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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



UNITE TO FIGHT FOR POKER

Sept. 30, 2006

On this day, our nation lost a little more of its innocence, as poker players across the country learned a valuable lesson in how easy it is for lawmakers to turn unpopular ideas into law. As legislators lined up “ayes” to the SAFE Port Act, an immensely important national security bill, almost all of them were unaware they also were saying “yes” to the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act. The language, which banned certain financial transactions involving online gaming, had been inserted into the bill at the last minute by sponsors who knew it had little hope of passage had they played by the rules of good conduct rather than the rules of Washington.

June 1, 2010

On this day, enforcement of the UIGEA finally went into effect. The fact that it took almost four years to come to pass is a testament to the doggedness of the Poker Players Alliance, a grassroots poker advocacy group that has been at the forefront of protecting and expanding the rights of poker players. (Read our Q&A with PPA executive director John Pappas on Page 70.) The PPA, sympathetic lawmakers and exasperated bank officials held off enforcement as long they could. Now, it's up to them — and us — to work to repeal the law and push for legislation that regulates, not restricts, our desire to play online poker. We shouldn't fear regulation; we should welcome it for the safety it provides. But we also should vigorously fight against regulation that lacks common sense. And the UIGEA simply lacks common sense.

All of this over a card game.

A card game favored by presidents, kings and everyday Janes and Joes like you and us. It would be funny ... if it weren't so damn frustrating. And the frustration is compounded by the poker play-

ing community's inability to work together for the benefit of the game.

To that end, we say there's room under the big tent of poker for all of its terrific variations:

- Brick-and-mortar rooms allow us to soak up all of the elements of poker, right down to those facial tells that Joe Navarro helps us navigate. We should work for a loosening of nonsensical rules, such as those that limited Florida for too long, and work to open new markets, like we're seeing this month in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

- Free poker leagues allow us to play the game without risk, creating a new generation of players that will keep the game vibrant for years to come. We should work to encourage brick-and-mortar rooms to see these training grounds as the “minor leagues of poker” and not competition.

- Home games allow us to enjoy the intense social aspects of the game and give us an opportunity to play those odd games, such as Follow The Queen and Night Baseball. We should work to ensure all of us can enjoy friendly, penny-ante games at home without the threat of being treated like criminals.

- And online rooms allow us to play the widest variety of games at the widest variety of limits, all from the comfort of our pajamas. We should work to make sure the best of these sites are free to offer their games and promotions to all Americans, not just those in particular states.

Four types of poker, all with a unique place in our poker ecosystem. And as with all ecosystems, disrupting one leg disrupts every other leg.

So let's come together to fight for all forms of our favorite game, and unite in our efforts to fend off the true predators that present the biggest threat to our enjoyment.

We'll see you at the tables.

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

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CONNECTIONS

FLORIDA



The Venetian Deep Stack Charity Classic drew more than 500 players to the Daytona Beach Kennel Club for a good cause and some incredible poker. Local and national businesses donated more than \$70K in prizes. **18**

- The Ante Up Poker Cruise returns for its third voyage, this time out of Port Canaveral en route to the Bahamas for \$299, our best price yet! **63**
- World famous Hialeah Park has applied for a gaming license, meaning poker may be in its future very soon. **14**
- With uncapped poker finally in Florida, what's brewing? **24**

LOUISIANA



Fred Berger captures the main event of the World Series of Poker

circuit event at Harrah's in New Orleans. The quiet pro from Louisiana won nearly \$200K. Results, **26**



ARKANSAS

Oaklawn Racing has a smooth-running poker room these days, thanks to manager Matt Clement. Read his Q&A. **31**

KENTUCKY

Mark "Pegasus" Smith of Georgetown is the owner of many World Series of Poker circuit records, including most victories. **33**

ROAD TRIP

The beautiful sprawling hills of farmland and cotton fields draw *Ante Up* to Tunica to visit the poker rooms of Northern Mississippi. **44**



MISSISSIPPI

A failed marriage leads one man to Tunica and a stop at the Horseshoe. It proved to be his greatest poker moment. **48**

- The World Poker Open returns for its 11th turn at Gold Strike this month. **32**

AROUND THE NATION

Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi of Florida finally has his first bracelet, winning the \$50K Players Championship at the World Series of Poker. • Also, through 25 events The South has three bracelets as Frank Kasella of Tennessee and Carter Phillips of North Carolina earn hardware in Events 15 and 16. **34**



COVER STORY



Flanked by *Ante Up* publishers Scott Long and Chris Cosenza, Walt Strakowski is presented with his Ante Up Poker Tour Player of the Year bracelet. The Palm Beach Kennel Club hosted the awards ceremony, buffet and bounty event on June 8. **38**

PERSPECTIVE

WSOP bracelet-winner Don Baruch says his victory taught him you need to be fearless when playing in poker tournaments. **55**

Jay Houston says playing just big cards in smaller buy-in cash games will prove profitable overall. **57**



Pro player Lee Childs discusses a hand where he tries to maximize his profits, but don't confuse his extracting methods with slow-playing, he says. **55**

If you want to succeed in poker tournaments you need to mentally prepare for every pitfall and event that may come your way, says Dr. Stephen Bloomfield. **56**

ON THE BUTTON

Poker Players Alliance executive director John Pappas discusses what the June 1 enforcement of the UIGEA means to players and the future of online poker, especially under the Obama Administration. **70**



\$400,000

SUMMER OPEN *Poker* SERIES

JULY 25 – AUGUST 3

EVENT 1 • NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM

Day 1A - July 25 at 11AM • \$560 BUY-IN - \$75,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL
Day 1B - July 26 at 11AM • \$560 BUY-IN - \$75,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL
Final Day - July 27 at 11AM • \$560 BUY-IN - \$75,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL

EVENT 2 • TEXAS HOLD 'EM (DEEP STACK TURBO)

July 27 at 11AM • \$230 BUY-IN

EVENT 3 • NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM

July 28 at 11AM • \$350 BUY-IN - \$30,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL

EVENT 4 • OMAHA HI/LO

July 29 at 11AM • \$350 BUY-IN

EVENT 5 • NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM (2 RE-ENTRY)

July 30 at 11AM • \$200 BUY-IN - \$30,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL

EVENT 6 • NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM

Day 1A - July 31 at 11AM • \$2,200 BUY-IN - \$250,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL
Day 1B - August 1 at 11AM • \$2,200 BUY-IN - \$250,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL
Day 2 - August 2 at 11AM • Day 2 of Play for the Summer Open Championship Event
Final Day - August 3 at 11AM • Day 3 of Play for the Summer Open Championship Event

EVENT 7 • NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM

August 2 at 11AM • \$230 BUY-IN - \$15,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL

EVENT 8 • NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM (6 HANDED)

August 3 at 11AM • \$440 BUY-IN



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ALL IN POKER SERIES

Curtis Shovan won the monthly tournament May 20 in Orlando, beating more than 80 players to take home the trophy and a 32-inch flat-panel TV.

- All In will be running the La Amistad Foundation, Inc. charity event in Orlando on July 17. The tournament costs \$50. For more info go to laamistad.org/events/poker.

- The Orlando Rockets poker tournaments (July 31 and Aug. 28) benefit young basketball players. It's a \$50 suggested donation in advance and first place is a \$1K gift card. Go to OrlandoRockets.com for more information.

THE NUTZ POKER LEAGUE



- Ed Esposito captured the semi-annual title at Bilmar Station, winning a trip to Las Vegas to play in the World Series of Poker.

- Bob Miller won the monthly championship at Buffalo Wild Wings in Oldsmar. Miller won a custom bracelet and a vacation getaway.

BIG STACKS POKER LEAGUE



Keith House won the bi-monthly at Frank's Place and pocketed a \$500 poker room sponsorship. Fred Wilsen placed second (\$200), followed by Sharon White (\$125), John Cybulski (\$100) and last bi-monthly winner Marino Thomas (\$75).

- Greg Antonov won the league's first charity event, edging Hugo Torres at Legends Sports Bar and Grill for a \$360 gift card. Torres took home a \$250 gift card, followed by Gary Sokolitsky (\$110), Connie West (\$100) and Terry Williams (\$35). The proceeds went to the Lewis Family Charities to "Feed Hungry Americans Period."

CHIP ANA CHAIR

Matt "Jesus" Miller bested 51 players to win the spring main event at the Lost Kangaroo in Bradenton. He was followed by Jeremy Brownell, Davy Jones, Paul Clements, Matt Gibbons, Peter Iovale, Steve Pumphrey, Carolyn Tucker-Stook, Terry Graham and Amanda Shelly. The bubble girl, Laura "Mushroom" Adams won the book *Making the Final Table* by Erick Lindgren.



TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURS

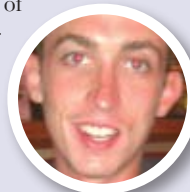


Here are the winners of the recent quarterly event, which included world champ Tom McEvoy conducting a training camp: 1. John Correa, \$2,500; 2. Chris Whitney, \$1,000, 3. Justin Sellers, \$500; 4. Bob Whynot, \$250; 5. Chris Smith, \$150; 6. Rhonda Covington, \$125; Jon Bowman, \$125; 8. John Jolinski, \$100; 9. James Valle, \$100; 10. Ron Keller, \$75 and Monroe Collins, \$75.

NWFL DIVISION: Jennifer Williams of Niceville, left, won the April tournament at Calhoun's Pub & Grub in Destin.



Joshua Anderson of Destin, right, won the May event at the Original Oasis in Destin.



TREASURE CHEST POKER

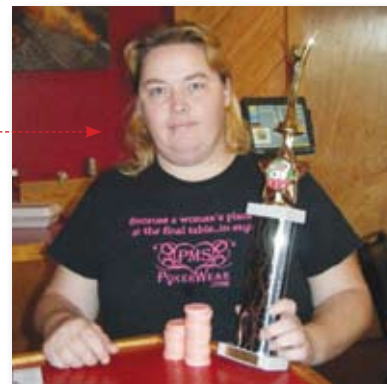
- In the Battle of the Sexes tournament Linda Steinruck took home the title, the trophy and the \$100 gift card.

- Dawn Fletcher won the Tampa Bay area monthly at Bacalao in Sarasota, pocketing a \$500 gift card.

- At the Ocala monthly, Jim Spence bested Ken Bryant and Valerie Wilson to earn the trophy and a \$65 tournament buy-in at Ocala Poker.

- Kris Hannon won the Battle of the Bars, good for a \$50 gift card, her name on the trophy and a quarterly seat for a chance to play in the WSOP.

- Christina Dale captured the Stokers monthly, a quarterly seat in the WSOP satellite and a \$100 buy-in to the Silks Poker Room in Tampa.



Beautifully played.



Aug 26 - Sep 7



DATE	EVENT	TIME	TOURNAMENT	BUY-IN
Aug 26	Thu	6PM	Satellites and Nightly Events Begin	
Aug 27	Fri	1 12PM (1 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Aug 28	Sat	2 11AM (1 Day)	High Heels Poker Tour Ladies Event	\$200 + \$30
Aug 28	Sat	3 12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Aug 29	Sun	4 12PM (1 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em Charity Event	\$200 + \$30
Aug 30	Mon	5 12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Aug 30	Mon	6 4PM	Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Aug 31	Tue	7 12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em Survivor Event	\$200 + \$30
Aug 31	Tue	8 4PM	Limit Omaha Hi-Lo	\$300 + \$40
Sep 1	Wed	9 12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Sep 1	Wed	10 4PM	Seven Card Stud/Stud 8/b mixed event	\$300 + \$40
Sep 2	Thu	11 12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Sep 2	Thu	12 4PM	Pot Limit Omaha/Rebuy	\$500 + \$50
Sep 3	Fri	13 12PM (1 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em Turbo	\$300 + \$40
Sep 3	Fri	4PM (1 Day)	Rebuy Mega Satellite	\$200 + \$30
Sep 3	Fri	8PM (1 Day)	Rebuy Mega Satellite	\$200 + \$30
Sep 3	Fri Night	MIDNIGHT	Midnight Mega Satellite	\$270 + \$30
Sep 4	Sat	10AM	Last Chance Mega Satellite Turbo	\$500 + \$40
Sep 4	Sat	14 2PM (4 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em Championship	\$4,800 + \$200
Sep 5	Sun	12PM	Day 2 of Championship Event	
Sep 6	Mon	12PM	Day 3 of Championship Event	
Sep 6	Mon	15 2PM (1 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em Turbo	\$200 + \$30
Sep 7	Tue	4PM	Championship Event Final Table	

Event 14 winner receives a seat into the WPT event at Beau Rivage, January 2011.

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

Registration begins at 5PM on August 26. Registration is open from 8AM - 9PM daily. For more information, call 1.228.386.7092. Blind structures and additional details are available at beaurivage.com. Complete rules are available in the poker room.

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Hialeah Park to apply for gaming license July 1

Hialeah Park, the famous horse racing track near Miami, will apply for a gaming license on July 1, the *Thoroughbred Times* reports.

Hialeah Park owner John Brunetti told the *Times* he hopes to have a casino open by next spring. The track is permitted to offer poker, dominoes and slot machines if it receives ap-

proval from the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering.

Hialeah Park, famous for its flamingos, had fallen into disrepair before Brunetti invested millions of dollars in repairs and began quarterhorse racing last year. The track plans another quarterhorse meet starting Nov. 27.

JACKSONVILLE RACING AND POKER

At St. Johns Greyhound Park, the North Florida Poker Classic featured six events in May with more than 400 entries and more than \$45K in prize pools.

The \$150 four-day main event attracted 240 players and paid \$31,200 as Robert Tims, top right, won the event, good for \$9,980. Armando Cisnero was runner-up, earning \$5,930.

• Orange Park Kennel Club held a couple of World Series of Poker satellites and an interesting story emerged from the April 18 event.

Donnie Vann, booked and ready for his two-month-plus trip to Vegas, made his venture a little less costly when he won his WSOP main event seat in the 140-player field.

He was set to square off against good friend Aaron Lucas, but instead Lucas graciously conceded the ticket to Vann and took the \$3,500 payout.

Vann began his trip in June in a custom van and trailer. People can follow his progress on his blog at dvann.blogspot.com.

• On May 29, Edith Hayes, bottom right, won a \$12,300 WSOP package.

• When the High Heels Poker Tour WSOP satellite tournament at Orange Park Kennel Club reached five-handed a deal was struck for all of them to go the World Series.

Kim Simpson was the overall winner, pocketing an additional \$700.

Here are the results:

1. Kim Simpson, Orange Park
2. Grace Hassett, Orange Park
3. Donna Jetter, Nashville
4. Doris Breese, Jacksonville
5. Jena Delk, Merritt Island

• Coming in August will be Jacksonville's Florida Poker Tour, Aug. 19-29. For more information go to jaxpokerroom.com.



Tims



Director Ant Furnier

Lucas

Vann



Hayes

GULFSTREAM PARK

Jorge Atme, Josh Garcia and Toufik Beloualhi were the top-three finishers on June 6 in Gulfstream Park's annual World Series of Poker Challenge. The top 50 players who accumulated the most tournament points during this challenge played for three spots in the WSOP's \$10K main event. It was the seventh Gulfstream Challenge in the series since 2008.

Atme (first) also earned \$1,000 and Garcia (second) received \$500. Beloualhi, who was second in last year's WSOP Challenge at Gulfstream, finished third to earn another main event seat.

MAGIC CITY CASINO



The Big Slick Progressive Jackpot recently hit twice in Miami. Above is Ernest Garcia (\$91,629) and below is Ricardo Perez (\$87,844).



DERBY LANE & WDAE



Mike Sweeney bested nearly 200 players at Derby Lane to win Clear Channel's Going All In for the Cure charity tournament on May 21.

CALDER CASINO

The Studz Poker Club paid its first Super Bad Beat on June 9. The \$111,622 prize is the largest jackpot for Studz this year.

Jean B. of Miramar won \$55,811 when her four fives were beaten by the straight flush of Jeanette B. of Hialeah.

Jeanette won \$33,491. The other six players won \$3,720. Jeanette's luck didn't end there. She won the hourly high hand with her straight flush for another \$100. Then later in the afternoon she won \$400 for another high hand (quad 10s).



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HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD



Howard Appledorf of Pembroke Pines, left, won the \$1,100 heavy-weight division of the Main Event series at the Seminole Hard Rock's Paradise Poker Room on May 16.

Appledorf, who pocketed \$20K for his victory, also won the main

event in November 2009. Steven Karp of North Miami Beach, center, took down the \$575 cruiserweight division, good for \$11,370. Nigel Murray of Miami Gardens, right, won the \$350 middleweight division (\$14,822).

DANIA JAI-ALAI



The \$50,000 guarantee event on May 22 came down to two players: Julio Fernandez of Miami and Nate Mason of Boca Raton, pictured at left. And they decided to chop the \$26,505.

The \$340 no-limit hold'em tournament (and free dinner buffet) drew 186 players.

• With more than 200 players in the monthly Dan Le Batard Celebrity tourney the final five players chose to chop, but the "declared winner" with the most chips at the end was **Steve Hill** from Pembroke Pines.

The final table is pictured above.

SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC

The \$167,000 Mega Bad Beat Jackpot hit recently at Seminole Hollywood Classic.

Thomas Collazo of Davie won \$83,561 when his steel wheel lost to the seven-high straight flush of Simona Kessler of Hollywood. She won \$50,136. The eight other players at the table won \$4,178 each. It's the 11th time the mega has been hit since its inception in December.



PLEASURE ISLAND POKER

On May 17 at Tee Luck Lounge in Mary Esther, Loria Walters beat more than 60 players to claim her second monthly title in five months. Can anyone stop her?





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DEEP STACK CHARITY CLASSIC

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More than 520 players entered the main event, which featured top players Mike Matusow, Tom McEvoy and Darvin Moon, each looking to win seats into the Venetian Deep Stack Classic in Las Vegas. The tournament paid 40 spots as businesses donated more than \$70K in prizes.



The final table

Final results

1. Joshua White
2. Steve Ogilvie
3. Alan Hatcher
4. Luis Costa
5. Gerald Grayson
6. Larry Smith
7. Nick Avena
8. N/A
9. Dave Fowler
10. Joe Jackson



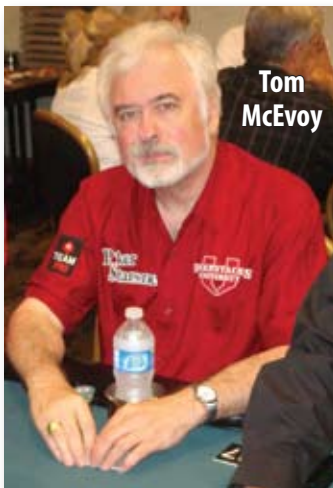
Mike The Mouth and Money Mike



Darvin Moon



So many showed up that tournament directors accepted some alternates.



Tom McEvoy



Mike Matusow autographs a shirt.

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\$2-\$5	\$200	\$500
\$5-\$10	\$400	\$1,500
\$10-\$20	\$800	Unlimited

LIMIT

Bets	Min
\$2-\$4	\$20
\$4-\$8	\$40
\$8-\$16	\$80
\$15-\$30	\$150
\$30-\$60	\$300

POT LIMIT

Blinds	Min	Max
\$2-\$5	\$200	\$500
\$5-\$10	\$400	\$1,500
\$10-\$25	\$800	Unlimited



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An occasional interview with a local player • By Garrett Roth

HE'S A FISH, BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK



Darryll "DFish" Fish of Ft. Lauderdale is one of the most recognizable and respected players in the online poker world. He's also a highly admired online-poker-forum contributor, who goes into profound detail about hand histories, strategy and analysis of online play. His credentials come from his amazing success in live and online poker. Some of his career highlights in live poker include a final table at the 2009 World Series of Poker pot-limit hold'em championship (\$77K), a PLO victory in the 2008 Binion's Poker Classic (\$25K) and a final-table appearance at the California State Poker Championship (\$28K).

Fish has been on a tear on the live circuit recently, but his roots always have been online. He has wins in the Full Tilt \$1K Monday (\$81K), PokerStars \$1K Super Tuesday (\$87K) and his most recent triumph came in Stars' 2009 World Championship of Online Poker (Event 33) for \$160,000.

Ante Up's Garrett Roth talked with Fish about his success, his influences and his thoughts on uncapped poker in Florida.

What initiated your interest in poker? After I had heart surgery in 2001, I met a kid who was really into the game Magic: The Gathering. He introduced it to me and I fell in love with it. I traveled and played competitively for a couple of years and in 2003, when Chris MoneyMaker won the WSOP, our group started playing poker online. We started out with the \$1 sit-n-go tournaments. I quickly became obsessed with

the game and started doing everything I could to get myself to a competitive level. I went to the local dog track to play \$1-\$2 limit hold'em a few days a week, and then months later moved to Gainesville to live with some friends who were attending the University of Florida. I did really well in those games and eventually decided to put \$50 on Party Poker. I played limit hold'em starting at \$.50-\$1 and within four months I was multitableting \$5-\$10 limit. I eventually moved into no-limit cash games and then a little over two years ago I got into tournament poker.

Who has been the biggest influence on your game? My biggest influences in poker have really been two people in particular. Adam "Roothlus" Levy and I have been friends for many years. He got into poker a little sooner than I did and I always looked for guidance when moving up. We remain very good friends and are always bouncing ideas off each other and trying to help each other grow as players. Another major influence would be Matt "mattg1983" Graham. I became friends with Matt in early 2008, and when he moved to Vegas that summer, I decided to give it a shot and moved out there to live with him. I was just starting to play a lot of tournaments and I learned a lot of solid tournament fundamentals by watching him play. He also saw a lot of potential in me and offered to stake me in high-stakes tournaments. This allowed me to advance through the ranks rapidly and I quickly became a winner in the highest stakes tournaments online.

What has been the most memorable moment in your poker career? I think

Continued on Page 22

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Continued from previous page

thus far, the most memorable moment I've had was making the final table of last year's \$10,000 pot-limit hold'em event at the World Series of Poker. It was my first \$10,000 buy-in event and I had a bunch of friends there rooting for me. Although it was short-lived, it was still very exciting and gave me a great deal of motivation to do even better in the next WSOP.

What do you think of the new poker limits going up in Florida and what do you think it will mean for the state's poker community? I can't even begin to explain how excited I am for this change. I have been waiting for this change ever since I first got into hold'em. Having played in the low-limit games at the dog tracks and the Hard Rock in Tampa, I knew the average caliber of poker player in Florida was extremely weak compared to most areas. I think it will be a positive thing as far as the state is concerned, as it will bring a lot more people in to gamble and spend time in Florida. I think the games are going to be extremely lucrative and the action will be big. There is especially a lot of money in the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area, where I currently reside, and I plan on putting in a ton of hours at the local cardrooms after the WSOP. It will also make it possible for the state to run even bigger tournaments than they already do. Now that Florida will be able to attract big cash-game players, I think there will be a strong pull for big buy-in tournaments as well.

What are some of your future aspirations and goals? I tend to just go with the flow of life and I'm not really one to plan things out very often. I think life is full of surprises and if you just live in the moment, things are a lot more exciting. After this summer's WSOP, I plan on getting a place in the Ft. Lauderdale area and grinding the cash games in the area very frequently. I will also continue to travel the tournament circuit because my favorite form of poker is high-stakes live poker tournaments, such as WPTs and WSOP circuit events. I hope to someday use the money I've made from poker to open a restaurant, or maybe a bar, and try to travel the world as much as possible.

