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YOUR POKER MAGAZINE™



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## FROM THE PUBLISHERS

Christopher  
CosenzaScott  
Long

# POKER STILL IS GROWING

It's hard to believe one simple question, asked nearly six years ago, created the Ante Up Nation. The *Ante Up PokerCast's* first episode, an absolutely horrible 6-minute, 47-second effort, had wondered: Has poker's popularity reached its peak?

Not exactly the wisest of questions given it was 2005, the World Series of Poker was coming off a record-setting main event the year before, the World Poker Tour hole-cams continued to make the game accessible and exciting, and poker websites were sprouting up like weeds in cyberspace. But that wasn't what proved to us that poker hadn't plateaued. It was the rush of fans that found our show. In a very short time, with almost no publicity or marketing, our show had listeners in every state and in more than 30 countries. How naïve we were.

But after nearly 300 episodes (without ever missing a week, and, yes, we got better), and the launch of YOUR monthly poker magazine, which has spread from one state to 25 in almost three years, should we dare ask the question again?

Has poker reached its peak? One look at our cover should provide a resounding "No!" There were so many events in our coverage area for this issue that we couldn't decide which one to put on the cover. And one of those events, the World Series of Poker Eastern Regional Championship, is new to the tournament scene.

Some may say that's a bad thing; that having too many events can saturate the market and ultimately kill poker's growth. Nonsense! There are millions of poker players in the United States, and if you get creative enough you can find plenty to fill your tournament seats. But let's not get off track.

If our cover isn't enough proof, just look at what transpired over the past year:

- The Borgata Poker Open in Atlantic City set a record for the most players in a World Poker Tour main event (1,042), besting its record from the year before (1,018). Yes, it's true, they decreased the buy-in to \$3,500, but they also guaranteed a \$2 million prize pool. Remember what we said about being creative?
- The WSOP in Las Vegas broke all kinds of records, including overall attendance. Though its main

event didn't set a record, it did draw 7,319 players, the second-most in history, and all of this during one of the worst economies on record.

- Delaware and Pennsylvania approved legal poker and opened their rooms in the summer.

- The Hard Rock casino franchises inked a deal to hold WPT events in Hollywood, Fla., (and likely Tampa) just a few months after Florida removed its capped-poker shackles. Its \$5K WPT/Hard Rock Fall Open regional event attracted 300 players, including pros from all over the country. Its WPT main event in April is sure to do the same.

- The WSOP circuit beefed up its schedule by adding regional and national championships. Also, the WSOPC granted the Palm Beach Kennel Club the right to host one of its circuit events (this month), just the third non-Caesars Entertainment property to get that honor.

- In a TV market filled with poker shows, PokerStars launched *The Big Game* on Fox, which has been successful. Other shows, such as Stars' *Million Dollar Challenge*, *Poker After Dark* and *High Stakes Poker*, continue to return for more seasons. Also, if poker's popularity had leveled off or begun to decline, would the WPT totally revamp its format and continue to find a steady home on FSN? Not likely.

- Starting with this issue, Jonathan Little will be writing a strategy column for our readers. Given his incredible success on tour and his penchant for teaching poker, this truly is a feather in our cap and reason enough to feel like poker's popularity is still thriving. You can find his column, which focuses on bankroll management this month, on Page 40.

- And, finally, a *Rounders* sequel is in the works, according to Miramax. If Hollywood is willing to sink money into another poker movie, you just know there's still a growing audience for it.

Someday poker will level off, but not before all avenues have been explored definitively. Until then, let's enjoy the ride.

We'll see you at the tables.

**Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long**

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**LETTERS**

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

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# CONNECTIONS

## FLORIDA



The Hard Rock in Tampa has opened its new poker room, which has all kinds of new amenities. Also, a record bad-beat jackpot hits just days later. **14**

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• Who needs the feds? The state of New Jersey moved one step closer to having intrastate online poker regulation. Will Florida be next? **39**

• Results from the Borgata's December Mini Series. **30**

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What is that thing on the right there? Is it some kind of mutant lobster or bug? No, it's a backbone, and Joe says you better use yours at the table. **42**



### DR. TOSCANO

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People often wonder what the difference is between a good and great poker player; Mr. Houston witnessed a hand recently that answers the question. **41**

### DR. BLOOMFIELD

Making decisions at the poker table is a never-ending process, but Doc has a way for you to take control of the perpetual madness. **44**

## N. CAROLINA



Pro Chris Bell of Raleigh nearly quit poker last year. Now he has a World Series of Poker bracelet and a WSOP regional title to his name. **28**

## ON THE BUTTON

Former WPT Player of the Year Jonathan Little joins the stable of *Ante Up* strategy writers this month (Read his column on Page 40). In honor of this we chatted with him about his career and why he enjoys teaching poker. **61**



## TRAINING

Have you been thinking of improving your game but don't know where to begin? We have laid out a few educational paths for you to choose from in our special advertorial section dedicated to poker training. **52**

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# GIARDINA LEAVES WYNN TO RUN JAX ROOMS

As Florida poker continues to adapt to a new era of players and conditions, many rooms are looking outside the state for experience and fresh ideas. Jacksonville Kennel Club did just this by hiring the former poker director of Wynn Las Vegas, Deborah Giardina, as its new director of poker operations.

Giardina brings knowledge, influence and a new sense of confidence to the JKC organization. She has been involved in the poker industry for more than 20 years and has had numerous jobs throughout her career. Giardina is a prime example of how hard work and dedication can skyrocket a person to the top of an organization. From dealer to director, she has learned the skills and has invested her time to improve each poker room she joins.

*Ante Up's* Garrett Roth spoke with Giardina about her road to success and new Jacksonville position.

**What is your background leading up to your recent job?** I played poker recreationally with my family growing up as a kid. My dad had a poker night with his friends, so I was raised with cards. I am a mother of four so before I got into gaming, I was involved in raising my kids. I was also a real estate broker at the same time. When the market fell out in the late '80s, it wasn't a great time to be a broker, so I switched. I got into the gaming industry in 1990 in Colorado and that's when I became specifically interested in poker.

**How do you like your new position in Jacksonville?** I love it, it's great! People here are very friendly. Coming into a good operation is refreshing. Typically, I do start-ups where I come into a brand new establishment and write all the regulations, hire all new people and run training classes and here I am coming into an existing operation. With the limits coming off last July, it changed the face of poker and their business, so they reached out to me to have someone that has the experience

with the type of poker products that they can now offer. I am coming into this operation where the dealers are very friendly and the people are nice and everybody is looking forward to bringing this product to the level that it needs to be.

**What is the most important aspect of running a poker room?** There are several aspects and it is tough to determine which is most important, but customer service and the integrity of the game are at the top. We have to make sure that the integrity of the game is completely flawless. We provide an environment for the players to have a fair and safe game while having a good time.



They are going to get that here at Jacksonville Kennel Club, either at Orange Park or St. Johns. Our poker operation has the friendliest people that I have come across in the country and I have opened and worked for many places. People that come to our rooms are going to get a professionally dealt game and southern hospitality.

**What are your goals for your new rooms?** We want to bring Florida poker to the map. We believe that the poker industry in Florida is the last frontier for poker in this country. It is beautiful here in Jacksonville with

great beaches and golf courses.

This can be easily marketed and brought into the limelight as a destination for poker players. The games are great and we expect to get national coverage and attract the pros because we will be able to offer things that they can't get at other destinations. In addition, you can be 18 years old and play here in Florida, so I expect that we can attract some younger European players as well for some major poker events. We intend to fine tune different pieces of this operation so that you will have a first-class game that is friendly and comfortable with stellar integrity to play in.

## PLAYERS CHOICE POKER



The top six players, in keeping with the holiday spirit, chopped the December monthly tournament, each receiving \$150. They were Vern Tatum, Dan Akes, Tim Jones, Deb Wimberly, Jeremy Yawn and Dave "Tank" Garceau. They were

followed by Chris Logan (\$25), Mike Paulk (\$25), Alan Jacobs (\$25) and Wendy Sparks.



• **Tim Jones** won the November monthly for \$500, followed by Mickey Wagner (\$200), Al Bryant (\$75), Jan Anderson (\$50), Steve Veshia (\$50), Bill Brazell (\$25), Kevin Schwartz (\$25), George Rac (\$25), Roy Wilkins (\$25) and Kevin Pazda (\$25).

## ALL IN! POKER SERIES



Tomcee Lee Deimantas, left, won the World Series of Poker Compete for a Seat tournament in Orlando. She won an \$830 seat at Caesars in Atlantic City to play in the WSOP circuit event in March in Event 6.



• Kristal Ortego, right, won the December monthly, beating nearly 70 players for the trophy and \$500 gift card.

## MIAMI POKER SOCIETY



**Is that Santa Claus playing poker in the MPS charity tournament at Corbett's Sports Bar & Grill? The players helped donate more than 1,400 new toys to St. Ann's Mission in Naranja.**

# PLAY IT COOL



**Beau Rivage**  
*Spring Break*  
**POKER**  
**C L A S S I C**  
**March 17 - 27**

## MARCH 17 - 27, 2011

DATE	DAY	EVENT#	TIME	EVENT	ENTRY FEE	ADMIN FEE	BONUS CHIPS
Mar 17	Thur.		6PM	Single Table Satellites & Nightly Tournaments Begin			
Mar 18	Fri.	1	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300	\$40	\$10
Mar 18	Fri.	2	4PM	Limit Omaha 8 or Better	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 19	Sat.	3	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 19	Sat.	4	4PM	Ladies No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 20	Sun.	5	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 20	Sun.	6	4PM	Pot Limit Omaha/ 1 Re-entry 1 Add-on	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 21	Mon.	7	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em/ 1 Re-entry 1 Add-on	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 21	Mon.	8	4PM	Stud/Stud 8 or Better	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 22	Tue.	9	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 22	Tue.	10	4PM	Pot Limit Omaha 8 or Better	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 23	Wed.	11	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em/ Knockout Bounty	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 23	Wed.	12	4PM	Limit Hold 'Em	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 24	Thur.	13	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em/Multiple Re-entry	\$100	\$25	\$10
Mar 24	Thur.	14	4PM	Limit Omaha 8 or Better	\$200	\$30	\$10
Mar 25	Fri.	15	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300	\$40	\$10
Mar 25	Fri.		4PM	Mega Satellite with Multiple Re-entries	\$100	\$25	\$10
Mar 25	Fri.		8PM	Mega Satellite	\$100	\$25	\$10
Mar 25	Fri. Night		Midnight	Mega Satellite	\$100	\$25	\$10
Mar 26	Sat.		10AM	Last Chance Turbo Mega Satellite	\$200	\$25	\$10
Mar 26	Sat.	16	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em Championship	\$2,000	\$100	
Mar 27	Sun.		2PM	Championship Event Final Table			

Single Satellites ranging from \$45 - \$270 for Championship Event will be held daily. \$100 + \$25 No-Limit Hold 'Em events nightly at 7PM.

Registration begins at 5PM on March 17 and is open from 8AM - 9PM daily. For more information, call 228.386.7092. Blind structures and other details are available at [beaurivage.com](http://beaurivage.com)

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## HARD ROCK TAMPA



Tampa's Seminole Hard Rock opened the new 10,000-square-foot poker room in December, featuring 50 tables, a high-limit area, a dedicated service bar and restrooms, a spacious multistation cashier stand and three-station brush stand. Special touches include new Hard Rock memorabilia, an outdoor smoking area and numerous 60-inch flatscreen TVs.

"Our guests' reaction has been extremely enthusiastic, with three months of promotions planned to help us celebrate our new room," poker room manager Henry Funke said. "We look forward to meeting and greeting many new and old friends."

Plans call for the old 8,000-square-foot poker room to be renovated for additional slot machine use.

"The new poker room also allows us to continue to offer the best high-stakes live-action poker and tournaments on the west coast of Florida," casino VP Russ Christianson said.

### Record bad-beat jackpot hits Jan. 8

Two Tampa-area women shared the largest poker jackpot in Florida history on Jan. 8 when they hit a record-setting \$584,864 Mega Bad Beat Jackpot in the new poker room at Hard Rock Tampa.

Patricia Dumas of Lutz won \$292,430 with her "losing" hand of four kings, while Mija Choi of Tampa took home \$175,458, thanks to her "winning" hand of four aces. The six remaining players at the \$2-\$4 limit table each won \$19,496.

The first Mega Bad Beat Jackpot hit was on Jan. 3, 2010, for \$365,407 at Seminole Casino Hollywood. The exclusive jackpot has hit on average about twice a month, paying out 23 times for a total of \$5,332,727.



## DANIA JAI-ALAI



The final 16 players in the Dan Le Bardard Celebrity tournament agreed to split the prize pool, including the \$10,000 first-place money, on Dec. 22.

Had they played it out, one player would have gone to the Borgata Open in Atlantic City.

That player could have been Stuart Feiner of Plantation, above, being the chip leader when the tournament was reduced to the final two tables after 261 players started the event.

However, Feiner was awarded the monthly trophy as the "winner" and agreed to "chop" giving each player \$978 in the \$79 buy-in event.

## HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD



December's \$1,100 Main Event tournament drew 134 players for a prize pool of \$134,000. Julio Fernandez, pictured, captured the first prize of nearly \$43K.

1. Julio Fernandez, Miami, \$42,880
2. Rob Alberro, Coral Gables, \$24,388
3. Lawrence Klur, Pem. Pines, \$16,214
4. Rodolfo Castillo, Weston, \$11,256
5. Daren Stabinski, Weston, \$8,308
6. Rich Semander, Pem. Pines, \$6,432
7. Jason Budish, Boca Raton, \$4,824
8. Fabian Forbes, Miami, \$3,216
9. Tim Morgan, Pompano Beach, \$3,082
10. Javier Vega, Hialeah, \$2,948

### TREASURE CHEST POKER

Here's a wrapup of all of TCP's event champions.

- Billie Keith, top left, won the Stix Palm Harbor main event, earning a \$250 gift card.
- Tina Dorobkowski, middle left, won her second straight monthly event. She also made the final table at the last quarterly. Her latest victory earns her a \$1,000 World Series of Poker seat.
- Dennis Buncie, bottom left, captured the King of Ocala tournament, earning an Outback Steakhouse gift certificate and trophy.
- Jim Spence, top right, won a gift card and trophy, plus he earned a seat in a \$1K WSOP qualifier.
- Jason Tivis, middle right, won a seat to the Brew Garden Vegas event.
- Brian Stein, bottom right, took down the Stokers monthly to earn the ultimate tailgate package and a seat in a \$1K WSOP qualifier.





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**Tournament Schedule**

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

**General Information**

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

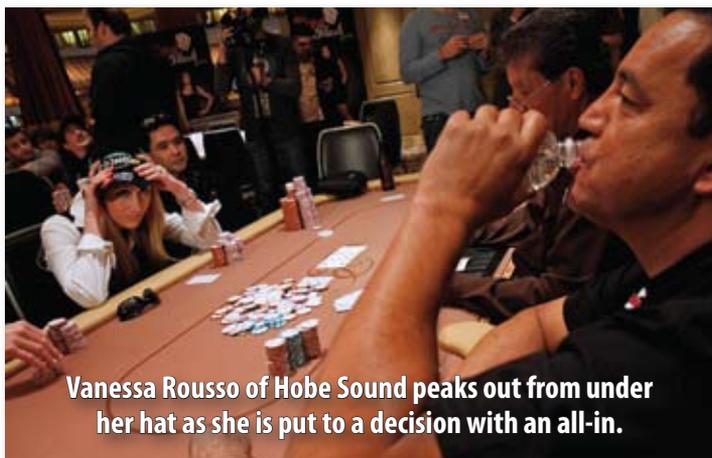
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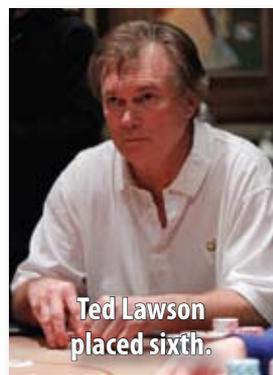
Vanessa Rousso of Hobe Sound peaks out from under her hat as she is put to a decision with an all-in.

## FLORIDIANS DOMINATE WPT BRUNSON EVENT

But in the end the Magician, Antonio Esfandiari, makes all of the Sunshine State players disappear as he captures his second World Poker Tour title.



John Racener finished fourth.



Ted Lawson placed sixth.

It's easy to draw similarities between the World Poker Tour Doyle Brunson Five Diamond World Poker Classic and last year's World Series of Poker Main Event. After all, each final table had three Floridians and each had Tampa's John Racener at the final table. And just like the November Nine, none of the Floridians came away with the title, but one of them finished second.

**Antonio Esfandiari** took home the WPT title, his second, besting the most accomplished final table of the season and a strong field of 438 entrants.

Joining Esfandiari in the final six were: Vanessa Rousso of Hobe Sound, John Racener of Tampa, Ted Lawson of Plantation and fellow world-class pros Kirk Morrison and Andrew Robl.

Combined, those six players have amassed three WPT titles, three WSOP bracelets, more than a dozen major tournament victories, dozens of final tables and more than \$17 million in career earnings.

Rousso wrestled the chip lead from Esfandiari at the final table, but ultimately Esfandiari would eliminate Rousso in third place when his A-Q broke Rousso's Q-2.

In the end it was Esfandiari who came out on top when his K-J busted Robl's Q-10, earning Esfandiari the WPT title and \$870,124, including a \$25,500 buy-in to the season-ending WPT World Championship.

"It feels damn good. I'm not gonna lie," said Esfandiari, who celebrated his 32nd birthday with the victory.

The payouts: Esfandiari, \$870,124, Robl, \$549,003, Rousso, \$358,964, Racener, \$232,271, Morrison, \$168,924 and Lawson, \$126,693.



### CHIP ANA CHAIR POKER



The league invited final-table players from its past four quarterlies and top 10 players from 2010 for a best-of-the-best event at Bradenton's Cork's Cigar Bar.

Pete Iovale outlasted the field to take the top prize of a \$300 gift card.

Also making the final table, in order, were Dave Helyer, Jean Eisenwinter, Matt Miller, Carolyn Tucker-Stook, Mike Munchel, Amanda Sheley, Kyle Phillips, Chuck Kirby and Jack Fowell.

### BIG STACKS POKER



**OCTOBER QUARTERLY:** Willie Sloane won the event at Lakeside Grill and Sports Bar to take home the \$750 World Series of Poker circuit or World Poker Tour undercard seat.

He defeated Paul Devine during heads-up play. Devine won a \$150 WSOP satellite sponsorship.

Jimmy DeLoach was third and earned a \$100 poker room sponsorship. All three players, who also qualified for the Tournament of Champions, are pictured above.

The rest of the final results were Paulette Sloane, Curtis Schultheis, Eddie Behounek, Gary Sokolitsky, Judy Grimes, Marino Thomas and Hugo Torres.



**NOVEMBER BI-MONTHLY:** Keith House defeated Jerilynn Brady for his second bi-monthly win at Frank's Place. He earned the first-place prize of a \$500 poker room sponsorship, and Brady took the \$200 sponsorship. The rest of the final-table results were Tommy DeLoach (\$125), Carlos Solis (\$100), Steven Jaffe (\$75), Donnie Sheppard, Kathy Cruse, Tracy DeCresie, Bob Wedlock and Jerry Williams.

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# WHERE HAVE ALL THE MANAGERS GONE?

The leaves fall, the seasons change and as time passes people move from one opportunity to another. That's just how life works. But every once in a while, life seems to work in peculiar ways. And one of those times is now in the Florida poker world.



SCOTT LONG

In the past year or so, no fewer than nine of the state's poker rooms have welcomed new top poker executives. That's nearly a third of the state's rooms.

If Florida had just three or four poker rooms, a 33 percent change wouldn't raise an eyebrow. But when your state has 30 poker rooms, you raise both eyebrows.

And perhaps most surprising about this stat is that for the past seven months, Florida has enjoyed a new era of open poker. Finally allowed to deal any game at any limit, Florida rooms are garnering attention from players all over the country. They should be celebrating new freedoms, not sifting through resumés, right?

But maybe that's it.

No doubt, some of the changes have been the type that come in the normal course of business (retirements, promotions, etc.). And others could have less to do with performance than other factors that cause companies to separate from employees. But taken in total, it's hard to ignore that despite the state's rooms showing overall double-digit growth year-over-year in December 2010, some managers are out of jobs because performance didn't meet new, loftier expectations from those with bigger titles.

Privately, that's the theory shared with me from a few managers who still have jobs. It was easy to let one's imagination run wild in advance of July 1 with just how big of an effect the law changes were going to have.

And, the Catch 22 of it was if you tempered your expectations so you would be pleasantly surprised, or at least not as disappointed, with the actual numbers, you left yourself and your room vulnerable if reality far outpaced those expectations and you didn't have the staffing, space or equipment to adequately serve the bursting demand. In some instances, it's possible poker room management and overall management saw the issue differently.

As an aside, most managers I spoke with leading up to July 1 projected an increase of 15 percent. How Nostradamus-like do they look now that December's year-over-year numbers for parimutuel rooms clocked in at 14 percent? But staffing decisions are hardly ever based on state averages. The numbers that count most are the room's own numbers, and the numbers of their most immediate rivals. And a handful of Florida rooms are off of 2009's numbers considerably. And, yes, in some of those cases, their rivals are posting healthy gains.

But trying to figure out the how-and-why of this many personnel changes is a largely futile exercise. What's done is done. What we should do, though, is look to the future to try to predict what it all means.

We know veteran room managers and directors from outside of Florida are hot commodities. Jacksonville Greyhound Racing, which runs the Orange Park Kennel Club and St. Johns Greyhound Park near Jacksonville, hired Deborah Giardina, most recently of Las Vegas' swanky Wynn Casino, to run its poker operation (see profile on Page 12). And Dominic Niro left the Empress Casino near Chicago to lead the team at Daytona Beach Kennel Club.

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- Be good with the general public

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood, just months from its biggest poker event in history, launched a nationwide search for a new director.

*Ante Up* has heard from managers in other states who have been contacted by Florida rooms about their openings, and we've heard from managers in other states who are contacting Florida rooms about their openings.

At the very least, we're perhaps looking at a new era where leaders who earned their chops somewhere other than the old \$.25-\$.50 days of Florida poker will bring new ideas into the state that have worked well elsewhere. As *Ante Up* expands, we're on the road a lot these days, seeing how things are done in very different poker jurisdictions. There is a lot Florida's players can learn from other states, just as there's a lot the rest of the country can learn from Florida.

Let's mark our calendars to check back a year from now to see just how different Florida poker really becomes.

— Email Scott Long at [scott@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:scott@anteupmagazine.com).

