

YOUR POKER MAGAZINE™

ANTE UP



CALIFORNIA
HUSTLER STAYS COOL

FLORIDA
WPT HITS HARD ROCK TAMPA

LOUISIANA
2011: A MONUMENTAL YEAR

MISSISSIPPI
WSOPC AT THE IP

MISSOURI
ROAD TRIP!

NEVADA
MIRAGE'S CHRIS COFFIN

WISCONSIN
NEW COLUMN DEBUTS



Daniel Santoro

The New Yorker defeats an epic field — and final table — at the Foxwoods World Poker Finals

ON THE BUTTON

Amanda Leatherman

STRATEGY

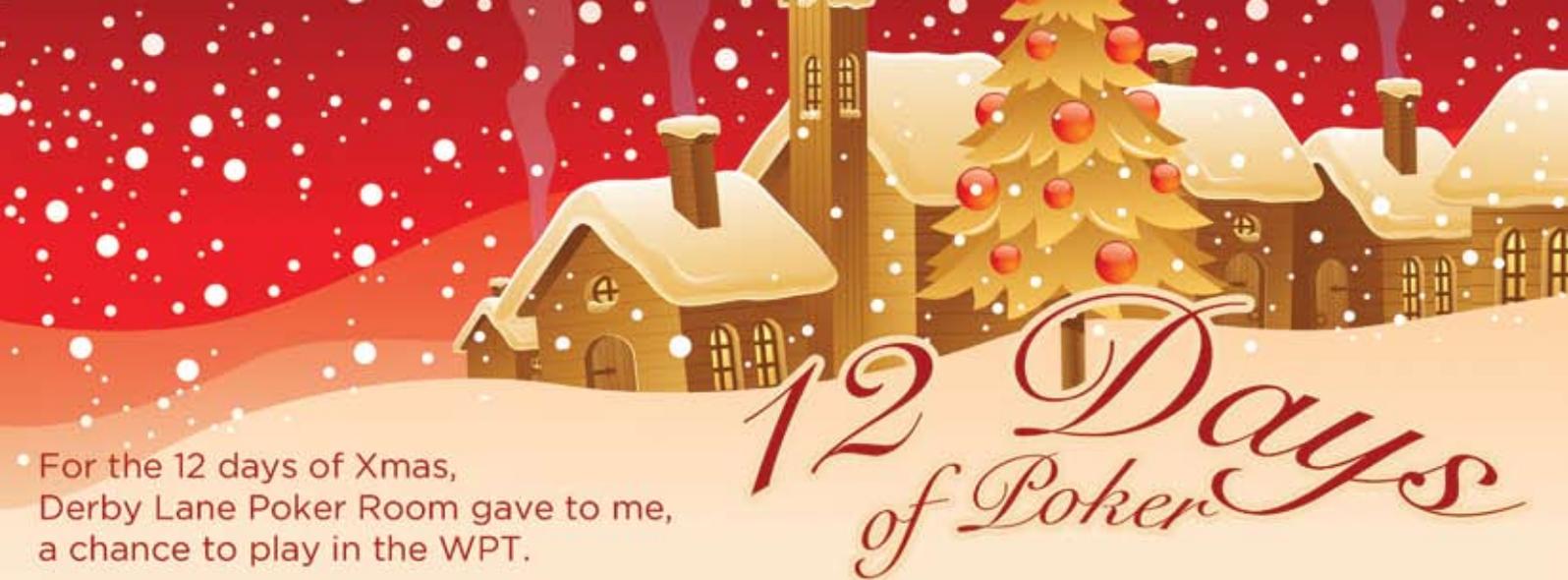
Childs, Little, Navarro

POKER DREAM

A trek across America

ANTE UP CRUISES

Our 2012 schedule



For the 12 days of Xmas,
Derby Lane Poker Room gave to me,
a chance to play in the WPT.

12 Days of Poker

<i>Day 1</i>	Dec 9, 2011	Friday	12:00 PM 7:30 PM		Mega Satellite w/room promos Mega Satellite w/room promos	\$160+\$15 \$160+\$15	8K Stack 8K Stack
<i>Day 2</i>	Dec 10, 2011	Saturday	12:00 PM	Event 1	Warm-up to the Main Event* \$50K Guarantee , *same blind structure and chips	\$600+\$65	30K Stack
<i>Day 3</i>	Dec 11, 2011	Sunday	12:00 PM 12:00 PM	Event 2 Event 1	NLHE Warm-up to the Main Event Resumes	\$220+\$25	15K Stack
<i>Day 4</i>	Dec 12, 2011	Monday	7:30 PM	Event 3	NLHE 6 Handed	\$150+\$20	17K Stack
<i>Day 5</i>	Dec 13, 2011	Tuesday	12:00 PM 7:30 PM	Event 4 Event 5	NLHE/PLO PLO	\$330+\$35 \$330+\$35	20K Stack 20K Stack
<i>Day 6</i>	Dec 14, 2011	Wednesday	12:00 PM 7:30 PM	Event 6 Event 7	Seniors Event 50 years and above NLHE (shorter stack)	\$180+\$20 \$500+\$50	15K Stack 10K Stack
<i>Day 7</i>	Dec 15, 2011	Thursday	12:00 PM	Event 8	Limit Hold'em	\$150+\$20	8K Stack
<i>Day 8</i>	Dec 16, 2011	Friday	12:00 PM	Event 9 Day 1A	 12 Days of Poker - WPT Regional All entries are eligible to win a Fiat 500!	\$1200+\$100	30K Stack
<i>Day 9</i>	Dec 17, 2011	Saturday	12:00 PM 12:00 PM	Event 9 Day 1B	 12 Days of Poker - WPT Regional All entries are eligible to win a Fiat 500!	\$1200+\$100	30K Stack
<i>Day 10</i>	Dec 18, 2011	Sunday	12:00 PM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM	Event 10 Fiat Giveaway! Event 9	NLHE Player Appreciation Must be present to win. **  Day 2 - 12 Days of Poker/WPT Regional Restart	\$500+\$20	20K Stack
<i>Day 11</i>	Dec 19, 2011	Monday	7:30 PM	Event 11	Ladies Event	\$220+\$25	15K Stack
<i>Day 12</i>	Dec 20, 2011	Tuesday	12:00 PM 7:30 PM	Event 12 Event 12	NLHE Daily Double Turbo NLHE Daily Double Turbo	\$180+\$20 \$180+\$20	10K Stack 10K Stack

Each entry into Event 9, the WPT Regional Event, gets an entry ticket...

Events 1 & 9 \$20 Dealer add-on for 5K
All other events \$10 Dealer add-on for 5K
No Dealer add-on for Event 12

Management reserves the right to cancel
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Derby Lane
poker
room

Players will have 5 minutes, once their name is announced, to claim their prize at the front podium. The player announced will forfeit the prize if not claimed within 5 minutes and the process to draw for a new designated box and winner will begin.

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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

A LOOK BACK AT 2011

As we near the end of the year, it always seems natural to reflect on the past 12 months. We especially like that this period of reflection comes just after Thanksgiving, because despite whatever troubles we've endured over the year, there's always more of which for us to be thankful. Here's a look back at 2011:

MORE POKER ON LAND ...: We saw poker rooms open in Louisiana, Colorado, Florida, New Jersey and elsewhere, proving demand for poker is anything but waning. And new games were dealt in Atlantic City, Florida and beyond, introducing players to alternatives to no-limit hold'em.

... AND LESS POKER ONLINE: Black Friday and Black Monday turned the poker world upside down and we learned which online companies had players' best interests at heart and which did not.

BIG TOURNAMENTS GET BIGGER ...: A rejuvenated World Poker Tour introduced its regional events, bringing the WPT experience to thousands of more players, while the World Series of Poker Circuit events continued to shatter attendance records.

... AND TOURNAMENT RULES GET STRONGER: The Tournament Directors Association held its once-every-two-years summit and refined the rules that ensure we get a fair deal when we enter a tournament anywhere TDA rules are used.

HEROES WERE HONORED ...: Barry Greenstein and Linda Johnson were inducted into the Poker Hall of Fame, while Margie Heintz, Phyllis Caro and Kristy Gazes were added to the Women in Poker Hall of Fame. Worthy recognition for five who deserve it.

... AND POKER ROOMS WERE HEROIC: Floods devastated towns all along the Mississippi River, a hurricane threatened the Eastern Seaboard and a tornado devastated Joplin, Mo. In every case, poker rooms and their employees stepped in to help those who needed help the most.

ANTE UP EXPANDS ...: Your favorite poker magazine is available coast to coast, anteupmagazine.com has added new features and our cruises have explored new destinations.

... AND WE'RE NOT DONE YET: No two people are as excited for 2012 as we are. We enjoy working hard to inform, engage and entertain players wherever they play. We'll see you at the tables in 2012.

— Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

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THE POKER ROOM IS HEATING UP TURN UP THE AC/DC



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SANTORO WINS FOXWOODS WORLD POKER FINALS

Action at the Foxwoods World Poker Finals started on Oct. 10 with a \$600 no-limit hold'em deepstack tournament and progressed to the \$10,000 World Poker Tour Main Event with final-table play unfolding Nov. 1. The final six were whittled down from 189 starting participants.

Several returning champions and poker notables entered the fray, including **Hoyt Corkins, Jonathan Little, Kathy Liebert, Eric Seidel, Tony Dunst** and **Andy Frankenberger**, who was 2010 WPT Player of the Year. Frankenberger made it to the final table and finished fifth. The other five finalists included **Steve Brackesy, Daniel Santoro, Christian Harder, Bob Carbone** and **Eli Berg**.



KAY FITZPATRICK

Santoro emerged the winner after three hours of heads-up play with Harder, who went all-in with pocket 10s against Santoro holding Big Slick. A king on the river made Santoro the victor, and he took home a top prize of \$449,910 along with the championship trophy. Harder won \$248,962.

Ante Up talked with **Jeffrey Toth**, tournament director for the Foxwoods, about the challenges involved in staging such an event.

"Logistics are the biggest challenge," Toth said. "Everything from planning the space, the dealer scheduling, hotel room availability; it all begins six months before the event actually takes place."

All 25 events went smoothly. Foxwoods works closely with the WPT production crew that records the action for broadcast, which will air in the spring.

"The WPT production crew knows what they're doing," Toth said. "We just go along with whatever they want for the best coverage."

This year's event featured lived play-by-play action at WPT's website. Toth noted there are always some controversies at the tables during events with substantial prize money.

"There are bound to be some tense situations that arise where I have to make a decision about disputed play," he said. "Some people just have to hear a ruling three times before they finally get it."

One question that came up was the rule about a player being compelled to bet when holding the nuts of the river.

"Soft play is not tolerated," Toth said. "People expect a high level of play and sharp competition at these types of events."

In addition to the Foxwoods World Poker Finals next fall, there are several other major tournaments scheduled at the country's largest casino. The Foxwoods Poker Classic takes place in the spring with two weeks of poker action that includes satellite tables, \$300 events and culminates in the \$3,500 main event. Foxwoods will run five Mega Stack events throughout the year (February, May, June, August and December).

When asked about practical tips for tournament directors organizing big events, Toth had a quick reply: "Hire good people to take care of everything. I rely on several key people to attend to all the details, no matter how small. It's what makes the experience so enjoyable for our players."

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

CONNECTICUT



Daniel Santoro studies his opponent during heads-up play.

WPT World Poker Finals, Oct. 10-Nov. 1

- Event 1 - \$600 NLHE**
Entries: 518 - Prize Pool: \$266,305
 Alfred Borges, Taunton, MA, \$37,543
- Event 2 - \$400 Stud**
Entries: 112 - Prize Pool: \$38,022
 Michael Mann, Westerly, RI, \$7,586
 Eugene Sumter, West Haven, CT, \$7,586
- Event 3 - \$400 NLHE**
Entries: 461 - Prize Pool: \$156,510
 Arndre Martin, Pawling, NY, \$27,500
- Event 4 - \$300 Bounty**
Entries: 418 - Prize Pool: \$84,519
 Robert Jandreau, Meriden, CT, \$19,862
- Event 5 - \$400 Limit**
Entries: 82 - Prize Pool: \$27,839
 Thomas Sin, Lansdowne, PA, \$9,048
- Event 6 - \$400 NLHE**
Entries: 379 - Prize Pool: \$128,670
 Brian O'Donoghue, Bayside, NY, \$30,624
- Event 7 - \$500 Bounty**
Entries: 289 - Prize Pool: \$94,445
 Brok-Alan Griffith, Wilton, NH, \$18,600
- Event 8 - \$400 Omaha/8**
Entries: 141 - Prize Pool: \$47,869
 Matthew Nowicki, Adams, MA, \$8,205
- Event 9 - \$600 NLHE**
Entries: 499 - Prize Pool: \$256,535
 Ryan Methia, New Bedford, MA, \$60,081
- Event 10 - \$500 Seniors**
Entries: 277 - Prize Pool: \$118,223
 Ted Spencer, Warwick, RI, \$18,601
 Anthony Vlahos, Boxford, MA, \$18,601
- Event 11 - \$300 NLHE**
Entries: 470 - Prize Pool: \$118,533
 Jason Laramee, Mattapoisett, MA, \$27,761
- Event 12 - \$400 PLO**
Entries: 90 - Prize Pool: \$30,555
 Christopher Morse, Danbury, CT, \$5,000
- Event 13 - \$400 NLHE**
Entries: 349 - Prize Pool: \$118,485
 Joseph Lee, Yonkers, NY, \$28,259
- Event 14 - \$300 Bounty**
Entries: 431 - Prize Pool: \$87,148
 Paul Pedretti, Mineola, NY, \$10,521
- Event 15 - \$400 Stud/8**
Entries: 101 - Prize Pool: \$34,288
 Jack D'Agostino, N. Providence, RI, \$9,772
- Event 16 - \$400 NLHE**
Entries: 406 - Prize Pool: \$137,837
 Adam Ross, Bronx, NY, \$19,570
- Event 17 - \$500 Bounty**
Entries: 281 - Prize Pool: \$91,830
 Robert Brown, Milford, NH, \$22,040
- Event 18 - \$400 H.O.S.E.**
Entries: 107 - Prize Pool: \$36,326
 Jermaine Reid, Bronx, NY, \$5,227
- Event 19 - \$300 Ladies**
Entries: 241 - Prize Pool: \$60,780
 Judith Bass, Baton Rouge, LA, \$9,096
- Event 20 - \$1,500 NLHE**
Entries: 239 - Prize Pool: \$318,766
 Anthony Hill, Egg Harbor City, NJ, \$76,823
- Event 21 - \$1K NLHE**
Entries: 203 - Prize Pool: \$179,189
 Aaron Smith, New Bedford, MA, \$43,185
- Event 22 - \$500 NLHE**
Entries: 310 - Prize Pool: \$132,308
 Rob Alessandro, S. Walpole, MA, \$21,436
- Event 23 - \$230 Bounty**
Entries: 431 - Prize Pool: \$87,148
 Marc Pages, Salem, MA, \$7,606
- Event 24 - \$2,500 NLHE**
Entries: 106 - Prize Pool: \$239,056
 Justin Schwartz, Milford, CT, \$68,131
- \$10K Main Event**
Entries: 189 - Prize Pool: \$1,778,300
 Daniel Santoro, N. Bellmore, NY, \$449,910
- Event 26 - \$5K NLHE**
Entries: 22 - Prize Pool: \$101,365
 Jonathan Jaffe, W. Springfield, MA, \$50,683
- Event 27 - \$3K NLHE**
Entries: 44 - Prize Pool: \$119,504
 Alexander Queen, Bethlehem, PA, \$34,261
- Event 28 - \$1K NLHE**
Entries: 78 - Prize Pool: \$68,850
 Michael Frazin, Deerfield, IL, \$14,000

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Seniors Event Sun. Jan. 8th at 4PM, **Ladies Event** Sun. Jan. 15th at 4PM.

\$200 + \$30 Mega Satellites with \$100 re-entry for Championship Event every day at 5PM, January 6 - 19.
\$175 + \$25 No-Limit Hold'em nightly events at 7PM, January 6 - 23. Registration begins at 5PM on January 6.
Registration is open from 8AM - 9PM daily.

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*Limited room availability. The rate for Sunday, January 15 is \$99 due to the holiday weekend. Five hours play per day with your M life Players Club card is required to qualify for your special hotel rate. All room bookings subject to \$7.49 resort fee. Schedule pending gaming approval. The Mississippi Gaming Commission reserves the right to investigate any and all complaints and disputes regarding tournaments, promotions and drawings. Such disputes and complaints will be resolved in accordance with the Mississippi Gaming Control Act and Mississippi Gaming Commission Regulations. Management reserves the right to cancel, change or modify the tournament, promotion or drawing with prior written approval from the Mississippi Gaming Commission. ©2011 MGM Resorts International.™ When you need to win, you need to quit. Gambling problem? Call 1.888.777.9696.





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MONEYMAKER STARS AT PRESQUE ISLE

It looks like **Chris Moneymaker**, the 2003 World Series of Poker Main Event champion, will be the resident celebrity for Presque Isle Downs' new poker room.



MIKE OWENS

He'll be seen regularly in Erie, as his contract with the casino calls for him to visit at least every other month.

"It's not a one-off deal," said Moneymaker, who lives in Memphis and recently signed on to represent

Blue Shark Optics as well.

"I'll be back to do some seminars, play cash games and maybe some one-on-one games. I'm looking forward to this. It's relaxing for me, and I get to meet people."

Moneymaker became a huge name in poker when he won the world title and its \$2.5 million top prize. The popularity of the televised event made him a household name and helped create the poker boom.

"I traveled before the crackdown (Black Friday), but I also played a lot of online poker," the 35-year-old Moneymaker said during a meet-and-greet before the grand opening



Chris Moneymaker at Presque.

\$25K SNG w/Moneymaker

1. Jeff Galkowski, Pleasantville, Pa., \$10K
2. Jeff Wells, Union City, Pa., \$5K
3. Jasmin Omanovic, Erie, Pa., \$3K
4. Dana Mays, Erie, Pa., \$1K
5. Wendy Prez, Poland, Ohio, \$1K
6. Michael Salem, Ohio, \$1K
7. Eric Thompson, North East, Pa., \$1K
8. Chris Moneymaker, \$1K
9. Brian Bott, Poland, Ohio, \$1K
10. Donald McKieman, Erie, Pa., \$1K

tournament being played in his honor. "Now I have the time to do a lot of things."

When asked about the new poker room,

Moneymaker said, "The room has a Vegas-type of feel. It's better than Vegas because you can walk around. The Vegas casinos put their poker tables so close together,"

Poker room manager **Christine Stacy** and her staff did an excellent job with the event. The feel to the room is truly amazing and you can tell everyone is excited about the new room.

Said **Fred Buro**, the casino's president and general manager: "We're seeing players from all over the tri-state area and from as far away as Mississippi, Las Vegas and Atlantic City. The crackdowns have enticed poker players to come out of their homes and back to the poker parlors."

The poker room is open 24 hours and can expand to 12 tables if needed. The \$25K main event single-table tournament lasted close to five hours.

Jeffrey Galkowski, a Pleasantville, Pa., native, took down first prize. **Jasmin Omanovic** of Erie knocked out Moneymaker in eighth place when Moneymaker's A-K lost all-in to Omanovic's A-A.

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

Who are the Eastern Pa. players to watch in 2012?

By **Mark Hoke**

As Eastern Pennsylvania begins to emerge as a powerhouse in the poker community, it's no surprise area players are making their mark in the poker world.

Jamie Kerstetter and **Jennifer Shahade** of Philadelphia joined well-known online players **Katie Stone** and **Katie Dozier** to form the Grindettes. Kerstetter had three cashes at the World Series, including 590th place in the main event. Kerstetter is a regular at Parx and Borgata events. Shahade, a two-time U.S. Women's chess champion and grandmaster, cashed back-to-back in the WSOP women's event.

- Another rising star is **Jesse Cohen** from Ardmore, Pa. Since his first major cash at the 2009 WSOP, Cohen has had 29 major cashes, including his first win at the Isle Open in Pompano Beach, Fla., in October. Cohen tacked on five cashes at the WSOP and, returning to his home turf, added three cashes at the Borgata Open. Cohen has enjoyed success at Venetian DeepStacks events with four top 10 finishes.

Amanda Musumeci of Philadelphia went from being an online sensation to taking the live world by storm. Musumeci had four cashes at the WSOP, including 62nd in the main event. She was the next-to-last woman to be eliminated. Look for the former Kutztown University student to make a huge splash in 2012.

Online players are quite familiar with West Chester native **Paul**

Volpe, a.k.a. as paulgees81. Volpe, a winner of the 2011 PokerStars Sunday Million, was ranked No. 2 in the online world before Black Friday. He cashed a whopping six times at the WSOP, including 12th in Event 54 and 192nd in the main event. Volpe recently left for Canada to continue his online career, but no doubt he'll continue to be heard from live and on the virtual felt.

Matt Glantz of Lafayette Hill, Pa., continues his meteoric rise in the poker world. Glantz, with more than \$4 million in tournament winnings (six WSOP final tables and 20 cashes), has become one of the most feared cash-game players in the world. He organizes what has become the biggest high-roller mixed game on the East Coast at the Borgata and has been hitting it big on the major tournament circuit. Glantz was one of the most consistent finishers in the first two Epic Poker League events (14th and 12th), then followed up with two 12th-place finishes at the WPT Championship at the Borgata Open and World Poker Finals at Foxwoods. He also won the Borgata Deep Stack Double Play Main Event this year and was named by PokerBlog.com as one of the top 20 cash-game players of all-time.

With more poker rooms opening in the area next year who knows who else might emerge as a player to watch in 2012?

— **Mark Hoke is the Ante Up Ambassador for Eastern Pennsylvania. Email him at hokeshouse@aol.com.**

Interested in Pennsylvania-W.V. tournaments and promotions? Turn to our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine.

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HUSTLER CASINO KEEPING ITS TOURNEYS ORIGINAL

This month I had the pleasure of chatting with **Craig Kaufman**, the tournament director at Hustler Casino in Gardena, Calif. Though he's relatively new to Hustler, he's a Los Angeles casino veteran with decades of experience, even trying his hand at horse-handicapping tournaments.



DAVE PALM

Kaufman and his five-person team appreciate there being plenty of choices for players in Los Angeles. They make every effort to provide a great tournament experience at a reasonable buy-in level. Hustler also hosts nightly guaranteed tournaments Sunday through Thursday with buy-ins around \$125 (some with rebuys).

The poker room recently concluded its **Liz Flynt Fall Classic**, which consisted of 10 events, all with buy-ins of no more than \$300. It boasted total guarantees of more than \$700,000. The \$300 final event guaranteed a \$250,000 prize pool (the final prize pool was almost \$270K) and first place was \$75,000, which **Derek Gregory** won.

Along with new-and-improved structures, there were some other unique features to this series. There was a Turbo Twist, which had a turbo structure until the final two tables when the levels went to 40 minutes. A couple of the events featured "conditional rebuys." This allowed one rebuy, but only when a player's chipstack was below a certain point. For the largest guarantees, the top-three chipleaders each Day 1 were paid.

Next up for the Hustler was the **Larry Flynt Holiday Poker Classic**, which began Nov. 26 and again had reasonable buy-ins up to \$200. The unique event of this series is Event 8, the \$10,000 guarantee Top Heavy no-limit tournament on Dec. 8. This is a \$150 buy-in with one \$100 rebuy. The big twist is regardless of the number of entrants only the top four places pay; 50 percent to first, 25 percent to second, 15 percent to third and 10 percent to fourth. To keep informed on Hustler's happenings follow the casino on Twitter at **@HustlerCasinoLA** and for tournament info be sure to check our Where to Play pages.

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

Liz Flynt's Fall Poker Classic, Hustler Casino

Event 1 • \$150 NLHE

Entries: 82 • Pool: \$20,215

1. Massoud Eskandari, \$7,300
2. Stuart Kinzey, \$3,800
3. Robert Pigg, \$2,450
4. Colleen Pagatpatan, \$1,900
5. Joseph Weinberger, \$1,500
6. Phuoc Nguyen, \$1,200
7. Congzeng Wu, \$950
8. Babak Katuzian, \$700
9. Larry Vance, \$415

Event 2 • \$200 re-entry

Entries: 1,448 • Pool: \$231K

1. Johnny Ngo, \$53,000
2. Anas Benohod, \$27,500
3. Thai Tran, \$17,000
4. Andrei Suciu, \$12,000
5. Brian Manalang, \$9,500
6. Edwin Pairavi, \$7,000
7. Galit Malkin, \$5,500
8. Juan Citores, \$3,625
9. Nika Xentaras, \$2,600
10. Lek Bunyaananta, \$2,023

Event 3 • \$125 NLHE

Entries: 63 • Pool: \$6,300

1. Ahmad Hooshmand, \$2,250
2. Marc Lebowitz, \$1,250
3. Bruce Buffer, \$950
4. Taylor Kasch, \$750
5. Haiiau Han, \$525
6. Rob Neuman, \$375
7. Jerry Wiley, \$200

Event 4 • \$165 bounty

Entries: 99 • Pool: \$20,647

1. John Apikian, \$5,200
2. Maria Schwartz, \$3,050

3. James Kim, \$2,050
4. Mike Christiansen, \$1,400
5. Ross Gruber, \$1,000
6. Stacey Euans, \$800
7. Mark Jun, \$700
8. Haiiau Han, \$600
9. Chris Gorden, \$500
10. Shahen Martirosian, \$397

Event 5 \$150 Turbo

Entries: 81 • Pool: \$20K

1. Leonard Kramer, \$7,500
2. Jeffrey Lee, \$4,000
3. Valeri Breiman, \$2,500
4. Bret Gross, \$1,600
5. Nicholas Stiles, \$1,250
6. Souren Chanian, \$1,000
7. Robert Glass, \$750
8. Ken Sacló, \$500
9. Danny Dang, \$300

Event 6 • \$250 NLHE

Entries: 323 • Pool: \$100K

1. Danny Geyser, \$30,900
2. Ervin Villagran, \$16,175
3. Yuriy Kocherga, \$9,675
4. Chan Vu, \$7,125
5. Robert Durant, \$5,150
6. Jason Gross, \$4,430
7. Daniel Strauss, \$3,450
8. Craig Schauer, \$2,500
9. Henrik Antanesian, \$2,075
10. Walter Alexander, \$1,500

Event 7 • \$125 NLHE

Entries: 63 • Pool: \$6,300

1. Anthony West, \$2,250
2. Alex Hartzler, \$1,250
3. Derek Chapin, \$950

4. Michael Werdle, \$750
5. William Vo, \$525
6. Carlo Poledrelli, \$375
7. Robert Glass, \$200

Event 8 \$150 NLHE

Entries: 535 • Pool: \$100K

1. Ilce Pandeleski, \$30,000
2. Stuart Pfeifer, \$15,000
3. Yaacov Haviv, \$7,300
4. Neil Ho, \$5,700
5. Nathan Tsuchiya, \$4,600
6. Osmin Dardon, \$3,500
7. Cesar Romero, \$2,500
8. Andy Taylor, \$2,000
9. Kenneth Brown, \$1,650
10. Hector Marquez, \$1,350

Event 9 • \$100 NLHE

Entries: 34 • Pool: \$7,850

1. Mans Montgomery, \$3,000
2. Aazam Yashari, \$1,800
3. Chris Ught, \$1,200
4. Dmitri Williams, \$900
5. James Henesy, \$650
6. Chong Allen, \$300

\$300 Main Event

Entries: 1,048 • Pool: \$269K

1. Derek Gregory, \$75,000
2. Jorge Walker, \$32,000
3. Patrick Sullivan, \$20,000
4. David Pham, \$15,500
5. Brian Yoon, \$12,500
6. Joseph Choueiri, \$10,000
7. Jason Yeo, \$7,900
8. Ricky Markowitz, \$6,490
9. Sarah Tolagson, \$5,000
10. Johnny Ngo, \$2,500

It's time to break out the holiday promotions

The holidays are approaching and the casinos are getting in the spirit. Here are a few of the promotions local Inland Empire and Palm Springs casinos are offering:



KITTIE ALEMAN

SPOTLIGHT 29 CASINO: On Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. there will be a \$10K guarantee holiday freeroll. Players are eligible after 50 hours of live play. Tracking for the tournament began the week after Thanksgiving. Players will receive 20,000 chips with 20-minute levels. The blind levels will start at 100-200.

AQUA CALIENTE CASINO, 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS:

From Dec. 19-30 the room will give away a total of \$38,400. For seated players at a live poker game, every two hours there will be a drawing for a random table and random seat. There will be eight drawings per day.

MORONGO CASINO, STUFF YOUR STOCKINGS: Beginning Dec. 1, players can accumulate tickets, which are awarded for any full house in hold'em, and jacks full or better in Omaha. Drawings run Dec. 18-25, 2 p.m.-2 a.m. daily. There will be 13 drawings for \$200 each. Players are eligible to win more than once.

PALA CASINO: Players can win a share of more than \$73K in guaranteed cash this month through a series of eight no-limit hold'em holiday tournaments, a \$12K Holiday Envelope promotion and the popular \$15K Chase for the Dough. The eight holiday tournaments will offer \$46K guaranteed. Call for specific dates and events.

PECHANGA: The poker room is giving away \$25K in holiday cash on Dec. 16-17. See ad on next page for full details.

Check the Where to Play pages for more holiday promotions.
— **Kittie Aleman** is Ante Up's Southern California Ambassador. Email her at anteupkittie@gmail.com.

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GARDEN CITY'S TRUE VISIONARY: ERIC SWALLOW

I recently sat with **Eric Swallow**, owner of Garden City Casino in San Jose, to talk about his innovative approach to the gaming industry. With no cardroom experience, he was approached by the Lunardi family in 2004 for consultation about buying Garden City, which had been in bankruptcy for five years over a lease dispute. Three years later, **Swallow** and the Lunardis were co-owners of the club. As Swallow analyzed the business aspect of California poker rooms, he found there wasn't enough structure. Not familiar with the standard tipping practices that could often be used to get prime game assignments, he was discouraged at the negative effect the practice had on most patrons. He felt cardrooms didn't do their best to serve the customer.



BRET MILLER

He drew on his business and financial background to become a project manager for computer software packages he helped develop for clients such as Mercedes-Benz. Why not a program for casinos?

So he developed the "Profitable Casino" software program, which does, well, everything. It handles human resources from payroll to labor-law compliance. It tracks dealer performance and has a foolproof accounting function to count drop boxes.

My first question: "How can a computer program improve customer service?" He said the portion that tracks dealer actions creates a more positive experience for the customers in that it rewards the higher performing dealers with favorable rotations in the popular games.

How does it determine performance? By swiping their dealer card in and out at each table, the system tracks the dealer's punctuality and keeps accounting of how many hands per table the dealer produces. If there's a "break" in the action at any table (e.g. misdeal, unruly customer), a supervisor swipes his/her card at that table to mark how long the action is down. At the end of the shift, the dealer is required to note what happened. Repeated infractions can result in disciplinary action. Each dealer is required to be "certified" to deal each particular game. As a new dealer, one might only be certified to handle

the smaller-limit hold'em games until they have a chance to become comfortable with the game and develop enough confidence and skill to be certified in other games. If a dealer does not perform well in certain games, they are given the opportunity for additional training and management support with the ultimate goal of being certified in all games the club offers. With the dealer working more efficiently and in control of games, the players have a consistently better perception of the game.

Other changes Swallow instituted: eliminate proposition players, install an electronic waiting-list board; eliminate tipping pools, and make tipping between employees optional. While there was push-back on each change, he stuck to his principles and found each change led to a better gaming experience for the customers and more profit for the club.



