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JANUARY 2010 | anteupmagazine.com



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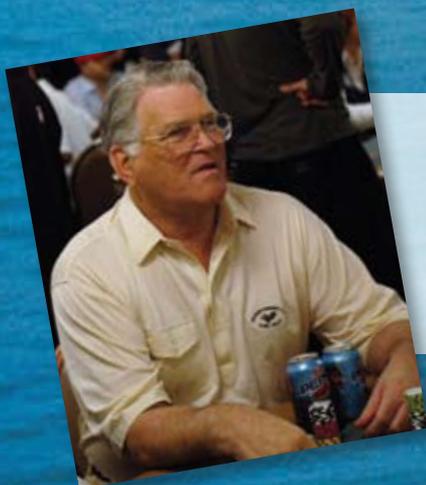
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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



GOVERNMENT NEEDS GOVERNING

Well, it looks like we're going to be stuck with ridiculous Florida poker rules and regulations a bit longer. While eternal optimists are projecting July for true no-limit poker to arrive, that possibility still is seven months away. And if we've learned anything over this past year it's that "what is past is prologue." So don't hold your breath till July.

Let's revisit some of the more egregious and hastily crafted Florida poker rules, shall we?

The \$100 max buy-in for "Texas Hold'em" no-limit cash games is the obvious choice for critiquing. What has the government accomplished over the past 2.5 years by setting this limit? In nearly every Florida poker room the tables with the most cash on them are the \$5-\$10 no-limit games. Players shove with just about any two cards with the intention of rebuying a few times to get enough cash on the table to make it a "real" \$5-\$10 game. Don't you love it when the government tries to save us from ourselves and we find a way to laugh at the politicians?

And if you look at this rule you'll see it clearly states "Texas Hold'em" for no-limit cash games. This is what happens when you have politicians (who know just enough about poker to be dangerous) sticking their noses in where they don't belong. If we close our eyes we can imagine how that conversation went down: "*No, no, no! They play Texas Hold'em on the Travel Channel, and that's what the people want. Make it say Texas Hold'em! No one will ever accuse me of being out of touch with my constituents!*"

Why didn't they have someone who was poker-educated look at the verbiage of this document? If they had substituted the word "poker" instead of "Texas Hold'em" we would at least have better games around the state. We need someone who is poker-savvy in Tallahassee, especially for when true no-limit poker gets here, but more on that later.

One of the more ludicrous rules to emerge from the 2007 legislature's attempt at giving us the "no-limit" experience was the "bet-and-three-raise rule." It states there can only be one bet and three successive raises on any given round of betting.

"For the first five or six months before we had the (state-run) workshops in Tallahassee I followed the 'bet-and-three-raise rule' until there was clarification," Isle director of poker operations Mike Smith said. "Then, when we had the workshops, I asked the (state) panel about the rule and they looked at me like I was an idiot

and said, 'It's no-limit. Of course you can raise as many times as you want.' I told them I knew that, but the regs didn't say that."

As you might suspect, turnover in poker rooms is prevalent, so these workshops wouldn't have been attended by all of the managers we have running our Florida cardrooms these days. Recently, we got involved in a tournament hand where the action raised three times, and all three raises were legitimate. When it got back to us we decided to move all-in, but the dealer told us we couldn't raise again, only call. After much discussion the floor supervisor told us indeed that was Florida law. Since it never had happened to us before, a mild protest ensued, but play resumed nicely.

It's confusion like this that proves the state's poker rooms would benefit from a "poker czar," whose rulings were clearly and consistently communicated to every manager in the state.

We get calls every week from managers wanting to try a new promotion or a new tournament. Some don't go through with their ideas because they think they can't do it, based on a previous decision from the state that may or may not be applicable. Sometimes they're lightly scolded by the state, though the language in state laws or rule-making decisions seemed clear to them (and *Ante Up*) that they should be able to do it.

And who loses because of this? The players.

These players often contact us with questions and problems, too. Why? Because *Ante Up* is the closest thing they have to an impartial authority. Obviously we don't have all of the answers, but a poker czar would. Then we could refer these calls to that office so our players and managers could get some satisfaction. It's something to consider, and we know quite a few people we think would be perfect for the job. But that's a column for another time.

Just as *Ante Up* was going to press with this issue, House Rep. Bill Galvano, who negotiates gaming legislation in that body, said the Florida House will submit a comprehensive gambling bill in the next regular session that begins in March. While it's too early to tell what that would include, it wouldn't surprise us to see the creation of a state gaming commission, which might — just might — satisfy our appetite for a poker czar.

We'll see you at the tables, and next time, please let us raise more than three times, OK?

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

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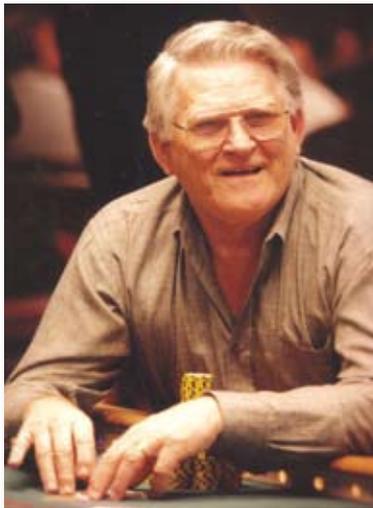
Florida goes (poker) radio ga ga

Poker radio shows, including weeklies, dailies and podcasts, are popping up all over the Sunshine State, from Jacksonville to Key West. **36**

ON THE BUTTON

T.J. is on the way

When you think of tournament poker success, you have to think T. J. Cloutier, who recently signed with DeepStacks University and will sail on the Ante Up Poker Cruise in March. Cloutier talked with *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza about teaching poker, his run-ins with the church elders, and how he came out on top of the worst bad beat in history. **53**



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Vanessa's Art of Poker

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PLAYER PROFILE: ADAM ADLER

An occasional interview with a Florida player • By Christopher Cosenza

Adam Adler was meant to play poker. His initials are A.A. 'Nuff said. But his poker achievements should come as no surprise since he's accustomed to succeeding at everything he attempts, including tennis (an All-American at South Carolina who played professionally for two years) and business (started and sold a very successful social-networking Internet company that went public in 2007). Recently he won an undercard event at the Borgata Poker Open for \$59K and finished second in a USPC event. Now he's jumping into the world of online poker room ownership. Here's a little peek into Adler's life.

Age: 26

Hometown: Ft. Lauderdale.

Schooling: Davie Academy, then University of South Carolina.

Nickname: In college, everybody called me "Double A" because of my initials. I guess my dad could tell I might need two aces to win some tournaments. (laughs)

How, and when, did you get started in poker? I started in college, and then our coach used to take us on spring-break trips to Las Vegas, so that was the first time I ever played live, during the spring-break trips. And I really liked the game. Then I came back home and bought poker books, and I studied online, like on PokerTube. I'd research all the old clips of the pros playing and I'd really try to understand why they're playing these hands and in what spots, and I'd try to get better. Then in '07 I went out the World Series just for a week and I chopped a Venetian event out there (for \$144K). ... At the end of '08 I sold most of my shares (in my online business) and I ended up playing full time.

Where do you play locally? I play most of the multitable tournaments at the Hard Rock (in Hollywood). And recently I've been playing cash. My dad bought a house in Aventura, so I've been going out to the Gulfstream a lot and playing \$5-\$10 with my dad out there.

Favorite hold'em hand: Definitely pocket aces, but if I can play in position any suited connectors 4-5 and above.

Do you play any mixed games? I love Chinese poker. But I played in a half Omaha-half hold'em cash game at the Rio. I can play mixed games, but mostly Omaha, hold'em and Chinese, and a little bit of razz.

How do you feel about online poker? I play only a little bit just to learn, just for practice honestly. I try to play live like 99 percent of the time; I don't play much online. I feel like my advantage, my edge over players, really lies in my ability to read bet-sizing tells, physical tells, my read on the players. The psychology of the game is how I'm able to have consistent results. This year, my first year playing (full time), I've won a little over \$500K in cashes, and it's all based on my reads of the players. I really can't do that online. I see my friends do it, and I admire how they do it, but I just don't feel like it's poker for me.

Tell me about your tennis career. I was playing in juniors and was in the top 10 in the country every year. And then in 2003 I got a full scholarship to play ball at the University of South Carolina and we were like top 10 in the country. We made the Sweet 16 in the NCAAs. And then when I graduated in '07 I played on the tour until my (business took off) so much that I had to stop playing.

Greatest victory on the court: I clinched against the University of Ten-

nessee at the SEC tournament. It was 3-3 in the match score and it came down to my match. We would only make it to the NCAA tournament (we hadn't missed it in 13 years) if I won. So I ended up winning 7-6. As far as the best professional (match), I beat Juan Monaco in 2005 and he's ranked in the top 20 in the world right now.

Who's tougher, the tennis player or the poker player, and why? Mentally and physically, probably the tennis player. When I was playing tournament tennis, at the level I was playing at, all the guys were just phenomenal. In poker I still see a lot more weak spots than I did see in tennis.

What's worse, getting knocked out of a tennis tournament or a poker tournament? For me right now it's definitely the poker. I take the game so seriously. I'm traveling all over now. For me, when I get knocked out it is so devastating.

You recently won an event at the Borgata Poker Open. How was that? I actually wasn't running good in my first two events. I got it all-in with aces pre-flop in the first tournament and lost, and got it all-in with kings to aces in the second one and lost that hand. I went up there and only played three events. I didn't even play the main. So I was pretty happy. I ran well. The final table was pretty

tough, so I was happy to beat those guys. I played David Baker heads-up and he has (just) over a million in earnings; he's really good.

Greatest poker accomplishment: I made the final table at a 2009 World Series event out of 2,000 players. (He finished fourth for \$162K.) All of my family got to watch. I had like 50-60 guys watching me there, and it was filmed live on ESPN 360 so my mom, my dad and my sister got to watch me play live.

What's neverfelted.com? It's a poker Web site that a bunch of my friends (started). It's a skin on the Cake Poker Network, and I'm involved in the skin as well. You can play there just like Full Tilt or PokerStars. So that's one of the next businesses I'm trying to get involved in.

What do you think of Florida players? The game is just coming out here. I think players are at a real disadvantage when they're playing the \$100 buy-in (\$5-\$10) cash games because they're playing only like 10 big blinds each. So when you're playing so short-stacked the actual skill of the game comes into play a lot less. There's a lot of shoving going on, there's not a lot of post-flop play; it's a lot more pre-flop. So I think the players in Florida have a lot more to learn in comparison to the players in Las Vegas or California or up north. The guys in Jersey are at a different level, but I think the Florida players are definitely coming up. We have some good talent here, but overall I think they're at a disadvantage.

What would true no-limit poker in Florida mean to you? If they actually get no-cap buy-in cash games down here I'm probably not going to travel very much. I'll just stay down here and play the cash because the action will just be amazing.

If you could say one thing to the Florida legislators regarding poker, what would it be? If they do research on the better players and they check out the results, the consistent results of the top guys, they'll see that poker is more skill than luck.

And I feel if they can understand the game that it's a phenomenal challenging game, and I don't really see any negatives of anybody playing poker, that they should really give everybody the opportunity to play at the highest level. And by keeping it at the smaller buy-ins that actually involves more luck than skill.





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Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood



Howard Appledorf



Christine Kirsch



Doron Malinasky

Here are the results of the Main Event tournament series at the Paradise Poker Room on Nov. 9-15. Malinasky also won the Heavyweight title in October.

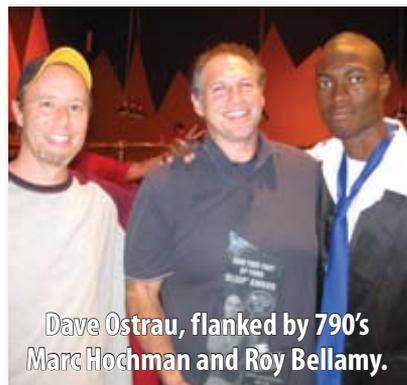
Division	Buy-in	Entries	Winner	Hometown	Prize
Middleweight	\$350	144	Christine Kirsch	Plantation	\$13,608
Cruiserweight	\$575	75	Doron Malinasky	Hollywood	\$13,123
Heavyweight	\$1,100	78	Howard Appledorf	Pembroke Pines	\$27,800

Flagler Greyhound Track



Why is Arturo all smiles and standing in front of this artwork of a heart royal flush? Well, you would too if you hit the Heart Royal Flush Jackpot at the Magic City Poker Room and won \$148,628!

Dania Jai-Alai



Dave Ostrau, flanked by 790's Marc Hochman and Roy Bellamy.

Dave Ostrau of Plantation won the monthly Dan LeBatard 790 The Ticket Celebrity event, which drew more than 220 players on Nov. 25.

The final six decided to "chop" the pot equally, giving each player \$1,026, but Ostrau was the chipleader and was awarded the tournament trophy.

Miami Poker Society



The Miami Poker Society hosted a charity event Nov. 7 for the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida at Los Ranchos restaurant at Bayside. James Payne, above, came from behind to win the event by defeating Phil Barrett in heads-up play with pocket 10s.

All In Free Poker



Here's the inaugural Hall of Fame class for All In Free Poker, inducted Nov. 7: Andy Weir, Bill Scott, Colleen Brangan, Elaine Hedleston, Greg Danver, Holly Wright, Joe Mazza, John Morrow, Rob Blum, Steven Patterson, Ted Mass and Toni Licastro.



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JANUARY 13	PRELIMINARY	\$550	2:00PM	\$50,000
JANUARY 14	SATELLITES	\$60/\$40	2:00PM	
JANUARY 14	\$50 BOUNTIES	\$150	7:00PM	\$12,000*
JANUARY 14	SATELLITES	\$60/\$40	8:15PM	
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JANUARY 16	DAY 1B	\$900	2:30PM	
JANUARY 17	DAY 2	PLAYERS FROM DAY 1A & 1B WILL BE COMBINED		
JANUARY 18	IF NECESSARY			

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This popular series drew nearly 600 entries, none more popular than the host himself, Gavin Smith. But for the second straight year it was the player Smith brought with him that stole the show. Ryan Bambrough, a friend of Smith's, won the first tournament in the series and finished third in the main event, which Filipp Khavin won. Khavin earned more than \$20K for his victory, though a couple of other players had a fine series as well, including Steve Petrovic, who chopped the \$100 second-chance tournament and cashed in Event 2. Liz Provan, who won Event 4, finished fifth in the second-chance tourney as well.



Gavin Smith, blue cap, chats it up with dealer Lacie Carter just as his main event begins.



Bambrough

EVENT 1

\$250 buy-in • 100 players

1. Bambrough, Ryan
2. Robinson, Maui
3. Kott, Jake
4. Kelleher, Bobby
5. Wolak, Marsha
6. Fullone, Glenn
7. Hatfield, Dave
8. Salisbury, George
9. Chakos, Tim
10. Allen, Steve
11. Loer, Steven
12. Atlas, Fred

EVENT 2

\$120 buy-in • 155 players

1. Rosenthal, Ian
2. Piper, Russell
3. Supa, Made
4. Weimer, Nicole
5. Maddox, David
6. Mon, Charlie
7. Petrovich, Steve
8. Andry, Lowell
9. Kesserman, Joe
10. Herman, Steve
11. Eckert, Christine
12. Flaherty, William
13. Marks, Lloyd
14. Geist, Joel
15. Meador, Rick
16. Byrd, Brittany
17. Livezy, James
18. Grewe, Tim
19. Albano, Tommy
20. Keoess, Brandon

MAIN EVENT

\$540 buy-in • 148 players

1. Khavin, Filipp
2. Fullone, Glenn
3. Bambrough, Ryan
4. Korsog, Torrey
5. Kuxhausen, David
6. Oatley, Dave
7. Johnston, Andy
8. Cournoyer, Len
9. Lavington, Michael
10. O'Connell, Dominick
11. Nguyen, Tom
12. Lawson, Jack
13. Yonker, Rich
14. Belton, Michael
15. Kirk, John
16. Lipman, Larry
17. McAvoy, Brian
18. Murphy, Adam
19. Johnson, Woody
20. Amato, Amelio

SECOND CHANCE

\$100 buy-in • 90 players

1. Petrovich, Steve
1. Patitucci, Mike
3. Rink, Mark
4. Kennedy, Joe
5. Provan, Liz
6. Hancock, Jason
7. Malisoff, Rory
8. Clark, Lee
9. Wiley, Jay

EVENT 4

\$330 buy-in • 80 players

1. Provan, Liz
1. Gregory, Kurt
3. Jaenicke, Rob
4. Johnston, Andy
5. Lu, An
6. Wolak, Marsha
7. Sundaram, Sam
8. Donald, Steve
9. Nauman, Joe
10. Kuxhausen, David



Racener



Minaya



Gordon

Some of the usual suspects showed up for the main event, including Tampa pros John Racener and Manny Minaya and Seminole pro John Gordon. ➔

A stack of red chips with white and black patterns is at the top center. To the left, a fan of playing cards shows the 10 of spades, 10 of hearts, 10 of clubs, 10 of diamonds, and the Ace of hearts. To the right, a fan of red patterned cards is visible. The background is a green felt surface with a grey line.