See website for calendar

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

# BIG SUCCESS IN THE BIG EASY

It's late in the afternoon on the day after Christmas and the famed French Quarter is as lifeless as a zombie from Marie Laveau's House of Voodoo. The holiday is over and everyone has gone home. Even the locals are tuckered out. In the little suburb of Harvey, however, there's a party going on at the Boomtown Casino poker room. The tables are filled and there's a waiting list.



SCOTTY RUSHING

"We're very busy tonight," poker room manager Robert Horvath said. "And last night, Christmas evening, the place was packed."

It's a welcomed change for a poker room that was on life-support just a few short months ago. Boomtown is a relatively young face in the poker community and has experienced a fair amount of growing pains. In Shreveport the experiment failed miserably. A decision to utilize electronic poker tables to reduce the overhead of paid staff (no dealers) backfired and players balked. Many of them complained there just wasn't enough personal attention. The lesson, albeit a hard one, was an eye-opener.

When Horvath took the reins of the New Orleans room in August he made customer service a priority and immediately began to make the room more player-friendly. He talked to the players and got to know his regulars on a first-name basis. This gave him the opportunity to introduce new games and amenities the players wanted. The response has been overwhelming. Within a month he doubled the drop. As of this writing he has almost tripled it, an unbelievable feat given the hurdles that stood in his way. The mountain was huge and Horvath, by his admission, was less than enthusiastic in the beginning.

"I thought I was being demoted," he said with a laugh. "When my supervisor talked to me about taking the room I didn't know how it would work out."

One can easily understand Horvath's concerns. The room occupies an area that, within the past six years, has suffered two hurricanes and a devastating oil spill. These disasters have left the local economy in a shambles. If that weren't bad enough, Horvath and Boomtown also must contend for market share with the owners of the most recognized brand in poker, Harrah's. While the Harrah's poker room is just steps from the tourist-packed Vieux Carre, Boomtown is situated in the smaller suburb of Harvey about 10 miles away.



Horvath, however, is not a man to back down from a fight and he's not easily intimidated. The Tulane grad projects an air of confidence that was forged in the crucible of Atlantic City during its formative years.

"It was tough there," he said. "But I had a good mentor who was from the old school."

Old School. Those words sum up Horvath's approach to poker room management. His style is a throwback to when poker players were the gods of the casino. Most casinos now gear their operations toward slot players and these players usually benefit most from a casino-rewards program. Horvath knew he was going to have to change that if the room was going to succeed. One of the first things he did was install a hot dog machine in the poker room where players can help themselves to a snack at no cost. That may seem like a small gesture but players loved it, and the benefit for Horvath was two-fold.

"The players appreciated it," he said. "That's the main thing. Sometimes it's not what you do, just that you do something. The other



Players have packed Boomtown, even Christmas night.

side of it was keeping players in the room. Let's say you have a husband and wife playing at the same table and they get a little hungry and decide to go eat. If you have six or seven players at that table and two leave, guess what? You just broke the table. It helps to keep them in the room."

Another thing that gained immediate popularity was Horvath's willingness to spread a variety of games. One of the most popular has been a \$4-\$8 limit half-and-half. The lower-limit players love this chance to try their skills at Omaha without having to risk their bankroll in a pot-limit game. If you decide to give it a try expect a waiting list. The game is popular.

The Boomtown poker room also offers a variety of promotions. They have the standard bad-beat jackpot and offer a loyalty-based tournament each week on Tuesday. A Monday Night Football promo recently wrapped up with great success, and you can be sure more promotions are on the way. In a gesture of support for the work Horvath has done, Boomtown has loosened up the purse strings and gotten behind the effort with a substantial budget specifically dedicated to poker room promotions.

Horvath is quick to credit his staff for the room's success.

"I have great people and a great supervisor. My dealers know I expect them to give their best and they do that every day."

When I spoke to members of Horvath's team their enthusiasm was infectious, and justifiably so. More traffic in the room means more tokens for the dealers. Supervisor/dealer Robyn Zanco joined Horvath's team in October and was immediately impressed.

"You can see there is definite progress," Zanco said. "I think Robert is doing very well in managing the room by introducing different promotions and I am excited to be part of the team."

In an area that has seen gaming revenues drop dramatically — some casinos are down almost 60 percent since the BP oil spill — the Boomtown success story is a positive development for poker players in the Crescent City. Options are never a bad thing, and Horvath and his team are working hard to give locals and visitors plenty of them.

— **Scotty "The Spokesman" Rushing is a poker professional and sports journalist. When he isn't playing or writing about poker he's usually reading about it. Email him at [scottyrushing@gmail.com](mailto:scottyrushing@gmail.com).**

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## BAYOU POKER CHALLENGE

DEC. 2-12, 2010 • HARRAH'S CASINO • NEW ORLEANS

Tyler Smith, 23, notched his third major victory of 2010, all of them coming in Gulf Coast states. The poker pro from Smithdale, Miss., captured the Bayou Poker Challenge main event and the \$66,288 top prize, which pushed his earnings past \$400K for 2010.

Smith also won twice in Mississippi at the World Poker Open and the Spring Break Classic.

As part of his victory package, Smith was given a \$10K seat into the 2011 World Series of Poker Main Event.

**Main Event • \$2,655 NLHE****Entries: 108 • Prize Pool: \$250,900**

1. Tyler Smith, Smithdale, MS, \$66,488
2. Ronald G. Hines, Biloxi, MS, \$40,144
3. David Holmes, Lafayette, LA, \$26,344
4. Gary Friedlander, Bellaire, TX, \$20,072
5. "Rem" Remington, Jacksonville, FL, \$17,563
6. Luc Nguyen, Houston, \$12,545
7. Aaron Motoyama, Alhambra, CA, \$10,036
8. Allen Kessler, Las Vegas, \$8,781
9. Jeremy Gaubert, Thibodaux, LA, \$7,527

**Event #1 • \$345 NLHE****Entries: 181 • Prize Pool: \$50,021**

1. Curtis Lee, Metairie, LA, \$12,178
2. Huy Nguyen, Houston, \$7,241
3. William Prejean, Gonzales, LA, \$4,827
4. Ron Held, Metairie, LA, \$3,701
5. Danny Doucet, Lafayette, LA, \$2,826
6. Ralph Reid, Meridian, MS, \$2,201
7. John Roshto, Baton Rouge, LA, \$1,700
8. Brian Champagne, Metairie, LA, \$1,325
9. Bruce Little, Metairie, LA, \$1,075

**Event #2 • \$555 NLHE****Entries: 121 • Prize Pool: \$56,024**

1. Caufman Talley, Lafayette, LA, \$14,849
2. Frank Alpdinar, Baton Rouge, LA, \$8,965
3. Bill Hobbs, New Iberia, LA, \$5,743
4. Steve Weigel, Woodland, AL, \$3,502
5. Corrie Wunstel, Baton Rouge, LA, \$2,801
6. Mike Dufrechou, Baton Rouge, LA, \$2,241
7. Kip Scarsons, Las Vegas, \$1,821
8. Gerard Rodrigues, Mandeville, LA, \$1,540
9. Gregory Benoit, Lake Charles, LA, \$1,260

**Event #3 • \$345 Six-handed****Entries: 58 • Prize Pool: \$16,878**

1. Bruce Little, New Orleans, \$6,582
2. Dustin Wertz, New Orleans, \$4,050
3. Charles L. Morris, Harahan, LA, \$2,531
4. Josh Billingsley, Houston, \$1,687
5. Owen J. Bradley, New Orleans, \$1,181
6. Ruben Rivera, Houston, \$843

**Event #4 • \$345 w/rebuys****Entries: 11 • Prize Pool: \$6,014**

1. Peja Niyati, Dallas, \$3,007
2. Manny Fresko, East Hampton, NY, \$1,804
3. Carl Guillot, Baton Rouge, LA, \$753
4. Gary Sixkiller, Wylie, TX, \$450

**Event #5 • \$345 NLHE****Entries: 76 • Prize Pool: \$22,116**

1. B.J. McBrayer, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$7,077
2. Curtis Lee, Metairie, LA, \$4,423
3. Jerry Monroe, Columbus, GA, \$2,819
4. Michael Caruso, Arvada, CO, \$1,990
5. Bill McClary, New Orleans, \$1,603
6. Cauffman Talley, Lafayette, LA, \$1,326
7. Ruven Rivera, Houston, \$1,105
8. Hedgemann Carter, Slidell, LA, \$939
9. Danny Dorsey, Chalmette, LA, \$829

**Event #6 • \$345 PLO w/rebuys****Entries: 20 • Prize Pool: \$11,446**

1. Chris Conrad, Tallahassee, FL, \$5,723
2. Chris Gamboa, Houston, \$3,433
3. Joshua Billingsley, Houston, \$2,289

**Event #7 • \$345 NLHE****Entries: 75 • Prize Pool: \$21,825**

1. Vitalie Cat, Metairie, LA, \$6,984
2. Richard Berger, Marrero, LA, \$4,365
3. Steve Velziz, Cypress, TX, \$2,782
4. Robert Quin, Metairie, LA, \$1,964
5. Paul Distefano, Plaquemine, FL, \$1,582
6. Charles Chan, Panama City, FL, \$1,309
7. Andrew Becker, Chalmette, LA, \$1,091
8. Brian Hennick, Franklinton, LA, \$927
9. Curtis Steele, Mount Calm, TX, \$818

**Event #8 • \$345 PLO/8****Entries: 28 • Prize Pool: \$8,148**

1. Jonathan Junca, New Orleans, \$3,148
2. David Key, Searcy, AR, \$2,000
3. Greg Thompson, Clarksville, AR, \$1,000
4. Franklin Dawkins, Lafayette, LA, \$1,000
5. Joshua Palmer, Clio, AL, \$1,000

**Event #9 • \$280 NLHE****Entries: 120 • Prize Pool: \$26,450**

1. Kai Landry, Biloxi, MS, \$7,009
2. Brittain Fraley, Houston, \$4,232
3. John Jullien, Alexandria, VA, \$2,711
4. Ronnie Hoover, Baton Rouge, LA, \$2,116
5. Michael Vardeman, Laneville, TX, \$1,653
6. Anita Vasquez, Houston, \$1,322
7. Tom Franklin, Gulfport, MS, \$1,058
8. Steve Newton, Houston, \$859
9. Tai Cao, Lafayette, LA, \$727

**Event #10 • \$345 Mixed****Entries: 20 • Prize Pool: \$5,820**

1. Timothy Burt, Grenada, MS, \$2,910
2. Matt Bourgeois, Baton Rouge, LA, \$1,746
3. Patrick Bell, Beaumont, TX, \$582
4. John Cernuto, Las Vegas, \$582

**Event #12 • \$345 NLHE****Entries: 66 • Prize Pool: \$19,206**

1. James Ammel, Houston, \$6,145
2. Perry Nuccio, Covington, LA, \$3,841
3. Benjamin Hendin, Bellaire, TX, \$2,448
4. Philip Hall, Kemah, TX, \$1,728
5. Kirk Folse, Chauvin, LA, \$1,392
6. Thomas Dousson, Metairie, LA, \$1,152
7. Russell Koch, Beaumont, TX, \$960
8. Anthony V. Palumbo, Oak Ridge, TN, \$816
9. Andrew Dykeman, Jacksonville, FL, \$720

**Event #13 • \$175 Seniors****Entries: 70 • Prize Pool: \$10,185**

1. Michael King, New Orleans, \$1,185
2. Gerald Haik, Mandeville, LA, \$1,000
3. Keith Windhurst, \$1,000
4. Kenneth McAllister, \$1,000
5. Gary Sixkiller, \$1,000
6. Robert Henderson, \$1,000
7. Barron Whipple, \$1,000
8. Theodore Garner, \$1,000
9. Ian Crozier, \$1,000

**Event #14 • \$175 Ladies****Entries: 42 • Prize Pool: \$6,111**

1. Abbe Garfinkel, Mandeville, LA, \$2,444
2. Lynelle Smith, \$1,527
3. Lisa Smith, \$977
4. Trish Marks, \$672
5. Janine Muller, \$488

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A look at the Mississippi-area poker scene

# WINTER POKER CLASSIC

DEC. 2-12, 2010 • GOLD STRIKE CASINO RESORT • TUNICA

## INAUGURAL GOLD STRIKE EVENT THRIVES

In Tunica, Christmas wasn't the only highlight in December. Gold Strike Casino kicked off the holidays with the Winter Poker Classic, which ran Dec. 2-12. This was the first of what will be an annual event, according to Ken Lambert, regional director of poker for MGM Mississippi.



JENNIFER GAY

"This was the first time Tunica has held a poker event in December, so we weren't sure what to expect," he said. "The turnout was fantastic. We were very happy with the fields."

Daily noon events ranged from \$125 to \$340 in a variety of games, including stud/8, PLO and, of course, no-limit hold'em; the average field was more than 120 players. The \$1,080 main event pulled an impressive 174 entrants for a tournament wedged between holidays. With the prize pool just a little more than \$168K it's no surprise the final six were happy to chop, taking home \$23K each.

Among those six was Louisiana's Al Theriac, who was featured on the cover of January's *Ante Up* for his first-place win at the Horseshoe's Magnolia event. This chop brings Theriac's winnings over the final 30 days of 2010 to more than \$60K.

Terry Coleman of Alabama received the trophy and declared the "official" winner.

Local favorites cashing in the main event in-

cluded Dale Hinson (seventh, \$6,751), David Rylander (eighth, \$5,063) and Dina Rylander (11th, \$2,363).

One impressive performance that can't be overlooked is the play of J.W. Smith. The Dalton, Ga. resident won two of the three Omaha events, taking down Event 8 for \$4,539 and Event 13 for \$4,190. He also finished second in stud/8.

As we crawl toward spring, the schedule for Mississippi poker is packed with great events. The first couple of weeks of February feature the Harrah's Tunica WSOP circuit event (Jan. 27-Feb. 14).

Just 10 days later, back at Gold Strike, the action starts again with the Delta Gold series, which runs Feb. 24-March 6. This series will follow the same event schedule of its Winter Poker Classic.

Said Lambert: "This is the second year we've hosted (the Delta Gold). Last year we had a really good turnout. Poker players know Gold Strike is a great place to play. We take excellent care of our guests and players never leave hungry around here."

Gold Strike shift manager Gerald Styers said he's looking forward to the Delta Gold, adding, "This is a fun event. Last year we had a large turnout, and we're expecting the same this year."

— **At any of the events previewed in this column, stop by and introduce yourself to Ante Up Columnist Jennifer Gay, or add her at [facebook.com/aceofjewels](https://www.facebook.com/aceofjewels) to keep up with news from the tournament trail in Mississippi. Send her your pictures and stories from local events for consideration in future columns.**



Terry Coleman was declared the main event winner.

### \$1,080 Main Event "Official" results Entries: 174 • Prize Pool: \$168,780

1. Terry Coleman, Muscle Shoals, AL, \$55,698
2. Timothy Scooros, Daytona, FL, \$30,718
3. Ryan Enis, Corinth, MS, \$16,878
4. Roland Bell, Hernando, MS, \$13,502
5. Alfred Theriac, Shreveport, LA, \$10,127
6. Travis Eller, Cookeville, TN, \$8,439
7. Dale Hinson, Byhalia, MS, \$6,751
8. David Rylander, Collierville, TN, \$5,063
9. Andy Alina, Hernando, MS, \$3,376



#### Event #1 • \$125 NLHE

Entries: 151 • Prize Pool: \$14,647

1. David Newman, Memphis, \$4,700
2. Rachelle Henry, Marion, AR, \$2,667
3. Derrie Cavins, Memphis, \$1,466
4. Michael House, New Albany, MS, \$1,172
5. Michael Fink, Sarah, MS, \$879
6. Alan Cormier, White, GA, \$732
7. Raymond McCoy, Memphis, \$586
8. Edward Mayton, Wasilla, AK, \$439
9. Derek Law, Houston, \$293



#### Event #2 • \$230 Omaha/8

Entries: 67 • Prize Pool: \$12,998

1. David Dacus, Collierville, TN, \$4,676
2. Linda Kennedy, Olive Branch, MS, \$2,471
3. Kirk Fleming, St. Louis, \$1,561
4. LaShun Wallace, Memphis, \$1,040
5. Ted Raper, Robinsonville, MS, \$910
6. Austin Harber, Robinsonville, MS, \$780
7. Hye-Chin Murphy, Robinsonville, MS, \$650
8. Beth Blevins, Hernando, MS, \$520
9. Don Anderson, Jefferson, GA, \$390



#### Event #3 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 178 • Prize Pool: \$34,532

1. James Kizer, Collierville, TN, \$11,083
2. Kevin Arrowood, Moody, AL, \$6,285
3. Ralph Robinson, S. Mountain, GA, \$3,453
4. Owen Hashaw, Lexington, MS, \$2,763
5. Charlie Carswell, Albany, GA, \$2,072
6. Stephen Garrett, Little Rock, AR, \$1,727
7. Brandon Carswell, Albany, GA, \$1,381
8. Mark Mattingly, Senatobia, MS, \$1,036
9. Wilson Carnes, Knoxville, TN, \$691



#### Event #4 • \$230 Stud/8

Entries: 27 • Prize Pool: \$5,238

1. Brad Hagemeyer, Elsberry, MO, \$2,095
2. Linda Kennedy, Olive Branch, MS, \$1,571
3. Fred Kinnison, St. Louis, \$1,048
4. Gerard Johnston, St. Charles, MO, \$524



#### Event #5 • \$340 NLHE

Entries: 216 • Prize Pool: \$62,856

1. Mitchell Franks, Tupelo, MS, \$20,178
2. Frank Davis, Clarksville, TN, \$11,440
3. Kevin Pope, Charleston, SC, \$6,286
4. William Suwada, Arlington, TN, \$5,028
5. Thomas Ellis, Forest, MS, \$3,771
6. Jim Sommerfeld, Southaven, MS, \$3,143
7. Randy Workman, Columbus, OH, \$2,514
8. Doug Bruce, Lawrenceville, TN, \$1,886
9. Crystal Utley, Morganfield, KY, \$1,257

More results next page

# The Big Easy **Poker Room**

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- **Easy Money Sundays & Mondays:** \$300 High Hand Jackpot  
11am - 1pm, 5pm - 7pm, 11pm - 1am | \$100 All Other Hours
- **Fat Tuesdays:** High Hand wins \$1,000 at 12:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.,  
6:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 12:00 a.m. Must qualify with Aces full or  
better.
- **Wild Wednesdays & Thursdays:** \$100 every 30 mins.
- **Colossal Fridays & Saturdays:** \$500 High Hand Jackpot  
11am - 1am, Every Half Hour
- **Royal Flush wins \$599 daily or the high hand prize whichever is  
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# WINTER POKER CLASSIC

DEC. 2-12, 2010 • GOLD STRIKE CASINO RESORT • TUNICA



## Event #6 • \$230 Ladies NLHE

Entries: 48 • Prize Pool: \$9,312

1. Sudonna Wiley, Walls, MS, \$3,353
2. Nancy Brewer, Eminence, MO, \$1,769
3. Garnetta Hays, Tomkinsville, KY, \$1,117
4. Lisa Crompton, Walls, MS, \$745
5. Donna Hea, Trumann, AR, \$652
6. Rosalynn Carswell, Albany, GA, \$559
7. Crystal Keiser, Mt. Pleasant, TN, \$466
8. Kathy Hartwick, Bloomfield, IA, \$372
9. Christy Parham, Memphis, TN, \$279



## Event #7 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 147 • Prize Pool: \$28,518

1. Douglas Rowley, Birch Run, MI, \$9,152
2. James Caraway, Somerville, TN, \$5,190
3. LaShun Wallace, Memphis, TN, \$2,852
4. Joshua Jeans, Horn Lake, MS, \$2,281
5. Dale Gleneck, Bartlett, TN, \$1,711
6. Dave Kennedy, Olive Branch, MS, \$1,426
7. Rob Bader, Ste. Genevieve, MO, \$1,141
8. Preston Raines, Columbia, SC, \$856
9. Hans Denton, Brandon, MS, \$570



## Event #8 • \$230 Omaha/8

Entries: 65 • Prize Pool: \$12,610

1. J.W. Smith, Dalton, GA, \$4,539
2. David Todd, Cedar Hill, MO, \$2,396
3. Sue Laforge, Robinsonville, MS, \$1,513
4. Mike Shands, Birmingham, AL, \$1,009
5. Thomas Pullens, Picayune, MS, \$883
6. Hosea Trice, Atlanta, \$757
7. Rob Saab, Trussville, AL, \$631
8. Clark Benson, Tryon, NC, \$504
9. Tony Vidmer, Nashville, \$378



## Event #9 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 119 • Prize Pool: \$23,086

1. Kenny Dang, Memphis, \$8,312
2. Jerry Quinn, Blue Springs, MO, \$4,386
3. Roy Watts, Franklin, GA, \$2,770
4. Ryan Potter, Southaven, MS, \$1,847
5. Muoi Jones, Arlington, TN, \$1,616
6. Glynn Butts, Jonesville, LA, \$1,385
7. Charles Miller, Olive Branch, MS, \$1,154
8. Linda Kennedy, Olive Branch, MS, \$923
9. Len Emmanuel, Memphis, \$693



## Event #10 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 113 • Prize Pool: \$21,922

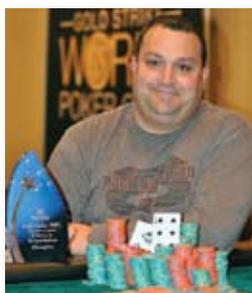
1. Jose Montero, Chicago Hts., IL, \$7,891
2. Gerald Thomas, Windsor, IL, \$4,165
3. George Sundry, Champaign, IL, \$2,631
4. Kenni Nguyen, \$1,754
5. Jerry Vaughn, Eupora, MS, \$1,535
6. Kenneth Snyder, Conyers, GA, \$1,315
7. Emerson Sykes, Jackson, TN, \$1,096
8. Wister Holt, St. Louis, \$877
9. Chad Barber, Lynnville, KY, \$658



## Event #11 • \$230 Stud/8

Entries: 16 • Prize Pool: \$3,104

1. Douglas Saab, \$1,552
2. J.W. Smith, \$931
3. Stanley Williams, \$621



## Event #12 • \$125 NLHE

Entries: 188 • Prize Pool: \$18,236

1. Tracy Larson, Russellville, AR, \$5,854
2. Steven Poink, Hernando, MS, \$3,319
3. Donald Norman, Marion, IL, \$1,824
4. Ricky Loyd, Wynne, AR, \$1,459
5. Kennii Nguyen, Chicago, \$1,094
6. James Wray, Hernando, MS, \$912
7. Connie Rice, Forrest City, AR, \$729
8. Howard Blacka, Independence, IL, \$547
9. Daniel Kim, Suwanee, GA, \$365



