

Spring 2007 • Volume 20 Number 2 • \$6.95

# Casino Chip

## And Token News





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## CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS

*A publication of*

*The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.*

A member of the American Numismatic Association (C-140538)

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## CC&GTCC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

My collection interests are:

☐ Chips

☐ Tokens

☐ U.S.

☐ Foreign

I would like you to publish my . . .

☐ Name and address

☐ Phone

☐ Do not publish my name and address

I have enclosed my annual dues for:

☐ One year \$30.00

☐ Associate \$5.00

☐ Life Member \$450.00

☐ First class postage \$14.00

☐ Foreign \$55.00

(includes first class postage)

Foreign mailings are at the First Class rate. All other mailings are via 3rd class mail.

Annual dues will be renewable in the same quarter in which the membership application was processed. Check our address labels for your membership expiration dates. Mail your completed application with your check made payable to CC&GTCC to:

CC&GTCC Membership Officer

Ralph Myers

P.O. Box 35769

Las Vegas, NV 89133-5769

Sponsored by:



### CASINO CHIP AND TOKEN NEWS

*A publication of*

*The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.*

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# Casino Chip And Token News

A publication of the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

A Member of the American Numismatic Association (C-140538)



Spring 2007 Volume 20 Number 2



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**AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Our club, CC&GTCC, is founded under the ANA, maybe you would like to join it too. It is the largest organization of coin collectors in the world.

☐ Regular ☐ Student ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Associate

Present or former ANA number, if any \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name, please print

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Country

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

ANA bylaws require the publication of each applicant's name and state.

Please check here ☐ if you DO NOT want your name and address forwarded to the ANA representative in your area.

Please check here ☐ if you would like your name provided to companies with offers we feel may interest you.

I herewith make application for membership in the American Numismatic association, subject to the Bylaws of said Association. I also agree to abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the Association.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Proposer***

The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card all Numbers

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Cardholder (Required)

***Dues***

- Regular (age 23-64) \$36 International \$48\*
- Junior (age 22 or younger) \$20
- Senior Citizen (age 65 older) \$31 International \$43\*
- Club \$36
- Life \$1,000
- Senior Life \$750

\* US Funds

***Forward completed application to:***

**ANA**

818 Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279

**CC&GTCC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Country

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

My collection interests are:

☐ Chips

☐ Tokens

☐ U.S.

☐ Foreign

I would like you to publish my . . .

☐ Name and address

☐ Phone

☐ Do not publish my name and address

I have enclosed my annual dues for:

☐ One year \$30.00

☐ Associate \$5.00

☐ Life Member \$450.00

☐ First class postage \$14.00

☐ Foreign \$55.00

(includes first class postage)

Foreign mailings are at the First Class rate. All other mailings are via 3rd class mail.

Annual dues will be renewable in the same quarter in which the membership application was processed. Check our address labels for your membership expiration dates. Mail your completed application with your check made payable to CC&GTCC to:

CC&GTCC Membership Officer

Ralph Myers

P.O. Box 35769

Las Vegas, NV 89133-5769

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# Logo Usage Policy

The Club has certain logos and symbols which it must protect in order to protect its reputation in the collectibles community. No member is allowed to use the Club name, logo or symbol other than is approved by the by-laws or as otherwise specifically approved in writing by the Board of Directors.

- Only members in good standing may identify themselves as members of the Club
- Any member who identifies himself/herself as a member must affix or state their membership number so as not to confuse the public.
- "Identifies" includes advertising, announcements, business cards, internet websites, internet or live auctions, e-mails and any and all types of communication.
- Every member must make an effort not to confuse the public or lead the public to think that the member represents or speaks for the Club, other than those officers who actually do speak for the Club or those who have been authorized by the Board to speak for the Club.
- No event, show, auction or convention shall use the Club name, logo or symbol for any reason whatsoever unless it is an event, show, auction or convention run by the Club.
- The Board has approved a "Member's Logo" which contains the member's membership number. Only that log may be used by members in their advertising, promotions, business cards, auctions, etc.
- Any other use of the Club name, logo or symbol must be submitted to the Board of Directors for their approval prior to such use.
- The entities formerly known as "Chapters" are prohibited from using the Club name, logo or symbol as representative of their organization

Example

Please contact the Secretary for a copy of the logo with your membership number on it.