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PLAY HARD

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Ralph McGraw won the World Series of Poker satellite, which drew 102 players on Nov. 22. The next WSOP qualifier at Ocala Poker will be Dec. 27 at noon with a \$150 buy-in. Players get 10K chips (5K more for the optional \$10 dealer add-on) and 30-minute blinds.



All in Poker Series

John Barberic won the monthly tournament on Nov. 14 in Clermont, edging about 50 players. Barberic won a trophy, \$200 Publix gift card and a spot in the WSOP seat giveaway. He's been playing with All in Poker since the beginning of 2009 and makes a lot of final tables.



Texas Hold'em Poker Tours



Around 275 players competed in the November Central Florida Championship over Halloween weekend at the Renaissance in Orlando. Here are the results: Jason Hartley and Nick Hope chopped \$1,750 for first and second, followed by Sam Spigner (\$500), Noel Bartocci (\$250), Howard Marsee (\$150), Diana Meyer (\$125), Hazel Walters (\$125), Terry Roszell (\$100), Carla Musselman (\$100), Ray Hartley (\$75) and Carleta Wilson (\$75).

TOURNAMENTS TOURNAMENTS TOURNAMENTS

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DOC SAYS GET INSIDE THEIR HEAD, THEN THEIR WALLET

Dr. Stephen Bloomfield is a licensed psychologist with decades of experience getting into people's heads, plus he's an avid poker player who just made a Columbus Day tournament final table at Foxwoods in Connecticut (He finished sixth). Recently "Doc" became a columnist for *Ante Up* (this month's column can be found on page 46), so



Doc Bloomfield

we felt it would benefit you to learn more about him and the psychology of poker.

Can you give an overview of how poker and psychology interact together? Sure. You know everybody's talking about the psychology of poker and how important it is and how some people (feel) it's even more important than knowing the cards and knowing the odds and the probabilities. For me there are really three ways psychology and poker interact with each other.

First, there's the whole issue of you the player (and how you play). ... The second big issue is your opponent. Can you read your opponent? How is your opponent interacting? Can you pick up any tells or patterns? The third way, which is really advanced, is how do I manage the table using psychology. Part of poker is the art of deception, and part of psychology is understanding the art of deception. ... really it's just you, them and the game.

When you go to the poker room, what kind of exercises do you run through to put yourself in the right frame of mind? It's really simple. There's a transition from wherever you were to wherever you're going, so when you get to the poker room you need to start thinking about poker; you need to start thinking about what you're going to play. ... So when I get to a room, right before I sign up for a table, I'll walk around the room and start listening to the rattle of the chips and realize that I'm in the poker room. On the way to the poker room I try to think of success-oriented positive thoughts, and when I get there I do what every peak performer does, I try to attune myself to where I am.

What are some signs our opponents aren't in their right frame of mind to be playing optimally? The things that I notice most are women and men who are watching the clock. ... they're there, but they're there on a short time. They have to get home, catch the spouse, they have to do some shopping ... so you see somebody like that and you know their whole focus isn't on the table, and you can use that to your advantage. ... In the poker rooms I play most locally are dog track poker rooms, Orange Park and St. Johns (in Jacksonville). I like to watch guys who are betting the dogs. If their concentration is on the dogs then I know that their full concentration isn't at the table. The other things I count on are people taking lots of cell phone calls, business people who are getting called by their office and they have to stand up from the table. ... so they're losing their focus. Uh, people who are drinking

(laughs) I don't want to advocate that you want to see someone drinking too much, but they start playing much looser and lose focus. ... and of course the big, big issue is tilt. Any time you see someone going on tilt you gotta figure out is that bet being made because of tilt, are they playing looser or are they just playing? Are they tossing in that last short stack like a roulette bet? ... Those are the kinds of things I look at.

We all know cards don't have memory, but what can we do to convince our brain of that? It's called magical thinking. ... It's a matter of conditioning yourself and preparing yourself. You know it's going to happen. Some people call it a gambler's dilemma. We know it's random; we know that it's variance. There's this whole issue of runs. Runs are true, but they're not true because they're magical. They're true because when you win you start playing differently. You start playing more confidently. If you can get other people to think (you're) on a streak or a run, even though statistically they don't exist, perceptually they exist. So we have to rid ourselves of this gambler's dilemma-magical thinking and hope that we can instill in our opponents the same thing we want to get rid of in ourselves.

We've all been in a situation where we've played a game that we know we shouldn't have played, or played a hand that we know we shouldn't have played. What is it about the brain that makes us do things that we clearly know that we shouldn't be doing? Sometimes we overestimate our own skill or sometimes forget this is a game of variance, that's there's probabilities. We get to a place where we just know that we're gonna hit it. How many times have you seen someone stay in a hand and get runner-runner something? There's a concept in psychology called intermittent reinforcement. It's why slot machines work. If something hits predictably it doesn't get reinforced as strongly as if something hits kind of randomly but hits enough to reinforce that it's going to happen. So that's what the brain remembers. It remembers, "You know I was playing this hand and I got runner-runner diamonds, or runner-runner straight." ... We trick ourselves all the time. The only way to avoid that is to really study the game, have a study group and work on your own self and how you approach these situations so you can do some thought-blockage.

Lee Childs, Ante Up's strategy columnist, has a great slogan: Decide to win. It reminds us that we need to play with confidence. Are we able to "psych up" our brain even before we taste success? Absolutely. "Decide to win" is a great phrase. There's a whole thing in psychology called self-fulfilling prophecies. ... I once interviewed about 100 people about slot machines. It was a bus from New York City to Atlantic City and I was doing some consulting for a casino. ... We narrowed it down to two questions: What are you playing? And universally the people on the bus were going to play the slots. And the second question was: When do you leave the slot machine? And universally the answer was "When I lose all my money." (laughs) And I said wow! Their self-fulfilling prophecy didn't matter. They decided to lose. ... I would suggest Lee's slogan, or any other slogan that works for you, to literally write it down and paste it on your mirror. ... When you're feeling good, and you feel it in the zone, and you're feeling confident, the cards don't necessarily run better, but what you do with them runs better.



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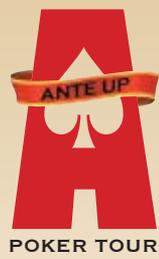
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St. Johns Greyhound Park



Orlando's Pamela Lankford wrapped up 2009 nicely. First, in September, she cashed in a \$300 no-limit hold'em event at the Gulf Coast Poker Championships at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Miss. She finished 18th for \$1,221.

Then, in November, she won the High Heels Poker Tour stop at St. Johns Greyhound Park in Jacksonville.

She pocketed \$1,755 for first place, followed by Merritt Island poker pro Jena Delk (\$975), Vivian Alkire (\$633) and Uyen Diem Pham (\$507).



Matthew Paulso took down the \$150 World Series of Poker satellite, which attracted 119 players on Nov. 8.

Results

1. Matthew Paulso	\$10K WSOP seat
2. Edie Hayes	\$3,318
3. Vivian Alkier	\$728

PENSACOLA POKER ROOM TO OPEN AT END OF MONTH

By Christopher Cosenza

It's taken about a year after county approval, but Pensacola Greyhound Track is preparing to open its poker room at the end of January.

Expansion progress had slowed in recent months after the Poarch Band of Creek Indians bought a controlling stake in the track (and one in Mobile, Ala.) in August, with the intention of someday adding slot machines. That, of course, would require statewide and local approval.

But now construction of the poker room is back on track and is being led by William Vineyard, who was named poker room manager in late November.

Vineyard, 43, is no stranger to Florida poker. He worked at the Seminole Hard Rock in Hollywood, Palm Beach Kennel Club and he made two stops at the Isle Casino at Pompano Park, which is where he last worked before landing this position. He also opened the poker room at the Island View Casino in Gulfport, Miss., and worked for the Biloxi Grand.

Vineyard said he's excited to be in charge of another poker room and relished the opportunity to start a new room.

“Every opening is a new challenge and opportunity to fine tune your operation,” he said.

Pensacola Greyhound Track general manager Nick Schlikin said the poker room is expected to be 9,000 square feet with 29 poker tables, which is an increase from the initial 15 tables Schlikin had projected last February.

And all of this can be attributed to one man: Kevin White.

After the Escambia County Commission initially voted against poker expansion in December 2008, White, the District 5 commissioner, had a change of heart and asked for a revote. On Feb. 19, 2009 he changed his vote, giving Pensacola Greyhound Track, which opened in 1946, the 3-2 edge it

needed to start a poker room, which is expected to create about 150 jobs while preserving 60-70 more at the track.

The opening of the poker room will coincide with the start of the track's live greyhound season, which begins Feb. 5.



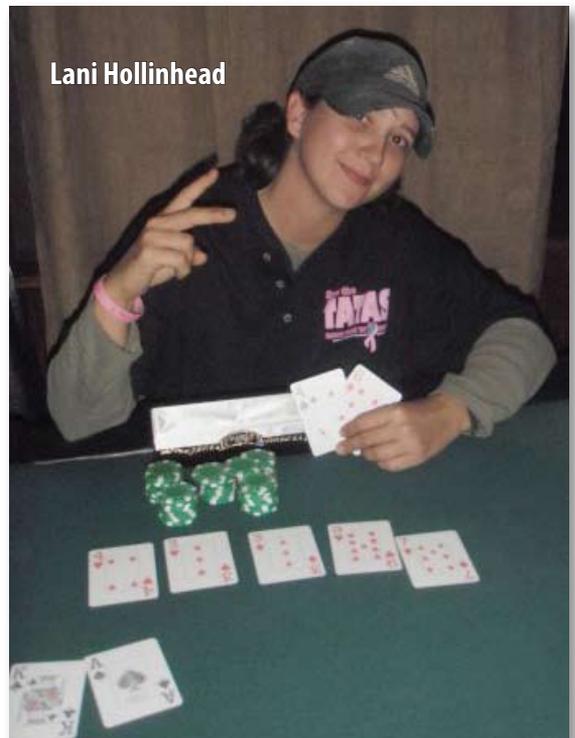
Pleasure Island Poker

Lani Hollinhead waded her way through a tough field to finish first in Pleasure Island Poker's Ladies Only "Save The Ta-Tas" tournament Nov. 7.

The free league donated 100 percent of all proceeds to Susan G. Komen For the Cure. The event was sponsored by Scully's on the Bayou and the Fort Walton Beach Flea Market. Here are the final results:

1. Lani Hollinhead
2. Patti Horton
3. Teena Fendley
4. Cathy Wenzlick
5. Nikki Kelly
6. Mary Trajano
7. Connie Brown
8. Diane Bainter
9. Melinda Hathaway
9. Pam Toney

Lani Hollinhead



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DAYTONA BEACH INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

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It's always great when a poker room introduces a new tournament series for rounders to enjoy, especially one that has a variety of games and events with great structures.

The folks at the DBKC hit a home run with their latest effort, offering hold'em, razz and PLO/8 tourneys (plus an event for veterans) in their new International series.



Joe Boulais is flanked by Mark Hayes, left, and Mike Limberis.

The inaugural Daytona Beach International Poker Tournament had it all: a week-long satellite qualifying period, razz and Omaha/Hi-Lo events, celebrity pros attending the main event and a boot camp from Vanessa Rousso (see story page 26). But it all culminated in the \$650 main event, which drew 140 players and ended Nov. 15 when Joseph Boulais of Melbourne took home \$15,000, a trophy and a bracelet.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the tournament, dealers and staff," poker room manager Mark Hayes said. "We had several professional celebrity players such as Tony Cousineau and Jena Delk who also came to compete in the event."

The prize pool was \$84,000 as places second-sixth were paid \$7K each.

Several other tournaments with big cash prizes were held during the first week, including a championship ladies event, a seniors tournament, a veterans tournament and a rare razz event, which had 40 players and such a good structure the tournament needed to be chopped seven ways at midnight as *Ante Up* publisher Chris Cosenza was one of the lucky final seven.

"We had a tournament for basically every style of play and what better location than Daytona Beach," DBKC general manager Dan Francati said.

The Sadistic Seven

That's the best way to describe the 40 players in the razz event at DBKC on Nov. 9. Razz is a seven-card stud variation in which the worst hand wins. It can be the most frustrating game at times, and that's what makes it so great. Kudos to DBKC for running this event and future razz tourneys.

At midnight, these seven players in the photo were still alive: Joshua Peets, Mike Micelli, Tony Messing, *Ante Up*'s Chris Cosenza, Joshua Wall, Jena Delk and Paul Aiello. Messing won the trophy because he had the most chips when they chopped the prize pool.





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ROUSSO'S ONE SLICK INSTRUCTOR

By Christopher Cosenza

Remember that high school teacher who threw pop quizzes at you every now and again? You always learned the most from that teacher because you didn't want to get caught off-guard and look foolish. Well, picture that, only more fun and potentially much more lucrative than junior-year biology.

Vanessa Rousso's Big Slick Boot Camp, which had toured Florida cardrooms this year, made its way to Daytona Beach Kennel Club on Nov. 10 as part of the International Tournament series. And right off the bat the 40-plus "campers" in attendance knew they were going to have to stay on their toes. Rousso, who once taught for Princeton Review on how to take the SAT and the law-school SAT, utilized the tournament clocks in the sectioned-off area in the rear of the poker room to simulate a real tourney, and she made sure everyone knew it.

"We're going to have the clocks running all day and I might ask you at any point what the blinds are or how many people are left in this tournament," she told the crowd, and then playfully remarked they better not look at the clock when she asks. The point of the exercise was to make the players know at all times their situation, regardless of the other things going on around them.

"People are people," the 26-year-old poker pro from Hobe Sound said. "I know you can't force people to listen to everything you're saying. So I try to be goofy and have fun with it, like talking about publicly flogging them if they don't get (what she's teaching). ... I find that for the most part most people are paying attention to most things that I'm saying. No one's going to hear everything I'm saying. It's impossible. I talk too damn fast. (laughs) But if they're getting the gist of most things then I'm happy."

Rousso opened up the floor for questions before the camp started so she could dedicate the entire six hours to her course, dubbed *Intro to Game Theory: The Art of Poker*. Since she spent countless hours formulating her theories and had to boil them down for this abbreviated version of her full two-day boot camp, she wanted to make sure everyone would have the chance to grasp her teachings in the allotted time.

Most professional poker camps have multiple instructors to alleviate the pressure of having to fill the entire seminar alone. Isn't it daunting to be the only teacher?

"It's two things at once," she said. "On the one hand it's hard on my voice. ... But it's really cool because I feel like I have so much information to give. I never even feel like I have enough time. So, it's like I feel like I could keep going forever with these people. As long as the day isn't longer than six hours it's doable."

