbia, PA, \$4,035
8. Raj Patel, Meriden, CT, \$3,026
9. Ido Ashkenazi, Israel, \$2,018
10. Dennis Thurman, Fisk, MO, \$1,311

Event 18 • \$200 NLHE

737 Entries • Prize Pool: \$125,290

1. Adam Agaev, Brooklyn, \$28,206
2. Joseph Liberta, Berlin, NJ, \$16,407
3. Greg Merritt, Frenchtown, NJ, \$10,026
4. Christ Kusha, Staten Island, NY, \$8,264
5. Andy Gornick, N.Hartford, NY, \$6,684
6. Dan Voccia, W. Hamp. Bch., NY, \$5,469
7. Anthony Gaerlan, Philadelphia, \$4,375
8. James Sloat, Halethorne, MD, \$3,342
9. Ray Donatono, Laurel Spr., NJ, \$2,309
10. Vu Mac, Galloway, NJ, \$1,519

Event 19 • \$450 6-Max

122 Entries • Prize Pool: \$48,800

1. Jose Montes, Bronx, \$14,201
2. James Burnett, Pasadena, MD, \$8,757



Mitchell Mantin

3. Sahu Habibi, New York, \$6,509
4. Arihan Rizaj, Brooklyn, \$4,852
5. Shaun Beymolla, N. Babylon, NY, \$3,669
6. Daniel Rusignuolo, Nutley, NJ, \$2,603
7. Mike Santora, Staten Island, NY, \$2,012
8. Thomas Scutro, Union City, NJ, \$1,538
9. Jeremy Perrin, Greensboro, Nc, \$1,065
10. Gregory Whiting, Philadelphia, \$710

Event 20 • \$230 NLHE

472 Entries • Prize Pool: \$94,400

1. Mitchell Mantin, Las Vegas, \$23,391
2. Jose Montes, Bronx, \$13,506
3. Kristen Garry, Bronx, \$8,241
4. William Ferro, West Chester, PA, \$6,639
5. Mike Lydon, Jackson Hhts, NY, \$5,219
6. Jeremy Mendofik, Baldwin, NY, \$4,349
7. Ruth Ruffiman, Colts Neck, NJ, \$3,480
8. Daniel Ross, Havertown, PA, \$2,655
9. D. Georgous, Ltl Falls, NJ, \$1,831
10. Joseph Quispe, Newark, NJ, \$1,190

Interested in Connecticut-New Hampshire-New York tournaments and promotions? Turn to our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine.



JACKSONVILLE POKER ROOM AT ORANGE PARK

\$300,000

GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL

AUGUST 5-17, 2011

MAIN EVENT: AUGUST 13-16 • \$1,500 BUY IN

DATE	TIME	EVENT	BUY-IN	GUARANTEE
Fri 8/5	1PM	Super Satellite Into Event #1	\$60 + \$15 + \$20RB	
Sat 8/6	1PM	#1 No Limit Hold'em Day 1A	\$300 + \$40	\$50,000
Sun 8/7	1PM	No Limit Hold'em Day 1B	\$300 + \$40	
Mon 8/8	1PM	Event #1 Final Day		
Mon 8/8	3PM	#2 No Limit Hold'em	\$200 + \$30	
Tue 8/9	1PM	#3 No Limit Hold'em	\$300 + \$40	
Wed 8/10	1PM	#4 No Limit Hold'em With \$100 Bounties	\$300 + \$40	
Wed 8/10	3PM	#5 Omaha 8 Or Better	\$200 + \$30	
Thu 8/11	1PM	#6 No Limit Hold'em	\$300 + \$40	
Fri 8/12	1PM	#7 No Limit Hold'em	\$500 + \$60	\$50,000
Sat 8/13	1PM	Event #7 Final Day		

WPT REGIONAL NO LIMIT HOLD'EM MAIN EVENT

Sat 8/13	1PM	#8 No Limit Hold'em Main Event Day 1A	\$1350 + \$150	\$300,000
Sun 8/14	1PM	No Limit Hold'em Main Event Day 1B	\$1350 + \$150	
Mon 8/15	1PM	Main Event Day 2		
Mon 8/15	3PM	#9 No Limit Hold'em	\$300 + \$40	
Tue 8/16	1PM	Main Event Final Day		
Tue 8/16	3PM	#10 No Limit Hold'em	\$300 + \$40	
Wed 8/17	1PM	#11 No Limit Hold'em With \$100 Bounties	\$300 + \$40	

Event #1: three day event with re-entry day 1B. • Event #7: two day event. Day one will play down to final table or 1am, whichever comes first. • Event #8: four day event with re-entry day 1B. • 7PM nightly Super Satellite: August 1st - 13th: \$180 Buy-in with \$20 re-buys. • 7PM August 14th, 15th and 16th: \$230 No Limit Hold'em



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Saturday, August 20, 2011

- Tournament starts 1 p.m. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m.
- Buy-in: \$280
- Chips: 8,000

WINNER TAKES HOME A 2011 HARLEY DAVIDSON FLSTN SOFTAIL DELUXE MOTORCYCLE OR \$14,000.00 IN CASH

DELAWARE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP



MAIN EVENT

Saturday, September 10, 2011

Minimum \$25,000.00 in Prize Money Guaranteed

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Buy-in: \$125 Chips: 5,000 • Begins at 7p.m.

\$10,000.00 GUARANTEED TOURNAMENTS

On Friday, August 26, 2011
Buy-in: \$125 Chips: 5,000 • Begins at 7p.m.

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Must have a qualifying hand of Aces Full of Jacks beat.

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MID-ATLANTIC

For tourney info see our Where to Play pages in the back



You can win this Harley at Dover Downs if you play in the Aug. 20 tournament.

TOURNEYS PICKING UP

Dover Downs hosts the Harley-Davidson tournament Aug. 20 in its Crown Royal Poker Room. The buy-in is \$280 for 8K chips (See ad at left). The grand prize is a 2011 Harley-Davidson FLSTN Soft Tail Deluxe motorcycle. The room also hosts the Delaware Championship on Sept. 10. Satellites will run through Aug. 31.



MICHAEL YOUNG

- Not to be outdone, Delaware Park hosts the \$100K guarantee Ironman Challenge on Aug. 20. This tournament costs \$550 for 50,000 chips and 60-minute levels. Once started, the tournament plays to completion with a minimal break schedule. The structure is such that the event may last more than 30 hours to find the true Ironman of Delaware.

• Hollywood Casino at Charles Town continues to have an active poker room. Many times, all 30 tables are playing at capacity, so it'll be expanding to accommodate more players. In the meantime, this leaves little room for tournaments, but they do take place on Tuesday (11 a.m., \$150) and Wednesday (7 p.m., \$250).

• Charity tournaments in Southern Maryland are less frequent this time of the year. The tournaments are usually about two thirds of the normal size, but there's still a lot of poker to be played. A list of most of the tournaments can be found at somed.com/calendar/index.cgi.

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

NORTH CAROLINA

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which owns North Carolina's only casino (Harrah's Cherokee) is again seeking permission to use live dealers at its tables, the Associated Press reported. The issue is likely to be taken up by the North Carolina Legislature, which returned to work in July. The main argument for the change would be to create jobs, since the casino is limited to offering electronic forms of gaming, including poker on electronic tables.

The Associated Press reported the casino is in the midst of a major renovation that is producing more room for poker, if and when it's allowed to add live dealers.

CHARITY PARTNERS: U Care America has partnered with Majestik Poker Tour to host tournaments and charity events around the country. A part of the tour's proceeds will go to U Care America. This tour will include four stops at the Riviera in Las Vegas. The first event in North Carolina will be Aug. 26. For more go to ucarecharitypokertour.com or majestikpokertour.com.

— Ante Up North Carolina Ambassador Mark Rhoades contributed to this report.

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Power Hours Start in August

\$100,000 in High Hands in August

\$200 Early Bird Hourly High Hands Monday-Saturday 10:00am-1:00pm

\$200 Night Owl Hourly High Hands Thursday-Saturday 12:00midnight-3:00am (one hole card must play)

Night Owl Hourly Table Share of first quads or better shares \$200

(first quads or better of the hour must use both hole cards)

\$200 Prime Time Half Hour High Hands Monday-Sunday 6:00pm-9:00pm

\$100 Hourly High Hands during non-promotional hours

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All high hands will be paid out the hour after the promotion hour start time.

A look at the South Florida poker scene

LPS BRINGS POKER TV TO HISPANIC MARKET

As poker continues to grow in popularity there has been a serious absence of Spanish-language TV poker programming in America. The Latino Poker Series has stepped into Miami, the country's top Hispanic market, to fill that void.

Presented five nights a week on Mega TV (Ch. 22) in Miami, this 30-minute program debuted June 27 with solid production and interesting play to the delight of poker fans in South Florida.



BIG DAVE LEMMON

"This is absolutely the right time for this show," LPS executive producer **William Riveron** said. "It's the first Hispanic poker tournament on TV in the U.S. and this is not periodic; this is something you can count on every Monday through Friday to watch."

Each night after the initial airing, the show is replayed 12:30-1 a.m.

"We will attract primarily a Spanish-speaking audience, and hopefully they will fall in love with the game. But we will also draw the bilingual Hispanic who is already interested in poker, and the avid players who do not speak Spanish but can't get enough of the game," he said.

Riveron, who has an advertising background, said dominoes has garnered the focus of older Hispanics in the past, but poker is taking over among Latinos of all ages as the game of choice.

"In our business, we always target the middle-aged or younger demographic, but this program is getting to everyone," he said. "Our main goal is to educate the Latin market about poker and give them a voice. I felt there was no representation for the hundreds of thousands of Latinos that love the game."

With enough material from the original shoot at Miami's Magic City Casino to supply five weeks of shows, the original format will have a different single-table tournament each week shown over the course of Monday through Friday with hole cards shown and the latest in poker graphics.

Riveron said formats could evolve to include celebrity events and high-stakes cash games. "Keep in mind that this is a pilot series; we will continue to tweak the presentation and constantly try to improve the program."

Danny Rivera calls the action and **Artie Rodriguez** provides color analysis, while attractive Venezuelan actress **Yami Quintero** hosts, interviewing some of the contestants. All three are avid poker enthusiasts.

Rodriguez, who calls himself a "decent amateur player," said he'll approach the broadcast as a fan. "I do think we can help explain the rationale for the players' decision-making process," Rodriguez said.

While the LPS will be broadcast only in Miami, Riveron hopes to expand nationally. Certainly the opportunity to expand is a natural with Mega TV, a broadcast, cable and satellite operation with outlets



William Riveron, executive producer of the Latino Poker Series, poses with host Yami Quintero.

in major U.S. markets. It also has a strong presence in Puerto Rico.

Riveron said he might also look to broadcast from other cardrooms to offer variety.

"Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica are definite opportunities outside this country," he said, "and we've had strong interest from them."

Said Magic City poker room manager **Ileana Zamora**: "The show will definitely help educate players and those that don't play will be even more curious. There's no better advertising for the game."

WPT returns to Florida for regional events

On the heels of the World Poker Tour's first venture into Northern Florida at the Orange Park Poker Room in Jacksonville, the WPT returns to the Hard Rock in Hollywood for the Summer Splash Open (Aug. 12-22). Early events of the series, which will have affordable buy-ins as cheap as \$150, will overlap with the Jacksonville regional (Aug. 5-17, see story on Page 22).

The main event (Aug. 19) of the Summer Splash, featuring a \$2,200 buy-in and a \$250,000 guarantee, will be played in the Hard Rock's ballroom, which will host about 40 tables.

"These regional events offer the opportunity for more players to get involved in the WPT experience," Hard Rock director of poker operations **Bill Mason** said.

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

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HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD



Brian Ku captured the June Big Slick event in the Paradise Poker Room and \$24,021. He was followed by **Lacoster Jerman** (\$13,718), **Eliyahu Levy** (\$9,068), **Michael Delgado** (\$6,045), **Alcides Gomez** (\$4,650), **Richard Zipes** (\$3,488), **Johathan Gold** (\$2,558), **Keith Ingham** (\$1,860), **Walter Van Zuidam** (\$1,783) and **Delvin Haan** (\$1,705).

GULFSTREAM PARK



Alfredo Vega

Felipe Macias

Sergei Kirkonov

Above are the top-three finishers from the WSOP Challenge, which would have sent them to this year's main event had they not taken a \$7,500 cash option.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Felipe Macias, \$8,500 | 6. Martin May, \$500 |
| 2. Alfredo Vega, \$8,000 | 7. Sergio Cortella, \$500 |
| 3. Sergei Kirkonov, \$7,500 | 8. David May, \$500 |
| 4. Bob Binsky, \$500 | 9. Shinthong Phen, \$500 |
| 5. Jose Avila, \$500 | 10. Rolando Wong, \$500 |

DANIA JAI-ALAI

Weston's **Jonathan Marks** earned the trophy for being chipleader when the **Dan LeBatard** event chopped 15 ways June 29. Each player pocketed \$856. The event drew 214 entrants, who were playing for a \$10K World Series seat.



ORANGE PARK POKER ROOM

The WPT starts its North Florida stint Aug. 5-17 with 11 events over 13 days, including two \$50K guarantees and the \$300K guarantee main event, which runs Aug. 13-16. For the schedule, scan the tag on the right with your smartphone or see the ad on Page 17.



Interested in Florida tournaments and promotions? Turn to our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine.

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Scotty Nguyen**

September 24 and 25 • 1:30pm

Tournament Players Only

**Ante Up Tour
Tournament**

September 24 • 2pm

\$230 Buy-in with a \$10,000 Guarantee

**Poker Gives Charity
Tournament**

September 25 • 2pm

\$75 Buy-in • \$75 Charity Re-buy

See Poker Room for Details



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Must be at least 18 years old to play. See Brush Stand for complete details. Management reserves the right to change or cancel this offer without notice based on operational and/or business concern. Persons who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are not eligible. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.



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RECORD BAD-BEAT JACKPOT HITS AT ISLE

Life-changing money from a bad-beat jackpot can be won at any time, on any hand, in any poker room in the state. For two Texas residents that moment came at 11 a.m. on July 1 in Lake Charles. When **Terry Henslee** and **Danny Mitchell** sat down to play at the Isle of Capri on the first day of a long July 4 weekend, they had no idea the real fireworks were just moments away. The two became winners of a record-setting \$469,000 jackpot.



SCOTTY RUSHING

Henslee and Mitchell were involved in a hand at \$4-\$8 limit hold'em when Henslee picked up A-10. Mitchell looked down at wired sevens. The flop came 10-10-10, and running sevens completed the board to send the room into a frenzy.

"It got very loud," poker room manager **Dave Stewart** said. "We were all on pins and needles once it got over \$400,000."

Henslee, a teacher from Pinehurst, Texas, collected \$117,287 for her winning hand. She said she plans to use the money to remodel her house and go on vacation. Mitchell was paid \$234,575 for his losing hand. The retiree from Trinity, Texas, told the Isle he has no immediate plans for his winnings. The remaining money was distributed to those playing at the table with Henslee and Mitchell.

The \$469,000 bad-beat jackpot is the largest in Louisiana history. Many rooms have changed their jackpot rules, making them harder to hit. Quad fives or better is fast becoming the standard as rooms look to one-up each other in their quest for mammoth payouts. This had led many to conclude that a seven-figure jackpot is a realistic possibility. Just like a lottery, as the bad beat increases more players try to take it down, which can create huge leaps from one day to the next. Stewart, however, doesn't see that million-dollar payday on the horizon.

"Anything is possible, but we were all surprised it got to almost half a million. We're going to keep the requirements of quad fives or better so, as I said, anything is possible."

At least one poker room is taking a different approach. Hollywood Casino in Baton Rouge has relaxed the qualifying hand to aces full of 10s in the hopes that it hits more frequently.

"We're new so we're hoping that giving the players something they

can hit more often will be a draw," Hollywood room manager **David Veillon** said. (See story on Page 26).

NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN: El Dorado Shreveport has handed the reins of its poker room to 50-year-old **Angel Heranney**, known by players and staff alike as the "Sheriff" for her no-nonsense style. I had the opportunity to talk with her and ask about the origins of the nickname.

"It was given to me not long after I came to the room," a laughing Heranney said. "I pretty much insist on respect for the rules and following them."

"Sheriff" Heranney believes her 22 years of poker experience, which began as a brush in Tunica, gives her a knack for making the right call when a ruling is needed. She also said she thinks women make good room managers because they are better at diffusing heated situations when the need arises.

"A woman can do it more gently without offending the players. She approaches them in a different way. I think that this is why we're seeing more women step into management roles, and I think it's good for poker to see women not only ascending in competition but in leadership as well."

When it comes to running the poker room, Heranney believes it's a mistake to attempt to micromanage it from the pit. She contends this is impossible because "the poker room and table games are two completely different worlds." Heranney said someone lacking poker experience is just not able to make the necessary decisions that keep the room operating in a smooth manner. She was also candid in her opinions about electronic tables.

"That won't work because there is no human interaction. The players want human contact. We have a small room but maintain what I like to call a *Cheers* mentality. Ours is the room where everybody knows your name. Customer service is the most important key."

The El Dorado has built a fairly strong base of local players by offering a variety of games not found in other local casinos, including a \$2-\$4 limit hold'em spread, which Heranney describes as a beginner's game offered to entice those who want to try live poker for the first time.

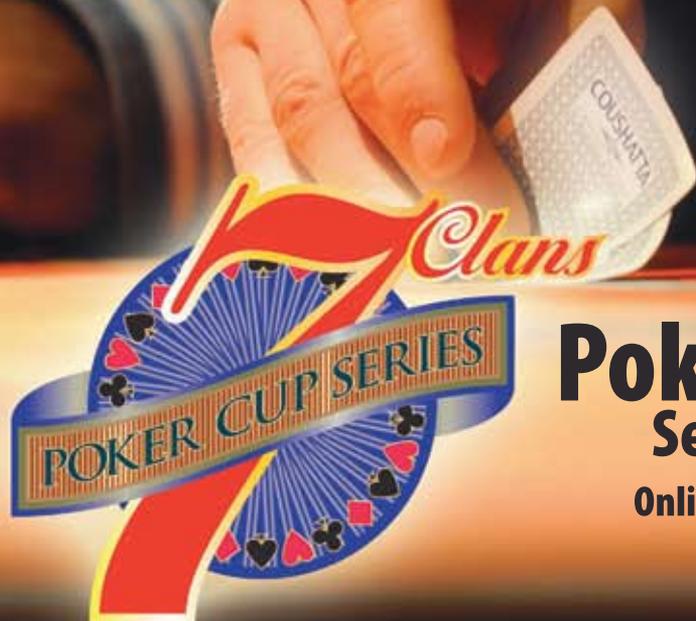
— **Scotty "The Spokesman" Rushing is a poker professional and sports journalist. Email him at scottyrushing@gmail.com.**



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TWO NEW ROOMS OPEN IN LOUISIANA

By **Scotty Rushing**

The L'Auberge du Lac Casino Resort in Lake Charles and the Hollywood Casino in Baton Rouge have completed the construction of their new poker rooms and are open to players.

In a July 1 news release from Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc., **Kerry Andersen** confirmed the opening at L'Auberge where **Roger Russell** will manage the room, which includes six tables spread over 2,100 square feet and one table that will be placed in a semi-private, high-stakes area.

Geno lafrate (previously of Harrah's Louisiana Downs) said the room is a response to something players have been requesting for quite a while.

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Features of the room include a non-smoking atmosphere, text-messaging to alert those waiting for a seat, massage service and tableside food service. A dedicated sound system and 13 large flatscreen TVs round out the amenities.

The room is open 24 hours and provides a variety of hold'em games (limit and no-limit), as well as Omaha/8 and pot-limit Omaha. Seven other games can be spread upon player interest. The room also offers a \$100,000 bad-beat jackpot.

For more info call 1-866-580-7444 and ask for the poker room.

Hollywood Casino in Baton Rouge is open daily at 10:30 a.m. and offers four tables spreading hold'em, Omaha and stud, depending upon player interest. It's highly recommended that those who plan on visiting the room call 225-709-7777 to reserve a table seat.

The Hollywood room is offering a bad-beat jackpot with the most generous rules to be found in Louisiana. The minimum qualifying hand is aces full of 10s and it must be beaten by quads or better. The jackpot will be split according to the following: 50 percent to the losing hand, 25 percent to the winning hand and 25 percent divided among the remaining players at the table. A maximum of \$1 is deducted from each pot of \$20 (including the rake). Pots of less than \$20 do not add to the jackpot.

David Veillon, the day-shift manager for the room, talked about the bad beat and other plans for poker in Baton Rouge.

"We chose to make the bad-beat rules very liberal, among the most liberal in the United States, for the purpose of drawing interest and actually making the jackpot something that was hittable pretty often. And this is not a mini-jackpot. It's our full bad beat."

And if they get a lot of interest?

"There are plans to expand the room to accommodate whatever interest we have," he said. "Since opening we've seen waiting lists 20-deep, so we will expand to accommodate that. There are no tournaments planned for the first month but we will begin to offer them soon."

Hollywood is at 1717 River Rd. North in Baton Rouge.

Ante Up's 7-night cruise leaves NOLA on Dec. 10

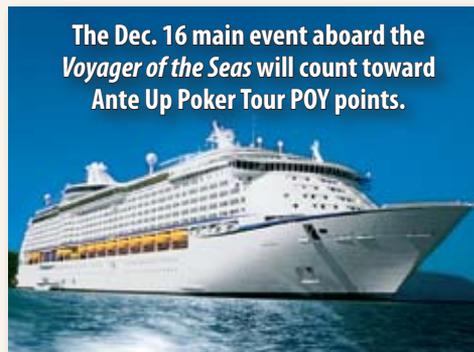
In December the Ante Up Poker Cruise will take its longest voyage to date, a seven-night cruise out of New Orleans featuring three port stops and more than 80 hours of poker.

The cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas* sails Dec. 10-17, with stops in Cozumel, Mexico; Falmouth, Jamaica; and George Town, Grand Cayman.

"We're excited to try a new port with this cruise, and New Orleans should make it more convenient for passengers who live farther away from Florida," *Ante Up* co-publisher Scott Long said. "And this sailing features more poker than ever before, so our players will get to enjoy all of the benefits of sailing with Ante Up Poker Cruises while still exploring three exotic destinations."

The itinerary features Ante Up's first Women's Poker Championship, sponsored by LIPS (Ladies International Poker Series), and plans are in the works to add a Seniors Poker Championship event. Two other tournaments open to all passengers are scheduled as well.

In addition to cash games and single-table tournaments, all dealt by professional dealers on quality tables and equipment, passengers enjoy an open-bar cocktail party and four free poker classes, including an advanced hold'em strategy class led by Lee Childs, a World Series of Poker



Circuit ring-winner who made the final table of the WSOP Main Event in 2007. Childs also will be available for additional group or one-on-one training during the cruise.

Rates start at just \$619 per person based on double occupancy, and Ante Up has secured a variety of staterooms for all tastes, including junior suites and staterooms featuring balconies and views of the ocean. Rates are only guaranteed through Sept. 22.

Passengers must book through Ante Up to be admitted to the poker room and other group activities. Go to anteupmagazine.com/cruise for more details. Call Scott Long at (727) 331-4335 or email scott@anteupmagazine.com to book.