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E-Mail - ctcoins@aol.com

Send full payment payable to "CC&GTCC"  
with your advertisement to:

Charles T. Rodgers  
Advertising Manager, CC&GTCC  
P. O. Box 4572 Lakewood CA 90711

## PLEASE NOTE

- Do not send in ads that are folded. May we recommend that you send in your ads by Priority Mail in a flat pack marked "DO NOT BEND", this will only cost you about \$3.85 and we will receive them in about two to three days.
- When you place a one inch or two inch ad for more than one issue, you may make changes in that ad for each issue. Once again try to get the changes to us well before the deadline of each issue.
- When ordering items from one of our advertiser let them know what issue of the magazine you noticed their ad in.
- All ad copy must be accompanied by payment made out to "The Casino Chips and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc." or CC&GTCC. No ad will run without payment
- Publisher assumes no responsibility for statements made by advertisers and reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

## NEXT DEADLINE

Summer Issue 2007  
is August 15<sup>th</sup> 2007

## SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATION AND AD DEADLINE DATES

*Winter Issue* January, February, March  
Mailing Date: January

Deadline for Ads: December 1st

*Spring Issue* April, May, June  
Mailing Date: April

Deadline for Ads: March 1st

*Summer Issue* July, August, September  
Mailing Date: July

Deadline for Ads: July 1st

*Fall Issue* October, November, December  
Mailing Date: October

Deadline for Ads: September 1st

### *The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.*

Wants you to advertise in your quarterly magazine for FREE

This coupon is worth one FREE one-inch ad  
in *Casino Chip & Token News*



Deadline for ads are  
March 1<sup>st</sup> for 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. issue    June 1<sup>st</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. issue  
Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> for 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. issue    Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> for 1<sup>st</sup> qtr. issue



Send all ads to the following:  
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Need help call 562-408-2463 or E-Mail [advertising@ccgtcc.com](mailto:advertising@ccgtcc.com)

Coupon is not good as a discount on any other ad. Must be used for one-inch ad, one time only.

Expires one year from date \_\_\_\_\_

## MOVING?

Don't forget to let our Membership Officer know your new address. Contact:

Ralph Myers  
P.O. Box 35769  
Las Vegas, NV 89133-5769

## RATES

Advertising rates for members is available on the Casino Chip and Token News website at  
<http://www.cctn.ccgtcc.com>  
or by e-mailing the advertising manager at  
[advertising@ccgtcc.com](mailto:advertising@ccgtcc.com)



# **Notice of Meeting of The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.**

A meeting of the members of The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc. will be held at The Riviera Hotel (Royal 7 room), Las Vegas, state of Nevada, on August 11, 2007 at 11:00 A.M.

The purpose of the meeting is as follows: Annual Business meeting.

Name of Secretary: Belinda Hixon

Corporation: The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

## **2007 Convention Auction Update**

---

*by* Barry **Weintraub**, Auction Chairman

The auction lots have been collected, reviewed and finalized. Now the fun begins with scanning all 166 lots, writing the lot descriptions and formatting the auction catalog.

If you are interested in purchasing a catalog before the convention, send a check for \$15 (made out to CC&GTCC) to Mike Quinlivan, P.O. Box 249, Atwood, CA 92811. As soon as the black & white catalog is printed, it will be mailed to you via priority mail.

As in the past couple of years, as soon as the catalog is completed a four-color version in .pdf format will be made available for viewing and downloading from the Club's website. The date of the upload will be announced on the Club bulletin board.

We will not be taking bids prior to the convention this year. Instead, club members will have the opportunity to request a proxy bid for any lot in the auction. We are requesting that any club member that would like a member of the auction committee to serve as proxy bidder, that the club member email or fax their proxy bids to me at [barrychip@aol.com](mailto:barrychip@aol.com) for email and 818 752-1448 for faxing. Please indicate the lot #, the starting bid, and the maximum bid you are willing to go to. Of course, please include your name, address, and club membership number. Proxy bids must be received by; Thursday August 2, 2007.



**Mike Skelton, President**

## President's Letter

With the conclusion of the 2007 Club Election of Officers, my time as President is quickly coming to a close. I would like to say that it has been a genuine privilege to serve our Club in this capacity during the last 4 years. Thank you all for allowing me this honor.

It has been both rewarding and trying at times, but I have had the great fortune of working with a group of fellow Board members who have always had the best interest of the Club at heart when deciding any issue or making any changes. There is so much time and effort that goes into the operation of this organization that goes largely unseen by the vast majority of the membership. I would like to offer a public "Thank You" to Wayne Thompson, Belinda Hixon, Mike Quinlivan and Ralph Myers for making the last four years something to be proud of. It is my lasting hope that the membership has seen this Board as good stewards of our organization.

Of course no organization of this size and with the diversity of interests represented by our members could operate without numerous, dedicated

volunteers. Whether it be Jim and Sandi Steffner's years as Convention Co-Chairs, Jim Kruse serving as our auctioneer for all of these years or Allan Anderson spending so many hours each quarter to produce our award winning magazine, it takes many people giving freely of their time for the betterment of our Club. It is something that each of us should applaud them for and help nurture when the opportunity presents itself.

The problem when one begins to publicly thank people for their efforts is that you are bound to miss someone and that is not my intent, but there are some folks who I would like to recognize as I am heading out the door.