When you learn about Rousso, who was the *Ante Up* cover story in April 2009, and you learn she finished her degree in Game Theory at Duke in 2.5 years, you wonder if her camp might be over your head. But that's not the case. She's very engaging when she teaches, and very hands-on. She won't move on to another subject until she knows everyone in the room comprehends what she's conveying.

"I've been teaching a long time," she said, "and you learn it takes people repetition, repetition, repetition (to grasp new concepts). It's just a fact."

Some of the topics covered included Data Collection, Pot Odds, Implied Odds, Preflop Play, Postflop Play, River Strategies, Bluffs, Key Stats, Calculating "M" and the "WE CAT PIMP" test. What's that? You'll have to take her course to find out, and you can if you're in Biloxi, Miss. on Jan. 22 at the Beau Rivage. And when you go, you'll also learn what PB RIMS are, and no, it's not *actually* peanut butter rims.

"It seems like so much, but this isn't even skimming the surface," said Rousso, who taught the camp with a bad back (likely pulled from a round of golf she said). "I could literally teach for a month straight, I'm not kidding. ... These are just the building blocks of my basic strategy."

And the campers, who paid the \$399 tuition, seemed to enjoy themselves, and the buffet afterward.

"I thought it was just awesome, very informative," Don Osterholm of Port Orange said. "The importance of the math, pot odds and learning the M. That was awesome."

For more information visit www.bigslickbootcamp.com.

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Derby Lane, Ante Up plan a free tutorial camp

Do you love poker but are intimidated by the thought of stepping foot into a poker room? St. Pete's Derby Lane and *Ante Up* want to make your cardroom experience enjoyable and comfortable.

On Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. be sure to head to the Derby Lane poker room for a free seminar on learning the ropes to playing in a public cardroom. There will be instruction at the poker tables, a tour of the facilities, Lingo 101 and proper protocol for getting into a cash game or tournament.

As part of the event there will be prizes and a fun low-buy-in tournament.

"Being a former free-league player, I can relate to the fears some



people may have when making the transition to a public poker room," *Ante Up* publisher Chris Cosenza said. "Everyone at one time or another felt intimidated at the prospect of playing away from the comforts of home. That's why this is so important. We will give players a chance to experience a poker room without intimidation and fear."

For more information please see the Derby Lane ad on Page 55.

Beaufait wins inaugural Poker Run

Here are the final standings and prizes won from the Derby Lane Poker Run: 1. Jack Beaufait, 2,754.5 (Tag Heuer watch); 2. Chris Williams, 2,627 (Ante Up cruise for two); 3. Glen Fullone 2,325 (\$500); 4. Chris Hyden, 2,191.5 (\$250); 5. Bradley Zubillaga, 2,092.5 (\$125).

Treasure Chest Poker

Doug Fletcher won the October event at Park Place, besting 120 players to win a \$500 gift card. His wife, Dawn Fletcher, also won a monthly in the past year.



BATTLE OF THE BARS: Ryan Reffelt, pictured at right with the rest of the Eddies crew, won the Battle of the Bars and a \$50 gift card, besting about 60 participants. Reffelt has won the title two months straight. The next Battle of the Bars will be Jan. 16 at Eddies Sports Bar in Largo. It will be an open-invite battle where Eddies and Azaras will compete. The individual winner will receive a \$50 gift card, their name on the trophy and a seat in the semi-annual \$1,500 World Seris of Poker seat giveaway event.



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PLAYER PROFILE: DON BARUCH

An occasional interview with a Florida player

By Garrett Roth

Family first, poker second. This is how Don Baruch describes not only how to be successful in poker, but in all aspects of life. Baruch is a Tampa resident who won Event 21, the \$1,500 no-limit hold'em shootout at the 2007 World Series of Poker, capturing nearly \$265K for his victory.

Baruch has been playing poker since his childhood and started playing seriously in 2003.

"I read every book, watched every show and started playing in all the local cardrooms," Baruch said, using all resources necessary to improve his game exponentially, especially how to dominate single-table tournaments. These days you'll most likely find this Hard Rock Tampa regular following the highest stakes' tournaments in the Tampa Bay area.

Baruch, who recently finished fourth in an undercard PLO event in Biloxi, Miss., says he entered 2007 WSOP with the intention of playing well and finding his strengths. He came away with a suitcase full of cash and a gold bracelet. He defeated a field of 900 runners and a final table that saw the likes of top pros Erick Lindgren and Daniel Negreanu.

"There are a lot of good things that came out of my win," Baruch said, "but there's a dark side to everything. Ultimately, it's still gambling."



Baruch and his family

Since Baruch won one of the most coveted prizes in poker, he has the experience and insight to give advice to fellow players.

"It's very common to think you're the best player in the world after a big win. It can cost tens of thousands of dollars to figure out the reality. Find out what you're good at and realize that there are very few players who can play both cash games and tournaments. It's rare to see a guy like Phil Ivey, the 'Tiger Woods of Poker,' who can play every variation at any stake."

Baruch, who owns a mediation business, Final Table Mediation, uses his negotiation and persuasive skills to dissect his opponents at the poker table.

"I try to find the motivation of a particular player," he said. "Are they there because they want to waste time or are they there because they really want to win?"

He talks a lot at the table to figure out what opponents (or clients) really want in a certain situation.

But Baruch switched his focus from the felt to his family after he won his bracelet.

"I'm a father, first and foremost," he said when asked if he played Internet poker. "Online poker can get obsessive and compulsive and it takes away from my family time. I can at least schedule live poker around my family and my work schedule."

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“Miami” John Cernuto and John Womack grab United States Poker Championships titles



“Miami” John Cernuto

He may live in Las Vegas now, but his name says it all: “Miami” John Cernuto. The former Floridian, who has three WSOP bracelets, took down the U.S. Poker Championships \$560 Omaha/8 title Nov. 12, besting 88 players for a \$16K payday. Joe Fleming of Clearwater Beach finished eighth (\$1,558).

Cernuto, a retired air-traffic controller, also finished third in Event 14, a \$560 NLHE tourney, good for \$6,550. Earlier in the month he placed second in a Foxwoods undercard event.

John Womack of Lauderdale won the \$340 stud event, besting 36 players to pocket \$4,995.

In the \$340 PLO-rebuy event, Susan M. Foster of Land O’Lakes placed fourth (\$1,100). Foster is a grandmother who plays online and says this was her “first big live tournament.”

Ft. Lauderdale’s Adam Adler (who is profiled on Page 12) just missed winning Event 19, a \$1,080 NLHE tournament that had 79 entries. He finished second (\$15,800). Timothy “Capt. Tim” Morgan of Pompano Beach was seventh (\$3,555). Morgan was a commercial diver for 20 years before retiring to become a semi-pro poker player.

Adler also finished 18th (\$892) in the \$560 NLHE Event 18.

Foxwoods World Poker Finals: For a while it looked as though Florida

could have multiple players at the Nov. 10 final table of this WPT main event, but as the 353-player field dwindled, so did any hope of a Floridian winning. The cashers list read like a who’s who of Sunshine State talent as Adam Levy, Michael “The Grinder” Mizrachi and Jason Mercier all were a threat to take down the title. Levy, who just recently moved to L.A. but lived in Orlando for years, finished ninth (\$66,438). Miramar’s Mizrachi was 11th (\$46,499) and Davie’s Mercier grabbed 21st place (\$26,571). First place, won by Cornel Cimpan of Texas, paid \$910K from a \$3.3 million prize pool.

Another Davie resident, Uri Kadosh, was declared winner of the Special \$1K Survivor event. The final five made a deal and Kadosh pocketed almost \$10,500 after besting 38 players and having the final chip lead. In a different \$1K NLHE event, **Gene Bauerlein** of St. Pete finished fifth for \$6,144. Naples’ Dale Phillips was 15th in a \$400 event (\$2,175) followed by Wellington’s William Stanton (58th, \$786). Oviedo’s Nicholas Pillat was 15th (\$2,300) in a \$500 event and James English of Tamarac was 14th in the \$400 LHE event (\$911). Cernuto was second (\$9,219). John Dolan (Bonita Springs) and Brian Hawkins (Ft. Myers) were 10th and 11th, respectively, in the \$2,500 NLHE event, each receiving \$5,871.

Borgata \$500K Deep Stack: Mizrachi made his way down I-95 to New Jersey for the \$1,650 event that had 607 entries. He finished 34th for \$3,460. The highest Florida finisher was Nicos Ktori of Miami Beach (27th, \$4,097). William Beasley of Hollywood was 47th (\$2,549).

WSOP Circuit – Harvey’s Lake Tahoe: Jonathan D. Westra of Gainesville played in the \$340 NLHE event and cashed 13th (\$676).

L.A. Poker Open: St. Pete’s David Tuthill placed ninth (\$1,213) in a \$1,065 undercard event at the Commerce Casino.



Cernuto photo courtesy of USFPC

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

Race for the Bracelet

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

1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach	5,100
2. Luis Cristobal, Coral Gables	2,675
3. Ken Basilio, Ft. Lauderdale	2,575
4. Tomas Singson, Orange Park	2,500
5. Jay Roden, Estero	2,350
6. Mitchell Abrahams, Miami	2,075
7. Robert Beyra, Hollywood	2,000
8. Glen Blumberg, Alachua	1,800
9. Carleen Heath, Belleview	1,700
10. Matt Ridley, Jupiter	1,700
11. Ronnie Browne, Gainesville	1,700
12. Peter Nadeau, Gainesville	1,625
13. Steve Mitchell, St. Augustine	1,500
14. Alberto Dominguez, Hollywood	1,500
15. Brian Capobianco, Tampa	1,400
16. Scott Long, Safety Harbor	1,350
17. Glenn Fullone, St. Petersburg	1,300
18. Manny Leone, Palm Springs	1,300
19. Raymond Witt, Lake City	1,300
20. Luis Deguzman, West Palm Beach	1,250
21. Eugene Link, Cocoa Beach	1,250

Upcoming events

- Dec. 26: Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai, 2p, \$100
 - Dec. 26: Hard Rock Hollywood, 11a, \$1,100
 - Dec. 26: Palm Beach K.C., 1p, \$200 (10K units)
 - Dec. 26: Isle Casino, 2p, \$720
 - Dec. 26: Sarasota Kennel Club, 6:30p, \$100
 - Dec. 27: Derby Lane, 1p, \$100
 - Jan. 2: Dania Jai-Alai, 12:30p, \$150
 - Jan. 2: Seminole Immokalee, 4p, \$225 (\$1K added)
 - Jan. 3: Palm Beach Princess, 10a, \$100
 - Jan. 9: Calder Race Course, 11a, \$100 (\$5K guar)
 - Jan. 12: Isle Casino, 2p, \$330 (\$30K guar.)
 - Jan. 10: Palm Beach K.C., 1p, \$120 (\$10K guar.)
 - Jan. 15: Orange Park K.C., 7:30p \$100
 - Jan. 16: Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai & Poker, 3p, \$150
 - Jan. 16: Gulfstream Park, 6:30p, \$150
 - Jan. 16: Naples-Ft. Myers, noon, \$225
 - Jan. 17: Tampa Bay Downs, 1p, \$350
 - Jan. 21: Mardi Gras, 6:30p, \$100
 - Jan. 23: Melbourne Greyhound, 2p, \$120
 - Jan. 23: Hard Rock Tampa, 10a, \$100
 - Jan. 30: Hard Rock Hollywood, 11a, \$1,100
 - Jan. 30: Sarasota Kennel Club, 6:30, \$100
 - Jan. 31: Derby Lane, 1p, \$100 (10K chips)
 - Jan. 31: St. Johns Greyhound Park, 4p, \$100
- Updated schedule at anteupmagazine.com/tour

NOVEMBER RESULTS

CALDER RACE COURSE

- NOV. 14**
1. Michael Leiba, Miramar
 2. Gaetano Bianchi, Dania
 3. Livan Gonzalez, Miami
 4. Gary Johnson, Pembroke Pines
 5. Joshua Gerzog, Miami
 6. Ivan Demoya, Miami Lakes
 7. Nigel Murray, Miami Gardens
 8. Shurland George, Miramar
 9. Spyder McCarthy, West Palm Beach
 10. Danny Puccio, Pembroke Pines

DANIA JAI-ALAI

- NOV. 7**
1. Guillermo Hamilton, Miami
 2. Davis Weaver, Ft. Lauderdale
 3. Marie Gendile, Ft. Lauderdale
 4. Juan Mubarak, Miami Lakes
 5. Tom Baldwin, Sunny Isle Beach
 6. Javier Savache, Hollywood
 7. Mark Burnam, Ft. Lauderdale
 8. Jerry Roth, Plantation
 9. Geral Bain, Ft. Lauderdale
 10. Shelly Tarik, Hallandale

DERBY LANE

- NOV. 29**
1. Gina Demeo
 2. Bruce Berarducci
 3. Suzanne Gendrot
 4. Woody Johnson
 5. Dale Wagner
 6. Patrick Wileman
 7. Jack Wileman
 8. Doug Bahringer
 9. Declined points
 10. Declined points

EBRO GREYHOUND PARK

- NOV. 1**
1. Ronnie Mapes
 2. Brad Gwin
 3. Fred Smith
 4. Frank Owens
 5. Keith Clark
 6. Allen Reynolds
 7. Terry Darnell
 8. Ray Young
 9. Spence Bonjern
 10. Crosby Stein

FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER

- NOV. 21**
1. Anthony Ramos, Port St. Lucie
 2. Nabil Hamad, Sebastian
 3. Michael Ludovico, Port St. Lucie
 4. L.C. Sevakis, Vero Beach
 5. Vincent Mack, Palm Bay
 6. Lanette Keil, Vero Beach
 7. Tony Mosley, Ft. Pierce
 8. John Gould, Ft. Pierce
 9. Ray Conrad, Micco
 10. Alejandro Deleon, Jupiter

GULFSTREAM PARK

- NOV. 21**
1. Luis Cristobal, Coral Gables
 2. Charlemagne Benjamin, Miami Gardens
 3. Eric Kolodny, Miami
 4. Richard Vargas, Aventura
 5. Declined points
 6. Declined points
 7. Joseph Lachkovich, Miami
 8. Oscar Pipel, Sunny Isles Beach
 9. Declined points
 10. Peggy Penning, Miami



The final table at Ocala (with the Ante Up boys).