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A word from Florida's Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering • By Charlie Liem

AS GAMING GROWS, SO DOES OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Florida is one of the primary parimutuel states in the nation, and it is the leading state in greyhound and horse racing. In 1996, the first cardrooms were integrated into parimutuel facilities. Now, most of the state's parimutuel facilities have active cardrooms that have added a new dimension to the parimutuel gaming experience. In 2005, slot machine gaming was approved in existing parimutuels in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, if approved by a countywide vote. The first slots opened in Dade County in 2007 and in Broward in 2009.

As the face of the gaming industry in Florida continues to change, it is our role to ensure parimutuel facilities across the state adhere to state regulations. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation houses the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering and is charged with regulating the parimutuel industry to ensure a safe and fair gaming environment for citizens and visitors. This legislative session the department was named the state compliance agency for the Seminole Gaming Compact. This will be a new role for our agency, and we are meeting with Seminole Tribe representatives to facilitate the implementation of the terms of the compact.

With the signing of the compact, changes were made to the parimutuel, cardroom and slots laws that will affect the state's parimutuel facilities and players. It is my goal to ensure that our facilities and their patrons understand what the new laws mean and how they

State-approved games

COMMUNITY CARDS

- Texas Hold'em
- Double Flop Texas Hold'em
- Double Bonus Hold'em
- Omaha
- Omaha High
- Omaha/8
- Pineapple
- Crazy Pineapple
- Lazy Pineapple
- Super Lazy Pineapple

DRAW GAMES

- Lowball
- Five-card
- Seven-card
- Jacks or Better
- Jacks Back
- High/Low Split

STUD

- Five-card
- Six-card
- Seven-card
- Razz
- Stud/8

OTHER

- H.O.R.S.E. (any combination)
- Seven-card mutual
- Three-card

will affect gaming at the facilities.

Starting July 1, cardroom operating hours will be extended to 18 hours per day, Monday through Friday, and 24 hours per day on Saturday, Sunday and specified state holidays. Players will be able to play no-limit poker

games at Florida parimutuel facilities. There are also detailed regulations regarding tournament play and limits on buy-ins and winnings. All wagering and tournament entry fee limits have been removed from law.

There were also changes made to the licensing and taxation laws for parimutuels and slots. While these changes will not directly affect gamers, they will help streamline processes and eliminate burdensome regulation for the facilities.

The department has made it easier for the facilities to offer new games. By law, new games must be approved by the department. In the past, there was no way for facilities across the state to know which games had been approved by the department. Without a list of approved games, facilities were requesting approval for games that had been approved. Now, all approved games are listed online at www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/pmw/PMW--AuthorizedCardGames.html. We hope this will allow facilities to offer a greater variety of games without a delay for approval.

As laws change and we work to improve our processes, we will continue to adapt to the transformation of the gaming industry in Florida. Our main objective will remain the same, to provide a fair and safe gaming experience to consumers.

— **Charlie Liem is the Secretary of Florida's Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Contact him at (850) 413-0755.**

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WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT



MAY 7-19, 2010 • HARRAH'S CASINO • NEW ORLEANS

Low-key professional poker player Fred Berger of Slidell, La., took home nearly \$198K after capturing the \$5K main event. "I plan on giving 10 percent of my winnings to charity," Berger said. "That's how I do things. The rest of the money, I'll give it to (my wife). I hope she might stake me in a few future tournaments."

Another interesting story came out of the Ladies Championship where two-time defending champion Trish Marks of Covington, La., nearly made it a three-peat, finishing second to winner Paula Halata. Marks has made the past four final tables of the ladies' events in the Bayou Poker Challenges.



MAIN EVENT CHAMPION: FRED BERGER



EVENT 1 CHAMPION
RYAN ERIQUEZZO



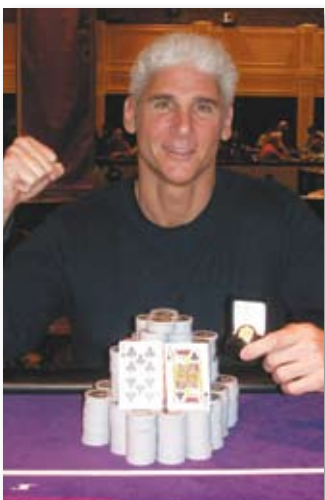
EVENT 2 CHAMPION
CHRISTOPHER GAMBOA



EVENT 3 CHAMPION
JIMMY NICKENS



EVENT 4 CHAMPION
STEVEN HUSTOFT



EVENT 5 CHAMPION
MICHAEL SCOTT



EVENT 6 CHAMPION
JEAN-SEBASTIEN LAURENT



EVENT 7 CHAMPION
STEVE GRANT



EVENT 8 CHAMPION
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WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT

MAY 7-19, 2010 • HARRAH'S CASINO • NEW ORLEANS



EVENT 9 CHAMPION
LAKE GARNER



EVENT 10 CHAMPION
DAPHNE TURNER



EVENT 11 CHAMPION
BARRY HUTTER



EVENT 12 CHAMPION
DAVID FOX



EVENT 13 CHAMPION
BIG PAPPA SOLOMON



EVENT 14 CHAMPION
WILLIAM BENTON



EVENT 15 CHAMPION
RON HOOVER



EVENT 16 CHAMPION
HAMILTON MCGOWAN



EVENT 18 CHAMPION
PAULA HALATA

Final results

Event #1 • \$340 NLHE

Entries: 547 • Prize Pool: \$154,014

1. Ryan Enriquez, Danbury, CT, \$34,656
2. Danny Lee, New York, \$21,948
3. Morris Lewis, New Orleans, \$13,477
4. Chad Tucker, Winfield, AL, \$11,012
5. Johnny Nowak, Fairview, TX, \$9,010
6. Allen Kessler, Las Vegas, \$7,085
7. John Nguyen, Harvey, LA, \$5,544
8. Steven Brudi, N/A, \$4,389
9. Alex Olwine, Dayton, OH, \$3,234
10. Clayton Bates, Livingston, TX, \$2,079
11. Jay Thomas, Baton Rouge, LA, \$2,079
12. Robert Quin, Metairie, LA, \$2,079
13. Christopher Harris, Kenner, LA, \$1,694
14. Peter Favaro, San Antonio, TX, \$1,694
15. Ali Bakhshieshi, Dallas, \$1,694
16. Mark Rose, Orlando, FL, \$1,309
17. Steven Byers, Kingwood, TX, \$1,309
18. Zal Irani, New Orleans, \$1,309
19. Cristina Ramirez, Dallas, \$1,001
20. Bryan Quebedeaux, Austin, TX, \$1,001
21. Mitchell Franks, Shreveport, LA, \$1,001
22. Jon Sexton, Gulfport, MS, \$1,001
23. Bryan James, Colma, LA, \$1,001
24. Rob Habisreitinger, LA, \$1,001
25. Kenneth Weidner, Reading, PA \$1,001
26. Chris Williamson, New Orleans, \$1,001
27. John Tucker, Austin, TX \$1,001
28. Elliott Miller, New Orleans, \$847
29. Michael Jacobs, Houston, \$847
30. Robert Tourres, Seattle, \$847
31. Brian Anderson, Gulfport, MS, \$847
32. Alex Wood, New Orleans, \$847
33. Matt Mullins Baton Rouge, LA, \$847
34. Donna Murray, Austin, TX, \$847
35. Jae Chung, Atlanta, \$847
36. Sidney Farrell, New Orleans, \$847
37. Jimmy Bryan, New Orleans, \$693
38. Bryan Lanoix, Baton Rouge, \$693
39. Antuan Bunklay, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, \$693
40. Himeida Gay, Humble, TX, \$693
41. Zachary Bartel, Kenner, LA, \$693
42. Frank Alpanindar, Baton Rouge, LA, \$693

43. Scott Horvath, Corpus Christi, TX, \$693
44. Martin Zenter, New Orleans, \$693
45. Arthur Saucedo, New Orleans, \$693
46. Philip Walsh, Gulfport, MS, \$616
47. Steven Garza, Corpus Christi, TX, \$616
48. Rich Keranen, Denham Spr., LA, \$616
49. Ryan Gafford, Denham Spr., LA, \$616
50. Bac Nguyen, Austin, TX, \$616
51. Vittorio Iemolo, Sarasota, FL, \$616
52. Rhueben Towne, Missouri City, TX, \$616
53. Jacob Naquin, New Orleans, \$616
54. Carson Nunez, Erath, LA, \$308
55. Kevin Arrowwood, Moody, AL, \$308

Event #2 • \$550 NLHE

Entries: 314 • Prize Pool: \$147,140

1. Christopher Gamboa, Houston, \$35,313
2. David Moyer, Luling, LA, \$21,703
3. Shawn Quillin, Charlotte, NC, \$13,610
4. Vien Le, Baton Rouge, LA, \$11,035

Results continued on next page

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Friday - Saturday
1p.m. | 6p.m. | 8p.m. | 12a.m.

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Look out for the new promos that we have added!

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Night Owl Promos
High Limit Area

NEW TOURNAMENTS

Keep an eye out for the new tournaments that we are able to run. Some of the fun ones this month are:

97x I Love New York Tournaments
Derby Lane Poker Run
Dealer Add-on Events



*Big chips aren't just for
tournaments anymore!*

MANAGER'S CORNER: MATT CLEMENT, OAKLAWN RACING

Matt Clement joined the Oaklawn Racing & Gaming team in December 2008. Along with his staff and other Oaklawn departments, Clement helped transform the Oaklawn poker room into what it is today. *Ante Up's* Craig Fleck recently had an opportunity to talk with him to discuss life, work and, of course, poker.

Where are you from originally? I was born and raised here in Hot Springs, Ark. It's a beautiful city to call home.

How old are you? 29, soon to be 30. Ugh.

What is your official title with Oaklawn? I am the assistant gaming manager, as well as the director of sales and special events.

How long have you been in poker and could you tell me about the path to this job? I came to Oaklawn as the director of sales and events following stints in advertising and hotel sales. Oaklawn is terrific about promoting from within, and offered me the chance to work in the gaming operation in July 2009. ... In November 2009 I was asked to oversee the poker room. At the time we were very close to expanding our poker operation, from four tables in a corner of the game floor to a fantastic seven-table dedicated poker room. It was a pretty crazy time, but fortunately I inherited a terrific staff.

Do you play poker and if so, how long and what's your favorite game? I've played poker for about 10 years. Texas Hold'em is the version of poker I first learned, and is still my favorite poker game.

How big is the staff? We have a staff of six, including myself. The electronic PokerPro tables we operate do not require a dealer, which means a single poker host can take care of table operations for the room in most cases. There are many times that we will have a couple of hosts on duty, such as before the start of a multitable tournament or

other promotions, and our hosts are always able to take great personal care of each player in the room. We've had very little staff turnover, and this has allowed our players to develop close relationships with the poker team.

What can a player expect from a room run by you? We strive to provide a fair game, where poker etiquette is respected and the player can relax, play poker and enjoy themselves. When a player comes to Oaklawn to play poker, he or she can expect a sparkling poker room, quick drink service, great daily promotions and poker programs. A friendly poker host is always ready to help them adjust to our electronic tables, and a responsive management team listens to their concerns and makes decisions based upon them.

Can you give us insight on the Arkansas Poker Championships? The Arkansas Poker Championship is the biggest, most exciting event in Arkansas poker history. The APC is a series of multitable tournaments over a span of 10 weeks where the top-two finishers in each tournament will qualify for a final championship tournament in early August. Oaklawn will run two tournaments per week in June and July for 10 weeks for a total of 40 qualifying players. There is a guaranteed prize pool of \$25,000 to be distributed over the course of the qualifiers and final championship tournament. However, with qualifying fields regularly topping the minimum guaranteed amount, the final prize pool figure could reach close to \$40,000. Qualifiers are held at 7 p.m. each Monday and Wednesday with a buy-in of \$50.

Any other special promotions at Oaklawn? We offer a bad-beat jackpot and splash pots each Tuesday and Friday night, a daily \$100 high hand competition, and a weekly Ladies Night freeroll.



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LOUISIANA



The Dark City Poker League collected canned goods for the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank during its Season 6 Championship. From top left clockwise these players are Brad Driggers, Greg Shafer, Sydney Shafer, Russ Whitaker, Matt Terral, Allen Presler and Ed Horton.

ALABAMA

Chastity Francis won Bluff To Win Poker Club's first monthly points title. Francis earned 4,155 points in May (the league's first month in operation), just enough to edge Anita Losoya (4,135), David Foster (4,073) and John Martin (4,025).



GEORGIA



At the Atlanta Poker Club's yearly championship on May 15, **Brian "Bruiser" Baughcum** defeated Allen Shepard (and 100 other players) to win a \$1,500 seat in the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas.

• After about 20 minutes of heads-up play, Kerm King defeated Amanda Bruno to capture the APC's Winter Grand Championship on April 17. King, who beat more than 130 players, won a \$550 entry into a Tunica, Miss., tournament.

Kerm King needed 20 minutes of heads-up play to win the APC's Winter Grand title and the \$550 entry into a casino event in Tunica.



MISSISSIPPI

WPO returns to Gold Strike on July 22

The World Poker Open, which used to be a World Poker Tour event, returns to Gold Strike this month in Tunica for its 11th year. The main event is a \$5,000 buy-in tournament that starts July 31 and runs three days. Satellites (\$230 with \$100 rebuys) for this event will run daily at 4, but there will be three satellites on July 30 (noon, \$540; 4 p.m., \$230 with rebuys; and 8 p.m., \$230 with rebuys).

"Gold Strike Casino Resort is very excited to again be hosting the World Poker Open," said Ken Lambert, MGM Resorts International Mississippi regional director of poker-operations. "Players will be able to play their favorite game against some of the biggest names in poker and enjoy the experience of our famous southern hospitality."

This series, which used to run in October, features nine NLHE tournaments, an eight-game-mix event on July 29 (\$2,500), a \$2,500 pot-limit Omaha event (July 27) and a \$230 stud/8 tournament on July 23. Also, Vanessa Rousso will hold a \$299 boot camp and autograph session July 30.

For more information call (662) 357-1135.



Isle Casino Biloxi

The players in Isle Casino Biloxi's poker room raised \$2,982 for the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

The poker room held the promotion April 12-May 8, allowing players who donated \$10 to receive an extra 2,000 chips in the daily tournament.

"I am very proud of my team members and our poker players for all of their help to make this fundraiser for our paralyzed veterans such a success," poker room manager Steve Galle said. "We enjoy giving back to those who have given so much for us."

Harlow's Casino

Final results from the Battle of the Bridge:

1. Greg McCree	Lake Village, AR	\$3,680
2. Linda Boney	Eudora, AR	\$1,725
3. Bill Day	Dumas, AR	\$1,380
4. Denise Johnson	Lake Village, AR	\$1,150
5. Donald Tobin	Columbus, OH	\$805
6. J.C. Johnson	Lake Village, AR	\$690
7. Tom Luse	Kilbourne, LA	\$575
8. Chas Cotton	Monticello, AR	\$460
9. Daniel Gresham	Merigold, MS	\$402
10. Harold Smith	Boyle, MS	\$345
11. James Williamson	Pioneer, AR	\$287

KENTUCKY

'Pegasus' dominates WSOPC records

The World Series of Poker ended its sixth circuit season with the Harrah's New Orleans event (Full coverage on Pages 26-30).

This year's series, which had tournaments in the Chicago area, Southern Indiana, Lake Tahoe, Atlantic City, Tunica, Council Bluffs, San Diego, St. Louis, Las Vegas and New Orleans, awarded \$20,209,935 in prize money.

Since many players travel this circuit, it's only natural to keep statistics, and one of The South's best players, Mark "Pegasus" Smith of Georgetown, Ky., is atop three categories.

Smith, who shares the record for the most career circuit wins with four, grabbed two titles this season and made five final tables, both records this season. He also tied for the lead in overall cashes with eight.



KENTUCKY BLUE POKER CREW: Austin Corder captured the April monthly tournament at Friends and Co. in Andover Shoppes, beating



Mark Smith

70-plus players to earn his seat at the \$10K World Series of Poker satellite. Each month's winners are entered into a year-end single-table tournament for a chance to win a seat into the WSOP.

VIRGINIA

At precisely 10 a.m. June 17 in a \$1-\$2 NLHE cash game, Do Hien of Virginia had his quad 2s beaten by Blackwood, N.J., native Carlo Santos' straight flush. Santos won the hand and the \$66,509 share of the bad-beat pot; however, it was Do who hit the jackpot, as he collected 40 percent (\$133K) of the record-breaking \$332,544 bad-beat prize money. Each of the remaining players who were dealt into the

hand received \$22,170.

Do Hien, who's been playing poker since 2003, just had a hunch that something great would happen that morning.

"I played yesterday into this morning for 20 hours and was up \$1,500. I was sitting in my car and had a feeling to go back inside and play some more."

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41ST WORLD SERIES

MAY 28-JULY 17, 2010 • RIO HOTEL AND CASINO • LAS VEGAS



Southerners got off to a great start at the WSOP as Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi of Florida won his first bracelet, and what a bracelet it was: the \$50K Players Championship. But things settled down for a bit until Event #15 when Frank Kassela of Tennessee won the \$10K Stud/8 World Championship. Immediately after his win, Carter Phillips of North Carolina captured Event #16, the \$1,500 NLHE six-handed tournament. At press time, 25 events had completed. Here are our cashers, and if an event isn't listed, such as Event #23, it means no player from The South cashed.

Event #1 • \$500 NLHE

Prize pool: \$324,450 • Entries: 721

- Jeffrey Bennett, \$6,969, Roswell GA
- Brian Phillis, \$4,273, Tampa, FL
- Zhen Cai, \$3,413, Lake Worth, FL
- Eric Zuerndorfer, \$2,728, Clearwater, FL
- Orlando Reyes, \$1,265, Hialeah, FL
- Christian Escano, \$1,265, Princeton, LA

Event #2 • \$50K Players Champ.

Prize pool: \$5,568,000 • Entries: 161

- Michael Mizrachi, \$1,559,046, Mirimar, FL
- Robert Mizrachi, \$341,429, Miami
- Abe Mosseri, \$129,957, Longboat Key, FL

Event #3 • \$1K NLHE

Prize pool: \$3,910,500 • Entries: 4,345

- Gabe Costner, \$279,327, D'iberville, MS
- Rich Rice, \$51,735, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Irving Rice, \$40,121, Delray, FL
- Samuel Paolini, \$31,362, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Grant Dover, \$10,206, Boca Raton, FL
- Paul Davidson, \$8,329, Charleston, SC
- Matthew Smith, \$8,329, Lithia, FL
- Armando Blondin, \$5,670, Weston, FL
- Greg Giannokostas, \$3,988, Dunwoody, GA
- Adam Shuman, \$3,363, Jacksonville, FL
- Robert Green, \$3,363, Frankfort, KY
- Michael Crump, \$3,363, Maryville, TN
- Jared Ingles, \$3,363, Dry Prong, LA
- Jonathan Catoe, \$3,363, Florence, SC
- Joel Rogers, \$3,363, Nashville
- Eric King, \$3,363, Fredericksburg, VA
- Terry Jacobs, \$3,363, Pine Top, KY
- Srinivasa Yarlakadda, \$2,854, Sarasota, FL
- Justin Conley, \$2,854, Prestonburg, KY
- Trevor Pope, \$2,854, Gainesville, FL
- Todd Traugbber, \$2,854, Asheville, NC
- Daniel Aviles, \$2,854, Jacksonville, NC
- Rick Byrd, \$2,463, Mobile, AL
- Jason Steinhorn, \$2,463, Mableton, GA
- Patrick Kelly, \$2,463, Knoxville, TN
- Toan Trinh, \$2,463, St. Petersburg, FL
- William Gordon, \$2,463, Largo, FL
- Anthony Biagi, \$2,463, Apollo Beach, FL
- Robert Gordon, \$2,463, Largo, FL
- Yannick Tessier, \$2,150, Plantation, FL
- Peter Forsstrom, \$2,150, Atlanta
- Michael Jordan, \$2,150, Brandon, FL
- Alexander Venovski, \$2,150, Clermont, FL
- Jerry Zehr, \$2,150, Florence, KY
- James Farley, \$1,877, Sanderson, FL
- Ray Small, \$1,877, Spanish Fort, AL
- Nicholas Carson, \$1,877, Palm Bay, FL
- Glyn Banks, \$1,877, Smithville, TN
- Dalton Mills, \$1,877, Jacksonville, FL
- Vnessa Rousoo, \$1,877, Hobe Sound, FL
- David Singh, \$1,877, Winter Garden, FL

Event #4 • \$1,500 Omaha/8

Prize pool: \$1,104,300 • Entries: 818

- David Bach, \$7,454, Athens, GA
- Steve Cowley, \$7,454, Midlothian, VA
- Matthew Waxman, \$4,295, Parkland, FL
- Michael Moed, \$3,633, Miami Beach, FL



Grinder gets his gold.

