

ANTE UP

YOUR POKER MAGAZINE™

HUAN CUNG

WINS INAUGURAL ANTE UP POKER TOUR MAIN EVENT AT THUNDER VALLEY CASINO RESORT
PAGES 36-38

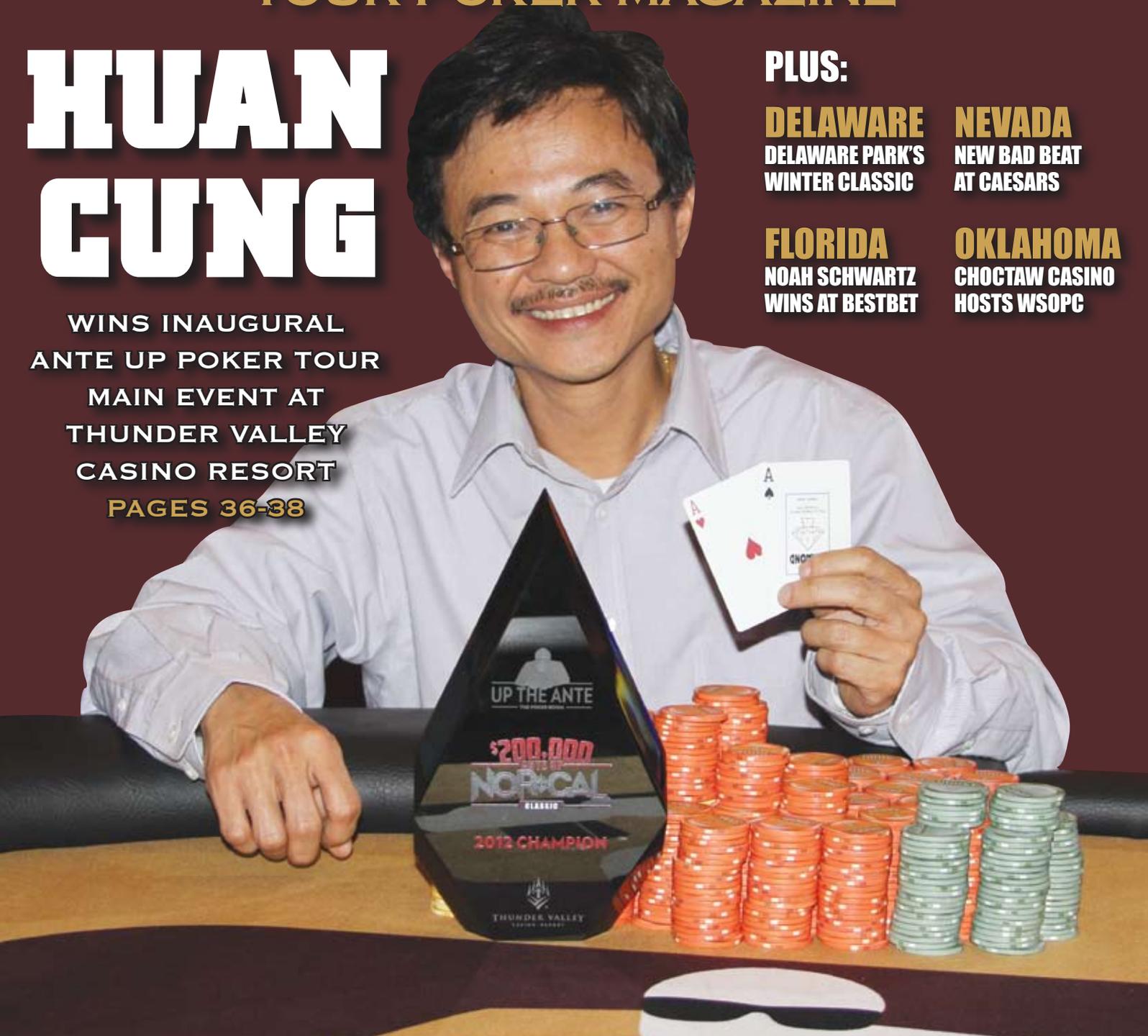
PLUS:

DELAWARE
DELAWARE PARK'S WINTER CLASSIC

NEVADA
NEW BAD BEAT AT CAESARS

FLORIDA
NOAH SCHWARTZ WINS AT BESTBET

OKLAHOMA
CHOCTAW CASINO HOSTS WSOPC





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6PM \$100 NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM

8PM \$260 SUPER SATELLITE TO MAIN EVENT

WEDNESDAY: JAN. 23

12PM \$260 SUPER SATELLITE TO MAIN EVENT

3PM \$100 OMAHA HIGH

3PM \$230 HEADS UP NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM

6PM \$100 NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM

8PM \$260 SUPER SATELLITE TO MAIN EVENT

THURSDAY: JAN. 24

12PM \$260 SUPER SATELLITE TO MAIN EVENT

3PM \$220 NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM

6PM \$100 BOUNTY

8PM \$260 SUPER SATELLITE TO MAIN EVENT

FRIDAY: JAN 25

12PM \$1100 MAIN EVENT DAY 1A

3PM \$330 NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM

7PM \$1100 MAIN EVENT DAY 1B

SATURDAY: JAN. 26

12PM \$1100 MAIN EVENT DAY 1C

3PM \$400 BOUNTY TOURNAMENT

7PM \$1100 MAIN EVENT DAY 1D

SUNDAY: JAN. 27

2PM MAIN EVENT DAY 2

FROM JAN. 21 TO 24 ALL
TOURNAMENTS IN THE POKER ROOM
WILL BE CANCELLED AND WILL START
BACK UP FRIDAY JAN. 25, 2013 AT 10AM.

OUR MISSION

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



Christopher Cosenza

Scott Long

A Tour de Force

It's not easy getting a new international poker tour off the ground, but just as *Ante Up* did more than four years ago when we launched our magazine, we found an empty niche in the poker tour world and set out to fill it.

And it's because of the hard work involved in getting us to this point that we were even more proud of the success over the past two months of Thunder Valley Casino Resort's Ante Up NorCal Classic, our inaugural Ante Up Poker Tour event. With tremendous enthusiasm from **Ben Erwin**, Thunder Valley's poker director, together we put on a nine-event series that drew high praise from participants. The Sacramento, Calif., market was ready for a high-profile event, Erwin told us many months ago, and judged by the turnout for the event, Erwin was spot on.

We now turn our attention to Red Rock Casino Resort Spa in Las Vegas for our second Ante Up Poker Tour event Jan. 25. We hope the players of southern Nevada are equally excited about the chance to be on the cover of *Ante Up Magazine*, an honor bestowed upon **Huan Cung** this month for winning the Ante Up NorCal Classic main event. For all the details on the Ante Up Poker Tour, be sure to visit anteuppokertour.com, and we hope to see you somewhere in North America in the coming months.

Rest in peace, Lou Krieger



Ante Up was saddened to hear of the Dec. 3 death of **Lou Krieger**, one of the greats in the poker journalism world. Many poker players owe Lou a debt of gratitude for the insightful strategy he imparted in the many books he authored, his regular *Poker Player Newspaper* column and on his radio show. Lou had planned to be the pro for last August's Ante Up Poker Cruise, but had to cancel after he was diagnosed with cancer. We would have loved to have spent that time with him, and hope the warm memories of him help his friends and family cope with his loss.

We'll see you at the tables.

— Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

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FLORIDA

NORTH: The World Poker Tour Regional at bestbet Jacksonville saw popular pro Noah Schwartz, right, finally get his big win by capturing the main-event title. **18**

SOUTH: Schwartz's win was so "monumental" that we had to chat with him about his career and his WPT victory in Jacksonville. **20**

CENTRAL: It's hard to believe it's taken us this long to interview Patrick Murphy, director of poker at the Silks Poker Room in Tampa. **16**

ALSO: The Nutz Poker League is dealt some good news when most of the charges were dropped in its illegal gambling case. Another hearing is scheduled. **16**



CALIFORNIA

NORCAL: Thunder Valley hosts the inaugural Ante Up Poker Tour, plus we preview our next one. **36-38**

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OHIO

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Delaware Park hosts its Winter Poker Classic this month, and Dover Downs has the PPC. **35**

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Matt Kirby continues to do well in MSPT events, winning his second title. **33**

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This month we profile Jeremy Ausmus, a rounder inspired by, well, *Rounders*. **24**

OKLAHOMA

It's the third year for the WSOPC at Choctaw Casino, and it might be the best one yet. **32**

MICHIGAN

Turtle Creek Casino has every right to celebrate how awesome its tournaments are. **30**

ONLINE POKER

New Jersey again finds itself in the middle of the online poker race. This time, the bill is reworked to incorporate brick-and-mortar casinos. Also, PokerStars is positioning itself to buy the Atlantic Club Casino in Jersey, and that could mean big things if it gets a gaming license. **40**



COVER STORY



The staff at Thunder Valley Casino Resort in Northern California pulled out all of the stops for the Ante Up Poker Tour's inaugural stop, including this sign at the local airport greeting guests en route to Lincoln. Huan Cung of Sacramento will go down in history as the first AUP main-event champion, pocketing \$73K, a beautiful trophy and, of course, a spot on our cover. We have the full story, plus all of the results. **36**

ON THE BUTTON

Erik Cajelais, a Canadian pro poker player who loves Omaha, chats with *Ante Up's* Mike Owens about his life, and how he got to this point in his poker career. Oh, and he thinks Phil Ivey is just swell. **62**



JONATHAN LITTLE

Sometimes things just don't go your way at the table. Deal with it. **46**



JOE NAVARRO

Learning how to read tells isn't easy, but it's worth it. **47**



LEE CHILDS

Our hero gets into trouble with a sub-par hand. **49**





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2/9	Saturday	11 AM	No Limit (Round 1) (1 Optional Add-On)	\$200,000 Guarantee \$365
		7 PM	No Limit (Round 2) (1 Optional Add-On)	\$200,000 Guarantee \$365
Final Chip Count from 11 AM and 7 PM will be added together for Day 2				
2/10	Sunday	11 AM	Day 2 Restart	
2/11	Monday	11 AM	Deep Stack No-Limit	\$250
2/12	Tuesday	11 AM	No-Limit and Greyhound Handicapping	\$140
2/13	Wednesday	11 AM	No-Limit (Flight A) WSOP Ring Event #1A	Million Dollar Guarantee \$580
2/14	Thursday	11 AM	No-Limit (Flight B) WSOP Ring Event #1B	Million Dollar Guarantee \$580
2/15	Friday	11 AM	No-Limit (Flight C) WSOP Ring Event #1C	Million Dollar Guarantee \$580
		5 PM	Omaha Hi-Lo Ring Event #2	\$365
2/16	Saturday	11 AM	No-Limit (Flight D) WSOP Ring Event #1D	Million Dollar Guarantee \$580
		5 PM	H.O.R.S.E. Ring Event #3	\$365
2/17	Sunday	11 AM	Restart Event 1 Million Guarantee	-
		4 PM	No-Limit Ring Event #4	\$365
2/18	Monday	11 AM	No-Limit Ring Event #5	\$365
2/19	Tuesday	11 AM	No-Limit 6-Handed Ring Event #6	\$365
2/20	Wednesday	11 AM	No-Limit Ring Event #7	\$580
2/21	Thursday	11 AM	Turbo No-Limit Ring Event #8	\$365
		4 PM	No-Limit Ring Event #9	\$1,120
2/22	Friday	11 AM	No-Limit Ring Event #10	\$365
2/23	Saturday	11 AM	No-Limit (Flight A) WSOP Ring Event #11A (Championship)	\$1,675
		7 PM	No-Limit (Flight B) WSOP Ring Event #11B (Championship)	\$1,675
2/24	Sunday	11 AM	Seniors No-Limit	\$250
		11 AM	No-Limit Ring Event #12	\$365
		4 PM	Ladies No Limit	\$140
2/25	Monday		Championship Final Table	

TOURNAMENT STAFFED AND DIRECTED BY POKER TOURNAMENT CONSULTANTS JIMMY SOMMERFELD, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

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WSOPC RETURNS TO THE BIKE THIS MONTH

The World Series of Poker Circuit returns to Los Angeles this month at Bicycle Casino, where pro **Freddy Deeb** won the WSOPC main event in 2012 and was featured on our February cover.

There are 39 events making up the series, including 12 ring events.



DAVE PALM
LOS ANGELES

The series starts at noon Jan. 2 with a \$345 no-limit hold'em \$50K guarantee, but the first ring event begins at noon Jan. 3 with a \$365 NLHE tournament.

Technically, you could say this series began weeks ago because the Bike has been running satellites since the beginning of November. The satellites will continue daily through the main event, which costs \$1,675 on Jan. 12.

Though mostly NLHE events, typical of tournaments at the Bicycle Casino this series includes some twists. Three of the signature Quantum Reload events are included. Some events are re-entry, turbo, deepstack, bounty or short-handed.

If NLHE isn't your cup of tea, there's also Omaha/8-stud/8, H.O.R.S.E., limit hold'em and Omaha/8. There's also a ladies event sponsored by the LIPS Tour and a freeroll for cash-game players meeting minimum time requirements where they can win entry into the main event.

Despite the main event starting Jan. 12, there are two more ring events and multiple other side events that run through Jan. 18. If you bust, there will be ample opportunity to make up for it.

COMMERCE: Things at Commerce Casino have been quiet in the cou-

Looking for NorCal news?

Be sure to check out our coverage of the Ante Up Poker Tour's first stop, the Ante Up NorCal Classic on Page 36.

ple of months since the L.A. Poker Open finished (you can find results at commercecasino.com). Now, keeping up the strong start to the year that was started by the WSOPC, the L.A. Poker Classic starts Jan. 15. The biggest tournament series outside of the WSOP is made up of nearly 70 events this year with almost every variation imaginable.

What should come as no surprise to anyone, tournament director **Matt Savage** has some interesting twists in some events. There are the NLHE Escalator Turbo events, where Level 1 is short, but each level increases in length from the previous one. There's the all-in-or-fold events, with and without bounties. One of the big hits of last summer's WSOP was the all-ante event, which will be replicated with the LAPC's "Ante Up" event, where blinds stay the same for four or five levels but antes begin at Level 2.

In real-time adjustment to a recent online debate, there is a "30-second Shot Clock" event, too. Most interesting to me are the two Chinese Poker events. There's regular Chinese Poker, and the new rage Open Face Chinese Poker. I may have to go check these out. You can get full details at commercecasino.com.

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

Road Trip: Lake Elsinore Hotel and Casino

It's been my experience that we poker players tend to be creatures of habit when it comes to where we play. If we find a place we like and are comfortable then we stick with it. We know the staff, players, poker menu and enjoy the tournaments and promotions. With nine poker rooms in the San Diego county area, we rarely feel the need to go anywhere else.



LORIANN PERSINGER
SOCAL

But, one Saturday morning I woke up and decided to be adventurous, step outside my comfort zone. I wanted to play somewhere different, but where? If you don't mind an hour drive north from San Diego on Interstate 15, I may have found a little gem, a diamond in the rough: Lake Elsinore Hotel and Casino. The 15-table poker room, which also features black-jack and three-card poker, an extensive poker menu and a full bar, has been remodeled and has new tables and chairs.

It features the usual games (limit hold'em, Omaha/8) but the most popular game is \$2-\$3 NLHE, which has a \$40-\$300 buy-in and no shortage of action. There's also \$5-\$10 NHLE (\$500-\$5K) the first Saturday of the month that is striving to become an every-weekend event. If you're willing to make the drive on Wednesday or Friday, there's a \$5-\$5 PLO game (\$100-\$1K).

There are two tournaments worth mentioning: the popular "Head Hunter" bounty tournament, which takes place one Saturday a month (call ahead or look online for exact date) and has a \$105 buy-in, \$7,500 guarantee, 10K chips, 30-minute levels and \$30 bounties. Players can re-enter until the end of the third level. The other one takes place the last Saturday of the month (\$155, \$10K guarantee, 12,500 chips, 30 minutes, no rebuys or add-ons). Both tournaments start at 5:15 p.m.

The lounge and restaurant are being combined and will be a sports bar upon completion. There's a Saturday brunch for \$7.95 and a Sunday brunch, complete with unlimited orange juice and champagne,

for \$10.95. Both brunches feature prime rib, crab legs and an omelet station. The interiors of Lake Elsinore's two hotels are being remodeled and feature flatscreen TVs, mini-refrigerators and balconies. If you decide to stay the night inquire about a players rate and ask for a west-facing room so you can watch the sunset over the lake and mountains.

The staff (casino host **Mike Swyden**, tournament director **Billy Gillies** and hotel manager **Yahaira Lopez**) went out of its way to be hospitable and informative about the changes that are taking place at the property. And the poker room can be found using the Bravo Poker app on your smartphone if you want to know what's going on before you make the drive.

PALA CHARITY EVENT: The poker room at Pala Casino Spa and Resort is sponsoring a charity tournament at 2 p.m. on New Year's Day to benefit the American Red Cross Hurricanes 2012 Fund to benefit the victims of Hurricane Sandy. The \$3K guarantee tournament will have a \$45 buy-in and a \$15 entry fee. Players will start with 3,000 chips and there will be a \$25 bonus buy for an additional 5K chips when purchased at registration. Blinds will be 20 minutes and re-entries will be allowed during the first three levels.

WSOPC AT HARRAH'S: I profiled **Alexandru Masek** after he made a final table at the WSOPC at Harrah's Rincon in March last year as he was looking to capture his fifth circuit ring. Several months later, he's achieved that goal, doing it in Event 1 of the WSOPC at Harrah's Rincon, which began just as *Ante Up* went to press. He outlasted 204 players, including eliminating me in 59th place, and he had to go heads-up with **Randall Paguio**, who won this event in March. Masek started heads-up play with a commanding lead, lost that lead, but then rallied for his fifth ring and \$15,989. Look for full coverage next issue.

— **LoriAnn Persinger is Ante Up's Southern California Ambassador. Email her at anteuploriann@gmail.com.**

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A LOOK BACK, A LOOK AHEAD

I'm celebrating my third holiday season with *Ante Up* this year, and every bit of it has gone by in a flash. I can't say enough how much I enjoy hearing from you, seeing you at the tournaments or cash tables and celebrating your victories.



JENNIFER GAY
MISSISSIPPI

Another year has come and gone, and it was a busy year, with January starting out strong at the Beau Rivage Million Dollar Heater. The first event gathered the largest crowd in Mississippi history with 1,452 entrants. **Scott Williams** of Memphis took home the \$72,298 top prize. The month wrapped up with the Heater main event. Tournament director **Eric Comer** and poker room manager **Johnny Grooms**

made the decision to move away from the World Poker Tour televised franchise and instead invest the money into a guaranteed prize pool and tournament promotion. No one missed the TV cameras while they were competing for the first million-dollar guarantee in Mississippi history. It wasn't much of a surprise that Gulf Coast pro **John Dolan** won the event and \$336K.

It would be the first of many significant cashes for Dolan.

February brought action to Tunica (**Kurt Jewell** snapped off the World Series of Poker Circuit main event) and the retirement of longtime tournament director **Jimmy Sommerfeld**. **Karen Kaegin** took the reins at Gold Strike as the poker room manager and spent the year revamping tournaments, promotions and action. Gold Strike, a longtime staple in the Tunica market, is fierce competition for the most round-the-clock action in North Mississippi.

The April Delta Gold tournament was the first big tournament after Kaegin's arrival, and her hard work had paid off as numbers were great, action was at an all-time high and Gold Strike was once again the place to be.

As we moved from spring into the early summer, Mississippi had a strong showing of talent at the WSOP. Mixed-game and Omaha players from the Magnolia State went and conquered. **David Nicholson**, **Tim Burt** and **Galen Kester**, all regular faces in the north and south ends of the state, had successful series with multiple cashes. Kester would keep the heater alive when he'd come home to conquer the Gold Strike

World Poker Open in August for an impressive \$165K payday. Known for his Omaha prowess, the WPO victory is Kester's most significant NLHE cash, and it landed him on the cover of *Ante Up*.

Fall brought turmoil, as the WSOPC Biloxi and the Gulf Coast Championship were hurt by Hurricane Isaac. Threats of impending bad weather led to lackluster numbers at the IP Biloxi WSOPC stop. It didn't stop **Kyle Cartwright** of Bartlett, Tenn., from winning the main event, earning his fifth circuit ring and tying **Mark "Pegasus" Smith's** record. The GCPC event at the Beau Rivage wouldn't fair as well as the IP tournament. The Beau Rivage was forced to evacuate, ending the series after opening weekend.

Sliding into winter, **Steve Reed** became the poker room manager at Harrah's in Tunica after the departure of longtime co-manager **Chris Griffin**. On Jan. 19, Harrah's hosts a \$15K guarantee, awarding seats for its WSOPC event, which begins Jan. 24. Call the poker room for more details, as the turnout should be huge.

Now that we're all caught up, it's time to look forward. The Beau Rivage brings back on Jan. 4 the Million Dollar Heater. I've watched the Mississippi tournament series build steam with new events and structures over the past 12 months, and I think we can look forward to an unrivaled January event. Ridiculously large fields should lure in new faces and all the familiar ones.

The Heater is guaranteeing \$1 million in prize pools with a main event featuring a \$2,600 buy-in. Scheduled throughout the 19-day series are other featured guarantee events, including a \$300K (\$340) Event 1 on Jan. 4, a \$150K (\$340) Event 14 on Jan. 11 and a \$50K (\$340) event on Jan. 12.

After the Heater, it's a mad dash to Tunica for the WSOPC at Harrah's, then a quick turnaround and we're back in Biloxi for the Spring Break Classic at the Beau in March.

Look for me at all of the events I mentioned. There's also still time to join me on the Feb. 4 Ante Up Poker Cruise leaving from Port Canaveral, Fla. Thanks for spending 2012 with us, and for reading. I look forward to hearing your stories and celebrating big wins in 2013.

— **Jennifer Gay** is Ante Up's Mississippi Ambassador. She can be contacted at [facebook.com/aceofjewels](https://www.facebook.com/aceofjewels) or at jennifergay80@hotmail.com.



Changes in St. Louis stirring competition

The conversion from Harrah's St. Louis to Hollywood Casino St. Louis is complete. After a few computer glitches, Hollywood is in full swing. The poker room has been renamed the Hollywood Poker

Open Poker Room. New felts and chips are in play and the room has a brighter look. While Hollywood is still the busiest room in the St. Louis area, other casinos have used this time to try attracting players.



DON MATUSOFSKY
MISSOURI

Ameristar Casino is just across the Missouri River from Hollywood. It has increased its comp rate to \$1 per hour and awards five base points on the Star Awards card. Tables have been changed

from 10 players to nine. This has a double benefit of being more comfortable and also makes it easier to start a new table. Ameristar also

has begun running a \$25K freeroll with \$10K for first place. Players qualify by playing 100 hours and earn bonus chips for each additional 10 hours of play. The freeroll will be Jan. 14. As with all promotions, please check with the casino for details.

The schedule for the next Heartland Poker Tour event at River City Casino has been released (hptpoker.com). This event will be April 19-28. Some changes in store: more buy-in levels for single-table satellites and several daily tournaments. No-limit hold'em tournaments are scheduled with buy-ins between \$150 and \$550. There will be a \$150 pot-limit Omaha and a \$150 six-max event. The new parking garage recently opened and will greatly improve the parking near the poker room.

— **Don Matusofsky** is Ante Up's Missouri Ambassador. Email him at anteupdonm@gmail.com.

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PERLOV CAPTURES STAR-STUDDED EVENT

By Patrick Gallagher

After Black Friday and the demise of the NAPT, Mohegan Sun's poker room was left without a national tournament series to attract pros and gain much-needed visibility in the New England marketplace. With the area's biggest poker room right down the road at Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun has struggled to make a name for itself with cash and tournament players looking for high value games and overall quality poker experience.

With the addition of the Deepstacks Poker Tour stop, which completed in early December, Mohegan Sun has stepped up its game and is building some visibility and momentum into 2013. This event attracted more than 2,000 players for a nearly \$1.25 million prize pool and saw top pros sitting with New England's rounders, including **Tristan Wade, Darrel Dier, Michael Mizrachi, Kurt Jewell, David Inselberg, Lou Procopio, Matt Matros, Matt Glantz, David Paredes, Raj Patel, Matt Affleck, Justin Schwartz, Jared Jaffee, Greg Ostrander, Ashton Griffin, Vanessa Selbst, Allen Kessler, Aaron Massey, Chip Jett, Mike Matusow** and **Victor Ramdin**.

In the end, it was **Art Perlov** who took down the \$2,300 main event for nearly \$109K. Also, **Nathanial Bryant** captured two events during the series.

EPT: What happens when you combine state-run charity rooms, bar-league events and charity events into one championship season? You get more than 12,000 players paying as little as \$20 vying for the chance to play in the \$72K Eastern Poker Tour Championship. In

Deepstacks Tour, Mohegan Sun, Nov. 23-Dec. 4

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Event 1 • \$400 NLHE
 Entries: 631 • Pool: \$215,346
 Kenneth Frey, \$53,836</p> | <p>Event 14 • \$175 NLHE
 Entries: 58 • Pool: \$8,439
 Thomas Dragone, \$2,784</p> | <p>Event 28 • \$500 NLHE
 Entries: 48 • Pool: \$22,116
 Fedor Truntsev, \$9,289</p> |
| <p>Event 4 • \$175 NLHE
 Entries: 72 • Pool: \$10,476
 Richard Rossi, \$3,357</p> | <p>Event 15 • \$350 6-Max
 Entries: 99 • Pool: \$29,100
 Nathaniel Bryant, \$10,185</p> | <p>\$2,300 Main Event
 Entries: 251 • Pool: \$559,981
 Artyem Perlov, \$108,864</p> |
| <p>Event 7 • \$225 NLHE
 Entries: 42 • Pool: \$8,148
 Eric Harlett, \$3,172</p> | <p>Event 17 • \$225 NLHE
 Entries: 31 • Pool: \$6,014
 Mike Zagorites, \$2,526</p> | <p>Event 31 • \$600 NLHE
 Entries: 120 • Pool: \$97K
 Nesrine Kourdourli, \$26,255</p> |
| <p>Event 8 • \$300 NLHE
 Entries: 154 • Pool: \$38,839
 James Dabkowski, \$11,652</p> | <p>Event 18 • \$500 NLHE
 Entries: 145 • Pool: \$72,750
 Maciej Stachura, \$20K</p> | <p>Event 32 • \$225 NLHE
 Entries: 39 • Pool: \$7,567
 John Soroka, \$1,900</p> |
| <p>Event 11 • \$225 NLHE
 Entries: 31 • Pool: \$6,014
 Scott Abkowicz, \$1,003</p> | <p>Event 21 • \$175 NLHE
 Entries: 78 • Pool: \$11,349
 Nathaniel Bryant, \$3,293</p> | <p>Be sure to turn to
 Page 28 for our
 preview of the
 next DSPT event.</p> |
| <p>Event 12 • \$1K NLHE
 Entries: 114 • Pool: \$110,580
 Nicholas Palma, \$33,724</p> | <p>Event 22 • \$330 NLHE
 Entries: 149 • Pool: \$43,359
 Ralph Macri, \$13,226</p> | |

its 18th season, the EPT joined forces with New Hampshire's charity poker rooms in Seabrook and Rockingham to deliver the largest regional bar league championship on record, with **Mark Thibodeau** outlasting more than 1,400 players to take home the trophy and \$21K.