When I asked him about the traditional tipping by dealers for chip runners and floor staff, he said he encouraged them to tip based on the level of service they received. How is this working out? According to Swallow, employee performance and customer satisfaction has improved dramatically by using the system. Each individual is held accountable for doing their job, with the results clearly documented. The tired argument of "we've been doing it this way for 40 years" runs out of steam when you can see objective data showing otherwise.

With his revolutionary software, sharp business acumen and finely tuned staff, where is Swallow heading with all of this? In the spring, Garden City will move to a new location and operate under a new name: Casino Matrix. I had a chance to look at the architectural plans, finishes and features for the new club and can guarantee it will make a huge splash in San Jose with the gaming and non-gaming community. While I promised not to divulge too much information, I will say the state-of-the-art sports bar will host more than 120 LED TVs. Look for a feature spread, complete with photographs, of the Casino Matrix in a few months in *Ante Up*, as Eric promised me a special preview of the club before the grand opening.

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



ATLANTIC CITY

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

Two more poker rooms to join A.C. fray in 2012

By **Cris Belkewitch**

The poker landscape in Atlantic City hasn't seen a drastic change in a while. Some rooms have moved, expanded or contracted, but there hasn't been a new kid on the block since the Borgata opened in 2003. That's all about to change as two poker rooms are set to open within months of one another.

The Golden Nugget recently bought the Trump Marina and renovations have been under way to give the casino a big makeover, including a new poker room. With Goliath, (a.k.a. Borgata) right next door, the Golden Nugget is starting things on the low-key end with a 20-table room that will spread low-limit hold'em and other games upon request. Daily tournament schedules are yet to be put together but the Golden Nugget is expected to be another destination where tournament grinders can get their fix.

Not a day goes by here when a player doesn't mention the Golden Nugget. The room was slated to open around press time for this issue,

and should be a good draw for the casino as it continues some interior construction.

Speaking of construction, the Revel is still in the process of being erected next to the Trump Taj Mahal. While most of the outer structure looks like it's nearing completion, there's still a lot of work to be done before its projected May 2012 opening. Speculation and word of mouth is running rampant as to what the poker room at the Revel will be like and the consensus is it will rival the Borgata.

Atlantic City poker is closing out the year with a bang with two big tournament series. The Borgata's Fall Poker Open (with a \$1 million main event guarantee) wrapped up just as we were going to press. This month Harrah's hosts its World Series of Poker Circuit stop (Dec. 1-12) with 12 chances at a coveted WSOPC ring.

With new poker rooms and new tournaments, the poker landscape in Atlantic City is changing for the better.

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

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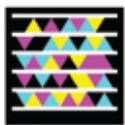
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CENTRAL FLORIDA

WPT HITS HARD ROCK TAMPA THIS MONTH

Central Florida players have been waiting an eternity for their chance to play for a World Poker Tour title in their back yard, and that time has arrived. Seminole Hard Rock in Tampa will host the WPT Winter Poker Open regional series, which will run Dec. 2-11. This is the WPT's first visit to Tampa since its inception in 2002.

The series includes seven tournaments with buy-ins ranging from \$200 to \$2,250.

This series is an exciting opportunity for Central Florida players to show off their skills and take home one of the poker community's most coveted titles.

"We are very excited to be hosting the first WPT regional series on the west coast of Florida and anticipate a sellout for all seven events," poker room manager **Henry Funke** said. "A full field in our championship event (700 players) will generate a prize pool of \$1.4 million."

Hard Rock Tampa always has been a hot spot for cash games, and management has done a fine job adapting to tournaments.

"The No. 1 poker room in Central Florida for live-action poker now is the No. 1 room for the best tournament action," Funke said. "The full schedule and event details for our WPT Winter Poker Open can be found on our website (seminolehardrocktampa.com). Tickets for all seven events are on sale at the poker-room cage and you must buy your ticket in person."

The WPT Winter Poker Open will be one of the most talked about events in the area and is sure to bring some necessary attention to the local poker scene.

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



GARRETT ROTH



WPT at Hard Rock Tampa

Dec. 2: \$25K guar. re-entry (\$200, 11 a.m.)

Dec. 3-4: \$75K guar. deepstack (\$750, 11 a.m.)

Dec. 5: \$10K guar. deepstack turbo (\$200, 11 a.m.)

Dec. 6: \$10K guar. Omaha/8 (\$200, 11 a.m.)

Dec. 7: \$20K guar. six-max (\$440, 11 a.m.)

Dec. 8: \$25K guar. re-entry (\$200, 11 a.m.)

Dec. 9-11: \$250K guar. main event (\$2,250, 11 a.m.)

Meet Matt O'Donnell

When it comes to any job or profession, passion drives success. Poker is no exception; just take a look at cash-game pro **Matt O'Donnell**, who will tell you his love for the game is why he has achieved so much in his poker career.

O'Donnell, who lives in Tampa, Fla., has been playing poker since his first year of college at Indiana State. *Ante Up's* **Garrett Roth** chatted with O'Donnell about what it takes to be a top-tier player and what he loves most about grinding high-stakes cash games.

How did you get involved in playing poker as a full-time job? I put \$50 online and told myself that if I lose, I would never play again. I never ended up losing it, so throughout college I used poker to pay my tuition and rent. I was majoring in math, so that helped my chances, but to be honest I didn't take poker seriously until about a year ago when the stakes were raised in Florida. This year, I have been fortunate enough to run really good.

What do you attribute your instant success to and what steps have you taken to become such a profitable cash-game player? Win or lose, I legitimately love playing poker. Enjoying the game really makes a



difference because I always want more and I never lose interest. I've put a lot of work into my game and have done well. I avoid being cocky because I know there's always room for improvement. I'd say almost every aspect of success comes from experience. Naturally, I'm good with math, but I hardly ever use it when I'm playing. I play by feel, which is something I've picked up from playing so much.

Why do you enjoy cash games over tournament poker? I definitely enjoy cash games more because of the atmosphere. I like playing with people I know and being able to relax a little more and have fun. In tournaments, I'm often sitting with people I don't know and I'm taking it more seriously. Straddling in cash games for large amounts is something I love to do, for example, but can't do it in a tournament even though I still try. (laughs) Deep tournament runs are very exciting, but I'll always prefer the camaraderie you can find in cash games.

Though O'Donnell is primarily a cash-game grinder, he's had some success on the tournament circuit, making the final table at the Florida State Poker Championship at Isle Casino in Pompano Park for more than \$40,000.

Matt O'Donnell is the perfect example of how hard work and success can correlate with passion and love for the game. ♠

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PROMOTIONS JUSTIFY LITVIN'S PROMOTION

David Litvin, the new director of poker at Mardi Gras Casino's Big Easy Poker Room in Hallandale, has been a casual friend of mine for more than 20 years. But it was only recently I realized when this man gets involved in a business, he throws himself into it with incredible passion, learning all aspects of the industry and becoming a master of most. We got our starts in the jai-alai industry, sharing many similar titles and duties, though at different facilities and times. Litvin was a public-address announcer, worked in the publicity and mutuels departments, and even became one of jai-alai's top amateur players, earning a spot at the 1990 Pan-American Games in Cuba, representing the United States.



BIG DAVE LEMMON

In 1994, with jai-alai in serious decline, Litvin looked to the future and transitioned into the poker world. While the poker boom was still nearly a decade away, the move was not exactly visionary, as the parimutuels were working hard at that time to persuade the state legislature to allow them to open cardrooms.

Still, it got him in on the ground floor. He started as a dealer on a cruise ship that departed daily out of Martha's in Ft. Lauderdale, and through a series of fortunate events, quickly got an opportunity to run the room just six months later. He spent another decade working on the cruise ships in various positions with numerous duties, following his usual pattern of becoming familiar with every aspect of the business. He would later open a poker dealer school in South Florida, but left that behind in 2009 when he took a dealing position at Mardi Gras. Talk about life coming full circle.

And to many people it would seem like a step backward. But Litvin knew what he was doing; it's no secret most dealers do well financially because of the gratuities from thankful players. It gave him the chance to relearn the experiences of employees he would later manage.

"I'm glad I (returned to dealing) ... I've always felt it is best to hit all the steps along the way," he said. "Dealing day-in and day-out to essentially the same players let me see and feel what our dealers consistently experience, and that has made me a better manager."

During this "relearning" period, Litvin made several trips around the country to deal at major events, including the WSOP Circuit and the WPT, picking up more knowledge and expertise. Litvin became shift manger at the Big Easy in 2010, and then was promoted to director this past August.

With these promotions in his past, he has turned his immediate attention to some unique poker promotions, always asking himself the simple question: "How do I get people in here to play?"

The successful Thursday night freeroll was a start, and a freeroll strictly for college students was next, with the first of a series of three events played in early October attracting about 30 players.

"It's an experiment, and we're promoting it using mainly social media," he said. "If it continues to grow, we'll extend it beyond that."

The Big Easy room, on the north end of the building, also has numerous high-hand giveaways, including the latest incarnation: the Win, Place and Show High Hand Derby.

"Since we are a dog track, instead of just one high hand for a certain period of time like most places award, we have three each hour; a first, second and third place awarding \$300, \$200 and \$100. The guests love it because it adds drama to each hour. For example if someone hits a straight flush to the queen in the first five minutes, you can feel the air come out of the room. But with this setup, a marginal hand can take the top spot early, and if it's beaten, the first player can still hope to hold on to second or third."

He's a playwright, too?

All of this would be a great story by itself, but while getting to know an old friend a little better, I discovered Litvin has written a play about life on the poker tour. Titled *All In - A Poker Musical*, Litvin spent nearly a year writing the funny and satirical love story for the stage, enlisting

the help of Big Easy regular and music composer **Vini Poncia** to pen the tunes. Poncia's claim to fame was co-writing **Leo Sayer's** 1976 hit single *You Make Me Feel Like Dancing*, and after reading Litvin's scribbled notes and first draft, he realized it was a developing project with amazing potential. He feels if this project never gets past its current status he has accomplished something special.

Of course, the quality of the songs will be the ultimate key to becoming an actual production, and having heard none of the music, I cannot offer a complete evaluation. However,

with plenty of inside jokes for poker enthusiasts, I'm hoping the poker world eventually gets to enjoy the Litvin-Poncia project.

Meanwhile, Litvin will continue to concentrate on what he does best of all: run a fair and entertaining poker room for the players of South Florida. Stop in and say hello at the Big Easy, try to win a high hand (or place, or show), and maybe Litvin will sing one of his show tunes for you.

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



David Litvin runs the Big Easy Poker Room at Mardi Gras.

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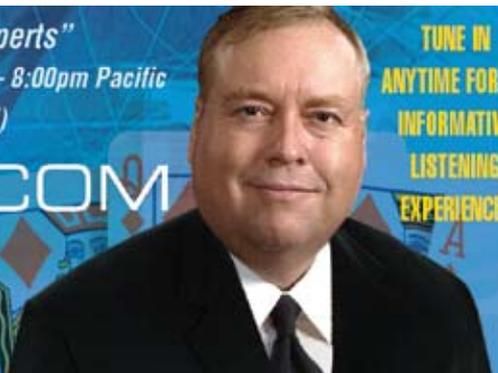
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Isle Open, Isle Casino, Pompano Park, Fla., Oct. 8-31

Kevin Deng of Coral Springs bested more than 230 players in the \$2,200 main event for the title and \$100K. Other notables included Ebony Kenney capturing Event 4 for nearly \$25K and Corey Burbick of Davie earning another live title, this time the six-max no-limit hold'em event for \$27K.



Event 1 • \$550 NLHE
Entries: 193 • Prize Pool: \$96,500

1. Scott Wyler, Ocean Ridge, \$13,900
2. Saul Casdin, Delray Beach, \$10,900
3. Lou Ojeda, Miami, \$9,900
4. Scott Freund, Miami, \$9,900
5. Richard Vargas, Pembroke Pines, \$9,500
6. Larry Berg, Las Vegas, \$9,500
7. Gregory Tutko, Davie, \$6,574
8. Mike Tait, Plantation, \$2,171
9. Zach Goodman, Boca Raton, \$1,785



Event 4 • \$330 NLHE
Entries: 1,173 • Prize Pool: \$351,900

1. Ebony Kenney, N. Miami Beach, \$24,990
2. Matthew King, Miami, \$23,845
3. Kevin Peart, Miami, \$23,791
4. Madhani Farhan, Miramar, \$22,400
5. Scott Zakheim, Davie, \$21,320
6. Peter Han, Boca Raton, \$20,627
7. Atanael Thomas, Ft. Lauderdale, \$20,042
8. James White, Ormond Beach, FL, \$18,108
9. Michael Dweck, Boca Raton, FL, \$16,490



Event 6 • \$330 NLHE
Entries: 172 • Prize Pool: \$51,600

1. Yesniel Pulido, Pembroke Pines, \$10,000
2. Saul Gold, Deerfield Beach, \$10,000
3. Steve Steinmetz, N. Miami Beach, \$7,000
4. Robert Hodson, Jupiter, \$6,800
5. James Laderia, Ft. Lauderdale, \$2,940
6. Tim Morgan, Pompano Beach, \$2,322
7. Mike Orecchio, Lighthouse Pt., \$1,754
8. Mark Kerness, Delray Beach, \$1,238.00
9. Kevin Spires, West Palm Beach, \$1,187.00



Event 2 • \$1,600 Bounty
Entries: 125 • Prize Pool: \$125,000

1. Jesse Cohen, Ardmore, PA, \$37,498
2. Jeffrey Cohen, Parkland, \$24,138
3. Theo Tran, Las Vegas, \$16,875
4. Paula Alibrandi, Miramar, \$10,625
5. Alexander Turyansky, Austria, \$6,875
6. Iliia Lekach, Golden Beach, \$4,875
7. Corey Burbick, Davie, \$3,875
8. Abbey Daniels, Coral Springs, \$3,250
9. Brian Lindsay, Coral Springs, \$2,750



Event 5 • \$1,100 Heads-Up PLO
Entries: 23 • Prize Pool: \$93,000

1. Stewart Newman, Weston, \$9,800
2. Adam Templeman, Seffner, \$8,800
3. Rajeev Nasta, Coral Springs, \$2,200
4. Matt Humphrey, Avon, IN, \$2,200



Event 7 • \$550 NLHE
Entries: 160 • Prize Pool: \$80K

1. Abraham Foroni, Penn Valley, PA, \$24,640
2. Romel Nicolas, Miami, \$14,160
3. Theo Tran, Las Vegas, \$9,360
4. Phillip Arena, Parkland, \$6,240
5. Nissim Vaknin, Davie, \$4,800
6. Frank Argano, Miami Beach, \$3,680
7. Peter Han, Boca Raton, \$2,720
8. Jesse Cohen, Ardmore, PA, \$1,920
9. Russell Crane, Howell, NJ, \$1,840



Event 3 • \$330 NLHE
Entries: 162 • Prize Pool: \$50,100

1. Dom Spadavecchia, Boca Raton, \$11,655
2. Jacob Shindler, Hollywood, \$9,000
3. Frank Argano, Miami Beach, \$5,511
4. Abraham Faroni, Penn Valley, \$3,908
5. Julian Conde, Sunrise, \$2,756
6. Maurice Hawkins, Coral Springs, \$2,104
7. Mike Orecchio, LightHouse Pt., \$1,503
8. Steven Bristow, Palm Beach, \$1,127.00
9. Jennifer Friedman, Hollywood, \$927.00



\$2,200 Main Event
Entries: 232 • Prize Pool: \$464K

1. Kevin Deng, Coral Springs, \$100,000
2. Joshua Hillcock, Palm City, \$96,736
3. David Paredes, NY, \$51,040
4. Joshua Smith, Pompano Beach, \$36,192
5. Mark Kaholokula, Arcadia, \$25,520
6. Micah Smith, Jupiter, \$19,488
7. Robert Lebeau, St. Petersburg, \$15,080
8. Donald Lehn, Plantation, \$12,760
9. Maurice Hawkins, Coral Springs, \$10,904



Event 8 • \$1,100 6-Max
Entries: 89 • Prize Pool: \$89K

1. Corey Burbick, Davie, \$27,000
2. John Dolan, Bonita Springs, \$20,971
3. Ronit Chamani, South Africa, \$11,570
4. Jesse Chinni, Ellicott City, MD, \$8,455
5. Abbey Daniels, Coral Springs, \$6,319
6. Walid Maddah, Palm Harbor, \$4,895
7. Aaron Schaff, E. Brunswick, N.J., \$3,916
8. Eric Wallberg, Boca Raton, \$3,204
9. Ebony Kenney, N. Miami Beach, \$2,670

TAMPA BAY DOWNS



Mike Raimon

The Silks Poker Room's fifth annual Halloween Tournament, which began on Oct. 28 and featured two Day 1s, had an impressive 505 players enter in the \$250 event, won by **Mike Raimon**.

Raimon bested the field for a \$25K payday, earning all of the 12.6 million chips in play.

Here are the final-table results:

1. Mike Raimon, \$25,000
2. Dave Tiffenberg, \$14,757
3. Eric Kappel, \$9,513
4. Danny Dominguez, \$7,388
5. Barry Jacobs, \$5,716
6. Van Yvow, \$3,966
7. Ed Vanlandingham, \$3,189
8. Anthony Pellagrini, \$2,611
9. Rene Knuttel, \$2,296

DANIA JAI-ALAI



Floor supervisor Chris Maxfield, left, presents the trophy to Dalia Bavli.

Dalia Bavli of Hollywood took home the coveted "Suck for Luck" trophy on Oct. 26 for the **Dan LeBatard** Celebrity tournament. The top three players received \$1,082 and the next seven each got \$600 in a chop.

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MUCH GOING ON IN SOUTH FLORIDA MARKET

By Dave Lemmon

With much of the discussion in South Florida's growing gambling scene centering on the possible influx of destination casinos, which would bring full table games to the region, the effect on the poker rooms of Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties over the next couple of years could be immense and intense. In the interim, however, poker managers in South Florida must keep their focus on the business at hand with the busy tourist season getting under way.

Here's a quick update on some major developments taking place in South Florida:

SEMINOLE COCONUT CREEK: The Hard Rock's younger sibling on Sample Road and 441 is finishing up a massive expansion that will more than double the gaming area. Three restaurants are being added inside while a seven-level parking garage will accommodate 2,400 vehicles.

The Stax Poker Lounge, on the second floor, opened Oct. 31 with a bright, modern configuration and 21 new tables, all sporting Stax and WPT logos. At 3 p.m. in the middle of a monsoon rainstorm on opening day, 10 tables were in action, matching the total number of tables in the previous room.

Players who frequented the establishment often likened the action in the old room to "playing in a closet." It is a super upgrade with eight more tables still to come, reportedly featuring a "high roller" glass-enclosed room with a customized poker table suitable for a televised event.

MIAMI JAI-ALAI: Construction on the Casino at Miami Jai-Alai continues to progress quickly with a target opening date still on track for around Christmas. The Crystal Card Room, which will be along the northern wall of the new casino, will feature 22 poker tables and four dominoes tables. Cardroom manager **Joe Rodriguez** is interviewing job

applicants to fill his staff of dealers and floor personnel.

GULFSTREAM PARK: With live racing starting again this month, poker manager **Scott Poole** is excited about the prospects of increased business for his room, which is in the back portion of the track's first-floor casino.

Live action at the "Winter Capital of Racing," which attracts the top horses, trainers and jockeys to the facility in Hallandale, usually begins after the first of the year. However, this year the season opens on Dec. 3 with a slew of top-notch stakes races and several improvements for racing fans. Poole sees a substantial increase in poker room business each year when racing season gets under way.

"Over the past three years, January poker revenue has been steadily growing as we moved from December into January and began live racing," Poole said. "In 2009 we saw a 14.2 percent increase with live racing; in 2010 that number grew to 18.5 percent, and in 2011 the number swelled to 22.9 percent."

With a December opening for the first time in decades and numerous South Florida visitors here for the holidays, Poole hopes poker revenue this season will eclipse the tremendous level of 2011, when the poker room grossed an all-time best of more than \$2 million.

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB: The folks at PBKC are introducing a new tournament series this month, the inaugural Palm Beach Christmas Classic, which runs Dec. 8-18. It will feature 17 events, not including satellites, and has \$500K in guarantees. The series will be staffed by famed WSOP tournament director **Jimmy Sommerfeld**.

Some highlights from the series include a Jack-N-Jill event to kick off the schedule (Dec. 8, \$120), a \$200K guarantee on Dec. 9 (\$550) and the \$300K guarantee championship event (\$1,080, Dec. 16 is Day 1A, Dec. 17 is Day 1B). ♠



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TRYBA CAPTURES WPT MAIN EVENT AT ISLE

You couldn't say the odds exactly favored the first World Poker Tour regional event at the Isle in Black Hawk.

The October tournament was a first-time event. The poker room right down the street, the Golden Gates, is known as a big tournament room and hosted its most recent Heartland Poker Tournament event within weeks of the Isle's big tourney. It wasn't helped by an online disinformation campaign in September, replete with someone impersonating Isle poker manager **Matthew Dodd** and falsely claiming the WPT had pulled the plug.



RICK GERSHMAN

Heck, even the Las Vegas pro who ended up winning the main event (as part of a three-way chop) hadn't even heard of the tournament a few weeks before the satellites cranked up, despite being in Colorado at the time.

"Yeah, I was in Colorado and I didn't even know about it," said **Chris Tryba**, 43, who eventually cashed \$67,000 after agreeing to the chop in the main no-limit hold'em event. "I saw something on it and called them up, asked if it was a misprint."

Tryba's happy it wasn't. A professional poker player for about eight years, he ended up coming to Black Hawk for the HPT and WPT events, the second one giving him his second win of the calendar year.

After 11 hours of poker on the event's final day, Tryba (pronounced TREE-buh) was in the final three when he agreed to chop with two in-state players. **Michael Bonetto** of Golden cashed \$60,222 and **Aaron Frei** of Longmont pocketed \$59,078.

Any concerns about the premiere event were allayed by the results. The main event was a hit with 207 players and a prize pool of \$310,500. Tryba was one of those who bought in directly for \$1,600. The total prize money for all the WPT events was slightly less than \$600,000.



Chris Tryba

Speaking by phone from Ft. Lauderdale a couple of weeks after the event, Tryba was mostly complimentary of the WPT's debut of the Isle. Outside of some issues with what he considered some uneven experience among the floor supervisors, he was quite pleased.

"For their first event, they did a really good job," he said. "Overall, it was solid. I talked with Dodd about a few things I thought they could do. There were a few things, when they've already set up things a certain way, their hands are kind of tied, but I gave them some suggestions for things they could have done with the satellites, things that would generate a much larger prize pool. But it was a good event."

It wasn't without its rough spots. Tryba had some issues on the first day; a player took umbrage after Tryba said all hands needed to be shown with three players all-in, though only one was exposed.

"The kid that busted was pissed off, really irate, and he went over the top, threatened to take me outside. ... I don't want to be the poker police, but I just want the rules to be fair and even and followed."

That said, he found Dodd and the casino manager to be receptive to his concerns when he got to speak with them. "They were great."

Tryba had to rally on the second day just to stick around, entering "pretty short" and catching well just to survive, including one where he shoved with A-8 just to be called with A-K, but he spiked his eight to stay alive.

"I was just looking for shove spots. Once I was in the money and got some chips, I never really felt uncomfortable."

— **Rick Gershman** is Ante Up's Colorado Ambassador. Email him at rickgershman@gmail.com.

Colorado WPT Poker Showdown

\$1,600 Main Event

Entries: 207 • Prize Pool: \$310,500

1. Christopher Tryba, \$67,000
2. Aaron Frei, \$59,078
3. Michael Bonetto, \$60,222
4. Mary Flurkey, \$31,050
5. Niels Rikhof, \$18,630
6. Robert March, \$15,525
7. Jamal Sawadeh, \$12,420
8. Francois Safieddine, \$9,315
9. Allan Hedin, \$6,210
10. Richard Klein, \$6,210

Event 3 • \$225 NLHE

Entries: 212 • Prize Pool: \$42,400

1. Andrew Kim, \$4,664
2. Abdulla Fakhro, \$4,664
3. Daniel Chamberlain, \$4,664
4. Claude Garcia, \$4,664
5. William Hager, \$4,664
6. Reza Yazdi, \$4,664
7. Charles Prignano, \$4,664
8. Martin Kay, \$4,664
9. David Devincenzi, \$848
10. Nicholas Marchitti, \$848

James Vaughn

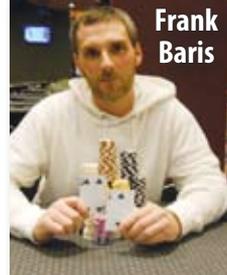


Event 4 • \$545 NLHE

Entries: 98 • Prize Pool: \$49,000

1. James Vaughn, \$4,900
2. Travis Miller, \$4,900
3. James Pursley, \$4,900
4. Tony Dam, \$4,900
5. Kory Mitchell, \$4,900
6. Kyle Nisenon, \$4,900
7. Theodore Skinner Jr., \$4,900
8. Terry Harper, \$4,900
9. Joseph Petrovich, \$4,900
10. James Goodman, \$4,900

Frank Baris



Event 5 • \$300 6-Max

Entries: 103 • Prize Pool: \$30,900

1. Frank Baris, \$4,352
2. Lucinda Gallagher, \$4,352
3. Reza Yazdi, \$4,352
4. Jay Pinkussohr, \$4,352
5. Norman Tanner, \$4,352
6. Andrew Kim, \$4,352
7. Jake Nguyen, \$1,236
8. Christopher Hodgson, \$927
9. Michael Murphy, \$618
10. Darrin Witten, \$618

Event 6 • \$200 Omaha/8

Entries: 132 • Prize Pool: \$26,400

1. John Ivy, \$6,736
2. Robert Moore, \$4,750
3. Stephen Tanner, \$4,750
4. Stephen Johnson, \$2,640
5. Vinh Ung, \$1,584
6. Jason Zimmerman, \$1,320
7. Michael Colecchia, \$1,056
8. Dianne Kettle, \$792
9. Jerry Eachus, \$528
10. Nathaniel Smith, \$528

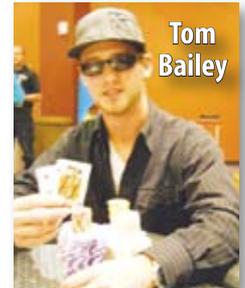


Steven Rule

Event 7 • \$200 NLHE

Entries: 210 • Prize Pool: \$42,000

1. Steven Rule, \$10,000
2. Jonathan Sampson, \$4,500
3. Gregory Drew, \$4,500
4. Paul England, \$2,806
5. Robert Winandy, \$2,806
6. Mark Kremer, \$2,806
7. Andrew Sargent, \$2,806
8. Matthew Voorhees, \$2,805
9. Andrew Dewart, \$2,805
10. Terence Miller, \$2,806



Tom Bailey

Event 8 • \$200 NLH/PLO

Entries: 112 • Prize Pool: \$22,400

1. Thomas Bailey, \$6,720
2. Ross Transmeier, \$4,480
3. Stephen Boyer, \$2,800
4. Roger Martin, \$2,240
5. Karl Westheimer, \$1,568
6. Tao Gong, \$1,120
7. Steven Olds, \$896
8. Carl Merklng, \$672
9. Frank Nocera, \$448
10. Eric Pfennig, \$448

Event 9 • \$300 NLHE

Entries: 213 • Prize Pool: \$63,900

1. Jeffrey Granowsky, \$10,000
2. Daniel Rose, \$6,608
3. Christopher Chan, \$6,604
4. Larry Carwin, \$6,604
5. Matthew Mason, \$6,604
6. Michael Murphy, \$6,604
7. Leandro Gamboa, \$6,604
8. William Givens, \$6,604
9. Joseph Sullivan, \$1,278
10. Jassim Alansari, \$1,278

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2011, A PIVOTAL YEAR FOR CAJUN POKER

The ebb and flow of the poker scene in Louisiana rolls along year after year just like the mighty Mississippi and the meandering Red, the two rivers that more or less mark the boundaries of north and south in our state. It's pretty easy to just kick back like **Huck Finn** and go with the flow. But 2011 will be remembered as a year in which the current was particularly strong.



SCOTTY RUSHING

Two rooms opened in the state, which testifies to the growing popularity of poker here. Louisiana is a big gaming state; it always has been.

Perhaps it should come as no surprise that its residents would take to the felt the way they have; Cajuns will gamble on just about any-

thing. Even so, the poker boom that began several years ago shows no signs of waning. It is getting stronger.

This can be attributed to a number of factors. The most prominent seems to be the rooms here have embraced a business model that is putting an emphasis on tournament poker. This year saw the return of the Seven Clans at Coushatta Casino Resort, the State Championship at Isle Lake Charles and the greatest achievement yet: the World Series of Poker Circuit kicking off a new season in Bossier City. Each of these events drew well, and all of them look to be returning in 2012.



Tournament poker seems to be the line that separates the good from the great when it comes to poker rooms. That certainly has been the case here. The most successful rooms we have are those with a strong tournament schedule.

Poker is a game that doesn't do much (directly) for the casino's coffers when compared to slots or table games. A few of the rooms here offer it merely as a convenience, and one has to wonder how long that will last, but gaming companies have realized tournaments also boost other casino revenues. Case in point: The cash-game action during WSOPC at Bossier was so strong it often spilled over from the poker room downstairs to the tent on the roof. For those two weeks in September the Bossier room ran 24/7 with a waiting list.

Another factor that seems to be in play is a willingness by some casin-

os, such as Boomtown New Orleans, to allocate more money toward promotions. There were several car giveaways this year and Horseshoe Bossier once again sent several players to the WSOP main event via its weekly satellites. Those tournaments drew so well that multiple seats were awarded in each event.

This will surely continue in 2012 as the competition for market share increases.

Black Friday also can be credited for the success of 2011. The State Championship at the Isle Casino in Lake Charles drew an enormous amount of online players as some of them were trying brick-and-mortar tournaments for the first time. This is something that will probably change as advances toward the legalization of online poker continue to be made, but for the time being Louisiana can expect these players to keep coming out for live play.

All of these factors contributed to a fantastic year, but the greatest factor is probably one that has nothing to do with promotions or tournaments or constitutional legalities. It is sheer, geographical luck.

Texas continues to remain a holdout where the legalization of poker is concerned, and not much is being done to change that. It should come as no surprise our most successful poker rooms are those situated closest to the Texas state line. In 2011, players from Texas dominated the tournament schedule in South Louisiana. At WSOPC Bossier, their presence was less felt, but that was expected as the circuit event drew from multiple areas of the Deep South.

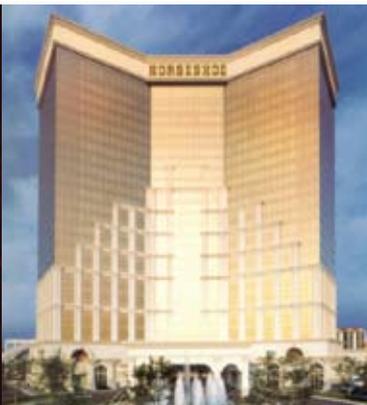
This is the one factor that may not have as strong an effect in 2012. Oklahoma has joined the market and is beginning to emerge as a powerful alternative for Texas players. Once again, the rooms in Oklahoma have embraced a strong tournament scheme and host a WSOPC event at Choctaw.

When we look back some years from now, it stands to reason 2011 will be remembered as a pivotal year for the Louisiana poker market in many ways. It was a time of growth and expansion as well as a learning experience for some. The lessons learned will only make our rooms better, and that's something to look forward to with great anticipation.

