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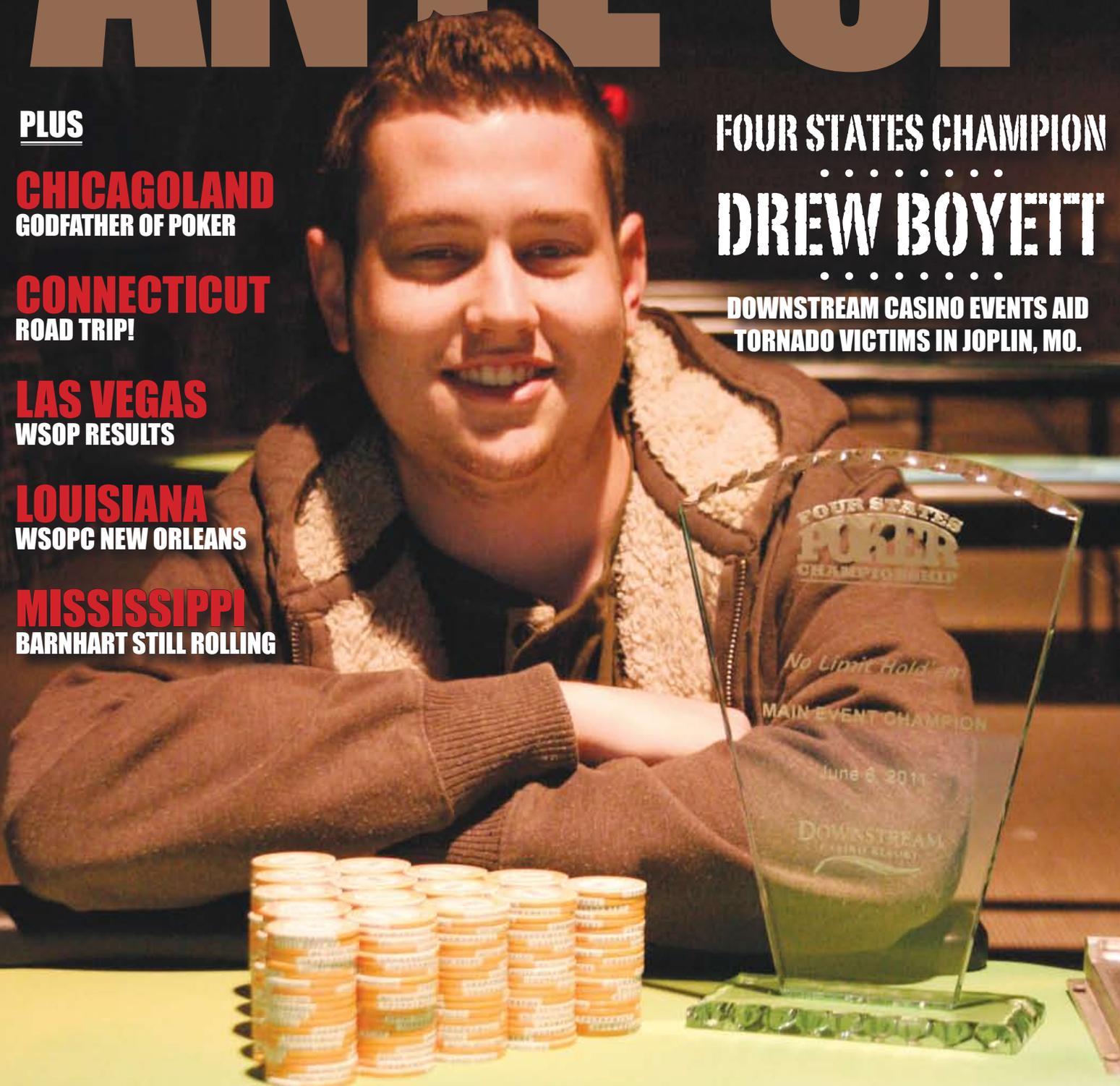
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OUR MISSION

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



Christopher Cosenza

Scott Long

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In a time when the government seems hellbent on digging up what's wrong with poker, we feel it's our duty to tell you what's right with it. One of the most satisfying aspects of this game is its ability to bring a lot of people together for a good cause. In this issue you'll find at least three tournaments that helped raise money for those less fortunate. *Ante Up* was proud to lend support to these great events.

The Jennifer Harman Charity Tournament at the Peppermill Casino in Reno, Nev., has been a popular event for years and continues to thrive in support of the Nevada SPCA. Harman always has had a soft spot for her pets and her love of animals is reflected in her tireless efforts to raise money for them. Coverage is on Page 37.

Swing back to the other side of the country and you'll find the Deep Stack Charity Classic at the Daytona Beach (Fla.) Kennel Club. In its third year, this charity series has hit its stride as Rabbi David Kane managed to wrangle up some impressive sponsors, prizes and celebrities. When you attend this charity event you can count on a top-notch tournament, a great spread for breakfast and dinner, plus a party atmosphere that will keep you truly entertained. Kane's passion for charity is evident by his undying commitment to improving the event year in and year out. Coverage is on Page 18.

Finally we have the United Cancer Alliance series in North Carolina, which hosted its inaugural three-day event at the Durham Bulls ballpark of all places. Thanks to the government, this event almost ended before it started. Sponsorship was tied to one of the country's leading online poker sites, which had to close U.S. operations after Black Friday, causing organizers to scramble last minute to find enough prizes and celebrities to make it happen. But that's what makes poker and charity so special. People are passionate about both, and when they come together special moments can happen. Coverage from our newest Ante Up Ambassador, Mark Rhoades, is on Page 45.

We know the prize pools aren't always optimal for your ROI, but if you can make it to one of these events or other ones like it, we ask that you do. We'll see you at the tables.

— Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

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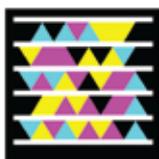
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CONNECTIONS

NEVADA



Daniel Negreanu was one of many pros rubbing elbows with everyday players at Peppermill Casino in Reno for Jennifer Harman's charity event. **37**

WASHINGTON D.C.



The Poker Players Alliance rallied in front of our nation's Capitol. Attendees included Linda Johnson, right, Greg Raymer and PPA executive director John Pappas. **46**

MID-ATLANTIC

There's more poker here than you may have once thought. **12**

A.C.-PHILLY

Alexander Queen has taken the tournament scene by storm. **14**

COLORADO

Isle Black Hawk's poker room is new and looking to be No. 1. **38**

CHICAGOLAND

The Godfather of Poker, Doyle Brunson, makes an appearance. **43**

KENTUCKIANA

Flood waters be damned! Nothing can stop the Horseshoe Classic. **42**

MINNESOTA

A Fox is spotted at the Running Aces poker room and he's giving lessons. **44**

OKLAHOMA



The Four States Championship at Downstream Casino went on as planned, only this time it also helped raise money for tornado relief. **40-41**

FLORIDA



Autograph anyone? The Mizrachi family played in the Deep Stack charity event at Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room. **18**

MISSISSIPPI

Sam Barnhart is having one hell of a year, plus he leads the AUPT POY race. **20, 22**

LOUISIANA

The launch of two poker rooms will have a major effect. **24**

LAS VEGAS

The World Series of Poker is under way and we have results. **30**



• Also, was that Carrie Underwood who won the Orleans Open? **36**

ELSEWHERE

IOWA: Is intrastate online poker still possible? **44**

MISSOURI: Pot-limit Omaha is taking over St. Louis. **43**

NORTH CAROLINA: A charity event almost doesn't happen thanks to Black Friday. **45**

STRATEGY

JONATHAN LITTLE

Everyone has played poker with Uncle Tilty. **52**

JOE NAVARRO

The fingers of a player can tell you so much. **54**

LEE CHILDS

As it turns out, poker is such an easy game. **55**

CONNECTICUT

Ante Up publisher Chris Cosenza returns to his old stomping grounds in the Nutmeg State to visit the poker rooms at Foxwoods Casino and Mohegan Sun. **50-51**





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

POKER'S HERE, YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK HARDER

The Mid-Atlantic area offers an eclectic collection of facilities in which to play poker. Since this is my first report for *Ante Up* I thought a little primer on the area was in order. You could say Virginia is a “dry state,” with no poker of any sort, not even charity halls anymore. This leaves West Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Delaware.



MICHAEL YOUNG

Delaware

Three gaming facilities are in the state, Delaware Park near Wilmington, Dover Downs in Dover and Harrington Raceway near the Delaware State fairgrounds. While each facility offers cash games, the daily tournaments vary at each site. You can find the times of the daily tournaments in the Where to Play portion of the magazine.

Delaware Park recently expanded its daily tournament schedule, spreading four events each day. To try to attract the former Internet players, there's a \$20 buy-in tournament on Wednesdays and Sundays. On Thursdays and Fridays, Omaha tournaments are offered and major promotional tournaments will take place over Independence Day weekend.

Dover's Crown Royal Poker Room is hosting the Summer Open on July 8-16 (see ad at left). Also the Delaware State Championship is Sept. 10 with qualifying satellites running daily. It will have a \$10K guarantee. Dover hosts numerous series throughout the year. Be sure to check our Where to Play pages each month for dates and schedules.

West Virginia

The two West Virginia facilities in this region are Greenbrier Resort and Hollywood Casino at Charles Town. Greenbrier's casino is available only for guests of the resort. That being said, the Greenbrier Championship Poker Series features 10 tournaments with a max field of 60 players. With a full field, the top eight win a cash prize of \$4,760 and entry into the “Final Table” event on July 23 with a \$20,000 winner-take-all cash prize.

Hollywood Casino at Charles Town is the closest casino to D.C. and many players in the District make the commute to this busy room. The casino offers many cash games and recently added tournaments on Tuesday and Wednesday. You may have to wait for a short period before getting on a cash table. Can you tell there's a pent-up demand for poker in the area?

Washington, D.C.

The City Council passed an ordinance to allow online poker for D.C. residents to play on District-sanctioned poker sites. This would be for D.C. residents as play-money sites begin this month and real-money sites by year's end. Also, check theppa.org for charity events.

Maryland

While poker isn't sanctioned by the state, there are many charity events (\$20-\$150) in the rural areas of Southern Maryland. These usually take place at charity facilities such as firehouses or halls. They're run well and food and beverages are usually available as part of your entry. For a list of most events go to somed.com/calendar/index.cgi.

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

Are You Feeling Lucky



Check out ALL that The Crown Royal® Poker Room at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino has to offer!

SUMMER POKER OPEN

July 8 – 16, 2011

Day	Time	Title	Buy In =Chips	Time Limit
Friday, July 8	5:30 p.m.	Texas Hold 'Em No Limit (Deep Stack)	\$225 = 10,000	20 mins.
Saturday, July 9	10 a.m.	Seniors Texas Hold 'Em	\$90 = 5,000	20 mins
Saturday, July 9	2 p.m.	Texas Hold 'Em No Limit	\$125 = 8,000	20 mins
Sunday, July 10	11 a.m.	Six Hand Texas Hold 'Em	\$125 = 6,000	20 mins
Sunday, July 10	2 p.m.	Texas Hold 'Em No Limit	\$225 = 8,000	20 mins
Monday, July 11	Noon	Texas Hold 'Em No Limit	\$125 = 6,000	20 mins
Monday, July 11	2 p.m.	Pot Limit Omaha	\$125 = 6,000	20 mins
Tuesday, July 12	Noon	7 Card Stud Limit	\$125 = 5,000	20 mins
Tuesday, July 12	2 p.m.	Texas Hold 'Em No Limit	\$225 = 8,000	20 mins
Wednesday, July 13	Noon	Limit Omaha 8+	\$125 = 6,000	20 mins
Wednesday, July 13	7 p.m.	Texas Hold 'Em No Limit	\$225 = 8,000	20 mins
Wednesday, July 13	All Day	Summer Poker Open Satellite	\$70 = 1,500	15 mins.
Thursday, July 14	1 p.m.	Texas Hold 'Em No Limit	250+20+5 8,000	30 mins
Thursday, July 14	All Day	Summer Poker Open Satellite	\$70 = 1,500	15 mins.
Friday, July 15	July 15 6a.m. to July 16 10 a.m.	Summer Poker Open Satellite	\$70 = 1,500	15 mins.
Saturday, July 16	Noon	Summer Poker Open MAIN EVENT	\$550 = 12,000	30 mins.

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

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Aug 25 - Sep 5



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

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

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

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QUEEN TURNING INTO KING OF THE FELT

By **Cris Belkewitch**

Halfway through May the Borgata poker room hosted a \$1,000 no-limit hold'em tournament with a guaranteed prize pool of \$250,000. It was billed as a deepstack double-play tournament, meaning anyone who happened to bust out on Day 1A was allowed to buy in again on Day 1B. All told 451 players entered, making the first-place prize a little more than \$111,000, and that went to a rising star who has tasted victory at the Borgata before, **Alexander Queen**.

For the 22-year-old Queen, born and raised in Bethlehem, Pa., the six-figure payday was only a fraction of his biggest score at the epicenter of poker in Atlantic City. In 2010 he won the Borgata Spring Open championship for a sweet \$355,535. With close to a half a million in earnings at the Borgata alone, one has to wonder what makes him so deadly at the tables there.

"The tournament structures are just really good, leaving lots of play throughout," he said. "The staff does an excellent job there and running good certainly doesn't hurt either."

The Borgata isn't the only casino at which he's getting comfortable, however. He outlasted more than 250 players to win the inaugural Delaware Park Poker Classic's championship event, earning \$56,111.

"They definitely have some kinks to work out, but the staff is excellent," he said of one of poker's newest destinations. "I wouldn't be surprised if they have 400-plus for their next main event."

His interest in poker was sparked in a similar fashion to many of the players who find themselves in the game today.

"I got fascinated by watching the WSOP on ESPN when (Chris) Moneymaker took it down in 2003," he said.

Queen started out playing \$5 sit-n-go tournaments before moving to 5-cent/10-cent cash games. As a senior in high school one of his friends came across freerolls online and the bankroll building began. Perhaps what makes him so good at such a young age is he realized early on he had room to improve.

"At Turning Stone in 2008 I met some really good players that were light years ahead of me skill-wise and it really made me wonder if I was cut out to play this game full time. But I ended up sticking with it and soaked up as much knowledge as I could and it really helped me progress my game along quickly."

He said learning the game while he was playing pushed his game forward and he had plenty of "a-ha" moments.

"Some of my biggest were when I started thinking about what I wanted to accomplish with my bet or check, or what my opponent had and how my hand was playing against theirs," he said.

As things came together he soon realized he was on the right path. "Around August of 2008 I started playing a lot online and built up a mid five-figure roll fairly quickly," he said. "I was running good but it really gave me a lot of confidence that I could play full time successfully."

With all of that in tow he quickly became a force on the live scene once he became old enough to play in the casinos. He began posting cashes in events at the World Series of Poker Circuit, NAPT, WSOP and PAC.

Speaking of the WSOP, Queen is looking at a pretty full schedule this summer. He plans on playing just about every NLHE event, excluding the \$25,000 heads-up and the \$10,000 six-max. He also plans on adding in many of the \$2,500 mixed-game events.

"I've been working on my PLO game a lot recently and am really excited to play some of those WSOP events this year."

With so much success at a young age and a bright future as a poker player, is poker his be all, end all?

"I still love to play poker and get excited every time I sit at the table, so I can't imagine being out of poker any time soon. I'd like to get into some other things at some point like the stock market, day trading, real estate or owning a restaurant. So hopefully in 20 years I would have accomplished some of those things, but I'm sure I'll still find time to get onto the green felt."

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



CONNECTICUT

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- Vasilios Hatzioannou, Danvers, MA, \$80,189
 - Mark Bramley, West Roxbury, MA, \$46,399
 - Jeffrey Goldman, Mansfield, MA, \$29,587
 - David Vogel, Providence, \$23,704
 - Moh. Haghdoost, Worcester, MA, \$18,492
 - Robert Koerber, Waterbury, CT, \$14,962
 - Joseph Chividian, Southport, CT, \$12,440
 - Michael Linster, Levittown, NY, \$10,087
 - David Pocknett, Mashpee, MA, \$8,247
- \$600 NLHE • Entries: 414 • Prize Pool: \$212,837**
- Robert Corcione, Bellingham, MA, \$26,887
- \$120 NLHE • Entries: 366 • Prize Pool: \$35,502**
- Tyrone Murphy, Norwich, CT, \$8,452
- \$200 Bounty • Entries: 312 • Prize Pool: \$37,362**
- Christopher Jones, Congers, NY, \$2,777 (10-way chop)
- \$120 NLHE • Entries: 239 • Prize Pool: \$23,183**
- Joseph Russo, Cranston, RI, \$5,120
- \$300 NLHE • Entries: 744 • Prize Pool: \$187,637**
- Harry Frankel, Monsey, NY, \$22,162
- \$120 NLHE • Entries: 293 • Prize Pool: \$28,421**
- Peter Shapiro, Medford, MA, \$4,472

- \$230 Turbo • Entries: 203 • Prize Pool: \$39,382**
- Steve Fiorentini, Winchester, MA, \$4,793 (5-way chop)
- \$120 NLHE • Entries: 217 • Prize Pool: \$21,049**
- Jerry Lang, Auburn, MA, \$5,073
- \$180 NLHE • Entries: 270 • Prize Pool: \$40,595**
- Josh Rotenberg, W. Bloomfield, MI, \$5,123 (2-way chop)
- \$120 NLHE • Entries: 233 • Prize Pool: \$22,601**
- Spiro Mitrokostas, W. Yarmouth, MA, \$4,679
- \$400 NLHE • Entries: 358 • Prize Pool: \$121,541**
- Juan Catala, Providence, RI, \$19,750 (2-way chop)



Vasilios Hatzioannou of Danvers, Mass., won the main and \$80,189.

BORGATA RESULTS

Deep Stack • \$1,100 NLHE

- Entries: 451 • Prize Pool: \$451K**
- Alexander Queen, Bethlehem, PA, \$111,774
 - Alek Givotovsky, New York, \$64,527
 - Robert Fetzko, Johnstown, PA, \$39,372
 - John Whitworth, Myrtle Bch, SC, \$31,717
 - Eugene Todd, Brooklyn, \$24,937
 - Andrew Hippler, Baltimore, \$20,781
 - Justin Nasatir, New York, \$16,625
 - Maxwell McCurdy, Charlotte, NC, \$12,688
 - Jason Filopei, Bronx, \$8,750

\$100K guarantee • \$400 NLHE

- Entries: 700 • Prize Pool: \$245K**
- Robert Hatcher, Oak Hill, VA, \$55,135
 - Konstantine Basios, Mineola, NY, \$32,083
 - Linhkhoun Virath, Nokesville, VA, \$19,606
 - Jason Holzberg, Plainview, NY, \$16,160
 - Britten Walker, Harrisburg, NC, \$13,071
 - David Filippi, New York, \$10,695
 - Dennis Thurman, Fisk, MO, \$8,556
 - David Rittmeyer, Towson, MD, \$6,536
 - Armin Kiany, Potomac, MD, \$4,516

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tristan "cre8ive"
wade



jennifer "jennicide"
leigh

	date	event	buy-in	fee
wed	10-aug	nl holdem \$100,000 guarantee	\$300	\$40
thurs	11-aug	nl holdem	\$450	\$50
fri	12-aug	nl holdem deep stack \$50,000 guarantee	\$500	\$60
sat	13-aug	nl holdem	\$1,000	\$100
sun	14-aug	nl deep stack turbo	\$300	\$40
mon	15-aug	nl deep stack turbo	\$200	\$30
tues	16-aug	nl holdem \$30,000 guarantee	\$300	\$40
wed	17-aug	limit holdem \$20,000 guarantee	\$200	\$30
thurs	18-aug	nl holdem deep stack turbo	\$300	\$40
fri	19-aug	nl holdem	\$300	\$40
sat	20-aug	main event \$250,000 guarantee***	\$1,850	\$150
sun	21-aug	nl holdem \$50,000 guarantee	\$500	\$60
mon	22-aug	nl deep stack turbo	\$200	\$30
tues	23-aug	nl holdem	\$300	\$40
wed	24-aug	nl deep stack turbo	\$200	\$30

*all tournaments will start at noon on the first day and 2pm on the final day **all tournaments are two days except for stack "turbo" events they will be one day ***main event is 3 days: aug 20,21,22

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A look at the South Florida poker scene

PLAYERS HOPE FOR REPEAT WSOP SUCCESS

As South Floridians sat down to cheer on the Miami Heat for Game 1 of the NBA Finals, I couldn't help but consider the possibilities of success for Florida poker players as this year's World Series of Poker got under way for a seven-week run in Las Vegas on the same day. And while some will argue poker is a sport, I look at it merely as the king of all card games. One thing we know for sure: It is not a team sport.



BIG DAVE LEMMON

Still, as a poker radio talk host on the southern tip of the peninsula, I wondered what Florida players would do for an encore this year.

We look to last year and the phenomenal accomplishments of the Mizrachi family, as the four brothers supported each other en route to all of them cashing in the main event. I guess that's as close to a "team sport" as we're going to get. Add to that the individual "redemption" of the Grinder and the appearance of three Florida players in the November Nine, and the Sunshine State found itself in a position of pride at the 2010 WSOP. So, will we see more of the same this year?

I hope the answer will be a resounding yes! With new Florida legislation lifting tournament buy-in restrictions last summer, 2011 ushered in a new era of major events as South Florida welcomed the WSOP Circuit in February and the World Poker Tour in May.

Both events attracted huge fields as big-name players flew in to take on eager locals in the sunny, attractive climate of South Florida. What they quickly found was a group of aggressive players unafraid to pony up the big cash, then get their chips in the middle at just about any opportunity.

Such maniacal play seems to be the norm in South Florida. While sitting in the office with the director of one of the area's biggest cardrooms during the WPT Showdown at the Hard Rock, he received a text from someone at the tournament who was amazed that 25 percent of the field had been knocked out of the event in the first five levels.

He casually glanced over at his assistant and they said simultaneously, "Welcome to Florida." Of course, overly aggressive play can often be exposed and defeated, but Florida players have held their own in this year's two major events, winning six of the 10 WSOPC rings at the Palm Beach Kennel Club and two of the six final-table seats at

the WPT Showdown, which airs on Fox Sports Net this month, went to Floridians.

One of those at the WPT final table was **Abbey Daniels** of Coral Springs, who calls herself a "part-time poker player and full-time band mom." Her son is in the marching band at Coral Springs High. Her fourth-place finish netted her nearly \$287,000.

"She was playing so well that I think a lot of other players were afraid of her," WPT tournament director **Matt Savage** said, "and that doesn't usually happen with someone nobody has ever heard of."

Daniels was planning to play several early tournaments at the WSOP and then return to Vegas this month for a shot at the massive exposure and huge payday the main event can bring. Her good friend and neighbor **Kevin Schaffel** set the bar extremely high with a November Nine appearance in 2009 and Abbey hopes a final table might be in her future this summer.



Abbey Daniels

You can bet the three Florida members of last year's November Nine will be there looking for a return to glory. **Michael "Grinder" Mizrachi** earned his first bracelet along with that main-event final-table appearance and definitely will be hungry for more.

John Racener's second-place finish last year set him up to be the subject of a major film documentary called *On The Line: John Racener*, which he expects to be released this year. The exposure of another deep run in the main event will lead to the success of that side project.

And how about **John Dolan**? He was a virtual unknown outside of Florida before his run to the November Nine. Now the guy with the evil poker face (one that might rival **Jack Nicholson's** in *The Shining*) is recognized throughout the poker world.

As always, a few lesser-knowns will make their mark with a breakout performance, and here are a few names who might be on your radar besides Daniels: **Richard Kirsch** of Miami Beach (Top 200 last year), **Steve Karp** and **Ebony Kenney** of North Miami Beach, **Ory Hen** of Cooper City and **Hayden Fortini** of Vero Beach, who turned 21 this year and after years of online success, will make his WSOP debut this summer.

Florida has become the "Wild, Wild West" of poker and the cowboys (and cowgirls) of South Florida will be front and center trying to make a name for themselves. As *Ante Up's* new South Florida Ambassador, I'll be keeping a close eye on all of them.

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

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DEEP STACK CHARITY EVENT

MAY 22 • DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB • DAYTONA BEACH

For the third straight year the Venetian Deep Stack Extravaganza charity tournament raised thousands of dollars for area charities, and this year the Mizrachi family was on-hand.

Final results

- 1. Lee Thomas
- 2. Jermaine Gerlin
- 3. Maria Elkaz
- 4. Joe Boulais
- 5. John Domey
- 6. Kenneth Wehmann
- 7. Dominick Scarola
- 8. Yaron Elkayam
- 9. Mike Weinger
- 10. Alan Hatcher



Mizrachi Bros. from left, Eric, Robert and Michael, signed *Ante Up* magazines and fliers.



Mrs. Grinder (Lily Mizrachi) bought most of the raffle tickets.



More than 500 players, including nearly 100 alternates, participated in the Venetian Deep Stack charity event at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club.



^^ Lauren of HHPT, left, and Robin of PMS PokerWear enjoy the breakfast spread before the tournament.

<< Michael "Grinder" Mizrachi gives some thought to his next move after the flop.

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ANTE UP POKER TOUR HITS HALFWAY POINT

Leaderboard

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

Upcoming events

- July 29: FSPC main event, Isle Pompano Park
- Aug. 6: Gold Strike World Poker Open main event
- Aug. 13: Jax Summer Series main event, OPKC
- Aug. 20: Parx \$500K Open Classic, Parx Casino
- Sept. 1: Ante Up Summer Cruise main event
- Sept. 4: Gulf Coast Championship, Beau Rivage
- Dec. 16: Ante Up Winter Cruise main event



Scan this tag for more AUPT details.

Halfway through the 2011 Ante Up Poker Tour season, it's a close race atop the leaderboard.

Samuel Barnhart of Little Rock, Ark., has the Ante Up Player of the Year lead with 1,155 points and two top-10 finishes. **John Riordan** of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., is just 34 points back, while **Mike Morton** of Mays Landing, N.J., and **Taylor von Kriegenbergh** have more than 1,000 points.

Brian Hawkins of Ft. Myers, Fla., is the only player with three top-10 finishes this season, moving into eighth place with 662 points.

The Ante Up Poker Tour runs through Dec. 31. Players earn points for finishing in the top 10 of tournaments designated as Ante Up Poker Tour events, which include the main events of tournament series run by Ante Up partners and other Ante Up events. Points are weighted to take into account field size and buy-in. The Ante Up Poker Tour winner earns a cover story in *Ante Up*, a featured interview on the *Ante Up PokerCast* and a custom-crafted silver bracelet from Madison Jewelers of Virginia Beach, Va.

Upcoming events, results and leaderboard can be found at anteupmagazine.com/tour or by scanning the tag at the left with your smartphone.



Our POY gets this bracelet.

AUPT winners

Alexander Kuzmin, Southern Champ., Beau Rivage
 Matt Waxman, Isle Classic, Isle Pompano Park
 Corey Burbick, Chad Brown Championship, Orange Park
 Ronit Chamani, Winter Open, Hard Rock Hollywood
 Samuel Barnhart, WSOPC, Harrah's Tunica
 John Riordan, WSOPC, Palm Beach Kennel Club
 James Reed, Delta Gold Poker Classic, Gold Strike Resort
 Neil Lawson, Ante Up Spring Poker Cruise
 Paul Odum, Spring Break Poker Classic, Beau Rivage
 Tony Spinella, Battles at the Beach, Isle Pompano Park
 Taylor Von Kriegenbergh, WPT Hard Rock Showdown
 Ly Do, Louisiana Poker Championship, Isle Lake Charles
 Fred Goldberg, Everglades Open, Hard Rock Hollywood

SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD



Fred Goldberg won the \$1,600 Everglades Open Main Event, good for \$83K. He beat 173 players.