Event #5 • \$1,500 NLHE

Prize pool: \$2,824,200 • Entries: 2,092

- David Tuthill, \$160,650, St Petersburg, FL
- Yuval Bronshtein, \$29,795, Charleston, SC
- Joshua Gibson, \$23,553, Ft. Myers, FL
- John Myung, \$18,809, Vienna, VA
- Sarang Ahuja, \$12,426, Hallandale Beach, FL
- Michael Deloach, \$12,426, Hahira, GA
- Rashawn James, \$10,280, Hampton, VA
- Andrew Gilmore, \$8,529, Raleigh, NC
- Gregory Best, \$7,173, Fredricksburg, VA
- Chad J Brown, \$6,086, Hope Mills, NC
- James Naquin, \$5,238, Houma, LA
- James Guidi, \$4,518, Goodland, FL
- Richard Langdon, \$3,953, Charlotte, NC
- Douglas Moss, \$3,516, Valdosta, GA
- Francisco Hernandez, \$3,516, Boca Raton, FL
- Shannon Shorr, \$3,516, Birmingham, AL
- Patrick Smith, \$3,516, Montgomery, AL
- Matthew Juttelstad, \$3,516, Clarksville, TN
- Matthew Schwarmann, \$3,516, Orlando, FL
- Joe Gottlieb, \$3,163, Hollywood, FL
- Philip Sparta, \$3,163, Fairfax, VA
- Travis Eller, \$3,163, Cookeville, TN
- Jeremiah Vinsant, \$3,163, Murfreesboro, TN
- Greg Monaldi, \$3,163, Davie, FL
- Steve Karp, \$2,880, N Miami Beach, FL
- Damien Thompson, \$2,880, Miami
- Howard Millian, \$2,880, New Port Richey, FL
- Nicholas Schwarmann, \$2,880, Orlando, FL
- Keith Charles Lehr, \$25,472, Bossier City, LA
- David Frazier, \$20,257, Homestead, FL
- Richard Savage, \$13,241, Richmond, VA
- Agop Rustemoglu, \$13,241, Ft Lauderdale, FL
- Yannick Tessier, \$13,241, Plantation, FL
- Jason Sackler, \$13,241, Orlando, FL
- Johnny Kitchens, \$10,903, Mount Dora, FL
- Orlando Maldonado, \$10,903, Miami
- John McKinney, \$9,070, Fayetteville, NC
- Joseph Parrish, \$7,648, Riverview, FL
- James Hannah, \$5,593, Tamarac, FL
- Trevor Pope, \$4,866, Gainesville, FL
- George Karatzas, \$4,266, Wasilla, AL
- Alan Neubauer, \$4,266, Charlotte, NC
- Vittorio Iemolo, \$3,792, Sarasota, FL
- Michael Monter, \$3,792, Fredericksburg, VA
- George Lusby, \$3,792, Georgetown, KY
- Sean Mcelroy, \$3,792, Leesville, LA
- Donald Vaughn, \$3,792, Fort Valley, GA
- Albert Winchester, \$3,792, Falls Church, VA
- William Childs, \$3,413, Pinehurst, NC
- Christopher Lasco, \$3,413, Atlanta
- Corey Burbick, \$3,413, Davie, FL
- Aaron Thomas, \$3,413, Ft. Mitchell, AL
- Vincent Graziano, \$3,128, New Port Richey, FL
- Yonghui Jiang, \$3,128, Greenville, KY
- Marc Davis, \$3,128, Orlando, FL
- Douglas Bruce, \$3,128, Lawrenceville, GA
- Joshua Hillock, \$3,128, Palm City, FL
- Maciek Gracz, \$3,128, Raleigh, NC
- Eric Von Guttenberg, \$2,844, Sarasota, FL
- Jason Cluxton, \$2,844, Kennesaw, GA
- Francisco Hernandez, \$2,844, Boca Raton, FL
- Bernie Yang, \$2,844, Alpharetta, GA
- Mark Smith, \$2,844, Georgetown, KY
- Joseph Just, \$2,844, Crozet, VA

Event #6 • \$5K NLHE Shootout

Prize pool: \$1,682,600 • Entries: 358

- Aaron Been, \$16,607, Tallahassee, FL
- Chad Brown, \$16,607, Margate, FL
- Justin Smith, \$16,607, Kissimmee, FL

Event #7 • \$2,500 2-7 Triple Draw

Prize pool: \$669,300 • Entries: 291

- Dallas Flowers, \$4,798, Glasgow, KY

Event #8 • \$1,500 NLHE

Prize pool: \$3,160,350 • Entries: 2,341

- Matthew Ezrol, \$32,456, Coconut Creek, FL

Event #9 • \$1,500 PLHE

Prize pool: \$877,500 • Entries: 650

- Joe Gottlieb, \$9,117, Hollywood, FL
- Bob Oxenberg, \$4,808, Palm Beach, FL
- Joshua Cooper, \$3,992, Beech Bluff, TN
- Jonathan Little, \$3,352, Pensacola, FL
- Brian Miller, \$3,352, Duluth, GA

Event #10 • \$10K Stud

Prize pool: \$1,410,000 • Entries: 150

- Brandon Adams, \$243,958, Pensacola, FL
- Michael Mizrachi, \$68,949, Miramar, FL
- Yuval Bronshtein, \$24,900, Charleston, SC

Event #11 • \$1,500 NLHE

Prize pool: \$3,460,050 • Entries: 2,563

- Michael Smith, \$105,185, Hiram, GA
- Venkatesh Gupta, \$35,327, Norcross, GA
- Jacobo Fernandez, \$21,936, Hollywood, FL
- Yat Cheng, \$17,577, Charlotte, NC
- Erich Moir, \$14,255, Tampa, FL
- George Trigeorgis, \$11,694, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Christopher Ajemian, \$8,096, Deltona, FL
- Ryan Wilson, \$6,850, Camden, SC
- Charles Croft, \$5,051, Chapin, SC
- Charles Tidmarsh, \$3,875, Greenville, SC
- Vittorio Iemolo, \$3,875, Sarasota, FL
- Salman Jaddi, \$3,875, Pembroke Pines, FL
- Mike Schneider, \$3,875, Covington, GA
- Shannon Shorr, \$3,875, Birmingham, AL
- Dau Ly, \$3,875, Duluth, GA
- Timothy Miles, \$3,460, Biloxi, MS
- Roger Hudson, \$3,460, Pooler, GA
- Joseph McGuire, \$3,460, Columbia, SC
- Jules Bui, \$3,460, Fairfax, VA
- Thomas Barfield, \$3,460, Mount Olive, NC
- Joshua Hillock, \$3,460, Palm City, FL
- William Burdick, \$3,114, Palmetto, FL
- Karen Barfield, \$3,114, Mount Olive, NC
- Christopher Oliver, \$3,114, Holiday, FL
- Jason Cluxton, \$3,114, Kennesaw, GA
- Chris Torina, \$3,114, Debarry, FL
- Michael Glasser, \$3,114, Boca Raton, FL
- Gregory Marcus, \$3,114, Miami Beach, FL
- John Ross, \$2,802, Orlando, FL
- Karam Abousharkh, \$2,802, Lakeland, FL
- Thomas Corder, \$2,802, Northport, AL
- Patrick Hoben, \$2,802, Palm Harbor, FL

Event #12 • \$1,500 LHE

Prize pool: \$843,750 • Entries: 625

- Mark Burford, \$14,149, Gloster, LA
- Frank Kassela, \$11,027, Memphis, TN
- Kirk Banks, \$11,027, Naples, FL
- Robert Stevanovski, \$6,969, Cornelius, NC
- Joshua Cooper, \$4,623, Beech Bluff, TN
- Michael Miccio, \$4,623, Jacksonville, FL

Event #13 • \$1K NLHE

Prize pool: \$2,737,800 • Entries: 3,042

- Clint Schafer, \$27,323, Baton Rouge, LA
- Matthew Hankins, \$13,524, Newman, GA
- Russell Pittman, \$8,925, Roanoke, VA
- Philip Collins, \$6,132, West Columbia, SC
- Ryan Alderman, \$5,147, Port Orange, FL
- James Kirk, \$5,147, Chamblee, GA
- Christopher Tipper, \$3,257, Vienna, WV
- Kyle Milam, \$2,847, Little Rock, AR
- Steve Cowley, \$2,847, Midlothian, VA
- Travis Klein, \$2,847, Tallahassee, FL
- Mark Smith, \$2,847, Georgetown, KY
- Frank Sparti, \$2,847, Dallas, GA
- Jason King, \$2,847, Jacksonville, AL
- Jason Sackler, \$2,847, Orlando, FL



FLORIDA'S KAKON WINS \$500K BORGATA DEEP STACK

William Kakon of Aventura, Fla., took down the Borgata's \$500K guarantee Deep Stack event, besting 329 players in the \$1,650 tournament for a \$140,694 payday May 19.

Other southern cashers included Dewey Whitmore of Martinsburg, W.Va., (12th, \$6,306) and Anthony Lam of Fairfax, Va., (23rd, \$2,911).

The Borgata also hosted a \$350 Double Play tournament with four southerners cashing from the 333-player field: Norman Rodriguez of Kissimmee, Fla., (ninth, \$1,938); Ray Ho Lin of Tampa, Fla., (15th, \$969); Nicos Ktori of Miami Beach (32nd, \$485) and David Tran of Annandale, Va., (33rd, \$485).

WPT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Billy Baxter, the Poker Hall of Famer from Augusta, Ga., finished sixth in the \$25K no-limit hold'em main event.

The seven-time World Series of Poker

bracelet-winner made the TV final table but was eliminated by eventual champ David Williams, pocketing \$247K.

Other cashers from The South included Jason Lester of Miami (12th, \$56,439); Robert Cooper of Plantation, Fla., (15th, \$51,736); Josh Arie of Atlanta (16th, \$47,033) and *Ante Up* 2009 WSOP Player of the Year Tony Cousineau of Daytona Beach, Fla., (18th, \$47,033).

CALIF. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Our best showing came from Michael Moed of Miami, who finished eighth in Event 3, a \$335 Omaha/8 event with 146 players. But the biggest cash goes to Ross Gruber of Woodstock, Ky., who earned \$2,100 for his 15th place finish in the \$220 NLHE rebuy event.

Other cashers included Thomas Blake

of Burlington, Ky., (Event 1, \$220 NLHE, 274th place, \$400); Barbara Cunningham of Norcross, Ga., (Event 2, \$220 LHE, ninth place, \$1,050); Shean Whelan of Clifton, Va., (Event 13, \$220 NLHE w/rebys, 25th, \$1,700) and Robert Kalteux of Seminole, Fla., (Event 19, \$335 NLHE, 30th, \$810).

FOXWOODS MEGASTACK: Michael Woods grabbed sixth place in the \$1,650 NLHE event that drew 166 entries. The Cana, Va., resident pocketed \$13,580.

Kevin Schaffel of 2009 November Nine fame, finished 42nd in the \$560 NLHE event. The Coral Springs, Fla., resident won \$1,006.

Howard Mann of Martinsburg, W.Va., finished seventh in a field of 925 players for the \$340 NLHE event. He won \$9,960.



Frank Kasella



Carter Phillips

Continued from previous page

- 155. Joseph Pittillo, \$2,518, Greenville, SC
- 180. Anthony Cousineau, \$2,518, Daytona Beach, FL
- 192. Charles Robinson, \$2,244, Raleigh, NC
- 235. David Tomko, \$2,025, Winter Haven, FL
- 239. Brent Catalan, \$2,025, Maybleton, GA
- 278. Jena Delk, \$2,025, Merritt Island, FL
- 279. Jason Lee, \$2,025, Gainesville, FL
- 299. Anthony Pagano, \$1,834, Miami
- 301. George Lusby, \$1,834, Georgetown, KY
- 316. Steven Krupnick, \$1,834, Miami Beach
- 319. Alex Moore, \$1,834, Athens, GA

Event #14 • \$1,500 NL 2-7 Lowball

Prize pool: \$337,500 • Entries: 250
22. Ari Dinov, \$2,943, Lantana, FL

Event #15 • \$10K Stud/8

Prize pool: \$1,598,000 • Entries: 170
1. Frank Kasella, \$447,446, Memphis

Event #16 • \$1,500 NLHE 6-Handed

Prize pool: \$2,245,050 • Entries: 1,663
1. Carter Phillips, \$482,774, Charlotte, NC
6. David Diaz, \$58,483, Bartlett, TN
10. Mark Flowers, \$30,420, Greenville, NC
11. Matthew Ezrol, \$22,787, Coconut Creek, FL
33. Lee Childs, \$9,070, Alexandria, VA
59. Kenneth Terrell, \$5,118, Sharpsburg, GA
65. Matthew Waxman, \$4,669, Parkland, FL
82. Tristan Wade, \$3,951, Boynton Beach, FL
100. Christopher Wafula, \$3,636, Bright, MS
128. Richard Robinson, \$3,075, Orlando, FL
135. Anthony Spinella, \$3,075, Waxhaw, NC

- 139. Andrew Mullens, \$3,075, Miami
- 143. Steve DiBari, \$3,075, Tampa, FL
- 152. William Mikolay, \$2,828, Waynesboro, VA
- 160. Michael Glasser, \$2,828, Boca Raton, FL

Event #17 • \$5K NLHE

Prize pool: \$3,722,400 • Entries: 792
3. Jeff Williams, \$328,762, Dunwoody, GA
9. Manelic Minaya, \$62,350, Tampa, FL
15. Joshua Cooper, \$39,159, Beech Bluff, TN
19. Matthew Schwarmann, \$25,386, Orlando, FL
26. Josh Arie \$25,386 Marietta GA
36. Steven Burkholder, \$20,845, Gainesville, FL
57. David Machowsky, \$12,283, Jacksboro, TN
60. John Racener, \$12,283, Port Richey, FL
63. Jeffrey Forrest, \$12,283, Orlando, FL
66. John Patgorski, \$10,497, Chesapeake, VA

Event #18 • \$2K LHE

Prize pool: \$866,320 • Entries: 476
5. Hansu Chu, \$49,068, McLean, VA
17. Shannon Shorr, \$7,805, Birmingham, AL

Event #19 • \$10K 2-7 Triple Draw

Prize pool: \$949,400 • Entries: 101
2. Eric Cloutier, \$181,886, Lafayette, LA
5. Doug Booth, \$55,482, Bowling Green, KY
11. Vincent Musso, \$22,386, Birmingham, AL
13. Chad Brown, \$19,272, Margate, FL

Event #20 • \$1,500 PLO

Prize pool: \$1,194,750 • Entries: 885
14. Chase Steely, \$12,258, Williamsburg, KY
20. Steven Burkholder, \$8,064, Largo, FL
25. Donald Tyler, \$8,064, Pelham, AL

- 39. Derek Tomko, \$5,543, Winter Haven, FL
- 63. Robert Campbell, \$3,930, North Miami
- 64. Jason Mercier, \$3,357, Davie, FL
- 80. Chad Cox, \$2,974, Mobile, AL

Event #21 • \$1,500 Stud

Prize pool: \$550,800 • Entries: 408
29. Cory Zeidman, \$3,558, Coral Springs, FL
32. George Trigeorgis, \$3,558, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Event #22 • \$1K Ladies NLHE

Prize pool: \$948,600 • Entries: 1,054
4. Allison Whalen, \$53,994, Atlanta
14. Lisa Teebagy, \$8,689, Lighthouse Pt., FL
16. Stacy Matuson, \$7,057, Delray, FL
32. Mary Madison, \$4,847, Jacksonville FL
39. Diane Gagne, \$4,097, Clearwater, FL
40. Teresa Savage, \$4,097, Panama City, FL
51. Christy Pham, \$3,500, Kissimmee, FL
58. Rhoda Ward, \$3,026, Port St Lucie, FL
61. Lisa Adams, \$3,026, Delray Beach, FL
63. Claudia Crawford, \$3,026, Biloxi, MS
83. Jessica Welman, \$2,124, Lexington, KY
91. Stella Davila, \$1,954, Melbourne, FL
95. Bachuc Rolfe, \$1,954, Boynton Beach, FL
58. Rhoda Ward, \$3,026, Port St Lucie, FL
61. Lisa Adams, \$3,026, Delray Beach, FL
63. Claudia Crawford, \$3,026, Biloxi, MS
83. Jessica Welman, \$2,124, Lexington, KY
91. Stella Davila, \$1,954, Melbourne, FL
95. Bachuc Rolfe, \$1,954, Boynton Beach, FL

Event #24 • \$1K NLHE

Prize pool: \$2,960,100 • Entries: 3,289
26. Dean Schankin, \$14,741, St. Petersburg, FL
31. Karga Holt, \$11,870, Atlanta

- 32. Mark Walters, \$11,870, Clifton, VA
- 34. Robert Fikac, \$11,870, Sterling, VA
- 65. Cody Cunningham, \$5,505, Russellville, AR
- 87. Robert Kalteux, \$3,966, Seminole, FL
- 99. Robert Aron, \$3,404, Palm Beach, FL
- 103. Eric Froelich, \$2,960, Springfield, VA
- 110. James Quick, \$2,960, Decatur, TN
- 111. Frank Sinopoli, \$2,960, Coral Springs, FL
- 113. Benjamin Palmer, \$2,960, Orlando, FL
- 116. Tristan Wade, \$2,960, Boynton Beach, FL
- 138. Steven Krupnick, \$2,960, Miami Beach, FL
- 139. Nicolas Yunis, \$2,960, Palmetto Bay, FL
- 154. Mike Gilbert, \$2,604, Fortson, GA
- 155. Jason Sackler, \$2,604, Orlando, FL
- 168. Johnny Kitchens, \$2,604, Mount Dora, FL
- 170. Michael Michnik, \$2,604, Hollywood, FL
- 173. Brian Hawkins, \$2,604, Ft. Myers, FL
- 179. Brittany Bowman, \$2,604, Vilonia, AR
- 194. James Slusher, \$2,308, Martinez, GA
- 203. Kevin Clauson, \$2,308, Jupiter, FL
- 224. Alexander Garcia, \$2,308, Miami, FL
- 257. Michael Glasser, \$2,072, Boca Raton, FL
- 270. Kane Kalas, \$2,072, Coral Gables, FL
- 287. Corey Burbick, \$2,072, Davie, FL
- 289. Amanda Jones, \$1,864, Coconut Creek, FL
- 293. Andrew Liporace, \$1,864, New Orleans
- 313. John Hoang, \$1,864, Woodbridge, VA
- 335. Jenny Marczynski, \$1,864, Ellenton, FL
- 336. Au Dang, \$1,864, Fairfax Station, VA
- 338. Raul Gonzales, \$1,864, St. Petersburg, FL

Event #25 • \$10K Omaha/8

Prize pool: \$1,992,800 • Entries: 212
8. Abe Mosseri, \$57,552, Longboat Key, FL

NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

JOHN LANIER • A look at Southern online players and beyond



FAIR WINS SCOOP M.E.

PokerStars completed another successful Spring Championship of Online Poker, and this year one of our own took down the sweetest prize.

Ryan "toetagU" Fair, a Florida pro, defeated a formidable final table in the \$10K Main Event that included Kristoffer "Sumpas" Thorsson, and Danny "cpfactor" Smith.

Fair's win was good for \$1,162,350 as he beat 615 players in the two-day event that featured a \$6,150,000 prize pool.

The SCOOP ran May 2-16, containing 38 unique events. If you like poker variety then these large online tournament series are for you.

Other southern players are faring well these days, too.

Corey Burbick, who plays as comandr_cool from his Davie, Fla., home, has become a major force online. As of press time he's listed as the third best online player, as tracked by pocketfives.com.

On May 3 he won SCOOP's Event 3, a \$530 six-handed NLHE tournament, good for \$183,060. He followed that up with another win May 16 on Stars, taking down the Sunday \$500K for \$91,132.80.

In North Carolina, Chris Hunichen of Raleigh had a nice month of May. He plays as Big Huni on Stars and won the \$250K guarantee for \$50,281.80. Hunichen cashed in more than 75 online tournaments in May for a combined \$176,142.

— John Lanier plays as "WildHare" on most poker sites and lives in Lutz, Fla.



AIPS V

Buy-ins are \$5.50



JULY 14, 9 p.m.: Rebuy NLHE	NOV. 27, Noon: HORSE
JULY 31, Noon: 2-7 Triple Draw	DEC. 8, 9 p.m.: HOSE
AUG. 11, 9 p.m.: Stud/8	DEC. 18, Noon: NL Heads-Up
AUG. 28, Noon: NLHE	JAN. 12, 9 p.m.: NLHE
SEPT. 8, 9 p.m.: NLHE	JAN. 29, Noon: 8-Game Mixed
SEPT. 25, Noon: PLO/8	TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
OCT. 13, 9 p.m.: PL 5-Card Draw	FEB. 5, Noon: 8-Game Mixed
OCT. 30, Noon: NLHE	Only banana winners can
NOV. 10, 9 p.m.: NLHE	play.

What is AIPS?

The Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (a.k.a. AIPS) is our PokerCast's fan tournament series on PokerStars.com. Square off against the Ante Up Nation, including *Ante Up* publishers — Scott "OffDeadline" Long and Chris "aun2112" Cosenza. Don't have a PokerStars account? No problem. Go to anteupmagazine.com and click on our online poker rooms link. Use marketing code ANTEUPMAG and signup code STARS600 to get a 100 percent deposit bonus up to \$600!



Hoyt "Cowboy" Corkins



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A FAMILIAR VIEW

Players did their best to catch Walt Strakowski, but they could only manage to see him in front of them. You can stop looking over your shoulder, Walt, you are the 2010 Ante Up Poker Tour Player of the Year.

BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA

It was June 14, 2009, when the student became the master. Walt Strakowski Jr. and his dad had decided to head to the Palm Beach Princess in celebration of the elder Strakowski's 79th birthday. Junior wanted to play in the Ante Up Poker Tour event and offered to pay for his dad's buy-in.

"That was a lot of fun," Strakowski of West Palm Beach said. "The event had about 30 people in it. I was planning on going that Sunday and asked my dad if he wanted to go and that I would buy him in for his birthday, which was the day before."

But he had no idea what was about to transpire. Both Strakowskis made the final table.

"We've played together a good bit, but never at the same final table," Walt Jr. said. "I got on a roll at the final table and knocked out about half of the table and accumulated a big stack. He sat back and played his patient game and made a few key double-ups. Nothing would have made him happier than to bust me at the final table. We got down to three-handed with Ken Basilio. I got lucky

Continued on next page



**AAPT POY Event**

Entries: 71 • Prize Pool: \$7,810

1. Nick Puckett, \$1,745
2. Harry Misner, \$1,735
3. Manny Leon, \$1,000
4. Melissa Dacunha, \$780
5. Rosa Muchovej, \$620
6. Jerome Agrem, \$510
7. Mike May, \$320
8. Cory Abrams, \$280
9. Scott Mersky, \$125

Congrats to Rosa Muchovej, the last Top 10 player standing. She finished fifth, good for \$620.

against Ken when he got short-stacked and then Pop and I were heads-up. I had a 10-to-1 chip advantage. We played one hand. He shoved blind, I woke up to ace-king and it held up. It was a real blast playing with my dad. He still has a solid game. That's the only (AAPT) event he played and he finished second."

The victory gave Strakowski 1,000 AAPT Player of the Year points ... and the itch for more.

"I remember telling a lot of my poker buddies about the tour in June 2009," the 50-year-old semi-retired computer consultant said, "and telling them I was going to take it seriously, devote the time, put in the work and win this thing. Some laughed, but the ones that know me best realized I was serious."

When *Ante Up* envisioned its tour, Walt Strakowski was the player it had in mind, someone who realized the importance of traveling to poker rooms around Florida to see what these establishments had to offer, and someone who would embrace the challenge of playing in multiple venues every month with an eye toward a much larger prize.

"The tour was great and a lot of fun," he said. "As the year wore on you started to see a lot of the same players traveling to events trying to earn points each month. Most venues promoted the tour events, some successfully, some not. Hopefully the poker rooms will see the advantage of hosting these events and put more effort into building the tour next year. It's a great opportunity to build your game as a player and build your client base as a poker room."

It took a couple of months for Strakowski to wrestle the points lead from Basilio of Ft. Lauderdale, but once he did he never relinquished it. After six AAPT victories (four aboard the Palm Beach Princess, two at Calder Casino) and four more final tables, Walt Strakowski is the 2010 Ante Up Poker Tour Player of the Year.

Last month the Ante Up brass and the Palm Beach Kennel Club hosted an awards ceremony and bounty

tournament in honor of Walt and the rest of the top 10 players from the POY race. Before the bounty tournament Ante Up presented Strakowski with his grand prize, a beautiful custom-designed bracelet from Madison Jewelers of Virginia Beach, Va.

"Since this is the first year of the AAPT, I'm really proud to be the inaugural winner of the tour," said Strakowski, who lists Phil Hellmuth, Doyle Brunson and Phil Ivey among his favorite players. "I really feel this will grow in coming years and the rest of the poker community will devote more attention to the tour."

The top 10 POY players received a pair of Blue Shark Optics glasses and the 70-plus players in the \$125 bounty tournament were treated to a

free buffet from the Palm Beach Kennel Club, which paid for the top 10 players to play in the event. Strakowski is a regular at PBKC, and he found the fact that he didn't acquire any points there a bit strange.

"The Palm Beach Kennel Club is less than 10 miles from my house so I'm there a lot," he said. "It's ironic that I've earned points at numerous venues but never cashed in an event at the PBKC for the tour. I had my aces cracked on four occasions late in tour events at the PBKC to get knocked out before the final table. I play all over South Florida and I'd have to say my favorite rooms are the PBKC, the Isle and the Hard Rock in Hollywood. In my opinion, a poker room is only as good as the staff and managers. The PBKC did a great job hiring **Joe Conti** as their director of tournament operations. The quality of poker tournaments has increased tenfold since he started some months back."

As for the tournament held in his honor? Let's just say he still hasn't made an Ante Up final table at PBKC.

"I flopped a straight and slow-played it," he said. "I let him catch up. I really thought I was going to be the winner here."

Don't worry, Walt, you were.



The funny thing is the Strakowskis really aren't senior and junior: "We just did that to avoid confusion in the magazine," the younger Walt said.



BEST OF THE REST

Here's a look at the remainder of the Ante Up Poker Tour's top 10 players.