My parting Thanks to: the original Board of Archie Black, Michael Knapp, Bruce Landau and Janice O'Neal for their early ideas and guidance through the years. Andy Hughes, Gene Trimble, Neal Silverman and David Spragg for their continuing efforts on behalf of the Building Fund. The Palms Resort management team for their support and hospitality over the years. Bruce and Mary Ann Massey for doing "double duty" with the Convention Pre-registration and the Election committee. Len Cipkins and Tyrus Mulkey for always being there, even after they said "I'm done". Claudine Williams and Bob Maheu for taking time to share their amazing experiences with us. And to all the Club members who have been "dealers" and supported our annual Convention over the last 15 years.

I began my Club involvement as the Convention Chairman back in 1995, so I've always had a special appreciation for Convention Volunteers. Folks, who in many instances, give up part of their vacation time to help out in making our annual Convention the world's largest casino collectible show. It would be impossible to name each of the hundreds of members who have given freely of their time for the benefit of others during the past 14 Conventions, but do know that each one of you have my admiration. Special thanks to Earl Donley for being my "permit" guy with the county and the state during those early conventions and saving us countless amounts of grief. And to Vince and Bettye Mowery for everything they ever did on behalf of our organization and for being friends to so many of us.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the contributions of our esteemed legal counsel Eric S. Rosenblum over these many years. Eric has donated his time and talents to this organization since 1990. He has always been an advocate for the Club, first and foremost. He has given



advice and counsel to this Board and to me in my capacity as President that has been invaluable. I thank him for his wisdom, his dedication to our Club and for his friendship.

And finally, a public thank you to my wife Ann. She has fully supported my involvement in this Club for 15 years now. Her assistance during the Convention Chairman days was pretty remarkable considering the things she accomplished with the limited budget we had to work with. And though she occasionally questioned my sanity, I had her full support in my time as President as well. Through the times I was away from home for Board meetings, late nights on the telephone or the computer working on Club "stuff", addressing envelopes or helping prepare for the Convention, she always understood.

*Me Ke Aloha, Mahalo!*

I would like to extend my congratulations to the newly elected Club Officers! Wayne Thompson- President, Jay Sands- Vice President, Belinda Hixon- Secretary, Doug Smith- Treasurer and Sunday Silverman- Membership Officer! The Officers-Elect will be sworn in during the Club's Annual Business meeting on August 11, 2007 at the Riviera Hotel & Casino. (The complete Election Report is contained elsewhere in this issue.)

I wish them success as they take the reins to lead our organization over the next two years. They have my total

support and my pledge of any assistance needed during and after the transition.

Also, the six Constitutional Amendments as put forth by Eric S. Rosenblum were overwhelmingly adopted by the membership with an impressive 94%, or higher, "Yes" vote on each amendment. Eric put in a considerable amount of time and effort on these amendments, in consultation with the Board of Directors and with input from Club Members Aaron Peacock, Jim Steffner and John Zoesch. Thanks to everyone who voted for these amendments and to all of those who assisted in crafting of them. Job well done! (The complete Election Report is contained elsewhere in this issue.)

Here's hoping that everyone has already made their plans to attend our Annual Convention as we celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> year of this little get together! Join us as we say "Aloha to 15" with a sold out bourse floor, more Educational Seminars, a special "Photographic Journey-15 Years of Conventions", another grand banquet, more collectibles than you can see in a day and most important of all, seeing old friends or making new ones!