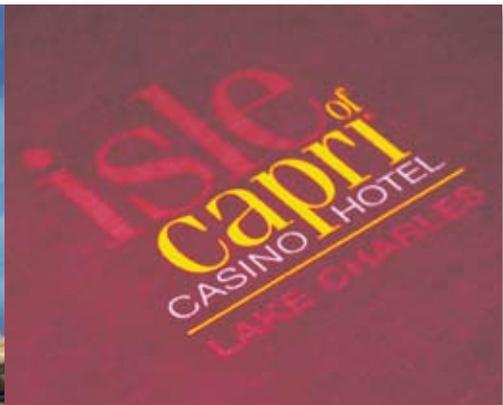
— **Scotty "The Spokesman" Rushing** is a poker professional and sports journalist. Email him at scottyrushing@gmail.com or on Twitter: [@scottyrush](https://twitter.com/scottyrush).



L'Auberge du lac opened its poker room in 2011, a sure sign poker is here to stay.



Horseshoe Bossier City hosted the WSOPC for the first time.



The Isle's state event still attracts plenty of players from all over the region.

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BURT DEFENDS H.O.R.S.E. TITLE AT IP

One of the highest anticipated annual Mississippi events just wrapped up at the IP Biloxi (results are on the next page). Thousands of players visit the Magnolia State in hopes of taking home a shiny new World Series of Poker Circuit ring, and the paycheck that comes with it.

One familiar face among the regular contenders is **Tim Burt**. Local to Biloxi, he didn't have far to travel or hotel rooms to book. Instead, he had a much bigger challenge to face.

Tim, largely considered to be the best mixed-game player in the southern United States, intended to go for back-to-back championships in the H.O.R.S.E. ring event. Despite smaller fields to wade through, winning the same event two years in a row is an astronomical long shot.

Apparently, it isn't such a long shot when you can seamlessly shift between games, calculating odds and chip management with the proficiency he brings to the table. On Oct. 28 Tim defended his title as the reigning IP Biloxi mixed-game champion when he took home a second ring and a paycheck of \$6,567.

When mixed-game events are your specialty, you find yourself in a certain Catch 22. Mixed games undoubtedly require a higher level of skill and poker ability, and with that comes significantly smaller playing fields.

The upside is you're less likely to run into new players who could theoretically "luck box" their way into a final table. The downside is first-place payouts usually pale in comparison to the same victory in a no-limit hold'em event.

I've known Tim for a while, as we tend to follow the Mississippi poker trail with an annual summer in Vegas thrown in for variety. We have plenty of mutual friends, of which they'll all say the same thing: Tim is one of the nicest guys in poker. I caught up with him to share congratulations on his back-to-back accomplishment, and pick his brain for a short Q&A.

Let's start with the obvious, Tim. How does it feel to win the H.O.R.S.E. event two years in a row? It feels great! I wish the buy-in was bigger and the prize money was more. I hope to actually take my mixed-game success to the big stage this summer and play every mixed game, stud/8, and Omaha/8 tourney at the WSOP next summer so I can win some real money.

What's the secret to that kind of success in mixed-game tournaments? There is less variance and less educational information out there on the games and you have less of a luck factor. Also, not many people can play five games well. You can teach a monkey to play no-limit hold'em, and I don't mean **Will "The Poker Monkey" Souther**.

Do you have any quirky pregame rituals or superstitions? No superstitions. My motto on luck is everyone gets lucky, but lucky people get lucky in

big situations.

How long have you been playing poker? I started playing stud at the age of 6 with my dad and his brothers on holidays. I started playing limit hold'em in 1997 in a pool hall in Grenada, Miss., at 17 years of age where I ran my own poker game.

What about the mixed games appeals to you? The mixed games give me an edge you can rarely exploit in no-limit hold'em. By that I mean freerolling and also sensing my opponent's weaker games and punishing them where they are not comfortable.

Could you share a few basic tips for someone who would like to start playing mixed games? I'd say play online low stakes eight-game mix on PokerStars, but that isn't an option for Americans at the present moment. I would advise people to start a \$4-\$8 mixed-limit game in their home casino. It will catch on quicker than you think, and you will quickly see the better players get the money more often than in no-limit.

Tell me something about you. I'm from Grenada, Miss., I served four years in the Army from 2001-05, including two tours of service in Iraq. My hobbies include watching sports, messing around with sports cars (mostly Mustangs), partying, chasing women and enjoying any outdoor activity away from the poker table.

So what are you going to do with your rings? My hands are too small to wear them, and I don't believe in wearing poker rings or bracelets except the day you win them. They sit stagnant in my trophy case waiting to be sold if I go busto.

Tell me about your best and worst poker moment. My best was probably winning my first World Poker Open PLO rebuy in Tunica back in '08 with a single bullet. The worst moment is probably the last tourney I made a deep run in, which was today, finishing nine from the money in the WSOP Circuit main here at the IP.

What are your plans for the next six months? I plan to follow the WSOP Circuit mostly. I want to assure myself a seat in the million-dollar freeroll this summer instead of being lazy like last season and bubbling.

Of his 35 notable cashes, more than 20 of them are in games other than NLHE. He's definitely someone to keep an eye on next summer in Vegas as he continues to take his game to the next level.

ON TAP: Though 2011 is wrapping up, poker season in Mississippi is only half finished. The first two weeks of December everyone will be at Gold Strike in Tunica for the Winter Poker

Classic. The main event in that series will be \$1,500 on Dec. 10 at noon. There will be daily super satellites at 4 p.m. (\$100 with \$40 rebuys) and one seat is guaranteed.

A nearly month-long marathon at the WPT event at the Beau Rivage follows in January, including a million-dollar-guarantee prize pool. I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you at the next event.

— **Jennifer Gay** is a poker journalist, poker supervisor and player from the Mid-South region. She can be contacted at facebook.com/aceofjewels.



JENNIFER GAY



This was Tim's third WSOP ring overall.

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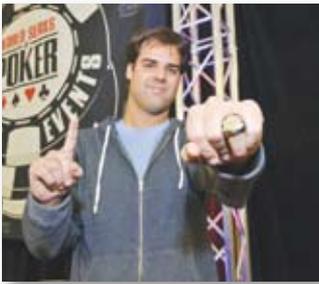
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WSOP Circuit, IP Casino Resort, Biloxi, Miss., Oct. 27-Nov. 7



Event 1 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 272 • Prize Pool: \$79,152

1. Randall Goodner, Atlanta, \$18,647
2. John Dolan, Bonita Springs, FL, \$11,540
3. Randolph Reynolds, Jacksonville, FL, \$8,373
4. Darrelle Greene, Macon, GA, \$6,177
5. Peter Mavro, Las Vegas, \$4,633
6. Mark Rose, Orlando, FL, \$3,531
7. Bryant Lipscomb, Ft. Smith, AR, \$2,732
8. Joe DeLuna, San Antonio, \$2,147
9. Kirk McKenzie, Omaha, \$1,713



Event 2 • \$345 NLHE re-entry

Entries: 477 • Prize Pool: \$138,807

1. Thomas Wilkie, Batesville, MS, \$29,552
2. Drew Fanning, Madison, WI, \$18,272
3. Gene Dudek, Houma, LA, \$13,348
4. Steven Giddings, Ruston, LA, \$9,896
5. Robert Harwell, Pass Christian, MS, \$7,442
6. Freddie Ardoin, Lacassine, LA, \$5,677
7. Ken Pikop, Ocean Springs, MS, \$4,392
8. Tony Thrash, Sharpsburg, GA, \$3,446
9. David Sidler, Atlanta, \$2,742



Event 3 • \$345 H.O.R.S.E.

Entries: 71 • Prize Pool: \$20,661

1. Tim Burt, Grenada, MS, \$6,567
2. Christopher Wolfe, Rolla, MO, \$4,062
3. David Key, Baton Rouge, LA, \$2,674
4. Daniel Barrett, Lisbon, CT, \$1,872
5. Thomas Elliott, Carrollton, GA, \$1,387
6. Wenzel Werner, Jacksonville, FL, \$1,085
7. Benton Blakeman, Daphne, AL, \$893
8. Antony Vidmer, Nashville, \$771



Event 4 • \$555 NLHE

Entries: 109 • Prize Pool: \$52,865

1. Kip Jones, Denham Springs, LA, \$15,455
2. Danielle Barbee, Atlanta, \$9,552
3. Chris Parsons, Mentor, OH, \$6,801
4. Kevin Kaylor, Houston, \$4,940
5. Casey Andrus, Lafayette, LA, \$3,660
6. Kenneth Piel, Robinsonville, MS, \$2,763
7. Thomas Doussan, Metairie, LA, \$2,125
8. Larry Green, Deer Park, TX, \$1,664
9. Grant Elmer, Fayetteville, AR, \$1,327



Event 5 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 160 • Prize Pool: \$46,560

1. Ricky Romero, New Iberia, LA, \$12,208
2. Frank Alpdinar, Baton Rouge, LA, \$7,544
3. Stanley Seelig, Metairie, LA, \$5,430
4. Kenneth Milam, La Place, LA, \$3,980
5. Bret Weeks, Batavia, IL, \$2,968
6. Edward Hansen, Santa Ana, CA, \$2,253
7. William Brock li, Pelham, AL, \$1,739
8. Will Gould, Houston, \$1,364
9. Farris Atta, Decatur, GA, \$1,088



Event 6 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 200 • Prize Pool: \$56,850

1. Brock Sawyer, Covington, LA, \$14,784
2. Mark Berrigan, Tallahassee, FL, \$9,131
3. John Fagg, Terre Haute, IN, \$6,593
4. Tripp Kirk, Atlanta, \$4,842
5. Jesus Cabrera, Atlanta, \$3,617
6. Jonathan Taylor, Phil Campbell, AL, \$2,749
7. Barron Whipple, Houma, LA, \$2,123
8. Matthew Colvin, Dallas, \$1,667
9. Christopher Savage, Loxley, AL, \$1,330



Event 7 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 197 • Prize Pool: \$57,327

1. Caufman Talley, Lafayette, LA, \$14,555
2. Lacey Coffey, Houston, \$8,990
3. Michael Le, Houston, \$6,492
4. John Holley, Destin, FL, \$4,768
5. Jae Chung, Atlanta, \$3,562
6. Randall Lequire, Franklin, TN, \$2,706
7. Mark Rose, Orlando, FL, \$2,091
8. Jason Taylor, Loxley, AL, \$1,642
9. Thomas Armiger, Auburn, AL, \$1,310



Event 8 • \$555 NLHE

Entries: 174 • Prize Pool: \$84,390

1. Greg Whitworth, Biloxi, MS, \$22,421
2. Beverly Cheney, Grandbury, Tx, \$13,856
3. Christopher Conrad, Tampa, FL, \$9,974
4. Mitch Jones, Kennesaw, GA, \$7,310
5. Hoyt Lance, Ringgold, GA, \$5,452
6. Brandon Newsome, P. Spring, GA, \$4,138
7. Rex Clinkscales, Las Vegas, \$3,194
8. Thomas Cronin, Saint Peters, MO, \$2,505
9. James Wiggs, Springville, AL, \$1,998



Event 9 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 187 • Prize Pool: \$54,417

1. Clinton Landrum, Dickinson, TX, \$13,796
2. Rahul Devara, Atlanta, \$8,523
3. Gene Dudek, Houma, LA, \$6,154
4. Marvin Mccord, Atlanta, \$4,520
5. Michael Sanders, Las Vegas, \$3,377
6. Jim Downend, Media, PA, \$2,566
7. Eric Wilkinson, New Orleans, \$1,982
8. Ocia Langner, Freeport, TX, \$1,556
9. Richard Gibson, Sidon, MS, \$1,242



Event 10 • \$1,080 NLHE

Entries: 124 • Prize Pool: \$120,280

1. Charles Pinckernell, Memphis, \$33,678
2. Gene Dudek, Houma, LA, \$20,816
3. James Barger, Murfreesboro, TN, \$15,025
4. Edward Chevallier, Many, LA, \$11,041
5. Ezra Mccord, Atlanta, \$8,254
6. James Henson, Lake Jackson, TX, \$6,275
7. Edward Corrado, Naples, FL, \$4,851
8. William Phillips, Metairie, LA, \$3,810
9. Caleb Gillespie, Murfreesboro, TN, \$3,042



\$1,600 Main Event

Entries: 337 • Prize Pool: \$490,335

1. Jerry Monroe, Columbus, GA, \$112,779
2. William Phillips, Metairie, LA, \$69,721
3. Jacob Naquin, Destin, FL, \$50,862
4. Chris Parsons, Mentor, OH, \$37,726
5. Jeremy Drewery, Arlington, TN, \$28,420
6. Ronald Sewell, Shelby, NC, \$21,737
7. Michael Nasserazad, Atlanta, \$16,868
8. Russell Ivy, Carrizo Springs, TX, \$13,278
9. David Williams, Hoover, AL, \$10,601



Event 12 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 119 • Prize Pool: \$34,629

1. Aaron Brant, Mobile, AL, \$10,390
2. Tom Franklin, Gulfport, MS, \$6,421
3. Chris Tryba, Las Vegas, \$4,572
4. Shawn Steele, Pensacola, FL, \$3,321
5. Larry Gurney, Kingston, TN, \$2,460
6. Ricky Romero, New Iberia, LA, \$1,857
7. John Evans, Granbury, TX, \$1,428
8. Richard Harrington, Cameron, LA, \$1,119
9. Michael Schneider, Covington, GA, \$892

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12/9	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$100	\$20
12/10	\$200K GUARANTEED NO-LIMIT (B)	\$500	\$50
12/10	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$200	\$30
12/11	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$300	\$40
12/11	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$100	\$20
12/12	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$200	\$30
12/12	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$100	\$20
12/13	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$200	\$30
12/13	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$100	\$20
12/14	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM BOUNTY	\$200	\$30
12/14	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$100	\$20
12/15	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$200	\$30
12/15	MEGA SATELLITE	\$100	\$20
12/16	\$300K GUAR. CHAMPIONSHIP (A)	\$1000	\$80
12/16	MEGA SATELLITE	\$200	\$30
12/17	\$300K GUAR. CHAMPIONSHIP (B)	\$1000	\$80
12/17	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$200	\$30
12/18	NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	\$200	\$30
12/18	HIGH HEELS LADIES	\$100	\$20

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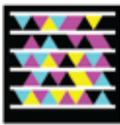
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COFFIN CORNERS MARKET ON REC PLAYERS

When one thinks of the Mirage poker room, they often recall a time when it was the “be all end all” of Las Vegas poker. A time when it was home to the Big Game, and every poker pro in the city called it home. This is forever immortalized in the dialogue of

Mike McDermott in *Rounders*. Now, in 2011, the Mirage has adapted to the changes in the poker landscape of Las Vegas, and changed directions to remain competitive and appeal to more recreational players and tourists.



MICHAEL HAMAI

As the second part of an interview series, I had the pleasure of sitting with **Chris Coffin**, the Mirage poker room manager. I've known Chris a long time, and it was a real pleasure to get the chance to speak with him in person about the Mirage and the new direction he has decided to take the room.

Tell us about your history and how you came to be running the historical Mirage poker room. Poker for me started as a child, playing with my dad in the military. He taught all of us to play poker. I helped my family move to Las Vegas when he retired, and I stayed. Got into the poker business at 27. I played poker (professionally) from 21 to 27. I started dealing downtown and then after five years I moved up to the Mirage to start dealing. Five years later, Bellagio was opening and they needed help in training dealers, and I volunteered to help, which then led to me being promoted to training manager for the Mirage.

After that, I helped run the first two WPT events. ... I discovered through a customer-service class being held at Treasure Island one day that they were going to open up a poker room, and I pursued getting that room.

Before that, during the course of years from Bellagio opening to when I got the TI job in 2006, I worked as the office clerk, office coordinator, training coordinator, cashiering, chip runner, special-events manager for poker, shift manager, assistant shift manager, floor person. ... Did and learn everything there is about the poker room from behind the scenes to the front of the scenes. That led to me getting the TI poker room in 2006, which three years later when an opening came up at the Mirage I was able to get that position also, and moved over from there, just after **Phil Ruffin** had purchased the TI.

You decided to change the direction of the Mirage poker room when you took over. What has changed? The big difference is understanding there's only

so much high-end market out there. The mass of the market is low-end, capped no-limit players and limit players. Recreational players. Even within the realm of recreational, I consider many people who play on an everyday basis still to be recreational. They're actually enjoying their time. They're not just here to make money. They're here enjoying the game of poker. They're not just here grinding away a living. Understanding that is the bulk of the market, instead of just trying to focus on just high limit when we have multiple big rooms in town that have captured that market pretty well, I started changing the room to focus on the more recreational, everyday player, and offering them what they want.

It was nonstop, people asked, “I don't get anything for my quads? I don't get anything for my royal flush?” So we started jackpots. And with the jackpot money, we have done many different promotions for holidays, for football, for any special event. We just had our first-ever freeroll, and casino marketing allowed us to put five poker players into their high-roller casino event, which was a first. Using those five seats, we built a freeroll around that, which was very successful.

During the freeroll, I handed out a survey to all the players that were in the tournament, which they absolutely loved the fact that we were asking for their input, which is one of the big things I always do. I listen to the players.

We're looking at starting a freeroll series. It will be a \$250,000 year-long series of freerolls finishing in December 2012 with a \$50,000 championship event.

The \$2-\$5 NLHE game is not common in Las Vegas. Last I checked, there were only eight rooms spreading \$2-\$5 with daily regularity. Why do you think the Mirage has been able to start getting \$2-\$5 NLHE again? The freeroll is what really spurred it off and our decision that we do not rake the game until it is seven-handed, and we also have the slowest rake on the game. We take a \$3 max (plus jackpot), and we do not take that third dollar until \$100, and we're doing \$1.50-an-hour comps on that game. (There's a) \$200 minimum, \$750 maximum buy-in on our \$2-\$5 game, with most people buying in for



no more than \$500.

What is the No. 1 reason someone should choose to play poker at the Mirage?

We are the most comfortable, friendliest, fun room in town. Comfortable, fun and friendly.

— **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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JUST ONE VARIETY OF THIS HEINZ: WSOP CHAMP

Pius Heinz is first German to win the World Series of Poker Main Event, earning \$8.7 million.

Pius Heinz stunned the poker world by becoming the first player in history from Germany to win poker's most prestigious title, the World Series of Poker Main Event. Heinz, the 22-year-old professional from Cologne, pulled off a masterful performance during the two-day final-table session, which began Nov. 6 inside the Penn and Teller Theatre at the Rio in Las Vegas and ended late on Nov. 8 on a confetti-splattered stage.

With his stunning comeback victory, Heinz collected a whopping \$8,715,638 in prize money, the third-most for any poker champion in history. He also was presented with the game's most coveted prize, the WSOP gold and diamond bracelet.

The odds were stacked against Heinz from the start. He had to overcome the third-largest live tournament field in history, battling nearly 6,900 players from 85 nations who flooded into the Rio last summer.

Next came a nearly four-month wait during the interim between July and November, after which Heinz returned to Las Vegas. He arrived at the finale against eight formidable opponents with one of the smallest chip stacks, ranking seventh in chips out of nine players.

During the first day of the final table, which included nearly eight hours of poker and the elimination of six players, Heinz enjoyed the poker rush of a lifetime, ending the night as chipleader.

That left just three players still alive in the quest for the world championship — Heinz, **Ben Lamb** and **Martin Staszko**.

During the opening moments of the final table's last stages, Lamb, widely-regarded as the world's top tournament poker player at the

moment, and winner of the 2011 WSOP Player of the Year title, busted out in shocking fashion.

His elimination was not as stunning as the manner in which it occurred, which many observers would have thought unthinkable.

On the first hand dealt during the three-handed session, Lamb made a baffling move, trying to steal from Staszko in what can best be described as a highly risky decision. Facing a strong preflop raise from his Czech opponent, Lamb reraised again holding king-jack. Staszko, holding pocket sevens, shoved all-in, which left Lamb shaking his head pondering a bad situation. Pot-committed to the hand, Lamb called and lost. He was eliminated three hands later, earning \$4,021,138 for third place.

Heads-up play lasted for more than six hours, as the two Europeans battled back and forth, exchanging the chip lead nine times before Heinz finally best Staszko with A-K.

As runner-up, Staszko became the richest Czech poker player in history. He earned a mammoth, if temporarily unsatisfying, consolation prize amounting to \$5,433,086.

Heinz's championship victory was memorable for other reasons, too. The final table was watched in more countries (in a live format) than ever before. For the first time, poker players and fans everywhere tuned in and watched all the action via a live stream as well as on the ESPN network.

"This is the happiest day of my life, obviously," said Heinz in his first year in the WSOP. "I really am speechless right now. I could not imagine this would ever happen to me." ♠

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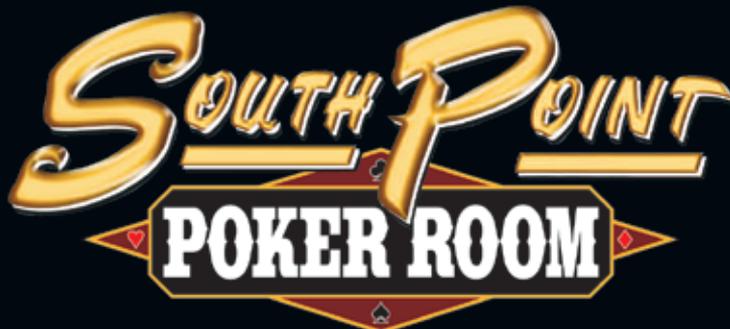
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GRAND SIERRA STILL GUARANTEES POT OF GOLD



CORY HOWARD

The Grand Sierra Resort Casino hosted its Fall Pot of Gold in October with 52 events and 19 days of guaranteed tournament action. The lineup featured quite the variety, including Omaha/8, H.O.R.S.E., PLO and the \$1,500 Deepstacks Live main event.

Poker manager **Charles Williams** always does a phenomenal job hosting, and under the guidance of tournament director **Chris**

Spears, this Pot of Gold was no exception.

Deepstacks Live pros **Michael Mizrahi** and **Mike Matusow** were on hand teaching courses on strategy, while in the poker room a deep-



stacked \$5-\$10 no-limit cash game broke out on the weekends featuring local favorite "Mr. Z."

Most of the events came with guarantees that added money to the prize pools. The \$1,500 Deepstacks Live event delivered big, drawing 184 players for a \$267,720 prize pool. In the end it was pro **Steve Brecher** who was the big winner, earning \$72,900 and another title to his decorated career.

The next tournament series for Grand Sierra Resort will be the Winter Pot of Gold (Dec. 1-11), the World Poker Challenge (March 1-10) and the Summer Pot of Gold (July 19-31). For more Reno tournament information, see our Where to Play pages in the back of the magazine.

— **Cory Howard** is Ante Up's Ambassador for Reno. Email him at antupcory@gmail.com.

Fall Pot of Gold, Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, Nev., Sept. 29-Oct. 17

Event 1 • \$200 NLHE
Entries: 288 • Prize Pool: \$60,000
Winner: Toan Nguyen, \$14,659

Event 2 • \$80 NLHE
Entries: 52 • Prize Pool: \$4,520
Winner: Brady Gauthier, \$737

Event 3 • \$200 Omaha/8
Entries: 72 • Prize Pool: \$15,000
Winner: George Gray, \$3,005

Event 4 • \$100 6-Max
Entries: 100 • Prize Pool: \$10,185
Winner: Chad Vitale, \$1,930

Event 5 • \$300 NLHE
Entries: 504 • Prize Pool: \$150K
Winner: Kirill Tarasenko, \$24,516

Event 6 • \$200 H.O.R.S.E.
Entries: 64 • Prize Pool: \$15,000
Winner: Steve Sahtout, \$3,050

Event 7 • \$100 w/rebuys
Entries: 70 • Prize Pool: \$13,483
Winner: Sean Drake, \$4,180

Event 8 • \$200 w/rebuys
Entries: 56 • Prize Pool: \$25,000
Winner: Melanie Warda, \$9,500

Event 9 • \$200 PLO/8
Entries: 43 • Prize Pool: \$8,342
Winner: Walter Smiley, \$1,042

Event 10 • \$100 NLHE
Entries: 67 • Prize Pool: \$6,984
Winner: Nanette Minow, \$1,816

Event 11 • \$200 NLHE
Entries: 106 • Prize Pool: \$20,564
Winner: Collins Guillebeaux, \$4,799

Event 12 • \$150 Razz/Stud
Entries: 26 • Prize Pool: \$3,783
Winner: Mark Vandyke, \$1,235

Event 13 • \$100 Raise It
Entries: 58 • Prize Pool: \$6,111
Winner: Braden Murphy, \$2,121

Event 14 • \$200 NLHE
Entries: 91 • Prize Pool: \$20,000
Winner: Kyle Hall, \$5,080

Event 15 • \$150 Stud/8
Entries: 41 • Prize Pool: \$5,966
Winner: James Martini, \$1,304

Event 16 • \$100 w/rebuys
Entries: 35 • Prize Pool: \$6,693
Winner: George Williamson, \$1,900

Event 17 • \$150 O/8-Stud/8
Entries: 44 • Prize Pool: \$6,402
Winner: William Husa, \$1,172

Event 18 • \$100 NLHE
Entries: 70 • Prize Pool: \$7,275
Winner: Randy Thomson, \$1,850

Event 19 • \$300 NLHE
Entries: 203 • Prize Pool: \$75,000
Winner: Amy Brady, \$19,849

Event 20 • \$200 NLHE
Entries: 27 • Prize Pool: \$5,238
Winner: Steve Dow, \$2,245

Event 21 • \$125 6-max bounty
Entries: 51 • Prize Pool: \$6,669
Winner: Neal Wilkinson, \$1,950

Event 22 • \$500 NLHE
Entries: 262 • Prize Pool: \$150,000
Winner: Darrel Dier, \$36,758

Event 23 • \$300 H.O.R.S.E.
Entries: 48 • Prize Pool: \$20,000
Winner: Frankie O'Dell, \$6,320

Event 24 • \$100 NLHE
Entries: 78 • Prize Pool: \$8,051
Winner: Phil Tardof, \$1,332

Event 25 • \$300 Omaha/8
Entries: 59 • Prize Pool: \$20,000
Winner: Frankie O'Dell, \$4,220

Event 26 • \$100 NLHE
Entries: 92 • Prize Pool: \$9,409
Winner: Sammy Yee, \$2,001

Event 27 • \$350 Bounty
Entries: 76 • Prize Pool: \$26,200
Winner: Randy Gil, \$7,921

Event 28 • \$150 NLHE
Entries: 47 • Prize Pool: \$6,839
Winner: Eric Lowe, \$1,733

Event 29 • \$100 w/rebuys
Entries: 40 • Prize Pool: \$7,954
Winner: Wayne McGregor, \$1,982

Event 30 • \$200 NLHE
Entries: 105 • Prize Pool: \$20,370
Winner: Ryan Reed, \$4,788

Event 31 • \$200 H.O.R.S.E.
Entries: 54 • Prize Pool: \$15,000
Winner: Joseph Carlson, \$5,700

Event 32 • \$100 PLO w/rebuys
Entries: 24 • Prize Pool: \$6,596
Winner: Woodey Moore, \$1,300

Event 33 • \$200 NLHE
Entries: 100 • Prize Pool: \$20,000
Winner: Jim Halverson, \$4,500

Event 34 • \$150 Omaha/8
Entries: 40 • Prize Pool: \$5,820
Winner: Bob Theobald, \$1,405

Event 35 • \$120 6-Max
Entries: 67 • Prize Pool: \$6,984
Winner: Andy Strahl, \$2,000

Event 36 • \$300 NLHE
Entries: 108 • Prize Pool: \$31,428
Winner: Erle Mankin, \$6,923

Event 39 • \$500 NLHE
Entries: 121 • Prize Pool: \$58,685
Winner: James Martini, \$14,126

Event 40 • \$230 Omaha/8
Entries: 59 • Prize Pool: \$15,000
Winner: Eve Numoto, \$3,300

Event 41 • \$120 NLHE
Entries: 38 • Prize Pool: \$7,178
Winner: Mark Johnson, \$2,197

Event 42 • \$350 6-Max
Entries: 20 • Prize Pool: \$5,790
Winner: Tim Davey, \$1,198

Event 48 • \$120 NLHE
Entries: 58 • Prize Pool: \$6,111
Winner: Jason Manibog, \$2,001

Event 49 • \$200 NLHE
Entries: 77 • Prize Pool: \$15,000
Winner: David McCaw, \$3,400

Event 50 • \$150 NLHE
Entries: 33 • Prize Pool: \$4,802
Winner: Roy Peters, \$1,365

Event 51 • \$80 NLHE
Entries: 27 • Prize Pool: \$2,095
Winner: Ian Rimmel, \$947

Event 52 • \$230 NLHE
Entries: 73 • Prize Pool: \$15,000
Winner: Kevin Stigall, \$4,619

O'Brien notches MGM Grand Challenge main title

By **Todd Lamansky**

MGM hosted its inaugural Grand Challenge tournament series Oct. 13-23 and **Daniel O'Brien** took home the top prize. He bested 70 players in the \$2,620 main event, which began with 20K chips and had 60-minute levels, to earn his first major tournament win and a \$53,250 payday.

His biggest career score was \$292,800 for third place at WPT's Bay 101 Shooting Star event last March. Had the Grand Challenge's \$172,175 prize pool reached \$300K, O'Brien would have received a \$10,000 seat into the WPT Five Diamond main event at Bellagio on Dec. 10.

The Grand Challenge featured noon tournaments that were two-day affairs mostly costing \$340. The 7 p.m. second-chance events were all one-day competitions with a \$150 buy-in.

The second-chance tournament on Oct. 15 was a rake-free event sponsored by AllVegasPoker.com that drew 356 entrants and a \$30K-plus prize pool.

Tim West, an accomplished live and online pro with more than \$5 million in career earnings, took home top honors and the \$8K-plus first prize. AVP content manager and *Ante Up* ambassador Las Vegas **Michael Hamai** served as emcee for the evening.

MGM also offered participants in the AVP tournament the opportunity to play the remainder of the noon events and super satellites rake-free by crediting all fees to their M Life Players Card accounts in the form of comp dollars (with a \$50 cap on the main event).

The winner of all tournaments with a buy-in of at least \$340 also won a seat into the MGM Grand Executive Challenge tournament in December. ♠

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WITH LAMBERT, CHOCTAW FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Okla., is holding its second World Series of Poker Circuit event Jan. 5-23. Last year's turnout was strong and with the circuit back in town, many Oklahoma players will be migrating south for the winter.

Attendees can expect to see many states represented in this large circuit event. Last year saw 935 entrants in the opening event and 808 in the main event.

"Choctaw is one of the largest WSOPC events on the calendar," poker room manager **Ken Lambert** said. "There is no reason to doubt this year will be even bigger and better."



CRYSTALLYNN HARRIS

On the circuit schedule this year, players will see all of their favorites, including no-limit hold'em, Omaha/8 and H.O.R.S.E., with buy-ins as cheap as \$70 for satellites. Seats into the main event are \$1,600. Under tournament direction of **Jimmy Sommerfeld**, this circuit stop has been highly anticipated and regarded among Oklahomans and players nationwide, especially those from Texas.

"We expect to see an increase in play because we are so close to the DFW, Dallas area and poker is in their blood."

Lambert's plans for Choctaw poker heading into 2012 are strong and ambitious.

"We are not going to just stop after the WSOPC. Our goals are to increase daily business and tournament play," he said. "We are going to be a major player throughout the year with new and exciting events and we are going to continue to grow our relationship with high-profile and celebrity players and we are going to create new celebrity players."

