

# ANTE UP

FLORIDA'S POKER MAGAZINE™

**STATE NEWS**  
PHOTOS AND RESULTS

**HEALTHY BET**  
'ROIDS FOR THE BRAIN

**PRO CORNER**  
CHILDS AND NAVARRO

**POKER ETHICS**  
IS THERE SUCH A THING?

**SURVEY**  
WHAT PLAYERS WANT

**ROAD TRIP**  
JACKSONVILLE



LAUREN FAILLA

THE HOLLYWOOD WOMAN LEADS THE CHARGE FOR FEMALE POKER PLAYERS

MARCH 2009 | [anteupmagazine.com](http://anteupmagazine.com)



PAR AND POKER CELEBRITY CHALLENGE, SOUTHERN POKER CHAMPIONSHIP, KARINA JETT Q&A



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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



TAKE WOMEN OFF THE SHORT STACK

The mere fact this column needs to be written means there's still plenty of work to be done.

Perhaps it's because American poker is rooted in riverboats, battlefields and the Old West, or maybe it's because men tend to be territorial by nature. Whatever the reason, women continue to struggle with equality when it comes to life on the felt.

That's not to say female players haven't made incredible strides in poker — especially since the boom in 2003 — because they have. More and more you'll find female players at final tables or in high-stakes cash games on television. Think about some of the great male players who haven't won World Series of Poker bracelets (Hollywood's Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi, Gavin Smith, and Gus Hansen jump to mind), yet there are quite a few women who have won bracelets in open events (Jennifer Harman, who won twice, Cyndy Violette, Annie Duke, Kathy Liebert, Katja Thater, Linda Johnson and Barbara Enright, to name but a few). And these ladies don't have "more testosterone" than other women, as pro Clonie Gowen once said when asked why she was more aggressive than her female counterparts on *Poker After Dark*.

Clearly women can be just as smart, competitive, cunning and determined as men. Yet there still is this kind of "good ol' boys" mentality when it comes to accepting women in poker. Take ESPN's coverage of the World Series of Poker's Main Event. Every year it makes a big deal out of following the final few women still alive in the event, plucking them off one by one until there's just one woman standing. Why is that? And when she ultimately gets knocked out, there's a huge round of applause. Are the guys applauding because they're showing respect? Or are they just happy a woman didn't beat them?

They certainly don't cheer when the next male player gets booted. Is ESPN's gesture a backhanded compliment or is it sincere? If it's genuine, then why doesn't it air the ladies-only event anymore? And why were there grumblings of eliminating the ladies tournament as a bracelet event? Is Harrah's trying to blaze a trail? Is it saying men and women are equals at the table so let's do away with gender-based tournaments? Perhaps.

Annie Duke once was interviewed during ESPN's coverage of the WSOP ladies tournament as she played in an open event. Essentially she said she chooses to play open events because women don't need their own event and can compete and excel among the men. Not every woman would agree, and not because they're intimidated or feel unequal, but because the sheer numbers make it difficult to win any tournament. Many female players choose to play ladies-only events for camaraderie, value and to raise awareness to help increase the female numbers.

Another woman doing her part to bring equality to female poker players is the subject of our cover story: Florida's Lauren Failla. She's the founder and owner of the High Heels Poker Tour, an organization dedicated to empowering women at the poker table and striving to give them opportunities and recognition.

*Ante Up* is proud to work with HHPT and is honored that Failla has agreed to write a Women In Poker column for us. Look for her story on page 26, and be sure to read her column (page 41), which will introduce readers to some of the finest female players in the state (and beyond) while offering insight to what it's like to be a woman seated at the felt.

We'll see you at the tables.

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long  
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# Par & POKER

*Celebrity Challenge for Charity*

Poker players and celebrities descended upon the Silks Poker Room at Tampa Bay Downs on Jan. 29 for night of fun, poker and charity.

*Photography by Brian Glenn*



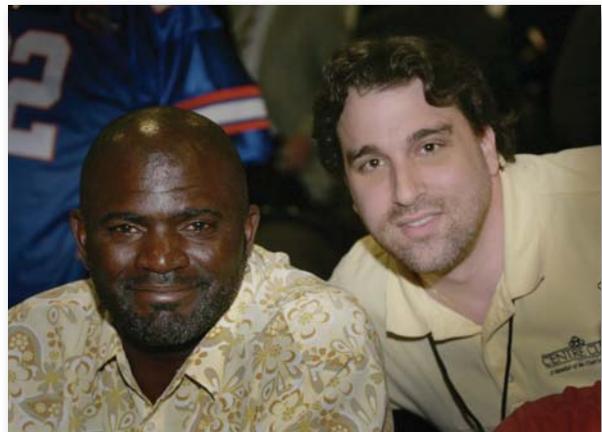
Pro poker player Karina Jett, ESPN poker's Lon McEachern and *Ante Up* publisher Scott Long take a break from the action to preserve the moment.



World champ Greg "Fossilman" Raymer strikes a familiar pose.



Ex-NFL star Seth Joyner, who makes up half of the Joyner-Walker Foundation, was on hand for the poker event.



During a 10-minute break NFL great Lawrence Taylor and *Ante Up* publisher Chris Cosenza smile for a snap.



Poker pro and “emcee” Gavin Smith, center, introduces Alfonso Ribiero to the room while Andy Walker, left, looks on. Proceeds from the evening benefited the Joyner-Walker Foundation and local charities.



Famed boxing trainer Angelo Dundee was on hand, posing for many photos and mingling with the crowd.



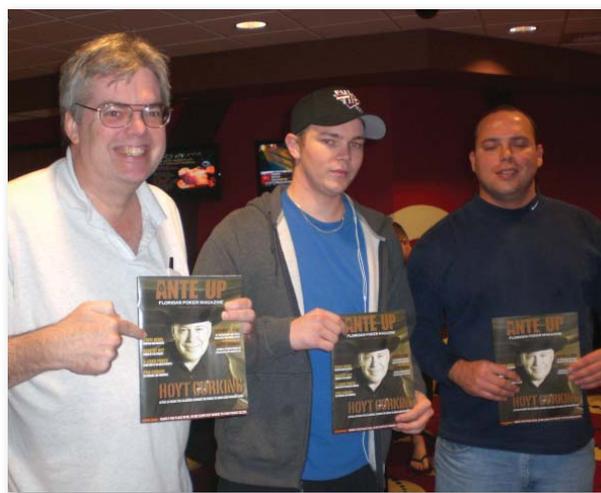
Former baseball star Joe Carter, the man who hit the shot heard 'round Canada that gave the Toronto Blue Jays the world title in 1993, shows off a nice stack early on in the tournament.



Dennis Phillips, the chipleader heading into the first November Nine World Series of Poker final table, went deep in the charity tournament but missed the money. Don't feel too bad; he won \$4.5 million in November.



There were 124 players in the WDAE Poker Club's debut event at Derby Lane, but in the end Barry Hutter, Bill "The Poker Guy" and David Edwards took the top three spots.



## WDAE, DERBY LANE TEAM UP FOR SUPER EVENT

The WDAE Poker Club made its first visit to Derby Lane's new poker room on Jan. 29, and what a visit it was. "The Sports Animal" hosted a \$150 buy-in no-limit hold'em tournament that attracted 124 players for a \$16,000 prize pool.

WDAE-AM 620 placed a bounty on radio host Whitney Johnson, who was felted in Level 5 when his suited connectors fell to an over-pair. His opponent took home a WDAE prize pack, but other prizes were still up for grabs, including poker books, DVDs and two coveted

Super Bowl tickets, which were given to the player with the high hand for the tournament.



Matt Blaxberg, who eventually finished 10th, won the tickets with this hand: With the blinds at 300-600, Blaxberg (with 4K chips) called behind three other limpers with  $K\clubsuit Q\clubsuit$ . Blaxberg had the unbeatable nuts when the flop came  $A\clubsuit J\clubsuit 10\clubsuit$  for a royal flush. First position led out with a bet of 1,200 and while his other opponents folded, Blaxberg smooth-called. The turn showed another ace. His opponent bet an-

other 1,200 and again Blaxberg just called. A meaningless four fell on the river and his opponent immediately moved all-in. Blaxberg called to double up and win tickets to Super Bowl XLIII at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa.

The average stack size at the final table was only about 12 big blinds, making for a very exciting, action-packed conclusion. In the end, Barry Hutter, Bill "The Poker Guy" and David Edwards were the final three standing after a chop was decided. Since their chip stacks were relatively the same, the players chopped the remaining \$8,600 for \$2,866 each.

— Story and photos by Garrett Roth

### Derby Lane to host richest event in Florida

The 600@\$600 Derby Lane Poker Classic will be March 27-29. The prize pool will be a Florida-record \$360,000. You can reserve a seat in this event for \$60 with the balance due upon registration. This event improves upon last year's 500@\$500 Poker Classic, which ended in a multway chop and was just one day.

### Treasure Chest Poker

The Battle of the Bars saw the new Stokers Tampa and Stokers 1 square off in January, but the final table was a lopsided affair. Christina Paar won for Stokers 1, followed by teammates

Jeremy Conway, Doug Brown and Sophie Keil. Will Clark was the only player from Stokers Tampa at the final table. Also, Patti Campbell beat 75 players in the recent Bradenton monthly tournament.

**Charity event:** Treasure Chest Poker will be running the fourth annual American Cancer Society Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament at Emmanuel Community Church in Palm Harbor on March 7 at 6 p.m. The buy-in is \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. For more information email [thenextstepcounts@yahoo.com](mailto:thenextstepcounts@yahoo.com).



### Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

The weekend of April 3-5 will be Seminole Hard Rock Tampa's Spring Poker Extravaganza. There will be an \$1,100 entry fee with a maximum field of 600 players and a guaranteed first-place prize of \$100,000. Blind levels will last an hour and players start with 10,000 chips.

There will be \$100 super satellites every Friday and Sunday at 4 p.m., plus single-table satellites will be available. Last year's Extravaganza was sold out and paid \$170K to the winner.

And finally, the bad-beat jackpot continues to be a huge draw for Hard Rock. Since starting in February 2008, the poker room has paid out more than \$5 million in bad-beat jackpots, including once to local pro John Racener.

The room also continues to pay \$100 to any player dealt a royal flush in hearts, diamonds and clubs, plus they'll get \$500 for a royal in spades.

## PLAYER PROFILE

An occasional interview with a professional poker player from Florida • By Chris Cosenza

### Meet ... Manelic "Manny" Minaya

**Age:** 56

**Hometown:** Manny's lived in Tampa for the past six years, but he used to live in New Jersey.

**Family:** Married to his lovely wife, Mirasol, for 18 years; five children.

**When did he start playing professionally?** "In 2005. (It was) the year Joe Hachem won (the WSOP Main Event) and I finished 61<sup>st</sup>. I also finished fourth in the Omaha/8 tournament that Todd Brunson won. But before I started on the tour I used to play regular home cash games. I've been playing poker for about 40 years."

**Game of choice:** He likes all of the games in H.O.R.S.E. and prefers tournaments to cash games, though he says he still plays cash.

**Favorite hold'em hand:** K-8 suited. "I won a lot of money with that hand."

**Friends:** Manny has been friends with **Jacobo Fernandez** of Hollywood for more than 30 years. "We know each other from New York, back in the late '70s," said Minaya of the *CardPlayer* World Series of Poker Player of the Year. "We've been good friends for a long, long time. We used to play poker together back then, too."

But his closest friend is a gentleman by the name of Nick Bickey, with whom Manny travels to all of his poker tournaments. "Manny and I once traveled to Omaha, Neb. for a WSOP Circuit event in the snow," Bickey said as he sat down during the interview at One-Eyed Jacks in Sarasota. "I cashed, came in first in the \$1K. Then I finished 15<sup>th</sup> in the main event. But enough about me. We go everywhere together. If Manny was single I'd marry him! That's how much I love him!" (Bickey's better half might have something to say about that.)

**How often does Manny travel?** About 10 times a year I leave home to play in events on the tour.



Manny Minaya, left, jokes around with best friend Nick Bickey before the start of the Gavin Smith Invitational at Sarasota's One-Eyed Jacks.

**Does he play online?** "I'm not a big online player. I don't believe too much in online. I don't know what goes on, and the things that have happened before. ... I do play, but I'm not too crazy about it."

**How did it feel to have such a strong year?** "It feels great. But I was very disappointed at the World Series. There were two or three events that I could have gone deep in but I got a couple bad beats."

**WSOP cashes:** He has nine overall, including a remarkable six cashes in 2008, plus he has nearly \$1 million in career tournament winnings.

**What's he think of Florida poker?** "It's really good. I'm impressed with how many good poker players are from Florida. You can see them all over the place, Vegas, Atlantic City, everywhere. I think Florida has one of the best group of poker players in the world."

**What does he think of Florida poker in general?** "I don't understand why we don't have a big main event here in Florida. The WPT or WSOP circuit events should have at least one main event here in Florida."



### All in! Poker Series



All in! Poker Series held its monthly at the Hooters airport on Jan. 17 and Erik Hikda won, taking home \$500 worth of chips for Hard Rock Tampa (plus a gas card to get there). Hikda beat 60 players to win the trophy and has been playing with All in! for almost two years, participating three to five times per week.



Tim Gridley won the quarterly tournament at Playtyme Lounge on Jan. 24 and elected to take home a set of tickets to Universal Studios. And while the picture shows a king-deuce as the winning hand, Gridley's opponent (Jason Khoury) was all-in blind and the king-high took it. There were about 70 players in the event.



# JEFFERSON STAYS HOME, WINS HHPT EVENT



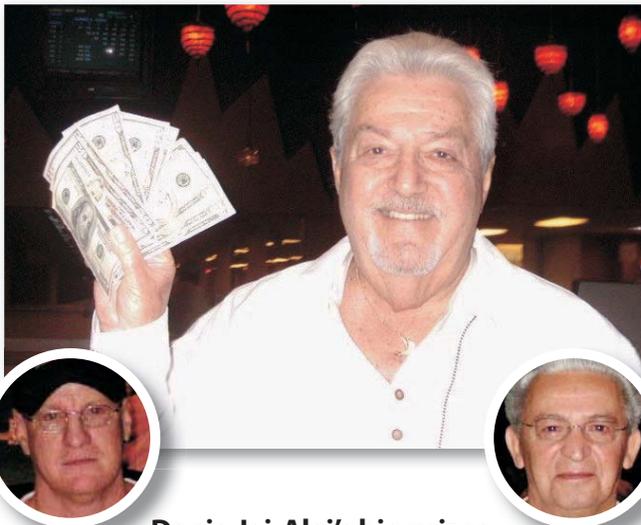
Phyllis Jefferson, a local player from Dania Beach, won the High Heels Poker Tour event Jan. 17 at the Dania Jai-Alai Card Room.

With 86 players in the “ladies only” multitable hold’em tournament, Jefferson was chipleader with three players left when they decided to “chop.” Each player took home \$1,466 with Jefferson earning the trophy as well. The next HHPT event is March 8 at Seminole Hard Rock in Hollywood (\$225 buy-in).

## High Heels final results

Name	Payout	Hometown
1. Phyllis L. Jefferson	\$1,466	Dania Beach
2. Tess Spanolios	\$1,466	New Port Richey
3. Barbara Miranda	\$1,466	Hollywood
4. Tracy Hudson	\$619	Jupiter
5. Danielle Tuvia	\$482	Miami
6. Carol Snyder	\$413	Hallandale
7. Karen Odjick	\$344	Cortland, N.Y.
8. Betsi Harris	\$275	Margate
9. Dawn Fletcher	\$206	Bradenton
10. Sue Travis	\$138	Ft. Lauderdale

Phyllis Jefferson, a regular at Dania Jai-Alai’s card room, poses with her trophy.



## Dania Jai-Alai’s big prizes come in ‘Mini’ packages

Three “Mini Royal Flushes” were hit in a span of two days at the Dania Jai-Alai Card Room over the weekend of Jan. 24.

It started with Michael Bare, left, winning \$374 with a hearts “Mini Royal” on Saturday afternoon.

Then, on Sunday, in a matter of minutes, two more were hit. Joe Marchese, right, collected a nice \$858 bonus with a diamond Mini, and Burt Sherman, above, hit another heart “Mini Royal Flush” for \$345.

A “Mini Royal Flush” only requires the jack, queen, king and ace of a suit instead of all five cards of a normal royal flush. The payout is 10 percent of the accumulating royal flush jackpot.



