

Charitable Casino Chips of North Dakota

Part II Tip of the Iceberg

by John K. Kallman

Review

For those of you who came in late, shame on you! Last month's article was a (very) quick overview of Charitable Casinos Chips of North Dakota and ended with a quiz of what the following three chips were:



Actually, this was somewhat of trick questions as the first two chips are in fact from the same charitable organization – the Northern Prairie Performing Arts (doing business as he Fargo Moorhead Theatre). The first one, with the spot light, is a one of two types of normal play chips currently in use on the blackjack tables. The second, blue chip, is also from

this same organization, but is an example of a paddlewheel chip (much more of this later). The third and final chip, with the two hands, is from the Red River Human Services Foundation.

This is to demonstrate some of both the fun and frustration of finding and figuring out these chips. While the attorney's office of the State of North Dakota has a listing of organizations permitted to conduct charitable activities (<http://www.state.nd.us/sec/forms/pdf/charorg.pdf>), it is only of limited use, especially when it comes to harvesting chips as many of the address listed are often the organizations headquarters, and then often only a post office box, and *NOT* necessarily where the activities take place. As an example of this, on my most recent trip, I was given the address for the American Gold Gymnastics organization in Fargo. With map in hand, and some friendly assistance, I found the place in question. True enough, it was exactly what it stated, a Gymnasium! Not to be perturbed, I parked the car, walked in and asked where I might be able to acquire some chips from the puzzled staff who quickly directed me to, yep, you guessed it, two bars, each located on opposite ends of town. Such is the fun in finding these chips.

The exception to this above rule is fraternal organizations, such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, American

Legions, Eagles Clubs and the like. Here, usually the address listed is the place where gaming actually takes place. Having said that, just being on the list does not mean that one will find chips as sometimes one only finds a pull tab operation, or a bingo game.

Misidentification

Back to the first two chips in the above quiz. Perhaps no greater amount of misidentification known to chippers has ever surfaced concerning any chip from North Dakota then the chips from the this organization. This is perhaps because of the scope of their charitable operations. Their official name is the Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre. Quoting from one of their brochures:

“The activities of FMCT (Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre) are supported in part with the proceeds from charitable gaming. . . . FMCT gaming sites include the Doublewood Inn, the Old Broadway, the Windbreak, all located in Fargo. Borrowed Bucks and Parrot's Cay in Grand Forks, Happy Trails in Argusville, Wild Knights in Casselton, and Harwood Hideout in Harwood.”

And just so you are a little bit more confused a little bit more, there is also a Borrowed Bucks located in Fargo, but that is for different charita-

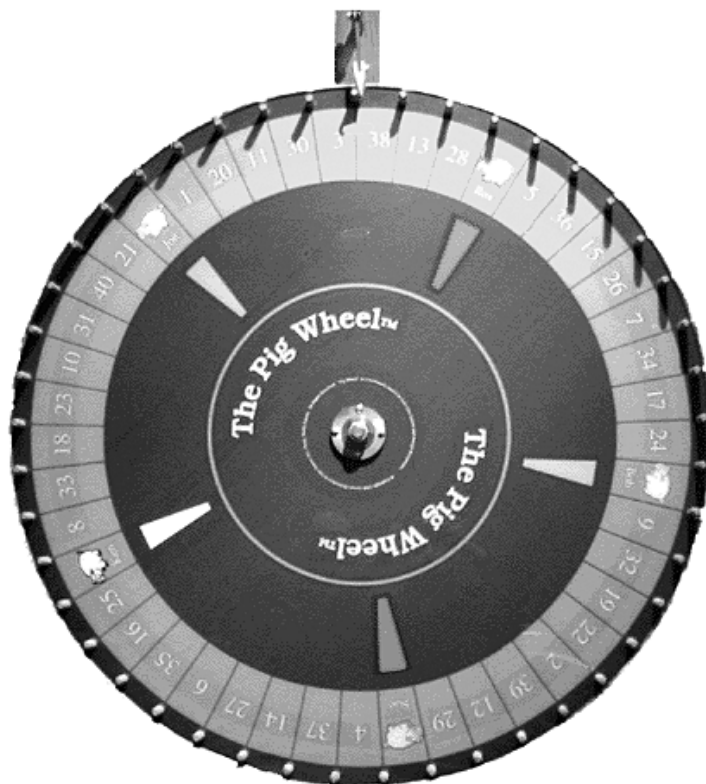
ble organizations, and yes they have charitable casino chips. . . .

The Paddlewheel

This is also known as a Pig Wheel (as in the barn yard variety and not the person standing in line in front of you who buys the last of a newly released limited edition chip buying 300 of a 500 issue when you only wanted one for yourself, but that is another story, best told elsewhere).

Realizing that my prose might not be quite as good as an actual photo and knowing that most casinos do not look to kindly on anyone wielding a camera inside of their establishments, I eventually found what I was looking for of all places, of course, the internet, from one of the “officially licenses” establishments authorized to provide gaming equipment to charitable organizations in North Dakota.

And just in case you are wondering, yes, you can bet on your favorite “pig” to be the winner!



The Paddle – Pig Wheel

Restating some wrong observations

As you may recall, in my last installment I made the observation that it seemed that *ALL* the chips were Bud Jones suite pip molds. I must now amend this to read *MOST*.

While a few other molds exist, including Hat and Cane, Elephant, and others, the current rate of return for chips found to date are mostly but not exclusively of the Bud Jones mold, with suite pips being the pre-dominate design.



The Paddle – Pig Wheel Table Layout.