Cash action is heating up on the 30 Choctaw tables and the room is seeing an influx in regulars, which gives players even more reason to make the January trip. Set aside the WSOPC, great promotions, reliable staff, a beautifully accommodating poker room complete with lounge, bar and restrooms, as well as tableside food service, why else do players want to play at Choctaw?

"Because you never have to leave the room," Lambert said. "Except when you need to catch up on sleep and we have a fantastic hotel just feet away."

Players will rest well in one of Choctaw's 330 luxurious hotel rooms. Rated the only AAA Four Diamond hotel in the region, the rooms



The bad-beat jackpot has done wonders for River Spirit.

will provide clean comfort. I recommend you book your room quickly because this lavish hotel fills quickly.

Call 580-931-8340 or visit choctawcasinos.com.

• River Spirit Casino in Tulsa has a bad-beat jackpot that is drawing lots of regional players through the door and into the poker seats. At \$210K in the second week in November, the jackpot has a qualifier of quads beat where each player must have a pocket pair and both cards must play to win.

Cash tables and tournament tables have been seeing a healthy increase in players anticipating the large payout. Forty percent of the jackpot is paid to the loser of the hand, 20 percent goes to the winner and the remaining 40 percent is a room share, which recently has changed from a table share.

River Spirit has 16 tables of all-night action with games such as \$1-\$2 NLHE, \$2-\$4 and \$3-\$6 limit, a Tuesday \$2-\$5 PLO and a \$5-\$10 NLHE every other week.

"Our room is growing every day with new players excited about the jackpot," cardroom manager **Justin Buckley** said. Along with a multitude of promotions and a jackpot for tournament bad beats, it's no wonder River Spirit has so much action. For more information, call (918) 995-8518 or visit riverspirittulsa.com.

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

Jennings takes down HPT event at Downstream

Before Oct. 23-24, **Scott Hastings** of Columbia, Mo., was relatively new to live poker. With just two events (a win and a fourth) under his belt before the Heartland Poker Tour's stop at Downstream Casino Resort, it had been several years since he had played a hand of poker.

His return to the felt was remarkable, to say the least, winning the Downstream event and \$100,011.

Colorado champ **Craig Casino** moved into first

place in the race for HPT Player of the Year with a 12th-place finish at Downstream.



Runner-up **Jeffrey Foust** of Lee's Summit, Mo., has cashed in four of five HPT attempts, following the tour the past few months. The latest stop at Downstream was his biggest score, earning him \$40,416.

Edward "Bud" Hosford of Burlington, Kan., turned a \$115 satellite seat into a \$24,322 payday and a third-place finish.

\$1,100 Main Event

Entries: 296 • Prize Pool: \$277,963

1. Scott Hastings, Columbia, MO, \$100,011
2. Jeff Foust, Lee's Summit, MO, \$40,416
3. Edward Hosford, Burlington, KS, \$24,322
4. Ethan Riddle, Dexter, MO, \$18,068
5. Mark Eddleman, Fayetteville, AR, \$15,288
6. Tony Lay, Oklahoma City, OK, \$13,203

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



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MISSOURI: SHOW ME!

St. Louis 'Big Game' goes on despite many setbacks

Sometimes when a plan doesn't come together, everything still works out fine. Poker pro **Dennis Phillips** and his radio show co-host **Paul Harris** had been promoting a big cash game for Oct. 28-29 at Harrah's St. Louis. Phillips played in the World Series of Poker Circuit at Hammond, winning Event 8. A few hours later, he was at the hospital for an emergency appendectomy (see story Page 44).



DON MATUSOFSKY

The St. Louis Cardinals completed the greatest comeback in baseball history to win a wild-card spot. They made the World Series and then Game 7 just happened to get pushed to the same time as the first night of the big cash game at Harrah's.

Harris was on hand as host and working with the staff to get the players seated. **Brandon Steven** (10th place, 2010 WSOP main event) brought 10 players from the Wichita and Kansas City areas. Other players were from Bentonville, Ark., Chicago and St. Louis. Some locals included pro **John Adams** and businessman **Andros Ioakimides**.

Play started with two \$25-\$50 no-limit hold'em tables (\$15K buy-in) and two \$10-\$20 tables (\$2,500 buy-in). The staff brought in extra TVs so players could watch the Cardinals win the World Series. On Friday night, the game ran through the early morning and resumed at noon on Saturday. With the World Series over, Saturday saw a rise in player interest and deeper wait lists. Play on Saturday night ran well



Harrah's big-cash game in St. Louis drew players from all over the country.

into the next morning.

An interesting hand came up with two players all-in on the turn and running the river twice. When the cards ran out, a pair of queens with a king kicker picked up the whole pot of more than \$30K. Clearly, there was plenty of action.

The players enjoyed the level of poker and the way the games were run. There was aggressive play on the felt, but a friendly atmosphere among the players. There's high interest in scheduling another date as the hope is to develop a regular game roughly every three months.

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

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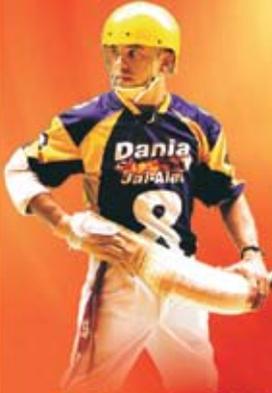
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HOG WILD POKER HELPS FILL ONLINE VOID

Since Black Friday hit in April, online players have been looking to fill the void. Some have gone as far as to move abroad to countries that allow online poker, but many have just stopped playing online altogether. One local company is doing its best to fill the gap.

About 18 months ago Hog Wild Poker started offering players the opportunity to set up and control an online poker league. The best part: It's free.

Hog Wild CEO **Jeff Amrien** said his company started out of a need for something that didn't exist.

"I've done several companies where I've developed a product and sold it," Amrien said. "I play a lot of poker and I travel a lot. I thought, 'There's got to be a tool kit we can put on our site and play poker.'"



DON LAWSON

What Amrien found was a lot of high-priced poker software that was geared toward gambling, not the recreational poker player. So what do you do when you can't find the software you want? You build it yourself.

"We can write a poker site. It took three years to do it," Amrien said. "We thought, 'Wouldn't it be great to write this site that anyone can get on and create their own league?' That's how the concept started."

The site is designed to have the feel of a home game. Players can create leagues and set their rules. One thing the site includes is a wagering system where players use tokens to place "bets" for high hands and/or bounties. In addition, players have to concentrate and not give off tells because their cards are face down until they flip them up. Other players can see this.

"The biggest thing right now is the kind of a feeling you get when you play," Amrien said. "It's a combination of things. It's the cards face down, seeing other people look at their cards. It's the chat."

All of these things are designed to give the player a more familiar feel than they would get at other sites.

"The action of the prop bets, the action of the cards, people commenting on hands. It's very close to your home game. You don't know



people at other sites. You start to recognize other people."

Since its creation, Hog Wild has developed quite a following. With thousands of players across the country and even in other countries, the site continues to grow with new features being planned, including new game types and options. The site recently started offering freerolls where players can win real money.

Part of their following has developed a radio show. The guys at the *Pig Sty* radio show follow the Wednesday night \$200 freeroll giving players the opportunity to shine.

Hosted by **Brian "MotheMan" Elmore** and **Travis "Coach Travis" Nichols**, the *Pig Sty* was built with Hog Wild poker in mind.

"I cut my teeth on *Geeks on Poker* and *Poker Knight Radio*," Elmore said. "We were going to do a public access cable show together. Instead, we decided to do a radio show with Hog Wild poker so we had a built-in audience."

Nichols reiterates the overall home-game feel of Hog Wild as the way they designed their show.

"We offer the environment of a home game," Nichols said. "We talk about anything from entertainment, to sports to poker. We add that home element."

You can follow along with the action at thepigstyradio.com.

— **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.**



Scan this tag for more Iowa poker news or go to anteupmagazine.com/iowa/

Insufficient data puts an end to online poker study

Over the summer Iowa put its online poker legislation on hold and commissioned a study to be completed by the end of this year on the affect online poker could have on Iowans. In November the University of Northern Iowa said

there wasn't enough data to complete the study, which is a bit confusing.

Online poker has been around for at least a decade. Even if it wasn't regulated, some data must exist. Also, other countries have regulated online poker and have been earning tax revenue from it.

Data from these countries surely exists. This report should've been fairly easy to pull together.

Debate over online poker is expected in January.

HPT AT MESKWAKI: The first week of November I found myself at

Meskwaki Casino in Tama for the Heartland Poker Tour. Though I had a disappointing 50th-place finish, I had a great time and was treated well by the poker team from Meskwaki and the HPT. There was no shortage of satellites for the main event and many good cash games were going on the side.

There were 214 players for the HPT main event, a strong improvement over the past couple of HPT events at Meskwaki. When the dust settled, top prize went to **Ken Rosheisen** from Janesville, Wis. Rosheisen entered through a \$360 satellite and took home \$90,598 for the win. This was his second TV table out of 10 attempts on the HPT.

Runner-up **Tim Thompson** earned \$45,299 (he said he'll buy his wife a new car). **Jon Lapczenski** was third, turning his \$45 super-satellite investment into \$21,139.

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



KEN WARREN



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

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3,001 ENTER WSOPC EVENT

The Horseshoe Hammond continues to shatter attendance records for World Series of Poker Circuit.

This year's big story at Horseshoe Hammond's World Series of Poker Circuit stop was its numbers. For the third year, the \$350 opening event set a WSOPC record, with an amazing 3,001 entries.

"The growth here in Hammond just continues year after year," tournament director **Charles Ciresi** said. "As soon as you think it can't get any bigger, the players keep coming out."



JOE GIERTUGA

Aaron Bleck a finance major from Plymouth, Wis., took home \$124,438 for winning the biggest WSOPC event in history. The \$873,291 prize pool paid the top 297 players.

Records continued to fall as the main event drew 1,615 entries. **Bob Chow** a semipro who formerly ran a software company, made his way to the top of the record field, winning \$393,584. "I get to do what I enjoy doing, and I get to do things that really interest me," Chow said. "Life is good. My passion is poker. I really enjoy it."

Aaron Steury, a poker pro from Ft. Wayne, Ind., finished second. Steury also won the WSOP's \$1,500 H.O.R.S.E. event in July.

Dennis Phillips' highly competitive nature was put to the test during the WSOPC. After arriving from Europe he jumped into the "stimulus" tournament, finishing just out of the money, and then he was a late entry into the \$1,100 event. On Day 2 his appendix starting acting up, forcing him to take 20-minute breaks on a sofa while the tournament was in progress. But Phillips never gave up, and after being heads-up for three hours he won his first WSOPC ring. Nine hours later, he had an emergency appendectomy.

A few days later from his hospital bed, Phillips gave a detailed account on his radio show with **Paul Harris**. Phillips is fine at home in Las Vegas now. Results from this circuit event are on the next page.

- Harrah's Joliet just wrapped up its first Tuesday league and **Bala Iyer** was the points leader. Iyer, a systems analyst from Plainfield, finished 53rd in Hammond's WSOPC main event. The poker room is offering 17 Tier Credits per hour.

- The Chicago Poker Classic at the Horseshoe will be Feb. 23-March 5. The \$240 buy-in opener is a re-entry tournament with a Day 1A and 1B. Look for this to surpass last year's 1,206 entries. The Horseshoe has many promotions planned for this event; check horseshoehammond.com for details.

- The H Foundation, Windy City Poker Championship and Rockford Charitable Games have joined forces to run the state's biggest TV charity tournament, Dec. 15-18 at Via Bella Banquets in Countryside. The H Foundation raises money to fund cancer research.

"Poker players can help in the fight against cancer, along with having a chance at being in the national spotlight on a televised charity tournament" WCPC executive director and producer **Kirk Fallah** said. World champ **Jerry Yang** will be back along with movie critic **Richard Roeper** and sports journalist **David Kaplan**. Two of poker's rising stars **Amanda Musumeci** and **Jamie Kerstetter** will fly in from Philadelphia for the event.

The \$150 Ante Up Chicago Poker Championship will be Dec. 15, followed by the \$400 televised main event on Dec. 16 and a \$250 heads-up event. For more info, e-mail kirk@focalpointfilms.com.

Tournament location, dates and buy-ins are subject to change pending state approval.

- The Special Kids Network held its first charity hold'em tournament on Oct. 22. World Poker Tour tournament director **Matt Savage** ran this tournament at Fields BMW in Northfield. Blackhawks legend **Jeremy Roenick** and former Bears player **Emery Moorehead** attended.

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

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

A look at the Oregon-Washington poker scene

Schechter takes over at Snoqualmie Casino

Elliott Schechter, most recently director of poker operations at Downstream Resort in Oklahoma, is settling in as the new poker room manager at Snoqualmie Casino, about 30 minutes from Seattle. The poker room has a nine-table poker room, but is expected to open a 16-table room in a new area with a designated poker cage by March.

"I joined the team at Snoqualmie Casino because they offered me the chance to continue to grow as well as the chance to overcome new challenges," Schechter said. "Snoqualmie is giving me the opportunity to innovate and be creative. They appealed to my instincts and desires to be different



than the rest of my competitors. It was too much to pass up."

Schechter brought the Heartland Poker Tour and other events to Downstream, and expects that Snoqualmie will hold three or four similar events after the new room is open.

"Snoqualmie Casino is a pretty new player in a very competitive market and is looking to expand as a resort, while promoting poker as part of that expansion," Schechter said. "To be a part of that is too exciting and thrilling to put into mere words."

Schechter said changes to cash-game offerings and daily tournaments are in the works, too. ♠

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WSOP Circuit, Horseshoe Hammond, Hammond, Ind., Oct. 13-24



Ring Event 1 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 3,001 • Prize Pool: \$873,291

1. Aaron Bieck, Plymouth, WI, \$124,438
2. David Schonback, Geneva, IL, \$76,911
3. Jeffrey Manza, Naperville, IL, \$58,982
4. Peter Nigh, St. Louis, \$45,691
5. Javier Figueroa, Chicago, \$35,875
6. Jason Zeller, Peoria, IL, \$28,129
7. Daniel Acevedo, Behvidere, IL, \$22,208
8. Leo Whitt, Louisville, \$17,649
9. Jenchwen Chang, Atlantic City, \$14,200



Event 2 • \$560 NLHE

Entries: 648 • Prize Pool: \$314,280

1. David Costain, St. Clairsville, OH, \$64,416
2. Andrew Barfield, Mt. Sterling, IL, \$39,866
3. Alin Cotalan, Chicago, \$29,241
4. Joel Casper, Chicago, \$21,745
5. Thomas Matteucci, Berwyn, IL, \$16,390
6. Joshua Pender, Rockhill, SC, \$12,518
7. Joseph Stark, Lawrenceville, GA, \$9,686
8. Michael Sarmiento, Chicago, \$7,593
9. Scott Carroll, Pekin, IL, \$6,028



Event 3 • \$1,100 NLHE

Entries: 202 • Prize Pool: \$195,940

1. Valentin Vornicu, San Diego, \$50,943
2. Duy Tran, Brentwood, TN, \$31,470
3. Michael Souza, San Diego, \$22,723
4. Scott Schwalich, West Carrollton, OH, \$16,688
5. Nachman Berlin, Brooklyn, \$12,468
6. Mark Kroon, Madison, WI, \$9,474
7. Kyle Cartwright, Bartlett, TN, \$7,318
8. Chad Hahn, Westfield, IN, \$5,747
9. Pradeep Buddharaju, Houston, \$4,585



Event 4 • \$350 PLO w/rebuys

Entries: 153 • Prize Pool: \$139,123

1. Charles Tonne, China, MI, \$37,560
2. Mike Schneider, Covington, GA, \$23,214
3. Zachary Estes, Alton, IL, \$16,710
4. Nick Guagenti, Westerville, OH, \$12,247
5. Richard Hoffman, Chicago, \$9,135
6. Joshua Field, Villa Park, CA, \$6,932
7. Frederic Winter, La Grange, IL, \$5,351
8. Mark Provenzano, Melrose Park, IL, \$4,197
9. Gary Lisowski, \$3,347



Event 5 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 728 • Prize Pool: \$211,848

1. Navin Kamal, Naperville, IL, \$42,369
2. Michael Warrington, Chipley, FL, \$26,121
3. Nicholas Ferro, Winnebago, IL, \$19,257
4. Bradley Lipsey, Franklin, TN, \$14,353
5. Eric Edelman, Hammond, IN, \$10,850
6. Bill Varga, Paris, KY, \$8,294
7. Alexander Safin, Highland, IN, \$6,425
8. Francesco Barbaro, Willow Springs, IL, \$5,040
9. Corey Souther, Biloxi, MS, \$4,002



Event 6 • \$560 6-Max

Entries: 330 • Prize Pool: \$160,050

1. Hussain Sajwani, Chicago, \$40,018
2. Drazen Ilich, Lincoln, NE, \$24,625
3. Peter Spreadbury, Oak Forest, IL, \$17,159
4. Andrew Margolis, Chicago, \$12,053
5. Nancy Birnbaum, Decatur, GA, \$8,567
6. Frank Rusnak, Las Vegas, \$6,160
7. David Holder, Norman, OK, \$4,480
8. Jonathan Sorcher, Lynbrook, NY, \$4,480
9. Daniel Sindelar, Omaha, \$3,295



Event 7 • \$350 H.O.R.S.E.

Entries: 318 • Prize Pool: \$92,538

1. Robert Rasmussen, Niles, IL, \$22,607
2. Richard Shavzin, Chicago, \$14,007
3. Ross Schultz, Chicago, \$10,335
4. Jeffrey Tunkel, Chicago, \$7,682
5. Dennis Odonnell, Oscola, IN, \$5,753
6. Sokchheka Pho, Memphis, \$4,342
7. Brandon Schuler, Champaign, IL, \$3,302
8. Francesco Barbaro, Willow Springs, IL, \$2,529
9. Christopher Cullen, Cincinnati, \$1,952



Event 8 • \$1,100 NLHE

Entries: 227 • Prize Pool: \$220,190

1. Dennis Phillips, Cottage Hills, IL, \$55,045
2. Gordon Vayo, Chicago, \$34,024
3. Justin Gardenhire, Ponca City, OK, \$24,763
4. Michael Johnson, Bartlett, IL, \$18,313
5. Jean Gaspard, Evanston, IL, \$13,755
6. Ian Keiser, Highwood, IL, \$10,492
7. James Tolbert, Norman, OK, \$8,125
8. Niel Mittelman, Libertyville, IL, \$6,386
9. Andrew Touchette, Wakefield, MA, \$5,093



Event 9 • \$350 Omaha/8

Entries: 245 • Prize Pool: \$71,295

1. David Nicholson, Biloxi, MS, \$17,467
2. Jordan Meltzer, Decorah, IA, \$10,793
3. Shaun Burnett, Laconia, IA, \$7,798
4. Danny Scott, Kitchener, Ontario, \$5,739
5. James Vizzini, Chicago, \$4,299
6. Kenneth Share, Wheeling, IL, \$3,276
7. Kyle Shappelle, Las Vegas, \$2,538
8. Matthew Modaff, Iowa City, \$1,998
9. Randall Pace, Oak Brook, IL, \$1,598



\$1,600 Main Event

Entries: 1,615 • Prize Pool: \$2,349,825

1. Robert Chow, Schaumburg, IL, \$393,584
2. Aaron Steury, Ft. Wayne, IN, \$243,818
3. Erik Roussakis, Berwyn, IL, \$183,991
4. Eric Crain, Murphysboro, IL, \$139,815
5. David Neff, Mayfield Hts, OH, \$106,447
6. Joseph Hebda, St. John, IN, \$81,774
7. Drazen Ilich, Lincoln, NE, \$63,680
8. Daniel V. Harrington, Chicago, \$50,051
9. Shawn Quinn, Middleton, WI, \$39,947



Event 11 • \$560 NLHE

Entries: 258 • Prize Pool: \$125,130

1. Craig Bergeron, Farm. Hills, MI, \$30,658
2. Franco Cupello, Ontario, \$18,942
3. Joseph Laureano, Indianapolis, \$13,685
4. Dash Dudley, Lansing, MI, \$10,072
5. Benjamin Kramer, Terre Haute, IN, \$7,545
6. John Fagg, Terre Haute, IN, \$5,750
7. John Lauer, St. Peters, MO, \$4,455
8. Chris Tryba, Las Vegas, \$3,507
9. Kyle Cartwright, Bartlett, TN, \$2,805



Event 12 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 281 • Prize Pool: \$81,771

1. Ryan Carter, St. Louis, \$19,625
2. Rashi Brown, Posen, IL, \$12,128
3. Joseph Banasiak, Hammond, IN, \$8,800
4. Steven Tabb, Newton, MA, \$6,493
5. Felicia Johnico, Durant, OK, \$4,869
6. Shane Viele, Springfield, IL, \$3,711
7. Matthew Wolfe, Ontario, \$2,872
8. Stanley Sowa, Chicago, \$2,257
9. Kurt Fraser, Schaumburg, IL, \$1,801



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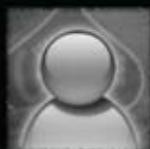
mirek78
Cashes: 72
Earnings: \$2398
Winner: 2012 WSOP Entry



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



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



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

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\$20,000.00 GUARANTEED TOURNAMENT

Friday, December 9, 2011
Buy-in: \$200 Chips: 7,500 • Begins at 7 p.m.

WEEKLY TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENTS

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

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Sessions start Sundays at 9 p.m. and will continue 2 – 5 a.m., 5 – 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. – midnight every weekday. Last session for the week will be Friday 2 - 5 p.m. Player having the high hand, in any cash game, for each time session will receive **\$100.00 in Chips**. Limited to Texas Hold 'Em cash games.

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MID-ATLANTIC

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

PORTSMOUTH LOSES BID TO RESURRECT POKER

By Dave Forster

The Virginian-Pilot © 2011 • Reprinted with permission

For a good 15 minutes, a professional poker player held court Nov. 8 in Circuit Courtroom No. 4, a quiet audience to his back and a single rapt student standing before him.

Judge **Thomas Shadrick**, down from his bench, arms crossed and swaying slightly in his black robe, concentrated on a small courtroom table. It held nine stacks of chips, a deck of cards and a dealer button. The judge, clearly new to the game, nodded along to the patient, instructional video-like presentation of **Greg "FossilMan" Raymer**, the 2004 World Series of Poker main event champion.

Now this hand, Raymer said of the two cards he flipped over for an imaginary player, if he had that hand he'd probably raise.

"For the record, a pair of 10s," the judge said.

Raymer, from Raleigh, N.C., and was the star witness in a court challenge that sought to make Texas Hold'em charity poker halls legal in Virginia. The gambit failed after a nearly daylong trial.

Shadrick's ruling ended, for now, a former poker hall operator's quest to bring back the charity-driven tournaments and cash games that flourished in Portsmouth unlike anywhere else in the state less than two years ago.

Charles Daniels, operator of the now-defunct Poker Palace, brought the lawsuit in 2010 after his establishment was forced to close under threat of prosecution for illegal gambling.

State law defines illegal gambling as the wagering of something of value for a chance to win something of value in a contest, the outcome of which is "uncertain or a matter of chance." There are exemptions for some forms of gambling, such as bingo.

Daniels and his attorneys argued poker is predominantly a game of skill, and therefore not illegal gambling. The judge conceded poker involves skill, but the evidence also showed while better players will win more over time, the outcome of each hand is still uncertain, he said.

After the ruling, Daniels said he hadn't decided whether to appeal.

Delaware tournaments still strong

The Crown Royal Poker Room at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino will host a \$20K guarantee tournament with a \$200 buy-in for 7,500 chips on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. (See ad on left for details.)

• Every Sunday during the NFL season Delaware Park Hotel and Casino will hold a 9 a.m. freeroll limited to the first 100 players as 20 winners receive a seat into that day's noon tournament.

Registration for the freeroll begins at 6 a.m. (and has been filling up by 8).

Also on Sundays during NFL season, players earn entries for a chance to win tickets to an Eagles or Ravens game. During live play, active players receive entries on the hour from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. Tournament players receive a ticket for each tournament entry (except the 10 p.m.). The tickets will be drawn during halftime of the Sunday night football game.

In Southern Maryland, charity events are going strong, including a larger variety of games. A list of most of the tournaments can be found at smdm.com/calendar/index.cgi.

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



MICHAEL YOUNG



PRAIRIE'S EDGE IS SMALLER, BUT SUCCESSFUL

Most of our Minnesota coverage centers on the state's largest poker rooms. But we can't overlook several other successful rooms throughout the state, such as Prairie's Edge Casino in Granite Falls, Minn.

Prairie's Edge Casino has had a poker room since 2005 and recently had a fairly major

remodeling, which included moving to a new non-smoking area next to one of the casino entrances.

The room has an open feel and its location allows

you to get to the room without walking through the

smoking area of the main casino. The room has four tables plus two blackjack tables. I arrived on a Friday night and played \$2-\$10 spread-limit hold'em with a full kill. The staff was friendly and moved the game along at a decent pace.

I spoke with poker room supervisor **Megan Howell** to find out how players have reacted to the new room.

"It's been really good," Howell said. "They like the openness of it.



JOHN SOMSKY



They like having the door they can go out to have a cigarette. And you don't have to come into the casino and walk through all the smoke."

The room opens 6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday as \$2-\$4 and \$3-\$6 limit hold'em and \$2-\$10 spread-limit hold'em are most common and usually played with a kill. One of the advantages of this small poker room is its rake structure. They rake 10 percent up to \$3 plus \$1 for a jackpot. "I do believe we are the lowest in Minnesota," Howell said of the rake.

They also offer a no-limit hold'em tournament every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. that has been quite popular. This tournament occasionally supports a charity or may be a satellite into a World Series of Poker event.

Don't forget about all of the poker rooms around the state. If you find yourself near Granite Falls, you can stop in for a fun game with a courteous staff.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS: The last event of Season 2 of the Mid-States Poker Tour will be at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Minn. Some \$250 qualifying heats will run Dec. 7-10 and the \$1,100 main event will be Dec. 11-12.

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

WISCONSIN

Scan this tag for more Wisconsin poker news or go to anteupmagazine.com/wisconsin/



Ho-Chunk brings bad beat to Dells and Nekoosa

Ho-Chunk Gaming introduced a bad-beat jackpot to its Wisconsin Dells and Nekoosa poker rooms this year. The former property, located in South Central Wisconsin about an hour north of Madison, is a 12-table room that regularly spreads limit and no-limit Texas

Hold'em, pot-limit Omaha and Omaha/8; as well as a full slate of tournaments. Likewise, Nekoosa spreads all the same games, albeit in their cozier three-table room. Not surprisingly, both rooms have experienced a spike in traffic since the introduction of the BBJ.

Compared with other casinos around the country, Ho-Chunk's BBJ is actually quite kind. Only eligible in hold'em games, Ho-Chunk's BBJ is triggered whenever aces full of 10s (or better) are beaten by four of a kind (or better). Both players must use both of their

hole cards, and cannot utilize community cards consisting of three aces. Finally, there must be a minimum of four players playing at the start of the hand to qualify.

Once hit, the BBJ is distributed not only to the loser (40 percent) and winner (20 percent) of the hand, but anyone playing in the rooms at the time (20 percent). This means you could be playing at a \$2-\$4 limit hold'em game in Nekoosa and still receive part of the BBJ when it's hit in a \$1-\$2 no-limit game in Wisconsin Dells, and vice versa.



CHAD HOLLOWAY

"The bad-beat jackpot at Ho-Chunk has been great," local player **Dan Almerli** said. "The action seems to have picked up and it's reassuring to know that if I take a horrendous beat, I stand to win a small fortune as opposed to losing a few hundred in the hand."

Many BBJs in other casinos require quads to be beaten, so it was a shock to see Ho-Chunk's BBJ take so long to hit. After last being hit in late May at a meek \$20,472, Ho-Chunk's BBJ wasn't struck for another five months, swelling to a little more than \$160K, until on Oct. 30.

Eric Barka's pocket aces improved to aces full of queens only to run into the quad queens of **Andrew Westrum**. What's more, there were only two tables in action, which meant everyone else in the room took home \$4,420.95.

"It was nice seeing the bad-beat jackpot get so large, as it certainly brought in some new money," Almerli said a few days after the BBJ was hit. "I just wish I would have been there when it hit."

While he may have missed the big jackpot, Almerli was still eligible for the reserve, which started the BBJ anew at a healthy \$60K (25 cents of every \$1 dropped goes to the reserve BBJ). Needless to say, if you're looking to play some poker, with the possibility of a nice payday, look no further than Ho-Chunk Wisconsin Dells and Nekoosa.

— **Chad Holloway is Ante Up's Wisconsin Ambassador. He's also a senior writer for PokerNews.com and contributes to Phil Laak's Unabomber Poker Blog. Email him at anteupchad@yahoo.com or follow him on Twitter @ChadAHolloway.**

Interested in Minnesota or Wisconsin tournaments and promotions? Turn to our **Where to Play** pages in the back of the magazine.

Ante Up will sail out of Baltimore aboard the *Enchantment of the Seas* on Nov. 10 for seven nights.



ANTE UP SETS 2012 CRUISE SCHEDULE

Ante Up is planning three poker cruises in 2012, including a return to its home port of Tampa and sailing out of Baltimore for the first time.

The schedule kicks off with a March 17 five-night sailing out of Tampa, continues with an Aug. 27 four-night voyage out of Port Canaveral and ends with a Nov. 10 seven-night sailing out of Baltimore.

“We’re excited that we were again able to put together a great schedule of poker cruises at very affordable prices,” said **Scott Long**, who publishes *Ante Up* with **Chris Cosenza**. “The Baltimore cruise will make it easier for our fans in Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states to sail without having to fly, and we’re pleased that we can again sail from Tampa, just minutes from where we’re based.”

Ante Up transforms the conference centers aboard Royal Caribbean cruise ships into floating poker rooms, complete with professional equipment and staff. Each cruise features a variety of cash games, multitable and single-table tournaments, free poker classes and an open-bar cocktail party.

Passengers enjoy all of the normal amenities of cruising, including gourmet food, exciting shows and fun activities, and at the same time get up to 94 hours of poker action.

All cruises feature a \$125 buy-in main event that qualifies for Ante Up’s Player of the Year race, as well as at least one \$70 tournament. An advanced hold’em class taught by a professional player is included in all fares, as well as a Poker 101 beginners class. On two of the cruises, a beginners Omaha/stud class also is offered.

Ante Up will again seek to partner with a number of companies to add value to each of the three cruises, so the schedule and amenities are subject to change, but here’s an early look at what to expect on all three sailings:

Spring

The five-night cruise out of Tampa, Fla., aboard the *Jewel of the Seas* features Ante Up’s first stop in Costa Maya, a historic Mexican town featuring Mayan ruins, as well as a stop in Cozumel, Mexico. Rates start at \$579 per person and are guaranteed through Jan. 10.

Summer

Ante Up’s most popular cruise returns, with no price increase from last year. The four-night sailing aboard the *Monarch of the Seas* out of Port Canaveral, Fla., starts at \$369 per person and the rate is guaranteed through June 22. Port stops include Nassau, Bahamas, and Royal Caribbean’s private island of CocoCay.

Winter

Ante Up’s first cruise out of Baltimore, Md., is a seven-night voyage aboard the *Enchantment of the Seas*. In addition to stops in Nassau and CocoCay, the cruise makes a unique stop in Port Canaveral, Fla., allowing passengers to visit the Kennedy Space Center and dozens of other Florida attractions. Rates start at \$599 and are guaranteed through Aug. 26. Ante Up will work with poker rooms and leagues to offer cruise package giveaways or satellites so passengers can win their way aboard. Details will be posted on the cruise web page.