AUPT leaderboard

1. Samuel Barnhart, Little Rock, Ark., 1,155
2. John Riordan, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., 1,121
3. Mike Morton, Mays Landing, N.J., 1,058
4. Taylor von Kriegenbergh, 1,040
5. Allen Bari, West Orange, N.J., 752
6. Curt Kohlberg, Western, Mass., 735
7. Alexander Kuzmin, Moscow, Russia, 731
8. Brian Hawkins, Ft. Myers, Fla., 662
9. Jesse White, Summer Shade, Ky., 651
10. Tom Aprea, East Marion, N.Y., 647

Upcoming events

- Aug. 6: Gold Strike World Poker Open main event
- Aug. 13: Jax Summer Series main event, OPKC
- Aug. 20: Parx \$500K Open Classic, Parx Casino
- Sept. 1: Ante Up Summer Cruise main event
- Sept. 4: Gulf Coast Championship, Beau Rivage
- Sept. 17: Emerald Coast, Ebro Greyhound Park
- Sept. 23: 7 Clans Poker Cup, Coushatta Casino
- Sept. 24: Scotty Nguyen event, Seminole Immokalee
- Oct. 8: HPT, Daytona Beach Kennel Club
- Oct. 22: HPT, Downstream Casino
- Dec. 16: Ante Up Winter Cruise main event



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A look at the Mississippi-area poker scene



BEAU'S GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP STARTS AUG. 25

All the fun in Las Vegas has come to an end. In some places this means a much-needed break for the circuit players. In Mississippi, things are just getting started.

The Gulf Coast Poker Championship starts at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi on Aug. 25 (See ad on Page 13 for schedule). Last year I made the six-hour trek south for this event, along with local player **Scott Williams** and a few others from the Tunica region. The Beau was above and beyond our expectations. Hands down, the Beau is the most beautiful casino resort in Mississippi. The oceanfront property has an amazing outdoor deck where guests can walk off the bad beats and catch a glimpse of the abundant local dolphin population. You can't beat that.



JENNIFER GAY

The event was a prolific gathering of who's-who in the southern poker scene, hundreds of familiar faces and a healthy crop of tourists as well. I think everyone in our group cashed in at least one event. I enjoyed the 7 p.m. nightly survivor tournaments, where I only had to make the top 10 percent for an even chop. I found it easy enough to get near the chop-bubble and then rely on my charm and ability to be less annoying than the other people at my table to secure myself a cash. This worked multiple times. Though I imagine after writing this it will be much less effective.

This year's lineup includes a \$3,125 main event on Sept. 4, which is reduced from 2010's \$5K buy-in. The main event drew 109 entries last year and I can only imagine the reduced buy-in will result in a larger field.

This event, as with all the events at the Beau Rivage, always has been organized and led by the MGM management team of **Johnny Grooms** and **Ken Lambert**. Things will feel a bit different this year as Lambert recently resigned from his position of director of poker oper-

ations for the Beau and Gold Strike, Tunica. He will be taking over the poker room manager duties for Choctaw Casino in Durant, Okla.

Though this is a loss for Mississippi poker, this is a big step for Choctaw. World Series of Poker tournament director **Jimmy Sommerfeld** commented on Lambert's move: "Ken was the first manager that I worked for in this business. He helped develop my knowledge of the poker business. He was instrumental in bringing poker tournaments to the height that they are today. ... He coordinated the first-ever Jack Binion World Poker Open, and helped bring big-time poker to Tunica. Ken knows the business and will be a great asset to Choctaw Casino. I look forward to working with Ken again to make Choctaw a poker destination like we did in Tunica."

We'll miss Lambert in the cotton fields of Tunica, but thanks to the recent addition of a WSOP tournament stop at Choctaw, we'll get to see him again soon. At this time, Gold Strike has not identified a candidate to fill his position.

While we're on the subject of changes in Mississippi poker, I got a chance to catch up with **Robert McGovern**, floor supervisor and dealer for the IP Biloxi. While we discussed what changes would be in store for poker at the recently renovated IP (now that Boyd Gaming has bought the property), the WSOP Circuit stop was mentioned. This year's series is scheduled for Oct. 27-Nov. 7, ending with a \$1,600 main event. All events start at \$300.

Last year this was a big event for Biloxi, and one of my favorites on the circuit. Definitely one you want to hit if you're in the area late October-early November.

If you're going to be hitting the scene in the Magnolia State this fall, drop me a line and let me know. I want to hear about your wins, see your funny event pictures and maybe even listen to a bad-beat story or two. I'll see you at the Beau Rivage.

— **Jennifer Gay** is a poker journalist, poker supervisor and player local to the Mid-South region. She can be contacted at [facebook.com/aceofjewels](https://www.facebook.com/aceofjewels).

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A look at the Las Vegas poker scene • For tournaments and promotions turn to our Where to Play pages in the back

RIVIERA, TROP REMIND US OF OLD VEGAS

Las Vegas offers more than 50 poker rooms of all shapes and sizes. Some are as small as two tables and others are as large 40-plus. On the Las Vegas Strip 23 rooms are spread out over about a 3.5-mile span. And 16 of those have fewer than 12 tables, offering around-the-clock action, value-minded tournaments and aggressive promotions. This month's column will focus on two small rooms under new management and offering an exciting roster of special promotions to appeal to visiting and local players alike: Riviera and Tropicana.



MICHAEL HAMAI

The Riviera Hotel and Casino is one of the last remaining Rat Pack-era properties left on the Strip. The casino features a nostalgic look and feel reminiscent of classic "Old Vegas." In fact, the Riviera played the part of the "Tangiers" for the filming of the epic **Martin Scorsese** film *Casino* because of its classic Old Vegas atmosphere. To a Vegas trivia and history buff like me, playing in the Riviera is like a step back to the good old days of Las Vegas.

Its six-table poker room recently had some major changes with regard to management and location. In my previous column, I incorrectly reported the Riviera poker room drops a \$2 jackpot. This is no longer the case. The new management of the room has decreased the jackpot to the Las Vegas standard of \$1 and offers a player-friendly assortment of promotions.

To differentiate from other rooms, the Riviera and its new manager, **Christina Sharkady**, are focusing on a customer-service-oriented approach for the players. Sharkady makes an effort to learn all player names and was happy to have 30 players qualify for her recent \$2,500 guarantee Sunday freeroll, run weekly for those who play at least 15 hours in live cash games throughout the week. Like the days of Old Vegas, the Riviera is focusing on the intimate and personal aspects of customer interaction, where the employees know your name and what you drink.

In addition to the weekly \$2,500 guarantee freeroll, the Riviera offers hourly drawings for cash prizes from 3 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. In

mid July, they began a special all-inclusive travel getaway promotion that's being guaranteed by the house. Every Wednesday at 11 a.m. the Riviera will offer a \$225 satellite where players can win a \$4,000 all-inclusive trip to Punta Cana Resort in the Dominican Republic. One package will be awarded per week. In addition to this special Wednesday satellite, the Riviera offers three tournaments a day whereupon players receive up to 12,000 chips for a \$70 buy-in (\$50 plus \$20 rebuy). This daily tournament is offered at 11 a.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.



On the south side of the Strip, the Tropicana recently reopened its poker room. The new owners of the Trop have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the complete top-to-bottom renovation of the venerable hotel and casino, and the Tropicana poker room is no exception.

Wally Womer, the Tropicana poker room manager, has worked in the industry for more than 30 years, and started his poker career at the Tropicana as a break-in poker dealer in 1978.

Womer is proud to be managing the all-new Tropicana poker room, which has six tables and is equipped with new furnishings, electronic list and comp management, and new leather swivel adjustable chairs. He has implemented several daily tournaments, progressive high-hand

jackpots, and even occasional celebrity tournaments with Tropicana's Comedy Club headliner **Brad Garrett**.

The Tropicana poker room is adjacent to the race and sports book and most commonly spreads \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em and \$3-\$6 limit hold'em. It is the newest poker room in Las Vegas and is one of the most modern and luxurious small rooms in the city.



With more than 50 poker rooms fighting for your business, it's important not to overlook some of the better kept secrets that Las Vegas has to offer by the way of small rooms. Most of these convenience rooms have fewer than 15 tables, have aggressive player-friendly comps and promotions, and often require little to no wait to get into the action. Small

rooms offer an atmosphere and rarified intimacy that's reminiscent of that classic Rat Pack-era we all wish still existed.

— **Michael Hamai (a.k.a. LasVegasMichael)** resides in Las Vegas and is Content Manager and Editor of AllVegasPoker.com. You can follow him on Twitter @LasVegasMichael or email him at Michael@AllVegasPoker.com.

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42ND WORLD SERIES

MAY 31-JULY 19 • RIO ALL-SUITE HOTEL AND CASINO • LAS VEGAS

Here's a recap of Events 25-56 from this year's WSOP. If you'd like full results scan the tag on the right with your smartphone. The November Nine was set just as we went to press so be sure to go to anteupmagazine.com for all of the latest news.



Event 25 • \$1,500 Stud/8

Entries: 606 • Prize Pool: \$818,100

Chris Viox, 35, of Glen Carbon, Ill., earned his first bracelet in this four-day event. He had finished third in WSOP events in 2006 and 2008. Viox collected \$200,459 for the win. **Mike Sexton**, commentator for the WPT, was runner-up. The Hall-of-Famer crossed the \$1-million threshold in career WSOP winnings with his cash in this tournament.



Event 26 • \$2,500 6-Max

Entries: 1,378 • Prize Pool: \$3,134,950

Pro **Oleksii Kovalchuk** defeated Romanian engineer **Ionel Anton** in heads-up play to win his first bracelet and \$689,739. Kovalchuk became the second player in history from the Ukraine to win a WSOP gold bracelet. Anton is the highest-finishing Romanian player in WSOP history. He pocketed \$428,140 for his second-place finish.



Event 27 • \$10K Limit Hold'em

Entries: 152 • Prize Pool: \$1,428,800

One year to the day he finished runner-up in this same event, **Dan Idema** outdid himself, winning the event for his first bracelet and \$378,642. Idema, 26, is a pro from Vancouver. "I felt very fortunate to get there last year and this year, as well. Last year, I got very unlucky when we got heads-up. . . . I would say it is a surreal experience."



Event 28 • \$1,500 NLHE

Entries: 2,500 • Prize Pool: \$3,375,000

Andy Frankenberger, 38, of New York overcame a massive field to collect \$599,153 and his first WSOP win. "It's so important for me to get this win," said the poker pro of two years. "This is my first big win of 2011, so I can't even begin to tell you how much this win means to me right now." The event's runner-up was **Joshua Evans** of Texas (\$372,498).



Event 29 • \$2,500 10-Game

Entries: 431 • Prize Pool: \$980,525

Chris Lee, who earned \$254,955 for his victory, is the first bracelet-winner in the 10-game mix event. The 24-year-old pro from Clarksville, Md., said: "I'm the first one out of our group of friends to win a bracelet so I guess I have some bragging rights for that. It's cool; it's awesome." Runner-up was **Brian Haveson**, from Garnet Valley, Pa. He collected \$157,491.



Event 30 • \$1K Seniors

Entries: 3,752 • Prize Pool: \$3,376,800

This year's tournament attracted the largest senior turnout in history (3,752 entries). In fact, it represented the largest single-day start for any live tournament in history. And **James Hess**, from Encino, Calif., earned the title and \$557,435. It was his first bracelet. The runner-up was **Richard Harwood**, from Granada Hills, Calif. He earned \$342,407.



Event 31 • \$3K PLO

Entries: 685 • Prize Pool: \$1,870,050

Sam Stein, 23, of Henderson, Nev., dominated the pot-limit Omaha events this year, finishing third in the \$10K event and then winning this tournament for his first bracelet and \$420,802. He has only been playing poker for three years and has nearly \$3 million in earnings. The event's runner-up was **Ben Lamb** of Tulsa, who earned \$259,918.



Event 32 • \$1,500 NLHE

Entries: 2,828 • Prize Pool: \$3,817,800

Kirk A. Caldwell, a 31-year-old Canadian who works in retail sales, became the eighth player in 32 events this year to win a bracelet in his first WSOP cash. And what a cash it was, scoring \$668,276 and a bracelet. Caldwell earned his travel funds and entry fee into this tournament by winning a small private single-table satellite with friends in Ontario.





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POMPANO PARK

42ND WORLD SERIES

MAY 31-JULY 19 • RIO ALL-SUITE HOTEL AND CASINO • LAS VEGAS



Event 33 • \$10K Stud/8

Entries: 168 • Prize Pool: \$1,579,200

Eric Rodawig, a pro/instructor at the training site Cardrunners, mowed down an impressive final table to capture the world stud/8 title and \$442,183. At the table with him were runner-up and 11-time bracelet-winner **Phil Hellmuth**, last year's WSOP Main Event runner-up **John Racener** (third), five-time WSOP bracelet-winner **Ted Forrest** (fourth) and bracelet-winner **David Benyamine** (fifth). Rodawig, 26, lives in Northern Virginia.



Event 34 • \$1K NLHE

Entries: 3,144 • Prize Pool: \$2,829,600

Mark Schmid, a 31-year-old pro from Grand Rapids, Mich., overcame a monster-sized field to collect \$488,283 and his first bracelet. "There is so much variance in tournaments. You can't really expect to win a bracelet. There are good players who go a decade without winning one. It's just such a high variance. So, I did not really expect to do it. I just try to make the best EV decision on every hand, and it led to the bracelet." **Justin Cohen** of Australia was second.



Event 35 • \$5K PLO 6-Max

Entries: 507 • Prize Pool: \$2,382,900

Jason Mercier, the pro from Davie, Fla., collected \$619,575 and his second bracelet, solidifying his reputation as one of the world's top PLO players. His first bracelet win came two years ago in a \$1,500 PLO event. "It feels awesome to win a second gold bracelet, especially in PLO. I won my first one in PLO. It just feels amazing." He has more than \$6 million in career earnings. The runner-up was **Hans Winzeler**, from Nicaragua, earning \$383,075.



Event 36 • \$2,500 NLHE

Entries: 1,734 • Prize Pool: \$3,944,850

Russian poker pro **Mikhail Lakhitov** needed four days to overcome this huge field and earn \$749,610. Before playing poker for a living, Lakhitov was enlisted in the Russian Army. He was stationed in Moscow. "I had so much free time (in the army), that I started playing many different kinds of games. One of the games I learned was poker." The runner-up was **Hassan Babjane**, from the Boston area, who won \$463,480 in his first WSOP cash.



Event 37 • \$10K H.O.R.S.E.

Entries: 240 • Prize Pool: \$2,256,000

Fabrice Soulier of France shed the moniker of bridesmaid and took down \$609,130 and his first bracelet, edging Canadian pro **Shawn Buchanan**, who won \$463,480. "I feel very emotional right now," Soulier said moments after winning. "I almost cried when I won. I had to hold back my tears. I feel great. This is the best day of my poker career, by far." Soulier is the seventh French player in history to win a WSOP bracelet, the third at this year's WSOP.



Event 38 • \$1,500 NLHE

Entries: 2,192 • Prize Pool: \$2,959,200

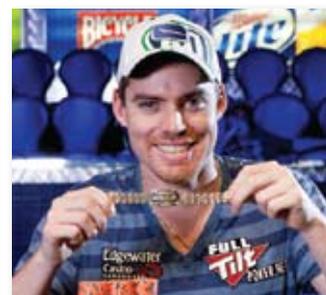
Arkadiy "Kamsky" Tsinis is the third Ukrainian champion this year, and in history. The backgammon pro and master chess player pocketed \$540,136 for first place. "It's an accomplishment. It's closure. How many people over 30 years can say they have won a gold bracelet?" said the 34-year-old. Runner-up was **Michael Blonovsky**, from Staten Island, N.Y. This was his second time to cash at the World Series, earning \$336,253.



Event 39 • \$2,500 Mixed Omaha

Entries: 606 • Prize Pool: \$1,378,650

Mitch Schock, a 40-year-old pro from Bismarck, N.D., earned \$310,225 for his first WSOP victory. "There are probably like 500 people following me online back in North Dakota. I know a lot of different people in poker from many of the things I do. And so, I think I am the first player from North Dakota to win. Everyone is going to be patting me on the back, and buying me free drinks." **Rodney Brown**, 37, of Brea, Calif., was second (\$191,698).



Event 40 • \$5K 6-Max

Entries: 732 • Prize Pool: \$3,440,400

Matt Jarvis, the 27-year-old pro from Vancouver who finished eighth in last year's November Nine, earned \$808,538 and his first bracelet. "You dream of a moment like this from the first time you start playing poker. To win an event like this with as tough a field as this was, is an amazing feeling." Runner-up was **Justin Filtz**, 24, of Stevens Point, Wis., (\$499,855). "Justin was really tough. He put a lot of pressure on me. He played really great the whole time."





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42ND WORLD SERIES

MAY 31-JULY 19 • RIO ALL-SUITE HOTEL AND CASINO • LAS VEGAS



Event 41 • \$1,500 Limit

Entries: 538 • Prize Pool: \$726,300

Justin Pechie, a 26-year-old pro from Putnam, Conn., won the final shootout of the WSOP, pocketing \$167,060 and his first bracelet. "Shootouts are my favorite kind of tournament because there is more short-handed play throughout the tournament." The runner-up was **Dale Eberle**, from Tega Cay, S.C., a 58-year-old retired firefighter. He made \$103,454 and would've been the oldest winner this year had he defeated Pechie.



Event 42 • \$10K PLO

Entries: 361 • Prize Pool: \$3,393,400

Ben Lamb, a 26-year-old Las Vegas/Tulsa pro, sat atop the WSOP Player of the Year standings after this victory in the PLO World Championship. He won his first bracelet and \$814,436 after overcoming the world's best PLO players. "It feels great. The money is good. But this bracelet stays with me forever." The runner-up was **Sami Kelopuro** of Helsinki, Finland. He earned \$503,173. Lamb also finished second in the earlier \$3K PLO event.



Event 43 • \$1,500 NLHE

Entries: 2,857 • Prize Pool: \$3,856,950

Andre Akkari became the second Brazilian champion in WSOP history, pocketing \$675,117. "You have no idea what is happening in Brazil right now. It's an American game and maybe the Americans don't know what happens outside the country. But in Brazil, just to give you one idea, I received 1,500 messages a minute on Twitter; it's unbelievable." **Nachman Berlin**, a 31-year-old pro from Brooklyn was runner-up (\$419,173).



Event 44 • \$2,500 Razz

Entries: 363 • Prize Pool: \$825,825

Rep Porter (a.k.a. Ralph Porter) won \$210,615 and his second WSOP bracelet. The Washington native won the NLHE 6-max event in 2008. "The gold bracelet I won a few years ago means more. I had just gotten back into poker from working on Wall Street. I played a lot of poker tournaments in '04, '05, '06 and '07. I had two seconds and two fourths, plus a lot of top-20 finishes. But I had never won anything. I wanted to win the gold bracelet so bad."



Event 45 • \$1K NLHE

Entries: 2,890 • Prize Pool: \$2,601,000

Ken Griffin, a 34-year-old amateur from Houston, won \$455,356 and a bracelet in his first WSOP cash. "This is my third event. I played in one event one year and didn't do so hot. A couple years ago I played in an event and I came about 90 people from the money. And this is my first event this year." Runner-up was **Jean Luc Marais** of Paris. He came close to becoming the fourth French winner at this year's WSOP. Second place paid \$282,676.



Event 46 • \$10K 6-Max

Entries: 474 • Prize Pool: \$4,455,600

Joe Ebanks, a 26-year-old pro from Stow, Ohio, captured \$1,158,481 and his first bracelet, defeating a stellar final table. "This is what it's all about," Ebanks said afterward. "When I first started playing poker seriously seven years ago, my goal was to get to this stage, and now I've achieved it." The runner-up was **Chris Moorman** of the U.K. This was his fifth cash this year, winning more than \$1 million. Second place paid \$716,282.



Event 47 • \$2,500 Omaha-Stud/8

Entries: 450 • Prize Pool: \$1,023,750

Owais Ahmed, the Prince of Pakistan Poker, not only had to defeat 449 players, he had to defeat Team Mizrachi in the stands as well. "When we started the match, it was like a 50-to-1 crowd advantage for **(Michael) Mizrachi**," Ahmed said. "I had a chip disadvantage. The whole room felt really small, and it felt like it was me against the world." Ahmed won \$255,959 while the Grinder, looking for his second bracelet, settled for \$158,148 for second.



Event 48 • \$1,500 NLHE

Entries: 2,713 • Prize Pool: \$3,662,550

Athanasios Polychronopoulos a 27-year-old pro who's won more than \$2 million online, took down his first bracelet in just his second year at the WSOP. The Springs, N.Y. resident also has the distinction of having the longest name in WSOP history. "It's a great name. I love my name. I love my last name, and my first name." Polychronopoulos collected \$650,223 while runner-up **Simon Charette** of Ontario earned \$404,235.

42ND WORLD SERIES

MAY 31-JULY 19 • RIO ALL-SUITE HOTEL AND CASINO • LAS VEGAS

**Event 49 • \$2,500 Triple Draw****Entries:** 309 • **Prize Pool:** \$702,975

"I've waited 25 years for this!" **Leonard Martin** shouted in multiple languages, as he threw his hat wildly into the air, ultimately collapsing into the arms of his adoring supporters. "I have always wanted this moment to happen, and now it's finally here!" The longtime pro, who was born in the Ukraine but now lives in Vegas, earned \$189,818. The runner-up was **Justin Bonomo**, the Vegas pro who has more than \$3 million in earnings. He won \$117,305.

**Event 50 • \$5K Triple Chance****Entries:** 817 • **Prize Pool:** \$3,839,900

Antonin Teisseire became the fourth French champion of the year, earning \$825,604 in his first WSOP cash. Here's what he had to say on why French players are doing so well in this WSOP: "It's because of variance. We did not do so well in previous years. But we are supposed to win a lot this year." The runner-up was **Darryl Ronconi**, a company executive from the suburbs of Chicago. It is his sixth WSOP cash, which paid \$510,053.

**Event 51 • \$1,500 PLO/8****Entries:** 946 • **Prize Pool:** \$1,277,100

David Singontiko, a 21-year-old college student from Chatsworth, Calif., captured the bracelet in the first WSOP he ever entered. He pocketed \$268,235 for his victory. "I played a lot of PLO/8 online. It's just a fun game. Hold'em, I'm OK, but PLO/8 is just a lot of fun. And, oh my God, I've just had an amazing time. I had good luck, good friends, and this is just incredible." Runner-up was **Michael Yee** of Ottawa, who won \$165,346.

**Event 52 • \$2,500 Mixed Hold'em****Entries:** 580 • **Prize Pool:** \$1,319,500

Matt Matros, a 34-year-old pro and poker author from New York, collected his second bracelet after winning \$303,501. "The first was a unique feeling," he said moments after victory. "You cannot really repeat the feeling of winning your first bracelet at the World Series. This one feels great. It is not like the first one, but it is an amazing feeling." The runner-up was **Jonathan Lane** of Menasha, Wis., who earned \$187,844.

**Event 53 • \$1K Ladies****Entries:** 1,055 • **Prize Pool:** \$949,500

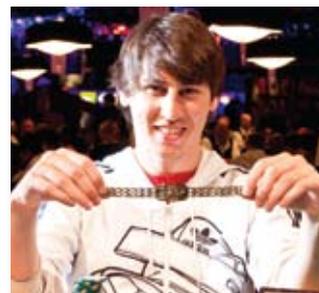
Marsha Wolak of Sarasota, Fla., captured the ladies title and \$192,344. "It was so much fun. It's a dream come true. You start out thinking it would be so much fun and you dream about this. It's really nice to say at the end of each day, 'I'm still here.' That was my goal, to make it to the end of each day." The runner-up was popular poker pro **Karina Jett**, who enjoyed her best WSOP finish in this tournament, collecting \$119,010.

**Event 54 • \$1K NLHE****Entries:** 4,576 • **Prize Pool:** \$4,118,400

Maxim Lykov, a 23-year-old pro from Moscow, is the third Russian to win a bracelet this year, and it came in his the third year at the WSOP. At the final table he was chipleader from start to finish, collecting \$648,880 and his first bracelet. "It's amazing. I think about the time when I first started to play poker. It was my dream. I am very glad to win." Runner-up was Israeli-born **Dror Michaelo**, who lives in Malibu, Calif. He earned \$401,296.