**2. Tomas Singson**

Age: 55

Hometown: Jacksonville

Playing poker for: Around 20 years

Plays: at Orange Park and St. Johns

Favorite player: Phil Ivey

Biggest cash: \$38K in Vegas

Greatest moment: I just won a WSOP seat in Daytona Beach.

AAPT points: 4,650; **AAPT wins:** four

**3. Jay Roden**

Age: 66

Hometown: Atlantic City to Estero

Playing poker for: 53 years

Plays: All over

Favorite player: Walt Strakowski Jr.

Biggest cash: \$18K

Greatest moment: See previous answer.

AAPT points: 3,300; **AAPT wins:** two

**T-4. Mitchell Abrahams**

Age: 52

Hometown: North Miami Beach

Playing poker since: I was a kid playing for pennies with the family.

Plays: at Mardi Gras, Dania and Calder.

Favorite player: Daniel Negreanu

Biggest cash: I'd rather not publish (that).

Greatest moment: My sole victory in your AAPT at Palm Beach Kennel Club.

AAPT points: 2,925; **AAPT wins:** one

**T-4. Luis Cristobol**

Age: 44

Hometown: Coral Gables

Playing poker since: 2005

Plays: All over South Florida

Favorite player: "Moorman1"

Biggest cash: \$10K

Greatest moment: It hasn't happened yet.

AAPT points: 2,925; **AAPT wins:** two

**6. Ken Basilio**

Age: 51

Hometown: Ft. Lauderdale

Playing poker for: Seven years

Plays: At Mardi Gras.

Favorite player: Daniel Negreanu AND

Walt Strakowski Jr.

Biggest cash: \$1,200

Greatest moment: Love every minute of it!

AAPT points: 2,575; **AAPT wins:** one

**7. Rosa M. Muchovej**

Age: Old enough to play poker.

Hometown: Vicoso, MG, Brazil.

Playing poker for: About eight years.

Plays: at Seminole Casino-Immokalee, Seminole Casino-Hollywood and Naples-Ft. Myers Dog Track.

Favorite player: Gus Hansen

AAPT points: 2,325; **AAPT wins:** one

Continued on next page

MORE WITH WALT STRAKOWSKI, OUR AAPT PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Walt Strakowski was very candid when answering our questions. Here are the ones that didn't make it into his story.

When did you start playing poker seriously? In 2003, so for about seven years.

What is your favorite game? In tournaments, no-limit hold'em; in cash games, NLHE, LHE, PLO and O/8.

Do you play mixed games? Yes, when you can find them. Hopefully July here in Florida! I've played some H.O.R.S.E. tournaments and really enjoyed them. I consider myself a student of the games and an all-around player.

Who is your favorite player? I've got a few: Johnny Chan, Phil Hellmuth, Doyle Brunson, Huck Seed, Howard Lederer, Dan Harrington and, of course, Phil Ivey. They all have one thing in common, besides success: They are all thinking, patient players. That's my style, when the tournament structure permits it. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Jerry Yang. I had the opportunity to meet him a few times. First in Reno at a WPT event, we played at the same table for a few hours. He is very underrated by the poker community. Later we met again at an event at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. He is the most sincere and genuine person I've met through poker.

What do you say to the people who might say you got to play in smaller fields aboard the now-defunct Palm Beach Princess and it was unfair? Sounds like sour grapes to me. I didn't make the rules; I just played by them. There were several people playing the tour that I saw on the Princess, so when I won those events, I was beating tour players. I also had cashes in five different venues. How many other tour players can say that? I also heard that many of the events in the northern part of the state were much smaller events, too. Some tour players made an effort to get to those events to play shorter fields, so I wasn't the only one thinking along those lines. I've played in events with more than 100 players and I've played in events that were one or two tables. I can only play against the fields that show up to play. I think that sums it up.

Did you purposefully seek out AAPT events? Definitely. I set my tournament calendar every month after the monthly tour schedule was published. I made it a point to set aside those days to travel if necessary. I don't do anything halfway.

What was the farthest you traveled to play in an AAPT event? On March 6, I went to Dania and played the event there, finished third at about 4 p.m. I jumped in the car and raced over to Immokalee to play their event that started at 7 that night. I bubbled off the final table, a real disappointment. I wanted to be the first person to cash in two events in one day. A total of about 320 miles roundtrip that day.

What was the weirdest thing that happened to you (or at your table) during any of these tournaments?

Poker is poker, you see some really crazy things at the poker table. There were a few near fights and a DQ. The strangest thing was at the event at Miami Jai-Alai. I was the only person at the table speaking English. There were conversations going on the entire time, during hands, by people still in the hands and out, and my Spanish isn't that good. It made me uncomfortable and when I asked for help, I didn't get it. Nothing against my Hispanic friends, I was just at an extreme disadvantage, impossible to overcome.

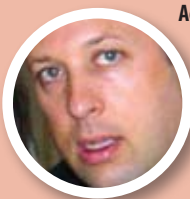
Will you wear the bracelet? Yes, and when I win a WSOP bracelet I'll wear one on each wrist.

How does it feel to know you are on the cover of Ante Up? Scary, have you seen this face?

What is your single greatest poker moment, besides this? Has to be my first WSOP circuit final table, January 2006. It was the six-handed event and mostly pros playing the event. I made the final table third in chips and finished third (for \$21K, his biggest cash). I played too tight at the final table but accomplished my goal of making the final table. I learned a lot and realized I was good enough to play with the pros.



8. Zvi Shiff



Age: 40
Hometown: North Miami Beach
Playing poker for: six years
Plays: At Isle Casino at Pompano Park, Hard Rock Hollywood

Favorite player: Phil Ivey
Biggest cash: \$162,000 at the Borgata in 2007
Greatest moment: Finishing eighth at the Borgata main event in 2007.
AAPT points: 2,300
AAPT victories: two

9. Carleen Heath



Age: Do I have to tell my age?
Hometown: Belleview, Fla.
Playing poker for: A long time
Plays: At Ocala Poker
Favorite player(s): Annie

Duke and Phil Ivey
Biggest cash: \$4,000
Greatest moment: Winning my first Ante Up tournament at Ocala. Thanks to all of my family and friends for such great support.
AAPT points: 2,250
AAPT victories: one

10. Raj Vohra



Age: 36
Hometown: Lake Worth, Fla.
Playing poker for: five years.
Plays: At Hard Rock Hollywood, Isle at Pompano Park and Palm

Beach Kennel Club.
Favorite player: Joe Hachem.
Biggest cash: \$430K in FTOPS.
Greatest moment: Finished fifth in the 2008 WSOP \$5K event.
AAPT points: 2,150
AAPT victories: two

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
FINAL STANDINGS

1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach	7,600
2. Tomas Singson, Orange Park	4,650
3. Jay Roden, Estero	3,300
4. Luis Cristobol, Coral Gables	2,925
4. Mitchell Abrahams, Miami	2,925
6. Ken Basilio, Ft. Lauderdale	2,575
7. Rosa Muchovej, Ft. Myers	2,375
8. Zvi Shiff, North Miami	2,300
9. Carleen Heath, Belleview	2,250
10. Raj Vohra, Lake Worth	2,150
11. Robert Beyra, Hollywood	2,000
11. Armando Cisneros, Jacksonville	2,000
11. Nikita Patalinghug, Gainesville	2,000
14. Glen Blumberg, Alachua	1,975
15. Omar Diaz, Coconut Creek	1,900
16. Jimmie Robison, Folkston, Ga.	1,875
17. Eugene Link, Cocoa Beach	1,750
17. James Nighbert, Hilliard	1,750
19. Rolland Botel	1,700
19. Ronnie Browne, Gainesville	1,700
19. Eddie Rosenberg, Miami Beach	1,700
19. Matt Ridley, Jupiter	1,700
19. Chet Sickle, Melbourne	1,700
19. Eli Gomez, Jacksonville	1,700
19. Joe Loiacono, Bonita Springs	1,700
26. Peter Nadeau, Gainesville	1,625
26. Manny Leon, West Palm Beach	1,625
28. Charle. Benjamin, Miami Gardens	1,525
28. Alberto Dominguez, Hollywood	1,500
28. Steve Mitchell, St. Augustine	1,500
28. Mark Petrillo	1,500
32. Nigel Murray, Miami	1,475
32. Glenn Fullone, St. Petersburg	1,475
32. Omar Recuero, Hollywood	1,475
35. Jon Ronsisballe, Naples	1,450
35. Scott Long, Safety Harbor	1,450
35. Ory Hen, Cooper City	1,450
35. Arturo Garcia, Miami	1,450
39. Becky Dery, St. Augustine	1,425
39. Grady Yeager, Naples	1,425
41. Carlos Dorca, Doral	1,400
41. Brian Capobianco, Tampa	1,400
41. Aaron Lucas, Jacksonville	1,400
45. Rob Corjay, Wesley Chapel	1,325
46. Alex Fusco, Sunny Isles Beach	1,300
46. William Rodriguez, Lehigh	1,300
46. Raymond Witt, Lake City	1,300
46. Matt Blaxberg, St. Petersburg	1,300
50. Nick Maddas, Immokalee	1,250
50. Nancy Ridos, Jacksonville	1,250
50. Luis Deguzman	1,250



Coming soon!

The second season of the Ante Up Poker Tour will be bigger and better. Look for details in an upcoming issue of *Ante Up*.

MAY RESULTS

DANIA JAI-ALAI
MAY 7

1. Joey Paosfer, Miami
2. Jim Gleason, Boca Raton
3. Declined points
4. Michael Merisier, Pompano Beach
5. Rene Anthony, Miami
- 6-9. Declined points
10. Alfred Cotton, Kinston

DEEPSTACK CHARITY CLASSIC
MAY 16

1. Joshua White
2. Steve Ogilvie
3. Alan Hatcher
4. Luis Costa
5. Gerald Grayson
6. Larry Smith
7. Nick Avena
8. Declined points
9. Dave Fowler
10. Joe Jackson

DERBY LANE
MAY 29

1. Ian Seller
2. Ronald Sullivan
3. Ron Nacol
4. Marsha Wolak, Sarasota
5. Chris Hayden
6. Robert Gill
7. Glenn Fullone, St. Petersburg
8. Kevin Crowell
9. Jeane Franklin
10. Chong Thanh Nguyen

FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER
MAY 15

1. Nick Potts, Jensen
2. Bill Sproat, Ft. Pierce
3. Ross Chambers, Port St. Lucie
4. Eugene Castaneda, Port St. Lucie
5. Saverio Barbieri, Sebastian
6. Doug Vest, Okeechobee
7. Ronald Campillo, Miami
8. Mike Grande, Melbourne
9. Tracey Steele, West Palm Beach
10. Reggie Sabalao, Ft. Pierce

GULFSTREAM PARK
MAY 22

1. Aviad Roton, Sunny Isles
2. Jorge Salgado, Ft. Lauderdale
3. Eric Brewster, Jupiter
4. Billy Greisman, Weston
5. Michael Fine, Farmington, MI

6. Steven Becker, Miami
7. Phil Assous, Los Angeles
8. Jiang Haidong, Miami
9. Karim Jbil
10. Ruth Bigio, Aventura

ISLE CASINO
MAY 22

1. John McCaffrey, Lake Worth
2. Fred Allenspach, Plantation
3. Charles Bury, Boca Raton
4. David Remland, Boca Raton
5. Bobby Binsky, Hallandale Beach
6. Keith Wagner, Davie
7. John Joseph Piscopo, Pembroke Pines
8. Sheldon Gross, Hillsboro
9. Robert Bossuk, Boca Raton
10. Evan Teitelbaum, Parkland

MARDI GRAS CASINO
MAY 20

1. Scott Frybarger, Hollywood
2. Claude Kados
3. Shirley Huon
4. John Gombus, Hollywood
5. Nat Cohen, Hollywood
6. Regis Ducatillon, Miami
7. Omar Recuero, Hollywood
8. John Kagazzino, Miami
9. Stuart Greenbaum, Hollywood
10. Declined points

MIAMI JAI-ALAI
MAY 23

1. Arturo Garcia, Miami
2. Michael Delgado
3. Anthony Moreda, Miami
4. Martin Mantranca

OCALA POKER & JAI-ALAI
MAY 29

1. Jason Gillette, Gainesville
2. Lucian Stephens, Homosassa
3. Nathan Cunningham, Gainesville
4. Lewis Saurer, Miami
5. David Sanderson, Ocala
6. Keri Slobody, Alachua
7. Declined points
8. Carleen Heath, Belleview
- 9-10. Declined points

ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB
MAY 21

1. Tomas Singson, Orange Park
2. Declined points
3. Aaron Lucas, Jacksonville

4. Michael Nesmith, Orange Park
5. Declined points
6. Moses Clepper, St. Augustine
7. Jimmie Robison, Folkston, GA
- 8-10. Declined points

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB
MAY 28

1. Mark Quinn, Delray Beach
2. Chris Nasi, Jupiter
3. Bob Panetta, West Palm Beach
4. Julius Schachter, Boynton Beach
5. Jeff Natalimi, Washington, D.C.
6. Manny Leon, West Palm Beach
7. Nicholas Sapohara, Delray Beach
8. Georgia Felger, Lantana
9. Victor Dillon, Loxahatchee
10. Phil Stein, West Palm Beach

PENSACOLA GREYHOUND
MAY 29

1. Ronnie Bryant, Pensacola
2. Neil Patel, Pensacola
3. Nancy Hadley, Robertsdsale, AL
4. Willie Thomas, Pensacola
5. Eric Thomas, Pensacola
6. Mike Elmore, Mobile, AL
7. Christopher Lahr
8. Roy Richards, Baker
9. Jerome Myers, Pensacola
10. Declined points

SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB
MAY 29

1. Sam Napolitano
2. Judy Arnold
3. Mike Larsen
4. Randy Montgomery
5. Patrick Thomas
6. Kevin Killoran
- 7-10. Declined points

SEMINOLE H.R. HOLLYWOOD
MAY 29

1. Elyahu Levy, North Miami
2. Doron Malinasky, Hollywood
3. Ory Hen, Cooper City
4. Thomas Edward Winters, San Diego
5. Chester Lee Adamson, Cape Coral
6. Roy Cohen, Boca Raton
7. Edward Anthony Corrado, Naples
8. Eric Paul Feichthaler, Cape Coral
9. Michelle McLeod, Weston
10. Julio Fernandez, Miami

SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA
MAY 15

1. Darrell Griffey, Brandon
2. Deborah Farmer, Lutz
3. Kevin Kudzuf, Lakeland
4. Luther Mooneyham, Lakeland
5. Anthony Schleifstein, Orlando
6. Marino Thomas, Clermont
7. Benton Thompson, Lakeland
8. Marsha Wolak, Sarasota
9. Woody Christy, Charlotte, NC
10. William McBride, Tampa

SEMINOLE IMMOKALEE
MAY 1

1. Scott Utterback, Houston
2. Grady Yeager, Naples
3. Emory Smith, Ft. Myers
4. Randy Smock, St. Louis
5. Mike Kuhnert, Baltimore
6. Declined points
7. Safwat Itayem, Marco Island
- 8-10. Declined points

ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK
MAY 1

1. James Lanier
2. Ben Dever
3. Nathan Washington
4. John Scherf
5. Bob Schall
6. Rory McCoid
7. Imelda Cisneros
8. Declined points
9. George Rezas, Iran
10. Declined points

TAMPA BAY DOWNS
MAY 16

1. Diane Gagne
2. Mike Spangler
3. Marc loane
4. Jerry Pitts
5. Ann Sinsic
6. John Lanza
7. Mickey Mazzatta
8. Stan Holley
9. Don Watson
10. Mark Morgan

Ante Up would like to thank our sponsors — Madison Jewelers and Blue Shark Optics — and the 23 poker rooms that made our Ante Up Poker Tour possible.



More than 70 played in AAPT Player of the Year bounty event at Palm Beach Kennel Club.



IT'S NOT OVER 'TIL

ALL "THEIR MONEY" IS HANGING OUT AT THE TABLE WITH "YOUR MONEY"

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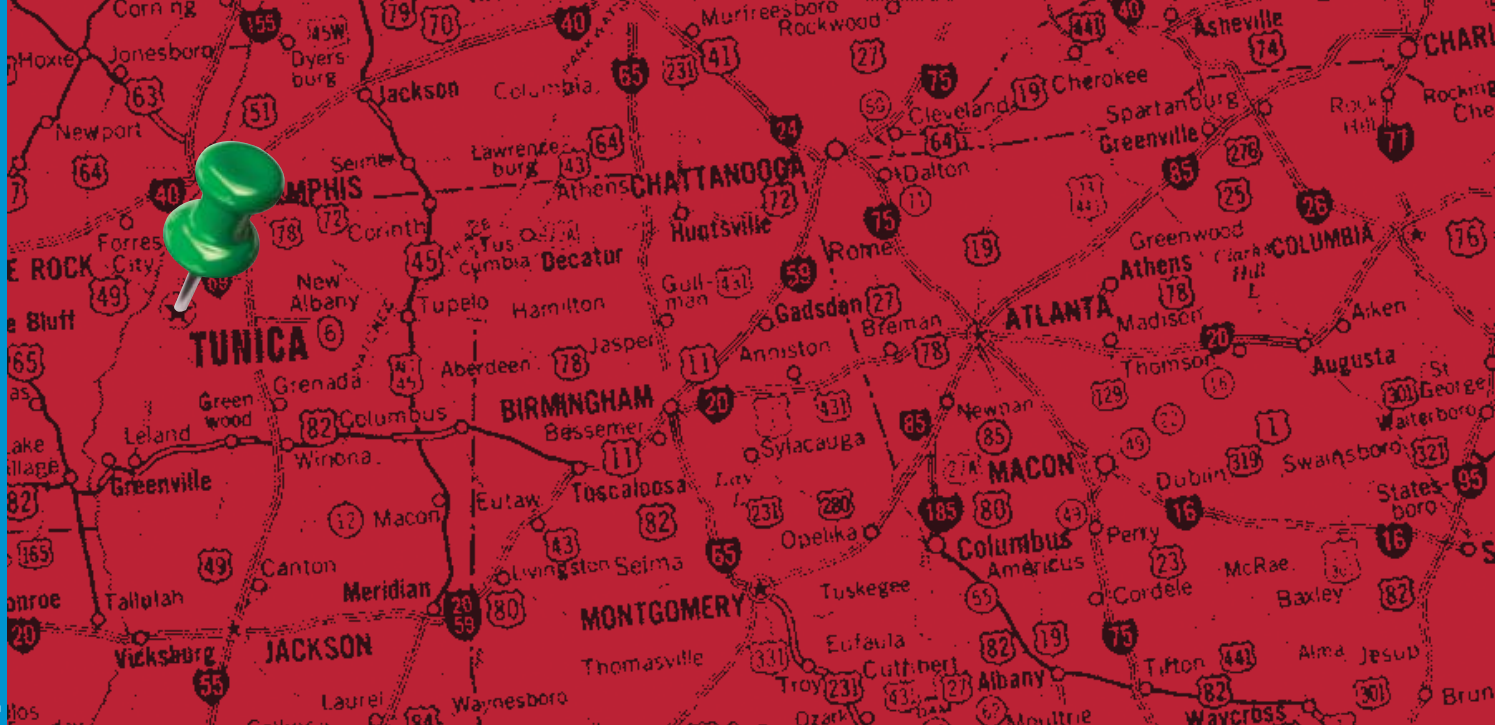


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TUNICA, MISSISSIPPI

BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA

In school, you have the three R's: reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic. In Tunica, you have the three C's: cotton fields, churches and casinos. What else could you possibly need? ¶ *Ante Up* continues its Road Trip series this month with visits to the five poker rooms in Tunica, and a brief look at three others in the Mississippi Delta region. It's always interesting to see how poker rooms that are so

close together deal with competition and how players benefit from these rivalries. We're always so impressed with the

staffs in these rooms, and Mississippi continues to be the most friendly place to play poker. If you want to experience the casino poker lifestyle without the hustle and bustle of Las Vegas or the chaos of California, be sure to hit Tunica, where frolicking deer eating leaves among miles of green pastures is an everyday occurrence.





GOLD STRIKE CASINO

When players sit at a poker table they mostly want to just hear the shuffling of chips and the careless banter that fills the time in between hands. Most poker rooms are situated among the slots with all the bells and whistles, which can be distracting when you have a difficult decision to make. The Gold Strike poker room doesn't have this problem. Located on the second floor of the casino, the poker room generally is removed from the craziness, which is great for a poker player, but a curse to some extent.



"We don't get a lot of tourists that just pass by," said floor supervisor **Jake "Don't call me Raymond" Bush**. "Tourists just don't flow up the escalator, so that's hard to compete with. But as far as the room goes I believe bar none we have a nicer room and it's more open."

Indeed, there is a lot of space in the 16-table room, which is adorned with gold décor. One large flatscreen TV hangs on each wall to keep you abreast of the daily sporting events or when the blinds will change in your tournament. Other screens keep you up to date on promotions, of which there are plenty. The brush at the left-hand entrance still keeps an old-school list on a clipboard for games and seats, and the cashier is centrally located along the back wall.

"We give away a lot of money," said Bush, who's been in poker since 2004 and has worked at Gold Strike for about three years. "From 3 a.m. till 10 a.m. we have a no-limit hold'em drawing where we draw for \$100 for each table at the top of the hour. Also our players are paid to play, \$1 an hour. Once they reach 25 hours they're eligible to cash out for \$25 and beyond."

The room has drawings (Sun.-Fri.) for the \$3-\$6 (\$30) and \$4-\$8 (\$40) games from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. As for tournaments the Gold Strike has a guarantee for every event, including the first Saturday of the month, which is a \$15K guarantee (\$340 buy-in, 10K chips). That's immediately followed by Sunday's \$5K guarantee (\$230, \$8K chips).

The Gold Strike hosts one of the biggest events in Tunica, the World Poker Open, which runs July 22-Aug. 2 this year (See story Page 32). And like its MGM Mirage sister property to the south (Beau Rivage, and both rooms are run by world-renown poker director Ken Lambert), the Gold Strike utilizes its convention area to spread a few dozen tables to accommodate the larger fields. And when this event is running you can find massage therapists to work out those knots in your back. But during regular business hours you'll have to rely on free coffee, drinks and tableside dining to keep you content on the felt.

"We have friendly people and a friendly staff with a lot of knowledge and a lot of history," Bush said.

WEBSITE: www.goldstrikemississippi.com; **PHONE:** (662) 357-1136

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$1-\$2 NL with \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10 on the weekends – though a \$10-\$20 NLHE heads-up match was spread during Ante Up's visit; \$3-\$6 and \$4-8 limit).

STAFF: 50 (45 dealers); **TABLES:** 16

HOLLYWOOD CASINO

Movie themes are a natural for the Hollywood Casino, and that sentiment isn't lost on its poker room, which resides in the Adventure Slots area. An Indiana Jones theme makes for a darkened room as faux rock walls and hieroglyphics are etched into columns and decorations. For those who've been around long enough, they'll remember the poker tables used to be in a nearby secluded room, which is now for high-limit table games. And the Indiana Jones theme used to allow for a track that emerged from a cave above the slots area as a wooden cart would roll along and drop memorabilia down to the patrons.

"You wouldn't believe the fights that used to break out for little pieces of aluminum," poker room manager **Dominick Morreale** said.

But enough reminiscing; let's talk poker.

One thing you don't find much of in Tunica is a \$3-\$6 limit hold'em cash game, but that's the staple of Hollywood. Plus the room runs daily tournaments (sans Tuesday), though Morreale promises some revamping is coming to the tournament schedule so more on that in the future.