“We’re looking forward to working with poker rooms in Delaware, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and elsewhere in the area to join our cruise program with the Baltimore sailing, as well as all of the rooms in Florida who annually support the program,” Long said.

Passengers can book by calling (727) 331-4335, and more information on all sailings can be found at anteupmagazine.com/cruise. Players must book through Ante Up to be admitted to the Ante Up Poker Room, as per Royal Caribbean policy. ♠

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AUG. 27-31

Monarch of the Seas

Sailing from Port Canaveral, Fla.

**Stopping at Royal Caribbean's private island
in CocoCay and Nassau, Bahamas!**

Rates starting at \$369 per person*

NOV. 10-17

Enchantment of the Seas

Sailing from Baltimore, Md.

**Stopping in Port Canaveral, Fla., and Nassau
and CocoCay Bahamas!**

Rates starting at \$599 per person*

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ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM/CRUISE



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Royal Caribbean International reserves the right to impose a fuel supplement on all guests if the price of West Texas Intermediate fuel exceeds \$65 per barrel. The fuel supplement for 1st and 2nd guests would be no more than \$10 per guest per day, to a maximum of \$140 per cruise; and for additional guests would be no more than \$5 per person per day, to a maximum of \$70 per cruise.

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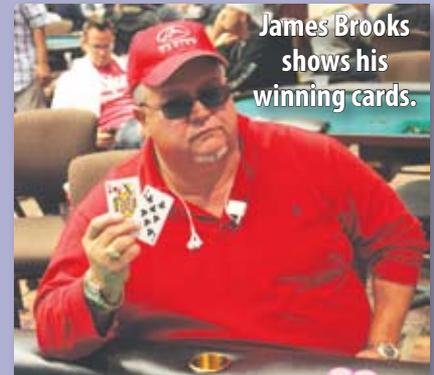
Scan this tag for more Arizona poker news or go to anteupmagazine.com/arizona/

CHILDREN'S CHARITY EVENT A HIT AT FT. MCDOWELL

The Fields for Kids charity event, one of Ft. McDowell Casino's signature tournaments, wrapped up Nov. 5 with celebrities, pros and amateurs on hand to raise money. James Brooks won the event.



Chad Brown, white shirt, celebrates eliminating fellow pro Layne Flack. Other celebrities were on hand, such as Kenna James and Gaylord Perry.



James Brooks shows his winning cards.

Entries: 197 • Prize Pool: \$18,845

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. James Brooks, \$4,200 | 6. Dan Szarek, \$1,100 |
| 2. Terry Forsberg, \$3,590 | 7. Robert Sandoval, \$850 |
| 3. Chad Brown, \$1,800 | 8. Pat Cornman, \$700 |
| 4. Timothy Wottle, \$1,500 | 9. Ron Vincent, \$470 |
| 5. Ron Gardin, \$1,300 | 10. Ryan Bergsteat, \$365 |

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at 7 pm

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NUTZ POKER LEAGUE



Here's a look at the Nutz Poker League's most recent winners:
 • **Bill Dallaire** won a satellite seat to the Silks Poker Room's Halloween Tournament.



• **Tom Walden** won the monthly championship at the OFC Tavern, earning championship bracelet and a \$500 gift card.



• **Richard Acosta** won the Courtside Extravaganza at Courtside Grille. He earned a semiannual qualifier and a \$100 gift card.

LOOSE NUTZ POKER



Mike "Gator" Beckwith won the October title at Elmer's Sports Cafe, earning a seat into a \$10K event.

PLATINUM POKER



Wes Mach outlasted 59 players to win the Summer North Division (above) quarterly tournament, overcoming **Bobby Shelley** in heads-up play for the \$100 prize. Shelley earned \$50 and **David Reed** won \$25 for third.

Shelley wasn't done, however, as he also finished second in the South Division (below) quarterly. **Debbie Turner** ousted Shelley in heads-up play for the \$100 prize. Again Shelley earned \$50 for second and **Gail Cordell** earned a \$25 gift card for third.



PLEASURE ISLAND



Loria Walters completed a remarkable comeback on Oct. 19 in the monthly tournament at Rivals Sports Grill in Ft. Walton Beach.

With 18 of the 83 players left and blinds at 2,000-4,000, Walters had just 2,000 chips, but would win the event, her third monthly title in three years.

Walters earned a \$350 tournament entry to Pensacola Greyhound Track's \$20K event. **Pat Dougherty** won a \$50 entry chip for second.

They were followed by **Maria Johnson, Cheryl Geohagen, Henry Kelley, Frank "Gator" Crowder, Stacy Fretina, Bennie Lott, R.C. Klein** and **Gerard Durand**.

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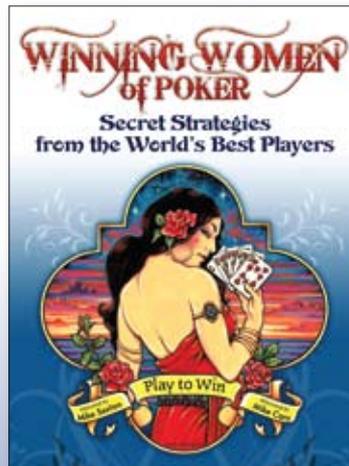


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FLORIDA FREE LEAGUES

CHIP ANA CHAIR



Richard Clark won the fall main event on Sept. 25. He was followed by **Todd Borkus, Jean Eisenwinter, Russ Wood, Tom Carter, Bill Lewis, Connie Shipley** and **Matt Gibbons**.

All received entry to the Oktoberfest charity tournament to benefit the Arthritis Foundation. Clark also won a 32-inch flatscreen TV and bracelet.

TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURS

George Logemann took top honors in the northeast quarterly tournament at the Italian-American Club in Palm Coast on Oct. 8. He was followed by **Randy Sikes, Kay Afonso, Barry Ferguson, Richard Gould, Andrew Tuohy, Klaus Brochardt, Gary Paterno, Lisa Long, Renate Sherwin** and **Smokey King**.



CLUB POKER LEAGUE



Derek Hartman defeated a field of more than 140 players to capture the Season 3 finale Bentley's Resort Hotel near Sarasota, Fla. Here are the final results, and payouts are for poker-room sponsorships:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Derek Hartman, \$400 | 6. Diane McKay, \$65 |
| 2. Matt Hoffman, \$250 | 7. Mary Johnson, \$65 |
| 3. Dennis Colema, \$150 | 8. Patricia Caetto, \$45 |
| 4. Jim Von Deylen, \$100 | 9. Janice Mihay, \$45 |
| 5. Mike Rodriguez, \$65 | 10. John Russell, \$45 |

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Dec. 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 2011

EVENT

1	Ante Up Magazine Chicago Poker Championship December 15th @ 1pm \$150 Entry (1R+1A)* 15,000 Chips - 25 Min Rounds - Slow Levels
2	MAIN EVENT - Windy City Poker Championship December 16th @ 12pm \$400 Entry (400 MAX PLAYERS)* 25,000 Chips - 30 Min Rounds - Super Slow Levels (This is a 2-day event with a Televised Final Table on Sunday)
3	HEADS UP-EVENT - Windy City Poker Championship December 16th & 17th \$250 Entry (32 MAX PLAYERS)* 5,000 Chips - 10 Min Rounds - Slow Levels
4	HIGH ROLLER WINNER TAKE ALL INVITATIONAL December 17th \$1,500 Entry (10 MAX PLAYERS)* 15,000 Chips - 20 Min Rounds - Slow Levels (This is a 1-day Invitational event with a Televised Table)

Events will be held (pending city approval) at
Via Bella Banquets 5412 S. LaGrange Rd. Countryside IL
For More Information or to Pre-Register
Contact Kirk Fallah - kirk@focalpointfilms.com



Jerry Yang
2007 WSOP Champ



Richard Roeper
WLS-AM Host



Faraz Jaka
Poker Pro



David Kaplan
CSN Chicago



Amanda Musumeci
Poker Pro

THE ABOVE CELEBRITIES AND PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS ARE SCHEDULED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE*

Proceeds from this multi-day charity event benefit the R Foundation (CG-02212). The R Foundation raises funds to support cancer research at the Robert M. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. All Tournaments, schedules, times, entries, and details are subject to change or cancellation at anytime. All tournaments are subject to the event approval by both the state of Illinois and the city in which the event is hosted. Players are subject to terms and conditions available at the event.

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TREASURE CHEST POKER

Here is a look at the recent Treasure Chest Poker winners:

- **Michelle Cochetto** captured the monthly title at Six Billiards and a \$500 gift card, splitting with Chris V., who won the \$200 gift card. She beat more than 120 players and dominated the final table. They were followed by **Don Pelfrey, Rex, Steven Bogart, James Beaver, Fred Martini** and **Doug Hunichen**.



Michelle Cochetto

- **Susan Hirst** is the newest Queen of Ocala, eliminating former queen **Terri McFarlane** during heads-up play to take home the \$50 gift card. Women have won three straight monthly events in Ocala.

- **Eric Martin** won the Stokers monthly and took home a \$250 gift card.

- **Don Pelfrey** earned the Champion of Clearwater and Largo trophy and a \$150 gift card.

- TCP raised more than \$3K at the charity event at Stokers in Palm Harbor for a local injured deputy. **Karen Smoak** took first place and a pair of Bucs tickets.

- Eddie's Bar and **Kris Hannon** captured the Battle of the Bars trophy. Hannon also won a \$50 gift card and a pair of Bucs tickets.



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DEALING WITH DISAPPOINTMENT

Quite often, when playing the major tournament circuit, you'll find yourself with no chips at a final table despite recently having a decent shot at a title.

When you go from having lots of equity to none, crazy things start happening in your mind. I'm going to let you into my world and let you know what I do to stay sane when things go wrong when there is a lot of money on the line.



JONATHAN LITTLE

I had the pleasure of being in this situation twice at the most recent Foxwoods World Poker Finals. I final-tabled the \$500 preliminary event, which had around 250 entrants.

When we were down to six players, I got all-in with J-J vs. Q-J but lost to a turned queen to send me to the rail, cashing for \$5,888. All in all, it wasn't a bad payday, but it was nowhere near what I wanted.

A few days later, I found myself playing eight-handed in the \$10,000 World Poker Tour Main Event.

I had around average chips and got all-in with K-K vs. A-J for a 60-big-blind pot, which, if I won, would have put me in great shape to make a deep run at the final table. Instead an ace turned and I was down to eight big blinds, which I quickly lost with a standard button push. I ended up cashing for around \$54,000. In both situations, I went from having a ton of equity to none with the turn of a card.

Despite cashing for around \$60,000 total I was unhappy with the result. While you can't change the outcome of the cards, you can control your reactions.

First off, while you're still at the table, you must remain cool and collected, especially if you still have chips left, as I did in the main event. It will do you no good to berate the players, the dealer, or God. Doing this will only make you look like an idiot, which you probably are if you're doing such things.

When you get all-in with 70 percent equity, you have to realize you aren't going to win 100 percent of the time. When you get it in with 70 percent equity for all your chips, you're going to go broke 30 percent of the time. If this isn't acceptable to you, poker probably shouldn't be your game of choice.

After I bust in a spot where I'm generally annoyed with the result,

I make a point to make the rest of my day as great as possible. On both days, I went out to David Burke's Prime, which I think is amazing. I had a glass of wine and a delicious dinner. I also watched a few hours of television on my iPad, which helped take my mind off the game. When I busted from the main event, I had enough time to hit the gym and get a massage at the spa. While I'm pretty quick to get over losing a major event, I would guess most people would have a tough time remembering a bad run after a nice, relaxing evening.

It should be noted I think you should avoid playing poker or gambling in the casino after a major loss. Sure, you will win sometimes, but I would bet good money that on average, after busting from a major tournament when lots of money was on the line, the average player is a huge loser for the next 24 hours.

The best course of action is to simply avoid gambling and find something else to occupy your time. While this may not be the most fun way to spend your day, especially if you like being in action, it will save you a lot of money in the long run. You can just assume this is part of tilt control you should master before considering yourself a great poker player, as poker isn't played only on the felt.

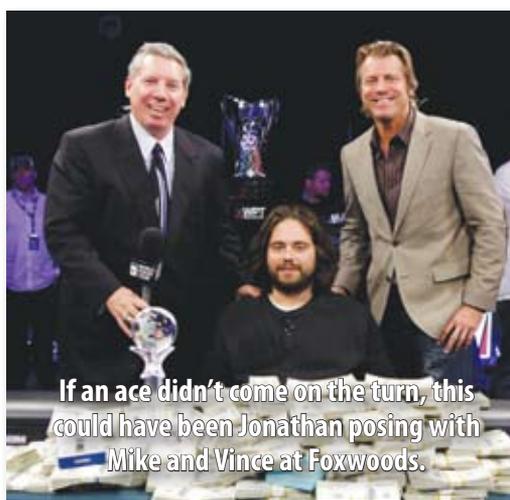
One final concept worth mentioning is you shouldn't beat yourself up too hard when you bust in a bad way. I recently busted from a tournament where I know my bustout hand was bad. I simply did the math wrong at the table and came up with the wrong conclusion, causing me to bubble one of the biggest tournaments of the year. While I was definitely sad about the result, I made a point to learn from my mistake and move on.

Next time a similar situation arises, I will make the optimal decision, which is all that really matters. As long as you learn from your mistakes and don't repeat them, busting, even in a fairly bad way, isn't all that bad.

There will be many more tournaments in your future. Letting one bad day alter

your mood for the next month will only make you miserable. Being miserable is the real disaster, as playing poker should be an activity that makes you happy and enriches your life.

— 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.



If an ace didn't come on the turn, this could have been Jonathan posing with Mike and Vince at Foxwoods.

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WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

HOW DID THESE GUYS GET SO GOOD?

In preparation for the November Nine, I reviewed videos online. There were several unique things about this group. The first was how young they were and how it has become an international event with so many nations represented. Perhaps those are obvious things,

but what stood out more was how this group had such few poker tells. How they got this way is a good question. Had they been reading the literature on poker tells, including my writings, or had they figured this out on their own? I don't know, but I can say, compared to years past, this group seemed to conceal strength and weakness better than most I've studied.

If you're a student of poker tells, take the time to review the videos online or through ESPN and you'll see what I mean. What will hopefully jump out at you is how still these players

hold themselves when engaged. I think this has helped them get where they are because even for an experienced observer like me, they are difficult to dissect.

Notice how **Anton Makievsky, Matt Giannetti, Phil Collins** and **Pius Heinz** in particular all hold still. They don't look, they don't engage in superfluous conversations or make eye contact. They're so much different in this regard than older players. They just sit their contemplating their moves, they act, and then they retreat to their various perch positions from which they wait, avoiding eye contact.

As I have written many times before here and elsewhere, the more we talk and move at the table the more we're prone to reveal information subconsciously. Our lips conceal but our bodies reveal, except of course when we hold still. As I noted in *200 Poker Tells*, when we hold still, we can virtually disappear at the table because after a while players stop looking at us because there's nothing there to reward their efforts. When there's no conscious or subconscious reward for looking at something or someone, our brain after a while skips that person or object as there's nothing there to see and we tend to orient toward movement.

But that doesn't mean these players don't have tells. Without doubt we see the common ones such as a nose crinkle (something negative), compressed lips (concerns), a twitching of the corner of the lip toward ear (negative thoughts), eyelid flutter (frustrated, worried), nervous hands placing chips (strong), hard swallows (weakness, doubt). Those were all there, but frankly most people would have missed them.

One player stood out because of an interesting behavior that deserves honorable mention. Collins does something rather interesting. He always seems to move at the same slow methodical speed. What that does is dull us into ignoring him because it's always the same.



Most people would have difficulty doing this. He seems to have found his sweet spot by making his moves all the same (strong or weak) and it works. I think there are few people who could do this as well as he does; emotions often drive the speed at which we do things. So he has taken a different tact and it works for him.

As I looked at Heinz I was reminded hoodies have a disadvantage to others especially if you're sitting next to them. I'm opposed to hoodies because that's not how the game evolved. They block the view of the face to players on either side, which puts them at a disadvantage over someone in front. I think they should be forbidden. Otherwise, why not put a box over yourself? Why they tolerate this in tournaments is beyond me.

We had an international final table, which brings with it some interesting things. There are cultures (especially from Europe) that stand out because when people are strong and confident they'll raise their nose and chin (France, Germany, Russia) and when they're lacking confidence they'll lower their nose and tuck in their chin. Obviously we don't always see this, but I have noticed that this shows up every once in a while with these players as a testament to cultural influences in nonverbal communications.

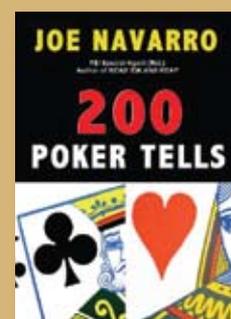
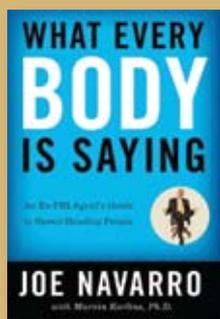
This truly was an exciting event and the November Nine played exceptionally well. Obviously they worked hard to get where they are, in the most democratic of activities where anyone has a chance to win no matter where you are from. My hat's off to them, but I'm still wondering: Where did they learn to hide their tells so well?

— **Joe Navarro is a former FBI special agent and the author of *200 Poker Tells* and *Read 'em and Reap*, both available on Amazon. For additional information go to joenavarro.net or follow him on twitter: @navarrotells.**



JOE NAVARRO

— POKER TELLS EXPERT JOE NAVARRO —

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LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way

INFERIOR PLAYERS? YES, YOU NEED THEM

I try to focus on things people should learn to be a successful poker player. But this month I thought I'd spend some time on the things you need to unlearn. For many *Ante Up* fans, you wind up being the best player in your local home games or any regular games that you play consistently because as a listener to the *Ante Up Poker-Cast* and a reader of the magazine, you're always learning. You've probably read books, frequented forums and done other things to advance your game that opponents just aren't doing.



LEE CHILDS

If you're anything like me and most of the students I work with, you often feel like the smaller games and playing with people who "have no clue" can be miserable. They don't know what they're doing, don't know what you're representing, they play any two cards regardless of position, they call you too lightly and "no one folds!" The problem with this thinking? You really want to be playing against people that know less than you. You don't want to regularly play against equal or better players just because you can get away with more bluffs from time to time. You want to play against these players who are weaker than you, but the key is you must *unlearn* some of what you know to beat them.

Now, let me clarify. I don't want you to completely unlearn a bunch of stuff, but I want you to be able to selectively forget some of the things you know and some of the tools in your poker toolbox. When you're playing with weaker players, you must play patiently, selectively and straight-forward. Whether it's playing a session, tournament or

one hand against anyone who you feel is much less knowledgeable about the game, you have to take steps back to think more along the same lines as them. But try to stay one level ahead of them. If you play too advanced you'll often end up frustrated when some great play you set up fails. You must play a more ABC game, bet your monster hands strongly and avoid any marginal situations. Remember, if these players never fold then that means they're not folding when you have monster hands. So stop trying to get them to fold when you have marginal hands or nothing at all, and punish them when you have the goods. They say you can't bluff an idiot, right? So, if you know this and you're trying to bluff the idiot, well, who's the idiot?

Playing against less competent players is what we all should be looking to do. It may not be as challenging or fun as outplaying some of the world's best, but it sure will be more profitable if you make the adjustments. And when it comes to cashing out at the cage, it sure is a lot more fun for me to have racks of chips than knowing I got to make several fancy plays that session. Selecting the right games, against weaker players, and making the proper adjustments are critical to surviving today's poker games. Because of the state of online poker, the lower limit games and lower buy-in tournaments are quickly filling up with more and more educated players, many of whom are used to playing much higher. Those who make the adjustments to find and profitably play against the weaker players are the ones who will survive. Decide to Win!

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

LIVING THE DREAM

HERE'S HOW TO MOVE UP IN LIMITS PROPERLY

There comes a time as a poker player when it's (financially) correct to play higher limits. Cue the song *Moving On Up* at this time. I'm going to be selfish and talk about my navigation through the rough waters of low and mid stakes.



MIKE WOLF

I started playing micro stakes on Party Poker when I was 17. I turned \$50 into \$50,000. Cool. I bought a car, got a girlfriend and spent all of my money traveling. Not so cool. I always thought I could build my roll back up easily at any time. This is not true.

It takes time (a lot of time) to build a roll and garner the experience to move up in stakes. Any monkey could go on a rush and build a massive roll. I'm talking about a slow process where you can add the tools to your game to be competitive at the next limit.

That being said, I would like to give you a guideline to follow when moving up the ladder. I wish someone would've given me this when it was my turn. Take advantage of my trials and tribulations and read and re-read this article.

THE SWINGS OF BIGGER GAMES ARE...BIGGER: The players, on average, will be better when you move up and will put you in more difficult spots where you might make mistakes. This is why you need a bigger bankroll to play higher stakes. Say you can play live \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em with 15 buy-ins, whereas you may need 20 or 25 buy-ins for \$2-\$5.

BE WILLING TO MOVE DOWN AT ANY GIVEN TIME: Take your ego and erase it from the equation. Money is cool, enough said. If you move up and start losing, whether it's a structural leak in your game or fear of playing higher, whatever, move down immediately to a limit you can beat. The confidence you'll gain from booking wins is invaluable when attempting to move up.

TAKE SHOTS: Yeah, I said it. I may get flamed for this one, but I'm a big fan of taking controlled shots at higher limits. When I'm crushing my limit and playing my "A" game, I may take a shot at a higher game every now and then. If things don't go my way I know I can drop back when needed. You'll never know how far you can go if you don't take a few shots along the way. Just remember the reason you lost that buy-in at the bigger game may not have been because you aren't good enough; It could've been a cooler or a bad beat that isn't your fault. Have no fear; it's only money.

THINK OF THE GAME OBJECTIVELY: Always look at it in terms of big blinds and percentage of the pot being bet. Don't look at it in terms of money as it will negatively affect your play at the higher limits. I remember the first time I played \$5-\$10, I said to myself, "If I raise preflop with A-K, miss and c-bet, that's like \$200. Oh my God!" The game becomes much easier when you say, "OK, so he raised three times the big blind; what does that mean?"

Lastly, just have fun. It's poker.

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

STRATEGY

ANTONIO PINZARI • Playing the table

GOING FURTHER WITH MATH

For years I've enjoyed reading **Lee Childs** articles in *Ante Up*. For my money he has a realistic understanding of the game that many so-called pros seldom (if ever) achieve. I suggest you read (or re-read) his October 2011 column (Understanding Core Realities) at anteupmagazine.com or by scanning the Microsoft Tag on this page.



ANTONIO PINZARI

As a reader you can consider this an early Christmas present from Lee. His column will have a profound effect on your game (tournament and cash-game play) and is as solid money-saving advice as has ever graced the pages of *Ante Up*.

Lee's article inspired me to go somewhat further and continue with the dreaded math portions of the game, which average players don't factor into in their daily play. All great

players can quote the correct percentages in a hand and rely heavily on math to make correct decisions. Why is it average players won't rely on this most important aspect of the game?

Ask any of my students what I've drummed into their collective heads for years when it comes to flushes and flush draws. They'll tell you what Lee wrote, and please allow me to take it a step further.

The math in hold'em never changes regardless of who's holding the cards. When you hold two suited cards the chances of flopping a flush are 118-1 against you. Everyone who plays on a regular basis has flopped a flush and will continue to do so.

The problem for average players is they're willing to put money into the pot preflop with any two suited cards, cards that won't even give them a chance to make a straight. The 3♦-8♦ preflop and often out of position to a raise won't be much of a hand even if you make a flush. If the fourth suited card hits the board or the board pairs do you truly think your eight-high flush will hold up? How would you like to call an all-in bet for your tournament life after the river with four diamonds on board?

If you choose to continue playing any two suited cards preflop by limping in you'll usually be facing a raise from a player behind you who loves to punish limpers. Where do you go now with that 3-8 suited? Lee wrote with two suited cards in your hand you only have an 11 percent chance of flopping two of the same suit. That means 89 percent of the time you won't flop two of your suit. If you limp in and are raised you seldom can make the call, thus losing you limp money you now can't defend. Poor play for sure. As Lee wrote, "Why are you betting?"

Again let's go further with two suited cards preflop. You've overcome the 89 percent and flopped two of the same suit, what are the chances of making the flush by the river? Using the Rule of 4 x 2 (if you don't know what that is I suggest you find out fast) you have about a 35 percent chance of making the flush on the turn and an 18 percent chance if you missed the turn card by making a flush on the river. You're a lucky player if you're not facing two bets and get to draw for free, which is seldom the case.



Scan the tag to read Lee Childs' October column.

What I really admire about Lee's article is that the column cuts both ways. As is so often the case, average players will make large bets postflop with two suited cards on board to prevent players from drawing to a flush. A determined player with, say, A-Q suited with a straight and flush draw also on board and the ace being an overcard won't usually lay that hand down and may even reraise trying to receive better pot odds or win the pot right there. The postflop large bet seldom has the desired effect on a big drawing hand.

This type of bettor, by making this large bet, shows how little they really know about the math that's associated with flush draws. Here is a huge number Lee didn't cover: 60 percent of all flops contain two suited cards. Now factor the 11 percent, the 89 percent and the 35 percent of making the flush by the river into your game and you won't be making postflop big bets to prevent flush draws, and you won't be chasing flush draws preflop and postflop. You will, however, cherish the players that do.

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

118-1

Odds against that you'll flop a flush while holding two suited cards.

60

The percentage of all flops in hold'em that contain two suited cards.

11

Percentage, while holding two suited cards, you'll flop two of the same suit.

35

Percentage of time you'll make a flush on the turn after flopping a draw.

18

Percentage of time you'll make a flush on the river after missing on the turn.

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MARC DUNBAR • What's going on with our government

COURT SAYS 'TABLE TALK' NOT PROTECTED

As poker has grown in mainstream popularity over the past decade, more individuals have attempted to capitalize on its growth. In states where commercial gaming hasn't been legalized broadly, players hungry for games close to home have used creative arguments in the hopes of establishing local poker rooms. A recent New York case is an example of such an effort. Unfortunately as I have mentioned in prior columns, judges are not quick to embrace such creativity.



MARC DUNBAR

In 2005, a group in New York organized a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation called AK Tournament Play Inc. The stated goals of AKTP were, according to its filing documents, to pursue recreational tournament-style Texas Hold'em.

By November 2006, the group rented space in a commercial building in Wallkill, N.Y., and began hosting poker tournaments to its "members."

To become a member of the AKTP, a player was required to pay a \$75 annual fee, and membership was open to the public. At the height of its operation, the AKTP had about 130 members.

This rapid growth was to be short-lived, as authorities raided the premises in February 2007, leading to the eventual dissolution of the company and the cancellation of tournaments. AKTP sued the Wallkill and its building inspector, alleging the defendants had violated AKTP's First Amendment right to "freedom of association."

By way of background, the U.S. Supreme Court has identified two types of "freedom of association" claims available under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that merit protection: (i) choices to enter into or maintain certain intimate human relationships and (ii) association for the purpose of engaging in those activities protected by the First Amendment.

Basically, to win its lawsuit the AKTP would have to prove playing tournament-style Texas Hold'em was related to an intimate human relationship (which would be almost impossible and in many respects laughable from a proof standpoint), or the more likely option that poker players associated for the purposes of "peaceably assembling."

Interestingly, as the challenge was considered, the reviewing court did not immediately throw out the argument and conceded playing poker in this fashion could ultimately be a legal activity. The New York court stated, "while the Court takes no position on this issue generally, ... the Court assumes that Plaintiffs' poker tournaments are permissible."

Unfortunately, the First Amendment arguments ultimately didn't hold water as the court held the AKTP failed to identify or plead any of the qualities that would justify affording AKTP's recreational poker-playing activities constitutional protection under a "freedom of association" claim. For example, AKTP did not "allege that Defendants attempted to break up their families or intimate social circles" or "show that their poker-playing should be protected as 'expressive association.'"

In the eyes of the court, the potential camaraderie between poker players is no different than any other bond between gamblers, like those who enjoy playing bingo or betting on jai-alai. In this case, "as with bingo, any communications that may take place during Plaintiffs' poker tournaments are 'singularly in furtherance of the game' and 'totally divorced from a purpose of expressing ideas, impressions, feelings or information unrelated to the game itself.'" In its summary of the case, the court concluded table-talk "discussions of whether to 'hold'em' or 'fold'em' are not protected by the First Amendment."

The lessons to be taken from cases such as this are that poker players certainly don't lack for creative arguments and that courts are not the best place to push the envelope on gambling laws. For players in search of games, keep in mind the vast majority of games conducted outside of state regulated casinos or cardrooms are illegal. Your host may have a great argument or rationale as to why their game is legal, but ask yourself this simple question: Would you let them play your cards and your bankroll at a table? When you play games outside of regulated facility, always remember you're rolling the dice that can cost you your bankroll, and your freedom.

— 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).

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HEAD GAMES

DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

KEY TO STRESS IS WHAT YOU DO WITH IT

The No. 1 psychological problem people face is stress. A certain amount of stress is good. Some folks have conceptualized stress as (good) eustress vs. (bad) distress.

Distress is the most commonly thought of type of stress, having negative implications, whereas eustress is a positive form of stress, usually related to desirable events in a person's life.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

Both can be equally taxing on the body, and are cumulative in nature, depending on a person's way of adapting to a change that has caused the stress. The body cannot discern between good and bad stress. From a psychological perspective, we look to a 1975 article, in which **Hans Selye** talked about how persistent stress that's not resolved through coping or adaptation, deemed distress, may lead to anxiety, withdrawal or depressive-like behavior.

In contrast, if the stress involved enhances function physical or mental, such as through challenging work, it may be considered eustress or good stress or necessary stress and can be mentally productive. It has been suggested that without a certain amount of stress we wouldn't get off our duffs.

This may be a useful way of looking at how stress affects poker play. So the issue with stress is not that it exists, but instead how we handle it and use stress to our competitive advantage. Personal management of stress is the way to view this at the table and in life.

First, too much stress can cause negative performance results. Mental stress can hurt your performances in a variety of ways. It can have physiological effects: increased heart rate or muscle tension, for example, and these might affect your performance but they can affect the mental game, too. Stress interferes with mentally managing your sessions and your life; instead of a state of "relaxed activation" you may become preoccupied by stressful thoughts and feelings that will affect your performance. You may overreact or under react to a situation. Poker is a game in which one wants to be able to control as much as possible; so many things are out of our control that working on personal control may prove to be the most useful endeavor.

Distress comes to us in life and before our sessions and should be managed before coming to the table. Coming to the table is not the way to deal with stress. It's counter-productive.

One of the most widely know stress management tools is called "stress inoculation training," first developed by **Donald Meichenbaum**, a psychologist in the '80s. Stress inoculation provides people who experience

a great deal of stress ways to learn how to manage it in productive and in our case competitive ways. There are techniques which can provide you another level of person control.

What can you do? First identify if distress is affecting you, because it will affect your game. Is the stress poker-related or related to the rest of your life?

If you are under a lot of personal or professional stress, you have to let it go when you come to the table. Playing poker is not the way to relieve this stress. Some gamblers and many slot players gamble as a way to deal with their stress. This creates significant problems for them and is not a functional way of coping. If your personal stress is overwhelming, get professional consultation. Poker is enough of a challenge so as not to bring your personal stress to the table.