Results

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Fred Goldberg, \$83,520 | 4. Richard Kirsch, \$20,880 | 7. Anthony Balletta, \$10,179 |
| 2. Farid Jattin, \$44,370 | 5. Brian Hawkins, \$16,965 | 8. Michael Kelly, \$57,569 |
| 3. Mukul Pahuja, \$28,710 | 6. Jay Romano, \$12,789 | 9. Kenneth Weiner, \$5,481 |

ISLE CASINO POMPANO PARK

The Florida State Poker Championship kicks off at the Isle Casino in Pompano Park on July 7, running until the Aug. 1, when the \$1 million guarantee main event concludes.

The \$5,300 buy-in main event, which begins July 29, is the highlight of the series schedule, though there are some interesting events scattered throughout, such as a \$2,200 six-handed tournament on July 25.

Last year **Mike "the Mouth" Matusow** won the main event.



Scan this tag with your phone to see the full FSPC schedule.

SEMINOLE CASINOS

The state's six Seminole Casino poker rooms have ended the Mega Bad Beat Jackpot, where players from each room contributes to the fund.

Reports said Hard Rock Tampa hit the jackpot the most often, so players and managers of the other rooms asked for their own promotions.

The jackpot stopped accumulating on May 25, and when it hit for the final time new promotions were announced in each Seminole Casino poker room.

DANIA JAI-ALAI

Mark Migetz, from Wellington, Fla., was the chipleader at the end of the Dan Le Batard event on May 25, making him the champ when the prize money chopped 21 ways. Each won \$805. There were 286 players vying for a \$10K WSOP seat.



DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB

The Daytona Beach Kennel Club will host a Heartland Poker Tour event in October. HPT will film two episodes of the series Sept. 30-Oct. 9.

"This is an exciting opportunity for us to be the first to host this nationally recognized tournament and bring poker players from around the world to Daytona Beach," DBKC general manager **Dan Francati** said. "We look forward to building a strong partnership with the HPT organization during our multiyear contract." Satellites start Sept. 30 for the Oct. 8 main event.

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



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

WPT REGIONAL NO LIMIT HOLD'EM MAIN EVENT

Sat 8/13	1PM	#8 No Limit Hold'Em Main Event Day 1A	\$1350 + \$150	\$300,000
Sun 8/14	1PM	No Limit Hold'Em Main Event Day1B	\$1350 + \$150	
Mon 8/15	1PM	Main Event Day 2		
Mon 8/15	3PM	#9 No Limit Hold'Em	\$300 + \$40	
Tue 8/16	1PM	Main Event Final Day		
Tue 8/16	3PM	#10 No Limit Hold'Em	\$300 + \$40	
Wed 8/17	1PM	#11 No Limit Hold'Em With \$100 Bounties	\$300 + \$40	

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



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A look at the Mississippi-area poker scene

CAREER YEAR FOR BARNHART, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

The water has receded in Tunica and we're back to business as usual in the poker rooms. The early summer months are historically the slowest of the year for poker in the Mississippi card-rooms. However, with the combination of Black Friday and a month-long flood shutdown we're busier than ever.



JENNIFER GAY

A few of Mississippi's best-known players are notably absent, though.

They packed their bags and took off to Vegas to try their hand at the 42nd annual World Series of Poker.

This year's inaugural National Circuit Championship \$1,000,000 freeroll included several regional pros on the invitation list. **Kyle Cartwright** of Bartlett, Tenn., who claimed the coveted Harrah's Tunica title at the February WSOP Circuit stop, **Will Souther** of Biloxi, Miss., who won an "at-large" bid for a free-roll invitation due to overall points earned on the circuit and **Bob Talbot** of Tunica, Miss., who secured his spot with his IP Biloxi Casino title, were just a few of the regional all-stars to make the cut. However, it would be a relative newcomer that would make history.

Sam Barnhart of Little Rock, Ark., is the "new kid" of tournament poker. Hardly a "kid" at all, Barnhart is a successful 50-year-old software analyst who has been playing cash poker for more than 15 years. His game of choice is \$20-\$40 limit at Horseshoe Tunica, where until just recently he was part of a beloved group of regular players. In February he tried his hand at big-league tournament play when he entered the Harrah's WSOPC main event. His \$148,612 first-place victory was celebrated locally, as he endured good-natured ribbing about his "lucky streak." Just a few short weeks later he cashed fourth in the Gold Strike Delta Gold's main event for \$10,476.

I had the pleasure of sitting behind him during his run at the Delta Gold. It was around 10 p.m., the night of the final table, and the crowds on the rail were sparse and dwindling. I enlisted the support of Louisiana pro **Al Theriac** to pull up a chair as well, and we settled in to watch Barnhart in action. Aside from being genuinely the nicest guy in poker,



Arkansas' Sam Barnhart won this year's first WSOP bracelet and \$300,000.

Barnhart is absolutely fearless while playing. Even when significantly short-stacked, he never hesitated to put his money in and appeared to always be confident in his move. Obviously, he didn't win every hand, but he knew when to move and for how much. It was evident then that he has found his calling in tournament poker.

He catapulted quickly from poker-room regular, to local celebrity. Barnhart had only cashed in three tournaments before this breakout run. All three cashes were less than \$1,000. Preferring cash play instead he simply didn't play that many tournaments. His main-event win earned him a bid in the national championship.

At Horseshoe Tunica, pictures of his successes were displayed sending him well wishes in Vegas. I'd like to think our support gave him a bit of luck, though I'm not entirely sure it was necessary. On May 29, Sam won \$300,000 and the first gold WSOP bracelet of the season by taking down the title in what is scheduled to be an annual event, putting his name in the history books.

On his win, Barnhart simply said: "This is a wonderful feeling. It's one of the best feelings I've ever had in my life."

Despite a career where crunching numbers is a necessity, he says he relies less on math and more on "intuition and observation" while playing.

Barnhart made a decision at the start of 2011 to take one year and commit to tournament poker. He said at the end of the year, based on how he'd done, he would decide if he could make a living playing full time. It may be safe to assume that after this year, we'll be seeing a lot more of Sam.

Of the 59 bracelets up for grabs in Vegas, I hope a few more make their way home to Mississippi. I'm staying glued to the updates and relying on readers to keep me informed during the weeks when I'm not in Vegas. Depending on your perspective, the WSOP may mark the culmination of the season.

For those of us down South, it's the beginning of a whirlwind of events that make this the greatest state in the nation to play. July through December features the World Poker Open at Gold Strike in Tunica, the Gulf Coast Poker Championship at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi and the WSOP Circuit at the IP in Biloxi. Edging into winter, we have the Magnolia State Classic at Horseshoe Tunica and the Winter Classic at Gold Strike.

In 2010, this region put some of the best players in the country on the map. There's always room for a few more. I hope to see you all in Mississippi this year, vying for your piece of the pie.

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

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

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WILL NEW ROOMS HAVE MAJOR EFFECT?

The imminent opening of two poker rooms in South Louisiana has created quite a buzz among local players. L'Auberge du Lac in Lake Charles and the Hollywood Casino in Baton Rouge have confirmed an entrance into the live poker market, but both operations are playing it close to the vest when it comes to details.

That's understandable when you consider the opening of these rooms could seriously alter the landscape of Louisiana poker.

Without question, market share is a big part of the appeal. Poker rooms in the southwest corner of the state continue to thrive largely because of an influx of players from Texas.

With Houston just three hours away and shuttles that run seven days a week, Texas players have an option that's comparatively close to home. A large part of the casinos' marketing dollars goes toward attracting these shippers; there seems to be a billboard at every mile marker along the I-10 corridor.

While this has proved to be a profitable strategy, one can reasonably expect the new rooms to place a higher priority on locals given the companies behind the scenes. One of them could also open the door to land-based poker rooms.

Hollywood Baton Rouge is owned and operated by Penn National Gaming, which also owns Penn National Race Course in Grantville, Pa. The company is familiar with the effect of gaming on the racing industry.

Just a few short years ago thoroughbred racing was on life support, especially in Louisiana and Pennsylvania, until the state legislatures approved the placement of slot machines and video poker at local tracks. Within a short period of time the purse values increased to the point that horses in Louisiana now compete for more added money than anywhere in the United States. The same thing happened in Pennsylvania with Penn National leading the way.

So, what does this have to do with poker? It introduces the presence of a powerful lobbyist in Penn National who could wield considerable influence on the state legislature when the issue of poker rooms at the racetrack comes up. The state has been debating it for some time, and now you have the presence of a company who has been there and done that preparing to enter the local poker market. They have demonstrated that gaming revenues can revitalize not only the racing industry but state coffers in the process.

The legalization of land-based poker rooms in Louisiana would be a tremendous shot in the arm for markets such as Shreveport/Bossier City, which have seen revenues decline with the opening of poker rooms in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

It would also make it a lot easier for the World Series of Poker to have a circuit stop at Horseshoe Bossier City, which is rumored to be on the schedule, though WSOP director Jack Effel would not confirm at press time.

Under law the tournament series would have to take place on the boat, which leaves only one option: the Horseshoe rooftop. When word leaked that the WSOP was attempting to schedule an August series on the Horseshoe roof it was obvious to the local players that whoever was in charge has not been to Louisiana in August. A study done while **Dennis Jones** managed the room revealed that the cost of temporary air conditioning on the roof was prohibitive. A viable solution is a mere 100 yards from the boat: the Horseshoe Riverdome. It's more than adequate to stage a WSOPC event, but unless someone develops a way to make it float that won't happen.

L'Auberge du Lac in Lake Charles doesn't seem to have a dog in the land-based fight, but they do have something that might make them a force to be reckoned with. L'Auberge is owned and operated by Pinnacle Entertainment. If that name sounds familiar, it should. Pinnacle owns and operates Boomtown New Orleans.

In 2011 Boomtown New Orleans has been Louisiana's biggest success story (see *On The River*, February 2011). Pinnacle was able to turn around the New Orleans room after closing its room at Boomtown Shreveport. Experience can be the best teacher, and Boomtown has made the most of its schooling.

There's no reason to suggest they will not succeed at L'Auberge du Lac, but, just as they did in New Orleans, Pinnacle will adopt a slow and steady approach. Early reports are that L'Auberge will open its room with a mere seven tables. It's a risky proposition. If business booms too soon and the room isn't prepared players will have other options close at hand.

However, if Pinnacle repeats its Boomtown New Orleans success then its local competition could be in for a rocky ride. When things in NOLA took off Pinnacle wasn't hesitant to spend marketing money to enlarge the room and increase the promotions. With a property that ranks among the nicest in the nation, let alone Louisiana, the poker room at the L'Auberge could see rapid growth.

What all of this means for the Louisiana poker player is competition is about to increase for local support. That can only lead to a higher quality product and more games and tournaments that will appeal to the serious player. While most of the rooms in Louisiana have been content to allow Harrah's and its WSOP brand be the big dog in the poker yard, I wouldn't be surprised to hear a lot of barking in the coming months from Hollywood Baton Rouge and L'Auberge du Lac.

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



SCOTTY RUSHING



L'Auberge du Lac's poker room may have just seven tables to start. Mistake or brilliant planning?

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WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT

MAY 9-18 • HARRAH'S CASINO • NEW ORLEANS



Ring Event 1 • \$355 NLHE

Entries: 473 • Prize Pool: \$136,226

1. John Christian, Baton Rouge, \$28,288
2. Adam Lippert, Brooklyn, \$18,108
3. Andrew Phillips, Palm Coast, FL, \$13,228
4. Brett Tortorich, New Orleans, \$9,806
5. Kyle Cartwright, Bartlett, TN, \$7,375
6. Doug Cox, Northport, AL, \$5,626
7. Samuel Ansley, Southlake, TX, \$4,352
8. Clint Schafer, Baton Rouge, \$3,415
9. Paul Vo, Austin, TX, \$2,717
10. Walter Bell, San Antonio, TX, \$2,191



Ring Event 2 • \$355 PLO/PLH

Entries: 97 • Prize Pool: \$27,936

1. John Holley, Destin, FL, \$8,380
2. Dustin Wertz, New Orleans, \$5,179
3. David Nicholson, Perkinstun, MS, \$3,688
4. Mike Schneider, Covington, GA, \$2,679
5. Doug Carli, Alliance, OH, \$1,984
6. Jeff Wright, Waterloo, IL, \$1,498
7. Phillip Hui, San Antonio, TX, \$1,152
8. Thomas Hopkins, San Antonio, TX, \$902
9. John Clark, \$719
10. Sven Siitan, \$583



Ring Event 3 • \$355 6-max

Entries: 312 • Prize Pool: \$89,856

1. Danny Doucet, Opelousas, LA, \$21,116
2. Daniel Galindo, San Antonio, TX, \$13,056
3. Mark Utterback, San Antonio, TX, \$9,482
4. David Jackson, Jonesboro, GA, \$7,004
5. Randy Gordon, Metairie, LA, \$5,258
6. Kyle Caslin, St. Charles, MO, \$4,010
7. Richard Keranen, D. Springs, LA, \$3,106
8. Lance Reine, \$2,442
9. Lance Honeycutt, \$1,948
10. John Mason, \$1,578



Ring Event 4 • \$355 NLHE

Entries: 423 • Prize Pool: \$121,824

1. Brian Walsingham, Winston, GA, \$26,801
2. Lyle Walker, D. Springs, LA, \$16,561
3. William Yutmeyer, H. Cove, AL, \$12,102
4. Nhu Nguyen, HOUSTON, \$8,985
5. Charlie Cibula, River Forest, IL, \$6,775
6. Eric Witmer, GONZALES, LA, \$5,186
7. Nicholas Ceci, Peachtree City, GA, \$4,027
8. Jeremy Swanson, St. Amant, LA, \$3,172
9. Kenny Milam, Laplace, LA, \$2,533
10. Jeff Bell, San Antonio, TX, \$2,051



Ring Event 5 • \$355 NLHE

Entries: 293 • Prize Pool: \$140,640

1. Zhen Cai, Lake Worth, FL, \$33,753
2. Ap Phahurat, Tulsa, \$20,859
3. Kennii Nguyen, Chicago, \$15,135
4. Dennis Crowley, Pearland, TX, \$11,166
5. Mario Silvestri, Colleyville, TX, \$8,375
6. Ly Do, San Antonio, TX, \$6,382
7. Richard Read, Picayune, MS, \$4,939
8. John Ross, Niagara Falls, NY, \$3,881
9. Alex Maturi, Oak Park, IL, \$4,939
10. Brendan Waite, Lincoln, \$2,507



Ring Event 6 • \$565 PLO

Entries: 101 • Prize Pool: \$48,480

1. Walter Wright, Las Vegas, \$14,544
2. Cory Wood, Murfreesboro, TN, \$8,989
3. Mark Thoennes, Greenville, SC, \$6,400
4. Trey Brabham, Austin, TX, \$4,649
5. Nick Jivkov, Des Plaines, IL, \$3,444
6. Daniel Galindo, San Antonio, TX, \$2,599
7. James Lee, Yukon, OK, \$1,999
8. Phil Ngo, Oklahoma City, \$1,566
9. Gregory Douglas, Tulsa, \$1,248
10. Matt Lope, Gloucester City, NJ, \$1,012



Ring Event 7 • \$355 NLHE

Entries: 646 • Prize Pool: \$186,048

1. Tom Franklin, Gulfport, MS, \$38,139
2. Lawrence Wayne, Houston, \$23,600
3. Joel Merwick, Lincoln, \$17,309
4. John Westra, Gainesville, FL, \$12,872
5. Ryan Bradley Freeman, Katy, TX, \$9,702
6. George Menia, Baton Rouge, \$7,410
7. Trent Temples, Bogalusa, LA, \$5,734
8. Mark Lindley, Katy, TX, \$4,494
9. Abel Hinojosa, Houston, \$3,568
10. John Cressend, Destrehan, LA, \$2,868



Ring Event 8 • \$1,085 NLHE

Entries: 356 • Prize Pool: \$341,760

1. Brian Walsingham, Winston, GA, \$78,604
2. Lawrence Wayne, Houston, \$48,594
3. Allie Prescott, Las Vegas, \$35,450
4. Anthony Prusac, Houston, \$26,295
5. Paul Odum, Canton, GA, \$19,808
6. Dan Schmiech, Houston, \$15,150
7. Loc Van Nguyen, Houston, \$11,758
8. Eli Loewenthal, Carmel, IN, \$7,759
9. Yong An, Las Vegas, \$6,005
10. John Park, Leesville, LA, \$4,977



\$1,600 Main Event

Entries: 382 • Prize Pool: \$550,060

1. Jonathon Poche, Lafayette, LA, \$121,017
2. Robert Toye, Baton Rouge, \$74,783
3. Josh Evans, Plano, TX, \$54,644
4. Todd Wood, Springfield, LA, \$40,573
5. Scott Zakheim, Davie, FL, \$30,595
6. Jacob Bazeley, Cincinnati, \$23,416
7. William Payne, San Antonio, TX, \$18,185
8. Matthew Waxman, Parkland, FL, \$14,324
9. James McBride, Slidell, LA, \$11,441
10. Lance Craig, Irving, TX, \$9,263



Event 10 • \$355 Regional

Entries: 355 • Prize Pool: \$106,500

1. Stephen Puleio, Kansas City, \$23,515
2. Vincent Cormoyer, Ft. Worth, TX, \$14,537
3. Michael Buckle, Phoenix, \$10,605
4. Tuan Bui Le, Newport, TN, \$7,866
5. Nicholas Vansyckle, Cedar Hill, TX, \$5,925
6. Brandon Jackson, New Orleans, \$4,532
7. Peter Ippolito, East Meadow, NY, \$3,517
8. Richard Schattel, Pearland, TX, \$2,768
9. James Calloway, Slidell, LA, \$2,210
10. Kevin Kelley, Austin, TX, \$1,788

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

VEGAS JACKPOT DOLLARS: FACTS & FALLACIES

With the World Series of Poker wrapping to a close, the Las Vegas poker landscape will start to return to normal, and the typical tourist and local action will return to the many convenience rooms around town. Of the 58 poker rooms in the Las Vegas area, all but five (Aria, Bellagio, MGM Grand, Venetian and Wynn) have a jackpot drop in their cash games. It's usually a dollar taken when the pot reaches \$10. Jackpot drops are common, but the way the money is distributed varies greatly.



MICHAEL HAMAI

First, the fallacy the house is making money off the jackpot drop needs to be addressed. Nevada Gaming Control Board fiercely regulates the jackpot drop in all Nevada casinos and requires, without exception, 100 percent of the money taken from a pot for a jackpot must be returned to the players.

No percentage whatsoever may be retained for "administrative costs" or as a supplemental house rake out of the games. This is not the case in many other jurisdictions. Having said that, so long as the money is returned, in full to the players, the NGCB is liberal in how that money is returned. It's most commonly used for high-hand jackpots, bad-beat jackpots or freeroll tournaments, but it can be used to purchase "prizes" for players or for entry into larger tournaments (i.e. seats at major tournament events). How a room decides to distribute the jackpot money is at its discretion.

Another common fallacy is the money needs to be returned in full to the players every day. This is not the case, and few to no rooms do this. Most rooms maintain a jackpot "reserve" that can range from a few hundred to \$100,000 or more. Though it is required that all money be returned to the players, there is no real requirement it be returned in a set period of time. Some rooms choose to maintain a large reserve so they're able to run things such as large \$100K guarantee freerolls or to fund jumbo high-hand jackpots. Once again, this is at the discretion of the room.

Though the vast majority of jackpot rooms drop one jackpot dollar, two rooms drop more (that this writer is aware of). As of this writing, the Riviera and Luxor drop a \$2 jackpot (with the second dollar taken at a higher pot amount than the first dollar). Also, most to all rooms

don't drop a jackpot dollar if a flop is not seen (since a jackpot is not possible without a flop), but at least one room (Mandalay Bay) drops a jackpot even if a flop is not seen.

Another way the Vegas jackpot drop is differentiated from other jurisdictions is regarding joint-property promotions. It's common in Las Vegas to have multiple properties owned or managed by the same company combining their jackpot drops and offering a joint property promotion. Stations Casinos, which cater mainly to locals, is the best-known example of this.



By combining the jackpot drop from their many properties, they can offer oversized bad-beat jackpots (usually starting at \$100K or \$150K) and large joint-property freerolls with prize pools ranging from \$100K to \$300K and guaranteed money to every player who qualifies. When a BBJ hits at a Stations property, every player in a cash game at every Stations casino wins a share, starting at \$200. Joint property promotions are significantly less common on the Strip, and usually are reserved for the locals' casino market.

On the Strip, the most common way jackpot money is distributed is through high hands as bad-beat jackpots are less common. Freerolls are making a comeback on the Strip, however, and are commonplace at a few properties, including Treasure Island, which offers a weekly \$2,500 guarantee freeroll with 10 hours of cash-game play throughout the week.

High-hand jackpots are quite popular with rooms since it excites players to win a jackpot for making tough hands. The poker rooms are always trying to figure out new ways to make these jackpots more exciting. Some of the more interesting rooms include Mirage, which pays a static amount for quads and straight flushes, but has a daily Flopped Royal Jackpot that starts at \$5,000 and often eclipses \$10,000. Bally's and Planet Hollywood took it a step further and awards not only a large progressive royal, but gives a share to everyone at the table playing in the game.

Being that the majority of the Las Vegas area poker rooms drop a jackpot, it's good to know what entices you as far as jackpot promotions so you can plan accordingly. Now get out there and flop that royal!

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



More from LVM

Las Vegas Michael was a recent guest on the *Ante Up PokerCast*, discussing all things Vegas poker. To hear the whole interview scan the tag on the left with your smartphone. To read excerpts from the interview turn to Page 70.



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42ND WORLD SERIES

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

Here's a recap of the first 24 events from this year's WSOP, which is still running. If you'd like a look at the full results scan the tag on the right with your smartphone. And be sure to go to anteupmagazine.com for all of the latest World Series news.



Event 1 • \$500 Casino employees

Entries: 850 • Prize Pool: \$382,500

Sean R. Drake earned his first WSOP gold bracelet and \$82,292 for winning the Casino Employees Championship. Drake, 27, is a part-time poker dealer from Folsom, Calif., who works at the Folsom Lake Bowl, though he's hoping this success catapults him into a successful career as a full-time player. The runner-up was **Jason Baker**, a dealer from Canada.



Event 2 • \$25K Heads-Up

Entries: 128 • Prize Pool: \$3,040,000

Jake Cody from Rochdale, England, won the richest heads-up event in history, pocketing a whopping \$851,192 and his first gold bracelet. Cody also has an EPT and WPT title to his credit. The champion was required to win seven consecutive matches over four days. He defeated **Yevgeniy Timoshenko** in the final match. The Ukrainian-born player won \$525,980.



Event 3 • \$1,500 Omaha/8

Entries: 925 • Prize Pool: \$1,248,750

Cheech Barbaro of Chicago, a former bartender, earned \$252,283 when he won the largest Omaha/8 event in history. It was his first WSOP event. Barbaro, 37, is a poker pro who won the H.O.R.S.E. title at the WSOPC stop in Hammond Horseshoe in Indiana in November. "I must say the win at the Horseshoe in Indiana really helped me here."



Event 4 • \$5K NLHE

Entries: 865 • Prize Pool: \$4,065,500

"I'm the best," **Allen Bari** screamed moments after his victory. "I do not think my swagger is undeserved. I've been playing poker a long time and have been working hard at it." Bari, 26, overcame a huge field and took home \$874,116 and his first WSOP bracelet in first-place prize money. The New Jersey poker pro defeated **Maria Ho** of L.A. for the title.



Event 5 • \$1,500 Stud

Entries: 357 • Prize Pool: \$481,950

Eugene Katchalov of New York won \$122,909 and his first bracelet. He's a 30-year-old poker pro who immigrated to America from the Ukraine at age 10. Katchalov once worked as a day trader before taking up poker full time. He has six WSOP final tables to his credit. The runner-up was **Alessio Isaia**, a 24-year-old poker pro from Italy.



Event 6 • \$1,500 Limit Hold'em

Entries: 675 • Prize Pool: \$911,250

Harrison Wilder, originally from Beaverton, Ore., earned \$205,065 and his first WSOP bracelet. His parents, pictured above, told him to quit college to play poker. Today, Wilder is a 29-year-old pro living in Las Vegas. "They have always been very supportive of me." Runner-up was **Thomas Jamieson** of Bakersfield, Calif., a 47-year-old teacher.



Event 7 • \$10K PLHE

Entries: 249 • Prize Pool: \$2,340,600

Amir Lehavot, originally from Israel but now a resident of Weston, Fla., won his first bracelet and \$205,065. "It definitely means a lot. It is a great achievement for a poker player. It is so tough. There are so many great players, so it feels really good to win this." The runner-up was **Jarred Solomon**, from Johannesburg, South Africa.



Event 8 • \$1K NLHE

Entries: 4,178 • Prize Pool: \$3,760,200

Sean Getzwiller of Las Vegas won an epic heads-up match that lasted more than four hours over **Sadan Turker** of England. Getzwiller collected \$611,185, which represented more than 600 times his initial investment. It was his first bracelet but ninth WSOP cash. Turker, from London, is a 22-year-old student and semi-pro poker player.



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42ND WORLD SERIES

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



Event 9 • \$1,500 2-7 NL draw

Entries: 275 • Prize Pool: \$371,250

Matt Perrins, tired of playing just NLHE, decided to enter this lowball event. The problem was he didn't know how to play. So he went on YouTube and watched about 30 minutes of video about lowball single-draw basics. A short time later, he owned his first WSOP bracelet. "During Day 1 and the first three of four hours, I was not sure what was going on," said Perrins, a pro from the U.K. who earned \$102,105. The runner-up was **Chris Bjorin**.



Event 10 • \$1,500 NLHE 6-max

Entries: 1,920 • Prize Pool: \$2,592,000

Geoffrey Klein of Houston is a 44-year-old gynecologist who pulled off a stunning comeback during heads-up play. Down 9 to 1 in chips, Klein stayed patient and maneuvered his way back from the dead to collect \$544,388 and his first bracelet. "As long as you have chips, never give up. I play a pretty good short stack. In fact, when I have a lot of chips, I play much worse," he said with a laugh. **Eddie Blumenthal** of Verona, Wis., was runner-up.



Event 11 • \$10K Omaha/8

Entries: 202 • Prize Pool: \$1,898,800

Viacheslav Zhukov, a 22-year-old pro from Stary Oskol, Russia, earned \$465,216 and his first bracelet. It was his first WSOP cash as well. "This was my first time to play the WSOP. But I had good experience playing online ... so, I can compete with the world's greatest." The runner-up was **George Lind**, a tough poker pro from Chandler, Ariz. Lind is one of online poker's most accomplished players, known to play 40 tables at once.



Event 12 • \$1,500 Triple chance

Entries: 1,340 • Prize Pool: \$1,809,000

David Diaz won \$352,808 and his first WSOP gold bracelet, but his greatest victory took place 22 years ago. As a 4-year-old in Honduras, Diaz was diagnosed with cancer. St. Jude Children's Hospital flew him to Memphis for medical treatment and some years later he was cancer free. Now, at the age of 26, Diaz is a pro from New Jersey and a self-described "grinder." Here's what he said on winning his bracelet: "It feels great. I can't even take it all in yet."



Event 13 • \$1,500 Shootout

Entries: 1,440 • Prize Pool: \$1,944,000

Andrew Badecker triumphed over a final table that included four bracelet-winners (**Erik Cajelais**, **Dan Kelly**, **Vitaly Lunkin** and **David Pham**) to earn his first bracelet. Badecker, 23, recently moved to Las Vegas from Connecticut, where he grew up. Badecker dropped out of Southern Connecticut State University (the alma mater to *Ante Up* publisher **Chris Cosenza**) to play full time. He now has the bankroll to follow his dream, earning \$369,371.