— Patrick Gallagher is Ante Up's Northeast Ambassador. You can email him at anteupne@gmail.com.

Atlantic City's New Year's Resolution

By Jo Kim

This is an exciting time of year for poker players in the Atlantic City and Philadelphia region. With plenty of tournament options in the months to come, planning New Year's resolutions should be easy. Not only are these events madly popular, they can guarantee handsome prize pools and possibly a World Series of Poker Circuit ring to a few lucky individuals. Furthermore, Atlantic City could make drastic changes to adjust to a New Jersey online gambling bill (see story Page 40). The prospect of poker is looking good for the East Coast.

After the WSOPC's annual return to Harrah's in December (see results next issue), there's a brief lull this month before back-to-back tournament madness begins here. The ever-growing appealing number of events means an increase in various tournament options. In this case, it can range from various tournament structures, such as the Borgata's famous re-entry events, to the patient majestic levels of the WSOPC. Some of the highlighted events coming up are the WSOPC at Caesars followed by Harrah's Philadelphia and the Borgata Winter Open.

Also, other area rooms have developed a number of fresh tournament extravaganzas. In the past year, many new proceedings have been successful in bringing a sufficient number of players to the area. Sands, Borgata and Harrah's Philadelphia have developed new series featuring deepstacks and bigger bounties.

This upcoming year may be revolutionary for players in Atlantic City with online poker possibly making its comeback in New Jersey. The new online poker bill allows licensed casinos to operate gambling servers from Atlantic City. With that being said, there's been mixed emotions on the controversy that has delayed online poker's return. However, from taxes to casino owners' stands on the issue, it seems the topic has made a turn toward a promising direction for the New Year.

PokerStars, after settling all charges with the Department of Justice, has maintained good standing with American players. Furthermore, the online poker company is seeking to purchase the Atlantic Club Casino to make Atlantic City the U.S. base for its return to the market. (For more on this, please see our online poker column on Page 40).

BORGATA: Brock Parker won the \$2,700 main event of the Borgata Fall Open, earning \$372,568 in the November tournament. The field had 644 players for a \$1.6 million prize pool. Winners and statistics are at the right. ♠

Borgata Fall Poker Open

- Event 1 • \$560 NLHE**
 1,431 Entries • Pool: \$715,500
 Daniel Walsh, \$143,114
- Event 3 • \$450 H.O.R.S.E.**
 71 Entries • Pool: \$28,400
 Khaled Alwan, \$9,643
- Event 4 • \$560 Bounty**
 248 Entries • Pool: \$124k
 Matthew Iles, \$33,673
- Event 5 • \$300 NLHE**
 258 Entries • Pool: \$67,080
 Xiaofeng Hu, \$18,216
- Event 6 • \$300 Ladies**
 67 Entries • Pool: \$17,420
 Robin Lee, \$5,914
- Event 7 • \$450 Stud**
 39 Entries • Pool: \$15,600
 Joseph Martine, \$6,809
- Event 8 • \$400 NLHE**
 405 Entries • Pool: \$141,750
 Mohammad Amjadi, \$35,137
- Event 9 • \$400 PLO**
 53 Entries • Pool: \$18,550
 Bruce Yamron, \$6,298
- Event 10 • \$560 NLHE**
 124 Entries • Pool: \$62,000
 Harry Korotki, \$16,358
- Event 12 • \$300 NLHE**
 721 Entries • Pool: \$187,460
 Asher Conniff, \$42,182
- Event 13 • \$400 Ante Only**
 45 Entries • Pool: \$15,750
 James Wiley, \$6,111
- Event 14 • \$560 NLHE**
 175 Entries • Pool: \$87,500
 Kevin McColgan, \$25,462
- Event 15 • \$450 Omaha/8**
 96 Entries • Pool: \$38,400
 Ilya Dymont, \$13,038



Brock Parker

- Event 16 • \$760 NLHE**
 181 Entries • Pool: \$126,700
 John Dibella, \$36,870
- Event 17 • \$1,090 6-Max**
 229 Entries • Pool: \$229,000
 Will Failla, \$58,865
- \$2,700 Main Event**
 644 Entries • Pool: \$1.6m
 Brock Parker, \$372,568
- Event 19 • \$340 NLHE**
 166 Entries • Pool: \$49,800
 Jason Nagers, \$14,493
- Event 20 • \$300 NLHE**
 191 Entries • Pool: \$49,660
 Michael Cicalese, \$14,451
- Event 21 • \$230 NLHE**
 371 Entries • Pool: \$74,200
 Dwyte Pilgrim, \$19,430



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MOST CHARGES DROPPED IN FREE LEAGUE FIASCO

By Scott Long

Charges against five of seven people arrested during a Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco raid on a Nutz Poker League event in October have been dropped; charges against the other two have been reduced and might be dropped.

At a pretrial hearing Dec. 10 at the Pinellas County Criminal Justice Center in Clearwater, Fla., the Florida State Attorney's Office submitted "no information" filings, clearing five people of felony charges in the raid. Felony charges against the remaining two, Nutz Poker League owners **Richard Danford** and **Steven Wheeler**, were reduced to misdemeanors, and they are scheduled for a second pretrial hearing Jan. 11.

"By the next hearing date, it will be determined whether there is any merit to support the charges under a strict application of the gambling statutes, and, if so, then Mr. Danford and Mr. Wheeler will be given the option of participating in the pretrial intervention program, which, if they successfully complete, their charges will be dismissed," said **Luke Lirot**,



who represents the seven who were arrested.

A number of Nutz Poker League supporters, as well as representatives of another Florida free poker league, attended the brief hearing.

On Oct. 20, agents from the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, assisted by Largo police officers, raided Louie's Bar and Grill in Largo and arrested the seven on charges of running a house of gambling. Players who were present for the raid said agents wore riot gear, masks and had guns drawn.

Nutz Poker League, like dozens of other poker leagues in Florida, is an entertainment company bars and restaurants hire to offer free poker tournaments in their venues. Players do not pay cash to play, but compete for prizes or points that are good for prizes.

The Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco hasn't issued a statement on the case, nor released any information on the raid or its investigation. In response to a request for comment, the division referred *Ante Up* to the State Attorney's Office. ♠

Silks Poker Room has a gem in Patrick Murphy

Dec. 1, which boasted 78-degree weather and sunny skies, was the opening day of horse racing at Tampa Bay Downs in Oldsmar, Fla. And inside is one of the friendliest poker rooms in Florida, the

Silks, which offers a great deal of options to casually play some hands while rooting for a trifecta box to come in. On this busy day, I had the opportunity to chat with **Patrick Murphy**, director of poker operations at the Silks.

You've been at the Silks since 2005 as a manager and operations manager since 2006. Where did you cut your teeth before that? I started dealing poker

at 19 at Seminole Gaming Palace (now Seminole Hard Rock), dealt on several cruise lines, (World Series of Poker) and owned and operated a casino training school. Just prior to coming back to the Tampa area I spent several years in a corporate management position for a national restaurant chain.

What separates your room from the others in the area, or any other poker place in Florida? Service is key. Every room around has the same product of poker, so we had to differentiate ourselves. We were the first to offer massage, Bravo player tracking, most giveaways and promotions.

We will honor almost all requests and if we don't have an amenity that you like, just ask and we will do our best to offer it.

I've noticed an increase in charity events at the Silks. Do you see that as a mission of the room? We will continue to do our part to help our community any way we can, and have run charity and benefit events for many organizations and raised thousands of dollars for their causes.

Tampa Hard Rock and Derby Lane in St. Petersburg have started to offer poker series, including World Poker Tour events. Do you see the Silks hosting a series? We are a smaller room with fewer tables to run these events side-by-side with our daily cash games, but this is definitely something that we would like to attempt in the near future.

What do you see the direction of poker being at the Silks and in the Tampa area on the whole? The Tampa area is very competitive for poker. The players have many options on where and when to play. I only hope that every time someone walks in here for the first or 100th time that when they leave they feel like we did everything we could to make it an enjoyable visit. If anyone has any suggestions, we're always listening to the players. That's who we're here for.

— **Andrew Malowitz** is *Ante Up's* Central Florida Ambassador. Email him at anteupandrew@gmail.com.



ANDREW MALOWITZ
CENTRAL FLA.



DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB

The second annual Holiday Charity Classic at Daytona Beach Kennel Club & Poker Room on Dec. 2 attracted about 300 players and more than \$30K in cash and prizes were awarded, including a \$6,500 Borgata package to the winner, **David Tate**. Also, Ante Up Poker Cruise packages, Deep Stack Charity Classic seats and more were awarded in addition to cash payouts.

The event was a bounty tournament this year. Players received \$10 for each person they eliminated, plus they received a \$10 blue ticket they could drop into the bin of the charity of their choice. On hand were *Ante Up* senior strategy columnist **Lee Childs**, who cashed in 10th place, and *Ante Up* publisher **Christopher Cosenza**, who cashed 27th. If you missed this opportunity to win an Ante Up Poker Cruise package, dry your eyes. DBKC is giving away three Ante Up Poker Cruise packages in January via drawings/events on Jan. 1, Jan. 10 and Jan. 21. Visit anteupcruises.com for more information.



Holiday Charity Classic at DBKC

1. David Tate, \$6,500
2. Armando Rosat, \$1,600
3. Todd Korbin, \$1,450
4. Jeff Miller, \$1,400
5. David Michaud, \$1,350
6. Rich Baldonado, \$1,200
7. William Darby, \$1,030
8. Debra Jergensen, \$950
9. Thomas Case, \$900
10. Lee Childs, \$800



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BESTBET JAX PUTS ON IMPRESSIVE FALL SERIES

The bestbet Jacksonville Fall Series and World Poker Tour Regional stop attracted some of the best players in the world, including World Series of Poker champion **Greg Merson**, **Daniel Negreanu**, **Phil Hellmuth** and **Jason Mercier**.



CHAZ ALLEN
NORTH FLORIDA

But it was another pro, **Noah Schwartz**, who captured the coveted first place prize of nearly \$403K in the wee hours of Nov. 13. Schwartz of South Florida has been making a name for himself lately but hadn't really gotten over the hump of winning a major title. *Ante Up's* **Dave Lemmon** interviewed Miami Beach's Schwartz shortly after the victory and you can read that South Florida column on Page 20.

The \$3,500 main event attracted a remarkable 477 players across two days for a \$1.5 million pool.

Schwartz came to the final table with nearly half of the 14 million chips in play. Schwartz ended the tournament on Hand 80 by besting **Byron Kaverman** heads-up. Kaverman earned \$236,592.

"Finally," Schwartz said with a smile as he held the winner's trophy.

Another story of note: **Blake Whittinton** won the first tournament of the series and followed that up with another victory in Event 8. The former UNC Tar Heel turned out to be the **Michael Jordan** of the Jacksonville Fall Series, easily handling a final table of bestbet Jacksonville tournament and cash-game regulars, including **Edwin Smith**, who Whittinton beat heads-up for the title.

BESTBET ST. JOHNS: The bestbet family recently closed its St. Johns facility with an eye on relocating it to better serve its patrons. I'm sad to see the location close as I was one of the original three supervisors hired to open the room there before I moved on to Ocala's poker room. The relocation plan is to find a site that offers greater accessibility to the overall region.

"Northeast Florida continues to be a very strong market for the

WPT bestbet Jacksonville Fall Series

<p>Event 1 • \$340 NLHE Entries: 601 • Pool: \$180,300 Blake Whittinton, \$34,554*</p> <p>Event 2 • \$440 Bounty Entries: 110 • Pool: \$33K Vafa Kamali, \$4K*</p> <p>Event 3 • \$230 O/8 Entries: 53 • Pool: \$10,600 Richard Bryan, \$4,346</p> <p>Event 4 • \$230 NLHE Entries: 109 • Pool: \$21,800 David Jackson, \$3,349</p> <p>Event 5 • \$340 NLHE Entries: 50 • Pool: \$15K Brandon Culbreth, \$4,999*</p> <p>Event 6 • \$230 Bounty Entries: 86 • Pool: \$17,200 Dale Roesel, \$4,903</p> <p>Event 7 • \$340 PLO Entries: 36 • Pool: \$10,800 Idanajean Napier, \$4,860</p>	<p>Event 8 • \$230 NLHE Entries: 55 • Pool: \$11K Blake Whittinton, \$4,510</p> <p>Event 9 • \$340 NLHE Entries: 650 • Pool: \$195K Dana Chamberlin, \$25K</p> <p>Event 10 • \$150 AIOF Entries: 71 • Pool: \$8,520 Alan Phillips, \$1,895*</p> <p>Event 11 • \$560 NLHE Entries: 53 • Pool: \$26,500 Mark Eddleman, \$9K*</p> <p>Event 12 • \$340 Omaha/8 Entries: 70 • Pool: \$21K William Hope, \$6,400*</p> <p>Event 13 • \$440 Bounty Entries: 101 • Pool: \$30,300 Alexander Chieu, \$7,051*</p> <p>Event 14 • \$560 NLHE Entries: 62 • Pool: \$31K Aaron Baltzell, \$12,090</p>	<p>Event 15 • \$230 NLHE Entries: 100 • Pool: \$20K Dale James, \$4K*</p> <p>Event 16 • \$340 6-Max Entries: 81 • Pool: \$24,300 Stuart Breakstone, \$4,014*</p> <p>Event 17 • \$230 NLHE Entries: 100 • Pool: \$20K Jon Henry, \$2,300*</p> <p>Event 18 • \$1,060 NLHE Entries: 93 • Pool: \$93K Jerry Wong, \$35,340</p> <p>\$3,500 Main Event Entries: 477 • Pool: \$1.52M Noah Schwartz, \$402,972</p> <p>Event 20 • \$440 Bounty Entries: 106 • Pool: \$31,800 Jessica Tucker, \$7,400</p> <p>Event 21 • \$340 NLHE Entries: 123 • Pool: \$36,900 Benjamin Carli, \$8K * Denotes chop or deal</p>
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entertainment options that our facilities offer and we are excited about the opportunity this relocation provides us in St. Johns County," bestbet spokesman **Michael Munz** said. "Bestbet poker, simulcast and gaming will continue to grow in this region and all our locations will continue to showcase our friendly staff and varied gaming product."

Since opening its first poker room in northeast Florida in 2004, bestbet had grown from 30 tables to 121 at its three locations.

— **Chaz Allen is the Ante Up Ambassador for North Florida. Email him at anteup.chazallen@gmail.com.**



HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD

Justin Hamilton won the Andra's Hand Add On For Autism charity event at the Paradise Poker Room on Nov. 7. He pocketed \$5K for first and had his picture taken with the hosts, poker pros **Chip** and **Karina Jett**. Chip finished fourth, knocked out by Hamilton. In other news, results of the World Poker Tour Rock N' Roll series are on Page 22.

SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK

The World Poker Tour Regional series made another stop at Seminole Coconut Creek's Stax Poker Lounge in late October. The \$500 main event drew 308 players for a \$150K prize pool, and **Stewart Newman** was declared the winner, pocketing \$28K.

But the big story was the effort of **Andrew Woodmancey**, who won three of the 14 events, including back-to-back tournaments (Events 2-3). He captured pot-limit Omaha, NLHE and H.O.R.S.E. titles. Results are on Page 22.

ISLE CASINO POMPANO PARK

One of South Florida's biggest charity events kicks off Jan. 6 as **Bryan Oulton** and **Sandy Swartzbaugh** of the All-In Free Poker League present the second annual PermaPlate Charity Tournament at the Isle Casino, benefiting Women In Distress and the *Sun-Sentinel* Children's Fund. With a lavish champagne brunch at 10 a.m., the tourney begins at noon with a \$200 buy-in for 10K chips, and a \$20 dealer tip gets you 2K more.

Four days later, the Isle Classic gets under way with 12 events from Jan. 10-29. With many of the world's top players attending the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure in the Bahamas from Jan. 5-14 and then traveling to the United States through South Florida, the Isle Classic's main event (with two opening-day sessions on Jan. 25-26) should experience a huge turnout. The tournament has a \$2,500 entry fee and a \$300K guarantee. The final event will be a DeepStacks Tour stop on Jan. 28.

- **Juan Carlos Naranjo** of Hialeah, Fla., was declared the winner of the December \$150K guaranteed, a \$330 event that drew 759 players. Naranjo earned \$23K.

- In the \$100K guarantee later in the month, 1,522 players each paid \$100, generating a \$136,980 pool, and **Robert Seaton** of Miramar, Fla., was named the winner after an 11-way chop for \$11K each.

- Also, in November, **Arthur Peacock** of Jupiter captured \$21,099 for first place in the \$100K guarantee. The event cost \$100 and drew 1,241 entries for a pool worth \$111,690.



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SCHWARTZ'S WIN CEMENTS HIS SPOT AT TOP OF FLA.

When I looked at the July cover of *Ante Up* featuring Mt. Rushmore with a Blue Shark Optics-wearing **George Washington**, a thought came to me: If I were choosing a Mt. Rushmore of South Florida poker players, who would be on it? They should be ranked near the top echelon of the poker world, have spent much of his (or her) formative years growing up in South Florida, and have at least one major title on the resume. The first two choices were no-brainers: **Michael Mizrahi** and **Jason Mercier**. Next would be **Matt Waxman** of Parkland (moved to South Florida at the age of 10 from New Jersey), who picked up a World Poker Tour title in Paris in 2011. However, I struggled a bit when trying to come up with a fourth and final choice.



DAVE LEMMON
SOUTH FLORIDA

Today, I have no doubts. After putting his name on the WPT Champions Cup for the first time with his November victory at the bestbet Jacksonville Fall Series, Miami Beach's **Noah Schwartz** fits the bill with flying colors.

An avid participant in all sports as a youngster, Schwartz told me he was a promising left-handed pitcher in high school and that "a baseball career was my first dream, but I tore the ligaments in my elbow and I ended up falling into poker instead."

He gave me a little background on his start in poker: "It's kind of a sad story, actually. My father was diagnosed with cancer when I was 16 before my senior year of high school and online poker was my escape from reality at that time. It helped me cope with his passing. With my sports background, I'm very competitive and I decided I wanted to give this a go. I had a full academic scholarship at Florida International University and ended up depositing some of that money into online poker accounts. However, I made a commitment to my father to get my college education and no matter what happened I would finish school. I got my degree in finance from FIU, however, I've never had a real job in my life but I've met so many great people in the poker world and it's opened a lot of doors for me."

Looking back on his early career in the game, he pinpointed his first major turning point. "In 2007, I won what was at the time the largest Sunday Million with a \$1,100 buy-in. I got down to head-to-head and chopped it for \$360K; that really got me started. It was life-changing money for me, and I seem to excel when my back is against the wall. I was in North Florida at a wedding that weekend and I told the girl I was with that we had to leave early so I could play poker; she told me I was crazy. I wired what was pretty much my last \$1,100 and somehow I got back home and chopped it."

Later that year, Schwartz began playing in major WPT events along with extended action at the World Series, and in January 2008 made his first WPT final table, finishing fourth and cashing for more than \$311K at the Borgata. A WPT Festa Al Lago final table in 2009 (third, \$345K) and a fourth in the WSOP Europe's mixed-max event in 2011 gained him considerable international recognition.

Shortly after that, when he appeared on my *Poker Action Line* radio show, Schwartz felt like he was moving in the right direction, but still

was striving to reach the next level.

"I've made a few TV final tables so people are starting to know who I am, and I've been so close, but every time I've gotten there, something seems to go wrong," he said. "At times I feel unfulfilled because although I have close to \$2 million in earnings and have that consistency, that big title has definitely eluded me, so I'm going to work hard in 2012 and get one, or maybe two or three."

It took a while, but 2012 was the year. It started well with a win at the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure in a pot-limit Omaha event, followed by solid runs close to home at the Isle Classic and then the Lucky Hearts Open at the Hard Rock in Hollywood. In the spring, Schwartz went on the road and scored big with final-table appearances at the WPT L.A. Poker Classic and the EPT Grand Final in Monaco, pushing his earnings for the year past \$700K heading into the WSOP. However, he was only able to manage two small cashes in Vegas. After some time off, he headed to bestbet for the fall series.

Schwartz got off to a great start in Jacksonville and finished Day 1 in seventh place. He then finished Day 2 with 916K chips for second place, just 8K behind leader **Joseph Elpayaa**. On Day 3, Schwartz survived an early scare, then took control.

"There were a couple of hands that went my way and I was very fortunate in one spot not to get knocked out 26th or 27th. Then I won a pot for about 5 million chips with A-K vs. A-Q, and after that I really had a lot of confidence. I said to myself, 'I can't let this opportunity slip away, because I've been so close before.' It was just one of those events where everything fell together and I couldn't do anything wrong."

Entering the final table with 43 percent of the chips, Schwartz eliminated **Lee Markholt** on the first hand when his pocket queens held up against A-K. With nearly 8 million chips and everyone else with less than 2 million, the big-stack clinic was on.

"Since the pay jumps were relatively big at that point, I knew that the other players would be playing careful, so I wanted to put as much pressure on them as I could, letting them make decisions for their tournament life."

After 68 final-table hands, the tournament was down to two, and Schwartz quickly dispatched **Byron Kaverman** in 12

hands to win the title, nearly \$403K and a \$25,500 entry into the WPT World Championship at the Bellagio in May.

Seeing his name on the WPT Champions Cup was probably the biggest thrill of all for Schwartz, who said, "I'd envisioned it for a long time, so it was a huge sigh of relief to get it done and it's a really fascinating feeling."

I asked if he planned to move to Las Vegas like many other big-name players, but Schwartz said he loves living in South Florida and, despite the lack of high stakes cash games in the state, he's happy with his Sunny Isles condo and life in the Magic City. "I've never been tempted to move anywhere else," he said.

Besides, we have to get to work on that Mt. Rushmore; maybe a giant sand sculpture will do for the time being.

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





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- Event 1 • \$125 NLHE**
Entries: 2,298 • Pool: \$229,800
Chase Hoskins, \$13,788*
- Event 2 • \$240 Bounty**
Entries: 98 • Pool: \$9,800
Okta Altinbas, \$2,695*
- Event 3 • \$150 NLHE**
Entries: 120 • Pool: \$15K
Mathew Pokorny, \$3,898*
- Event 4 • \$150 NLHE**
Entries: 120 • Pool: \$15K
Sidney Phillips, \$4,796*
- Event 5 • \$240 Omaha/8**
Entries: 60 • Pool: \$12K
Rick Semander, \$1,600*
- Event 6 • \$300 NLHE**
Entries: 121 • Pool: \$31,460
Daren Stabinski, \$6K*
- Event 7 • \$240 NLHE**
Entries: 126 • Pool: \$25,200
Robert Rudolf, \$5,500*
- Event 8 • \$150 NLHE**
Entries: 160 • Pool: \$19,200
Paul Balzano, \$3,977*
- Event 9 • \$300 Seniors**
Entries: 50 • Pool: \$13K
Allan Bieler, \$5K
- Event 10 • \$240 Bounty**
Entries: 117 • Pool: \$11,700
Alex Findlay, \$3,860

- Event 11 • \$350 PLO**
Entries: 45 • Pool: \$15K
Bradford Ernst, \$6,150
- Event 12 • \$150 NLHE**
Entries: 113 • Pool: \$15K
Alejandro Zamora, \$3,500*
- Event 13 • \$350 NLHE**
Entries: 1,138 • Pool: \$341K
Michael Laake, \$78,784
- Event 14 • \$100 NLHE**
Entries: 129 • Pool: \$10,320
Atanael Thomas, \$3,404
- Event 15 • \$150 NLHE**
Entries: 108 • Pool: \$15K
Atanael Thomas, \$3,898*
- Event 16 • \$300 NLHE**
Entries: 95 • Pool: \$25K
Ramial Basdeo, \$2,778*
- Event 17 • \$240 PLO/8**
Entries: 68 • Pool: \$13,600
Joseph Patalano, \$5,032
- Event 18 • \$150 NLHE**
Entries: 216 • Pool: \$25,920
Alix Aldonis, \$7,261
- Event 19 • \$150 NLHE**
Entries: 122 • Pool: \$15K
Jessica Meir, \$4K*
- \$1,650 Main Event**
Entries: 329 • Pool: \$493,500
Victor Figueroa, \$105K*



Main event winner Victor Figueroa

- Event 21 • \$150 NLHE**
Entries: 145 • Pool: \$17,400
Howard Becks, \$5,566
- Event 22 • \$150 NLHE**
Entries: 115 • Pool: \$15K
Atanael Thomas, \$3,485*
- Event 23 • \$560 NLHE**
Entries: 62 • Pool: \$40K
Greg Spinder, \$12,800
- Event 24 • \$125 AIOF**
Entries: 50 • Pool: \$3,750
Julio Fernandez, \$950*

* Denotes chop or deal

WPT Stax Lounge Fall Open, Seminole Coconut Creek

- Event 1 • \$100 NLHE**
Entries: 227 • Pool: \$18,468
Joseph Biegler, 1,828*
- Event 2 • \$200 PLO**
Entries: 52 • Pool: \$8,892
Andrew Woodmancey, \$2,675
- Event 3 • \$200 NLHE**
Entries: 105 • Pool: \$17,955
Andrew Woodmancey, \$3,897
- Event 4 • \$200 O/8**
Entries: 57 • Pool: \$9,747
Marla Crumpler, \$2,154
- Event 5 • \$150 NLHE**
Entries: 177 • Pool: \$22,302
Alan Slackman, \$6,915
- Event 6 • \$150 H-U**
Entries: 32 • Pool: \$5K
Juha Puijola, \$2K
- Event 7 • \$175 Bounty**
Entries: 38 • Pool: \$6K
Okta Altinbas, \$845
- Event 8 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 83 • Pool: \$8,217
Patrick Peduto, \$2,876
- Event 9 • \$150 6-Max**
Entries: 83 • Pool: \$10,458
Joe Patalano, \$3,660
- Event 10 • \$120 NLHE**
Entries: 81 • Pool: \$8,019
Tom Currey, \$1,890*
- \$500 Main Event**
Entries: 308 • Pool: \$150K
Stewart Newman, \$28,012*
- Event 12 • \$150 H.O.R.S.E.**
Entries: 53 • Pool: \$6,678
Andrew Woodmancey, \$2,210
- Event 13 • \$200 NLHE**
Entries: 37 • Pool: \$8K
Jean Munoz, \$1,640*
- Event 14 • \$125 NLHE**
Entries: 32 • Pool: \$6K
Ian O'Hara, \$2,502



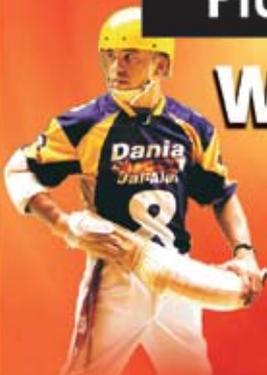
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Arizona is super rich in tournaments, live games . . . and compassion.