## Fantasy Poker



Here’s the final table (out of 58 players) from Fantasy Poker’s High Rollers event at Crabby Jack’s on Deerfield Beach. Jackass Alan won, followed by My Sponsor Ricky, Bugman Grant and Captain Vic.

## ‘Cards for a Cure’ charity event for MS to be held March 15 at Dania Jai-Alai’s Card Room

The inaugural “Cards for a Cure” charity tournament will be at Dania Jai-Alai’s Card Room on March 15 at 10 a.m. The event, which is presented by Studio-Z and will raise money to fight Multiple Sclerosis, costs \$60 for 3,000 chips with an optional \$20 add-on (1,000 chips). Rebuys are allowed in the first hour. Go to [www.ZPTMS.com](http://www.ZPTMS.com) or call 954-927-2841 for more information.

**Flagler Greyhound Track's Magic City Poker Room**



**Javier Garcia, Jose Grullon and Jordano Echevarria each won \$5,000 on New Year's Eve as part of a \$25K High Hand Giveaway. Also, Sadany Hevia, far right, won \$49,245 after hitting a royal flush in hearts.**

**Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood**



The Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock's Paradise Poker Room continues to draw plenty of poker players to its Main Event tournament series, and in January nearly \$60,000 was awarded to its winners.

Serge Clerveaux of Miami, top right, was the last player standing in the \$350 Middleweight Division, which had 85 entrants. He pocketed \$8,670.

Juan Mubarek Peralta of Miami, bottom right, won \$15,470 in the Cruiserweight Division, which had 91 entries and a \$575 buy-in.

Thomas Collazo of Davie, at left, was the Heavyweight Division champion, winning \$35,510. There were 106 entrants in the \$1,100 buy-in event.



**Isle at Pompano Park**



**Koreen Ford holds her pocket aces after winning the Chip Dale Memorial tournament.**

**CHIP DALE MEMORIAL EVENT RAISES NEARLY \$6K**

Chip Dale was a poker player, but more important, he was a father. The folks at the Isle Casino's poker room at Pompano Park did their part to make sure both of these points aren't forgotten, holding the Chip Dale Memorial Chariry Tournament on Jan. 25.

Koreen Ford, an All In Free Poker player who often played against Mr. Dale, bested 70 players to win the event and \$1,373.

George Lukawski, an Isle regular, finished second (\$820), while another AIFP player, Yvonne Oulton, finished third and donated \$138 of her \$538 prize to the Chip Dale Children's Education Fund.

After combining 50 percent of the buy-ins with other generous donations from staff and players, the effort raised nearly \$6,000.



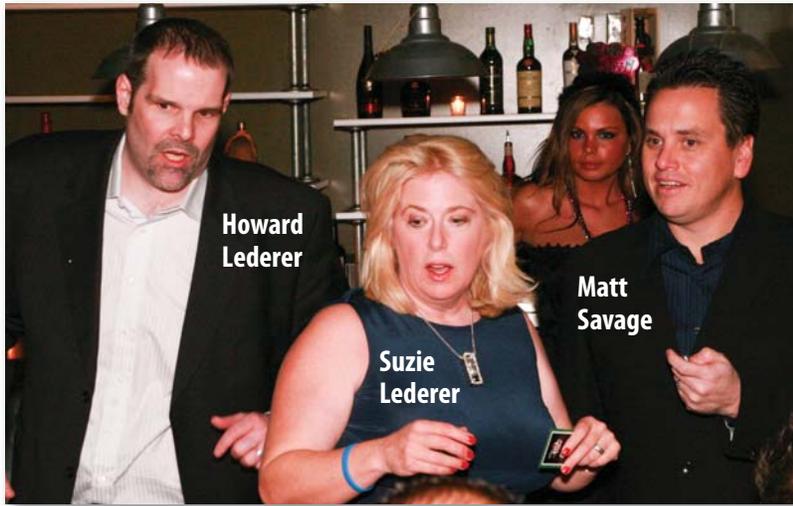
**BATTLES AT THE BEACH SET FOR MARCH 22-29**

The Isle hosts the Battles at the Beach on March 22-29. A \$900 three-day preliminary event with a \$150,000 guarantee kicks off the series, followed by the \$550 NLHE championship, which has a \$50K guarantee for first, on March 25. The series ends with a \$900 four-day heads-up event on the 26th.

Its Isle Poker Classic ended Jan. 4 in an 11-way chop with each player getting a little more than \$19K. The event drew 333 players and John E. Mayers of Ft. Lauderdale was chipleader when they chopped, so he was declared the "winner."

Also, here are the results from its \$30K guarantee, which had a \$440 buy-in on Jan. 19. There were 128 players and a three-way chop on top.

Doron M.	\$8,832	David D.	\$1,434
Marc L.	\$8,832	Stephen S.	\$1,178
Richard S.	\$8,832	Steve R.	\$1,126
Michael L.	\$6,000	Ron G.	\$1,075
David L.	\$6,000	Larry R.	\$1,024
Rudolfo S.	\$6,000	Bruce S.	\$973
Eric L.	\$1,894		



Howard Lederer

Suzie Lederer

Matt Savage



Sherif Hanna shows off the keys to the Harley he won.

## SARASOTA'S HANNA WINS LEDERER CHARITY EVENT

Sherif Hanna was living high on the hog New Year's Eve.

The shift boss from Sarasota's One-Eyed Jacks flew to Las Vegas with his boss, poker room manager Sam Minutello, to attend Suzie and Howard Lederer's private New Year's Eve party and poker tournament.

And when a member of the Full Tilt Poker brass hosts a poker tournament, you can imagine how tough the field would be. Some of the poker celebs in attendance: Andy Bloch, Lee Watkinson, Eric Seidel, Chip and Karina Jett, Keith Sexton, David Grey and Full Tilt CEO Ray Bitar. Famed tournament director Matt Savage, who now works for the Commerce Casino, ran the event.

"Just about everyone who was there could really play poker," Suzie said, "so this wasn't an easy tournament to win."

Hanna would agree.

"I'm not sure if they were playing their best poker," Hanna said, "but it definitely wasn't easy to win. I was playing patiently, just having fun. When you play a winner-take-all you don't think you have a realistic shot of winning. But I was trying to accumulate some chips and having fun at the same time. It didn't hit me until we were down to 11 players, then when we were down to five I thought that's when I had a realistic shot."

Hanna, 24, began his poker career in 2004 as a dealer at the Silks in Tampa when Minutello ran that poker room. Then in '06 he joined Minutello at One-Eyed Jacks as a shift boss. "Sam invited me to go with him (to Vegas) and I'm really appreciative. I got to meet the pros

and they were really nice people. Andy Bloch and I talked blackjack strategy. Howard was really nice, too."

The Lederers' New Year's Eve tournament tradition began in 2002 at their house because no one wanted to go down to the Strip after fears of 9/11, and this was their first one for charity.

"This year we wanted to do something nice," Suzie said, "so we put up a Harley-Davidson for the prize and the money collected went to the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Las Vegas area."

The tournament, which had around 130 people, raised \$12,300, but some players donated more than the \$100 buy-in. All told the event raised more than \$30K for the B&G Club, plus locals brought clothing and school supplies for another charity, Child Haven, making it a very successful evening.

"I just wanted to raise a little money for a good cause," Suzie said. "We had a fun time. I'm glad Sherif won."

But a Harley-Davidson motorcycle wouldn't fit in the airplane's overhead compartment for Hanna's return trip to Florida. Luckily, as fate would have it, Suzie wanted to give the bike to a friend, so she bought "the hog" from Hanna.

"I have no idea to be honest," Hanna said, when asked what he would have done with the bike if Suzie didn't take it off his hands. "I was leaving two days after the tournament. I said, 'I really don't know what to do with it, Suzie.' I worked with her at Mandalay Bay and she remembered me. So that was cool. And luckily she wanted the bike."



Naples/Ft. Myers Poker Scene

### Naples-Ft. Myers Greyhound Track

Hassan Abukhdeir, sitting to the right of dealer Brian Benedon, bested a field of 98 to win the \$550 buy-in \$25K guarantee on Jan. 24. The total prize pool was \$49,000 and the final five players chopped for \$6,556 each, but continued playing for the bracelet, which Abukhdeir won.

Manager Cindy Fra said the deep-stack format was so successful the room will hold one deep-stack event a month.



### Sarasota Kennel Club

One-Eyed Jacks will hold a \$100,000 guarantee heads-up tournament on March 27 at 1 p.m. Scheduled to appear in this \$850 buy-in no-limit hold'em event will be World Poker Tour champion Gavin Smith, European Poker Tour champ (and Sarasota resident) Glen Chorny and World Series of Poker champ Bill Edler.



Smith

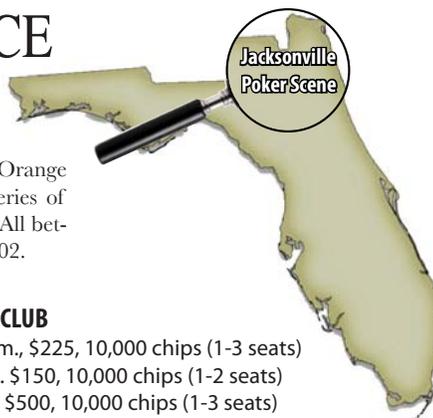


Chorny



Edler

# JACKSONVILLE ROOMS ANNOUNCE WORLD SERIES SATELLITES



Both poker rooms in Jacksonville (St. Johns Greyhound Park and Orange Park Kennel Club) have announced their schedules for World Series of Poker satellites. Each room will host one per month through May. All betting rounds are 30 minutes. For more information call (904) 646-0002.

## ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK

Sunday, March 8, 1 p.m., \$225, 10,000 chips (1-3 seats)  
 Sunday, April 19, 1 p.m., \$150, 10,000 chips (1-2 seats)  
 Sunday, May 17, 1 p.m., \$500, 10,000 chips (1-3 seats)

## ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB

Sunday, March 29, 1 p.m., \$225, 10,000 chips (1-3 seats)  
 Sunday, April 26, 1 p.m. \$150, 10,000 chips (1-2 seats)  
 Sunday, May 31, 1 p.m. \$500, 10,000 chips (1-3 seats)

## Jacksonville Poker Association



Cliff Naslund, left, and winner Jim Madden pose after the final hand.

The Jacksonville Poker Association recently held its year-end final at Aromas Cigar Bar in Jacksonville. For the first time in the JPA's four-year existence, every player eligible for the final attended, and in this case that meant 62 players. But in the end only one would be the winner, and that was Jim Madden, who pocketed \$2,400 in gift cards.

Madden came to the final table as the massive chipleader, and despite the best efforts of second-place finisher Cliff Naslund, Madden wouldn't be denied the title.

1. Jim Madden	\$2,400
2. Cliff Naslund	\$1,200
3. Tony Chavez	\$600
4. Theodore Lichtenstein	\$550
5. John Kittinger	\$500
6. Jeff Reese	\$450
7. Charles MacLaughlin	\$400
8. Billy Marroletti	\$350
9. Tracy Barton	\$300
10. Virgil Cleary	\$250
11. Allen Pitts	\$200
12. Eric Frank	\$150
13. Rowena MacLaughlin	\$100
14. Travis Bowen	\$100
15. Randy Spaulding	\$100
16. Lamonte Crawford	\$100
17. David Booker	\$100
18. Brian Booker	\$100
19. Drew Richardson	\$100
20. Chris Knight	\$50

## CENTRAL FLORIDA POKER SCENE



### Ocala Poker hosts WSOP satellite March 29

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai will hold a \$300 buy-in World Series of Poker Main Event satellite March 29. The field will be capped at 130 players and will pay two seats plus \$2,500 traveling expenses to each winner. This will be the second WSOP satellite at Ocala since it became an official satellite location.

The room held a Super Bowl party and gave away more than \$5K in cash and prizes, including two huge TVs to Kelly Bennett, above left, and Brian Baker, center. Also, Huy Nyugen, top right, recently won a grand prize drawing of two tickets to the BCS championship in Miami plus two-night's hotel accommodations.



It was a packed house on Super Bowl Sunday in Ocala.

### Two charity events in Daytona

• The American Lung Association Daytona Hold'em Charity Poker Tournament and Casino Night will be 7 p.m. April 1 at the LPGA International Golf Club. A seat costs \$125, which includes an open wine and beer bar, tapas, DJ entertainment, raffles and access to all of the casino games. Go to [daytonapokertournament.com](http://daytonapokertournament.com) for details.

• It's the Ante Up for the Animals charity poker tournament, held by the Critter Encounters Wildlife Rescue at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club. The event will be April 9 at 7 p.m. with an \$80 suggested buy-in for 2,500 chips, \$20 add-ons (1K chips) and \$30 rebuys. Winner gets a WSOP satellite seat on April 26. Call 904-254-9245.

# SEMINOLE COMPACT HEADLINES SESSION

By Jim Freer  
Special to Ante Up

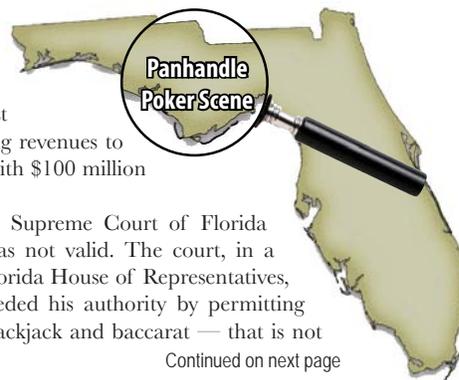
When the Florida Legislature begins its two-month regular session on March 3, one controversial issue will be the gaming compact Gov. Charlie Crist and the Seminole Tribe of Florida signed in 2007.

The compact gave the Seminoles exclusive rights to blackjack and baccarat in Florida and permitted them to upgrade from Class II bingo-like slot machines to Class III Las Vegas-style machines at their casinos. To gain that expanded gaming, the

Seminole Tribe agreed to begin making their first payments from gaming revenues to the state — starting with \$100 million in 2008.

In July 2008, the Supreme Court of Florida ruled the compact was not valid. The court, in a suit brought by the Florida House of Representatives, ruled that Crist exceeded his authority by permitting gaming — namely blackjack and baccarat — that is not

Continued on next page



## Ebro Greyhound Park



Dealers and final-table members pose for a photo before the start of the Super Bowl Showdown.

More than 950 players participated in 54 tournaments since Sept. 4 to earn points for the Super Bowl Showdown at Ebro's poker room.

Almost \$200K was awarded and many players pocketed \$5,000 or more. Gold Star winner (for most victories) John Sexton was guaranteed a spot at the final table. Seven spots were given to the top point-earners: Rick Braun, Mark Lilly (Silver Star winner), Guy, Roger Oelke, Dave Rauschkolb, David Hagadon and Donnie Lunsford. Lonnie Brodman and Gary Allen had to win a Wild Card Shootout to earn their seats and Allen, at right, was happy he did as he eventually won the Super Bowl Showdown.



Richard Murphy, left, won the bad-beat jackpot on Jan. 28 when his quad queens lost to Charley Hicks' quad aces. Murphy won \$26,759 and Hicks, a longtime regular at Ebro, pocketed \$13,378. Players at the table won \$1,911 and everyone in the room playing cards pocketed \$40.



## Pleasure Island Poker

On Jan. 8, Pleasure Island Poker held its monthly tournament at Connie Kay's Flightline Pub in Fort Walton Beach.

There were 76 players who qualified in December, and for a third time in a year Dan Baggish won the tournament and will be returning to Biloxi, Miss. to play in a tournament at the casino of his choice.



Pleasure Island Poker also is holding a charity event March 14 at 2 p.m. The tournament, called Bets Helping Vets, benefits Disabled American Veterans and will be at Scully's on the Bayou. For more information go to [pleasureislandpoker.com](http://pleasureislandpoker.com).



## Hamilton Poker and Jai-Alai

John (No last name was given. His hat says John Deere, though we doubt that's who he is.) recently won two SEC Championship tickets by taking down a tournament at Hamilton Poker and Jai-Alai.

## STATE REPORT

### Palm Beach Princess



Miami's Rudy Siblesz shows his final two cards after winning a World Poker Tour seat Jan. 10. Siblesz will join five other winners from the Princess in April for the WPT Foxwoods Poker Classic's \$10K main event.

Continued from previous page

legal in Florida.