And something else that keeps the players in the seats is the remarkable \$3 an hour they earn on their player cards for food comps. "They can eat at the table," Morreale said.

Morreale, who's been in poker for more than 30 years ("I got started in Vegas in '78 at the Stardust as a shill dealer."), says he realizes the limitations his room has in competing with rooms that are a stone's throw from Hollywood. But he has confidence his staff's service is the reason the players keep coming back.

"I can't compete with a lot of things like having big tournaments and guaranteeing big prize money," said Morreale, who has been with Hollywood since its inception in August 1994. "We survive off how we treat people. We have a good bunch of loyal customers who come in and like how we treat them. We know them all by their first name and we try to get to know their families. I know where they're from. I've stayed, when traveling, at some of their houses. They know all the dealers. ... It's like playing at the kitchen table."

Hollywood's busiest nights are Fridays and Saturdays, though promotions keep the cards flying during the week. On Wednesdays is aces cracked while high hands are featured Thursdays. Both promotions let you spin the wheel to win between \$25-\$500.

And with someone steeped in the history of Tunica poker you have to ask Morreale how Tunica has changed over the years.

"It used to be a lot busier," he said. "Now there are a lot of tournaments. I was the first one to start a tournament once a week. Now there are a lot and we lose a lot of customers because if they bust out they just go down the street to another one. It's a struggle. You gotta work at it and treat people right. That's the biggest thing."



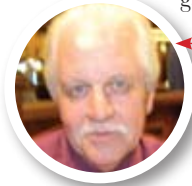
WEBSITE: www.hollywoodtunica.com **PHONE:** (800) 871-0711

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$3-\$6 limit; \$1-\$2 no-limit on weekends) **STAFF:** 13 (9 dealers); **TABLES:** 6

HORSESHOE CASINO

What's in a name? Well, if the name is Horseshoe then it can mean quite a lot. Yes, Harrah's now owns the Horseshoe, but history is hard to ignore. The Binions made the Horseshoe synonymous with poker, and that relationship still reflects in the action in Tunica today.

As *Ante Up* strolled up to the poker room on a Wednesday afternoon it seemed obvious a tournament was at hand, but lo and behold eight cash games were running strong. The action is here, and so is the only regular stud game (\$1-\$5 spread) in Mississippi.



"Stud pays the bills," said **Dale Carden**, tournament director and Senior Poker Hall of Fame member.

Carden, who began his poker career in Immokalee, Fla., in 1989, said his room gives so much to the player.

"All of our dealers are seasoned," he said. "They make the biggest difference here. ... and the promotions. Guys are going to play where they're giving money away. ... We have more games in this room than all of the games on the river combined."

It was hard to ignore how busy the room was every day. Some of the promotions include Flush Frenzy, which pays a player \$100 if he makes flushes in all four suits during his session. But another key to the Horseshoe's success is its capped jackpots and the reasons behind it.

"Our jackpot is capped at \$100K," Carden said, "so any overage goes to other promotions to be sure the money gets back to the players. There are so many times when the jackpot would go to \$170K and the winners were from Atlanta and Chicago and the money never got back to our players. So we try to give each player \$100 every day to keep him playing on the tables. We'd rather do that than see \$170K walk out the door and not come back."



If you're hungry and you're playing you'll get a buffet comp. It's that simple. Plus, if you're coming from out of town the Horseshoe has hotel rooms reserved for you (\$35 weekdays, \$50 weekends at Harrah's, and \$45-\$65 on site).

But the Horseshoe isn't just about cash games. It hosts the Magnolia Classic every October as its signature event, but the

everyday tournaments perform well, too. Tuesday's \$65 buy-in (7 p.m.) is the best tournament during the week. It has 20-minute levels, 10K chips and the Horseshoe adds \$500 to the prize pool. There's also a \$10K guarantee on Saturdays (\$160, 12K chips, 30-minute levels, 4 p.m.) These events generally end by 11 p.m.

"We just make our structures that no matter how many players we get, the guy can still play the tournament, go home, get some sleep and go to work the next day," said Carden, who is a terrific complement to Lisa Compton, who runs the room.

And one of the amenities that comes from the tournaments is Team Horseshoe. It's a point-based system that determines who will be a member of Team Horseshoe for the next upcoming big event, whatever it may be. The room deducts \$3 per player from the buy-in to fund the team.

"We send players to Vegas (for the WSOP), and to all the circuit events," Carden said. "They get jackets, shirts, hats and they head to these events and show up in force. So we get all the tournament action, too."

WEBSITE: www.horseshoetunica.com **PHONE:** (662) 357-5608

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$1-\$3, \$2-\$5, \$5-\$10 no-limit; \$4-\$8 limit – a \$20-\$40 game goes up every weekend; \$4-\$8 Omaha/8; \$1-\$5 stud)

STAFF: 80 (70 dealers); **TABLES:** 16

Delta deals

These three poker rooms are in the Mississippi Delta region as well. Here's a brief overview, and for more information you can turn to our Where To Play pages in the back of the magazine.

HARLOW'S CASINO

LOCATION: Greenville

WEBSITE: www.harlowscasino.com

PHONE: (662) 335-9797 x144

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$1-\$3 no-limit; \$4-\$8 limit) and an Omaha game will break out once in a while.

MANAGER: Richard Woods

STAFF: 10

TABLES: 6

TABLESIDE DINING? Yes

PLAYER COMPS? No

ROOM RATES: \$35 weekdays, \$55 weekends.

THE SKINNY: Harlow's holds the occasional event, such as the recent Battle at the Foot of the Bridge (you can find results on Page 32). This summer they'll have another series similar to the "Battle" called Harlow's Summer Poker League. Players accumulate points and can qualify through satellites as well.

SILVER STAR CASINO

LOCATION: Choctaw, at the Pearl River Resort

WEBSITE: www.pearlriverresort.com

PHONE: (601) 650-1234

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$1-\$3 no-limit, \$2-\$5 is gaining popularity; \$4-\$8 limit)

MANAGER: Alan John

STAFF: 20

TABLES: 8

TABLESIDE DINING? Yes

PLAYER COMPS? No players card, but if they think you've played long enough they'll give you a food comp.

THE SKINNY: The poker room has a few tournaments it's proud of, including a \$35 rebuy event on Mondays (7 p.m.) where the room adds \$1K to the prize pool. There's also a \$60 buy-in for a \$2,500 guarantee event on Saturdays.

AMERISTAR CASINO

LOCATION: Vicksburg

WEBSITE: www.ameristar.com/vicksburg

PHONE: (601) 630-4996

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$1-\$3 and \$2-\$5 no-limit; \$3-\$6 and \$4-\$8 limit)

SUPERVISOR: Dennis Fountain

TABLES: 9

TABLESIDE DINING? Yes

PLAYER COMPS? \$1 an hour on the players card.

THE SKINNY: There's a new game in town: \$5-\$10-\$20 limit hold'em, with players having the option to bet \$20 on the river. It's usually spread on Mondays but is available upon request. The brush we talked with said the game is having trouble sticking, so if you want to try it you might just save it as well. Also, Omaha/8 is spread regularly on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m.

HARRAH'S CASINO

When you have the World Series of Poker associated with your poker room, it gives you a big leg up on the competition. That brand is world famous and attracts players like moths to a flame.

"We try to incorporate the World Series into everything we do," said Chris Griffin, who co-manages the room with Steve Reed (though everyone just calls him Reed).



And that means the design of the room, from WSOP logos on the felts and chairs to huge framed pictures of past WSOP champions all along the walls. The poker room has 14 tables, but that all changes when the WSOP comes to town with its circuit event.

"We add four tables to the room and seven tables just outside the room for live action," said Griffin,

who started with Harrah's in 1995 but joined the Tunica poker room almost two years ago. "Then in the event center we set up 61 tables for the circuit tournaments. It's a phenomenal site once they have it all set up."

It's not just about the WSOP. "We've got more promotions going than anywhere else in Tunica," he said. "The players get a lot more for the time spent playing here. ... and best service, by far. ... This poker room has the highest (ratings) in the company. You gotta do something to stand out. The games are the same everywhere, so we just try to draw people back with service."

And with promotions. Harrah's keeps its players at the tables in the wee hours with its Spin the Wheel giveaways. Starting at midnight it gives tickets to all players and draws for a chance to spin the wheel every hour (they can win \$25-\$500, and payouts double from 6-9 a.m.). Your tickets stay in the drawing through the night for a better chance of getting picked.

There's also a single-table jackpot in which the qualifying hand goes down in rank every day it's not hit, and the payout goes up \$250 daily (maxing out at \$4K). The loser gets 30 percent, the winner's paid 20 percent and the remaining 50 percent is split among players at the table.

A \$150K Fantasy Freeroll promotion is about to be rolled out July 7, including \$3K weekly freerolls and seats given away to its WSOP circuit events.

"The Fantasy promotion looks like it will be an annual deal for us," Griffin said. "It's been very successful, and it's a lot of cash."

This month from 8 a.m. till noon the highest full house gets \$100 and entry into an \$8K freeroll. And you can't talk to **Chris Griffin** without asking if he watches *Family Guy*. "I hired someone from St. Louis to be a brush

here, but she couldn't start because her husband was in a branch of the military. Her name was Megan Griffin," he said, laughing. "Can you imagine the both of us working in the same room together at the same time? I finally get someone on TV named after me and look who it is."



WEBSITE: www.harrahstunica.com **PHONE:** (800) 946-4946 x33760
POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$1-\$3, \$2-\$5 no-limit); \$4-\$8 limit with \$1-\$2 blinds **STAFF:** 33 (29 dealers); **TABLES:** 14

SAM'S TOWN CASINO

Imagine spending the day playing poker and having a few laughs with some friendly dealers. Not a bad time, huh?

Now imagine leaving the poker room and eating one of the finest meals of your life. Oh, and that meal is free. What would you think of that? Players at Sam's Town do it all the time. The generous \$2.50 per hour comp rate adds up pretty quickly, and the \$25 early bird special at Twain's Steakhouse can't be beat, for quality and value.

"It's gotta be probably the best meal on the river in a very nice atmosphere," table games manager John Mathis said. "With just a little bit of play you can get that."

But this is a poker room, after all, so what other reasons should you play at Sam's?

"We're up front with our rake," poker room manager Linda Reh said. "For a \$60 tournament it's \$40 plus \$20; \$10 goes to the house, \$10 goes to the dealers. You go to the other casinos they don't read that fine print on the bottom that says 3 percent here, 2 percent there. We're actually the cheapest with regards to the rake. We're not killing the players."



The poker room, which is on the second floor, has a few other promotions as well, such as hourly \$50 high hands (Sun., Wed., Thurs., noon-midnight) and \$50 aces cracked (Mondays, midnight-8 a.m.). Plus Tuesday is Bonus Chips Day. If you play three hours between 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. you'll get an extra 1K chips in that day's tournament.

Reh is particularly proud of her monthly \$15K guaranteed tournament, which regularly draws more than 100 players. The next one will be July 24 (11 a.m., \$150).

"I know I hold the market on the \$15K," said Reh, who has been in poker for 10 years, the past two with Sam's. "I've had many players tell me that's the best tournament around. I don't ever foresee that going down and I think that's my signature."

The event is so popular Sam's Town has had to add three tables. Reh is looking into doing a \$30K event, likely in August. If that's successful they may do it quarterly.

And if you play enough you can be outfitted with Sam's Town garb. "We have an apparel program for your time played in the previous month," Mathis said. "Hats, shirts, jackets. Our players are very well-dressed."

And what can a player expect from a session at Sam's Town? "Friendliness. My dealers are known for being friendly. It's a fun atmosphere. And I do put out hot dogs for the tournament once a month," Reh said with a chuckle. "We used to have hot dogs in the room all the time and when we took them out I got so much grief from the players that I brought them back for the big tournament. They're all happy now."



WEBSITE: www.samstowntunica.com
PHONE: (800) 456-0711
POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$1-\$3 no-limit; \$4-\$8 limit); **STAFF:** 35 (29 dealers); **TABLES:** 16

THIS HORSESHOE

↓
WAS LUCKY

→ FOR ME

↙
IN TUNICA

BY GENO "MARCELLO" LAURENZI

I hadn't even planned the trip to Tunica. After 19 years of a mostly good marriage, my beautiful red-headed wife decided she knew who I was, and now it was time for her to discover who she was. And so on a warm summer day in Mandeville, La., where I was working as a field editor for a commercial fishing magazine, she told me our marriage was over and she and the kids were moving to Springfield, Mo., to be with her mother and sister.

Wow!

Oh well, I thought, still reeling from the shock. There goes the marriage I thought was perfect. Well, not really so perfect. As a magazine writer and journalist, I had been away from home a lot covering stories, writing articles and attending celebrity cocktail parties. True, there were a lot of fetching women at those parties, and also true, as Tiger Woods discovered to his dismay and eventual shame, a lot of them didn't give a damn if a guy was married or not. Truth is, my lovely wife stayed with me a lot longer than I deserved, and many of her friends, mostly female, gave a not so silent cheer when she decided to "split the sheets," as they say in Alabama where she originated.

I had given my notice to my publisher earlier that I was resigning from my job. A friend who published a newspaper in Lake Park, Fla., had a job for me that promised to pay well. The Louisiana experience had been a good one, and I dearly loved my 90-year-old publisher Harry Peace. But it was plainly obvious to both of us that I didn't fit

the field-editor position as well as either of us would have liked. I had discussed the job change briefly with Nan, and she didn't smile when I suggested the change of climate to Florida's sunny shores would give our marriage the boost it badly needed. A week after I told her about the Florida job, she informed me she had made up her mind to leave, and that was that. No options allowed.

After cleaning out our joint bank account and giving her all the money I could scrape together so she and our two children would have a good start in Missouri, I climbed into my late-model Cadillac and set off for Florida. I had looked over a couple of different routes and decided on one that would take me through Memphis, Tenn. My old pal Jack Binion of Binion's Horseshoe fame was there, and had built up a new Horseshoe Casino that I wanted to visit. To be honest, I wanted to lose myself in booze, sun and poker. In those days they were all passions of mine, and I knew there was no better setting for such diversion than a casino, especially one owned by Jack Binion.

As I drove across the highways of America, I alternated between sighing, crying and dreaming of a golden marriage that had disintegrated before my eyes. I had helped the destruction along, no question about that. But strangely, I had believed I could save my marriage from becoming a divorce statistic by reforming my lifestyle. Unfortunately, as my friends would later tell me over a drink, I had left Nan alone too long.

One woman, a cocktail waitress, said with sympathy, "Honey, once



a woman looks away from you and from who and what you are, it's finished. Better just forget about her. She ain't coming back."

It was with that shadow dogging my blue Caddy that I drove into Tunica just before 10 a.m. Tunica was flat and reminded me of a gigantic air field, with neon signs and sky-high buildings everywhere. The casinos were spread out over a large area and I kept driving until I saw the sign that said HORSESHOE. I drove my car to the front and let the valet park it.

Binion knew I was coming and he and Jim Albrecht, his capable assistant, greeted me as I walked into the casino.

"Are you planning to play in our Omaha high-low tournament tonight?" he said. I told him I knew nothing about it. He explained it was the third annual Jack Binion World Poker Open and that if I hurried, I could get into a one-table satellite that was just about to begin. The entry fee was \$60 and if I won, it would pay for my entry into the tourney. I started to turn him down — I was tired after all that driving — but something about his engaging come-on-and-try-it smile captivated me.

"Sure, Jack," I said. "I'll play in your silly little satellite."

I won the satellite. After a good lunch at one of the restaurants, I rented a room for the night at the special poker rates. Then I went to the hotel pool for a swim and dozed beneath the Mississippi sun for a couple of hours before going to my room to freshen up for the 7 p.m. tournament.

There were 238 entries in the tourney and a prize fund of \$115,430, with such poker stalwarts as Art Youngblood of Biloxi, Miss., Sandra "Ladytee" Taylor from Washington D.C. and Scott Lewis of Atlanta among my formidable opponents.

When I entered the Tunica action, I was no beginner to tournament poker. I had played in more than 150 poker tournaments, mostly small buy-in events in Las Vegas, and placed in the money in several of them. My biggest payoff was about \$12,000 and that had been at a five-card lowball event at the Riviera Casino in Las Vegas several years earlier.

For those of you who have never made the final table of a big tournament, I can give you this advice straight from the shoulder: Guys and gals, it ain't easy.

It's really hard to describe the emotions going through me as I played in the early stages of the WPO tournament. The game was limit Omaha high-low with the blinds doubling every 30 minutes. I liked Omaha high-low and loved the intricacies of the game, though I didn't consider myself a top player. I much preferred Texas Hold'em when it came to tournaments or a cash game. But I also appreciated the limit poker aspects of the WPO and came to like it even better as I began piling up my chips.

Nolan Dalla, whom I had heard about but had not yet met, was a poker writer at the tournament. He recorded the winning hands and was invaluable in furnishing me with some of the information for this article. Here is a portion of what Dalla wrote online about the WPO event that appeared online and in his magazine:

Omaha High-Low is considered by many to be a game of absolute control, one that requires both patience and discipline to win. BUZZ! Wrong. Geno Laurenzi, a former rodeo cowboy turned modern day renaissance man, completely shattered that notion by winning the \$500 buy-in event. Laurenzi saw almost every flop while sitting at the final table and called or raised every hand during the final two hours of play.

With a formidable chip lead most of the way, Laurenzi consistently pulverized his opponents with his larger stack to the point where even the notion of playing a pot meant risking and perhaps losing a large percentage of chips. One by one, Laurenzi bucked his opponents from the final table like a wild bronco in a stampede, collecting \$42,709 for the ride.

That's the kind of writing I like, especially when I'm the guy involved with the chip lead.

During the tournament, I kept getting the *deja vu* feeling that now I finally knew what an NFL quarterback felt like when he is in the pocket, dancing between rushing 300-pound tackles who are hell bent on bringing him crashing down. It was an exhilarating

feeling that I will never forget. The rush has to beat any artificial high from drugs or alcohol, and when you survive hand after hand, doubling your chips into a mountain, well, it doesn't get much better than that.

I remember the attractive black woman playing opposite me, Sandra Taylor, and putting her all-in again, and again. and again, only to have her come up with miracle hands that enabled her to bounce back. Once she said in a complaining voice, "Don't you like me? Why do you keep trying to beat me down?" I thought I saw a half-smile flit across her face as she raked in half the pot with her miracle low hand against my trips, but I can't be certain. Taylor finished fourth and collected \$6,926. I didn't realize at the time what a good player she was, but later learned from Nolan that she played regularly in Atlantic City and won major tournaments at a number of top casinos, including Foxwoods and the Taj Mahal.

The last player I eliminated at the final table was Youngblood, a southern gent from Biloxi. Youngblood was a homebuilder and has many years of experience playing poker. He was an underdog because of my big chip lead, but he nearly took me down with some outstanding poker play with less than premium hands. At one time I had him down to a single \$1,000 chip, but he caught a miracle card on the river.

With just a few chips left — the blinds were 4,000-8,000 — he took a gamble with J-7-4-2 and I called with J-9-8-7. The flop favored me with 5-7-9, and a jack on the river gave me two pair. The last card, a 10, gave me a straight.

The crowd exploded and Nolan later told me I "leaped six feet straight up into the air." I don't remember much of what happened afterward except that I collected a beautiful diamond and gold bracelet worth an estimated \$3,500, which I later lost because of a faulty clasp (WPO folks, are you listening? I could surely use a replacement for that long lost souvenir of an incredible life-changing event).

During the post-tournament interview, Youngblood, who won an event at a 1986 Amarillo Slim Super Bowl of Poker Tournament, referred to me as a "perfect gentleman" and I felt required to say the same about him. I still think he is a better player than me, but I caught the cards and trapped the thunder in a bottle and ended up with the top prize. Youngblood was rewarded with \$21,932 for second place. We were two happy campers as photographers snapped pictures and the champagne made its rounds.

As the casino personnel in the counting room piled up my hundred-dollar bills and poured them into brown paper bags to be transported to my car, a couple of soft-spoken Mississippi gamblers came by. They smiled and shook my hand and told me what a great player I was. Then, almost offhand, one said softly, "By the way, we're getting together for a little pot-limit Omaha game later. Care to join us?"

W.C. Fields, the wonderful comic actor, boozier and poker player, had once described a poker table as being made up of "thieves, bandits, scoundrels and thieves." I knew I was a bit of a bandit because of my rodeo background, but I also knew the reputation of these Mississippi riverboat gamblers. I had heard a tragic story of a young Texas school teacher who had won more than \$60,000 in a WPO tournament a couple of days earlier and who had allowed himself to be talked into a "friendly" PLO game with these same gentlemen. Flushed with his success (He had called his young wife at home in Texas and told her, "Honey, we're going to get that new house I promised you.") he decided to take on the Mississippians. The game began at 7 p.m. and by 3 a.m., the school teacher was bawling like a baby as he fumbled with his credit card at an ATM machine to get enough money to go home.

"No thanks, fellas," I told them, smiling. "This is enough for me."

An armed security guard followed me to the parking lot and watched as I loaded those brown paper bags filled with cash into my trunk. It was around 1 a.m. and the big Mississippi moon lit up the countryside. I slipped the guard a bill, gave him a salute and headed off into the night feeling like the champion of the world.

— **Geno "Marcello" Laurenzi is a professional writer, photojournalist, ghostwriter and book author who loves poker, deep-sea fishing and island travel.**

LET THE SILLY SEASON BEGIN

With the legislative sessions concluded in most states in the Southeast, all politicians are turning their eyes from policy-making to playing politics. For those who follow gambling legislation, it means it's time to open the wallets and watch the polling so we can wager on whom will be the elected leaders after the dust of the 2010 elections settle.



MARC DUNBAR

For the regular *Ante Up* reader, you're used to reading about politicians' decisions as they affect your livelihood at the tables, whether you're a player or a gaming employee. Over the next few issues I'll try to give you an informed look at some of the critical political races that will affect gaming policy in The South. This month I'll look at Florida and Alabama.

Florida

The Sunshine State is off to a political year of historic proportions. Its U.S. Senate seat has become the talk of national politics, the entire Cabinet, including the Governor's Mansion, is up for grabs, and the Florida Legislature will select a new House speaker and Senate president after the 2010 elections. Here's my quick thumbnail on these key statewide races affecting the gambling industry to help you pick your candidate in the primary elections in August and the general elections in November.

U.S. SENATE: Our gambling-loving Gov. Charlie Crist has left the Republican Party and is an independent due to the juggernaut candidacy of right-wing-poster-boy and former House speaker Marco Rubio. On the Democrat side, eccentric billionaire Jeff Greene is facing popular congressman Kendrick Meek. Here's how it shakes out for the gambling industry: Crist gave Florida table games, no-limit poker, extended hours and viable parimutuel casinos; Rubio is anti-gambling; Meek always has been a friend to the parimutuel industry and supported gambling legislation when he was in the Florida Legislature. My picks: Go with Meek and Crist.

GOVERNOR: The Republican primary has attorney general Bill McCollum running against Rick Scott, the former CEO of healthcare conglomerate Columbia/HCA. McCollum has not been a big gambling advocate but has been fair to the industry over the years. Scott, with a war chest of nine figures, is staking out the far right.

Despite reports of him being ousted from the company amid a federal investigation that resulted in a record \$1.7 billion in fines as part of a settlement over fraudulent healthcare billing, Scott plans on pumping around \$30 million into his bid for governor.