ISLE CASINO

- NOV. 23**
1. Zvi Shiff, North Miami
 2. Howard Appledorf, Pembroke Pines
 3. Richard Lenoble, Coral Springs
 4. Richard Rice, Ft. Lauderdale
 5. Luis Deguzman, West Palm Beach
 6. Ronny Barak, Deerfield Beach
 7. Richard Stebnicki, Munson, Ohio
 8. Michael Freer, Davie
 9. Declined points
 10. Declined points

OCALA POKER & JAI-ALAI

- NOV. 21**
1. Eugene Link, Cocoa Beach
 2. Glen Blumberg, Alachua
 3. B.J. Johns, Lacrosse
 4. Drew Luker, Gainesville
 5. Don Graham, Gainesville
 6. Jonah Goolsby, Gainesville
 7. Cheryl Miller, Gainesville
 8. James Paladino, Gainesville
 9. Miguel Jamerson, Gainesville
 10. Barbara Aucoin, Belleview

ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB

- NOV. 20**
1. Eli Gomez, Jacksonville
 2. Josh Brinkley, Jacksonville
 3. Mike Depasquale, St. Augustine
 4. Ryan Heethius, Jacksonville
 5. Pete Morgan, Orange Park
 6. Robin Ulrey, Jacksonville
 7. Rob Anderson, Orange Park
 8. Declined points
 9. Declined points
 10. Jimmie Freeman, Jacksonville

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB

- NOV. 28**
1. Adam Joy, North Palm Beach
 2. Dave Felger, Lantana
 3. Eddy Thompson, Palm Beach Lakes
 4. Ismael Delgado, West Palm Beach
 5. Richard Ramsey, West Palm Beach
 6. Jeff Charlton, West Palm Beach
 7. Declined points
 8. Declined points
 9. Declined points
 10. Declined points

PALM BEACH PRINCESS CASINO

- NOV. 1**
1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach
 2. Matt Ridley, Jupiter
 3. Larry Powell, Palm Beach Gardens
 4. Manny Leone, West Palm Beach
 5. Howard Steinberg, Ft. Lauderdale
 6. Luis Cristobal, Coral Gables
 7. Ariel Williams, Miami
 8. Declined points
 9. Declined points
 10. Declined points

SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB

- NOV. 28**
1. Matt Figlesthaler
 2. John Flynn
 3. Judy Arnold
 4. John Watson
 5. Jenna Oser
 6. Walter Behrman
 7. Randy Oser
 8. Chris Gaffner
 9. Mark Mackey
 10. Laura Shelton

SEMINOLE IMMOKALEE

- NOV. 7**
1. Coskun Yalcin
 2. Richard Rentz
 3. Adam Scholten
 4. Amos Mitchell, Naples
 5. William Burn, Lehigh
 6. Jim Millis, Ft. Myers
 7. Paul Chin, Ft. Myers
 8. Declined points
 9. Declined points
 10. Declined points

ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK

- NOV. 15**
1. Tomas Singson, Orange Park
 2. Lee Bradley, Jacksonville
 3. Pablo Ortiz, Jacksonville
 4. Royal Hamilton, Jacksonville
 5. Jimmy Henry, Birmingham, Ala.
 6. Declined points
 7. Declined points
 8. Declined points
 9. Declined points
 10. Declined points

TAMPA BAY DOWNS

- NOV. 15**
1. Chris Gunter
 2. Mel Perez
 3. Happ Nakhone
 4. Eric Moffett, Tampa
 5. Jim Larsen
 6. Marc Lowe
 7. Michael Nikitas
 8. Declined points
 9. Mike Parisi
 10. Steve Trizis



The Ante Up Poker Tour champion will win a cover story in *Ante Up*, an interview on the Ante Up PokerCast and a custom bracelet from Madison Jewelers. If you see any mistakes or omissions please let your poker room manager or tournament director know. Or you can feel free to contact us at editor@anteupmagazine.com.



Hi! I'm Angie!

I have been unanimously voted your "Go To Girl" for Club 52. I am here to help you get what YOU want out of your Club 52 experience. In January, email me your suggestions.

I will pick the best one of the month, and if it's yours, you will receive \$100.00! Shoot me an email with your suggestions at angie@MGPark.com.



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FLORIDA CARD ROOMS

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
CALDER RACE COURSE Phone: (305) 625-1311 www.calderracecourse.com/poker	Daily (\$40-\$350), including \$7K guarantee on Mondays (\$150, 8p, 6K units, \$50 bounties) SNGs: Turbos \$40-\$300; standard \$500-\$800.	Royals pay \$500 (and double if you flop it) and Mega Bad beat is any quads; mini is aces full of jacks.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 9 (\$100, 11a, \$5K guar, 6K chips). Aces cracked (9a-noon) \$250, but red aces \$500.
DANIA JAI-ALAI Phone: (954) 927-2841 www.dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (\$25-\$150), including an Omaha/8 deep-stack the first Sun. of every month, 3p (\$100). SNGs: \$30 or \$50 between 2-5 p.m.	High hands pay \$50 hourly 1-8p; royals \$500 (Omaha \$250). Bad beats paid in cash games only.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 2 (\$150, 12:30p). Free drinks for all cash game players.
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (386) 252-6484 www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily, including Wed. Ladies (\$25) at 1 p; Sat. deepstack (\$225, 2p) and PLO/8 (\$65, 7p). SNGs: \$40-\$220.	Check Web site for details on high hands and bad beats, including the NL \$100K Bad Beat Countdown.	World Series of Poker Main Event satellite, Jan. 10, (\$150, 1p, 10K chips, 25-minute blinds).
DERBY LANE Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7 www.derbylanepoker.com	Daily, (1p, 4p and 7p Su-Th and 2p, 6p and 8p F-Sa), including the 535, which is the third Friday of every month (\$535, Jan. 15, 6p).	Royals pay \$250 (\$500 in spades); Fri. (6p-2a & Sat. all day) \$500 High Hand Forceouts every 30 minutes.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 31 (\$100, 1p); Poker 101 free seminar, Jan. 6, 6p (see ad Page 55).
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (850) 234-3943 www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Big Stack Sundays, (\$100, 2p); Ebro Poker Academy, Tue. & Sat., (\$10, 7p, free class at 6:30p); Wednesday Rebuy (\$30 w/\$20 rebuys, 7p).	Royal flushes and two high hands per day. The bad beat is quad deuces.	Super Bonus Day on New Year's Eve means cash giveaways. Call for more details.
FLAGLER GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (305) 649-3000 www.flaglerdogs.com	Sundays, low-rake bounty event (\$40, 1p). Monday night is a \$75 NLHE event (7p). SNGs: \$65-\$800	High hands pay \$150 all day; non-heart royals win \$1K, heart progressive (see Web site for details).	\$500 progressive hot table paid at 3p & 9p; Big Slick Royal was \$125K at press time (see Web site).
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (772) 464-7500 www.jaijai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$100, 6:30p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). Deepstack third Sat. every month (\$150, 3p). SNGs: (Thu.-Sat., \$65-\$110)	Bad beats are aces full of queens in hold'em (\$43K at press time), quads in stud and quad jacks in Omaha.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 16 (\$150, 3p). See Web site for list of new promotions.
GULFSTREAM PARK Phone: (954) 457-6336 www.gulfstreampark.com	Daily, (\$60-\$150, 6:30p), including bounties M-W-F, plus the Saturday Special, (\$150, 8K units). SNGs: \$60-\$120 (10 players, pays three spots).	Bad beat: aces full of jacks; Hourly high hands, M-F, 2-10p, starting at \$250 (\$500 4p & 6p); royals are \$500	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 16 (\$150, 6:30p, 8K units); \$50K Cash is King series (See ad, Page 13).
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (800) 941-4841 www.hamiltondownsjaijai.com	Super Bounty Sunday (\$35, \$10 bounties, 100-player cap, 2p); Rake Break Saturday (\$40, no rake, 5p, 2K chips, \$20 add-on gets 2K more)	Hearts royal pays \$6,030, mini royal pays \$603. Bad beat is aces full of kings and pays \$5K.	NFL Football Fever: \$50 for safety, \$25 KO returned for TD, \$20 INT for TD. Details on Web site.
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 www.theislepompanopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$720), including bounty events (T, Th, Sa. & Su., 7p) and \$10K guarantee Tuesdays (\$230, 2p, 13K chips, 30-min. blinds). SNGs: \$60-\$225	\$100 High Hand Giveaway (Call for details on this and other jackpots).	Isle Poker Classic, Jan 12-18 (See ad Page 15); OJ McDuffie Catch 81 charity event, Jan. 26, (\$500, 6p).
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB Phone: (850) 997-2561 www.jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., \$50 (2K chips and 15-minute blinds)	Royal flushes win jackpot.	
MARDI GRAS GAMING Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167 www.playbigaspoker.com	Deepstack Thursdays, (\$100, 6:30p), players receive 10K chips but can get 5K more for \$40 add-on. SNGs: \$25-\$110.	High hands, \$100 hourly, 8a-2a. See ad on Pages 4-5 for more promotions and giveaways.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 21 (\$100, 6:30p); New rewards card offers specials for players.
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (321) 259-9800 www.mgpark.com	Daily, (\$65-\$120), including Saturday Super Stack (\$120, 2p, 10K chips) and the Sunday 150 (\$65, 1p, 2,500 chips). SNGs: All day, buy-ins vary.	Bad beat is only in hold'em and requires aces full of jacks be beaten by quads or better.	High hands can spin the wheel for cash. (See ad Page 33) Also Wed. is Ladies Night at Club 52.
MIAMI JAI-ALAI Phone: (305) 633-6400 www.miamijaijai.net	Saturdays (\$20, 3p), 2K chips. Players get 1K more chips for \$5 dealer token, unlimited \$20 rebuys in first hour for 2K chips, \$20 add-on gets 3K chips).	Progressive royals and rolling quads progressive; \$100 high hand every hour. See site for more info.	If you win three high hands in one day you'll get paid an extra \$500.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT Phone: (877) 242-6464 www.miccosukee.com	Fridays (\$65, 8p). Super Saturday no-limit hold'em tournament (\$65, 8p) gets you 3K chips.	Spade royal flush pays \$53K as of press time.	
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (239) 992-2411 www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Sun. bounty (\$125, 2p); Mon. (\$65, 7p); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed., (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & 7p); Fri. (\$65, 7p). Deepstack is third Sat. of month, (\$225, noon).	High hands, \$250 every two hours; royals pay \$1K in all suits except diamonds, which pays \$5K.	AUPT, Jan. 16 (\$225, noon, 10K chips); \$500 progressive hot table starts Dec. 25 (call for details).
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI Phone: (352) 591-2345 www.ocalapoker.com	Daily (\$30-\$500) SNGs: (\$45-\$500)	See Web site for continuously updated information on high hands and bad beats (quads).	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 30 (\$100, 2p); WSOP Main Event satellite, Jan. 16 (\$150, 2p).
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150), but Mega Stack (Jan. 2, 2p), is \$225, which gets you 10K chips and 30-minute blinds.	Royals \$250 (spades \$500); Bad beats for mini and full. See Web site for details.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 15 (\$100, 7:30p). Chad Brown NLHE Championship, Jan. 30 (\$880, 1p).
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (561) 683-2222 www.pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120), noon & 6:30p Sun-Thurs.; 1 & 6:30 Fri.-Sat. New weekly guarantees, structures and larger chip stacks. See Web site for details.	Visit Web site or call for information on daily high hands and bad beat payouts and qualifications.	Winter Classic (Jan. 2-10, see ad Page 22). Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 10 (\$120, 1p, \$10K guarantee).
PALM BEACH PRINCESS CASINO Phone: (561) 818-5771 www.palmbeachprincess.com	Wed. (\$30+\$5+\$5 token, 6:30p); Thurs. (free, \$300 prize pool, 6:30p); Fri. (\$50, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 6:30p). SNGs: \$40, \$60, \$100	\$600 high hand, Jan. 22 (7p cruise), no minimum number of players required.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 3 (\$100, 10a). Free food-drinks-boarding for qualified players.
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054 www.skcpoker.com	Daily, plus Fri. (\$100, 1p, 25K chips, 25-minute blinds); Sat. \$12K guar. with min. of 10 spots paid (\$230, 3:30p). SNGs: \$35-\$300.	High hands \$599 Fri. & Sat.; progressive jackpots in all games. Bad beat is quad sixes (\$135K).	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 30 (\$100, 6:30p).

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

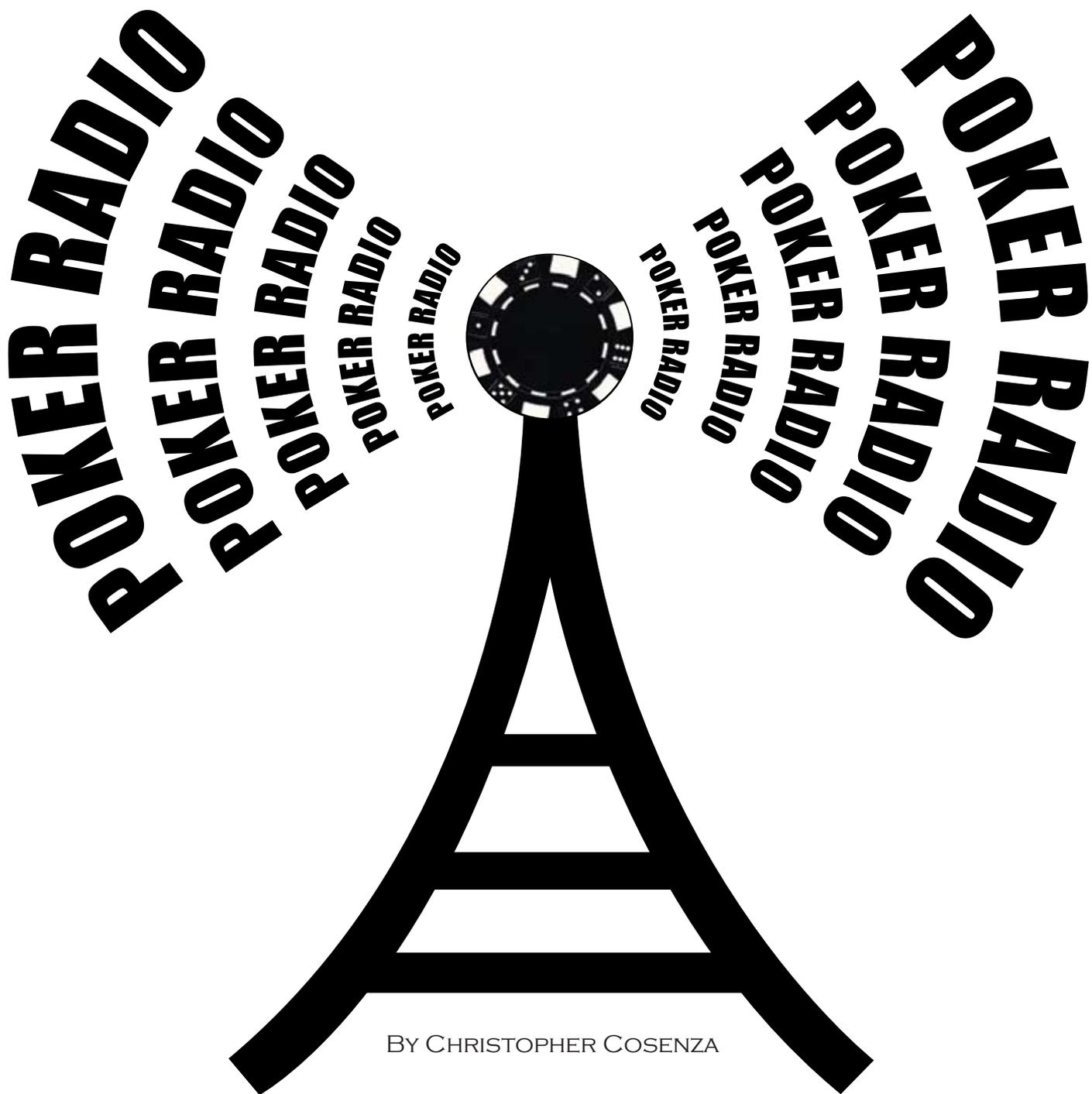
FLORIDA CARD ROOMS

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON Phone: (866) 222-7466 ext. 121 www.seminolecasinobrighton.com	Only on Mondays and Wednesdays, (\$20, 6:30p) with an optional add-on. SNgs: \$25, \$65, \$110.	Quad aces (\$50), straight flushes (\$100), royals win min. of \$1K. Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$146K).	Mondays, Cold Cash Drawings every other hour 2-10p; Thursdays, aces cracked (5p-9p) wins \$100.
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	Friday bounty (\$150, 7:30p), bounties are \$50 and players start with 8K chips and 20-minute blinds. SNgs: \$55, \$85, \$135.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s) was \$146K at press time.	See Web site for details or call poker room for current offers.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Daily (\$75-\$1,100), including the Big Slick & Main Event. More than 15 guarantee events in January (check site for dates, times). SNgs: \$60-\$1,050.	High hand (10a-midnight) \$50, plus \$100 entry into a specified event. Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$146K).	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 30 (\$1,100, 11a); Poker rewards pay up to \$1/hour with player card.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$100-\$550). Also, New Year's Eve (\$777, 10a) 15K chips, 45-minute blinds, \$30K guaranteed for first place. SNgs: \$125-\$1,075.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s) was \$146K at press time.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 23 (\$100, 10a).
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com	SNgs: \$50-\$100 and are now jackpot eligible.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s) was \$146K at press time.	In-house bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads. Starts at \$2,500, capped at \$10K.
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 7p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p); Sun. (\$115, 7p, 10K chips, 20-minute blinds).	Mega-Bad Beat (quads 10s, \$146K), plus Immokalee players get \$100 if Mega hits at any Seminole room.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 2 (\$225, 4p, \$1K added and winner receives Ante Up cruise package for two).
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150), plus a \$330 Mega Stack (Jan. 16, 1p, 20K chips, 30-minute blinds).	Royals \$250 (spades \$500); Bad beats for mini (\$1K) and full. See site for details.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 31 (\$100, 4p).
SUNCRUZ — PORT CANAVERAL Phone: (321) 799-3511 www.suncruzcasino.com	No-limit hold'em tournaments, \$115. SNgs: \$40-\$60.	\$1K high hand, Jan. 16 & Jan. 20 (7p cruises) with 4-table min. requirement.	Call poker room for details or visit Web site for more information.
TAMPA BAY DOWNS Phone: (813) 298-1798 www.tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$540), including new Double Mega Stack (20K chips) on Tue. and Thurs. at 12:30p. SNgs: \$60-\$535.	Quads (\$25 & satellite ticket), straight flushes (\$20 & sat. ticket), royals pay \$200 & sat. ticket.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Jan. 17 (\$350, 12:30p, \$10K for first); \$300 giveaway every 15 mins. on Dec. 24.
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (813) 932-4313 www.luckycards.com	Daily (\$45-\$200), at 1p and 6:30p. SNgs: \$65-\$500 on the weekends.	Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$599). Spade royal progressive. Call for more details.	Friday Bounty (\$150, 7:30p, 8K chips, 20-minute blinds). Aces cracked noon-2p pays \$100.