The Seminoles, a sovereign nation, have continued with blackjack and baccarat at three of their casinos.

Many observers expect the Legislature will debate several versions of a new compact, which would require acceptance by Crist and the Seminoles.

The outcome will have an impact on Florida's horse and greyhound tracks, jai-alai frontons and tribal casinos — almost all of which have poker rooms.

Sen. Dennis Jones (R-Seminole) will play a major role in that debate.

"My feeling is that we should not move forward with a compact without also looking at something that would benefit the existing parimutuels, which have been paying taxes and meeting payrolls and in some cases for more than 50 years," Jones said.

Jones represents a district in Pinellas County and is chairman of the Committee on Regulated Industries, which has initial jurisdiction on bills regarding the parimutuel industry.

The horse and dog tracks

and jai-alai frontons in Miami-Dade and Broward counties are the only Florida parimutuels that can have slot machines. They have Class III machines, on which they pay a state tax rate of 50 percent of revenues that is among the highest in the nation for state-regulated slot machines.

As of early February, no bills on the compact and related issues had been introduced in either house.

Jones said possibilities would include a compact that allows the Seminoles exclusivity on the new table games while reducing the slots tax rate for South Florida parimutuels and permitting parimutuels in other counties to have Class II machines.

It is anticipated that some anti-gambling members of the Legislature will oppose any efforts to approve a Seminoles' compact and any changes that would help racetracks and frontons.

Jones pointed out that if Florida does not sign a compact with the Seminoles, federal laws permit them to continue with Class III slots "with the state not getting a dime from them."

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# FLORIDIANS DOMINATE SOUTHERN POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

With Beau Rivage's Southern Poker Championship just a "Sunday Drive" from Sunshine State borders, it's no surprise Floridians invaded Biloxi, Miss., in January. And with the quality of player being produced here in Florida, it's also no surprise they dominated the event.

Jose Torres of Hollywood led the charge, winning the biggest buy-in pot-limit Omaha tournament ever held in the South. He bested his Hollywood neighbor and WSOP Player of the Year Jacobo Fernandez on Jan. 12. The field had just 46 players in the \$5K event, but it was a world-class field nonetheless that vied for the \$213,100 prize money.

Torres, a 38-year-old business owner, took home \$95,895 and the custom-designed white gold and diamond bracelet. He also received an entry into the \$10K championship event.

Some of the big names who joined Torres at the final table: Bill Edler, Michael Binger, Scott Clements and, of course, Fernandez, who won \$53,275 for his second-place finish.

But Torres wasn't the only Floridian earning a bracelet. "Detroit Al" Green, who admits he's never been to Detroit, hails from Weston (just outside Fort Lauderdale) and took home the \$500 limit hold'em championship, pocketing \$28,808. He bested 179 players over two days. But what about that nickname?



"When I was growing up, I had this special haircut," Green said. "It was called a 'Detroit.' So, that's what they all called me. I've never even been to Detroit. I've never even flown over Detroit."

Sarasota's William Lent, 61, joined Green at the final table but was knocked out just 45 minutes in, taking home \$1,746 for ninth. Ponta Vedra Beach's Jim R. Roiz was a force to be reckoned with for about two hours before he finally busted. The lawyer and real estate investor, who won his way into the event through a single-table satellite, turned his initial \$65 investment into \$4,365 for his sixth-place finish.

**Brent Carter**, a 60-year-old former Treasure Island resident who lives in Nevada and Illinois, won the \$500 buy-in pot-limit Omaha event in a five-way chop. Torres finished fourth in this event as well. Carter overcame a world-class field of 165 entrants and collected \$79,284 for first. It was the 13th major tournament victory for Carter, who has more than 150 cashes in his stellar poker career. He also cashed in the stud event, earning \$2,061 for seventh.



Jose Torres shows of his new bling.

Here are other notable finishes by Floridians.

- Brian Anderson of Gainesville was the youngest player at the final table of the \$500 no-limit hold'em event. About four hours into play the 24-year-old moved all-in after flopping top pair (kings) with his K-5. But Justin Wilkerson had A-9 (a nine flopped) and caught a second pair (aces) on the river. Anderson collected \$19,838.

- In the Stud/8 championship, which had 111 entrants and a \$500 buy-in, pro Greg Suki finished fourth. Suki, sporting a University of Florida jersey to celebrate the Gators' national championship, plays mostly online, but collected \$4,845 for his efforts. One of the senior citizens of the finale was 81-year-old Gus Nescal from Key Largo. The retired steelworker won \$3,768 for fifth. And David Eller of Port Orange finished seventh. Eller, who has won two World Poker Open titles, collected \$2,692.

- The ladies' no-limit hold'em championship had 205 entrants, and two Floridians made the final table. Haines City's Hilry Shirey was eliminated in third place. She's the daughter of three-

time WSOP bracelet winner Hilbert Shirey. Third place paid \$5,626. Vicki Campbell, an operations manager from Pensacola, arrived at the final table with the shortest stack, but still managed to finish sixth (\$2,813).

- In Event No. 14, the \$1K H.O.R.S.E. tournament, pro Tony Cousineau of Daytona Beach finished fourth. Cousineau holds the record for most cashes in WSOP history without a win. He was short-stacked throughout, but still managed to finish fourth, good for \$11,349.

- The \$10K main event saw 283 entrants as four Floridians made the final table: Cousineau, Hilbert Shirey (Winter Haven), Jeff Coutroulis (Tampa) and Vanessa Rousso, who went to high school in Wellington and attend Miami Law School. Shirey, a poker legend, had the chip lead briefly, but ultimately bowed out fourth, earning nearly \$185K. Coutroulis was first off the final table (though the TV final table will be six players, as per the World Poker Tour tradition) and won \$31,647. Cousineau went out next, picking up nearly \$53K for his eight-place finish, capping a nice Southern Poker performance. Finally, Rousso went out on the TV bubble, grabbing almost \$80K for her efforts. Two other Floridians made the money in the main event: Jena Delk of Merritt Island (11th, \$26,732) and Yair Alon of Panama City (\$13,186), plus Carter and Ted Lawson, who was listed as living in Plantation during the 2008 World Series, also cashed.

— **Compiled from news reports.**

## Borgata Winter Poker Open

Here's a list of all of Florida's players who cashed in events at the Borgata Winter Poker Open in January. If an event isn't listed it means a Floridian didn't cash in it.

### EVENT 1: \$350 NLHE

64. NECTALIER GONZALEZ (DAVIE), \$1,198

### EVENT 2: \$500 NLHE

37. ERIC PIDERIT (WESTON), \$940

48. JAMES KAPLAN (BOCA RATON), \$806

### EVENT 3: \$750 NLHE

18. ARTHUR GALLINARO (PEMBROKE PINES), \$2,556

19. LENNY DUVDIVAN (SUNRISE), \$2,038

### EVENT 4: \$1,000 NLHE

11. SHARON LEVIN (FT. LAUDERDALE), \$6,839

### EVENT 10: \$260 7-CARD STUD

5. ARTHUR WALTERS (LARGO), \$2,184

### EVENT 11: \$2K NLHE

21. JACOBO FERNANDEZ (HOLLYWOOD), \$3,405

### EVENT 13: \$2K H.O.S.E.

5. MANELIC "MANNY" MINAYA (TAMPA), \$13,440

11. TONY COUSINEAU (DAYTONA BEACH), \$4,368

### EVENT 14: \$3K NLHE MAIN EVENT

7. ORY HEN (HOLLYWOOD), \$114,412

13. MANELIC "MANNY" MINAYA (TAMPA), \$28,984

24. DAVID LEVY (TAMARAC), \$13,729

39. SATURNINO RODRIGUEZ (ROCKLEDGE), \$9,763

47. STEVE KARP (NORTH MIAMI BEACH), \$8,543

52. PHILIP GURIAN (BOCA RATON), \$8,543

56. LAHCEN IMKHAOUN (CELEBRATION), \$7,628

69. RONALD P. GLANTZ (NORTH MIAMI BEACH), \$6,712

73. JEFFRIE CHARLTON (LAKE WORTH), \$6,102

93. IGOR MELOMED (HALLANDALE BEACH), \$4,882

### EVENT 15: \$500 NLHE

24. HOWARD APPELDORF (PEMBROKE PINES), \$919



## NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

JOHN LANIER • A look at Florida's online players and beyond

# POKERSTARS GETS BEHIND ANTE UP POKERCAST

Are you worried about depositing money onto a poker site? What if you could play for real money for free?

PokerStars is now the official site for the famous Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series monthly tournaments. Stars will be sponsoring freerolls into these events for the Ante Up Nation, and each freeroll will be two weeks before the actual tournament, awarding \$150 in seats. That's right, you may never have to buy into an event. Registration for these freerolls opens four hours before their start. Please go to [anteupmagazine.com/aips](http://anteupmagazine.com/aips) for more information about AIPS, including schedule, list of games and many other amenities.



If that's not enough, there are literally hundreds of other freerolls on PokerStars each week. These have real cash payouts, and victories lead to a weekly Round 2 championship. During peak hours (6 p.m. to 3 a.m.), freeroll tournaments have limited enrollment to prevent server overload. They are very popular and you may have difficulties getting in before they fill up. The off-peak tournaments have no limit on number of players.



### Next AIPS event

March 11, 9 p.m. ET, Pot Limit Omaha, \$5+.50. Freeroll satellite is Feb. 25. Details at [anteupmagazine.com/aips](http://anteupmagazine.com/aips).

Everyone has seen hold'em on television and every poker site is driven by hold'em games. But that's not the only game in town when it comes to online poker. Virtually every kind of poker game is available on PokerStars, including Omaha, stud, stud/8 and razz. Also, there are four types of draw poker (5-card, 2-7 triple draw, 2-7 single draw and badugi). And don't forget mixed games such as H.O.R.S.E. and PokerStars' own eight-game mix, which has all H.O.R.S.E. games plus 2-7 triple draw, NLHE and PLO.

Know someone who's still unsure if poker is for them? Have them create a play-money account, which will allow them to get a firm grasp on how to play the game. At the PokerStars.net Poker School, you can learn all you need to know to get started. Practice will be cheap, too, because every tournament game can be entered with play money. Of course these tournaments only pay out more play money. Consider it your training ground until you feel comfortable about moving up to real cash tournaments and games. I look forward to check-raising each of you at the next AIPS event.

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## St. Johns Greyhound Park and Orange Park Kennel Club

Mutt and Jeff, Click and Clack, Mike and Ike, Yin and Yang, peanut butter and jelly, sit and go. You can't think of one without the other. And so it is with the two poker rooms in Jacksonville.

They may be about 14 miles apart, but The Poker Rooms at St. Johns Greyhound Park and Orange Park Kennel Club go hand-in-hand, and not just because Jacksonville Greyhound Racing owns both facilities.

Between both rooms you can find everything you need, and that's not saying either is lacking. It's because no matter which room you choose you can't go wrong. St. Johns is the older brother of the duo, recently celebrating its five-year anniversary, and it has more than 14,000 square feet of poker space. Orange Park opened in April 2008 and complements its sibling quite nicely. Both rooms are incredibly clean and the solid-color scheme is very pleasing to tired poker eyes. About the only way to tell which place is newer is by looking at the two poker chips on the left.

Orange Park's poker room, which has 40 tables and is on the second floor of the kennel club, is closed on Tuesdays. It's open noon-midnight, but



on Fridays and Saturdays hours are 1 p.m.-1 a.m. St. Johns is open every day and has identical hours as Orange Park.

Both rooms are run by director of poker operations, Josh Zuckerman, who has been in the business about 15 years. Zuckerman, who came to Florida from the Connecticut casinos as a pit manager and assistant shift manager, is the face of Jacksonville poker, having been with JGR since St. Johns' in-



ception. He has a poker room manager at each facility, but Zuckerman tries to keep a hand in everything.

"It's a learning curve, like anything," Zuckerman said. "You quickly learn you can't be everywhere at once."

Both places have tableside dining, a full bar, simulcast wagering, ATMs and cash advance machines, plus each has a designated smoking area outside the facility.

Speaking of dining, you can't bring up Jacksonville poker without mentioning the amazing Aces Up sushi bars at each facility. The *Ante Up* brass enjoyed an incredible meal that the chef recommended, and in turn we would recommend the sushi bars to even the most discerning eater.

The poker rooms have Wi-Fi and even share a Web site ([jaxpokerroom.com](http://jaxpokerroom.com)), which hosts a very smart, well-produced video explaining all of the amenities of the

poker rooms. It also posts the bad-beat jackpot totals daily and hosts the tournament schedules for the respective rooms.

Are all of these similarities between the rooms by design?

"We tried to set it up the same," Zuckerman said. "Whatever (promotion) I run (at one room) I'm going to

run over at the other one. I don't want the players to feel like they have to come to one room or the other for the better promotion. If some-



Josh Zuckerman

thing's on sale at one Target, it's gonna be at both. It's not like you have to go to a certain one. It doesn't matter where you live, it's the same service, the same place, every day."

The usual games are spread at both card rooms (hold'em, stud games, Omaha), but the Web site also tugs at *Ante Up*'s heartstrings by listing Crazy Pineapple. No pineapple games were running when we were there, but it's great to know it's an option. Stud players tend to gravitate toward Orange Park while hold'em is predominantly the game of choice at St. Johns.

St. Johns, which has 34 tables and a new lounge area, seems to be the choice for the bigger tournament bankroll, offering slightly larger buy-in tournaments than its Doppelganger. No tournament listed on Orange Park's monthly calendar in January was more expensive than \$65, as compared with St. Johns, which regularly lists \$100 events.

This month each room is hosting a World Series of Poker satellite tournament, and they'll run WSOP satellites in April and May as well. (Please see the story on Page 17)

And if you're intimidated by the prospect of playing poker live for the first time, you can sit at a training table with an experienced dealer, who will teach you the rules of betting and playing.

So what else can you expect from these rooms and staff?

"I'd like to think it's like most rooms in Florida," Zuckerman said. "I think you'll get that professional, friendly style."





**Dania Jai-Alai**

Phone: (954) 927-2841  
www.dania-jai-alai.com

**Tournaments:** \$25 with \$5 bounty daily at 12:30; M-F at 3 (Fridays are \$50); M&W at 6:30 and Sat. (12:30, 4, 7:30 & 11); \$50 w/high hand award Tue. at 6:30; \$50 with \$10 bounty Thurs. at 6:30 & Sun. at 5; \$100 w/7K chips & 30-minute blinds Fri. at 6:30; \$55 every Sun. at 8. Re-entry is allowed into all tournaments for one hour.  
**High hands:** Noon-3 p.m. wins \$200; separate royal flush jackpots for each suit. Ask about Mini Royals.  
**Promotions:** Play Your Way to Cash (see ad); every Wednesday night a hot dog & fries, wings (3), 20-ounce soft drinks, 16-ounce drafts, frozen drinks or regular soft serve cone are each just 99 cents.

**Daytona Beach Kennel Club**

Phone: (386) 252-6484  
www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom

**Tournaments:** Daily, including \$80 No Juice Mondays at 7 p.m., Wednesday Ladies Only at 6:30 (\$25); Saturday, deep-stack hold'em at 2 p.m. (\$225) and Pot-Limit Omaha/8 (\$65) at 6:30.  
**SNGs:** \$40-\$220.  
**High hands:** M-T paid every hour, W-Su every two hours; high hands win \$50-\$100; royal flushes in tournaments win \$1K, cash games \$250-\$500.  
**Bad beat:** Aces full of kings.

**Derby Lane**

Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7  
www.derbylanepoker.com

**Tournaments:** Daily, (1, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Su-Th and 2, 6 and 8 p.m. F-Sa), and pays the bubble with 60-plus players and two bubbles with 100-plus players.  
**Special event:** 600@600 Poker Classic, March 27-29, \$36K prize pool (see ad).  
**High hands:** Royals in hold'em and stud.  
**Promotions: Diamonds are Forever** — Players getting a diamond straight flush Su-Th win a share of \$2,500; **Monte Carlo Days** — Every day from 4-7:30 p.m., quads or better wins \$50-\$500.

**Ebro Greyhound Park**

Phone: (850) 535-4048  
www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com

**Tournaments:** Big Stack Sundays, (\$150, 2 p.m.); World Series Wednesdays (\$30 w/\$20 rebuy, 7)  
**High hands:** Royal flush jackpots and two high hands per day. **Bad beat:** Quad deuces.