The winner will face the Democrat Alex Sink, the state's CFO. The son of former Gov. Lawton Chiles, Bud, is running as an independent. Neither has a background relative to the gambling industry. My picks: Go with McCollum unless more information comes out about the positions of Sink and Chiles relative to the industry.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: This race is wide open. Two Democrats and three Republicans have no significant political base. On the Democratic side, two state senators from South Florida battle for the job.

Sen. Dave Aronberg from Palm Beach County boasts one of the largest and most diverse Senate districts in the state. His district runs from coast to coast, starting in Palm Beach and ending in the Gulf of Mexico.

He's running as the more experienced candidate having served in the attorney general's office before his election. He's an active poker player and has been a real hero to the industry during his tenure in the Senate. His opponent, Miami Beach senator Dan Gelber, has been hopping around political races looking for the next step on his political ladder (state senate to U.S. Senate to attorney general in fewer than seven months).

Gelber has never been a player on gambling issues and has little support in the industry. On the Republican side, Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp is facing Tampa prosecutor Pam Biondi and former gambling regulator and state legislator Holly Benson.

The choice is pretty clear here: Aronberg and Benson. You can't go wrong with either as they are probably the most knowledgeable people in the State when it comes to the gambling industry and the needs of players and operators.

Alabama

In this state everything comes down to one race. Since the state Supreme Court has ruled the governor is in charge of the statewide enforcement of the gambling laws, the industry is looking toward November when Gov. Bob Riley's term ends and a new governor charts the state's course on gambling policy.

GOVERNOR: The Democrats have completed their primary election and have selected Commissioner of Agriculture Ron Sparks. He's heavily supported by the state's gambling industry and has publicly supported the legalization and regulation of "Las Vegas-style" gambling in Alabama.

On the Republican side, a run-off will occur in mid-July between Christian conservatives Bradley Byrne and Robert Bentley. Both are against any form of gambling expansion. Bentley is taking a more civil libertarian approach, stating he will support the will of the people and their ability to decide the issue of gambling expansion at the ballot box. For those interested in seeing Alabama join the ranks of the nation's gambling states, you have but a single choice: Sparks.

Money and grassroots will decide these elections. If you find yourself motivated to get involved, reach out to the campaigns; all have websites through which you can volunteer and make financial contributions.

Find your favorite candidate, spread the word and by all means, vote. You can't complain at the poker table about the politicians if you didn't do your civic duty or try to make a difference. Consider yourself an informed voter now and do your part to make sure you have a policy-maker in office that shares your views.

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



Charlie Crist has increased Florida gaming as governor.

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POKER'S CAUSE & EFFECT

We credit Aristotle for expansive teachings on “cause and effect,” teachings refined and refined again over the years by dozens more of our world’s greatest thinkers.

An event occurs (“the cause”) and then we see what results from that action (“the effect.”) Simple in explanation; complex in analysis.



SCOTT LONG

Starting this month, we’ll see much in the world of poker for which we can easily identify the cause. Predicting the effect is a different endeavor.

OK, enough with the heady babble. Let’s talk in plain English.

Poker players from sea to shining sea know that on July 1, Florida is destined to change the poker universe when betting and buy-in caps are eliminated and hours expanded. “The cause” is indeed simple, and certainly not revolutionary. With a state budget stretched as thin as the odds of hitting a bad-beat jackpot, lawmakers shrugged off past opposition to expanding gambling to fill those gaping budgetary holes. “The effect,” however, is being pondered daily in poker rooms.

But don’t be foolish enough to focus solely on Florida. July will be a bountiful month for poker in many other states:

PENNSYLVANIA: On July 8, poker rooms will open in three Western Pennsylvania casinos: The Meadows in Washington County, Rivers in Pittsburgh and Presque Isle Downs in Erie. By the end of the month, six more rooms will be dealing cards in Wilkes-Barre, Harrisburg, the Poconos and in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

DELAWARE: Harrington Raceway opened its room on Memorial Day weekend, while rooms at Dover Downs and Delaware Park opened soon after.

WEST VIRGINIA: Newly christened Hollywood Casino at Charles Town expects poker to begin by July 2, while the Greenbrier Resort’s semi-private Casino Club with a couple of poker tables expects to be open at the same time.

The “cause” for opening these 14 rooms is the same as in Florida. Quick and easy infusions of cash into depleted state and municipal budgets, while also “keeping up with the Joneses” as more and more states watch tourism money cross their borders into neighboring states that have casino gambling. It’s the same “cause” that led to approval of casinos expected to open in 2011 in Ohio, and why Maryland, Rhode Island and reportedly Virginia may soon get serious about getting into the game.

But it’s the “effect” of this expansion of poker that’s much harder to quantify.

As a player, it’s easy to be lured into giddiness. Consumers benefit from competition. The more options there are for you to play live poker means better rakes, better promotions and better tournaments as rooms fight over us.

I’ve fielded plenty of emails from players, tired of going to Atlantic City, who will be first in line at the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware rooms. West Virginia rooms will likely feel a pinch from the new Western Pennsylvania rooms (and eventually Ohio). Mississippi rooms no doubt will fight an exodus of their tourist players to Florida. To remain competitive, virtually every poker room will need to get, well, more competitive.

And no doubt, convenience helps create more players, or at least encourage those occasional players to become regular players.

So in the short term, players will win. But keep that giddiness in check. There’s a dark side to the “effect” of increased competition.

Most obvious, we need to keep an eye on whether the market gets bloated. While players will love benefiting from cut-throat competition for their poker dollar, eventually that fight will mean it’s no longer viable for some rooms to keep their doors open.

This is especially true in markets where other lucrative options exist. We saw that recently in Biloxi-Gulport, Miss., when Island View Resort shuttered its poker room in favor of a tournament slots parlor.

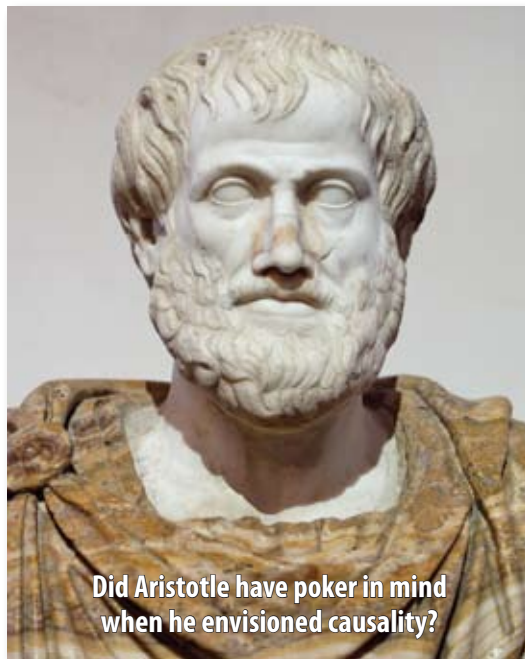
And the effect of bloatedness may be something less than closure, but essentially just as damaging. Poker, unlike blackjack or slots, requires participation. If there’s just one poker player in a room, there’s no game. That’s why you see so many poker rooms put a guarantee on their tournaments. They know that unless players know there will be something to play for, they’re less likely to show up.

Likewise, if players feel as if there won’t be enough players to get a \$4-\$8 Omaha/8 game going at the room down the street, they won’t even bother stopping. They’ll head straight to a room across town where the chances are greater.

So as you take your seat in July, whether it’s in Florida, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia or anywhere else, take some time to soak up what could be called the second coming of the Moneymaker Effect.

But also keep in the back of your mind that too much of a good thing can be a bad thing. Let’s work together to make sure that never happens.

— Email Scott Long at scott@anteupmagazine.com.



Did Aristotle have poker in mind when he envisioned causality?



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Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

Editor's note: This letter was so intriguing we thought we would ask our resident physicians on staff, Dr. Stephen Bloomfield and Dr. Frank Toscano, to answer it.

I seem to have a problem with my hands shaking noticeably for at least the first hour at the table. I've been lucky enough to be asked about it almost every time and my response is always that I have a nerve condition that affects my body and I shake all the time. It seems to work, but then I sit at the table and feel like an idiot and then I wonder about the people who are still at the table with me as it starts to go away. For those select few I make sure I twitch my hands or shake a little from time to time so as not to seem suspicious. I'm wondering if it's something that will go away with time or not. Any pointers?

Ryan Montgomery
via email

DR. BLOOMFIELD'S RESPONSE: First let me say I like using what may be a problem to your advantage, that shows great adaptive skills. Shaking hands is sometimes a sign of anxiety. Anxiety or stress can be a psychological issue and/or a medical issue. It is not necessarily a problem.

In this case it just may be a sign of situational anxiety; not that I'm diagnosing but just offering some pointers. This can be caused by lots of things: change of environment, adjusting to a new situation, carrying thoughts from other settings to the table; uncertainty.

Best first step is breathing exercises. Before you go into the poker room, do some deep relaxation breathing in the car, of course after you practiced at home. Breath in through your nose to a three count, hold the breath for a three count and breath out, mentally saying RELAX. You want to achieve a state of relaxed activation. Do this for about five minutes. When you get to the room, take a lap around the room before you play, attune yourself to the field of competition. Get used to the sights, sounds and smells. When you sit at the table do some inconspicuous breathing before each hand, develop a routine so that it doesn't look unusual.

DR. TOSCANO'S RESPONSE: It's a great question, and I'm sure plenty of players get jitters the first few times they play at a live table. You would expect, though, after a few live sessions for the situation to become more familiar and less anxiety-producing. I'm trained to consider possible medical issues before concluding that a condition is psychological.

My first thought would be to ask about your caffeine intake. Coffee, tea, colas, energy drinks, even some headache preparations, contain enough caffeine to set off the jitters if you consume enough. Some nasal sprays such as Afrin and Neo-synephrine are notorious for causing the shakes. Other drugs that stimulate the sympathetic nervous system such as Adderall, Ritalin and Provigil could be culprits. Their illegal cousins, methamphetamine (speed) and cocaine can cause shakes.

An overactive thyroid can cause tremors sometimes associated with heart palpitations, heat intolerance, insomnia and mild muscle weakness. Some medical conditions that can cause shaking include low blood sugar, fatigue, alcohol withdrawal and Parkinson's disease.

Your physician could run a few tests to rule out most of the medical causes of tremors. If it's determined your tremors come from situational anxiety, there are some medications that can help like beta blockers or anti-anxiety drugs, but clearly, that's a complex decision best left to you and your physician.

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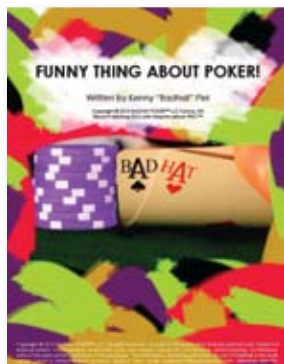
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By Kenny "BadHat" Piel
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If you've ever been at a poker table when players are swapping unbelievable stories and you wished you had one to share, here's your chance.

Kenny "BadHat" Piel is a professional player from Tunica, Miss., and has put together 40 terrifically hilarious stories from the history of poker.

You'll read about T.J. Cloutier winning a hand with a miracle redraw ... and another hand with no cards.

You'll read about how Clonic Gowen had to, um, use the facilities so bad that she accidentally ended up in the men's room. And you'll read about how Doyle Brunson, not Ben Affleck or Leo DiCaprio, was the king of autograph seekers. But the book is more than stories about pros, as Kenny spins a few yarns of his own, including how he was mistaken for world champion Jerry Yang not once, but twice in the same tournament. It's a breezy, fun read that will have your tablemates asking for more.

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STRATEGY

DON BARUCH • Tournaments and more

FEARLESSNESS IS KEY TO WINNING TOURNAMENTS

Four years ago the impossible happened: I won a World Series of Poker bracelet. I'm living proof it can be done. As I was so fortunate to discover in 2007, anyone willing to study, practice, learn from mistakes and lose their buy-in has a chance at glory. It doesn't hurt to have some talent, too, but every successful poker player possesses different skill sets. The best and most versatile players possess all the skill sets.



DON BARUCH

I believe the most important skills found in every modern great poker player are logic and fearlessness. Every poker hand is a new multi-dimensional puzzle. You're constructing a puzzle for your opponents to decipher based on your cards, betting patterns, table image and verbal and non-verbal language.

Your additional tools to tell your story are your button position and your stack size. At the same time, you're working hard to figure out your opponents' holdings based on the same factors. If you ignore any of these factors at any time it can often spell disaster, especially in a tournament setting.

The importance of fearlessness goes without saying. You must view those little round things on the felt as clay or plastic chips of no monetary value. If you need any proof of the power of fearlessness watch any episode of *High Stakes Poker* this year and watch how Tom "Durrurr" Dwan completely dominates players two or three times his age and experience with aggressive fearless play. Notice I didn't say foolish, because Durrurr is wise far beyond his years. And it's also his amazing ability to logically dissect a hand and determine where he is and then pressure his opponent that makes him such a scary player.

So, with that background in place, back to my WSOP win. Often

when I meet someone who does not understand poker or is not very good at the game, their first comment when they learn I'm a bracelet-winner is, "You must have gotten really lucky." In fact, for two straight days I played perfect poker. I did everything right in every hand. I never sucked out, my bluffs worked because I set them up or I had position, I folded when I was beat, and I played excellent sit-n-go strategy. I'm not being cocky, I'm just being honest. It may never happen again, and I was very fortunate it happened on the biggest stage at the perfect time.

My WSOP win was in the \$1,500 shootout, which is essentially a big SNG. I needed to win two tables of 10 players and a final table of nine. My professional opponents severely underestimated my experience and abilities at this particular format. For several years I had been successfully playing the \$250 and \$500 SNGs at the Tampa Hard Rock. They are a very different animal from multitable tournaments, and I would guess I had as much experience in that format as anyone at any of my three tables. SNGs and shootouts continue to grow in popularity.

This year's WSOP boasts three of these events as the number of entrants grows each year. Daniel Negreanu, who I beat at the final table, calls the shootouts the most difficult WSOP events because at the second and third tables you are facing nine or 10 champions at the same time.

By the time you read this article I will have returned to Vegas to try to recapture my title. As a poker player this is always my favorite time of the year. I look forward in future columns, and maybe even in person, to sharing more of my WSOP experiences and SNG strategies.

— Don Baruch lives in Tampa, Fla., and was the 2007 World Series of Poker bracelet-winner in the \$1,500 Shootout event. Contact him via email at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

ACUMEN POKER

LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way

SLOW-PLAYING AND GETTING MAX VALUE ARE DIFFERENT

I recently held an Acumen Poker group training session for some folks preparing to head to Vegas for the World Series of Poker. During the session a hand came up that illustrated some of the most key concepts to think about with a medium-sized stack (25-50 big blinds)

late in a tournament. The hand is one I played in the Nightly Hundred Grand on PokerStars and we must've discussed and debated this hand for more than an hour.



LEE CHILDS

It's pretty late in the tournament and blinds were 500-1,000 with a 125 ante. My table was eight-handed and I had 44,718. Action folded to me in middle position with K♦-Q♣. I raised to 2,350. Though my standard raise is usually around three times the big blind, late in tournaments you can often get away with raising less than 2.5 BBs as stacks are relatively shallow. We risk less when we're stealing and play small pots when we get called.

The action folded to a very well-known, solid, aggressive online pro with 50,964 who raised 6,275. The big blind folded. Knowing this is a solid player, I know (at this stage of the tournament) his range for re-stealing here is very wide, but I also know he could have a good hand, so I didn't want to get too crazy. I usually tell my students to always

be the aggressor so they don't face as many tough post-flop decisions. Re-raising would commit about a third of my stack, thus committing me to the pot pre-flop. I had too many chips to commit 45 big blinds with K-Q pre-flop, but I also thought folding to his range would be too weak. I decided to call and play in position. If the flop comes king- or queen-high, or better, I'd be willing to go to the wire. That's my plan for the hand.

There's 14,550 in the pot and the flop came 5♣-K♠-4♠. My thought was, "How can I get all the chips in the pot?" This is a thought you should have when you flop a monster, or when you flop a hand that (based on your stack size) you must go with because it's too strong to fold and the chips you gain at this stage are too valuable.

My opponent made a continuation bet of 7,654, which was only about half the pot. Usually with a smallish bet on a flop that has a big card and two to a suit, the bet is more of a probe bet and your opponent does not likely have the top card paired. Most players are just too scared of flush draws and I think my opponent would bet a little more with a set or a king better than mine.

Since my plan was to get all of the chips in the middle, should I have called or raised? Most usually think raise because you don't want to slow-play and you want your opponents to "pay to draw." With our stack sizes, if he had a flush draw, he would never fold, and if he

Continued on next page

DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

BE MENTALLY PREPARED FOR TOURNAMENTS

With the World Series and other recent major events fresh on my mind I thought a discussion of the mental preparation for playing a tournament might be helpful.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

Tournaments require a different psychology than cash games. In a cash game you can come and go as you please; you can go into your pocket if you need more chips; time is less of a factor; table image and reads might be more important.

When you enter a major tournament you're committing a good length of time, sometimes more than one day; you can't go into your pocket; there is a specific prize pool.

Mental preparation is essential when entering a tournament. There are several stages of preparation: deciding which event to play, pre-tournament preparation (including the day of) and preparation for the mental work during the tournament.

The first step in mental preparation for a tournament is to minimize uncertainty. Mental preparation starts with getting as much information as you can. Know the structure: starting chips, blind levels and lengths, breaks, when antes kick in, when Day 1 ends, and how many places are paid. Eliminate uncertainty to attain peak performance through relaxed activation!

Getting this basic information is necessary not only for game strategy but so you won't be surprised as the tournament progresses. Uncertainty sometimes creates anxiety, nervousness and often throws folks off their game. Your want a state of relaxed activation and you can't be relaxed and tense at the same time. If you don't believe me try relaxing and tensing a muscle simultaneously — it doesn't work.

The second step is awareness. Keep an eye on stack size at your table and try to keep an eye on the other tables. Instead of dashing for a smoke, the bathroom or coffee at a break, look around the other

tables to get a feel of where you stand. Be aware of opponents' patterns, emotional state and changes in demeanor.

Tournaments can be mind-numbing, long and drawn-out. Stamina, endurance and mental alertness are essential. Remember if you're hungry, thirsty or need a bathroom break, leave in an early position. You're not chained to your seat. Take a break. The worst that will happen is you will lose a blind.

Before you arrive at the cardroom make sure you have everything you need: gum, snack bars, comfortable clothes, a sweatshirt or sweater, a charged iPod or iPhone, comfortable head phones, sunglasses, small bills for tips, etc.

If bathrooms are far away or unusually crowded, sip your water slowly. Plan ahead. At the table remember breathing. Breathe through bad beats and suckouts to avoid tilt. Before you get there try to study this and try to devise several alternative game plans for the tournament you're playing. Visualize the play.

Get to the room early and take a few laps around, especially if it's a new room. Get used to the surroundings. Attune yourself to the playing field. Leave your problems at the door. Remember the tips I've covered in previous articles: They'll be just as useful in tournaments as they are in cash or online games.

If you're traveling take notice of jet lag, change in time zones. Some folks need to arrive a day early. If I'm traveling from Florida to Biloxi, this might be more important than if I were driving 90 minutes to Daytona.

Get yourself settled as much as possible before you get to the room and when you get there. If you create a checklist of everything you need to do it will help you focus and maximize your chances of winning. Control everything you can control.

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

Prep checklist

Get all information possible

Do pre-game preparation

Practice relaxed activation

Attune yourself to the room

Avoid tilt

Keep your head in the game

Continued from previous page

had nothing, then he would have to fold if I raised. Therefore, the best way to get the money in the pot was to just call and give him a chance to bet on later streets.

I called the bet and with 29,858 in the pot, we saw the 9♠ on the turn. Despite the flush getting there, this didn't change my plan. I can't assume he had a flush draw. If he were to bet less than the pot, I would just move all-in. And if he put me all in, I would call. I had only about a pot-sized stack of 30,789 behind. But my opponent checked. One thing was clear to me: I'm way ahead or way behind. Several of my students wanted to shove, some wanted to bet half the pot, and some wanted to check. If I'm ahead I have to figure he probably had at most 12 outs. He might've had a pair lower than my kings with one spade, or he might've had the A♠. If this were the case,

he'd be about 25 percent to hit his hand or 3-to-1. If I were to bet, I would have to move all-in as betting half my stack commits me anyway. Moving all-in for the size of the pot would lay him 2-to-1 odds.

Since I know he's a good player, he likely would fold those. Also, if I shoved, he'd call with any better hand. So, always think, "Can I get a better hand to fold or a worse hand to call?" The answer is no, so there's no value in a shove. So I checked.

The river was the 2♥ and he shoved. At this point I felt like his hand was very polarized, meaning it was a bluff or the nuts. I didn't think he had the nuts as this kind of shove with the nuts is usually most successful when you think your opponent is strong. Since I called on the flop and I checked the turn, there was no reason to think I had a very strong hand. I stuck to my plan and made the call. He showed 6♥-5♥ and I

scooped the 91,436 pot for a double-up.

Keep in mind that if stacks were deeper or if I wasn't willing to get all of my chips in regardless of the action, I would certainly raise the flop for value, to price out draws, and to better define my opponent's hand. Also if this were a multiway pot, I would play the hand much faster as well.

I will rarely advocate slow-playing a hand and my students who know this argued that was what I was doing here. I hope you can see the difference between slow-playing a big hand and figuring out the best way to get all of the money in the pot. Yes, I might get rivered or already be beat, but using the knowledge of my player, my position and stack, this hand became very clear to me how I must play it. Decide To Win!

— **Lee Childs is founder and lead instructor of Acumen Poker. He also is an instructor with the WPT Boot Camp. Go to www.acumenpoker.net.**

STRATEGY

For smaller stakes

A QUICK LESSON FOR CASH GAMES

By Jay Houston

A friend of mine, we'll call him Mike, called me a few weeks ago as he was walking into a \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em cash game and asked me for some quick advice on how to beat the game. The thing about Mike is he's a very bad poker player and tends to be quite delusional at times. Explaining to him there's no such thing as quick advice on how to beat the game of full ring NLHE was out of the question. So I simply said: "Just play tighter than you have ever played in your life, and overplay your big hands."



Just playing big pairs should yield a profit.

and overplay your big hands."

Naturally he asked why, and I told him I didn't have time to explain it. But, luckily for the readers of *Ante Up*, I have time to explain it to you.

If Mike plays for three hours he'll play roughly 90 hands. Every nine hands Mike will pay a minimum of \$3 in blinds. To break it down, Mike basically is paying \$30 to see 90 hands. So he only needs to make \$31 to be a winning player.

Statistically, in 90 hands, Mike should get a big pair like AA, KK, QQ or JJ. To be extremely hypothetical, all he has to do is reraise preflop,

continuation bet half pot, get a weak caller, and have his hand hold up to be a winning player on the session. That's it.

Yes, there are a billion ways to get value on a session, and, yes, Mike should limp to set mine, and yes for all of those times Mike misses value he won't be able to make up for all of the times he gets coolered or takes a beat, yada, yada, yada. But for someone who has no real concept of position, meta game, frequency or odds, this is about as good of a strategy as he is going to get. If he plays any other way, poor Mike is most likely going to lose the paycheck he receives from Lowe's every two weeks.

The main reason this strategy should work for Mike is because the typical players in a \$1-\$2 home game are not really concerned with frequency or image unless a player is clearly being a lunatic. So what this means is even if Mike only plays five of his 90 scenarios, he's still very likely to get action from calling stations with his big hands, and therefore get value. Of course there will be times he takes a beat and gets coolered, but most of the time he will make his \$31. At least he's hanging out with friends and having a good time.