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH*

- CALDER RACE COURSE:** \$80K Racing to Quads (Call poker room for details). Plus, a no-limit Omaha event Fridays at 8p (\$100, 6K chips).
- DANIA JAI-ALAI:** Omaha/8 deepstack tournament the first Sunday of every month (Jan. 3) at 3p for \$100.
- DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB:** WSOP Main Event qualifier will be Jan. 10 at 1p. The \$150 buy-in will get you 10K chips, 25-minute blinds.
- DERBY LANE:** Poker 101, a free seminar hosted with *Ante Up Magazine* to help with first-timers visiting a poker room, Jan. 6, 6p; see ad Page 55.
- EBRO GREYHOUND PARK:** Super Bonus Day on New Year's Eve.
- FLAGLER GREYHOUND TRACK:** The Big Slick Progressive Royal Jackpot reached \$125K at press time. Call poker room for details.
- FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER ROOM:** Deepstack tournament is third Saturday of the month (Jan. 16., \$100, 3p) and is a designated AUPT event.
- GULFSTREAM PARK:** Hourly high hands, M-F, 2-10p, starting at \$250 (\$500 4p & 6p). Plus, \$50K Cash is King tournament series; see ad Page 13.
- HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER:** "First to Hit" promo pays \$100 to first straight flush, Monday-Friday, opening till 7p. More payoffs on their Web site.
- ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK:** Poker Classic (Jan. 11-18, ad on Page 15 has buy-ins, schedule). Also, qualifying for \$15K Feb. freeroll. Call for details.
- JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB:** Royal flushes now will win a jackpot.
- MARDI GRAS GAMING:** On Fat Tuesdays, Big Easy Bonus Hours pay double all day. See ad on Pages 4-5 for more details.
- MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK:** 300-player event, Jan. 16, 2p (\$65, 3K units). Plus, Championship Hold'em Series of Brevard; see ad Page 33 for info.
- MIAMI JAI-ALAI:** \$3,000 guarantee, Jan. 1, 3p, \$20 buy-in. Rebuys allowed during first four levels, plus one add-on after the rebuy period.
- MICCOSUKEE RESORT:** Royal flush jackpot was \$53K at press time.
- NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK:** On Dec. 30, high hands pay \$1,000 an hour from 1-10 p.m. Plus, NEW stop for AUPT, Jan. 16, \$225, noon.
- OCALA POKER & JAI-ALAI:** WSOP satellite, Jan. 16, 2p, \$150 (10K chips, \$10 add-on for 5K more). WPT Beau Rivage satellite, Jan. 2, 2p.
- ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB:** Inaugural Chad Brown No-Limit Hold'em Championship, Jan. 30, 1p. \$880, 20K chips, 30-minute blinds, see ad Page 19.
- PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB:** The Winter Classic (Jan. 2-10) has eight events, including \$50K guarantee Jan. 9 for \$500, 1p; see ad Page 22 for schedule.
- PALM BEACH PRINCESS CASINO:** \$600 high hand, Jan. 22 (evening cruise), no minimum number of players in the poker room required.
- SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB:** \$12K guar. Saturdays (3:30p) with min. 10 spots paid. \$230 buy-in gets 10K chips, 40-min. blinds. \$10 add-on = 5K more chips.
- SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON:** Cold Cash Drawings on Mondays every other hour from 2-10p.
- SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK:** Friday bounty tournament (\$150, 7:30p), bounties are \$50. Players start with 8K chips and 20-minute blinds.
- SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD:** Crazy Cash, Jan. 15-16 from 11a-8p win additional \$500 (no-limit) or \$250 (limit) for the hourly high hands.
- SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA:** Joins the Ante Up Poker Tour, holding its \$100 event Jan. 23 at 10a.
- SEMINOLE CASINO HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC:** Single-table tournaments, which are now \$50-\$100, have become jackpot eligible..
- SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE:** Winner of the Jan. 2 AUPT event (\$225, 4p) also receives an Ante Up cruise package for two; see ad Page 28.
- ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK:** The \$330 Mega Stack will be Jan. 16 at 1p. Players get 20K chips and 30-minute blinds.
- SUNCRUZ — PORT CANAVERAL:** \$1K high hand, Jan. 16 & Jan. 20 (evening cruises) with four-table minimum requirement.
- TAMPA BAY DOWNS:** Hosts two NO RAKE multitable tournaments (12:30p & 6:30p) on Mondays. Call for details or see ad Page 23.
- TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK:** Friday bounty tournament (7:30p) features a \$150 buy-in, 8K chips and 20-minute blinds.

* Please call the poker room to confirm, and ask for hours of operation, games spread, details, rules and limitations. Promotions and specials are subject to change.



BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA

WHETHER IT'S DRIVE-TIME, AFTER HOURS, OR AN INTERNET PODCAST, FLORIDA IS ONE OF THE NATION'S LEADERS WHEN IT COMES TO PRODUCING AUDIO-ONLY POKER SHOWS. HERE'S A LOOK AT SOME OF THE BETTER ONES BROADCASTING IN THE SUNSHINE STATE.

THE POKER ROOM RADIO SHOW



HOW IT STARTED: Players often would ask Josh Zuckerman about tells, pot odds or even outside sources for playing tips. That's when he realized the need for their show, so a partnership with 1010XL Jax Sports Radio was formed and the program debuted in March 2008. The show is produced live at the studio but also broadcasts on location at the St. Johns and Orange Park poker rooms during special events, such as quarterly 1010XL-promoted tournaments or the annual Gator Bowl Charity Tournament.

THE TALENT: The show uses a multi-host format, which Zuckerman says allows for spirited discussions and contrasting views of the game.

- Poker aficionado Jeff Prosser, an Emmy-winning sports journalist at 1010XL, is the host. A University of Florida grad, Prosser has been a member of the Jacksonville sports media for nearly 20 years.
- Ray "Rocket" Walsh has been dealing poker for more than five years (he was part of the original staff at St. Johns) and is known as the "Radio Voice of North Florida Poker."
- Alan "The Floorman" Lutz, a one-time Cape Codder, has been playing poker since he was old enough to hold a deck.
- Zuckerman, a.k.a. The Judge, is director of poker operations for the Orange Park and St. Johns poker rooms. He's played poker all his life and has spent his entire career in the industry.

AUDIENCE: The show is broadcast live Thursdays, 7–8 p.m. on 1010XL-AM (It's repeated on Saturdays) and can reach more than 1 million listeners in North Florida and South Georgia. You can also pick up the show through a live stream on 1010XL.com or listen through on-demand access at www.jaxpokerroom.com/PokerShow.asp.

WHAT'S SPECIAL: The program is a fast-moving, interactive hour focusing on tips, experiences and live interviews with top players such as Tom McEvoy, Chris MoneyMaker and Mike Sexton, as well as young guns Vanessa Rousso and Jason Mercier of Florida. Listeners call in from across the country and the "Poker Pals" are never at a loss for words. The hosts are personable, accessible, well-informed and entertaining.

FINAL THOUGHTS: "I enjoy introducing the world's greatest players to our listening audience," Zuckerman said. "The pros' personalities, stories and insights, all shared live, make listening to *The Poker Room Radio Show* a unique, interactive experience."

THE DAN LE BATARD SHOW WITH STUGOTZ

HOW IT STARTED: This show is a sports showcase starring Dan Le Batard, the ESPN regular and renowned *Miami Herald* sports columnist. The show centers around the South Florida sports teams, but poker is often a main topic as Le Batard, Stugotz and Marc "Hoch" Hochman, the show's executive producer, have been playing poker for about 20 years. The show, which is nearly 6 years old, is broadcast out of the Lincoln Financial Media Studios in Miami, near Land Shark Stadium. Mike Sexton was a guest during its first year on 790 The Ticket and he discussed the World Poker Tour. Since then poker continues to make its way on the docket, including interviews with Chris MoneyMaker, Doyle Brunson, Phil Hellmuth, Jennifer Tilly, Gabe Kaplan and several other poker pros. "We didn't really start to talk about poker a lot until we started doing monthly tournaments at Dania Jai-Alai about a year ago," Hochman said.

THE TALENT: Le Batard is the star of the show. The University of Miami graduate has a huge following, as evidenced by the enormous number of players who show up at his monthly celebrity tournament at Dania Jai-Alai. He joined the *Herald* in the early '90s. Jon "Stugotz" Weiner used to be the station's general manager but now is Le Batard's sidekick. Hoch does everything from conducting interviews to reading the on-air commercials.

AUDIENCE: The show's air signal can be heard from West Palm Beach to Key West. "We have listeners all over the country and the world who listen online," Hochman said. You can hear it at www.790theticket.com or via their podcast on iTunes. It's on Monday-Friday, 3–7 p.m. on 790-AM.

WHAT'S SPECIAL: The relationship the show has with Dania Jai-Alai is unique, and it all started with Le Batard. "He's a big fan of jai-alai," said Marty Fleishman, assistant general manager at Dania Jai-Alai. "The show) started out in the fronton with jai-alai and then (they) took it into the poker room in June 2008." Since that time they have built one of the most popular poker events in South Florida, the Dan Le Batard Celebrity Poker Tournament. It began as a \$25 tournament but now is \$50. It has been known to have 300-plus players, and everyone wants that coveted crystal trophy.

FINAL THOUGHTS: "The strangest thing that's happened on our show is Dan actually won one of his own tournaments," Hochman said. "It's very difficult to win any tournament, let alone your own where you have a bounty on your head and everybody is gunning for you."





Antonio Pinzari

POKER WARS WITH ANTONIO PINZARI

HOW IT STARTED: Though *Poker Wars* is relatively new to the Florida airwaves (it began Oct. 5, 2009) the host is anything but new to poker radio. Antonio Pinzari was on the now-defunct *Poker Talk America* for 11 months, serving as the on-air pro for Ask Antonio Mondays. After *Poker Talk America* went off the air Pinzari felt there still was a need for poker discussion, so he started *Poker Wars*.

THE TALENT: Pinzari, a poker author, has been playing professionally since 1976, winning dozens of tournaments across more than 200 venues (in America and beyond). "I turned pro in 1976 and haven't had a job since," he said. But Pinzari doesn't always fill his two-hour timeslot alone. He often gets *Poker Talk America* alums Frank Greentree or Joe Conti (See Q&A with Conti below) to come into the studio.

AUDIENCE: The show is broadcast from West Palm Beach's Clear Channel affiliate WBZT-AM 1230. It reaches from just south of Ft. Pierce to Miami and west to Lake Okeechobee. It airs Mondays, 7-9 p.m. and is streamed live at www.pokerwars.info. All shows are archived on this site as well, with a push of the button.

WHAT'S SPECIAL: Leading off the show each week are the publishers of *Ante Up*.

Scott Long or Chris Cosenza will join Pinzari to discuss what's new in the magazine or any other hot topics in the poker world.

FINAL THOUGHTS: Pinzari is especially proud of the guests he has on his show, including former world champ Tom McEvoy, who Pinzari has been friends with for 15 years. *Ante Up* columnist and poker author Joe Navarro has been on the show at least twice. Navarro is an ex-FBI agent who interrogated terrorists for 25 years, analyzing their non-verbal behaviors. When asked what makes his show one of the best, Pinzari said: "The advice listeners receive."

Q&A WITH JOE CONTI

Joe Conti, 48, is the face of West Palm Beach poker. And for a while there he was the voice as well. He used to be one of the co-hosts of the very popular *Poker Talk America* radio show, which went off the air in 2008. *Ante Up* caught up with him while he was at the final table of a local tournament.

Where are you from originally and where do you live now? I'm from Manhattan, N.Y., but I live in Boynton Beach now.

How'd you get into poker? I got into poker by accident, actually. I started to play when I moved down to Florida (He started playing seriously seven years ago). I had some time on my hands so I started to play Omaha, and then I started to realize I had a little bit of a knack for this game when I started playing Texas Hold'em. And then I just continued to play.

How long was *Poker Talk America* on the air? About 18 months. It went off the air (from WBZT-AM) in Sept. '08. It was awesome to do. It was a local show that became more of a nationally geared show. ... more "info-taining" versus just a little bit of chatter on poker. We had some of the biggest names in poker getting involved on a weekly basis, on a daily basis actually, and it just grew into something that became a very educationally entertaining show. A lot of people, including myself, got a lot out of it. I never would have cashed in the 2008 WSOP main event had I not utilized what I learned from that show.

What was your best moment on the show? It was a quote by Tom McEvoy, who said — and it just sunk into me because it's the strongest part of my game — "Poker is not a card game played with people; it's a people game played with cards." It enlightened me to really focus on the human element of the game.

Now you appear regularly on *Poker Wars*. Is that because you missed being on air? Antonio asked me to join him so I was happy to do that. ... and it's a pleasure to do it. I love being on the air and I love teaching poker. Having people learn more about the game is making Florida poker better, and these shows do that.

The Palm Beach Kennel Club developed a new position that you filled. What



Joe Conti at the WSOP.

is it and how's it going? It's been great. My position is tournament coordinator and it's been a tremendous challenge. The passion I have is to stay around poker, and I get to help develop tournaments from the players' perspective, giving players what they want in South Florida. ... It should be entertaining and it should be competitive and that's the challenge I was presented with and I embraced it when I took the job.

Is this in response to the incredible competition you face in South Florida? To have someone be able to focus on that element of the business is important and I think it's a wise thing to do. I think you need to have somebody devoted that division of a poker room.

— Chris Cosenza

ANTE UP POKERCAST



The boys
in 2005.

HOW IT STARTED: In 2005, an online editor at the *St. Petersburg Times* asked Chris Cosenza to come up with a niche podcast, a medium still in its infancy at the time. Cosenza asked friend, *Times* co-worker and fellow home-gamer Scott Long if he wanted to do one on poker, and the *Ante Up PokerCast* was born. Today the show is the longest running poker podcast in history, never missing a week since its inception on June 15, 2005. Along the way the show has won numerous awards, including *Bluff Magazine's* Readers Choice Award for best poker show in 2007. These days the show is recorded at WDAE-AM's Sports Animal studios in Tampa. WDAE-620 started a poker club almost two years ago and the *Ante Up* boys have helped the station with promotions and poker content for its site.

THE TALENT: Cosenza and Long have more than 40 years combined journalism and publishing experience. They are the publishers of *Ante Up*, which never would have become a publication had they not started the poker show. In 2008 they decided to leave the *Times* to begin the magazine, but the show never missed a beat, it just changed addresses.