**Flagler Greyhound Track**

Phone: (305) 649-3000  
www.flaglerdogs.com

**Tournaments:** Sunday 2 p.m. Winner Take All, 50-player limit (\$25); Monday, 7 (\$75).  
**SNGs:** \$65-\$800.  
**High hands:** From opening till 3 p.m. wins \$100, others at table each win \$25; Happy Hour from 5-7 pays \$250; non-heart royal flushes win \$1K.  
**Other:** VIP card raffles at 3, 6 and 9 p.m. Sundays.

**Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai and Poker**

Phone: (772) 464-7500  
www.jaialai.net/poker.php

**Tournaments:** Monday 7 p.m. (\$75); Tuesday 12:30 (\$55); Wednesday bounty 6:30 (\$85).  
**SNGs:** Thursday-Saturday (\$65-\$110)  
**High hands:** Every two hours Monday and Tuesday.  
**Bad beat:** Aces full of queens (hold'em), quads (stud) and quad jacks (Omaha).  
**Other:** Happy Hour drink specials from 4-7 p.m.; free coffee and doughnuts 11:30-1 p.m. M-Th.

**Gulfstream Park**

Phone: (954) 457-6336  
www.gulfstream.com/casino/poker

**Tournaments:** Daily at 6:30 p.m., plus \$50+\$5 bounties M-W-F and Saturday Special, (\$100, 10K).  
**SNGs:** \$100-\$500.  
**Promotions:** Play in the nightly 6:30 qualifiers and earn points. Top 50 point-earners will play for a Rolex watch and \$10K on March 8.

**Hamilton Jai-Alai and Poker**

Phone: (800) 941-4841  
www.hamiltontownsjaialai.com

**Tournaments:** Thurs. 7 (\$35, final table gets pot splashed with \$50 every 15 minutes), Super Bounty Sunday (every other Sunday) 1, \$35, high hand of tournament gets \$100; Fri. 7 (w/rebuys), \$65; Sat. bounty, \$100.  
**High hands:** Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday wins \$500; quad jacks win \$50 on Thursdays; jackpot for royal flushes.  
**Bad beat:** Aces full of kings.  
**Promotions: Splash the Pot (Mondays):** Every hour, a table is picked at random and \$50 is added to the pot. **10s or Better (Tuesdays & Thursdays):** Win with quad 10s or better and you win \$50 extra. Only one card needed in your hand. **Double Win (Wednesdays):** The highest hand by 5 p.m. wins \$200, and then the same from 5-10 p.m.

**Isle Casino at Pompano Park**

Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 or x5124  
www.theislepompanopark.com

**Tournaments:** \$60-\$550.  
**SNGs:** Including winner-take-all and bounty events (\$60-\$225).  
**Special event:** Battles at the Beach, March 22-29 (see story page 15).  
**High hand:** All royal flushes win \$599.  
**Bad beat:** Call for details.

**Jefferson County Kennel Club**

Phone: (850) 997-2561  
www.jckcpokerroom.com

**Tournaments:** Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. (\$50).  
**High hand:** Royal flushes win jackpot.

**Mardi Gras Gaming**

Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167  
www.playmardigras.com

**Tournaments:** M-T-W-Su (buy-ins vary, \$65-\$150).  
**SNGs:** \$55-\$110.  
**High hands:** Royal flushes win \$599.  
**Bad beat:** Aces full of jacks (HE), quad jacks (O/8) and aces full of kings (stud).

**Melbourne Greyhound Park**

Phone: (321) 259-9800  
www.melbournegreyhoundpark.com

**Tournaments:** \$65-\$880, includes shootout, ladies, heads-up and bounty events.  
**SNGs, bad beats and promotions:** Call for details.

**Miami Jai-Alai**

Phone: (305) 633-6400  
www.miamijaialai.net

**Tournaments:** Saturday Freeroll, 3 p.m.; Sunday \$1,500 guarantee, 1 p.m. (\$30, 50 players max).  
**Promotions:** Visit miamijaialai.net/promotions.aspx for high-hand, bad-beats and promotion details.

**Miccosukee Resort**

Phone: (877) 242-6464  
www.miccosukee.com/entertainment\_poker.htm

**Tournaments:** Super Hold'em Saturday, 7 p.m.  
**SNGs:** NLHE, 7-card stud and Omaha/8.  
**Promotions:** Call for current offers.

**Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track**

Phone: (239) 992-2411  
www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com

**Tournaments:** Sun. bounty 2 p.m. (\$125); Mon. 7 (\$65); Tue. 7 (\$45); Wed. bounty, 7 (\$125); Thurs. noon and 7 (\$65), Fri. 7 (\$65) and Sat. 2 (\$125).  
**SNGs:** Six-player tournament (\$125-\$550)  
**Special event:** Feb. 21 at noon, \$350 buy-in, limited to 150 players.  
**High hands:** From noon to 2 p.m. wins \$300, plus Fri. & Sat. from 7- 11:30 p.m. win \$1K; any royal flush pays \$5,000.

\* Please call the poker room to confirm, and ask for hours of operation, games spread, details, rules and limitations.

## DON'T SEE YOUR EVENT?\*

Tell your poker room managers to email us at [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com)

### Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai

Phone: (352) 591-2345

[www.ocalapoker.com](http://www.ocalapoker.com)

**Tournaments:** Daily (\$65-\$240). **SNGs:** (\$45-\$80).

**Special event:** March 29, WSOP Main Event satellite, \$300, two seats plus \$2,500 travel awarded.

**High hands:** Noon to 5:45 and 6-11:45 p.m.; diamond royal flush wins jackpot.

### Orange Park Kennel Club

Phone: (904) 646-0002

[www.jaxpokerroom.com](http://www.jaxpokerroom.com)

**Tournaments:** Daily, except Tuesday (\$30-\$65).

**Special event:** March 29, WSOP satellite, 1 p.m., \$225, 10K chips (1-3 seats awarded)

**High hand:** \$100 every four hours; royals \$200.

**Bad beat:** Call for details.

### Palm Beach Kennel Club

Phone: (561) 683-2222

[www.pbkennelclub.com](http://www.pbkennelclub.com)

**Tournaments:** \$65-\$200; bounty tourneys on Tuesdays at noon (\$65+\$25).

**SNGs and bad beats:** Call for offers.

**High hands:** First quads and straight flush of the day gets paid.

### Palm Beach Princess

Phone: (561) 818-5771

[www.palmbeachprincess.com](http://www.palmbeachprincess.com)

**Special event:** March 14, WPT Foxwoods satellite (\$340 buy-in).

**Promotions:** Call for offers and WPT details.

### Sarasota Kennel Club

Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054

[www.skcpoker.com](http://www.skcpoker.com)

**Tournaments:** \$40-\$100, plus Saturday \$330 at 3:30 p.m.

**SNGs:** \$40-\$300.

**Special event:** March 27, \$100K Heads-Up Tournament, \$850 buy-in.

Pros Gavin Smith, Glen Chorny and Bill Edler expected to attend.

**High hands:** Quads (hold'em), quad 10s (stud) and straight flushes (Omaha) or better.

### Seminole Casino Brighton

Phone: (866) 222-7466

[www.seminolecasinobrighton.com](http://www.seminolecasinobrighton.com)

**Tournaments:** Monday 7 (\$100); Tuesday 7 (7-card stud, \$80); Wednesday 7 (\$20 w/rebuys); Thursday 7:30 (Omaha, \$130); Friday 7 (\$100) and Saturday 2 (\$65) and 7 (\$200).

**SNGs:** \$42-\$250.

**Promotions:** Call for current offers.

### Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

Phone: (866) 222-7466

[www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com](http://www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com)

**SNGs:** \$55, \$85, \$135.

**Bad beat:** Aces over jacks.

**Promotions:** Call for current offers.

### Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

Phone: (866) 502-7529

[www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com)

**Tournaments:** \$100-\$1,100.

**SNGs:** \$140-\$1,050

**High hands:** Prizes range from \$100 to tournament entry fees. Call for details.

### Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Phone: (866) 502-7529

[www.seminolehardrocktampa.com](http://www.seminolehardrocktampa.com)

**Tournaments:** \$100-\$550.

**SNGs:** \$125-\$1,075.

**Special event:** Spring Poker Extravaganza, April 3-5. There will be an \$1,100 entry fee with a maximum field of 600 players and a guaranteed first-place prize of \$100,000. Blind levels will last an hour and you'll start with 10,000 chips. There are \$100 super satellites every Friday and Sunday at 4 p.m., plus SNG satellites.

**Promotions:** Starting at 10 a.m. every day, the first 25 players with quads or better receive a free entry into the next Super Saturday tournament (a \$100 value). The event guarantees \$5,000 for first and a \$15,000 prize pool.

### Seminole Hollywood Classic

Phone: (866) 222-7466

[www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com](http://www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com)

**Tournaments:** \$30-\$150.

**High hands:** Saturdays-Sundays, every hour from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. top-two hands get \$100; Every Wednesday from 9 a.m. till noon every high hand for that hour gets \$100.

**Other:** Mondays, first 10 players to get aces cracked wins \$100, at 3 and 6 p.m.; first 20 hold'em players (Tue. & Thurs. at 3) with aces cracked win \$100; every Friday, from 2-midnight, every 30 minutes a table will be picked at random and its next pot will be splashed with \$100.

### Seminole Casino Immokalee

Phone: (866) 222-7466

[www.theseminolecasino.com](http://www.theseminolecasino.com)

**Tournaments:** Wednesday, 7 p.m. (\$15+\$5+\$5 dealer toke, with \$10 rebuy); Thursday, 7, (\$30+\$5+\$5 dealer toke, with \$10 rebuy); Friday, 7 (\$50+\$5+\$5 dealer toke); Saturday, 1, Knockout (\$30+\$5+\$5 dealer toke, with \$10 rebuy), 4 Big Stack (\$225, start with 15K chips; \$40 satellites available Mon. and Tue.); On Sundays, Deep Stack, \$115, 10K chips, 20-minute levels.

**High hands:** Quad aces (hold'em) wins \$50, straight flush (hold'em) wins \$100, royal flush (hold'em and stud) wins \$500. Payouts doubled between 12:01-6 a.m. and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. M-Th.

**Bad beat:** Aces full of jacks (hold'em), Aces full of kings (stud).

**Other promotions:** Hot dog and a beer for \$2 from 7-midnight Fridays and Sundays and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays.

### St. Johns Greyhound Park

Phone: (904) 646-0002

[www.jaxpokerroom.com](http://www.jaxpokerroom.com)

**Tournaments:** \$30-\$200, including shootouts, bounties and deep stacks.

**Special event:** March 8, WSOP satellite, 1 p.m., \$225, 10K chips (1-3 seats awarded)

**High hands, bad beats and other promotions:** Call for details.

### SunCruz — Port Canaveral

Phone: (321) 799-3511

[www.suncruzcasino.com](http://www.suncruzcasino.com)

**Tournaments:** \$115.

**SNGs:** \$40-\$60.

**Promotions:** Call for details.

### Tampa Bay Downs

Phone: (866) 823-6967

[www.tampabaydowns.com](http://www.tampabaydowns.com)

**Tournaments:** \$20-\$120.

**SNGs:** \$65-\$535.

**High hands:** Royal flushes win jackpots in hold'em cash games and tournaments; royals in Omaha win \$200-\$599, straight flushes in hold'em win \$200; quads and straight flushes in Omaha win a hat, T-shirt and \$10 food voucher. Quads in hold'em let you play PLINKO. See ad on page 29.

**Promotions:** All day Sunday and 8 p.m. to close Mondays, draft beer is \$1, hot dogs are \$2 and hamburgers are \$4. Prizes, including jerseys and cash, will be given away.

### Tampa Greyhound Track

Phone: (813) 932-4313

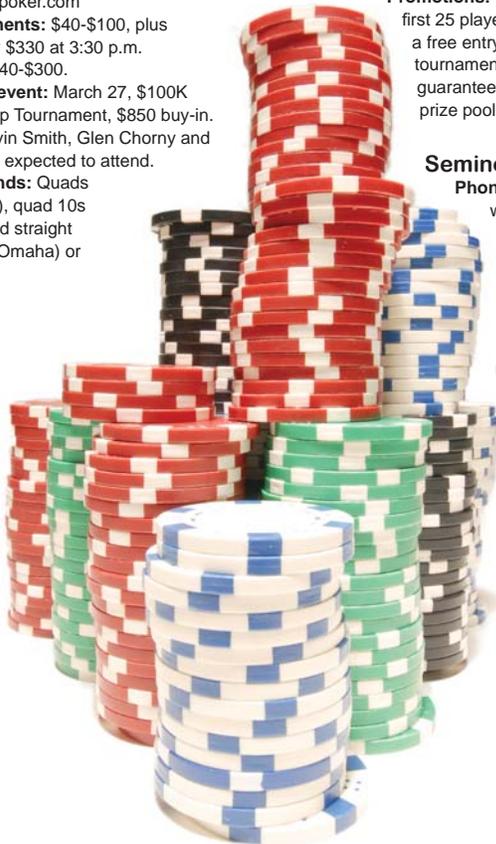
[www.luckyscards.com](http://www.luckyscards.com)

**Tournaments:** \$45-\$200, and bounty event on Fridays; \$45 no-house-fee tournament on Saturday nights; \$80 no-juice tournament Sundays at 3; a Mega Deep Stack Friday and Saturday at 1 and Sundays at 6:30 (\$60 buy-in with 10K chips, 20-minute levels, no antes.)

**SNGs:** \$65-\$500.

**High hands:** Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royal flushes (\$599). Plus high hand wins \$100 on Sundays from noon-3 and 8-11 p.m.

**Other:** Aces cracked wins \$100, noon to 2 p.m.

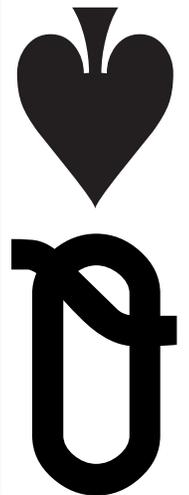
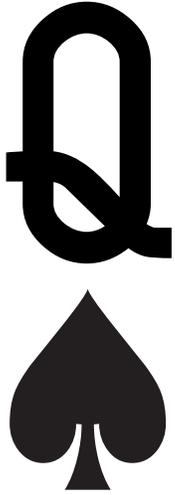


\* Schedules and events are subject to change;

SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted.

# COVER STORY

WOMEN IN POKER



# QUEEN OF QUEENS

HOLLYWOOD'S LAUREN FAILLA IS DOING HER PART TO MAKE SURE WOMEN GET EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED IN POKER.

BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA

*R-E-S-P-E-C-T*, find out what it means to me. Aretha Franklin may have sung the line, but Lauren Failla toes it.

And what Failla is striving for is respect for all female poker players.

"I thought women needed a place or outlet to play," said the Hollywood resident who moved here from New York in 1971. "There was a lack of emphasis on women who play."

From that notion the High Heels Poker Tour was borne. The tour, established in 2007, gives women a chance to compete in an environment that relates to them while providing an opportunity to grow and receive recognition for their poker accomplishments.

But don't misunderstand; Failla isn't Norma Rae. You won't find her outside Florida card rooms holding up an EQUALITY sign. It's not about that, Failla says, because the game of poker puts everyone on a level playing field. Rather, she's just trying to raise awareness for female players and earn them more opportunities to participate in a different setting.

"(The HHPT) brings more women to the game, and by doing events like these, it keeps them coming back to the properties that support women," said Failla (pronounced fie-luh). "Let's be honest, the focus on women and poker has never been at the top of most casinos' priority list. Most of the time they cater to the masses, which are men, but now times are changing, and that's what's important."

Failla, who writes a column for *Ante Up* and is a graduate from the University of Florida, says the strides women have made in poker over the past decade are unprecedented and deserve the spotlight.

"I do a lot of research," she said, "and when I see articles, stories or highlights on women who play, it makes me believe these media outlets and casinos are seeing growth in this small yet strong demographic of the larger poker community, and that the realization that the numbers of women who play in live or online games is growing."

