



by David Niver

# Sky City Casino

Sky City Casino is located approximately 61 miles west of Albuquerque NM and 16 miles east of Grants, NM on Interstate 40 at exit 102.

The original casino opened in February 1994 after converting a combined grocery store restaurant and ice cream stand into a bingo parlor with a slot machine area. Around March 1996 an extension was added to the building and gaming tables were added. The casino continued to expand until reaching the current facility in 2000. The original building was torn down in 1999 as part of the expansion program.

The original set of house chips included a 1.00 (Picture of a cliff), \$5.00 (Picture of a canyon), \$25.00 (Picture of a two headed bird), and a \$100.00 (Picture of a bird & flower) which were manufactured by Chipco. These chips were taken out of circulation around April 1999.

Part of the expansion program was to include a hotel, which was completed in March of 2001. With the addition of the hotel there is a combined space of 164,000 square feet for the pleasure and enjoyment of

the customer. The modern three-story hotel has 150 rooms, which include 30 - economy-size rooms, 90 - standard rooms, 15 - two-room suites, and 2 - governor suites. I had an opportunity to check out the rooms and they were very nice. The hotel features a southwestern design, original Indian artwork and has a pottery pot shaped swimming pool.

The new casino has over 700 slot machines, a Roulette table, a Big 6 wheel, a Crap table, 6 Blackjack tables, 6 Poker tables and Keno. In addition there is a 550-seat bingo parlor



and by the time this article is published the casino will have live simulcasting horse racing.

An interview with Denis Floge, General Manager Sky City Casino, revealed that casino chip collectors are always welcome at the



casino. Dennis stated he is aware of their interests and he has kept this in mind when ordering the current house chips. The current chips were manufactured by Chipco and put on the tables when the new expansion opened. These chips are in the denominations of \$1.00, \$2.50, \$5.00, \$25.00, and a \$100.00.

Almost immediately it was noted the new \$2.50, \$5.00 and \$25.00 chips had the same white edge design making it difficult to determine chip denominations when viewed by the security equipment. These chips were removed from the tables within 48 hours after being placed in play. The original chips had to be returned to

the table until replacements could be obtained.



to their rack in the near future.



b. Three stacked \$2.50 chips will show a picture of the “\$2.50” chip on the side



*Original chips (Left) & replacement chips (Right)*

The casino uses seven different tokens, which include a 50-cent (Deer), 1.00 (Pottery jar), 1.00 (water jug), 1.00 (Wedding pot), 5.00 (Lizards), 10.00 (Bird), and 25.00 (Pueblo village)

For the serious collector the casino will be adding a \$500.00 chip

Denis pointed out that the current house chips are like pieces of a puzzle. When any three chips of the same denomination are stacked together in the correct order they form a unique design on the sides. Most of the stackable chips require a specific group of chips to form a design and are not interchangeable. The following designs can be created.



a. Three stacked \$1.00 chips will show the “Sky City Logo” on the side.



c. Three stacked \$5.00 chips will show a picture of the “\$5.00” chip on the side.



d. Three stacked \$25.00 chips in the correct order will show a picture of the “\$25.00” chip on the side



e. Three stacked \$100.00 chips will show a picture of several “Pottery pots” on the side.

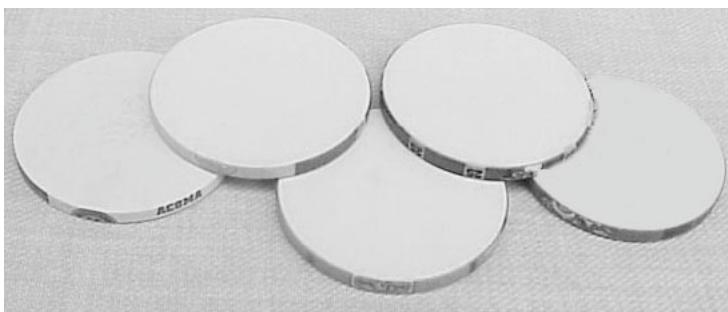






f. Too peak a collectors interest even further you can also stack these same chips by taking one each of the \$1.00, \$2.50, \$5.00, \$25.00, and a \$100.00 to form another unique design. When stacked in the correct order you will see a picture of a "Moon over Acoma Mesa".

Dennis had a few sets of blank chips with only the edge design made to show his staff what stackable chips looked like. These chips were blank on the front and back and had only the edge designs from \$1.00, \$2.50, \$5.00, \$25.00, and a \$100.00 chips.



The casino has an American style Roulette (0-00) wheel that has 7 different color Chipco chips for use.

Sky City Casino has a player's slot card program. A player can earn a variety of rewards based on the level of play. These rewards include merchandise, meals, rooms and cash.

The casino doors are always open and chip collectors are welcome to stop by and expand their collections. Dennis also pointed out you may want to try and get some free chips or tokens by trying their slots and table games.



For more information call 1-888-SKY CITY (1-888-759-2489)

Until next time, Good chipping from Dave Niver (R-5017)