## Event #13 • \$230 Omaha/8

Entries: 48 • Prize Pool: \$9,312

1. J.W. Smith Dalton, GA, \$4,190
2. Doug Bruce, Lawrenceville, Ga, \$2,328
3. John Poole, Trinity, AL, \$1,397
4. Chun Hung, New Jersey, \$931
5. Lindell Price, Memphis, \$466



## Event #14 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 126 • Prize Pool: \$24,444

1. Ken Yates, West Memphis, AR, \$7,847
2. Robert Hart, Cordova, TN, \$4,449
3. Raymond Poe, Hueytown, AL, \$2,444
4. Calvin Kincaid, Marmaduke, AR, \$1,956
5. Miguel Buenafe, Buffalo, \$1,467
6. Charles Bocksnick, Jacksonville, AR, \$1,222
7. Russell Rucks, Ft. Myers, FL, \$977
8. David Kennedy, Olive Branch, MS, \$732
9. Brent Henley, Ooltewah, TN, \$488



## Event #15 • \$230 PLO/8

Entries: 53 • Prize Pool: \$10,282

1. Jon McKamie, Walls, MS, \$3,702
2. Long Dinh, Hernando, MS, \$1,954
3. Richard Johnson, St. Louis, \$1,234
4. Betty Davidson, St. Charles, MO, \$823
5. Douglas Bruce, Lawrenceville, GA, \$720
6. David Martin, Moulton, AL, \$617
7. Jack Huff, Athens, GA, \$514
8. Paul Morin, Robinsonville, MS, \$411
9. Calvin Henley, Crossville, TN, \$307



## Event #16 • \$340 NLHE

Entries: 181 • Prize Pool: \$57,671

1. Nelce Todd, \$17,382
2. Chris Thompson, \$9,586
3. Salah Levy, \$5,267
4. Mark Cooney, \$4,214
5. Jerry Quinn, \$3,160
6. Alfred Theriault, \$2,634
7. Benjamin Greene, \$2,107
8. David Martin, \$1,580
9. Jesus Ramirez, \$1,053



## Event #20 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 64 • Prize Pool: \$12,146

1. James Patton, Barnhart, MO, \$4,470
2. Robert Webb, Lewisburg, TN, \$2,359
3. James Quick, Decatur, TN, \$1,490
4. Mark Miley, Eminence, MO, \$993
5. Mike Shannon, Satellite Beach, FL, \$869
6. Eddie Crosthwaite, Memphis, \$745
7. Sanjay Sinha, Woodstock, GA, \$621
8. Alton Wynn, Dresden, TN, \$497
9. Mike Segre, Huntsville, AL, \$372



## Event #21 • \$125 NLHE

Entries: 95 • Prize Pool: \$9,215

1. Eddie Owens, Memphis, \$3,317
2. Jim Patton, Barnhart, MO, \$1,751
3. Stuart Breakstone, Memphis, \$1,106
4. Muoi Jones, Arlington, TN, \$737
5. Ray Blanchette, Sunset Beach, NC, \$645
6. Doug Henry, Paducah, KY, \$553
7. Paul Odum, Canton, GA, \$461
8. Mark Taliaferro, Fayetteville, AR, \$369
9. Aaron Taylor, Stray Horn, MS, \$276

### Gold Strike hosts Delta Gold on Feb. 24

The Delta Gold Poker Classic returns to the Gold Strike Casino Resort on Feb. 24 and will run until March 6.

The series, which follows the same schedule as December's Winter Poker Classic, has 21 events. The highlight of the series is the \$1,080 no-limit hold'em main event, which begins March 5 at 2 p.m. and is a two-day event. Daily super satellites run at 4 p.m. for this tournament.

Other events of note include two stud/8 tournaments (Feb. 25, 2 p.m., \$230 and March 1, 2 p.m., \$230), a ladies NLHE event (Feb. 26, 2 p.m., \$230) and three Omaha/8 events (Feb. 24, 2 p.m., \$230; Feb. 27, 2 p.m., \$230; March 3, 2 p.m. PLO/8, \$230).

See the ad on Page 15 for full schedule.

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# WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT

DEC. 4-22 • HARRAH'S CASINO • ATLANTIC CITY



## \$10K East Region Champ.

Entries: 136 • Prize Pool: \$1,279,624

1. Chris Bell, Raleigh, NC, \$358,295
2. Chris Klodnicki, Philadelphia, \$221,452
3. Ketan Pandya, Piscataway, NJ, \$159,851
4. Micah Raskin, Westbury, NY, \$117,457
5. Todd Terry, Hoboken, NJ, \$87,808
6. Andy Frankenberger, New York, \$66,758
7. Jason Burt, Marina Del Ray, CA, \$51,607
8. Nick Mitchell, Costa Mesa, CA, \$40,538
9. Seth Fischer, Berkeley, CA, \$32,362
10. Matthew Waxman, Parkland, FL, \$26,232

## Bell, Waxman capture titles on the boardwalk

Chris Bell, a former real estate developer from Raleigh, N.C., who almost quit life as a poker pro after nearly going broke early last year, captured the \$358,295 first-place prize and the coveted diamond-encrusted World Series of Poker circuit's regional championship gold ring.

He bested 135 players en route to his title. Earlier in the year he won the \$5K PLO/8 title at the WSOP, but had admitted at the time that he had nearly exhausted his bankroll after an extended bad run. As a father of two daughters he was forced to consider the reality that poker might no longer be able to sustain him and his family.

Those days seem to be behind him as he won the second of four nationally televised \$10,000 buy-in regional events, this one coming in the ballroom at Harrah's Casino and Resort in Atlantic City.

Among those who competed in the prolific event were 2010 WSOP main event runner-up John Racener, Andy Bloch, Barry Shulman, Amnon Filippi, Chad Brown, Kathy Liebert, T.J. Cloutier, Dwyte Pilgrim and David Baker.

Also, Florida's Matthew Waxman captured his first major title, winning the circuit stop's \$1,650 main event, besting more than 350 players for a \$117,797 payday. Waxman also had a deep run in the regional event, finishing 10th for \$26K.



## Main Event • \$1,650 NLHE

Entries: 352 • Prize Pool: \$512,160

1. Matt Waxman, Parkland, FL, \$117,797
2. Jesus Cabrera, Atlanta, \$72,824
3. Mark Sykes, New Haven, CT, \$53,126
4. Chris Bonita, Winthrop, MA, \$39,406
5. Dave Cubeta, Falls Church, VA, \$29,685
6. Mike Summers, C'ville, VA, \$22,704
7. Tam Ly, Lansdale, PA, \$17,618
8. Brandon Croft, Sumter, SC, \$13,869
9. Manish Patel, Burlington, NJ, \$11,073
10. Joanne Dorin, New York, \$8,958



## Event #1 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 1,250 • Prize Pool: \$363,750

1. Christopher Rivers, Atlanta, \$64,566
2. Matthew Diggs, Edgewood, MD, \$40,013
3. Joslyn Greg, Milford, PA, \$29,366
4. Ryan Moylan, Hauppauge, NY, \$22,189
5. Jason Alexander, Bellport, NY, \$16,933
6. Don Huang, Leesburg, VA, \$13,033
7. Greg Spurdis, Staten Island, NY, \$10,149
8. Geoffrey Desobry, Bethesda, MD, \$7,995
9. Chao Lin, Hicksville, NY, \$6,373
10. Charles Geier, Sunnyside, NY, \$5,136



## Event #2 • \$570 NLHE

Entries: 343 • Prize Pool: \$166,355

1. George Chen, Queens, NY, \$38,262
2. Jim Governa, Haddonfield, NJ, \$23,654
3. Timothy Kelly, Thorold, ON, \$17,256
4. Patricia Chou, Metuchen, NJ, \$12,799
5. Joseph Verrecchia, Sewell, NJ, \$9,642
6. Yonah Kohn, Brooklyn, NY, \$7,375
7. Ronald McDonald, Ft. Valley, VA, \$5,723
8. Dewey Whitmore, M'burg, WV, \$4,505
9. Tom Dobrilovic, West Nyack, NY, \$3,597
10. Peter Shapp, Mountain View, CA, \$2,910



## Event #3 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 543 • Prize Pool: \$158,013

1. Alex Rocha, Long Island, NY, \$33,183
2. James Boyd, Martinsburg, WV, \$20,524
3. Grantel Gibbs, Whitby, ON, \$15,008
4. Eric Liscia, Glen Buin, MD, \$11,137
5. Nina DiPrima, Kenilworth, NJ, \$8,379
6. Dustin Bradley, Wellington, FL, \$6,392
7. Chris Schor, Philadelphia, \$4,943
8. Mark Shaffery, Odenton, MD, \$3,874
9. Eric Breuer, Downingtown, PA, \$3,078
10. Mike Dellaratto, Tucherton, NJ, \$2,478



## Event #4 • \$1,100 NLHE

Entries: 292 • Prize Pool: \$283,240

1. Daniel Fischer, Brigantine, NJ, \$67,978
2. Alek Givotovsky, New York, NY, \$42,010
3. Mark Borges, Glen Rock, NJ, \$30,489
4. Perry Johnston, Oak Island, NC, \$22,489
5. Jesse Cohen, Ardmore, PA, \$16,867
6. Charles Robinson, Washington, \$12,843
7. Jason Gabie, West Harrison, NY, \$9,947
8. Tom Wolfram, N. Cumberland, PA, \$7,817
9. Xiaozhe Hu, Vestal, NY, \$6,237
10. Joseph Cramer, Carlisle, PA, \$5,050



## Event #5 • \$350 Omaha/8

Entries: 143 • Prize Pool: \$41,613

1. Nick Goedert, Silver Spring, MD, \$11,652
2. Mike Somma, Middle Village, NY, \$7,202
3. Ronald Halperin, Hoboken, NJ, \$5,198
4. Michael Gabarick, Easton, PA, \$3,820
5. Brent Keller, Horsham, PA, \$2,855
6. Rouzbeh Djangali, Cambridge, MA, \$2,171
7. Toni Pennington, Galloway, NJ, \$1,678
8. B. Claudangelo, South Ozone, NY, \$1,318
9. Leo Palermo, Ortle Beach, NJ, \$1,052
10. Vincent Phan, Mobile, AL, \$853



## \$230 Ladies NLHE

Entries: 116 • Prize Pool: \$22,504

1. Dawn Wilno, Hamilton, NJ, \$6,751
2. Simmie Wong, Brooklyn, NY, \$4,173
3. G. Xayachack, Richmond, VA, \$2,971
4. Aida Velin, Wyckoff, NJ, \$2,158
5. Amanda Sengprasert, Ctown, MD, \$1,599
6. Jamie Kerstetter, Monroe TWP, NJ, \$1,207
7. Sheila Fuller, Alexandria, VA, \$928
8. Kimberly Edmonds, Toms River, NJ, \$727
9. Kim Findura, Butler, NJ, \$580
10. Keiko Lim, Bronx, NY, \$470



## Event #7 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 482 • Prize Pool: \$140,262

1. Jared Eisenberg, L.I., NY, \$30,156
2. Jeffrey Cole, Manahawkin, NJ, \$18,645
3. Paul Avilla, Westport, MA, \$13,621
4. Joseph Caffrey, Toms River, NJ, \$10,097
5. Joshua Brikis, Monroeville, PA, \$7,594
6. Jahson Spence, Beverly Hills, CA, \$5,793
7. Allison Schultz, Saddle River, NJ, \$4,481
8. Zachary Hall, Fredrick, MD, \$3,516
9. Keith Crowder, Elkins Park, PA, \$2,798
10. Harry Candelaria, Bronx, NY, \$2,257



## Event #8 • \$570 NLHE

Entries: 271 • Prize Pool: \$131,435

1. John Dever, Ephrata, PA, US, \$31,544
2. Mike McGuinness, Toms River, NJ, \$19,494
3. John Cernuto, Las Vegas, \$14,145
4. Benjamin Chan, New York, NY, \$10,436
5. Simon Lam, Brooklyn, NY, \$7,827
6. Peter DeVito, W. Hempstead, NY, \$5,965
7. Jesus Cabrera, Atlanta, \$4,616
8. Jody Rummel, Frisco, TX, \$3,628
9. Patrick Flanagan, Atlanta, \$2,894
10. Grantel Gibbs, Whitby, Ontario, \$2,343



## Event #9 • \$350 Stud

Entries: 79 • Prize Pool: \$22,989

1. Chris Reslock, Atlantic City, \$7,816
2. Robert Sherer, Bellvue, VA, \$4,836
3. Elliott Zaydman, Glen Rock, NJ, \$3,184
4. Joseph Loguidice, Atlantic City, \$2,229
5. Christopher Tryba, Las Vegas, \$1,652
6. Frank Curtis, Vineland, NJ, \$1,292
7. Lee Berkovitz, Philadelphia, \$1,063
8. Mike Santoro, Egg Harbor, NJ, \$918



## Event #11 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 289 • Prize Pool: \$84,099

1. Jason Stone, Hartsdale, NY, \$20,184
2. Nick Persian, Haymarket, NY, \$12,474
3. John King, Clayton, NC, \$9,051
4. Leonid Le, New York, \$6,677
5. Peter Ippolito, East Meadow, NY, \$5,008
6. Alex Leitzes, Yardley, NY, \$3,816
7. Charles Furey, Bridgewater, NJ, \$2,954
8. Bryan Kessler, Cherry Hill, NJ, \$2,321
9. Chris Reslock, Atlantic City, NJ, \$1,852
10. Mark Grammatico, Brewster, NY, \$1,499



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**POMPANO PARK**

GEORGIA



Jason Cluxton, 35, who has been playing in the Atlanta Poker Club since September 2009, recently had his greatest poker moment, but it almost never happened.

A string of horrible online bad beats frustrated him so intensely that he swore off poker forever.

This happened one day before he was set to leave for Mississippi to play in the World Series of Poker circuit event at the IP in Biloxi. He changed his mind late Saturday and headed to the event. And he's glad he did as he finished fourth in the 270-player main event for \$31K.

"At the final table it was real, real tight," said the former Army Ranger who has had other WSOP cashes but none this large. "The loose players were gone fast."

And when Cluxton saw pocket aces with four players left he had visions of winning the \$95K and gold ring.

"I felt like they were going to double me up," he said. "The tournament director announced that the other guy (with a jack in his hand) was at risk, but it turned out he had one chip more than me. If I won the hand, I would have doubled-up and been in contention to take it down. As soon as the flop hit 10-8-9 I walked off the stage and watched as a bystander."

There was a blank on the turn and all he needed to avoid was a queen or seven on the river. But a queen fell and sent Cluxton home with a story and \$31,295.

NEW JERSEY

**BORGATA MINI SERIES**

**DEC. 10-18 • BORGATA CASINO • ATLANTIC CITY**

**Event 1 • \$560 NLHE**

**Entries: 232 • Prize Pool: \$116,000**

1. Al Winchester, Falls Church, VA, \$31,505
2. Sal Cataldo, Jersey City, NJ, \$18,565
3. Yat Cheng, Charlotte, NC, \$10,689
4. Michael Traylor, Houston, \$8,664
5. Jena Delk, Merrit Island, FL, \$6,751
6. Allyn Marshall, Long Branch, NJ, \$5,626
7. Lawrence Lakatos, Red Lion, PA, \$4,500
8. Karl Held, Forest Hills, NY, \$3,375
9. David Inselberg, Long Beach, NY, \$2,250
10. Edwin Roman, Bayonne, NJ, \$1,463
11. Menan Saydam, Rockville, MD, \$1,463
12. Paul Volpe, West Chester, PA, \$1,463
13. Robert Nicotra, Weehawken, NJ, \$1,238
14. Ian Palomo, New York, NY, \$1,238
15. Shawn Nguyen, Pennsauken, NJ, \$1,238
16. Larry Greenberg, S. Island, NY, \$1,125
17. Russell Boyker, Houston, \$1,125
18. Theodore Ely, Brooklyn, \$1,125
19. Julio Fernandez, Miami, \$1,013
20. Mike Giordano, Succasunna, NJ, \$1,013
21. Tanius Abi-Yaghi, Toms River, NJ, \$1,013
22. Paul Mullins, Rockville, MD, \$1,013
23. John Jackson, Raleigh, NC, \$1,013
24. Jack Barnes, Brick, NJ, \$1,013

**Event 2 • \$200 NLHE**

**Entries: 145 • Prize Pool: \$24,650**

1. Eugene Castro, New York, NY, \$7,173
2. Nalin Gadhia, Edison, NJ, \$3,945
3. Frank Fratzola, Scranton, PA, \$2,272
4. Anthony McCombs, Waldorf, MD, \$1,913
5. Jeffrey Benhart, Lutherville, MD, \$1,435
6. Larry Goldstein, Medford, NY, \$1,196
7. Jim Defina, New York, \$956
8. Danny Hensens, Elbridge, MD, \$718
9. James Henderson, Norfolk, VA, \$538
10. Woo Shin, Piscataway, NJ, \$478
11. Nedim Baruh, New York, \$478
12. Lee Mang, Havertown, PA, \$478
13. Jesse Kang, Orlando, FL, \$418
14. David Morginstin, Lansdale, PA, \$418
15. Tony Chester, Barretts Run, DE, \$418
16. Eric Strang, Philadelphia, \$359
17. Jeffrey Jagodzinski, Baltimore, \$359
18. Michael Drabot, Riverside, NJ, \$359

**Event 3 • \$230 NLHE**

**Entries: 101 • Prize Pool: \$20,200**

1. Dan Mucciaccio, Mid. Village, NY, \$5,878
2. Nalin Gadhia, Edison, NJ, \$3,233
3. Jay Blum, Highland Park, NJ, \$1,861
4. I. Konstantinidis, Monroe, NJ, \$1,567
5. Ari Mizrahi, Blackwood, NJ, \$1,175
6. Robert Woodward, Jackson, NJ, \$980
7. Steven Greene, North Caldwell, NJ, \$784
8. Michael Watters, Mid. Village, NY, \$588
9. Richard Carlin, Randolph, NJ, \$441
10. Kerry Small, Ventnor City, NJ, \$392
11. Edward Abendschein, Mtn Lks, NJ, \$392
12. Mike Yang, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, \$392
13. Alida Veliu, Wyckoff, NJ, \$343
14. Alan Nosonchuk, Brooklyn, \$343
15. Brian Laws, Deland, FL, \$343
16. Jeffrey Wertepny, Brooklyn, \$294
17. Peter Kramer, Telford, PA, \$294
18. Howard Wolper, Atlantic City, \$294

**Event 4 • \$1,650 NLHE**

**Entries: 140 • Prize Pool: \$210,000**

1. David Inselberg, New York, \$61,110
2. Ketan Pandya, Piscataway, NJ, \$33,611
3. Michael Noda, Philadelphia, PA, \$19,352
4. Adam Lippert, Brooklyn, \$16,296
5. Mark Rose, Orlando, FL, \$12,222
6. Matthew Brady, Havertown, PA, \$10,185
7. Kevin Calenzo, New Hartford, NY, \$8,148
8. LenNy Spina, Astoria, NY, \$6,111
9. Joshua Brikis, Monroeville, PA, \$4,583
10. Shiraz Hasan, Middletown, DE, \$4,074
11. Mike Michnik, N. Brunswick, NJ, \$4,074
12. Bradley Hood, Oakdale, PA, \$4,074
13. Darren Elias, Philadelphia, \$3,564
14. Ben Bianco, Franklin Sq., NY, \$3,564
15. Peter Malkoun, Brookhaven, PA, \$3,564
16. Robert Wisiak, Ridgewood, NY, \$3,056
17. Mukul Pahuja, Hicksville, NY, \$3,056
18. Michael Leah, Las Vegas, \$3,056

**Event 5 • \$350 NLHE**

**Entries: 171 • Prize Pool: \$51,300**

1. Larry Goldstein, Medford, NY, \$14,928
2. Dom Carlo, Staten Island, NY, \$8,211
3. Patrick Canizio, Staten Island, NY, \$4,727
4. Kam. Behbahani, Fairfax St., VA, \$3,981
5. Dave Elliott, Tinton Falls, NJ, \$2,986
6. Joseph Miceli, New York, \$2,488
7. Steve Silverman, Millwood, NY, \$1,991
8. Michael Bernstein, Chicago, \$1,493
9. Peter Moffatt, Philadelphia, \$1,120
10. William Mayrose, Annapolis, Md, \$995
11. Tony Mignaneli, Franklin Sq., NY, \$995
12. Michael Riewe, Princeton, NJ, \$995
13. Altin Haxhaj, Meriden, CT, \$871
14. Brian Nichols, Egg Harbor, NJ, \$871
15. David Richards, Williamsport, PA, \$871
16. William Bowers, Hanover, MD, \$746
17. Lee Stack, New York, \$746
18. Matthew Diehl, Flemington, NJ, \$746

SOUTH CAROLINA



**Manager Dan Malka stands with his final-table players.**



**The WOSP cashers at Aquasino SunCruz.**

The poker room aboard the Aquasino SunCruz recently held a \$330 World Series of Poker satellite that drew 69 players. Ralph Taylor of Little River, S.C. took the top prize, a \$10,000 main event seat plus \$2,000 for travel expenses. He was followed by Chuck McGuire of Ocean Isle Beach, N.C. (\$3,400), Matt Cheverton of London (\$1,700), Delone Richardson of Myrtle Beach, S.C. (\$1,200), Steve Hortman of Surfside Beach, S.C. (\$900), Steve Kelley of Roxboro, N.C. (\$800) and Danny Mullis of Myrtle Beach, S.C. (\$700).

Here's the World Offshore No-Limit Hold'em Championship final table. Bracelet-winner Billy Swarington (\$8,244) of Mount Pleasant, N.C., chopped with Neil Throckmorton (\$8,243) of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Perry Johnson (\$8,243) of Oak Isle, N.C. Inaugural champ Jerome Clark (\$2,200) of Longs, S.C., finished fourth. They were followed by Jeff Campbell (\$1,609), Will Wokaish (\$1,347), Phillip Campbell (\$1,259), Brett Leyburn (\$1,172), Steve Kelley (\$1,085), Brandon Liuengood (\$998) and Mickey Kenney (\$500) of Leland, N.C.

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## CONNECTICUT

# November Nine to reunite for Foxwoods event Feb. 8

The 2010 World Series of Poker Main Event November Nine will reunite Feb. 8 to play against each other at Foxwoods Casino during its Mega Stack Challenge XIX. Never has the WSOP final-table players been reassembled for an event.