Even if you're Mr. Super Pro Texas Hold'em Expert, the breakdown of a three-hour session should still hopefully open your eyes to realize what true percentage of hands you need to be playing to come out on top in these home games.

By the way, Mike called me a few hours later and said, "Jayseph! Thanks for the tips I made 150 bucks off these two huge fish!"

Coincidentally, Mike happens to be the biggest fish I have ever met, so if this advice worked for him, I hope it will work for you.

— Jay Houston is a young poker pro and is a sit-n-go specialist. You can email him at editor@anteupmagazine.com

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

‘PERCH’ MAY HIDE TELLS, BUT MAY CAUSE YOU PAIN

Of all the professional poker players, who do you believe has the most imposing physical presence? Who is most likely to intimidate and threaten us mere mortals? Some might say Phil Hellmuth or Mike Matusow for their withering verbal assaults. Others might choose Phil Ivey and his blank stare that looks directly into your soul. Many are fearful of Tom “Durr” Dwan, who hides reckless aggression behind an elfish grin.



Not me. For me, the most imposing, most intimidating player has to be the man with the black hat, impenetrable shades and leather duster, the guy with six bracelets who could slice open your chest with a playing card, Chris “Jesus” Ferguson.

Have you noticed what he does immediately after he looks at his cards? He assumes a tell-concealing position commonly known as the “Navarro Perch” with his elbows planted firmly on the rail, his thumbs hidden and his lower face obscured behind his hands. He then pauses a predetermined number of seconds as doctorate-level game theory permutations race through his brain. He rapidly calculates the mathematically correct action specifically designed to suck your chips into his stack. Scary!

Today, though, I want to focus not on his intimidating persona, but his body position. Quite a few players have begun using the perch, most notably poker brat Hellmuth, who used to hug himself whenever he bluffed. Now, instead, weak or strong, he perches. What these guys don’t realize is that consistent users of the perch expose themselves to a serious and life-threatening medical condition.

OK, I exaggerated. It’s not really life-threatening, and not even very serious, but it could cause quite an annoying pain. I’m talking about inflammation of the ulna nerve called ulnar neuropathy.

The ulna nerve runs through a little groove just inside the bony tip of your elbow. This groove is the exact spot that comes into contact with the rail in the perch position. Bump this nerve sharply (commonly and incorrectly called “the funny bone”) and you’ll get an electric shock-like sensation that shoots down your forearm and into your hand.

I’m not implying these pros might hit their funny bones while perching. Instead, I’m suggesting chronic pressure on this spot can cause the nerve to become inflamed and lead to pain, numbness and an irritating “pins and needles” sensation that can persist long after leaving the table. And this condition isn’t just found in perchers playing poker. If you lean on your elbow for long periods of time for any reason you could get it, too.

How do you know you have ulnar neuropathy? The classic symptoms are tingling, numbness and achy pain in the pinky and ring fingers and tenderness to touch over the elbow groove. Tapping the groove with a finger, even lightly, sends the pain shooting down the

forearm: the funny-bone sensation. Computer junkies commonly get it usually in the left elbow because, lefties or righties, most people manipulate their computer mouse with their right hand. It’s the left elbow then that does the bending, leaning and rubbing that sets off the inflammation. Repeatedly perch on the poker table rail for a few hours and either elbow can be affected.

This is somewhat different than the elbow condition I wrote about last year in June 2009. In that column, I described an inflammatory swelling of the tip of the elbow called olecranon bursitis. Both conditions are caused by trauma and abrasion of the elbow, but in bursitis, there is quite obvious swelling and maybe some redness and warmth as well, and pain is usually limited to the elbow area. With neuropathy, the elbow can look pretty normal but irritating pain and tingling shooting down from the elbow into the fingers is a clear giveaway that a nerve is involved.

It would not be completely inaccurate to think of this condition as “carpal tunnel syndrome of the elbow.” In carpal tunnel, it’s the median nerve at the wrist that gets compressed from hyperextension (like typing) and that causes pain in the first three fingers. In ulnar neuropathy, it’s the ulna nerve at the elbow that gets irritated from leaning and that causes pain in the last two fingers: similar problem, different location.

All right, I know what you may be thinking: After five columns in a row about serious life-threatening medical conditions (smoking, cardiac arrhythmias, sudden death and multiple trauma) what’s he doing writing a lightweight column about the funny bone? Hey, it’s summertime so I’m trying to lighten up. Anyway, if you happen to be a sufferer of ulna neuropathy, it tends to be irritating, persistent and it’s not always clear where to get advice on what to do. For most, it doesn’t seem serious enough to even visit a doctor; yet believe it or not I have seen numerous patients who felt that it was serious enough for an E.R. visit.

The treatment is usually as simple as that corny old doctor joke. The patient says, “Doc, it hurts when I do that,” so the doctor replies, “Don’t do that. That’ll be \$50.” The bottom line is, first recognize this is a repetitive stress injury and try to figure out what you’re doing to irritate that nerve. Then stop it. Anti-inflammatories such as ibuprofen might help. In severe, chronic cases, as a last resort, a surgical release can reposition the nerve to a less vulnerable location. And if you’re a poker



Jesus in his classic pose.

professional, be sure to file for worker’s comp. It’s work-related so it has to be covered.

Finally, the next time you find yourself staring down Ferguson across a poker table, no need to feel intimidated. Just imagine him grabbing his elbow and crying, “Owie, owie, owie!”

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

CHECK-CALLING THE WHOLE WAY PAYS OFF



This series is taken (with permission) from the No. 1 poker book on Amazon.com, *Winning Poker Tournaments One Hand at a Time Vol. II* by Eric “Rizen” Lynch, Jon “Pearljammer” Turner and Jon “Apestyles” Van Fleet. In this book, each author chose one multitable tournament to discuss key hands, from making the money to heads-up play. This is a hand from Apestyles during heads-up play demonstrating how he narrowed his opponent’s range to make a tough call on the river with king-high. Be sure to check out *Ante Up* next month for a hand from Rizen.

Hand 46

SEAT 1: 183,927 Button

SEAT 4: 788,073 Apestyles

Level: 4,000-8,000 blinds, 1,000 ante

PREFLOP: K♠-9♦ (14,000) — Seat 1 raises to 19,500. Though I haven’t played with Seat 1 for very long heads up, I did think he was one of my strongest competitors at the final table. I would guess he’s raising more than 50 to 60 percent of the time from the button heads-up, and K-9s should be well ahead of that range.

Getting 2.5-to-1 preflop, against a range I’m probably ahead of, merits a call. Also, he has around 23 big blinds, and shallow stacks make position less of a factor. I plan on playing very aggressively post-flop, and probably won’t fold if I flop any sort of draw or pair. I’m too unsure of his raising range from the button to know whether a reraise would be profitable or not, therefore a call is best. I call the 11,500 raise, and we see a flop.

FLOP: Q♦-7♥-5♥ (pot it 41,000) — I’ve missed the flop, and plan on checking and folding to a bet. I check, and Seat 1 checks behind.

TURN: Q♣ (41,000) — A queen rolls off, pairing the board. After checking the flop, I would put most opponents on a 5-x or 7-x hand, middle pairs, top pair sometimes, and the occasional 8-6 or 6-4, as well as flush draws. Most players bet flush and straight draws after raising preflop. A typical player usually has a medium-strength hand with showdown value after checking back on this sort of board.

However, my opponent has not made continuation bets on the flop nearly as frequently as the average player. PokerTracker shows that during the final table, his continuation bet frequency after raising preflop is only 44 percent (most players average 60-70 percent). Some tricky, aggressive players choose to delay their continuation bets, or raise their opponents on the turn, rather than make a continuation bet

on every flop. From what I’ve seen so far, I suspect Seat 1 falls into this category. I check to Seat 1 and he bets 24,000, around half the pot.

A fold here is the correct play against most players, since they’re most likely to be holding a 7, 5 or 88-JJ when taking this line. He almost certainly does not have a queen. However, I consider Seat 1 to be the type of opponent with a bell-shaped aggression curve, meaning most of his betting occurs on the turn. Therefore, I expect him to be betting almost all of his hands (with the exception of his ace-high hands that have showdown value) after being checked to twice, which means I may still have the best hand.

Folding is best against most players. Check-raising also has merit, because I make him fold his better king highs, and hands I beat that have plenty of equity against my hand. But in this situation, I don’t think a check-raise would be credible, and I want him to keep bluffing with worse hands.

I opt to call, thinking I’m slightly ahead of this particular opponent’s betting range, since he’s betting all of his air and draws as well as his value hands.


RIVER: A♣ (89,000) — The fabled “ace on the river” is actually one of the best cards for me. In this instance, the ace is very unlikely to improve Seat 1’s range, though I could conceivably have weak aces (I would’ve reraised all of my strong aces preflop) in my range. Most important, I expect he isn’t a good enough player to extract small value with a 7 or 88-JJ. So if he bets, I assume he’ll be bluffing because he thinks the ace is a scary card for any opponent facing a river bet from the original raiser. The ace is usually a good bluff card when preflop hand ranges are narrower, but in this situation, he cannot credibly represent an ace.

I check to Seat 1, and he quickly bets 42,000. The ace on the river effectively polarizes Seat 1’s betting range. If he were going to bet a 7 or 88-JJ for value, I think he would’ve at least taken some time to think it through. I don’t think he holds a 5, because my hand looks too much like a 7. At this point, I think he either has a queen, an unlikely 88-JJ, A-5, A-7, or a total bluff. I also think he would bet a queen on the flop, making the possibility of him holding one of the two queens left in the deck very unlikely.

There aren’t very many combinations of value hands in his range, and there are plenty of bluff combinations. He might be bluffing with K-T or K-J, but he might also check back those hands for showdown value rather than turn them into bluffs. In any event, they are a small part of his range. I have to have the best hand less than 25 percent of the time for a call to be profitable, and I suspect his quick, less-than-half-pot bet is a bluff often enough to justify a call.

After some thought, I call his 42,000 bet and he shows 10-8 offsuit for 10-high. My hand reading pays off and I win a 173,000 pot.

— *Winning Poker Tournaments One Hand at a Time Vol. II*, a Dimat poker publication, is available at Amazon.com, many Barnes and Noble stores and pokerbooks.InternetTexasHoldem.com.



APESTYLES



FLOP



TURN



RIVER



OPPONENT

WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

Learn to hide, to hide your tells



How can I work on minimizing my tells? Is it just a matter of mentally being aware of them or are there exercises I can practice? Juan Rodriguez, Miami

Juan that's a profound question because it's not that easy. I'm very aware of my tells and yet most of the time I can't control them as my wife will tell you. Most of us can't.

If I asked you what are the dimensions of your lips right now, you would not be able to answer. And yet someone playing across from you would and that's relevant because the thickness of your lips (volume) is controlled by blood flow regulated by whether we're content or stressed. When we're stressed the lips tend to get very thin and disappear. So if we don't know what we look like what can we do? Hide.

I'm sure you've seen what has come to be known as the "Navarro Perch," named by a student at one of the WSOP Academy classes. This is where you perch your chin on your thumbs and cover your mouth with your hands close together, elbows on the table. This is being used by Phil Hellmuth and many others as the best way to hide in the open. The less you move or are seen at the table, you'll virtually disappear if there's nothing for other players to see.

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

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



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

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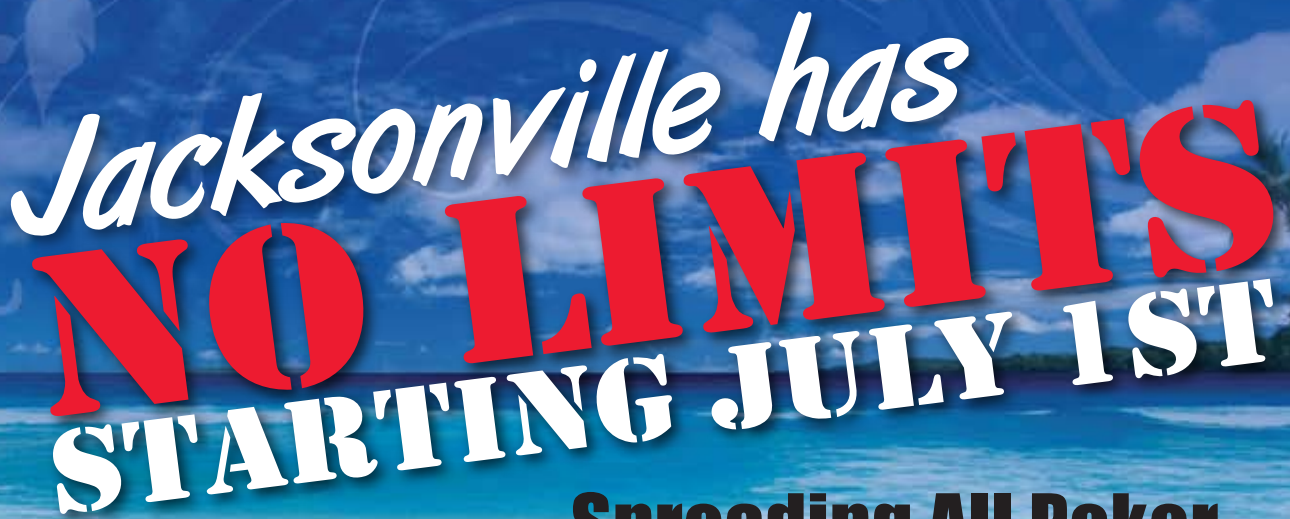
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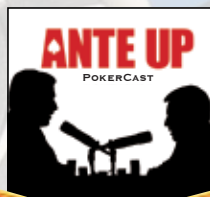
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YOUR POKER EXPERIENCE



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POKER CRUISE JUST \$299

A poker cruise for just \$299? That's right!

On Oct. 25, the Ante Up Poker Cruise sets sail from a new port and will call on exciting new destinations for four nights of poker action at the cheapest price Ante Up has ever offered.

"We've had two great cruises out of Tampa, and we wanted our third one to appeal to as many players as possible," said Scott Long, who publishes *Ante Up* with Christopher Cosenza. "With this low price, the built-in extras and access to a whole new group of players, we're expecting a sellout."

While the poker cruise will feature much of what made the first two cruises so successful, this cruise offers plenty of new features:

NEW PORT AND ITINERARY: The cruise will sail aboard Royal Caribbean's Monarch of the Seas out of Port Canaveral, Fla., an easy drive from most anywhere in Florida and close to Orlando International Airport. The ship will call on Nassau, Bahamas, an action-packed city with great history, attractions and entertainment, and CocoCay, Royal Caribbean's private island that features a relaxing day on the beach.

FREE POKER STRATEGY COURSE: All cruisers will be invited to a free siting strategy course taught by Ante Up columnist Don Baruch, who won a World Series of Poker bracelet in 2007. Baruch, an expert in single-table tournaments, will help players hone their skills for a cruise that's likely to feature plenty of SNG play.

And everything that made the first Ante Up cruises so much fun is back this time:

GREAT POKER ACTION: Featuring 46 hours of poker action, the cruise

offers games for all levels, from small buy-in limit games to big no-limit and pot-limit games. A featured game this time is a "deep stack" \$2-\$5 no-limit game with a buy-in range of \$500-\$2,500. Any game at any limit is dealt based on demand, and past cruises have featured a good mix of hold'em, Omaha and stud, including mixed games. Two multi-table events are scheduled (a \$40 turbo and \$200 main event), and SNG tournaments will be available whenever the room is open.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF: Jody Russell and Cassie Greene, veteran managers of poker rooms on land and sea, will lead the room again, hand-picking a team of professional dealers with years of experience.

FREE OPEN BAR COCKTAIL PARTY: The fun gets started right away with a welcome-a-board cocktail party with free drinks.

MASSAGES: Amenity Pro, the company that provides tableside massages to many poker rooms in Ante Up's circulation area, will do the same aboard the Ante Up Poker Cruise.

Details on which poker rooms and leagues will be giving away cruise packages will be coming soon. More information on the cruise is available at www.anteupmagazine.com/cruise.

Fares start at \$299 a person, based on double occupancy, and include all government fees, port charges and taxes. Gratuities of \$39 per person are due upon booking.

Per Royal Caribbean policy, guests must book through Ante Up to be admitted to the private poker room.

To book contact Scott Long at (727) 331-4335 or you can email him at scott@anteupmagazine.com.




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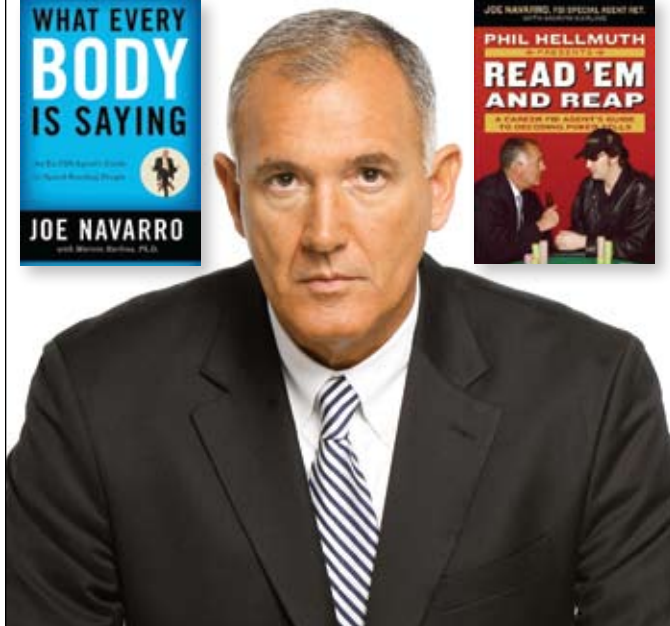
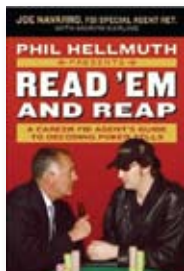
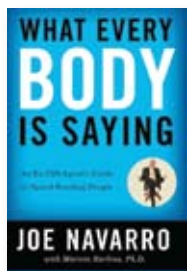
LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
CALDER CASINO Phone: (305) 625-1311 www.calderracecourse.com/poker	Two guarantees every day (11a, 7p; \$40-\$200), but Saturdays are a \$5K guar. with \$100 bounties (\$200, 6p). \$10K guar. July 10 & 24 (11a, \$100).	Flopped straight flushes pay by strength of flush. Super Bad Beat was \$100K at press time.	Xmas in July: "Straight with an 8" and spin the wheel to win one of 3,100 prizes. See ad Page 9.
DANIA JAI-ALAI Phone: (954) 927-2841 www.dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (12:30p and 6:30p), including a \$15K guarantee every Friday (\$105, 6:30p).	Hold'em tournaments are included in the bad-beat jackpot. A \$5 jackpot fee will be added to buy-ins.	New bad-beat jackpot and promotions start July 1. Check site or call poker room for details.
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (386) 252-6484 www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily, including Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Sat. deepstack (\$225, 2p).	Bad beats in limit, no-limit (\$93K) and Omaha. Daily high hands paid every two hours.	Cracked Aces (Mon.-Tue.) pays \$50 for limit hold'em and \$100 for NLHE.
DERBY LANE Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7 www.derbylanepoker.com	Daily (buy-ins vary).	Daily royal flushes and mini bad beats. Full calendar of jackpots varying day-to-day. See website.	\$220 Mega Stack, last Saturday of the month (\$12K, 2p, 30-minute blinds).
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (850) 234-3943 www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily, except Friday (\$20-\$330), including Mega Stack (last Sunday of month, \$330, 2p, 10K chips). See ad on Page 53 for full tournament schedule.	Ultimate Big Easy Bad Beat; mini bad beat is \$2K. More jackpots explained in ad on Page 53.	See ad on Page 53 for new promotions and details.
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (772) 464-7500 www.jaijai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$100, 6:30p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). SNGs: (Thurs.-Sat., \$65-\$110).	All new bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha. Call for details or visit website.	Deepstack event is the third Saturday every month (\$150, 3p). See ad on Page 27 for promotions.
GULFSTREAM PARK Phone: (954) 457-6336 www.gulfstreampark.com	Daily, (\$60-\$150, 6:30p), including bounties M-W-F, plus the Saturday Special, (\$150, 8K units). SNGs: \$60-\$120 (10 players, pays three spots).	Bad beat: aces full of jacks; hourly high hands, M-F, 2-10p, starting at \$250 (\$500 4p, 6p, 8p).	Royals pay \$500. See ad on Page 15 for new hours.
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (800) 941-4841 www.hamiltondownsjaijai.com	"Almost Freeroll" Sundays (\$5, 3p, 2K units; \$20 add-on good for 1,500 more, plus a \$10 add-on after first break worth 1,500).	Hearts royal pays \$1,466 (mini royal is \$146). Bad beat is aces full of kings and pays \$5K.	"Mike Davis Show" Hold'em Tournament is every Wednesday (\$60, 7p, \$1K guaranteed for first).
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 www.theislepompanopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$720). Bounty (T, Th, Sa., 7p, plus \$350 Sun., 2p, bounties \$100). \$15K guar. Tue. (\$230, 2p, 13K chips, 30-min. blinds). SNGs: \$60-\$225.	Bad beat was \$100K at press time, plus Sunday cash drawings.	\$30K guar., July 5 (noon, \$350, \$100 bounties). \$400K Fla. State Championships (Aug. 2-10).
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB Phone: (850) 997-2561 www.jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., \$50 (2K chips and 15-minute blinds)	Royal flushes win jackpot.	Call for promotions.
MAGIC CITY CASINO Phone: (305) 649-3000 www.flaglerdogs.com	Sundays, low-rake bounty event (\$40, 1p). Monday night is a \$75 NLHE event (7p). SNGs: \$65-\$800.	High hands (\$150); non-heart royals win \$1K, heart royals pay \$2,500; Big Slick Royal progressive.	\$500 progressive hot table paid at 3p & 9p.
MARDI GRAS CASINO Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167 www.playbigeasy poker.com	Omaha/8 Tue. (\$100, 6:30p, 5K chips); Deepstack Thurs., (\$100, 6:30p. \$3K guar.), 10K chips but 5K more for \$40 add-on. SNGs: \$25-\$110.	Two high hands paid hourly 10a-2a (\$75 limit; \$150 no-limit); \$75 3a-9a. \$500 at noon, 3p, 6p, 9p & mid.	Royals win \$599.
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (321) 259-9800 www.mgpark.com	Daily, (\$65-\$120), including Sat. Super Stack (\$120, 2p, 10K chips) and Sunday (\$65, 1p, 3K chips, \$1K added to prize pool).	Bad beat (\$16K) is only in hold'em and requires aces full of jacks be beaten by quads or better.	Quads win \$50, straight flush \$100, royals \$500. Spin to Win Saturdays.
MIAMI JAI-ALAI Phone: (305) 633-6400 www.miamijaijai.net	Daily (\$20-\$165).	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day progressive; see website for more information.	Hourly \$100 high hands plus tickets for Sunday raffle.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT Phone: (877) 242-6464 www.miccosukee.com	Fridays (\$60, 8p). Super Saturday no-limit hold'em tournament (\$60, 8p) gets you 3K chips. Free buffet for all tournament players.	Spade royal flush pays jackpot.	Call for information.
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (239) 259-2411 www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Sun. bounty (\$125, 2p); Mon. (\$40, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed., (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$65, 7p).	July 1: Big Slick Royal Progressive begins at \$100K with \$25K guar. All other royals pay \$1K.	High Hand pays \$100 every hour.
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI Phone: (352) 591-2345 www.ocalapoker.com	Daily (\$30-\$500). SNGs: (\$45-\$500).	See website for numerous jackpots and other cash giveaway promotions.	Super Saturday High Hands pay \$300 hourly from 4p-mid.
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150). Tier satellites offered throughout July for \$1,500 Mega Stack Main Event of Florida Poker Tour. See website for details and schedule.	Royals and Steel Wheels \$250 (spades \$500); Super High Hand; Spin to Win High Hand.	Florida Poker Tour, Aug. 19-29. Players who play tier events are entered into cruise giveaway.
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (561) 683-2222 www.pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120), noon & 6:30p Sun-Thurs.; 1 & 6:30 Fri.-Sat. See ad on Page 17 for new hours.	Visit website or call for information on daily high hands and bad-beat payouts and qualifications.	Sat. Deep Stack \$10K guar. (1p, \$120). Also July will be its largest giveaway month ever. Visit website.
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (850) 455-8595 www.pensacolagreyhoundpark.com	Weekly (\$65-\$120). Sat. (\$65, 4p); Sun. (\$120, 4p) will be \$5K guarantee.	Hold'em and stud bad beats (any quads) and in Omaha (quad jacks).	Sun-Thurs. 1st 20 full houses or better, \$25-\$200. Plus, at 1p & 7p, Tue., Thurs. & Sun. first 75 fulls or better.