**Event 55 • \$50K Players Champ.****Entries:** 128 • **Prize Pool:** \$6,144,000

It took some time, but the WSOP again has a multiple bracelet-winner in one series. **Brian Rast** overcame a 5-to-1 chip lead held by **Phil Hellmuth** to capture the coveted title and \$1.7 million. This was Hellmuth's third runner-up finish of this series, but his first seven-figure score of his career. He won \$1,063,034, but not his 12th bracelet. Said Hellmuth: "I mean, you know, I actually feel pretty good. I feel like, God. I played so good for five days."

**Event 56 • \$1,500 NLHE****Entries:** 3,389 • **Prize Pool:** \$4,575,150

Alexander Anter, a 22-year-old pro from Uppsala, Sweden, overcame a monster-sized field for his first bracelet and a staggering \$777,928. But the real surprise was it took so long for a Scandinavian champion to emerge at this year's WSOP. "It's a big honor," he said. "Now, I can finally show my parents that I'm a poker player and maybe they won't yell at me to be studying." Runner-up was **Nemer Haddad**, from Farmington Hills, Mich. (\$479,521).

BINION'S, NUGGET WRAP UP SUMMER SERIES

By Todd Lamansky

Every summer thousands of poker players flock to the Rio in hopes of winning a coveted bracelet, but the World Series of Poker isn't the only event going on in Las Vegas at that time. Just a few miles away, near downtown's Fremont Street Experience, the Grand Poker Series at the Golden Nugget and the fifth annual Binion's Poker Classic at Binion's Gambling Hall attracted plenty of players.

Both series boasted considerably smaller buy-ins, lower rakes and structures that rivaled the WSOP. For instance, runners in Binion's \$1K main event received 60-minute blinds and 30K chips, the same amount as the WSOP main event, at 10 percent the cost.

All of the Nugget's tournaments (with buy-ins as cheap as \$125) featured 12K chips and 40-minute blinds, while participants in the \$1,080 main event started with 20K and 60 minutes.

Titan Poker pro **Marvin Rettenmaier** (Germany) took home top honors and \$53,713 in the Grand's main event while former World Poker Tour Player of the Year **Faraz Jaka** scored \$8,206 for seventh.

And popular pro **Chip Jett**, who has more than \$2 million in lifetime tournament earnings, managed to nab two titles: Event 2 (\$235 PLO) and Event 40 (\$225 PLO/8), along with a fourth in Event 42 (\$230 Omaha/8).

Todd Breyfogle won Binion's main, which was good for \$55,635, his largest score. Breyfogle also finished 39th in this year's WSOP Event 8 (\$1K NLHE).

But the most notable item of all was the cancellation of the Golden Nugget's grand finale scheduled for July 4, a **Howard** and **Suzie Lederer** charity event that was supposed to include a BBQ, pool party and fireworks in addition to a charity tournament, for which first prize was a seat on NBC's *Poker After Dark*.



Binion's Poker Classic • May 30-July 11

- EVENT 1** • \$100 Casino Employees • 115 Entries • \$10,040 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Steve Lee, Las Vegas, \$1,366
- EVENT 2** • \$150 NLHE • 141 Entries • \$18,464 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Rodrigo Reyes, Chile, \$3,618
- EVENT 3** • \$150 NLHE • 144 Entries • \$18,857 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Tom Withers, Lake Villa, FL, \$2,405
- EVENT 4** • \$200 PLO/8 • 120 Entries • \$20,952 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Dan Scott, Kitchener, Ont., \$3,940
- EVENT 5** • \$200 NLHE • 121 Entries • \$21,127 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Ron Phipps, Santa Clarita, CA, \$5,005
- EVENT 6** • \$150 NLHE • 103 Entries • \$13,488 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Keith Murdock, Winter Haven, FL, \$3,200
- EVENT 7** • \$150 NLHE • 125 Entries • \$16,369 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Jame Samsone, Las Vegas, \$4,650
- EVENT 8** • \$150 NLHE • 110 Entries • \$14,405 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Scott Stewart, Lakewood, CA, \$4,000
- EVENT 9** • \$200 H.O.R.S.E. • 71 Entries • \$12,397 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Adam Clayman, Ogalla, NE, \$3,520
- EVENT 10** • \$150 NLHE • 102 Entries • \$13,357 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Kyle Roland, Las Vegas, \$2,740
- EVENT 11** • \$200 Omaha/8 • 80 Entries • \$13,968 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** John Van Laan, Bay City, MI, \$3,220
- EVENT 12** • \$200 NLHE • 151 Entries • \$26,365 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Clint Holmes, Rothschild, WI, \$5,000
- EVENT 13** • \$150 NLHE • 113 Entries • \$14,797 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Bill Shepherd, Casa Grande, AZ, \$2,844
- EVENT 14** • \$150 NLHE • 143 Entries • \$18,726 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Nicole Mummy, Las Vegas, \$5,035
- EVENT 15** • \$150 NLHE • 139 Entries • \$18,202 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Josh McQuoid, Philadelphia, \$4,705
- EVENT 16** • \$200 6-Max • 162 Entries • \$28,285 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Kevin O'Leary, Surrey, UK, \$7,620
- EVENT 17** • \$150 NLHE • 112 Entries • \$14,666 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Randy Propson, Milwaukee, \$4,255
- EVENT 18** • \$200 Stud/8 • 74 Entries • \$12,920 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Meg MacRae, Denver, \$1,730
- EVENT 19** • \$200 NLHE • 122 Entries • \$21,301 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Julio Rodriguez, Miami, \$4,650

Golden Nugget Grand • June 4-July 3

- EVENT 1** • \$125 NLHE • 343 Entries • Prize Pool: \$32,398 • **WINNER:** Michael Walker, \$3,461
- EVENT 2** • \$230 PLO • 61 Entries • Prize Pool: \$11,834 • **WINNER:** Chip Jett, \$3,076
- EVENT 3** • \$125 NLHE • 163 Entries • Prize Pool: \$15,511 • **WINNER:** Mike Dempsey, \$3,679
- EVENT 4** • \$230 Omaha/8 • 135 Entries • Prize Pool: \$26,190 • **WINNER:** Jon Morrell, \$6,286
- EVENT 5** • \$225 NLHE • 73 Entries • Prize Pool: \$13,862 • **WINNER:** Casey Martin, \$3,318
- EVENT 6** • \$230 Stud/8 • 129 Entries • Prize Pool: \$25,026 • **WINNER:** Randy Propson, \$6,400
- EVENT 7** • \$225 NLHE • 73 Entries • Prize Pool: \$14,162 • **WINNER:** John Matyiko, \$3,682
- EVENT 8** • \$230 H.O.R.S.E. • 144 Entries • Prize Pool: \$27,936 • **WINNER:** John MacLeod, \$4,904
- EVENT 9** • \$230 Stud/8-Omaha/8 • 112 Entries • Prize Pool: \$21,728 • **WINNER:** Michael Longo, \$6,515
- EVENT 10** • \$125 NLHE • 187 Entries • Prize Pool: \$18,139 • **WINNER:** Gerardo Acosta, \$4,764
- EVENT 11** • \$230 PLO/8 • 116 Entries • Prize Pool: \$22,504 • **WINNER:** Joe Silverman, \$6,750
- EVENT 12** • \$225 NLHE • 86 Entries • Prize Pool: \$16,684 • **WINNER:** Chance Wagstaff, \$4,410
- EVENT 13** • \$230 NLHE Young Guns • 18 Entries • Prize Pool: \$3,492 • **WINNER:** Derek Gomez, \$1,746
- EVENT 14** • \$230 Omaha/8 • 97 Entries • Prize Pool: \$18,818 • **WINNER:** Jena Betrupe, \$6,001
- EVENT 15** • \$125 NLHE • 239 Entries • Prize Pool: \$23,183 • **WINNER:** Dan Stafford, \$2,500
- EVENT 16** • \$230 PLO • 88 Entries • Prize Pool: \$17,073 • **WINNER:** Robert Cochran, \$4,451
- EVENT 17** • \$125 NLHE • 171 Entries • Prize Pool: \$16,587 • **WINNER:** James Markley, \$2,932
- EVENT 18** • \$230 Stud • 64 Entries • Prize Pool: \$12,416 • **WINNER:** Scott Gullett, \$3,228
- EVENT 19** • \$225 NLHE • 105 Entries • Prize Pool: \$20,370 • **WINNER:** Mansour Alipourpour, \$4,800
- EVENT 20** • \$230 Stud/8 • 122 Entries • Prize Pool: \$23,668 • **WINNER:** Ron Fast, \$4,735
- EVENT 21** • \$225 NLHE • 84 Entries • Prize Pool: \$16,296 • **WINNER:** Mark Wilson, \$5,214
- EVENT 22** • \$230 H.O.R.S.E. • 121 Entries • Prize Pool: \$23,474 • **WINNER:** Vaughan Machado, \$2,448
- EVENT 23** • \$125 NLHE • 229 Entries • Prize Pool: \$22,213 • **WINNER:** Shaun Laveney, \$4,312
- EVENT 24** • \$230 8-Game • 110 Entries • Prize Pool: \$21,340 • **WINNER:** Steve Earlywine, \$3,902
- EVENT 25** • \$225 NLHE • 105 Entries • Prize Pool: \$20,370 • **WINNER:** Hans Anderson, \$1,923
- EVENT 26** • \$230 PLO/8 • 94 Entries • Prize Pool: \$18,236 • **WINNER:** Joseph Silverman, \$5,836
- EVENT 27** • \$125 NLHE • 242 Entries • Prize Pool: \$23,474 • **WINNER:** Dekker Turfot, \$2,527
- EVENT 28** • \$230 Omaha/8 • 85 Entries • Prize Pool: \$16,490 • **WINNER:** Theodor Timmerman, \$4,300

- EVENT 20** • \$150 NLHE • 156 Entries • \$20,428 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Christi Koide, S. Bernardino, CA, \$3,695
- EVENT 21** • \$150 NLHE • 121 Entries • \$15,845 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Rich Chase, Chicago, \$3,012
- EVENT 22** • \$150 NLHE • 139 Entries • \$18,202 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Steffen Schmid, Germany, \$3,800
- EVENT 23** • \$200 PLO/8 • 111 Entries • \$19,381 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Ryan Miller, W. Middlesex, PA, \$3,554
- EVENT 24** • \$150 NLHE • 95 Entries • \$12,440 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Yann Pauchon, Switzerland, \$3,058
- EVENT 25** • \$500 H.O.R.S.E. • 62 Entries • \$27,665 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Robert Gray, Silver Springs, MD, \$5,450
- EVENT 26** • \$200 NLHE • 75 Entries • \$13,095 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Yann Pauchon, Australia, \$3,810
- EVENT 27** • \$150 NLHE • 107 Entries • \$14,012 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Chad Holloway, Reedsburg, WI, \$2,758
- EVENT 28** • \$150 NLHE • 79 Entries • \$10,345 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Randy Enos, Aahu, HI, \$2,608
- EVENT 29** • \$150 NLHE • 103 Entries • \$13,488 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Sander Springer, Holland, \$2,743
- EVENT 30** • \$200 Ladies • 72 Entries • \$12,571 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Eleanor Gredger, London, \$3,875
- EVENT 31** • \$200 NLHE • 149 Entries • \$26,015 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Josh Palmer, Daphne, AL, \$5,200
- EVENT 32** • \$1K NLHE • 314 Entries • \$289,351 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Todd Breyfogle, Hopkins, MN, \$55,635
- EVENT 33** • \$200 NLHE • 67 Entries • \$11,698 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Brandon Setzer, Charlotte, NC, \$3,775
- EVENT 34** • \$150 NLHE • 105 Entries • \$13,750 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Brad Russell, Milwaukee, \$3,940
- EVENT 37** • \$200 NLHE • 100 Entries • \$17,460 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Tyler Fields, Las Vegas, \$4,550
- EVENT 39** • \$200 NLHE • 78 Entries • \$13,619 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Jason Riesenberg, Halibur, IA, \$4,360
- EVENT 40** • \$200 NLHE • 68 Entries • \$11,873 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Jerry Yamachika, Las Vegas, \$3,975
- EVENT 41** • \$100 NLHE • 109 Entries • \$8,458 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Joe Young, Las Vegas, \$1,179
- EVENT 42** • \$100 NLHE • 111 Entries • \$8,614 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Kent Odgaard, Denmark, \$1,495
- EVENT 43** • \$150 Dealer's choice • 46 Entries • \$6,024 Prize Pool • **WINNER:** Kendall Fukumoto, Honolulu, \$3,975

- EVENT 29** • \$125 NLHE • 327 Entries • Prize Pool: \$31,719 • **WINNER:** Gary Greer, \$2,688
- EVENT 30** • \$230 PLO • 72 Entries • Prize Pool: \$13,968 • **WINNER:** Joel Hurst, \$2,600
- EVENT 31** • \$125 NLHE • 180 Entries • Prize Pool: \$17,460 • **WINNER:** Peter Primiano, \$4,321
- EVENT 32** • \$230 Seniors • 332 Entries • Prize Pool: \$64,408 • **WINNER:** Mark Hirakawa, \$10,003
- EVENT 33** • \$225 NLHE • 132 Entries • Prize Pool: \$25,608 • **WINNER:** Franciscus Johanne, \$7,684
- EVENT 34** • \$230 Stud/8 • 103 Entries • Prize Pool: \$19,982 • **WINNER:** Lawrence Kaplan, \$3,156
- EVENT 35** • \$225 NLHE • 94 Entries • Prize Pool: \$18,236 • **WINNER:** Tim Baijanov, \$4,691
- EVENT 36** • \$230 H.O.R.S.E. • 99 Entries • Prize Pool: \$19,206 • **WINNER:** Donald Webb, \$2,664
- EVENT 37** • \$125 NLHE • 171 Entries • Prize Pool: \$16,587 • **WINNER:** Didier Rabb, \$4,479
- EVENT 39** • \$225 NLHE • 123 Entries • Prize Pool: \$23,862 • **WINNER:** Seth Bailey, \$3,569
- EVENT 40** • \$225 PLO/8 • 96 Entries • Prize Pool: \$18,624 • **WINNER:** Chip Jett, \$4,162
- EVENT 41** • \$125 NLHE • 199 Entries • Prize Pool: \$19,303 • **WINNER:** David Pollack, \$3,341
- EVENT 42** • \$230 Omaha/8 • 83 Entries • Prize Pool: \$16,102 • **WINNER:** Timothy Acker, \$4,853
- EVENT 43** • \$125 NLHE • 159 Entries • Prize Pool: \$15,423 • **WINNER:** Matt Schultz, \$3,378
- EVENT 44** • \$230 PLO • 31 Entries • Prize Pool: \$6,014 • **WINNER:** Joe Silverman, \$2,105
- EVENT 45** • \$125 NLHE • 145 Entries • Prize Pool: \$14,065 • **WINNER:** David Gonzales, \$1,829
- EVENT 46** • \$125 Tag Team • 120 Entries • Prize Pool: \$11,640 • **WINNER:** Kendall Paloci-Hank Paloci, \$2,400
- EVENT 47** • \$550 Stud/8 • 29 Entries • Prize Pool: \$14,065 • **WINNER:** Alex Papachatzakis, \$3,927
- EVENT 48** • \$125 NLHE • 137 Entries • Prize Pool: \$13,289 • **WINNER:** Bruce Bowley, \$1,455
- EVENT 50** • \$550 H.O.R.S.E. • 48 Entries • Prize Pool: \$23,280 • **WINNER:** Bill Slaght, \$8,147
- EVENT 51** • \$125 NLHE • 51 Entries • Prize Pool: \$12,804 • **WINNER:** Matthew Fridley, \$3,127
- EVENT 54** • \$125 NLHE • 115 Entries • Prize Pool: \$11,155 • **WINNER:** John Hayward, \$1,502
- EVENT 56** • \$550 Omaha/8 • 22 Entries • Prize Pool: \$10,670 • **WINNER:** David Webb, \$4,268
- EVENT 57** • \$230 NLHE • 84 Entries • Prize Pool: \$16,296 • **WINNER:** Marco Melder, \$3,988
- EVENT 60** • \$550 PLO/8 • 95 Entries • Prize Pool: \$46,075 • **WINNER:** Juan De Diego, \$7,972
- EVENT 61** • \$125 NLHE • 176 Entries • Prize Pool: \$17,702 • **WINNER:** Kent Frampton, \$4,611
- MAIN EVENT** • \$1,080 NLHE • 235 Entries • Prize Pool: \$227,950 • **WINNER:** Marvin Rettenmaier, \$54,713
- EVENT 64** • \$125 NLHE • 126 Entries • Prize Pool: \$12,222 • **WINNER:** Jeremy Bruyas, \$3,272
- EVENT 65** • \$235 Poker Queen • 303 Entries • Prize Pool: \$58,782 • **WINNER:** Angela Gelinis, \$11,347
- EVENT 66** • \$125 NLHE • 149 Entries • Prize Pool: \$14,453 • **WINNER:** Duc Dang, \$3,711

* Many events from both series were chopped, so the first name given is listed. Also, missing events weren't supplied, held or were just satellites.

Peppermill's new poker room beyond breathtaking

By Scott Long

Mike Gainey has been in the poker business for 35 years, but it's safe to say he hasn't seen anything as pretty as his new room at Peppermill Resort in Reno, Nev.

"(We) didn't cut corners on anything," Gainey, the director of operations, said of the room, which cost well in excess of seven figures and was completed in just six weeks.

Trimmed in walnut, copper and antique gold and outfitted with leather, wood and onyx furnishings, the 19-table room has a sense of elegance from the time you walk past the adjoining bar. A spacious waiting area features plush couches and tables where you can enjoy your favorite poker room while you wait for a seat.

"I have some couches (in the room) that are better than what I have in my house," Gainey said.

The Peppermill staff specially designed the nine-player tables to be narrower, allowing for improved sight lines, and new chairs don't have arm rests after Gainey surveyed his players and found 80 percent didn't want them.

The Genesis Bravo system is installed, al-



An elegant 19-table poker room with all of the modern amenities.

lowing for electronic wait lists, a signup kiosk and player tracking for \$1 and hour in comps, and the room is outfitted with 36 LCD televisions, including a 10-foot showcase screen. A glass wall separates a high-limit area, which hosts games as large as \$50-\$100 no-limit hold'em on some weekends.

Players are treated to complimentary sandwiches three times a day and soup all day long, and they can help themselves to soda, juice and bottled water when they wish. Also, restrooms are close by.

"That's unheard of," Gainey said with a laugh. "A poker room with restrooms nearby."

For larger tournaments, such as the recently concluded Jennifer Harman charity event that required 90 tables, Gainey has use of a spacious ballroom.

"I'd put that space up against any in Las Vegas," he said.

CHOP POT CLASSIC: The popular series begins Wednesday, Aug. 31. See the ad below for the schedule of events.

Mike Gainey's Chop Pot Poker Classic

AUG. 31 - SEPT. 5, 2011



SIX DAYS OF SPLIT POT ACTION			
WEDNESDAY	NOON	\$100+\$20	OMAHA HI/LO 8 OB
WEDNESDAY	7PM	\$100+\$20	H.O.R.S.E.
THURSDAY	NOON	\$100+\$20	P.O.E.
THURSDAY	7PM	\$100+\$20	7 CARD STUD HI/LO 8 OB
FRIDAY	NOON	\$100+\$20	OMAHA HI/LO 8 OB
FRIDAY	7PM	\$100+\$20	CRAZY PINEAPPLE HI/LO 8 OB
SATURDAY	NOON	\$200+\$25	OMAHA HI/LO 8 OB
SATURDAY	7PM	\$100+\$20	H.O.R.S.E.
SUNDAY	NOON	\$200+\$25	CRAZY PINEAPPLE HI/LO 8 OB
SUNDAY	7PM	\$100+\$20	7 STUD HI/LO 8 OB
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MONDAY	4PM	\$100+\$20	H.O.R.S.E.

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A look at the Colorado poker scene • For tournaments/promotions see our Where to Play pages in the back

LIVE POKER PICKS UP ANOTHER PLAYER

Maybe you've heard of World of Warcraft, but if you haven't, humor me for a minute. It's what's known as an MMORPG (stick with me), a massive multiplayer online role-playing game. It consists of 11 million-plus people interacting in a huge virtual world.



RICK GERSHMAN

Wayne Howard of Parker used to play a little WOW before getting turned on to online poker about five years ago. As someone who's always had a facility for numbers and psychology, this insurance account manager realized poker might be a more constructive use of his time.

"I promised my girlfriend I was going to cut back on WOW, so this was a healthy transition," Howard said with a laugh. "I went from 30 hours a week on WOW to 30-35 on poker, plus I still went on WOW."

Howard read up on strategy and learned quickly, putting together a pretty decent per-hour on hold'em, Omaha/8 and razz. "It was just fun, and then it was fun and a little extra money," Howard said. "I cashed almost every sit-n-go I played. What's better than that?"

Over five years, Howard played several million hands of poker without sitting at an actual casino poker table.

"I played with friends, but not much," he said, noting he'd been to casinos a few times but never played poker: "I wasn't comfort-



able there. Online, you're comfortable. You read players on different things, how fast they bet, how they react to action. Notes on everybody right there in front of you. Who's tight, who's the joker, who's the (modestly explicit term)."

You know how this story ends, with Black Friday: "It was devastating. Seriously, I was heartbroken. Still am. I looked forward to this every day.... It's something you love to do, and you can make money (because) you have a competitive advantage."

Howard explained this over a beer at the Ameristar Casino in Black Hawk, having made the 90-minute drive from his home for the eighth time since Black Friday.

"It was scary," he said. "It's like you've been playing WOW at home for years and suddenly you're actually in that world. You wouldn't think everything changes that much when you're live, but it does. There are fat holes in your game. ... I had trouble at first, and I'm still working it out. I'm still down (since playing live), just a little, but I'm not used to that."

Before I left, I asked whether Howard would have ever begun playing live if not for Black Friday.

"Eventually, probably, but I was in no hurry," he said. "But I've made some friends, and I don't think you can call yourself a poker player until you've played live."

— Rick Gershman is Ante Up's Colorado Ambassador. You can email him at [rickgershman@gmail.com](mailto:rlickgershman@gmail.com).

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High Hand of the Hour wins \$100
2:00pm - 6:00pm

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High Hand of the Hour wins \$100
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BLACK HAWK

HOT WEATHER MEANS HOT ACTION

As August brings the sultry weather, poker rooms across Oklahoma turn up the poker fire. Many state residents and poker players, however, will find a way to cool down in the comfortable poker atmosphere at three locations.



CRYSTALLYNN HARRIS

The poker heat wave begins with Firelake Grand Casino's MDA Celebrity tournament on Aug. 13 at 10 a.m. This fourth annual event has been a fantastic success for MDA and Firelake Grand every year since its inception. Poker room manager **Todd Grantz** describes the annual event as "Igniting something grand." Executive director for MDA, **Andrea Pope**, concludes that poker tournaments are a great way to raise money, especially when so many celebrities come to join the cause.

"We always try to take it up a notch every year with new celebrities," she said. "Last year we brought in *Playboy* Playmate **Jaime Edmondson**, comedian **Norm MacDonald** and comedian **Kidwok**, formerly known as Chinaman, to name a few."

Just a short jaunt east on I-40 from Oklahoma City, you'll find this cool poker oasis and a comfortable 20-table room waiting for you on the second story. Cash games played regularly at this location include a scintillating \$1-\$2 and \$2-\$5 no-limit hold'em game, as well as \$3-\$6 limit hold'em. For more information visit firelakegrand.com or call 405-964-7777.