Aloha a hui hou,

Mike Skelton

# *Nevada Casino Chips*

*Limited Edition Current & Obsolete*

*Andy Hughes*

CC&GTCC Member # LM-2471-52

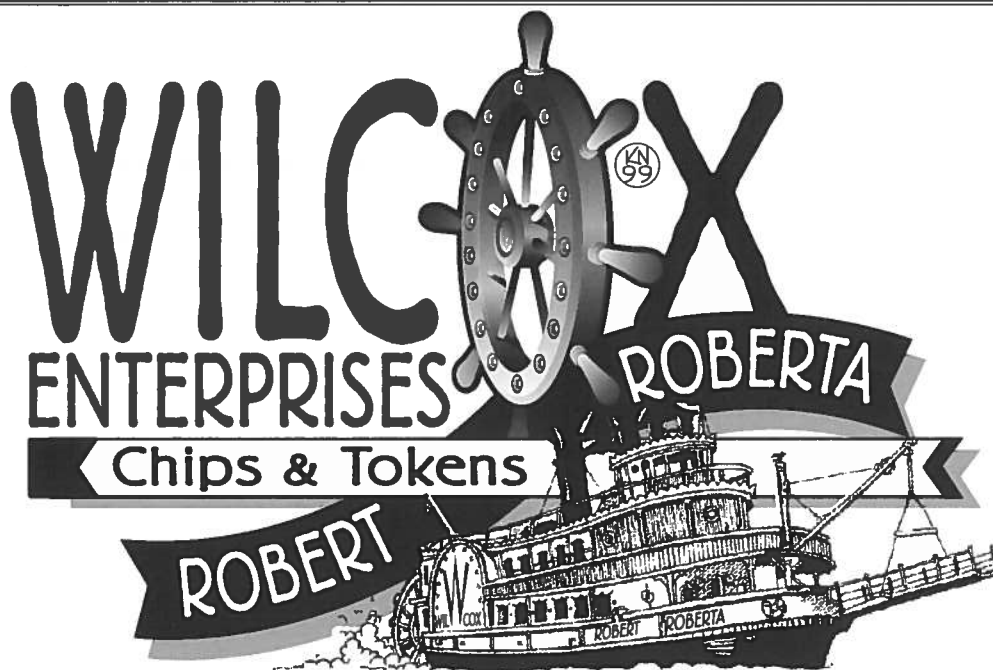


*Voice Mail/Fax: 702-896-1552*

*E-Mail: [AndyHughes@NevadaCasinoChips.com](mailto:AndyHughes@NevadaCasinoChips.com)*

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We maintain a Web site at <http://www.wlcxnt.com> where you will find a copy of our catalog, recent ads announcing new items and trip notes. We receive e-mail at [robert@wlcxnt.com](mailto:robert@wlcxnt.com) and regular mail at:

WILCOX ENTERPRISES  
P.O. BOX 395  
CARTHAGE, IL 62321

You can reach us by telephone at 217-357-3308 unless we are off chasing chips, in which case everything stops until we get back.

We have an extensive collection of both current and obsolete items from the area we service. Orders are generally processed over the weekend and shipped on Tuesday, but large complex orders may take longer. If we can be of assistance to you, we would like to make your acquaintance. Please either phone, write or e-mail.

Robert Wilcox Cook

CC&GTCC # R-0577

Roberta Cook





## The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

Member Club of the American Numismatic Association

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

A Non-Profit Corporation: Fed ID: 11-3193244

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Mike Skelton

**Vice President**

Wayne Thompson

**Secretary**

Belinda Hixon

**Treasurer**

Mike Quinlivan

**Membership Officer**

Ralph Myers

Mr. Scott Stamp, LM-5008-70

PO Box 2288

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

May 23, 2007

Dear Mr. Stamp,

The Board of Directors of The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc. has voted unanimously to suspend your membership for violation of the Club's Code of Ethics, based on the findings and recommendations contained in a report dated April 30, 2007 that was submitted to the Board by Travis H.D. Lewin, CC & GTCC Claims Director.

You have received a copy of Mr. Lewin's report concerning the complaints filed against you by Club member Douglas P. Smith, LM3209-147 and Club member Steve Bedo, LM5259-111, for violating Code of Ethics provision #2 which states, *"To conduct myself so as to bring no discredit to the Club or to impair the prestige of the Club or its members"* and Code of Ethics provision #11 which states, *"To refrain from making any unjustified, false, or slanderous comments about other members"*.

The following are the terms of your suspension and the conditions for consideration of reinstatement of your membership, as adopted by the Board of Directors in a 5-0 vote:

1. Mr. Scott Stamp's membership (Member #LM5008-70) in The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collector's Club, Inc. (herein after known as "the Club") is hereby suspended for a period of at least one year, beginning May 23, 2007.
2. Mr. Stamp is barred from any and all Club activities and/or benefits (i.e., magazine, etc.) during the duration of the suspension.
3. Mr. Stamp is barred from attending and/or participating in any and all activities associated with the Club's 2007 Convention.
4. As a condition for consideration of reinstatement, Mr. Stamp must publicly post an apology to Doug Smith, David Spragg and Allan Anderson on the message boards at <http://www.ccgccc.com/> and <http://www.thechipboard.com/>.
5. As a condition for consideration of reinstatement, Mr. Stamp must reaffirm in writing to the Club President, his agreement to abide by the Club's Code of Ethics.

This ruling of the Board of Directors is final. If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact me at [president@ccgtcc.com](mailto:president@ccgtcc.com) prior to August 12, 2007.

Sincerely

Michael R. Skelton

President

**Mike Skelton**

P.O. Box 2007

Coppell, TX 75019

Phone: 972-393-7106

Fax: 972-241-2513

[president@ccgtcc.com](mailto:president@ccgtcc.com)

FILE



Mike Quinlivan, Treasurer

## Treasurer's Report

As of April 30, 2007, the cash balance in the Club's accounts is \$244,685. During the first 4 months of 2007, the Club treasury increased its cash position by \$23,088, when convention tournament registration of \$3,520 and Building Fund donations of \$3,275 are excluded. This DOES include the expenditure for the Fall and Winter issues of the Club magazine. Please see the accompanying financial statements for more detail related to income, expenditures, and the breakdown of the equity accounts.