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort (near Phoenix) is pigskin heaven for pro football enthusiasts on Sundays and Monday nights throughout the season. Consider splashed pots of \$25 for every field goal, \$50 for touchdowns and \$100 for each safety. This room also rewards a quad-or-better weekday progressive high hand, starting at \$50 with \$50 added each hour until hit. Ak-Chin has random hot-seat drawings on Saturdays and just finished a Season of Giving \$1K guarantee tournament with \$10 buy-ins or a new unwrapped toy, three \$10 rebuys and two \$10 add-ons. All toys and buy-ins went to the Sheriff's Department Toy Drive. Day manager **Steve Murphy** said planned January promotions at Ak-Chin will be impressive, so be sure to call the poker room for details.

At Casino Del Sol in Tucson, the football promotion that started in September continues through Feb. 3. Players win \$250 per quarter and final score, \$50 for reverse scores, game total scores and reverse total scores, and up to \$300 extra, based on live play three hours before kickoff. The **Shelley Duncan** Celebrity Poker Classic is planned for Jan. 12, with a \$12K guaranteed prize pool based on 100 players. The event will be limited to 150 players.

Phoenix-area sister casinos and cardrooms Vee Quiva Casino and Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino, offer even bigger payouts with a linked progressive jackpot that starts at \$25K and increases daily. Win their linked Super 77 bad-beat jackpot and it's going to be super.



MARY BRADLEY
SOUTHWEST

Economic challenges are even more visible during the holiday season, but Desert Diamond Casinos, well-known charitable supporters in Southern Arizona with three Arizona casinos in the Tucson area, worked hard to make the holidays brighter for their community. Just one of many ways they accomplished this was through a Toys for Tots tournament. These efforts enabled the local police department to deliver thousands of toys to the Tohono O'odham Nation, to children who otherwise would receive no gifts. We congratulate these casinos for setting the bar high in giving back to their community.

New Mexico

Every day at 11 a.m., the Santa Ana Star poker room in Bernalillo hosts a \$30 NLHE tournament, and Albuquerque-area players are positively giddy about it. With 15-minute levels, stacks start at 3K, the dealer add-on is 1K, and there's one optional \$20 add-on for 5K. Most exciting are the payoffs. Supervisor **Michael Gerard** said they once had a field of just 19 players, but first place netted \$468. Understandably, the tournaments are growing quickly in popularity. Gerard also hinted about more opportunities after the poker room gets moved to a new location early this month. I tried treats and bribery, but his lips were sealed to the rest of this well-kept secret. The good news is we won't have long to wait.

- NFL fans who frequent the Inn of the Mountain Gods poker room in southern New Mexico eagerly anticipate the \$230 Pass, Punt and Kick Tournament on Jan. 20. It will be limited to 110 players as 11 places pay and first place will be \$7,250.

— **Mary Bradley** is Ante Up's Southwest Ambassador. Email her at anteupmary@gmail.com.



For Ausmus, 2012 will be pretty hard to top

For a film that got mixed reviews and mediocre box office when it hit screens in 1998, *Rounders* certainly has had a lasting effect, as more than a few current pros mention the film's influence on them.

Jeremy Ausmus barely was out of high school when the movie hit theaters, and it would be a few more years before he got into playing poker regularly, but it had a profound effect on him. Born and raised in tiny Lamar, Colo., Ausmus always had been fascinated by games and associated strategies. His grandfather taught him chess when Ausmus was a child, and like many of his generation, he admits having been "addicted" to Nintendo.

Let's take a moment to note the most recent fruits of that addiction: Ausmus finished fifth in the 2012 World Series of Poker Main Event, taking home more than \$2.1 million, despite reaching the final table as the short stack. Ausmus said he felt "remarkably calm" all the way through, never feeling particularly under pressure as he advanced.

While little can compare to placing so highly in one of poker's greatest events — the legendary \$10,000 no-limit hold'em tournament attracted 6,598 entrants this time — Ausmus had more to celebrate in 2012.

Enjoying an incredible run even before the big game, Ausmus ultimately cashed in nine WSOP events. To cap it all off, his wife gave birth to a boy. (They also have a 2-year-old daughter.) Said Ausmus: "I've been blessed with several great years, but this one probably takes the cake."

Ausmus, 33, has been a professional player living in Las Vegas for

the past seven years. He started playing in 2002 and quickly became infatuated. It's been his sole income since 2004, when he began his final year at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

He largely developed his game playing in Fort Collins cardrooms, with occasional visits to Black Hawk. When he graduated from CSU, Ausmus had a \$6,500 bankroll built mostly from playing Omaha/8.

While acknowledging that's not much of a stake to work with, Ausmus said, "I figured if I was going to try to play poker for a living in Vegas, this was the ideal time. So I moved out here and started playing \$2-\$5 no-limit."

Ausmus soon moved to \$5-\$10 NLHE as his main game, but by 2007, he was finding a lot of success playing online. So after moving to Vegas to become a pro, he made most of his revenue over the Internet — until Black Friday.

As for the main event, Ausmus played in the past several, though 2012 was the first time he cashed, coming close several times.

He said there's no big secret to his incredible run in 2012: "I think I'm constantly learning and getting better at poker, so this year I was better than last year and so on. I think the main reason I keep getting more successful is I keep working hard at it."

For a guy with so much tournament success in 2012 (he also finished first in a 270-player NLHE tourney Nov. 30 at the Five Diamond World Poker Classic), Ausmus still prefers cash games.

"It's hard to travel and play all the tourneys with a young family," he said. "I've really never been attracted to that route anyway, which is why I'm a cash player, I guess."

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



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COLORADO

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Big Stack No-Limit Hold 'Em
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Mar. 2, 11:15am

Super Bounty / Super Big Stack
No-Limit Hold 'Em Tournaments:
Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, 11:15am

Ladies No-Limit Hold 'Em
Tournaments: Jan. 13, Mar. 10,
11:15am

Last Saturday of the Month
No-Limit Hold 'Em Tournaments:
Jan. 26, Feb. 23, Mar. 30, 11:15am

Tuesday and Wednesday No-Limit
Hold 'Em Tournaments: 7:15pm

Omaha Hi-Low Tournaments:
Jan. 19, Mar. 16, 11:15am

Jack and Jill No-Limit Hold 'Em
Tournaments: Jan. 27, Feb. 24,
Mar. 31, 11:15am

2nd Annual Winter Poker
Classic: Feb. 16-18, 10:00am

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A MULTI-PROPERTY BAD BEAT FOR CAESARS

On Jan. 10, Caesars Entertainment will start a new multi-property mega-beat progressive bad-beat jackpot, which will be seeded with \$200K and the initial qualifying hand being four aces beaten. When the jackpot passes \$300K, the qualifying hand will drop to four kings, and each \$100K after that will drop the qualifying hand another ranking. If the jackpot hits \$1,400,001, four deuces beaten will take down the prize. Eight Caesars Entertainment properties will participate in the mega beat, seven in Las Vegas: Caesars Palace, Harrah's, The Quad (formerly the Imperial Palace), Flamingo, Bally's, Planet Hollywood and the Rio, and Harveys in Lake Tahoe.



ROB SOLOMON
LAS VEGAS

Caesars has designed the payout structure to generously reward everyone playing in a hold'em game in any of those properties when the bad beat hits. The losing player will get 20 percent of the prize, the winning player will get 10 percent, and the rest of the pool will be distributed equally to the active players at each of those eight properties.

Caesars is betting the possibility of the biggest bad-beat jackpot ever, and the possibility of a nice payday for everyone playing any Caesars property when it hits, will bring in players. Not just the tourists in town for a few days, but the Nevada residents who usual play at the locals casinos for their promotions and bad-beat jackpots. They have their eyes on topping the \$787K bad-beat jackpot that hit at Caesars in Atlantic City last August.

NEW GAME AT ARIA: The Aria just introduced a new game and concept in its room. It's called "Multi Action Poker." Players play two hands simultaneously, getting their cards dealt from two dealers at the table sitting opposite each other.

Each game is played with its own deck. Players must bet from separate stacks and are not allowed to borrow from one game's stack to bet in the other game. However, if they lose all of their chips, they're allowed to take one buy-in from their other stack, provided that they're left with at least the minimum buy-in in the other game. The games are designated "red" game and "blue" game to keep it straight.

The game is designed to attract players looking for extra action. Players will be able to play twice as many hands during the same session as in a normal live game, so folding a starting hand won't necessarily mean a few minutes of idle time waiting for the next hand. And of course, they'll have to stay alert to follow the action in two games at once. But unlike multitableting online, players will have the same players to study in both games.

One fun feature is the games can be different. Based on player interest, you can be playing a hand of low-limit hold'em at the same time you're playing Omaha/8, with different stakes for each game.

The game is being offered on a trial basis by the Aria, exclusively for now. **Adam Altweis**, director of poker operations, thinks the game could really take off, and was eager for his room to be the one that

introduced it. During the introductory phase, there's a maximum rake of \$3 and players will receive \$3 an hour in comps for playing. Early reviews have been positive, with most players reporting it took only about five minutes or so to get used to playing two hands at once.

NEW EVENT AT VENETIAN: The Venetian is introducing a new type of tournament called Survivor. Rather than playing down to the final player, the tournament ends when exactly 10 percent of the field remains. Those players will each share the same payout.

Tommy LaRosa, Venetian's tournament director, said the idea is to give more players a chance to "go home happy." The typical tournament prize distribution is heavily weighted toward the top two or three finishers.

Those players are quite pleased with the results, but the rest of the field, players who have played for hours, are frustrated with a minimum cash.

Now more players will get a significant payday when they do cash, instead of getting back just a bit more than their buy-in. It will be interesting to see how this format changes the strategy of the players, especially as they approach the bubble.

The Venetian has added the Survivor tournament to its regular weekly schedule and is going to have several Survivor events as part of its next Deep Stack Extravaganza, which will be Jan. 31-Feb. 27.

The Venetian completed its latest Deep Stack Extravaganza Nov. 18 as **Alex Haro** of California took home the main event's first place prize of \$142,503, outlasting another Californian, **Axel Warner** (\$87,879).

More than 260 players entered the \$2,500 event, resulting in a \$593,775 prize pool.

HPT AT PALMS: The Heartland Poker Tour stopped at the Palms in November and nearly 290 players paid \$1,650 for a \$408,840 pool. Las Vegas' **James Carroll** started the final day as the short stack, but won the event and \$104K. **Michael Ryan** of Pennsylvania was second (\$58,669).

MGM GRAND: The MGM Grand poker room is establishing a niche for itself by offering low-limit mixed games most evenings. Limits start at \$4-\$8. It also has a popular H.O.R.S.E tournament every Tuesday night. Of course, the room remains a popular choice for limit and no-limit hold'em.

ON THE MOVE: A couple of poker rooms have relocated within their casinos. Treasure Island moved its room next to the sports book (and adjacent to the popular Cantor's Deli), now offering seven tables of low buy-in tournaments and limit and NLHE.

Harrah's moved its room to the front of the casino, right up against the Las Vegas Strip and right next to one of the main entrances. Its seven-table room will see plenty of foot traffic from tourists. The room continues to offer daily tournaments and NLHE, and hopes the new location will help them re-establish a \$3-\$6 limit game.

— **Rob Solomon** is Ante Up's Las Vegas Ambassador. You can email him at rob@allvegas poker.com. Follow him on Twitter @Robvegas poker and read his blog at robvegas poker.blogspot.com.



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SECOND PLACE
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Finals: April 21 • Noon

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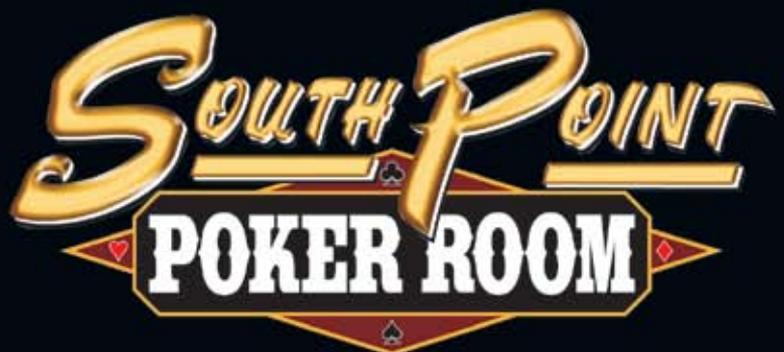
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WSOPC MAKES HISTORY IN LAKE TAHOE

The first kiss of this year's winter brought a few inches of snow, but thankfully that didn't keep the grinders from going to the World Series of Poker Circuit at Harveys, which began Nov. 8. Players flocked in record numbers from all over the world to get a piece of the 10-day action that paid out nearly \$2 million. The circuit offered daily tournaments ranging from \$140-\$365, and brought unexpected numbers and great cash action to the area.



LESLIE PAULS
RENO

With so many casinos opening in Northern California, locals weren't sure what to expect, but as Harveys poker room manager **Jim Pierre** said, "We were all very pleasantly surprised to see the numbers go way up from last year, and have our best turnout ever."

The air was cold, but the action was hot. Event 1 (\$365 no-limit hold'em) started with 266 runners, a slight increase from last year, and

awarded nearly \$80K. In the end, **John Miner** of Carson City, Nev., started off with bragging rights and a nice cash of \$20K.

The following events continued to have impressive numbers, with an average prize pool of around \$70K. The fourth event, a \$365 re-entry, finished with 651 entries (\$195K purse) and would go down as the biggest tournament in Northern Nevada history.

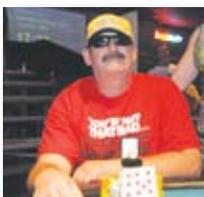
Gary Guth of Yuba City had never entered a large tournament, but he won the title and \$40K.

The \$1,675 main event drew 422 entries, one being **Cary Marshall** of Alaska, who started the final day with the chip lead and would stay there, taking home \$139K and the ring.

Marshall was followed by **Derrick Yamada** of Sacramento (\$86K), **John Deng** of Davis, Calif., (\$63K), **Clint Baskin** of Stockton, Calif., (\$47K) and **Ping Liu** of Chicago (\$35K).

— **Leslie Pauls is an Ante Up Ambassador for Reno and a representative for Blue Shark Optics. Email her at anteupcali@gmail.com.**

WSOP Circuit, Harveys Lake Tahoe, Nov. 8-20



Event 1 • \$365 NLHE
Entries: 266 • Pool: \$79,800
John Miner, \$19,547



Event 2 • \$365 NLHE
Entries: 220 • Pool: \$65,700
Dan Gilmer, \$16,426



Event 3 • \$365 H.O.R.S.E.
Entries: 104 • Pool: \$31,200
David Dilorio, \$9,360



Event 4 • \$365 NLHE
Entries: 651 • Pool: \$195,300
Greg Guth, \$40,029



Event 5 • \$365 NLHE
Entries: 241 • Pool: \$72,300
Carter Myers, \$17,711



Event 6 • \$365 NLHE
Entries: 201 • Pool: \$60,300
Dan Gilmer, \$15,675



Event 7 • \$365 6-Max
Entries: 219 • Pool: \$65,700
Kevin Calenzo, \$17,741



Event 8 • \$365 NLHE
Entries: 246 • Pool: \$73,800
Taylor Skeels, \$18,083



Event 9 • \$580 NLHE
Entries: 229 • Pool: \$114,500
Brett Schwertley, \$28,627



Event 10 • \$365 NLHE
Entries: 285 • Pool: \$85,500
Austin Apicella, \$20,519



\$1,675 Main Event
Entries: 422 • Pool: \$633K
Cary Marshall, \$139,260



Event 12 • \$365 NLHE
Entries: 138 • Pool: \$41,400
Robert Pinney, \$11,589



DeepStacks Poker Tour blows into Oregon

By Philip Dobrikin

The Chinook Winds Casino will host a DeepStacks Poker Tour series February 2-11. The PacWest Classic will be a 10-day series that consists of 18 events with entries starting at \$55 and culminating with the \$1,100 main event.

Starting things off is a \$215 re-entry event with two starting days. Players have unlimited re-entries for the first three levels on Days 1A and 1B. Most days have a \$125 satellite to the main event in the evening, with a \$250 mega-satellite the day before and a last-chance turbo two hours before the main event, which begins Feb. 9 at noon, which will have a \$100K guarantee and allow for re-entries for the first three levels.

The final table (Feb. 11) will be streamed on the Internet.

Other interesting tournaments on the schedule are \$125 six-max (Feb. 5), a \$125 Omaha/8 (Feb. 6) and a \$125 bounty tournament with \$25 bounties (Feb. 7).

With the series running up to three events a day, the Chinook Winds Casino is doing big things to get ready, including bringing in at least 40 poker tables to handle the crowds. Chinook Winds is in Lincoln City, Ore., 85 miles southwest of Portland. Players can stay at the adjacent beachfront Chinook Winds Resort.

Please see the ad on Page 61 for full details.

— **Philip Dobrikin is Ante Up's Pacific Northwest Ambassador. Email him at anteupphil@gmail.com.**



WPT BOOT CAMP IS COMING TO TOWN IN APRIL

The WPT Boot Camp will be in town April 18-21 as pros **Nick Brancato** and **Rick Fuller** will be the instructors. April 18-19 will be the tournament clinic, and for the first time in Chicagoland, the camp will hold a cash-game clinic April 20-21.



JOE GIERTUGA
CHICAGOLAND

Brancato is the WPT director of training and curriculum. In 2008, Brancato won a World Series of Poker Circuit hold'em ring at Caesars Palace in Atlantic City.

In 2009, he won the Windy City Poker Championship's High Rollers event in Alsip, Ill. Fuller is a high stakes cash-game player who was the camp's

first instructor.

BLUE CHIP: Blue Chip's poker room is hosting a \$20 buy-in tourna-

ment with unlimited \$20 rebuys the first hour. Tournaments start at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Limited to 70 players, this popular tournament often sells out. Registration starts at 4 p.m. and has an optional \$20 add-on. For more information on this and other tournaments offered, go to BlueChipCasino.com.

GRAND VICTORIA: Grand Victoria's seven-table room is Illinois' busiest. Since taking over as poker room manager, **Joe Zuilek** has made many improvements. Recently, \$2-\$3 no-limit hold'em was added.

"Our \$2-\$3 NLHE game makes it easier for players to move up," Zuilek said. The poker room offers four buy-in choices: \$1-\$2 (\$50-\$200 min-max), \$2-\$3 (\$100-\$300), \$2-\$5 (\$200-\$500) and \$5-\$10 (\$500-\$1,500).

— "Chicago" Joe Giertuga is Ante Up's Chicagoland Ambassador. Email him at chicago.joe@comcast.net.

SOUTHERN INDIANA



Midwest players one step closer to Vegas prize

Hollywood Casino in Lawrenceburg, Ind., had a great turnout for its inaugural Hollywood Poker Open. Eight event winners and five mega-satellite winners are advancing to the \$500K guaranteed HPO championship at the M Resort in Las Vegas on June 28-30. Each received a \$2,500 seat at the championship and \$1,500 in travel expenses.



R.C. THORNE
S. INDIANA

Andrew Jeffrey of Mansfield, Ohio, outlasted the 308 entrants, winning \$35,266 in the main event. Here are the winners from this series:

Event 1, NLHE: **Karthik Ramakrishnan**, Big Stone Gap, Va., \$46,500.

Event 2, Seniors: **Mark Kelhmeier**, Columbus, Ohio, \$3,691.

Event 3, Ladies: **Jessica Berry**, Louisville, \$3,129.

Event 4, pot-limit Omaha: **Ray Attiyah**, Cincinnati, \$4,758.

Event 5, bounty: **Richard Panepinto**, Indianapolis, \$4,176.

Event 6, six-max: **Richard Briscoe**, Mitchell, Ind., \$5,820.

Main Event: **Andrew Jeffrey**, Mansfield, Ohio, \$35,266.

Event 8, NLHE: **Kevin Snook**, Brookville, Ind., \$7,995.

Mega-satellite winners: **Libby Wilson**, Frankfort, Ky.; **David Blickenstaff**, Plymouth, Mich.; **Jim Shelton**, Bargersville, Ind.; **Lester Schaefer**, Connersville, Ind. and **Dawn Donaldson**, Indianapolis.

HPT BELTERRA: **Greg Raymer**, the 2004 World Series of Poker champ, captured a record fourth Heartland Poker Tour title this season, winning the event at Belterra Casino for \$106K. He is the first player to win four HPT titles (and he did it all in one season). His other victories came at River City-Lumiere in St. Louis, Route 66 Casino in New Mexico and Prairie Meadows Casino in Iowa. He is the HPT's all-time money leader.

— R.C. Thorne is Ante Up's Southern Indiana Ambassador. Email him at anteuprc@gmail.com.



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA/WEST VIRGINIA



These Pittsburgh players have PLO prowess

Bryce Fox and **Jim Weaver** of the Pittsburgh area finished 2012 ranked No. 1 and No. 7 in the country, respectively, among pot-limit Omaha tournament players. The National Ranking Association of Tournament Poker Players (nratpp.com) ranks them among the top 10 best in the game.



MIKE OWENS
W. PA./W. VA.

Both players believe the popularity of Omaha could explode in the next few years. Omaha is a variation of hold'em with four cards being dealt to each player instead of two. Community cards are dealt flop, turn and river like in hold'em.

"It's a lot more of a gambling game, because there are so many draws that can be made," Fox said. "In Omaha, you're not safe until the river.

And, a lot of times, your hand is not going to hold up as compared to hold'em."

Weaver said few people understand Omaha strategy well, and good players can take advantage of that.

"Not only are you getting a guy who doesn't know how to play Omaha, but you're getting a guy who probably doesn't know how to play hold'em too well, either," Weaver said. "That makes the fields kind of juicy right there."

"A lot of people think it's a money ranking, and I wish it was," Fox said. "I would gladly take a money ranking No. 1 over points ranking. Nonetheless, I'm proud of it."

— **Mike Owens is the Ante Up Ambassador for Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. You can follow him on Twitter @Holdemag and check out his blog at CheckRaze.com. He can be reached at anteupowens@gmail.com.**

WHAT A PAIR



Bryce Fox

Age: 38

Job: poker pro

Home: Ross

PLO Rank: 1



Jim Weaver

Age: 43

Job: operates Captain Clothing in Carnegie

Home: Western suburbs

PLO Rank: 7



TURTLE CREEK TOURNEYS ARE TURNING SOME HEADS

Turtle Creek Casino's poker room is celebrating the running of its holiday tournament, Tis The Season to Hold'Em, a \$100 frez-out that included \$750 in additional cash prizes on Dec. 15. Free money is always a good reason for players from all over the Midwest to visit the remodeled, 10-table poker room.



FRANK PANAMA
MICHIGAN

Following the running of its holiday tournament, Turtle Creek is continuing with its Super Stack tournaments that run the first Saturday of the month. With a buy-in of \$175, players can receive 16K chips with 30-minute levels, which can mean some deep play indeed.

"It's a great structure," supervisor **Matt Kolinski** said. Antes start in the later levels, a feature that's often appreciated by tournament players.

Though the Super Stack only plays once a month, Turtle Creek has tournaments every day, including a weekly \$100 deepstack event Sundays at 2 p.m.. The room even provides a bonus of 500 chips if you register before 1.

In 2010, Turtle Creek Casino remodeled its poker room into the comfortable, updated environment that players find today. Located in Williamsburg, Mich., the poker room often draws from the resorts near the area and is a great getaway for poker players from Detroit and Grand Rapids.

— **Frank Panama and Gambit Gras** are Ante Up's Michigan Ambassadors. They host the Michigan Poker Monster weekly podcast at mipokermonster.com. You can email them at anteupmichigan@gmail.com.



Boyd Gaming officially owns Diamond Jo venues

Boyd Gaming Corp. has completed its purchase of the two Diamond Jo Casinos in Iowa (as well several other properties) that go along with its acquisition of Peninsula Gaming, the parent company of Diamond Jo. This will bring Boyd's casino count to 17, making it one of the largest in the country. I'm certain we'll see some changes at both Diamond Jo locations, and hopefully they will be a positive for the poker community.



KEN WARREN
IOWA

JUMER'S CASINO: The bad-beat jackpot at Jumer's Casino hit for a little more than \$53K on Nov. 30 in Rock Island, Ill. This was the first time the jackpot was hit since introducing it last year. Unfortunately, I walked into the room to play about

10 minutes too late to have shared in the windfall. This was the first time I saw someone with almost \$20K in chips in a \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em game. Seems like a little overkill.

NEW GAMES: Three casinos have added new cash games recently. The Horseshoe in Council Bluffs has added a regular \$10-\$20 limit hold'em game that runs every Saturday. Jumer's has a \$2-\$5 NLHE game that runs regularly on Fridays. This is a sign-up game so call ahead if you're looking to play. The \$2-\$5 game isn't really a new game at Jumer's as much as an attempt to make the game more regular and expected. Mystique in Dubuque has been trying to get a pot-limit Omaha game going and it's getting really close to having enough interested. If that's your game, give the room a call.

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

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CHOCTAW STARTS NEW YEAR WITH THE WSOPC

The third year for Choctaw Casino's World Series of Poker Circuit stop kicks off Jan. 3, and if last year's turnout is any indicator, this series will be wildly successful. Last year drew record numbers, and the main-event field included **Todd Brunson, Layne Flack, Dennis Phillips, Scotty Nguyen, Tom McEvoy, Men Nguyen** and **Chad Brown**. At the time, they accounted for 23 WSOP bracelets, 298 WSOP cashes, five circuit rings and almost \$24 million career earnings.



BONNIE DEMOS
OKLAHOMA

Midweek events drew in the 400-player range last year, with one main-event satellite drawing a staggering 740 entrants. The \$1,600 main event had 978 players for a prize pool of \$1,422,990, second only to the 1,615-player field at Hammond, Ind., earlier in the season. Tournament play takes place in the casino's Center Stage concert hall, which is comfortable, spacious and an excellent space for an event of this size. The casino offers special hotel rates at its luxurious resort starting at \$59. Choctaw Casino is about an hour north of the Dallas-Fort Worth airport. This year's events run Jan. 3-21, including 12 ring events and a WSOP pendant up for grabs. The main event begins Jan. 19. For more info, check choctawcasinos.com. The 400-room hotel tower fills up quickly. If you wish to reserve your room at the special rate, call 888-652-4628, promo code WSOP13.