**FOXWOODS**

Foxwoods is offering a series of qualifying tournaments (until Feb. 3) to play in the reunion event, which will be a three-table tournament in the casino's new tournament room.

"This will be a legendary reunion watched by the entire poker community," said Bernard Lee, poker pro and spokesman for Foxwoods. "Not only will the November Nine meet at Foxwoods to resurrect memories of their last game, the players will also test their skills against the casino's strongest poker players."

The 2010 WSOP November Nine were Jonathan Duhamel (champion), John Racener (runner-up), Joseph Cheong, Filippo Candio, Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi, John Dolan, Jason Senti, Matt Jarvis and Soi (Cuong) Nguyen.

The November Nine also will host the Foxwoods Mega Stack Challenge XIX tournament series Feb. 4-13.

"We are thrilled to host these poker superstars at Foxwoods and are proud to be a part of such a historic event. We are pleased to be able to share this reunion of the 2010 November Nine with not only the Foxwoods players, but also the entire poker community," director of poker operations Terry Chiaradio said.

## Mega Stack Challenge XVIII, Dec. 4-12

### \$560 NLHE

Entries: 345 • Prize Pool: \$167,325

1. Rami Jadeh, Quincy, MA, \$29,151
2. Miroslav Zamrzla, Lake Carmel, NY, \$26,802
3. Ross Santos, Carver, MA, \$21,770
4. Aaron Smith, New Bedford, MA, \$11,796
5. Mary Cronin, Brockton, MA, \$9,203
6. Brad Noonan, Dedham, MA, \$7,446
7. Adam Wilbur, Erie, CO, \$6,191
8. Louis Scianna, Oxford, CT, \$5,020
9. John Andrews, Boothbay Harbor, ME, \$4,110

### \$120 NLHE

Entries: 321 • Prize Pool: \$31,137

1. Burton Bramble, West Warwick, RI, \$3,004
2. Carlos Rivas, East Hartford, CT, \$2,300
3. Victor Shotov, Newton, MA, \$2,300
4. Elizabeth Cahill, Norton, MA, \$2,300
5. Matthew Parker, Watertown, MA, \$2,300
6. Bart Moylan, South Hadley, MA, \$2,300
7. Thomas Schiavo, Randolph, MA, \$2,300
8. James Daniel, Burlington, MA, \$2,300
9. Rameses Encarnacion, Marlborough, MA, \$2,300

### 200 NLHE bounty

Entries: 259 • Prize Pool: \$31,403

1. Justin Tseng, Flushing, NY, \$4,974
2. Richard Stark, Scarsdale, NY, \$3,726
3. Paul Avilla, Westport, MA, \$3,454
4. Rameses Encarnacion, Marlborough, MA, \$3,303
5. Aaron Warren, North Stonington, CT, \$2,894
6. Richard Hewett, Atkinson, NH, \$1,951
7. Joseph Pacheco, West Wareham, MA, \$1,194
8. Michael Barca, Bradford, RI, \$973
9. Christopher Laprade, Woonsocket, RI, \$828

### \$230 NLHE

Entries: 331 • Prize Pool: \$97,000

1. Kenny Chanthamala, New Milford, CT, \$10,200
2. Devin Misarti, Scarsdale, NY, \$9,193
3. Jacob Pigeon, Warwick, RI, \$9,193
4. Andrew Savitz, Cambridge, MA, \$5,230
5. Marc Leblanc, Gardner, MA, \$5,230
6. Nicholas Kourtellis, Roslindale, MA, \$5,230
7. Jim Denbow, Foster, RI, \$5,230
8. Marc Remmes, Montauk, NY, \$5,230
9. Harry Farouq, Bridgeport, CT, \$5,230

### \$340 NLHE

Entries: 451 • Prize Pool: \$131,241

1. Carlo Sciannameo, Worcester, MA, \$18,797
2. Richard Diotallevi, Milford, MA, \$17,364
3. John Keraghan, Tewksbury, MA, \$17,054
4. Ted Bak, Wallington, NJ, \$15,359
5. Kyle Loman, Haverhill, MA, \$6,956
6. Norman Bell, Colchester, CT, \$5,577
7. Anthony Navan, Sterling, CT, \$4,528
8. David Lane, Danvers, MA, \$3,609
9. William Glavin, Seattle, WA, \$2,972

### \$1,100 NLHE

Entries: 265 • Prize Pool: \$257,050

1. Michael Woods, Cana, VA, \$40,047
2. David Espinola, Dracut, MA, \$40,046
3. David Hickman, Westborough, MA, \$30,000
4. Brad McFarland, Whitehall, PA, \$30,000
5. Mustapha Moutaouakil, Norwich, CT, \$14,394
6. Le-Ann Anderson, Haverhill, MA, \$11,696
7. Robert Perry, Brockton, MA, \$9,768
8. Carmelo Cambareri, Mount Kisco, NY, \$7,969
9. Brian Lee, Groton, MA, \$6,699

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at 7 pm



**FRIDAY**  
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at 7 pm

**SATURDAY**  
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at 7 pm

**SUNDAY**  
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# NEWS

## WEST VIRGINIA



Jessica Cupini shows the winning cards from her \$100K SNG.

# WVU student wins \$100K on PokerStars' TV show

In the end, PokerStars Team Pro Daniel Negreanu was just too tough. In the final heads-up match of the second season of PokerStars' *Million Dollar Challenge* on Fox, Negreanu defeated 21-year-old West Virginia resident Jessica Cupini to protect PokerStars' \$1 million and gain \$100,000 for his charity, the Lili Claire Foundation.

Cupini won the final-table sit-n-go, featuring the top four contestants from the season's previous six episodes. A student at West Virginia University, Cupini outlasted Canadian Ray Reid, Washington, D.C., School for the Deaf teacher Carmenlita Cothron and Johnnie Whitt, a retired machinist from Houston, to earn \$100,000 and the opportunity to take on Negreanu in the grand-prize match.

Over the course of the seven episodes, contestants who qualified for the show by playing in special tournaments on PokerStars, won \$225,000 and a total of seven trips to the Bahamas to play in the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure in January.

Celebrities Brooke Burke, John Elway, Barry Sanders, Gary Payton and Playmate of the Year Sara Jean Underwood combined to earn \$40,000 for their respective charities. PokerStars Team Pros Negreanu, Vanessa Rousso, Jason Mercier, Barry Greenstein, David Williams and Chris Moneymaker earned \$5,000 for each match they won, bringing the total charity donation to \$145,000 for the season.

## Mountaineer's Winter Open runs Feb. 14-20

Mountaineer River hosts Winter Poker Open on Feb. 14-20. Each event will give players an additional 2K chips for a \$5 fee, except the main event offers 10K more chips for \$20. Satellites pay 1 in 10; minis win seats into one of two Feb. 18 main satellites.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	BUY-IN	CHIPS	BLINDS
2/14	12:15p	Mini Satellite	\$45	3K	15 min.
2/14	7:30p	NLHE	\$65	10K	20 min.
2/15	12:15p	NLHE	\$75	10K	20 min.
2/15	7:30p	Mini Satellite	\$45	3K	15 min.
2/16	12:15p	Mini Satellite	\$45	3K	15 min.
2/16	7:30p	NLHE	\$145	12K	12 min.
2/17	12:15p	\$100 bounties	\$225	10K	15 min.
2/17	7:30p	Mini Satellite	\$45	3K	15 min.
2/18	12:15p	Main Satellite	\$310	7K	20 min.
2/18	7:30p	Main Satellite	\$310	7K	20 min.
2/19	11a	Main Event	\$2,800	30K	60 min.

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## WORLD SERIES OF POKER: FEBRUARY EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	BUY-IN
Thurs. 17th	11am	Circuit Events Begin	
	6pm	NLH (1 Day)	Buy-In \$200
Fri. 18th	11am	NLH (Event 1)	Buy-In \$300
	6pm	NLH (1 Day)	Buy-In \$200
Sat. 19th	11am	NLH (2 Days)	Buy-In \$500
	6pm	NLH (1 Day)	Buy-In \$200
Sun. 20th	11am	NLH (2 Days)	Buy-In \$300
	6pm	NLH (1 Day)	Buy-In \$200
Mon. 21st	11am	NLH (2 Days)	Buy-In \$300
	6pm	NLH (1 Day)	Buy-In \$200
Tues. 22nd	11am	H.O.R.S.E (2 Days)	Buy-In \$300
	6pm	NLH (1 Day)	Buy-In \$200
Wed. 23rd	11am	Omaha 8 or Better (2 Days)	Buy-In \$300
	6pm	NLH (1 Day)	Buy-In \$200
Thurs. 24th	11am	NLH (Re-Entry) (3 Days)	Buy-In \$500
	6pm	NLH (1 Day)	Buy-In \$200
Fri. 25th	11am	NLH (Event 7)	Buy-In \$500
	6pm	NLH (1 Day)	Buy-In \$200
Sat. 26th	11am	NLH (2 Day) (10am Restart)	Buy-In \$1000
	4pm	Mega Satellite	Buy-In \$200
	7pm	Mega Satellite	Buy-In \$300
Sun. 27th	11am	NLH Championship Event (3 Days)	Buy-In \$1500
	7pm	NLH Championship Event (3 Days)	Buy-In \$1500
Mon. 28th	11am	NLH (2 Days)	Buy-In \$300
	6pm	Ladies NLH (1 Day)	Buy-In \$100
Tues. March 1st		FINAL TABLE	

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PENNSYLVANIA

**Horvath goes back-to-back at Meadows**

Ryan Horvath outlasted 118 players to win his second straight \$330 Big Poker Weekend Main Event at the Meadows Casino on Jan. 9.

He also captured the inaugural event in December: Horvath, 26, is a Pittsburgh resident who plays regularly in high-limit tournaments around the area. He earned almost \$11,000 for January's victory, which will go nicely with the \$11,624 he won the month before by besting 125 players.



The overall series championship went to main event runner-up Jarrod Fulton, also of Pittsburgh. The next Big Poker Weekend will be Feb. 18-21. Go to [divisionofpoker.com](http://divisionofpoker.com) for more details.

**DECEMBER RESULTS**

1. Ryan Horvath, \$11,624
2. Clark Weaver, \$6,375
3. Moose Kini, \$3,938
4. Victor Cianelli, \$3,094
5. Jimmy Stevens, \$1,969
6. Tim Bishop, \$1,781
7. Joseph Daddario, \$1,594
8. Richard Parsson, \$1,406
9. Dean Burkhammer, \$1,313
10. John McCauley, \$1,031

**JANUARY RESULTS**

1. Ryan Horvath, \$10,884
2. Jarrod Fulton, \$5,968
3. Joseph Valorie, \$3,986
4. William Reilly, \$2,896
5. James Evan, \$1,843
6. David Powell, \$1,667
7. Jacquelyn Wilson, \$1,492
8. David Pruno, \$1,316
9. Thomas Dudens, \$1,229
10. Tim Wilson, \$965

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# ANTE UP STORE OFFERS LOGO GEAR AND MORE

The Ante Up Store, which launched Feb. 1 at [anteupstore.com](http://anteupstore.com), offers a variety of Ante Up-logo merchandise and dozens of other great poker items.

“One of the biggest requests we had from readers in our survey last year was for a store where they could buy high-quality Ante Up items,” *Ante Up* co-publisher Scott Long said. “We’re very happy to be able to offer that now, but the store is so much more than that.”

The store has more than a dozen vendors, and more are expected to be added each month. Some of the Ante Up items available include T-shirts from PMS PokerWear, card protectors from Pokey Charms and Palm Gaming International and chip sets from the Poker Up Shop, with more planned.

“One of the most interesting things about how we designed this store was asking established vendors to create Ante Up versions of their most popular products,” Long said.

“This gives our customers not only truly unique items to choose from, but also peace of mind that the quality will be of the same high level as the vendors’ existing products.”

AnteUpStore.com offers doz-



ens of other poker items, from sunglasses to T-shirts, tables, gadgets and collectibles from a unique collection of vendors.

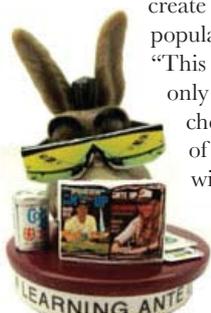
“While there are numerous third-party stores on the web that resell merchandise from a variety of vendors, Ante Up was able to harness its great relationships with some of the most interesting, making a one-stop shop with a great variety of exciting products,” Long said.

Anteupstore.com accepts major credit cards and offers free shipping and a 30-day money-back guarantee on all items. The store also will occasionally offer *Ante Up* readers special deals, such as discounted tickets to upcoming WPT Boot Camps.

Vendors wishing to be included in the store are welcome to contact Scott Long at (727) 331-4335 or [scott@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:scott@anteupmagazine.com).

## Ante Up vendors

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- Poker Up Shop
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Seminole Casino is giving away a chance to win a **\$10,000** seat in the WPT Hollywood Hard Rock Showdown. The top 50 players who log the most live play hours in February and March will square off in a tournament for a **\$10,000** seat in the WPT tournament! Tournament begins April 5 at 7pm.

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# READY FOR THE TAX MAN?

I'm guessing most of you wonder whether online or offline poker winnings are reportable to the IRS, and if yes, what are the requirements. I'd like to give you some answers.

Directly from the tax code: *You must report the full amount of your gambling winnings for the year on line 21, Form 1040. You deduct your gambling losses for the year on line 27, Schedule A (Form 1040). You cannot deduct gambling losses that are more than your winnings. You cannot reduce your gambling winnings from your gambling losses and report the difference. You must report the full amount of your winnings as income and claim your losses (up to the amount of winnings) as an itemized deduction.*

The worst part about U.S. tax law regarding gambling is your gross gambling winnings count as gross income, while your gambling losses count as deductions. The IRS considers each gambling session separately when computing the numbers. Therefore, all of your winning sessions add up as gross income, and then your losing sessions add up as a potential deduction.

This is true even if you are a net loser for the year. Also, the amount of losses you can deduct is limited by the amount of your wins, so if you have a losing year you can't claim a net loss. The only exception is if you file your taxes as a professional gambler. Filing as a professional gambler involves a level of complexity that is best handled by a professional accountant.

For example, let's say you play poker once in January and win \$1,000. Then you play again in July and lose \$1,500. The win counts as part of your gross income. It goes on the first page of your 1040. If you want to itemize your deductions, you can claim \$1,000 (not \$1,500) on Schedule A.

It gets worse. Let's say you are a serious recreational player and play five four-hour sessions every week, two \$5-\$10 tables at a time. Depending on how you count your sessions, this could be five or 10 sessions per week and the IRS is not clear on the definition of a session since it did not consider online play when these regulations were written.

Say you count 250 sessions per year. Suppose you win 130 of them with an average profit of \$1,000 (that's \$130,000 in winning sessions) and lose 120 of them with an average loss of \$1,000 (that's \$120,000 in losing sessions). It is great that you have won \$10,000 for the year. The bad news is, the \$130,000 you must declare in gross income is going to cost you.

Here's how: The total amount of your deductions will reduce what other deductions you can make.

An example is medical deductions that are limited to an amount exceeding 7.5 percent of your income. Your income is now your

\$130,000 in poker earnings. So you have lost 7.5 percent of \$130,000 or \$9,750 of potential deductions. Deductions like mortgage insurance are also reduced based on income levels.

Every online and live player should keep a poker diary. Here are the minimums that should be included according to the IRS: (obviously written for brick-and-mortar casinos)

- The date and type of your specific wager or wagering activity.
- The name and address or location of the gambling establishment.
- The names of other persons present with you at the gambling establishment.
- The amount(s) you won or lost.

The IRS goes on to say your diary is not enough and you must have other proof of your wins and losses. The IRS would like you to also use a Form W-2G, Certain Gambling Winnings.

What documentation could be used to prove online poker wins and losses? Hand history and tournament result emails, and the IRS might accept these as supporting documentation. However, please ask your accountant. Unfortunately, the writers at the IRS didn't anticipate online poker and so, in the end, nobody knows what documentation is sufficient. Seek a professional accountant to be safe.

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

# TAX



**Our advice is to use a professional accountant to help you with carrying this tax burden.**

# N.J. POISED FOR ONLINE POKER; IS FLA. NEXT?

By Scott Long

With U.S. Sen. Harry Reid failing in his attempt to permit online poker on the federal level during the recently concluded lame-duck session of Congress, momentum has shifted to individual states to fill the regulated Internet poker void.

With a 63-11 vote in January, the New Jersey Assembly sent a bill allowing online poker in the state to the desk of Gov. Chris Christie. And in December, a Florida lawmaker reintroduced a bill to establish an intrastate online poker system in the Sunshine State. Online poker legislation has been filed in California, and a handful of other states and D.C. have whispered about possibly doing the same.

Intrastate poker is not a complete remedy to federal inaction, as it would allow only residents of those individual states to play on the networks. But it could attract new players to online poker who have been hesitant to get online with the murky legality of the existing online poker industry, while providing for the protection that many online players believe regulation can provide.

With the governor's signature (or inaction) the only step left, New Jersey is leading the tide of intrastate poker. Christie has not made his stance on Senate Bill 490 publicly known, but he can sign it, veto it or let it become law without his signature if he doesn't act on it within 45 days of the Assembly's vote, which was Jan. 10. The bill, which passed the Senate 29-5 in November, has been advanced overwhelmingly by both houses, a rarity with gaming legislation that may bode well for its eventual success since a veto would be less likely to stand.

The law would allow any Atlantic City casino to pay a licensing fee to establish its own online poker site with a tax rate of 8 percent. The site's servers would need to be housed in the actual casino, but players could make their wagers from home or anywhere else where it's

permitted. Players are limited to New Jersey residents who fill out the required forms, including age verification.

Caesars Entertainment, formerly Harrah's, is expected to be a big player, since it owns many Atlantic City casinos and has established an online presence in Europe.

In Florida, Rep. Joseph Abruzzo in December refiled House Bill 77, which never advanced in the 2010 legislative session since it lacked a Senate companion bill. But now Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla, R-Miami, is drafting a Senate companion bill.

Abruzzo's bill differs from the New Jersey bill in that it establishes up to three hub providers to offer poker games. The state's brick-and-mortar poker rooms can become affiliates of the hubs, in essence operating their own "skins" on the main site. Play is limited to Florida residents who are physically in the state at the time of their wager.

The eventual success of either state's bills likely will hinge on whether the sites can attract enough daily traffic to satisfy players who sign up for accounts. By limiting play to just each state's residents, and by allowing multiple operators in each state, the bills risk narrowing too far the available player pool, especially since online poker providers such as PokerStars and Full Tilt Poker will presumably still be able to flourish despite the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act.

The Florida bill includes a line that reaffirms that operators who don't abide by state and federal laws and tax regulations are forbidden to offer poker in the state, and also forbids operators who have accepted wagers from Florida residents since enactment of the UIGEA from applying to become a hub operator until they've gone three years without accepting such wagers.

Supporting materials for the Florida bill state the UIGEA forbids players from out of the state to play on an intrastate platform.

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# YOU CAN'T PLAY IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY

Welcome to my first strategy column for *Ante Up*. I constantly am asked why most players fail at poker. The answer is simple: bankroll management.

If you don't have a bankroll, you can't play. Even if you're the most skilled player in the world, if you have one buy-in to your name, you won't be able to make money unless you run very hot.



JONATHAN LITTLE

On the other hand, if you're smart with your money and always keep a decent bankroll, you'll maximize your potential to grow as a poker player and build your bankroll along the way.

I started playing \$.25-\$.50 limit hold'em when I was 18 years old. While I only had 100 big bets, I managed to run hot enough to grow my bankroll and slowly move up. It was common knowledge that you need 300 big bets to play limit poker with little chance of going broke if you're a skilled player, so I followed this guideline until I reached \$15-\$30.

Most people think it takes a long time to build a bankroll from scratch, but in reality, it doesn't take too long as long as you're willing to put in some hours at the table. Assuming you can play four tables at a time online, which is the minimum I suggest, you will be able to play around 250 hands per hour. Assuming, at limit hold'em, you win two big bets per 100 hands, you'll win five big bets per hour. If you have 300 big bets in your current game then that means you have 150 big bets at the next level. So, it will take you around 30 hours to double your bankroll and move up.

When it comes to no-limit hold'em, which is by far the most popular game, I suggest keeping at least 50 buy-ins, assuming if you go broke, you can never deposit again. This also assumes you're buying in for 100 big blinds. If you buy in for less than that, which I only recommend if you realize you're outmatched (which usually means you shouldn't be playing in the first place), you'll need a larger number of buy-ins because you will be forced to get all-in more often.

In no-limit hold'em, a good player can win around 10 big blinds per 100 hands. So, assuming you can play 250 hands per hour, you can win 25 big blinds per hour. Every four hours you'll win a buy-in meaning it will take you around 100 hours to double your bankroll. If you play full-time, you could potentially double your bankroll in less than three weeks.

For multitable tournaments, keep around 100 buy-ins for your current level. There's more variance in multitable tournaments than most forms of poker as you only win a significant amount when you cash in the top 1 percent of the field, which is tough to do. For sit-n-go tournaments, keep around 50 buy-ins.

If you plan on playing professionally, you should keep around two

## Jonathan Little's resumé

*Ante Up* would like to welcome Jonathan Little to the Ante Up Nation. To get you a little better acquainted with Little as a player, here are some of his career highlights. He has more than \$4.5 million in tournament winnings, two World Poker Tour titles and is in the top 10 in WPT career earnings. To learn more about Jonathan be sure to listen to his Jan. 7 interview on the *Ante Up PokerCast*, and read his Q&A at the back of this issue in our On the Button section.

- Season 6 World Poker Tour Player of the Year

- 1st place, 2008 World Poker Finals Main Event, \$1,120,310

- 1st place, 2007 Mirage Showdown Main Event, \$1,091,285

- 1st place, \$5K Festa al Lago, Bellagio, WPT Season 9, \$152K

- 2nd place, 2007 NAPC Main Event, \$714,905

- 5th place, 2007 PokerStars Caribbean Adventure, \$317K

- 5th place, 2008 National Heads-Up Championship, \$75K

- 7th place, 2007 Gulf Coast Championship Main Event, \$93K

times the numbers I suggested. Also, if you play many more tables at a time, you'll need a larger bankroll as well. If you're playing in tough games where your win rate will be less, you should keep a larger bankroll. Basically, as games get worse and you play more hands per hour, the minimum bankroll requirement will increase.

I recently decided to put these bankroll management guidelines to the test by starting with a \$300 bankroll. I wanted to prove you can build a bankroll playing low-stakes no-limit hold'em if you follow these bankroll management guidelines. Seeing as I was starting with \$300, I decided to play \$.05-\$.10 NLHE and always keep 30 buy-ins in my bankroll. I also decided to record every hand I play so you can see not only that it is possible to build a bankroll, but exactly how to do it.