Highlights for the first 4 months of 2007:

1. 1 member became a Life Member. The Club now has 215 Life Members and 5 Honorary Life Members.
2. Convention 2007 paid registration through April 30, 2007:
  - a. Pre-registration – 72 for \$720
  - b. Banquet – 83 for \$2,905
  - c. Poker Tournament – 28 for \$2,800
  - d. Blackjack Tournament – 8 for \$720
3. The balance in the Building Fund is \$94,463.
4. The audit of the 2006 Club records was performed on February 10, 2007. A hearty thanks to Mike Skelton, Dave Harber, Wayne Thompson and Michael Couitt for participating in the audit this year.
5. The 2006 Federal Tax Return was submitted on time on May 10, 2007.

This is the last report that I will be submitting as Treasurer. With that in mind I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Club members for allowing me to represent the Club as an officer. It truly has been an honor to be entrusted for the past 5 years. Thank you!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Quinlivan - Treasurer  
May 19, 2007

# Income & Expense/Equity Statement (cash basis)

January 1 through April 30, 2007

## Income

Membership Dues (includes 1st class postage)  
Convention 2007:

Table Fees	\$32,450	
Banquet	\$2,905	
Poker Tournament	\$2,800	
Registration	\$720	
Blackjack Tournament	\$720	
Refunds Due	\$75	
Convention 2007 Total		\$39,670

Building Fund Donations \$3,275  
Interest Income \$2,990  
Magazine Advertising \$1,055  
Promotion Sales \$1,027

Total Income \$72,314

## Expenditures

Magazine \$34,850  
Miscellaneous \$1,867  
Storage (Occupancy) \$1,434  
Postage (Other than Magazine) \$1,332  
Bank Charges \$908  
Convention 2007 (Includes Auction Catalog Sales) \$810  
Website \$350  
Promotion \$271  
Advertising \$199  
Filing Fees \$150  
Supplies \$140  
Telephone \$120

Total Expenditures \$42,431

Net Income - 01/01/07 to 4/30/07 \$29,883

Beginning Equity Balance - 01/01/07 \$240,459

Net Income - 01/01/07 to 4/30/07 \$29,883

Ending Equity Balance - 4/30/07 \$270,342

## Detail of Equity Balance - 4/30/07

Building Fund \$94,463  
Life Membership Fund \$60,413  
Money Market Fund \$54,618  
General Fund \$35,191

Total Cash Available \$244,685

Inventory \$25,157  
Advance (Membership Officer) \$500  
Ending Equity Balance - 4/30/07 \$270,342

Respectfully submitted by Mike Quinlivan, Treasurer  
May 19, 2007



**Ralph Myers,**  
Membership Officer

## Membership Officer's Report



Well folks this is it. As of June 1 2007, I have been your membership Officer for the past six years. At this years convention, I will be stepping down, and Sunday Silverman will become the new Membership Officer. Please give her the same support you have given me all these years, and have a little patience with her. This job isn't mastered overnight.

This will be the only time I will have the opportunity to remind you that if your membership expires at the end of June, and you don't renew on time, you won't be able to get into the convention. You won't be able to renew until after the convention opens, and you won't be able to pre register either.

This past quarter saw 58 new members join us, and 2 members join the ranks of Life Members. With the convention on the horizon, I'm sure both numbers will increase.

Just a couple of things I'm proud of under my watch as Membership Officer. I brought the club from hand written cardboard membership cards to plastic membership cards much like the casino's use as slot club cards.

I started in this position on June 1 2001. Since that time I've processed 2,339 new members, and I've also helped 173 of our 217 Life Members take the big step. I'm proud of the work I've done for the club and considerate it an honor to have been allowed to do so.

Last but certainly not least, are the club members I've had the privilege of serving with on the Board of Directors. All have taught me something I've been able to use in my personal life, and I'm happy to say some have become good personal friends.

With fond memories, I remain,

Ralph Myers  
Membership Officer  
CC&GTCC

## New Members

Number	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
7574	Brennan	Ruby	NV	Reno	Shapiro, Marc
7576	Patton	Norman	NJ	Egg Harbor City	Black, Archie
7577	Bradway	John	MS	Gulfport	Shoop, Dennis
7578	Westlake	Jason	MI	Macomb	CCGTCC.com
7580	Mamone	Steve	FL	Ocala	CCGTCC.com