HARD ROCK OPEN: Congratulations to **Robbie Hooper**, who won the Hard Rock Open main event and \$10,675. The 21-event series ran Nov. 23-Dec. 2 and the \$550 main event drew 61 players for a \$30,500 pool. The Hard Rock Casino in Tulsa recently moved its poker operations to a larger room. Another performance of note, **Michael Varnell** won three events, which is quite an accomplishment.

KANSASSTAR CASINO: Employees at the Kansas Star Casino worked dil-

Hard Rock Open, Nov. 23-Dec. 2

Event 1 • \$235 NLHE Entries: 77 • Pool: \$15,400 John Reynolds, \$5,082	Event 8 • \$130 Seniors Entries: 73 • Pool: \$7,300 Allen Barney, \$2,409	Event 15 • \$230 PLO Entries: 32 • Pool: \$6,200 Michael Lech, \$2,600
Event 2 • \$130 NLHE Entries: 49 • Pool: \$4,900 Darrell Evans, \$1,960	Event 9 • \$60 NLHE Entries: 33 • Pool: \$1,650 Michael Varnell, \$742	Event 16 • \$130 J&J Entries: 70 • Pool: \$7K Will Petrali, Deb Inman, \$2,450
Event 3 • \$230 Bounty Entries: 45 • Pool: \$7,875 Jim Sybrant, \$3,150	Event 10 • \$130 NLHE Entries: 52 • Pool: \$5,200 Cody Hughey, \$1,976	Event 17 • \$340 NLHE Entries: 460 • Pool: \$138K Nick Rosenberger, \$27,876
Event 4 • \$130 NLHE Entries: 57 • Pool: \$5,700 Michael Williamson, \$2,166	Event 11 • \$60 NLHE Entries: 39 • Pool: \$1,950 Michael Varnell, \$877	Event 18 • \$230 PLO Entries: 7 • Pool: \$1,400 Tom Coker, \$1,400
Event 5 • \$230 Bounty Entries: 62 • Pool: \$10,850 Jason Benanzer, \$3,796	Event 12 • \$230 Ladies Entries: 8 • Pool: \$1,600 Andrea Redmon, \$1,600	Event 19 • \$230 0/8 Entries: 41 • Pool: \$8,200 David Corn, \$3,280
Event 6 • \$130 NLHE Entries: 48 • Pool: \$4,800 Frank Miller, \$1,920	Event 13 • \$130 NLHE Entries: 56 • Pool: \$5,600 Ashton Robinson, \$2,128	\$550 Main Event Entries: 61 • Pool: \$30,500 Robby Hooper, \$10,675
Event 7 • \$60 NLHE Entries: 37 • Pool: \$1,850 Michael Varnell, \$832	Event 14 • \$60 NLHE Entries: 30 • Pool: \$1,500 Zejadin Capri, \$750	Event 21 • \$130 NLHE Entries: 23 • Pool: \$2,300 Billy Wallace, \$1,150

igently to move into their permanent home in the newly built casino property as the new facility opened Dec. 12. We're anticipating some exciting things from the new poker room. Best of luck to manager **Doug Mackay** and his staff. The casino recently was acquired by Boyd Gaming, a company that's showing some interesting signs of growth with quality casino properties across the country, including Nevada, California, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Jersey. — **Bonnie Demos is Ante Up's Oklahoma-Kansas Ambassador. Email her at bdemos1@gmail.com.**

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Cincinnati at Baltimore
San Diego at Oakland

MON, SEP 17
Denver at Atlanta

MON, SEP 24
Green Bay at Seattle

MON, OCT 1
Chicago at Dallas

MON, OCT 8
Houston at NY Jets

MON, OCT 15
Denver at San Diego

MON, OCT 22
Detroit at Chicago

MON, OCT 29
San Francisco at Arizona

MON, NOV 5
Philadelphia at New Orleans

MON, NOV 12
Kansas City at Pittsburgh

MON, NOV 19
Chicago at San Francisco

MON, NOV 26
Carolina at Philadelphia

MON, DEC 3
NY Giants at Washington

MON, DEC 10
Houston at New England

MON, DEC 17
NY Jets at Tennessee

MINNESOTA



KIRBY WINS HIS SECOND MID-STATES TITLE

JOHN SOMSKY
MINNESOTA

For the third consecutive season, Grand Casino Mille Lacs in Onamia, Minn., hosted the Mid-States Poker Tour (Nov. 11-18), and this time drew 172 entrants for a prize pool of \$164,176. **Matt Kirby** of Bemidji, Minn., took down the \$46,970 first-place prize after a short heads-up battle with **Erick Wright**. This was Kirby's second win and third MSPT cash this season, bringing his career MSPT cashes to \$101,523. With a mix of aggressive play and excellent cards, Kirby dominated, making it the fastest final table in



MSPT history. It was a power-packed final table with two time MSPT-winner **Dan Sun** finishing third (giving him a record \$154,007 career MSPT earnings), 2011 MSPT Player of the Year **Nate Fair** taking fourth and longtime Minnesota tournament dominator **Everett Carlton** getting seventh, giving Carlton a record six MSPT final tables and eight MSPT cashes. Sun, Wright and Kirby are the top three in the MSPT POY points race, though Sun's third-place finish has nearly locked up the title.

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

WISCONSIN

CHAD HOLLOWAY
WISCONSIN

Wisco gets Hellmuth consulting job

Mike "Wisco" Murray is renowned on the Midwest circuit as a poker player, but now he's taking on a new opportunity to work with 13-time World Series of Poker bracelet-winner **Phil Hellmuth**. The 31-year-old Murray has been named head consultant for Hold'em with Hellmuth, which helps partner organizations with Hellmuth to raise money for charity.

"We work with charities across the United States to help them bring more awareness to their causes. We do this by running poker tournaments that benefit them," said Murray, who, like Hellmuth, hails from Madison, Wis. "I work hand-in-hand with the different charities to

help them set up and promote these events."

"I really enjoy what I'm doing and it's very rewarding to take something I love like poker, and be able to turn it into raising money for people and places that really need it," Murray said. "One of Phil's 10 goals in life is to raise \$100 million for charities worldwide. ... We have an event at the Kentucky Derby coming this May, as well as an event with Agrace HospiceCare in Madison in December 2013."

Hellmuth has raised \$20.4 million toward his charity goal. If you would like to learn more about Hold'em with Hellmuth events, or how to get involved, visit holdemwithhellmuth.com.

— **Chad Holloway** is Ante Up's Wisconsin Ambassador. He's also a Senior Writer for PokerNews.com and is a sponsored member of [Team Blue Shark Optics](http://TeamBlueSharkOptics.com). Email him at anteupchad@yahoo.com or follow him on Twitter @[ChadAHolloway](https://twitter.com/ChadAHolloway).

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MARKET BRINGS EXCITEMENT TO PLAYERS

As things begin to settle here in Ohio, the tournament action is beginning to develop, with the exception of the World Series of Poker Circuit being canceled at the Horseshoe in Cleveland. A spokeswoman from the Horseshoe Casino said it has opted out of the 2012-13 schedule. This decision was based on space issues at the Horseshoe.



**DAN
HARKENRIDER**
OHIO

On the other hand, Hollywood Casino Columbus is looking forward to a Hollywood Poker Open event in May that will feature multiple events over 10 days and many opportunities to qualify for the \$500K guarantee at M Resort in Las Vegas. Dates are pending Ohio Casino Control Commission approval.

• Hollywood Toledo was the first casino in Ohio to put up a comprehensive schedule of daily tournaments. Manager **Peter Lau** has a wide variety of options for players, including a monthly \$300 event that features a first prize of \$10K-plus every month. But Lau has taken variety to a new level: bounties, pineapple, extreme turbos, Omaha and everything in between.

• Buckeye Charity Poker in Willoughby Hills, Ohio, features nightly tournaments at 7, ranging from a \$10 rebuy to \$100 bounty events. It also features a weekly six-max event that has daily qualifiers to a Saturday winner-take-all final table. Buckeye, like Hollywood, is a fun place to play. It's a PokerPro-certified room and if you haven't played on digital tables, you will be hooked. The pace of the game, instant

tournament updates and online-like features make it a great experience.

• Horseshoe Cleveland offers two weekly noon tournaments (NLHE and PLO) plus an end of month (last Sunday) \$500 event. November featured 90 players but still generated a \$10K-plus first prize.

• Hollywood Columbus is planning to start tournaments this quarter and is expanding the poker room to accommodate demand a few months after opening. Manager **Matt Dodd** is an experienced leader and brings much innovation to the property.

TIDBITS: Hollywood Columbus features the best game action in the state in part because of structures and the ability to buy to the biggest stack at the table and in part to the huge population surrounding the casino. My favorite is the \$5-\$25 game that runs a couple of times a week.

• Horseshoe Cleveland and manager **Jeremy Smith** have parted ways. **Chris Loscalzo**, who opened Harrah's Philadelphia's poker room (then called Harrah's Chester), is providing transitional leadership in the poker room as they search for a new manager.

• **Lou White**, co-founder of PokerTek, was on ESPNcleveland.com's *Division of Poker* radio show this month and talked about the future of electronic gaming and Buckeye Charity Poker. You can hear that interview by going to ESPNcleveland.com/poker.

— **Dan Harkenrider is Ante Up's Ohio Ambassador. He hosts the Division of Poker and Chris MoneyMaker radio shows. Email him at anteupdan@gmail.com and follow him on Twitter @DivisionofPoker.**



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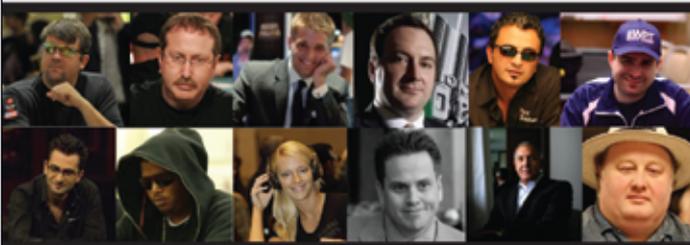
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Delaware Park's main event is Jan. 12.

DELAWARE PARK HOSTS WINTER POKER CLASSIC

Delaware Park hosts the Winter Poker Classic this month (Jan. 2-15), featuring 18 events, including satellites each day. A couple of tournaments to highlight are the \$400 opening event with a \$100K guarantee and the \$1,090 main event (Jan. 12) with a \$150K guaranteed prize pool.



MICHAEL YOUNG
MID-ATLANTIC

PPC AT DOVER: The Pro Poker Championship will be Jan. 11-Feb. 11 at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino's Crown Royal Poker Room. Events, ranging from a six-max cash game with a \$100K buy-in to a \$3,500 buy-in tournament, will be recorded for broadcast. Every Friday there's a \$10K guarantee, and the last Friday the guarantee is \$25K.

Maryland making progress

At the offices of the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency in Baltimore, they're hiring additional staff to help create regulations and a system to monitor gaming expansion.

"It requires a lot of planning, but I think at the end of the day it's going to be completely transparent to the player," director **Stephen Martino** said.

Rules created by the attorneys and staff will be presented to a seven-member commission for approval soon.

"A very granular level rules of the game for players if they wanted to go and know that a royal flush beats a pair or how the payouts are," Martino said. "That will be contained in the rules."

Then there's the cash to consider. With slot machines, a computer chip counts the money with 100 percent accuracy. Now rules have to be created to monitor the cash exchanged at table games.

"What we're talking about is putting in place the standards by which casino employees have to operate so they know what the regulatory standard is for handling of money, counting of money," Martino said.

It also means new rules for security plans, surveillance and internal controls. By mid-January the rules for table games should be in place. About that time the focus will shift to the bidding process regarding who will operate a new casino in Prince George's County. That will be handled by the commission that approves casino licenses, and they'll most likely borrow from the standards used to approve a new casino for downtown Baltimore.

"I think that they are going to be able to move expeditiously ... and allow whoever is out there to step forward and put their best proposal forward for Prince George's County," Martino said.

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



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Huan Cung poses with his trophy and chips after winning \$73K and the first AUPT main event. Want to host one? Call us at 727-331-4335.

OUT OF THE GATE, IT'S CUNG!

The first Ante Up Poker Tour was a smashing success, thanks to the amazing efforts of the staff at Thunder Valley Casino Resort. Huan Cung of Sacramento won the first main event, which attracted 342 players!

By Garrett Roth

The inaugural Ante Up Poker Tour series is in the books as Thunder Valley Casino Resort set the bar high with its nine-event Ante Up NorCal Classic, which ran Nov. 19-Dec. 3 in Lincoln, Calif. The series included Omaha/8, H.O.R.S.E. and various no-limit hold'em events capped off with the \$1,100 main event, which went to **Huan Cung** of Sacramento.

The NorCal Classic meant a lot to locals because it was the first large tournament series in the Sacramento area. Thunder Valley's director of poker **Ben Erwin** said, "Players traveled from all over California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada to be part of the inaugural Ante Up Poker Tour series. Northern California has a huge poker player base and they were ready for a national event series like this."

Local players took over most of the top spots in the NorCal Classic with exception to the H.O.R.S.E. event, won by *Ante Up's* **Scott Long** of Safety Harbor, Fla. When the dust settled in the main event, the prize pool ballooned to \$342K and Cung earned \$73K, the title of AUPT champion and landed on the cover of this issue.

The rest of the final table included **Toan Nguyen** (second, \$68K), **Dragem Vang** (third, \$33K), 2010 Ante Up Player of the Year **Walt Strakowski Jr.** of West Palm Beach, Fla., (fourth, \$26K), **Bas Pansuntorn** (fifth, \$20K), **Paul Dias** (sixth, \$17K), **Tay Nguyen** (seventh, \$13K) and **Johnny Mora** (eighth, \$10K). And one other cash of note: **Candida Ross-Powers** of Sacramento, who won Thunder Valley's Players Championship in August, finished 10th for \$5,130.

When asked about the size of the field, Erwin said, "We felt that we could draw somewhere around 250 players but to have 342 was truly remarkable, especially being our first \$1K buy-in." And especially since one of the largest snow storms in recent memory hit the area, keeping many players at bay.

Thunder Valley was the perfect spot to hold the first Ante Up Poker Tour series. Its resort is pristine and its 21-table poker room is state of the art, filled with flatscreen TVs, new tables, energetic dealers and an incredible staff.

When it comes to running tournaments, Erwin and the Thunder Valley staff put the players' concerns before anything else.

"Our guests deserve the credit for the enhancements that have been made to each series. Our approach has always been that we are in this together. I welcome feedback and enjoy discussing our events with anyone that participates."

Because of the turnout of the events and the confidence he has in the series, Erwin and his staff are planning on running satellites for all future AUPT events.

"We're truly grateful this event was so successful and it has really created a lot of talk and excitement about the Ante Up Poker Tour," Erwin said. "Many of our participants are already planning for the next AUPT event at Red Rock Resort in Las Vegas (this) month."

The AUPT will return to Thunder Valley Casino Resort the first week in November, which will be the final stop of the AUPT's inaugural season.



Director Ben Erwin praised his floor staff.



Event 1 • \$100 NLHE

Entrants: 171 • Pool: \$13,680

1. Shannon Kahahane, Lincoln, Calif., \$2,066
2. Allan Fernando, Elk Grove, Calif., \$2,066
3. Abdul Kocer, Lincoln, Calif., \$2,066
4. Michael Mendonsa, Sacramento, \$2,065
5. N/A
6. Cheng Vang, Sacramento, \$684

** Only cashers who signed Thunder Valley Casino Resort's publicity release are listed.*



Event 2 • \$100 Omaha/8

Entrants: 82 • Pool: \$7,544

1. Andrew Grove, Dublin, Calif., \$2,465
2. Thomas Emerson, Sacramento, \$1,509
3. Tom Tseng, Sacramento, \$981
4. Rick Byers, Elk Grove, Calif., \$754
5. George Hammond, Fresno, Calif., \$490
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. S.A. Malin, Penn Valley, Calif., \$226
9. Johnny Mora, Orangevale, Calif., \$189
10. Harold Charvat, Roseville, Calif., \$151



Event 3 • \$125 NLHE

Entrants: 160 • Pool: \$16K

1. Nasrullah Afridi, Sacramento, \$4,800
2. Corey Strock, Mountain House, Calif., \$2,800
3. Scott Jones, Concord, Calif., \$1,760
4. Cheng Vang, Sacramento, \$1,440
5. Joseph Hobbs, Lincoln Calif., \$960
6. Ted Salman, Sacramento, \$800
7. Zijin Tan, Elk Grove Calif., \$640
8. Andrew Purcell, Rocklin, Calif., \$480
9. Pakwai Tam, Sacramento., \$400
10. Bruce Angeski, Sacramento, \$320



Event 4 • \$100K guarantee (\$450 NLHE)

Entrants: 369 • Pool \$147,600

1. Samuel Hudson, Sacramento, \$18,290
2. Harlan Karnofsky, Sacramento, \$18,290
3. Allan Fernando, Elk Grove, Calif., \$18,290
4. Matt Boddorf, Lincoln, Calif., \$18,290
5. Sean Drake, Folsom, Calif., \$18,290
6. Stuart Crooks, N. Highlands, Calif., \$7,000
7. David Silva, Winters, Calif., \$5,600
8. Kao Vang, Pleasant Grove, Calif., \$4,250
9. Joshua Shaw, Sacramento, \$2,800



Event 5 • \$100 Bounty

Entrants: 180 • Pool: \$14,400

1. Shawn Roberts, Rocklin, Calif., \$2,500
2. Bernie Serrano, Daly City, Calif., \$1,724
3. Chris Markos, Glendale, Calif., \$1,724
4. Ed Miller, Granite Bay, Calif., \$1,666
5. Roberto Devera, Fairfield, Calif., \$1,665
6. Gurpal Lally, Sacramento, \$1,665
7. Donna Delfin, Folsom, Calif., \$576
8. Greg Berniard, Sacramento, \$432
9. Marcus Sanders, Oroville, Calif., \$360



Event 6 • \$120 H.O.R.S.E.

Entrants: 51 • Pool: \$5,100

1. Scott Long, Safety Harbor, Fla., \$1,732
2. Paul Lillemo, Shingle Springs, Calif., \$906
3. George Barrett, Rocklin, Calif., \$905
4. Brian Watson, Lodi, Calif., \$510
5. Kevin Nathan, Roseville, Calif., \$357
6. Randy Smith, Livermore, Calif., \$281
7. N/A
8. Rudy Robledo, Sacramento, \$179



Event 7 • \$100 6-Max

Entrants: 107 • Pool: \$8,560

1. Aaron Perkins, Sacramento, \$1,559
2. Shannon Kahahane, Lincoln, Calif., \$1,559
3. Dennis Carlson, Folsom, Calif., \$1,559
4. Kelly Fountain, Plumas Lake, Calif., \$1,559
5. Kevin Nathan, Roseville, Calif., \$556
6. Matthew Stump, Rocklin, Calif., \$428
7. Michael Mendonsa, Sacramento, \$342
8. Shawn Roberts, Rocklin, Calif., \$257



Event 8 • \$150 Bounty

Entrants: 210 • Pool: \$16,800

1. Ryan Ordenez, Rocklin, Calif., \$2,436
2. Ali Gousheh, Fair Oaks, Calif., \$1,886
3. Derick Nakayama, Sacramento, \$1,706
4. Steve Silva, Turlock, Calif., \$1,706
5. Ken Moynahan, Vacaville, Calif., \$1,706
6. Nathan Bolinger, Oakdale, Calif., \$1,706
7. Bao Liu, Sacramento, \$1,706
8. John Duckworth, Wilton, Calif., \$504

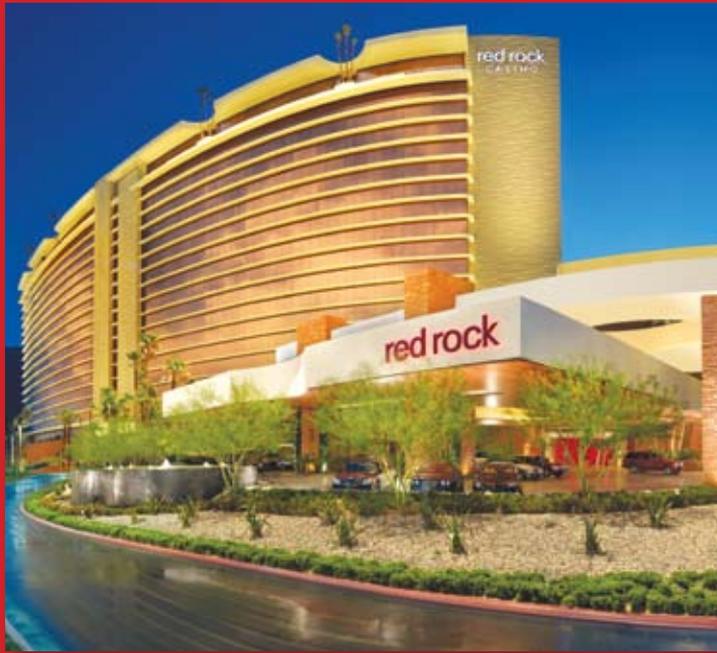


\$1,100 Main Event

Entrants: 342 • Pool: \$342K

1. Huan Cung, Sacramento, \$73K
2. Toan Nguyen, Elk Grove, Calif., \$68,585
3. Hou Vang, Rocklin, Calif., \$33,685
4. Walter Strakowski, W. Palm Beach Fla., \$26,500
5. Bas Pansuntorn, Amer. Canyon, Calif., \$20,520
6. Paul Dias, Sacramento, \$17,100
7. Tay Nguyen, Elk Grove, Calif., \$13,680
8. Johnny Mora, Orangevale, Calif., \$10,260
9. N/A
10. Candida Ross-Powers, Sacramento, \$5,130

Please turn the page for a preview of our Ante Up Poker Tour event at Red Rock Casino Resort Spa in Las Vegas this month.



Schedule

- Jan. 21, noon: Event 1, \$220
- Jan. 21, 3 p.m.: Event 2, \$40 (w/\$10 rebuys)
- Jan. 21, 6 p.m.: Event 3, \$100 (w/\$25 bounties)
- Jan. 22, noon: Event 4, \$220
- Jan. 22, 3 p.m.: Event 5, \$40 (w/\$10 rebuys)
- Jan. 22, 6 p.m.: Event 6, \$100
- Jan. 23, 3 p.m.: Event 7, Omaha \$100
- Jan. 23, 3 p.m.: Event 8, Heads-Up, \$230 (32-player max)
- Jan. 23, 6 p.m.: Event 9, \$100
- Jan. 24, 3 p.m.: Event 10, \$220
- Jan. 24, 6 p.m.: Event 11, \$100 (w/\$25 bounties)
- Jan. 25, noon: \$1,100 Main Event Day 1A
- Jan. 25, 3 p.m.: Event 12, \$330
- Jan. 25, 7 p.m.: \$1,100 Main Event Day 1B
- Jan. 26, noon: \$1,100 Main Event Day 1C
- Jan. 26, 3 p.m.: Event 13, \$400 (w/\$100 bounties)
- Jan. 26, 7 p.m.: \$1,100 Main Event Day 1D
- Jan. 27, 2 p.m.: Main Event Day 2

* All events are no-limit hold'em except where indicated. Five mega-satellites (\$260) that advance 20 percent of the field to the main event will be Jan. 22-24, with single-table satellites available 24 hours a day. For more information, visit anteuppokertour.com or anteupmagazine.com/redrock.

RED ROCK AUPT EVENT APPEALS TO ALL

By Scott Long

If you've ever felt priced out of a major tournament series, you won't at the Red Rock/Ante Up Magazine Poker Challenge Jan. 21-27.

The Ante Up Poker Tour series at Red Rock Casino Resort Spa in Las Vegas features two events with buy-ins of \$40, five tournaments with \$100 buy-ins and five mega satellites for \$260. It all leads up to a \$1,100 main event that features four starting flights over two days, with the winner appearing on the cover of the March edition of *Ante Up*.

"We put the \$40 events in there so there's something in the afternoon and no one can say there wasn't an event they couldn't play," said **Derek Glover**, tournament director at Red Rock. "We don't want to have a week-long event where somebody says I couldn't afford anything."

But make no mistake, there's plenty of higher-limit action for players on the 14-event schedule, including two no-limit hold'em events with buy-ins of \$330 or more, an Omaha event, two bounty tournaments and a 32-player-max heads-up event with a \$230 buy-in.

"The heads-up event is getting a lot of buzz," Glover said. "I think that's going to be one of our signature events going forward."

The highlight, of course, will be the main event, which kicks off at noon on Jan. 25, with another flight at 7 that night and two more flights at the same times on Jan. 26. All advancing players will return at 2 p.m. on Jan. 27 to find out who wins the title and makes the cover of *Ante Up*.

"Players will start with 15,000 chips, 40-minute levels and get lots of play on Day 1," Glover said. "We let them play in multiple Day 1s, so players who carry chips to Day 2 can still play another Day 1 and try to get a bigger stack for Day 2."

Players who like satellites will find plenty of options, starting with single-table satellites that pay out a \$260 voucher that can be used to

buy in to any event, including mega-satellites. Vouchers also can be combined with cash. Five \$260 mega-satellites will play out Jan. 22-24, with the top 20 percent in each advancing to the main event.

When players aren't in a tournament, they'll find plenty of cash-game action to keep them busy in Red Rock's poker room.

"We have real good cash-game action here at Red Rock," Glover said. "We have 20 tables in the room and normally spread \$2-\$4, \$4-\$8 and \$6-\$12 on the limit games; there's \$1-\$2 and \$2-\$5 on the no-limit and occasionally we get some \$5-\$10 no-limit games as well. So there's something for everyone in the cash games."

And all of this plays out in a AAA Four-Diamond resort that pampers its guests, starting with its luxurious suites that overlook Red Rock Canyon or the Las Vegas Strip. Suites include plush beds, high-definition televisions, Bose radios and deep-soaking tubs. Ante Up players who book through the link on AnteUpPokerTour.com can enjoy an \$89 room rate.

"No one is going to be disappointed with paying \$89 for a room at Red Rock," Glover said. "The rooms are absolutely beautiful."

Dining options are nearly endless, including Haci, a contemporary Japanese restaurant, and the T-bones steakhouse, plus several casual options, including a food court and buffet. The resort offers plenty of diversions, including a spa, resort pool, theater, bowling lanes and children's activities. And, of course, an expansive casino with a bingo hall and sportsbook will come in handy since the Red Rock/Ante Up Magazine Poker Challenge is just before the Super Bowl.

This is the fourth year in a row Red Rock has held a January tournament series, and Glover said he's looking forward to showcasing the property to new and returning players.