Event 14 • \$3K Limit Hold'em

Entries: 337 • Prize Pool: \$920,010

Tyler Bonkowski, a Canadian poker pro, pocketed \$220,817 and his first bracelet. Bonkowski, 26, spent three years in college before quitting to play poker full time. Before this win, his best tournament finish was a 14th-place showing at the 2011 Aussie Millions. This was the fourth WSOP cash of his young career. "Winning the gold bracelet is huge," he said. **Brandon Demes** of Tempe, Ariz., was runner-up, winning \$136,419.



Event 15 • \$1,500 PLHE

Entries: 765 • Prize Pool: \$1,032,750

Brian Rast, who was home just a few hours from an extremely long flight from Brazil, had no intention of playing this event. That is until he ran into **Antonio Esfandiari**, who encouraged him to play, and even bankrolled Rast's entry for a cut of the winnings. Now both players look like geniuses as Rast earned his first bracelet and \$227,232. He defeated **Allen "Chainsaw" Kessler** heads-up for the title, giving Kessler yet another runner-up finish.



Event 16 • \$10K 2-7 NL Draw

Entries: 126 • Prize Pool: \$1,184,400

John Juanda, the 40-year-old pro from Las Vegas, now owns five WSOP bracelets, and this one wasn't easy. His victory meant **Phil Hellmuth** would be denied his 12th bracelet, as the two went heads-up for the title. Juanda collected \$367,170, giving him more than \$10 million in career tournament winnings. "There were a lot of great players," Juanda said. "I actually started today as the shortest stack and obviously had to catch some cards."

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Event 17 • \$1,500 H.O.R.S.E.

Entries: 963 • Prize Pool: \$1,300,050

Aaron Steury, a 24-year-old pro and self-described grinder, from Fort Wayne, Ind., came in with eight WSOP cashes, his best showing a 14th-place finish in the 2009 \$5K H.O.R.S.E. event. But this triumph trumped everything he'd done before and paid nearly three times the combined figure he earned up to that point. Steury received \$289,283. The runner-up was **Michael Chow** from Honolulu, who won last year's \$1,500 Omaha/8 bracelet.



Event 18 • \$1,500 NLHE

Entries: 3,157 • Prize Pool: \$4,261,950

Foster Hays of Dallas worked just four days, putting in 40 hours and collected \$735,400 after defeating one of the largest single-day field size events in history. And what's the Yale grad going to do with all that cash? "I'm going to buy a new car." The runner-up was **Casey Kelton** from Wickenburg, Ariz. At one point he held 2-1 chip lead. Kelton earned \$454,920, and remarkably, neither of the top-two finishers had cashed before at the WSOP.



Event 19 • \$2,500 LHE 6-max

Entries: 354 • Prize Pool: \$805,350

Darren Woods became the third British player to win a bracelet this year. A 26-year-old pro from Grimsby, U.K., he once worked as an accountant. This is the third year Woods has attended the WSOP, with four career cashes, all last year. He earned \$213,431 for this limit hold'em victory. **Kim Nguyen** of San Diego was runner-up: "She's a great player," Woods said. "She's very aggressive. She knows what she's doing." She won nearly \$132K.



Event 20 • \$1K NLHE

Entries: 3,175 • Prize Pool: \$2,857,500

Jason Somerville, 24, of Stony Brook, N.Y., has a knack for running extremely deep in large-field events. So when the number of entrants reached 3,175 you knew he was going to have a great tournament. He took home nearly \$500K for his victory and his first WSOP bracelet. It was his fifth career final table at the World Series and his 11th career WSOP cash. The runner-up was **Yashar Darian** from Emerson, N.J. He won \$305,009.



Event 21 • \$10K stud

Entries: 126 • Prize Pool: \$1,184,400

Bertrand Gaspellier, better-known for his anomalous moniker, "ElkY" completed poker's Triple Crown, having won EPT, WPT and WSOP titles. The French native earned \$331,639 after winning the stud world championship (an event he never played before), but most important, he shed the stigma of never winning the WSOP bracelet. "I have really good memory for the cards," he said. "Some of my friends helped with the strategy, too."



Event 22 • \$1,500 PLO

Entries: 1,071 • Prize Pool: \$1,445,850

Elie Payan made it back-to-back titles for French players. The 27-year-old project manager from Orelans, France, pocketed \$292,825 for his victory and first bracelet. So what's it mean to have two Frenchmen win? "It is not that special as far as my nationality. But for poker in France, and for the game to grow there, I am very happy for that. I am very, very happy to win back to back, after ElkY. **Rafe Kibrit** from Buffalo Grove, Ill., was second (\$181,222).



Event 23 • \$2,500 8-Game

Entries: 489 • Prize Pool: \$1,112,475

John Monnette overcame a record eight-game mix field en route to his first bracelet. Monnette, 29, is a pro from Palmdale, Calif. This marked his 17th WSOP cash, good for \$278,144. Runner-up was fellow bracelet-winner and main-event finalist, **Eric Buchman**, who finished fourth as a member of the 2009 November Nine. Other notable names in the top 10 were **John Juanda** (sixth) and last year's main-event runner-up **John Racener** of Tampa (eighth).



Event 24 • \$5K Shootout

Entries: 387 • Prize Pool: \$1,818,900

Mark Radoja added his name to the powerhouse list of poker pros who live or have lived in the Guelph (Ontario) area. Guelph, known as the Royal City, has produced **Gavin Smith**, **Steve Paul-Ambrose** and **Mike McDonald**. Radoja, a 25-year-old pro, won \$436,568 and his first bracelet. "We are tight. Canadian pride is what it is. We feed on each other. We share knowledge with each other." **Jeffrey Gross**, 24, of Ann Arbor, Mich., was runner-up.

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ORLEANS OPEN

MAY 21-30 • ORLEANS CASINO • LAS VEGAS

Nutini declines chop, captures main title, \$23,755

The Orleans Open concluded with a \$540 main event that attracted 166 entrants for a prize pool of \$80,510.

Stacey Nutini, a 32-year-old Las Vegas poker pro who runs lasvegaspokersource.com, won the event after declining a five-way chop.

With more than 2.3 million chips during heads-up action, she looked down at A♣-K♣ and made it 134K to go from the button. Her opponent, Russia's **Maxim Sorokin**, responded by shoving his last 900K with A♥-10♠. Nutini's hand held up and she took home \$23,755 for first place, her largest payday and her second live victory. She scored \$11,246 for winning the 2010 LIPS championship at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas. She also cashed in Event 8 (\$1,500 no-limit hold'em) at last year's World Series.

She chatted with *Ante Up's* **Todd Laman-sky** after her victory.

How long have you been playing professionally? A year and a month.

What did you do before? I was a **Carrie Underwood** impersonator for two years here as I was starting to transition into a pro and I was a teacher before that.

What led to your decision to turn pro? I had been playing poker for eight years and decided I wanted to become better at it so I could do it for a living because I knew it could be lucrative. I started training with **Ari Engel** and **David Chicotsky**, which turned my whole game around, started playing super aggressively. Two months later I quit the impersonation job and have been playing full time ever since. I wanted to work for myself and liked the freedom that playing poker allowed.

Do you play mostly live or online? I'm mostly an online player, but obviously right now with the situation with the government, I'm actually considering relocating out of the country after the World Series is over so I can start playing full time on the Internet again.

What events are you planning to play this summer? I'll be playing several \$1,500 NLHE events (at the WSOP). I'm also going to play (the Grand Poker Series) at the Golden Nugget, Binion's (fifth annual Poker Classic), and every ladies event in town, including the championship I won last year. The Rio also has a \$235 deepstack tournament every day so any day I'm not playing a bracelet event, I'm just going to grind that because it gets about 900 people and it's a really good structure.

Do you play anything besides NLHE? I'm just now learning how to play mixed games, so I dabble a little bit in Omaha, but not much. I'd like to eventually know how to play everything but I'm very, very focused on NLHE and tournaments. I'm not a big cash-game player.

Where are from originally? I'm from Ohio.

What brought you to Vegas? Weather brought me to Vegas because it's really cold in Ohio. I just wanted to get out of the cold weather and do something totally different. I was just kind of going through that period where I was like, "You know what? I'm almost 30 and still living in Ohio." I didn't even know what I was going to do when I got here. I essentially cashed out my teacher's retirement fund and said, "Wherever I go I know I will find friends, I'll find something to do that I like."

Looks like her gamble paid off.



Stacey Nutini used to be a Carrie Underwood impersonator.

Event 1 • \$225 NLHE

Entries: 278 • Prize Pool: \$53,930

1. Jeffrey D'ambrosia, Las Vegas, \$14,830
2. George Folopoulos, Las Vegas, \$9,440
3. Kendale Limahai, Kona, HI, \$6,255
4. Amador Trinidad, Las Vegas, \$4,315
5. Sarah Minsterman, Phoenix, \$3,235
6. Leonard Dicenso, Murrieta, CA, \$2,425
7. David Gyarmati, Ottawa, \$1,890
8. Timothy Acker, Las Vegas, \$1,400
9. Yohannes Muruz, Las Vegas, \$915

Event 2 • \$225 Omaha/8

Entries: 186 • Prize Pool: \$36,085

1. Monica Rouse, Las Vegas, \$10,825
2. John Macleod, Las Vegas, \$7,215
3. Thomas Dolan, St. Louis, \$4,290
4. Art Kargen, Williamsville, NY, \$2,885
5. Fuad Koubi, Van Nuys, CA, \$2,340
6. Stephen Kaiser, Los Angeles, \$1,800
7. Anthony Merder, Las Vegas, \$1,260
8. Lawrence Fujii, Las Vegas, \$940
9. Tim Sweeton, Long Beach, CA, \$615

Event 3 • \$225 NLHE

Entries: 214 • Prize Pool: \$41,515

1. Kenneth Inouye, Las Vegas, \$11,415
2. Ashton Bernar, Anna, OH, \$7,265
3. Richard Yelland, Aliso Viejo, CA, \$4,815
4. Bruce Antman, San Morino, CA, \$3,320
5. Randy Ohel, Las Vegas, \$2,490
6. John Bruchhagen, Las Vegas, \$1,870
7. Geary Madison, Las Vegas, \$1,450
8. David White, Midland, TX, \$1,080
9. Cory Dowd, Setaukel, NY, \$700

Event 4 • \$225 Omaha/8

Entries: 164 • Prize Pool: \$31,815

1. Ryan Tepen, B. Green, MO, \$9,545
2. Michael Rahmn, Bend, OR, \$5,075
3. Tam Ho, Las Vegas, \$5,075
4. Donald Merutka, Las Vegas, \$2,550
5. Jean Merkel, Las Vegas, \$2,070
6. Todd Beccoria, Danville, CA, \$1,590
7. Mike Puskarich, Las Vegas, \$1,120
8. Marc Ferguson, Las Vegas, \$830
9. Tom Hufnagle, Las Vegas, \$540

Event 5 • \$225 NLHE

Entries: 268 • Prize Pool: \$51,990

1. Michael Bryan, Rapid City, SD, \$14,300
2. Adam Eastman, Wichita, KS, \$9,100
3. Chad Winters, Las Vegas, \$6,030
4. Keith Baldwin, Univ. Pl., WA, \$4,160
5. Lenn Yonemura, Las Vegas, \$3,120
6. Christian Bazinet, Peoria, AZ, \$2,340
7. Jeffrey Lewis, Las Vegas, \$1,810
8. Michael Schwartz, Las Vegas, \$1,340
9. Kim Haeng, Portland, \$880

Event 6 • \$225 H.O.R.S.E.

Entries: 176 • Prize Pool: \$34,145

1. Susan Abraham, Las Vegas, \$2,120
2. Gerald Cheatham, Hen., NV, \$2,120
3. Gregory Monaldi, Davie, FL, \$2,120
4. John Woo, Henderson, NV, \$2,120
5. Adam Schoenfeld, Las Vegas, \$2,120
6. Dennis Decastro, Las Vegas, \$2,120
7. Donald Webb, Las Vegas, \$2,120
8. Pat Manning, Oklahoma City, \$2,120
9. Lucas Johnson, Onalaska, WI, \$2,120

Event 7 • \$330 NLHE

Entries: 131 • Prize Pool: \$38,120

1. Lee Sommers, G'town, MD, \$6,845
2. Anne Spinetti, Las Vegas, \$5,300
3. Gary Braufman, Las Vegas, \$5,300
4. Kyle Anderson, Farm. Hills, MI, \$5,300
5. Zac Engelman, Petoskey, MI, \$5,300
6. Andrew Foster, Fishers, IN, \$3,000
7. Steven Fowler, Las Vegas, \$1,340
8. Noah Kawashige, Honolulu, \$990
9. Michael Moed, Miami Beach, \$650

Event 8 • \$330 Omaha/8

Entries: 119 • Prize Pool: \$34,630

1. David Jacke, Las Vegas, \$7,400
2. Tam Ho, Henderson, NV, \$5,860
3. Susan Abraham, Las Vegas, \$4,400
4. Seb Bellomo, Lakewood, CO, \$4,400
5. Warren Beres, Las Vegas, \$4,400
6. Gregory Jamison, Las Vegas, \$1,730
7. Ted Finkleman, Las Vegas, \$1,210
8. Walter Smiley, Gardena, CA, \$900
9. Mark Johns, Las Vegas, \$595

\$540 Main Event

Entries: 166 • Prize Pool: \$80,510

1. Stacey Nutini, Las Vegas, \$23,755
2. Maxim Sorokin, Russia, \$15,800
3. Ken Mattox, Long Beach, CA, \$9,580
4. Rie Woodward, Henderson, NV, \$6,440
5. Robert Engle, Las Vegas, \$5,235
6. John Moresi, St. Peters, MO, \$4,025
7. Ricardo Alvarado, Ontario, CA, \$2,820
8. Zachary Rooder, Las Vegas, \$2,100
9. Jonathan Gerrick, Las Vegas, \$1,370
10. James Bowler, \$965
11. Matthew Pettit, Las Vegas, \$965
12. Ravi Dayal, Las Vegas, \$965
13. Daniel Snowden, Ark. City, KS, \$965
14. John Macleod, Las Vegas, \$965
15. Albertus Stegeman, \$965
16. Derek Tornwall, Melrose, FL, \$965
17. Richard Surmick, Las Vegas, \$965
18. Arie Wisher, Las Vegas, \$965
19. Brian Devonshire, Las Vegas, \$700

RENO

HARMAN CHARITY EVENT

MAY 21 • PEPPERMILL CASINO • RENO

More than \$100,000 is raised for Nevada SPCA

LIPS Lord Griffon of Las Vegas wins team competition and Matt Vinks of California takes home the overall individual prize. A Who's Who of poker pros and celebrities joined Jennifer Harman and everyday players for a 568-player field that helped raise money for the Nevada SPCA.



Popular pro Gary DeBernardi wins the Nevada State Poker Championships. For results and photos scan this tag with your phone.

Photos courtesy of Rob Gracie/GreaseViewMedia for the Nevada SPCA



It was quite a turnout for Jennifer Harman and her charity event.



Host Jennifer Harman gives good friend Daniel Negreanu a little razzing during the event.

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BEING NO. 1 IS ISLE BLACK HAWK'S GOAL

You can't miss the pioneer spirit as you head west, scaling the foothills toward Black Hawk and Central City, Colo. You're about an hour west of Denver, climbing to an elevation of 8,000 feet as you drive up Highway 119. Once you've passed the city of Golden, the home of Coors Brewing, you're out in mining country for a good while. Your mobile phone signal drops out, the only sign of life around you a roadside babbling creek.



RICK GERSHMAN

During the Colorado Gold Rush of the mid 1800s, prospectors flooded this region in search of big money, and there might be a metaphor in there somewhere. These days, people still travel to the region in search of riches, but they aren't looking for gold unless three bars pop up on video slots.

For 20 years, Black Hawk and Central City have been home to dozens of casinos, many of them small, but others quite grand — the most obvious being Black Hawk's towering, 33-story Ameristar Resort Casino Spa. Black Hawk itself, which boasted a resident population of all of 114 people as of 2009 (it's the state's least populous city), actually has more casinos — just going by quantity — than Atlantic City.

When you reach Black Hawk, the Isle of Capri Casino and Hotel is the first casino you come across. OK, technically, it's a tie; the Riviera Black Hawk Casino is across the street. Regardless, the Isle is working hard to be first in Black Hawk in one important way: It wants to be the first casino you think of for poker.

That's a work in progress, because the poker room only opened April 12. I talked with Isle poker manager **Matthew Dodd** about the challenges of attracting players in an established market and his philosophy for how to get them in and bring them back.

"We really want to cater to the serious poker player," Dodd said, noting that only a few other casinos in Black Hawk have more than a handful of tables and run games regularly. (The Lady Luck casino, attached with a skywalk and owned by Isle, has six tables.) "We have everything you need up here, except a smokers patio, and we're about to open that, too."

The "up here" thing is a distinction that will go a long way with serious poker players, the ones who come to the casino specifically to play cards, a segment that's grown ever-larger since Black Friday. "Up here" is the Isle's poker room, and it's inarguably impressive. To get there, you take a steep escalator (or the elevator) from the casino floor to an upper level that connects with the hotel. The poker room is on the left, and it's large and lush while also remaining understated and professional. This isn't ritzy and glitzy; it's a professional area for serious players. The sound and fury of the video slots and other games below vanish up here. It's an experience unto itself, entirely separated from the casino floor, and that's exactly how the Isle wants it.

It's a great area, no question. Large windows allow the players to take in the gorgeous view of the mountainside, giving the room an open feel, but Dodd also had the windows tinted a bit to mitigate the glare. The poker room has an exclusive full bar, servers and bathrooms. By the time you're reading this, as Dodd noted, it will have a smokers patio, too. An assortment of food, including Chinese and Vietnamese cuisine from the in-house Orchid Garden restaurant, can be ordered from the table. The 11 tables are pristine, and the chairs are so comfortable you can sit in one for an hour and not even think about it, until Dodd mentions the price, and you understand: "They're designed for sitting for a long time."

Having a great room is one aspect to trying to break into a new market, but there are other aspects to trying to drive action over to the Isle, Dodd said. They include:

FLEXIBILITY: When the Isle opened, the tables used a live button. That's what Dodd's used to and what he prefers. Problem is, the players were used to their "usual" casinos, which use a dead button. Players got confused and noted their concerns, so the Isle went to a dead button. Similarly, local players were used to a Mississippi straddle, being able to raise from any position. "It's not my thing; I think it changes the action somewhat, but that's what they're used to and that's what they want, so we did it," Dodd said.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: The Isle will spread any game up to \$100, which is the maximum bet allowed in Black Hawk casinos — a substantial improvement from the original max bet of \$5. (The new law was passed in 2008.) Dodd is willing to spread any game the players ask for, unlike several of the other rooms, he said. The room also charges a \$4 max rake, which is a buck cheaper than the going Black Hawk rate, and provides a \$2/hour comp rate to all players.

The Isle also wants to make it easier for poker players to stay overnight in its hotel from Sunday through Thursday: After two hours of play, you get a room for \$29. After six hours, you stay for free. Given that the drive back down that narrow highway isn't optimal late at night, much less after an adult beverage or two, the overnight stay isn't a bad idea at all.

VARIETY: In addition to making itself open to whatever the players want, the Isle hosts several no-limit hold'em and Omaha/8 tournaments during the week, plus "Deep Stack Saturday," a hold'em tournament Dodd calls an incredible value: Players start with 12,000 chips for a \$90 buy-in, or they can add (as presumably everyone does) another 8,000 for an extra \$10. Blinds start at 25-50 and increase every 30 minutes, so it's a good option for players who like to stay selective for a while.

Overall, Dodd thinks it's a winning combination, but it's still early going. The Isle has gotten off to a solid start, he said: "We've been hearing really good things from the players. Now it's just a matter of getting them to tell their friends, start bringing some more of the action over here."

— Rick Gershman is the Ante Up Ambassador for Colorado. You can email him at rickgershman@gmail.com.



Dodd comes to Colorado after a successful stint in Louisiana.

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

ALL IN... ALL MONTH LONG

JULY POKER EVENTS

TUESDAYS

Early Bird Hold 'Em Poker Tournament – 10:00am

\$40 buy-in + \$5 entry fee (no re-buys)

Optional \$10 dealer appreciation bonus

FRIDAYS

Free Lunch Tournament – 2:00pm

\$80 buy-in + \$10 entry fee

Optional \$10 dealer appreciation bonus

WEDNESDAYS

Early Bird Hold 'Em Poker Tournament – 10:00am

\$60 buy-in + \$5 entry fee (no re-buys)

Optional \$10 dealer appreciation bonus

SATURDAYS

Deep Stack Saturday No Limit Hold 'Em Poker Tournament
Noon

\$80 buy-in + \$10 entry fee

Optional \$10 dealer appreciation bonus

THURSDAYS

Early Bird Omaha Hi-Lo Poker Tournament – 10:00am

\$40 buy-in + \$5 entry fee (no re-buys)

Optional \$10 dealer appreciation bonus

SATURDAY, JULY 16

National Women's Poker Day – 11:00am

Nationwide Mega Satellite No-Limit Hold 'Em Tournament

\$150 buy-in + \$20 entry fee (no re-buys)

Optional \$10 dealer appreciation bonus



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BLACK HAWK

FOUR STATES CHAMPIONSHIP

MAY 27-JUNE 6 • DOWNSTREAM CASINO • QUAPAW, OKLA.

AMID TRAGEDY, A SHINING LIGHT IN OKLA.

Downstream Casino, just four miles west of Joplin, Mo., held its annual Four States Poker Championship from May 27- June 6, and in the wake of a natural disaster raised more than \$7,500 for the Joplin Relief Fund. The series included 15 events incorporating no-limit and limit hold'em, razz, triple-draw, stud and Omaha among others and the average buy-in was only \$100. Two men were the stars of the show: main-event winner and young poker pro **Drew Boyett** from Denver took first in the no-limit main event championship and **Densil Mills** of Nixsa, Mo., won all-around best player.



CRYSTALLYNN HARRIS

The 23-year-old Drew Boyett shuffled through 200 players in the \$340 main event to claim first place worth \$14,321. When asked about his success he was quick to share.

"I've been playing for four years professionally," Boyett said, holding his trophy. "I came believing I was a favorite to win and I did!"

Though the tournament wrapped up after midnight, Boyett was headed to the car for a long drive to the World Series of Poker.

"I'm feeling pretty good," he said. "I plan on playing in the WSOP for two weeks."

Mills, a concrete worker, has been playing for 22 years and his experience shined brightly in the series. Mills had two first-place wins in stud and razz, a third-place finish in limit hold'em and a cash in the main event, scoring him more than \$6,000.



Densil Mills was named best all-around player.

"I started playing stud with my older brother and his group when I was a kid," Mills said. "I've been playing ever since."

Mills was so enthusiastic about his game that he forced his wife, Lori, to play with him in the couples event even though



\$340 Main Event

Entries: 201 • Prize Pool: \$55,838

1. Drew Boyett, \$14,321
2. Kelly Counts, \$8,593
3. Robert Morsen, \$6,301
4. Sean Kennedy, \$4,210
5. David Gotchal, \$3,007
6. Russell Vanover, \$2,578
7. Lucinda Gallagher, \$2,148
8. Brandon Fletcher, \$1,719
9. Daniel Hughes, \$1,432

June 3 • PLO

Entries: 43 • Prize Pool: \$8,170

1. Rex Randolph, \$2,778
2. Russell Vanover, \$1,716
3. Ahmad Raghebi, \$1,226
4. Lee Johnson, \$980
5. Jerry Crawford, \$817
6. Sherry Dierksen, \$654

June 3 • NLHE w/rebuy

Entries: 97 • Prize Pool: \$15,960

1. Donald Goebel, \$4,389
2. Stephen Ray, \$2,873
3. Kevin Elwood, \$1,835
4. Quentin Crossley, \$1,357
5. Brad Kieffer, \$1,037

6. Jeffrey Foust, \$798
7. John Danler, \$638
8. Eldon Lean, \$559
9. Richard Harris, \$479

June 2 • Shootout

Entries: 72 • Prize Pool: \$4,104

1. Pat Fernandez, \$1,272
2. Sherry Dierksen, \$817
3. David Hayes, \$534
4. Lucinda Gallagher, \$390
5. Gene Alloway, \$287
6. Jerry Price, \$226
7. John Blanken, \$197
8. Grady Suneson, \$176
9. David Wyatt, \$103

June 2 • Stud

Entries: 32 • \$2,884

1. Densil Mills, \$904
2. Kevin Alt, \$646
3. David Hutchens, \$517
4. Godfrey Cheng, \$336
5. James Jennings, \$181

June 1 • NLHE Bounty

Players: 103 • Prize Pool: \$7,339

1. David Gotchal, \$2,018
2. Eric Olson, \$1,321

3. Michael Lech, \$844
4. Bill Johnson, \$624
5. Quentin Crossley, \$477
6. Nelson Demler, \$367
7. David Wyatt, \$294
8. Neshat Osmani, \$257
9. Larry Whitworth, \$220

June 1 • Limit hold'em

Entries: 89 • Prize Pool: \$8,455

1. Rex Randolph, \$1,149
2. Pete Nelson, \$718
3. Densil Mills, \$470
4. Julia Yeater, \$341
5. Edward Hosford, \$251
6. Mark Easley, \$198
7. Jennifer Vanwickler, \$172
8. Bob Blair, \$154
9. David Noyes, \$136

May 30 • NLHE Couples

Entries: 67 • Prize Pool: \$6,365

1. Tasha Bartholic-Kevin Bartholic, \$955
2. Patricia Mitchell-Kurt Young, \$605
3. Deb Paniak-Lance Saylor, \$414
4. Megan Henry-Leslie Hankey, \$302
5. Sandy Blanchard-Richard Harris, \$223
6. Garlinda Ferguson-Mike Ferguson, \$175
7. Sherry Dierksen-Russell Vanover, \$153

8. Debbie Inman-Chris Davis, \$137
9. Lucinda Gallagher-Robert Morsch, \$121

May 30 • 2-7 Triple Draw

Entries: 33 • Prize Pool: \$2,665

1. Randall Murfin, \$933
2. Charles Wolken, \$666
3. James Jennings, \$533
4. John Blanken, \$346
5. Brad Yazall, \$187

May 29 • Razz

Entries: 56 • \$4,522

1. Densil Mills, \$1,447
2. John Blanken, \$904
3. Charles Standridge, \$592
4. Buell Jones, \$430
5. Robert Morsch, \$317
6. Lenna Rowe, \$249
7. Edward Slagle, \$217
8. Brad Yazall, \$194
9. Charles Wolken, \$172

May 29 • Hold'em/Omaha

Entries: 89 • Prize Pool: \$8,455

1. Kevin Suneson, \$2,494
2. Jeffrey Jones, \$1,606
3. Tash Bartholic, \$1,057
4. Nathan Love, \$719

5. Steven Hoover, \$550
6. Jerry Young, \$423
7. Michael Hilton, \$338
8. Robert Morsch, \$296
9. Jack Shelton, \$254

May 27 • \$10K guar. rebuy

Entries: 115 • Prize Pool: \$19,152

1. Laqueta Johnson, \$5,181
2. Nelson Demler, \$3,256
3. Larry Prichard, \$2,107
4. Michael Hibler, \$1,532
5. Brad Yazall, \$1,149
6. Dena Endicott, \$958
7. Larry Whitworth, \$766
8. Lynn Achee, \$670
9. Jordan Slayton \$575