Another way to shake the heat is to Blast to the Past at Cherokee Casino in West Siloam Springs from Aug. 22-28. This annual event comes to players this year in a new poker room with a newly built casino hotel just steps away. Poker room manager **Chad McReynolds** brings a variety of games to this series, including no-limit hold'em, H.O.R.S.E., and Omaha/8.

"We provide the games our players love and have a great time," he said. "We invite poker players from all over to come in, relax and enjoy the fantastic service and games we provide."

Drawing attention this year is the Survivor NLHE event that is sure to have players sweating bullets in the coolest atmosphere around.

Cherokee offers 12 cash tables that regularly run \$1-\$2 NLHE, \$1-\$2 PLO and a scorching \$10-\$20 Omaha/8. Buy-ins for the tournaments are as little as \$75, ranging to \$540 for the main event. During the poker series the annual Blast to the Past Car and Truck Show will be blazing in the parking lot, too, so don't miss out. Call 800-754-4111 and get signed up today or visit cherokeecasino.com to book your room.

Come late August when the heat settles in, jump on in to "The River" from Aug. 22-Sept. 5 at WinStar World Casino. The sixth annual \$3 million guarantee series makes the largest poker waves in Oklahoma with prize pools that emulate a desert mirage. But last year's first-place prize in the main event was no mirage. **Khoueng Souvoravong** pulled in a cool \$646,690 with his \$2,100 buy-in after treading through a field of 1,440 players.

"Our poker program was designed with the players at the forefront," manager **Jay Wiles** said. "Our series continues to grow, drawing players from across the country and we look forward to a new and exciting series this year."

WinStar is a staple in Midwest poker and a major stop on many



Ben Lamb, seen here after his Cherokee win, is having a great WSOP.

professionals' itineraries, making this a must-play series. Whether it is serious tournament action you prefer or high-action cash games, WinStar has it all. The bountiful 46-table room will keep you occupied for as long as you can stay and play with spreads as little as \$1-\$2 NLHE up to \$10-\$25 PLO. But you don't want to wait to get in on the action here because this place fills faster than a dry mouth at an oasis. Call and book your room today at 800-622-6317 or get registered by visiting winstarworldcasino.com.

ON THE LAMB: Tulsa native **Ben Lamb**, 26, has rocked the World Series of Poker this year, and by virtue of his November Nine berth (he's fifth in chips), surpassed **Phil Hellmuth** to take the lead in the WSOP's Player of the Year standings. Lamb started making news in 2006 in Tulsa when he won the \$1K NLHE event during the first **Scotty Nguyen** Poker Challenge at Cherokee Casino. He reeled in \$53,671 and went on that year to place 12th in the WSOP \$1,500 PLO event worth \$25,572. Lamb followed that up with a second-place finish at the Orleans Open for \$43,795. Two months later he took first at the United States Poker Championship in Atlantic City for \$60,000.

Fast forward through a slew of wins to the 2010 WSOP where he placed fifth in the \$1,500 PLO/8 event and 30th in the PLO championship, netting him more than \$70,000. This year his game is blazing hot with a second-place finish in the WSOP \$3,000 PLO event (\$257,918) followed by win in the \$10,000 PLO Championship, scoring him \$814,436 and his first bracelet.

Lamb also placed in the \$10K NLHE six-handed event and then had an eighth-place finish in the \$50K Players Championship. His winnings go beyond \$3 million and counting with one WSOP bracelet, five WSOP final tables (three in PLO) and 13 WSOP money finishes. He's guaranteed to make at least \$782K in the main event.

Lamb also has reported to have won more than \$1 million playing online. While his popularity skyrockets at this year's WSOP, he is becoming a legend in his home state where many Oklahomans are cheering on their hometown hero.

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

Interested in Oklahoma-Kansas tournaments and promotions? Turn to our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine.

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A look at the poker scene in and around Chicago

HORSESHOE HAMMOND STARTED IT ALL

For our poker players, 08/08/08 is the most important date in Chicago's gambling history. Why? That's when the Horseshoe Casino opened. Just over the Illinois border next to Chicago in Hammond, Ind., the Horseshoe Casino created a world-class poker room that rivals the top rooms in the country. When opened, the Horseshoe's 34-table poker room had twice as many tables than all of Illinois combined. For the staff, the Horseshoe assembled an extraordinary group of professionals from all parts of the country.



JOE GIERTUGA

The Horseshoe's \$1,500 Summer Poker Tournament Series will be Aug 27. This tournament has a guaranteed \$250,000 prize pool. For cash players, a Win a Seat high-card promotion will start a week before the tournament. At 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. one table will be picked. Eligible players at the table will be dealt one card with the high card winning a seat to the \$1,500 event.

Starting at \$100,000, the Horseshoe's bad beat is the largest in the Midwest, with quad 10s as the qualifier. Twice a month the bad beat is increased \$20,000 and the qualifying hand decreasing. On July 15 the bad beat reached \$160,000 and quad sevens. Last year the bad beat reached \$320K when the bad beat was hit. For more details see the poker room staff or call 219-473-6065.

For the fourth year the Horseshoe will host the World Series of Poker Circuit in October; in March it's the Chicago Poker Classic. Both events draw a large number of players.

- The Windy City Poker Championship continues to air its main event coverage Sunday nights at 9 on Comcast Sports. After the conclusion to the main event, coverage from the \$1,500 single-table high-roller-winner-takes-all begins. This program will feature famed movie



The WSOPC stop really packs them in at Horseshoe.

critic **Richard Roeper**, 2007 WSOP champ **Jerry Yang**, **Scott Clark**, **Ted Leahy**, **David Backstrom**, **Kevin Boyd**, **Gary Carr**, **Mark "Poker Ho" Kroon** and WPT Boot Camp instructor **Nick Brancato**.

- For charities in Illinois, poker tournaments are an excellent source for generating revenue. For some charities, tournament revenue is a lifeline for keeping programs going. Family Counseling Service of Aurora recently paired with Hollywood Casino to run their first charity tournament July 7. FCS is a non-profit community agency that helps families manage their problems.

- Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin now has seven tables, recently adding one. The poker room spreads \$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 no-limit hold'em and occasionally \$5-\$10.

— "Chicago" Joe Gieturga is the Ante Up Ambassador for the Chicagoland area. You can email him at chicago.joe@comcast.net.

KENTUCKIANA

A look at the Kentucky-Southern Indiana poker scene

Carman wins Derby event, finally

By Don Lawson

Better late than never is the old adage. That was the case for this year's Kentucky Derby Festival Texas Hold'em Tournament. The tournament originally scheduled during the two-week festival was rescheduled because of high river levels preventing the *Cincinnati Belle* from making the trip. The *Belle* has been the location of the tournament the past three of the event's five years.

Delay aside, 250 players from the area boarded and set sail for some poker and a cruise down the Ohio River.

After it was all said and done, **Tony Carman** was the winner, taking home \$6,000 and a custom bracelet. Rounding out the top four were **Bill Petter**, **William Windchy** and **Jim Davis**.

— Don Lawson is the Ante Up Ambassador for Kentuckiana. He's a part-time journalist and avid poker player. He can be reached at anteupdon@gmail.com.



Players were happy to finally be able to sit down and play some cards in the Kentucky Derby Festival tournament.

Interested in Southern Indiana-Chicagoland tournaments and promotions? Turn to our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine.

2 ROOMS FORCED TO CLOSE

Government shutdown makes Canterbury Park and Running Aces close their doors for three weeks.

On June 30 I was playing poker at Running Aces Harness Park in Columbus, Minn. The room was fairly busy and everyone was counting down the hours until midnight. This wasn't because some new promotion was about to begin. For the first time since the cardroom opened it would be forced to shut its doors for an undetermined amount of time. As the clock neared midnight the manager announced to the dealers that there were three hands left to play. There was talk of everyone going in blind for \$60 preflop on the last hand, but play ended uneventfully and everyone racked up their chips.



JOHN SOMSKY

More than 100 people stood in line to cash out as the staff rolled out the large cages to pack up the chips from the poker tables and table games. I overheard people talking about heading to Grand Casino Hinckley after cashing out, others discussed what to do over the weekend if the cardroom was still closed. The reality of the situation became evident when I read the announcement taped to the front door as I left: The cardroom, which normally only closes for 20 hours a year over the Christmas holiday, would be closed during the Minnesota government shutdown.

The Minnesota Racing Commission is the government agency that regulates Canterbury Park and Running Aces Harness Park. When the laws were expanded to allow cardrooms in 1999, the MRC expanded its role to regulate the cardrooms. The cardroom at Canterbury Park opened in April 2000, followed by the cardroom at Running Aces in June 2008.

The shutdown occurred because Democratic **Gov. Mark Dayton** and the Republican-controlled Legislature were unable come to an agreement over the state's operating budget.

All nonessential services are suspended until a budget can be passed. The MRC was categorized as nonessential and therefore was forced to close.

Both racetracks issued paperwork to appeal the ruling that forced the MRC to stop operations. According to the *Star Tribune*, attorneys argued the tracks should be allowed to stay open because the MRC is fully funded by the racing industry and all fees have been paid to cover services through July. According to a Canterbury Park news release, Ramsey County Chief Judge **Kathleen Gearin** issued a ruling, denying Canterbury's request the MRC be allowed to continue operations during the state's shutdown.

"(Running Aces) attorneys coupled with Canterbury's attorneys submitted another (appeal)," Running Aces poker manager **Gregg Barktu** said. "Judge Gearin last time looked at our appeal and did not rule

favorably for us. (The attorneys) think that perhaps she misunderstood because the Minnesota Zoo was able to reopen with a similar situation that we're in. It was going to be submitted to another court to go to another judge, but that isn't possible. So it was submitted again (July 6) to the same judge with a very (detailed) explanation of how much money we pay to the MRC, how that money is spent and how even though they are a state agency they are completely funded by us and Canterbury. So there's really no reason (the MRC) shouldn't be allowed to reopen."

News releases issued by the racetracks indicate more than 1,600 people will be without work while they are closed. And, according to the *Forest Lake Times*, Running Aces is losing \$100,000 in daily revenue, while still paying \$30,000 each day for essential functions. So it's easy to see why there is much frustration that these private businesses were forced to halt operations.

The tracks are not idle during the shutdown. The stables are housing horses and Running Aces is even modifying its cardroom, removing the sunken table used for tournament final tables or high-stakes cash games.

"We have the ability to put four poker tables over in that area," Barktu said. "We are going to have more poker tables than we previously had. Now we will be back to 25."

Here's another issue: Minnesota law states cardrooms can't operate unless the licensee has conducted at least 50 days of live racing within

the past 12 months or during the preceding calendar year. The shutdown will require the tracks to reschedule some race days to keep the cardrooms open.

Said Barktu: "The idea would be to add those race days on the end of this season. It gets tricky because the longer this goes, the more horsemen will end up leaving. So then the fields become shorter. Then the question is how many races do we have to run a day? How many horses have to be in them to be considered official? Hopefully this is resolved in a week or less then we can add those race days on

the end of this season. Otherwise, if this is a prolonged (shutdown), next season would start much earlier in the spring."

Of course poker is available at the Native American casinos. One manager at Grand Casino Hinckley said attendance at the room was slowly increasing as the shutdown continued. The most noticeable increase was in tournament entries. I noticed a few Running Aces patrons playing \$2-10 spread limit hold'em in Hinckley.

UPDATE: At press time, all budget bills were signed on July 20, ending the longest shutdown in Minnesota history. Canterbury Park and Running Aces were allowed to reopen July 21.

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





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CALL THE FLOOR

Expert advice from poker room manager Jody Russell

So many rule sets, which to follow?

The Federation Internationale de Poker Association recently published its poker rules set, which incorporates most of the TDA rules and then some.

The rules are being used by the Bellagio and a few others. I would be really interested in a tournament director's point of view on the different rule sets being used and whether any more rooms would change to the FiDPA rules. I'm looking at it from a home-game tournament director point of view as well. With the TDA rules, Robert's Rules of Poker and now FiDPA rules, it might get ugly if there are discrepancies between the rules sets.

— Chris Guidi
via email

JODY'S RESPONSE: The FiDPA rules are written in a manner that is compatible with the TDA rules. They've incorporated additional rules that clarify things not addressed by the TDA rules.

One example of this would be their requirement of the endorsed properties to have tournament structure sheets on hand for players. Anyone familiar with TDA rules will not find any conflict with the FiDPA rules. There shouldn't be any confusion or alarm. Since FiDPA and TDA address tournaments and Robert's Rules are traditionally used for cash games there's really no conflict here.

There are some rooms that go with TDA rules for cash-game situations. I suggest finding out what's being followed any time you play in a room that is new to you.

— Jody Russell is a veteran poker room manager who runs the Ante Up Cruise Poker Room. Email questions to editor@anteupmagazine.com.

TDA Rules

Each month Jody Russell explains one TDA rule.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS AT FINAL TABLE: In flop games, the final table will consist of 10 players. In stud-type games, the final table will consist of nine.

JODY: When the tournament gets to the last two tables most players don't like playing on two five-handed tables. The blinds come around fast and it usually takes a while to get to nine players. This procedure is used in nine-handed events. WSOP events are 10-handed, switch to nine-handed at six tables and go to final table 10-handed.

Go to pokertda.com to see all 44 TDA rules.

FREE LEAGUES: GEORGIA

INTERSTATE POKER CLUB



Jeff Benson defeated nearly 210 players to win the \$1K first-place prize in the May Points Championship. More free poker league news is on the next page.

FLORIDA

NUTZ POKER LEAGUE



Chapman

• **Ken Chapman** became the first in league history to win two monthly championships.



Danford

• **Britany Goldstein** and **Roy Danford** each won seats into the Silks Poker Room \$350 monthly event in Tampa.



Lange

• **Frances Lange** won the kickoff game at Fat Cats Tavern and took home a \$50 gift card.

LOOSE NUTZ POKER



Bob Fields won the June monthly at Elmers Sports Café, good for a seat in the \$10K event at Derby Lane.

TREASURE CHEST POKER



• **John Moher** of Bradenton won the monthly event at Dockside in Palm Harbor.



• **Kirk Callahan** won the Stokers monthly and a \$250 gift card after defeating almost 100 players. He also won the Six monthly in Palm Harbor, pocketing another \$175 gift card. **Bob Gibson** took second (\$50).



• **Kim Rossi** won the Battle of the Bars for Stix, taking home a \$50 gift card and a \$50 gift certificate.

JACKSONVILLE POKER ASSOCIATION

MARCH 19: **Josh Cartrette** pocketed \$2,400 after beating **Jack Fussell** (\$1,200) at Gators Dockside.



APRIL 23: Tom & Betty's, **Clay Burre**s won \$1K by beating **Josh Cartrette** (\$500).

JUNE 18: **Jesse Farrell** won \$2,800 at Lillian's. **Fred Engness** was second (\$1,400).



PLEASURE ISLAND POKER

• On June 11 at Scully's on the Bayou it was **Laurie McFadden** defeating **Laura Eisenacher** to win the charity event that benefited the Fort Walton Beach Developmental Center. She earned a three-night stay at Pelican Beach Resort.



The ladies were followed by **Mark Dickey**, **Lindsey Wanless**, **Jack Lippert**, **Charles Yant**, **Neal Mahler**, **Jean Grieve**, **Shelby Jo Lynch** and **Ford Moore**.

• **Mike Yoder** captured the June monthly at Los Panchos in Fort Walton Beach, beating more than 80 players.



Yoder pocketed a tournament-entry chip to the \$20K guarantee at Pensacola Greyhound Track.

Jonathan Gammill also earned PGT tournament seat for second. They were followed by **Loria Walters**, **Dean Fretina**, **Bill Denson**, **Maria Erickson**, **R.C. Klein**, **Lindsey Wanless**, **Shelby Jo Lynch** and **Brian Daugherty**.

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WELCOME TO ...

ATLANTIC CITY

Rumors of the Atlantic City poker demise were greatly exaggerated. Yes, Delaware and Pennsylvania recently opened poker rooms in the area, and Connecticut continues to do its best to draw players to the north. But what we found when we visited AC this summer were bustling poker rooms driven by innovative management and a community that sets tournament attendance records and embraces its storied poker history.

BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA

CAESARS PROPERTIES

How do you combat the competition when it makes up two of the largest, busiest poker rooms in the world? One word: synergies.

With the massive poker rooms of Borgata and the Taj flanking the Atlantic City gaming district, the task of the four Caesars Entertainment poker rooms is not an easy one. But they may have found the right formula: Total AC Poker. With moderately sized poker rooms in Bally's, Caesars, Harrah's and Showboat, the poker directors from each property realized a team effort would be their best shot at capturing their collective share of the market.

"We all got together and said we're four small rooms; we can't really put big numbers out there for promotions individually," Harrah's AC manager **John Arthur** said. "But if we get together, we can do certain things as a group."

The partnership began modestly with the Total Bad Beat, in which all four properties contributed to one bad-beat jackpot, generating the types of numbers on par with the Borgata and Taj. And unlike elsewhere, if you're playing in a hold'em cash game at any of the four CE properties when the bad beat hits, you get a share.

This program was so successful the Total AC Poker program was a natural next step. So what is it? It's a combined effort to offer something for every type of poker player, from a wider variety of buy-ins and games spread to large freerolls and synchronized tournament schedules to avoid competing with each other.

"We can do a \$50,000 freeroll," Arthur said, "which is tough for a small room to do, but between the four of us you can put a \$50K out there. And you can play at any four properties and combine your hours (to qualify). So we started with the freeroll, then we put the Tournament of Champions together. The bottom line is, we said we're four rooms, but if we combine certain things we can compete, put the Total Rewards out there, have some decent promotions and we can each have our own identity as best we can."

The collective properties take \$1 from each tournament entry,

which goes toward funding monthly TOC freerolls for tournament winners. July qualifiers (combined 50 hours at AC Total Rewards rooms) will play at 10 a.m. on Aug. 9 at the Showboat. August qualifiers will play at 2 p.m. on Sept. 13 at Harrah's.

But enough about the joint effort, what about each room individually?

HARRAH'S: Arthur, who was named manager in 2005, opened the Harrah's poker room in 1993. He's seen the room go through two expansions before reaching the current 40-table configuration and says \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em is the mainstay, though \$2-\$5 NLHE and \$2-\$4 limit are spread liberally. But he's really proud of getting the pink-chip game resurrected, a \$7.50-\$15 stud/8-Oma-ha/8 game that uses pink \$2.50 chips.

The room, on the marina side of town, sports the amenities you've come to expect in a modern facility with the Bravo tracking system (all CE properties were expected to have Bravo up and running before summer's end), automatic shufflers, comped beverages and tableside dining. But Arthur said it's the Total Rewards card that makes



the CE rooms special.

"Total Rewards is huge," he said. "There are other rooms in town that have poker and (player) cards, and we have relatively the same offerings as far as comps, but the transportability the Total Rewards offers between the four properties ... now you have 27-30 restaurants you can go to in the city, just at the four properties. But then you expand that to Vegas and all the other properties, so now the Total Rewards is really the lynch pin of what makes us a little bit different. I've got guys who play all year long, save up their points and the take trips to Vegas as a group, all on Total Rewards."

The other perk that has become synonymous with CE properties is the World Series of Poker, and Harrah's reaps these benefits in the form of a WSOP Circuit stop every December.

"December for us is huge," he said. "We take the risk in December; it's cold, it's the Northeast, but the flip side of that is I have a lot of hotel rooms and we can



The size of the Borgata poker room allows the staff to host huge tournaments and still run cash games.



BORGATA

In the case of the Borgata poker room, bigger is indeed better. With 85 tables the Borgata is not only the biggest room in Atlantic City, it's one of the largest poker rooms in the world. Its high-limit area (18 tables) is larger than most casinos' entire poker room.

You can find no-limit hold'em from \$1-\$2 all the way to \$100-\$200 on a regular basis, plus limit runs from \$2-4 to \$80-\$160. On a recent Saturday the room spread \$20-\$40 H.O.S.E., \$50-\$100 H.O.S.E., \$200-\$400 Omaha/8-stud/8 and \$600-\$1,200 stud.

"We're just glad the size of our room and the size of our high-limit room let's us offer all of these different game types," director of poker operations **Stan Strickland** said.

And this theme spreads to its tournament offerings. The Borgata has a tournament series every month, though it has become famous for its signature seasonal series. The Winter Poker Open is in January, followed by Spring (April), Summer (June) and Fall (September). The September event is partnered with the World Poker Tour, though the main event buy-in is the one time when the Borgata chose to stray from its bigger-is-better mentality. Most WPT stops have a \$5K, \$10K or even \$25K buy-in to its championship event, but the Borgata has chosen to make its main event \$3,500, which has been wildly successful to the point of record fields.

"We knew what we were doing; we talked about it at length," poker room marketing director **Raymond Stefanelli** said. "There are some rooms out there that think you have to have a \$10K or \$25K buy-in and that works for them. We chose to go with \$3,500 and it's a model that we like. It doesn't mean that we won't switch it up in the future."

But why would they? Especially since the prize pool is still in the millions, something the WPT cherishes.

"A couple of years ago if you didn't have the \$10K you just didn't play," said Strickland, who is the only manager the Borgata has known

since its 2003 opening. "And if you didn't win a satellite you didn't play as well. What we did was we gave the masses the ability to play. In doing so, now we're over a thousand participants, giving so many more people the opportunity to come play in a WPT event and a chance to play on TV, which was unheard of a couple of years ago. So we really broadened our market."

The Borgata has 90 more tables in the event center to help with the larger fields. Other amenities include the Bravo system, automatic shufflers, scores of TVs, dedicated restrooms and a poker host to help you with spending comps on poker-room rates and tableside dining.

There's a bad-beat jackpot that lately has been getting hit on average every 11 days or so. Quad 10s is the main bad-beat qualifier while losing with smaller quads gets you 25 percent of the main. A new tournament leaderboard awards the top-three players with prizes, including a \$3,500 buy-in to the WPT main event for first.

Plus there are daily tournaments, including every Wednesday a \$30K guarantee for a \$100 buy-in. (See our Where to Play pages for more tournament buy-ins and times).

In the back right corner of the poker room plans are under way to construct a two-table ultra high-limit room (a la Bobby's Room at the Bellagio) by the fall, plus fresh carpet and more huge plasma TVs.

"Just being in the Borgata is a first-class operation," Strickland said. "Everything about the Borgata will help us in the poker room, and vice versa. Being such a large room we have the ability to hold a massive tournament. Yesterday we had 829 participants in the poker room (for a tournament) and still had live cash games going. Not every poker room has that capability."



"We're just glad the size of our room and the size of our high-limit room let's us offer all of these different game types." — **STAN STRICKLAND**

TRUMP TAJ MAHAL

This is one of the times when having an identity crisis doesn't hurt you. Complete this sentence: The Taj Mahal poker room is ...

- A. the stud capital of the Northeast.
- B. the birth of big-time AC poker.
- C. famous for being in *Rounders*.
- D. host of the U.S. Poker Championship.
- E. All of the above.

The answer, of course, is E. At one time the Taj action overflowed beyond capacity, but competition and a settling of ravenous poker junkies calmed things down a bit. The room boasts 68 tables, second largest in the area and down from a peak of 72. **Gerald Hicks**, the room's host, said having fewer tables means relaxed players.

"Now we can get in and out of the tables and accommodate guests," he said. "Everybody is comfortable whereas before it was a little tight."

Not every room has a poker host to meet and greet you, to get to know your name. The phone never stopped ringing at the Taj, and just about everyone on the other end was looking for Hicks, because he's the man who can get things done for you. Comps, rooms, answers, he's the one players trust.

As for games, no-limit hold'em is preferred, but there's stud aplenty and can be found at all levels in this room on the Boardwalk and steps from valet parking.