"It's a great opportunity to work with the No. 1 poker publication that there is, so it's good for us, it's good for (Ante Up) and it'll be good for our guests," he said, adding the main-event winner appearing on the cover of *Ante Up* is creating quite a buzz. "All the poker players don't want to have their picture taken unless it's for the cover of a magazine." ♠



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DATE	DAY	RING EVENT #	TIME	EVENT	TOTAL	
JAN 3	Thur		12PM	No-Limit (Flight A)* - \$300,000 Guarantee	\$365	
			5 PM	Pot Limit Omaha	\$580	
			7 PM	No Limit	\$100	
JAN 4	Fri		12 PM	No-Limit (Flight B)* - \$300,000 Guarantee	\$365	
			5 PM	No Limit	\$250	
			7 PM	No Limit	\$200	
JAN 5	Sat		12 PM	No-Limit (Flight C)* - \$300,000 Guarantee	\$365	
			5 PM	No-Limit - \$25,000 Guarantee	\$365	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$200	
JAN 6	Sun		12 PM	No Limit - \$25,000 Guarantee	\$365	
			5 PM	Pot Limit Omaha Hi/Lo	\$365	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$100	
JAN 7	Mon		12 PM	No-Limit - \$25,000 Guarantee	\$365	
			5 PM	H.O.R.S.E.	\$250	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$100	
JAN 8	Tues		12 PM	No-Limit - \$25,000 Guarantee	\$365	
			5 PM	Omaha Hi-Lo	\$250	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$100	
JAN 9	Wed		12 PM	No-Limit - \$25,000 Guarantee	\$365	
			5 PM	Limit Hold'em	\$250	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$100	
JAN 10	Thur	1	12 PM	No-Limit	\$365	
			5 PM	No-Limit	\$250	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$200	
JAN 11	Fri	2A	12 PM	No-Limit (Flight A)* - \$500,000 Guarantee	\$580	
		2B	5 PM	No-Limit (Flight B)* - \$500,000 Guarantee	\$580	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$200	
JAN 12	Sat	2C	12 PM	No-Limit (Flight C)* - \$500,000 Guarantee	\$580	
		2D	5 PM	No-Limit (Flight D)* - \$500,000 Guarantee	\$580	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$200	
JAN 13	Sun	3	12 PM	No-Limit (Turbo)	\$365	
		4	5 PM	No-Limit	\$365	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$200	
JAN 14	Mon	5	12 PM	No-Limit	\$365	
			5 PM	H.O.R.S.E.	\$365	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$200	
JAN 15	Tues	6	12 PM	No-Limit 6-Handed	\$365	
		7	5 PM	No-Limit	\$365	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$200	
JAN 16	Wed	8	12 PM	No-Limit	\$365	
		9	5 PM	Pot Limit Omaha	\$365	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$200	
JAN 17	Thur	10	12 PM	No-Limit (Turbo)	\$365	
			4 PM	Super Satellite (40 Main Event Seats Guaranteed)	\$70	
			7 PM	Mega Satellite (to Main Event)	\$250	
JAN 18	Fri		10 AM	Turbo Satellite (to Main Event)	\$250	
			11A	No-Limit (Flight A)* - \$1,000,000 Guarantee	\$1,675	
			4 PM	Mega Satellite (to Main Event)	\$250	
			7 PM	Mega Satellite (to Main Event)	\$250	
			10 PM	Turbo Satellite (to Main Event)	\$250	
JAN 19	Sat		10 AM	Turbo Satellite (to Main Event)	\$250	
			11B	No-Limit (Flight B)* - \$1,000,000 Guarantee	\$1,675	
			5 PM	Seniors No-Limit	\$250	
			7 PM	No-Limit	\$200	
JAN 20	Sun		12 PM	Ladies No Limit Hold'em **	\$250	
JAN 21	Mon		12	4 PM	No-Limit	\$580
					Championship Final Table	

#Ring Events receive points toward the WSOP National Championship. *Players eliminated during re-entry events may re-enter subsequent flights. **No re-entry of the same flight. **Winner of Ladies event will be awarded a WSOP Gold Pendant.



ONLINE POKER: NEW JERSEY PONDERERS NEW BILL

In early December, New Jersey Sen. **Raymond Lesniak** submitted an amended revision of the online gambling bill that he sponsored in 2012. The bill had gained momentum in March and was expected to pass then, but fell short of the required votes because of some lobbying against the bill from the casino industry, the horse-racing community, and Gov. **Chris Christie**. The objections were primarily around revenue and tax distributions. In May, it looked like it might get approved again, but the negotiations once again failed and the bill never went to the assembly for a vote.



JOEL GATLIN
ONLINE POKER

Now, with the new amendments to the bill, Lesniak said there's no opposition and all parties are on board. The main reason for this is one of the amendments restores a \$60 million supplement to the horse-racing industry, which was the big objection earlier in the year.

The casino industry in New Jersey is hurting, especially since Hurricane Sandy, and this would bring in much-needed revenue. The senator also said if New Jersey approves the legislation, then his state would provide some competition to the Nevada online gaming law that passed last year. Nevada is set to crank up its online gaming sites in the next few months with many licensed operators.

Lesniak said if New Jersey doesn't pass this bill then the state would be lagging behind and leave Nevada to monopolize the market.

POKERSTARS: When PokerStars came to an agreement with DOJ,

part of the agreement was it would be able to re-enter the U.S. market when the laws allowed. Well, in New Jersey, the Atlantic Club Casino is struggling and PokerStars reportedly is interested in purchasing the property for about \$50 million, which would allow Stars to own a U.S.-based brick-and-mortar casino to start repairing its U.S. customer relationships that were damaged when they were forced out of the market on Black Friday in 2011.

This also is a timely move on Stars' part, seeing how the online gaming bill was being pushed through the legislature at press time. This might be the start of a new trend of online gaming sites entering the physical realm, giving them access to a new customer base.

NEVADA ONLINE: The Nevada Gaming Commission keeps getting new applications for online sites to be approved. Caesars just applied for a World Series of Poker-branded online site.

This would allow Caesars to use the WSOP brand with online tournaments, providing Nevada residents full-time access to WSOP tournaments in the virtual world. Zynga Corp., the California based online gaming site mostly known for its games on Facebook, has applied for a license to have online gaming in Nevada. This would allow them to have real-money games for residents of the state.

Zynga has initiated the process of providing real-money online games in the United Kingdom, by partnering with bwin.party. It is looking to kick off its U.K. venture early this year. Executives at Zynga expect to have their Nevada licenses approved within 12-18 months.

— Email Joel Gatlin at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

◆ TOURNAMENTS ◆

Mon: Deep Stack 1pm & 7pm
Tue: Rebuy 1pm & 7pm
Wed: Turbo 1st & 3rd weeks 7pm
Thu: Rebuy -1pm / Bounty 7pm
Fri: \$5,000* Friday Night 7pm
Sat: Super Stack 1pm
Sun: Deep Stack 1pm

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HERE COMES RULE 1 AGAIN, BUT WAS IT RIGHT?

We're playing a \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em cash game in a Florida poker room. With a final board of 7-6-5-A-3, my opponent bets \$95. With only \$25 left and holding 6-6, I raise all-in. The dealer announces, "player is all-in for a raise" and motions to my opponent indicating the action is on him.



JODY RUSSELL
CALL THE FLOOR

My opponent flips up his cards and flings them at the board where they come to rest showing J-J. The dealer now asks, "You're out?" When my opponent doesn't make any motion for his chips to call or to retrieve his hand and secure it in front of him, she assumes he's folding face up.

She mucks his cards and starts to push me the pot. I don't make any motion and still have my cards in front of me. The opponent is confused. He said he didn't see me raise, nor did he hear the dealer announce raise. He wanted to call.

The floor was called over and decided that since the hand was tabled the player had the option of folding or calling the \$25 raise. He used Rule 1 of the Tournament Directors Association rules: best interest of the game.

I thought this was an odd ruling and actually asked the floor, "Why does he have the option to call if he failed to protect his hand?" The floor explained my opponent simply did not know I raised. Since he did table his hand and the dealer accidentally mucked it, the player

has the option to call. He called, I tabled my hand and was awarded the \$364 pot.

Afterward, I approached the floor person and asked him if he ruled that way knowing I had the guy beat. I'm a regular player there and my opponent was not. He said the thought did occur to him, but he would have ruled that way regardless. — **Vic Galante, via email**

JODY: I would have probably ruled the same way in this situation. I would have not allowed the call if you had turned your hand up thinking your opponent folded face up, or if you had thrown your cards in as a result of his actions.

Dead button issue

I wrote an email to an online poker site about the way its software manages a dead button. If the big blind and small blind both go out on the same hand, the button moves to the next available player, which has not had either blind. I got an email back saying there are many brick-and-mortar rooms that do this. Have you ever heard of such a thing? — **AZSlick, via email**

JODY: In no-limit cash games, it isn't unheard of to move the button every hand and make the blinds correct regardless of who paid what on the previous hand. This isn't allowed in tournaments under the TDA rules, though.

— **Jody Russell is a veteran poker room manager. Email questions to editor@anteupmagazine.com.**

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3/2 - 3/10	FireKeepers Casino Hotel	Battle Creek, MI
3/8 - 3/17	Downstream Casino Resort	Quapaw, OK
3/16 - 3/24	Ho-Chunk Gaming WI Dells	Baraboo, WI
3/30 - 4/7	Meskwaki Casino Hotel	Tama, IA
4/20 - 4/28	Canterbury Park	Shakopee, MN
5/11 - 5/19	Northern Lights Casino	Walker, MN
5/18 - 5/26	Ameristar Casino Hotel	Kansas City, MO
7/20 - 7/28	Meskwaki Casino Hotel	Tama, IA
8/10 - 8/18	Grand Falls Casino Resort	Sioux Falls, SD
8/17 - 8/25	FireKeepers Casino Hotel	Battle Creek, MI
8/30 - 9/8	Downstream Casino Resort	Quapaw, OK
10/26 - 11/3	Meskwaki Casino Hotel	Tama, IA
11/2 - 11/10	Ho-Chunk Gaming WI Dells	Baraboo, WI
11/30 - 12/8	Canterbury Park	Shakopee, MN

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THE GAME IS IN CONTROL, WE'RE STUCK INSIDE

The Cadillac of Poker (no-limit hold'em) may be turning into an Edsel. Many of you may ask why a person who has had a wonderful life (myself) playing the game would make such a statement. As I speak with players who are increasingly disgruntled, I've come to realize several obvious realities that need to be addressed.



ANTONIO PINZARI

Everyone who knows an ace is better than a king is now an expert player. Most players, however, couldn't give you the answer to the most basic of math questions, and what's more disturbing is they don't care to know.

Like all good things in life the more they are enjoyed the less value they have; everything that becomes watered down suffers the same fate.

For those of you who really enjoy a particular meal and look forward to eating it, try eating it for several days in a row; I'm sure it won't have the same appeal or taste.

Money seems to have less value in today's game. No one I know (regardless of bankroll) can sustain the constant pressure of all-in NLHE. The high cost of tournament play with as little as a 1 percent

return on investment after beating 90 of the field seems difficult at best, coupled with travel, food, lodging and time spent away from life in general, may just be too difficult.

What I admire most about today's game is the number of youngsters who are truly great players with total knowledge of the math and percentages required to be considered great. Therein lies the common problem: there are too many of them.

Think carefully about what I just said: When you combine two opposing forces (bad and good players) in today's game there isn't a guaranteed result. There was a time when good players always made the money; that time may have passed based on other factors that permeate the game.

For the younger great players, you're up against it. You must play in an arena that seldom gives you the advantage required to make a living. It was so much easier when poor players liked to play simply for the action and social aspects of poker; those players are seldom found these days. I love our game; Ford Motor Co. loved the Edsel.

— Antonio Pinzari has been playing professionally since the '70s. He's the creator of 23 Poker and Wild Tallahassee Poker, which you can learn more about at WildTallahasseePoker.com.

No one I know (regardless of bankroll) can sustain the constant pressure of all-in NLHE. The high cost of tournament play with as little as a 1 percent return on investment after beating 90 of the field seems difficult at best, coupled with travel, food, lodging and time spent away from life in general, may just be too difficult.

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WHEN THINGS GO WRONG AT THE TABLE

Someone recently asked me on Twitter how many tournaments do I lose in a row before I start to get annoyed, look for leaks and seek coaching. While the answers to these questions are probably obvious to all pros, most amateurs would likely come up with severely incorrect answers.



JONATHAN LITTLE

First, you should try your best to remove yourself from the results (good and bad). If you've watched me win a World Poker Tour event on television, you probably noticed I didn't jump up and down and yell about how I am the best in the world, which is what you often see from most players who run well enough to win a major event.

This isn't because I don't care; it's because I realize when I buy in to any event, I'm going to place in each position some percentage of the time. If I happen to bust on the first hand, bubble, final table or even win, I don't care too much because I understand I'm going to have a fairly random distribution of results over time.

Compared to weaker players, I will simply cash and win more often than they do. Sometimes you're going to go 50 tournaments in a row without cashing. While it's certainly not fun, you must accept it will happen if you play enough. It doesn't necessarily mean you're playing poorly, though it could be an indicator. It likely doesn't mean anything, assuming you have a large enough sample to know you're a winning player.

The reason most players get depressed over long downswings is because they're playing way too large for their bankrolls or they haven't played enough games, or done the math, to realize how much variance there is in poker.

For example: I won three tournaments in a row at the start of the year. Since then, I haven't won much of anything. Does this mean I've forgotten how

to play? I don't think so.

Whether you're winning or losing, you should constantly look for leaks in your game. An extended losing streak should not alter your study time too much, as long as you spend a decent amount of time studying the game on a daily basis.

When I used to play SNGs online, I would play around six hours per day and study four hours per day. I'm confident this is why I was one of the biggest winners in the game. When I play poker today, I write down almost every hand I play and review them at the end of every day and occasionally when I have free time away from the game. I suggest you do the same.

If you aren't looking for leaks and constantly evolving your game, you're certain to fall behind.

I'm confident everyone who takes poker seriously should get a coach. I've paid more than \$20,000 for private coaching in my life and I firmly believe that was the best \$20K I've ever spent. When I used to play a lot of SNGs, I noticed my return on investment slowly dwindling. I hired a coach, paid him \$5K, and watched my ROI increase 2 percent. While this may not sound like a lot, I was playing around 2,000 \$200 games per month, meaning this coaching made me an additional \$8K per month. Obviously, that is money well spent.

At some point, you'll find you no longer need a private coach, but instead, a group of peers who play similar games as you.

I have a close group of friends I regularly talk to about hands and other poker-related concepts. We bounce ideas off each other and constantly try to find holes in our games. If you try to master this game alone, you'll find it impossible.

— Jonathan Little, a representative for Blue Shark Optics, is the author of *Professional Tournament Poker Vols. 1 & 2*, owns the poker training site *FloatTheTurn.com* and *3bet Clothing*, plus check out his iPhone app, *Instapoker*.

com and 3bet Clothing, plus check out his iPhone app, Instapoker.



LIVING THE DREAM

THE PROS AND CONS OF THE STRADDLE

Most poker rooms allow a straddle in cash games. Some people shy from the straddle because of the action it creates. Some welcome the straddle because they like to gamble. I'm going to list a few pros and cons of the straddle and how it can work for you depending on the game and situation.



MIKE WOLF

What is a straddle? By definition, it's a blind pre-flop raise (traditionally under the gun) with the option to reraise when the action gets back to you. In theory, it's similar to posting another big blind and effectively doubling the stakes.

What happens when you straddle?

- The effective stacks get shallower, thus making the game play more like a tournament. (That's bad if you're the best player in the game)

- The game plays bigger because the opening raise will be bigger. Higher variance. (Good, if you're the best player in the game)

- You build the pot pre-flop out of position. (Bad, if you're the best player in the game)

You build an action image. (This can go either way, depending on how you exploit your image)

If you have an edge in a cash game, you should strive to build pots in position and use your postflop skills as much as possible.

If you're going to straddle, be sure to ask the table to do so. If you're the only player straddling, it's exploitable and a major disadvantage.

You can see that straddling UTG is most likely a marginally losing play. Now, if your casino offers a Mississippi straddle on the button or from late position, then using that to your advantage can be profitable. You'd be building an image while building pots in position and effectively doubling the stakes which, if you're the best player at the table, are very good things.

— Mike Wolf is a professional poker player who can be reached at MichaelJ-Wolf33@gmail.com. Follow him on twitter @mikewolf7.



LEARNING TO READ POKER TELLS

One question I've been asked repeatedly since writing *200 Poker Tells* is, "How do I get to where I can read others like a pro?"

When I entered the FBI, I thought I was a fairly good observer. I had been studying body language for several years and thought what more could there be? Well, a lot, so much so that I'm still learning. I honed my observation skills and looked for things I'd never imagined, such as how often a suspect looks at his watch (something about to happen) or what's his blink rate (nervousness). These cues gave me insight into these individuals and their actions.



JOE NAVARRO

We can always improve our observation skills; there's always more to observe; it's a continuing endeavor and it never stops because we can never know everything there is to know about body language or tells. The best we can do is study them and validate them every chance we get.

We can study them by brute observation or we can learn from the experiences of others. But no matter how we learn the information, we have to master that information and retain it, and that's the key. Because like anything else, observing and decoding others is a perishable skill. If we forget what we learned, we can misinterpret the behaviors, and in poker, I don't have to tell you, that can cost a lot.

So let's cut to the chase: Get yourself all of the books you can muster. **Mike Caro's** books are great; my books and any other book you think will help, including my past articles in *Ante Up* (scan the QR code above for my archives).

Once you have explored what behaviors are most prominent, prioritize them. Learn the behaviors that stand out as far as showing strength, weakness, doubt, etc.

Remember that in poker you will see behaviors that show: strength and commitment; behaviors indicative of being dubious or marginal; or behaviors indicative of weakness and doubt. Additionally there are behaviors that indicate intentions that are positive (reaching for chips on the flop) or that indicate you're going to fold eventually (card shuttle: card held between thumb and middle finger and moved side to side over and over).

So now you have read the books and made a list of the behaviors. ... Make a list? Yes, if you want to remember the information, read it and write it down again. Now you will begin to reinforce your knowledge. If you're lazy and don't want to write it down use *200 Poker Tells* on Kindle, which you can scroll through during the game on your phone.

The next step is to go out and validate those behaviors. Off to the poker tables? Not so fast. Players make the same mistakes over and

over. They wait to get to the poker room to observe tells. Here's a secret: Most tells indicative of confidence, comfort, discomfort, dislike, etc. you will see in everyday life, as well as the poker room. We don't have work and home tells and then poker tells. They're primarily the same. When you show displeasure at the airport over a missed flight you don't have a second set of behaviors for the poker room. You'll most likely use the same when you miss a flush on the turn.

True, in the poker room you see unique behaviors associated with betting, position, with how cards are touched or chips are handled, but everything else you can begin to validate outside the poker room.

The advantage to learning to observe outside the poker room is you learn to pick up on tells quickly so later you don't have to think about them while playing.

I often see players take their time trying to decipher a behavior. This is where practice makes perfect. When a woman ventilates the back of the neck, you know there's something negative, in the same way as when a man compresses his lips and lifts up on his shirt buttons (ventilating because they're marginal or weak). Slowly you learn to observe without staring or being intrusive. By validating these behaviors day in and day out, they come to you effortlessly when you need them the most, at the poker table.

Every minute at the table should be dedicated to collecting information (intelligence) about opponents. It begins the minute you first join the table. Collect information as to how experienced they are, how they sit, how they react, how much territory they claim on the felt, what behaviors they repeat, what do they do to deal with stress, etc. Slowly you build up an intelligence base on each player to help guide you.

If I came to you after a game and asked, "What were the tells of the person in Seat 4?" what would you say? If you don't know, start writing out checks ahead of time so it won't delay the game. You have to know. The answer should be "He sits up when interested; he leans forward slightly when he's marginal to good; his hands fall flat on the cards when he has rags or they arch when he's strong; he bites his lip when he's concerned; his lips become full when content or strong, and he looks about more when he has a good hand."

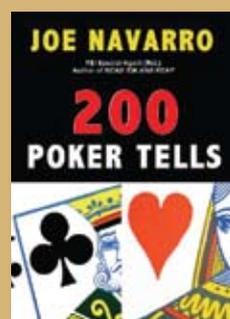
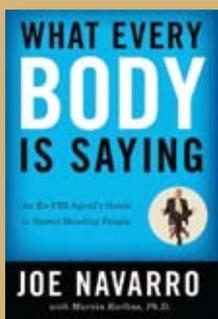
Ideally you want to read everyone at the table from head to toe, without doubt or hesitation. It can be done, but it won't happen overnight. It will take time and effort. I've talked to a lot of bracelet-winners in the past seven years. There's one thing I've learned from all of them: They did not get there without being able to read others. That's the reward of applying yourself and observing others.

— **Joe Navarro is a former FBI agent and author of *What Every Body is Saying* and *200 Poker Tells*. Follow him on Twitter at @navarrotells.**

— POKER TELLS EXPERT JOE NAVARRO —

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A LESSON FROM OTHERS

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves. — Carl Jung



**DAVID
APOSTOLICO**

I came across the above quote and, of course, it got me thinking about my poker game. One of my biggest pet peeves used to be the lengthy amount of time others often take when weighing a decision. I'm impatient by nature and it used to drive me nuts to wait for an opponent to make a decision about whether to call.

Recently, there's been a lot of discussion about whether there should be a clock in poker, especially for tournaments.

Anyone who watched the live final table of the main event of the World Series found how tedious watching poker can be.

The point of this article is not to discuss the merits of a clock, but what I learned from my impatience. By nature, I favor action. For instance, I'd much rather play six-handed than 10-handed. Lengthy decisions mean that much less time for a new hand to be dealt to me. But I've learned to change my attitude. I take the time to study my opponent, and contemplate how I've been playing. I take a minute to look at everyone at the table and see how they're reacting and contemplate how they've been playing, especially vis-à-vis me.

Here's another example of Jung's statement: We've all had those

nights where there seems to be one opponent who has our number. No matter how well we play, he seems to always hit his hand against us. It's not only irritating, but can be absolutely infuriating. We start to take it personally. We want to beat this guy so badly it can certainly affect our decision-making. That means we're human and our competitive nature is kicking in.

What I've learned from these encounters is I cannot internalize the results. If you play enough poker, you're going to have your fair share of random encounters where you get the better of an opponent and on another night an opponent may get the best of you. I now detach myself emotionally from the outcomes and focus on my decision-making. I won't ignore the results.

If an opponent continually beats me, instead of getting riled up thinking how I'm going to beat him, I try to think how he's playing. Is he getting overly confident against me, which I can exploit later? I channel that innate competitive instinct to strike back into a contemplative constructive analysis of what's taking place and if there's an opportunity for me.

Every poker session, you'll encounter plenty of diverse personalities and player types. How you react, adjust and play (and your ultimate success) is up to you.

— David Apostolico is the author of *Tournament Poker* and *The Art of War*. You can contact him at thepokerwriter@aol.com.

POKER PSYCHOLOGY: HEAD GAMES

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO MINDFULNESS

I've written in the past about grokking the table, relaxed activation, attention and concentration. But this month I want to introduce you to two other psychological concepts: mindfulness and flow.

Mindfulness is defined by **Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn** as the awareness that emerges through paying attention on purpose, in the present moment and non-judgmentally, to the unfolding of experience moment by moment.



**STEPHEN
BLOOMFIELD**

The non-judgmental aspect means to not place a moral value of good-bad or right-wrong on what is happening, what you're doing or what you observe. Imagine achieving that state of awareness at the table.

Another researcher, **Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi**, developed the concept of flow, a state of consciousness in which a person is absorbed in his or her actions and experiences a unity of mind and body.

Both of these concepts focus on the here and now; the present experience; feeling of calmness and mind, body unity; and peak performance.

How do you achieve mindfulness? Easy! Practice the state you want to achieve while playing. Well, easier said than done. Achieving this requires following a program and that requires work, the same work as learning the math, reading people or learning patterns. The program is:

- Buy in to this concept.
- Accept it will help you achieve peak performance
- Set aside the time to practice
- Do the work.

Sounds easy, but it may be counterintuitive. How much time are you willing to devote to this aspect of your game?

Let me warn you about anyone who's going to tell you they can teach you these things quickly. That's like saying to always raise with a certain five hands, always check with these hands and always fold with these hands without paying attention to table image, stack size, position and all the other variables. It's like someone telling you every time someone scratches his nose he's bluffing, without taking into account his nose may be itching.

Some simple stuff: practice doing one thing at a time. Try to not multitask for a specific period of time. At the table, concentrate on everyone's chip stack and the hands that go to showdown; test yourself and see what you remember.

Away from the table, practice deep breathing. Sit in a comfortable chair with uncrossed legs and both feet on the ground (really push them into the ground). Put your hands on your lap or armrests; sit up straight, with good posture but not overly stiff. Breathe in through your nose, hold it, then breathe out through your mouth.

Concentrate just on your breathing, nothing else. If another thought wanders in, let it go. Do this for five minutes; when that's easy to do, then increase time. Keep going. Remember to only think about your breathing. This means total focus and helps lead to no longer multitasking when playing.

Intentional focus and concentration in the present moment and present task will help you keep your head in the game.

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



LEARN TO PUT PLAYERS ON HAND RANGES

You sat down at a \$1-\$2 cash game in a casino and bought in for \$200. You're in the cutoff seat, one seat right of the button. You've only been at the table for about three hands and don't have any information about the players. Those in this hand are under the gun (UTG) with \$300 and UTG+2 with \$140.



LEE
CHILDS

Both limped for \$2 and it folded to you with $K♥J♥$. Which of the following do you do and why?

A. Fold **B.** Call \$2 **C.** Raise to \$15 **D.** Raise to \$20

The first thing we need to think about is the range of hands our opponents have. We're new to the table so we have to make a lot of assumptions and think about what a typical player would have. We know most players raise strong hands and limp with speculative hands. Also, we know some like to limp really big hands hoping to reraise if someone else raises.

Since you don't know these players and don't know whether the game has been playing loose or tight, passive or aggressive, let's put the UTG limper on pairs, suited connectors, suited aces, Broadway cards or possibly a big pair/big ace hoping to trap.

The UTG+2 player has a slightly narrower range so we're going to heavily discount big pairs and big-ace hands. It's just not common for someone to limp with those kinds of hands after someone else has limped because they don't want to let a lot of people see a flop. More than likely, this player has a pair, suited connectors, suited aces or marginal Broadway cards.

A hand such as $K♥J♥$ won't play easily in multiway pots. Big pairs and big Broadway cards are easier (and more profitable) to play vs. fewer opponents. If you just call, you have to be able to trust yourself

to not play a big pot if you hit just your king or jack because when we just limp along preflop we have no idea what opponents are holding. We need to play it for two-pair or better, combo straight/flush draws.

Simply folding the hand is the most profitable play. You don't have any information about your opponents so take some time to see how everyone is playing before you get involved. If I get big pairs, small pairs, or suited connectors when I am new to the table, I just play them straightforwardly as I can make profitable decisions regardless if I know anything about my opponents. If I don't have hands that are really easy to play postflop, then I'm going to find reasons to fold so I can gather more information about my opponents before I start getting involved.