May 27 • NLHE

Entries: 114 • \$6,498

1. William Love, \$1,758
2. Lucinda Gallagher, \$1,105
3. Ray Jones, \$715
4. Rebecca Daniels, \$520
5. Freeman Bluebird, \$390
6. Garry Carnes, \$325
7. William Blair, \$260
8. Taylor Martin, \$227
9. James Katser, \$195

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

A look at the Oklahoma-Kansas poker scene

MID-SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

MAY 6-16 • HARD ROCK CASINO • TULSA

Event 1 • \$125 Jack-n-Jill

- Players: 83 • Prize Pool: \$8,300**
1. Hightower/Webb, Ft. Smith, Ark., \$2,655
 2. Fleming/Fleming, Jenks, Okla., \$1,577
 3. Bielli/Bielli, Broken Arrow, Okla., \$1,162
 4. Fountain/Dennis, Tulsa, \$913
 5. Andrews/Andrews, Kansas, Okla., \$664
 6. Dees/Wooten, Catoosa, Okla., \$498
 7. Petrali/Inman, Bixby, Okla., \$332
 8. Drysdale/Drysdale, Meeker, Okla., \$291
 9. Jennings/Brooks, Joplin, Mo., \$208

Event 2 • \$340 NLHE

- Players: 48 • Prize Pool: \$13,968**
1. Cory Holden, Tulsa, \$5,587
 2. Brian Leedy, Tulsa, \$3,213
 3. Ricky Wood, Welch, Okla., \$2,235
 4. Louay Aamer, Tulsa, \$1,676
 5. Glen Schoenhals, Tulsa, \$1,257

Event 3 • \$125 NLHE

- Players: 103 • Prize Pool: \$10,300**
1. Daniel Hughes, Tulsa, \$2,779
 2. Shelby Fall, Vincennes, Ind., \$1,751
 3. Jackie Antle, Tulsa, \$1,391
 4. Rudy Schultz, Miami, Okla., \$1,082
 5. Michael Hopkins, Elkland, Mo., \$824
 6. Carl Beach, Tulsa, \$618
 7. Christian Wilbert, Dallas, \$515
 8. Rusty Rowden, Columbus, Kan., \$412
 9. John Popa, Tulsa, \$361

Event 4 • \$340 NLHE

- Players: 66 • Prize Pool: \$19,206**
1. Mesgana Tesfiladet, Tulsa, \$6,723
 2. Randy Huston, Oklahoma City, \$4,033
 3. Clyde Walters, Oklahoma City, \$2,881
 4. Jeff Bryan, Ft. Calhoun, Neb., \$2,113
 5. Steven Hayes, Tulsa, \$1,536
 6. Linda Ward, Wichita, Kan., \$1,152
 7. Chris Hooper, Tulsa, \$768

Event 5 \$230 O/8

- Players: 41 • Prize Pool: \$7,954**
1. Todd Hoffman, Tulsa, \$3,182
 2. Kirk Smith, Tulsa, \$1,829
 3. Clint Karstetter, Fayetteville, Ark., \$1,273
 4. William Gilmore, Tulsa, \$954
 5. Joshua Cunningham, Tulsa, \$716

Event 6 • \$125 NLHE

- Players: 104 • Prize Pool: \$10,400**
1. Lynn Samples, Bedford, Texas, \$2,808
 2. Jim Sybrant, Arkansas City, Kan., \$1,800
 3. Ron Roberts, Collinsville, Okla., \$1,404
 4. Carl Jones, Sapulpa, Okla., \$1,092
 5. Matt Lyons, Tulsa, \$832
 6. Maranda Jessie, Tahlequah, Okla., \$624
 7. Matt Coughran, Wagner, Okla., \$520
 8. Chuck Ney, Owasso, Okla., \$416
 9. Timothy Nimitz, Caldwell, Kan., \$364

Event 8 \$125 NLHE Bounty

- Players: 76 • Prize Pool: \$5,700**
1. Chris Champeaux, F'ville, Ark., \$1,881
 2. Kurt Langenhahn, Tulsa, \$1,140
 3. Trent Ross, Pryor, Okla., \$855
 4. Frankie Pedroza, Owasso, Okla., \$627
 5. Joseph Ester, Rogers, Ark., \$456
 6. Steven Hayes, Tulsa, \$342
 7. Art Purma, Irving, Texas, \$228
 8. Judith Raney, Broken Arrow, Okla., \$171

Event 9 • \$125 Pineapple

- Players: 65 • Prize Pool: \$6,500**
1. Judy Cummsky, Catoosa, Okla., \$2,275
 2. Louay Aamer, Tulsa, \$1,365
 3. Gene Holloway, Edna, Kan., \$975
 4. Chris Hooper, Tulsa, \$715
 5. Jessica Snell, Tulsa, \$520
 6. Doyle Freeman, B. Arrow, Okla., \$390
 7. Jay Barron, Tulsa, \$260

Event 10 • \$230 NLHE

- Players: 29 • Prize Pool: \$5,626**
1. Jim Jennings, Monkey Is., Okla., \$2,813
 2. Adam Milton, Oklahoma City, \$1,688
 3. Brady Robbins, Tulsa, \$1,125

Event 11 • \$125 NLHE

- Players: 100 • Prize Pool: \$10,000**
1. Roberts Braden, Harrison, Ark., \$3,000
 2. Jim Sybrant, Arkansas City, Kan., \$1,800
 3. Dallas Jones, Claremore, Okla., \$1,350
 4. Michael Tucker, Tulsa, \$1,000
 5. Mike Jones, Tulsa, \$800
 6. Ronald Logue, Tulsa, \$600
 7. Stan Breedlove, Cleveland, Okla., \$500
 8. Judy Breedlove, Tulsa, \$400
 9. Vicki Baker, Yale, Okla., \$300

Event 12 • \$230 NLHE

- Players: 27 • Prize Pool: \$5,238**
1. Rich Ricketts, Bartlesville, Okla., \$2,619
 2. Rakesh Kumar Patel, Tulsa, \$1,571
 3. Eric Byard, Sapulpa, Okla., \$1,048

Event 13 • \$125 NLHE

- Players: 61 • Prize Pool: \$6,100**
1. Daniel Hughes, Tulsa, \$2,135
 2. Stephen Guy, Sperry, Okla., \$1,281
 3. John McTigue, Tulsa, \$915
 4. Chuck Ney, Owasso, Okla., \$671
 5. Scott Moseley, Glenpool, Okla., \$488
 6. James Kesterson, Owasso, Okla., \$366
 7. Janis Pederson, Warrenton, Mo., \$244

Event 14 • \$230 6-max

- Players: 47 • Prize Pool: \$9,118**
1. Rob Shuptrine, Bella Vista, Ark., \$3,647
 2. Damien Osei, Tulsa, \$2,097
 3. Dean Brown, Tulsa, \$1,459
 4. Richard Roberts, Moore, Okla., \$1,094
 5. Bart Allard, Rogers, Ark., \$821

Event 15 • \$125 NLHE

- Players: 66 • Prize Pool: \$6,600**
1. Shane Tuell, Broken Arrow, Okla., \$2,310
 2. Teresa Ramsey, Sapulpa, Okla., \$1,386
 3. Rusty Rowden, Columbus, Kan., \$990
 4. Mike Phillips, Sand Springs, Okla., \$726
 5. Matthew McKim, Tulsa, \$528
 6. Sandy Postelwait, Catoosa, Okla., \$396
 7. Terry Allen, Tulsa, \$264

Event 16 • \$230 NLHE

- Players: 25 • Prize Pool: \$4,850**
1. David Martin, Inola, Okla., \$2,425
 2. Justin Winn, Muskogee, Okla., \$1,455
 3. Mike Taylor, Tulsa, \$970

Event 17 • \$125 PLO w/rb

- Players: 33 • Prize Pool: \$9,302**
1. Doug Dykes, Collinsville, Okla., \$4,186
 2. Brian Woolard, Tahlequah, Okla., \$2,326
 3. Sam Lee, Mannford, Okla., \$1,674
 4. Steven Jiricitano, Tulsa, \$1,116

Event 17 • \$125 NLHE

- Players: 67 • Prize Pool: \$6,700**
1. Joseph Brown, Battlefield, Mo., \$958
 2. Jordan Dhooghe, Joplin, Mo., \$957
 3. Cody Shoulders, Tulsa, \$957
 4. Terry Allen, Tulsa, \$957
 5. David Donaldson, Enid, Okla., \$957
 6. Kenneth Jackson, Tulsa, \$957
 7. Eric Thompson, Tulsa, \$957

Event 19 • \$230 w/rebuys

- Players: 20 • Prize Pool: \$6,680**
1. James Haver, Tulsa, \$3,340
 2. Jeff Bryan, Ft. Calhoun, Neb., \$2,004
 3. Richard Jones, Bloomfield, Neb., \$1,336

Event 20 • \$230 NLHE

- Players: 34 • Prize Pool: \$6,596**
1. Daniel Hughes, Tulsa, \$2,968
 2. Matthew Lyons, Tulsa, \$1,649

3. Doug Dykes, Tulsa, \$1,187
4. Edgar Lotero, Cleveland, Okla., \$792

Event 21 • \$125 NLHE

- Players: 99 • Prize Pool: \$9,900**
1. Scott Standridge, Ft. Smith, Ark., \$2,969
 2. Brooks Bingman, E. Springs, Ark., \$1,782
 3. Frankie Pedroza, Owasso, Okla., \$1,337
 4. James Morgan, Owasso, Okla., \$990
 5. Cheryl Baugus, S. Springs, Okla., \$792
 6. Alan Tanner, Broken Arrow, Okla., \$594
 7. John McTigue, Tulsa, \$495
 8. David Akers, Siloam Springs, Ark., \$396
 9. Roger Cook, Ft. Smith, Ark., \$297

Event 22 • \$550 NLHE

- Players: 43 • Prize Pool: \$20,855**
1. Tony Lay, Oklahoma City, \$8,341
 2. Gregory Peck, Erie, Kan., \$4,797
 3. Alex Young, Fayetteville, Ark., \$3,337
 4. Steven Baker, Lincoln, Neb., \$2,503
 5. Jeff Bryan, Ft. Calhoun, Neb., \$1,877

Event 24 • \$125 Ladies

- Players: 29 • Prize Pool: \$2,900**
1. Virginia Garrison, Oologah, Okla., \$1,450
 2. Dawn Bradley, Tulsa, \$870
 3. Andrea Bullock, Sapulpa, Okla., \$580

\$1,060 Main Event

- Players: 46 • Prize Pool: \$44,620**
1. Kevin Sherrill, Tulsa, \$17,848
 2. Loyay Aamer, Tulsa, \$10,263
 3. Andrew Watson, Tulsa, \$7,139
 4. Keith Tanner, B. Arrow, Okla., \$5,354
 5. Jim Sybrant, Arkansas City, Kan., \$4,016

Event 27 \$125 NLHE

- Players: 36 • Prize Pool: \$3,600**
1. Donald Klahr, Owasso, Okla., \$1,620
 2. Jason Campbell, Collinsville, Okla., \$900
 3. Doyle Freeman, B. Arrow, Okla., \$648
 4. Jason Mitchell, B. Arrow, Okla., \$432

Continued from previous page

she had never played before. “The funny thing is that she doubled us up just before I took us out of the tournament without cashing.”

Though the tornado devastated so much of Joplin (and Downstream relies heavily on the Joplin population), poker players came from more than five states to play in this annual series. Poker room manager **Elliott Schecter** implemented a charitable donation for a chip add-on in each event to support the Joplin Relief Fund and there was a 65 percent increase in players from last year’s main event. Rare tournaments such as deuce-to-seven triple-draw inspired a triple-draw cash game that ran for three days. Similarly, the Omaha/8 split also trickled over to the cash games, keeping the room filled and buzzing with action and variety throughout the whole series.

When asked about the local devastation and its effect on the series, Schecter said: “The tornado made it very difficult on us. We had six dealers who lost their homes and also some regulars. There were not many places to stay because so many victims, volunteers and relief agencies have occupied the hotel rooms, including Downstream’s. We were lucky we did not lose anyone and were ecstatic to see so many participate.”

It was easy for poker staff to believe the tornado would hamper

the player turnout and they did not expect to beat last year’s numbers like they did.

“It is such a pleasure that so many players were eager to play,” Schecter said, “not only because we offer the best variety of games with the most reasonable buy-ins in the region, but because they could help those in need.”

Boyett and Mills agreed it was a terrific series. Boyett made sure to point out the mixed events were a great touch.

“It’s nice to see a casino in the region that will put on such a variety of mixed tournaments with buy-ins that are quite affordable.”

Mills was happy to play games he remembered playing as a youth. “These games are hard to find, but it’s nice to know I have a place to enjoy them again. This is a room that really cares about its players.”

Downstream’s next event is the \$180 Ladies Poker Event on July 16 at 11 a.m. on National Women’s Poker Day. The event will include prizes provided by Pokey Charms. A Jack and Jill tournament will run the following day for \$120.

After that, keep your schedule clear for Downstream’s HPT event from September 15-25. For more information call 918-919-6000 and ask for the poker room.

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

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

FLOOD CAN'T STOP HOESHOE CLASSIC

No flood can keep a good casino down. The waters of the Ohio River have subsided and the Horseshoe Southern Indiana is back in action. As you enter the property, things look like business as usual.

But inside the casino is a different story. Painters and construction workers have been tirelessly repairing the flood damage sustained during April's flooding.

The water reached around three feet at the base of the escalators leading to the casino entrance.

One of the security staff pointed out that a door had been left open and a beaver was found swimming in the corridor. No word on whether it was a Total Rewards cardholder.

Water aside, poker was the order of the day as the final table of the Horseshoe Poker Classic was held May 22. The 132-player field was whittled to 14 players who convened in the World Series of Poker-themed poker room to vie for a first-place prize of \$25,000.

The event paid 13 spots, but a deal was brokered so that 14th place would win money as well. After that it took only an hour to bring the final table to nine.

Ben Hunt of Bloomington, Ind., who finished eighth, is a journalism student who found his way to the final table with a little luck.

"On Saturday I satellited in," Hunt said. "I busted in the noon tournament with a two-outer, queens vs. 10-7. It was sick."

After drowning his sorrows, Hunt found his way into that evening's



The final table of the Horseshoe Poker Classic Main Event.

7 p.m. satellite and eventually earning a seat in the main event.

"(I) just grinded all day. I had no chips the entire time, but made my way to the final table. I was pretty lucky."

Going into the final four, it was chipleader **Thomas Luce**, followed by **Terry Jacobs** of Pine Top, Ky., in second, **Neal Harding** of Florida in third and **Delmos Moore** on the short stack.

Harding, who had played strong most of the afternoon, finished fourth, followed by Moore. In the end it was Luce defeating Jacobs, earning \$24,230 and a seat to the World Series of Poker Main Event.

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

Horseshoe Poker Classic, Horseshoe Southern Indiana, May 14-22

Event 1 • \$180 NLHE

Players: 212 • Prize Pool: \$48,500

- Howard Bass, Louisville, \$8,003
- Carl Martin, Shepherdsville, KY, \$4,870
- David Hayes, Evansville, IN, \$4,870
- Irving Franklin, Louisville, \$4,870
- John Armstrong, B. Green, KY, \$4,870
- Mark Bell, Louisville, \$4,870
- Kevin Craft, Louisville, \$4,870
- Steven Napper, Fairdale, KY, \$1,697
- Paul Johnson, Louisville, \$1,212

Event 2 • \$200 NLHE

Players: 169 • \$31,286

- Kenneth Ware, Georgetown, KY, \$3,452
- Gary Dunn, Lexington, KY, \$3,452
- Duane Schade, Louisville, \$3,452
- Jonathan Gary, Frankfort, KY, \$3,452
- John Utley, Morganfield, KY, \$3,452
- Christopher Holmes, Paris, KY, \$3,452

- Bryan Hughes, Louisville, \$3,452
- Samuel Morris, Clarkson, KY, \$1,110
- Danny Bailey, Louisville, \$1,079

Event 3 • \$135 NLHE

Players: 132 • Prize Pool: \$15,785

- David Cupps, Bedford, IN, \$5,209
- William Coyle, Indianapolis, \$2,604
- Frank Shaw, Jeffersonville, IN, \$1,381
- M. Radmanesh, Somerset, KY, \$1,104
- Patricia Till, Avon, IN, \$789
- Danny Flynn, Bedford, IN, \$749
- Shannon Shepherd, Grmwd., IN, \$710
- James Boice, Springfield, TN, \$670
- Chris Weaver, Louisville, \$631

Event 4 • \$135 NLHE

Players: 73 • Prize Pool: \$8,059

- James Helton, Austin, IN, \$3,062
- Matt Chinn, Jeffersonville, IN, \$1,531
- Lowell Lowry, Scottsburg, IN, \$1,128

- Barry Morrow, Lagrange, KY, \$805
- Randell Harrod, Nashville, \$644
- Gary Holland, Lexington, KY, \$483
- Erika Leary, Indianapolis, \$402

Event 5 • \$135 NLHE

Players: 212 • Prize Pool: \$26,261

- Michael Wolfe, Indianapolis, \$8,666
- Ryan Johnson, Whiteland, IN, \$4,201
- Kevin Thomsberry, Mt. Wash., KY, \$2,100
- Ervin Tormos, Loveland, OH, \$1,510
- Bruce Thompson, Indianapolis, \$1,378
- Thomas Hester, Louisville, \$1,247
- Charles Martin, Clarksville, IN, \$1,050
- Benjamin Hunt, Bloomington, IN, \$919
- Janet Milakis, Indianapolis, \$656

Event 6 • \$135 NLHE

Players: 42 • Prize Pool: \$5,000

- Leon Harris, Louisville, \$1,500
- Charles Capozzolo, L'burg, IN, \$1,166

- Kyle Hinnerichs, Percy, IL, \$1,166
- Cheryl Denzik, LaGrange, KY, \$1,166

Event 7 • \$135 NLHE

Players: 40 • Prize Pool: \$3,738

- John Wooldridge, \$1,269
- Allen Kron, \$1,269
- Jerry Cornett, \$300
- Patricia Till, \$300
- Andrew Murray, \$300
- Thomas Luce, \$300

Event 8 • \$200 NLHE

Players: 34 • Prize Pool: \$5,096

- Jason Epley, Louisville, \$1,950
- Mary Lemmons, Evansville, IN, \$1,048
- Brian Miller, Fairdale, KY, \$1,048
- John Utley, Morganfield, KY, \$1,048

Event 9 • \$200 NLHE

Players: 143 • Prize Pool: \$26,242

- Darwin Holsapple, Monroe, TN, \$8,659

- Peter Moosy, Georgetown, KY, \$4,329
- Brian McKain, Scottsburg, IN, \$2,230
- Paul Johnson, Louisville, \$1,705
- Carl Moles, Church Hill, TN, \$1,312
- Barry Thompson, Zionsville, IN, \$1,220
- Timothy Garrett, Louisville, \$1,089
- Daniel Bell, Lagrange, KY, \$1,036
- Ricky Stinson, Henderson, KY, \$1,010

\$700 Main Event

Players: 132 • Prize Pool: \$89,628

- Thomas Luce, Tipton, IN, \$25,000
- Terry Jacobs, Pine Top, KY, \$19,365
- Delmos Moore, Freedom, IN, \$7,842
- Neal Harding, Miramar Bch., FL, \$6,273
- Randall Cox, Springfield, KY, \$4,481
- Matt Chinn, Jeffersonville, IN, \$4,257
- Kenton New, Cincinnati, \$4,033
- Ben Hunt, Bloomington, IN, \$3,809
- Ron Stewart, Bloomington, IN, \$3,585

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

A look at the poker scene in and around Chicago

THE GODFATHER COMES TO TOWN

A few years back the only time a pro poker player came to Chicago was to change planes. But thanks to Caesars Entertainment, big-name players are making their way to Chicago these days. On May 21 the biggest name in poker, **Doyle Brunson**, paid a visit to Harrah's Joliet poker room for its grand opening.



JOE GIERTUGA

He spent the first evening signing books; then on Sunday ESPN radio's **Carman DeFalco** interviewed the legend, peppering him with questions from his early days playing poker in Texas to advice on Internet poker. He was even asked who the best female poker player was, to which he said **Jennifer Harman** for cash games and **Vanessa Selbst** for tournaments. When asked who the greatest player of all-time was, he said the late **Chip Reese** was the most well-rounded player he faced.

After the Q&A session, Brunson played at the final table of a freeroll where the winner earned World Series of Poker Main Event seat, plus \$1,500 for travel expenses.

Harrah's Joliet is the first poker room in the Chicago area to offer a mega and mini bad beat. To win the mega quad eights need to be beat by quad nines or better. The mini needs aces full of kings to be beaten by quads or better. At least four players need to be in the hand with a minimum of \$20 in the pot. Seed money for the mega is \$10,000 with \$1,000 for the mini. The room has several hand promotions. Pocket aces cracked earns \$50; royals (using both hole cards) win \$150; straight flushes receive \$100 and quads get \$75. Match hand of the week pays \$75. To win a player's hand must match the hand posted in the poker room.

- Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo, Mich., recently reduced its rake on the PokerTek tables to a \$3 max. The WPT poker room offers the best value for players in the Chicago area. They brought back their \$.50/\$1 blinds no-limit hold'em cash games with a \$20-\$100 min-max buy-in on the Tek tables. Last August the room added four live dealer tables, increased the max buy-in to \$500 and minimum to \$100 with their \$1-\$2 NLHE games. Since then their deep-stacked tables have become popular.

MISSOURI

Pot-limit Omaha games are flourishing in St. Louis

Pot-limit Omaha is quickly becoming the game of choice in St. Louis. Ask a regular what he thinks the face of poker will be in five years, and at least in the Midwest, many will tell you PLO. With exponential growth in the past two years, this once occasional oddity is a six-day-a-week staple. Popular poker rooms Harrah's and Lumiere Place feature a standard spread of \$1-\$2-\$5. At Harrah's the buy-in is capped at \$500, while Lumiere Place caps it at \$1,000.

Said Lumiere Place supervisor **Jerry Corrie**: "On a scale of 1 to 10, our PLO games are an 8 or a 9 in terms of action. The best games are on the weekend. We have a solid backup for our games as well, which means the tables stay full and there is a constant flux of players wanting to play."

Dual-rate flooper **Jason Menendez** of Harrah's added: "What used to be a small core group of players has grown into a solid two to



From left: Derek Shuman, Doyle Brunson, Ante Up Ambassador Joe Giertuga and Doug Walters. Shuman and Walters are Harrah's Joliet's poker room managers.

- Majestic Star, which just moved its poker room downstairs, will run \$120 events with a \$10,000 guaranteed prize pool (July 11, Aug. 8). For a limited time Majestic Star will run its "Big Money Weekend" promotion. Any full house that wins during the week gets an entry into a drawing held Fridays and Saturdays. Time and prize are 7 p.m., \$100; 8 p.m., \$200; 9 p.m., \$200, and 10 p.m., \$1,000. Winner must be present.

- Potawatomi Casino in Milwaukee will run its \$20,000 added tournament on July 31 at 10 a.m. Buy-in is \$440 with an optional \$30 add-on. This tournament is limited to 200 players, making the prize pool \$100,000. Registration will end July 29. Potawatomi is running weekly hold'em tournaments (Sundays, 2 p.m., \$110 with a \$10 add-on; Monday bounty, 6:30 p.m., \$110, \$10 add-on, bounties are \$20). For more info call 414-847-7605 or go to paysbig.com.

- The Windy City Poker Championship is back on the air Sunday nights at 9.

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

three games, which run nearly all week. New faces are showing up to see what all the hype is about, and the games keep getting better."

The \$1-\$2 blinds, with a \$5 bring-in structure allows not only the bigger-game players to wager meaningful stakes, but also leaves it open for casual \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em players to feel comfortable. Don't let the small blinds fool you, \$10,000 pots and winnings in excess of \$40,000 in a session were reported at Harrah's last month.

It's only natural that in a post-Moneymaker poker world, avid enthusiasts would look for the next challenge. The complexity of PLO presents a new playing field, with dimensions that simply don't apply in standard NLHE. Add to that massive pots, limitless action and poker rooms more than willing to oblige and you've got fertile ground for the next big thing in poker. See you at the tables in St. Louis.

— Jennifer Gay

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

MINNESOTA

'FOX' HOSTS SEMINARS AT RUNNING ACES

Chris "Fox" Wallace is an instructor at pokerXfactor.com, a poker coach, an author of a poker book and yet he still manages to make most of his money at the poker tables. And now local Minnesota players will have the opportunity to tap into his expertise by attending seminars each month at Running Aces Harness Park in Columbus, Minn.



JOHN SOMSKY

Wallace didn't begin his career as a poker pro; he had a successful career building custom acoustic guitars and managed to make a little extra money on the side counting cards at the blackjack tables.

But the better he did at blackjack, the more likely he was to be thrown out of a casino. And then he developed an allergy to exotic hardwoods, which brought his guitar-building days to an end. It was at this time, about eight years ago, when he went to see his friend, **Adam Stemple**, who told Wallace he should take up poker.

"I've never been thrown out of a poker room for being too good a poker player," Stemple said. So he loaned Wallace a couple of poker books and he became a student of the game.

Wallace started out playing limit hold'em at Canterbury Park and then expanded his game to playing online. Wallace and Stemple started FoxPoker.net in 2005, which was one of the earlier online poker training sites. In 2008 pokerXfactor.com acquired FoxPoker.net and they have been instructors there since. In addition Wallace has done a lot of one-on-one coaching with hundreds of students, teaching online

and live poker. He has spent the past several years collating the information he's developed from training and coaching into a book.

With Stemple's help he wrote *No Limits: The Fundamentals of No-Limit Hold'em*, published in 2010. More information is available at nolimits-book.com.

In May, the guys started hosting seminars at Running Aces Harness Park. You can sign up for these instructional events at propokerseminars.com.



Chris "Fox" Wallace

I attended their first event and it was immediately apparent they really enjoy teaching. They're knowledgeable and energetic, and they share several concrete examples and teach you not just what to do, but why you should do it. As Wallace said, "There is not a system to beating the game." So instead they talk about several poker concepts and how each of them works together.

The May seminar was "Beating Spread-Limit Cash Games." It covered the effects of rake, pot odds, the importance of position, suggested starting-hand requirements, bluffing, hand reading, table selection, tilt control and bankroll management.

This was more information than would fit into the scheduled two hours, so they took some additional time giving extra value for your training dollar. The seminar was packed with lots of good information. You can attend a seminar for \$99, less than the price of a full buy-in at the \$2-\$60 spread-limit tables. Be sure to check out propokerseminars.com for information about upcoming seminars.

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

IOWA

Gov. OKs study into state regulation of online poker

On May 26 **Gov. Terry Branstad** signed a bill that tasks the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission with performing a study of the pros and cons of state regulation of Internet poker. While a long way from passing online poker regulation, this is a sign the state is taking the possibility seriously. Most active players view this as a step in the right. The report is due by the end of the year.



KEN WARREN

• Elsewhere in Iowa, the Mystique Casino in Dubuque started a \$2-\$5 no-limit hold'em cash game on Wednesday evenings that has become popular with reports of good action. Previously you'd seldom find a full table on Wednesdays for the \$1-\$2 game, but with the step up to \$2-\$5 the room has two tables running for most of the night. This game can be difficult to get into at times

so if you want to join and are traveling far be sure to call ahead to get on the list. Unlike some of the other area casinos Mystique accepts call-ins. The direct number to the room is (563) 585-2964. The rest of the week the regular games are at the \$1-\$2 level.

• Prairie Meadows Casino paid the largest bad-beat jackpot in its

history (\$215,199) on May 20.