Her tour predominantly visits Florida poker rooms, such as Dania, Jai-Alai, the Isle, Mardi Gras and Hard Rock Hollywood, though it has been to Mohegan Sun in Connecticut and Turning Stone in New York. One of its more recent trips outside the Sunshine State came in New Orleans at Harrah's, as part of the Winter Bayou Poker Challenge. While there, Failla helped launch the Women's Ultimate Poker Academy, which is now known as the High Heels Poker Tour Academy. It boasts such poker instructors as J.J. Liu, Suzie Isaacs, Karina Jett and the Queen of Poker, Barbara Enright, who holds the record for the best finish in the World Series of Poker Main Event for a women, grabbing fifth in 1995.

"Barbara has a wealth of knowledge and experience in this business and knows the good, the bad and the ugly," Failla said of the Poker Hall of Fame member. "Her support and advice has been so helpful. She is a fantastic teacher and very engaging."

The academy was designed to offer women of all levels of skill an opportunity to learn from the best female pros in the industry. With a focus on lab-based learning, players can experience true live hand-by-hand instruction and benefit from interaction in an intimate environment.

"The cost is normally \$1,295 for a two-day academy," said Failla, who has been playing poker seriously for about four years. "But with the economy as it is we're cutting our prices by 30 percent and offering payment options to allow people to comfortably afford this experience."

The next academy is at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood on March 6-7. Those who attend will be entered into the High Heels Poker Tour event at the Hark Rock on March 8.

"Not only do they get two days of pro instruction, but they receive a \$225 buy-in at no additional cost," she said. "It gives the students an op-

Photo of Lauren Failla by Michael Gerfende of Gerfende Photography in Hollywood



## High Heels Poker Tour

The next event for the HHPT will be a combined academy and tournament at Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood. The academy, which will feature poker pro Karina Jett as one of the instructors, will be March 6-7, followed by a HHPT tournament with a \$225 buy-in March 8. Those who attend the academy, however, will be entered into the HHPT tournament as part of their tuition. For more information go to [highheelspokertour.com](http://highheelspokertour.com)

## Failla on Florida poker

Lauren Failla is the founder of the High Heels Poker Tour. She's been around poker her whole life (she remembers throwing chips into the pot for her dad as she sat on his lap as a 6 year old) and she's lived in Florida for most of that time. Here are her thoughts on poker in the Sunshine State.

### How do you feel about Florida poker and its limitations?

Growing pains are never easy, but gaming in the state has come a long way in the past three years. You remember what happened two years ago with the cash-game fiasco (some pots around the state rumored to have reached \$50K). I'm happy the state took a step back. Clearly the casinos were not prepared for the influx, and by taking the step back and creating "temporary" limitations it gives the casinos time to be ready. A \$100 limit buy-in for some who play the higher stakes like \$5-\$10 is not the most optimum choice, but it's what we've got. It's hard to make money, if that's what people do to earn a living. I see what goes on; you sit down at the table with your \$100, and three or four people are "all-in" on the first hand to get some money on the table. I believe within the next couple of years the reins will be loosened and hopefully by then, we'll have Class III gaming. The state has a real opportunity to make Florida into not only a family destination for Disney but for adults as well. This could potentially create more jobs and bring added revenue to Florida. At this point in our economy, this can only be a good thing.

### What direction would you like to see Florida poker take?

Very interesting question. I would like to see tournaments come back bigger than they were before, but realistically I'd like to see poker open its games to higher stakes. Higher stakes will bring a different caliber of player to the game. I hear all of the time from poker room managers that poker is not the cash cow of casinos as many other table games are, and not as much emphasis is placed on promoting it or providing funds to allow the casinos to do a lot of poker promotions. I think the first casino to really take the lead on promoting the game is going to be the big winner in the long run. I don't think the boom is over, even though the economy is in a rut. Women are the largest growing demographic of players, so for the HHPT the best is yet to come.



Ladies love to have fun at High Heels Poker Tour events.

Check out  
Lauren's  
column on  
Page 41

Continued from previous page

portunity to try what they've learned without any additional expense."

Perhaps one of the HHPT students could parlay a victory there into a seat at the World Series of Poker ladies tournament, an event in which Failla has had some success. Yes, she's a rounder (she plays regularly at Seminole Classic, Hard Rock Hollywood and the Isle), and in 2008 she cashed in the WSOP ladies event, finishing 63rd.

"I was hoping to go deeper into the tournament and 63rd was fantastic, but the game is the game," she said. "I had a woman come to the table and stay in with cards that would make you scratch your head. Within a matter of two hours the chips were gone — the same chips that took me eight hours to accumulate. We always say we could have made it further, but I'll never know. What I do know is I walked away with information. Sometimes when you get knocked out after the money, you take what you cash and be happy for the information for next year so the mistakes you made don't happen again."

This year's WSOP ladies event will be June 7 and will cost \$1K. But there were some rumblings last year that the event might get pulled from the schedule. How would that make Failla feel?

"They'd be doing the game a disservice," said Failla, who prefers tournaments to cash games and likes hold'em and Omaha equally. "We are the fastest growing demographic and are the buying power in most families, so I think if the WSOP would take away this event, which I highly doubt, women might think twice about participating in others. Would the WSOP also take the seniors event away? Maybe, but for players who are older and who have been playing longer than the WSOP has been in existence, they would most likely be very angry. The WSOP is a fantastic organization with great plans for the future, which I hope means continuing the ladies event."

Sometimes you'll see men enter "ladies only" events, most notably Miami's ex-baseball slugger Jose Canseco, who entered the ladies' California State Poker Championship in 2007.

"All he wanted was attention," she said, "and he got it. If you are so desperate that that's the kind of attention you want, more power to him and the men who come after him."

Would she object to Canseco playing in one of her events?

"Typically men don't go near these events for fear of retaliation (laughs). But seriously, I only object about the reasoning. I cannot object if the venue allows it; I cannot turn anyone away, but I can tell you this: The women generally make it as uncomfortable as possible for them."

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.



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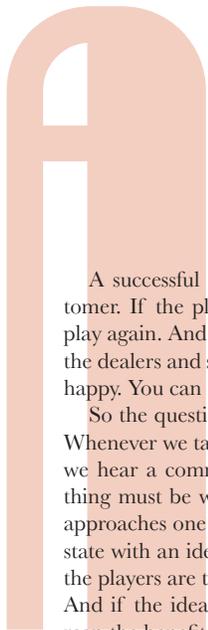
# POLLS APART



Florida players vote on what they'd like to see in their poker rooms.

BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA





A successful poker room starts and ends with a happy customer. If the players are happy, they'll return to that room to play again. And if they're happy while they're playing, they'll tip the dealers and staff generously, and that in turn makes the staff happy. You can see where this is going.

So the question is: How do you make a poker player happy? Whenever we talk to the poker room managers around the state we hear a common theme: "We listen to our players." Everything must be within reason, but for the most part, if a player approaches one of our many poker room managers around the state with an idea, the managers usually are receptive. After all, the players are the ones sitting at these games and tournaments. And if the idea is a hit with the customers, the managers will reap the benefits. Makes sense, right?

With that in mind, we at *Ante Up* wanted to know how poker players felt about certain things you might find in a poker room, here and around the globe. We posted a few polls on [anteupmagazine.com/forum](http://anteupmagazine.com/forum) to let you weigh-in on certain subjects. These polls were in no way scientific; we didn't hire Gallup or Quinnipiac University. There won't be a plus or minus 3 percent allowed for variance. And you didn't get one of those annoying recorded messages calling you at home trying to sway you. These results come strictly from members of our forum who felt compelled enough to vote and sometimes comment.

The first poll dealt with promotions, specifically ones involving money taken from the pot to fund them. The categories were:

- Give me a bad-beat jackpot.
- I'm happy with just a high hand.
- Nothing wrong with offering both.
- Let me keep my dollar.

Overwhelmingly people wanted to keep their dollar (75 percent) while 18 percent wanted just a high hand.

Considering how many people flooded Seminole Coconut Creek recently when its bad beat reached \$170K, it's surprising only 6 percent voted for the bad-beat jackpot. One of the comments: "I don't mind the bad beat when it pays 20 percent to the winner, 40 percent to the loser and the other 40 percent is split among all eligible players in the whole room." So take this information for what it's worth. Oh, and no one voted for having both a bad-beat jackpot and a high hand. No real surprise there.

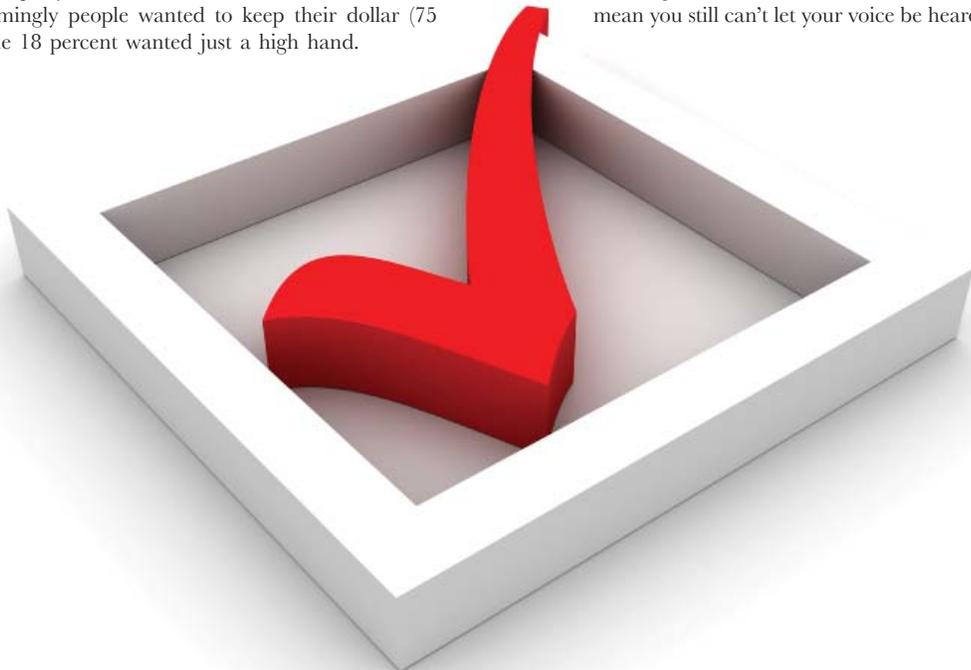
The second poll dealt with tableside dining. This one was nearly a coin toss with little more than 53 percent voting to have food at the table while 46 percent didn't want it. A comment: "Eating + poker is better than just eating. At the card rooms I've been to that serve food it doesn't slow the game down very much so I think it is a net win." We were shocked no one requested hot wings be left off any future tableside menus. Nothing kills a deck of cards like barbecue sauce.

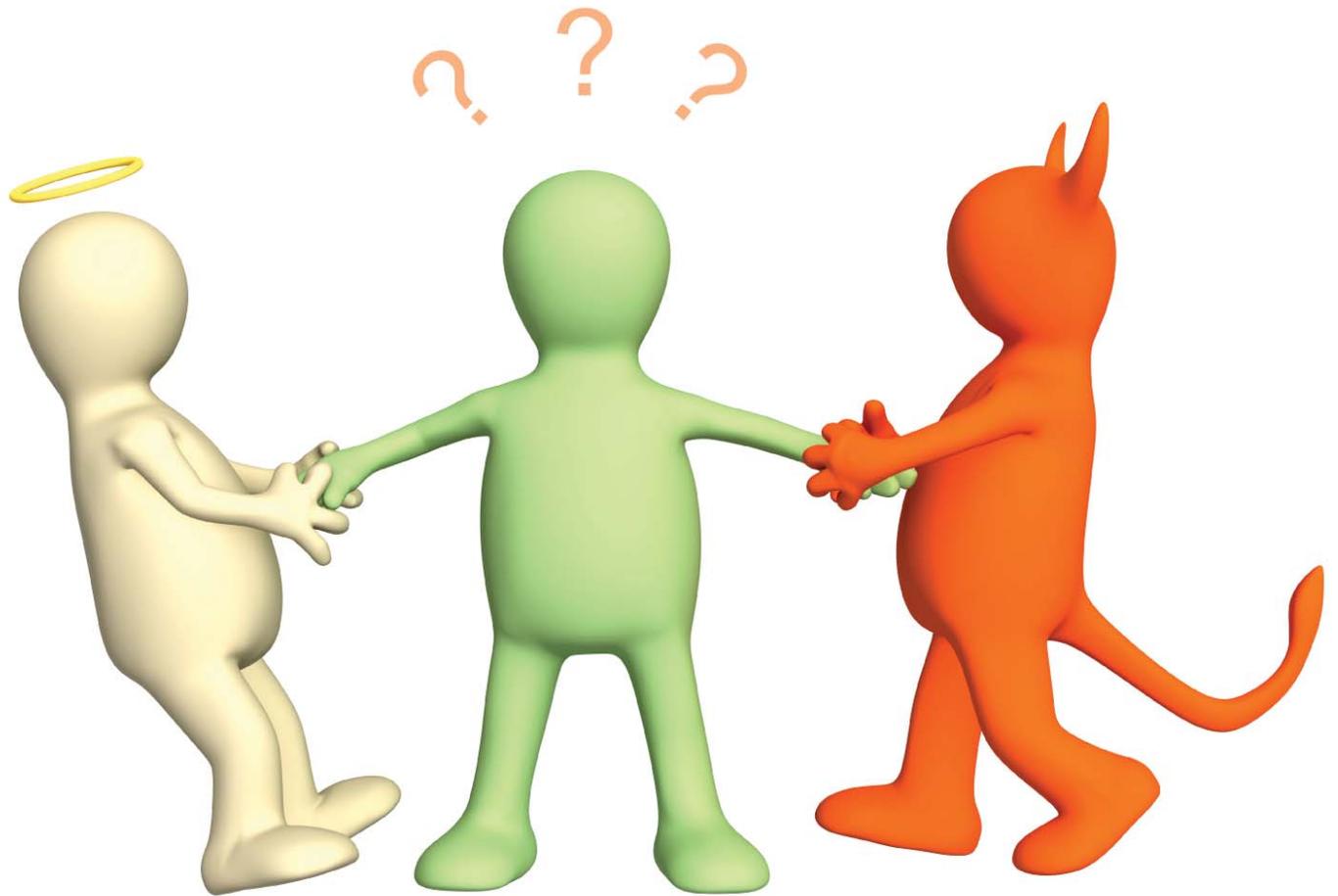
Finally, we asked an easy one, and Goldilocks did NOT come up with this question: Are Florida poker rooms too hot, too cold or just right? Well, the thermostat generally is set in the right place because 71 percent said the rooms are comfortable. No one voted too hot, so only 28 percent of voters feel like they're too cold when playing cards in Florida. Go figure.

With the new legislative season at hand, we've posted a new poll that we'll keep up for a while: What would you like to see happen to Florida poker? The choices are:

- Increase all betting limits and buy-ins.
- Keep everything the same.

There are other polls there just waiting for you to respond. We'll report those results in an upcoming issue. And remember, just because election time is over, that doesn't mean you still can't let your voice be heard.





# ETHICS IN POKER

By Christopher Cosenza

**POKER MAY BE JUST A CARD GAME, BUT A PERSON'S CHARACTER EASILY CAN BE DEFINED WHILE PLAYING.**

## What would you do?

Everybody has a Code of Ethics, but that doesn't mean everyone subscribes to the same ethical threshold. Outside influences — call it upbringing, religion, education, societal circumstances, et al — set the level of ethical behavior a person is comfortable with as he or she struggles internally with good and evil.

This Code of Ethics follows you through all walks of life, at work, at school, at home, and yes, at the poker table. Funny thing about ethics, one person may interpret something as ethical at a poker table while others may frown upon that very same thing.

Considering poker is only a card game, it's quite astounding how deep ethics can run in this great American pastime. But is it foolish to look for ethics in a game that's rooted in deceit and wagering? After all, a bluff is essentially a lie. How can we expect a table full of "liars" to be ethical? The answer lies within our personal Code of Ethics.

We expect to be treated the same way we treat others, and only until we learn otherwise will we change our opinion and actions. The same holds true in poker. Let's say you're the type of rounder who expects the opponent on your left to inform you if your hole cards are being exposed inadvertently. Why? Because you'd extend that same courtesy to anyone else at the table if you could see their cards, right? Well, someone may respond to that by saying it's your responsibility to protect your cards and if you're flashing them then all is fair in love and poker.

Poker is a game of incomplete information. As a player you're charged with deciphering what actions such as bets or facial tics mean. Then if someone isn't wise enough to conceal their cards don't they deserve to lose that information? This is where ethics plays a role. Most would agree the ethical thing to do is to alert the player the first time it happens. After that, well, they've been warned.