I highly discourage just calling as you're frequently going to be in some really marginal postflop situations. You'll flop two pair only about 2 percent of the time and you'll only flop a flush draw about 11 percent of the time. On top of that, if you flop the flush draw, you're not drawing to the nuts unless the $A♥$ flops.

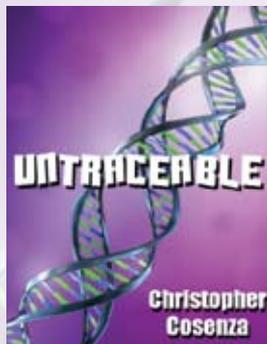
Raising between \$15-\$20 is fine. If you raise, I would lean toward \$20, as you'll quickly find out how strong the UTG hand is. If he reraises, you can fold knowing he limped with a monster. This is the biggest argument for raising as you not only find out if he's limping big hands in early position, you also avoid playing postflop against a hand that dominates you.

I will continue my analysis of this hand next month when we'll find out what our hero decided to do. Decide To Win!

— Lee Childs is the founder and lead instructor at Inside the Minds. For information about his group training sessions and personal coaching, visit inside-the-minds.com.

UNTRACEABLE

The first novel by *Ante Up* publisher Christopher Cosenza follows a former poker player turned detective who hunts down and arrests a man he believes is a serial killer terrorizing Tampa. So why does the police let the suspect go twice? You may think you know as you read this fast-paced suspense thriller, but you don't!



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Where to Play

A look at some featured events around the country. The following pages also highlight daily events and promotions.

Here's a look at the tournament action around the country, which is starting to pick up again.

East

*** DELAWARE PARK WINTER CLASSIC:** This series (Jan. 2-15) has four or five tournaments a day, a points championship, decent chips stacks and guarantees or money added to most tournaments. There are a variety of events including six-max, H.O.R.S.E, Omaha/8 and no-limit hold'em with \$150-\$1,090 buy-ins.

WPT BORGATA WINTER OPEN: This series (Jan. 15-Feb. 1) has 24 events showcasing the televised \$3,500 championship event. There are a variety of events with \$200-\$1,650 buy-ins. The Borgata always hosts great events and is a nice place to stay.

FALLSVIEW POKER CLASSIC: Fallsview Casino in Niagara Falls, Canada, will be hosting the Poker Classic (Jan. 16-21). The series has three events with buy-ins of \$1,000 CAD, \$2,500 CAD and \$5,000 CAD.

West

*** WSOPC AT BICYCLE CASINO:** The Bicycle Casino in Bell Gardens, Calif., hosts the World Series of Poker Circuit on Jan. 2-14. There are lots of extra events in addition to the standard 12 ring events, including a LIPS event (see the LA column on Page 10).

CAESARS PALACE WINTER CLASSIC: This series (Jan. 4-17) is running in Las Vegas. Highlights include the \$560 championship event and the \$240 NBC National Heads-Up Qualifier.

*** RED ROCK/ANTE UP MAGAZINE POKER CHALLENGE:** The Ante Up Poker Tour will hold its second event (Jan. 21-27) at the Red Rock Casino Resort in Las Vegas. The \$1,100 main event features two Day 1s. Sin-

gle-table satellites begin Jan. 21 and \$260 super satellites will run Jan. 22-24. (See our preview story on Page 38.)

Central

*** WSOPC CHOCTAW:** The Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Okla., will host the WSOPC Jan. 10-21. There are lots of extra events in addition to the standard 12 ring events, including a LIPS event.

South

*** MILLION DOLLAR HEATER:** This series (Jan. 4-23) is at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Miss., features 29 events and \$1 million in guarantees. There are a variety of events and buy-ins ranging from \$125 to \$2,600. See our Mississippi column for more info (Page 12).

POKERSTARS CARIBBEAN ADVENTURE: The PCA (Jan. 5-14) is one of the most anticipated events each year with big fields, big prizes and a beautiful setting at the Atlantis Resort and Casino on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. There are 40 events with buy-ins ranging from \$300 to \$100K.

*** ISLE CLASSIC:** The Isle Casino in Pompano Park, Fla., will host Isle Classic (Jan. 10-29) and the DeepStacks Poker Tour will wrap up the series on Jan. 28-29. The event will have a \$1,500 buy-in, a \$100K guarantee and be hosted by **Michael Mizrahi**. For more on the Isle Classic see the ad on Page 21.

WSOPC TUNICA: Harrah's in Tunica, Miss., will host the WSOPC Jan. 24-Feb. 4. This stop has the standard 12 ring events as well as 18 non-ring events. More on this in the Mississippi column on Page 12.

*** Denotes the main event of this series/tournament qualifies for Ante Up Player of the Year consideration as the final 10 players earn POY points.**

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ARIZONA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
CASINO ARIZONA AT TALKING STICK (480) 850-7777 • casinoaz.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$60, 11:15a); Tue.-Wed. (\$130, 7:15p); Jan. 12 (\$330, 11:15a); Jan. 19 (\$225, 11:15a). See ad Page 25.	Aces Cracked (daily, 2a-10a).
CASINO DEL SOL (800) 344-9435 • casinodelsol.com	Splash pots (Mon.-Fri. & Sun.); high-hand giveaways (Mon.-Fri.); Duncan Celebrity tournament, Jan. 12 (\$200, 6p).	Splash pots (Mon.-Fri. & Sun.); high-hand giveaways (Mon.-Fri.).
DESERT DIAMOND (520) 342-1810 • ddcad.com	Mon. (\$35, 9:30a); Tue. \$4K guar. (\$130, 7p); Wed. (\$35, 7p); Thurs. (\$35, 9:30a).	Splash Pots pay up to \$150; Pigskin Poker Party (3 times weekly); free breakfast buffet (Tue. & Wed.); call for details.
FT. McDOWELL CASINO (480) 837-1424 • fortmcowellcasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30, noon); Mon. (\$50, 7p); Tue.-Thurs. (\$5 w/\$5 rebuys, 7p); Fri. KO (\$120, 7p); Sat. (\$5, noon), (\$10, 4p) and (\$20, 9p); Sun. (\$50, noon) & (\$10, 7p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads over aces full of deuces and Omaha is quad fours; mini jackpot hold'em is aces full; high hand (daily); Aces Cracked.
HARRAH'S PHOENIX AK-CHIN (480) 802-5000 • harrahssakchin.com	Tue. Omaha (\$25, 7:30p); Wed. KO (\$60, 7:30p) Thurs. (\$10 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Fri. (\$40, 7:30); Sat. (\$60, 3:30p); Sun. (\$25, 12:30p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot starts at \$3.5K; Aces Cracked Wins a Spin (open-11a); Deuces Cracked (daily, 10p-3a); Football Splash Pots (Sun. night & Mon.).
VEE QUIVA CASINO (520) 796-7777 • wingilariver.com/vee-quiva	Sun.-Thurs. (\$30 w/\$20 rebuy, 11a); Wed. (\$10 w/rebuys, 7:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royals pay \$500; Aces Cracked; Super 77 bad-beat jackpot starts at \$25K (quad sevens or better beaten).
WILD HORSE PASS HOTEL AND CASINO (800) 946-4452 • wingilariver.com/wild-horse-pass	Mon. & Thurs. (\$30, noon); Tue. & Wed. (\$50, 7:30p).	Aces Cracked pays \$100; splash pots (daily); royals pay \$200 (daily); Super 777 bad beat jackpot starts at \$25K (quad 7s or better beaten); Rolling Cash Fever.

CALIFORNIA

101 CASINO (707) 795-6121 • the101casino.com/casino	Tue. & Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Sat. PLO (4p), buy up to largest stack; Jan. 5 (\$295, 1p); Jan. 12 & 26 (\$115, 1p).	Bad beat; mini bad-beat jackpot; super bad-beat jackpot; Omaha/8 bad-beat jackpot; Aces Cracked (daily, mid.-noon); high hands (noon-3p, 3-6p, 6-9p, 9-mid.). High hands; Rack Attack (call for details).
AGUA CALIENTE CASINO (888) 999-1995 • hotwatercasino.com	Sun. \$4K guarantee (\$60, 10a); \$7.5K guarantee monthly freeroll, Jan. 12 (10:30a).	High hands; Rack Attack (call for details).
ARTICHOKE JOE'S (650) 589-3145 • artichokejoes.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$100K; bad beat in Omaha; royal flushes pay \$599 (one hole card); quads pays \$100; straight flush \$200; Aces Cracked pays up to \$300.
AVIATOR CASINO (661) 721-7770 • theaviatorcasino.com	Mon. & Wed. (\$30, 6p); Sat. & Sun. (\$25, 2p); deepstack events, Feb. 9 & 23 (\$125, noon); Mexican Poker, Thurs. & Sun. (\$30, 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; mini bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Mexican poker and Omaha; Lucky Seat; high hand; call for more promotions.
BANKERS CASINO (831) 422-6666 • bankerscasino.net	Mon. (\$65, 6p); Tue. (\$45, 6p); Thurs. (\$65, 6p); Sun. (\$45, noon); deepstack KO event, Jan. 27 (\$260, noon).	The Players Challenge (call for details).
BARONA RESORT (619) 443-2300 • barona.com	Tue.-Thurs. (\$40, 6:30); Sat. & Sun. (\$40, 10:30a).	Aces Cracked (Mon., Wed. & Fri.); Pot Builders (Mon.-Fri.).
BAY 101 (408) 451-8888 • bay101.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$120, 9:30a); Sat. (\$200, 9a); Sun. varies (call for details); Jan. 12 (\$530, 9:30a).	Earn double points and WPT vouchers for future events (call for details).
BICYCLE CASINO (562) 806-4646 • thebike.com	Wed.-Sun. Quantum Reload (daily, \$30-\$65) and has up to \$10K guaranteed; WSOP Circuit event, Jan. 3-15 (\$365-\$1,675) w/main event, Jan. 12 (\$1,675, noon).	Play 25 hours to qualify for the WSOPC main event seat freeroll (call for details).
CACHE CREEK CASINO (530) 796-3118 • cachecreek.com	Wed. (\$55 w/\$50 rebuy, 6p); Sat.-Sun. (\$55 w/\$50 rebuy, noon); monthly KO events, Dec. 30 & Jan. 27 (\$135).	Aces Cracked pays \$100 (Mon.-Fri., 10a-10p); quads pay \$250 (Mon.-Fri., 6a-6p); high hands; cash drawings; call for details.
CALIFORNIA GRAND CASINO (925) 685-8397 • calgrandcasino.com	Call for schedule.	Call for information.
CAPITOL CASINO (916) 446-0700 • capitol-casino.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$30, 10a); Fri. (\$30 w/\$30 add-on, 10a); Sat.-Sun. (\$60, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$50K minimum; high hands pay \$200 (daily); royal-flush bonus (all suits); Aces Cracked spins wheel.
CASINO 580 (925) 455-6144 • thecasino580.com	Daily (\$25 w/\$20 rebuys, 9:30a).	Progressive straight flush for all suits; bad beat in hold'em (aces full of jacks) and Omaha (quad nines); royals pay \$200; high hands pay \$100; raffles (daily).
CASINO M8TRIX (408) 645-0083 • casinom8trix.com	Daily (\$125-\$330) at 10a; nightly Sun.-Wed. (\$150-\$180) at 8p; Thurs. (\$180, 10p).	Call for promotions.
CHUKCHANSI GOLD RESORT & CASINO (866) 794-6946 • chukchansigold.com	Wed.-Sun. (\$35, 7p); Sat. & Sun. (\$35, 2p).	Mini bad-beat jackpot; high hand (\$50); get paid for quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$150), and royals (\$200); Aces or Kings Cracked pays \$25 (Wed.-Fri.).
CHUMASH CASINO RESORT (805) 686-1968 • chumashcasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$35, 10:15a); Tue. (\$60, 7p); Wed. (\$35, 7p); Thurs. (\$40, 7p); Sat. (\$10 w/rebuys and add-on, 10:15a); Sun. (\$70, 10:15a).	High-hands pay \$500 (Mon., Fri. & Sat.); Splash the Pot (daily).
CLUB ONE CASINO (559) 497-3000 • clubonecasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$20-\$30, 10:15a); Mon.-Sun. (\$50-\$85, 6:15p); Sat. Omaha/8 (\$20, 10:15a).	Monster progressive jackpot starts at \$20K; Easy Way Jackpot pays \$5K; Omaha/8 bad-beat jackpot pays \$5K; call for more details.
COMMERCE CASINO (323) 721-2100 • commercecasino.com	Call for schedule.	Call for promotions.
CORDOVA CASINO (916) 293-7477 • cordovacasino.com	\$20K guarantee, Jan. 5 (\$220).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; super bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; player rewards (\$200 for 40 hours played).
CRYSTAL CASINO (310) 631-3838 • thecrystalcasino.com	Call for details.	Call for information.
DIAMOND JIM'S CASINO (661) 256-1400 • diamondjimscasino.net	Mon. KO (\$72, 6p); Tue. (\$62 w/\$20 rebuy, 6p); Wed. \$2K guar. (\$65, 6p); Sat. (\$30 w/\$10 rebuys, 1:30p); Sun. (\$62, 1:30p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha.
FOLSOM LAKE BOWL (916) 983-4411 • folsomlakebowl.com	Sat. \$1K guar. (\$30, 8p).	Cash giveaways (call for details).
GOLDEN WEST CASINO (661) 324-6936 • goldenwestcasino.net	Mon. (\$40, 6:15p); Wed. (\$60, 6:15p); Fri. (\$30, 9a & \$40, 6:15p); Sat. (\$30, 2:15p); Sun. (\$40, 2:15p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; high hands; cash giveaways; Aces Cracked.
HARRAH'S RINCON (760) 751-3100 • harrahsrincon.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$30, noon & 7p) except \$1K guar., Tue. & Thurs. (\$40, noon); \$1K guar., Fri. (\$36, noon); \$1.5K guar. Sat. KO (\$60, 7p); Sat. & Sun. (\$31, noon).	Aces Cracked (24/7); high hand (Mon.-Fri.); Pay for Play (call for details).
HAWAIIAN GARDENS CASINO (562) 860-5887 • thegardencasino.com	Daily (\$30-\$150); Mon.-Fri. (1p & 6:45p); Sat. (10a & 1p); Sun. (2:15a & 1p).	\$100K bonus jackpots (daily); win up to \$10K in cash drawings (call for details).
HOLLYWOOD PARK (310) 330-2800 • playhpc.com	Daily (\$50-\$90); Mon.-Fri. (11:30a & 6:30p); Sat. & Sun. (11:30a & 5p).	Progressive tournament jackpot; earn points for tournaments.
HUSTLER CASINO (310) 719-9800 • hustlercasinola.com	Mon. (\$140, 7p); Tue. (\$125 w/\$100 rebuy, 7p); Wed. (\$125 w/\$100 rebuy, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$120 w/\$100 rebuy, 7p); Sun. (\$125 w/\$100 rebuy, 3p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
JACKSON RANCHERIA CASINO RESORT (209) 223-1677 • jacksoncasino.com	Mon. (\$57, 7p); Fri. & Sat. (\$57, 11a); satellite tournaments are \$22 and run on Mon. (10a); Tue.-Thurs. & Sun. (10a & 7p).	Call for information.
LAKE ELSINORE CASINO (951) 674-3101 • lercasino.com	Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Sat. (\$20 w/\$5 rebuy, 10a); Mon. KO (\$50, 7p); Tue. 0/8 (\$20, 10a); Thur. (\$60, 7p); Fri. \$3K guar. (\$37 w/\$10 rebuys, 10a); Sun. \$5K guar. (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud.
LIMELIGHT CARD ROOM (916) 446-2208 • limelightcardroom.com	Thurs. (\$40, 6p).	Bad-beat progressive jackpot in hold'em.
LIVERMORE CASINO (925) 447-1702 • livermorecasino.net	Mon.-Sat. (\$40 w/\$20 rebuys and add-on, 11a & 7p); Sun. KO (\$80, 11a & 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush bonus; first-time players receive bonus chips (see website for details).
LOTUS CASINO (916) 399-4929 • mylotuscasino.com	Call for schedule.	Super bad-beat jackpot; Aces Cracked; splash pots; royals pay up to \$250; high hands.
LUCKY CHANCES CASINO (650) 758-2237 • luckychances.com	Call for schedule.	Call for promotions.
LUCKY DERBY CASINO (916) 726-8946 • luckyderbycasino.com	Tue. KO (\$75, 6:30p); Sat. & Sun. (\$40, 10a).	Player points accumulated through live play (call for promotions).

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



CALIFORNIA (Continued)

Table with 3 columns: LOCATION, TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS, JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS. Lists casinos like LUCKY LADY CASINO, MORONGO CASINO, etc.

COLORADO

Table with 3 columns: LOCATION, TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS, JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS. Lists casinos like AMERISTAR BLACK HAWK, GOLDEN GATES CASINO, etc.

CONNECTICUT

Table with 3 columns: LOCATION, TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS, JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS. Lists casinos like FOXWOODS CASINO, MOHEGAN SUN CASINO.

DELAWARE

Table with 3 columns: LOCATION, TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS, JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS. Lists casinos like DELAWARE PARK, DOVER DOWNS HOTEL & CASINO, etc.

FLORIDA

Table with 3 columns: LOCATION, TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS, JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS. Lists casinos like BESTBET JACKSONVILLE, BESTBET ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB, etc.

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at Creek Entertainment Gretna!

JANUARY PROMOTIONS

High Hand pays \$100! Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

Full House Drawing EVERY SATURDAY

Win up to \$25,000 with Bulls Eye on January 19th!

JOIN OUR PLAYER'S CLUB AND GET PAID TO PLAY!

All day every day get up to \$3 per hour played in a Jackpot Eligible Texas Hold'em game.

GET PAID EVEN MORE IN JANUARY!

DOUBLE POINTS on Mondays and Wednesdays

Refer your friends and get up to \$1 extra per hour for the time any referred player plays in the room.

DON'T MISS OUR \$10K GUARANTEE!

\$250 to Buy-in February 2nd 1:00 pm.

\$75 Satellites Thursday 7:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday 1:00 pm.

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Poker Excitement Guaranteed!

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FREE PLAY!

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\$20K Guarantee No Limit Texas Hold'em Tournament

\$500 Buy-in January 26th 1:00 pm

\$100 Satellites

Thursdays 7:00 pm and Sundays 1:00 pm

\$50 Buy-in No Limit Texas Hold'em Tournament

Every Monday, Sunday, & Friday at 7:00 pm,
and Friday, Saturday & Tuesday at 1:00 pm.



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& POKER ROOM

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FLORIDA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
DERBY LANE (727) 812-3339 x7 • derbylanepoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$330) on Sun.-Thurs. (1p, 4p, & 7p) & Fri.-Sat. (1p, 6p, & 8p). See ad on Page 11.	Daily cash and prize promotions; high hands; tournament high hands; see website for more promotions.
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK (850) 234-3943 • ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$20-\$220) on Sun.-Fri. (8p), Sat. (2p, 8p, midnight). See ad on Page 15.	High hands pay \$100 (Mon. & Fri., 9a-midnight) and \$500 (Sun.-Thurs., 2a-3a & Fri.-Sat, midnight-9a); \$4,999 royal flush of spades (Tue.-Thurs., 9a-noon).
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER (772) 464-7500 • jaijai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud (see website for rules and payouts); quads pays \$100-\$220 (daily).
GULFSTREAM PARK (954) 457-6336 • gulfstreampark.com	Daily (6:30p); Mon., Fri. (\$2.5K guar.), Sun. (\$60); Tue. \$1.5K guar. (\$80); Wed. (\$100); Thurs. PLO (\$20 w/\$10 rebuys); Mon.-Wed. (KO) & Sat. (rebuy). Ad on 21.	High hands (daily); \$500/half hour with power hours paying \$750 at noon, 4p, 7p & 10p (Fri.-Sat., noon-midnight); \$250/hour (Sun.-Thurs., 11a-3a); royals pay \$500.
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK (954) 972-2000 x5123 • theislepompnopark.com	Daily (\$100-\$230); Mon.-Wed. & Fri.-Sat. (noon, 7:30p); Thurs. (7:30p); Sat. & Sun. (noon). See ad on Page 23.	Bad-beat and high-hand jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; \$10K cash drawings every Sunday.
MAGIC CITY CASINO (305) 649-3000 • flaglerdogs.com	SNGs daily (\$65-\$800); call for details.	Big Slick Royal Progressive; high hands pay \$150; progressive Hot Table pays minimum of \$500 (daily); Hot Table 100 spins wheel (Sat., 2p, 6p, 10p & 2a).
MARDI GRAS CASINO (877) 557-5687 x3167 • playmardigras.com	Tue. Omaha/8 (\$100, 7p); Wed. PLO \$1.5K guar. freeroll (7p); Thurs. \$1.5K guar. freeroll (7p); Sun. \$1.5K guar. shootout freeroll (7p).	\$40 frenzy vouchers (Sun.-Thurs., 9a-11a & midnight-3a); high hand jackpots; \$500 high hand every half hour (Fri. & Sat.).
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK (321) 259-9800 • mgpark.com	Mon. (\$65, 1p & 7p); Tue. (\$35 w/\$30 rebuys, 1p & 7p); Thurs. (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p & \$90 KO, 7p); Fri. \$5K guar. (\$45, 7p); Sat. (\$120, 1p); Sun. (\$65, 1p). Ad below.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em & Omaha; straight flush pays \$100; royals pay \$500; Aces Cracked pays \$50 (Wed.); high hand (Mon.-Fri.); Holiday Wheel of Fortune (Mon.-Fri.).
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK (239) 992-2411 • naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Mon. & Tue. (\$50, noon & 7p); Wed. (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sat. (\$115, 2p); Sun. (\$125, 2p) & Omaha (\$65, 6p); Jan. 5 (\$275, noon).	Diamond Big Slick Royal Progressive pays minimum of \$25K; all other royals pay \$1K; high hand (daily); \$1K hourly high hands, Jan. 16, 23 & 30.
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI (352) 591-2345 • ocalapoker.com	Mon. (\$30, 7p); Tue. (\$35, 7p); Wed. (\$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 7p); Sun. (\$30, 4p). See ad Page 50.	High hand (daily); royals pay \$500 (daily).
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB (561) 683-2222 • pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$550) at noon & 6:30p; Sat. \$5K freeroll (6:30p). See ad Page 9.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (nearly \$500K at press time), Omaha, and stud; mini bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; progressive jackpot (call for details).
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK (850) 455-8595 • pensacolagreyhoundtrack.com	Daily (\$50-\$100); Mon., Fri. & Sun. (\$50, 7p); Tue. & Fri. (\$50, 1p); Wed. & Sat. (\$100, 7p); \$10K guar., Jan. 12 (\$250, 1p); \$20K guar., Jan. 26 (\$500, 1p).	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad jacks) and stud (quads); full house or better (daily); mini bad beat (daily, mid.-4a); play Sun.-Wed. for an extra \$2/hr.
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB (941) 355-7744 x1054 • skcpoker.com	Daily (\$40-\$160) including Fri. (\$110, 1p, 25K chips); Sat. (\$160, 2p, 15K chips, 30-minute levels). See ad on Page 13.	Progressive jackpots in all games.
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON (866) 222-7466 x121 • seminolecasinobrighton.com	Wed. (\$20, 7p); Sat. (\$50, 7p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high hands (Fri.-Sun.); Aces Cracked (Tue. & Thurs.); Rolling Cash Fever (Wed.).
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK (866) 222-7466 • seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	Mon., Wed. & Sat. (\$120, 6p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$65, 6p); Fri. (\$100, 9p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Daily (\$40-\$300); guaranteed prize pools (call for details). See ad Page 31.	Hourly high hands in limit and no-limit (daily); freeroll promotion for hours played (call for details).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including Wed. (\$225, alternates between 12:30p/7:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud.
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE (866) 222-7466 • theseminolecasino.com	Daily \$60 single-table shootouts (noon & 7p); WPT main event-qualifiers on first Friday of Jan., Feb. & March (\$230, 7p). See ad on Page 33.	\$199 high hand (daily, 11a-2p, 2p-4p; 11p-2a & Fri. & Sat. \$99-\$199-\$500, 2a-4a); daily \$1K quad over quad bad beat.
TAMPA BAY DOWNS (813) 298-1798 • tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$200) at 1p and 7p; \$10K guar., Jan. 9 (\$350, 1p). See ad on Page 17.	Up to \$599 high hands (Tue. & Fri., 1p-mid.); \$300 every 15 minutes (Wed., 1p-7p); \$1K/hour (Sat., 1p-7p).
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK (813) 932-4313 • luckyscards.com	Daily (\$30-\$80); Sun.-Thurs. (2p & 6:30p); Fri.-Sat. (2p, 7:30p). Sunday Challenge, last Sun. of every month (\$115, 1p, 15K chips).	Rise & Shine starts at \$500 (daily, 11:30a-4p); quads (\$50-\$75), straight flushes (\$150) and royals (\$300) from Sun.-Thurs. (4p-11p); high hands pay 2Xs (Fri.-Sat., 4p-11p).

HIGH HAND HOURS EVERYDAY!

MON-FRI 10AM-12PM \$100 ~ MON-FRI 3PM-8PM \$100 ~ SUN-THU 10PM-12AM \$100
SAT 12PM-9PM \$250 ~ SUN 1PM-9PM (3PM-\$100, 5PM-\$150, 7PM-\$200, 9PM-\$350)

SUN, JAN 6TH
1PM START
\$65 BUY-IN

MYSTERY BOUNTY
\$5,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL
TOURNAMENT



UP TO 20,000 IN STARTING UNITS COMING IN JANUARY

EARN UP TO
8,000
IN ADDITIONAL
STARTING UNITS
Every hole punch is
worth 500 in additional units*
(16 tournaments eligible)

30-Min
Blinds
MEGA STACK
\$7,500
GUARANTEED
12K Starting
Units
POKER
TOURNAMENT
Sat, January 26th
1pm - \$120 Buy-in

WEEKLY TOURNAMENTS

Monday	Deep Stack 1pm & 7pm
Tuesday	Hold'em Rebuy 1pm & 7pm
Thursday	Hold'em Rebuy-1pm Bounty- 7pm
Friday	5K Guaranteed - 7pm
Saturday	Super Stack - 1pm
Sunday	Deep Stack - 1pm

Turbo Tournaments: Jan. 2nd & 16th

"TOURNAMENT PLAYER CARD"
will be given at first eligible tournament buy-in

Management reserves the right to cancel any promotion at anytime.

Doors Open
10am Daily

*HOW IT WORKS: Receive a hole punch for every tournament entry buy-in of \$65 or more between Jan. 1st - 25th. Player must redeem "Tournament Player Card" before start of Tournament Sat.-Jan. 26th to receive earned units. Details posted in Club 52.