"We really try to get the stud action," Hicks said. "We do promotions to keep these guys here and accommodate them well."

Speaking of promos, during our visit there was a \$500 hourly high-hand drawing giveaway that had the room buzzing. You had to be a high-hand winner from the previous



The Taj has 68 tables and hosts the USPC.

month and you had to be present to win. If not, then the prize rolled over.

The tables have automatic shufflers, plus Hicks assured us the Bravo system was coming shortly. And there's tableside dining.

"Most places don't have eating at the tables," he said. "Here, we have to clean up a little bit after them because these guys love to order at the table. You want to be able to say you can have a sandwich while you sit and play. Just keep some napkins around so we don't get grease on the cards."

Cleanliness is important to Hicks.

"This room is always clean. We have people on it all the time. ... We have someone who comes around to take care of that. So you come into this room for the first time and

you are going to get a treat."

The USPC generally runs in the fall, though Hicks said they were undecided when the series will run this year.

"It's a popular thing and it's not affiliated with any of the other tours or series," he said. "So that makes ours so unique. We're still holding our own. Our competition isn't really here in Atlantic City anymore. It's the other places out there that opened up. Those are the players we used to get. I talked to a guy yesterday who said, 'Why would I travel (to AC) when I'm 15 minutes away from (Philadelphia)?' I told him that made sense but we love you here, come back down. He said he'd come back down and I told him great, I'll set you up."

TROPICANA

The Trop Poker Club, which is one of the two original rooms to offer poker when it was legalized for New Jersey in the early '90s, has 28 tables these days, down from around 40 just a few years ago. But it still gets a steady stream of business.

Typical offerings fill the board (\$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 NLHE, \$2-4 limit), but what isn't typical is the method for displaying the brush's list. A mini camera is aimed at an old-fashioned handwritten board and it broadcasts the board on a glass-tube TV above the poker-room floor. It's an old-school-meet-new-school feature that makes the Trop unique. The room does have automatic shufflers, though.

You can eat at the table (there's a special poker menu; try the Tropicana Club sandwich) and drinks are free, plus you can get a poker rate for the hotel if you've played at least four hours. Comps range from 50 cents to \$2 an hour depending on your level of play.

Royal flushes win you a room at the hotel and the high hand of the day earns you \$250 comp dollars.

Only recently did the room add a bad-beat jackpot rake. The qualifier is aces full of kings and tournament players get a separate jackpot as well. At press time the totals were \$72K for the tournament bad beat and \$330K for cash games. According to its website,



The Trop is old school.

the Trop has paid more than \$4 million in bad beats since July 2008.

There are two tournaments daily, 11:15 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. All tournaments are \$62 except Friday night and both Saturday events, which are \$122. If you want to play you must have a Trop Poker Club card. Also, there are no rebuys or add-ons anymore. This is old school poker, after all.



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TIPS FOR SURVIVING MAJOR EVENTS

Every summer, poker players from all over the world flock to Las Vegas for the World Series of Poker. Luckily for the professional players, most of these visitors have little to no chance to actually come away with a big score simply because they set themselves up to fail from the start. To last the seven weeks at the WSOP you must remain focused and ready to play the entire time.



JONATHAN LITTLE

I've come up with a few tips that will greatly increase your expectation at a tournament series without even mentioning how to play. It should be noted these are tips for players who want to have the highest expectation possible during a long series and only care about poker.

If you're coming to Vegas to party and to play a few tournaments on the side, these tips probably aren't for you. Then again, neither is the life of a poker tournament professional.

Get a lot of sleep

I decided this year that I was going to take around four days off during the seven weeks of the WSOP. To show up at noon every day you simply have to get a lot of sleep. I make a point to get home as soon as the tournament is over each day or around midnight, whichever comes last.

For example, if I play a \$1,500 tournament and bust in the first hour, I will play satellites or cash games until midnight and then go home. If I play the same \$1,500 tournament and last the entire day, I will go home when play ends, usually around 1 a.m. When I get home, I generally go straight to sleep. I don't sit around and have dinner and watch a movie. I get sleep so I'm ready to go the next day.

Play side games

Before this year, I never really played the side games during the WSOP. I now realize just how much money I was missing out on. I've played mostly \$500 and \$1K single-table satellites in my spare time and have been happy with my results.

I also hear the cash games are excellent. I used to simply go home whenever I lost a tournament, which would often waste an entire day. Now, I'm hopefully earning something like \$200 an hour.

Assuming you play four hours of side games per day, you will find you profit something like \$40K by the end of the series. That's a nice way to supplement the daily tournaments. It can turn a losing series

into a break-even one and a break-even series into a decent winner.

Obviously this will take time away from goofing off or enjoying the outdoor world, but seeing how the profitability of poker has been shot in the foot because of the recent problems with online poker, you simply have to make the most of every tournament series.

Eat right

Over the past two years, I've lost around 40 pounds simply through eating right and exercise. Throughout the year, I always wake up and eat a few eggs, some veggies and some lean meat.

During the WSOP, there are a few food delivery services that will bring healthy food to the table. I have my healthy breakfast plus two meals delivered to my table each day. This allows me to not take dinner breaks, which will make me slightly more profitable, and it allows me to stay in decent shape, especially since I have to cut out a little bit of my normal workout time.

That being said, I still try to get in the gym at least twice per week, even during the WSOP. Also, for those looking to quickly lose fat and keep it off, simply stop eating sugar, fatty foods and starches. This means no smoothies, potatoes, rice, yogurt, fatty meats and bread. If you cut these foods out of your diet, the weight will drop. Realize though, this isn't a diet, it's a way of life.

Avoid your vices

My past vices have been drinking and degenerate gambling. I never really had a problem with either, but I realized they cut into the profitability of poker. If you have a few drinks at night you'll find you won't sleep as well and will wake up with a mild hangover, which will make you play worse during the day.

If you gamble on random things, such as blackjack or sports, you'll find when you lose, you're on tilt from losing and when you win, you would rather be doing those things than playing poker, both of which are terrible for your concentration. My advice is to cut these activities out of your life, and not just for during the tournament series. If you do, you will find yourself a much happier person in the long run.

There are many more things I could write about, but sadly, I am out of space. Please feel free to email all questions and comments to support@jonathanlittlesecrets.com.

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

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WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

POKER TELLS OF THE NECK

As I often say there are poker faces, but there is no such thing as a poker body. Somewhere on our body we reflect precisely and in real time what we think, feel, desire or intend. The neck is such an area for poker players, full of clues as to whether a player is strong, marginal or weak.



JOE NAVARRO

Seven years ago, when I first started writing about poker tells (*Read 'em and Reap*), the feet were not on the radar screen. Here was an area of the body unrecognized in the poker world. Since then many players have wisely folded in time when seeing "happy feet" on their opponents who had monster hands. To a certain extent, like the feet, behaviors of the neck also have been off the radar screen to many players, so let me shed some light on this often-ignored area of the body.

The neck is critical for survival (it's architecturally necessary for food, water, air, chemical and electrical signals) and as such, the brain treats the neck differently than the rest of the body. Because it's such a vital area, whenever we feel threatened or insecure the brain compels us to do certain things to protect or pacify the neck.

Watch any tournament and you'll see players when they're having doubts or feel some action on the board will hurt them begin to touch or rub their neck. This is an accurate indicator that something is bothering them. This is a legacy behavior from when humans routinely saw large felines bring down prey by biting down on their necks. Though large threats don't remain, we still do this behavior when things bother us.

Neck touching is probably one of the most often used behaviors to calm us. Some people rub the back of their neck with their fingers; others stroke the sides of their neck or just under the chin above the Adam's apple, tugging at the fleshy area of the neck. This area is rich with nerve endings that, when stroked, reduce blood pressure, lower the heart rate and calm the individual. This action usually is seen when players are marginal or weak and are deliberating their next move.

Typically, men are more robust in how they touch or massage the neck. They also tend to pull on their shirt collars a la **Rodney Danger-**

field, when they feel insecure, stressed or worried.

Women, as I noted in *What Every Body is Saying*, pacify the neck differently. They usually go to the neck dimple (supra-sternal notch) with their pointed fingers or the palm of the hand and just hold it there.

Or, for example, they will touch, twist or otherwise manipulate a necklace covering the same area. This is a universal behavior when women feel stressed, insecure, threatened, fearful, uncomfortable or anxious. Interestingly, when a woman is pregnant, she will move toward her neck but at the last moment will divert to her belly, as if to cover the fetus.

We not only touch our necks or massage our necks when there is an issue, we also do other interesting behaviors that communicate our discomfort or insecurity. Men will ventilate their shirts at the neck or sometimes by pulling at the ends of their collar. Women ventilate by stroking the back of the neck upward lifting their hair. In both cases it means the same thing. Obviously you may see these behaviors on a hot day, but when someone is dealing with something stressful or they're asked a question that's bothersome, you may see this behavior as a reaction.

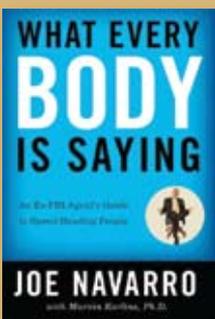


You may also see the neck disappear as someone lacks confidence or they are troubled by something. I used to see it in interviews where the shoulders would rise toward the ears causing the neck to seemingly disappear. Look for players to sink down as their shoulders come up, usually an accurate tell that says I'm weak or have doubts.

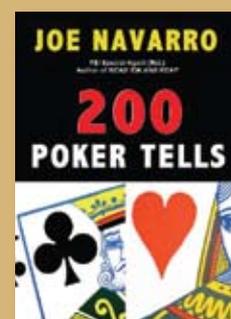
When we are extremely comfortable we tend to relax our necks, even tilting them much as lovers do as they stare at each other. At the table, women who have a strong hand tend to tilt their head more often than men. Conversely, a neck that suddenly stiffens upon a flop may indicate something is wrong.

There are many things to keep an eye on at the table and the neck should be one of them. Neck behaviors are extremely accurate and communicate effectively across all cultures what we feel, think or fear. The next time you're playing keep an eye on the obvious yet elusive neck.

— Joe Navarro is the author of *200 Poker Tells*, available on jnforensics.com. See his PsychologyToday.com/blog/spycatcher blog site and follow him on Twitter (@navarrotells).



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DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE THEM TO VALUETOWN

The most crucial aspect of being a successful live cash-game player is betting hands for value. Sounds reasonable right?

You'd be surprised just how many low-limit players bluff way too often or miss extra bets. The primary way we make money in small games, such as \$1-\$2 and \$1-\$3 no-limit hold'em, is by betting our strong hands and getting weaker players to call with weaker hands.



MIKE WOLF

I often see players my age crafting elaborate lines of action for the sake of balance. I would argue that balancing your perceived range of hands at \$1-\$2 NLHE is about as awful as it gets.

The reason online players balance the percentage of bluffs to strong hands in their ranges is so they won't be exploitable when playing against good regulars. You probably won't play the same players much if you play \$1-\$2 in large poker rooms. So why not just wait for a strong hand and bet it all the way against players who are going to call anyway?

Ego. Young guns have ego. What a shame. Playing tight is "lame,"

I get it, but I do what it takes to make money and the vast majority of the time it's the correct way to play in the aforementioned games.

I'd like to highlight one line of action that will help all live low-limit cash-game players. It's called the bet/fold. Most players at these stakes are incapable of check-raise bluffing, therefore when you have moderately strong hands you should bet every street until you meet resistance. Say you have K-Q on a K-7-2 rainbow board. Bet the flop for value.

The turn is a 9. Bet again, but be willing to fold if you get raised because most of these players are incapable of check-raising the turn here with less than two pair.

Let's say the river is an ace. Don't get scared by the scare card! What hand is likely for him to hold containing an ace?

Exactly! Of course there will be times when you bet the river and he calls with A-7, but those occurrences are few and far between. It's much more likely he'll call and have a K-10 or K-J, which you beat.

Bet the river and enjoy the inflated pot when he calls and shows you K-10 offsuit. I know I always do.

— Mike Wolf is a professional poker player who spends his time on the road.

Follow him on Twitter (@mikewolf7) or on surebetpoker.net.

I often see players my age crafting elaborate lines of action for the sake of balance. I would argue that balancing your perceived range of hands at \$1-\$2 NLHE is about as awful as it gets.

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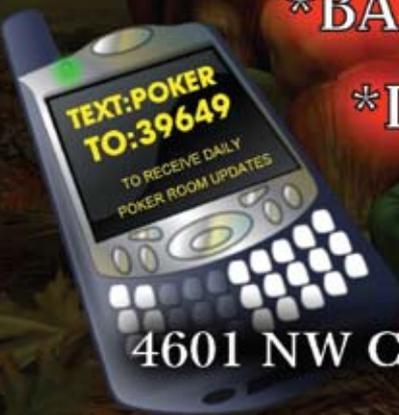
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KRISTY GAZES • Bankroll Management

DON'T LET PRIDE RUIN YOUR BANKROLL

Editor's note: This is one in a series of poker-book chapter excerpts Ante Up will be publishing over the next several months. This chapter comes from Winning Women of Poker: Secret Strategies Revealed and is by Kristy Gazes.

When you're broke, you're a joke. Those are wise words from my father that I've carried with me through much of my life. I must confess there were times I was a joke, because I didn't manage my money wisely and strayed from my personal financial directives, but I always had backup money, even if it was just a few dollars in a shoebox under my bed.

With a fake ID, I started gambling at the Commerce when I was 17. I played low-limit games but often won enough to move up in limits, which wasn't the wisest choice. At that age, I hadn't yet devised the bankroll system I would use in later years. But winning and losing money taught me a few of the basic concepts I would use throughout my poker career.

My first poker games were \$1-\$2 affairs, and I slowly moved to \$2-\$4 and bigger games. The most important lesson I learned was that I was playing with chips, not money. When I gave the chip runner the cash, it was gone, and those chips could not be equated to any cash value.

But when I started seeing a Mercedes-Benz in the pot instead of the chips, I realized my thinking was skewed. I had to learn to view the chips for the bets, raises and pots they actually represented, not the purses or clothes I could buy with the money. That's when I began to play the game without fear of going broke.

This approach allowed me to be aggressive but not feel desperate, to focus on the game but not worry about how I would pay my rent. Of course, I wanted to cash out for more money than I came with, but playing well throughout the session was my main priority.

Later, in my early 20s, my friends and I often made trips to Las Vegas. For a young woman with a penchant for gambling, it was quite enticing, so the trips were frequent. I played poker, but not as regularly as I would in the years to come. The glamour of games such as craps and blackjack were attractive. I would walk into the casino with \$1,000 or so, sidle up to the tables and play the exciting games. But by the end of the weekend, I would somehow manage to lose it all. My poker winnings would be in the hands of the casinos. Though I usually had a good time, I knew I would have

to return to the Los Angeles poker tables and grind out my bankroll again.

The process of losing my poker money to casino games continued for a while, but as I learned more about the edge I had in poker, I realized how much of an edge the casino had in blackjack, craps and roulette.

It was around that time when I met my future husband, Randy. He was a professional poker player who played much higher limits than I, managing his money through the bankroll management system he eventually would teach me. It was so simple yet so effective that I immediately saw its value and began putting it into practice. It's the same system I continue to use for my cash-game play.

Working Your Way Back

Here's how it works: Let's say I was playing \$10-\$20 limit poker for six-hour sessions. If I lost three sessions in a row, I immediately moved down a level and played \$8-\$16. Once I won three consecutive, six-hour sessions, I would move back to the \$10-\$20 games again. However, if I lost three sessions at the \$8-\$16 level, I moved down again. And I continued to move down until I could win consistently and slowly work my way back.

This might be hard to believe, but at one point I was playing \$500-\$1,000 limit but then ran so badly I had to push myself all the way back to \$1-\$2 and start from scratch. That wasn't easy, especially since everyone I knew in the casinos and cardrooms saw it happen. But it was painfully obvious I was running badly. I had to do it. I set my ego aside and stuck with the system, and it worked.

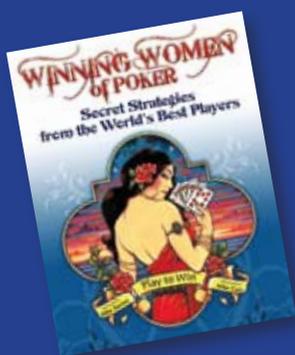
The system of moving up or down a level on the basis of three winning or losing sessions, respectively, is one of the most important lessons I've learned in my many years in the poker industry. As far as my cash-game bankroll, it has kept me in some form of the game for several decades and continues to allow me to play.

Though I don't often put in eight-hour sessions anymore, the system applies to my home games and kicks in when I have the itch to play in a cash game in a local cardroom.

—Kristy Gazes is a poker pro with many titles to her credit. This excerpt from *Winning Women of Poker: Secret Strategies Revealed* is published with permission from Seaside Publishing, which owns the 2011 copyright.



Kristy Gazes
at this year's
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DID I REALLY MISS A VALUE BET?

In a recent \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em game several players told me I had missed a value bet on the river. The hand played like this: I was on the button with 5♠-6♠ (there's a \$2 blind on the button) with no other players entering the pot. I raised to \$11 to steal the blinds. The small blind called and the big blind folded, making the pot \$24.

The flop was J♣-7♠-8♥. The small blind (a somewhat tight-aggressive player) bet \$10. I called, making the pot \$44.

I immediately think he must have A-J or K-J, the types of hands he would call with preflop for \$11 and the \$10 bet is how he bets when he has a piece of the flop. Betting patterns are the truest form of all tells, and my opponent just told me what I needed to know.

My image at the table is that of a tight player, which couldn't be any further from the truth. However, I enjoy this image, which makes it easier to expand my range of hands in late position and steal small pots with small bets. My opponents can't put me on 5♠-6♠ for an \$11 bet preflop.

If I miss the turn I can fold face up to show I'm capable of playing any two cards and that I've mixed up my play and betting patterns to

keep my opponents guessing. My total investment into the hand is \$21 of which \$2 was my button blind, a small price to invest to keep opponents off guard. I also love this table; my \$200 buy-in grew to \$350 in less than an hour. I don't want to change anything about this table.

The turn was the 4♦. I made my straight. My chip stack was about \$350 before the hand as his was about \$85. He bet \$10 and I raised to \$40. He called.

The pot was \$124 and my opponent had bet \$61 of his \$85 stack. I know he only has one pair; this is where I find most players really don't understand what a true value bet may be.

Most players think they can extract the last dollar out of their opponents and this is the value they deserve for the hand they've won. Please think about what I said earlier in the article, "I don't want to change anything about this table." If at this point you still don't get what I'm trying to say you need to understand that one bet may change things so dramatically on the table that the game becomes less profitable and more difficult to make money.

The river was the J♦. If my opponent had a pair of jacks he now has three of them. This is where everyone told me I missed a value bet. My opponent had \$24 left; I could've easily bet that amount and received value for my hand.

I checked and my opponent took more than a minute before saying: "I don't want to get greedy." He turned over K-J for three jacks; and of course I turned over the straight.

You must know now he was concerned about his money. He was happy to win that pot without betting his last \$24. At this point he got up and went for a walk before coming back to the game several minutes later. In his absence several players told me how I had missed a value bet and how I missed his last \$24.

I tried to justify my check as a bad play and let them think that my play was poor, without admitting it. I tried to justify my play with several different reasons, none of which would or could be understood by these players; which is my intention.

When my opponent returned to the table I told him how lucky I was to have made the straight and how I was only trying to steal the blinds with my \$11 bet; to which he whole-heartily agreed. By the way, he had returned with \$200.

So to those of you who still think I missed the value bet; the game didn't change. I still had a tight-aggressive player to my left and now had several players thinking a lot less of my game. I can tell you that sometimes sacrificing one bet for value can create much more value in the long run.

I never try to embarrass or slight a player that may not have the best skills. Not taking the \$24 value bet was worth so much more.

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



ANTONIO PINZARI

POKER SKILLS OR PEOPLE SKILLS?

By Allen Spath

We all do it, some better than others, but nevertheless we all approach a table with our eyes darting from player to player, checking out their body language, their regalia and eventually their chip stack. In an instant we form impressions (some wrong), as we begin processing the much-needed data to achieve a winning session. Along with watching how opponents play their cards, we continually analyze and explore every detail sitting right before our eyes. Why? Because poker isn't about cards, it's about people. You've heard that a million times.

What's the first thing that enters your mind when you see a 20-year-old player sitting to the right of you? He's on the edge of his seat flipping chips in his hand, as his head pivots nonstop in a 360-degree motion, with a cold beer held tightly in his left hand. I see inexperience, stupidity, impulsive behavior and a sure fire-trap victim. He personifies the player showing little patience, little or no bankroll, wanting to make it happen right now and not willing to wait on the proper cards to take down a huge pot.

Or how about the "seasoned" lady sitting to his right? You know, the one who needs a hand vacuum to occasionally wave over her chip stack to let everyone know the pile in front of her is not just a dust mound. Are those long wrinkles stretching across her forehead from worry or age? Or could they represent the numerous lengthy winning sessions she logs at everyone else's expense?

You will see dozens of faces, disguises, getups and oddball personalities at the poker table. It's your job to sort everything out and start extracting money, knowing their weaknesses and their strengths. For example, you should know better than to continue betting into a player with chips covered in cobwebs while you're sitting with K-K, an ace hits the board and that player hasn't folded. You should also know better than to enter pots when maniacs at the table are capping just about every hand, unless you have top cards. And you must know when to set a trap when the right situation is at hand, you're sitting with the NUTS, and they're still playing chase me, beat me, show me!

Who or what intimidates you at a table? Is it stature, reputation, dress? Most of the time (unless they're regulars), we are unfamiliar with the habits and mistakes displayed by players and must rely on our eyes and ears. They don't lie; what you see is what you get. You just need to figure out what you are really seeing and hearing.

Let's start with the guy in sunglasses (that's me), and his friendly attitude at the table. He generally smiles, makes an occasional comment (nice cards), and rakes in his share of pots. What can we learn from his demeanor, dress and actions? Well, you know from his clothes he's not spending his last dollar; from his glasses he wants to present us an appearance of mystery. This also hides his eyes and prevents us from

seeing his darting eyes and possibly some tells. His complimentary table talk signifies he has an even keel attitude, works hard not going on tilt and displays excellent table savvy. If he were a tight player, we may see his chips stacked neatly, even the colors on the side of chips arranged in color order.

The smart player won't be drinking alcohol, and when he sits at the table for the first time he won't say much as he examines the play. He'll quickly assess opponents and put them on the type hands they seem to readily play. If he puts a headset on, does that mean he's signaling everyone that he's concentrating on the cards or needs the music to settle his nerves? And if a person is wearing a headset, you must immediately realize they themselves discount the usefulness of tells (sounds such as grunts, sighs and the inflection of voices during calls, raises and checks). Or do they watch the overhead televisions and only occasionally follow the hand until conclusion?

All these actions indicate something about our opponents. Astute players must continue to watch and listen, filing information quickly and unceremoniously. People skills are important.

Do you really think certain races have an advantage over others? And how about women and young players; are they to be given any less chance to win at your table? Preconceived mind-sets like these can cause hesitation and error in your play.

If your answer to any of these questions was anything but no, you have a problem and it will show in your monthly winnings ledger. Sure, players will quickly prove they are weak opponents, but you can't assume they're not worthy adversaries. Don't fall into those traps; you have a lot of

work separating the strong from the weak, the lions from the deer.

Start by assuming all players at the table have arrived to take your money, have time on their hands to play forever and never make mistakes. After each hand in hold'em start to determine who does not fit that criteria. Who plays 10-7 offsuit, ace-rag, or who plays Q-Q or better? You need to know who will chase, who bluffs and who's to be respected when they bet. In stud, also look to see the quality of their beginning cards. Players going for low straights and having two-card flushes are welcome at my table.