Do deep breathing exercises. Breathe in through you nose to a count of three and hold it for a count of three and breathe out for a count of three. Do this five minutes a day for a week and then go to two five-minute sessions. This will not only allow you to experience a brief period of relaxation but it's something you can call upon when you are stressed. Once you get this down and start feeling stressed, usually a couple of deep breaths will calm you down.

Breathing is the first step of using imagery. After you practice these breathing techniques, use a breathing session to visualize situations that are likely to be stressful and use all of your senses to actually picture a desired outcome. Try to be in the stress-producing situation in your mind and visualize a better outcome; see yourself relaxed; in control of your game; making good decisions; playing correctly.

Self-talk is a proven method of coping with stress. Say positive things to yourself, create a positive and winning attitude. This will build your confidence and give you greater resilience. When you drive to the room use self-talk to put yourself in a good frame of mind. "I am going to enjoy this session; I have the skills to play right; I accept bad beats and the variance; I will make the best decision with the information I have at the time; if I

lose a hand I will move on; tilt is not me; I can afford to play." Or whatever else works for you. A coach or psychologist can work with you in relatively quick time to develop this self-talk.

With so many uncontrollable things in poker, personal control may be the best way to work toward peak performance. Use these techniques 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.**

The issue with stress is not that it exists, but instead how we handle it and use stress to our competitive advantage. Personal management of stress is the way to view this at the table and in life.

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

BRENT WHITE • Thoughts for the everyday player

NOBODY LIKES AN EMO PLAYER IN POKER

We've all experienced it. No, I'm not talking about a six-figure score. I'm talking about that brief moment after the last bet goes into a massive pot, and we feel like our hand is best.



BRENT WHITE

That moment where we table our hand, and an overwhelming feeling of utter confidence and pride rushes over us. All that's left is for the dealer to push the pot our way. But then it happens. Your opponent shows you the real winning hand, something far outside of the range you put him on at every street. The dealer begins to ship him the pot. He smirks at you as he stacks the chips, your chips. And your pride turns into shock, disbelief and anger. If you're like most poker players, you're first instinct in that moment is to channel the great **Phil Hellmuth**.

You want to rip into your opponent, to tell him how bad he is, and how much better you are. You know it's unsportsmanlike, but you have an ego, and in a game that's as complex as poker, a game in which we all experience that emotional roller-coaster ride called "variance," our egos constantly are being tested.

Since I began playing poker seriously about five years ago, I've played against all kinds of people: professionals, amateurs, casual players, newbies, drunkards, businessmen with money to burn, degenerate gamblers ... the list goes on. All of them, just like everyone else who doesn't play this emotionally brutal game, have an ego.

Besides skill, however, there's one crucial difference that separates the people in that list. Professional players (and some long-term win-

ning amateurs) possess something their competitors don't: emotional discipline.

The emotionally disciplined player has the ability to absorb a loss with total nonchalance. They have developed an ability to transfer feelings of shock, disbelief and anger after losing a big pot (or, on a macro level, a large downswing) into something constructive and, eventually, productive. They see losses as an opportunity to learn, to improve at the game and to analyze their game and then make adjustments based on what they deduce from losing situations.

Most important: They control their emotions rather than letting their emotions control them.

If you want to experience long-term success in poker, any serious, winning player will tell you there's something to be said about the importance of developing the ability to detach yourself from the financial aspect of wins and losses (variance) that occur hand to hand, session to session, and year to year. Every successful player, from your hometown garbage man who grinds his local \$1-\$2 game to all the young, uber-genius Internet phenoms, owes part of his success to emotional discipline.

Of course, maintaining a calm demeanor at the poker table has other, less obvious benefits. You take wins and losses like an adult, and everybody appreciates a good sportsman at the poker table. But the same is true for the other end of the spectrum. Nobody likes to play against an emo player. After all, the poker world has enough Phil Hellmuths.

— Brent White is a journalist, writer, editor and poker player who lives in Chicago. He can be reached at brentwhitechicago@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @brentwhite.

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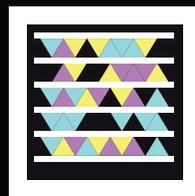
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Two great cities. Twice the great poker.

By **Scott Long**

Fewer than 300 miles across Interstate 70 separate two fantastic poker markets in the Show Me State. Players will find six poker rooms between the two cities (with one more coming in 2012). Here's what you'll find when you get to play some cards, drink a Budweiser and lick your fingers after some tasty ribs.



Harrah's St. Louis

ST. LOUIS

Harrah's St. Louis | (314) 770-8100
harrahstlouis.com | @harrahstlpoker

For proof of how big Harrah's St. Louis likes to play, look no further than its annual World Series of Poker Circuit event and October's debut of a \$25-\$50 no-limit hold'em game.

"We offer the largest variety of games, have more daily tournaments and bring big tournaments and big cash games to St. Louis," director of poker operations **Denise Taykowski** said. "Where else can you play in this market for a chance to win a \$10,000 seat into the biggest tournament, the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas?"

For sure, the World Series brand plays a big role at Harrah's St. Louis, as it does at all Caesars Entertainment properties. The room will host its annual WSOPC stop April 12-23 next year, but its next big event, the Gateway Poker Classic, runs this month.

Harrah's is not publicity shy about promoting its big cash games, either, with a media blitz to announce October's \$15,000 buy-in no-limit cash game spearheaded by **Dennis Phillips**, St. Louis' most recognizable poker star, and **Paul Harris**, who co-hosts the Final Table Show on KFNS with Phillips live every Tuesday afternoon inside the poker room.

The 21-table room hosts a variety of other cash games, regularly including \$3-\$6 limit, \$20-\$40 limit, \$1-\$2 no-limit, \$1-\$2-\$5 no-limit, \$1-\$2-\$5 pot-limit Omaha and \$3-\$6 Omaha/8. The room is starting a \$5-\$10 no-limit game, and has been known to spread H.O.R.S.E.

Players earn 75 cents an hour on their Total Rewards club, giving them benefits at every Caesars Entertainment property in the world.

"We will continue to raise the bar, listening to our guests to provide them with the best poker experience in St. Louis," said Taykowski, who opened the room 14 years ago as a dual-rate supervisor and re-

turned to running it six years ago after a stint in marketing promotions and events at the casino.

Ameristar St. Charles | (636) 949-7777
ameristar.com/St_Charles.aspx | @ameristarsc

Ameristar St. Charles offers a well-appointed, 19-table room within a massive overall casino a short drive from Lambert International Airport.

A \$1-\$2 NLHE game with a buy-in of \$60-\$300 is most popular, while \$3-\$6 limit and Omaha/8 also are offered.

Players can watch the big game on numerous flatscreen LCD TVs and enjoy food service from a variety of outlets while they try to hit one of the 21 mini-high-hand jackpots or the bad-beat jackpot.

The room touts its signature service, including a fair and well-run game with experienced, friendly dealers who treat their guests like family.

Lumiere Place | (314) 881-7745
lumiereplace.com | @lumiereplace

Tourists or those in St. Louis on business without a car will be pleased to find a luxurious poker experience within easy walking distance of the Gateway Arch, The Landing, Edward Jones Dome and many other downtown St. Louis attractions.

The 13-table room at Lumiere Place regularly spreads \$3-\$6 limit, \$1-\$3, \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10 NLHE and a \$1-\$2 PLO game with a \$5 bring-in. Players earn points on the mychoice Players Club, redeemable for comps, dining, hotel rooms, show tickets, free play and merchandise at the resort.

"The Lumiere Place poker room gives away high hands twice daily," said **Tony Russo**, director of casino operations, who oversees a poker staff of 10 supervisors and 36 dealers. "In addition, we have a running bad-beat jackpot and we have one of the strongest dealing staffs in the country."

River City Casino | (888) 578-7289
rivercity.com/ | @rivercitycasino

Lumiere Place's new sibling to the south offers an elegant 14-table room brimming with locals, but a planned hotel and parking garage will soon make it an enticing destination for the tourist crowd as well.

New additions to the non-smoking poker room include private restrooms, personalized cocktail service, six flatscreen TVs and poker bank availability. The room also has been enclosed to reduce noise and increase privacy.

"The River City Casino poker room gives away \$1,000 in Aces Cracked Sunday through Thursday and \$500 on Friday and Saturday," said Russo, who is director of casino operations here as well as Lumiere. "In addition, we have a running bad-beat jackpot (at \$105,000 at press time) and ... our commitment to outstanding guest service truly is second to none."

The most popular limit games are \$3-\$6, \$4-\$8 with a half-kill and \$8-\$16. Button straddles are allowed in no-limit games. The most popular NLHE game is \$1-\$3, but \$2-\$5 and \$1-\$2-\$5 also are offered. On Wednesdays, a \$1-\$3 game with unlimited straddles is spread. The





River City Casino



Lumiere Place

room also spreads two types of Omaha: \$3-\$6 limit with a kill and a \$1-\$2-\$5 pot-limit.

“Our staff of friendly dealers will happily show you the ropes and make you feel right at home,” Russo said. “It’s a place you’ll want to be with friends every night of the week.”

KANSAS CITY



Ameristar Kansas City

Ameristar Kansas City | (816) 414-7000
ameristar.com/Kansas_City_Gaming.aspx | @ameristarkc

Poker room manager **Ken Long** puts an emphasis on customer service in his 15-table room.

“The Ameristar poker team and our guest service are the difference between our poker room and others,” said Long, who has been at Ameristar for one year but in the poker industry for 18. “We have a commitment to delighting every guest we come in contact with to provide the very best experience. We have a strong, talented poker team.”

Most popular games in the room are \$1-\$2 NLHE and \$3-\$6 limit with a kill, but Omaha/8 is spread on weekends. Players enjoy table-side food and beverage service and are chasing a bad-beat jackpot that was \$305,000 at press time.

“Our guests will experience a professional and organized room where we believe in providing a memorable experience for our guests,” said Long, who oversees a staff of 45.

Harrah’s North Kansas City | (816) 472-7777
harrahsnkc.com | @harrahsnkc

Harrah’s North Kansas City offers the expected Caesars Entertainment experience of WSOP satellites and Total Rewards card comps, but each year also raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for Children’s Mercy Hospital in its Big Slick charity tournament.

Daily, you’ll find \$1-\$2, and \$2-\$5 NLHE, and \$3-\$6 limit in the 15-table room, with \$5-\$10 NLHE and \$2-\$5 PLO several days a week. On Fridays and Saturdays, look for \$20-40 limit and \$10-\$20 NLHE and higher.

“If you want to play a poker game we are not currently spreading, just ask and we will gladly start an interest list for you,” said **Jerry Shields**, a shift manager and one of the more than 50 team members ready to assist players.

ELSEWHERE

While the two big metropolises of St. Louis and Kansas City are where you’ll find the bulk of poker, a short drive will get you even more poker in Missouri and Kansas.

Lady Luck Caruthersville | (573) 333-6000
caruthersville.isleofcapricasinos.com | @ladyluckcv

When the weekend arrives, so do the poker players at the Lady Luck, an Isle of Capri property that’s off Interstate 55 closer to Memphis than St. Louis. The eight-table room is only open noon-4 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Prairie Bend Casino | (785) 966-7777
pbpgaming.com | @prairieband

This five-table room 15 minutes north of Topeka, Kan., holds tournaments on Sundays and Mondays, limit poker on Tuesdays and NLHE every day, including a big game the last Saturday of every month with a \$1K-\$5K min-max buy-in. Signups for seats begin at 10 a.m. ... on the Wednesday before!

Sac & Fox Casino | (785) 467.8000
sacandfoxcasino.com | @sacandfox

This new room in Powhattan, Kan., features daily tournaments with buy-ins ranging from \$16 to \$53 and a monthly \$68 event. Players also earn points for the room’s Tournament of Champions.

Nilla’s | (316) 927.2775
nillasplace.com

This Wichita, Kan., sports bar offers daily tournaments with chair rentals ranging from \$20-\$70, and guaranteed prize pools from \$200-\$2,500. Rebuy and bounty events are part of the schedule.

Hollywood Casino at Kansas Speedway | (913) 288-9300
hollywoodcasinokansas.com

This casino on the Kansas side of Kansas City is set to open in early 2012 with a 12-table poker room. ♠



Ante Up's Cory Howard lived out of the back of his SUV for three weeks as he traveled America playing poker.

12,000 miles
+
\$2,000
+
125 poker rooms
+
35 states
=
1 dream come true

Ante Up Reno Ambassador Cory Howard recently set out on a long and winding cross-country trek with one goal in mind: visit as many poker rooms in America (and even a few in Canada) as possible in three weeks and win enough money to cover his costs. This is a look at that voyage, in his words.

When I first discovered poker I remember thinking what a perfect job playing for a living would be: to be your own boss, make your own hours and travel anywhere there was a poker game. After five years of studying and dealing, I had developed my game, built a bankroll and still fantasized about making poker my job. If I were to play for a living, I should know where the best games are across the country, right? On my days off I traveled to Sacramento, then the Bay Area, and eventually every room in California. I also started collecting \$1 chips from each room as a way of remembering where I'd been. A year later I had covered the West Coast, plus Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Montana, South Dakota and parts of Florida. My chip collection had grown tremendously, but was far from complete.

After plenty of research I figured the most cost efficient way to visit the rooms in the rest of the country would be to make one long poker road trip. I tuned up the car and set the date. I wanted to complete my chip collection and win enough cash to pay for the trip.

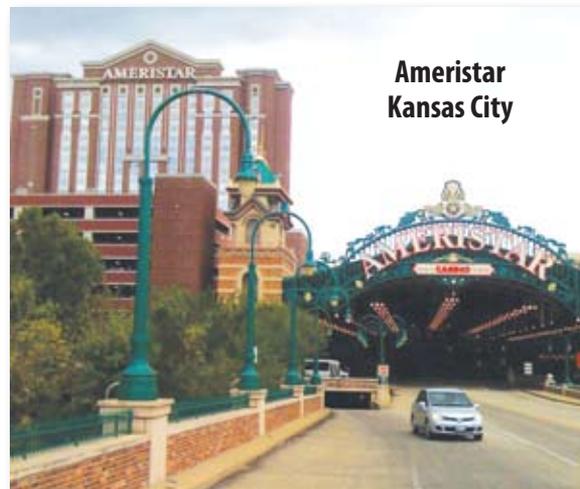
I felt a \$2,000 bankroll would be enough to grind my way through America, and to save money I would live the life of a truck driver, sleeping in my car and showering at truck stops. I bought

some groceries and supplies for the car and planned to put the gas on my credit card. I also would use my comps for meals and hotels along the way.

The route I chose was designed to hit every uncharted room within reason, driving through smaller rooms during the days and spending my nights in the optimal places to play. I packed the car and headed east on Interstate 80 into the Nevada desert. The first few days I traveled through familiar territory, playing \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em games at Montego Bay in Wendover, Nev., and Ameristar in Black Hawk, Colo. Colorado's maximum \$100 bet makes for some action games including a \$30-\$60 that runs regularly.

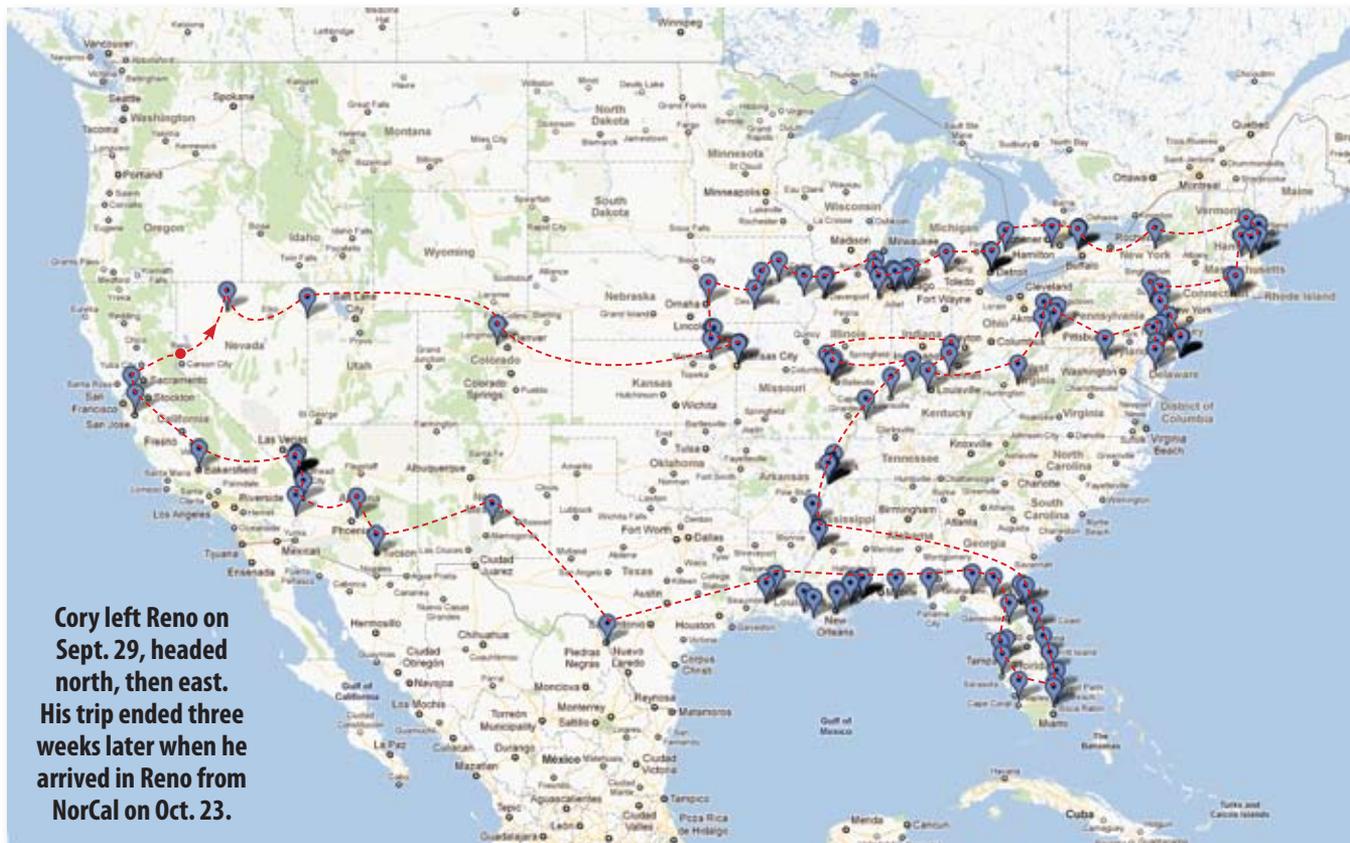
After a long drive and a few chip stops through Kansas I arrived in Kansas City where I played at Ameristar and Harrah's. I thought Harrah's had the best action, including a \$2-\$5 PLO game with two tables running. I played it safe with some \$4-\$8 Omaha and \$1-\$2 NLHE and won a little. The next day in Council Bluffs, Iowa, I played \$4-\$8 Omaha at the Horseshoe and then zig-zagged my way through Iowa. In Illinois I discovered the highest rake in the country, 10 percent up to \$8 with a \$1 jackpot. What are they thinking?

The games were pretty scarce until I



**Ameristar
 Kansas City**

ROAD TRIP OF A LIFETIME



made it to the Horseshoe Hammond in northern Indiana, one of the best rooms in the country. They had all the best games going, including \$5-\$10 PLO and \$10-\$20 NLHE on a Monday. The walls were lined with pictures of old-school pros and the high-limit area featured Benny's room. I played \$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 NLHE and heads-up \$1-\$2 PLO, booking a small loss after a roller-coaster session. I found the players to be tough, but I consider the Horseshoe a top poker destination.

My next stop was Detroit, playing \$2-\$5 NLHE at Motor City Casino and losing a buy-in. I was impressed with the quality of the casinos in Detroit, all three were close to one another and the action was great. Motor City had a \$5-\$10 NLHE game going daily that I would like to revisit someday.

I pulled out my passport and headed through Ontario to make a Canadian straight. I visited Niagara Falls and played \$2-\$5 NLHE at the Fallsview Resort Casino. It was the smallest game spread, and with the legal gambling age at 19 the games were pretty good. I couldn't beat them, however, and found myself stuck \$1,200. Things weren't going as well as I had hoped.

I made my way through New York, visiting Seneca Niagara and Turning Stone, both great rooms. I drove through some amazing country in Vermont and explored New Hampshire where the maximum bet is \$4. I ventured through the social gaming rooms and participated in a dealer's choice game reminiscent of my father's home game.

After lying with the lambs I made my way to Foxwoods in Connecticut, one of the highlights of my trip. The downstairs poker room is isolated from the casino. It had all of the best games with tables going back in all directions.

The room delivered in every way, providing the perfect atmosphere for poker players. I felt right at home and jumped into a \$1-\$2 PLO/8 game, playing into the early morning.

During this session I noticed the pace of the action had increased and the conversation at the table also had changed color. I was like a kid in a candy store soaking up the whole experience; this was poker on the East Coast.

My next stop came just a few miles down I-95 at Mohegan Sun, which reminded me of an Indian wonderland. A maze of elaborate sculptures and an indoor waterfall makes this one of the best-looking casinos in the country. I won a little playing \$1-\$2 NLHE and headed to Pennsylvania.

Since poker was only recently legalized in Pennsylvania I was optimistic about the games. By nightfall I made it to the Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs where I played the most chaotic session of the trip. I started playing \$1-\$2 but moved to \$2-\$5 NLHE feeling good about the action. I soon found myself all-in getting called down by A-J high when I attempted to three-barrel bluff the guy with too much money. Down to my last \$400, I only knew one way to get it back. I got it all-in with the second-nut straight running into a set and another player's flush draw. After fading the world I left the game with \$1,300 in my pocket and went to sleep in a Wal-Mart parking lot.

The next day I drove through Eastern Pennsylvania collecting chips and scouting for games. I liked the Sands, but Parx was the best, spreading all games, including a \$10-\$10 NLHE. I jumped on the Atlantic City Express-



Not much more beautiful than seeing a rainbow over Niagara Falls.

Continued on next page

ROAD TRIP OF A LIFETIME



Where the sand turns to gold!

Continued from previous page

way and made my way to the Taj Mahal, “where the sand turns to gold.” I didn’t find the Taj to be in its prime, but booked a win in \$5-\$10 Omaha/8 and explored the Boardwalk, thinking about Phil Ivey grinding it out back in the day.

The Borgata was the biggest and, in my opinion, the best of all poker rooms in the United States. It offers every game imaginable and the highest stakes in the country, not to mention the luxurious design and professional staff on hand. The high-limit room alone was bigger than most poker rooms. I played \$1-\$2 PLO and knew I had found a special place in the poker world.

I carried on through Delaware finding mostly small-stakes games with friendly people. After a brief visit to Washington, D.C., I stopped at the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town. The money was flowing and the action was as good as it gets. I played \$1-\$3 and \$2-\$5 NLHE, watching oversized pots pushed every direction but mine.

The next few days I ventured through Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri only to find smaller games typical of most casinos. I found a \$5-\$10 no-limit Omaha game at the Mardi Gras in Charleston, West Va. The Hollywood Casino and Horseshoe in Southern Indiana had nice rooms, but little action on the weekdays. I played in a \$10-\$20 O/8 game at Casino Aztar that got me even for the trip. St. Louis also had four nice casinos, but most of the action was at Harrah’s.

I headed south to Tunica and played \$1-\$3 NLHE at the Horseshoe and the next day at Ameristar in Vicksburg. Players here are allowed to match the biggest stacks at the table, which makes games play bigger. The Mississippi games were OK, the people were all friendly, but my hands per hour went way down and I started to miss the East Coast.

I drove into Florida, where poker is still booming. I played \$10-\$20 O/8 at Orange Park Kennel Club and \$5-\$10 O/8 at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club. Near Miami, I played \$2-\$5 NLHE at the Isle

Pompano Park and \$2-\$5 PLO/PLO8 at the Hard Rock Hollywood. After a \$1-\$2 PLO session at the Hard Rock in Tampa, I sadly started the drive back home. In case you don’t already know, the games in Florida are the best in the country. In three days I made \$1,300 toward my goal and experienced a poker paradise.

I explored the rest of Mississippi and Louisiana. In Biloxi I played \$1-\$3 NLHE at the Beau Rivage, unable to get into the \$2-\$5-\$10 game. In New Orleans I played \$1-\$2 NLHE at Harrah’s where everyone is there to party and the games were crazy loose. I saw a \$287K bad-beat jackpot at the Coshatta Casino and played \$2-\$5 NLHE at L’Auberge, a new room in Lake Charles that pulls gamblers from Texas.

I spent the final days of my trip driving through Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, revisiting places I had seen. After a painful \$8-\$16 O/8 session at Casino Arizona, I arrived in Laughlin, Nev. I stumbled into a \$2-\$5 NLHE game that helped me recover some of my losses. The games in Laughlin were typically small; I even saw a 50 cent-\$1 NLHE game at the Golden Nugget.

After a stop at the Golden West in Bakersfield, Calif., for some \$2-\$2 NLHE, I made the drive to Bay 101 in San Jose. I took it easy, playing \$4-\$8 O/8, and reflected on all of the places I had visited. The last day I enjoyed a concert with friends, afterward playing one last session at the California Grand. Three weeks on the road and I didn’t want it to end.

After 12,000 miles, 30 states and 125 poker rooms my life had changed.

My expenses were \$1,700, but the experience and the memories were priceless. I won \$1,400 playing poker, falling just short of my goal, but was satisfied with my results. My chip collection had grown beyond my expectations. I had seen the country and lived my dream, making it all possible with the game I love. The people I met and the places I saw will stay with me forever. I tasted the freedom that only poker players know, living each day on my terms, going wherever the road took me. I encourage every player to explore your options, because you won’t know what you’re missing until you go out and experience it. ♠



A nice stack at Mohegan Sun Pocono Downs.

ARIZONA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
BUCKY'S CASINO (928) 771-6779 • buckycasino.com	Saturday–Monday with Ladies Night on Tuesdays.	Progressive Aces Cracked (Sat., 11a–11p).
CASINO ARIZONA AT TALKING STICK (480) 850-7777 • casinoaz.com	Mon.–Fri. (\$60, 11:15a); Tue.–Wed. (\$130, 7:15p).	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 • ddcas.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.
FT. McDOWELL CASINO (480) 837-1424 • fortmcowellcasino.com	Mon.–Fri. (\$30, noon); Mon. (\$50, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$5, 7p); Wed. (\$30, 7p); Fri. KO (\$120, 7p); Sat. (\$5, noon), (\$10, 4p) and (\$20, 9p); Sun. (\$50, noon) & (\$10, 7p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads over aces full of deuces and Omaha is quad fours; mini jackpot is hold'em aces full; high hand (daily); Aces Cracked.
HARRAH'S PHOENIX AK-CHIN (480) 802-5000 • harrahssakchin.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 guarantee (\$5, 10a); Thurs. ladies only (freeroll, 7p); Sun. (\$20, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Weekend Warrior (earn up to \$85 in free play); daily special jackpots (call for details).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING (870) 735-3670 • southlandgreyhound.com	Mon.–Tue. (\$20, 2p); Wed. (\$35, 2p); Thurs. KO (\$30, 7p); Sat. KO (\$35, 5p). 2K freeroll (call for details and dates).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of jacks beaten by quads); player-reward cards offer comps based on play.

CALIFORNIA

101 CASINO (707) 795-6121 • the101casino.com/casino	Mon. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$50, 7p); monthly events on Dec. 10 & 24 (\$115, 1p).	Double Super bad beat in hold'em (Sun., 9a–midnight); Poker Bargains (daily, call for details); Aces Cracked (daily); Squeeze Baccarat and Mexican Stud now playing.
AGUA CALIENTE CASINO (888) 999-1995 • hotwatercasino.com	Sun. \$4K guarantee (\$60, 10a); \$7.5K guarantee monthly freeroll, Dec. 10 (10:30a).	High hands; Rack Attack (call for details).
ARTICHOKE JOE'S (650) 589-3145 • artichokejoes.com	Mon. (\$28 w/\$20 rebuy & add-on, 11a); Tue. (\$25, 11a); Wed. & Sun. (\$49 w/\$20 rebuys & \$40 add-on, 6:45p); Thurs. (\$48, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$100K; bad beat in Omaha; royals pay \$500.
AVIATOR CASINO (661) 721-7770 • theaviatorcasino.com	Wed. \$500 added (\$25 w/\$20 rebuys, 6:30p); Fri. freeroll (2p); Sat. \$500 added (\$25 w/\$20 rebuys, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
BARONA RESORT (619) 443-2300 • barona.com	Tue.–Thurs. \$1.5K guarantee (\$40, 6:30); Sat. & Sun. \$2K guarantee (\$40, 10:30a).	Aces Cracked (Mon.–Fri.); Morning Rack Attacks (Mon.–Fri.).
BAY 101 (408) 451-8888 • bay101.com	Mon.–Fri. (\$120, 10a); Sat. (\$200, 9a); Sun. varies (call for details); monthly event, Dec. 10 (\$530, 10a).	No promotions.
BICYCLE CASINO (562) 806-4646 • thebike.com	Daily (\$40–\$60); Ho Ho Ho Hold'em series runs until Dec. 12 (call for schedule). WSOPC coming Jan. 1–12.	Jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, stud and Mexican poker.
CACHE CREEK CASINO (530) 796-3118 • cachecreek.com	Wed. (\$55 w/\$50 rebuy, 6p); Sat.–Sun. (\$55 w/\$50 rebuy, noon).	Aces Cracked pays \$100 (Mon.–Fri., 10a–10p); quads pay \$500 (Mon.–Fri., 6a–6p); high hands; cash drawings (call for details).
CALIFORNIA GRAND CASINO (925) 685-8397 • calgrandcasino.com	Sunday (\$50, 10:30a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; high hands; receive bonus chips in cash games (call for details).
CAPITOL CASINO (916) 446-0700 • capitol-casino.com	Mon.–Thurs. (\$30, 10a); Fri. (\$30 w/\$30 add-on, 10a); Sat.–Sun. (\$60, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$50K minimum; high hands pay \$200 (daily); royal-flush bonus (all suits); Aces Cracked spins wheel.
CHUMASH CASINO RESORT (805) 686-1968 • chumashcasino.com	Mon.–Fri. (\$35 plus Tue. (\$60, 7p); Wed. (\$35, 7p); Thurs. (\$40, 7p); \$50K guarantee, Dec. 17 (\$160, 9a). Receive \$15 "live play" coupon with tournament buy-in.	\$1,100 high hand Mondays 5:30p–11p, \$500 high hands Fri.–Sat. 1–6p. Receive \$120 in chips for \$100, 7–10p every Friday in December.
CLUB ONE CASINO (559) 497-3000 • clubonecasino.com	Mon.–Fri. (\$14 w/rebuys, 10a); Mon., Wed.–Fri. (\$50, 7p); Sat. Omaha/8 (\$14, 10a); Sun. player appreciation freeroll with \$1K added (2:15p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; bad-beat jackpot in Omaha and Omaha/8 is quad 10s and pays \$5K.
COMMERCE CASINO (323) 721-2100 • commercecasino.com	Daily (\$55–\$220) at noon and 6p (Mon.–Fri.) and 1p (Sat.–Sun.).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha.
DIAMOND JIM'S CASINO (661) 256-1400 • diamondjimscasino.net	Daily at 10:15a; Mon. (\$35, 6p); Tue.–Wed. (\$65, 6p); Sat. (\$30, 1:30p); Sun. (\$65, 1:30p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha.
GARDEN CITY CASINO (408) 244-3333 • gardencitycasino.com	Daily (\$125–\$330) at 10a; nightly Sun.–Wed. (\$150–\$180) at 8p; Thurs. (\$180, 10p); Garden City Poker Classic runs until Dec. 4, including \$1K main event.	Call for promotions.
GOLD COUNTRY CASINO (530) 534-9892 • goldcountrycasino.com	Tue. (\$30, noon & \$45, 7p); Wed. (\$25, noon & \$40, 7p); Thurs. & Sat. (\$40, noon & \$45, 7p); Fri. Omaha/8 (\$35, noon) & (\$60, 7p).	Call for promotions.
GOLDEN WEST CASINO (661) 324-6936 • goldenwestcasino.net	Mon.–Thurs. (6:15p); Mon. (\$40); Tue. (\$35); Wed. (\$60); Thurs. (\$60); Fri. (\$30, 9a & \$40, 6:15p); Sat. (\$30, 2:15p); Sun. (\$40, 2:15p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; high hands; cash giveaways; Aces Cracked.
HARRAH'S RINCON (760) 751-3100 • harrahsrincon.com	Daily (\$30–\$125) at noon & 7p; weekend tournaments have a \$1K guaranteed prize pool.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Aces Cracked (daily); high hands (Mon.–Thurs.); Splash the Pot.
HAWAIIAN GARDENS CASINO (562) 860-5887 • thegardenscasino.com	Daily (\$30–\$150); Mon.–Fri. (1p & 6:45p); Sat. (10a & 1p); Sun. (2:15a & 1p).	\$150K bonus jackpots (Tue., Thurs., Sat., Sun.); Spin the Wheel wins cash prizes (call for details).
HOLLYWOOD PARK (310) 330-2800 • playhpc.com	Daily (\$40–\$75); Mon.–Fri. (11:30a & 6:30p); Sat. & Sun. (11:30a & 4:30p).	Progressive tournament jackpot; earn points for tournaments.
HUSTLER CASINO (310) 719-9800 • hustlercasinola.com	Mon. (\$140, 7p); Tue. (\$60, 7p); Wed. (\$125, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$120, 7p); Sun. (\$125, 3p); many w/rebuys; Larry Flynt's Holiday Classic runs until Dec. 21. (Story Page 12)	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
JACKSON RANCHERIA CASINO (209) 223-1677 • jacksoncasino.com	Mon.–Thurs. & Sun. (\$25, 10a & 7:30p); Fri. (\$25, 10a & freeroll, 2p); Sat. (\$25, 10a); Sun. \$5K guarantee (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; get paid (\$100) w/aces full; high hands (Mon.–Thurs.); royal-flush progressive jackpot caps at \$500.
LAKE ELSINORE CASINO (951) 674-3101 • lercasino.com	Daily (\$20, 10a); Mon. & Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Tue. Omaha (\$20, 10a); Wed. KO (\$60, 7p); Fri. \$3K guar. (\$37 w/\$10 rebuys, 10a); Sat. (\$20, 10a); Sun. \$5K guar. (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud.
LUCKY BUCK/CASINO 580 (925) 455-6144 • theluckybucket.com	Daily (\$40 w/\$20 rebuys, 7p); Sat & Sun. (\$25, 9:30a).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (aces full of jacks) and Omaha (quad nines); mega in hold'em is quad eights; royals pay \$200; high hands pay \$100; raffles (daily).
LUCKY CHANCES CASINO (650) 758-2237 • luckychances.com	Mon. (\$120, 9:30a); Tue. (\$175, 9:30a); Wed. (\$65, 9:30a); Thurs. (\$120, 9:30a); Sun. (\$225, 9:30a).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud (payoffs doubled Sun., Mon., Wed. (6–8p)); Aces Cracked pays up to \$300; Rack Attack pays up to \$500.
LUCKY DERBY CASINO (916) 726-8946 • luckyderbycasino.com	Tue. KO (\$75, 6:30p); Sat. & Sun. (\$40, 10a).	Player points accumulated through live play (call for promotions).
MORONGO CASINO (888) 667-6646 • morongocasinosort.com	Daily (\$30–\$97); Mon.–Fri. (10a & 7p); Sat (11a); Sun. (11a & 6p) including Fri. KO (\$97, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; Aces Cracked; get paid for royals; high hands.