1100 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne, FL 32935 (321)259-9800 www.mgpark.com



ILLINOIS

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
GRAND VICTORIA ELGIN (847) 531-7753 • grandvictoria-elgin.com	Call for information.	Comp dollars (call for details).
HARRAH'S JOLIET (815) 740-7480 • harrahsjoliet.com	Thurs. (\$125, 7p, 4K chips, 20-minute levels); Sun. (\$125, 4p, 4K chips, 20-minute levels); Sat. KO or deepstack every other week (call for details).	Mega bad-beat jackpot (quad eights); mini bad-beat jackpot (aces full of kings); get paid for straight and royal flushes.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO AURORA (630) 801-7471 • hollywoodcasinourora.com	Wednesday (\$160, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad fives.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO JOLIET (815) 927-2175 • hollywoodcasinojoliet.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
PAR-A-DICE CASINO (309) 698-6693 • paradicecasino.com	Sun. (\$115, 11a).	Call for information.
ROCKFORD CHARITABLE GAMES (800) 965-7852 • rcgpoker.com	SNGs: \$25, \$50 and \$115. MTTs: (\$60, \$120). See ad below.	Call about monthly freerolls.

INDIANA

BLUE CHIP (219) 861-4820 • bluechipcasino.com	Sat. & Sun. (\$80, noon); Tue. & Thurs. (\$20, unlimited \$20 rebuys first hour, 6p); Wednesday (\$60, 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high hand of the hour (Mon.-Fri., 10a-2p) pays \$50 per hour; Real Deal Lucky Wheel pays up to \$200 (Fri.-Sat., 4p-midnight).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO LAWRENCEBURG (812) 539-8000 • www.hollywoodindiana.com	Daily (\$80-\$150) at 11:15a & 7:15p.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; WPT satellite freeroll for top tournament point-earners (call for details).
HORSESHOE HAMMOND (219) 473-6065 • horseshoehammond.com	Mon. & Thurs. (\$200, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$100, noon); Fri. & Sun. (\$200, noon); \$40K guar., last Sat. of every month (\$500, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in select games.
HORSESHOE SOUTHERN INDIANA (812) 969-6000 • horseshoe-indiana.com	Daily (\$50-\$81); Mon. (noon); Tue. (noon, 7p); Wed. (7p); Thurs. (noon); Fri. (midnight); Sat. (noon); Sun. (3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MAJESTIC STAR II (219) 977-7444 • majesticstarcasino.com	Wed. (\$55, 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Fri. (\$130, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 1p & \$105, 7p); Sun. (\$55, 11a & \$60, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of kings; tournament bad-beat jackpot; high hand of the day pays \$200 (call for details).

IOWA

DIAMOND JO CASINO NORTHWOOD (641) 323-7777 • diamondjo.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$50, 7:30p); Sat. (\$100, 2p); Sun. (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
GRAND FALLS CASINO (712) 777-7777 • grandfallscasinosort.com	Mon. Omaha/8 (\$40, 1p); Tue. (\$40, 1p); Thurs. (\$40, 6p); Sat. (\$60, noon); Sun. (\$100, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; get paid for straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$200).
HORSESHOE COUNCIL BLUFFS (877) 771-7463 • horseshoecouncilbluffs.com	Mon., Wed., Sat. (\$65, 10a); Tue. (\$65, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$65, 10a); Sun. (\$45, 10a & 2p); Omaha/8, Jan. 7 (\$65); Fat Stack, Jan. 26 (\$235).	High-hand; progressive straight and royal flushes; Aces Cracked (6a-6p).
MESKWAKI CASINO (641) 484-2108 • meskwaki.com	Tue. (\$25 w/rebuys, 7p); Wed. Omaha/8 (\$30, 7p); Thurs. (\$30 w/re-entry, 7p); Sat. & Sun. (\$30, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal flush jackpot; NFL Squares (Sun., 2p).
MYSTIQUE GREYHOUND PARK (563) 585-2964 • mystiquebq.com	Thursday (\$40, 6p); Friday (\$60, 1p); Sunday (\$50, 1p).	Straight flush progressive jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud pays 10 jackpots (call for details).
PRAIRIE MEADOWS CASINO (515) 967-8543 • prairiemeadows.com	Tue. (\$30, noon); Wed. (\$30, 7p); Sun. (\$60, noon); KO event on first Thursday of every month (except July will be second Thursday) - call for details.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks losing to quads; straight flush pays \$200.
RIVERSIDE CASINO (319) 648-1234 • riversidecasinoandresort.com	Mon. & Fri. limit Omaha H/L (\$30, 11a); Tue. (\$80, 6p); Wed. (\$50, 6p); Thurs. (\$30, 6p); Fri. (\$30, 4p); Sat. (\$30, 1p); Sun. (\$50, 2p); last Sat. of month (\$100, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of kings) and Omaha (quad 10s); player comps (call for details).

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WHERE TO PLAY

KANSAS

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
BOOT HILL CASINO (877) 906-0777 • boothillcasino.com	Monday (\$75, 6p). See ad on Page 32.	Call for information.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO (913) 288-9300 • hollywoodcasinokansas.com	Call for tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
KANSAS STAR CASINO (316) 719-5000 • kansasstarcasino.com	Call for tournaments.	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.

LOUISIANA

BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS (800) 366-7711 • boomtownneworleans.com	Tuesday Freeroll (11a) for 4 or 5 Star Players; Wed. (\$35 w/\$10 add-on, 7p); Thurs. \$1K guarantee.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quad sixes) and Omaha; Aces Cracked (Tue. & Thurs.); mini bad-beat jackpot is aces full of jacks beaten by quads; Splash the Pot (daily).
COUSHATTA CASINO (800) 584-7263 • coushattacasinoresort.com	Daily, including Tue. (\$20 w/rebuys, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$130, 7:30p); Sat. (\$220, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT (318) 220-5274 • eldoradoshreveport.com	Tue. (\$100 w/\$50 add-on, 6:30p); Wed. (\$100 w/\$25 KO, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$100, 6:30p); Sat. (\$115 w/\$75 add-on, 11a); Sun. (\$140, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; high hand pays \$100 (Mon. & Fri., noon-8p); Splash the Pot pays \$100 (Mon.).
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS (504) 533-6000 • harrahsneworleans.com	Call for schedule.	Call for promotions.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY (800) 895-0711 • horseshoebossiercity.com	Mon., Wed., Sat., Sun. (\$100-\$200 w/rebuys & add-ons) including Thurs. (\$200, 6p).	High hands (Sun. & Wed.); Aces Cracked (Mon., Tue., Fri.); Splash Cash (Thurs.). Call for details and times.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES (337) 430-2407 • lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Monday (\$60, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; minor jackpots daily; cash giveaways Mon.-Thurs.
L'AUBERGE BATON ROUGE CASINO (225) 215-7777 • lbatonrouge.com	Call for information.	Call for promotions.
L'AUBERGE DU LAC CASINO (337) 395-7777 • ldlcasino.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; player comps earned on a tier basis (call for details).

MICHIGAN

FIREKEEPERS CASINO (269) 962-0000 • firekeeperscasino.com	Wed. (\$70, noon); Sun. (\$70, noon); Winter Freezeout (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.
GREEKTOWN HOTEL & CASINO (313) 223-2999 • greektowncasino.com	Call for information.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; secondary bad-beat jackpot; high-hand jackpot.
LEELANAU SANDS CASINO (231) 534-8100 • casino2win.com	Call for information.	Call for promotions.
MGM GRAND DETROIT (313) 465-1777 • mgmgranddetroit.com	Call for information.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
SOARING EAGLE CASINO (989) 775-7777 • soaringeaglecasino.com	Mon. (\$60, 6:30p); Tue. (\$13 w/rebuys, 6:30p); Wed. KO (\$45, 6:30p); Sun. (\$60, 12:30p); Jan. 11 (\$175, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; Soaring Hand jackpots increase daily (call for details).
TURTLE CREEK CASINO & HOTEL (231) 534-8937 • turtlecreekcasino.com	Tournaments featured monthly (call for details). See ad on Page 30.	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.

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

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MINNESOTA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
CANTERBURY PARK (952) 445-7223 • canterburypark.com	Mon., Wed., Fri., Sun. (\$45, 10:30a); Mon. & Sun. (\$100, 6:30p); Tue. (\$45, 6:30p); Wed. (\$235, 6:30p); Sat. (\$180, 10:30a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; high hand/hr (Mon., 9a-midnight); Aces Cracked (Tue., 10a-6p).
RUNNING ACES HARNES PARK (651) 925-4600 • runningacesharness.com	Mon. freeroll (7p); Tue. (\$45, 2p & \$125, 6p); Wed. (\$45, 10:30a & \$65, 6p); Thurs. & Sun. (\$45, 2p & \$125, 6p); Fri. (\$65, 10:30a); Sat. (\$65, 9:30a & \$235, 2p).	Aces Cracked (Tue.); Aces Cracked Double the Pot (Thurs.); Aces Cracked progressive (Fri.-Sat.).
TREASURE ISLAND RESORT & CASINO (651) 388-6300 • treasureislandcasino.com	Wed. (\$60, 6p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); monthly event, Jan. 12 & 26 (\$60, 2p); Omaha/8 events, Jan. 5 & 19 (\$60, 2p); Island Cup Deep Stack events on Mondays (\$70, 6p).	Bad beat in hold'em; Aces Cracked (Thurs., 10a-2a & Sun.-Mon., 10p-close); get paid for quads (\$44), straight flush (\$75); royals are progressive and starts at \$100.

MISSISSIPPI

BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO (228) 386-7092 • beaurivage.com	Million Dollar Heater series, Jan. 4-23 (\$125-\$2,600) w/main event, Jan. 19 (\$2,600, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI (228) 436-8999 • boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad-beat jackpot (aces full of kings); mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks); Aces Cracked pays \$100 (24/7) and \$100/\$200 (Mon.-Thurs., 4p-7p).
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT (662) 357-1136 • goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340).	Bad-beat jackpots (call for details); win \$100 every other hour (Mon.-Fri., 3a-10a); get paid to play (25 hours minimum).
HARD ROCK BILOXI (228) 374-7625 • hardrockbiloxi.com	Mon. KO (\$25, 3p); Thurs. (\$25, 10a); Fri. (\$30, 10a); Sat. (\$50, 3p); Sun. (\$25, 3p).	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads; Hard Rock Jackpot Hands; Four of a Kind Blows My Mind; set over set jackpot (Sun.-Wed.); Sun. Football Squares.
HARRAH'S TUNICA (800) 946-4946 x33760 • harrahstunica.com	Mon. & Fri. (\$60, 1p); Tue. (\$70, 1p); Wed. & Thurs. (\$35 w/\$20 add-on, 1p); Fri. (\$40, 6p); Sat. (\$70, 1p & \$70, 6p); Sun. (\$50, 1p & \$60, 6p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud; progressive quads jackpot; Spin to Win pays up to \$1K; WSOPC event, Jan. 24-Feb. 4 (\$365-\$1,675); call for schedule.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA (800) 871-0711 x5005 • hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$40). Mon., Wed., Thurs. (6p); Fri. & Sat. (7p); Sat. & Sun. (2p); Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 w/rebuys & \$20 add-on, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads, must be in \$3-\$6 or higher) and Omaha.
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA (662) 357-5608 • horseshoetunica.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$50, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$90, 6p); Sat. \$10K guar. (\$150, 3p); Sun. (\$90, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; call for more daily promotions.
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA (888) 946-2847 x8554 • ipbiloxi.com	Daily (\$60, noon).	Poker Squares pay up to \$1K (Sun. & Mon.).
ISLE CASINO HOTEL BILOXI (228) 436-7967 • biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon., Fri. & Sat. KO (\$40 w/rebuy, 2p); Tue., Thurs. & Sun. (\$20 w/rebuy, 2p); Wed. KO (\$40 w/rebuy, 7p).	Progressive straight and royal flush (daily); Omaha's Wheel Them Out (Sun.-Thurs., 10a-10p); high hand; Aces Cracked; Lucky Seat.
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA (800) 456-0711 • samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$60) including a \$3K guar. on Sat. (\$20, 7p); \$15K guar., Jan. 12 & 26.	Bad-beat jackpot; ticket drawings (call for details).

MISSOURI

AMERISTAR ST. CHARLES (636) 949-7777 • ameristar.com	Mon. & Tue. (\$45 w/rebuys & add-on, 7p); Wed. & Thurs. (\$55, 7p); Fri. (\$75, 7p); Sat. (\$75, 2p); Sun. (\$55, noon).	Progressive high-hand jackpot pays quads, straight flushes and royals.
AMERISTAR KANSAS CITY (816) 414-7000 • ameristar.com	Mon. ladies only (\$50, 7p) on 1st and 3rd Mon.; Tue.-Thurs. (\$85, 7p); Wed. KO (\$85, 7p); Fri.-Sat. (\$65, 11a); Fall Poker League, Sun. (\$80, noon); Sun. (\$60, 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (see website for details).
HARRAH'S NORTH KANSAS CITY (816) 472-7777 • harrahsnkc.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$80, 1p & 7p); Fri. (\$80, 10a); Sat. (\$120, 10a); Sat. pineapple (\$80, 7p).	High hands (17 jackpots); call for details.
HOLLYWOOD ST. LOUIS (314) 770-8100 • hollywoodcasinostlouis.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 1p & 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 1p & \$160, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 1p & \$125, 7p); every other Sun. (\$60, noon & 5p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha.
LUMIERE PLACE (314) 881-7777 • lumiereplace.com	Daily (\$45, noon); Fri. & Sat. (\$60, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$150K paid between River City and Lumiere in nine weeks); quarterly \$10K Coverall Board (call for details).
RIVER CITY CASINO (888) 578-7289 • rivercity.com	Daily (\$60, 3p); Sat. (\$60, midnight).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is nines full of jacks or better & has multipliers (\$150K paid out between River City and Lumiere in nine weeks); Coverall Board promo.

NEVADA

ARIA (866) 359-7111 • ariallasvegas.com	Twice daily at 1p & 7p (\$125, 10K chips, 30-minute levels).	No jackpots.
ATLANTIS CASINO RESORT SPA RENO (800) 723-6500 • atlanticcasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, 11a & 7p); Sat.-Sun. KO (\$75, 11a).	Rakeback for weekly hours; daily bonus hands for Aces Cracked; quads or better; poker-room comp points (call for details).
BALLY'S LAS VEGAS (702) 967-4111 • ballyslasvegas.com	Daily \$1K guar. (\$55, 11a, 2p & 8p).	High hand \$100-\$500 to table when a progressive royal hits; quads pay \$100; straight flush pays \$200.
BELLAGIO (702) 693-7111 • bellagio.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$125, 2p); Fri. & Sat. (\$545, 2p); Sun. (\$335, 2p).	No jackpots.
BINION'S GAMBLING HALL (702) 382-1600 • binions.com	Daily (\$60-\$100) at 10a, 2p, 7p and 10p.	High hands; quads pays (\$50); straight flush pays (\$100); royals pay (\$250); Monday Night Football promotion (call for details).
BOOMTOWN RENO (775) 345-6000 • boomtownreno.com	Call for schedule.	Cash drawings; get paid for quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50), and royals (\$100).
BOULDER STATION HOTEL & CASINO (702) 432-7777 • boulderstation.com	No tournaments.	Multiroom progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed; high hand (Wed.); Aces Cracked (Thurs.); \$500 high hand (Sun.).
CAESARS PALACE (702) 731-7110 • caesarspalace.com	Daily (\$70, 9a); (\$110, noon); (\$70, 4p); (\$110, 7p); (\$85, 10p); Sat. & Sun. (\$235, 2p); Winter Poker Classic, Jan. 4-17 (\$70-\$560) w/main event, Jan. 12 (\$560, noon).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K (24/7); high hands (24/7); payouts for quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$500).
CIRCUS CIRCUS LAS VEGAS (702) 734-0410 • circuscircus.com	Daily (\$45 w/\$20 add-on, 2p); Sunday Freeroll at noon (play 10 hours minimum to qualify).	High hands; Aces Cracked pays \$50, same color \$100; football parlay card with quads (call for details).
ELDORADO HOTEL CASINO (775) 786-5700 • eldoradoreno.com	Daily (\$30, 10a); Tue. (\$40, 6p); Wed.-Thurs. (\$30, 6p); monthly freeroll (\$2.5K added), Jan. 18 (6p); \$10K guar., Jan. 6 (\$100); call for details.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and stud; quads or better is paid daily.
EXCALIBUR HOTEL AND CASINO (702) 597-7777 • excalibur.com	Daily (\$35, 9a; \$40, 1p, 5p & 8p); all tournaments allow re-entry until the first break.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full beaten by quads); spin the wheel pays \$20-\$300 for quads or Aces Cracked.
FLAMINGO LAS VEGAS (702) 733-3111 • flamingolasvegas.com	Daily (\$70, 10a, 6p and 9p); daily (\$60, 12:30a); daily KO (\$80, 2p). Megabeat Jackpot starts at \$200K (call for details).	High hand pays quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royal (\$500); high hand of the hour pays \$100 (8a-noon & 6p-10p).
GOLDEN NUGGET LAS VEGAS (702) 385-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily (\$65) at 1a, 4a, 11a, 3p, 7p, 10p; Sun. \$5K guar. (\$100, 9a.); \$25K guar., Jan 19 (\$125, noon).	High hand between 2a-2p wins twice the jackpot.
GRAND SIERRA RESORT (775) 789-2000 • grandsierraresort.com	Daily (\$45, 11a); Sun.-Thurs. (\$60, 6:30p); Fri.-Sat. (\$80 w/\$20 bounties, 6:30p).	Aces Cracked pays \$50 (Sun.-Thurs.).
GREEN VALLEY RANCH (702) 617-7777 • greenvalleyranchresort.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. Omaha/8 (\$40, 7p); Wed. H.O.R.S.E. (\$40, 7p); high hand cash prizes during tournament play.	Multiroom progressive bad beat in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guar.; progressive high hands (daily); royals are worth \$5K-\$10K (all suits).
HARRAH'S LAS VEGAS (702) 369-5000 • harrahslasvegas.com	Daily (\$60, 10a & 3p) & (\$80 w/\$20 bounties, 8p); \$5K weekly freeroll (15 hours needed to qualify from Sat. (10a)-Sat. (10a)-top 10 get paid \$500 (call for details).	Mini bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full and pays (\$500/\$200/\$500); high hands; get paid for straight flush (\$100) and royals (\$500); Football Splash Pots.
HARVEYS LAKE TAHOE (775) 588-6611 • harveystahoe.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. & Wed. (\$50, 6p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$75, 6p); Fri. (\$95, 6p); Sun. (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; progressive rewards jackpot is paid on quad nines or better and straight and royal flushes.
HOOTERS (866) 584-6687 • hooterscasinohotel.com	No tournaments.	Aces Cracked (daily, 2p-8p & 2a-6a); high hands (daily); get paid for quads (\$100), straight flush (\$200) and royals (\$500).

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



NEVADA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
LUXOR HOTEL & CASINO (702) 262-4000 • luxor.com	Daily (\$40, 10:30a); (\$40, 12:30p); (\$40, 8:30p); (\$40, 11:30p).	High hands (daily); Aces Cracked (Mon.-Thurs., 8a-noon); Blitz Bonus (Mon. & Thurs.); raffle and special high hand payouts during all NFL games.
M RESORT (702) 797-1000 • themresort.com	Mon., Thurs., & Sun. (\$55, 10a & 6p); Wed. (\$55, 10a & \$100, 6p); Fri.-Sat. (\$75, 10a & 6p). See ad on Pages 2-3 for HPO Regional schedule.	Progressive high hand; bad-beat jackpot in Omaha.
MANDALAY BAY 702-632-7777 • mandalaybay.com	Mon.-Sun. (\$40, 10a), (\$50, 3p), (\$50, 7p); single-table tournaments available (\$65, 5p & 9p).	Progressive high hands (daily); tiered high-hand bonus (Mon., Thurs. & Sat.) pays to flop it (\$300), turn it (\$150) and river it (\$75); Splash Pot Fun (Tue., Wed., Fri. & Sun.). Nightly mixed games and H.O.R.S.E. (call for details).
MGM GRAND LAS VEGAS (702) 891-1111 • mgmgrand.com	Daily (\$80, 11a); Sun.-Thurs. (\$80, 7p); Tue. H.O.R.S.E. (\$120, 7:15p); Fri. & Sat. (\$125, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot; high hands; Aces Cracked; high hand of the hour; Déjà Vu Progressive Jackpot (call for details).
MIRAGE (702) 791-7111 • mirage.com	Daily (\$60, 11a & 7p) & (\$50, 2p & 10p); Sat. (\$110, 11a).	Uncapped progressive high-hand jackpot is quads or better with a new progressive table share (call for details).
MONTE CARLO RESORT & CASINO (702) 730-7777 • montecarlo.com	Daily (\$50, 9a), (\$40, 2p) & (\$60, 6p & 11p); monthly \$16K freeroll (call for details).	\$50K progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament player of the month includes top point earners who will receive their share of a progressive prize pool. Multiroom progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guar.; multiroom jumbo royals start at \$5K; progressive Omaha high hands.
THE ORLEANS (702) 365-7111 • orleanscasino.com	Daily (\$75, noon & 7p) except Fri. (\$125, 7p), Sat. (\$100, 7p) & Sun. (\$100, 7p).	Early bird promo pays \$25 every hour between 8a-1p; earn up to \$200 per day by playing live cash games.
PALACE STATION (702) 367-2453 • palacestation.com	No tournaments.	High hands; get paid for straight flushes and royals.
PALMS CASINO (702) 942-7777 • palms.com	Sun.-Fri. (\$65, 10a); Wed. KO (\$75, 7p).	High-hand jackpots; quads pay \$100; straight and royals are progressive starting at \$250.
PEPPERMILL RESORT CASINO (775) 826-2121 • peppermillreno.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$35-\$115) at 2p & 6:30p; Sat. (\$115, 1p); Sun. (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p & 6:30p).	Aces Cracked pays \$100 (daily); progressive payouts for royal flushes.
PLANET HOLLYWOOD (702) 785-5555 • planethollywoodresort.com	Daily (\$70) at 10a, 2p and 7p.	Multiroom progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
QUAD RESORT & CASINO (800) 634-6441 • thquadlv.com	Mon.-Sun. at 11a, 3p and 9p (\$60); Sat. & Sun. (\$25 w/rebuys, 9a).	Progressive royals start at \$1K; cash drawings pay \$100 (5a, 7a, 9a and 11a); Graveyard Trip Comps (daily, 3a-noon) pays \$3 per hour instead of \$1 per hour.
RED ROCK CASINO (702) 797-7777 • redrock.sclv.com	Daily (\$110, 10a); Mon. & Thurs. (\$100, 6:30p); Tue., Wed. & Sun. (\$80, 6:30p); AUPT, Jan. 21-27 (\$40-\$1,100) w/main event, Jan. 25-27 (\$1,100). Ad Pages 4-5.	High hands (call for details).
RIO CASINO (702) 777-7777 • riolasvegas.com	Daily (\$55, noon); (\$55, 3p); (\$65, 6p); (\$75, 9p); (\$55, midnight).	Uncapped progressive high hands; Aces Cracked pays \$50 (midnight-noon & 4p-9p).
RIVIERA HOTEL AND CASINO (800) 634-3420 • rivierahotel.com	Daily (\$60) at 7a, 11a, 7p and 11p; monthly freerolls.	Multiroom Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed.
SAM'S TOWN LAS VEGAS (702) 456-7777 • samstownlv.com	Daily (\$23, 10a) & daily (\$30 w/rebuy, 1:30p); Fri.-Sat. deepstack (\$45 w/rebuy, 7p & 11p); deepstack events on 2nd and 4th Sat. of the month (\$100).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot pays \$25K minimum; players earn comps while playing (call for details).
SANTA FE STATION CASINO (702) 658-4900 • santafestationlasvegas.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$45, 7p); Mon.-Sat. (\$45, noon); Fri.-Sat. (\$45, 6p).	Royal and straight flush jackpots; high-hand jackpot; get paid for quads, straight flushes and royals.
SOUTH POINT HOTEL CASINO (702) 796-7111 • southpointcasino.com	Daily KO (\$60) at 10a, 2p and 7p (unlimited re-entries during first hour). See ad on Page 25.	High-hand bonus for quads or better; earn comp dollars for playing live games.
STRATOSPHERE (702) 944-4915 • stratospherehotel.com	Daily at 11a, 7p and 11p (\$45 w/\$20 add-on).	
SUNCOAST HOTEL & CASINO (702) 636-7111 • suncoastcasino.com	Daily at 10a & 7p; Mon. & Tue. (\$45 w/\$20 add-on, 7p); Wed. & Sun. KO (\$65 w/\$20 bounties, 7p); all 10a tournaments are \$45 w/\$20 add-on.	



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NEVADA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
SUNSET STATION (702) 547-7982 • sunsetstation.com	No tournaments.	Multiroom progressive bad-beat jackpot; Splash the Pot (Tue.); Make 4 Flushes pays \$400 (Mon. & Thurs.); Aces Cracked double the pot (Wed., Sat. & Sun.).
TEXAS STATION (702) 631-1000 • texasstation.com	Thurs. & Sun. (\$25 w/\$20 rebuy, 10a).	Jumbo Jackpot is quad fours beaten.
TREASURE ISLAND (702) 894-7111 • treasureisland.com	Daily (\$50) at 11a, 2p, 7p and 10p.	High hands pay up to \$500; quads spins wheel; straight flush spins w/2X multiplier; royal spins w/5X multiplier; cash back promotion pays up to \$599 (call for details).
VENETIAN RESORT (702) 414-1000 • venetian.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$150, noon); nightly (\$120, 7p); Tue. KO (\$150, 7p); Fri. KO (\$200, noon) & Survivor (\$200, 7p); Sat. (\$300, noon); Sun. (\$200, noon); Jan. 5 (\$500, noon).	Tournament bad-beat jackpot (\$30K added by the house); Deep Stack Extravaganza, Jan. 31-Feb. 28 (\$200-\$2,500) w/main event, Feb. 17 (\$2,500, noon).
WYNN LAS VEGAS (702) 770-7000 • wynnlasvegas.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$140, noon, 30-min. levels, 10K chips); Sat. \$25K guar. (\$225, noon, 40-min levels, 10K chips); Sun. \$10K guar. (\$200, noon); Thurs. (\$140 bounty, 7p).	No jackpots.