Number	Last Name	First Name	State	City	Reference
7581	Wilson	Charles A.	OH	Farmersville	CCGTCC.com
7582	Brabham	Ted	TX	Atlanta	
7584	Warner	Michael E.	KS	ST George	Casino Player Magazine
7585	Thomas	Daymon	UK	Mid Glam	CCGTCC.com
7586	Henson	Ritchy	TX	Amarillo	CCGTCC.com
7587	Biedenbach	John	MI	Trenton	Smorse, Chuck
7588	Krok	Alan	IL	Chicago	Lange, William
7589	Scherin	Catherine	NJ	Basking Ridge	Romano, Bill
7590	Como	Joe	IL	Tinley Park	Casino Player Magazine
7591	Germic	Allan S.	MI	West Bloomfield	CCGTCC.com
7592	Barretto	Richard	IN	Carmel	CCGTCC.com
7593	Campbell	Steven	CA	Delhi	CCGTCC.com
7594	Martin	John L.	MT	Great Falls	CCGTCC.com
7595	Hirst	Richard	CA	San Jose	CCGTCC.com
7596	Kett	Matthew	Canada	Toronto, Ontario	Blanchard, Jim
7597	Moore	Curtis	NY	St. Albans	Kaplan, Charles
7598	Hatfield	Gary	AZ	Apache Junction	US Casino Chip Price Guide
7599	Adkins	Jerry	MN	Lakeville	Gwozdziwicz, Steve
7601	Schwartz	Jerry	ID	Boise	Garrett, Henry
7602	Vogel	Robert	MI	Brighton	oldvegaschips.com
7603	Kush	Dawn	IN	St. John	Kozlowski, Susan
7604	Wejroch	Eric J.	MI	Dearborn Heights	Follis, Jim
7605	Barrett	Rick	ID	Lenore	Buckner, Jeff
7606	Brattain	Kevin	IL	Peoria	returning Member
7607	Floyd	Ronald H.	CA	La Mirada	
7607	Alvarez	Luis	FL	Orlando	
7608	Wolfe	Deborah	NJ	Pilesgrove	Chopek, John
7610	Abdelnour	Don	MI	Sterling Heights	CCGTCC.com
7611	Nordeng	Mike	AZ	Phoenix	US Casino Chip Price Guide
7612	Soteriou	Chris	England,	London	CCGTCC.com
7613	Maziarz	Carl J.	IL	Chicago Ridge	CCGTCC.com
7614	Armstrong	Richard	Canada,	Victoria BC	Steffner, Jim
7615	Soltis	Carol	OH	North Ridgeville	Britton, Mark
7617	Relyea	Jeremy	NV	Las Vegas	CCGTCC.com
7618	Arnold	John	NY	Queensbury	US Casino Chip Price Guide
7619	Lang	Raymond	FL	Ft. Walton Beach	CCGTCC.com
7621	Appleby	Joshua J.	TX	San Antonio	Casino Player
7622	Fenn	Mike	NV	Carson City	Buckner, Jeff
7623	Ciruck	Stephen	NY	LeRoy	CCGTCC.com
7623-A	Ciruck	Danielle	NY	LeRoy	CCGTCC.com
7625	Viogt	Richard Allen	TX	Victoria	
7626	Morey	Mary Jean	OR	Sutherlin	Hughes, Andy
7627	Schneider	Walter	NV	Las Vegas	CCGTCC.com
7628	Richardson	Peter	A.IA	Burlington	
7630	Baird	Shari	WY	Cheyenne	Associate upgrade
7631	Ferguson	Neil	Canada,	Halifax NS	CCGTCC.com



**Belinda Hixon, Secretary**

## Secretary's Report

As I write this, we're only two months from the 2007 Convention and the BOD is busy preparing for the Annual meeting and transition to a new slate of officers. If you have items that you'd like placed on the agenda for either the Annual meeting or the BOD meeting, please contact an officer. This is your Club and your suggestions, comments and questions are important. The Business meeting is scheduled for 11 AM on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on attending if you're at the convention. The minutes from the meeting will be published in the next issue of the magazine.

### *10 year members*

We're up to membership number 3455 for 10 year members. Pins should be mailed before the convention. If your name is listed and you haven't received a pin by that time, please find me during the show so I can personally give you your pin. I'll also have a list of 15 year members and will have those pins with me as well. If you think you're close to that benchmark, please find me at the convention to receive your pin. Otherwise, 15 year member pins will be mailed after the convention and the list will be published in the next issue of the magazine.

### *Logos*

In the past quarter, I've had requests for about 10 member's logos. As always, if you need a copy, please let me know and I'll get a copy to you as soon as possible. I can be reached at the address listed in the front of the magazine.

### *Convention walk-in list*

I recently mailed convention flyers and membership applications to about 300 walk-ins from last year's convention. I'll do a comparison after the convention to see if the mailing was productive.

### *On a personal note*

With the election behind us, I'd like to thank Jim Follis for running for office and for running with a positive campaign. I look forward to his continued involvement in the Club and hope that he'll consider running for office again in the future.

I'm grateful to those who supported my re-election bid and I'm looking forward to working with Wayne, Jay, Sunday and Doug.

I hope to see many of you at the 2007 Convention!