Holding four 10s, winner **George Papas** of Urbandale, Iowa, emerged with \$107,599. **Jodie Sinclair** of New Zealand earned \$53,808 with a queen-high straight flush in hearts.

"Our new bad-beat jackpot is over \$100,000," director of table games **Hector Morales** said. "In March 2012 our new 168-room hotel will be completed to cater to our clientele from around the country."

• In the far northwest corner of Iowa a new casino, Grand Falls Casino and Resort in Larchwood, opened June 9. It's six miles from Sioux Falls, S.D. and will have an eight-table poker room. I spoke with poker room manager **Todd Slager** and was impressed with his open-mindedness. He wants to get things started and wait to see what's popular so watch for some initial changes as he tweaks the offerings over the first few months. They'll start with a bad-beat jackpot of quads or better. Tournaments start July 17 and the preliminary schedule is NLHE on Thursday at 6 p.m. (\$40) and Saturday at noon (\$60). Mondays feature Omaha/8 event at 11 a.m. (\$30). He said he'll spread any cash game that finds interest but expects to start with \$1-\$2 and \$2-\$5 NLHE and stud/8. Email him at todd.slager@grandfallsresort.com.

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

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

CHARITY DODGES BASEBALLS, RAISES MONEY

Recently hit the road to support a great charity and a good friend, **Jack Walls**. His charity is U Care America or the United Cancer Alliance. This was U Care's first poker charity event and it was a big one, hosting three events in three days.



MARK RHOADES

Unfortunately Black Friday hit this event hard as one of the leading online poker sites that was shut down was to be a sponsor. It informed the charity about five days before the event, leaving U Care to scramble, which it did admirably.

The first tournament, which featured a \$1,500 World Series of Poker seat and attracted 120 players, was held on the large party deck at the Triple-A baseball team Durham Bulls' ballpark. Poker pro **Jennifer "Jennicide" Leigh** was on hand and at my table.

After about seven hours **Daniel Weaver** from the World Amateur Poker League won the seat. It was his third tournament victory in 45 days.

Day 2 turned out to be a little bigger, which likely correlated with the first-place prize being a \$2,500 WSOP seat. As a funny aside, the Bulls held batting practice that morning and the players in the charity event had to dodge plenty of baseballs flying by their heads.

At the lunch break I caught up with poker pro **Jason "Jaspuduf" Lee** and he told me he had been playing blind for the first two hours, and that he had won about 70 percent of those hands! After lunch we had what must be a first, a 20-minute rain delay. Ultimately we got back to playing and first place went to **Phillip Robert**, followed by **Sunny Graham**, **Scott Kinane** and **David McNeil**.



Daniel Weaver won the \$1,500 WSOP seat.

Later that night the charity hosted a party for the participants, with great food, drinks and a band under a crystal clear Carolina sky.

Day 3 was the main event, which promised a \$10K WSOP Main Event seat to the winner, and of course even more players showed up. It took about six hours to get down to the final table, and then it took a little less than an hour to have a winner: **Milan Dragic**.

Because of the event's success the president of the charity is looking to run a yearlong series that would tour the Southeast and possibly go national. Stay tuned to *Ante Up* for updates.

— **Mark Rhoades** is Ante Up's Ambassador for North Carolina. Email him at markr@carolina.rr.com.

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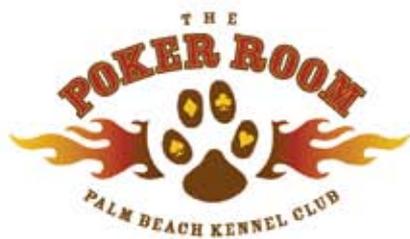
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AROUND THE COUNTRY

WASHINGTON D.C.

**BLACK
FRIDAY**
4.15.11



Rep. Joe Barton of Texas speaks at the rally as 2004 WSOP champ Greg Raymer, right, looks on.

PPA RALLIES IN FRONT OF (AND INSIDE) THE CAPITOL

By Michael Young

On May 24 the Poker Players Alliance, in response to Black Friday, organized a rally and "Fly In" at the U.S. Capitol to raise awareness for this issue. Regional representatives held 130 meetings with members of Congress to ask for their support of the pending legislature to tax and regulate online poker. The rally in front of the Capitol was made up of mostly casual Internet poker players with day jobs that played Internet poker as a means of relaxation and enjoyment. About 70 people wearing "Poker is Not a Crime" shirts attended the rally.

PPA executive director **John Pappas** spoke at the rally and discussed the actions of the Department of Justice.

"I think this is going to be like a big-government game of Whack-A-Mole," he said. "They're going to take down two sites here and two sites there, but three more sites are going to pop up. So until we have some kind of legislative clarity, I think we're going to have a really hard time."

Also speaking were U.S. Rep. **Joe Barton** (R-Texas), and U.S. Rep. **John Campbell** (R-Calif.). Barton has a bill in the works to regulate and tax online poker. (Go to anteupmagazine.com for the latest on this.)

"We're hoping we'll have some good legislative news for you folks later this session of Congress," Barton said.

Campbell has co-sponsored a House bill to regulate and tax Internet gaming. Introduced in March, it includes safeguards aimed at preventing minors from using the sites.

"You can try to make it illegal, but tens of millions of Americans want to do it, are doing it, are gonna do it," said Campbell, who admits he doesn't play poker.

"First of all to me, it's about freedom. And second of all, it's about jobs," he said. "This is a big industry here, folks. And if we put the consumer protections and everything we're talking about (into law) ... it won't be Americans playing on foreign sites. It will be foreigners playing on American sites."

Representing professional poker players were **Linda Johnson** and 2004 World Series of Poker Main Event winner **Greg Raymer**.

"There's over 10 million people (in America) that are known to have online poker accounts. There's estimated to be 50 million people in this country, adults, who at least play poker a little bit," Raymer said. "So most Americans are on our side. ... We have to be active and make sure that message gets to our representatives in the U.S. Congress and in the state legislatures." ♠



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NUTZ POKER LEAGUE



- **Mike Everall**, above, won the semiannual grand championship for a \$1,500 WSOP seat.
- **Lisa Mast**, left, won the latest monthly title at the Cop Shop, beating more than 100 players.
- **Joe Sheets** won the Bust the Boss heads-up match for a \$75 gift card.



MIAMI POKER SOCIETY



- **Paula Barros**, above, defeated **Lou Stadler** in heads-up play at Corbett's to win flight and hotel to Las Vegas and compete in a \$1,500 WSOP event.
- **Roberto Flores**, representing MPS, won the first Latino Poker Series event and \$10K.

TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURS



Wayne Hall won the May monthly event at the Original Oasis in Destin. It was Hall's first victory as a member of the Texas Hold'em Poker Tour.

FLORIDA PLAYERS CLUB



Tom Poltz, right, won the April monthly tournament held at the Savoy in Orlando. **Josh Alicea**, left, was second.

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FLORIDA

TREASURE CHEST POKER



• **Terri McFarlane** won the April monthly tournament, besting more than 130 players to earn a trip to the World Series of Poker to play in Event 45.

• **Lou Trocola** won the Stokers monthly and a \$250 gift card, beating nearly 100 players.

• **Todd Bryant** captured the Stix monthly in Palm Harbor, taking home a \$175 gift card.

• **John Staudacher** won the Battle of the Bars, beating about 60 players to win a \$50 gift card.



NORTH CAROLINA

WORLD AMATEUR POKER

Dan Miller, right, captured the state championship on June 4 after besting 100, earning a trip to Las Vegas (airfare, hotel and a WSOP satellite seat included).

On the final hand **Steve Muckenfuss** shoved with K-3 and Miller called with A-8, which held up, causing Miller to jump up and scream, "I'm going to Vegas baby!"

The top 10 were Miller, Muckenfuss, **David Blalock**, **Shantel Hayes**, **Douglas Gigi**, **Glen Griffin**, **Clint Cartwright**, **Chris Weaver**, **Marty Walker** and **Gregg Dicus**.

• **Gail Osman** led the season in points and wins, earning a cash prize for her achievements.



KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY BLUE

• **Alisha Feltner** won the grand Tournament of Champions, a 24-max, WSOP satellite in April at the Makers Mark Club.

• **Tammy Reed** took down the April winners tournament at Brody's, good for \$100.

• **Mark Warren** won the April monthly tournament to earn a seat in the next grand TOC.

GEORGIA

INTERSTATE POKER CLUB

Phillip Szala won the April points championship, defeating nearly 180 players to earn \$1K of the \$3,000-plus prize pool.



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Connecticut Poker

The Constitution State has two strong options for the poker player, and they're just a few miles apart: Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.



Foxwoods rises out of the forests of Eastern Connecticut.

FOXWOODS

By Christopher Cosenza

Every time I navigate the winding curves of Route 2 through the tranquil forests of Eastern Connecticut I'm always taken aback by the sheer size of Foxwoods as its aquamarine rooftops rise out of the horizon. This must be what a poker player feels the first time he enters the World Poker Tour Poker Room at Foxwoods.

At 97 cash-game tables this poker room is a behemoth, easily the largest on the eastern side of the country, and with a 50-table tournament room right upstairs that expands to 60 tables for larger events, Foxwoods can accommodate just about anything.

"Our poker room is an established room," director of poker **Terry Chiaradio** said. "When you're coming in you know what you're going to have. We have a good variety of games in this room. People come in and can get into their games. You're not sitting around waiting for a game to open. That's one of our pluses, your ability to get into games."

The most popular game is \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em, and it's a pot-raked game (10 percent up to \$4), which didn't always used to be the case. The larger limits still have a timed rake. And this is the Northeast after all, so yes, stud games still light up the board.

"We have stud games with quite a few different buy-ins starting at \$1-\$3 all the way up to our \$75-\$150," said Chiaradio, who has worked in the Foxwoods poker room for nearly 19 years. "And then also our lower limit hold'em games are popular, \$2-\$4, \$4-\$8. But we have a variety of games we spread throughout, including \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10 no-limit."

There's also a \$20-\$40 limit hold'em game that runs around the clock. I sat in on a well-run \$5-\$10 H.O.R.S.E. game for a bit, and it was a pleasure not having a dealer accidentally put a flop in the middle of the table during stud games. Chiaradio's staff of 470 (374 dealers) was well-trained and friendly.



You can expect the usual amenities of a modern poker room when you play at Foxwoods: Genesis-Bravo tracking system, automatic shufflers, 42-inch flatscreen TVs (more than 50 of them). And don't forget the promotions. Two bad-beat jackpots (stud and hold'em) keep the players coming in, but for hold'em (quad eights) it's limited to \$2-\$4, \$4-\$8, \$5-\$10 and \$10-\$20 limit and \$1-\$2 no-limit. At the time of this interview the hold'em bad beat was more than \$300K.

"We have a royal flush giveaway," said Chiaradio, who took over as director five years ago when Kathy Raymond left to run the Venetian poker room in Vegas. "Any time a patron makes a royal flush they get a choice of gift, including a \$50 gas card. We also have black-cardholders, which are any patron who plays 75 days and 500 hours within a 12-month period. (It) doubles up their comp points and gets them offers for show tickets."

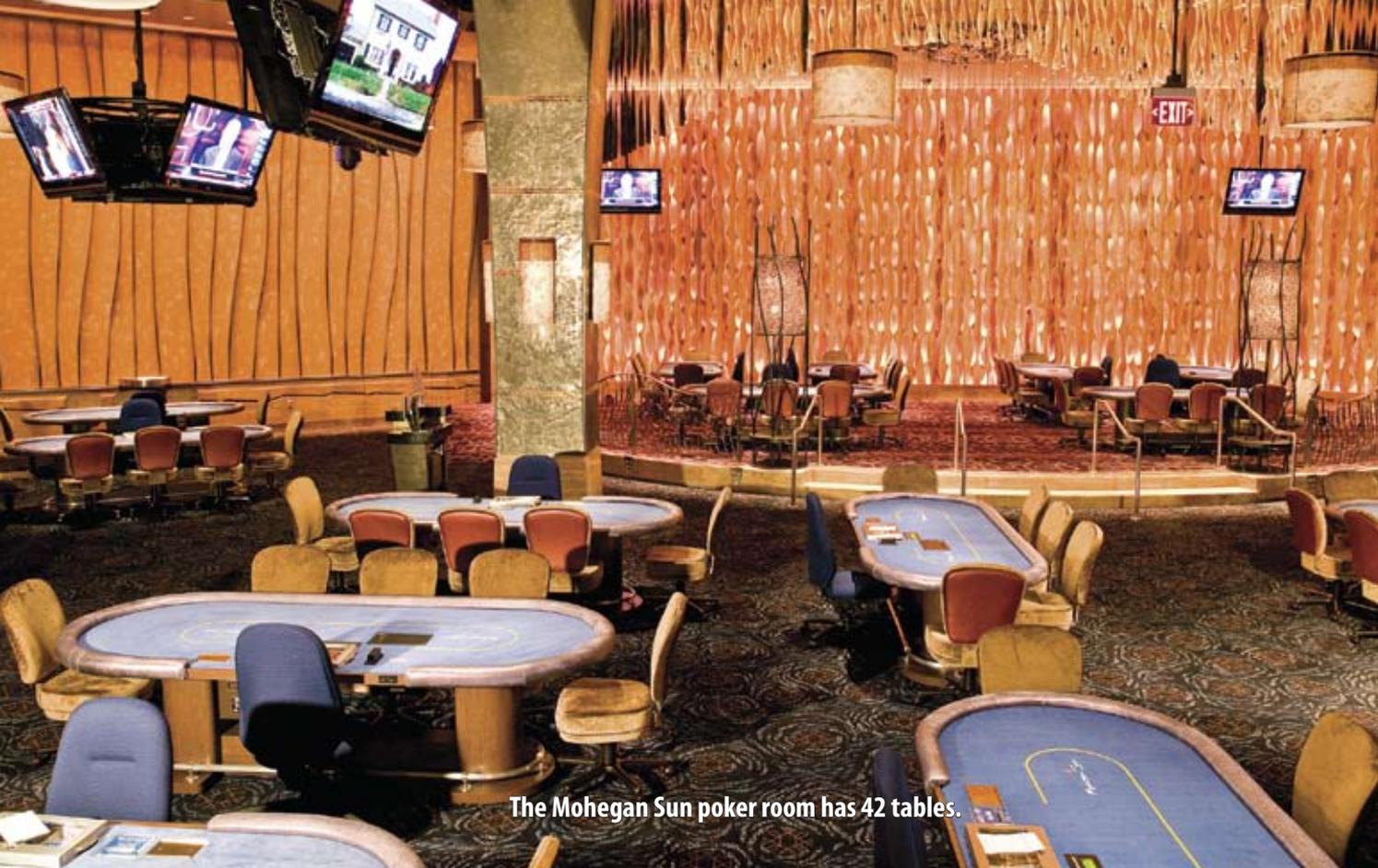
Speaking of comps, it's a tiered system: low, medium and high. The low rate is a dollar an hour for the lower limits, followed by \$1.50 for medium limits and \$2 for high.

But you can't talk about Foxwoods poker without mentioning the WPT, which used to hold two events a year there but has scaled back to just one in November, the World Poker Finals. Its deal with the WPT is about to come up for renewal and Chiaradio said Foxwoods has no plans of separating from the WPT. And it's still one of the few \$10K events left in the country.

"We have remained a \$10K buy-in when most places have dropped down to \$3,500 or \$5K," she said. "We decided to keep it a big event."

Big event for a big room, but just because it's a big room doesn't mean you will feel lost, Chiaradio says.

"At Foxwoods we strive for five-star service. Our staff is willing to help out and explain procedures and how it all works. We know it's intimidating walking into a poker room, and we want the guests to feel welcome when they come in. We're willing to spend the time to make them feel comfortable."



The Mohegan Sun poker room has 42 tables.

MOHEGAN SUN

By Christopher Cosenza

You often hear players speaking of timing when it comes to success in poker, being in the right place at the right time with the right hand.

If you looked at the history of the Mohegan Sun poker room you might feel it was on the wrong side of that scenario. Its original poker room opened in 1996, but closed down just before the poker boom. A few years ago it returned with electronic tables before finally giving way to the beautiful 42-table room that stands today. But the boom had ended and the economy had sagged by the time the room returned. And with the World Poker Tour entrenched just up the street at the massive Foxwoods poker room, the Sun needed to hitch its wagon to a star ... Poker-Stars to be more exact.

But again, timing wasn't Mohegan Sun's friend, as Black Friday essentially put an end to a three-year North American Poker Tour contract with one year remaining.

Yet this gem of a room, in Uncasville with a staff of about 360, continues to buck the timing axiom and thrive under the helm of director **Rick Landry**.

"We're gonna start looking at other circuit events," shift manager **Rob Staehle** said of likely losing the NAPPT deal. "But we emphasize on customer service (to attract players). We're going to go above and beyond so you enjoy your experience here. We want it to be a friendly atmosphere, like your home games. We treat everyone right. Our motto is as soon as you walk in the door you are our guest, not just a customer."

And for what are the guests walking in the door? Well, when it comes to cash games the most popular is no-limit hold'em, specifically \$1-\$2, but the room also spreads \$1-\$1 up to \$10-\$25. The \$2-\$4 and \$4-\$8 limit variety runs consistently, as does \$1-\$5 stud. As for tournaments, Staehle says that's its bread and butter.

"The daily tournaments are probably our most popular," said Staehle, who has been in poker for about 20 years. "Wednesday night we run a \$120 buy-in no-limit hold'em tournament that has a \$10K guarantee and that draws about 160-200 players. Friday afternoon we run a \$15K guarantee with a \$200 buy-in. Every night of the week we run a tournament except Thursday. We run one stud event, which is Monday morning."

And if all of this isn't enough to get you interested then the room has its promotions and amenities. The Genesis-Bravo tracking system, dozens of TVs and automatic shufflers make sure you can maximize your time there. And speaking of time, you're paid a dollar an hour in comps if you play lower limits, and that rate increases all the way to \$6 depending on how high you play.

"We have our giveaways, too," Staehle said. "They're Sunday-Thursday from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. If you're in a seat and your Players Club card is selected you win the giveaway drawing."

In May they gave away iPods, and this promotion runs until September.

"We have a good room and a good clientele base," Staehle said. "We try to get new players all the time. It's the type of room where a player might have a bad day, or a losing day, but walk out that door and say you know what, it was still an enjoyable day." ♠



Mohegan Sun is in Uncasville, Conn.

PLAYING AGAINST UNCLE TILTY

When you beat an opponent out of a pot and make them feel dumb, don't be surprised if they go on tilt and compound their error by making another one shortly after the first. These two hands came up in a \$1,500 multitable tournament at Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Miss.



JONATHAN LITTLE

On the third hand of the tournament, I took a pretty standard bet-bet line on 10-8-7-9-9 when I had 6-5 against an older amateur player. He was clearly upset, because he lost to a "bad" hand like 6-5 or because he paid me off on three streets with something that couldn't beat a fairly weak hand. It should be noted you should never get upset at your opponents for playing hands that aren't premium. When you hear someone complaining about someone's starting-hand requirements, you should instantly know they are a weak player.

On the fourth hand of the tournament, I raised 8♦-6♠ to 150 on the button out of my 12,000 stack at 25-50 and the big blind, the same older amateur player, called. He had around 9,000 chips.

The flop came 7♠-5♠-3♣. He checked and I made a standard continuation bet of 225. He instantly made it 600. This is now a great situation for me because if I hit my draw, I will almost certainly win a pile of chips, as my opponent was clearly upset. So, I made the call.

The turn was the J♥. He bet 600 again, so I called. When he bet 600 again, he gave me excellent odds to call, which was nice of him. If he bet more, around 1,000 or so, I would've still called simply because I think my implied odds were huge. The river was the 6♦. He bet 1,100 almost before the 6♦ hit the felt.

It was almost as if he was planning on betting no matter what card came on the river. This is usually a sign of extreme strength or weakness, and seeing how he was probably on tilt, it most likely meant weakness. Also, most players would be quite scared of the six on the river, as any four now makes a straight. With most strong hands, many



Tilted players can go off randomly.

players will simply check-call the river, as if they bet and get raised, they are usually beat.

The 6♦ also made basically every flush draw miss, while giving me a decent bluff-catcher. In this spot, I don't think there is much of a difference between something like 8-6 and 10-10, as both are something like middle pair. Unless my opponent caught the jack on the turn, we are probably way ahead, as out opponent's range simply has to be weighted toward bluffs, as there are many more combinations of bluffs than nut hands, especially since I have one of the sixes blocked and another just came on board.

So, seeing as I think his range is weak, he is on tilt, and he gave off a pretty clear tell, I think I have a simple call, which is what I did. He turned up A♦-2♣ in disgust and I picked up another nice pot. It is always interesting to see players turn over stone bluffs in spots like this because I usually assume they must have some sort of draw to make a play. This goes to show you that when a player is on tilt, they sometimes go off randomly.

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

LITTLE	FLOP	TURN	RIVER	UNCLE TILTY

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ANTONIO PINZARI • Strategy

IS RATIONAL POKER GONE?

Over a 35-year career I've played with the world's greatest players and have experienced just about every type of player during this period. However today's players are different and it got me to wondering: Is rational poker gone forever?



ANTONIO PINZARI

I recently played in the Florida Millions Day 1 event at Mardi Gras Casino in Hallandale, Fla. I was at a table that was a perfect mix of young and old players, which is common in South Florida.

I like to really study my opponents, which I call the neighborhood, and this type of table affords me a great comfort level of play, based on the fact that most older players play tight, while young players employ an aggressive style.

This is a general rule that gives me a starting point until the table shows itself based on each opponent's playing style.

There was a young player (18-20) playing a super-aggressive style, one I haven't seen often. He would raise preflop regardless of his position 3-5 times the big blind every hand. I know what you're thinking: He could never have done that. But he did! How could this style ever be played during a tournament?

Could I find a successful way to play against this super-aggressive young player? When someone played back at him after the flop he would vary his betting pattern (as if there were one) and seldom would see the turn if opponents bet into him.

He ran over every player's blinds every hand; there was an uncomfortable feeling in each player's facial expression each time this kid raised. I found this to be a great help to my game since every other player was uncomfortable.

I was determined to bust him even if I had to gamble with him and put my chips at risk. However there was a bigger strategy; since every player was annoyed by this young player's action I knew I could put this to good use to acquire more chips when the Kid wasn't going to

be in the hand after the flop.

So I raised after the flop every hand I played; the Kid would fold and I would be heads-up with a decent hand and bet my way to winning the pot. I adapted a semi-postflop aggressive betting pattern based on the Kid's super-aggressive style of play. This allowed me to acquire a nice comfortable stack and I seldom had to show down a hand, which is wonderful for a table image.

I was lucky to wake up with a $A\heartsuit-K\heartsuit$ in the big blind and of course the Kid made his preflop bet five times the big blind, which I called. The flop was $K\clubsuit-6\heartsuit-4\clubsuit$, I checked and the Kid bet two times the size of the pot. I called.

The turn was the $Q\heartsuit$, which gave me the nut-flush draw (what a great card) and protected my kings. I checked and the Kid bet again; a big bet for most of my stack (I hope he doesn't have $K-Q$), which is starting to make sense since he is betting a little differently now. As I said I'm willing to gamble to bust the Kid. This time I don't call; I go all-in and he folds.

As play progressed the Kid would win a hand and recapture most of the chips he had lost using the super-aggressive style of play. This would keep him in the game. After making so many bad plays he would win a hand and be rewarded for this bad playing style. There is an old adage; "Even a blind squirrel finds a nut every now and then." I hate to think what he would do if he got hit with the deck. I'm sure there would be no stopping him. Well I didn't bust him, but I did cripple him. Our table broke and I saw that he was out rather quickly after breaking our table.

I guess rational poker may only be rational if you're able to apply some logic to a super-aggressive style of play. Don't be afraid of this player; simply wait until you're able to use their style against them. Remember a bully or aggressive player doesn't like confrontation. **PLAY BACK AT THEM HARD!** Run them over and they will run away.

— Antonio Pinzari is the host of *Poker Wars Live*, which airs Mondays from 7-9 PM (ET) on WBZT-AM 1230 Radio from West Palm Beach, FL and streams live at www.pokerwars.info.

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

DIGGING THEIR DIGIT TELLS

Did you know your opponents' hands can be a valuable part of your investigation into their emotions at the table? Pay attention to their hands (and your hands) the next time you play.

I'm often asked what it means when opponents play with their chips. Chip shuffling is the most common action you'll see at a table, but you're focusing on this action, you're most likely missing more important things.

We have an orientation reflex toward movement so in turn we tend to pay too much attention to something that can be ignored.

We have to put these observations in context. Players routinely play with their chips; they'll rearrange their order, move them from hand to hand, perhaps just to entertain themselves. Chip shuffling and tricks often are used to intimidate others.

Recent research says these actions pacify players, as any repetitive movement (leg shaking, arms stroking, playing with rings, curling hair) tends to calm us down. So, should we pay attention to this?

First, this shouldn't be your primary focus; the whole body should be speaking to you. But if you insist on watching their digital movements, set your mind in the right place.

Pay attention to see how or when they play with them. If a player shuffles continuously, you can dismiss the action. His chip-shuffling is a repetitive motion that means little; it's an amusement. If they stop playing with their chips after seeing the community cards, then this action has more meaning.

If they stop and later fold or stop and then raise, you'll be given some additional insight into their hands. Given the nature of the game, most likely, you will see these behaviors again.

Besides chip-shuffling, you'll often notice the shaking or quivering of a hand or finger. Our limbic brain, which handles emotions (a great hand or avoiding bluff detection), dumps adrenaline into our blood and that can cause hand tremors or erratic movements of the fingers and loss of smooth muscle movement. As mentioned earlier, put the action into context. When and why does it happen? I know when I get a monster hand my hands quiver because I get excited.

It's important to assess everyone's hand behaviors at the table and determine not only where players keep their hands, but if there are any tells they're giving off (playing with rings, stroking fingers, biting nails, strumming table, etc.).

Hands may naturally shake because of stress, effects of caffeine (which really shows in my situation) or with the elderly or those with nerve or neurological damage. The best advice I have in this situation is to be prepared. Witness and analyze all hand behaviors and note

whether the hands shake all the time or just when the player has a monster hand. Maybe they'll shake when they are bluffing.

The thumbs also can tell a story, but how many players actually look at your thumbs during play? Believe it or not, you should be looking for the thumbs, though getting a solid look might take some maneuvering. So why is the thumb significant?

For example, if a player interlaces his or her fingers on top of their cards, watch the thumbs. If after looking at her hole cards or after the flop, they suddenly elevate their thumbs (a gravity defying behavior) chances are they have a strong hand.

We do this behavior often while talking and it's one of the ways our brain shows emphasis. We don't usually recognize that this is happening, but it is very accurate. The next time someone "talks with their hands," take a glance at their thumbs and see if you can determine their confidence level based on the elevation.

How about picking at or biting fingernails? This repetitive behavior soothes the individual during stressful situations. Generally, people pick at their nails or cuticles to ease their concerns about an external situation. Return to the question of what does it all mean? We know that the player is pacifying themselves, but when does it stop or when does it come back and increase? Stress causes nervous gestures and ticks to increase.

So that's it, right? Not a chance. Be observant of how men and women will slightly stroke the tops of their fingers with their other hand to comfort themselves (pacify) when they are unsure or nervous. This typically happens when they're bluffing. When a player is weaker, watch the immediate movement of the fingers to the neck. This is another sign of insecurity, a sign of stress and weakness.

There is one more nonverbal that often escapes us and is not often discussed: When a player's fingers withdraw from the table (particularly the thumbs when they tuck themselves in under the fingers), a player is feeling concerned about the current situation.