AUDIENCE: The PokerCast has thousands of listeners in every state in America and in more than 30 countries. You can listen to the show every Friday on anteupmagazine.com or you can subscribe via dozens of online RSS feed readers, including iTunes, where the show has been listed as one of its featured podcasts on numerous occasions.

WHAT'S SPECIAL: This show has created a community known as the Ante Up Nation. Listeners have become friends through the show, organizing meet-ups in poker rooms around the world and playing together in the show's monthly poker tournaments called the Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (AIPS). The PokerCast prides itself on being a marriage of entertainment and education, employing different segments as Mailbag, Hotline, Columbo's One-Minute Mystery and the Hand of the Week, which is a hand sent in from a listener and often gets broken down with poker pros, including a regular appearance by *Ante Up* columnist Lee Childs.

FINAL THOUGHTS: What makes the *Ante Up PokerCast* stand out is its dedication to all poker games. Over the years Cosenza and Long have taught their fans how to play every game from razz, stud/8 and Omaha to Badugi, 2-7 Triple Draw and, of course, hold'em. Sure, pretty much every poker pro under the sun has been on the show, but it's the banter and poker education that makes the show a staple.

The best of the rest

POKER TALK TUESDAY

THE TALENT: Alan Chiras hosts the program, which is part of *It's Your Show with Mitch Jones*. He has been playing poker for about three years. "I play a lot of micro stakes and legal poker," Chiras said.

AUDIENCE: The show is relatively new, only about 6 months old, and is recorded on White Street in Key West. It basically reaches all of Key West on KONK-AM 1680 and the rest of the world on www.konkam.com. It can be heard live on KONK every first and third Tuesday at 4 p.m.

WHAT'S SPECIAL: "I get to meet local players as well as get callers from railbirds.com," Chiras said. "The first call we ever took was from New Zealand!"



ODDS ON YOU



THE TALENT: The show stars Oddo, who is called a "palindromic radio host" on the show's site. Oddo has been in radio for 15 years and poker is his passion. The show is humor-heavy, and for a dose of their brand of humor here's an excerpt from his bio: (Oddo) got interested in poker about three weeks ago when he saw the potential of winning small children in high stakes games. Oddo's co-hosts are Moose and Glen.

THE AUDIENCE: The Orlando area may not have legal cash poker but it certainly has a poker radio show. *Odds On You* is broadcast from 740-AM on Saturdays at noon. The show's Web site (www.oddsoneyou.com) archives its past shows and has a live streaming option.

WHAT'S SPECIAL: The show has co-hosted tournaments at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club & Poker Room.

LARRY THE AMIGO

Though this isn't exactly a poker show (Larry is part of *Andy and the Amigo*, a weekday afternoon sports talk show on WFTL-AM 640), the Palm Beach Princess Casino has had Larry broadcast from the ship on Sundays. And during these broadcasts he's been known to not only talk poker, but have on poker guests, such as *Ante Up's* Scott Long.



Around the country

If all of these shows aren't enough to satisfy your iPod's hunger, here are some nationally known poker programs you can download regularly from the Internet.

ROUNDERSRADIO

If you're looking for a one-stop shop for all shows poker, look no further. RoundersRadio.com is a Web site that features a collection of the best poker podcasts and radio shows.

POKERROAD

PokerRoad offers a variety of shows and news elements that feature mostly household-named pros, including Joe Sebok, Barry Greenstein, Phil Ivey and Gavin Smith. PokerRoad.com is the brainchild of Sebok, whose podcasts *The Circuit* and *PokerWire* eventually resurrected as *PokerRoad*.

WILL 2010 LEARN FROM 2009'S MISTAKES?

A failed compact and pointless online poker study frustrated players in 2009. Will legislators get it right in 2010?

By Marc Dunbar

As the saying goes, 2009 came in like a lion from a Florida gaming perspective, as the year began with the real opportunity for Florida to take its rightful place among the top five gaming states in the country. Unfortunately, it will likely go out like a lamb, with lawmakers and the Seminole Tribe of Florida unable to forge a compromise that would be a significant step toward ushering in Florida's next step in becoming a mature, effectively regulated, gaming jurisdiction.

The Seminole Tribe announced ambitious expansion strategies that would've created true destination casinos in our state. Legislative support existed to level the playing field for the parimutuel casinos in South Florida. This support would've reduced the slot-machine tax rate, allowed them to commence true no-limit action in their poker rooms and granted a host of other regulatory relief, which would have allowed them to compete and grow their operations into destination casinos as well.

For the rest of the state, momentum existed to allow for parimutuel cardrooms outside of South Florida to also take advantage of no-limit poker action and even begin some slot-machine gaming. The legislature began considering, for the first time, regulated online poker. In short, those of us in the gaming industry thought, finally, the lawmakers and bureaucrats in Tallahassee were embracing our status as a true gaming state. All of these items collectively meant thousands of new jobs for Floridians in what would be a long-term growth industry and billions of dollars in new economic development and tax revenue for our state.

In the words of famous ESPN college football analyst Lee Corso: "Not so fast, my friend!" Gov. Charlie Crist and the Seminole Tribe rejected the legislative compromise, effectively paralyzing the tribe's ambitious expansion plans and the emergence of some level of gaming competition in the South Florida and Tampa markets.

The state's gaming regulatory agency lost its very popular and effective division director, David Roberts, who enjoyed the longest run as head of the state's only gambling regulatory body. His even hand ushered in the emergence of Florida's modern poker rooms and the opening of Florida's parimutuel casinos. And to cap off the end of the year, the Legislature's policy arm released a lackluster analysis of regulated online gambling.

The study, which the legislature mandated, instructed its Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Ac-

countability to investigate the enactment of laws to provide protections and remedies for existing and unregulated Internet poker activities. The conclusion of the report was basically a statement of the obvious: that the legislature could do nothing, outlaw intrastate Internet gambling or legalize intrastate Internet gambling.

In its 12 pages (read them at www.floridagamingwatch.com), the report covers the same arguments presented by opponents to regulate online poker and by the U.S. Department of Justice that age verification is difficult. The DOJ doesn't agree a state can legalize intrastate Internet gambling. Little was offered in terms of how effectively other countries are regulating and benefiting from the activity or how the regulated activity could be an economic engine creating jobs and additional tax revenue for the state. As a result, I expect very little to result from this study.

OPPAGA studies are regularly asked for by the legislature and rarely acted upon. While some legislators embrace the idea of regulated Internet poker, the current political environment does not bode well in the short term for any legislation passing in this area.

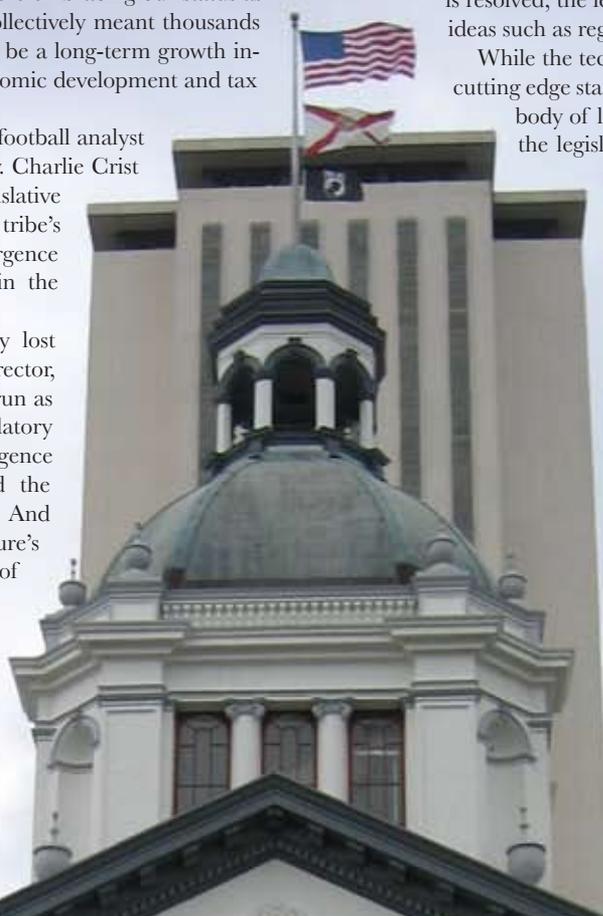
The policymakers must first embrace the reality that Florida is a full gambling jurisdiction and create a cohesive and effective body of regulatory laws that police the existing activity. Once this has been accomplished and the dispute with the Seminole Tribe is resolved, the legislature can look at more progressive ideas such as regulated Internet poker.

While the technology exists to make Florida a truly cutting edge state in this regard, we first need to have a body of laws and a strong regulator with whom the legislators will trust to oversee such a new gaming activity.

Looking ahead, all eyes in Florida's gaming industry are focused on the 2010 legislative session in the hopes that our legislature will complete the work they started a year ago. If that's done, 2010 finally will see the policymakers in Tallahassee accepting what *Ante Up* readers have known for a long time, that Florida is now in the fraternity of true gaming states.

— 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.

Will Florida become a gaming force in 2010? It all depends on the folks in the building behind the dome.



STATUS UPDATE: 'NET CAPTURES FLA. POKER

It's a whole new world of poker marketing. And it's called social networking.

While having a killer Web site is still a must-have, and while photocopying calendars and fliers still plays well to the older crowd, these days the rooms and leagues who are social networking have a virtual leg up on the competition.



SCOTT LONG

"Facebook is a great way to send out reminders of special events and things going on," said Rebecca Sanborn of All In Poker Series, a poker league based in Orlando. "You really have to build up your friends, but once you do, a great deal of players have the application on their phone or log in regularly so it is a great way to remind them of special tournaments."

Facebook is the Big Kahuna of social networking these days, muscling out the innovator MySpace (though a MySpace presence can't hurt). Facebook lets rooms or leagues create fan pages that are nearly identical to a personal page. You can post status updates, upload photos and video and quickly send updates to "fans."

I joined Facebook kicking and screaming two years ago, more out of curiosity than anything else. Now, I begin every morning with Facebook, and check it regularly throughout the day. It didn't take long after we started *Ante Up* to realize the power of having a presence on the site. Now, we post daily updates and import all the news from our *Ante Up* news blog, so updates go directly into our fans' "news feeds." You couldn't ask for easier promotion.

And it's that instant communication that Sanborn loves.

"It has also come in handy when we have a bar that closes for holidays or because the economy sucks," she said. "These are often last-minute decisions and we can post it on Facebook and a few will catch it before they would see it on our Web site!"

Twitter is the new network on the block, but it's quickly blossoming into a must-have communication tool. More utilitarian than Facebook or MySpace, Twitter lets users send short 140-character "tweets" to their followers. And those "tweets" can get passed on to other followers, completing a

snowball of communication in a flash.

Bryan Oulton, owner of the Pompano Beach-based All In Free Poker league, includes auto feeds from their favorite poker sites, like ESPN Poker, *Ante Up* and blogs, in its Twitter feed. In essence, it builds a one-stop shop of information from multiple sources.

"We're also big into hyping our locations that do it, with crosslinks to their associated pages from ours," Oulton said. And for a poker league that depends on revenue from venues such as bars and restaurants, that cross promotion can mean the difference between landing the account and not. And All In Free demonstrated the power of its social network by promoting *Ante Up's* Florida Choice Awards through it, leading to a sweep of the categories. All In Free also uses YouTube, the web leader in user-submitted videos.

It's no surprise poker leagues have harnessed the power of this technology in many cases faster than poker rooms. With limited marketing budgets, the leagues don't necessarily have the resources to use traditional marketing — at least not on the scale that poker rooms have. But many poker rooms also have a strong presence on Facebook, Twitter and MySpace. Some even go a step further.

Ocala Poker lets its players send a text message to the room to subscribe to cell phone updates.

"In a day and age where customers are inundated with tons of advertising to the point where they become numb to all of it, we wanted to use a system that would personalize our message to our players with a system that has become the mainstay on how people communicate with each other," Ocala Poker president Brian Matthews said. "Text messaging fulfills that opportunity and we feel it is one of the better ways to communicate with your clientele."

Matthews said players who text POKER to 39649 get updates on tournaments and promotions and member-only specials on food and drink.

And social-networking sites devoted to poker are popping up, too. Poker Players Social Network, PokerNations and Global Poker Players Network are three of which *Ante Up Magazine* is a member.

It's just one more way Florida poker rooms and leagues are getting the word out. If you're not yet on Facebook, Twitter or MySpace, it's time to join the new world of social networking.

— Email Scott Long at scott@anteupmagazine.com.



Get connected!

Ante Up is active on Facebook, Twitter and MySpace, so look us up! Here's a list (though not comprehensive) of Florida poker rooms and leagues active in social networking:

Facebook

- All In Free Poker
- All In Poker Series
- Big Deal Poker Tour
- Calder Casino
- Dania Jai-Alai
- Daytona Beach Kennel Club Derby Lane
- Elite Poker Challenge
- Flagler Greyhound Track
- Free Poker Network
- Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai
- Gulfstream Park
- Mardi Gras Casino
- Miami Jai-Alai
- Miami Poker Society
- No Limit Pub Poker
- Nutz Poker League
- Ocala Poker
- Orange Park Kennel Club
- Palm Beach Kennel Club
- Palm Beach Princess Casino
- Sarasota Kennel Club
- Seminole Casinos
- Southeast Hold'em
- St. Johns Greyhound Park
- SunCruz Casino
- Tampa Bay Downs
- Texas Hold'em Poker Tours
- Volusia Entertainment
- WPTAPL

Twitter

- All In Free Poker
- Club Poker League
- Flagler Greyhound Track
- Isle Casino
- Mardi Gras Casino
- Seminole Casinos
- Tampa Bay Downs
- Treasure Chest Poker

MySpace

- Florida Premiere Poker League
- Miami Jai-Alai
- Miami Poker Society
- Nutz Poker League
- Ocala Poker
- Showdown Poker Tour
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IF YOU KNOW THE FACTS, THEN THERE IS NO LUCK

If you're a true poker player then you're well aware poker is a game of skill, not luck. Why then, do we wish opponents (halfheartedly, of course) good luck at the tables? In any given tournament or hand there can be a tremendous amount of luck. You can make every correct decision and lose, and you can make every incorrect decision and win. The cards don't care who's making what decisions or whether you're a nicer person than your opponent, whether you love your mom more than he loves his, or whether you have spent your life volunteering to help those in need while your opponent may have a rap sheet longer than the transcript of a Phil Hellmuth tirade.



LEE CHILDS

It's important to keep luck in perspective. We tend to focus on the negative side of luck that gets labeled "bad luck." Listen to anyone on break or after they bust from a tournament. They talk about a bad beat or the donkey who keeps sucking out on them. You never hear them say, "Oh man, I got my money in as a 10-to-1 dog and I sucked out so bad on this poor guy.

I made the dumbest play I have ever made and got so lucky. If I can keep playing this bad and keep getting lucky, I think I am going to win this tournament!"

You also don't hear people talk about how lucky they were when someone made a mistake and paid them off when they shouldn't have. That situation typically is attributed to their "great" play, not the good fortune of having that hand develop against a weaker opponent. Or what about just the simple luck of having aces when someone else has kings, the money goes in pre-flop and your hand holds up? That's lucky right? No one did anything wrong: You were lucky and your opponent was unlucky. The catch is most people look at the opponent with the kings was unlucky, while hardly acknowledging the good fortune of getting the aces at that exact moment when you were an 80 percent favorite, etc.

A lot of people ask me if I got lucky during my WSOP Main Event run in 2007. They naturally assume I probably caught all kinds of cards and sucked out on people left and right to make it through such an enormous field. The truth is I was extremely lucky, but not in the sense that most people think. I drew very good tables on Days 1 and 2 without having to change tables. That's an enormous amount of good fortune. On Day 2 I had a hand where I called a raise with pocket threes from the small blind and flopped a set. My opponent moved all-in on a bluff for about 90,000 and I called. If I lost the hand, I would've been back down to my starting stack of 20,000. My favorite was when a player told me he had "designated me as the one who was going to double him up." He said this because of a hand played just before the break where he was frustrated he had to fold to my river bet. On the first hand after the break I was dealt two black aces on the button. He was in the big blind. It folded to me and I raised. He

quickly moved all-in and I obviously called. He tabled the mighty Q-6 and he exited the tournament, all because his ego got in the way and I was lucky that he tilted his chips to me. Plus I was lucky he didn't flop three queens or another hand that would beat me.