Poker is a game of opportunities, and the first opportunity is not being unprepared or sitting with preconceived notions and opinions. Know your opponents or they will make your card-playing days miserable. People are so willing to show you their cards, or at least tip their hands. Be smart, be alert, be a winner.

I need another table change, Oh, floorman!

— **Al Spath is the former Dean of PokerSchoolOnline, author the "Poker Journal," and a private online and live poker coach (at Delaware Park Casino, Atlantic City and Las Vegas). He can be reached for private poker mentoring through his website: pokerinstructors.com or alspath@alspath.com.**

What do the clothes and attitude say about this player?



MARC DUNBAR • What's going on with our government

ANTI-GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT INCREASED

Martha Coakley, the Massachusetts Attorney General, recently put regulations into place that will make gambling at Internet cafes illegal in the state. Police officers raided multiple businesses statewide and found that gambling was taking place in these locations, which is contrary to state laws.



MARC DUNBAR

Coakley is not stopping there. After introducing the new regulations, the AG's office stated intentions to increase criminal investigations against all illegal gambling facilities, saying these establishments were "illegal when they started, and they are illegal now."

Judges, law enforcement agencies and AGs in other states are stepping up the enforcement of anti-gaming laws nationwide. As reported in last month's *Ante Up*, federal prosecutors in Maryland and New York were the authorities behind the shutdown of online poker. Owners and operators of casinos in Alabama are on trial facing federal charges in relation to the operation of electronic bingo games. In Florida, a county judge in Miami and a federal judge in Orlando have rendered verdicts against gambling facilities, and local officials are in the process of passing ordinances to reign in Internet cafes all around the Sunshine State. Police officers in New York arrested seven people in relation to an underground gambling operation after evidence from a string of armed robberies led officers to an apartment where gamblers would play mahjong, a popular casino game in the Asian community.

But what does this mean for the poker player? Now is the time to stay clear of illegal backroom poker operations.

Everyone in the poker world has seen *Rounders*, where **Matt Damon's**

character, Mike McDermott, plays in a high-stakes game under less-than-legally-sanctioned circumstances. In the end McDermott wins a ton of money and goes home without a care in the world. In real life, backroom players could go "home" to a 10x10 cell and face serious criminal charges. All for doing nothing more than playing cards in an unsanctioned environment.

No one wants to end up like one of the 23 players in Tennessee who appeared before a Hamilton County judge this month on gambling-related charges. As reported in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, the men participated in a six-week hold'em tournament in an office suite. During one of the sessions, police raided the building and arrested them. Though the charges didn't turn out to be terribly expensive or time-consuming for these players (most chose to plead out their case and receive a 30-day suspended sentence and pay a small fine), they were nonetheless embarrassed and frustrated by the process.

While law enforcement officers and gaming regulators are on the lookout for illegal gambling, there are legal, local cardrooms in almost every jurisdiction of the United States, many of whom advertise in this magazine. By playing in one of these lawful facilities, and avoiding the illegal backroom gambling dens, you're assured to stay on the right side of the law and out of the county jail.

Losing a hand playing cards is one thing, ending up in handcuffs is quite another. To make sure the only thing at risk is your bankroll, and not your freedom, it is important to stay clear of illegal gaming operations.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

Bad beats are bad for poker

I picked up a copy of *Ante Up* recently and came across Scott Long's column *Paying attention to the jackpot rake* (June 2011). I agree with most of what Mr. Long says. I really dislike bad-beat jackpots and other player-funded promos.

One of the first books I read on poker (written by Ken Warren) has a chapter on poker-room shenanigans with the jackpot promos. My disdain for this nonsense has only grown since then.

Poker is a great game. If people need a bad-beat jackpot to go to a poker room perhaps they should take up a new hobby, maybe the lottery or keno or golf. The article mentioned jackpot chasers are not usually skilled players, so they are the ones who feed good players' bankrolls. That's true, up to a point. Most low limit hold'em games are unbeatable because of the high rake and bad-beat deductions. The same could happen to \$1-\$2 no-limit and even \$1-\$3 if this trend continues.

Bad-beat promos are not true "promotions" in any case. The rooms are using the players' money. A true gambling promotion is something given to customers for their patronage.

I've been playing live poker off and on for about five years. Recently I was "lucky" enough to be in on a bad beat. I got a table share on a mini bad beat for about \$900. I have to pay taxes on this money. More-

VERBAL IS BINDING

Email us at letters@anteupmagazine.com if you have something to say. Be sure to give us your name and hometown and we just might print it.

over, dealers expect tips for bad beats, and they've already been tipped on that money when it was originally part of a pot many months ago.

Poker rooms do not like to tell players how they take for bad beats. My local room has a sign on each table: "Ten percent of the pot up to \$4 is taken and a portion may be retained for the bad beat." It doesn't say how much. Many players won't even realize that \$2 are sometimes taken on top of the rake for each pot.

Rooms often use bad-beat jackpots extort rake money when the table goes short-handed. When the table is short, a savvy player knows to ask for a rake break. Rooms in St. Louis respond by saying that we'll lower the rake but then you can't play for the bad-beat jackpot. The rake has nothing to do with the bad-beat deduction!

Scott Zimmermann
via email

HEAD GAMES

DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

DECEPTION IS JUST PART OF THE GAME

Sun Tzu, author of *The Art of War*, once said all war is based on deception. What is poker if not a war?

We've heard or said, "All poker players lie," or "never believe a poker player," many times. At least some form of deception is an integral part to skill sets of accomplished players. It is part of the game.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

Reading tells, nonverbal behavior and bluffing are all things written about regularly. But how effective are we at reading deception? Not as good as we might think. Some old studies say the average person can detect a lie about 50 percent of the time. A pure coin flip. But the reverse is that your bluff cannot easily be picked up either. There is some research that says there are a few people with a natural ability to detect deception and that other people can be trained to detect deception.

OK, so where does that leave us as poker players? My advice, which I've offered before, is to first work on your presentation before trying to read others; I think it's a more effective and efficient use of your time. Deception is hard work (identifying deception is even harder) but don't let me stop you from increasing your proficiency. Just prioritize your time.

Deception in poker comes in many forms: bluffing, table image, table personality, semibluffing, and the like.

Without a baseline of behavior, that is, without knowing the other person's usual behavior, it's hard to tell how they're behaving at the table. For example, a socially nervous person or a naturally shy or introverted person may look like they are lying when they're not. When someone sits down, even when we never played with him or her, we think we can read his or her behavior. This is a grandiose illusion.

Some research has been done on micro-expressions. Good "lie detectors" can pick up on tiny facial movements that give away lies. The problem is they're "micro" so they're difficult to detect; I recently looked at some examples of this and was unable to detect the micro expression. To be able to do this requires extensive training.

Vocal inflection can be vital. There is some evidence that it's easier to detect lies just from the voice. The eyes are somewhat easier to control; and of course sunglasses, hats, hoodies and hands can hide the eyes. But you have to know the voice has changed and to do that you have to have a baseline.

The book *BLINK* tells us to rely on intuition. People may be better at detecting lies with their intuition than reason. Implicit or broadly subconscious processes can be more effective than consciously directed thought. Gut reads vs. analytic assessment: take your pick.

Deception is hard work and can place high cognitive demands on an individual, so putting more pressure on a suspected liar can help with detection.

I reviewed an article titled Pitfalls and Opportunities in Nonverbal

and Verbal Lie Detection, and it outlined 16 reasons why people have a hard time detecting lies. They clustered them in three major areas: lack of motivation to detect, difficulties associated with lie detection and common errors made by people who try to detect. Again it is a lot of work.

The article suggested, "the most important point to take home is that nonverbal and verbal cues to deception are ordinarily faint and unreliable. This makes lie-detection a difficult task, as there's no nonverbal or verbal cue that lie detectors can truly rely upon."

Some suggestions for detecting deception:

- Know your opponent: Get a baseline of ordinary behavior (without knowing ordinary behavior, how can we expect to identify changes in behavior?)
- Ask unexpected questions: Put the person to a mental test and watch the reaction.
- Think on many levels: Does this move make sense? Is this in his range of moves? How much am I risking?
- Recognize patterns: Would the second big stack in the middle stage of a tournament push me (the big stack) all-in on a bluff, or does he want me to think he's bluffing and he really has the nuts?
- Challenge your assumptions: This is a Cardinal rule for all decision-making; always look for another explanation.

Make a decision and act; regardless of your analysis this is the imperative demand of the situation.

Some patterns to watch for:

When being deceitful a person may take longer to start answering or may answer more quickly, even before a question is asked. But you have to know how they usually respond (their baseline), or if they exhibit an unnatural silence.

People who are being deceitful may show increased discomfort and tension; be more evasive than usual; even become hostile. Some will keep their hands and objects in front of them to form a barrier. A person who is usually interested in each hand may feign disinterest, may lean away from you.

To increase your chances of picking up a bluff or other deception, it's best to have a baseline of some history of your opponent; then try to assess their typical patterns. Try to see if the story has value or makes sense; then challenge your assumptions. Finally, make your decision and act.

Human communication and behavior is hard to analyze and even more so at the poker table. One way to improve your skills is to use this advice when you're not in the hand, the same way we try to put people on a range of hands when we are not in the hand; try to see if one or the other players is being deceitful.

Just another way to keep your head in the game.

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

CRACKING UNDER PRESSURE?

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



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

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO EDITOR@ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM

ARIZONA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
BUCKY'S CASINO (928) 771-6779 • buckycasino.com	Saturday-Monday with a Ladies Night on Tuesdays.	Progressive aces cracked (Sat., 11a-11p).
CASINO ARIZONA (480) 850-7777 • casinoaz.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$60, 11:15a); Tue.-Wed. (\$130, 7:15p); \$1M guarantee Arizona State Championship, Aug. 12-16 (\$1,070). Call for satellite details. See story Page 12.	Jackpot Extravaganza Progressive Jackpot pays up to \$25K (24/7); aces cracked (daily, 2a-10a).
CASINO DEL SOL (800) 344-9435 • casinodelsol.com	Daily, including Mon. (\$35, 7p); Tue. (\$15, 7p); Wed. KO (\$35 w/rebuys, 7p); Thurs. (\$85, 7p); Sat. (\$35, noon); Sun. (\$20 w/rebuys, 11a & \$15, 7p).	Splash pots and high-hand giveaways (Monday-Friday).
CLIFF CASTLE CASINO (928) 567-7952 • cliffcastlecasinohotel.com	Mon.-Fri. & Sun. (\$25, 10a); Wed. (\$60 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Sat. (\$120, noon).	Aces cracked pays \$100 (Sun.-Fri.); 4-Wheelin' and Dealin' promotion (call for details).
DESERT DIAMOND (520) 342-1810 • ddcaz.com	Mon. & Thurs. (\$35, 9:30a); Tue. (\$60 w/\$75 rebuy, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of jacks beaten by quads) and Omaha; player comps for live play.
FORT McDOWELL CASINO (480) 837-1424 • fortmcowellcasino.com	Daily (\$5-\$20 w/rebuys), including Mon.-Thurs. & Sun. (7p); Sat. (noon, 4p and 9p); Fri. (\$120, 7p); Sun. (\$120, noon).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad fives) and Omaha (quad fours); mini jackpot in hold'em (aces full); high hand (daily); aces cracked.
HARRAH'S PHOENIX AK-CHIN (480) 802-5000 • harrahsakchin.com	Tue. Omaha/8 (\$25, 7:30p); Wed. (\$60, 7p); Thurs. (\$10 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Fri. (\$40, 7:30); Sat. (\$40, 12:30p & 5:30p); Sun. (\$25, 12:30p).	Progressive high hand (daily, 5p-5a); splash pots (Sat.-Sun.); aces cracked (daily).
VEE QUIVA CASINO (520) 796-7777 • wingilariver.com/vee-quiva	Sun.-Thurs. (\$30 w/\$20 rebuy, 11a); Wed. (\$10 w/rebuys, 7:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royals pay \$500; aces cracked.
WILD HORSE PASS CASINO (800) 946-4452 • wingilariver.com/wild-horse-pass	Mon. & Thurs. (\$30, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7:30p); Wed. (\$100, 7:30p).	Aces cracked pays \$100; high hands; splash pots (daily); royals pay \$200 (daily).

ARKANSAS

OAKLAWN RACING & GAMING (501) 623-4411 • oaklawn.com	Daily (\$5-\$20); Tue. \$500 guar. (\$5, 10a); Thurs. ladies-only (freeroll, 7p); Sun. (\$20, 10a); Arkansas Poker Championship qualifiers (Mon. & Wed., 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Weekend Warrior (earn up to \$85 in free play); daily special jackpots (call for details).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING (870) 735-3670 • southlandgreyhound.com	Mon.-Tue. (\$20, 2p); Wed. (\$35, 2p); Thurs. KO (\$30, 7p); Sat. KO (\$35, 5p). 2K freeroll (call for details and dates).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of jacks beaten by quads); player-reward cards offer comps based on play.

COLORADO

AMERISTAR BLACK HAWK (720) 946-4020 • ameristar.com/Black_Hawk.aspx	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads).
GOLDEN GATES CASINO (303) 582-5600 • goldencasinogroup.com	Daily (\$40-\$300) at 10a, noon, 3p and 7p w/an event on Sunday (\$100 w/\$100 rebuys, noon); \$10K guar. monthly freeroll (call for dates and details).	Early bird specials; qualify for poker comps (call for details).
ISLE CASINO BLACK HAWK (303) 998-7777 • black-hawk.isleofcapricasinos.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$45, 10a); Wed. (\$65, 10a); Fri. (\$75, 2p); Sat. (\$90, noon); \$10K freeroll, Sept. 11 (first 80 players to reach 40 hours qualify). See ad Page 41.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Super High Hand (Mon.); hourly high hand (Tue.-Thurs.). See ad Page 41.
LADY LUCK CASINO (303) 998-7777 • isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, 7p); Sat. (\$40, 1p & \$60, 5p); Sun. (\$40, 2p & 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is a decreasing qualifier; Showers of Cash progressive drawings (Mon.-Thurs., 3p-1a); Lucky Pot Splashes (Fri.-Sun.).
LODGE CASINO AT BLACK HAWK (303) 582-1771 • thelodgecasino.com	Daily (\$60) at noon, 3p and 7p; qualify every month for the Tournament of Champions.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of kings); qualify for Poker Bingo (call for details).
MIDNIGHT ROSE CASINO (719) 689-0303 • triplecrowncasinos.com	Mon. (\$40, 7:30p); Tue. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Wed. (freeroll, 3p & \$60, 7:30p); Thurs. KO (\$60, 7:30p); Fri. (\$80, 7:30p); Sat. (\$80, 3p); Sun. (\$120, 3p).	High-hand jackpot (grand prize drawing \$500 or more; call for details).

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

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LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
FOXWOODS CASINO (800) 369-9663 • foxwoods.com	Daily (9a-8p). DeepStack events are Mon.-Sat. (\$120-\$240, 6p); Mega Stack Challenge XXV, Aug. 13-21 (\$120-\$1,200, main event Aug. 20 \$1,200, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad eights) and stud (quad deuces).
MOHEGAN SUN CASINO (860) 862-8000 • mohegansun.com	Daily (\$60-\$200) including a \$10K guarantee on Wed. (\$120, 7:30p) and \$15K guarantee on Fri. (\$200, 2p).	High hands paid every four hours daily, seven days a week; "Add-On" tournaments, Mon. (7:30p) and Tue.-Thurs. (noon).

DELAWARE

DELAWARE PARK (302) 355-1050 • delawarepark.com	Daily (\$20-\$550) at noon, 4p, 7p and 10p, including Sat. (9a); Iron Man Challenge \$100K guarantee, Aug. 20 (\$550, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em with descending qualifier; mini bad beat; high hand pays up to \$250.
DOVER DOWNS HOTEL & CASINO (302) 674-4600 • doverdowns.com	Weekend tournaments (noon & 7p); Harley-Davidson tournament, Aug. 20 (\$280, 1p, see ad Page 18); \$10K guarantee, Aug. 26 (\$125, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of jacks); Crushed Quads pays \$500.
HARRINGTON RACEWAY (888) 887-5687 • harringtonraceway.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$60, 11a); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuy and add-on, 11a); \$5K guarantee, Aug. 19 (\$115, noon); freeroll tournaments (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of kings beaten by quads); aces cracked (daily, 3a-11a); Crash & Splash pots during NASCAR races.

FLORIDA

CALDER CASINO (305) 625-1311 • caldercourse.com/poker	Daily guarantees (\$40-\$100, 11a, 7p); \$10K guarantee on Saturdays (\$100, 11a); \$30K guarantee, Aug. 6 (\$350, 11a, see ad Page 9).	Flopped progressive straight flushes have five payouts per suit; high hands (\$100 every 15 minutes, Tue.) & \$500 every half hour (Fri.-Sat.) and \$200 (Wed.-Thurs.).
DANIA JAI-ALAI (954) 927-2841 • dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (\$25-\$105) at 12:30p & 6:30p, including a \$15K guarantee every Friday (\$105, 6:30p); \$25 event every morning at 10:30 (See ad on previous page).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; Win It or Spin It promotion (win up to \$500, call for details).
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB (386) 252-6484 • daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily (\$25-\$275), including Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Sat. DeepStack \$2K guar. (\$225, 7p); Sun. Super DeepStack \$5K guar. (\$275, 2p). SNGs (daily).	Bad-beat jackpots in limit, no-limit, Omaha and stud; progressive hourly high hand (Mon.-Sun.). See ad Page 19
DERBY LANE (727) 812-3339 x7 • derbylanepoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$330) on Sun.-Thurs. (1p, 4p, & 7p) & Fri.-Sat. (1p, 6p, & 8p); Second Sunday Super Stack (\$330, 1p).	Daily cash and prize promotions; high hands; tournament high hands; see website for more promotions. Poker 101 course, Aug. 25 (See ad Pages 4-5)
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK (850) 234-3943 • ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$20-\$220) on Sun.-Fri. (8p), Sat. (2p, 8p, midnight); Mega Stack last Sunday of the month (\$330, 2p). Emerald Coast Championship in Sept. (See ad Pages 4-5)	Big Easy Bad Beat is quad fives; Big Easy Backup Jackpot; mini bad beat is aces full of jacks; royal flushes pay \$250.
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER (772) 464-7500 • jaijai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). DeepStack event, Aug. 20 (\$100, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud (see website for rules and payouts); quads pays \$100-\$220 (daily).
GULFSTREAM PARK (954) 457-6336 • gulfstreampark.com	Daily (6:30p); Mon., Fri., Sun. (\$60); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80); Wed. (\$100). Mon.-Wed. tournaments have bounties and Sat. is a rebuy.	Bad-beat jackpot is quad 10s; high hands pay \$500/hour for first three hours (daily); royals pay \$500 (see website for times and payouts). Cash is King (See ad Page 15)
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER (800) 941-4841 • hamiltondownsjaijai.com	Almost Freeroll \$600 guarantee on Sundays (\$5 w/\$30 in add-ons, 3p).	Progressive royal w/hearts paying \$2K; tournament high hand pays \$75; Fri. & Sat. high hand (\$300 for first, \$100 for second).
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK (954) 972-2000 x5123 • theislepompnopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$350); Florida State Poker Championship (\$200-\$5,300) runs until Aug. 2.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; high-hand jackpots in hold'em and Omaha.
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB (850) 997-2561 • jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays (\$50, 7:30p, 2K chips, 15-minute levels).	Royal flushes win jackpot.
MAGIC CITY CASINO (305) 649-3000 • flaglerdogs.com	SNGs running daily (\$65-\$800), call for details.	Big Slick Royal Progressive (using ace/king as hole cards); high hands pay \$150; progressive hot table daily pays a minimum of \$500.
MARDI GRAS CASINO (877) 557-5687 x3167 • playmardigras.com	Mon. \$5K guarantee freeroll (7p); Tue. Omaha/8 (\$100, 7p); Wed. KO (\$110, 7:30p). See ad Page 21.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays minimum \$50K; high hands (\$150K in prizes each month); royals pay \$599 or high-hand jackpot (larger amount paid).
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK (321) 259-9800 • mgpark.com	Mon. (\$65, 1p & 7p); Tue. (\$35, 2p & 7p); Thurs. KO (\$90, 7p); Fri. \$5K guar. (\$45, 7p); Sat. (\$120, 2p); Sun. (\$65, 1p). See ad below.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; straight flush (\$100); royals (\$500). Spin to Win (Sat., 3p); aces cracked (Wed.); Aces & Faces Quads (daily).

WHERE TO PLAY





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FLORIDA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
MIAMI JAI-ALAI (305) 633-6400 • fla-gaming.com	Closed for renovations until December.	Closed for renovations until December.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT (877) 242-6464 • miccosukee.com	Friday and Saturday (\$110, 8p). Free buffet for all tournament players.	Spade royal flush jackpot; high hands pay \$200 (Sun.-Thurs.) and \$300 (Fri.-Sat.).
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK (239) 992-2411 • naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Mon. (\$40, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sat. (\$115, 2p); Sun. KO (\$125, 2p).	Diamond Big Slick Royal Progressive pays minimum of \$25K; all other royals pay \$1K; high hand (daily); hourly high hands pay \$1K (Aug. 3, 13 and 24).
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI (352) 591-2345 • ocalapoker.com	Mon. (\$35, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$30, 7p); Wed. & Fri. (\$50, 7p); 1st and 3rd Sat. KO (\$100, time varies); 2nd and last Sat. (\$220, 1p); Sun. (\$30, 4p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; aces cracked; high hand; royals pay \$500 (daily). See ad Page 56.
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550) at 1p & 7p including Sat. Bounty (\$100, 1p) and Sun. PLO/8 (\$80, 1p); Jacksonville Summer Series WPT Regional, Aug. 5-17 (See ad on Page 21).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500).
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB (561) 683-2222 • pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$550) at noon & 6:30p; PBKC Summer Classic, Aug. 21-27, including \$100K guarantee Aug. 27. See ad Page 46 for schedule.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud.
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK (850) 455-8595 • pensacolagreyhoundtrack.com	Daily (\$50-\$100); Mon., Fri. and Sun. (\$50, 7p); Tue. & Fri. (\$50, 2p); Wed. DeepStack (\$100, 7p); Sat. DeepStack (\$100, 7p). See ad Page 40.	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad jacks) and stud (quads); full house or better (daily, various times, call for details); mini bad beat (daily, midnight-4a).
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB (941) 355-7744 x1054 • skcpoker.com	Daily (\$40-\$440), including Fri. (\$110, 1p, 25K chips); Sat. (\$160, 1p, 15K chips, 30-minute levels); DeepStack on first Sat. of month (\$440, 1p). See ad Page 29.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad deuces); progressive jackpots in all games; \$599/\$299 high hands (Fri.-Sat.). See ad on Page 29.
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON (866) 222-7466 x121 • seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. (\$50, 6:30p); Wed. (\$20 w/add-on, 6:30p); Sat. KO (\$100, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; quad aces (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royals (\$1K); aces cracked (Tue. & Thurs.); Spin to Win (Wed.).
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK (866) 222-7466 • seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	Call for information on scheduled single-table tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$35, 11a); Mon. (\$300, 6:30p); Tue. (\$150, 6:30p); Wed. (\$75, 6:30p); Sun. (\$150, noon & \$100, 6:30p); Summer Splash WPT Regional, Aug. 12-22.	Hourly high hands in limit and no-limit (daily); game of the month earns extra rewards (call for details). See ad Page 11.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including a deepstack event on Wed. (\$240, 7:30p). See ad on back page.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud. See ad on back page.
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC (866) 222-7466 • seminolehollywoodcasino.com	Call for information on scheduled single-table tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (Mon.-Thurs.); high hands pay \$300/hour (Mon.-Thurs., 10a-10p); bonus hands (quads or better) win cash prizes (Fri. & Sat., 10a-10p).
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE (866) 222-7466 • theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7:30p); Thurs. NL 0/8 (\$50, 7:30p); Fri. HA (\$60, 7:30p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & DeepStack (\$115, 6:30p); Sun. Crazy Pineapple (\$30, 6:30p).	Progressive hand of the day pays min. \$100 and increases until hit; straight flushes pay \$150; royals pay \$500; \$500 splash pots (Aug. 30, 1p-10p). See ad Page 22.
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550, 1p & 7p); Fri. Bounty (\$100, 7p); Sat. Mega Stack (\$225, 7p). See ad on Page 21 for WPT regional (Aug. 5-17).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500).
TAMPA BAY DOWNS (813) 298-1798 • tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$200); Mon.-Sat. (1p & 7p); Sun. (1p & 4p). See ad on Page 23.	Progressive payouts (quads or better); Mon. pot multiplier (10X, 20X, 40X); \$599/\$299 high hands (Fri.); see ad Page 23 or website for more daily promotions.
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK (813) 932-4313 • luckyscards.com	Daily (\$30-\$80); Sun.-Thurs. (2p & 6:30p); Fri.-Sat. (2p, 7:30p). Sunday Challenge, Aug. 28 (\$115, 1p, 15K chips).	Quads (\$50-\$75), straight flushes (\$150) & royals (\$300) Mon.-Thurs. (4p-11p); \$150/\$50 half-hour high hands Sat.-Sun. (4p-11p); tournament high hands.