That was an easy example. Poker, however, is riddled with many more difficult ethical situations. Let's be clear: This column isn't designed to provide end-all be-all answers to ethical situations. That would stray into setting legal precedence, which may go hand in hand with ethics, but can't be confused with being its equivalent. Instead, this column will strive to test your Code of Ethics to see how you would react to everyday occurrences on the felt.

**Tells:** We'll pretend for a minute you're Mike McDermott in *Rounders* and you're sitting across from Teddy KGB. He's been running over you for hours as the deck continues to hit him in the head. Now he bets out and you see him reach for his Oreos. At that moment you have your epiphany. Every time he has a monster he eats a cookie, metaphorically devouring his opponent. Do you let him know you've picked up on this tell? Mike did, because he wanted KGB's best game. He needed to know if he was ready for the World Series. He didn't want to win on a technicality.

Was he being ethical or egomaniacal? You decide. Even McDermott said when you spot a person's tell you never let him know. That sounds

unethical doesn't it? Rivers of ink have been spilled describing poker tells and how to use that information to your advantage. But how is that different from seeing someone's hole cards? Each scenario involves an unsuspecting player and an astute player. Should you feel obligated to tell your buddy he sniffs every time he has a big hand? If you don't, is it fair you know that information and he doesn't? Is it fair other players aren't privy to this knowledge? It's a physical tell that divulges information, just like looking at your cards haphazardly is a physical attribute that exposes information.

OK, let's move on, and this next example was a topic that came up on the *Ante Up PokerCast* (Nov. 28 episode at [anteupmagazine.com](http://anteupmagazine.com)). It served as inspiration for this column.

**Hit and run:** Some people want to put time limits on ethics. Here's an example: You're driving to your favorite Florida poker room and on the way you come up with a game plan, such as what limits and games to play, strategy, bluffing criteria, etc. You also tell yourself you'll quit playing if you double your buy-in or lose it. Nothing wrong with setting goals, right?

So, after picking up your copy of *Ante Up* you get called for a seat in the \$5-\$10 no-limit hold'em game. It's late in the afternoon, the guys at this table have been there all day and their stacks are all deep. You post your \$10 in the big blind after buying in for \$100. The under-the-

gun player makes it \$30 to go. He gets reraised to \$100 and two more players call before it gets to you. Staring up at you are two black aces. You make the call, as does the initial raiser. You flop a set and your hand holds up for a \$400 win on hand No. 1.

Hmmm ... OK, now what? When you were in the car you said if you doubled up you'd head home to the spouse and help with the housework (though we know you'll secretly hide in the ga-

rage and read your copy of *Ante Up* first). If you stick to your word, and a poker player is nothing if not disciplined, then you should leave. But is that ethical? It's what the Internet players call a hit-and-run. Are you obligated to stay at the table to give your opponents a chance to win their money back?

Here's where the time-limit question comes in: If you feel it's unethical to get up and leave, then at what point does it become ethically acceptable to leave? One orbit? Two orbits? After you lose back some of the money? And how much is enough? Do you inform the table that you came with a goal in mind and you've hit it, so you'll be leaving after X amount of hands?

You just can't put a time limit on ethics. Whatever you're comfortable with needs to be enough, and can't be influenced by others. Only you have to look at your mug in the mirror every day.

**Implied collusion:** Another example where time and ethics came into question came up on the Dec. 5 *Ante Up* episode, and it involved tournament play.

This tournament paid 10 spots and there were 30 players left. A short-stacked player moved all-in and got called in two spots by bigger stacks. The flop came queen-high with two diamonds, and the first



If you knew what this meant, would you tell Teddy KGB?



## What would you do?

Continued from previous page

player demonstratively checked, as if signaling the start of the universal “implied collusion” process. Much to his dismay the other player bet out. The first player shot him a glare and mucked his cards in disgust. The bettor turned over ace-queen for top pair, top kicker. The all-in player sheepishly turned over pocket sixes, with the 6♦. The turn and river were diamonds, giving the short-stack a flush and he survived. The player who folded was irate, berating the guy with a pair of queens because he held the A♦ and would have won the pot, thus eliminating the short stack.

It’s an ethical quagmire!

First off, the check-down-to-eliminate-a-player action is questionable and certainly can fall under the unethical category. Since poker players are all about the odds, however, they know four cards are better than two, so this behavior will never end. For argument’s sake, let’s assume this practice is accepted. Was it unethical for the guy with AQ to bet out after the flop? He had top pair and the best kicker possible. Did the guy with the A♦ have a leg to stand on? Was it ethical for him to berate the player and make his “collusion” intentions known?

Again, here’s where time can’t dictate ethics. At what point does the “implied check-down” come into play, provided we subscribe to the check-down as an acceptable facet of the game? Five players before the bubble? Ten players? In this situation the tournament needed to lose 20 players before reaching the money. When you play poker you have one objective: win all of the chips. The guy with AQ had every right to bet into a dry sidepot. There was plenty of play left in this tournament, and why should he surrender that pot to the other player? But if you ask the A♦ player he would surely say it was unethical to try to steal that pot, regardless of his holding.

Here’s a look at different scenarios, and again, no pontificating, just thought-provoking questions.

**Split pots:** You’re playing Omaha/8 and you’re heads-up. You win the high hand, but your opponent doesn’t realize he’s made a low and mucks his cards after showing them. The dealer, too, doesn’t realize this and pushes you the entire pot. The rule is once the cards hit the muck they’re dead. But, remember, ethics and laws aren’t interchangeable. Do you tell the dealer about the low and ask to have the pot split?

**Damaged card:** You’re dealt ace-rag in early position, but as you dutifully discard that terrible starting hand you notice a crimp on the back of the ace. What’s the ethically sound protocol here? Do you keep this

information to yourself, like you might with a player’s tell, or do you alert the dealer and request the card or setup be replaced?

**Table talk:** Tony Guoga, known as Tony G., is a pro known for his abusive table talk. He would think nothing of telling opponents they’re terrible, that he’ll grind them up and send them home crying. (He once made Howard Lederer so angry during the Grand Prix de Paris in 2003 that he refused to shake Tony G.’s hand after being eliminated.)

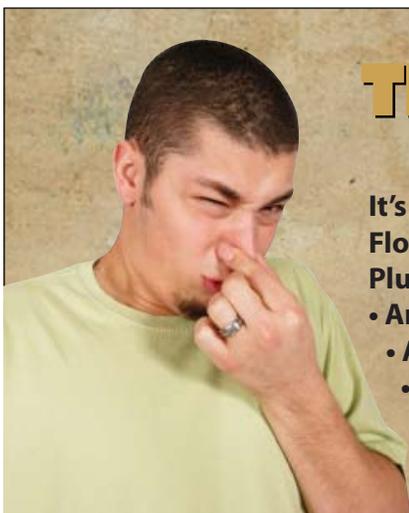
This may be a question of etiquette rather than ethics, but is it ethical to instill fear at the table? Poker is, after all, a game of psychological warfare. Tony G. isn’t a bad person; it’s just his way of making opponents uncomfortable or stressed. It’s common knowledge that most people crumble under stressful situations, and that’s when they’ll make mistakes. Thankfully most card rooms won’t allow abusive behavior and will levy a penalty if the action persists. But, if these crafty players stay within the parameters of table talk, is it ethical to try to get someone on tilt with your words? If you equate ethics with respect then you can’t think this tactic is ethical. Yet it happens all of the time, especially when a TV camera is in the room.

**Table behavior:** You’re playing your normal \$1-\$2 no-limit hold’em game and a player who’s clearly inebriated sits down and turns into the human ATM. Do you tell the guy he needs to go sober up and stop losing money? Or are a fool and his money soon parted? He’s an adult. He knows where he is. Is it your responsibility to avoid pots with this guy and play babysitter? Or do you do what you came for and take every dime he has? And is that ethical?

**Dealer mistake:** OK, last one. You buy-in for the minimum of \$40 at a cash table and the dealer, who is so used to doling out \$100 in chips, does just that by mistake and gives you \$100 in chips. No one picks up on it and the cards are in the air. Do you give back \$60 or do you say “Freeroll!” and keep playing? Is it ethical to keep the money? Now, before you answer, think about how you answered the split-pot question. Human error led to you getting more money that wasn’t rightfully yours in both instances.

Maybe if you equate ethics with sportsmanship you’ll have your answer for any situation that may arise. What’s the sportsmanlike thing to do? Ethics is about being fair. If you feel it’s fair in your heart then how can you go wrong?

If you’d like to learn more on this subject or would like to have a guide through the murky ethical waters, the World Poker Association has a Code of Ethics that all members are expected to uphold. You can check them out on its Web site at [wpapoker.org](http://wpapoker.org).

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A look at non-Texas Hold'em games — This month: Three Card Poker

# JACKPOT POTENTIAL CAN MAKE IT JUICY

I love new poker games. You should, too.

Why? Aside from the value of variety in your life and your play, new games — filled with curious players — present tremendous early profit potential for rounders who are quick studies.



SCOTT LONG

So as soon as I heard that a couple of Florida poker rooms creatively adapted three-card poker rules to conform to state law, I went to work to see whether I could scrape out any kind of edge.

The short answer: Yeah, there just might be a little sumthin'-sumthin' here.

Three Card Poker is wildly popular in Vegas and beyond because the Shuffle Master Inc. game is fast-paced, easy to play and has juicy jackpot potential. You're dealt three cards, and if your hand is better than the dealer's,

you win. It's that simple. And if your hand is really good, you win bonus jackpots.

And let's be crystal clear from the get-go: The jackpots are why folks will be playing the non-house-banked version here in Florida. There's not a lot of strategy involved in three-card poker, but there's just enough to make it interesting.

Florida parimutuel rooms have dueling versions of three-card poker that are different enough that we have to look at them separately.

## PALM BEACH

Palm Beach Kennel Club was the innovator of three-card poker in Florida, and its version, which Tampa Bay Downs has also requested to deal, closely follows the Pair Plus bet in the Vegas version.

Players pay a 50-cent house fee and \$5 ante, which goes into a jackpot fund. Each player is dealt three cards face down. If you like your cards, you bet \$1. The cards are turned over, and the player with the highest hand collects all of the \$1 bets.

But wait, there's more. Even if you don't win the hand, as long as you have a pair or better, you win a jackpot of \$10 to \$595.

So the strategy here is simple: Have a pair, pay the extra buck. The scrum for the dollars is just a sideshow.

Curious about the math? You'll be dealt a pair or better about once every four hands. Over the course of 10,000 hands, you'll fork over \$57,562 in antes, rake and calls, assuming you don't try to get cute and bluff (don't do it, unless I'm at your table). You can expect to win \$50,760 in jackpots. Hit a couple of lucky streaks, or scoop \$6,803 in those dollar bets, and you'll be profitable.

## DERBY LANE

Derby Lane's version, called Queens Up Poker, has most of the same parts as Palm Beach's, but it's an almost entirely different car. While there's an option to play for the jackpot, the main attraction is a series of heads-up matches.

Players pay a \$1 house fee and \$5 ante, which stays in play. However,

### Where to play

Palm Beach Kennel Club (approved)  
Derby Lane (pending)  
Tampa Bay Downs (pending)



players can opt to pay an additional \$5 jackpot fee, and as long as they are dealt a pair or better, they win a jackpot of \$10 to \$1,005.

One player acts as the dealer, and must call all of the ante bets. Each player is dealt three cards face down, but the dealer's last card is turned face up. Players can fold, surrendering their \$5 ante to the dealer, or can bet \$5, which the dealer must call. The cards are turned up, and the dealer faces off against each player individually with the best hand winning the bets and antes (if the dealer doesn't have at least queen high, then the bets are returned and the battle is for just the antes).

Derby also offers a \$2 version of the game, with a 50-cent house fee.

A little bit of a mind-bender, eh? Yup. And you have some decisions to make.

In the Palm Beach version, it's simply silly to call with anything less than a pair. But at Derby, with \$10-\$20 on the line, you'll want to consider calling with lesser hands in the right situations.

Optimal strategy in the Vegas version is to call with Q-6-4 or better. I like that play here, too, especially since you can muck if the dealer is showing an ace or a king.

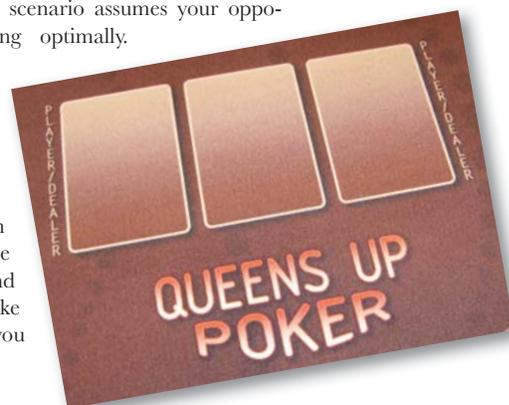
The really intriguing facet of Derby's version is the option to be the dealer. You can decline, and the offer will be made to the next player. So do you want to be the dealer?

Let's take a look at a five-player table. The dealer has to put up \$20 blind (\$5 for each of her opponents). And if we assume everyone is playing optimally, three of the four opponents should fold, giving the dealer back \$15 without a fight. The fourth opponent will call, though, meaning the dealer has to put up \$5 more and do battle in what boils down to a \$5-\$10 game of chicken.

You a gambler? Then deal. Not? Then pass.

But the above scenario assumes your opponents are playing optimally.

And we all know that's not always the case. If you notice a lot of folks calling with subpar hands (lower than Q-6-4), then be the dealer — and call me so I can take your seat when you leave.



### Probabilities & Payouts

Here are the probabilities that you'll be dealt each possible hand, and the jackpot payouts for Palm Beach's version and Derby Lane's two versions:

Hand	Odds	PB	DL\$5	DL\$2
Mini Royal	0.02%	\$595	\$1,005	\$402
Straight Flush	0.2%	\$255	\$255	\$102
Three of a Kind	0.24%	\$155	\$155	\$62
Straight	3.26%	\$35	\$35	\$14
Flush	4.96%	\$20	\$20	\$8
Pair	16.94%	\$10	\$10	\$2
High Card	74.39%	\$0	\$0	\$0

Odds courtesy of [www.Wizardsofodds.com](http://www.Wizardsofodds.com)

WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

IF IT'S REPETITIVE, IT MIGHT MEAN NOTHING

Readers are invited to send Joe their questions regarding nonverbal tells to editor@anteupmagazine.com and we'll print the best letters.

**My dad always touches his mustache when he bets. I've intentionally called him down to see what kind of hand he has when he does this, but sometimes he's bluffing and sometimes he's got a hand. At what point do you suggest someone move on and realize what they think might be a physical tell actually is just a nervous or subconscious reaction? — William in Jacksonville**



William, your dad pacifies himself (self soothes) by touching his mustache. Some people do it by stroking their beard, women will play with their hair. It's a repetitive behavior that satisfies the brain's need to be soothed, something we do all day long in various ways.

Any repetitive behavior you see at the table, you have to ignore, just as with people who shake their leg or are always biting their lip. Great question!

**One of the biggest problems I have is once I get a good read on people at my table (from betting patterns and body language) I seem to get lazy. I have trouble staying as focused as I was when I first sat at the table. Sometimes I've gotten so lazy that it's hard to get back to looking for body language and tells. Usually I suffer a loss before I can get my head back into the game. When I'm in a tournament and I change tables I have no problems because I don't know anyone and have to figure them all out. — detourgr via Ante Up Forum**

Detourgr, good question: Staying focused is hard, not just for you. It's often difficult for FBI agents. One thing that happens is we work so hard to get small meanings from looking at so much information that we exhaust our ability to observe. I remember there were times when I would do an interview and at the end I would be soaked with sweat from the work my brain was doing. My suggestion is this: Take a break,

walk around and revitalize yourself. Come back to the table and work on deciphering another player or another part of his body. I break it up into forehead, eyes, mouth, face muscles, neck, shoulders, arms, hands, fingers, thumbs, torso and legs. I then challenge myself to find something new from one of these areas.