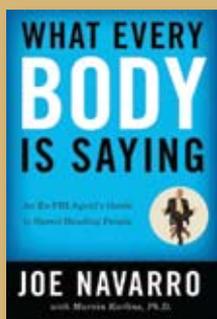
They have weak or marginal holdings and are slowly removing themselves away from the hand and their fingers represent their true emotions. Also, look for fingers that suddenly, perhaps after the player looks at the flop, distance themselves from the cards or begin to handle the cards with the fingertips rather than the full hand. This is another way of distancing and when weak or concerned.

So there you have it. The next time you're playing take more than just a quick look at your opponent's hands. Gauge their reactions and put what you've seen into context.

—Joe Navarro is a retired FBI agent and world-renowned expert on body language. His books, such as *What Every Body is Saying* and *200 Poker Tells*, are available on Amazon. Email Joe at editor@anteupmagazine.com and he'll answer your questions.



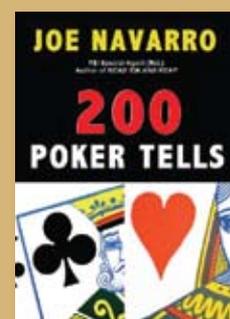
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POKER IS SUCH AN EASY GAME IF YOU FOLLOW THESE RULES

I only have two points to make in this column: Use the power of position and execute your plan for your hand. Have a nice, profitable month and I look forward to hearing about all of your success.

Ah, if it were only that simple, right?

Keep it simple. Stop complicating your game and trying to play all kinds of hands in all kinds of positions. Stop guessing as to whether your hand is good while you're check-calling your way to shipping all of your chips to the guy in position with the gutshot that gets because you don't know where you stand and just keep guessing on your journey to losing session after losing session.

I've written about these concepts before, but I'm going to break it down simply this time and tap into the extra knowledge fresh in my brain thanks to the increased amount of live cash games I've been playing since Black Friday.

First, if you're a student of the game and have gone beyond the fundamentals, you're way ahead of the game. Select games where you have an edge on most of the payers at the table. Sometimes this means stepping down a limit or two, or it may even require stepping up sometimes, but that's not the focus of this column.

Be the house. Casinos are built on small edges and if you select the right games, you will have a much bigger edge on every betting street than Steve Wynn has on any bet placed at any time. If you select games where you have an edge, you effectively build a little printing press for your expendable cash, bankroll, rent, entertainment, etc.

Play hands IN POSITION! Yeah, I know you haven't had a hand in a while and that suited K-10 looks awesome UTG+1, but MUCK IT! You know you're almost always going to have multiple callers who will have position on you postflop and they'll have the advantage.

If you're in a loose game then stay patient and wait for small pairs and suited connectors, the kinds of hands that play well postflop vs. multiple opponents. When you get into a pot with these hands, play them for two pair or better. If you simply hit a pair or gutshot draw and people are

betting into you, let them go. Don't get caught up in thinking "my hand might be good." Execute your plan for making two pair or better and pound your opponents when you crush the board.

Be the player that gets away from the speculative postflop hands and let your opponents be the ones handing you the chips. The exception to this is when you miss, but have position.

There are so many players who are going to play fit-or-fold and you will encounter many pots that no one seems to really want. If you're playing hands in position, you can pick up many of these pots with little risk. When it is checked to you on the flop or turn, take a stab and try to take the pot.

This is the power of position and if you don't exploit it, you're leaving money on the table.

With all this in mind, you must execute your plan for the hand. If you've called raises or limped in with a hand passively, then you should have a plan. If you crush that flop then go to war, or evaluate the betting to maybe take advantage of your position to take away the pot.

Most of the time, I suggest following through with your plan for the hand or just get out. Especially when you are out of position. Don't get too fancy trying to represent hands when you're out of position. It's simply too hard to control the size of the pot and be creative enough to show a profit.

Playing in position gives you more options to deviate from your plan, represent hands your opponents may be scared of and to take those pots no one seems to want. You shouldn't be calling and playing too many raises out of position anyway.

If you focus on limiting your calling to hands when in position and raising or folding pre flop when out of position, you'll set yourself up for much greater success.

Play hands in position, stay true to your plan, let others make mistakes and Decide to Win!

— Lee Childs is a poker pro who founded Acumen Poker. If you'd like to check out his video on Tournament Poker Edge visit tournamentpokeredge.com and register with referral ID: CHILDS.



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LESSON FROM BLUFFING 101

This column is intended to be an all-around crash course on how to help you become a less exploitable bluffer. Let's face it; bluffing is part of the game. In today's poker world, bluffing is essential to being a successful player. Long gone are the days where you could fold everything but high pairs and value bet for three streets against some slackjaw. There are a few types of bluffs I want to address:



MIKE WOLF

- The continuation-bet, when you raised pre flop with high cards, missed the flop but bet to win the pot.
- The semi-bluff, when you have outs, such as a straight draw or flush draw, and you bet.
- The "OMG I can only win the pot by bluffing" bluff, when on the river you missed your draw

and you have no showdown equity.

When making a continuation bet on a dry board you must be bold and give your opponent a reason to fold. He probably knows you didn't hit the flop, but you must bet because he likely didn't hit it, either. Hands such as J-10 suited are going to fold on a Q-2-3 board when you c-bet. If you alternatively check behind, they can bet any turn and make us guess if they have a piece of the flop. Keep c-betting until they start to play back at you. This creates a dynamic that is easy to exploit when you actually smash a flop.

When semi-bluffing keep in mind the real reason why it is profitable is your fold equity. The odds of you hitting a flush draw when you

flopped four of one suit are about 36 percent. Add the percentage of times your opponent folds to that number and we have ourselves one hell of a profitable play. Say you have 6♣-7♣ and call a pre flop raise to see a flop of Q♣-2♣-3♦. This is a great spot to check-raise because your opponent will likely c-bet with A-K or A-J and fold to a raise. Beware of calling all-ins with draws because the fold equity won't be there. Make sure your opponent has just enough chips to make him fold. It feels great to start winning pots with seven-high!

When you missed the river and you know you can't win, maybe it's time to bluff. Or maybe it's time to pack up and call the hand quits. A good metric to examine when thinking about bluffing the river is board texture and how quickly your opponent called the turn. In my experience when a low-limit cash-game player calls the flop and turn, rarely are they folding the river, so you should probably give up. It's horrible to compound your error by throwing in more good money after bad. But there are always exceptions in this game we play. If the board runs out really scary we can bet with impunity and take down the pot. Here are a few key tips to keep in mind when bluffing:

- Tell a good story: Make sure you're representing a certain hand when bluffing.
- Bet-sizing: Would you bet this amount if you had the hand you're representing?
- Timing: Take the same amount of time to act at all times.
- Ask yourself questions: What range of hands will your opponent fold if you bet or raise in this spot? If you bet more will they fold a larger percentage of that range? Remember, the folding of certain hands is a function of your bet-sizing in some cases.

— Mike Wolf is a professional poker player who spends his time on the road. Follow him on Twitter (@mikewolf7) or on surebetpoker.net.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

Trying to quantify bad-beat ramifications

Scott Long's article (*Paying attention to the jackpot rake, June 2011*) implies that we benefit from a bad-beat jackpot, but goes on to say, and I quote, "That's hard to quantify, but we're kidding ourselves if we don't try."

You're correct that it's hard to quantify, but you're also correct that we must try. So why don't we? I'm against bad-beat jackpots, but where is the evidence that it benefits the regular player, or more precise, the true poker professional, over the long run?

These points should be discussed, and truly as you say, quantified.

1. The bad beat is a myth: Poker is inherently designed for a better hand to beat a weaker hand. A larger straight flush beats a smaller straight flush the same way a bigger straight beats a small straight. Just because it's rare, doesn't mean it won't happen.

2. Bad-beat jackpots use OUR money to promote a poker room: Isn't there something wrong with this? They're taking money from our bankroll to promote their room, and that's money a pro can't win.

3. Mathematically speaking: How much money is taken off the table per hour? Per day? Per week? Players face a rake, a tip and a bad beat? Your article speaks of rooms going to \$2; where's the math?

4. Are rooms really bringing in more players because of jackpots? Where are the numbers that support this claim? Do players choose one house over another because it's offered? I'm not talking about running to a room when the pot is large; I'm speaking on a regular basis. Are they able to retain new regulars from this?

5. \$1-\$2 NLHE is the most popular game: A cursory glance shows this to be true. Mathematically speaking a bad-beat jackpot hurts this

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player the most. Regulars are made up primarily by this group. How much money is taken from these players? How is this fair?

6. Is poker a skill game? This is an ongoing argument, and one the Poker Players Alliance uses in favor of online gaming. How is it possible to support a bad-beat jackpot if it's a skill game?

7. The bad players chasing the jackpot compensate for its rake: Where are the numbers to support this? Do these bad players show up when the pot is big enough? How much money are they putting on the table? Are they playing \$1-\$2 NLHE with a minimum buy-in of \$60? How is this compensating the regular who losses \$1 (or now \$2) when they win a pot day in and day out, hour after hour?

Mr. Long, as you can see there are many questions, and each can be debated and discussed in much greater detail. I feel if we're to truly quantify a bad-beat jackpot, then we must discuss these questions in greater detail. I also feel your magazine would benefit by having a true insightful debate.

Craig Gross
via email

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JAX: PREMIERE POKER DESTINATION

By Randall Kasper

Get your pencils out and mark your calendars from Aug. 5-17. Those are the dates for the first World Poker Tour event in Jacksonville, Fla. Better yet, use a pen. Book your flights and hotels. And plan on making this trip three times a year (at least), as two more WPT series will be there (one this fall and one in April). Additionally, high stakes cash games will be played on a regular basis. As the cliché goes, "What a difference a year makes."

For those who may have missed it, let's go back a year in the time machine. Essentially, there was no real reason for poker players to travel to Florida. Buy-ins for cash games were capped at \$100 regardless of stakes, so \$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10 no-limit hold'em games were spread but devoid of strategy. You practically had to commit your starting stack to the first pot you played. Similar prohibitive restrictions applied to tournaments.

All that changed last July when the Florida legislature removed the caps and extended poker room hours. With that singular stroke of then-Gov. **Charlie Crist's** pen, given the incredible travel destinations, an abundance of wealth and a penchant for action, I submit the poker landscape in America experienced a tectonic shift. Overtures were immediately made by the WPT and WSOP to cement relationships with Florida poker rooms. I recall being bombarded with questions by players from all over the country: Where in Florida should I head? The common thought was South Florida, but that answer was too easy. Surveying the landscape, I had high hopes for Jacksonville and truly believed it had great promise on many levels. I could never have expected how quickly that hope would become a reality.

Obviously, Jacksonville is blessed with fantastic geographical advantages. A large city with a small town feel, beautiful beaches and weather amounts to a good start. Jacksonville Greyhound Racing, with two large rooms and a third one on the way adds to the equation. But the key to why I predict Jacksonville will become a truly premiere poker destination? Commitment and leadership.

The instant the Legislature removed the caps JGR president **Howard Korman**, COO **Matthew Kroetz**, CFO **Jamie Shelton** and the board of directors made a firm commitment to become the best Florida had to offer. They hired **Deborah Giardina** and **Jesse Hollander**, formerly of the Wynn, as executive director and assistant director of poker operations, respectively.

Having met some truly incredible poker operations teams throughout the industry (**Ray Stefanelli**, **Tab DuChateau** and **Stan Strickland** of Borgata come to mind), it was immediately apparent this was the case in Jacksonville. It took exactly one conversation with Giardina to know they are headed to the top. With the support and vision of the aforementioned executives, here's a summary of what they have accom-



The Chad Brown event was the start of something big in Jacksonville.

plished in just the past few months:

- Hosted a televised feature and final table for the annual **Chad Brown** tournament, which included filming of a \$50K buy-in high-stakes cash game in which **John Racener**, **Jason Mercier**, **Tyler Smith** and **Andrew Robl** participated.
- Built a high-stakes cash room, running multiple games.
- Secured three WPT events to be run between August 2011 and April 2012.
- State-of-the-Art THIRD poker room to host a televised WPT main event in the spring of 2012.

The above bullets are just the beginning. Yes, they treat their high-stakes players to the best amenities Jacksonville has to offer – beachfront hotels, limo service, catered meals. But they go beyond that; they make every patron feel like a V.I.P. and that's because, in their eyes, that's exactly what they are. And that's a big part of why I am so excited about what is transpiring with poker in Jacksonville. I don't make recommendations lightly, but booking a trip to play poker in Jacksonville is one of the rare sure bets in our industry.

— **Randall S. Kasper, Esq.** is co-founder of **Poker Players International**, the world's largest poker agency (ppipoker.com). You can email him at randy@pokerplayersinternational.com.



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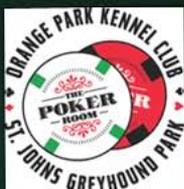
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DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

DON'T FALL VICTIM TO POKER BURNOUT

The first time I looked at the issue of burnout was when I was doing organizational consulting. Employees at every level seemed to reach a plateau then crash and burn. They didn't have significant mental health or personal problems, but stopped being productive.

Recently, several serious poker players have told me similar things about their playing. I thought it might be useful to take a look at the issue in relationship to poker.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

Burnout is a state of emotional, mental, and physical exhaustion caused by excessive and prolonged stress. It occurs when you feel overwhelmed and unable to meet constant demands. As the stress continues, you begin to lose the interest or motivation that led you to get involved in a particular activity.

Burnout is not to be confused with emotional problems, mental-health issues or personal issues; burnout is situational. Poker burnout can happen to any player at any level of play; it can part of general malaise or specific to poker.

Psychologists **Herbert Freudenberger** and **Gail North** have theorized the burnout process can be divided into 12 phases, which are not necessarily followed sequentially, nor are they necessarily in any sense are relevant or existent other than as abstract constructs.

- A compulsion to prove oneself
- Working harder
- Neglecting one's own needs
- Displacement of conflicts (the person does not realize the root cause of the distress)
- Revision of values (friends or hobbies are completely dismissed)
- Denial of emerging problems (cynicism and aggression become apparent)
- Withdrawal (reducing social contacts to a minimum, becoming walled off; alcohol or other substance abuse may occur)
- Behavioral changes become obvious to others
- Depersonalization (life becomes a series of mechanical functions)
- Inner emptiness
- Depression
- Burnout syndrome

When you see your play as the definition of who you are and you feel that every suckout, bad beat or lost coin flip defines you instead of being part of the game; or you feel a compulsion to prove yourself by your play; or you seem to feel that playing is an unsatisfying grind; or you notice your behavior changing or your play changing you may be experiencing burnout-related issues.

Actually one can relate each of these steps to poker; but the important thing is if there has been a change and you're feeling the negatives, do something about it to get your head back into the game.

Overtraining, overlearning and even overplaying can cause burnout and affect poker players. Sports psychology teaches us that overtraining can create burnout in competitors at all levels. This happens not only in all competitive activities, but in work and other recreational pursuits.

When poker no longer is fun; when grinding has taken its toll; when you feel trapped into playing, watch out for burnout.

The good news about burnout is that it can be alleviated; the bad news is if you're burning out then your life and your game may go down the tubes.

Though poker is an enjoyment to most of us, even recreational poker players can burn out.

Burnout is often masked as irritability, depression, anger, decreased confidence, increased risk-taking and other psychological symptoms. Long-term tilt is also a sign.

Responses to burnout in poker are varied. Some players start playing on auto play and stop thinking about the situational aspects of the game.

Some get agitated and even go on tilt.

Some get depressed, start drinking and using other counterproductive coping strategies.

An otherwise solid player becomes totally reckless and starts playing impulsively. Or a player who knows the math and can make decent reads becomes super tight, seeing demons in every flop, turn and river and becomes unable to make a move. This "monsters under the bed" syndrome is particularly evident in good players who start to get scared.

Our mythical monsters might not be the same as childhood monsters, but the play on words in a useful metaphor to look at; we start thinking our opponents have flopped the nuts even when we have a good hand and lots of blockers.

What can you do if you lose interest and start feeling and acting impulsively or depressed; or experience other symptoms of burnout; or fear monsters on every flop, turn or river?

Quick possible solutions: Take a break; change from cash to tournaments; step down the limits you play at and experience the pleasure again; don't take the results as a definition of who you are; stop being short-term results oriented; understand chance and skill; define your poker goals and see if they are realistic.

Some longer term solutions I think are relevant to poker playing include: goal-setting; visualizations; performance planning; enhancing self-confidence; concentration and attention.

Do something before this condition becomes chronic and you'll be able to keep your head in the game.

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

CRACKING UNDER PRESSURE?

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

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

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GET POLITICALLY ACTIVE TO HELP ONLINE POKER

Recent actions by the U.S. Attorney's Offices in New York and Maryland against Internet poker websites, including industry giants Full Tilt, Doyle's Room, Ultimate Bet, Absolute Poker and PokerStars, raise serious questions as to the future of online poker in the United States.



MARC DUNBAR

While the federal crimes sound intimidating, the acts under which the federal indictments are based really find their teeth in little known state laws in some instances passed before any thought of the Internet's creation. To convict any of the defendants, each indictment must prove violations of the state statutes in which the indictments were brought. Simply stated, the crux of each indictment will be whether the United States can prove the defendants violated anti-gambling in these states.

A question that must be decided in both cases — Is poker a game of skill, or a game of chance? — has been the point of contention for many poker players for years. This issue will likely be raised as the defendants will attempt to persuade the courts that poker, as a game of skill, is not “gambling” as defined by the state statutes. If they are successful, the federal government will have a difficult time proving some of the underlying federal crimes. Here's a look at the state laws at issue:

New York

New York, unlike Maryland, allows a potential “carve out” for poker as a skill game. The State of New York defines “gambling” as:

A person engages in gambling when he stakes or risks something of value upon the outcome of a contest of chance or a future contingent event not under his control or influence, upon an agreement or understanding that he will receive something of value in the event of a certain outcome.

It is a misdemeanor in New York to “advance gambling activity” and to “profit from gambling activity,” both defined by statute as follows:

A person “advances gambling activity” when acting other than as a player, he engages in conduct which materially aids any form of gambling activity. Such conduct includes but is not limited to conduct directed toward the creation or establishment of the particular game, contest, scheme, device or activity involved, toward the acquisition or maintenance of premises, paraphernalia, equipment or apparatus therefor, toward the solicitation or inducement of persons to participate therein, toward the actual conduct of the playing phases thereof, toward the arrangement of any of its financial or recording phases, or toward any other phase of its operation. One advances gambling activity when, having substantial proprietary or other authoritative control over premises being used with his knowledge for purposes of gambling activity, he permits such to occur or continue or makes no effort to prevent its occurrence or continuation.

A person “profits from gambling activity” when, other than as a player, he accepts or receives money or other property pursuant to an agreement or understanding with any person whereby he participates or is to participate in the proceeds of gambling activity.

So the question remains in New York, does poker qualify as a game of skill, and is thus exempted from this statute as a skill game, no different from basketball or bowling, or is poker a game of chance, and is thus a form of illegal gambling?

A recent case from New York, *People v. Tillman*, noted that “it is a long-standing legal principle in the State of New York that games of skill are not within the compass of a gambling statute.” The Tillman

court further held that the terms “gambling” and “games of chance” were to be considered synonymous, strengthening the case that a “game of skill” is not gambling.

Furthering this argument is the case of *People v. Hunt*, wherein the court held that the game of Three Card Monte was a skill game, and thus a player of Three Card Monte could not be charged with gambling. Differing chance from skill, the court noted that “in some instances, the dealer has an advantage over the player... this occurs where there exists a disparity between the players' skill level. Differing skill levels, however, do not transform the game into a contest of chance.”

In another case, *People v. Turner*, the Court noted that “(T)he principle that a game of skill is not within the compass of a gambling statute is one of long standing in this State. Games of chance range from those that require no skill, such as a lottery, to those such as poker or blackjack which require considerable skill in calculating the probability of drawing particular cards. Nonetheless, the latter are as much games of chance as the former, since the outcome depends to a material degree upon the random distribution of cards. The skill of the player may increase the odds in the player's favor, but cannot determine the outcome regardless of the degree of skill employed.”

As the Turner case remains good law in the State of New York, it appears that the defendants may face an uphill battle to overturn the now-16 year-old holding that poker is an illegal game of chance. However, the idea that Three Card Monte is a legal skill game in New York while Texas Hold'em remains a game of chance may be difficult for the court handling the recent indictments to overcome.

Maryland

In contrast to New York, Maryland does not define “gambling” in its statutes. Rather, it is simply a misdemeanor offense to “bet, wager or gamble.” Similarly to New York, the Maryland statute makes it illegal to be involved in the operation of promotion gambling:

A person may not receive, become the depository of, record, register, or forward, or propose, agree, or pretend to forward, money or any other thing or consideration of value, to be bet, wagered or gambled on the result of a race, contest or contingency.

Though courts in New York at least considered that an increased level of skill in a game that requires skill and chance “could” at some point become a game of skill, Maryland courts do not see it that way.

A criminal case involving a person convicted of operating a pinball machine in 1956 is still good law today in Maryland. The case, *Brown v. State*, noted that “(T)he insertion of the money and the operation of the device by the player in the hope of winning a monetary reward in varying amounts, in our view of the Maryland Statute, constitutes a bet or wager, regardless of the element of skill.” In addition to this language, which in and of itself is detrimental to the argument that poker is a skill game, the Brown case also cited, *Ankers v. Bartlett*, which held that “playing any game for money is gaming.” Ankers declined to recognize that skill, no matter how much skill, would have any effect on the analysis of whether the game is gambling.

By stating that the insertion of money and operation of device by a player in hopes of winning monetary reward in varying amounts constitutes bet or wager regardless of element of skill involved in playing game, Maryland has taken an extremely wide view of what encompasses “gambling” and what activities can be prosecuted under anti-gambling statutes in the state.

Continued on next page

ONLINE MONEY: CRISIS FROM A TAX PERSPECTIVE

Remember the tax deadline day of April 15 that comes every year? This is when my personal life comes back to me and I can breathe easier knowing another tax season has come to an end. Well, I will always remember April 15, 2011.

My tax season was extended to April 18 because April 15 was Emancipation Day in Washington D.C. That was the first blow, though it gave me a few more days until the deadline. But, by April 15, I am beyond burnout and ready to get out of town.

I had finished Jeff Williams' (yellow-sub86) tax return several weeks before and on April 15 he called me. I can always rely on him to keep me in the loop.

The first thing he said was, "Have you seen it?" Of course, the first thing I thought of was that there was something wrong with his tax return. Then, he told me. I could hardly believe it. Instead of working on taxes, I spent the next several hours reading what was going on and fielding calls from clients desperate to know what to do. One was practically in tears (can't blame him with almost a million stuck online).

So here we are and as of this writing, I have my \$5.32 from PokerStars and none of my \$4,100 from Full Tilt. The most often asked question is "Do I have to pay tax on this?"

Well, I've written articles before that explained that even if you

leave your money online, you still have to pay tax on it. You had to figure out your wins and losses for the year and claim that income in that particular year. Whether you take it off, it does not matter; it's called "constructive receipt of income," which means if you could get to it, then you have to pay taxes on it.

So, let's imagine the worst case here. What if we never see our money again that is stuck online? Well, there is some speculation here. First, if you've paid tax on it, my guess is the IRS will say you could've taken it off but you chose not to. I'm afraid this is the way to look at the years before 2011.

Now, what is the right way to handle this for 2011? My argument would be you can't get it off thanks to the Department of Justice, and that this is not income. The IRS could argue you could've taken it up to April 15, but we all know that even then, it was limited for most players on how much they let you take at one time. And, taking a loss on the money might be a little tough to do, but it is all based on each situation.

So, the bottom line is let's keep hoping we all are made whole by the sites before the end of the year and all of this is a mute point. But, otherwise, I think each player needs to consider their individual situation and discuss it with their tax person. In the meantime, try to be patient at the brick-and-mortars and don't punch the guy that keeps forgetting it's his turn. God, I miss online.

— Ann-Margaret Johnston is a practicing CPA in North Georgia. She is the author of the book titled "How to Turn Your Poker Playing Into A Business". Her website is pokerdeductions.com where you can find answers to commonly asked poker tax questions.

Continued from previous page

Though the argument remains as to whether poker is a game of skill or chance, courts are bound, to some extent, by the history of decisions made by courts in prior cases. Until such time as a court in New York or Maryland reviews the earlier opinions, beginning the snowball effect of overturning anti-poker case law, it will be difficult for online poker to regain its foothold on the American gaming landscape.

With the indictments handed down and the state law issues much at the core of the prosecution's case, players are asking what next? With the findings of a recent learned study, "The Role of Skill Versus Luck in Poker: Evidence from the World Series of Poker," by Steven Levitt and Thomas Miles, professors at the University of Chicago, heralding poker as a game of skill being published by major newspapers around the country, all eyes may be shifting to South Carolina, whose Supreme Court is looking at the issue of whether Texas Hold'em is a game of skill or chance for the purpose of its criminal gambling statutes. The case of *Chimento v. Town of Mount Pleasant* is before the Supreme Court of South Carolina and will answer that question.

The Chimento case involves a home poker game where about 20 people were playing Texas Hold'em. On a particular evening local police officers entered the home and arrested all of the players, charging them with a violation of § 16-19-40, which provides:

If any person shall play at any tavern, inn, store for the retailing of spirituous liquors or in any house used as a place of gaming...at (a) any game with cards... upon being convicted thereof, before any magistrate, shall be imprisoned for a period of not over thirty days or fined not over one hundred dollars, and every person so keeping such tavern, inn, retail store, public place, or house used as a place for gaming or such other house shall, upon being convicted thereof, upon indictment, be imprisoned for a period not exceeding twelve months and forfeit a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars, for each and every offense.

The players were originally convicted and appealed. On appeal, the argument as presented that although they were admittedly playing a game of cards, this game of cards at issue was not played at a "house used as a place of gaming" as required by the statute. The players rea-

soned that "if Texas Hold'em is a game of skill, and if a game of skill is not 'gaming' or 'gambling,' then they were not 'in a house used as a place of gaming,' and therefore cannot have violated § 16-19-40."

The appellate court accepted the argument and reversed the convictions. The case was appealed and argued before the South Carolina Supreme Court in October 2010. A ruling has not been released.

With even the feds looking to state law and state courts for how to handle the future of Internet poker, it is time for the players to mobilize at the state level in response. Knowledge of one's state laws is important if you're going to continue to play online. The vast majority of jurisdictions have laws like those in New York and Maryland, which means more indictments could be coming.

The phrase "*caveat emptor*" will be the controlling rule in the wild world of Internet poker. All players must do their due diligence not just on their state law but on the operators who are offering U.S.-facing poker sites. With major operators on the sideline, the fringe Internet poker providers with dubious track records and liquidity issues are attempting to entice players over to their sites. Players must be aware of the potential consequences legal and financial for moving their play to other Internet sites.

Whether Black Friday and Black Monday are death knells to the industry or bumps in the road is not known at this time, it is certain however these indictments are and will continue to be a source of great consternation for online players. One piece of solace, however, is that great live games are being dealt all across the country in legal poker rooms. To those players, I say get politically active to get state and federal law changed to bring sanity back to online poker, and step up your game a bit and see if you can handle the true face-to-face action in poker rooms across the country. Get comfortable in those roles because it is going to be a while before the courts and the feds sort out the future of the Internet game.