ILLINOIS

HARRAH'S JOLIET (815) 740-7480 • harrahsjoliyet.com	Thursdays (\$135, 7p, 4K chips, 20-minute levels); Sundays (\$235, 1p, 5K chips, 20-minute levels).	Mega bad-beat jackpot (quad eights); mini bad-beat jackpot (aces full of kings); get paid for straight and royal flushes.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO AURORA (630) 801-7471 • hollywoodcasinoaurora.com	Wed. (\$160, 1p) 88 players max.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad fives.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO JOLIET (815) 927-2175 • hollywoodcasinojoliet.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad fives).
JUMER'S CASINO 309-756-4600 • jumerscri.com	Sun. (1p); Mon. (11a); Tue. & Wed. (7p); tournaments range in variety from hold'em to dealer's choice (call for details).	Call for promotions.
PAR-A-DICE CASINO (309) 698-6693 • paradicecasino.com	Mon. (\$115, 7p); Sun. (\$115, 11a & \$50, 7p).	No jackpots or promotions.

INDIANA

BLUE CHIP (219) 861-4820 • bluechipcasino.com	Tue. (\$80, noon); Wed. (\$60, 6p); Fri. (\$80, noon); Sun. (\$105, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Fabulous Fridays/Super Saturdays win up to \$500.
CASINO AZTAR (812) 433-4000 • casinoaztar.com	Sunday, July 10 (\$100, 1p).	Aces cracked (Sat. & Sun.); Hot Seat (Wed.).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO LAWRENCEBURG (812) 539-8000 • www.hollywoodindiana.com	Daily (11:15a & 7:15p); Mon. (\$125 & \$80); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80 & \$100); Wed. (\$80 & \$150); Fri. (\$80 & \$125); Sat. (\$100 & \$80); Sun. (\$150 & \$80). State champ. (Aug. 11-20).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; WPT satellite freeroll for top tournament point-earners (call for details).
HORSESHOE HAMMOND (219) 473-7000 • horseshoehammond.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$100, noon); Fri. & Sun. (\$200, noon); last Saturday of the month is a \$500 event; \$250K guarantee, Aug. 27 (\$1,500, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads, decreased if not hit) and pays a minimum of \$100K.
HORSESHOE SOUTHERN INDIANA (812) 969-6000 • horseshoe-indiana.com	Daily (\$50-\$81); Mon. (noon); Tue. (noon, 7p); Wed. (7p); Thurs. (noon); Fri. (midnight); Sat. (noon); Sun. (3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MAJESTIC STAR II (219) 977-7777 • majesticstarcasino.com	Wed. (\$55, 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Fri. (\$55, 11a & \$130, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 1p & \$105, 7p); Sun. (\$55, 11a & 3p & \$60, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; full houses earn entry into weekly drawings on Fri. & Sat. (\$100-\$1K payouts).

IOWA

DIAMOND JO CASINO NORTHWOOD (641) 323-7777 • diamondjo.com	Mon. (\$40, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 3p); Sun. HA (\$45, 3p); first Saturday tournament, Aug. 6 (\$115, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
GRAND FALLS CASINO (712) 777-7777 • grandfallscasinoresort.com	Mon. Omaha/8 (\$30, 11a); Thurs. (\$40, 6p); Sat. (\$60, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads).
HORSESHOE COUNCIL BLUFFS (877) 771-7463 • horseshoecouncilbluffs.com	Mon., Wed., Sat. (\$60, 10a); Tue. (\$60 w/\$60 re-entry, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$70, 7p); Sun. (\$40, 10a & 2p).	High-hand jackpot (quads or better).
ISLE CASINO BETTENDORF (563) 359-7280 • bettendorf.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. KO (\$60, 6:45p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$40, 6:45p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of 10s) and Omaha (quad 10s); call for special poker player hotel rates on high volume weekends.
ISLE CASINO WATERLOO (319) 833-2183 • waterloo.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$45 w/rebuy and add-on, 6:30p); Poker League Sunday (\$50, 6:30p); Sunday League Championship, Sept. 4 (call for details).	High-hand jackpots in hold'em for straight and royal flushes (call for details).
MESKWAKI CASINO (641) 484-2108 • meskwaki.com	Tue. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7p); Wed. KO (\$45, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 7p); Sat. & Sun. (\$30, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush jackpot.
MYSTIQUE GREYHOUND PARK (563) 585-2964 • mystiqueedbq.com	Thursdays (\$40, 6p); Fridays (\$20, 1p); Sundays (\$50, 1p).	Straight flush progressive jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud pays 10 jackpots (call for details).
PRAIRIE MEADOWS CASINO (515) 967-1000 • prairiemeadows.com	Tue. (\$30, noon); Wed. (\$30, 7p); Sun. (\$60, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
RIVERSIDE CASINO (319) 648-1234 • riversidecasinoandresort.com	Mon. Omaha (\$30, 11a); Wed. KO (\$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 6p); Sat. (\$30, 1p); Sun. qualifiers (\$30, 2p); NLHE, Aug. 21 w/\$300 buy-in.	Call for details on player comps.

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

KANSAS

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
NILLA'S (316) 927-2775 • nillasplace.com	Mon., Wed., Fri. (\$20, 7p); Tue. (\$10, 7p); Thurs. H/O (\$20, 7p); Sat. (\$55, 3p & \$40, 7p); Sun. \$2.5K guarantee (\$70, 3p).	Daily drink specials for poker players; ask about charity ring games.
PRAIRIE BAND CASINO (785) 966-7777 • pbpgaming.com	Mon. & Thurs. (\$65 w/rebuy, 7p); Thurs. (\$45, noon); Sun. (\$45, 2:15p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.

LOUISIANA

BELLE OF BATON ROUGE (800) 266-2692 • belleofbatonrouge.com	Saturday (\$100, 10a); Sunday (\$50, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot (quads); aces cracked (Mon. & Wed., 9a-3p); aces cracked happy hour (Mon.-Thurs., 5p-8p); hourly high hand (Tue. & Thurs., 9a-3p).
BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS (800) 366-7711 • boomtownneworleans.com	Tue. freeroll (11a) for 4- or 5-Star Players; Wed. & Thurs. (\$35 w/\$10 add-on, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads) and Omaha; high hands (Mon. & Wed.); Splash the Pot (Tue. & Thurs.); royal flush promo (call for details).
COUSHATTA CASINO (800) 584-7263 • coushattacasinoresort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230); Tue. (\$15, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Sat. (\$220, 2p). See ad on Page 25 for Seven Clans Cup in September.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Big Bonus Hands are progressive.
CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S CASINO (800) 284-4386 • cypressbayou.com	All tournaments are rake-free. Wed. (\$40 w/two \$20 rebuys and add-ons, 6:30p); Sat. Super KO (\$60 w/two \$20 rebuys & add-ons, 3p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); aces cracked pays \$100 (1st & 3rd Thursday, 2nd & 4th Monday).
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT (318) 220-5274 • eldoradoshreveport.com	Sun. (\$150, 11a); Mon. \$2K guarantee (\$130, 11a); Tue. (\$75 w/\$25 or \$50 rebuy & add-on, 6:30p); Sat. (\$125 w/rebuy & add-on, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); aces cracked wins \$100 (Mon. & Thurs.); high hand pays \$100 (Thurs.); royals pay \$250 (24/7)
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS (504) 533-6000 • harrahneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); aces cracked.
HOLLYWOOD BATON ROUGE (225) 709-7777 • hollywoodbr.com	Call for future tournaments. See story Page 26.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of 10s beaten by quads).
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY (800) 895-0711 • horseshoebossiercity.com	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat., Sun. (\$100-\$200 w/optional rebuys & add-ons), including a DeepStack event Thurs. (\$200, 6p, 7.5K chips, 25-minute levels).	High hands (Sun. & Wed.); aces cracked (Mon., Tue., Fri.); Splash Cash (Thurs.). Call for details and times.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES (337) 430-2407 • lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$70, 6:30p); Fri. (\$60, noon & \$90, 6:30p); Sat. (\$115, noon); Sunday KO (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; minor jackpots daily; cash giveaways Mon.-Thurs.
L'AUBERGE DU LAC CASINO (337) 395.7777 • ldlcasino.com	No tournaments at this time. See story Page 26.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; player comps earned on a tier basis (call for details).
PARAGON CASINO (800) 946-1946 x1975 • paragoncasinoresort.com	Mon. KO (\$20 w/\$15 rebuys, 7p); Tue. (\$18, 10:30a); Fridays (\$60 w/one \$50 rebuy, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; get paid (24/7) for quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125); high hands pay \$50 (Wed.).

MICHIGAN

FOUR WINDS (MICH.) (866) 494-6371 • fourwindscasino.com	Mon. (\$30, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$10, 7p); Wed. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$30, 7p); Sat. (\$30, noon & \$50, 7p); Sun. (\$30, noon & 4p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; ask about satellites to play for a seat on the World Poker Tour.
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MINNESOTA

CANTERBURY PARK (952) 445-7223 • canterburypark.com	Mon., Wed., Fri., Sun. (\$45, 10:30a); Tue. & Sun. (\$45, 6:30p); Wed. (\$235, 6:30p); Sat. (\$180, 10:30a); Twin Cities Open (call for schedule).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high hand of the hour (Mon., 9a-mid.); aces cracked (Tue., 10a-6p); Pot of Gold pays \$200 to all players.
GRAND CASINO HINCKLEY (320) 384-7777 • grandcasinomn.com	Mon. (\$25, 5p); Tue. KO (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$70, 6p); Thurs. (\$50, 6p); Fri. (\$70, 8p); Sat. (\$125, 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS (800) 626-5825 • grandcasinomn.com	Daily (\$30-\$160), including a Friday DeepStack (\$160, 6:15p) and Sunday (\$110 with re-entries, 2:15p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royals pay \$1K; aces cracked (Mon.-Fri., 10a-6p).
NORTHERN LIGHTS CASINO (218) 547-2744 • northernlightscasino.com	Mon. KO (\$30, 6:30p); Tue. (\$30, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$60, 6:30p); Sat. (\$50, noon); Sun. (\$40, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; aces cracked (Tue.); high hand (Mon. & Sun.).
RUNNING ACES HARNESS PARK (651) 925-4600 • runningacesharness.com	Mon. freeroll (\$10 optional add-on, 6p); Tue., Thurs., Sun. (\$40, 2p & \$125, 6p); Wed. (\$40, 10:30a); Fri. (\$65, 10:30a); Sat. (\$65, 9:30a); Sat. Series (call for details).	Aces cracked; progressive running aces board pays up to \$1,700 (call for details).
SHOOTING STAR CASINO (218) 935-2711 • starcasino.com	Tue. (\$30 for ladies & \$40 for men, 7p); Fri. & Sat. (\$45, 7p); Sun. KO (\$60, 2p).	Quad bonus (Mon. & Wed.); bonus high hand (Tue. & Thurs.). Call for details.
TREASURE ISLAND RESORT & CASINO (651) 388-6300 • treasureislandcasino.com	Wed. (\$60, 6p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Island Cup Deep Stack events on Mondays (\$70, 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; aces cracked (Thurs., 10a-6p); get paid for quads (\$44), straight flush (\$75) and royals (\$100).

MISSISSIPPI

AMERISTAR VICKSBURG (601) 630-4996 • ameristar.com/vicksburg	Thursdays (\$70, 7p) with one optional add-on.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$150K at press time).
BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO (228) 386-7092 • beaurivage.com	Mon.-Thurs. (6p); Tue. & Thurs.-Sun. (noon); Gulf Coast Poker Championship, Aug. 25-Sept. 5 (\$130-\$3,125, see ad Page 13, story Page 28).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; aces cracked; Omaha/8 promotion; cash drawings; tournament leaderboard. Call for details.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI (228) 436-8999 • boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad-beat jackpot (aces full of kings); mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks); aces cracked pays \$100 (24/7) and \$100/\$200 (Mon.-Thurs., 4p-7p).
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT (662) 357-1136 • goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340). World Poker Open runs until Aug. 8 with \$3,125 championship event (call for complete schedule).	Bad-beat jackpots (call for details); win \$100 every other hour (Mon.-Fri., 3a-10a); get paid to play (25 hours minimum).
HARD ROCK BILOXI (228) 374-7625 • hardrockbiloxi.com	Mon. (\$35, 3p); Thurs. (\$25, 3p); Fri. (\$45, 3p); Sat. (\$50 w/add-on, 3p); Sun. (\$55, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot (aces full of queens beaten by quads); Hard Rock Jackpot Hands; Four of a Kind Blows My Mind.
HARLOW'S CASINO (662) 335-9797 x144 • harlowscasino.com	Tue. (\$65, 7:30p, 6K chips); Saturday satellites (\$35-\$65, 4p); Battle at the Foot of the Bridge (\$65-\$250). Call for tournament and satellite schedule.	Bad-beat jackpot (aces full of 10s beaten by quads); hourly high hands (Wed.); Friday Flat Screen Frenzy (tickets to raffle on first Friday of every month).
HARRAH'S TUNICA (800) 946-4946 x33760 • harrahstunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110), including a Thursday \$1.1K guarantee (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p). Thursdays also feature a \$50 event w/one rebuy (6p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud; progressive royal single-table promotion (call for payouts).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS (866) 758-2591 x4026 • hollywoodcasinobl.com	Monday and Wednesday (\$30 w/rebuys, 6:30p).	High hand wins \$50 (Mon. & Wed.); Early Bird Special and aces cracked (\$100) from Fri.-Sun. (10a-2p); aces cracked progressive (Tue., 10a-10p) pays up to \$500.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA (800) 871-0711 x5005 • hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$40). Mon., Wed., Thurs. (6p); Fri. & Sat. (7p); Sat. & Sun. (2p); Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 w/rebuys and \$20 add-on, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads, must be in \$3-\$6 or higher) and Omaha.
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA (662) 357-5608 • horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$40). Mon., Wed., Thurs. (6p); Fri. & Sat. (7p); Sat. & Sun. (2p); Sunday \$1K guar. (\$10 w/rebuys & \$20 add-on, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads. Flush Frenzy (\$100) if you make a flush in every suit during your session.
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA (888) 946-2847 x8554 • ipbiloxi.com	Daily (\$60, noon), but Thursday events are \$120 (noon).	Poker Squares pay up to \$1K (Sun. & Mon.); aces cracked pays \$100 (Tue. & Thurs., 4p-midnight); high hands pay \$100 hourly (Mon., 8a-4p & Wed., 8a-midnight).
ISLE CASINO HOTEL BILOXI (228) 436-7967 • biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$45, 3p); Tue. (\$60, 2p); Wed. KO (\$40 w/rebuy, 7p); Thurs. (\$45, 2p); Fri. (\$60, 3p); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuy, 3p); Sun. (\$20 w/rebuy, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; high-hand jackpots (call for details); aces full or better special (Sun.-Fri., 11a-11p).
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA (800) 456-0711 • samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$80), including a \$3K guarantee Saturdays (\$20, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); live-action bonus (Sat. & Sun., 7a-11a); high hands; ticket drawings.
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO (866) 775-4773 x3766 • silverslipper-ms.com	Mon. Turbo KO (\$45, 6p); Thurs. KO (\$75, 7p); Sat. Turbo KO (\$45, noon); Sun. PLO (\$65, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; aces cracked wins up to \$300 (Tue., Thurs., Fri., Sat.). Splash the Pot (Mon. & Wed.).
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) (601) 650-1234 • pearlriverresort.com	Daily (\$35-\$60), including a \$2.5K guar. on Saturdays (\$60, 2p). Start times for events are Mon.-Thurs. (7p) & Fri.-Sun. (2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad sevens) and stud (quads); diamond royals pay \$500.

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

MISSOURI

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
AMERISTAR ST. CHARLES (636) 949-7777 • ameristar.com	Mon. & Tue. (\$45 w/rebuys and add-on, 7p); Wed. & Thurs. (\$55, 7p); Fri. (\$75, 7p); Sat. (\$75, 2p); Sun. (\$55, noon).	Progressive high-hand jackpot pays quads, straight flushes and royals.
AMERISTAR KANSAS CITY (816) 414-7000 • ameristar.com	Monday Ladies Only (\$50, 7p); Tue.-Thurs. (\$85, 7p); Fri.-Sun. (\$65, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
HARRAH'S NORTH KANSAS CITY (816) 472-7777 • harrahsnkc.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$50, 1p & 7p); Fri. & Sat. (\$50, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); aces cracked pays \$100.
HARRAH'S ST. LOUIS (314) 770-8100 • harrahsstlouis.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 1p & 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 1p & \$160, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 1p & \$125, 7p); every other Sun. (\$60, noon & 5p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
LUMIERE PLACE (314) 881-7777 • lumiereplace.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$35, noon); Fri. & Sat. (\$55, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; aces cracked (daily).
RIVER CITY CASINO (888) 578-7289 • rivercity.com	Daily (\$35, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; aces cracked (daily).

NEVADA

ALIANTE STATION (702) 692-7484 • aliantecasinohotel.com	Daily (\$30, noon); Mon., Tue., Sun. (\$50, 7p); Wed.-Sat. KO (\$65, 7p).	Multiroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 31.
ARIA (866) 359-7111 • ariallasvegas.com	Twice daily at 1p & 7p (\$125, 8K chips, 30-minute levels).	No jackpots.
ATLANTIS CASINO RENO (800) 723-6500 • atlanticasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, 11a); Mon., Tue. & Thurs. (\$55, 6:30p); Fri. (\$120, 7p); Sat. & Sun. KO (\$75, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads) and pays \$50K; daily high hands; get paid for quads or better; poker-room comp points (call for details).
BALLY'S LAS VEGAS (702) 967-4111 • ballyslasvegas.com	Daily at 11a, 4p and 8p (\$75, 5K chips, 20-minute levels).	High hands pay quads (\$50), straight flush (\$250) and progressive royals (starting at \$1K); Round Table Royals pays up to \$599 to entire table when royal hits.
BELLAGIO (702) 693-7111 • bellagio.com	Daily at 2p (10K chips); Mon. & Wed. (\$225 w/re-entry); Tue. Turbo (\$225 w/rebuys); Thurs. & Sun. (\$225 w/rebuys); Fri. (\$540 w/rebuys); Sat. (\$540 w/re-entry).	No jackpots.
BINIION'S GAMBLING HALL (702) 382-1600 • binions.com	Daily (\$60-\$100) at 10a, 2p, 7p and 10p.	Progressive high hand (daily) pays for quads starting at \$50; straight/royal flush starts paying at \$100.
BOULDER STATION HOTEL & CASINO (702) 432-7777 • boulderstation.com	No tournaments.	Multiroom progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed; high hand (Wed.); aces cracked (Thurs.); \$500 high hand (Sun.).
CAESARS PALACE (702) 731-7110 • caesarspalace.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$65, 9a; \$80, noon; \$65, 3p; \$100, 7p; \$80, 10p); Sat. & Sun. (\$225, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K (24/7); high hands; payouts for quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$500).
CANNERY CASINO (866) 999-4899 • cannerycasinos.com	Nightly (\$25, 7p); \$10K monthly freeroll (play 40 hours to qualify).	Progressive high-hand jackpot; aces cracked (daily).
CIRCUS CIRCUS LAS VEGAS (702) 734-0410 • circuscircus.com	Mon.-Sat. (\$45 w/\$20 add-on, 2p); Sunday freeroll, 2p (play 15 hours to qualify).	High hands; aces cracked pays \$50; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royals (\$200).
COLORADO BELLE HOTEL CASINO (702) 298-4000 • coloradobelle.com	Daily (\$30, 10a); Mon.-Fri. & Sun. (\$50, 7p); Sat. KO (\$100, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha/8 and stud; aces cracked pays \$25-\$100 (24/7); Super Beat pays \$10K guaranteed; quads of the day pays \$100-\$400.
ELDORADO HOTEL CASINO (775) 786-5700 • eldoradoreno.com	Tue.-Thurs. (\$60, 6p, 6K chips, 20-minute levels). Play in any live hold'em game after tournament and get \$20 bonus.	Progressive bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and stud; quads or better is paid daily.
EXCALIBUR HOTEL AND CASINO (702) 597-7777 • excalibur.com	Daily (\$25, 9a; \$40, 1p & 5p; \$30, 8p) w/one rebuy and add-on; \$500 first prize guarantee on Saturday (\$40, 9p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full beaten by quads); spin the wheel pays \$20-\$300 for quads or aces cracked.
FLAMINGO LAS VEGAS (702) 733-3111 • flamingolasvegas.com	Daily (\$65, 10a & 6p).	High hand pays quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royal (\$250); aces cracked pays \$100 (8a-2p); double high hands (daily, 8a-2p).
GOLDEN NUGGET LAUGHLIN (702) 298-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily at 10a, 3p, 7p and 10p (call for buy-ins).	Progressive high hands (call for details).
GOLDEN NUGGET LAS VEGAS (702) 385-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily (\$65) at 11a, 3p, 7p, 10p, 1a, and 4a.	High hand between 2a-2p wins twice the jackpot.
GRAND SIERRA RESORT (775) 789-2000 • grandsierraresort.com	Daily (\$18, 9a & \$55, 11a); Sun.-Fri. (\$55, 6:30p).	Aces cracked pays \$50 (Sun.-Thurs.).
GREEN VALLEY RANCH (702) 617-7777 • greenvalleyranchresort.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. Omaha h/l (\$40, 7p); Tue. & Thurs.-Sun. (\$40 w/rebuys, 6p); Wed. H.O.R.S.E. (\$40, 7p).	Multiroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 31.
HARD ROCK LAS VEGAS (702) 693-5000 • hardrockhotel.com	Daily (\$55, noon & 8p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad aces); progressive high-hand jackpot pays quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
HARRAH'S LAS VEGAS (702) 369-5000 • harrahslasvegas.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. & Wed. (\$60, 6p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80, 6p); Fri. (\$100, 6p); Sun. (\$115, 2p).	High-hands: quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250); aces cracked pays \$100 (daily, 6p-midnight).
HARVEYS LAKE TAHOE (775) 588-6611 • harveystahoe.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80, 6p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sun. (\$115, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; progressive rewards jackpot is quad nines or better; get paid for straight and royal flushes.
IMPERIAL PALACE (800) 634-6441 • imperialpalace.com	Mon.-Fri. at noon, 3p and 8p (\$40); Sat. & Sun. (\$25 w/rebuys, 9a).	Aces cracked; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
LUXOR HOTEL & CASINO (702) 262-4000 • luxor.com	Daily (\$35, 10:30a); (\$60, 12:30p); (\$60, 8:30p).	High hand (24/7) pays quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$500).
M RESORT (702) 797-1000 • themresort.com	Daily (\$55, 10a & 6p), including Wed. KO (\$125, 6p); Thurs. KO (\$125, 10a); Fri. & Sat. (\$75, 6p).	Progressive high hand; mini bad beat is aces full; aces cracked (Thurs.); Splash Pots (Sun.); Ladder of Loot Jackpot (call for details).
MANDALAY BAY (702) 632-7777 • mandalaybay.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 10a; \$50, 3p & 7p); Fri.-Sat. (\$40, 10a; \$50, 1p; \$100, 5p); Sun. (\$50, 11a & 2p; \$100, 5p).	Tiered high-hand bonus (Mon. & Thurs.) pays to flop it (\$500), turn it (\$250) and river it (\$125).
MGM GRAND LAS VEGAS (702) 891-1111 • mgmgrand.com	Daily (\$80) at 11:05a and 7:05p.	No jackpots.
MIRAGE (702) 791-7111 • mirage.com	Daily (\$60, 11a & 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$5K/\$2.5K and \$599 to entire table; aces cracked pays up to \$150 (daily, 8a-1p); high hands; flopped royals pays entire table.
MONTE CARLO RESORT & CASINO (702) 730-7777 • montecarlo.com	Daily (\$50, 9a) & (\$60, 6p & 11p); monthly freerolls.	Progressive high-hand jackpot is quads or better; aces cracked.
MONTEGO BAY CASINO (775) 664-4000 • wendoverfun.com	Mon. (\$30, 8:30p); Thurs. (\$40, 8:30p); Fri.-Sat. (\$30, noon); Sun. (\$40, 8:30p). All tournaments have rebuys.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush jackpot; quads get paid.
THE ORLEANS (702) 365-7111 • orleanscasino.com	Daily (\$75, noon & 7p) except Friday (\$125, 7p). Variations include hold'em, Omaha/8 and H.O.R.S.E.	Tournament player of the month includes top point-earners who will receive their share of a progressive prize pool.
PALACE STATION (702) 367-2453 • palacestation.com	No tournaments.	Multiroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 31; high hand of the hour (Mon.-Fri., 3a-11a).
PALMS CASINO (702) 942-7777 • palms.com	Sun.-Fri. (\$65, 10a); Wed. KO (\$75, 7p); Epic Poker League, Aug. 5-12 (call for details).	Early bird promo pays \$25 every hour between 8a-1p; earn up to \$200 per day by playing live cash games.
PEPPERMILL RESORT CASINO (775) 826-2121 • peppermillreno.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$35-\$115) at 2p & 6:30p; Sat. (\$115, 1p & 6:30p); Sun. (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p & 6:30p). See ad Page 39 for details to Chopped Pot Poker Classic (Aug. 31-Sept. 5).	High hands; get paid for straight flushes and royals.
PLANET HOLLYWOOD (702) 785-5555 • planethollywoodresort.com	Daily (\$70) at 10a, 2p and 7p.	High-hand jackpots; quads pay \$100; straight and royals are progressive starting at \$250.