NEW JERSEY

BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-2000 • ballysac.com	Daily (\$55); Mon.-Thurs. & Sat. (1p & 7p); Fri. (1p & 9p); Sun. (1p & 7p); winners of tournaments will be invited to the \$10K TOC Freeroll.	Harrah's AC multiroom bad-beat jackpot starts at quad queens and decreases Wed. if not hit; high hand (Mon. & Tue.); bonus comps (Wed. & Thurs.); Aces Cracked (Fri.).
BORGATA HOTEL CASINO (609) 317-1000 • theborgata.com	Daily (\$40-\$340); Mon. \$10K guar. (\$140, 11a), Wed. \$15K guar. (\$120, 11a & 7p), Fri. \$30K guar. (\$300, noon); WPT Winter Open, Jan. 27-Feb. 1 (\$3,500, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad 10s; mini bad beat in hold'em is quad deuces-nines; see website for more promotions.
CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY (609) 348-4411 • caesarsac.com	Daily (\$100, 1:15p & 6:15p).	Harrah's AC multiroom bad-beat jackpot starts at quad queens and decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit; double comp dollars (call for details).
GOLDEN NUGGET ATLANTIC CITY (800) 777-8477 • goldennugget.com/atlanticcit	Daily (\$80, 4a, 10a, 4p & 10p); Sat. \$10K guar. (\$120, noon); Sun. \$2,012 guar. (\$50, noon).	Progressive high-hand jackpot.
HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 441-5000 • harrahsresort.com	Daily at 10:15a, 1:15p, 8:15p and midnight (\$70-\$125).	Harrah's AC multiroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
REVEL (609) 572-6040 • revelresorts.com	Daily (1:30p & 9p); Sat. (\$220, 9p); Sun., Tue. & Thurs. tournaments are KO events. See ad on the back inside cover.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; high hand; get paid for royals.
SHOWBOAT ATLANTIC CITY (609) 343-4000 • showboatcasino.com	Daily \$65 (11a, 2a & 7p); nightly \$60 (11p); \$20K starting stack for all tournaments; Fri. & Sat. 7p events pay \$5K guar. with unlimited re-entry for 6 levels.	Harrah's AC multiroom bad-beat jackpot starts at quad Queens and decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit; Sun. & Mon. night football promos (call for details).
TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-4000 • tropicana.net	Daily (\$62, 11:15a & 7:15p), including a Fri. (\$122, 7:15p) and Sat. (\$122, 11:15a & 7:15p); midnight tournaments run Sun.-Thurs. (\$42) & Fri.-Sat. (\$62).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; "3-8" special promotion jackpot (call for details); tournament bad-beat jackpot is quads over aces full of kings.
TRUMP TAJ MAHAL CASINO RESORT (609) 449-1000 • playtajpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$230) at 12:15p, 4:15p, 7:15p, & midnight, including two deepstacks on Saturdays (\$230, 7:15p) & (\$120, 4:15p & midnight).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); high hands are entered into drawings to win \$1K; 50-50 club (call for details).

NEW MEXICO

BUFFALO THUNDER CASINO (505) 455-5555 • buffalothunderresort.com	Tue. (\$40, 6:30p); Fri. & Sat. (\$75, 6:30p); monthly event, Jan. 26 (\$150, 1p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Easy Aces Mini Bad Beat pays \$599/\$300/\$75; NFL Splash Pots (Sun. & Mon.).
HARD ROCK ALBUQUERQUE (505) 724-3800 • hardrockcasinobaq.com	Daily (\$20-\$50) at 2p & 7p, including Fri. & Sat. (\$50, 7p); many tournaments have rebuys and add-ons.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
INN OF THE MOUNTAIN GODS (575) 464-7777 • innoftthemountaingods.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$20, noon); Mon.-Fri. satellites (\$60); Sun. (\$55, 2p).	Bonus chips (call for details).
ROUTE 66 CASINO (505) 352-7866 • rt66casino.com	Daily (\$25-\$55); Mon.-Fri. (11a); Tue. & Thurs. (7p); Wed. (3p); Sat. (1p & 5p); Sun. (7p).	Bad-beat jackpot; Action Aces (Mon.-Thurs.); Splash the Pot.
SANDIA RESORT (505) 796-7500 • sandiacasino.com	Tue. (\$40, 7p); Wed. varies (\$25, 7p) Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Sun. (\$40, noon); monthly Omaha event, Jan. 2 & 30 (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha.
SANTA ANA STAR CASINO 505-867-0000 • santaanastar.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30, 11a); Tue. (\$30, 7p); Wed. PLO & Thurs. KO (\$40, 7p); Fri. (\$100, 7p); Sat. (\$40, 11a) & H.O.R.S.E. (\$40, 7p); Sun. Omaha/8 (\$40, 11a) & (\$40, 7p).	Splash the Pot (Mon. & Tue., 8p-midnight); get paid for quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royal flush (\$250).

NEW YORK

SENECA NIAGARA (877) 873-6322 • senecaniagaracasino.com	Mon. KO (\$90, 10a & 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$45, 10a & 7p); Wed. (\$55, w/rebuys, 10a & 7p); Fri. (\$55, 10a & \$175, 1p); Sat. (\$230, 11a); Sun. (\$55, 10a & 7p).	Progressive high hands (24/7); get paid for quads (\$25), straight flushes (\$75) and royals (\$100); Western New York Challenge coming in February (call for details).
SENECA SALAMANCA (877) 860-5130 • senecagames.com	Mon (\$60, 7p); Wed. (\$35, 11a) & (\$60, 7p); Thurs. (\$90, 6p); Fri. (\$35, 6p); Sat. & Sun. (\$60, noon). Ask about Ante Up Poker Cruise satellites.	Progressive bad beat jackpot in hold'em (quad deuces), Omaha (quad nines) and stud (quad sevens); Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
TURNING STONE RESORT (800) 386-5366 • turningstone.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$60-\$100) at noon & 7p; Fri. (\$70, 2p & \$90, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 11a & \$125, 7p); Sun. (\$125, 11a & \$70, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot is in hold'em (quad deuces); royals pay \$100.

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (N.C.) (828) 497-7777 • harrahscherokee.com	Monday (\$120, 7p); Tuesday (\$60, 7p); Wednesday (\$30, 2a) & PLO (\$60, 7p); Thursday (\$60, 7p); Saturday (\$120, 10a); Sunday (\$60, 2p).	Call for information.
SUNCRUZ (S.C.) (843) 280-2933 • suncruzaquasino.com	Tuesday (\$220, 7p); daily freerolls (call for schedule).	Bad-beat (aces full of jacks beaten by quads); get paid for quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200).

OHIO

BUCKEYE CHARITY POKER (440) 347-9565 • buckeyecharitypoker.com	Daily events at 7p.	\$25 match-play coupon on Page 34; \$4 max rake.
HOLLYWOOD COLUMBUS (614) 308-3333 • hollywoodcolumbus.com	Call for information.	Call for promotions.
HOLLYWOOD TOLEDO (419) 661-5200 • hollywoodcasinotoledo.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, 10:15a); Mon. (\$40, 7:15p); Wed. (\$50, 7:15p); Thurs. KO (\$65, 7:15p); Sun. (\$120, 12:15p).	Call for promotions.
HORSESHOE CLEVELAND (216) 297-4777 • caesars.com/horseshoecleveland	Mon. (\$200, noon); Thurs. PLO (\$100 w/re-entry, noon); monthly event, Jan. 27 (\$500, noon).	Call for information.

OKLAHOMA

CHOCTAW RESORT CASINO (580) 920-0160 • choctawcasinos.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$60-\$115) at 2p & 7p; Sat. (\$225, noon); WSOP Circuit event, Jan. 10-21 (\$365-\$1,675) w/main event, Jan. 18 (\$1,675, noon). See ad Page 39.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads.
DOWNSTREAM CASINO RESORT (918) 919-6000 • downstreamcasino.com	Mon. & Wed. w/lunch provided (\$30, 11a); Mon. (\$20, 7p); Wed. KO (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$40, 7p); Sat. (\$150, 2p); Sun. H.O.R.S.E. (\$50, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
FIRELAKE GRAND CASINO (405) 964-7263 • firelakegrand.com	Mon. (\$30, 11a & \$30 w/rebuys, 7p); Tue.-Wed. (\$15, 11a & \$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$30, 11a & \$70, 6p); Sat. (\$120, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
HARD ROCK TULSA (918) 384-7800 • hardrockcasinotulsa.com	Daily; ask about future satellites to major events.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR TULSA (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarml.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, noon); including Mon. PLO (7:30p); Sat. KO (\$60, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.

OKLAHOMA (Continued)

RIVER SPIRIT CASINO (918) 299-8518 • creeknationcasino.com	Sun.-Fri. (\$50, 9:30a); Mon. (\$30 w/rebuys, 7p); Tue. (\$50, 6p); Wed. ante only (\$50, 7p); Thurs. & Sun. KO (\$70, 7p); Fri. (\$50 w/\$10 add-on, 7p); Sat. KO (\$70, 9:30a). Daily (\$40-\$100) at 11a; Sun.-Thurs. (7p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads); high hands; tournament freeroll (call for details); \$40K guar. event, Jan. 25-27 (\$300); call for details. Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
RIVERWIND CASINO (405) 322-6000 • riverwindcasino.com		
WINSTAR WORLD CASINO (580) 276-4229 • winstarcasinos.com	Mon. (\$60, 1p & \$115, 7p); Tue. (\$100, 7p); Wed. (\$60, 1p & \$60 w/re-entries, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$115, 1p); Fri. (\$220, 11a); Sun. (\$230, 1p, 10K chips).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads or better and pays \$20K minimum.

OREGON

CHINOOK WINDS CASINO (541) 996-5825 • chinookwindscasino.com	Mon. (\$25, 12:30p); Mon. KO (\$55, 6p); Tue. (\$25, 12:30p); Wed. (\$45, 12:30p) & (\$30, 6p); Thurs. KO (\$55, 12:30p); Fri. (\$50, 12:30p); Sat. (\$95, 2p); Sun. (\$60, 6p).	Call for promotions. See ad on facing page for DeepStacks Tour schedule.
ENCORE CLUB (503) 206-8856 • encoreclub.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$25 w/rebuy, noon, 2p & 4p, 10p), (\$30 w/rebuy, 6p), (\$50-\$100, 8p); Sat. freeroll (noon); \$10K guar. (\$90 w/rebuy, 7p); Sun. freeroll (noon).	All weekday tournaments have guaranteed prize pools (see website for details).
SEVEN FEATHERS CASINO (541) 839-1111 • sevenfeathers.com	Monthly events on Jan. 5 & 19 (1:30p); Wed. (\$35, 6p); Fri. freeroll (6p).	Monte Carlo Board (aces full or better) paid daily; \$50 alternating high hands/Aces Cracked hourly (Wed., noon-mid.); \$50/\$100 high hands/half hour (Thurs./Sat.).
SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO (503) 879-2350 • spiritmountain.com	Mon. (\$30, 10:30a); Tue. stud/8 (\$30, 10:30a); Wed. 0/8 (\$30, 10:30a) & (\$25 w/rebuys, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 10:30a) & (\$90, 7p); Fri. (\$70, noon) & (\$60, 7p); Sat. (\$90, noon).	Spin the Wheel (Fri. & Sat.); Sunday Super High Hands; Monte Carlo Payouts (Mon.-Thurs.).
WILDHORSE RESORT (541) 278-2274 • wildhorseresort.com	Tue. (\$30 w/\$25 rebuy & add-on, 6:30p); Thurs. & Sat. (\$55, 6:30p); Sun. (\$35, 1p).	Call for promotions.

PENNSYLVANIA

HARRAH'S PHILADELPHIA (800) 480-8020 • harrahscasino.com	Daily (\$50-\$225); Sun.-Tue. & Thurs. (11:30a, 6:30p & 11:30p); Wed. (noon & 11:30p); Fri. Double Green Chip Bounty (2p); Sat. (11:30a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; WSOP satellite seats awarded (call for details).
HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL (717) 469-2211 • hcpn.com	Mon. (\$60, 11:15a); Tue.-Thurs. (\$80, 11:15a); Fri.-Sun. (\$100, 11:15a); Mon.-Thurs. (\$60, 7:15p); Sun. KO (\$100, 7:15p); monthly event, Jan. 26 (\$200, 11:15a).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot; progressive straight flush and royal flush jackpots (call for details).
MEADOWS CASINO (724) 503-1200 • meadowsgaming.com	Daily & nightly (\$30-\$70, 11a & 7:15p); Sat. (\$30, 3:15p); Sun. (\$95, 4:15p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; earn \$5/hour rake back (call for details).
MOHEGAN SUN/POCONO DOWNS (570) 831-2100 • mohegansunpocono.com	Call for tournament schedule.	High-hand promotion (call for details).
PARX CASINO (215) 639-9000 • parxcasino.com	Tue. (\$120, 7p); Wed. (\$120, noon); Thurs. (\$120, 7p); Sat. (\$230, noon).	Call for details.
PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS & CASINO (866) 374-3386 • ericcasino.com	Mon. (\$75, 7:30p); Tue. (\$50, 12:30p); Wed. KO (\$75, 7:30p); Thurs. (\$50, 12:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
RIVERS CASINO (412) 231-7777 • theriverscasino.com	Daily (\$65-\$555); Sun.-Fri. (noon & 7p); Sat. (noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of jacks).
SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM (877) SANDS-77 • sandsbethworks.com	Mon. (\$100, 11a); Tue. (\$100, 11a); Wed. (\$150, 7p); Fri.-Sat. \$500K guar. main-event satellite (\$150-\$275, 11a); Sun. KO, Jan. 13 & 20 (\$125, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads.

SOUTH DAKOTA

CADILLAC JACK'S (605) 578-1500 • cadillacjacksresort.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$12 w/\$5 rebuys, 1p); Mon. KO (\$40, 7p); Tue. (\$12 w/\$5 rebuys, 7p); Wed. (\$46, 7p); Thurs. & Sun. (\$22 w/\$10 rebuys, 7p); Sat. (\$22 w/\$10 rebuys, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; full house or better earn stamps on Pink Card (full Pink Card is worth \$25 and can be used for a room, food or slots).
LODGE AT DEADWOOD (605) 578-4800 • deadwoodlodge.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$33-\$55, 6:30p) except Thurs. KO (\$77); Sat. (\$22 w/rebuys, 2p) & (\$55, 8p); Sun. all-in or fold (\$22 w/rebuys, 3p); last Sun. \$220 w/\$100 add-on, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; half rake on \$2-\$10 or lower games; High Society Challenge (call for details).
SALOON #10 (605) 578-3346 • saloon10.com	Thurs.-Sun. (\$6 w/\$10 rebuy & \$3 add-on, 10:30a) & (\$23 w/\$2 add-on, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot; win \$1K for quad 10s; win 25% of bad-beat jackpot for aces and eights.
SILVERADO FRANKLIN (605) 578-3670 • silveradocasino.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$88, 6:30p); Sat. (\$22, 3p); Sun. (\$44 w/\$20 add-on, 3p).	Call for promotions.

WASHINGTON

7 CEDARS CASINO (360) 683-7777 • 7cedarsresort.com	Wed. (\$75, 6p); Thurs. Omaha/8 (\$65, 6p); Sat. (\$80, 1p); Sun. (\$65, 6p); \$777 added, Jan. 11 (\$77, 6p).	Double Hours (Thurs. & Sun.); call for details.
ANGEL OF THE WINDS CASINO (360) 474-9740 • angelofthewinds.com	Daily (\$40, 10a) including Fri. (\$75, 6:30p); Sat. KO (\$60, 6:30p); many tournaments vary between hold'em, Omaha/8 and crazy pineapple (call for schedule).	High hands and bonus high hands (call for details).
CLEARWATER CASINO (360) 598-8700 • clearwatercasino.com	Daily (\$25 w/\$5 rebuys, 11:30a); Tue. Beat the Boss KO (\$50, 6p); Wed. (\$50 w/\$20 add-on, 6p).	Daily Double jackpot; get paid for quads, straight flush and royals; Lightning Strikes & Thunder Rumbles jackpots (call for details).
LITTLE CREEK CASINO (360) 427-7711 • little-creek.com	Mon. (\$25 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Tue. KO (\$35, 7p); Wed. (\$45, 6p); Thurs. (\$55, 7p); Fri. KO (\$35, 6p); Sat. KO (\$35, 5p); Sun. Omaha/8 (\$35, 5p).	Extra tournament chips (two hours of live play required); call for details.
MUCKLESHOOT CASINO (253) 804-4444 • muckleshootcasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$35, 10:30a); Mon. (\$110, 7p); Tue. KO (\$105, 7p); Wed. & Thurs. (\$65, 7p); Sat. (\$40 w/rebuys, noon); monthly event, Jan. 13 (\$215, noon).	\$10K bad-beat jackpot; high hands pay \$100 every half-hour (24/7); royals pay \$500 plus a jacket.
NORTHERN QUEST CASINO (509) 242-7000 • northernquest.com	Mon.-Fri. KO (\$40, 10:30a); Wed. (\$20 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Mon. & Thurs. ladies night (\$20, 7p); Sat. KO (\$75, 10:30a).	Call for promotions.
SNOQUALMIE CASINO (425) 888-1234 • snocasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30, 10:30a); Mon. (\$20, 7p); Wed. KO (\$58, 7p); Thurs. (\$20, 7p); Sat. (\$68, 11a); Sun. KO (\$68, 11a) & (\$30, 3p).	\$500 for royals; \$200 for straight flushes; quad of the day pays \$400; high hands pay \$100-\$500.
SWINOMISH CASINO & LODGE (360) 293-2691 • swinomishcasino.com	Daily at 12:15p & 7p; Mon.-Tue. & Sun. (\$22); Wed. (\$11 w/rebuys & \$33); Thurs. Omaha/8 (\$22) & \$33; Fri. (\$22 & \$55); Sat. (\$27 & \$33).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; mini bad-beat jackpot; royal flush bonus.
TULALIP RESORT CASINO (360) 716-6000 • tulalipresort.com.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$20, 10:30a); Mon. (\$40, 7p); Tue. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$130, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 11a); Sun. (\$65, noon) & PLO (\$75, 4p).	Aces Cracked; quads or better pays.

WEST VIRGINIA

HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN (800) 795-7001 • ctowntables.com	Mon. KO (\$125, 7p); Tue. (\$150, noon); Wed. (\$150, 7p); Thurs. (\$150, noon); Fri. KO (\$125, noon & \$225, 7p); Sat. (\$250, noon & \$150, 7p); Sun. (\$150, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal flush pays \$100; Hot Seat (Mon., 10a-10p).
MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM (304) 387-8458 • mountaineerpoker.com	Daily (\$25-\$100); Mon., Fri. & Sat. (12:15p); Wed. (10:30a); Sun. (2p); Jan. 26 (7:30p).	Bad beat is aces full of kings; high hands pay \$100 (call for details).

WISCONSIN

HO-CHUNK GAMING AT MADISON ho-chunkgaming.com • (608) 223-9576	Mon. (\$33, 1p); Wed. (\$55, 7:30p); Fri. (\$55, 7p); 1st & 3rd Sat. of month PLO (\$33, 2p); 2nd, 4th & 5th Sat. of the month (\$33, 2p).	Rackback Bucks (call for details).
HO-CHUNK GAMING AT NEKOOSA (800) 782-4560 • ho-chunkgaming.com	Wed. (\$35, 6:45p); Sat. (\$60, 4:45p); monthly event, Jan. 5 (\$215, 2:15p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (daily).
HO-CHUNK GAMING AT WISCONSIN DELLS (608) 356-6210 • ho-chunkgaming.com	Tue. (\$55, 1p); Thurs. (\$55, 6p); Sun. (\$55, 3p); bounty tournament, Jan. 6 (\$220, 10a).	Call for promotions.
MENOMINEE CASINO (715) 799-3600 • menomineecasinosort.com	Fri. (\$40, 7p); Sat. (\$60, noon); closed on Sundays; Winter Classic, Feb. 9 (\$250); call for details.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of tens and Omaha is quads; Aces Cracked pays up to \$150.
POTAWATOMI BINGO CASINO (414) 645-6888 • paysbig.com	Monday (\$100 w/\$10 add-on, 8p); Sunday (\$100 w/\$10 add-on, 8p).	None.

360^o
LIVE STREAMED MAIN EVENT



PACWEST POKER CLASSIC ■ CHINOOK WINDS CASINO RESORT
FEB 2ND TO FEB 11TH 2013 ■ \$100,000 MAIN EVENT GUARANTEE

DATE	#	EVENT	BUY-IN + ENTRY FEE	GUARANTEE	STACKS / LEVELS
FEBRUARY 2ND - SATURDAY					
12:00	1	\$215 NL Hold Em - Day 1A - Unlimited Re-Entries For 1st 3 Levels	\$195 + \$20	\$12,000	10,000 / 40 MIN
17:00	2	\$55 NL Hold Em	\$50 + \$5		6,000 / 20 MIN
19:00	3	Main Event Satellite \$125	\$10 + \$15		10,000 / 30 MIN
FEBRUARY 3RD - SUNDAY					
12:00	1	\$215 NL Hold Em - Day 1B - Unlimited Re-Entries For 1st 3 Levels	\$195 + \$20		
17:00	4	\$55 NL Hold Em w/ \$30 Re-Buys for the 1st 3 Levels	\$45 + \$10		6,000 / 20 MIN
19:00	5	Main Event Satellite \$125	\$10 + \$15		10,000 / 30 MIN
FEBRUARY 4TH - MONDAY					
12:00	6	\$175 NL Hold Em	\$155 + \$20		10,000 / 40 MIN
14:00	1	Day 2 Final Table			
17:00	7	\$75 NL Hold Em	\$65 + \$10		8,000 / 20 MIN
19:00	8	Main Event Satellite \$125	\$10 + \$15		10,000 / 30 MIN
FEBRUARY 5TH - TUESDAY					
12:00	9	\$115 6-MAX-NL Hold Em - Unlimited Re-Entries For 1st 3 Levels	\$100 + \$15		10,000 / 40 MIN
14:00	6	Day 2 Final Table			
17:00	10	\$55 NL Hold Em w/ \$30 Re-Buys for the 1st 3 Levels	\$45 + \$10		6,000 / 20 MIN
FEBRUARY 6TH - WEDNESDAY					
12:00	11	\$125 NL Hold Em	\$10 + \$15		10,000 / 30 MIN
17:00	12	\$125 Limit Omaha Hi/Lo Split	\$10 + \$15		6,000 / 20 MIN
19:00	13	Main Event Satellite \$125	\$10 + \$15		10,000 / 30 MIN
FEBRUARY 7TH - THURSDAY					
12:00	14	\$125 Bounty Tournament w/ \$25 Bounties	\$85 + 25 + \$15		10,000 / 40 MIN
17:00	15	\$75 NL Hold Em	\$65 + \$10		8,000 / 20 MIN
19:00	16	Main Event Satellite \$125	\$10 + \$15		10,000 / 30 MIN
FEBRUARY 8TH - FRIDAY					
10:00	17	The Oregon Power Poker Course w/ Michael "The Grinder" Mizrahi & Randal Flowers	\$350		
18:00	18	Main Event MEGA Satellite \$250	\$220 + \$30		10,000 / 40 MIN
FEBRUARY 9TH - SATURDAY					
10:00	19	Last Chance Main Event Satellite Turbo \$100	\$85 + \$15		5,000 / 10 MIN
12:00	20	THE PACWEST POKER CLASSIC MAIN EVENT - Unlimited Re-Entries For 1st 3 Levels Hosted by Michael "The Grinder" Mizrahi & Randal "Randallin" Flowers	\$1000 + \$100	\$100,000	25,000 / 60 MIN
FEBRUARY 10TH - SUNDAY					
12:00	20	Day 2 Main Event			
14:00	21	\$100 NL Hold Em Turbo "The Grinder Classic" - Unlimited Re-Entries For 1st 4 Levels	\$85 + \$15	\$5,000	10,000 / 15 MIN
FEBRUARY 11TH - MONDAY					
12:00	20	PACWEST POKER CLASSIC MAIN EVENT FINAL TABLE - LIVE STREAMED 360 ^o *			



LIVE STREAM 360^o MAIN EVENT*

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Q&A

WITH ERIK CAJELAIS

Erik Cajelais is a 30-year-old pro from Montreal. His first major cash came in 2006 when he won the \$5K Five Diamond World Poker Classic for \$430,730. Then he nearly missed a World Series of Poker bracelet in 2007, finishing second in the \$5K pot-limit Omaha event for \$483,755. He has career tournament earnings of more than \$2.8 million. Our Mike Owens caught up with Cajelais to discuss his start in poker and goals for 2013.

How did you get started in poker and how did you progress to where you are now? I started playing when I was around 15 years old with my brother. After that, his friends and my friends started playing also. I started playing organized tourneys at 18 in bars with a \$25 or \$50 buy-in, then maybe two years later we found an underground poker club in Montreal that ran \$50 rebuys, \$100 rebuys, or \$300 freezeouts with 20-30 players and cash games. Then I began playing bigger cash games in different underground games in Montreal and all over the world. I started to play tourneys in the U.S. in 2005. But it was really in 2006 that I got really good in a few months' period. I went from having all my money in my pocket or on the table to playing to become a millionaire and being ranked on top of some of the player ranking lists among players that I admired for years.

What are some of your favorite stops on the circuit? The first one I can think of is Barcelona. I love everything about that city.

What would you say is your best game? PLO. That's the one I enjoy the most and almost the only game I've been playing in cash games for years.

How often are you playing cash games? This year I've been pretty much only playing tournaments. Now I'm going to be home and play only cash games until WPT Montreal. It really depends how I feel and how well I do in either one. When I'm hot in tourneys, I try to play as much as possible and same goes for cash games.

Can you take us back to when you didn't play poker for a living? Before pok-

er, my brother and I were finding ways to make money since a very young age. My first real job was in golf, to then being a busboy, a bartender in restaurants and bars until I was 20 or 21. Then I started to play poker full time.

Who do you look up to in the poker world? Both as a person and as a player, I have to go with **Phil Ivey**. I started following poker the year **Chris Moneymaker** won the main event, got hooked on the game and I've been an Ivey fan since that.

What advice do you have for aspiring pros? I think the most important thing is to choose the right game for your bankroll and not to play too big or too small. Try to stay at the table when you're winning because it's much easier to play good when you're winning and you usually play with the players who are stuck that don't normally play very good.

Away from poker what interests you? I love to spend time at home with my family and friends, travel and live life as it goes. As for hobbies, I'm a big fan of the UFC, football and golf.

Pick one: *Cincinnati Kid*, *Rounders* or *Maverick*. *Rounders*, by far. This movie is one of the reasons poker is so big today and it affected my life in a very positive way.

What are your goals for 2013? My goals are to win a major tournament. It's been such a long time. I'm not sure if I'm going to play more tourneys or cash games, but I will be around. ♠



FRIDAY NIGHT GUARANTEED POKER TOURNAMENTS

JAN 4-11-18 | 8 PM | POKER ROOM

GUARANTEED \$5,000 TOURNAMENTS

Buy-In \$75

JAN 25 | 8 PM | POKER ROOM

GUARANTEED \$10,000 TOURNAMENT

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