There are more subtle forms of luck, such as when you raise with two rags to steal blinds and antes and someone calls you. You completely miss the flop and make a continuation bet that results in you winning the pot. Were you not lucky they didn't have a hand to reraise you with pre-flop? And were you not lucky they missed the flop so you were able to win the pot uncontested without a made hand? These situations are important to keep in mind when you make a continuation bet after flopping the nuts and get no action. If you get to win some pots when you don't want to get called, then you have to accept winning when you don't get called when you hold a quality hand.

People routinely get bummed when they get no action after raising with pocket aces. They're discouraged they picked up a premium hand and no one came along for the ride. These are often the same people who are most mad when they have their aces cracked. How logical is that? Do you want action or not? Of course you want action when you have aces, but you have to accept that most of the time you're going to win with them and sometimes you're going to lose.

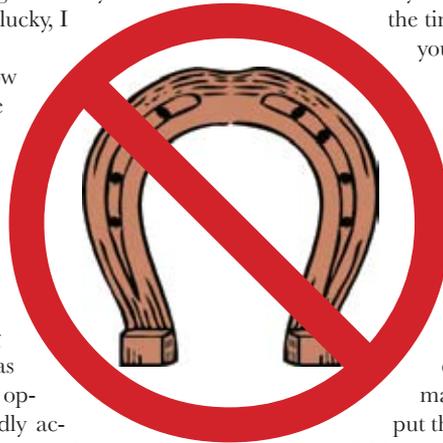
If you have aces vs. kings five times in one tournament, you're actually supposed to lose once because you're an 80-20 favorite. Start thinking about things like this and when you accept the percentages you'll realize there really is no luck involved. It's more about the percentages of what hands are dealt and what cards come on the board combined with the actions involved.

It's often said the best players "create their own luck." Well, sort of. The better players will make better decisions over time; therefore they'll put themselves in profitable situations more frequently.

This results in winning more and losing less than inexperienced players. There are so many factors that affect the "luck" at the tables that it's just simply something we should all strive to ignore. The way the cards are shuffled, the order in which they fly into the muck, whether there was a card accidentally flipped over during the deal thus changing your opponent's hole cards, your table and seat draw. My advice? Don't think about it. This will help you to not whine about it. Learn to accept the realities of the game and play your best. Try hard to remember the times when a big hand holds or you suck out on your opponents for a big pot. These memories will make it easier to handle when you're on the bad side of those situations. Strive to become the best you can be, always play the best you can and leave the rest up to the luck math.

Decide to Win!

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



Tune in to the Ante Up PokerCast on Fridays at anteupmagazine.com/podcast to hear Lee Childs analyze listeners' play during our Hand of the Week segment.

Send your hands to podcast@anteupmagazine.com.



A HEALTHY BET

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

RESOLVE TO STAY HEALTHY AT THE TABLE THIS YEAR

This seems like the perfect time for some New Year's resolutions, poker-style. I'm not referring to strategy, as there are plenty of qualified pros to give you one-liners worth remembering next year. Doyle Brunson says, "Never go broke with a queen in your hand." His son, Todd, says, "The third raise is always aces." Daniel Negreanu warns not to overvalue a pair of 10s. "After all, they're just 10s." And our friend, Lee Childs, advises simply to "Decide to win."



I'm also not going to focus on any of my personal poker goals. I have some such as, "Always try to keep count of the pot," and "Play more razz." But those are really of no concern to anyone but me.

No, I'm supposed to be the medical guy, so I thought I'd review the most important nuggets of healthy advice I've given you in my columns over the past year or so and ask you to consider taking some of these good health habits into the new year.

No. 10: Get a swine flu shot. You've gotten one already haven't you? I sure have. Regular poker players are at a particularly high risk because they sit at a table with nine people and pass cards and chips around. The swine flu has gotten a lot of press this year because it's so darn contagious, but even standard old seasonal flu kills 35,000 Americans every year. If you play a lot of poker you should get a flu shot EVERY year, especially this one. And if you do get sick, do everyone a favor and stay home. Have some soup.

No. 9: Wash your hands, a lot. ... after a bathroom break, before eating, and at the end of your session, wash up. If you can't find soap and water, use hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your nose or mouth during play. Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow, not your hand. If someone at your table is sneezing or coughing, cover your mouth.

No. 8: Get enough sleep. If you're planning to play late, catch a nap earlier in the day or sleep late the next morning. Don't replay hands in your head while you're trying to get to sleep, especially those bad beats. Let them go.

No. 7: Limit your caffeine. ...and not just coffee or Red Bull. Colas

and even green tea "energy" drinks are loaded with the stuff.

No. 6: Don't hold your bladder too long. Limit your fluids during the latter stages of a tournament when the blinds escalate and take advantage of breaks in the action to take care of business. Did I mention washing your hands?

No. 5: Don't let a blood clot sideline you. Sitting at the table for hours can cause blood to sludge in your legs. Point your toes and contract your calf muscles every time you get the button. Get up frequently and walk; do deep knee bends; exercise your legs; wear elastic socks.

No. 4: Don't lean on your elbows. This goes for online and live play. That little watery blob at the tip of your elbow is a bursa. If you traumatize it enough by leaning on it, it can swell up or even get infected. And, for gosh sakes, don't stick a needle in it. If it's hot and red, see a doctor. If it's not, leave it alone.

No. 3: Exercise your mind and memory. Pay attention to the play, especially when you're not in a hand. Look for patterns. Resolve to remember them. Challenge yourself. Learn other games, such as razz!

No. 2: Don't use drugs to improve your game. The slight and temporary performance improvement you might experience by using speed or coke isn't worth the enormous danger to your health. If you don't have ADD, forget Ritalin and Adderall. They're just as risky. Pharmaceutical quality speed is, after all, still speed.

And my No. 1 Healthy Poker Resolution for 2010: Don't smoke at the table. ... cigars, cigarettes, anything. And don't let others smoke at your table. Clearly you'll have more control over this resolution if it's your home game, but you can voice your objections and refuse to attend games where smoking is allowed. And, if you have a choice, choose a non-smoking cardroom. No matter how good a game might be, it's not worth breathing carcinogens.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the readers of this column and especially those who have taken the time to send in questions or comments (favorable or not). I encourage your questions, comments and particularly any ideas you may have for future columns. You can write me at editor@antemumagazine.com.

— 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.

When gambling becomes a problem, it's time to put the cards down and pick up the phone. The signs are there. Are you seeing them?

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Passion for poker leads to passion for teaching poker

By Andrew "Browndog19" Brown

When enjoying the atmosphere and excitement at the casino, normally a gradual amount of money makes its way from your pocket to the house. However, walk into the poker room and you eliminate all of the house's edge, and instead make a very small donation every time you're fortunate enough to win a hand. This is such a beautiful concept because if you don't win, you suffer no rake from the casino (unless there's a timed rake), and if you do win, it's likely you can afford the small contribution that's required. Furthermore you're squaring off against players at the table, not the casino. If you play your cards right, with a little practice, you can beat inexperienced players.

Making the transition from a live poker game to playing online is not an easy one, however. Players are more aggressive online, and to a certain extent, it's a very different game, even if the rules are identical. As a live and online player, I enjoy the benefits of both, but lately I prefer the high stakes of the tournament and cash game world online. A few weeks ago I was able to overcome a field of 35 players to claim the \$25K heads-up PLO world championship. To achieve such an accomplishment is very important for a professional poker player's resume, and has allowed me to play higher stakes than the \$25-\$50 cash games I was accustomed to just a month ago.

Venturing to the high-stakes world of online poker is financially beneficial and scary at the same time. The stakes are higher, the

players are better (supposedly) and the stress level goes up dramatically. Worrying about losing a large amount of money in a big hand can weigh heavily on your brain when trying to go to sleep, or even just relax and enjoy a simple evening. It's unfortunate a session of poker can dictate a person's mood for the next day or two, but not when you're winning.

I began playing poker in underground clubs in New York City and made progress by practicing online and attending numerous live tournaments. My most notable live tournament achievement came at the 2008 World Series of Poker when I defeated legendary player Ted Forrest for the \$2K Omaha/8 bracelet in an excellent see-saw heads-up match.

I love poker with a true passion for the game, and I enjoy teaching it just as much. I've had many students who received private lessons turn pro in the past couple of years, and I've built friendships with students, which encourages me to do more and more teaching.

The saying goes, "Do you do what you're good at because you love it? Or do you do what you love because you're good at it?" In my case, I love poker. I love teaching poker and I happen to be a decent instructor. But I teach mostly for the love of the game. My interactive scenario-based training videos can be found at DeepStacks.com, and I hope to see you there.

— Andrew Brown is known as Browndog19 online and is an instructor with DeepStacks University. If you'd like to contact him you can email him at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

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DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

IF IT FEELS ALIEN, THAT'S OK

Recently I was coaching an avid recreational poker player on his game and thought I shocked him.

We had done a lot of work; he'd set his goals, practiced relaxed activation, worked on comfort-zone issues, read a bunch of books and wanted to step up. He was getting antsy despite meeting his goals and progressing. He was watching *High Stakes Poker*, listening to the *Ante Up PokerCast*, reading *Ante Up Magazine* and, of course, watching the *World Series of Poker* and *World Poker Tour* reruns and wanted to "really move up."



DR. BLOOMFIELD

He wanted to know the real secret to the inner game of poker. I told him he had to figure out what gets him into the zone and then I casually told him he had to "grok" the table and the game. He looked at me like I was speaking a foreign language, and I guess I was. So I explained "grokking" is from a sci-fi book by Robert Heinlein, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, and that it's the key to the inner game.

According to Wikipedia, to grok (pronounced grahk) something is to understand it so well that it's fully absorbed into oneself. In Heinlein's 1961 novel the word is Martian and literally means to drink, but metaphorically means to take it all in, to understand fully, or to be at one with. Today, grok sometimes is used to include acceptance as well as comprehension — to "dig" or appreciate as well as to know.

As one character from Heinlein's novel says: Grok means to understand so thoroughly that the observer becomes a part of the observed — to merge, blend, intermarry or lose identity in a group experience. It means almost everything that we mean by religion, philosophy and science — and it means as little to us (because we are from Earth) as color means to a blind man.

Now, almost 50 years after its creation, I want to introduce you to this concept. Soon when folks ask how come you did so well, you'll say, "I grokked the table."

Boiled down it means to understand something intuitively, fully and totally. It's akin to the feeling of being in the zone. It's more than a hunch, almost a sixth sense.

"But, Doc," you say, "you don't believe in intuition; this all sounds like magical thinking." Yes, you've learned your lessons well. I don't believe in magical thinking. I always tell students to keep their head in the game and to work at and be patient in their game.

For those of us who aren't Martians (which I imagine is most, if not all of you), grokking doesn't just happen. It's not some form of ESP. It's the outcome of a good deal of work and is the end

product of all the coaching I've given you. It's when everything starts making sense and your mind is clear. It's when you're ready to dominate.

It happens when you have the technical knowledge and skills; when you know the math, have a sense of tells and patterns, are in the right mind-set and have embraced your comfort zone. Basically it's when everything just makes sense.

You're in a state of relaxed activation, you have moved up and are in your new comfort zone; you can't tilt and you are playing well and consistently working on your goals. You're in the zone. You know when to fold trip 10s to a straightening flop; you know when to push and when to fold when that ace magnet hits the flop and you have pocket kings. You know when you're being bluffed and when you have the best hand.

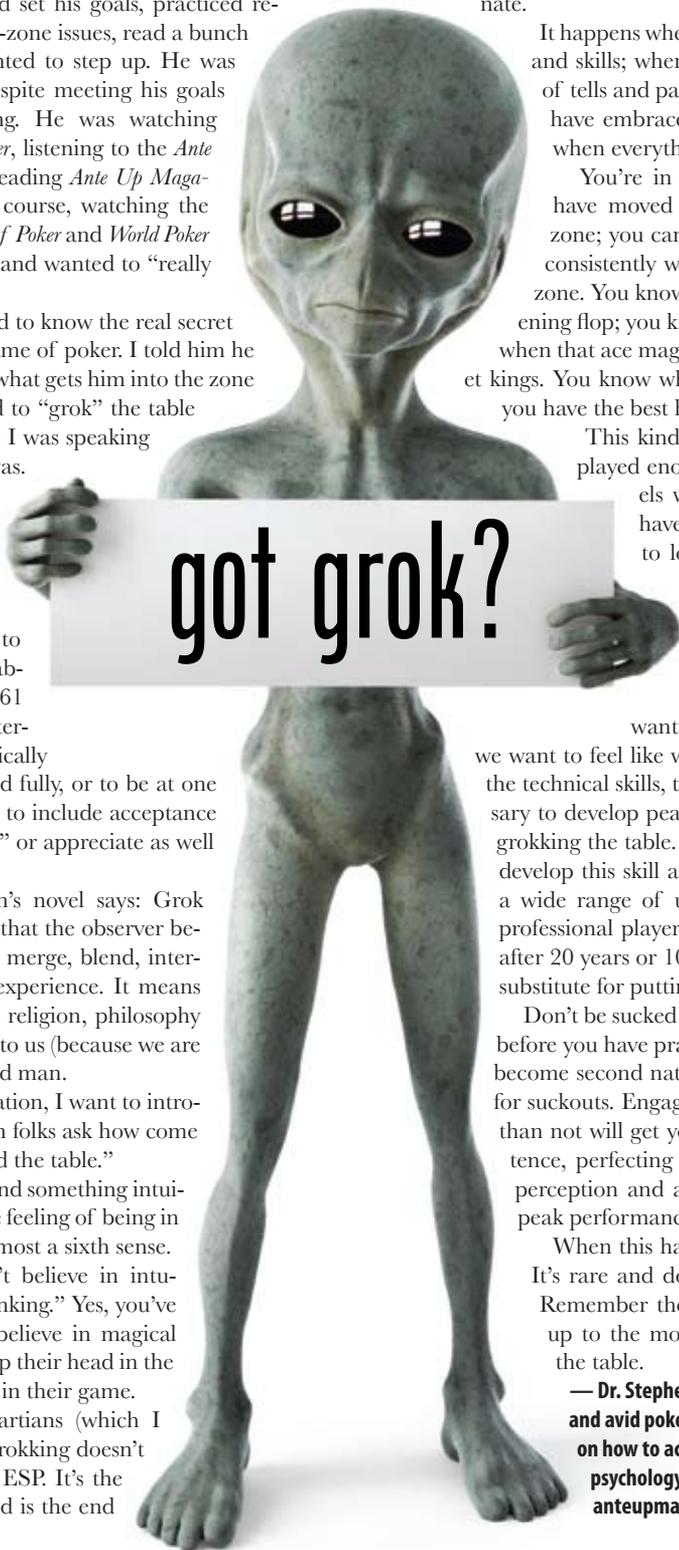
This kind of intuition happens when you've played enough hands of poker at enough levels with enough people that you don't have to think anymore. You don't have to look for tells or obsess over betting patterns, etc.

Of course we'd all like to be intuitive. Just sit down and grok everything. We want to know our opponents' range of hands, we want to identify his pattern of play and we want to feel like we just can't miss. We've worked on the technical skills, the people skills and the skills necessary to develop peak performance. And, boom, you're grokking the table. Most people, in their regular work, develop this skill after years of experience and facing a wide range of unexpected problems. Ask an elite professional player and he'll say he became a success after 20 years or 10,000 hands of practice. There's no substitute for putting in the work.

Don't be sucked into thinking you can grok the table before you have practiced all of these skills and they've become second nature. Once that happens, watch out for suckouts. Engaging in magical thinking more likely than not will get you felted. Practice, patience, persistence, perfecting your skills, peaceful play, accurate perception and a passion for the game will lead to peak performance.