**At my card room they allow players to expose hole cards when heads-up. There have been situations when a player goes all-in leaving their opponent to ponder a call. I've been in this position and, on occasion, have tabled my hole cards trying to solicit a reaction from my opponent. I've gotten these responses:**

- **Nothing. Player doesn't move or answer my questions and stares straight at the board.**
  - **Player immediately asks if I'm folding (or calling). I tell them I'm considering it and they clam up.**
  - **They start to talk a bit, usually showing concern for my difficult position.**
- If I'm all-in and my opponent tables his cards, what can I do to make sure I don't give anything away? — alpha1243 via Ante Up Forum**

That is a tough question, but a good one: Nonverbals have to be placed in context, for the moment, and who is affecting that moment. You are at the table so your nonverbals are going to influence the behaviors of others. If you are strong and look powerful without going over the top (confident) that will affect how others perceive you. Try doing this, not making eye contact, staring straight at the felt, and ignoring the world around you with your elbows on the table and your hands up to your chin. This is a powerful display. Even a small shift in your eyes can make others think you are weak. Rather than deal with words, deal with them through nonverbals, strong and firm.

— **Ex-FBI counterintelligence officer Joe Navarro of Tampa specialized in behavioral analysis for 25 years. He's star lecturer with the WSOP Academy and has penned *Read 'Em and Reap*, which you can find on Amazon.com. Email Joe at editor@anteupmagazine.com and he'll answer your questions.**

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

## ‘STEROIDS FOR THE BRAIN’ MAY BE THE TICKET

In poker, First Level Thinking means playing your hand based only on the cards you were dealt. (What do I have?) Second Level Thinking means using your opponent's patterns and tells to put him on a range of hands. (What does she have?) Third Level Thinking requires you to understand how your tells and patterns appear to others and to manipulate that image to set traps. (What can I represent?) Levels higher than that are reserved for guys named Phil, Doyle and Jesus.

Poker is not an easy game for me. Even when I'm playing my best, I find I must concentrate pretty hard to use higher levels of thinking. When I'm fatigued or bored, I drop back into the first level and make basic mistakes like bluffing a calling station or calling a rock with only top pair. It was my desire to combat fatigue and boredom that prompted me to investigate performance-enhancing drugs.



FRANK TOSCANO M.D.

Last month I discussed a few drugs that some pros use to combat fatigue and improve their performance at the poker table. An abbreviated version of my conclusions from last month: caffeine doesn't work; cocaine and speed are highly dangerous, incredibly addictive and illegal; and two promising prescription candidates, Ad-

derall and Ritalin, are nothing more than crystal meth you buy from someone with good teeth.

New on the scene is the prescription drug Provigil (Modafinil), which some call "steroids for the brain." The FDA has approved Provigil for narcolepsy, drowsiness associated with sleep apnea and – get this – for "shift work sleep disorder." SWSD occurs when someone's occupation requires a high degree of mental alertness at odd hours, commonly during the middle of the night. Sounds like a professional poker player, doesn't it? Even the name, "Provigil" sounds like the perfect drug for someone wanting to be a "vigilant pro."

The U.S. military has used Provigil to overcome fatigue in pilots on prolonged missions. Some medical and surgical residents in training use it to work long shifts and care for critically ill patients. My colleagues in emergency medicine have been known to take Provigil before working a night shift to improve alertness. At \$10 per pill, it's pricey but way cheaper than a malpractice suit.

Provigil is sort of like speed and sort of not. It increases wakefulness (It's your bet, sir), working memory (Did that guy raise or limp with his connectors last hand?), and especially pattern recognition (Which

players at the table are weak-tight and which ones are loose-aggressive?). Yet, unlike speed, it doesn't seem to increase heart rate or blood pressure very much and, because it's legally available by prescription, obtaining a supply usually doesn't involve handcuffs or mugshots.

Here's what poker pro Paul Phillips said on his blog about Provigil after winning \$2.3 million in 2004:

This year, I have a new chemical weapon: (Provigil)... it stimulates wakefulness and enhances focus but without the annoying side effects of an amphetamine. ... Drugs are not a substitute for healthy living habits, but the WSOP isn't a spa. With (Provigil) I feel well-rested even on limited sleep. ... I can operate at my full potential for days on end."

Researchers are not sure exactly how Provigil works but they're pretty sure it's not the same mechanism as speed. If you block speed receptors in the brain, Provigil still works. There's no euphoric "high" associated with Provigil so the addiction potential is significantly less than with speed, but it's not zero. In research studies, rats that were addicted to speed also became dependent upon Provigil. This leads me to the conclusion you should never play poker with rats. Poker-playing dogs are OK, but rats, no.

Seriously, though, any time you consider taking any medication, the potential risks have to be weighed against the potential benefits. If the benefits are relatively small, such as winning a few extra thousand in a poker tournament, then the risks of taking it should be proportionately small as well. This drug should be approached with caution and only your physician can help you decide whether it's right for you.

In the interests of full disclosure let me assure you I own no stock in Cephalon, the drug company that makes Provigil, and the Cephalon drug reps have never so much as bought me even a pizza. If there happens to be a Cephalon rep reading this article, however, please note that as an experiment, I'm willing to volunteer to enter a major tournament, take Provigil and report back to *Anle Up* whether I am able to play for prolonged periods at a higher level of thinking, as long, of course, as Cephalon pays for the entry fee, transportation and lodging. I'm thinking Aruba. Call me.

**Next month:** Should performance-enhancing drugs be banned from tournament poker?

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



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## ACUMEN POKER

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## USE OTHER PLAYERS' KNOWLEDGE TO YOUR BENEFIT

Teamwork isn't exactly the first thing you think of when it comes to playing poker because most of the time you play without consultation. But away from the table teamwork occurs frequently and feverishly. As I have spent more and more time on the tournament trail, I've met a lot of people who travel or play together. These players are often

found talking on breaks, at dinner or over drinks late into the night. What's their topic of conversation?

You guessed it ... poker! Not just poker in general, but key hands that merit discussion, insight, validation or simply just another perspective. Sometimes it's just an intriguing hand that was observed or one they played five months ago online. The key is they're discussing them – actively and intently – to make sure the next time they're in the same situation they make the correct decision.



LEE CHILDS

I'm very fortunate to have met some of the top players in the game. If I'm struggling with a hand I played, you can be sure I'm going to do everything I can to engage them to get their perspective. Whether I pass them in the tournament room, interrupt them while they scarf down a snack on break, or just need to pick up the phone and call them, I'm not going to just wonder about a hand or situation and remain confused the next time it comes up. I'll get the additional insights and hash the hand through until I'm convinced I played the hand correctly or need to take a different approach next time.

I recently joined Poker Players International as a member of Team

PPI Elite. This is an honor for me, and now I'm getting to know many players on the team. During the Borgata Winter Open in January, I was really struggling with a huge hand I played in the early stages of the \$3,200 main event. I discussed the hand with a very solid player who was at the table when it went down and had the opportunity to discuss it with fellow Team PPI Elite players Bill Blanda, Eric "Rizen" Lynch and Kathy Leibert. Talking to these pros allowed me to see the hand from different sides and subsequently devise what I think is a better strategy for playing this situation in the future.

You don't need access to world-class pros to benefit from different opinions on your hands and situations. You need players *at and above* your skill level that you trust to give you honest, objective opinions about how you played the hand. They must be willing to share thoughts on how they would have played the hand and you have to be receptive to their judgment. You're not always going to agree, but you'll reap the invaluable learning experience of looking at a hand from multiple viewpoints. If you can keep an open, non-argumentative mind and keep your ego at bay, you can use off-the-table teamwork to significantly increase your knowledge of the game and add more tools to your poker arsenal.

In next month's column, I'll talk about the "big hand" I played at the Borgata and how I leveraged some brilliant poker minds to challenge and validate my decisions, resulting in making me a more complete, confident player. Decide to Win!

— Lee Childs is founder and lead instructor of Acumen Poker. He also is an instructor with the WPT Boot Camp. Check out his site at [www.acumepoker.net](http://www.acumepoker.net).

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As told to *Ante Up* publisher Christopher Cosenza

# SARGE TAKES CONTROL OF THE TABLE

The following is a continuation of a series of recollections by SunCruz Port Canaveral director of poker operations Dan Malka, who has rubbed elbows with just about every big name in poker history. Last month, Dan talked about dealing heads-up to Billy Baxter and Stu Ungar. Baxter won a huge pot on Dan's last deal of the day, and Ungar wasn't too happy.



DAN MALKA

The next day, the first game I dealt was a high-limit seven-card stud game in the VIP room. As soon as I entered, Ungar yelled, "There! That's him! That's the guy I'm telling you about, Eric!"

Stuey was in the No. 6 seat and Eric Drache, the card room manager, was in the No. 1 seat as I started to deal.

Stuey: "I'm telling you, Eric ..."

Eric: "Stuey, you're wrong."

Stuey hits his case: "Fellas, remember that blonde dealer from Tahoe, the gorgeous one? I'm tipping her nothing but green (\$25 chips); Baxter wins a \$100,000 pot and tips her \$5. Then yesterday, he tips that gorilla \$25 — explain

that to me, Eric."

Eric just shook his head.

Meanwhile, Fred "Sarge" Ferris was losing. When Sarge fell behind he usually did something to disrupt the other players' focus on the game, most often through humor.

Sarge placed his ante toward the pot but close to his stack. When I swept in the antes, he said "I wasn't ante-ing; give it back."

Next hand, he placed his ante in the exact same spot, so I didn't sweep it in. He threw the ante into the pot and said to Eric, "Tell this

dealer to wake up."

Eric: "Dan, use your peripheral vision."

Sarge scolded Eric: "How do you expect a poker dealer to know what that means? Just tell him to look around next time."

I finished the deal and spelled out loud: "P-E-R-I-P-H-E-R-A-L."

Sarge: "What the hell did you say?"

Me: "I spelled peripheral. I know what it means."

Sarge: "Boy, you got some college?"

Me: "U of Texas and Texas Tech."

Sarge: "Well, fellas, how do you like that? We're playing poker with a couple of college boys. One is dealing the game and the other is a card room manager who plays against the best poker players in the world. Will someone tell me what the hell are they teaching these boys in college?"

Everybody laughed, except Eric. Stuey laughed so hard he fell out of his chair. As he got up off the floor laughing he said: "You're the best, Sarge, the best!"

At that point Sarge had control of the table, keeping them laughing and winning some pots.

I dealt my last hand and Sarge threw me a green chip.

Stuey: "Sarge! What the hell is with you tipping this guy green?"

Sarge: "I don't know, Stuey — maybe I think he's better-looking than that girl you were talking about."

Everyone roared, except Stuey, who gave me the death stare.

As I left the table, Sarge asked the next dealer, "Can you spell peripheral? Hey, Eric, tell us if he's right — we all know you're smart at some things."

Everybody laughed, no one louder than Stuey.

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## WOMEN IN POKER

LAUREN FAILLA • Founder of High Heels Poker Tour

# WOMEN'S PRESENCE IN FLORIDA ROOMS ON RISE

Florida, up until 2003, rarely saw women at the tables. Before the boom, women represented about five percent of the field in mainstream tournaments and cash games. Today that number has nearly doubled. When you walk into a Florida card room, women represent about 10-15 percent. I find myself counting heads just to make sure women get enough credit for being in the poker room.

In my discussions with women across Florida, the general consensus as to why the numbers have increased points to two factors: televised poker and ladies-only events.

The World Poker Tour, World Series of Poker and Heartland Poker Tour are highlighting female players more than ever. Plus, women who once would only play in their pajamas in front of the computer are now coming into the card rooms, slowly but surely, and with more confidence.

It's been mentioned that at one time 40 percent of online players were women. Initially I thought that was a staggering number, but recently I've begun to fully understand the attraction. I'm not a big fan of online poker and have my reservations; I'm a visual player and like the human interaction, which allows me to make certain decisions. Women who play online poker are full-time moms, have full-time jobs or just want to utilize this medium to build confidence.

For others it's a learning tool and is used as a steppingstone. Many women, unknown to the live market, have made a career right in their living room by playing online poker. The anonymity serves as a way of expressing themselves truly without "putting it all out there."

In Florida, many card room managers have been very receptive to the idea of women-only tournaments to increase their numbers. They know female players have such a varying range of knowledge and skill that these events are a positive step into mainstreaming a new female player and are quick to make sure the women are treated equally.

Card room staffs spend extra time making sure women aren't on the receiving end of nasty or negative comments, and that helps. I believe across the state there are women who want to play, but the key is finding them and getting them off the computer. Once that happens you have a player for life. Women are loyal and always will come back to places that treat them best.

— Lauren Failla writes a monthly column for Ante Up, tracking the progress of women in poker. Email her at [lauren@highheelspokertour.com](mailto:lauren@highheelspokertour.com).



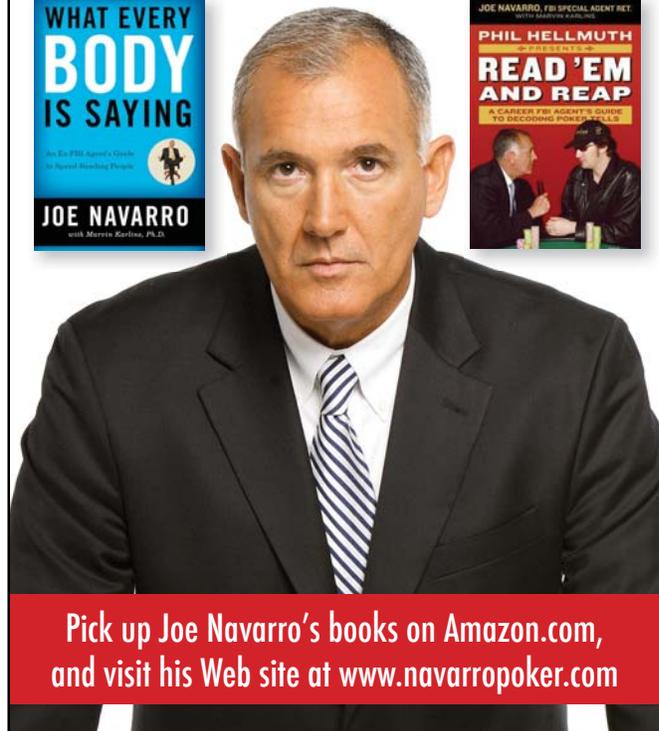
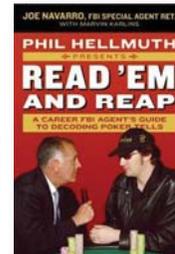
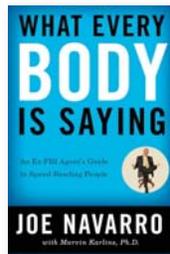
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An occasional column from a Florida card room dealer

# Etiquette extends beyond just being polite at the table

By Michael Zumpano

I know I promised to categorize the different types of characters at the poker table, but there's been a change in plans this month. Down the road I'll cover the different characters, but I really need to cover poker etiquette. I know poker still is relatively new to Florida, but we have to get a hold of some of the shenanigans taking place at the tables.

I'll begin with tournament play, but etiquette is equally as important in live action. In tournaments, you're never supposed to expose your cards until the dealer says "Showdown." In some rooms it's OK for a player to expose cards in live action (we'll get to that later), but it's never OK to show cards in a tournament in Florida (Some tournaments allow it nationally, such as the NBC Heads-Up Championship). A player isn't allowed to influence action in a tournament. Whether you agree with it or not, it's the rule.

Another big issue with etiquette is commenting on the hand if you don't have cards. If you're not in the hand you lose your right to comment on anything regarding the hand. In a lot of rooms you're not even allowed to make comments while you're in the hand. I like to be able to chat with another player if we're heads-up, but not if other players are in the hand, and this is widely accepted as OK. Be sure to ask if you're uncertain of the rules at your local card room.

The last issue, which I feel is very important, is folding out of turn. I know it's easy to do and it usually starts with one player folding out of turn, which triggers the "sprinkler effect" of everyone folding before the dealer can stop the players. If someone says, "raise," it's not the next player's turn to act until the raiser physically makes the raise, either by announcing the amount or by placing the raise in front of him. Why is this important? If four people are in the hand and two fold

before the raise is made, the raiser can change the amount depending on whether he wants a call. Be a little more attentive to the action; it makes a difference in the long run.

Etiquette at a live table needs improvement, too. How annoying is it when you're playing at a no-limit hold'em table and the guy in Seat 6 can't sit still? Every time he doesn't like his hole cards he gets up for a drink or makes a bet, etc. ... Sit down, buddy!

Also, if you fold out of turn it can ruin the rotation of the hand. The player next to you might not be paying attention and now two of you folded out of turn.