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

CALIFORNIA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
NORMANDIE CASINO (310) 352-3400 • normandiecasi.com	Wed. \$2K guar. (\$50, 7p); Thurs. \$2.5K guar. (\$40 w/\$20 rebuys, 7p); Fri. \$5K guar. (\$90, 7p); Sat. \$3K guar. (\$70, 6p); Sun. \$2K guar. (freeroll w/\$10 rebuys, 1p).	Double bad-beat jackpot (daily); Aces Cracked (daily); cash-back rewards (call for details).
OAKS CARD CLUB (510) 653-4456 • oakscardclub.com	Mon. KO (\$140, 6:15p); Tue. (\$65 w/two \$50 rebuys, 6:15p); Wed. (\$100 w/\$80 rebuy, 6:15p); Sat. (\$120, 11a); Sun. (\$225, 1p).	Call for promotions.
OCEAN'S 11 CASINO (760) 439-6988 • oceans11.com	Mon. & Wed. (\$60, 10a); Mon.-Thurs. (\$65, 7p); Tue., Thurs. Fri. (\$40, 10a); Sat. & Sun. \$10K guar. (\$135, 10a).	Progressive jackpots in hold'em (\$20K minimum) and Omaha (\$5K minimum); hold'em jackpots increase to \$40K minimum (7:30a-9:30a); cash drawings.
PALA CASINO (760) 510-5100 • palacasino.com	Tue. & Wed. (\$30 w/rebuys & add-on, 7p); Thurs. \$2.5K guarantee (\$70, 7p); Fri. \$2K guarantee (\$40, 7p). \$46K in guarantee holiday tournaments in December.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Flush Marathon (Mon. & Fri., 9a-11p) splash pots; \$50 high hands; ask about \$15K Chase for the Dough and \$12K Holiday Envelope.
PECHANGA RESORT (951) 693-1819 • pechanga.com	Mon. (\$30, 10a); Tue. KO (\$35, 10a & 7p); Wed. KO (\$25, 10a); Thurs. Survivor (\$35, 10a); Fri. (\$25, noon); Sat. (\$25, 10a); Sun. (\$35, 10a).	Graveyard Easy Money (call for details); Splash Pots; high hands. See ad on Page 13 regarding the \$25K cash giveaway on Dec. 16-17.
QUECHAN CASINO (877) 783-2426 • playqcr.net	Sat. & Sun. (\$35, 1p); \$1K weekly freeroll on Thursdays (6p).	Aces Cracked (Wed.); Splash the Pot (Mon., Tue., Thurs.); Faces Cracked (Mon.).
SAN MANUEL CASINO (800) 359-2464 • sanmanuel.com	\$33K and \$100K Cash is King freeroll tournaments held regularly — qualify by collecting high-hand stamps in live action (see website for details).	\$100K super bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; double jackpots (Mon. & Wed.); hourly high hand (Tue. & Thurs.); Money Wheel (Fri.).
SOBOBA CASINO (951) 665-1000 • soboba.net	Daily (\$0-\$50), including Thurs. \$2.5K guarantee (\$50, 7p); Sat. \$1.5K guarantee (\$15, 10a & 4p).	Cash giveaways (Sat., 1p-3p & 7p-2a); get paid to play (player comps).
SYCUAN CASINO (619) 445-6002 • sycuan.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$21 w/rebuys, 10a & \$36, 6:30p); Fri. (\$21 w/rebuys, 10a & \$54, 6:30p); Sat. (\$44, 10a & \$54, 6p); Sun. (\$21 w/rebuys, 10a & \$54, 6p).	Consolation jackpot in Omaha pays \$1K (quad deuces-sevens beaten); Cash Splash (Fri.-Sun.); high hands (Tue. & Wed.); WSOP main event qualifiers (Tue. & Wed.).
TABLE MOUNTAIN CASINO (559) 822-7777 • tmcasino.com	Tue. \$1K guarantee (\$35 w/\$40 rebuy, 7p); Thurs. \$2K guarantee (\$55 w/\$60 rebuy, 7p); tournaments have optional dealer add-on.	Progressive royals; high hands; Monday Night Football Frenzy pays \$250 per quarter and \$250 at the end of each game (qualify with a full house or better).
TACHI PALACE CASINO (559) 924-7751 • tachipalace.com	Tue. (\$40, 7:15p); Wed. (\$50, 7:15p); Thurs. (\$60, 7:15p); Fri. & Sat. (\$35 w/\$10 add-ons, 2:15p).	High hands pay \$50 (daily); Kings Can't Lose (Mon.); Sinking Boat (Tue. & Wed.); Aces Cracked (Thurs. & Sun.).
THUNDER VALLEY CASINO (916) 648-7777 • thundervalleyresort.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 1p); Fri.-Sun. (\$60, 11a); Sun. KO (\$100, 7p); monthly \$20K guar., Dec. 3 (\$250, 11a); monthly deepstack, Dec. 11 (\$250, 9a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high hands (call for details).
VIEJAS CASINO (619) 445-5400 • viejas.com	Mon.-Sat. (\$15 w/rebuys, 10a); Mon.-Wed. (\$27, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$40 w/rebuys, 6:15p); Fri. & Sat. (\$47, 6:15); Sun. varies (call for details).	Poker squares; \$7 military nights (Sat.); 2X drawing tickets (call for details).

COLORADO

AMERISTAR BLACK HAWK (720) 946-4108 • ameristar.com/Black_Hawk.aspx	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads).
GOLDEN GATES CASINO (303) 582-5600 • goldencasino.com	Daily (\$40-\$300) at 10a, noon, 3p and 7p w/an event on Sunday (\$100 w/\$100 rebuys, noon).	Early bird specials; players can earn \$5 per hour in cash back (call for details).
ISLE CASINO BLACK HAWK (303) 998-7777 • black-hawk.isleofcapricasinos.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$45, 10a); Wed. (\$65, 10a); Fri. (\$75, 2p); Sat. (\$90, noon). See ad on Page 25.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Super High Hand (Mon.); hourly high hand (Tue.-Thurs.).
LADY LUCK CASINO (303) 998-7777 • isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, 7p); Sat. (\$40, 1p & \$60, 5p); Sun. (\$40, 2p & 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is a decreasing qualifier.
LODGE CASINO AT BLACK HAWK (303) 582-1771 • thelodgecasino.com	Daily "no juice" tournaments (\$60) at 10a, noon, 3p & 7p (call for details). Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of kings); qualify for Poker Bingo (call for details).
MIDNIGHT ROSE CASINO (719) 286-6060 • triplecrowncasinos.com	Mon. (\$40, 7:30p); Tue. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Wed. (\$60, 7:30p); Thurs. (\$60 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Fri. (\$120, 7:30p); Sat. & Sun. (\$60, noon & \$120, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high-hand jackpot (get entered into grand-prize drawing for winning \$500 or more, call for details).

CONNECTICUT

FOXWOODS CASINO (800) 369-9663 • foxwoods.com	Daily (9a-8p). Deepstack events are Mon.-Sat. (\$120-\$240, 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad eights) and stud (quad deuces).
MOHEGAN SUN CASINO (860) 862-8000 • mohegansun.com	Daily (\$60-\$200), including Wed. (\$120, 7:30p) & Fri. (\$200, 2p); monthly \$30K guarantee, Dec. 18 (\$330, 10a).	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).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em with descending qualifier; mini bad beat; high hand pays up to \$250.
DOVER DOWNS HOTEL & CASINO (302) 674-4600 • doverdowns.com	Mon. & Wed. (noon); Fri.-Sun. (noon & 7p); \$20K guar., Dec. 9 (\$200, 7p, 7.5K chips); monthly \$3K freeroll, Dec. 18. See ad on Page 44.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks; Crushed Quads pays \$500; royals win poker room jacket and the rest of the table gets \$50 (see website for details).
HARRINGTON RACEWAY (888) 887-5687 • harringtonraceway.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$60, 11a); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuy & add-on, 11a); \$5K guarantee, Dec. 16 (\$115, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of kings; Splash Pots during football season.

FLORIDA

CALDER CASINO (305) 625-1311 • calderracecourse.com/poker	Daily guarantees 11a & 7p (\$40-\$100) w/a \$10K guarantee on Saturdays (\$100, 11a), Dec. 2-4 \$50K guarantee event. See ad on Page 5 for new Feb series.	Flopped progressive straight flushes have five different payouts per suit; high hands pay \$100 every half hour (Sun.-Thurs.) & \$500 every half hour (Fri.-Sat.).
DANIA JAI-ALAI (954) 927-2841 • dania-jai-alai.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30, 1p); Mon.-Tue. & Sun. (\$65, 6:30p); Wed. & Sat. (\$85 w/\$25 bounty, 6:30p); Thurs. \$1K freeroll; Fri. (\$105, 6:30p); Sat. & Sun. (\$65, 1p). See ad Page 40	Progressive flopped quads; royals pay \$500; high hands pay \$200 (Fri., 8p-midnight); hourly Splash Pots (daily, 2p-6p & 8p-midnight); call for more.
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB (386) 252-6484 • daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily (\$25-\$275); Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Sat. DeepStack KO \$2.5K guar. (\$140, 7p); Sun. Super DeepStack \$7K guar. (\$275, noon). Single-tables daily.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha & stud; power hour high hands; early bird (Mon.-Fri., 10a-1p); Prime Time (Sun.-Fri, 6p-9p); Night Owl (Thurs.-Fri., mid.-3a).
DERBY LANE (727) 812-3339 x7 • derbylanepoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$330) on Sun.-Thurs. (1p, 4p, & 7p) & Fri.-Sat. (1p, 6p, & 8p); WPT regional, Dec. 9-20 (\$170-\$1,300) w/main, Dec. 16 (\$1,300, noon). See ad Pages 2-3.	Daily cash and prize promotions; high hands; tournament high hands; see website for more promotions or ad on Pages 2-3, which includes Ante Up cruise giveaways.
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK (850) 234-3943 • ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$20-\$220) on Sun.-Fri. (8p), Sat. (2p, 8p, midnight). See ad Page 23	Big Easy Bad Beat is quad fives; Big Easy Backup Jackpot; mini bad beat is aces full of jacks; royal flushes pay \$250.
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER (772) 464-7500 • jaijai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud (see website for rules and payouts); quads pays \$100-\$220 (daily).
GRETNA CASINO (866) 946-3360 • gretnacasino.com	Poker room opens Dec. 17, followed by \$10K guarantee event on Dec. 23 (\$100).	Ask about flatscreen TV giveaway and NFL playoff games.
GULFSTREAM PARK (954) 457-6336 • gulfstreampark.com	Daily (6:30p); Mon., Fri., Sun. (\$60); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80); Wed. (\$100). Mon.-Wed. tournaments have bounties and Sat. is a rebuy. See ad Page 11.	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). See ad Page 11.
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER (800) 941-4841 • hamiltontownsjaijai.com	Almost Freeroll \$600 guarantee Sundays (\$5 w/\$30 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 (\$100-\$350); Mon.-Wed. & Fri.-Sat. (noon, 7:30p); Thurs. (7:30p); Sun. (noon) including a \$30K guarantee Sun. (\$350, noon). See ad Page 19.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; high-hand jackpots in hold'em and Omaha. Ask about the \$100K Buckets of Cash High Hands Giveaway.
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB (850) 997-2561 • jckpokerroom.com	Fridays (\$50, 7:30p, 2K chips, 15-minute levels).	Royal flushes win jackpot.
MAGIC CITY CASINO (305) 649-3000 • flaglerdogs.com	SNGs daily (\$65-\$800); call for details.	Big Slick Royal Progressive; high hands pay \$150; progressive Hot Table pays minimum of \$500 (daily); Hot Table 100 spins wheel (Sat., 2p, 6p, 10p & 2a).

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

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
MARDI GRAS CASINO (877) 557-5687 x3167 • playmardigras.com	Tue. Omaha/8 (\$100, 7p); Thurs. \$1.5K guarantee freeroll (7p). See ad on Page 29.	Buy a rack, get a \$20 stack (daily, 11a); high-hand jackpots; 26 progressive jackpots; \$250K given away in monthly promos (call for details). See ad on Page 29 for more.
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK (321) 259-9800 • mgpark.com	Mon. (\$65, 1p & 7p); Tue. (\$35, 2p & 7p); Thurs. KO (\$90, 7p); Fri. \$5K guarantee (\$45, 7p); Sat. (\$120, 4p, 10K chips); Sun. (\$65, 1p). See ad below.	Bad beat in hold'em; straight flush pays \$100; royals pay \$500; Aces Cracked (Wed.); Spin to Win (Sat., 1p & 3p); progressive high hand (Sun., 1p-3p-5p-7p-9p-11p).
MIAMI JAI-ALAI (305) 633-6400 • fla-gaming.com	Daily (\$20-\$165). (See story Page 22 to see when Miami re-opens).	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day are progressive; hourly \$100 high hands plus tickets for Sunday raffle.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT (877) 242-6464 • miccosukee.com	Friday and Saturday (\$110, 8p). Free buffet for all tournament players.	Spade royal flush pays jackpot; high hands pay \$200 (Sun.-Thurs.) and \$300 (Fri.-Sat.).
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK (239) 992-2411 • naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Mon. (\$50, noon & NLO \$50, 7p); 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 \$25K; all other royals pay \$1K; high hand (daily); \$1K hourly high hands, Dec. 11 & 21.
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI (352) 591-2345 • ocalapoker.com	Mon. (\$25, 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 60.
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$50-\$150) at noon & 7p; Fri. Big Stack (\$150, noon) & Sun. PLO/8 (\$70, noon). See ad 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; Palm Beach Christmas Classic, Dec. 8-18 w/\$300K guarantee main, Dec. 16 (\$1,080, noon, see ad Page 31); WSOPC in Feb. 2012.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud; 12 Days of Christmas promo; hourly high hands win TVs, laptops, iPads, gaming systems and more (call for details).
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 52.	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 15.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad deuces); progressive jackpots in all games; \$599/\$299 high hands (Fri.-Sat.). See ad on Page 15.
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON (866) 222-7466 x121 • seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$20, 7p); Sat. (\$50, 7p); Sun. (\$40, 2p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; progressive spade royal flush; club, heart and diamond royals pay \$500; Aces Cracked pays \$100 (Thurs.); get paid for quads. Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK (866) 222-7466 • seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	Call for information on scheduled single-table tournaments.	
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Daily (\$35-\$300); See ad Page 7.	Hourly high hands in limit and no-limit (daily); game of the month earns extra rewards (call for details); gift-card promotion for hours played (call for details).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including Wed. (\$240, 7:30p); WPT Winter Open, Dec. 2-11 (\$200-\$2,250) w/\$1.4M guar. (if sold out) main event, Dec. 9 (\$2,250). See ad 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.	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. Omaha/8 (\$50, 7:30p); Fri. HA (\$60, 7:30p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & DeepStack (\$115, 6:30p); Sun. crazy pineapple (\$30, 4p).	Progressive hand of the day; progressive royals and Secret Santa Splash Pots (Fri., 2p-7p). See ad Page 22.
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$50-\$150) at noon & 7p; Fri. Bounty (\$120, 7p); Sat. Mega Stack (\$150, 7p); see ad Page 21.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500); Holiday Harley and cash giveaway, Dec. 13 (call for details).
TAMPA BAY DOWNS (813) 298-1798 • tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$200); Mon.-Sat. (1p & 7p); Sun. (1p & 4p). See ad on Page 17.	Promotions every day, including \$599/\$299 high hands on Fridays (1p-mid.); see ad on Page 17 or website for more daily promotions.
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK (813) 932-4313 • luckycards.com	Daily (\$30-\$80); Sun.-Thurs. (2p & 6:30p); Fri.-Sat. (2p, 7:30p). Sunday Challenge, last Sun. of every month (\$115, 1p, 15K chips).	Quads (\$50-\$75), straight flushes (\$150) and royals (\$300) from Sun.-Thurs. (4p-11p); \$150/\$50 half-hour high hands, Fri.-Sat. (4p-11p); tourney high hands.

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





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ILLINOIS

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
HARRAH'S JOLIET (815) 740-7480 • harrahsjoliet.com	Thurs. (\$125, 7p, 4K chips, 20-minute levels); Sunday (\$125, 4p, 4K chips, 20-minute levels).	Mega bad-beat jackpot (quad eights); mini bad-beat jackpot (aces full of kings); get paid for straight and royal flushes.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO AURORA (630) 801-7471 • hollywoodcasinourora.com	Wednesday (\$160, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad fives.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO JOLIET (815) 927-2175 • hollywoodcasinojoliet.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
PAR-A-DICE CASINO (309) 698-6693 • paradicecasino.com	Mon. (\$115, 7p); Sun. (\$115, 11a & \$50, 7p).	No jackpots or promotions.

INDIANA

BLUE CHIP (219) 861-4820 • bluechipcasino.com	Tue. (\$80, 6p); Wed. (\$60, 6p); Fri. (\$80, noon); Sun. (\$80, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high hand of the hour (Mon.-Thurs, 10a-2p) pays \$50 per hour.
CASINO AZTAR (812) 433-4000 • casinoaztar.com	Monthly event, Dec. 11 (\$100, 1p).	Aces Cracked (Sat. & Sun.); Hot Seat (Wed.).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO LAWRENCEBURG (812) 539-8000 • www.hollywoodindiana.com	Daily (\$80-\$150) at 11:15a & 7:15p.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; WPT satellite freeroll for top tournament point-earners (call for details).
HORSESHOE HAMMOND (219) 473-6065 • horseshoehammond.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$100, noon); Fri. & Sun. (\$200, 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) 977-7444 • majesticstarcasino.com	Mon. \$5K/\$10K guar. (call for details); 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 is aces full of kings; tournament bad-beat jackpot.

IOWA

DIAMOND JO CASINO NORTHWOOD (641) 323-7777 • diamondjo.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 3p); monthly event, Dec. 3 (\$115, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
GRAND FALLS CASINO (712) 777-7777 • grandfallscasinosort.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	Monday (\$45 w/rebuy and add-on, 6:30p); Sunday Poker League (\$50, 6:30p); Sunday Poker League championship, Jan. 15 (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 • mystiqueadbq.com	Thursday (\$40, 6p); Friday (\$20, 1p); Sunday (\$50, 1p).	Straight flush progressive jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud pays 10 jackpots (call for details).

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IOWA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
PRAIRIE MEADOWS CASINO (515) 967-8543 • prairiemeadows.com	Tue. (\$30, noon); Wed. (\$30, 7p); Sun. (\$60, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks losing to quads; straight flush pays \$200.
RIVERSIDE CASINO (319) 648-1234 • riversidecasinoandresort.com	Mon. limit Omaha (\$30, 11a); Wed. KO (\$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 6p); Sat. (\$30, 1p); Sun. (\$50, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; player comps (call for details).

KANSAS

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

AMELIA BELLE (985) 631-1745 • ameliabellecasino.com	Sunday Poker Challenge (\$50, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot is quads over aces full of 10s.
BELLE OF BATON ROUGE (800) 266-2692 • belleofbatonrouge.com	Sunday (\$50, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot is any quads; Aces Cracked (Mon. & Wed., 9a-3p); Aces Cracked happy hour (Mon.-Thurs., 6p-7p); hourly high hand (Tue. & Thurs., 9a-3p).
BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS (800) 366-7711 • boomtownneworleans.com	Tuesday freeroll (11a) for 4- or 5-Star Players; Wed. (\$35 w/\$10 add-on, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads) and Omaha; high hands (Mon. & Wed.); Aces Cracked (Tue. & Thurs.); get paid \$25 for any quads in Omaha (Thurs.).
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 27.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Big Bonus Hands are progressive.
CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S CASINO (800) 284-4386 • cypressbayou.com	Wed. (\$40 w/two \$20 rebuys & add-ons, 6:30p); Sun. (\$40 w/\$20 rebuys & \$50 add-on, 1p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; Aces Cracked pays \$100 (Thurs.); cash games run on non-tournament days.
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT (318) 220-5274 • eldoradoshreveport.com	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 • harrahsneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); Aces Cracked.
HOLLYWOOD BATON ROUGE (225) 709-7777 • hollywoodbr.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of 10s beaten by quads.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY (800) 895-0711 • horseshoebossiercity.com	Mon., Wed., Sat., Sun. (\$100-\$200 w/rebuys & add-ons), including Thursdays (\$200, 6p).	High hands (Sun. & Wed.); Aces Cracked (Mon., Tue., Fri.); Splash Cash (Thurs.). Call for details and times.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES (337) 430-2407 • lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Fri. (\$60, noon & \$90, 6:30p); Sat. (\$115, noon); Sun. KO (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; minor jackpots daily; cash giveaways Mon.-Thurs.
L'AUBERGE DU LAC CASINO (337) 395-7777 • ldldcasino.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; player comps earned on a tier basis (call for details).
PARAGON CASINO (800) 946-1946 x1975 • paragoncasinoresort.com	Mon. KO (\$20 w/\$15 rebuys, 7p); Tue. (\$18, 10:30a); Fridays (\$60 w/one \$50 rebuy, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; get paid (24/7) for quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125); high hands pay \$50 (Wed.).

MICHIGAN

FIREKEEPERS CASINO (269) 962-0000 • firekeeperscasino.com	Wed. (\$70, noon); Sun. (\$70, noon); Winter Freezout coming Feb. 2012 (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.
FOUR WINDS NEW BUFFALO (866) 494-6371 • fourwindscasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$25, noon); Mon. (\$30, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$10, 7p); Wed. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$30, 7p); Sat. (\$30, noon & \$50, 7p); Sun. (\$30, noon & 4p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
GREEKTOWN CASINO (313) 223-2999 • greektowncasino.com	Mon. (\$75, 11a & 7p); Wed. (\$75, 11a & \$225, 7p); Thurs. (\$45, 11a & 7p); Fri. & Sat. (\$75, 11a); Sun. (\$75, 11a & \$100, 7p); monthly event, Dec. 31 (\$340, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MGM GRAND DETROIT (313) 465-1777 • mgmgranddetroit.com	Monthly freerolls (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MOTORCITY CASINO (313) 237-7711 • motorcitycasino.com	Tue.-Thurs. (\$65, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha.
SOARING EAGLE CASINO (989) 775-7777 • soaringeaglecasino.com	Mon. (\$60, 6:30p); Tue. (\$13 w/rebuys, 6:30p); Wed. KO (\$45, 6:30p); Sun. (\$60, 12:30p); monthly event, Dec. 24 (\$175, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; Soaring Hand jackpots increase daily (call for details).
TURTLE CREEK CASINO (231) 534-8888 • turtlecreekcasino.com	Tue. KO (\$60, 7p); Wed. (\$40 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Thurs. (\$10 w/\$10 rebuys and add-on, 7p); Sun. (\$120, 2p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads.

MINNESOTA

CANTERBURY PARK (952) 445-7223 • canterburypark.com	Mon., Wed., Fri., Sun. (\$45, 10:30a); Tue. & Sun. (\$45, 6:30p); Wed. (\$235, 6:30p); Sat. (\$180, 10:30a); Mid-Stakes Poker Tour, Dec. 7-12 w/main, Dec. 11 (\$1,100).	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 MILLE LACS (800) 626-5825 • grandcasinomn.com	Daily (\$30-\$160) including a Fri. deepstack (\$160, 6:15p) and Sun. (\$110 w/re-entries, 2:15p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royals pay \$1K; Aces Cracked (Mon.-Fri., 10a-6p).
NORTHERN LIGHTS CASINO (218) 547-2744 • northernlightscasino.com	Mon. KO (\$30, 6:30p); Tue. (\$30, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$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.
BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO (228) 386-7092 • beaurivage.com	Mon.-Thurs. (6p); Tue. & Thurs.-Sun. (noon); Million Dollar Heater series Jan. 6-25 (\$330-\$5,175) w/main event Jan. 21 (\$5,175, noon). See ad Page 9.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Aces Cracked; Pro Football Squares (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).	Bad-beat jackpots (call for details); win \$100 every other hour (Mon.-Fri., 3a-10a); get paid to play (25 hours minimum).
HARD ROCK BILOXI (228) 374-7625 • hardrockbiloxi.com	Mon. (\$35, 3p); Thurs. (\$25, 3p); Fri. (\$45, 3p); Sat. (\$50 w/add-on, 3p); Sun. (\$55, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot (aces full of queens beaten by quads); Hard Rock Jackpot Hands; Four of a Kind Blows My Mind.
HARLOW'S CASINO (662) 335-9797 x144 • harlowscasino.com	Tue. (\$65, 7:30p, 10K chips; 25-minute levels); Fri. (\$35 w/rebuys).	Bad-beat jackpot is aces full of 10s beaten by quads or better; bad-beat bonus (\$10K); mini bad-beat jackpot pays \$2K; Cash for Quads (Wed.); Aces Cracked.

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

MISSISSIPPI (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
HARRAH'S TUNICA (800) 946-4946 x33760 • harrahstunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110), including a Thurs. \$1.1K guarantee (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p) and a Thurs. (\$50 w/one free 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 • hollywoodcasinobs.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 & \$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 (\$65-\$160), including a Saturday \$10K guarantee (\$150, 4p, 10K chips); Sunday super deepstack (\$100, 2p, 15K chips).	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); Toys for Tots event, Dec. 10 (call for details).	Poker Squares pay up to \$1K (Sun. & Mon.); Holiday High Hands (Mon., 8a-4p & Wed., 8a-midnight).
ISLE CASINO HOTEL BILOXI (228) 436-7967 • biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$45, 2p); Tue. KO (\$60, 2p); Wed. KO (\$40 w/rebuy, 7p); Thurs. (\$45, 2p); Fri. (\$60, 2p); Sat. KO (\$60 w/rebuy, 2p); Sun. (\$20 w/rebuy, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; high hand (Mon., Wed. & Sun.); Splash the Pot (Tue. & Thurs.); Lucky Table Lucky Seat (Fri. & Sun.).
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA (800) 456-0711 • samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$70), including a \$3K guarantee on Saturday (\$20, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; high hands; ticket drawings.
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO (866) 775-4773 x3766 • silverslipper-ms.com	Mon. Turbo KO (\$45, 6p); Thurs. KO (\$75, 7p); Sat. Turbo KO (\$45, noon); Sun. PLO (\$65, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; Aces Cracked wins up to \$300 (Tue., Thurs., Fri., Sat.). Splash the Pot (Mon. & Wed.).
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) (601) 650-1234 • pearlriverresort.com	Daily (\$35-\$60), including a \$2.5K guarantee on Sat. (\$60, 2p). Start times for events are Mon.-Thurs. (7p) & Fri.-Sun. (2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad sevens) and stud (quads); diamond royals pay \$500.