When this happens you need to take advantage. It's rare and doesn't happen every time you play. Remember the feeling and what you did to lead up to the moment when you were able to grok the table.

— 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.



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Updated abacus method can earn more for house

Being an instructor, I'm always looking for better ways to teach prospective dealers. Keeping track of the rake uses a memory skill. I used to use a method called the "abacus," but recently a student of mine took that method and improved on it greatly. In larger no-limit games it doesn't take much to reach maximum rake quickly, but this method helps tremendously in low-end games where dealers sometimes guess how much is in the pot, and I'm sure the house has been losing a lot of money.

This is how it works: Each chip in the drop chute represents \$10 in the pot (It's up to the dealer to remember what the remainder in the pot is on additional streets). The dealer rack has eight grooves for chips and lammers. Each groove represents a number, starting from right and working left one through eight. The very left corner of the rack would represent No. 9. So, for example, if the dealer were pitching seven-card stud, seven-handed and everyone played and anted, as he pulled in the chips he would take one of the chips and place it seven grooves in.



CHAZ ALLEN

After he deals "third street" and asks for the "bring-in," two of the players fold. As he brings in the \$5, he adds it to the \$7, pushes a chip next to the drop chute and moves the chip from the seventh groove to the second groove. After he turns and burns the next street, he asks for action and picks up the chip next to the chute and places it on top. If he gets involved in a conversation and forgets where he is with the pot, he looks at the drop, sees one chip (representing 10 percent of the \$10 pot) and one in front of the second groove (\$2), so his pot equals \$12.

Another example: The dealer is dealing \$2 hold'em with blinds at \$1 and \$2. After pitching the cards and going around the table for action, seven players stay, including both blinds. The dealer rakes in the chips, burns and turns, calling out "seven to the flop" and starts action. Once action is started he grabs two chips from the pot, one for the rake and one for the jackpot, and then he moves one chip from the pot in front of the fourth groove. Three players stay for \$2 each.

As the dealer rakes in the chips he pushes the chip that's in front of the fourth groove up against the drop chute, burns and turns fourth street, calling out "three to the turn" and asks for action. As action starts he takes the chip that was pushed up against the chute and places it on top of the other chip already there. Burn and turn the river, calling out, "three to the river." The same three players stay to the end with another \$2 bet each. As the dealer pulls in the bets he now knows he has \$26 in the pot and takes one of those last chips and places it on top of the other two in the chute.

This also works extremely well with side pots in the lower games and helps the dealer take the chips from the correct side pot. It allows a dealer to remember how much is in the pot when he has to count down the deck. But this method isn't for the experienced dealers unless the house is having problems with them taking the correct rake.

I would be more than happy to be contacted if any manager would want me to come to their room to train their dealers on how to use this method. I'm positive it would increase your drop from the rake.

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

Dealers don't actually have to use an abacus at the table.



FREE LEAGUE, FREE ADVICE

Poker etiquette and beyond

FREE POKER AND CASH POKER GO HAND IN HAND

By Bryan Oulton

Live freeroll poker is a tool for all players, no matter their level of skill. Players can see thousands of live hands with no threat of losing money. Unlike free poker online, people approach live tournaments by trying to improve their games. This can only help you as you play more casino card room games for your hard-earned cash.

Always try to play your best, no matter what the stakes. Try to read players and put them on a range of hands. Take mental notes about players and then use that to your advantage. It's all great practice for what you must do to succeed when you're playing in games with buy-ins at the casino.

Not all opponents in free poker events will have a high level of skill, and many just do it for entertainment, but you'll face this in the casinos as well. It can only help to keep working on your game for free to aid in your increased presence in the casinos.

One of the things I often hear from new players to the free-league system is they don't like the way another person plays. I usually tell them they've just learned the patterns of other players so they should

put that knowledge into play. It's rewarding to see players grow and to adjust their games through the free tournaments we provide.

Now, the more you play and the better you get, you're going to find that you're playing more cash games and tournaments in casinos than in free poker, but you should never abandon the free game. It will always help augment your casino game.

Never stop striving to get better, and play more and more in the casinos as your bankroll permits. Never play outside your bankroll, and if you go bust, then play more in the free games until you can afford to play in the casinos again.

The freeroll leagues also allow you to play against the same people night in and night out, which allows you to create baseline reads on players. After you learn how to do this you should try to

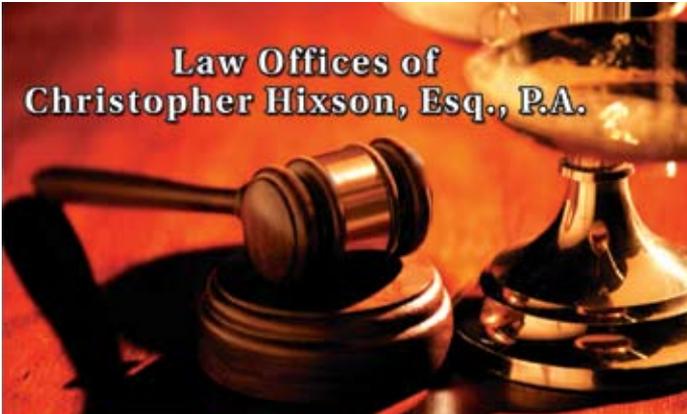
play in multiple venues to meet and play against new players to test reading them.

The more you play, the better your skills will get.

— Bryan Oulton owns All In Free Poker, a poker league based in Pompano Beach, with Sandy Swartzbaugh.



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

♣ ♥ ♠ ♦

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

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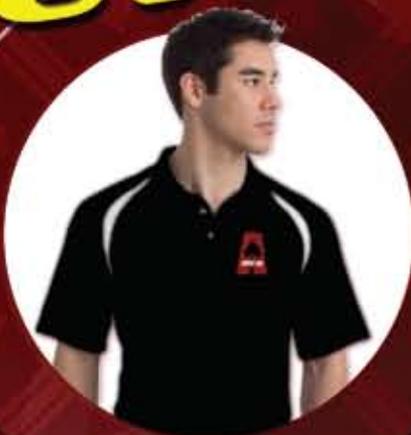
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Q&A

WITH T.J. CLOUTIER



T. J. Cloutier is considered the most successful tournament player of all time, having won more major events than anyone, including six WSOP bracelets. He's a member of DeepStacks University and will be sailing aboard the Ante Up Poker Cruise in March, teaching a seminar for interested players. Chris Cosenza had a chance to spend some time with the legend, who shared his thoughts on DeepStacks, the Poker Hall of Fame, "Cloutier Investments" and the worst bad beat in history.

Who taught you how to play poker and when was that? I was 17 years old, which would have been 53 years ago. But nobody taught me anything. You learned by the seat of your pants in those days. I started out I was caddying on a golf course. We'd go out on the weekends and take two doubles for the day, take our money into the caddyshack and there's somebody in there playing poker. (laughs) We'd work all day and they'd end up with the money.

The reason I asked is you've done a lot of poker teaching in your lifetime, whether it's through books, video games or seminars. Is there something that inspires you to teach others what you know? Mainly I enjoy it. I like to see people improve their game. You can only teach so much. You can't teach the things you're born with. You can't teach that feel factor that real top players have. That's something either you're born with or you're not.

You've been associated with quite a few instructional poker outlets, but you recently joined DeepStacks University, which was founded here in Florida. How does DeepStacks differ from the others? It's a little different concept. We're doing modules right now that are going to be put out (online). And they're gonna have a (live) preview, which is for (free) where the people come in and hear some of the stuff and then can sign up for the regular course. The people involved with it ask a bunch of poker questions that a lot of people don't ask, I mean, different situations, things you don't read about often. And they're getting different people like (Mike) Matusow and Tom McEvoy and myself. ... They'll ask a question ... and then I give what I think is the right answer. Then they put it in the form (where) they'll give you three or four different answers and

you gotta pick the right one in these situations and scenarios. It's really good; it's a very good concept. The best way to know about it is to sign up on the site (deepstacks.com) and do some of the freebies to see if you like it.

You'll be sailing on our Ante Up Poker Cruise in March and you'll be giving a poker seminar on board. What can our cruisers expect from that experience? I'll have something prepared for it. But also I found out in the long run if you run an open questions-and-answers session that's always the best because people come up with very good questions and you can give an honest answer to them.

Is there something you like teaching the most? Do you like the labs the most? No, I like doing the labs the *least* ... but the students seem to like them the most. The reason I like them the least is there are a lot of hands that you'll deal out and nobody has a hand to play. So what I've suggested is you set up the decks. Say there are 10 people at the table. You set up the first 20 cards and leave the rest of it random. So if you have five different tables going and you dealt them out at each table, you'd have different people with the same cards ... but the flops would be absolutely random. That way two or three people would have playable hands and you'd have something to teach or comment on. If everybody is getting terrible hands ... there's not much to critique.

If you had to give just one bit of advice to someone learning poker, what is the most important lesson you could give? Be observant. That's the A-No. 1 thing because people give you so much information by how they act and when they're looking at their cards, and little nuances that they have that you can pick up tells on them.



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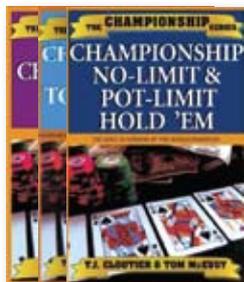
That's why I don't advocate ever having these iPods with the earphones on, because there's so many people that tell you what's going on just by listening to them. A perfect example was Jamie Gold. (He) and Amarillo Slim both had a way of talking when they had a hand and they had a way of talking when then didn't have a hand. If you were sharp enough to pick it up, and thank heaven I was, I could tell you when they had when they did have a hand and when they didn't have a hand every time.

If there's enough interest, what game and limit would you like to see in our poker room on the ship?

I like no-limit hold'em the best. My favorite size is probably \$10-\$25 or \$25-\$50 blinds, but a lot of people prefer to play cheaper, like \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10, and that seems to really be popular nowadays, so I guess \$2-\$5. I go up to WinStar (World Casino in Oklahoma) and I never played \$2-\$5 in my life till I went up there. But I go up and play it once in a while. ... It keeps you playing pretty decent.

How do you adjust to lower limits when facing players with smaller bankrolls and lesser experience?

You can tell right off the bat who's desperate and who's not when they're playing. And the desperate ones don't really do too well at it. They're satisfied with, when playing \$5-\$10, making it \$25 to go, and you can't protect a hand making it \$25 to go. They make playing against them a lot easier. The people that are not desperate, they have some money and they're playing within their bankroll, then you gotta play real poker with them. You can tell right away, and that's the whole idea. When you first sit down in a new game, don't get in a big hurry to play hands. Get in a big hurry to know who's doing what and in what situation.



As a member of the Poker Hall of Fame (inducted 2006), how shocked were you that Tom McEvoy, your good friend and co-author of so many books, didn't make the Hall of Fame in November along with Mike Sexton? The reason he didn't make it ... none of us knew that they had to get 75 percent of the vote to get in. I pushed hard for Tom because I

think he deserves to be in there. There's a lot of guys there, like Phil Ivey and Daniel (Negreanu) and that kind of ilk, that will probably get in someday anyway. But "Hall of Fame" means you've put in a lot of years into it. And these people are too young. I thought the only ones who deserved to be on the ballot were Dan Harrington and Tom and maybe Barry Greenstein and Erik Seidel. The rest of them I couldn't see where they'd put in enough time into it. ... (Mike) Sexton was a given. We all voted for Sexton. As far as I was concerned he was the most deserving of them all. Then Tom was the next, because he did a lot outside of poker outside actual playing with his books and his work on keeping smoke-free and playing in lots and lots of charity tournaments that people never hear about. He paid his dues and he was very, very disappointed when he didn't get in. ... He'll probably get in (in 2010).

You turned 70 in October, and I had mentioned your books. Doyle Brunson just released his autobiography. Do you have any plans to write yours? They've been trying to get me to do one for 10 years. I don't know if I want to do one or not. ... I don't think so, I mean, what the heck? When you get right down to it what are we but poker players? (laughs) That's why I never understood some of these autograph hunters and all this stuff. I mean, it's nice, don't get me wrong, but it's just our profession, that's what we do. (laughs)

I can understand their side of it, though. You inspire a lot of people by the way you play. They see you on TV; they hear the stories; they read your books. You do have a level of fame that they appreciate. I can understand where

they're coming from but, I mean, look at all the years that we played poker that it was considered pretty bad stuff. Ya know? When we used to go to church, I'd go with my wife (Joy) on Easter and everybody would come up and ask what kind of work do you do and we'd say "Cloutier Investments." (laughs) And then all this stuff comes out on TV and they are seeking you down and wanting your autograph, that's the difference.

In Doyle's book he told so many stories from his past. Do you have a favorite story you'd like to tell?

The favorite one is the one with Al Krux. We were playing at the Bicycle Club (in L.A.) while the Diamond Jim Brady Tournament was on, and we were in a cash game on the side. He hadn't won a pot all day and he was down to \$465 and we were playing no-limit hold'em. Anyway he brought it in for his whole \$465 and the person two seats to his left held his hand up in front of his face and he was getting

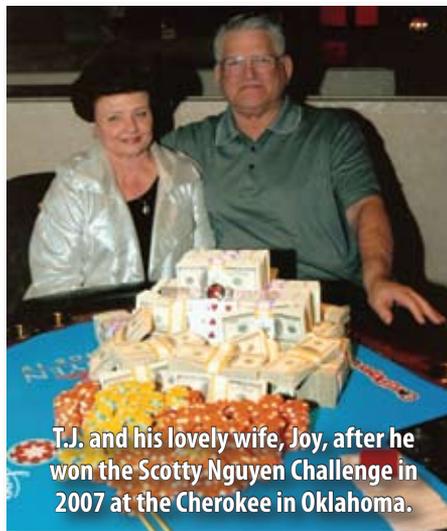
a massage at the time. He looked like he was going to call but he decided not to and threw his hand away. When it got around to me on the button and I had two 10s and I says, "Hell, I might have the best hand here," so I called it. And the dealer didn't see that I had called it and dropped the deck on the muck. So that means they had to reshuffle everything back in. And when it came out it came out K-10-4. Well, he had two kings and I had two 10s. Well, on fourth street comes the fourth 10. He was having such a bad day he even lost this pot when he flopped top set. But the thing that's funny about it was, the guy that looked at his hand when he was getting massage, he had the other two 10s in his hand. (laughs) The massage therapist confirmed it that he threw away two 10s. That's how (much) bad luck Al Krux was having. There had to be a dealer mistake and (have the cards) shuffled back in for me to even have a chance to catch a 10. And I caught both of his 10s. If you can beat that bad beat you're Houdini. (laughs)

Speaking of bad beats, how disappointed were you when you were shut out of the 2009 WSOP Main Event's final day? To tell you the truth I was there 35 days. It was nobody's fault but my own. When I went down there ... on the fourth day to sign up, I never even got in to where the cage was. People had come out and said it's shut out. ... I could have worked around it and got in, but I thought it would show favoritism, so I didn't even attempt to. It's not their fault; it's my fault. I coulda signed up any of those days. ... But I didn't. ... I was there for 35 days and I was burned out anyway. That's the first time I missed it since 1983. But I don't care. You know, right now, the Big One is very nice for notoriety and the money, but you gotta be so lucky to win it.

Some people may not realize that you were a talented football player who was in the CFL. You played for Toronto and Montreal. Did it bring a smile to your face when you heard Montreal won the Grey Cup in November? To tell you the truth I didn't

know until December that they'd won it. (laughs) They used to cover it on TV down here all the time. Now you see little bits and pieces of it. I was a good player in my day. I played tight end and I played on a couple of real nice teams.

And finally, one totally random question. I read somewhere you like Barbra Streisand. What's your favorite Babs song? *Memories*. I liked *Purple People Eater* by her, too, believe it or not. She did a rendition that was fantastic. But I think *Memories* was the best one.



T.J. and his lovely wife, Joy, after he won the Scotty Nguyen Challenge in 2007 at the Cherokee in Oklahoma.



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