I've been playing around one hour per week for this challenge, and the results so far have been decent, though very swingy. If you'd like to get the first video from my Bankroll Builder Challenge for free and follow my results, check out [www.bankrollbuilderseries.com](http://www.bankrollbuilderseries.com).

— Jonathan Little is the Season 6 WPT Player of the Year and is a representative for Blue Shark Optics. Check out his poker training website at [FloatTheTurn.com](http://FloatTheTurn.com).

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# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD & GREAT

If someone asked me what the difference was between a good player and a great player, my answer would be this article. Jared “Harrington25” Bleznick is one of the best high-stakes pot-limit Omaha players in the world, and I got to witness “the difference” this month while watching him play a PLO cash game online.



JAY HOUSTON

The blinds were \$25-\$50, everyone had about \$5K and he was in the small blind with A-8-4-4 double-suited. Preflop, the under-the-gun player min-raised, the button called, Jared called and the big blind called. The flop came A-10-4 with two hearts. Jared checked, the big blind bet \$300 into the \$400 pot. The UTG player called AND the button called. Jared then raised the pot to \$1,900 with the intention of never folding his hand. However, the big blind moved all-in, the UTG player called, AND the button called! The pot was around \$17K and it was roughly \$3K for Jared to call (almost 6-to-1 odds) with bottom set.

What would you do? I asked at least 10 of my friends what they would do in this spot and everyone said call. I sure as hell know I

call when the pot is \$17K and I have a set. But what did I witness? I watched Jared take about five seconds and easily fold his hand as he explained how he only has the best hand on the river roughly 5 percent of the time. I was astonished he could fold a set in this situation, but he did it without hesitation.

Not to be results-oriented, but what did the other players show? Top two pair. A set of 10s. And a gutshot with the nut-flush draw, of course. Jared was right and was drawing to the case 4.

The reasoning for his fold gets complex with there only being one player who can have the king-high flush draw and a four-way pot, Jared held an ace in his hand, along with other table dynamics. But the simple fact is he folded a set on the flop getting almost 6-to-1 odds.

He lost \$2K on the hand, but did he make any mistakes? His pre-flop call is standard, and his options on the flop are to lead and get it in, or to check-raise the pot and go with it. He can never just check-call on that board with that many players in the hand. That would be HORRIBLE. So did he play the hand optimally by losing \$2K? Yes, because he ONLY lost \$2K, and that is something great players do, minimize their losses.

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

I asked at least 10 of my friends what they would do in this spot and everyone said call.

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

# GET A BACKBONE!

Our posture can be our biggest nonverbal tell, so be aware of it, be sure to find a comfortable position at the poker table and stay there.

Our bodies constantly transmit information, and that includes how we sit. Like software on your computer, our brain always is assessing the environment around us, even if you don't realize it, which can be disastrous as a poker player. If you're not careful, your brain may react to your hole cards and community cards in ways you may not intend.

It's nearly impossible to sit still for hours on end at a poker table. An hour? Sure, but once you're a couple of levels deep into the second day of a tournament, your body gets restless and needs pacifying through stretching, leaning and adjusting. We move into positions that comfort us, so that means you will change your posture numerous times during a tournament or long cash-game session. We slouch, sit up and lean back into our chairs. But, consciously you likely don't think about how you sit. Your limbic brain, however, never takes a break. It's always looking out for you.

Your subconscious decides just how engaged you'll want to be in certain situations. It assesses any violations of your space, alerting you to adjust. If the player on your left places her cell phone too close to your space, your subconscious will tell you to move. Or it will make you stare at her or ask her to move it. If you find this hard to believe just move your drink into someone else's space at the table and watch what happens to their torso.

I once had the privilege of playing with Sam Simon and a few of his friends. For those of you who don't know, Simon is one of the *Simpsons* creators. A famous poker player who plays in this game (I'll keep her anonymous) had a huge chip lead at the table. All of the players in this game liked to talk, but during one hand, after the turn card, I noticed she was talking from a much lower place from where she had just been. Her body had sunk as her torso went from upright to slouched. I wasn't in the hand and it was a friendly game, so I said, "Someone is hurting right now."

Unfortunately for her it took her until the river to let go of the hand, realizing she was beat. Then she asked me what I noticed. I told her that her body sunk suddenly when the turn card landed. She couldn't believe it was that obvious.

Isn't it remarkable that the best in the game still

have difficulty recognizing simple tells? Our limbic brain controls our posture at all times, we just don't notice it. When someone gets good news their internal excitement is reflected in their posture. When they hear bad news, their shoulders sink and their posture shrinks. Psychiatrists know this and use it to see if their patients are making progress, especially when dealing with depression.

Check this theory out at home. The next time you play online and get pocket aces, see if your body sits up just a little bit. Do you get engaged a little more with your computer? The change in your posture will be noticeable. Once you recognize the changes based on your reaction, it'll

be easy to see those changes in opponents.

Watch for players who sit up instantly after looking at their hole cards. Also, if their posture falls, you can deduce they likely have a poor hand and won't play. Don't watch the flop, turn or river, look at your opponents instead. The cards will be there when you're ready.

Be aware that you'll constantly be adjusting in ways you may not realize. You may sit up when strong and may sink when weak. Just be attentive. Of all nonverbal tells your posture is not as hidden as you may think.

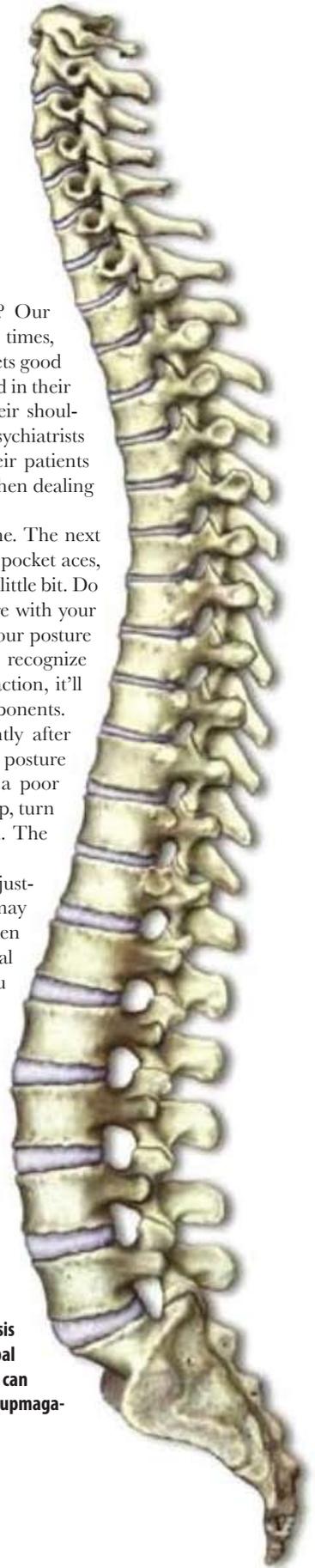
The more repetitive and predictable your actions become, the less opponents will focus on you.

Try to find a position that's comfortable and try to use that position at all times. If you notice you're giving away too much information with your posture then walk around for a bit. That distraction will take the pressure off and may realign what others perceive. Your bankroll will thank you for it.

— **Ex-FBI counterintelligence officer Joe Navarro of Tampa specialized in behavioral analysis for 25 years. He has penned numerous nonverbal books, including *Read 'Em and Reap*, which you can find on Amazon.com. Email Joe at [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com) and he'll answer your questions.**



JOE NAVARRO



MIKE WOLF • Living the dream

## FANCY PLAY SYNDROME KILLS ... YOUR BANKROLL

By Mike Wolf

Dear fellow 19- and 20-year-old grinders, Some advice: Refrain yourself. Don't do it. Do NOT get caught up with fancy play syndrome in \$1-\$2 and \$2-\$5 live games. For those who don't know what FPS is, it's when you get creative and play your hand in an unorthodox manner to manipulate a thinking opponent. One caveat: Your opponent must be THINKING, and in live low-stakes games most of your opponents are stuck forever on Level 1 and can't see past their noses.

FPS will destroy your bottom line, as well as your ego. Grandpa came to play some cards and by God he's not laying down second pair! Here's what you may not understand: He's set up financially for the rest of his years, so making a curious call of \$40 here and there will not ruin his session. He doesn't want to wonder, "What if?" so he counts out eight red chips and snaps off your well-disguised bluff.

## The Situation

You're grinding in your local cardroom against the Level 1 goons and slackjaws when, in what feels like forever, you pick up two red kings on the button. It folds to you. "Oh no," you think, the one time I finally have a hand it folds around. So what do you do? You want to get the maximum amount of value, right? You notice the small blind has headphones so he must be aggressive, right?

Time to trap someone with A-Q on a Q-2-2 board. You decide to limp. This is mistake No. 1. By limping you fail to do a few things.

- You fail to build the pot with what likely is the best hand.
- You give the SB correct odds to complete with almost any two cards and possibly outdraw on you with rags.
- You have no real plan for the hand. What happens if the flop comes 5-5-4 or 2-3-4 all spades?

So it turns out the SB limps. "Huh? But he's raised every pot?"

Grandpa checks his option. "Uh, oh! But they limp with aces and kings on TV all of the time!" you say to yourself. Players on shows such as *High Stakes Poker* and *Poker After Dark* have been playing together for years and have tons of history, so they absolutely need to mix up things to remain unpredictable.

The dealer burns and turns the flop. A♥-9♥-J♠

The ace always hits when you have kings, right? Wrong, that's just selective perception working its wonders on you.

They check. You bet to see where you are in the hand, gain some info. Super-aggro 19-year-old folds before the Red Hot Chili Peppers can spit out, "Californication."

The BB calls. OK, you think, he could have anything in this spot.

The 2♣ hits the turn.

Check, check.

Now the 7♦ falls on the river.

Here's the problem: With your line, if he leads, you can put him on a busted flush draw. But here's the thing: He would play the hand

the same way if he had A-x, so his range in this spot is completely balanced. Meaning good for him, bad for you. You must guess at his possible holdings at this point.

He checks. You reason that if he had an ace you would have heard it by now. Your brain goes all Phil Ivey and you decide to overbet the pot in an attempt to represent the busted flush draw and get a loose call from a jack.

He snap calls and says: "Ace any good?"

You sheepishly ask to see the other card. It's an offsuit four. You feel like a victim of the Poker Gods, when in fact you are just a victim of yourself ... oh, and FPS!

## Analysis

For a start, you should have raised pre flop. If both blinds fold, so what! You win \$3 and move on. Separate yourself from outcome and worry about playing the hand correctly every time. If you had decided to raise then the BB would have shook his head and folded. Even if he called, you would be building the pot with the best hand.

The problem with limp reraising is it sends a very strong signal to your opponents, unless you balance your range by sometimes doing it with garbage hands. I would recommend doing it online but not live because your opponents aren't attentive enough to take note of these types of things.

Everyone knows people like to do that with aces and kings pre flop. If you are an aggressive player then you should do the same thing you do with all of your air. Raise! If all the sudden you limp on the button when it folds around to you, you might as well turn your cards face up.

Second, you should try to keep the pot as small as possible when you have a mediocre hand in small stakes. Use tools such as checking back, playing in position and blocker bets to control the size of the pot as much as possible.

## Summary

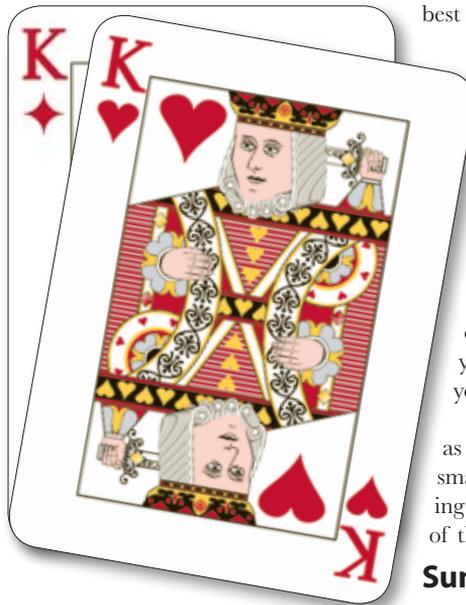
What went wrong? Here are a few rules to stick by when you're playing live low-stakes NLHE.

- Do not flat call in multiway pots with aces.
- Do not slow-play big hands on draw-heavy boards.
- Do not overthink simple situations. The majority of the time, everything is exactly how it seems in \$1-\$2 and \$2-\$5. A 55-year-old woman called your flop and turn bet on a two-club board, then led out on the river when the third club hit. She has it. Fold and move on.
- Master basic concepts such as patience, discipline, focus, game and seat selection, and keeping tilt at bay.

Keep these things in mind and next time you decide to play \$1-\$2 in a brick-and-mortar setting; you'll remember to raise and get the money in with big pairs before the flop. You'll thank me, and so will your wallet.

Until next time, see you on the road.

— Mike Wolf is a small-stakes pro living on South Beach in Miami. You can email him at [MichaelJWolf33@gmail.com](mailto:MichaelJWolf33@gmail.com).



This is no time to get fancy!

# DECISION-MAKING NEVER ENDS IN POKER

One thing that amazes me is poker, in all its forms, always comes down to decision-making.

While people in the real world who have to make tough decisions might develop paralysis of analysis, poker players have to thrive on the decision-making process. Poker decisions are based on incomplete information in an environment filled with distraction, at a high speed, and without help.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

How we go about the task of making all of these decisions is a product of style combined with training in peak performance. It is possible to train yourself to make better decisions.

The first step in any training is to be aware of your natural inclinations and determine which are effective and which need work.

In terms of styles of decision-making some people are “thinkers” and some people are “feelers.” I’m going to over-simplify by saying thinkers tend to rely on what they perceive to be objective criteria and tend to value logic; feelers make decisions based upon how they feel about the situation, their read on the table, their gut or intuition. Over-relying on either can be disastrous.

The thinker may get upset when trying to set up a well-executed bluff and his opponent doesn’t buy it; he might even say, “If you were a better player you would have folded,” or “If you knew my style you wouldn’t have made that move.” The implication is if you had played by the rules of logic you would have folded, and lost. The feel player may go on tilt when the loose-aggressive player gets K-K and busts him. The wrong read or perception can set off a tirade on how bad the other players played.

We teach people in leadership situations to follow a formula for good decision-making.

First, assess and identify the decision to be made and the outcomes desired; then gather and explore all the data, that is gather information and identify alternatives; then decide by weighing the evidence and choosing among the alternatives; and finally, act accordingly.

Now go apply this at the table, with the pressure, chips ruffling, trying to incorporate a read and having little or no time, no consultation, no Internet, no lifelines, no help and do it fast. This model only works when the situation is controllable. Poker is a game of incomplete information in which many aspects are out of your control.

Instead, follow this set of seemingly paradoxical processes: be focused and flexible, be aware and wary; be objective and optimistic and be practical yet intuitive. This is an approach put out by H.B. Gelatt in *Creative Decision Making Using Positive Uncertainty*.

Gelatt developed the decision-making skills he thought people would need in the future to include:

- Ability and comfort with changing one’s mind
- Willingness to keep one’s mind open
- Ability and comfort with being uncertain
- Willingness to be positive about uncertainty

I believe this model works well in poker as follows:

**1. BE FOCUSED AND FLEXIBLE:** Know what you want but don’t be stubborn; be ready to change when the circumstance changes and stay flexible. You’re three bets in and a reasonably good and tight player comes over the top. Consider your options, including folding.

Decisions should be more like hypotheses; stay open to changing circumstance as needed. You are in a tournament and raise 25 percent of your stack from the cutoff in a steal attempt, only to get two callers. Your stack is equal to the pot, what do you do? Try to disprove your hypotheses.

Balance making decisions and discovering them. Always be open to incorporate new information. Sometimes let decisions emerge. Try to see the whole picture. Practice visualizations.

**2. BE AWARE AND WARY:** Recognize knowledge is power and ignorance is bliss; an open mind is receptive, an unreceptive mind is closed. When you admit you don’t know, you open yourself to new learning. Don’t get locked into thinking you know everything that’s going on; if you do you are more susceptible to the trap and bluff. Remember that first impressions of opponents are only hypotheses.

Memory can be a friend or an enemy; we remember the past better than we imagine the future. Memory is selective and only works backward and can block your openness to new knowledge. We need multidirectional minds.

Remember your mistakes and correct them; remember your good plays and capitalize; remember what your opponent does in other similar circumstances, remember how you played a hand and adjust. You can’t remember if you don’t take in the information — memory has to do with absorbing information. You have to pay attention; store the information and retrieve the information. You have to practice.

Balance using information with imagination. The more you know, the more you realize what you don’t know. Awareness of this opens you up to new use of your imagination.

**3. BE OBJECTIVE AND OPTIMISTIC:** Reality is in the eye of the beholder; everything begins with belief. And if you think you can, you might. If you think you can’t, you probably won’t. What is real is a matter of the information you have and how you perceive that information. Balance reality testing with positive projecting; visualize desirable future scenarios as if they were self-fulfilling prophecies.

**4. BE PRACTICAL AND INTUITIVE:** Learn to plan and plan to learn. Set your goals and practice. Remember there is right-brain intuition and left-brain logic. Intuition is neither luck nor superstition. Your right brain assimilates information in a different way. When you have all of the left-brain skill down pat, let your right brain go to work.

Balance responding to change with causing change; responding is reactive while causing is proactive. We need to do both: respond to the past and think and plan positively for the future.

Use all of this to help you 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](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com).

**Remember your mistakes and correct them; remember your good plays and capitalize; remember what your opponent does in other similar circumstances, remember how you played a hand and adjust. You can’t remember if you don’t take in the information — memory has to do with absorbing information.**

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# THIS COLUMN JUST MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

How many people in America play live poker every day? I figure 30 cardrooms in Florida alone with 15 or more tables per room and nine players per table. Add in the big poker states such as California and Nevada and all the Indian and riverboat casinos everywhere else. Now double that number for bar leagues, home games and casual family gatherings. I don't know what the final number is but it's pretty big, probably more than 100,000 every day. Maybe twice that.



FRANK TOSCANO M.D.

Some will die at the table. Gather 100,000 people every day to perform any activity and it's inevitable some hearts will unexpectedly stop beating. If this happens in your poker room, you could be the one who makes the life-or-death difference. That's what happened to one of my ER co-workers.

He found himself the only one in the room knowledgeable enough and willing to interrupt his play to resuscitate a fellow player who collapsed at his table. The casino had a defibrillator handy and it worked beautifully so it was a clean save. It was lucky my friend didn't have to pound on the poor guy's chest for long because the new version of bystander cardiac compression, while cleaner and simpler than ever before, requires a level of physical stamina that most of us would find pretty demanding. I'll explain.

The old version of CPR was a complicated mishmash of compressions, ventilations and pauses for pulse checks that changed depending upon the number of rescuers. The precision and coordination required put synchronized swimmers to shame. Plus it had that messy mouth-to-mouth business. Geez, who wants to do that?

It turns out, a whole lot of people didn't, so most cardiac arrest victims never got the pulmonary part of bystander CPR. Years later, after a lot of research, we're a bit smarter. We've come to the realization that maybe it's really OK not to give Grandpa the "kiss of life."

The latest studies seem to show it's the compressions that make the difference, not the ventilations. Use faster forceful compressions to keep the blood pressure up. If you can provide good blood flow to the brain and heart, a single rescuer can skip the mouth-to-mouth part.

"How can that be? Oxygen, we have to have it, right?" True, but there's a fair amount of residual oxygen still floating around in the vic-

tim's blood. The old compression rate of 60 per minute coupled with all the interruptions for ventilations and pulse checks didn't produce enough pressure head to get that residual oxygen into the brain and heart muscle.

Enter Continuous Chest Compression CPR. Find someone down. Check a pulse or try to arouse him for about 10 seconds just to make sure he's not sleeping or something. Then launch into compressions. Don't bother to check for breathing; don't give two quick breaths; don't watch for the chest to rise; just yell for help and start the compressions. No need to count or remember ratios, just pump.

The details are fairly simple. Kneel beside the victim. Put the heel of one hand in the middle of the guy's breastbone and your second hand on top of your first. Lock your elbows and using the weight of your upper body, compress about two inches then repeat until help comes. Use plenty of force and don't worry about a few broken ribs. He's dead! If you don't keep his brain alive until a defibrillator arrives, he's still going to be dead. Pump hard.

Here's the only difficult part. You've got to speed it up. The old rate of 60 compressions per minute just doesn't cut it. Bump it to 100 and the pressure head stays high enough for blood flow to get to the brain and heart.

So how do you estimate 100 compressions a minute? Easy, think John Travolta dressed in white. *Stayin' Alive*, the old *Saturday Night Fever* disco earworm, clips on at just about 100 beats per minute. Plus it's got that uplifting theme of keeping someone alive. I never liked the Bee Gees and I'm a cynical cuss so I prefer *Another One Bites the Dust* by Queen. Same tempo and it seems strangely more accurate somehow. If you are too young to remember those songs, try *Somebody to Love* by that hairy heartthrob Justin Bieber. It works, too.

And don't forget the "calling for help" part. One hundred chest compressions per minute can get tiring in a hurry, even for young buff Internet whiz kids. It may be tiring but keep in mind that CCC is not technically difficult. You can do it — really.

You may never win a major tournament, but you might have the opportunity to be a real hero. All you have to do is fold your baby suited connectors, start pumping and sing, "Ah, ah, ah, ah, stayin' alive!"

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

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# GAMBLING ADVICE: DON'T BE A FELON IN 2011!

Many of us have made and broken our New Year's resolutions, but it's not too late to adopt one and stick by it, which I promise is worthy of consideration. Let's all resolve not to be a felon in 2011! Seems simple enough but many passionate poker players regularly flirt with provisions of state penal codes that could land them in the clink for some time. The operative provision worth knowing about involves operating a gambling house.



MARC DUNBAR

Gambling houses and criminal statutes prohibiting their operation have been in existence since before the United States was founded. In England, gambling was condoned provided it was kept to the landed gentry in private parlors and away from the general public.

When bars and taverns began allowing gambling for the common rabble, the King and his Lords found that such activity affected the overall public welfare by leading to street violence and the even greater sin of workplace absence. As such, public facilities that regularly allowed public gambling of any kind were dealt with harshly.

Often gamblers were given little or no sanction but the proprietors risked the loss of their establishment, livelihood and freedom.

I'm sure you're wondering why this is relevant to the regular poker player in 2011. A quick look at the 125-year-old penal provision may give a little guidance.