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



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LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
BUCKY'S CASINO (928) 771-6779 • buckycasino.com	Sat.-Mon. w/Ladies Night on Tue.; Northern Arizona Texas Hold'em Championships, July 3, 10, 17 & 24 (2p) with final day on July 31 (2p).	Progressive aces cracked (Sat., 11a-11p).
CASINO ARIZONA (480) 850-7777 • casinoaz.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$60, 11:15a); Tue.-Wed. (\$130, 7:15p); 7th annual Arizona State Poker Championship w/\$1M guar. prize pool, Aug. 12-16 (\$1,070). Call for satellite details.	Jackpot Extravaganza Progressive Jackpot pays up to \$25K (24/7); aces cracked (daily, 2a-10a).
CASINO DEL SOL (800) 344-9435 • casinodelsol.com	Daily, including Mon. (\$35, 7p); Tue. (\$15, 7p); Wed. KO (\$35 w/rebuys, 7p); Thurs. (\$85, 7p); Sat. (\$35, noon); Sun. (\$20 w/rebuys, 11a & \$15, 7p).	Splash pots (Mon.-Fri.); high hand and cash giveaways (Mon.-Fri.).
CLIFF CASTLE CASINO (928) 567-7952 • cliffcastlecasinohotel.com	Mon.-Fri. & Sun. (\$25, 10a); Wed. (\$60 w/\$20 rebuy, 7p); Sat. (\$120, noon).	Aces cracked pays \$100 (Sun.-Fri.); high-hand cash (July 2); 4-Wheelin' and Dealin' promotion (call for details).
DESERT DIAMOND (520) 342-1810 • ddcaz.com	Mon. & Thurs. (\$35, 9:30a); Tue. (\$60 w/\$75 rebuy, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (aces full of jacks beaten by quads) and Omaha; player comps for live play.
FORT McDOWELL CASINO (480) 837-1424 • fortmcowellcasino.com	Daily (\$5-\$20 w/rebuys), including Mon.-Thurs. & Sun. (7p); Sat. (noon, 4p and 9p); Fri. (\$120, 7p); Sun. (\$120, noon).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad fives and Omaha is quad fours; mini jackpot in hold'em is aces full; high hand (daily); aces cracked.
HARRAH'S PHOENIX AK-CHIN (480) 802-5000 • harrahsakchin.com	Tue. Omaha/8 (\$25, 7:30p); Wed. (\$60, 7p); Thurs. (\$10 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Fri. (\$40, 7:30); Sat. (\$40, 12:30p & 5:30p); Sun. (\$25, 12:30p).	Progressive high hand (daily, 5p-5a); splash pots (Sat.-Sun.); aces cracked (daily).
VEE QUIVA CASINO (520) 796-7777 • wingilariver.com/vee-quiva	Sun.-Thurs. (\$30 w/\$20 rebuy, 11a); Wed. (\$10 w/rebuys, 7:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royals pay \$500; aces cracked.
WILD HORSE PASS CASINO (800) 946-4452 • wingilariver.com/wild-horse-pass	Mon. & Thurs. (\$30, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7:30p); Wed. (\$100, 7:30p); Partners Shootout, July 31 (\$60, noon).	Aces cracked pays \$100; high hands; splash pots (daily); royals pay \$200 (daily).

ARKANSAS

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

COLORADO

AMERISTAR BLACK HAWK (720) 946-4020 • ameristar.com/Black_Hawk.aspx	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads.
GOLDEN GATES CASINO (303) 582-5600 • goldencasinogroup.com	Daily (\$40-\$300) at 10a, noon, 3p and 7p w/an event on Sunday (\$100 w/\$100 rebuys, noon); \$10K guar. monthly freeroll (call for dates and details).	Early bird specials; qualify for poker comps (call for details).
ISLE CASINO BLACK HAWK (303) 998-7777 • black-hawk.isleofcapricasinos.com	Fri. (\$100, 2p); \$10K guar. event on Saturday (\$500, noon). See ad on Page 39 for National Women's Poker Day USLPC Mega Satellite and other events.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Super Splash pays \$200 (Mon. & Tue. at 4p, 7p and 10p); high hands pay up to \$500 (Wed. & Thurs., 2p-7p). See ad on Page 39.
LADY LUCK CASINO (303) 998-7777 • isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, 7p); Sat. (\$40, 1p & \$60, 5p); Sun. (\$40, 2p & 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is a decreasing qualifier; Showers of Cash progressive drawings (Mon.-Thurs., 3p-1a); Lucky Pot Splashes (Fri.-Sun.).
LODGE CASINO AT BLACK HAWK (303) 582-1771 • thelodgecasino.com	Daily (\$60) at noon, 3p and 7p; qualify in July and every month for the Tournament of Champions.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; qualify for Poker Bingo (call for details).
MIDNIGHT ROSE CASINO (719) 689-0303 • triplecrowncasinos.com	Mon. (\$40, 7:30p); Tue. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Wed. (freeroll, 3p & \$60, 7:30p); Thurs. KO (\$60, 7:30p); Fri. (\$80, 7:30p); Sat. (\$80, 3p); Sun. (\$120, 3p).	High-hand jackpot (get entered into grand-prize drawing for winning \$500 or more; call for details).

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

STAR-SPANGLED SPECTACULAR PROGRESSIVE TOURNAMENT

Sundays
in July

\$125,000

Prize
Pool*

JULY 3RD
Qualify
300 Player \$45 Buy-in

JULY 10TH
Qualify
300 Player \$65 Buy-in

JULY 17TH
Qualify
200 Player \$120 Buy-in

JULY 24TH
Qualify
150 Player \$235 Buy-in

JULY 31ST
FINALS
100 Player \$550 Buy-in

*Prize pools based on full field for each qualifier.

Tournaments Start - 1:00 PM

FINALISTS FROM EACH ROUND RECEIVE
"FREE" ENTRY TO NEXT QUALIFIER!

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CONNECTICUT

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
FOXWOODS CASINO (800) 369-9663 • foxwoods.com	Daily (9a-8p). DeepStack events are Mon.-Sat. (\$120-\$240, 6p); Spring into Summer Mega Stack, July 2 (\$1,200, 11a); 4th of July (\$80-\$400; call for schedule).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad eights and quad deuces in stud.
MOHEGAN SUN CASINO (860) 862-8000 • mohegansun.com	Daily (\$60-\$200); \$250K guar. Summer Showdown, July 7-10 w/\$125K guar. main event on July 9 (\$1000, 11a).	High hands paid every four hours daily, seven days a week; "Add-On" tournaments, Mon. (7:30p) and Tue.-Thurs. (noon).

DELAWARE

DELAWARE PARK (302) 355-1050 • delawarepark.com	Daily (\$20-\$340) at noon, 4p, 7p and 10p, including Sat. (9a); featured events are Fri. PLO (\$100, 4p); Sat. (\$150, noon & 7p); Sun. (\$20 w/rebuys, 4p).	Bad beat in hold'em w/descending qualifier; mini bad beat; high hand pays up to \$250.
DOVER DOWNS HOTEL & CASINO (302) 674-4600 • doverdowns.com	Twice daily (noon, 7p); Sun.-Fri. (\$65, noon); Sat. (\$80, noon) & (\$120, 7p); \$5K guar. on Fridays (\$125, 7p); Summer Poker Open, July 8-16 (See ad Page 12).	Bad beat in hold'em is aces full of jacks; Crushed Quads (Sun.-Fri.).
HARRINGTON RACEWAY (888) 887-5687 • harringtonraceway.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$60, 11a); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuy & add-on, 11a); freeroll for qualifying players (40 hours of play needed); call for details.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of kings beaten by quads; aces cracked (daily, 3a-11a); Crash & Splash pots during NASCAR races.

FLORIDA

CALDER CASINO (305) 625-1311 • caldercourse.com/poker	Daily guarantees 11a & 7p (\$40-\$100) w/\$10K guar. on Saturdays (\$100, 11a). See ad on Page 9.	Flopped progressive straight flushes have five payouts per suit; high hands pay \$500 every half-hour (Fri.-Sat.) and \$200 (Wed.-Thurs.).
DANIA JAI-ALAI (954) 927-2841 • dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (\$25-\$105) at 12:30p & 6:30p, including a \$15K guarantee every Friday (\$105, 6:30p); \$25 event every morning at 10:30 (See ad Page 37).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud; Win It or Spin It promotion (win up to \$500, call for details).
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB (386) 252-6943 • daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily (\$25-\$275), including Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Sat. DeepStack \$2K guar. (\$225, 7p); Sun. Super DeepStack \$5K guar. (\$275, 2p). SNGs (daily).	Bad beat jackpots in limit, no-limit, Omaha and stud; progressive hourly high hand (Mon.-Sun.). See ad on Page 35 for more promotions.
DERBY LANE (727) 812-3339 x7 • derbylanepoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$330) on Sun.-Thurs. (1p, 4p, & 7p) & Fri.-Sat. (1p, 6p, & 8p); Second Sunday Super Stack (\$330, 1p). 97X summer event (See ad Pages 6-7).	Daily cash and prize promotions; Pick a Card for a Car (aces full or better); see website for more promotions. Poker 101 course, July 28 (See ad Pages 6-7).
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK (850) 234-3943 • ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$20-\$220) on Sun.-Fri. (8p). Sat. (2p, 8p, midnight); Mega Stack on the last Sunday of the month (\$330, 2p).	Big Easy Bad Beat is quad fives; Big Easy Backup Jackpot; mini bad beat is aces full of jacks; royal flushes pay \$250. See ad Page 27 for more promotions.
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER (772) 464-7500 • jaijai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). DeepStack event, July 16 (\$100, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud (see website for complete rules and payouts); quads pay \$100-\$220 (daily).
GULFSTREAM PARK (954) 457-6336 • gulfstreampark.com	Daily (6:30p); Mon., Fri., Sun. (\$60); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80); Wed. (\$100). Mon.-Wed. are bounty tournaments and Saturday is a rebuy.	Bad-beat jackpot is quad 10s; high hands pay \$500/hour for first three hours (daily); royals pay \$500 (see website for times and payouts). Cash is King (see ad Page 17).
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER (800) 941-4841 • hamiltondownsjaijai.com	Almost Freeroll \$600 guarantee on Sundays (\$5 w/\$30 in add-ons, 3p).	Progressive royal w/hearts paying \$2K; tournament high hand pays \$75; Fri. & Sat. high hand (\$300 for first, \$100 for second).
ISLE CASINO AT POMPAHO PARK (954) 972-2000 x5123 • thisislepompanopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$350); \$500 Twitter Freeroll, July 2; Florida State Championship (\$200-\$5,300), July 7-Aug. 2 w/\$1M guar. main event starting July 29 (\$5300, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; high hands paid in hold'em and Omaha; Cash Explosion pays up to \$500 (July 1-3) and \$1K (July 4).
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB (850) 997-2561 • jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays (\$50, 7:30p, 2K chips, 15-minute levels).	Royal flushes win jackpot.
MAGIC CITY CASINO (305) 649-3000 • flaglerdogs.com	SNGs running daily (\$65-\$800), call for details.	Big Slick Royal Progressive (using ace/king as hole cards); high hands pay \$150; progressive hot table daily pays a minimum of \$500.
MARDI GRAS CASINO (877) 557-5687 x3167 • playmardigras.com	Mon. \$5K guarantee freeroll (7p); Tue. Omaha/8 (\$100, 7p); Wed. KO (\$110, 7:30p). See ad Page 23.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays minimum of \$50K; high hands (\$150K in prizes each month); royals pay \$599 or high-hand jackpot (larger amount paid).
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK (321) 259-9800 • mgpark.com	Mon. (\$65, 1p & 7p); Tue. (\$35, 2p & 7p); Thurs. KO (\$90, 7p); Fri. \$5K guar. (\$45, 7p); Sat. (\$120, 2p); Sun. (\$65, 1p). Star-Spangled Tournament (See ads below).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; straight flush pays \$100; royals pay \$500. Spin to Win (Sat., 3p); aces cracked (Wed.); Aces & Faces Quad (daily).

WHERE TO PLAY

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Blue Ray Player
Touchscreen Remote
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Ipod Dock
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FLORIDA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
MIAMI JAI-ALAI (305) 633-6400 • fla-gaming.com	Closed for renovations until December.	Closed for renovations until December.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT (877) 242-6464 • miccosukee.com	Friday and Saturday (\$110, 8p). Free buffet for all tournament players.	Spade royal flush pays jackpot; high hands pay \$200 (Sun.-Thurs.) and \$300 (Fri.-Sat.).
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK (239) 992-2411 • naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Mon. (\$40, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sat. (\$115, 2p); Sun. KO (\$125, 2p).	Diamond Big Slick Royal Progressive pays minimum of \$25K; all other royals pay \$1K; high hand (daily); hourly high hands pay \$1K (July 13 & 23).
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI (352) 591-2345 • ocalapoker.com	Mon. (\$25, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$30, 7p); Wed. & Fri. (\$50, 7p); 1st and 3rd Sat. KO (\$100, time varies); 2nd and last Sat. (\$220, 1p); Sun. (\$30, 4p).	Bad beat jackpot is in hold'em and Omaha; aces cracked; high hand; royals pay \$500 (daily). See ad Page 57.
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550) at 1p & 7p including Sat. Bounty (\$100, 1p) and Sun. PLO/8 (\$80, 1p); Jacksonville Summer Series WPT Regional, Aug. 5-17 (See ad on Page 21).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500).
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB (561) 683-2222 • pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$550) at noon & 6:30p; \$50K guar. Big Dog Sunday, July 31; Super DeepStack \$10K guar., July 10, 17 & 24; PBKC Summer Classic, Aug. 21-27.	Bad beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud; \$300K giveaway in July (daily prizes, see website for complete details). See ad on Page 46.
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK (850) 455-8595 • pensacolagreyhoundtrack.com	Daily (\$50-\$100); Mon., Fri. and Sun. (\$50, 7p); Tue. & Fri. (\$50, 2p); Wed. Deep-Stack (\$100, 7p); Sat. DeepStack (\$100, 7p); \$50K guar., July 30 (\$700, 1p).	Bad beats in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad jacks) and stud (quads); full house or better (daily, call for details); mini bad beat (daily, midnight-4a). See ad Page 48.
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB (941) 355-7744 x1054 • skcpoker.com	Daily (\$40-\$440) including Fri. (\$110, 1p, 25K chips); Sat. (\$160, 1p, 15K chips, 30 min levels); DeepStack on first Sat. of month (\$440, 1p). See ad on Page 33.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad deuces; progressive jackpots in all games; \$599/\$299 high hands (Fri.-Sat.). See ad on Page 33.
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON (866) 222-7466 x121 • seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. (\$50, 6:30p); Wed. (\$20 w/add-on, 6:30p); Sat. KO (\$100, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; get paid for quad aces (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royals (\$1K); aces cracked (Tue. & Thurs.); Spin to Win (Wed.).
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK (866) 222-7466 • seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	Call for information on scheduled single-table tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$35, 11a); Mon. (\$300, 6:30p); Tue. (\$150, 6:30p); Wed. (\$75, 6:30p); Sun. (\$150, noon & \$100, 6:30p); Summer Splash WPT Regional, Aug. 12-22.	Hourly high hands in limit and no-limit (daily); game of the month earns extra rewards (call for details). See ad on Page 11.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including a deepstack event on Wed. (\$240, 7:30p). See ad on back page.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha.
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC (866) 222-7466 • seminolehollywoodcasino.com	Call for information on scheduled single-table tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (Mon.-Thurs.); high hands pay \$300/hr (Mon.-Thurs., 10a-10p); bonus hands (quads or better) win cash prizes (Fri. & Sat., 10a-10p).
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE (866) 222-7466 • theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7:30p); Thurs. NL 0/8 (\$50, 7:30p); Fri. HA (\$60, 7:30p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & DeepStack (\$115, 6:30p); Sun. Crazy Pineapple (\$30, 6:30p).	Progressive hand of the day pays min. \$100, increases until hit; straight flushes \$150; royals \$500; Ante Up Splash Pots, July 31 (1p-11p). See ad on Page 45.
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550, 1p & 7p); Fri. Bounty (\$100, 7p); Sat. Mega Stack (\$225, 7p). See ad on Page 21 for WPT regional (Aug. 5-17).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500).
TAMPA BAY DOWNS (813) 298-1798 • tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$200); Mon.-Sat. (1p & 7p); Sun. (1p & 4p). See ad on Page 19.	Progressive payouts (quads or better); Mon. pot multiplier (10X, 20X, 40X); \$599/\$299 high hands (Fri.); see ad Page 19 or website for more daily promotions.
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK (813) 932-4313 • luckycards.com	Daily (\$30-\$80); Sun.-Thurs. (2p & 6:30p); Fri.-Sat. (2p, 7:30p). Sunday Challenge, July 31 (\$115, 1p, 15K chips).	Quads (\$50-\$75), straight flushes (\$150) & royals (\$300) Mon.-Thurs. (4p-11p); \$150/\$50 half-hour high hands Sat.-Sun. (4p-11p); tournament high hands.

ILLINOIS

GRAND VICTORIA (847) 531-7753 • grandvictoria-elgin.com	No tournaments.	No jackpots.
HARRAH'S JOLIET (815) 740-7480 • harrahjoliyet.com	Thurs. (\$135, 7p, 4K chips, 20-minute levels); Sun. (\$235, 1p, 5K chips, 20-minute levels).	Mega bad-beat jackpot is quad eights; mini bad-beat jackpot is aces full of kings; get paid for straight flushes and royal flushes.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO AURORA (630) 801-7471 • hollywoodcasinoaurora.com	Wed. (\$160, 1p) 88 players max.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad fives.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO JOLIET (815) 927-2175 • hollywoodcasinojoliet.com	No tournaments.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad fives.
PAR-A-DICE CASINO (309) 698-6693 • paradicecasino.com	Mon. (\$115, 7p); Sun. (\$115, 11a & \$50, 7p).	No jackpots.

INDIANA

BLUE CHIP (219) 861-4820 • bluechipcasino.com	Tue. (\$80, noon); Wed. (\$60, 6p); Fri. (\$80, noon); Sun. (\$105, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Fabulous Fridays/Super Saturdays wins up to \$500.
CASINO AZTAR (812) 433-4000 • casinoaztar.com	Sunday, July 10 (\$100, 1p).	Aces cracked (Sat. & Sun.); Hot Seat (Wed.).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO LAWRENCEBURG (812) 539-8000 • www.hollywoodindiana.com	Daily (11:15a & 7:15p); Mon. (\$125 & \$80); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80 & \$100); Wed. (\$80 & \$150); Fri. (\$80 & \$125); Sat. (\$100 & \$80); Sun. (\$150 & \$80).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; WPT satellite freeroll for top tournament point-earners (call for details).
HORSESHOE HAMMOND (219) 473-7000 • horseshoehammond.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$100, noon); Fri. & Sun. (\$200, noon); \$40K guar., July 30 (\$500, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (decreased if not hit) and pays a minimum of \$100K.
HORSESHOE SOUTHERN INDIANA (812) 969-6000 • horseshoe-indiana.com	Daily (\$50-\$81); Mon. (noon); Tue. (noon, 7p); Wed. (7p); Thurs. (noon); Fri. (midnight); Sat. (noon); Sun. (3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MAJESTIC STAR II (219) 977-7777 • majesticstarcasino.com	Wed. (\$55, 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Fri. (\$55, 11a & \$130, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 1p & \$105, 7p); Sun. (\$55, 11a & 3p & \$60, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; full houses get entered into weekly drawings Friday and Saturday (\$100-\$1K payouts).

IOWA

DIAMOND JO CASINO NORTHWOOD (641) 323-7777 • diamondjo.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 3p); Sun. HA (\$45, 3p); First Saturday tournament, July 2 (\$115, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
GRAND FALLS CASINO (712) 777-7777 • grandfallscasinosort.com	Mon. Omaha/8 (\$30, 11a); Thurs. (\$40, 6p); Sat. (\$60, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads.
HORSESHOE COUNCIL BLUFFS (877) 771-7463 • horseshoecouncilbluffs.com	Mon., Wed., Sat. (\$60, 10a); Tue. (\$60 w/\$60 re-entry, 7p); Thurs. KO (\$70, 7p); Sun. (\$40, 10a & 2p); Fat Stack event, July 30 (\$225, 10a).	High-hand jackpot is quads or better.
ISLE CASINO BETTENDORF (563) 359-7280 • bettendorf.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. KO (\$60, 6:45p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$40, 6:45p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of 10s and quad 10s for Omaha; call for special poker player hotel rates on high volume weekends.
ISLE CASINO WATERLOO (319) 833-4753 • waterloo.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$45 w/rebuy and add-on, 6:30p); Poker League Sunday (\$50, 6:30p).	High-hand jackpots in hold'em for straight flushes and royal flushes (call for details).
MESWAKI CASINO (641) 484-2108 • meskwaki.com	Tue. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7p); Wed. KO (\$45, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 7p); Sat. & Sun. (\$30, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush jackpot.
MYSTIQUE GREYHOUND PARK (563) 585-2964 • mystiquebdq.com	Thurs. (\$40, 6p); Fri. (\$20, 1p); Sun. (\$50, 1p); monthly event, July 9 (\$220, 10a).	Straight flush progressive jackpot in hold'em, Omaha and stud pays 10 different jackpots (call for details).
PRAIRIE MEADOWS CASINO (515) 967-1000 • prairiemeadows.com	Tue. (\$30, noon); Wed. (\$30, 7p); Sun. (\$60, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
RIVERSIDE CASINO (319) 648-1234 • riversidecasinoandresort.com	Mon. PLO (\$30, 11a); Wed. KO (\$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 6p); Sat. (\$30, 1p); Sun. qualifiers (\$30, 2p); Eliminator Bounty w/\$17K guar., July 3 (\$115, noon).	Call for details on player comps.

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

KANSAS

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

LOUISIANA

BELLE OF BATON ROUGE (800) 266-2692 • belleofbatonrouge.com	Wed. & Sun. (\$50, 10a, 1K chips, 15-minute levels).	Bad beat is any quads over quads; aces cracked pays \$100 (Mon.-Thurs., 5p-8p); hourly high hand pays \$50/hr up to \$300 (Tue., 9a-3p); aces cracked (Mon., 9a-3p).
BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS (800) 366-7711 • boomtownneworleans.com	Tue. freeroll (11a) for 4- or 5-Star Players; Wed. & Thurs. (\$35 w/\$10 add-on, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads) and Omaha; high hands (Mon. & Wed.); Splash the Pot (Tue. & Thurs.); royal flush promo (call for details).
COUSHATTA CASINO (800) 584-7263 • coushattacasinosort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230); Tue. (\$15, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Sat. (\$220, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; Big Bonus Hands are progressive.
CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S CASINO (800) 284-4386 • cypressbayou.com	All tournaments are rake-free. Wed. (\$40 w/two \$20 rebuys and add-ons, 6:30p); Sat. Super KO (\$60 w/two \$20 rebuys & add-ons, 3p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; aces cracked pays \$100 (1st & 3rd Thursday, 2nd & 4th Monday).
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT (318) 220-5274 • eldoradoshreveport.com	Sun. (\$150, 11a); Mon. \$2K guarantee (\$130, 11a); Tue. (\$75 w/\$25 or \$50 rebuy & add-on, 6:30p); Sat. (\$125 w/rebuy & add-on, 11a).	Bad beat in hold'em is quads; aces cracked wins \$100 (Mon. & Thurs.); high hand pays \$100 (Thurs.); royals pay \$250 (24/7).
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS (504) 533-6000 • harrahsnoworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; aces cracked.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY (800) 895-0711 • horseshoebossiercity.com	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat., Sun. (\$100-\$200 w/optional rebuys & add-ons), including a DeepStack event Thurs. (\$200, 6p, 7.5K chips, 25-minute levels).	High hands (Sun. & Wed.); aces cracked (Mon., Tue., Fri.); Splash Cash (Thurs.). Call for details and times.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES (337) 430-2407 • lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$70, 6:30p); Fri. (\$60, noon & \$90, 6:30p); Sat. (\$115, noon); Sunday KO (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; minor jackpots daily; cash giveaways Mon.-Thurs.
PARAGON CASINO (800) 946-1946 x1975 • paragoncasinosort.com	Mon. KO (\$20 w/\$15 rebuys, 7p); Tue. (\$18, 10:30a); Fridays (\$60 w/one \$50 rebuy, 7p).	Bad beat in hold'em; get paid (24/7) for quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125); high hands pay \$50 (Wed.).

MICHIGAN

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

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

MISSISSIPPI

AMERISTAR VICKSBURG (601) 630-4996 • ameristar.com/vicksburg	Thursdays, (\$70, 7p) w/one optional add-on.	Mini bad beat (quads over aces full) pays 10 percent of full bad beat (any quads).
BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO (228) 386-7092 • beaurivage.com	Mon.-Thurs. (6p); Tue. & Thurs.-Sun. (noon). Tourneys vary and include guaranteed prize pools, bounty and deepstack events. See ad on Page 13 for Gulf Coast event.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; aces cracked; Omaha/8 promotion; cash drawings; tournament leaderboard. Call for promotion details.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI (228) 436-8999 • boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad beat is 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). Gold Strike World Poker Open, July 21-Aug. 8 w/\$3,125 championship event (call for complete schedule).	Bad-beat jackpots (call for details); win \$100 every other hour (Mon.-Fri., 3a-10a); get paid to play (25 hours minimum).
HARD ROCK BILOXI (228) 374-7625 • hardrockbiloxi.com	Mon. (\$35, 3p); Thurs. (\$25, 3p); Fri. (\$45, 3p); Sat. (\$50 w/add-on, 3p); Sun. (\$55, 3p).	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads; Hard Rock Jackpot Hands; Four of a Kind Blows My Mind. Call for details.
HARLOW'S CASINO (662) 335-9797 x144 • harlowscasino.com	Tue. (\$65, 7:30p, 6K chips); Saturday satellites (\$35-\$65, 4p); Battle at the Foot of the Bridge (\$65-\$250). Call for tournament and satellite schedule.	Bad beat is aces full of 10s beaten by quads or better; hourly high hands (Wed.); Friday Flat Screen Frenzy (tickets to raffle on first Friday of every month).
HARRAH'S TUNICA (800) 946-4946 x33760 • harrahstunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110), including a Thursday \$1.1K guarantee (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p). Thursdays also feature a \$50 event w/one rebuy (6p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud; progressive royal single-table promotion (call for current payouts).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS (866) 758-2591 x4026 • hollywoodcasinobs.com	Monday and Wednesday (\$30 w/rebuys, 6:30p).	High hand wins \$50 (Mon. & Wed.); Early Bird Special and aces cracked (\$100) from Fri.-Sun. (10a-2p); aces cracked progressive (Tue., 10a-10p) pays up to \$500.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA (800) 871-0711 x5005 • hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$40). Mon., Wed., Thurs. (6p); Fri. & Sat. (7p); Sat. & Sun. (2p); Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 w/rebuys and \$20 add-on, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (must be in \$3-\$6 or higher) and Omaha.
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA (662) 357-5608 • horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$40). Mon., Wed., Thurs. (6p); Fri. & Sat. (7p); Sat. & Sun. (2p); Sunday \$1K guar. (\$10 w/rebuys & \$20 add-on, 2p).	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em. Flush Frenzy (\$100) if you make a flush in every suit during your session.
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA (888) 946-2847 x8554 • ipbiloxi.com	Daily (\$60, noon), but Thursday events are \$120 (noon).	Poker Squares pay up to \$1K (Sun. & Mon.); aces cracked pays \$100 (Tue. & Thurs., 4p-midnight); high hands pay \$100 hourly (Mon., 8a-4p & Wed., 8a-midnight).
ISLE CASINO HOTEL BILOXI (228) 436-7967 • biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$45, 3p); Tue. (\$60, 2p); Wed. KO (\$40 w/rebuy, 7p); Thurs. (\$45, 2p); Fri. (\$60, 3p); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuy, 3p); Sun. (\$20 w/rebuy, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em and Omaha; high-hand jackpots (call for details); aces full or better special (Sun.-Fri., 11a-11p).
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA (800) 456-0711 • samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$80), including a \$3K guarantee on Saturdays (\$20, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; live action bonus (Sat. & Sun., 7a-11a); single-table mini bad beat pays up to \$3K.
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO (866) 775-4773 x3766 • silverslipper-ms.com	Mon. Turbo KO (\$45, 6p); Thurs. KO (\$75, 7p); Sat. Turbo KO (\$45, noon); Sun. PLO (\$65, 6:30p).	Bad beat in hold'em and Omaha; aces cracked wins up to \$300 (Tue., Thurs., Fri., Sat.). Splash the Pot (Mon. & Wed.).
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) (601) 650-1234 • pearlriverresort.com	Daily (\$35-\$60), including a \$2.5K guar. on Saturdays (\$60, 2p). Start times for events are Mon.-Thurs. (7p) & Fri.-Sun. (2p).	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad sevens) and stud (quads); diamond royals pay \$500.