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NEVADA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
RAINBOW HOTEL & CASINO (775) 664-4000 • wendoverfun.com	Tournaments start at 8:30p; Mon. (\$30 w/rebuys and add-on); Tue. (\$10 w/rebuys and add-on); Fri. (\$50 w/rebuys); Sat. (\$50).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush jackpot; quads get paid.
RED ROCK CASINO (702) 797-7777 • redrocklasvegas.com	Daily (\$100, 10a); Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 6:30p); Thurs. & Sun. KO (\$70, 6:30p); Fri. Omaha/8 (\$60, 5:30p).	Multitroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 31.
RIO CASINO (702) 777-7777 • riolasvegas.com	Daily (\$45, noon), (\$60, 6p) and (\$75, 9p).	Cash drawings pay \$100 (5a, 7a, 9a and 11a); Graveyard Trip Comps (daily, 3a-noon) pays \$3 per hour instead of \$1 per hour.
RIVERSIDE RESORT (702) 298-2535 • riversideresort.com	Daily turbo at 10a, 5p and 11:30p (\$15); Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat. (\$50, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; aces cracked in hold'em and Omaha; high hands pay quads (\$25-\$50), straight flush (\$100), royal (\$300).
RIVIERA HOTEL AND CASINO (800) 634-3420 • rivierahotel.com	See ad on Page 58 for details regarding \$225 satellite on Aug. 4 (11a) for \$4K package to Punta Cana Poker Classic.	Call about special room rates, food comps for hours played and high-hand bonuses.
SAM'S TOWN LAS VEGAS (702) 456-7777 • samstowntlv.com	Daily (\$23, 10a) & daily (\$30 w/rebuy, 1:30p); Fri.-Sat. deepstacks (\$45 w/rebuy, 7p & 11p); Omaha/8 and pineapple events available.	Uncapped progressive high hands; aces cracked pays \$50 (midnight-noon & 4p-9p); bad-beat jackpot (aces full of 10s beaten by quads) pays \$10K.
SANTA FE STATION CASINO (702) 658-4900 • santafestationlasvegas.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$45, 7p); Mon.-Sat. (\$45, noon); Fri.-Sat. (\$45, 6p).	Multitroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 31; tournament bad beat in hold'em.
SOUTH POINT HOTEL CASINO (702) 796-7111 • southpointcasino.com	Daily KO (\$60) at 10a, 2p and 7p (unlimited re-entries during first hour).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot pays \$25K minimum; players earn comps while playing (call for details).
STRATOSPHERE (702) 944-4915 • stratospherehotel.com	Daily at 11a, 7p and 11p (\$45 w/\$20 add-on).	Royal and straight-flush progressive jackpots; progressive high-hand jackpot; get paid for quads, straight flushes and royals.
SUNCOAST HOTEL & CASINO (702) 636-7111 • suncoastcasino.com	Daily at 10a & 7p; Tue., Thur. & Sat. (\$45 w/\$20 add-on, 10a); Wed. & Sun. KO (\$45 w/\$20 bounties, 7p).	High-hand bonus for quads or better; earn comp dollars for playing live games.
SUNSET STATION (702) 547-7982 • sunsetstation.com	Sun.-Sat. (\$43, 2p); Mon.-Thurs. & Sun. (\$43, 7p) w/all tournaments allowing re-entries for the first hour.	Multitroom progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed; tournament bad-beat jackpot is quads over aces full.
TEXAS STATION (702) 631-1000 • texasstation.com	Daily (\$45, 6p, 5K chips, 20-minute levels).	Multitroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 31.
TREASURE ISLAND (702) 894-7111 • treasureisland.com	Daily (\$50) at 11a, 2p, 7p and 10p; weekly \$2.5K freeroll every Sunday (10a).	High-hand jackpot pays straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$599); quad spins win up to \$500.
TROPICANA (702) 739-2222 • tropiclv.com	Daily at 10a, 2p, 8p and midnight (call for schedule); Brad Garrett Celebrity Charity tournament, Sept. 17 (\$500, 1p).	Player comps; cash giveaways (call for more promos).
TROPICANA EXPRESS (702) 298-4200 • tropicanax.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$30, 6:30p); Sat. (\$30, 2p).	High hands pay quads, straight flushes and royals; aces cracked.
VENETIAN RESORT (702) 414-1000 • venetian.com	Daily (\$120-\$340) at noon & 7p.	No jackpots.
WYNN LAS VEGAS (702) 770-7000 • wynnlasvegas.com	Daily (\$120, 7p); Sun.-Fri. (\$150, noon); Sat. (\$340, noon).	No jackpots.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE LODGE AT BELMONT (877) 872-2501 • thelodgeatbelmont.com	Daily (\$5-\$50). Times vary by day (1p, 4p, 4:30p, 5p, 7p). Big-stack events on Saturdays (\$50, 7p, 15K chips).	Call for jackpots.
MANCHEVEGAS POKER (603) 668-6591	Daily (\$5 w/rebuys-\$60); Mon.-Fri. (5:30p & 8p); Sat. & Sun. (noon, 4p & 8p).	No jackpots.
POKER ROOM AT HAMPTON FALLS (603) 601-2486 • thepokerroomnh.com	Daily (\$80-\$150) at 11a (Sat.), 1p (Fri.-Sun.), 3:30p, 4p (Sat.-Sun.), 5:30p, 7:30p and 9p).	High hands pay \$50 (Fri.-Sun.); royals pay \$100 (Mon.-Thurs.); aces cracked pays \$25 (Mon.-Thurs.). See website for details.
RIVER CARD ROOM (603) 249-5548 • riverpokerroom.com	Daily (\$5-\$60). Times vary by day. Many of the tournaments have optional rebuys and add-ons. See website for complete schedule.	Mini-Monster (Wed. & Fri.); River 4,000 (call for details).
ROCKINGHAM PARK (603) 898-2311 • rockinghampark.com	Daily (\$50-150). Start times vary from 2p-9p (see website for schedule).	Call for future jackpots and promotions.
SEABROOK GREYHOUND PARK (603) 474-3065 • seabrookgreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$30-\$200); tournaments times vary (see website for complete schedule); Sat. deepstack (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$140, 1:30p).	Call for future jackpots and promotions.

NEW JERSEY

BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-2000 • ballysac.com	Daily (\$55-\$120); Mon.-Thurs. & Sat. (1p & 7p); Fri. (1p & 8p); Sun. (1p & 6p); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multitroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
BORGATA HOTEL CASINO (609) 317-1000 • theborgata.com	Daily (\$100-\$340); Mon.-Thurs. (11a & 7p), Wed. (11p), Fri. (noon, 6p & 11p), Sat. (11a & 6p) and Sun. (11a & 3p); Borgata Poker Open, Sept. 7-22 w/\$3M guar. WPT.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad 10s, \$312K at press time); mini bad beat in hold'em (quad deuces-nines).
CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY (609) 348-4411 • caesarsac.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$120, 1:15p & 9:15p); Fri. (\$120, 1:15p & \$200, 9:15p); Sat. (\$200, 1:15p & 9:15p); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multitroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 441-5000 • harrahsresort.com	Daily at 10:15a, 1:15p, 8:15p and midnight (\$70-\$125); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multitroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
SHOWBOAT ATLANTIC CITY (609) 343-4000 • showboatcasino.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$65, 11a, 2p, 7p); Fri. (\$65, 11a, 2p); Sat. (\$100, 11a, 2p, 7p); nightly (\$50, 11p); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multitroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-4000 • tropicana.net	Daily (\$62, 11:15a & 7:15p), including a Fri. (\$122, 7:15p) and Sat. (\$122, 11:15a & 7:15p); midnight tournaments run Sun.-Thurs. (\$42) & Fri.-Sat. (\$62).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); tourney bad beat; "3-8" special jackpot (call for details); tournament bad-beat jackpot (quads over aces full of kings).
TRUMP TAJ MAHAL CASINO RESORT (609) 449-1000 • playtajpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$230 at 12:15p, 4:15p, 7:15p, & midnight), including two deepstacks on Saturdays (\$230, 7:15p) & (\$120, 4:15p & midnight).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); high hands are entered into drawings to win \$1K; 50-50 club (call for details).

NEW YORK

SENECA NIAGARA (877) 873-6322 • senecaniagaracasino.com	Daily (\$35-\$190). Mon.-Thurs. (10a & 7p); Fri. (10a & 8p); Sat. (11a); Sun. (10a, 6p).	Progressive bad beat jackpot in hold'em (quad deuces), Omaha (quad nines) and stud (quad sevens); Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
SENECA SALAMANCA (877) 860-5130 • senecagames.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 11a & 7p); Thurs. (\$90, 6p); Sat. & Sun. (\$60, noon).	Progressive bad beat jackpot in hold'em (quad deuces), Omaha (quad nines) and stud (quad sevens); Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
TURNING STONE RESORT (800) 386-5366 • turningstone.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$60-\$100) at noon & 7p; Fri. (\$70, 2p & \$90, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 11a & \$125, 7p); Sun. (\$125, 11a & \$70, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot is in hold'em (quad deuces); royals pay \$100.

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (N.C.) (828) 497-7777 • harrahscherokee.com	Tue. (\$60, 6p); Sat. (\$120, 10a); Sun. (\$120, 2p).	Call for information.
SUNCRUZ (S.C.) (843) 280-2933 • suncruzaquasino.com	Tue. (\$220, 7p); daily freerolls (call for schedule).	Bad-beat (aces full of jacks beaten by quads); get paid for quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200).

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OKLAHOMA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
BORDERTOWN CASINO (800) 957-2435 • bordertownbingo.com	Daily at 2p and 7p; Mon. (\$20); Tue., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. (\$30); Thurs. (\$30/\$45); monthly DeepStack event, Aug. 13 (\$100 w/\$50 add-on, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
CHEROKEE CASINO ROLAND (800) 256-2338 • cherokeecasino.com	Mon. (\$50, 7p); Wed.-Sun. (\$30 w/rebuys, 1p); Wed. \$2K guar. (\$60, 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 7p); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuys, 5p); Sun. (\$60, 5p).	High hands; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
CHEROKEE WEST SILOAM SPRINGS (918) 422-5100 • cherokeecasino.com	Daily (\$30-\$70) at 10a & 7p with exceptions on Sat. (\$115, noon) and Sun. (\$60, 2p). Blast to the Past, Aug. 22-28 (Call for details and schedule).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K.
CHOCTAW RESORT CASINO (580) 920-0160 • choctawcasinos.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$60-\$115) at 2p & 7p; Sat. (\$225, noon); TJ Cloutier Choctaw Poker Challenge coming in September (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads.
DOWNSTREAM CASINO RESORT (918) 919-6000 • downstreamcasino.com	Daily (\$25-\$60); Mon.-Sun. (11a); Mon.-Thurs. (7p); Fri. (2p); Sat.-Sun. (3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
FIRELAKE GRAND CASINO (405) 964-7263 • firelakegrand.com	Mon. (\$30, 11a & \$30 w/rebuys, 7p); Tue.-Wed. (\$15, 11a & \$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$30, 11a & \$70, 6p); Sat. (\$120, 2p). MDA event (Aug. 13, 10a).	Aces cracked (Mon.-Thurs.); high hand (Wed.).
FIRST COUNCIL CASINO (580) 448-3015 • myfirstwin.com	Tue. \$1K guar. (\$25 w/\$20 rebuys, 7p); Wed. \$1K guar. (\$40, 7p); Thurs. \$1.5K guar. (\$65, 7p); Sat. \$1.2K guar. (\$55, 3p); Sun. (\$70, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; splash pots pay \$100; high-hand bonuses.
HARD ROCK TULSA (918) 384-7800 • hardrockcasinotulsa.com	Daily; ask about future satellites to major events.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K.
LUCKY STAR CONCHO (405) 262-7612 • luckystarcasino.org	Daily (\$20, 10a); satellites running for the Shooting Star Classic (call for details).	Call for promotions.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR BARTLESVILLE (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarelm.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30 w/\$10 rebuys and add-on, 2p); Sat.-Sun. KO (\$30, 1p); \$5K quarterly freeroll tournament (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR SAND SPRINGS (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarelm.com	Daily (\$30, 3p & 9:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR TULSA (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarelm.com	Daily, \$40, except Saturday KO (\$60, noon); Mon.-Fri. (noon); Tue.-Thurs. (7:30p); Monday PLO (7:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
RIVER SPIRIT CASINO (918) 299-8518 • creeknationcasino.com	Sun.-Fri. (\$50, 9:30a); Mon. (\$40 w/rebuys and add-on, 7p); Tue. (\$50, 6p); Wed. (\$60, 7p); Thurs. & Sun. KO (\$70, 7p); Sat. KO (\$70, 9:30a).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); Omaha bad-beat jackpot pays \$5K; progressive tournament bad-beat jackpot.
RIVERWIND CASINO (405) 322-6000 • riverwindcasino.com	Daily (\$40-\$100) at 11a; Sun.-Thurs. (7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
WINSTAR WORLD CASINO (580) 276-4229 • winstarcasinos.com	Mon. (\$115, 7p); Tue. (\$100, 7p); Wed. (\$60, 1p); Thurs. KO (\$115, 1p); Fri. (\$220, 11a); River Poker Series runs through Sept. 5 (call for schedule).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of kings).

PENNSYLVANIA

HARRAH'S CHESTER (800) 480-8020 • harrahschester.com	Daily (\$60-\$195). Starting times are Mon.-Fri. (10:30a & 6:30p) and Sat.-Sun. (11:30a & 6:30p).	Bad beat in hold'em (call for details).
HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL (717) 469-2211 • hcpcn.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$85, noon); Wed. & Thurs. (\$125, 7p).	Call for future jackpots.
MEADOWS CASINO (724) 503-1200 • meadowsgaming.com	Daily (\$40-\$225); Mon.-Sat. (10:30a & 7:30p) including Fri. (4p), Sat. (3p) and Sun. (1p and 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MOHEGAN SUN/POCONO DOWNS (570) 831-2100 • mohegansunpocono.com	Daily (\$60); Mon.-Fri. (noon & 7p), Sat.-Sun. (10a & 7p); Tue. KO (\$120, 7p).	High-hand promotion (call for details).
MOUNT AIRY CASINO (570) 243-5184 • mtairycasino.com	Fridays (\$100, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of kings.
PARX CASINO (215) 639-9000 • parxcasino.com	Tue. (\$120, 7p); Sat. (\$230, 2p); \$500K Parx Open Classic featuring Mike Matusow, Michael and Robert Mizrachi, Aug. 10-24. See story Page 14.	Call for details.
RIVERS CASINO (412) 231-7777 • theriverscasino.com	Daily (\$65-\$555). Sun.-Fri. (noon & 7p); Sat. (noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of jacks).
SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM (877) SANDS-77 • sandsbethworks.com	Tournaments coming soon.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads).

WEST VIRGINIA

HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN (800) 795-7001 • ctowntables.com	Tuesday (\$150, 11a); Wednesday (\$250, 7p).	None.
MARDI GRAS CASINO AT TRI-STATE (800) 224-9683 • tristateracetrack.com	Daily (\$45-\$150); Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p), Wed. (7p), Thurs. (1p & 7p), 3rd Fri of month (7p), and Sun. (2p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud.
MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM (304) 387-8458 • mountaineerpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$225) at 12:15p & 7:30p except on Wednesdays (10:30a) and Sundays (2p).	Bad beat is aces full of kings; high hands pay \$100 (call for details).
WHEELING ISLAND CASINO (304) 232-5050 • wheelingisland.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 7p); Fri. Turbo (\$50, 7p); Sat. KO (\$75, 7p); Sun. KO (\$50, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; quads or straight flush lets you spin the wheel; Early Bird Special (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday).

WISCONSIN

POTAWATOMI BINGO CASINO (414) 645-6888 • paysbig.com	Mon. KO (\$100, 6p); Sun. (\$100, 2p).	None.
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Q&A

WITH HOLLYWOOD DAVE STANN

Never heard of Hollywood Dave Stann? Well, to blackjack players he's a god.

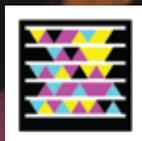
Known for his flamboyant hair and combative attitude at the table, Stann recently transformed into a student of poker (after getting tired of being thrown out of casinos) and has had some big scores in the past year. *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza was happy to see Stann sit next to him on a break at the WSOP, and they chatted about his struggles as a banned blackjack player, being Annie Duke's pupil and how Black Friday wrecked his world.

You gained prominence as a world-class blackjack player, but then you became a poker player. Why? I can't really play blackjack anymore. I'm friends with *Annie Duke*, and at the time we were doing the Ultimate Blackjack Tour, so I decided I would trade blackjack and poker lessons with her. She went on to win a decent amount in blackjack, but I more than made up for that. I made a ton more in poker so I got the better end of that deal for sure (laughs). ... You know you can't play blackjack anymore when you go to a continent that you've never been to and you check into a hotel you've never been at and they're meeting you in the lobby and telling you that you can't play.

What's the best piece of poker advice Annie ever gave you? You respect certain things like position and the math, which doesn't necessarily mean you can't still be a complete maniac. It's pure theory. So she might have given me her theory but she didn't give me her playbook in terms of how she might play certain hands. So I guess if there's one piece of advice I got from her that I incorporated into my own game it's to never lose sight of the fundamentals, but within that you can make your game as wide or as tight as you want it to be.

You've been succeeding in mixed games as well, such as winning a H.O.S.E. title. What's your favorite game? Razz baby! (laughs) I always say, and people think I'm joking, I always say, "Heads-up razz for rolls. Let's play heads-up until one of us has it all." (laughs) I played a lot, especially on UB, for the past few years, and for whatever reason, even though I was playing a lot of no-limit hold'em tournaments, when it came to cash games, I don't know, I just didn't like, "Let's get it all-in online; let's see what happens; let's flip for our stack."

I like having this slow-control edge over time with the limit mixed game. I just slipped into playing with two or three razz regulars there, not the best players, and for a couple of years I must've played like three or four tables a day heads-up for just hundreds of thousands of hands of razz. And there are so many multilevels of weird bluffs



Scan this to hear the whole interview.



Hollywood Dave at the WSOP.

and semibluffs and things that people don't even realize. ... People tend to think of it as this boring game. ... But because people haven't really delved into it there's such a sick edge you can get over time in that game that makes you almost unbeatable. I just wish it was more popular.

Greatest poker moment? I think it's hard to point to one moment. ... I've min-cashed in a lot of big tournaments that, going into that min-cash I was a monster favorite and got two-outed on the river. ... and while I feel like that's really frustrating, I also feel that, what a life, that a turn of one card can determine so much. And as much as I've done well and could be doing better at a turn of a different card, we live a career where we constantly over and over again put ourselves in a position where the turn of a single card means so much. And so many other people never get that chance. ... that's something I have to keep reminding myself as positive, even if I'm still searching for that elusive seven-figure cash. (laughs)

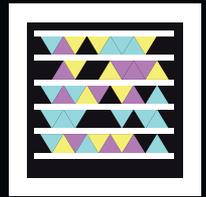
How did the online shutdown affect you? It really affected me. Aside from having my (UB.net) contract ripped up because I'm an American player, I was also working behind the scenes with UB to develop their tournament blackjack platform, which they had for years but were doing nothing with.

About eight or nine months before Black Friday they finally said, "All right, Dave, transform this; remake this." We were two weeks away from relaunching, in my opinion, the coolest (site); weekly, monthly, guarantees, huge events, satellites into monster events, tons of promotion.

The press releases were written, the website content was all rewritten and ready to be refreshed at the push of a button. We were that close and all the affiliates were all lined up. So for me it was like nine months of serious behind-the-scenes work and I have nothing to show for it. ♠

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Thursdays 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15 + \$25 Bounty • 3PM • \$40 + \$10 Turbo
7:30PM • \$100 + \$20
Fridays 12:30PM \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry
Saturdays 10AM • \$85 + \$15 Re-Entry
Sundays 12:30PM • \$100 + \$20

Deep Stack Multi-Table No Limit Hold'em

Wednesdays 8/3, 8/17 & 8/31 12:30PM
8/10 & 8/24 7:30PM • \$200 + \$40
Fridays 8/5 & 8/19 7:30PM • \$355 + \$45
8/12 & 8/26 7:30PM • \$500 + \$50



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