Some players choose to become chatty with their neighbor, and that's great for the game. But when you start showing each other your hands as you're folding it's not fair to the rest of the table. Just like in tournaments, everyone should be privy to that knowledge, so if you can't show everyone please don't show your new friend either.

The most important etiquette at the table comes with winning and losing with dignity. I know poker is an emotional game (isn't that why we play, for the rush?), but sometimes players let emotions get to them and they take it out on other players. Have

respect for the guy who's been quietly playing all day after you crack his kings with 6-7 suited. Win with pride and grace; treat the game and the players the way they deserve to be treated.

Lastly, lose with dignity. You don't want to be known as the player who can't take losing because you'll have the proverbial bulls-eye on your back and players will target you at the table.

If you have any questions or comments about this article or a particular situation where etiquette has come into question feel free to contact me at [mzumpano2006@yahoo.com](mailto:mzumpano2006@yahoo.com).

— Michael Zumpano is a dealer at the Silks Poker Room in Tampa. If you're a dealer and would like to submit a column send it to [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com).



Michael Zumpano

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**POKERVISION**

Observations from a TiVo junkie.

# HELP SAVE THE WORLD POKER TOUR

I'm on a crusade. The World Poker Tour is officially on the endangered species list, and we need to act now to save it. I know I've done my share of complaining, but I've had a revelation: The poker world needs the WPT.



CHRIS COSENZA

We owe so much to the World Poker Tour. Yes, Chris Moneymaker helped usher in the poker boom, and yes, the hole cam was essentially invented by Henry Orenstein, not WPT creator Steven Lipscomb. But the WPT made poker glitzy and mainstream. ESPN had been televising the World Series of Poker for years and never made an impact like the WPT did in 2003. Sure, the WSOP is must-see TV now, but it wasn't always so, and it owes a debt of gratitude to the WPT.

Speaking of debt, you may not know this, but the World Poker Tour hemorrhages money. It's fighting to keep its NASDAQ listing, which requires a stock to trade at a minimum of \$1 a share. Imagine that: World Poker Tour Enterprises can't keep a stock above \$1. We see poker's champagne and caviar lifestyle all over the tube and yet the company bringing you these images is foundering.

Poker Hall of Famer Lyle Berman is the WPT's chairman of the board and has never taken a dime from the tour despite pouring millions of his own money into the venture. He does it because of the love of the game, because he knows how important it is to have a tour

like this. What a shame it would be if the World Poker Tour folded, essentially leaving the WSOP as the only option for big-time poker tournaments and exposure in the United States. Competition is good. It keeps you on your toes, which is why the WPT has had numerous incarnations and homes. Sure, some of those ventures failed (the PPT, the Cryptologic fiasco), but without failure, how can one know success? And if you're not failing once in a while you're not trying hard enough. And that's what makes the WPT so important, because it's willing to try new things, to bring us new poker opportunities (Club-WPT, WPT Events, WPT Boot Camps, MySpace WPT).

Would you know who Gus Hansen, Phil Ivey or Michael "The Grinder" Mizrahi were if not for the WPT? Maybe, maybe not. Do you really think there would be so many poker rooms to choose from in Florida if the WPT never existed? Don't bet on it. So whenever you see a WPT event on any one of its three hosting cable networks (Travel Channel, GSN, FSN), you need to put down the remote and watch. Support the WPT. And the next time you rake a pot or pitch a card, be sure to give thanks for the folks at the WPT. I know I will.

**Don't forget:** *High Stakes Poker's* Season V begins March 1 on GSN. There will be a \$200,000 buy-in for the season, and players such as Daniel Negreanu, Doyle Brunson, Antonio Esfandiari and Phil Laak will be participating at the Golden Nugget. Hosts A.J. Benza and Gabe Kaplan went into the studio on Jan. 27 and began working diligently on the new season. Be on the lookout for an exclusive interview with Benza here in *Ante Up* in a future issue.

— Email me at [chris@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:chris@anteupmagazine.com) if you're a fellow poker TV junkie.

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## Q&amp;A

## WITH KARINA JETT

Poker pro Karina Jett lives near Las Vegas, but she spends a lot of time in Florida (she'll be an instructor at the High Heels Poker Tour Academy at the Hard Rock in Hollywood on March 6-7). She recently played in the Par & Poker Celebrity Challenge at Tampa Bay Downs and shared her thoughts on women in poker, teaching, multitasking and her husband, Chip.

**W**hat's your connection to Florida? My dad grew up in St. Petersburg and my family lives in St. Pete and on Treasure Island.

**How often do you come back here and where have you played poker in the Sunshine State?** I've played at Hard Rock (Tampa), obviously Tampa Bay Downs and in Sarasota at One-Eyed Jacks.

**You're an instructor at this month's High Heels Poker Tour Academy at the Seminole Hard Rock in Hollywood. How did you get involved with that?** It's a very small circle and I knew one of the partners and they had asked me. I'm very friendly with Barbara Enright, Susie Isaacs, and I'm on the board of the Women's Poker Hall of Fame. It's easy for me to pair up with one of those women to teach. And since I've had experience teaching (with other poker schools) I guess it was a good fit. I've always been a big supporter of women playing poker.

**What's your favorite part about teaching people how to play poker?** I like teaching, but it also helps me. There's always something to learn about the game. When you're around a bunch of people you get different aspects of how a hand is played and get different opinions. ... I could never be a school teacher, but this is one way that I could teach somebody something that has value. I feel like I'm giving back.

**What is the single biggest mistake you see your students make?** Min-raising. When you double-raise you're not really accomplishing anything. What do you know about that hand? It doesn't accomplish anything. You're just (encouraging) people to try to beat your hand. ... We have some students that we tell them: "Don't double-raise!" and then we see them at the practice session and they still double-raise.

**You mentioned being a big proponent of women in poker. What do you think of ladies-only events?** I think it's inviting and good for women to have because it allows women who are new to the game to encourage them to play with other women so they feel more comfortable. I think the big reason women don't play is because of the intimidation factor of playing with men. ... If they're introduced in a friendly environment with other women they'll feel more comfortable and it will snowball from there.

**There are a lot of poker ventures on your plate, from the camps to your Poker's Most Wanted playing cards and your relationship with Full Tilt Poker. How do you find the time to raise a family, travel the world to play poker and still take care of all of these business ventures?** I balance very well. (laughs) I'm constantly doing something. I'm a woman; I'm a multitasker. I'm not totally involved in one thing. That's my nature; it keeps me going.



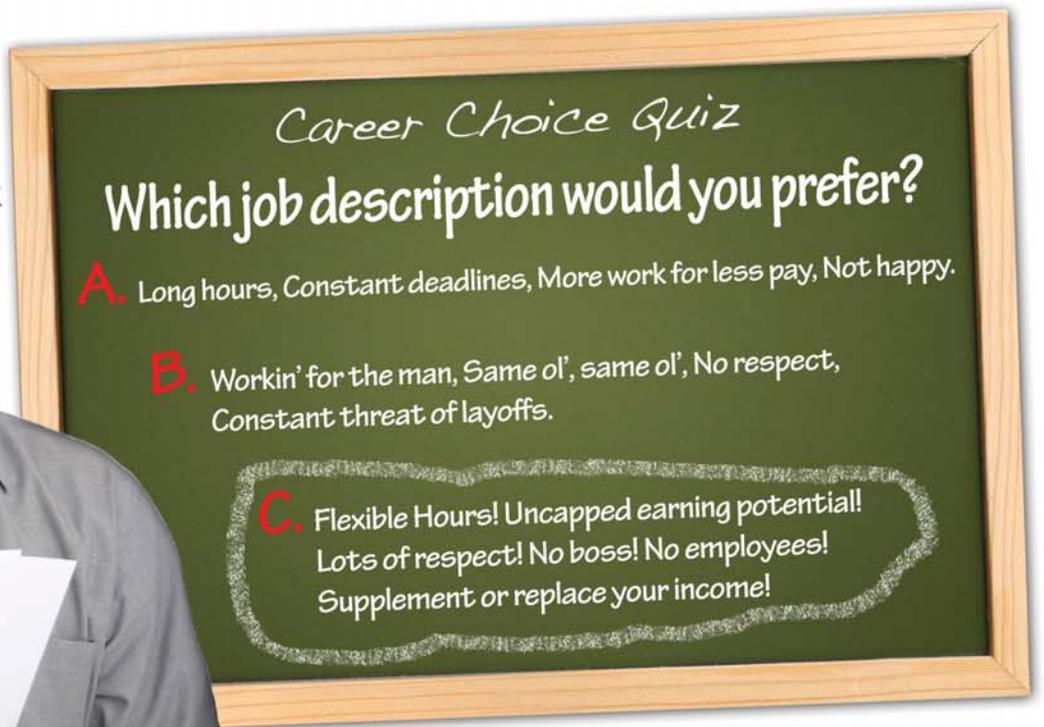
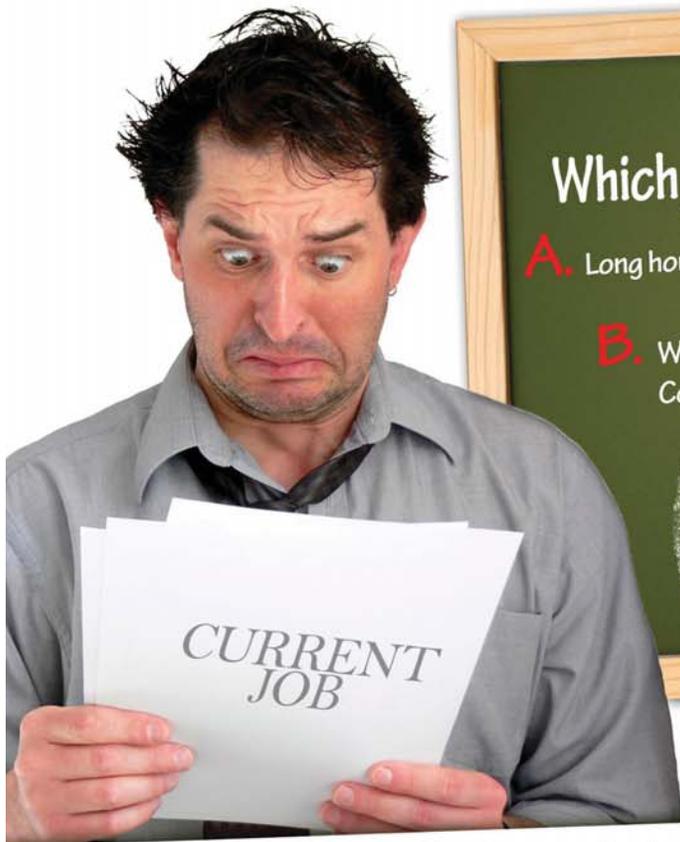
**Is that what makes you a successful poker player, being able to keep track of so many things at once?** Exactly! I think a lot of men can only do one thing and get distracted very easily. I think that's a big plus for me because I don't get rattled. I'm used to the pressure. (laughs)

**Speaking of your family, you have two children. If they wanted to play poker when they grew up, what would you tell them?** I would encourage them to learn the game, but not to play for a living. ... My passion for them is their education. I spend a lot of time with them helping them with their homework. I really value their education. But I think they should learn the game.

**Your husband, Chip, is a famous pro poker player, too. Do the two of you have a rivalry at the poker table?** My husband loves to knock me out of tournaments! He is such a jerk. (laughs) I can't even tell you how many times. It's like "Dude, have a little sympathy for your wife!" We're very competitive in our house. We have a lot of games, we have a pool table, video games. And that's just one way for him to turn the dagger. (laughs)

**Is there a favorite story about him you'd like to tell?** One time, I swear to God I was going to punch him in the face! (laughs). We're in this tournament and he asked the players at the table "Should I play this hand against her?" Of course they're going to say yes because they want him to knock me out; they want to see drama! He listens to them and it's like "Hello? Have your own mind!" Needless to say he got an hour lecture on that. At least an hour! (laughs).





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 **WPT**<sup>®</sup>

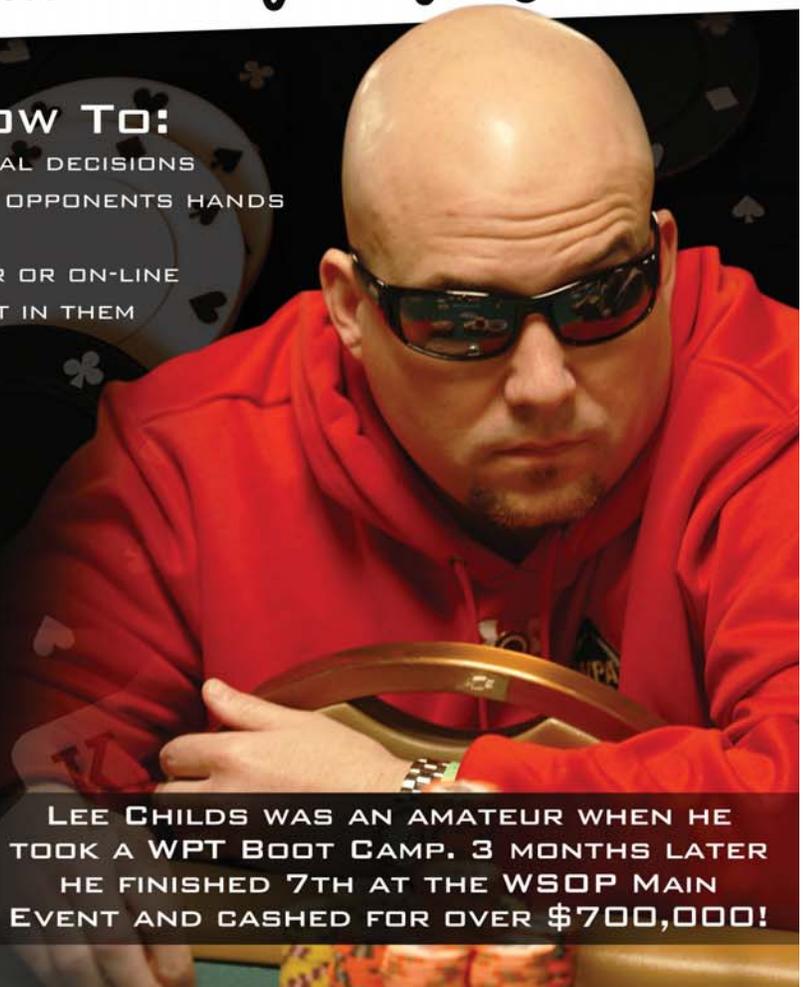
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*Beau Rivage*  
Spring Break  
**POKER**  
C L A S S I C

March 27 - April 13

## MARCH 27 - APRIL 13, 2009

DATE	EVENT#	TIME	GAME	BUY-IN
March 27		6PM/7PM	Satellites begin/Nightly Tournament	
March 28	1	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$500 + \$50
March 29	2	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
March 30	3	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
March 30	4	4PM	Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
March 31	5	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
April 1	6	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
April 1	7	4PM	Omaha8/B	\$300 + \$40
April 2	8	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
April 2	9	4PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em/Pot Limit Omaha	\$300 + \$40
April 3	10	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
April 3	11	4PM	Pot Limit Omaha w/ rebuys	\$300 + \$40
April 4	12	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$500 + \$50
April 5	13	11AM	Ladies No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
April 5	14	1PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$1,000 + \$70
April 6	15	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
April 6	16	4PM	Stud 8 or Better	\$300 + \$40
April 7		12PM	Mega Satellite	\$270 + \$30
April 7		4PM	Mega Satellite	\$270 + \$30
April 7		8PM	Mega Satellite	\$270 + \$30
April 8	17	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em Championship	\$2,500 + \$100
April 9	18	12PM	6-Handed No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
April 10	19	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
April 10	20	4PM	HOSE	\$300 + \$40
April 11	21	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
April 12	22	12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em Charity Event	\$100 + \$25
April 13		12PM	Gulf Coast Championship Mega Satellite	\$500 + \$40

\$270 + \$30 Mega Satellites for Championship Event daily at 4PM. \$175 + \$25 No-Limit Hold 'Em events nightly at 7PM.

Registration begins at 6PM on March 27. Registration is open from 8AM - 9PM daily. For more information call 228.386.7111 ext. 7254. Blind structures and other details are available at [beaurivage.com](http://beaurivage.com).

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