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

MISSOURI

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

NEVADA

ALIANTE STATION (702) 692-7484 • aliantecasino.com	Daily (\$30, noon); Mon., Tue., Sun. (\$50, 7p); Wed.-Sat. KO (\$65, 7p).	Multi-room Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 29.
ARIA (866) 359-7111 • arialsvegas.com	Twice daily at 1p & 7p (\$125, 8K chips, 30 min levels); Vanessa Rouso Main Event Prep Camp, July 7 (call for details).	No jackpots.
ATLANTIS CASINO RENO (800) 723-6500 • atlanticasino.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$40, 11a); Mon., Tue. & Thurs. (\$55, 6:30p); Fri. (\$120, 7p); Sat. & Sun. KO (\$75, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads and pays \$50K; daily high hands; get paid for quads or better; poker room comp points (call for details).
BALLY'S LAS VEGAS (702) 967-4111 • ballyslasvegas.com	Daily at 11a, 4p and 8p (\$75, 5K chips, 20-minute levels).	High hands pay quads (\$50), straight flush (\$250) and progressive royals (starting at \$1K); Round Table Royals pays up to \$599 to entire table when royal hits.
BELLAGIO (702) 693-7111 • bellagio.com	Daily at 2p (\$225-\$1,080); Bellagio Cup VII starts July 10 w/\$10K main event July 12 (call for complete schedule).	No jackpots.
BINION'S GAMBLING HALL (702) 382-1600 • binions.com	Daily (\$60-\$100) at 10a, 2p, 7p and 10p; 5th annual Binion's Classic (\$100-\$1,000) runs until July 11 w/main event starting June 30 (\$1,000, noon).	Progressive high hand (daily) pays for quads starting at \$50; straight/royal flush starts paying at \$100.
BOULDER STATION HOTEL & CASINO (702) 432-7777 • boulderstation.com	No tournaments.	Multi-room progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed; high hand (Wed.); aces cracked (Thurs.); \$500 high hand (Sun.).
CAESARS PALACE (702) 731-7110 • caesarspalace.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$65, 9a; \$80, noon; \$65, 3p; \$100, 7p; \$80, 10p); Sat. & Sun. (\$225, 2p); Summer Mega Stack runs through July 15 (call for complete schedule).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K (24/7); high hands; payouts for quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$500).
CANNERY CASINO (866) 999-4899 • cannerycasinos.com	Nightly (\$25, 7p); \$10K monthly freeroll (play 40 hours minimum to qualify).	Progressive high-hand jackpot; aces cracked (daily).
CIRCUS CIRCUS LAS VEGAS (702) 734-0410 • circuscircus.com	Sunday freeroll at noon (play 15 hours minimum, 20 hours max); \$3 rake on all games.	High hand; aces cracked; get paid for quads, straight flush and royals.
COLORADO BELLE HOTEL CASINO (702) 298-4000 • coloradobelle.com	Daily (\$30, 10a); Mon.-Fri. & Sun. (\$50, 7p); Sat. KO (\$100, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha/8 and stud; aces cracked pays \$25-\$100 (24/7); Super Beat pays \$10K guaranteed; quads of the day pays \$100-\$400.
ELDORADO HOTEL CASINO (775) 786-5700 • eldoradoreno.com	Tue.-Thurs. (\$55, 6p, 7,500 chips, 20-minute levels). Play in any live hold'em game after tournament and get a \$20 bonus.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and stud; quads or better paid daily. Call for promotions and for the monthly freeroll information.
EXCALIBUR HOTEL AND CASINO (702) 597-7777 • excalibur.com	Daily (\$25, 9a; \$40, 1p & 5p; \$30, 8p) w/one rebuy and add-on; \$500 first prize guarantee on Saturday (\$40, 9p).	Bad beat in hold'em is aces full beaten by quads; spin the wheel pays \$20-\$300 for quads or aces cracked.
FLAMINGO LAS VEGAS (702) 733-3111 • flamingolasvegas.com	Daily (\$65, 10a & 6p).	High hand pays quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royal (\$250); aces cracked pays \$100 (8a-2p); double high hands (daily, 8a-2p).
GOLDEN NUGGET LAUGHLIN (702) 298-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily at 10a, 3p, 7p and 10p (call for buy-ins).	Progressive high hands (call for details).
GOLDEN NUGGET LAS VEGAS (702) 385-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily (\$65) at 11a, 3p, 7p, 10p, 1a, and 4a; Grand Poker Series championship event, July 2 (\$1,080, noon).	High hand between 2a-2p wins twice the jackpot.
GRAND SIERRA RESORT (775) 789-2000 • grandsierraresort.com	Daily (\$18, 9a & \$55, 11a); Sun.-Fri. (\$55, 6:30p); \$450K guar. Summer Pot of Gold series, July 21-31 (\$100-\$1,080) w/main event on July 30 (\$1,080, noon).	Aces cracked pays \$50 (Sun.-Thurs.).
GREEN VALLEY RANCH (702) 617-7777 • greenvalleyranchresort.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. Omaha h/l (\$40, 7p); Tue. & Thurs.-Sun. (\$40 w/rebuys, 6p); Wed. H.O.R.S.E. (\$40, 7p).	Multi-room Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 29.
HARD ROCK LAS VEGAS (702) 693-5000 • hardrockhotel.com	Daily (\$55, noon & 8p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quad aces; progressive high hand jackpot pays quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
HARRAH'S LAKE TAHOE (775) 588-6611 • harrahslaketahoe.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80, 6p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sun. (\$115, 2p).	Progressive rewards jackpot is quad nines.
HARRAH'S LAS VEGAS (702) 369-5000 • harrahslasvegas.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. & Wed. (\$60, 6p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80, 6p); Fri. (\$100, 6p); Sun. (\$115, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; progressive rewards jackpot is quad nines or better; get paid for straight and royal flushes.
IMPERIAL PALACE (800) 634-6441 • imperialpalace.com	Mon.-Fri. at noon, 3p and 8p (\$40); Sat. & Sun. (\$25 w/rebuys, 9a).	Aces cracked; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).
LUXOR HOTEL & CASINO (702) 262-4000 • luxor.com	Daily (\$35, 10:30a); (\$60, 12:30p); (\$60, 8:30p).	High hand (24/7) pays quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$500).
M RESORT (702) 797-1000 • themresort.com	Daily (\$55, 10a & 6p), including Wed. KO (\$125, 6p); Thurs. KO (\$125, 10a); Fri. & Sat. (\$75, 6p).	Progressive high hand; mini bad beat is aces full; aces cracked (Thurs.); Splash Pots (Sun.); Ladder of Loot Jackpot (call for details).
MANDALAY BAY (702) 632-7777 • mandalaybay.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 10a; \$50, 3p & 7p); Fri.-Sat. (\$40, 10a; \$50, 1p; \$100, 5p); Sun. (\$50, 11a & 2p; \$100, 5p).	Tiered high-hand bonus (Mon. & Thurs.) pays to flop it (\$500), turn it (\$250) and river it (\$125).
MGM GRAND LAS VEGAS (702) 891-1111 • mgmgrand.com	Daily (\$80) at 11:05a and 7:05p.	No jackpots.
MIRAGE (702) 791-7111 • mirage.com	Daily (\$60, 11a & 7p).	Bad beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$5K/\$2.5K & \$599 to entire table; aces cracked pays up to \$150 (daily, 8a-1p); high hands; flopped royals pays entire table.
MONTE CARLO RESORT & CASINO (702) 730-7777 • montecarlo.com	Daily (\$50, 9a) & (\$60, 6p & 11p); monthly freerolls.	Progressive high-hand jackpot is quads or better; aces cracked.
MONTEGO BAY CASINO (775) 664-4000 • wendoverfun.com	Mon. (\$30, 8:30p); Thurs. (\$40, 8:30p); Fri.-Sat. (\$30, noon); Sun. (\$40, 8:30p). All tournaments have rebuys.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush jackpot; quads get paid.
THE ORLEANS (702) 365-7111 • orleanscasino.com	Daily (\$75, noon & 7p) except Friday (\$125, 7p). Variations include hold'em, Omaha/8 and H.O.R.S.E.	Top point-earners per month will share a progressive prize pool.
PALACE STATION (702) 367-2453 • palacestation.com	No tournaments.	Multi-room Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 29; high hand of the hour (Mon.-Fri., 3a-11a).
PALMS CASINO (702) 942-7777 • palms.com	Federated Poker League in August, featuring a pro-am, charity and a main-event tournament (Call about satellites). Ante Up mini-tournament, July 1 (\$70, 8p).	Early bird promo pays \$25 every hour between 8a-1p; earn up to \$200 per day by playing live cash games.
PEPPERMILL RESORT CASINO (775) 826-2121 • peppermillreno.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$35-\$115) at 2p & 6:30p; Sat. (\$115, 1p & 6:30p); Sun. (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p & 6:30p).	High hands; get paid for straight flushes and royals.

* 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
PLANET HOLLYWOOD (702) 785-5555 • planethollywoodresort.com	Daily (\$70) at 10a, 2p and 7p.	High-hand jackpots; quads pay \$100; straight and royals are progressive starting at \$250.
RAINBOW HOTEL & CASINO (775) 664-4000 • wendoverfun.com	Tournaments start at 8:30p; Mon. (\$30 w/rebuys and add-on); Tue. (\$10 w/rebuys and add-on); Fri. (\$50 w/rebuys); Sat. (\$50).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; royal-flush jackpot; quads get paid.
RED ROCK CASINO (702) 797-7777 • redrocklasvegas.com	Daily (\$100, 10a); Sun.-Thurs. (\$60, 6:30p).	Multi-room Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 29.
RIO CASINO (702) 777-7777 • riolasvegas.com	Daily (\$65, 10a & \$80, 9p); 42nd Annual World Series of Poker \$10K main event starts July 7.	Progressive royals start at \$1K; cash drawing pays \$100 at 5a, 7a, 9a and 11a; Graveyard Trip Comps (daily, 3a-noon) pays \$3/hr instead of \$1/hr.
RIVERSIDE RESORT (702) 298-2535 • riversideresort.com	Daily turbo at 10a, 5p and 11:30p (\$15); Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat. (\$50, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; aces cracked in hold'em and Omaha; high hands pay quads (\$25-\$50), straight flush (\$100), royal (\$300).
SAM'S TOWN LAS VEGAS (702) 456-7777 • samstowntnlv.com	Daily (\$23, 10a) & daily, except Tue. (\$30 w/rebuy, 1:30p); Fri.-Sat. deepstacks (\$45 w/rebuy, 7p & 11p); Omaha/8 and pineapple tournaments available.	Uncapped progressive high hands; aces cracked pays \$50 (midnight-noon & 4p-9p); bad beat jackpot is aces full of 10s beaten by quads and pays \$10K.
SANTA FE STATION CASINO (702) 658-4900 • santafestationlasvegas.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$45, 7p); Mon.-Sat. (\$45, noon); Fri.-Sat. (\$45, 6p).	Multi-room Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 29; tournament bad beat in hold'em.
SOUTH POINT HOTEL CASINO (702) 796-7111 • southpointcasino.com	Daily KO (\$60) at 10a, 2p and 7p (unlimited re-entries during first hour).	Bad-beat progressive pays \$25K minimum; players earn comps while playing (call for details).
STRATOSPHERE (702) 944-4915 • stratospherehotel.com	Daily at 11a, 7p and 11p (\$45 w/\$20 add-on).	Royal and straight-flush progressive jackpots; high-hand progressive jackpot; get paid for quads, straight flushes and royals.
SUNCOAST HOTEL & CASINO (702) 636-7111 • suncoastcasino.com	Daily at 10a & 7p; Tue., Thur. & Sat. (\$45 w/\$20 add-on, 10a); Wed. & Sun. KO (\$45 w/\$20 bounties, 7p).	High-hand bonus for quads or better; earn comp dollars for playing live games.
SUNSET STATION (702) 547-7982 • sunsetstation.com	No tournaments.	Multi-room Jumbo progressive bad-beat in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guar. See ad Page 29; aces cracked (Tue.); Four Flushers (call for details).
TEXAS STATION (702) 631-1000 • texasstation.com	Daily (\$45, 6p, 5K chips, 20 min levels).	Multi-room Jumbo progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em starts at quad sixes and pays \$100K guaranteed. See ad Page 29.
TREASURE ISLAND (702) 894-7111 • treasureisland.com	Daily (\$50) at 11a, 2p, 7p and 10p; weekly \$2.5K freeroll every Sunday (10a).	High-hand jackpot pays straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$599); quad spins win up to \$500.
TROPICANA EXPRESS (702) 298-4200 • tropicanax.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$30, 6:30p); Sat. (\$30, 2p).	High hands pay quads, straight flushes and royals; aces cracked.
VENETIAN RESORT (702) 414-1000 • venetian.com	Daily (\$120-\$340) at noon & 7p; 2011 Deep Stack Extravaganza III runs until July 15 (\$340-\$5,000) w/main event on July 13 (\$5,000, noon).	No jackpots.
WYNN LAS VEGAS (702) 770-7000 • wynnlasvegas.com	Daily (\$120, noon, 10K chips, 30 min levels). Wynn Classic Summer Guarantee runs until July 12 (call for complete schedule).	No jackpots.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

NEW JERSEY

BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-2000 • ballysac.com	Daily (\$55-\$120); Mon.-Thurs. & Sat. (1p & 7p); Fri. (1p & 8p); Sun. (1p & 6p); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multi-room bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
BORGATA HOTEL CASINO (609) 317-1000 • theborgata.com	Daily (\$100-\$340); Mon.-Thurs. (11a & 7p), Wed. (11p), Fri. (noon, 6p & 11p), Sat. (11a & 6p) and Sun. (11a & 3p).	Bad beat jackpot in hold'em is quad tens; mini bad beat in hold'em is quad deuces-nines.
CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY (609) 348-4411 • caesarsac.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$120, 1:15p & 9:15p); Fri. (\$120, 1:15p & \$200, 9:15p); Sat. (\$200, 1:15p & 9:15p); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multi-room bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 441-5000 • harrahsresort.com	Daily at 10:15a, 1:15p, 8:15p and midnight (\$70-\$125); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multi-room bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
SHOWBOAT ATLANTIC CITY (609) 343-4000 • showboatcasino.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$65, 11a, 2p, 7p); Fri. (\$65, 11a, 2p); Sat. (\$100, 11a, 2p, 7p); nightly (\$50, 11p); winners of each tournament will be invited to the \$10K TOC freeroll.	Harrah's AC multi-room bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit.
TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-4000 • tropicana.net	Daily (\$62, 11:15a & 7:15p), including a Fri. (\$122, 7:15p) and Sat. (\$122, 11:15a & 7:15p).	Bad beat in hold'em is quads (\$282K at press time); tournament bad beat. Ask about the 38 Special promotion jackpot (call for details).
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 in hold'em is quads (\$276K at press time); high hands are entered into drawings to win \$1K; 50-50 club (call for details).

NEW YORK

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

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

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

OKLAHOMA

BORDERTOWN CASINO (800) 957-2435 • bordertownbingo.com	Daily at 2p and 7p; Mon. (\$20); Tue., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. (\$30); Thurs. (\$30/\$45); monthly DeepStack event, July 9 (\$100 w/\$50 add-on, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
CHEROKEE CASINO ROLAND (800) 256-2338 • cherokeecasino.com	Mon. (\$50, 7p); Wed.-Sun. (\$30 w/rebuys, 1p); Wed. \$2K guar. (\$60, 7p); Thurs. (\$60, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 7p); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuys, 5p); Sun. (\$60, 5p).	High hands; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$250).

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

OKLAHOMA (Continued)

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
CHEROKEE WEST SILOAM SPRINGS (918) 422-5100 • cherokeecasino.com	Daily (\$30-\$70) at 10a & 7p with exceptions on Sat. (\$115, 5p) and Sun. (\$60, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K.
CHOCTAW RESORT CASINO (580) 920-0160 • choctawcasinos.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$60-\$115) at 2p & 7p; Sat. (\$225, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads.
DOWNSTREAM CASINO RESORT (918) 919-6000 • downstreamcasino.com	Daily (\$25-\$60); Mon.-Sun. (11a); Mon.-Thurs. (7p); Fri. (2p); Sat.-Sun. (3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em; tournament bad-beat jackpot.
FIRELAKE GRAND CASINO (405) 964-7263 • firelakegrand.com	Mon. (\$30, 11a & \$30 w/rebuys, 7p); Tue.-Wed. (\$15, 11a & \$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$30, 11a & \$70, 6p); Sat. (\$120, 2p).	Aces cracked (Mon.-Thurs.); high hand (Wed.).
FIRST COUNCIL CASINO (580) 448-3015 • myfirstwin.com	Tue. \$1K guar. (\$25 w/\$20 rebuys, 7p); Wed. \$1K guar. (\$40, 7p); Thurs. \$1.5K guar. (\$65, 7p); Sat. \$1.2K guar. (\$55, 3p); Sun. (\$70, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpots; splash pots pay \$100; high-hand bonuses.
HARD ROCK TULSA (918) 384-7800 • hardrockcasinotulsa.com	Daily; ask about future satellites to major events.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K.
LUCKY STAR CONCHO (405) 262-7612 • luckystarcasino.org	Harley Hold'em final freeroll tournament, July 16 (3p) w/first place winning a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle.	Call for promotions.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR BARTLESVILLE (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarelml.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$30 w/\$10 rebuys and add-on, 2p); Sat.-Sun. KO (\$30, 1p); \$5K quarterly freeroll (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR SAND SPRINGS (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarelml.com	Daily (\$30, 3p & 9:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
OSAGE MILLION DOLLAR TULSA (877) 246-8777 • milliondollarelml.com	Daily, \$40, except Saturday KO (\$60, noon); Mon.-Fri. (noon); Tue.-Thurs. (7:30p); Monday PLO (7:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
RIVER SPIRIT CASINO (918) 299-8518 • creeknationcasino.com	Sun.-Fri. (\$50, 9:30a); Mon. (\$40 w/rebuys and add-on, 7p); Tue. Seniors (\$50, 6p); Wed. (\$60, 7p); Thurs. & Sun. KO (\$70, 7p); Sat. KO (\$70, 9:30a).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads; Omaha bad beat jackpot pays \$5K.
RIVERWIND CASINO (405) 322-6000 • riverwindcasino.com	Daily (\$40-\$100) at 11a; Sun.-Thurs. (7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
WINSTAR WORLD CASINO (580) 276-4229 • winstarcasinos.com	Mon. (\$115, 7p); Tue. (\$100, 7p); Wed. (\$60, 1p); Thurs. KO (\$115, 1p); Fri. (\$220, 11a); River Poker Series runs through Sept. 5 (call for schedule).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of kings.

PENNSYLVANIA

HARRAH'S CHESTER (800) 480-8020 • harrahschester.com	Daily (\$60-\$195). Starting times are Mon.-Fri. (10:30a & 6:30p) and Sat.-Sun. (11:30a & 6:30p).	Bad beat in hold'em (call for details).
HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL (717) 469-2211 • hcpcn.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$85, noon); Wed. & Thurs. (\$125, 7p).	Call for future jackpots.
MEADOWS CASINO (724) 503-1200 • meadowsgaming.com	Daily (\$40-\$225); Mon.-Sat. (10:30a & 7:30p) including Fri. (4p), Sat. (3p) and Sun. (1p and 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em.
MOHEGAN SUN/POCONO DOWNS (570) 831-2100 • mohegansunpocono.com	Daily (\$60); Mon.-Fri. (noon & 7p), Sat.-Sun. (10a & 7p); Tue. KO (\$120, 7p).	High-hand promotion (call for details).
MOUNT AIRY CASINO (570) 243-5184 • mtairycasino.com	Fridays (\$100, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of kings.
PARX CASINO (215) 639-9000 • parxcasino.com	\$500K Parx Open Poker Classic, Aug. 10-24 (see ad for schedule, Page 15).	Call for details.
RIVERS CASINO (412) 231-7777 • theriverscasino.com	Daily (\$65-\$555). Sun.-Fri. (noon & 7p); Sat. (noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks.
SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM (877) SANDS-77 • sandsbethworks.com	Tournaments coming soon.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads.

WEST VIRGINIA

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

WISCONSIN

POTAWATOMI BINGO CASINO (414) 645-6888 • paysbig.com	Mon. KO (\$100, 6p); Sun. (\$100, 2p); \$100K Mid-Summer Classic, July 31 (\$440, 10a).	None.
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POKER EVENTS

From Ante Up Sponsors

Win an Ante Up Poker Cruise in July

More than 15 packages for the summer Ante Up Poker Cruise are up for grabs this month. On July 31, Seminole Casino Immokalee near Ft. Myers, Fla., will pick a table at random every hour between 1-10 p.m. and an oceanview package will be added to the next pot. Also on July 31 at 1 p.m., Poker For Life will award two packages in a \$50 event at Kazbor Grille in Gainesville, Fla.



Ebro Greyhound Park near Panama City, Fla., will give one package out each weekend in July, and giveaways are planned at Tampa Greyhound Track, Derby Lane, Palm Beach Kennel Club and Sun Cruz in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

For updated details on all giveaways and more information on the cruise or to book directly scan the tag above with your smartphone's Microsoft Tag Reader or visit anteupmagazine.com/cruise or call Scott Long at (727) 331-4335.

Poker 101 at Derby Lane on July 28

Ante Up's popular Poker 101 courses resume this month at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, Fla.



Ante Up publishers Scott Long and Chris Cosenza teach beginners the basics of Texas Hold'em, including starting hands, mechanics, etiquette and basic strategy. Practice labs are part of the free course.

The class runs from 6-8 p.m. For more information scan the tag at the left with your smartphone's Microsoft Tag Reader or go to derbylanepoker101.com

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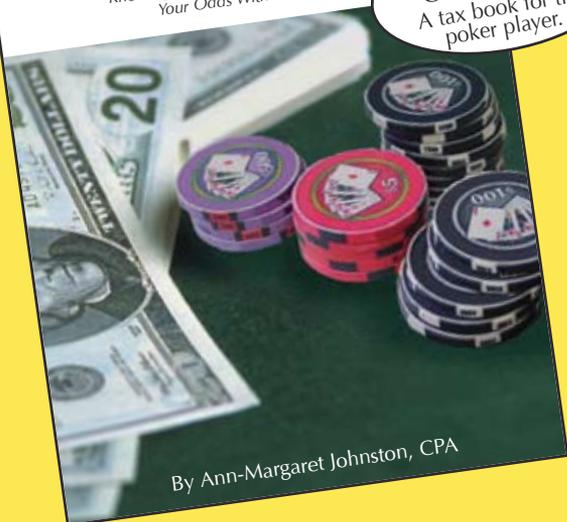
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Q&A

WITH LAS VEGAS MICHAEL

With the World Series of Poker Main Event beginning this month, we thought who better to educate our readers on the ins and outs of Sin City poker than *Ante Up's* Las Vegas ambassador? Michael Hamai's main gig, however, continues to be the reigning Vegas poker expert at AllVegasPoker.com, the pre-eminent source of Vegas poker news. He chatted with *Ante Up* about AVP, being a local in Vegas during the WSOP and the historic Sahara's closing.

We've been visiting Las Vegas for many years now, and the one site we never forget to check before hopping on a plane is AllVegasPoker.Com. Tell us about the site. AllVegasPoker.com was founded in 2004 and it has always been a way for the casual Las Vegas poker player or even the serious player to find out exactly what's going on in the rooms, what to play and what they're looking for. Las Vegas has 58 poker rooms and almost every one is on AVP. We have pictures of every room, a complete tournament database ... we provide the structures, the times, what they can expect as far as cash games and even the traffic levels in the room. We cover everything from cocktail service to comps.

What's it like being a Vegas local during the World Series? It's really still a great time for the locals for the simple reason that during the rest of the poker year ... the games are steady, but a lot of times it's the same players with a rotating group of tourists.

During the World Series it's like poker on acid. (laughs) Every single room is just packed with players. And many people may think, "Oh, they're all World Series, serious players." Believe me, there's a reason all the pros are playing at the Rio, because the money is soft, the games are soft and it's just a great situation.

Even the small dinky locals rooms are affected by the World Series because most poker players are cheap, as we all know, and stay off Strip, and it makes poker rooms great even five miles off the Strip. It really has a ripple effect throughout the entire city. ... It's really just a great time to find all the action you've ever wanted.

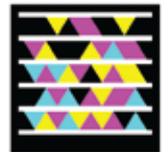
The Sahara, which had great little daily tournaments, is closed now. Who picked up that business? The Sahara tournament was unique. They ran it at 11 a.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.;

it was a \$45 buy-in with a single \$20 rebuy. The rake was horrendous. They were raking up to 33 percent off the initial buy-in. But what people didn't take into account was they didn't rake anything off the rebuy, and like 98 percent of the people took the rebuy, so that decreased the rake to more manageable mid 20 percent levels, which is reasonable for a \$65 tournament. Their 7 p.m. (at its peak) would get over 170 players, which if you think about it, that's paying \$3K for first place on a \$65 tournament. ...

With the Sahara closing, the first casino to jump on that market was the Stratosphere, right across the street, which makes sense. It's diagonal from where the old Sahara is. The poker room manager at Stratosphere is actually the former Sahara manager. So they transitioned some of the staff over there ... and decided to do it the easy way and mirror (the Sahara tournament). They literally mirrored the Sahara's old structure verbatim (8,000 chips, 20-minute levels).

Other than it just being Vegas, of course, are there things that are unique about Vegas poker? The proximity of action. There are 58 rooms all within a 20- to 30-mile radius. There's 10 rooms all next door to each side the Strip. The Strip alone has 800 poker tables. ... If you don't like one room you're gonna walk about an eighth of a mile and be in another room.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the Vegas poker scene since you've been covering it? The single biggest change obviously is the poker boom. ... In 2005 alone I believe 30 poker rooms opened in Las Vegas. Prior to 2003 there was at tops 20 rooms that were spreading poker in Las Vegas. ... The fact that we went from 20 rooms to 58 in basically seven years is kinda crazy. ♠



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JULY TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

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Mondays 12:30PM • \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry • 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15
Tuesdays 12:30PM & 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20
Wednesdays 7/6 & 7/20 12:30PM • 7/13 & 7/27 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15
Thursdays 12:30PM • \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry • 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20
Fridays 12:30PM \$50 + \$10 Re-Entry
Saturdays 10AM • \$85 + \$15 Re-Entry
Sundays 12:30PM • \$100 + \$20

Deep Stack Multi-Table No Limit Hold'em

Wednesdays 7/6 & 7/20 7:30PM
7/13 & 7/27 12:30PM • \$200 + \$40
Fridays 7/1, 7/15 & 7/29 7:30PM • \$500 + \$50
7/8 & 7/22 7:30PM • \$355 + \$45

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