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

FLORIDA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054 www.skcpoker.com	Daily, plus Fri. (\$100, 1p, 25K chips, 25-minute blinds); Sat. \$12K guarantee with minimum of 10 spots paid (\$230, 2:30p). SNGs: \$35-\$300.	Progressive jackpots in all games. Bad beat is quad threes (\$10K).	High hands pay \$599 all day Fri. & Sat.
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON Phone: (866) 222-7466 ext. 121 www.seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. & Wed., (\$20, 6:30p) with optional add-on. SNGs: \$25, \$65, \$110.	Quad aces pay \$50, straight flushes pay \$100, royals \$1K; Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$286K at press time).	Fridays: double reward punches; Rolling Cash Fever, Wed., \$500 drawings at 8, 10 and midnight.
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	SNGs: \$55, \$85, \$135.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$286K at press time).	See website for details or call poker room for current offers.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Daily (\$75-\$1,100), including the Big Slick and Main Event series. SNGs: \$60-\$1,050.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$286K at press time). High hands (limit and no-limit) of the hour every day.	\$400K Summer Open, July 25-Aug. 3 (See ad on Page 11 for schedule and buy-ins).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including Night Owl every Wednesday night (\$40, with \$40 add-on, 12:30a). SNGs: \$50-\$1,075.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$286K at press time). Royals pay \$500 in spades, \$100 in all other suits.	Three 40-inch LCD HDTVs given away daily in July, 81 TVs overall. See ad on back page.
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com	SNGs: \$50-\$100 and are now jackpot eligible.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$286K at press time).	In-house bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads. Starts at \$2,500, capped at \$10K.
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 7p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & DeepStack (\$115, 7p, 25K chips, 25-min. blinds); Sun., Winner Take All (\$30, 7p).	Mega-Bad Beat (quads 10s), plus Immokalee players get \$100 if Mega hits at any Seminole room.	High hands get NASCAR chip sets till July 5. Full houses or better put in NASCAR drawing. Call for details.
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150). Tier satellites offered throughout July for \$1,500 Mega Stack Main Event of Florida Poker Tour. See website for details and schedule.	Royals \$250 (spades \$500). Plus a Super High Hand and Spin to Win High Hand.	Mega Stack Main Events (July 10 and July 24 (\$225, 7p).
TAMPA BAY DOWNS Phone: (813) 298-1798 www.tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$540), including rake free for all multitable tournaments Mon., Tue. and Wed. SNGs: \$100 and up, starts with as few as 4 players.	Cash games bad beat: \$1K goes to the loser, \$500 winner, \$100 every-one dealt a hand at the table.	Aces cracked; Rays Attack, up to \$500 every inning Rays score. (See ad on Page 19 for more specials.)
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (813) 932-4313 www.luckyscards.com	Daily (\$45-\$200), at 1p and 6:30p, including \$115 Sunday Challenge (last Sunday of the month, 1p, 14K chips). SNGs: \$65-\$200.	Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$599). Spade royal progressive. Call for details.	Friday Bounty (\$150, 7:30p, 8K chips, 20-minute blinds). Aces cracked noon-2p pays \$100.

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LOUISIANA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
AMELIA BELLE CASINO Phone: (985) 631-1745 www.ameliabellecasinocom	No tournaments until further notice.	Bad beat is quads over aces full of 10s (\$5,700 at press time).	Call for information.
BELLE OF BATON ROUGE Phone: (800) 676-4847 www.belleofbatonrouge.com	In July, tournaments will be Wed. & Sun., (10a, \$50). Now only \$4-\$8 limit and \$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 no-limit hold'em cash games.	Bad beat (any quads) was \$10K at press time.	In July, Aces Cracked on Mondays (9a-3p). Call for details.
BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS Phone: (800) 366-7711 www.boomtownneworleans.com	Tue. (11a) freeroll for players with 20 hours of play in the room, otherwise it costs \$10; Wed. (\$35, 7:30) and Thurs. pot-limit Omaha (7:30p, \$50)	Bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha.	Check website or call for more promotions.
COUSHATTA CASINO Phone: (800) 584-7263 x7336 www.coushattacasinosort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230), including Tue. (\$15, 6:30p) with rebuys & add-ons; Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$20, 7:30p) with rebuys; Sat. (\$220, 2p, 7K chips).	Bad beat was \$26K at press time.	Call for promotions, which were being finalized at press time.
CYPRESS BAYOU CASINO Phone: (800) 284-4386 www.cypressbayou.com	Wed. (\$40, 6:30p); Saturday Super Bounty, (\$60, 3p) with two \$20 rebuys and two \$20 add-ons. Bounties are \$20 and Super Bounties are \$100.	Bad beat: quads (\$62K at press time).	Aces cracked, first Thursday of the month (noon-10p). Call for details.
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT Phone: (318) 220-5274 www.eldoradoshreveport.com	Daily (\$50-\$525), including Saturdays (\$125, 11a) and Tuesday rebuy event (\$75, rebuys are \$25-\$50 with \$25-\$50 add-ons at first break, 6:30p).	Bad beat: quads (\$127K at press time); Royal flush progressives pay by suit (call for current totals).	Aces Cracked Fridays (4a-6p), pays \$100. High hands (M & Th, 3p & 9p) pay \$250.
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS Phone: (504) 533-6000 www.harrahsneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad beat: quads.	Aces cracked Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call for details.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY Phone: (800) 895-0711 www.horseshoebossiercity.com	Daily (\$100-\$400), including last Sunday of the month (\$400, 2p, 10K chips, 30-minute levels).	Bad beat: quads; plus mini-bad beat pays 10% (aces full of 10s). Aces cracked (7a-noon).	Numerous promotions that change daily, including Splash the Cash. Call for details.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES Phone: (337) 430-2407 www.lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	On July 16, events are weekdays at 6:30p, including PLO Thurs. (\$115). A noon event on Fridays (\$60) & Saturdays (\$115), plus Sundays (\$60, 2p).	Bad beat is \$125K; "Minor Jackpots" pays quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125), 24/7. Call for details.	\$25 satellite, July 20, to \$400K Florida State Championships at the Isle at Pompano Park (Ad Page 23).
PARAGON CASINO Phone: (800) 946-1946 x1975 www.paragoncasinosort.com	Mondays (\$20 w/rebuys, 7p), Thursday bounty event (\$20 with \$15 unlimited rebuys, 7p) and Fridays (\$60 with one \$50 rebuy, 7p)	Loosest bad beat in the state: Aces full of eights. In Omaha straight flush must be beaten.	\$100 high hand hourly, July 3 (2-9p). Call for details on UTV giveaway on July 4.

ARKANSAS

OAKLAWN RACING & GAMING Phone: (501) 623-4411 www.oaklawn.com	Daily, including SNGs (\$30), on PokerPro tables. Also, qualifiers for Arkansas State Championships every Wed. & Fri. (\$50, 7p) until Aug. 3 final.	Bad beat paid in all hold'em cash games. Call for details. Daily \$100 high hands.	\$50 Splash the Pot Tue. and Fri. (7p-midnight). \$5 MTT (Sundays, 10a, \$500 guarantee).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING Phone: (870) 735-3670 www.southlandgreyhound.com	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Sat. (\$20, 2p), 3K chips and 15-minute blinds.	Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	Player Rewards cards offer comps based on play and 10% gift shop discounts. Call for offers.

VIRGINIA

POKER ROOM II Phone: (757) 393-1512 www.takeitdownpl.com	7:30p events: Mon. (\$40, w/one \$20 rebuy), Wed. (\$60), Thurs. (\$15) and Fri. (\$105). Sat. Super Deep Stack. (\$122, 6:30p, 30K chips); Sun. (\$60, 4p).	Bad beat is aces full of nines. Quads progressive and super progressive jackpots.	WSOP seats awarded annually, check website for details. June 29 is Player Appreciation Day.
THE POKER PALACE Phone: (757) 488-4912 www.thepokerpalace.net	Tuesdays (\$50, 7:30p) and Saturdays (\$65 plus rebuys, 1p; also \$75 plus rebuys, 7p).	Bad-beat qualification descends from aces full of jacks when jackpot reaches \$10K.	Call for information/promotions.
SKILLZ POKER ROOM Phone: (757) 966-5613 www.skillzva.com	Saturdays (1p & 7p). Room open Mon.-Thurs. and Sat.	Bad beat in hold'em is aces full of queens (\$19K at press time), Omaha is quad 10s (\$5,300).	Call about Monthly Freeroll, Frequent Player Club and Refer a Friend.
VICTORY POKER LOUNGE Phone: (757) 472-1203 www.victorypokerlounge.net	Wed., Thurs., Fri., including SNGs (\$30, \$50 and \$125).	Bad beat is kings full of jacks (\$13K at press time).	There is a nightly \$200 high hand. Call for details.

GEORGIA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

DIAMOND CASINO SAVANNAH (GA.); Phone: (912) 897-3005; www.diamondcasinosavannah.com: For tournament, jackpot and promotional information call the boat. EMERALD PRINCESS II (GA.); Phone: (912) 265-3558; www.emeraldprincesscasino.com: For tournament, jackpot and promotional information call the boat.			
HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (N.C.) www.harrahscherokee.com Phone: (828) 497-7777	Tournaments and cash games on PokerPro tables. SNGs: Tuesday and Sunday (\$115).	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
AQUASINO (S.C.) Phone: (843) 280-2933	Mon. cruise (7p, \$110) and Fri. cruise (11a, \$110). SNGs: \$60	Quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200). Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	Myrtle Beach Championships, Aug. 29, \$550.

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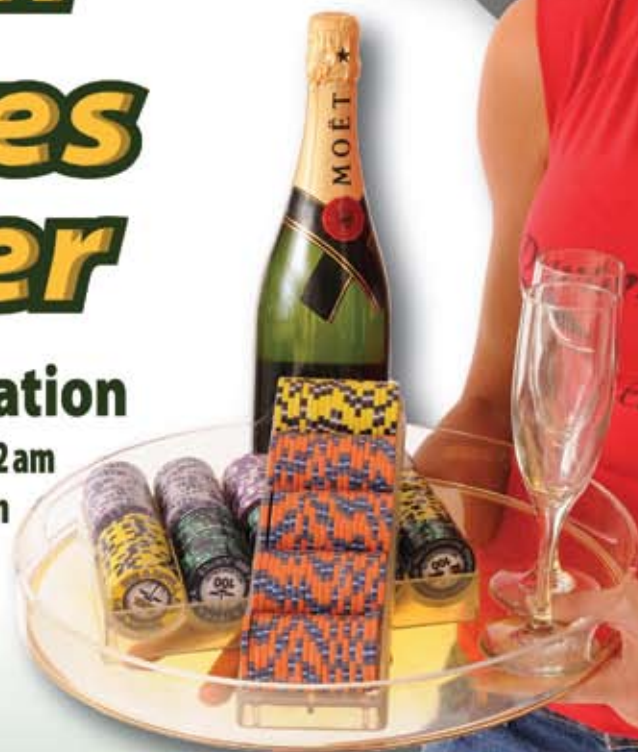
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LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
AMERISTAR VICKSBURG Phone: (601) 630-4996 www.ameristar.com/vicksburg	Thursdays, (\$70, 7p) with one optional add-on.	Mini bad beat (quads over aces full) pays 10% of full bad beat (any quads).	Call for details.
BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO Phone: (228) 386-7092 www.beaurivage.com	Daily at noon & 6p (\$120-\$340), including \$20K guarantee first Saturday of the month (\$340, noon, 4K chips, but 2K more for \$10 add-on).	Royals pay \$200 but spades wins \$500; aces cracked all day Tuesday through Thursday.	Gulf Coast Poker Championships (Aug. 26-Sept. 7), see Page 13 ad for schedule and buy-ins.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-8999 www.boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad beat is aces full of kings (More than \$50K). Mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks).	Aces cracked enters you into a drawing where you can win \$100.
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT Phone: (662) 357-1136 www.goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340). \$5K guarantee first Sun. of the month (\$340, 1p), 10K chips, 30-minute blinds. Third Sat. is \$5K guarantee (\$100, 6p, 8K chips)	Call for current bad beat and royal flush jackpots. Cash drawings (\$100 hourly) Tuesdays (1-10p).	See Road Trip on Page 45 for review and promotions. WPO is July 22. (See story on Page 32.)
HARD ROCK BILOXI Phone: (228) 374-7625 www.hardrockbiloxi.com	Daily at 3p (\$25-\$55). Chip stacks, bonus chip offers and blinds vary. Web site has all details. SNGs: \$75, \$125, \$235, \$550.	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads.	Royal flush wins Hard Rock Poker Room jacket; straight flush wins Hard Rock Poker Room hat.
HARLOW'S CASINO Phone: (662) 335-9797 x144 www.harlowscasino.com	Tuesday & Saturday (\$60, \$5 add-on, 7:30p) and these events count toward the poker league. SNGs: Thursday & Friday (\$50, 6p).	Bad beat was \$21K at press time.	Call about the Thursday Quads promotion and new summer league tournament series.
HARRAH'S TUNICA Phone: (800) 946-4946, x33760 www.harahstunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110) and first-place guarantees ranging from \$500-\$1,200 set with a min. of 20 players. Plus events at 6p (Thurs.-Sun.).	Bad beats at press time were in hold'em (\$72K), Omaha (\$3,459) and stud (\$34,712).	See Road Trip story on Page 47 for review and promotions. Call about the \$150K WSOP Fantasy Freeroll.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS Phone: (866) 758-2591 x4026 www.hollywoodcasinobsl.com	Daily (\$30-\$55) including a pineapple tournament on Thursdays (\$45, 6:30p) with 2,500 chips, 20-minute blinds.	Bad beat and mini bad beat. High hands win \$50 Wed. & Thurs. (10a-6p) and Mon (10a-midnight).	Aces cracked Mon.-Fri., including Progressive Tuesdays. (See story Page 42).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA Phone: (800) 871-0711 x5005 www.hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$70), including Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 gets 500 chips, \$5 dealer token gets 1,500 chips, \$10 rebuys and \$20 add-on for \$10K, 2p)	Hold'em bad beat (quads or better) must be in \$3-\$6 or higher and there's a new Omaha jackpot.	See Road Trip story on Page 45 for review of room and promotions.
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA Phone: (662) 357-5608 www.horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$55-\$150), including Sat. \$10K guarantee (\$150, 4p) with 10K chips (2K more for \$10 add-on); Sun (\$100, 2p) Super Deep Stack (15K chips).	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em.	See Road Trip story on Page 46 for review of poker room and promotions.
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA Phone: (888) 946-2847 x8554 www.ipbiloxi.com	Noon (\$60, 4K chips). Play Your Way: Play at least 4 hours (9a-9p on Mon., Tue. or Sat. and the house pays \$50 of a \$60 buy-in for the next day's event.	High hands pay \$75 hourly Tue. & Thurs. (midnight-4p). Hands must be at least a full house.	Aces cracked pays \$100 (Tue., Wed., Fri.). Poker Squares (Sun.-Mon.). Call for details.
ISLE OF CAPRI BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-7967 www.biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Daily (\$20-\$60), including bounty rebuy event on Saturdays (\$60, 3p), featuring 3K chips, 20-minute blinds, \$20 rebuys, \$25 add-on and \$20 bounties.	Bad beat available in numerous games, but hold'em (aces full of queens) was \$67K at press time.	Aces cracked (M&W, 10a-mid.) wins \$50 or wheel spin. Call about \$8,500 July 4 drawings.
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA Phone: (800) 456-0711 www.samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$80), including a \$3K guarantee on Saturdays (\$20, 7p). SNGs: \$60-\$120.	Bad beat is any quads.	See Road Trip story on Page 47 for review of room and promotions. \$15K guar. is July 24 (11a, \$150).
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO Phone: (866) 775-4773 x3766 www.silverflipper-ms.com	SNGs: \$45, \$65 (2K chips, 10 players).	Bad beat is \$75K in hold'em, \$2K for Omaha. Mini is aces full of deuces (\$550 to loser).	Aces cracked (Mon.-Fri., amounts vary). Sunday is Player Appreciation with \$100 hourly drawings.
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) Phone: (601) 650-1234 www.pearlriverresort.com	Daily, (\$35-\$60), including a \$2,500 guarantee on Saturdays (\$60, 2p). Events M-T-W-Th start at 7p; F-S-Su start at 2p.	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad 7s) and stud (quads). Diamond royals (\$500).	\$3,500 freeroll is last Sunday of every month (5p). Call for details. 4 aces pay \$50; high hands (\$100).

WEST VIRGINIA

HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN Phone: (800) 795-7001 www.ctowntables.com	Table games begin July 2. Call for any tournament information.	Call for details.	Call for any promotions.
MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM Phone: (304) 387-8458 www.mountaineerpoker.com	Daily at 12:15p and 7:30p (\$50-\$225), plus Sundays (\$65, 2p).	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was \$52K at press time.	July 4 is the Firecracker Tournament (\$100, 2p, 5K chips).
TRI-STATE RACETRACK AND GAMING Phone: (800) 224-9683 www.tristateracetrack.com	Generally events are Sun. (2p), Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p) & Wed. (7p) and buy-ins vary (\$40-\$125). Big Stack is last Sunday of month.	Bad beat totals vary by game, but hold'em (aces full of jacks) was \$54K at press time.	July 4, \$500 drawings (qualify by playing 50 hours in June). Omaha event June 30. Call for details.
WHEELING CASINO Phone: (304) 232-5050 www.wheelingisland.com	Sun-Fri. (\$40, 10a); Sat. (\$150, 3p, 6K chips), plus tournaments every night (\$40-\$65, 7p). Heartland Poker League (Sat., \$65, 10:45a).	Bad beat was \$55K at press time; quads (using both hole cards) Mon.-Sat. lets you spin the wheel.	Full House Frenzy Sundays: Each player with a full house gets a ticket entered into a \$400 drawing.
THE GREENBRIER Phone: (304) 536-7806 www.greenbrier.com	There will be poker on July 2, though the poker room is small and open only to guests. Call for information.	Call for details.	Call for details.

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Q&A

WITH JOHN PAPPAS

The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act finally went into effect June 1. John Pappas, the executive director of the Poker Players Alliance (theppa.org), recently was a guest on the *Ante Up PokerCast* to let us know what the UIGEA law means for poker players.



Is there any reason online poker players should worry about prosecution from the UIGEA? No. The UIGEA does not make playing online poker for the player an illegal or unlawful activity. There is this gray area for the processing of the payments: Should the bank process the payment for an Internet poker transaction? And what you are going to see is that many of the online poker sites already have what they call “well-reasoned legal opinions” that they’re providing banks that say, “Hey, we offer a skill-based, peer-to-peer game online that should not be considered unlawful under any state or federal law, therefore our payments should be processed as normal.” Some banks will accept that and some will not. There will always be a responsible pathway for people to deposit money on the online poker sites.

And because of how hard it will be to properly identify “illegal” transactions, how real do you think the possibility is that the government will sue banks?

That’s a good question. The interesting thing on the law is banks have been given what they call “overblock” protection. If they overblock a perfectly legal transaction ... (then) the player, the website, no one has recourse. The bank is completely immune for that. It’s only when they underblock that they are subject to any kind of penalties. ... And I don’t think (the banks) have a whole lot of risk, at least criminal risk or civil risk, by processing payments.

Legislative opponents often use societal ills such as higher divorce rates or bankruptcies as their reasons for opposing online gaming. But virtually every state has a lottery. How does the PPA respond to lawmakers who play that card? It’s fear-mongering really. There are a lot of activities that adults engage in that can provide problems at home and problems in the community, and we aren’t seeking to outlaw those issues. And in reality gambling addiction, and the problems related to gambling, are few and far between. I think the percentages are between 1 and 3 percent of Americans are identified as problem or pathological gamblers. That is a very small percentage of adults. And the idea that we’re going to prevent (the other 97-99 percent of) Americans from enjoying an activity because a few have a problem with it doesn’t seem like a very sensible public policy. What we ought to be doing is focusing our energies on how do we help

those few Americans who do have a problem. How can we make sure that there’s a mechanism in place so that they aren’t addicted to gambling or that they aren’t doing things that are detrimental to themselves or their families. And then allow for a safe and regulated marketplace for the responsible adults who want to enjoy this as a form of recreation or a profession.

The House Ways and Means Committee recently held a hearing on possible regulation of online gaming. How well do you think the hearing went, and is Congressman Barney Frank’s bill still on track to be marked up in July? Everything seems to be on track for a July mark-up. I thought the (meeting) went well.

We also saw one member in particular, Bob Goodlatte, who was there to kind of serve as the antagonist against Internet gaming, and you really saw him face some very difficult questioning from his colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, really questioned his opposition. Is it really based on sound policy or was it kinda based on moral religious reasons. And I think it came out that his opposition was morally based, and not necessarily public policy based. I think lawmakers recognized this isn’t something that they are going to have to make a moral decision about but what is the best federal policy for online gaming.

Many players had hoped that action on the UIGEA might slow down under an Obama Administration. Is the PPA surprised that it appears that it hasn’t slowed down? I wouldn’t say surprised. I just don’t think

that this is something that has really been on the top of the president’s agenda. ... You know we did see this administration provide a six-month reprieve of the law, which I don’t think should be lost on anyone. That is a really strong signal from the president and the agencies that they view flaws here. Now the fact that it’s going to be finalized under their watch, I don’t think it means that they are in one way pro- or anti-Internet gaming. I just think it just means this law is going to go into effect and we continue to build momentum behind any sort of legislation that will mute it through licensing and regulation. I don’t put the Obama Administration in one camp or the other. I think there’s still an opportunity to get them to come out on this issue, but I think Congress is going to have to act first. And once Congress acts in a real substantive way, then I think you’ll see the Obama Administration come out, I believe, in support of license and regulated poker.



President Obama is a poker player, but online poker isn’t his No. 1 priority.



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July Tournament Schedule

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Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30PM & 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20
Wednesdays 7/7 & 7/21 12:30PM • 7/14 & 7/28 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15
Fridays 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15
Saturdays 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15
Sundays 12:30PM • \$100 + \$20

Deep Stack Multi-Table No Limit Hold'em

Wednesdays 7/7 & 7/21 7:30PM • \$200 + \$40
7/14 & 7/28 12:30PM • \$200 + \$40
Fridays 7/16 7:30PM • \$355 + \$45 • 7/30 7:30PM • \$500 + \$50

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