MISSOURI

AMERISTAR ST. CHARLES (636) 949-7777 • ameristar.com	Mon. & Tue. (\$45 w/rebuys & add-on, 7p); Wed. & Thurs. (\$55, 7p); Fri. (\$75, 7p); Sat. (\$75, 2p); Sun. (\$55, noon).	Progressive high-hand jackpot pays quads, straight flushes and royals.
AMERISTAR KANSAS CITY (816) 414-7000 • ameristar.com	Monday Ladies Only (\$50, 7p); Tue.-Thurs. (\$85, 7p); Fri.-Sun. (\$65, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
BORDERTOWN CASINO (800) 957-2435 • bordertownbingo.com	Daily at 2p and 7p; Mon. (\$20); Tue., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. (\$30); Thurs. (\$30/\$45); monthly deepstack event, Dec. 10 (\$100 w/\$50 add-on, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
HARRAH'S NORTH KANSAS CITY (816) 472-7777 • harrahsnk.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$50, 1p & 7p); Fri. & Sat. (\$50, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); Aces Cracked pays \$100.
HARRAH'S ST. LOUIS (314) 770-8100 • harrahsstlouis.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 1p & 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 1p & \$160, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 1p & \$125, 7p); every other Sun. (\$60, noon & 5p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha.
LUMIERE PLACE (314) 881-7777 • lumiereplace.com	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 • aliantecasino.com	Daily (\$30, noon); Mon., Tue., Sun. (\$50, 7p); Wed.-Sat. KO (\$65, 7p).	Multiroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 33.
ARIA (866) 359-7111 • arialasvegas.com	Twice daily at 1p & 7p (\$125, 10K chips, 30-minute levels).	No jackpots.
ATLANTIS CASINO RENO (800) 723-6500 • atlantiscasino.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$45, 7p); Fri. KO (\$65, 7p); Sat. (\$90, 7p); Sun. KO (\$65, 7p).	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 \$100-\$500 to entire table when royal hits.
BELLAGIO (702) 693-7111 • bellagio.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$120, 2p); Fri. & Sat. (\$540, 2p); Sun. (\$330, 2p); Five Diamond World Poker Classic runs until Dec. 11 (\$300-\$100K w/\$10K main event, Dec. 6).	No jackpots.
BINION'S GAMBLING HALL (702) 382-1600 • binions.com	Daily (\$60-\$100) at 10a, 2p, 7p and 10p.	High hands; quads pays (\$50); straight flush pays (\$100); royals pay (\$250); Monday Night Football promotion (call for details).
BOULDER STATION HOTEL & CASINO (702) 432-7777 • boulderstation.com	No tournaments. See Stations ad Page 33.	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); football parlay card with quads or better (call for details).
COLORADO BELLE HOTEL CASINO (702) 298-4000 • coloradobelle.com	Daily (\$30, 10a); Mon.-Fri. & Sun. (\$50, 7p); Sat. KO (\$100, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha/8 and stud; Aces Cracked pays \$25-\$100 (24/7); Super Beat pays \$10K guaranteed; quads of the day pays \$100-\$400.
ELDORADO HOTEL CASINO (775) 786-5700 • eldoradoreno.com	Tue.-Thurs. (\$60, 6p, 6K chips, 20-minute levels); play in any live hold'em game after tournament and get a \$20 bonus.	Progressive bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and stud; quads or better is paid daily.
EXCALIBUR HOTEL AND CASINO (702) 597-7777 • excalibur.com	Daily (\$25, 9a; \$40, 1p & 5p; \$30, 8p) w/one rebuy and add-on; \$500 first-prize guarantee on Sat. (\$40, 9p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full beaten by quads); spin the wheel pays \$20-\$300 for quads or Aces Cracked.
FLAMINGO LAS VEGAS (702) 733-3111 • flamingolasvegas.com	Daily (\$70, 10a & 6p); Friday freeroll \$1.5K guarantee (9a); monthly freeroll \$5K guarantee with \$200 bounties.	High hand pays quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royal (by suit); Aces Cracked pays \$100 (8a-2p); bad-beat bonus pays \$2,500 for quads or better beaten.
GOLDEN NUGGET LAUGHLIN (702) 298-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily (\$45, 8K chips) at 10a, noon, 3p, 7p, and 10p.	Double high-hand progressive (9a-2p); Aces Cracked pays \$50.
GOLDEN NUGGET LAS VEGAS (702) 385-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily (\$65) at 11a, 3p, 7p, 10p, 1a, and 4a.	High hand between 2a-2p wins twice the jackpot.
GRAND SIERRA RESORT (775) 789-2000 • grandsierraresort.com	Daily (\$45, 10a); Sun.-Thurs. (\$60, 6:30p); Fri.-Sat. (\$80 w/\$20 bounties, 6:30p); Pot of Gold Winter tournament, Dec. 1-11 (call for schedule).	Aces Cracked pays \$50 (Sun.-Thurs.).
GREEN VALLEY RANCH (702) 617-7777 • greenvalleyranchresort.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. Omaha/8 (\$40, 7p); Tue. & Thurs.-Sun. (\$40 w/rebuys, 6p); Wed. H.O.R.S.E. (\$40, 7p); \$300K Poker Plus event in Jan 2012. See ad Page 33.	Multiroom progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed; progressive quads high hand (daily).
HARD ROCK LAS VEGAS (702) 693-5000 • hardrockhotel.com	Daily (\$55, noon & 8p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad aces); progressive high-hand jackpot pays quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
HARRAH'S LAS VEGAS (702) 369-5000 • harrahslasvegas.com	Five tournaments daily: (\$25, 8a); (\$60, 10a & 3p); (\$25, 1a); (\$80 w/\$20 bounties, 8p); monthly \$10K guar. freeroll (30 hours min. to qualify; call for details).	Mini bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full and pays (\$500/\$200/\$50); high hands; Aces Cracked pays \$100 (9a-2p); Splash Pot football promo (call for details).
HARRAH'S LAUGHLIN (702) 298-4600 • harrahslaughlin.com	Monthly cash-added tournaments (up to \$3K added to prize pools).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.
HARVEYS LAKE TAHOE (775) 588-6611 • harveystahoe.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. & Wed. (\$60, 6p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80, 6p); Fri. (\$100, 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.

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

NEVADA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
IMPERIAL PALACE (800) 634-6441 • imperialpalace.com	Mon.-Fri. at noon, 3p and 8p (\$40); Sat. & Sun. (\$25 w/rebuys, 9a).	Aces Cracked; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
LUXOR HOTEL & CASINO (702) 262-4000 • luxor.com	Daily (\$35, 10:30a); (\$60, 12:30p); (\$60, 8:30p).	High hand (24/7) pays quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$500).
M RESORT (702) 797-1000 • themresort.com	Daily (\$55, 10a & 6p); Tue. H.O.R.S.E. (\$100, 7p).	Progressive high hand; bad-beat jackpot in Omaha.
MANDALAY BAY 702-632-7777 • mandalaybay.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 10a; \$50, 3p & 7p); Fri.-Sat. (\$40, 10a; \$50, 1p; \$100, 5p); Sun. (\$50, 11a & 2p; \$100, 5p).	Tiered high-hand bonus (Mon. & Thurs.) pays to flop it (\$500), turn it (\$250) and river it (\$125); football promotion (Sat. & Sun., 10a-10p); call for details.
MGM GRAND LAS VEGAS (702) 891-1111 • mgmgrand.com	Daily (\$80) at 11:05a & 7:05p.	No jackpots.
MIRAGE (702) 791-7111 • mirage.com	Daily (\$60, 11a & 7p).	Static bad-beat jackpot in hold'em includes a table-share payout; Aces Cracked pays up to \$150 (daily, 8a-2p); high hands; flopped royals pays table; football promos.
MONTE CARLO RESORT & CASINO (702) 730-7777 • montecarlo.com	Daily (\$50, 9a) & (\$60, 6p & 11p); Thurs. & Fri. (\$40, 2p); monthly freerolls (call for details).	Progressive high-hand jackpot is quads or better; Aces Cracked.
MONTEGO BAY HOTEL & CASINO (775) 664-4000 • wendoverfun.com	Mon. (\$30, 8:30p); Thurs. (\$40, 8:30p); Fri.-Sat. (\$30, noon); Sun. (\$40, 8:30p); all tournaments have rebuys.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush jackpot; quads get paid.
THE ORLEANS (702) 365-7111 • orleanscasino.com	Daily (\$75, noon & 7p) except Fri. (\$125, 7p); variations include hold'em, Omaha/8 and H.O.R.S.E.	\$50K progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament player of the month includes top point earners who will receive their share of a progressive prize pool.
PALACE STATION (702) 367-2453 • palacestation.com	No tournaments. See Stations ad on Page 33.	Multitroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 33; 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 Series, Dec. 9-18 (pro-am, Dec. 9, \$1,500, noon).	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 49.	High hands; get paid for straight flushes and royals.
PLANET HOLLYWOOD (702) 785-5555 • planethollywoodresort.com	Daily (\$70) at 10a, 2p and 7p.	High-hand jackpots; quads pay \$100; straight and royals are progressive starting at \$250.
RAINBOW HOTEL & CASINO (775) 664-4000 • wendoverfun.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Quadzillas pay \$500; Aces Cracked pays \$100; Splash Pots pays \$50.
RED ROCK CASINO (702) 797-7777 • redrocklasvegas.com	Daily (\$100, 10a); Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 6:30p); Thurs. & Sun. KO (\$70, 6:30p); Fri. Omaha/8 (\$60, 5:30p). See ad Page 37 for January's Red Rock Challenge.	Multitroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed.
RIO CASINO (702) 777-7777 • riolasvegas.com	Daily (\$55, noon); (\$55, 3p); (\$65, 6p); (\$75, 9p); (\$55, midnight).	Progressive royals start at \$1K; cash drawings pay \$100 (5a, 7a, 9a and 11a); Graveyard Trip Comps (daily, 3a-noon) pays \$3 per hour instead of \$1 per hour.
RIVERSIDE RESORT (702) 298-2535 • riversideresort.com	Daily turbo at 10a, 5p and 11:30p (\$15); Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat. (\$50, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; Aces Cracked in hold'em and Omaha; high hands pay quads (\$25-\$50), straight flush (\$100), royal (\$300).
RIVIERA HOTEL AND CASINO (800) 634-3420 • rivierahotel.com	Daily (\$60) at 7a, 11a, 7p and 11p; monthly freerolls.	High hands (call for details).
SAM'S TOWN LAS VEGAS (702) 456-7777 • samstowntlv.com	Daily (\$23, 10a) & daily (\$30 w/rebuy, 1:30p); Fri.-Sat. deepstacks (\$45 w/rebuy, 7p & 11p); Omaha/8 and pineapple 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 33; 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). See ad on Page 35 for \$125K Christmas Freeroll.	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; Mon. & Tue. (\$45 w/\$20 add-on, 7p); Wed. & Sun. KO (\$65 w/\$20 bounties, 7p); all 10a tournaments are \$45 w/\$20 add-on.	High-hand bonus for quads or better; earn comp dollars for playing live games.
SUNSET STATION (702) 547-7982 • sunsetstation.com	No tournaments.	Multitroom progressive bad-beat jackpot; Splash the Pot (Tue.); Make 4 Flushes pays \$400 (Mon. & Thurs.); Aces Cracked double the pot (Wed., Sat. & Sun.).
TEXAS STATION (702) 631-1000 • texasstation.com	Thurs. & Sun. (\$25 w/\$20 rebuy, 10a). See Stations as Page 33.	Jumbo Jackpot is quad fours beaten.
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).	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	Sun.-Fri. (\$150, noon); nightly (\$120, 7p) w/Tue. KO (\$150, 7p); Sat. (\$340, noon); monthly event, Dec. 3 (\$550, noon).	No jackpots.
WENDOVER NUGGET HOTEL & CASINO (702) 770-7000 • wendovernugget.com	Tue. (\$10 w/\$10 rebuys, 7p); Thurs. (\$20 w/\$10 rebuys, 8p); Fri. (\$50, 8p); Sat. (\$50, 8p); Sun. (\$40 w/\$10 bounty, 3p).	\$30K bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (call for info on more jackpots).
WYNN LAS VEGAS (702) 770-7000 • wynnlasvegas.com	Daily (\$120, 7p); Sun.-Fri. (\$150, noon); Sat. (\$340, noon).	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).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (call for details).
MANCHEVEGAS POKER (603) 668-6591	Daily (\$5 w/rebuys-\$60); Mon.-Fri. (5:30p & 8p); Sat. & Sun. (noon, 4p & 8p).	No jackpots.
POKER ROOM AT HAMPTON FALLS (603) 601-2486 • 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.); call for details.
RIVER CARD ROOM (603) 249-5548 • riverpokerroom.com	Daily (\$5-\$60). Times vary by day. Many of the tournaments have optional rebuys and add-ons. See website for complete schedule.	Mini-Monster (Wed. & Fri.); River 4,000 (call for details).
ROCKINGHAM PARK (603) 898-2311 • rockinghampark.com	Daily (\$50-150). 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-\$80); Mon.-Thurs. & Sat. (1p & 7p); Fri. (1p & 7p); 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); \$10K guarantee (Mon.), \$30K guarantee (Wed. & Fri.); \$300K guarantee, Dec. 11-14 (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad 10s; mini bad beat in hold'em is quad deuces-nines.

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

NEW JERSEY (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY (609) 348-4411 • caesarsac.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$120, 1:15p & 9:15p); Fri. (\$120, 1:15p & \$200, 9:15p); Sat. (\$200, 1:15p & 9:15p); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multiroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 441-5000 • harrahsresort.com	Daily at 10:15a, 1:15p, 8:15p and midnight (\$70-\$125); WSOP Circuit, Dec. 1-12 w/\$1,500 main event, Dec. 10.	Harrah's AC multiroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
SHOWBOAT ATLANTIC CITY (609) 343-4000 • showboatcasino.com	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 multiroom bad-beat jackpot starts at quad Queens and decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit; Sun. & Mon. night football promos (call for details).
TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-4000 • tropicana.net	Daily (\$62, 11:15a & 7:15p), including a Fri. (\$122, 7:15p) and Sat. (\$122, 11:15a & 7:15p); midnight tournaments run Sun.-Thurs. (\$42) & Fri.-Sat. (\$62).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; "3-8" special promotion jackpot (call for details); tournament bad-beat jackpot is quads over aces full of kings.
TRUMP TAJ MAHAL CASINO RESORT (609) 449-1000 • playtajpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$230) at 12:15p, 4:15p, 7:15p, & midnight, including two deepstacks on Saturdays (\$230, 7:15p) & (\$120, 4:15p & midnight).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); high hands are entered into drawings to win \$1K; 50-50 club (call for details).

NEW MEXICO

BUFFALO THUNDER CASINO (505) 455-5555 • buffalothunderresort.com	Tue. & Fri. (6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; four flush progressive jackpot.
HARD ROCK ALBUQUERQUE (505) 724-3800 • hardrockcasinoabq.com	Daily (\$20-\$50) at 2p & 7p, including Fri. & Sat. (\$50, 7p); many tournaments have rebuys and add-ons.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot; Deuces Never Loses (call for details).
INN OF THE MOUNTAIN GODS (575) 464-7777 • innoftthemountaingods.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$20, noon); Mon. (\$35, 7p); Tue. (\$35, 6p); Wed. KO (\$55, 6p); Thurs. (\$25 w/rebuys, 6p); Sun. (\$55, 2p).	Aces Kicked & Kings Kracked wins a T-shirt (daily); bonus chips (call for details).
ROUTE 66 CASINO (505) 352-7866 • rt66casino.com	Daily (\$25-\$55); Mon.-Fri. (10a); Tue. & Thurs. (7p); Sat. (1p); Sun. (7p).	Action Aces (Mon.-Thurs.); Splash the Pot.
SANDIA RESORT (505) 796-7500 • sandiacasino.com	Tue. (\$40, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Sun. (\$40, noon); monthly Omaha event, Dec. 7 (call for details); Big Dog event, Dec. 17 (\$150, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha.
SANTA ANA STAR CASINO 505-867-0000 • santaanastar.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30, 11a); Tue. (\$30, 7p); Wed. PLO & Thurs. KO (\$40, 7p); Fri. (\$100, 7p); Sat. (\$40, 11a) & H.O.R.S.E. (\$40, 7p); Sun. Omaha/8 (\$40, 11a) & (\$40, 7p).	Splash the Pot (Mon. & Tue., 8p-midnight); get paid for quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royal flush (\$250); Most Pots Won pays up to \$100 (Mon.-Fri, 2p-7p).

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); Super Stack Hold'em Series runs until Dec. 4.	Bad-beat jackpot is in hold'em (quad deuces); royals pay \$100.

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

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

OKLAHOMA

CHEROKEE CASINO ROLAND (800) 256-2338 • cherokeecasino.com	Mon. (\$50, 7p); Wed.-Sun. (\$30 w/rebuys, 1p); Wed. \$2K guarantee (\$60, 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 7p); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuys, 5p); Sun. (\$60, 5p).	High hands; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
CHEROKEE WEST SILOAM SPRINGS (918) 422-5100 • cherokeecasino.com	Daily (\$30-\$80, 7p); Mon., Wed., Fri. (\$30, 10a); Tue., Thurs., Sat. (\$50, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K.
CHOCTAW RESORT CASINO (580) 920-0160 • choctawcasinos.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$60-\$115) at 2p & 7p; Sat. (\$225, noon); Native American Poker Tour, Dec. 1-11 (\$125-\$1,000) w/main event, Dec. 10 (\$1,000, 2p). See ad Page 41.	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). See ad Page 41.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
FIRELAKE GRAND CASINO (405) 964-7263 • firelakegrand.com	Mon. (\$30, 11a & \$30 w/rebuys, 7p); Tue.-Wed. (\$15, 11a & \$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$30, 11a & \$70, 6p); Sat. (\$120, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
FIRST COUNCIL CASINO (580) 448-3015 • myfirstwin.com	Tue. \$1K guar. (\$25 w/\$20 rebuys, 7p); Wed. \$1K guar. (\$40, 7p); Thurs. \$1.5K guar. (\$65, 7p); Sat. \$1.2K guar. (\$55, 3p); Sun. (\$70, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; splash pots pay \$100; high-hand bonuses.
HARD ROCK TULSA (918) 384-7800 • hardrockcasinotulsa.com	Daily; ask about future satellites to major events.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR BARTLESVILLE (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarelm.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30 w/\$10 rebuys and add-on, 2p); Sat.-Sun. KO (\$30, 1p); \$5K quarterly freeroll tournament (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR TULSA (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarelm.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, noon); including Mon. PLO (7:30p); Sat. KO (\$60, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
RIVER SPIRIT CASINO (918) 299-8518 • creeknationcasino.com	Sun.-Fri. (\$50, 9:30a); Mon. (\$40 w/rebuys and add-on, 7p); Tue. (\$50, 6p); Wed. (\$60, 7p); Thurs. & Sun. KO (\$70, 7p); Sat. KO (\$70, 9:30a).	Progressive bad beat in hold'em is quads; Omaha bad-beat jackpot pays \$5K; progressive tournament bad-beat jackpot; progressive royal flush; Hot Seat promo.
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).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads or better and pays \$20K minimum.

OREGON

CHINOOK WINDS CASINO (541) 996-5825 • chinookwindscasino.com	Mon. KO (\$55, 4:30p); Tue. Omaha/8 (\$45, 4:30p); Wed. (\$45, 4:30p); Thurs. KO (\$55, 4:30p); Sat. (\$95, 2p); Sun. (\$60, 2p).	Tournament royal flush bonus pays \$200; Boss Bounties pays up to \$200; live game bonus (call for details).
SEVEN FEATHERS CASINO (541) 839-1111 • sevenfeathers.com	Monthly events on Dec. 4 & 18 (1:30p); freerolls are held Wed. & Fri. at 6p.	Call for promotions.
SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO (503) 879-2350 • spiritmountain.com	Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$25 w/\$10 rebuys, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$90, 7p); Fri. (\$70, noon); Sat. (\$120, noon).	Spin the Wheel (Fri.-Sun.); Progressive Payouts (Mon.-Thurs.).
WILDHORSE RESORT (541) 278-2274 • wildhorseresort.com	Tue. (\$30 w/\$25 rebuy & add-on, 6:30p); Wed. (\$30 w/\$25 rebuy & add-on, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$55, 6:30p); Sat. (\$60 w/\$55 rebuy & add-on, 1p); Sun. (\$35, 1p).	Call for promotions.

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

PENNSYLVANIA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
HARRAH'S CHESTER (800) 480-8020 • harrahscasino.com	Daily (\$60-\$195). Starting times are Mon.-Fri. (10:30a & 6:30p) and Sat.-Sun. (11:30a & 6:30p).	Bad beat in hold'em (call for details).
HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL (717) 469-2211 • hcpn.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$85, noon); Wed. & Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Sat. Survivor (\$150, 11a); Sun. deepstack (\$200, 11a); Sun. KO (\$125, 7p); SNGs available.	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.
PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS & CASINO (866) 374-3386 • ericcasino.com	Daily shootout tournaments (call for schedule).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
PARX CASINO (215) 639-9000 • parxcasino.com	Tue. (\$120, 7p); Wed. (\$120, noon); Thurs. (\$120, 7p); Sat. (\$230, noon).	Call for details.
RIVERS CASINO (412) 231-7777 • theriverscasino.com	Daily (\$65-\$555); Sun.-Fri. (noon & 7p); Sat. (noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of jacks).
SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM (877) SANDS-77 • sandsbethworks.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads).

WASHINGTON

7 CEDARS CASINO (360) 683-7777 • 7cedarsresort.com	Wed. (\$75, 6p); Thurs. Omaha/8 (\$65, 6p); Sat. (\$80, 1p); Sun. (\$65, 6p); \$777 added monthly event, Dec. 30 (\$77, 6p).	Double Hours (Thurs. & Sun.); call for details.
ANGEL OF THE WINDS CASINO (360) 474-9740 • angelofthewinds.com	Daily (\$33, 10a), plus Fri. (\$75, 6:30p); many tournaments vary between hold'em, Omaha/8 and crazy pineapple (call for schedule).	High hands and bonus high hands (call for details).
CLEARWATER CASINO (360) 598-8700 • clearwatercasino.com	Daily (\$25 w/\$5 rebuys, 11:30a); Tue. Beat the Boss KO (\$50, 6p); Wed. (\$50 w/\$20 add-on, 6p).	Daily Double jackpot; get paid for quads, straight flush and royals; Lightning Strikes & Thunder Rumbles jackpots (call for details).
LITTLE CREEK CASINO (360) 427-7711 • little-creek.com	Mon. (\$25 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Tue. KO (\$35, 7p); Wed. (\$45, 6p); Thurs. (\$55, 7p); Fri. KO (\$35, 6p); Sat. KO (\$35, 5p); Sun. Omaha/8 (\$35, 5p); Dec. 31 (\$330, noon).	Extra tournament chips (two hours of live play required); call for details.
MUCKLESHOOT CASINO (253) 804-4444 • muckleshootcasino.com	Saturday (\$40 w/rebuys, noon).	Bad beat in hold'em is quad eights and Omaha is quad 10s; good-beat jackpot in hold'em; Hundred Dollar High Hand pays \$100; Monte Carlo (call for details).
NORTHERN QUEST CASINO (509) 242-7000 • northernquest.com	Mon.-Fri. KO (\$40, 10:30a); Wed. (\$20 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Mon & Thurs. half-price ladies night (\$20, 7p); Sat. KO (\$75, 10:30a). Best of the West Challenge Jan 20-22.	Call for promotions. Be sure to ask about the Best of the West event (Jan. 20-22) which adds \$50K and guarantees \$50K for first.
SNOQUALMIE CASINO (425) 888-1234 • snocasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30, 10:30a); Sat. (\$60, 11a); Sun. KO (\$60, 11a). Ask about the \$35K Player Appreciation Giveaway.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks beaten by quads (mini is any aces full beaten: loser \$300, winner \$150, \$50 table share); hourly high hands pay \$100.
SWINOMISH NORTHERN LIGHTS (360) 293-2691 • swinomishcasino.com	Daily at 12:15p & 7p; Mon.-Tue. & Sun. (\$22); Wed. (\$11 w/rebuys & \$33); Thurs. Omaha/8 (\$22) & \$33; Fri. (\$22 & \$55); Sat. (\$27 & \$33).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; mini bad-beat jackpot; royal flush bonus.
TULALIP RESORT CASINO (360) 716-6000 • tulalipresort.com.com	Mon.-Fri. (10:30a); Sat. (11a).	Aces Cracked.

WEST VIRGINIA

HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN (800) 795-7001 • ctowntables.com	Tuesday (\$150, 11a); Wednesday (\$250, 7p).	None.
MARDI GRAS CASINO AT TRI-STATE (800) 224-9683 • tristateracetrack.com	Daily (\$45-\$150); Mon. (1p); Tue. (7p); Wed. (7p); Thurs. (1p & 7p); Sun. (2p).	Bad-beat jackpots in Omaha and stud.
MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM (304) 387-8458 • mountaineerpoker.com	Daily (\$25-\$100) at 12:15p & 7:30p except Wed. (10:30a) & Sun. (2p); no 12:15 tournaments on Tue. or Thurs. in December.	Bad beat is aces full of kings; high hands pay \$100 (call for details).
WHEELING ISLAND CASINO (304) 232-5050 • wheelingisland.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 7p); Fri. Turbo (\$50, 7p); Sat. KO (\$75, 7p); Sun. KO (\$50, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; quads or straight flush lets you spin the wheel; early bird special (Mon., Tue., Thurs.).

WISCONSIN

HO-CHUNK GAMING AT MADISON ho-chunkgaming.com • (608) 223-9576	Mon. (\$33, 1p); Tue. Turbo (\$22, 7:30p); Wed. (\$55, 7:30p); Thurs. Mega (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$88, noon).	Hot Seats; rakeback (call for details).
HO-CHUNK GAMING AT NEKOOSA ho-chunkgaming.com • (800) 782-4560	Wed. (\$45, 6:45p) and Sat. (\$60, 4:15).	Call for promotions.
HO-CHUNK GAMING AT WISCONSIN DELLS ho-chunkgaming.com • (608) 356-6210	\$55 events on Tue. (10a, 1p) & Sun. (10a, 3p); Thurs. (\$90, 10a, plus Big Stack at 6p, \$90); monthly event, Dec. 4 (\$100, 10a).	Call for promotions.
MENOMINEE CASINO menomineecasinoresort.com • (715) 799-3600	Mon. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$40 w/\$20 rebuy/add-on, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 10a); Sun. (\$35 w/\$10 rebuys/add-ons, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of tens and Omaha is quads; Aces Cracked pays up to \$150.
ONEIDA MASON STREET oneidabingoandcasino.net • (920) 494-4500	Mon. (\$35 w/rebuys, 7p); Wed. (\$65 w/rebuy, 7p); Thurs. (\$55, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Aces Cracked pays \$100; royals pay \$200.
POTAWATOMI BINGO CASINO (414) 645-6888 • paysbig.com	Monday KO (\$110, 6p); Sunday (\$110, 2p).	None.

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Q&A

WITH AMANDA LEATHERMAN

The former PokerStars *Big Game* hostess chats with *Ante Up* publisher Chris Cosenza about her recent signing with Bodog, those killer 5-inch heels, her annoyance with some other poker hostesses and one of the funniest prop bets she's ever witnessed.

Given the last time we saw you on TV was PokerStars' *Big Game* on Fox, why don't you catch us up as to what you're doing these days? That was the last TV that I had done. ... It was amazing and really fun. Hated to see it end. But everything happened with the online-poker situation. So I signed with Bodog, which was kinda really lucky for me as a U.S. player. I'm just starting to work for them. I'm excited; I get to play live poker for once.

With the volatile online-poker climate in the U.S., explain how you and Bodog benefit from this relationship. We're just hoping things get turned around in the U.S. There's really not much else to hope for. They're going to let me travel (abroad), quite often. I was surprised myself. I was like, "What is it they want for me?" I can't really send players their way. I guess just my face and likeness, I did do PokerStars' the *Big Game*, will help them out a little. ... I have a year deal and hopefully we can keep it going longer than that. I love them.

Online poker has played a huge role in your life. How devastated were you by Black Friday? I was as devastated as anyone else. That's all I've done since I was really young. I played online for a living for a while. ... It really sucks. I really wanted the *Big Game* to last a long time; it was a really great show. It was heartbreaking, that's for sure.

Have you ever fallen off any of those skyscraper high heels you wear? Your bio says you're 5 feet tall, but those bad boys gotta make you like 6-2! Oh my God! I can tell you a funny story actually with that! We were filming the *Big Game* this last season and Jennifer Tilly was playing. And she's talking to me whole time and I'm sitting on my couch. I have these huge heels on, like 5-inch heels or

whatever, and she asks me if I want to come over to the table and get a piece of candy from her. And I'm like, "Yes, of course!" I hadn't eaten all day. The producer in my ear says, "Go, but you have to go fast; you need to run over there because we really don't want this part on camera." So I run, literally. I try to run; I fall out of the heel; I carry it in my hand, hop over to the table and grab the candy. ... It's supposed to be on some blooper reel. I fall in those things all the time. They are really high! (laughs)

Unlike most poker hostesses, you actually have some poker chops, cashing in the WSOP ladies event in 2008. Is it annoying most hostesses have poker questions fed to them from producers through earpieces?

Of course. I'd always gotten a little annoyed. Even before the *Big Game* when all I wanted was a TV job (I did Season VII of WPT, which was amazing, but) I was like, man, why am I not getting these TV jobs when these girls have to have these questions written down for them, and then they still can't even say it! (laughs) It's a little irking. Sometimes they want a model look. But I've been playing poker my whole life and I think it's definitely helped to my advantage.

You also have been known to hang with these guys when the poker is done. What's the oddest prop bet you've ever seen go down? Oh God! **Joe Sebok** tends to do really ridiculous things, especially when he's drinking with **Gavin Smith**. So Joe, Gavin and **Jeff Madsen** decided at the WPT Commerce a couple of years back, whoever busted out first had to get the other guys' face tattooed on their body. ... I hate that they can buy out of these bets, because that would have been hilarious. ... But I guess I wouldn't want Gavin's face on me either. (laughs). ♠



Want more?

Amanda had other thoughts, including what has to be the grossest prop bet ever! Scan the tag to hear the entire interview.

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Mondays 12/19 & 12/26 • 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15 + \$25 • Bounty
7:30PM • \$85 +15

Tuesdays 12/13, 12/20 & 12/27 • 12:30PM & 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20

Wednesdays 12/14 & 12/28 • 12:30PM • 12/21 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15

Thursdays 12/15, 12/22 & 12/29 • 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15 + \$25 • Bounty
7:30PM • \$100 + \$20

Fridays 12/16, 12/23 & 12/30 • 12:30PM \$50 + \$10 • Re-Entry

Saturdays 12/17, 12/24 & 12/31 • 10AM • \$85 + \$15 • Re-Entry

Sunday 12/18 • 12:30PM • \$100 + \$20

Deep Stack Multi-Table No Limit Hold'em

Wednesdays 12/14 & 12/28 • 7:30PM • 12/21 • 12:30PM • \$200 + \$40

Fridays 12/16 & 12/30 • 7:30PM \$500 + \$50
12/23 • 7:30PM • \$355 + \$45

WPT Super Satellite

Thursday 12/1 • 11AM • \$225 + \$30

WPT Winter Poker Open Regional

Friday 12/2 • 11AM • \$175 + \$25 • Re-Entry

Saturday 12/3 • 11AM • \$690 + \$60 • Deep Stack

Sunday 12/4 • 11AM • Deep Stack Day 2

Monday 12/5 • 11AM • \$175 + \$25 • Deep Stack Turbo

Tuesday 12/6 • 11AM • \$175 + \$25 • Omaha Hi/Lo Limit

Wednesday 12/7 • 11AM • \$400 + \$40 • 6-Handed

Thursday 12/8 • 11AM • \$175 + \$25 • Re-Entry

Friday 12/9 • 11AM • \$2,000 + \$200 + \$50 • Championship
Event Day 1A

Saturday 12/10 • 11AM • \$2,000 + \$200 + \$50 • Championship
Event Day 1B

Sunday 12/11 • 11AM • Championship Event Day 2



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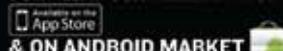
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