*Whoever by herself or himself, her or his servant, clerk or agent, or in any other manner has, keeps, exercises or maintains a gaming table or room, or gaming implements or apparatus, or house, booth, tent, shelter or other place for the purpose of gaming or gambling or in any place of which she or he may directly or indirectly have charge, control or management, either exclusively or with others, procures, suffers or permits any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game whatever, whether heretofore prohibited or not, shall be guilty of a felony.*

This provision from the Florida Criminal Code was passed in 1887 and is nearly identical to provisions found in every state in the Union. The provision stands for this very basic proposition: If you control any place (be it permanent or temporary structure) that is regularly used

by others for any type of gambling whether you are involved in the gambling or not, you are a felon.

Said another way: If you host a regular poker game where money or anything of value changes hands, you are a felon. Note the use of the words "directly or indirectly" and "exclusively or with others." It doesn't matter if it is at a social club, a condo association recreation hall or your kitchen table, and it doesn't even matter if you are there as this statute can apply to you if someone is there on your behalf or under your direction.

I raise this issue as I'm regularly asked if social clubs are exempt or if home games are exempt or if I use chips and there is no cash on the table are they exempt. The answer to all of these is "no." If you are the host or involved with others in the regular hosting of a poker game, you have a problem and need to get more familiar with your state penal code or some disgruntled player can leave your game, call law enforcement and put you on an all-expenses-paid tour of the inside of your local jail.

Usually after I give this answer, I'm asked where the loophole is and I'm sure that is going through your mind. Unfortunately for the purposes of this column, there is no easy or generic answer. A review of the law in your state and the local ordinances where you play are required.

Some states allow for home games if you abide by a strict safe harbor statute. Knowing this, if you are promoting your game to the public via some of the popular home-game websites and attempting to recruit players outside of friends and family then in nearly every instance you have a problem and are violating state and possibly federal gaming laws.

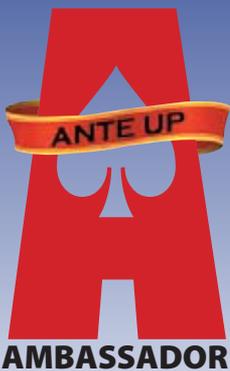
Fortunately most states have legal outlets for your quest for a regular game. Seek out the legal regulated venues, and you will find two things to kick off your 2011 at the tables, plenty of fresh pigeons to pluck and a year where you don't have to check "Yes" to the question: "Have you ever been convicted of a felony?"

— Marc W. Dunbar is a shareholder with Tallahassee law firm Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar, P.A. He represents several gaming clients before the Florida Legislature and teaches gambling and parimutuel law at the Florida State University College of Law.

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# DESTINED TO PLAY POKER

I met Dee Dee Cole through a mutual friend at the World Series three and a half years ago. Today she is a very dear friend who created pokerjetsetter.com, an online site where you can find tournaments anywhere in the country. We share a lot of the same

goals for women in poker. Anyone who comes in contact with her always has amazing things to say about her. She is no slouch at the poker table, as live games are her forte. Dee Dee always sets her sights on “the bigger picture” and more often than not is *very* successful.

## How long have you been playing poker?

Since I was 9 years old. I would play against my family for money. I didn't want to give up my allowance that easy, so I learned fast that playing well meant I was going to double my allowance for the week. We also played cribbage, backgammon, pinochle, pool and other games for money.

## What is your earliest memory of playing poker?

My family used to meet at a lake in Aberdeen, S.D., every year and spend two weeks out there. We used to play “poverty poker” at night. It's like penny poker, but you never went broke, as long as someone wanted to give you some of their pennies! I had a cute, buck-tooth smile, so my uncles were always good for a few pennies.

## What is your favorite game?

That's a tough one. I like to play all sorts of card games. Now that I have been playing no-limit hold'em for so long, I guess that would be my favorite right now. Although I learned playing seven-card stud and love that game. I actually miss playing it.

## What is your favorite hand?

For no-limit hold'em it would be pocket aces first, and then it would have to be jack-10 suited. Really it's the hand that brings me the pot!

## Do you play online?

I play a little online, but mostly I prefer playing at the brick-and-mortar rooms. I like the people interaction and I am more comfortable playing against people live than on the Internet.

## Tell me a little about your personal life and how it interacts with poker.

I was born into a gaming family. My grandmother ran a pool hall and book joint in South Dakota back in the '40s. All of my relatives on that side of the family are incredible card and pool players. Several of them play Masters Point Bridge.

It's no surprise to anyone in my family that I am involved in the gaming business. Like I said, I was playing for my allowance at a very early age. It was always the highlight of the day when I would play cards with my family. I would rather do that than anything else in the world. Still, to this day, I would be happy to just play cards all day and all night.

As I got older, I started working in information technology. As time went on, I decided I should blend my smarts with my passion, poker. I hated how long it took me to find a place to play poker on the weekends or when I was traveling around the country. So I came up with Poker JetSetter.

## How do you feel about the female players who are up and coming?

It's great to see so many women out there playing now. There are

so many women who are good solid players who are no longer intimidated by men. I really appreciate the women who play and still hold on to the grace and confidence of a woman without having to put on the ego act like a lot of men. I think women face different challenges to the game than men

## If you had some advice to the female players considering poker as a career, what would it be?

This is a tough one. I have seen a lot in this business and have lived it, too. It's a hard existence and I suggest anyone attempting it make sure they have other venues in their life as well. I have always said I'm not a professional and would prefer to keep it that way.

So I live under my motto, “If I win at the end of the year it's my second income and if I have a losing year it's my hobby.” One piece of advice I would give would be to have a bank account that is just for poker. Load it with your bankroll and be diligent about putting your wins in the account and be meticulous about tracking your wins and losses. Players who don't do this usually run into trouble down the line.

## Did you have a poker mentor?

Besides my family, I did have a great poker mentor. When I lived in Las Vegas in the late '80s I met a man playing poker who seemed to always win. At the time I played at the Silver Slipper. They used to have a great dealer's-choice game and I had a lot of fun playing that and the \$3-\$6 stud game.

One day I noticed John wasn't playing. I asked him why he was sitting on the sideline. He replied that he was broke. Though I didn't know him very well, I gave him my last \$60 and asked him if that would get him back in the game. He took it and said thanks.

Two months later I saw him and he gave me my money back. He said he had turned the \$60 into \$1,700 that day and was doing well. That was the start of a wonderful friendship and he became my mentor. I can't tell you how many hours I spent behind him watching him play hand after hand after hand. Then I would play and he would sit behind me.

We would then go to dinner and he would go over my play and what I needed to do to make my game better. He was wonderful and I miss him. He unfortunately drowned in his car in a flood back in the '90s. It gave me two years of one-on-one attention to my game and for that I will be forever grateful.

## Do you still feel you are learning all the time or do you feel you have mastered the game?

I can't ever imagine saying I mastered the game. Every time I sit down with a new group of people, the game changes. Plus there are so many games to play; it would be hard to master all of them. That's what makes poker so much fun and such a challenge.

It's so much fun when you are winning and so hard to be patient when you're not hitting your hands. Just mastering being patient and keeping your emotions out of the game takes a lifetime of practice. I guess the way I look at it is poker is not just a skill; it's many skills that need to be all in place at the right time to win. Just like life, every day is a new day and comes with new challenges. Hard to master that!

## What can we expect from you in the near future?

Well, I will be trying my hardest to make as many final tables as I can in 2011. I have a few big ones on my mind; we will just have to see where the chips fall.



LAUREN FAILLA



Dee Dee at the WSOP.



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Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

# DO WE REALLY WANT GOVERNMENT REGULATION?

I would like to comment on Christopher Cosenza's commentary (*Reid bill would have hurt so many, Jan. 2010*) about Big Bro's attempt to legalize online poker. Are you sure you even want the feds involved in this at all? I don't. Can you find *anything* that Washington has done in the last decade or more that has proved anything but a waste of time and money, resulting in an even greater loss of our personal freedoms we used to enjoy as Americans, and that has actually worked? I can't.

If we let these "out of touch with the common man" professional politician photo-op buck-passers, self-interested "civil servants" get involved I think we'll be sorry that we got what we asked for. Somehow they'll botch it up.

We'll find our online poker accounts being "audited," we'll end up having to file "quarterly tax reports" on our online poker activity, then we'll need to apply for and pay a tax to get an "online poker exemption" certificate, which will no doubt take months to get through the paperwork, background checks, etc. To paraphrase Mr. Cosenza's commentary, be careful what you ask for, you just might get it.

Ron Sherrod  
via email

## Players need to learn etiquette

The preservation of our great game of poker depends upon the intellectual and moral character of the players.

## VERBAL IS BINDING

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

If as a player you feel the urge to cheat in order to win, your game lacks all which is necessary to compete even at the lowest level.

In all life endeavors cheating destroys the institution it serves. Marriages, jobs and families are destroyed when cheating is prevalent. So is poker.

Honest players must call to the attention of dealers all rule infractions. Once rules are violated "angle shooters" (cheaters) may realize a dealer is weak and unable to run a fair game. Dealers have a difficult job at best, good players should always assist dealers to prevent cheaters from taking advantage. If the dealer is unable to control a game ask the dealer to call the floor. Please don't let cheaters ruin our wonderful game. Become a guardian of rules, maintain the integrity of the game. Your diligence protects us all.

Let us hope that the enormous power of this simple ideal will serve to preserve and protect our great game.

Antonio Pinzari  
Host, Poker Wars Live

...

I was going through your August 2010 issue and I found an article in the Perspective section (*It's Not Your Turn, So Please Don't Act*) by Sand Farnia. I thought Sand might be interested in my suggestion for a change of the rule pertaining to acting in turn. I have several rules I think could use a little work.

I will add Rule 29 to my list of TDA rules that could use some work. This is NOT the TDA rule, only my suggestions for improvement:

### RULE 29: VERBAL DECLARATIONS/ACTING IN TURN

**29.1** Players must act in turn. Verbal declarations in turn will have precedence over actions or gestures. Therefore, a player stating a wager, but pushing a different amount into the pot, will be corrected to the spoken amount.

**29.2** Players acting out of turn because they were misled by another player, or the dealer, will have the right to retract their wager and change their action provided another player has not acted after them. If another player acts, (substantial action) the skipped player, or players, may only fold or call when action returns to them, they cannot raise.

**29.3** Deliberate action out of turn, including words and gestures, will be as binding as a bet in turn. The deliberate action out of turn will remain in the pot even if the intervening player raises in front of them. The out-of-turn player can call, or surrender his bet and fold. The option to raise will be removed.

Any out of turn action may seriously disrupt to flow of the game. Deliberate action out of turn is highly unethical in any form of poker. Therefore, repeat offenders will be penalized up to, and including, being eliminated from tournament play, at the discretion of the floor.

Nick Ciavarella  
Poker dealer instructor, New York

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# WHAT IS YOUR BAR LEAGUE OFFERING YOU?

By Bryan Oulton

In running our league, we offer our players nightly, weekly, quarterly and annual prizes. As a player, you must take advantage of what your league is offering you to maximize your experience.

Almost all leagues offer nightly prizes, such as bar gift certificates. For some leagues, that's as good as it gets. When playing poker, you must learn to take these into consideration when it comes to what you're getting back from your league. These gift certificates are a great way to get more enjoyment out of your free play.

One of the aspects many players overlook as a major benefit from bar poker is the camaraderie and friendships they develop with players, dealers, league owners, servers, bartenders, managers and location owners. This is a major benefit to playing in a bar league, plus the development of your game and the growth that is naturally associated with playing a lot of poker. Players naturally get better over time, es-

pecially from the pure saturation of playing situations.

As for prizes, besides the nightly prizes, you must look to maximize your chances in winning the big prizes of your league. Find out from your dealers, or email the league operators, about any weekly winners tournaments or monthly tournaments for those who meet a certain criteria. Sure, some players only play for the social aspect, but there are many looking to gain prizes. Look into what the finals are offering for your league. Are there bonus chips for how you finish or how often you play? This could give you a leg up in the finals.

Lastly, enjoy yourself. Bar poker is about having fun while playing cards and risking nothing to win tons of great prizes, some of which may lead to life-changing money. You're going to go out for drinks or food anyway, why not find a place with bar poker to make a complete evening of it?

— Bryan co-owns All In Free Poker, a league based in Pompano Beach, Fla.

**CALL THE FLOOR**

Expert advice from poker room managers Jody Russell and Cassie Greene

## Never show your cards prematurely

In a \$2-\$4 limit hold'em game at a Las Vegas casino, the board on the river shows 6♣-7♠-8♣-J♠-9♣. The first player bets, the second player raises and the player to act last angrily mucks face up, figuring his aces were no good. The dealer announces his cards as the remaining players complete their betting. The winner out-flushed the loser at the showdown. Was this muck inappropriate? — ProfessorPoker, via [anteupmagazine.com/forum](http://anteupmagazine.com/forum)

Turning your cards face up before the action is complete is always inappropriate. It doesn't matter that the player is upset. Poker is an emotional game. Being a "good" player doesn't just mean knowing how to play the game well; it also means controlling your emotions. People who act this way usually are pretty bad players or they are good players who turn into bad players because they go on tilt. If you are

**TDA Rules**

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

**RABBIT-HUNTING:** No rabbit-hunting is allowed. Rabbit-hunting is revealing any of the cards "that would have come" if the hand had not ended.

**JODY:** Rabbit-hunting slows down the game. Requesting it puts dealers in an awkward position. Some rooms will suspend or even fire dealers for rabbit-hunting.

**MORE TDA RULES:** Go to [pokertda.com](http://pokertda.com) to see all 44 TDA rules.

one of these players try reading *Zen and the Art of Poker*.

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

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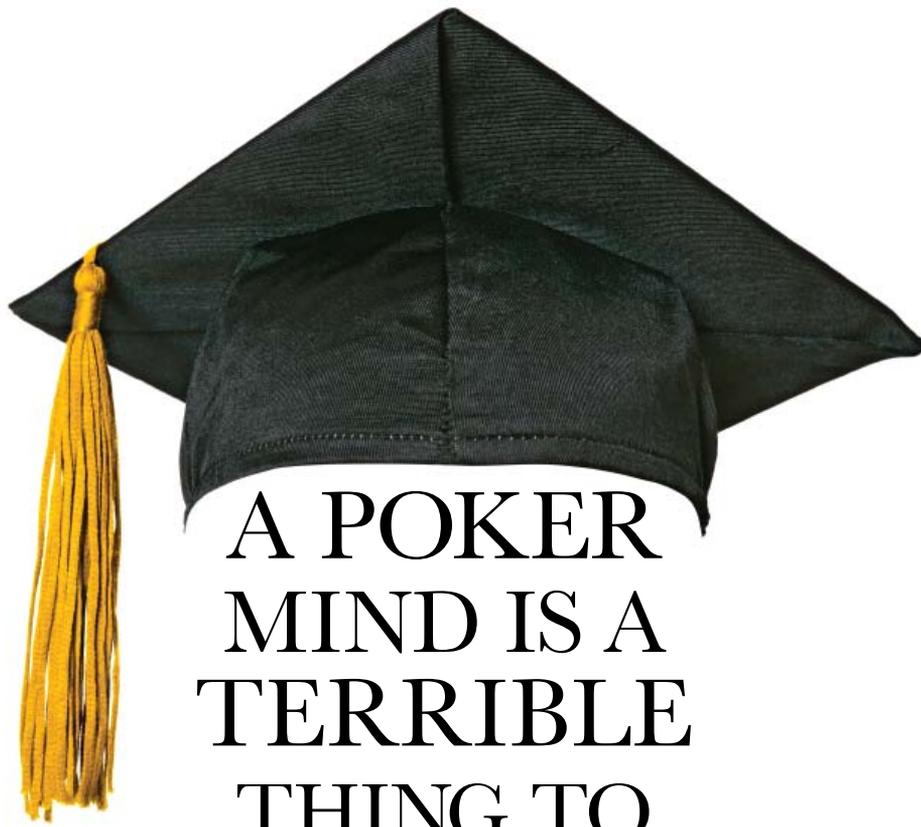
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# A POKER MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

Thinking of improving your game? *Ante Up* helps find the poker education that's just right for you.

## By Scott Long

Mike Sexton is famous for saying no-limit hold'em is the game that "takes a minute to learn and a lifetime to master," and there is perhaps no statement that poker players will agree on more.

The poker player who quits learning quits winning. It's as simple as that.

Fortunately, we have myriad options to learn more about the game we love, including books, DVDs, boot camps, monthly membership sites, software programs, one-on-one training and more.

But how do we choose the right one for us? The answer is buried in the answers to several more questions:

**HOW DO YOU LEARN BEST?** Perhaps the most important of all of these questions, you need to think back to school and remember in what manner you were most likely to learn. If you're a book person, you'll want to visit your local bookstore and start building a home library. If you're a lecture person, you'll want to go hear a pro speak. If you grew up on video games, you'll want to look into online simulators or recorded hands. If you don't like distractions, you'll best be served by more individualistic options. If you feed off the energy and questions of others, you should seek group learning environments.

**WHAT KIND OF PLAYER ARE YOU, AND WHAT KIND DO YOU WANT TO BE?** Be honest with yourself. If you really want to be the next World Series of Poker champion, then go for it. It'll take a lot of work and determination, and very likely a higher-level training program. But if you're just looking to win a little more beer money — or lose less — at the neighborhood \$1-\$2 no-limit game, then you have a wider, and less expensive, range of options. And related, are you a conservative player or an aggressive player? If you're the former, you're likely to learn less

from any program that features the hot young Internet pros, who are notoriously hyper-aggressive. Here's a trick that works in the "celebrity training" programs: Pick a pro whose style of play is most like yours. That's the player you want to teach you.

And finally, are you a beginner or an experienced player? No one will ever doubt Doyle Brunson knows the game of poker, or that his *Super System* is one of the strongest titles on the shelf. But even the legend will tell you it's not the first poker book you should read.

**WHAT AMOUNT OF RESOURCES ARE YOU WILLING TO SPEND?** If you've done well for yourself in this life, pat yourself on the back. You probably don't have to worry about this question, at least in terms of cash out of your pocket. But for most of us, we'll need to spend some time and choose carefully. That doesn't mean you should avoid the most expensive training. In fact, it might be the best bang for your buck depending upon how you answered the previous questions. It just means the more you limit the amount you're willing or able to spend, the more research you should do.

And resources are about more than money. For some training programs to pay off, you'll need to be able to put in a good deal of time. If you have children and a demanding job, you might not get the full value out of a longer-term program and should skew toward short hits of quality instruction.

Armed with answers to these questions, you're ready to investigate your options. We invite you to begin on the following pages, which give you a head start on better understanding the offerings from some of *Ante Up's* sponsors. Remember, to become the poker player you envision, the journey will be full of twists and turns. Stay true to who you are and who you hope to become, and the path to success will be well-marked.

# DEEPSTACKS POKER TOUR

## WHERE THE PROS PLAY

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	BUY-IN
February 11-13, 2011	Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi's Poker Classic (50k Guarantee)	<b>CALDER CASINO</b> Miami, Florida	\$500 + \$50
February 20, 2011	Winter Poker Open (25k Guarantee)	<b>PALA RESORT CASINO &amp; SPA</b> Pala, California	\$300 + \$40
 March 12-13, 2011	World Poker Challenge	<b>GRAND SIERRA RESORT</b> Reno, Nevada	\$2500 + \$100 
April 2-3, 2011	Encore Club Poker Open	<b>ENCORE CLUB</b> Portland, Oregon	\$300 + \$40
April 22-23, 2011	Twin Bay Spring Poker Classic	<b>TURTLE CREEK CASINO</b> Williamsburg, Michigan	\$600 <i>No tournament fee</i>
May 7-8, 2011	Central California Poker Classic	<b>TURLOCK POKER ROOM</b> Turlock, California	\$300 + \$40
May 14-15, 2011	Seneca Niagara Poker Open	<b>SENECA NIAGARA CASINO</b> Niagara Falls, NY	\$1350 + \$150 

More 2011 tournament dates coming soon.

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 This is a live streamed DeepStacks360 event. For more information visit [DeepStacks360.com](http://DeepStacks360.com)



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easy-to-use courses that cover all the basics of Texas Hold'em and beyond. There's also a huge archive of strategy articles available to read, including advice from Team PokerStars Pro players such as Daniel Negreanu, Joe Hachem, Greg Raymer and Joe Cada. What's more, you can participate in live poker training sessions, where the PSO coaches analyze hands as they play, helping you to understand the game by watching the action in real-time.

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**FORUM:** Learn more about poker and chat with players in the PSO Forum. It's great for discussing hands you've played, getting advice and meeting new people. There are even regular contributions on from Team PokerStars Online pros, including Nanonoko, Stevesbets, KidNebraska and more.

If you're ready to learn the basics of poker and start out on the road to becoming a winning player, join the action at PokerSchoolOnline now! [pokerschoolonline.com](http://pokerschoolonline.com)

## DEEPSTACKS

DeepStacks is the industry's premier poker training source. With a wide array of products for every level of player, DeepStacks provides the ultimate in live and online poker education. DeepStacks delivers its products in an effective, efficient and exciting method through all three of its training properties:



DeepStacks University is our online training website that offers the unique and proprietary technology, Reactive Training Technology. RTT provides an interactive scenario-based poker training model, which

puts students in specific situations on a virtual poker table. DeepStacks Live is our live camp designed to sit students with some of the best poker pros in the world. Conducted exclusively at a poker table, students get to experience a personalized and customizable training program with one-on-one access to pros such as Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi, Mike "The Mouth" Matusow, Justin "BoostedJ" Smith and many other live and online players.

The latest addition to DeepStacks' stable of training programs is DeepStacks360. DeepStacks360 is a 360 degree camera system that puts you at a live poker table with our pros while you sit in the comfort of your home. Streamed on the Internet in a 360-degree interactive learning environment, DeepStacks360 provides the ability to learn at anytime from any place. Simply log in to the class from your computer, maneuver the camera and control the action.

DeepStacks is also working on a new, cutting-edge training program designed specifically to bring online poker coaching into a live training environment. Be on the lookout to see what DeepStacks has in store for the future and check out its newest product, DeepStacks Poker Tour. [deepstacks.com](http://deepstacks.com)

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# ANTE UP

## ANTE UP LIVE TRAINING

In addition to the wealth of strategy, health and psychology information Ante Up's columnists deliver in every issue, the weekly *Ante Up PokerCast* audio show and the Ante Up Magazine Forum, Ante Up offers a number of live training programs to help players of all levels and resources improve their game.

Three times a year, Ante Up Poker Cruises set sail for exotic ports of call with a professional 10-table poker room on board. Included in every cruise fare are four great training classes — Poker 101, advanced Texas Hold'em, beginning Omaha and beginning stud — offering passengers insightful instruction while on vacation.