Happy collecting, Belinda Hixon

# 10 Year Members

Congratulations to the following members for attaining 10 years of membership in the CC&GTCC!



Howard Edleman R-2938  
Lee Gellerman R-2940  
Paul Liscio LM-2949-198  
Dan Wickett R-2958  
Fred Hufft R-2977  
Jim Buell R-2988  
Bob Stulz R-2991  
Cheryl Lowe R-3003  
Walter Wyzujak R-3007  
Andy Kelley R-3008  
Tom Stroh R-3021  
Lance Deal R-3029  
Ira Rubin R-3034  
David Cresey R-3036  
Len Gallick R-3042  
Roberto Chávez R-3046  
Joseph Lety R-3047  
Kent Bennett R-3050  
Richard Greeno R-3051  
Ted Edwards R-3052  
Richard Huber R-3053  
Paul Hegge R-3055  
Lee O'Dell LM-3058-105  
Gary Kuehl R-3062  
Kenneth Nelson R-3072  
Carl Shalit R-3075  
Joe Galliano R-3076  
Joe Klavano R-3078  
Ralph Weiss R-3082  
Collin Smith R-3084  
Harriet Vandervliet R-3090  
Dorothy Schembre R-3093  
Tony Peraino R-3097  
Reno Faoro R-3104  
Ron Leis R-3110  
Richard Pokracki LM-3113-84

Mike Cahill R-3114  
John Bollinger R-3119  
Lois Tessmer R-3121  
Barry Schoeph R-3122  
James Noll R-3123  
LeRoy Zaslawsky R-3139  
Joseph Almasy R-3142  
John Zoesch R-3145  
Ross Markley R-3149  
Bill Neal LM-3154-26  
Miles Hoff R-3170  
Roosevelt Mosley R-3175  
Louis Troccoli R-3176  
Peter Malatinsky R-3182  
Robert Richardson R-3185  
J.J. Engel LM-3190-09  
Paul Sibley R-3192  
Mike Quinlivan LM-3194-54  
Robert Anderl R-3201  
Doug Smith LM-3209-147  
Kenneth Novicki R-3211  
Jerry Alch R-3212  
Steven Lauber R-3213  
Rick Lonski R-3221  
Bud Meyer R-3226

Alex Kornel R-3229  
Kerry Waite LM-3236-77  
Richard Averill LM-3252-169  
Ron Hayes R-3253  
Ida Turner R-3258  
Edwin Sugai R-3261  
Bill Judge R-3264  
Norman Clem R-3270  
Marilyn Ickes R-3278  
Bob McElroy R-3289  
Mike Shapiro R-3335  
Jerry Muller R-3338  
Bob Clay R-3342  
Rick Hector R-3346  
Gordan Quan R-3351  
Richard Hagopian R-3359  
Maurice Nurenberg R-3361  
David Klier LM-3365-65  
John Karczewski R-3372  
Jim Deisinger R-3373  
Dave Mc Gregor R-3376  
Rena Perlowski LM-3382-151  
Jeff Veres R-3386  
John Chamberlain R-3390  
Paul Dell R-3392  
Constance Hartling R-3395  
Anna Pojat R-3403  
Charles McDaniel R-3406  
Stephen Suhre R-3419  
Steven Silverstein R-3420  
Richard Zunica R-3423  
Pam Goertler R-3432  
Robert Washam R-3436  
Douglas Knight R-3450  
Calvin Polansky R-3455

# 2007 Election Results

The Election Committee, consisting of Bruce & Mary Ann Massey, Election Committee Co-Chairmen, and Pat & Carey Burke, met on Monday, June 4, 2007 to validate and count the ballots received for the 2007 - 2009 CCGTCC Officers and Board of Directors Election. Pam Focazio, representing Candidate, Jim Follis, observed the process.

A total of 434 ballots were received which represents 18% of the current CCGTCC membership of approximately 2,400. Seven ballots were determined to be invalid due to membership status, post mark and/or lack of required member/voter signature.

The results are as follows:

**Office of President:**

Joe Pavlik 27

Wayne Thompson 400

**Office of Secretary:**

Jim Follis 116

Belinda Hixon 309

**Constitutional Amendments:**

#1 - Total 398; Yes 392; No 6

#2 - Total 398; Yes 390; No 8

#3 - Total 400; Yes 391; No 9

#4 - Total 399; Yes 385; No 14

#5 - Total 400; Yes 384; No 16

#6 - Total 400; Yes 391; No 9

#7 - Total 401; Yes 28; No 373

#8 - Total 401; Yes 30; No 371



In summary, the 2007 - 2009 CCGTCC Officers and Board of Directors are:

Wayne Thompson, President

Jay Sands, Vice President

Belinda Hixon, Secretary

Doug Smith, Treasurer

Sunday Silverman, Membership Officer

Constitutional Amendments #'s 1 - 6 received the required 2/3 majority of votes and, therefore, passed.