Inspired by our successful Poker 101 courses and curriculum, Ante Up offers its Ante Up Road Show package for a nominal fee to poker rooms, featuring beginning or advanced strategy classes that rooms can offer its patrons for free. (To be the first to learn of scheduled Road Show events, sign up for our e-newsletter at [anteupmagazine.com](http://anteupmagazine.com)).

Many of *Ante Up's* columnists can be added to the Road Show packages to design a truly unique and affordable training program. Finally, the new Ante Up Store offers a variety of products designed to improve players' games.

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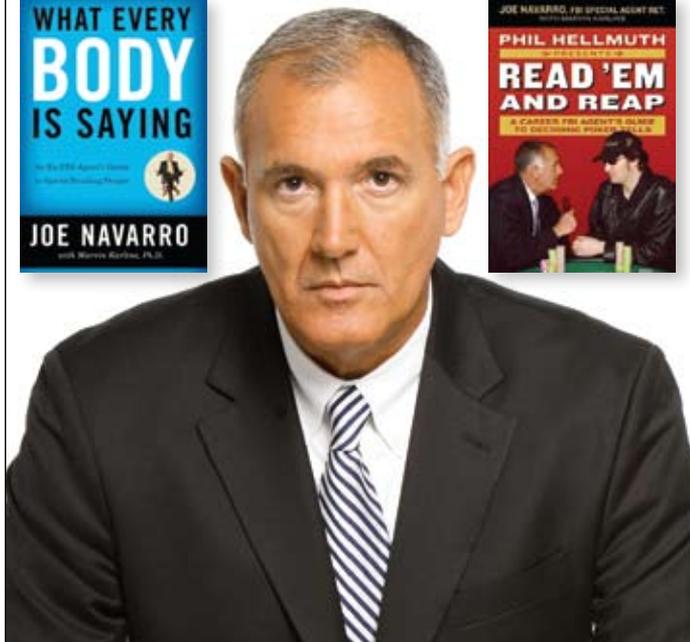
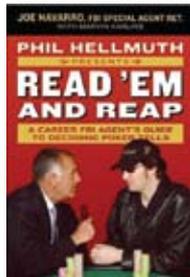
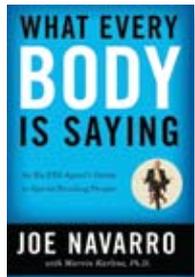
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Do you have what it takes to compete against the best players in the world? Do you want to learn how Lee Childs quickly transitioned from poker enthusiast to proven professional? Lee continues to keep his game sharp and he consistently wins through a dedication to improvement and playing against the world's best players live and online. Acumen Poker is the place to find out exactly how he does it.

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## ACUMEN POKER

### "DECIDE TO WIN"



Let professional poker player and WSOP circuit champ Lee Childs help you elevate *your* poker game.

- Group Training Sessions
- Individual Training Sessions
- Individual Coaching

[www.acumenpoker.net](http://www.acumenpoker.net)

# FLORIDA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
<b>CALDER CASINO</b> Phone: (305) 625-1311 www.calderracecourse.com/poker	Two guaranteed tournaments daily. \$50K guaranteed Grinder Classic, Feb. 11-13 (see ad on Page 9 for more details).	Flopped progressive straight flushes have five different payouts per suit.	\$1K high hands every Friday & Saturday, plus \$500 high hands every Wed. & Thurs. (10a-2a).
<b>DANIA JAI-ALAI</b> Phone: (954) 927-2841 www.dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (12:30p & 6:30p), including a \$15K guarantee every Friday (\$105, 6:30p).	Bad beat in hold'em (\$3.5K at press time), Omaha (\$5K at press time) and stud.	Win it or Spin it (win up to \$500, call for details).
<b>DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB</b> Phone: (386) 252-6484 www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily (\$25-\$275), including Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Saturday DeepStack (\$225, 2p or 4p); Sunday Super DeepStack (\$275, 2p).	Bad beats in limit, no-limit (\$155K at press time) and Omaha. Daily high hands paid every hour.	Aces Cracked (Mon.) pays \$25 (limit) & \$50 (no limit).
<b>DERBY LANE</b> Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7 www.derbylanepoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$330) on Sun.-Thurs. (1p, 4p, & 7p) & Fri.-Sat. (1p, 6p, & 8p). Second Sunday SuperStack (\$330, 1p, 15K chips, 30 min levels).	Daily cash and prize promotions (please see website for times and details).	Royals pay up to \$500. See website for more promotions. Couples event, Feb. 14 (see ad Page 23).
<b>EBRO GREYHOUND PARK</b> Phone: (850) 234-3943 www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily, except Friday (\$20-\$330), including a Mega Stack on the last Sunday of month (\$330, 2p, 10K chips, 30 min levels).	Ultimate Big Easy Bad Beat (quad eights, \$14K at press time); Mini bad beat is \$2K.	Royal flushes \$250; Super High Hand \$200 (Sat.-Sun., 4a-9a); spade royal \$4,999 (Mon.-Fri., 9a-noon).
<b>FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI &amp; POKER</b> Phone: (772) 464-7500 www.jaialai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). \$150 DeepStack (Feb. 19, 3p). <b>SNGs:</b> Thurs.-Sat., \$65-\$110.	All new bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha. Call for details.	DeepStack event is the third Saturday every month (\$150, 3p).
<b>GULFSTREAM PARK</b> Phone: (954) 457-6336 www.gulfstreampark.com	Daily, (\$40-\$60, 6:30p), including bounties on Mon & Wed, plus Sat. rebuy, (\$40); Tue. PLO (\$25, 6:30p). <b>SNGs:</b> \$60 hold'em or \$45 PLO.	Bad beat: quad deuces; hourly high hands (11a-1a), \$100 (\$300 at 11a, noon, 1p, 2p, 4p, 7p and 12a).	Royals pay \$500. Free drinks and free breakfast. High hands pay \$100-\$300.
<b>HAMILTON JAI-ALAI &amp; POKER</b> Phone: (800) 941-4841 www.hamiltondownsjaialai.com	"Jackpot Bonus Tournament" on Sundays (\$20 w/ rebuys and add-ons, 3p).	Progressive royal; hearts pay \$2K (mini is 10% of main in any suit). Tournament high hand pays \$75.	\$25 paid to first 5 flushes and 5 full houses; Fri. & Sat. high hand (\$300 for first, \$100 for second).
<b>ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK</b> Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 www.theislepompanopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$350); \$5K guar. on Mon. (\$100, noon); \$15K guar. on Tue. (\$230, 2p); \$10K guar. on Thurs. (\$150, 7:30p). <b>SNGs:</b> \$40-\$225.	Bad beat in hold'em (\$133K at press time) and Omaha (\$19K at press time).	See ad on Page 29.
<b>JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB</b> Phone: (850) 997-2561 www.jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays, 7:30 p.m., \$50 (2K chips and 15-minute blinds)	Royal flushes win jackpot (\$5K at press time).	Call for promotions.
<b>MAGIC CITY CASINO</b> Phone: (305) 649-3000 www.flaglerdogs.com	Sundays, low-rake bounty event (\$40, 1p), bounties are \$5. <b>SNGs:</b> \$65-\$800.	High hands (\$150); royals pay \$1K; Big Slick progressive.	\$500 minimum guaranteed progressive hot table paid (2p & 2a).
<b>MARDI GRAS CASINO</b> Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167 www.playmardigras.com	None this month, but see ad on Page 25 for more specials.	Hold'em high hands (\$150K in prizes each month); call for details on bad beat.	Easy Money (Mon. & Fri.); Fat Tue. \$1K High Hands; Wild Wed.; Double C-Note (Thurs.).
<b>MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK</b> Phone: (321) 259-9800 www.mgpark.com	Daily (Sun., Mon., Thurs., Sat.) ranging from \$65-\$120, including Sat. SuperStack (\$120, 2p, 10K chips); Sunday (\$65, 1p, 3K chips).	Bad beat (\$40K) is in hold'em (aces full of jacks beaten by quads or better).	Straight flush wins \$100, royals \$500. See ad on Page 27 regarding Harley giveaway!
<b>MIAMI JAI-ALAI</b> Phone: (305) 633-6400 www.fl-gaming.com	Daily (\$20-\$165).	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day progressive; see website for more information.	Hourly \$100 high hands plus tickets for Sunday raffle.
<b>MICCOSUKEE RESORT</b> Phone: (877) 242-6464 www.miccosukee.com	Friday and Saturday (\$110, 8p). Free buffet for all tournament players.	Spade royal flush pays jackpot.	Call for information.
<b>NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK</b> Phone: (239) 992-2411 www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Mon. (\$40, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sat. (\$115, 2p); Sun. KO (\$125, 2p).	Big Slick Royal Progressive (\$25K guaranteed, \$65K at press time); all other royals pay \$1K.	High hands (\$100 every 2 hours, daily, Full Moon Madness (Feb. 18) pays high hands \$1K hourly).
<b>OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI</b> Phone: (352) 591-2345 www.ocalapoker.com	Daily (\$30-\$500). <b>SNGs:</b> (\$45-\$500).	Bad beat in hold'em (\$100K at press time) and Omaha. See website for more.	Super Saturday High Hands pay \$300 (NLHE) and \$150 (limit) hourly from 8p-1a.
<b>ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB</b> Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550). Florida Million III coming in March, see ads on Pages 35 and 62.	Bad beat in hold'em (\$62K at press time), Omaha and stud.	Royals and Steel Wheels \$250 (spades \$500).
<b>PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB</b> Phone: (561) 683-2222 www.pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120), noon & 6:30p. Complete WSOPC schedule (Feb. 17-March 1) on Page 33.	Bad beat in hold'em (\$31K at press time), Omaha (\$11K at press time), and stud.	SNG/MTT satellites available for \$1,600 WSOPC main event (Feb. 27). Call for schedule.
<b>PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK</b> Phone: (850) 455-8595 www.pensacolagreyhoundtrack.com	Daily (\$50-\$350); Sun. (\$50, 4p); Mon. & Fri. (\$50, 7p); Wed. & Sat. DeepStack (\$100, 7p); \$20K guar. (\$350, 1p) on last Sat. of month. (see ad Page 32).	Hold'em and stud bad beats (any quads) and in Omaha (quad jacks). Ask about daily mini bad beat.	Full House or better (daily at 10a & Tue. at 7p); Partners tournament on Feb. 14 (\$100, 7p).
<b>SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB</b> Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054 www.skcpoker.com	Daily (\$40-\$440), plus Fri. (\$110, 1p, 25K chips); Sat. (\$160, 1p, 15K chips, 30 min levels). <b>SNGs:</b> \$35-\$300.	Progressive jackpots in all games. Bad beat is quad deuces (\$10K).	\$440 DeepStack on 1st Saturday of the month (1p, 25K chips).

# FLORIDA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
<b>SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON</b> Phone: (866) 222-7466 ext. 121 www.seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. & Wed., (\$20, 6:30p); Sat. (\$40, 6:30p). <b>SNGs:</b> \$25, \$50, \$110.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$170K at press time).	Sun. (quads wins \$50); Tue. (quads win posted amount); Thurs. (Aces Cracked wins \$100, 2-10p).
<b>SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK</b> Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	<b>SNGs:</b> \$55, \$85, \$135.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$170K at press time).	Call for promotions.
<b>SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD</b> Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Mon. \$20K guar. (\$300, 6:30p); Tue. \$12K guar. (\$150, 6:30p); Fri. \$10K guar. (\$150, noon); Sat. (\$100, noon).	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$170K at press time). High hands (limit and no-limit) of the hour every day.	WPT Hard Rock Showdown (April 27-May 2; see ad on Page 11).
<b>SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA</b> Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including Night Owl every Wednesday (\$60, with re-entry available, 12:30a). <b>SNGs:</b> \$50-\$1,075. See ad on back page.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$170K at press time). All royals pay \$500.	Freeroll for the first 400 who play 50 live hours (top 10 play March 11 for WPT HRH seat, plus \$2,500.
<b>SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC</b> Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com	<b>SNGs:</b> \$50-\$100 and are now jackpot eligible.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$170K at press time).	Aces Cracked is a Spin to Win (Mon.-Thurs.) pays up to \$250. Random seat drawings (8-11p).
<b>SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE</b> Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7:30p); Thurs. NL O/8 (\$50, 7:30p); Fri. HA (\$60, 7:30p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & Deep-Stack (\$115, 6:30p); Sun. (\$30, 6:30p).	Mega-Bad Beat (quads 10s), plus players get \$100 if Mega hits at any Seminole room. \$10K mini bad beats.	\$60 SNG WPT qualifiers Sun.-Tue. (2p, 4p, 8p, 10p) into a \$530 mega on 3/1 or 4/12 (7p) for WPT HRH seat.
<b>ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK</b> Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550); Florida Million III coming in March, see ads on Pages 35 and 62.	Bad beat in hold'em (\$62K at press time), Omaha and stud.	Royals and steel wheels \$250 (spades \$500); Super High Hand (Mon.-Thurs.).
<b>TAMPA BAY DOWNS</b> Phone: (813) 298-1798 www.tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20 & up). <b>SNGs:</b> available at any buy-in at any time.	Payouts for quads or better. See ad on Page 19 for more.	Aces Cracked; \$599 high hands; tourney entry giveaways; (see website or ad on Page 19 for details).
<b>TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK</b> Phone: (813) 932-4313 www.luckycards.com	Daily 2p & 6:30p (\$30-\$60) but 7:30p Fri. & Sat. Ask about Sunday Challenge last Sun. of month (\$115, 1p, 14K chips). <b>SNGs:</b> \$65-\$410.	Quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$150) and royals (\$300). Tournament spade royal progressive.	Aces cracked (\$100, 4p-6p); High hands (\$150, 11:30a-2:30p daily & 11p-2a on Fri. & Sat.).

# CONNECTICUT

<b>FOXWOODS CASINO</b> Phone: (800) 369-9663 www.foxwoods.com	Daily (9a-8p). DeepStack events are Mon.-Fri. (\$120-\$340, 6p). Call about WSOP November Nine Special Reunion (Feb. 8). <b>SNGs:</b> \$60-\$550.	Hold'em bad beat is quad eights and was \$185K at press time. Stud bad beat is quad deuces (\$9K).	Mega Stack Challenge XIX (Feb. 4-13). Presidents Day \$400 Holiday Special on Feb. 21.
<b>MOHEGAN SUN CASINO</b> Phone: (860) 862-8000 www.mohegansun.com	Daily (\$50-\$200), including \$10K guar. on Wed. (\$120, 7:30p, 12K chips). & \$15K guar. on Fridays (\$200, 2p, 20K chips).	High hands paid every three hours daily.	See website for details about the Poker Player of the Month promotion.

# NEW JERSEY

<b>ATLANTIC CITY HILTON</b> Phone: (609) 347-7111 www.hiltonac.com	No tournaments. Poker only spread Friday-Sunday if there's enough interest, and generally only a \$1-\$2 NLHE cash game gets going.	None at this time.	None at this time.
<b>BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY</b> Phone: (609) 340-2000 www.ballysac.com	KO events Mon.-Thurs. (1p and 7p) & Fri. (1p); Fri. (8p) and Sun. (6p). Buy-ins range from \$50 to \$75.	Harrah's AC bad beat decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$217K at press time).	2X Comps (Wed. & Thurs.); high hand (Mon. & Tue.); Cracked Aces on Fridays spins wheel for prizes.
<b>BORGATA HOTEL CASINO</b> Phone: (609) 317-1000 www.theborgata.com	Daily (\$50-\$200, 11a & 7p), including \$15K guar. on Wed. (\$120, 11a & 7p). \$20K guar. on Fri. (\$200, 12p & 6p).	Bad beats are quad 10s (\$251K at press time) and quad 2s-9s (54K at press time).	Ask about 2X Comp Dollars.
<b>CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY</b> Phone: (609) 348-4411 www.caesarsac.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$50, 3p & \$80 turbo, 9p); Sat. (\$60, 1p & \$80, 9p) and Sun. (\$50, 1p & \$80 turbo, 9p).	Harrah's AC bad beat decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$217K at press time).	Call for promotions.
<b>HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY</b> Phone: (609) 441-5000 www.harrahresort.com	Daily (\$70, 10:15a & midnight); Sun.-Fri. (\$80, 1:15p), Sun.-Thurs. (\$80, 8:15p), Fri. (\$125, 8:15p) and Sat. (\$125, 1:15p).	Harrah's AC bad beat decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$217K at press time).	Call for promotions.
<b>SHOWBOAT ATLANTIC CITY</b> Phone: (609) 343-4000 www.showboatcasino.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$65, 11a, 2p, 7p); Fri. (\$65, 11a, 2p) including an Omaha/8 (\$120, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 11a, 2p, 7p); nightly (\$50, 11p).	Harrah's AC bad beat decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$217K at press time).	Total Rewards multiplier comps, plus straight flush earns \$20 comp.
<b>TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY</b> Phone: (609) 340-4000 www.tropicana.net	Daily (11:15a, \$62, 10K chips and 7:15p, \$62, 15K chips).	Bad Beat is quads and was \$167K at press time. Tournament bad beat is \$58K at press time.	Crack the Straight (see website for details).
<b>TRUMP TAJ MAHAL CASINO RESORT</b> Phone: (609) 449-1000 www.playtajpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$230 at 12:15p, 4:15p, 7:15p, & midnight), including two DeepStacks on Saturdays (\$230, 7:15p) & (\$120, 4:15p & midnight).	Bad beat is quads (\$215K at press time). High hands are entered into drawings.	50-50 club (call for details).

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

## LOUISIANA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
<b>AMELIA BELLE CASINO</b> Phone: (985) 631-1745 www.ameliabellecasino.com	Sunday Poker Challenge (\$50, 1p); Players can earn a free seat by playing 10 hours between 4p on Thurs.- 4a on Sun.	Bad beat is quads over aces full of 10s (\$6K at press time).	Early Bird (Thurs.), first 10 who buy in for at least \$100 before 7p get \$20 after one hour of play.
<b>BELLE OF BATON ROUGE</b> Phone: (800) 266-2692 www.belleofbatonrouge.com	Wed. & Sun., (10a, \$50, 1K chips, 15-minute blinds). Ask about Battle at the Belle.	Bad beat is any quads (\$50K at press time).	Aces Cracked wins \$100 (Mon., 9a-3p); hourly high hand wins \$50 (Tue., 9a-3p).
<b>BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS</b> Phone: (800) 366-7711 www.boomtownneworleans.com	Tuesday Freeroll (11a) for players w/ 10 hrs. of play or be a 4 or 5 Star Player, otherwise it costs \$10; Wed. & Thurs. (\$35 w/ \$10 add on, 7p).	Bad beat (quads beaten by quads or better) in hold'em (\$51K) and Omaha (\$3K).	High hands (Mon., Wed., Sat., & Sun.); Splash the Pot (Tue. & Thurs.).
<b>COUSHATTA CASINO</b> Phone: (800) 584-7263 www.coushattacasinoresort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230), including Tue. (\$15, 6:30p) with rebuys & add-ons; Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$20, 7:30p) with rebuys; Sat. (\$220, 2p, 7K chips).	Bad beat was \$146K at press time.	Big Bonus Hands are progressive.
<b>CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S CASINO</b> Phone: (800) 284-4386 www.cypressbayou.com	All tournaments are rake-free. Wed. (\$40 w/2 \$20 rebuys and add ons, 6:30p); Sat. Super KO (\$60 w/2 \$20 rebuys and add ons, 3p).	Progressive bad beat: quads (\$110K at press time).	Aces Cracked, 1st & 3rd Thursday, 2nd & 4th Monday.
<b>ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT</b> Phone: (318) 220-5274 www.eldoradoshreveport.com	Sun. (\$150, 11a); Mon. \$2K guar. (\$130, 11a); Tue. (\$75 with \$25 or \$50 rebuy/add-ons, 6:30p); Sat. (\$125, 1 rebuy/1 add-on, 11a).	Bad beat: quads (\$43K); mini bad beat is aces full of 10s beaten by quads. Royals pay \$250.	Aces Cracked wins \$100 (Fri., 4a-4p). Flush Frenzy (call for details).
<b>HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS</b> Phone: (504) 533-6000 www.harrahsneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad beat: quads.	Aces Cracked almost every day.
<b>HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY</b> Phone: (800) 895-0711 www.horseshoebossiercity.com	Daily (\$100-\$200), including a DeepStack event every Thursday (\$200, 6p, 7.5K chips, 25 min levels).	Call for future jackpots.	High hand (Sun. & Wed.); Aces Cracked (Mon., Tue., Fri.); Splash Cash (Thurs.). Call for details.
<b>ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES</b> Phone: (337) 430-2407 www.lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Daily except for Thurs. (\$60-\$90, 6:30p), including Fri. (\$60, noon) & Sat. (\$115, noon) plus a Sunday KO event (\$60, 2p).	Bad beat (\$250K at press time); get paid with quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royal (\$125).	Cash giveaways Mon.-Thurs. (Call for details). Ask about Mardi Gras Freeroll (women vs. men).
<b>PARAGON CASINO</b> Phone: (800) 946-1946 x1975 www.paragoncasinoresort.com	Mon. (\$20 w/3 rebuys, 7p); Tue. (\$18, 10:30a); Thursdays (\$20 w/\$15 rebuys/\$50 add-on, 7p); Fridays (\$60 w/\$50 rebuys, 7p).	Bad beat is \$40K; minor pays quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125). Call for details.	High hand Wednesdays pays \$50 every 30 minutes (noon-2:30p & 9p-11:30p)

## ARKANSAS

<b>OAKLAWN RACING &amp; GAMING</b> Phone: (501) 623-4411 www.oaklawn.com	Daily, including SNGs; Sunday \$750 guarantee (\$10, 10a); Tue. \$5 for \$500 (\$5, 10a); \$600 Ladies Night Freeroll on Thursdays (7p).	Bad beat in hold'em (\$48K at press time); high hands (Fri.-Tue., 10a-1a).	\$25K guar. Winter Poker Classic, qualifiers every Mon. & Wed. (\$50, 7p) through March 16.
<b>SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING &amp; RACING</b> Phone: (870) 735-3670 www.southlandgreyhound.com	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Sat. (\$20, 2p), 3K chips and 15-minute blinds (all play on PokerPro tables).	Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	Player Rewards cards offer comps based on play.

## DELAWARE

<b>DELAWARE PARK</b> Phone: (302) 355-1050 www.delawarepark.com	Daily (\$65-\$150), including an event on Fri. and Sat. (7p). Saturday's event is a \$10K guarantee (\$150, 10K chips, 20 min levels).	Bad beat with descending qualifier (quad nines) was \$59K at press time. Mini is aces full of kings (\$8K).	Aces Cracked; high hand; free tournament entries.
<b>DOVER DOWNS HOTEL &amp; CASINO</b> Phone: (302) 674-4600 www.doverdowns.com	Twice daily (noon, 7p); Sun.-Fri. (\$65, noon) & (\$80, 7p); Sat. (\$80, noon) & (\$120, 7p). Crown Royal \$5K guarantee on Fridays (\$125, 7p).	Bad beat (aces full of jacks) was \$110K at press time.	Spring Poker Classic in March with main event March 26 (\$550, noon, 12K chips, 30-min. levels).
<b>HARRINGTON RACEWAY</b> Phone: (888) 887-5687 www.harringtonraceway.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$60, 11a, 3K chips); Wed. (\$115, 7p, 8K chips); Sat. (\$225, 4p, 15K chips). Tournaments limited to first 70 players.	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was \$90K at press time.	High hand (Mon.-Thurs., 6a-10a); Ask about freeroll on Feb. 13.

## GEORGIA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

<b>DIAMOND CASINO SAVANNAH (GA.)</b> Phone: (912) 897-3005 www.diamondcasinosavannah.com	Call for information.	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
<b>EMERALD PRINCESS II (GA.)</b> Phone: (912) 265-3558 www.emeraldprincesscasino.com	\$125 NLHE event every Saturday night. Please see ad on Page 34.	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
<b>HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (N.C.)</b> Phone: (828) 497-7777 www.harrahscherokee.com	Tournaments and cash games on PokerPro tables. <b>SNGs:</b> Tuesday and Sunday (\$115).	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
<b>SUNCRUZ AQUASINO (S.C.)</b> Phone: (843) 280-2933 www.suncruzaquasino.com	Mon. cruise (7p, \$110) and Fri. cruise (11a, \$110). <b>SNGs:</b> \$60	Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	Quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200).

# MISSISSIPPI

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
<b>AMERISTAR VICKSBURG</b> Phone: (601) 630-4996 www.ameristar.com/vicksburg	Thursdays, (\$70, 7p) with one optional add-on.	Mini bad beat (quads over aces full) pays 10% of full bad beat (any quads).	Call for details.
<b>BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO</b> Phone: (228) 386-7092 www.beaurivage.com	Daily at noon & 6p (\$120-\$340), including \$20K guarantee first Saturday of the month (\$335, noon, 4K chips, but 2K more for \$10 add-on).	\$5K cash giveaways Sunday-Friday. Aces Cracked (\$100) runs 24/7.	Spring Break Classic (\$125-\$2,100) runs March 18-27 (ad on Page 13; call for details and satellite info).
<b>BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI</b> Phone: (228) 436-8999 www.boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad beat is aces full of kings (More than \$50K). Mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks).	Aces cracked (24/7) wins up to \$100.
<b>GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT</b> Phone: (662) 357-1136 www.goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340). \$5K guarantee on the first Sun. of the month (\$230, 1p). \$15K guarantee on first Sat. \$15K (\$340, 1p). Both have 30-minute levels.	Call for bad beat and royal flush totals. Cash drawings (\$100 hourly, Tue. from 1p-10p).	Ask about Graveyard Cash Drawings (Mon.-Fri., 3a-9a); Delta Gold is Feb. 24-March 6 (ad Page 15).
<b>HARD ROCK BILOXI</b> Phone: (228) 374-7625 www.hardrockbiloxi.com	Thurs.-Mon. at 3p (\$25-\$55). Chip stacks, bonus chip offers and blinds vary. Website has all details. <b>SNGs:</b> \$75, \$125, \$235, \$550.	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads (\$33K at press time). Ask about Hard Rock hands.	Ask about Four of a Kind Blows My Mind, Jackpot Hands, and the Super Sunday Promotion.
<b>HARLOW'S CASINO</b> Phone: (662) 335-9797 x144 www.harlowcasino.com	Tuesday & Saturday (\$60, \$5 add-on, 7:30p). <b>SNGs:</b> Thursday & Friday (\$40, 6p).	Bad beat is aces full of 10s beaten by quads or better.	Hourly high hands on Wed.; Friday Flat Screen Frenzy (Tickets to raffle on 1st Friday of every month)
<b>HARRAH'S TUNICA</b> Phone: (800) 946-4946, x33760 www.harrahstunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110), including a Thurs. \$1.1K Guar. (\$35 w/ rebuys, 1p) and a Thurs. (\$50 w/one free rebuy, 6p).	Bad beats in hold'em, Omaha and stud.	Progressive Royal Single Table Promotion (call for current payout).
<b>HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS</b> Phone: (866) 758-2591 x4026 www.hollywoodcasinobsll.com	Monday and Wednesday (\$30 w/rebuys, 6:30p).	High hand (\$50, Mon., 10a-mid. & Wed., 10a-6p); Lucky Table Prog. \$50, \$100 or \$150 (Thurs., 10a-mid.).	Early Bird and Aces Cracked (\$100) from Fri.-Sun. (10a-2p); Aces Cracked Prog. (Tue., 10a-10p).
<b>HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA</b> Phone: (800) 871-0711 x5005 www.hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$40). Mon., Wed., Thurs. (6p); Fri. & Sat. (7p); Sat. & Sun. (2p).	Hold'em bad beat (quads or better) must be in \$3-\$6 or higher and there's a new Omaha jackpot.	Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 w/ rebuys and \$20 add on, 2p).
<b>HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA</b> Phone: (662) 357-5608 www.horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$65-\$160), including Sat. \$10K guarantee (\$150, 4p) with 10K chips (2K more for \$10 add-on); Sun (\$100, 2p) Super Deep Stack (15K chips).	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em. Flush Frenzy (\$100) if you make a flush in every suit during your session.	Call for more promotions.
<b>IP CASINO RESORT &amp; SPA</b> Phone: (888) 946-2847 x8554 www.ipbiloxi.com	Daily, except Fri. (\$60, noon, 4K chips).	Poker Squares Sun. & Mon. (\$1K up for grabs daily).	Aces cracked pays \$100 on Fri. (8a-5p).
<b>ISLE CASINO BILOXI</b> Phone: (228) 436-7967 www.biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Daily (\$40-\$60); Mon. (\$45, 3p), Tue. (\$60, 2p), Wed. (\$40, 7p), Thurs. (\$45, 2p), Fri. (\$60, 3p), Sat. (\$60, 3p); Wed. & Sat. events are KO/re-buy.	Bad beat in hold'em (\$97K at press time), Omaha (\$23K) and stud (\$11K).	Aces Full or Better (Sun.-Fri., 10a-12a).
<b>SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA</b> Phone: (800) 456-0711 www.samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$80), including a \$3K guar. on Saturdays (\$20, 7p). <b>SNGs:</b> \$60-\$120.	Bad beat is any quads. Ask about the Live Action Bonus (Sat. & Sun., 7a-11a).	Feb. 5 & 12, \$15K guar. (11a, \$150); Buy-in Spin-N-Win (Mon.-Fri.). Call for details.
<b>SILVER SLIPPER CASINO</b> Phone: (866) 775-4773 x3766 www.silverflipper-ms.com	Mon. (\$45, 6p), Thurs. (\$75 KO, 7p), Sat. (\$45 turbo KO, noon), Sun. (\$65 Omaha, 6:30p). <b>SNGs:</b> \$45, \$65 (2K chips, 10 players).	Bad beat is \$75K in hold'em, \$2,200 for Omaha. Mini is aces full of deuces (\$550 to loser).	Aces Cracked wins up to \$300 (Tue., Thurs. & Fri.). Splash the Pot (Mon. & Wed., 11a-9p).
<b>SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER)</b> Phone: (601) 650-1234 www.pearlriverresort.com	Daily, (\$35-\$60), including a \$2,500 guarantee on Saturdays (\$60, 2p). Start times for events are Mon.-Thurs. (7p) & Fri.-Sun. (2p).	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad 7s) and stud (quads). Diamond royals (\$500).	\$3,500 freeroll is last Sunday of every month (5p). Call for details. 4 aces pay \$50; high hands (\$100).

# WEST VIRGINIA

<b>HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN</b> Phone: (800) 795-7001 www.ctowntables.com	Open 24 hours now, but no tournaments yet.	None at this time.	None at this time.
<b>MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM</b> Phone: (304) 387-8458 www.mountaineerpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$225, 12:15 & 7:30); Wed. (10:30a), Sundays (\$65, 2p).	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was \$17K at press time; ask about new payouts.	Winter Poker Open (Feb. 14-20), \$2,800 main event Feb. 19 (see story on Page 33).
<b>MARDI GRAS CASINO AT TRI-STATE</b> Phone: (800) 224-9683 www.tristateracetrack.com	Generally events are Sun. (noon), Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p), Wed. (7p), Thurs. (1p) and buy-ins vary (\$45-\$150).	Bad beats in hold'em is aces full of jacks (\$55K at press time), Omaha (\$12K) and stud (\$4K).	Call for promotions.
<b>WHEELING ISLAND CASINO</b> Phone: (304) 232-5050 www.wheelingisland.com	Sun-Fri. (\$40, 10a); Sat. (\$150, 3p, 6K chips), plus events every night (\$40-\$65, 7p). Heartland Poker League (Sat., \$60, 5K in chips 10:45a).	Bad beat was \$56K at press time.	Quads or straight flush lets you spin the wheel; Early bird special Mon. Tue. and Thurs. (call for details).
<b>THE GREENBRIER</b> Phone: (304) 536-7806 www.greenbrier.com	The poker room open only to guests; call for information.	N/A.	N/A.

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

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
<b>BENNING STREET POKER ROOM</b> Phone: (603) 298-6688 www.benningstreet.com/poker	Mon. & Wed. Freeroll w/rebuys (7p); Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$25 w/rebuys, 7p); Sat. (\$25 w/ rebuys, 6p); Sun. (\$125, 2p).	Call for details.	Freeroll tournaments throughout the week (call for details).
<b>GRANITE STATE POKER</b> Phone: (603) 396-0389 www.granitestatepoker.com	Fri. (\$50, 6p.; \$250, 7p. for VIP members; \$100, 8p); Sat. (\$50, 1p & \$100 KO, 4:30p); Sun. (\$50, 4p & \$50 rebuy, 7p). Closed on Wed. & Thurs.	Call for details.	Ask about satellites to PokerStars NAPT events.
<b>THE LODGE AT BELMONT</b> Phone: (877) 872-2501 www.thelodgeatbelmont.com	Daily (\$5-\$50). Times vary by day and are (1p, 4p, 4:30p, 5p, 7p). Call for details on special event tournaments.	Call for current jackpots.	Big Stack Events on Saturdays (\$50, 7p, 15K chips).
<b>POKER ROOM AT HAMPTON FALLS</b> Phone: 603-601-2486 www.thepokerroomnh.com	Daily (\$80-\$150); Mon.-Thurs. (5:30p, 7p, 8:30p); Fri. (1p, 5:30p, 7p, 9p); Sat. (11a, 4p, 7p, 8p); Sun. (1p, 4p, 7p, 8p).	Check website for details.	\$150 event Fri. (1p) and Sat. (11a) gets you \$20K chips and 45-min. levels. Feb. 26 event (\$250, 11a).
<b>RIVER CARD ROOM</b> Phone: (603) 249-5548 www.riverpokerroom.com	Daily (\$5-\$60). Times vary by day. Many of the tournaments have optional rebuys and add-ons. See website for complete schedule.	Call for details.	Mini-Monster (Wed. & Fri.); River 4000 (call for details).
<b>ROCKINGHAM PARK</b> Phone: (603) 898-2311 www.rockinghampark.com	Daily (\$50-150). Start times vary from 2p-9p (see website for schedule).	Call for details.	NAPT Satellites (call for details).
<b>SEABROOK GREYHOUND PARK</b> Phone: (603) 474-3065 www.seabrookgreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$30-\$140); start times range from 11:15a-10p.	Call for details.	Eastern Poker Tour on Sat. & Sun. throughout Feb. (\$100-250, 1:30p). See website for schedule.

## NEW YORK

<b>SENECA NIAGARA</b> Phone: (877) 873-6322 www.senecaniagaracasino.com	Mon. (\$90 KO, 10a & 7p); Tue.-Wed. (\$60, 10a & 7p); Thurs. (\$35, 10a & 7p); Fri. (\$90, 10a & \$140, 8p); Sat. (\$190, 11a); Sun (\$45, 10a & \$60, 6p).	Bad Beat Progressive in hold'em (quad 2s, \$50K at press time), Omaha (quad 9s), & stud (quad 7s).	Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
<b>SENECA SALAMANCA</b> Phone: (877) 860-5130 www.senecagames.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 11a & 7p); Thurs. (\$90, 6p); Sat. & Sun. (\$60, noon).	Bad Beat Progressive in hold'em (quad 2s, \$22K at press time), Omaha (quad 9s), & stud (quad 7s).	Preferred Player Rewards and numerous monthly promotions (see website for details).
<b>TURNING STONE RESORT</b> Phone: (800) 386-5366 www.turningstone.com	Daily (\$70-125). Mon.-Fri. (noon & 7p); Sat.-Sun. (11a & 7p) including a DeepStack Turbo KO on Sat. (\$125, 7p) and Sun. (\$70, 7p).	Bad beat was \$52K at press time.	Call for promotions.

## PENNSYLVANIA

<b>HARRAH'S CHESTER</b> Phone: (800) 480-8020 www.harrahschester.com	Call for information. Will host a WSOP circuit event April 28-May 9. Check anteupmagazine.com for full story.	Bad beat (quad 2s) was \$205K at press time.	Call for current promotions.
<b>HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL</b> Phone: (717) 469-2211 www.hcpn.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$85, noon); Wed. & Thurs. (\$125, 7p); Friday PLO (\$85, noon).	Call about future jackpots.	Call about future promotions.
<b>MEADOWS CASINO</b> Phone: (724) 503-1200 www.meadowsgaming.com	Twice daily (\$40, 10:30a & \$65, 7:30p), including a DeepStack bounty event on Saturdays (\$225, 3p). Feature events are on Sundays.	Call for information.	WSOP satellite on Feb. 13. Big Poker Weekend (call for details).
<b>MOHEGAN SUN/POCONO DOWNS</b> Phone: (570) 831-2100 www.mohegansunpocono.com	Daily (\$60-\$120, noon & 7p) including an event on Sat. & Sun. (KO) morning (\$120, 10a); SNGs are running around the clock.	Bad beat or high hands coming soon.	Event on Feb. 24 (\$280, 7p); Saturday Knockout Tournaments (\$120, 7p, 10K chips).
<b>MOUNT AIRY CASINO</b> Phone: (570) 243-5184 www.mtairycasino.com	Pending state approval, planning MTTs and SNGs.	Bad beat is aces full of kings.	None at this time, though high hands may be coming.
<b>PARX CASINO</b> Phone: (215) 639-9000 www.parxcasino.com	Call for details.	N/A	N/A
<b>RIVERS CASINO</b> Phone: (412) 231-7777 www.riverscasino.com	Daily (\$65-\$555). Mon.-Fri. (12p, 7:30p); Sat. (12p, 4p); Sun. (2p).	Bad beat is aces full of jacks.	Call for information.
<b>SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM</b> Phone: (877) SANDS-77 www.sandsbethworks.com	Likely coming by March, and the room recently received state approval to add 11 tables.	Bad beat is quads and is a one-table winner.	None at this time.

\* SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted. Poker room managers email [roth@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:roth@anteupmagazine.com)

# Q&A

## WITH JONATHAN LITTLE

Jonathan Little has nearly \$5 million in tournament earnings, two World Poker Tour titles and a WPT Player of the Year crown. We're proud he has joined *Ante Up* as a strategy columnist. You can find his first column on Page 40. He chatted with *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza about his career, his teaching endeavors and his disdain for playing abroad.



**Recently you had your best overall World Series (five cashes), won the \$5K Festa al Lago for \$152K, and, of course, you own a pair of WPT titles and were WPT Player of the Year in Season 6. What is your greatest poker moment?** I don't really know. I don't think I've had it yet. I try my best every time I show up and I don't really look back at stuff and say "Wow, I did good here; that was my greatest thing ever;" because I hope to do better in the future. If I had to pick one I guess I'd say the first WPT I won at Mirage, but every win is special. I try to look forward more so than back.

**Given all of your remarkable success, what would winning a WSOP bracelet mean to you?** That would not mean as much as winning a WPT title, in my opinion. ... There's like a thousand of bracelets out there, but there's only a hundred-something WPT titles. Those are clearly worth more. The general public views a bracelet as more valuable, though, which doesn't really make sense. It's kind of a factor of ESPN marketing the brand very well. So I think it's necessary to get a bracelet, but I wouldn't really view it that highly personally. But if I got the main-event bracelet that'd be like the best thing you can do, so I guess I'd have to look back at that point. (laughs)

**Does it bother you that you haven't cashed in the \$10K WSOP main event?** No, not really. To me it's kinda just like any big \$10K event, and in any \$10K event you have to run a little bit hot to get in the money. And, you know, I don't really play to cash so I'm not too concerned with just getting in the money. I'm more so concerned with getting a decent amount of chips and having a good chance to win. So if I min-cash in the main event it's not really going to mean that much to me.

**Being from Pensacola, have the recent limit changes in Florida meant any-**

**thing to you?** Not to me personally. My parents have been playing at the local dog track. There's only one place to play in Pensacola right now. I don't really live in Pensacola, and I think the biggest game they really run is \$2-\$5 no-limit, and I usually play like \$10-\$20 or \$25-\$50, so I wouldn't really make it out there to play ever. But I hope it'll be good for the game.

**Why don't you play overseas?** 'Cause it's kind of a pain to go overseas. (laughs) I know the tournaments are great over there; every time I went over there I did pretty well. But it's just really a pain to get there. Actually, now that I think about it, I've been there three times and won money every time, so maybe I should go there. (laughs) ... If I ever get three free months I might go over there for a while. But there's enough events in America to keep me pretty busy.

**You seem to have your hands in a lot of business ventures these days. Tell me about them, especially Floattheturn.com.**

Well, Float the Turn is a training site geared more toward online poker players who kinda have a decent amount of experience already. We have like 500 videos.

It's mostly a tournament and sit-n-go site, but I'm branching out now to where we'll be getting some cash-game players. ... I also have [jonathanlittlesecrets.com](http://jonathanlittlesecrets.com), which has been a huge success (and) is more so geared toward players that are playing live poker trying to transition to online. I'm also working on a project called [BankrollBuilderSeries.com](http://BankrollBuilderSeries.com) (see his column on Page 40 for more on this). I started with \$300 and I'm playing \$.05-\$.10 no-limit online and grind it up. It's

Continued on next page



# DON'T CRACK UNDER PRESSURE!

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



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

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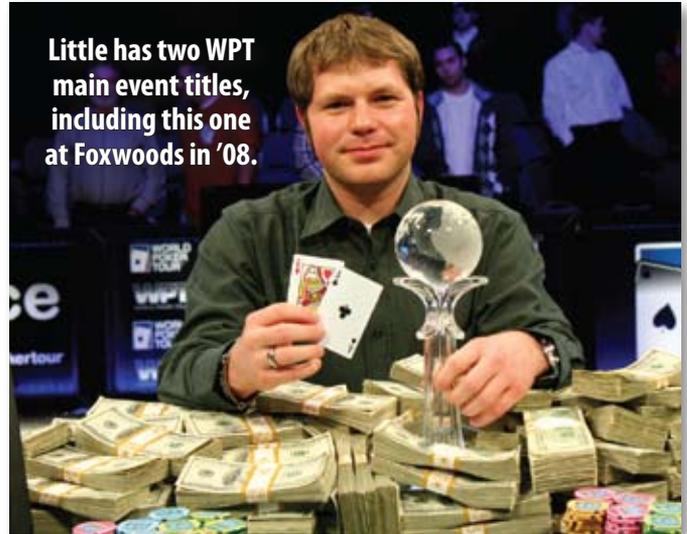
Continued from previous page

pretty swingy because I only have 30 buy-ins, so you're going to have pretty big swings like that. But it's going OK. ... I'm also writing two books, they're called the *Secrets of Professional Tournament Poker*. ... Those should be out next year some time.

**How much do you enjoy teaching poker?** I like teaching poker. It lets me give back. I know I got a lot of help when I was coming up in poker (and) probably spent \$10,000 on coaching. The best way to get good at poker is by having someone who's better than you tell you what you're doing wrong. ... If I could help someone else improve their quality of life that's great. I've taught a decent amount of people in Europe that were kinda living at the poverty level. Now they're earning a lot more money than most people where they live. It lets guys live a lot better and I don't see a problem with that.

**How would Harry Reid's now-dead bill have affected you?** I guess I would have started playing live a little bit more. ... I probably would have produced more coaching videos whenever I was not at a tournament stop. And my tournament stop would probably be slightly longer, that way I could play more cash games there. ... I really don't think it would change stuff too much. It probably would make me be able to chill out a little bit more. So maybe it's a bad thing it didn't pass. (laughs)

**Do you have any leaks outside of poker?** I used to be bad at sports-betting. I would sport-bet degenerately from time to time. That's about it. ... Whether you're winning or losing at sports-betting, whenever you're playing a tournament you don't need to be like sweating a football game or something. You need to be paying attention to poker. I



Little has two WPT main event titles, including this one at Foxwoods in '08.

was thinking about this: It's probably really profitable to play in spots where they have the TVs on, if you're not into the sport games. ... My ROI probably goes up like 10 percent when I'm not facing a TV. (laughs)

**And finally, something that's sure to be on our readers' minds: Do you get a lot of Robin Hood cracks?** Occasionally. Yeah, it gets old, (but) you gotta make people happy. If something that makes me a negative-1 in happiness but them a plus-5, I'm fine with that. (laughs)

WPT

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## FEBRUARY TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

### Multi-Table No Limit Hold'em

Mondays 12:30PM • \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry • 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15

Tuesdays 12:30PM & 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20

Wednesdays 2/2 & 2/16 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15

2/9 & 2/23 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15

Thursdays 12:30PM • \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry • 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20

Fridays 12:30PM • \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry

Saturdays 10AM • \$85 + \$15 Re-Entry

Sundays 12:30PM • \$100 + \$20

### Deep Stack Multi-Table No Limit Hold'em

Wednesdays 2/2 & 2/16 12:30PM • \$200 + \$40

2/9 & 2/23 7:30PM • \$200 + \$40

Fridays 2/4 & 2/18 7:30PM • \$355 + \$45

2/11 & 2/25 7:30PM • \$500 + \$50

### Night Owl No Limit Hold'em

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