Constitutional Amendments #'s 7 & 8 did not receive the required 2/3 majority of votes and, therefore, failed.

At the August 11, 2007 CCGTCC annual business meeting, we, the Election Co-Chairmen, will submit the results of the election, which will then be certified, at the meeting, by a vote of the current Officers and Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce & Mary Ann Massey  
CCGTCC Election Co-Chairmen



# FREE CHIP LIST



**JERRY HOOVER**  
(R-2572)

10655 Kinnard Avenue, #204  
Los Angeles, California  
90024-5939  
**310.441.1171**  
jerry.hoover@pepperdine.edu



**\$25 25¢ \$25 25¢ \$25 25¢ \$25**



## I Am The \$25¢ Collector

Collecting \$25 and 25¢ chips  
from all of Nevada

*I Will Buy Your Rare &  
Not So Rare \$25 & 25¢ Chips*

I'm looking to add to the best collection of  
\$25 and 25¢ chips.

**Nate Pincus**  
P.O. Box 693, Havertown, PA 19083  
610-668-4273 nate@chipcollector.com

**\$25 25¢ \$25 25¢ \$25 25¢ \$25**

## CHIPS OFF THE OLD BLOCK

Terry Lazarus, R-2708...P.O.Box 57...Dallastown, Pa. 17313...1-888-CHIPS-97

E-mail: [Pachipper@aol.com](mailto:Pachipper@aol.com)

Web site: <http://cotob.net>

\*\*Table #57 at the National Convention – Free Chip w/ This Ad & \$15 Purchase\*\*

Red Dragon Casino \$1-\$5000 (7 Denoms)	\$79	Jim Kelley's Nugget 03 LE Set: \$1,\$5,\$25	\$39
Red Dragon Casino - Set of 7 Roulettes	\$29	Jennie V's Casino \$5 Excellent Condition	\$39
South Tahoe Ng't: 7 Colors Plain R'ettes	\$129	Frontier Hotel 50c H&C(CJ) "PAN"	\$39
Cal-Neva Lodge \$1 S-Mold (Sinatra Era)	\$48	Eddie's Fab 50's - 4 Diff Color Roulettes	\$29
Stardust (Tahoe) \$5 Arodie N0346	\$111	Foxy's Firehouse - 4 Colors H&C NCV's	\$59
Incline Village \$100 H&C(CJ) Drilled	\$69	Golden Nugt Rare NCV's 6 Diff: 1-1000	\$199
Giudici's (Sparks) \$5, \$25, \$100	\$49	Hard Rock Starter Set - 20 Diff New \$5	\$139
Sierra Tahoe Dealer's School \$25	\$22	Cactus Pete's 25c Brown H&C HS Gold	\$89
Silver Nugget NCV's: 1,5,25,100,500	\$49	Jim's Casino (Wendover) \$1 H&C(CJ)	\$119
Hard Rock "Rock 'N' Rods - Set of 4 \$5	\$48	Texas (LV) 4 Colors: 8-Suit NCV's	\$32
Town Tavern \$5 Purple Sm Crown 4-Yel	\$39	Bally's Grand (AC) Hall of Fame Set of 5	\$55
Diamond Jim's (Jackpot) \$1 Gray 3-Grn	\$60	Mint (LV) 25c Purple 2-Yellow pic-Hotel	\$39
Stork Club (LV) - Choice \$5, 25 or \$100	\$199	Ore House (Reno) - Plain Mold \$1,2,5,10	\$49
Trop (AC) Poker Club: Maroon NCV	\$19	Gold Strike (Jean) NCV's: 5,25,100,500	\$38
Hard Rock "Who" at the Joint \$5 & \$25	\$59	Dunes - Orange Faro Chip - House Mold	\$28
People's Choice- Set of 3 - 805 W. Owens	\$149	Pink Pussycat 1,2,5 Error Set - No "\$"	\$49
Opera House Unicorns-5,25,100; No "\$"	\$45	Joe's (Gerlach) \$1 Orange Sq-in-Circle	\$69
Bladensburg (Md.) Complete: 60 R'ettes	\$119	Curzon House Plaques 10,50,100 Pound	\$189
Nashville Nevada Club \$5 Brown, 4 Org.	\$39	Harrah's Reno Hot Aug \$5's - '93 to '06	\$169
Ponderosa \$1 Navy LgKey 3-Pink	\$38	Playboy (London) 60's - 5 Shil, 1 & 5 Pd	\$199
Opera House 9/11 Charity Set 3 NCV's	\$99	Bellagio: Ocean's 11 - \$1,\$5,\$25,\$50,\$100	\$89
Reno Hilton \$8 Yr of the Monkey (2004)	\$39	Harvey's Inn \$1 2 Diff- House & Nevada	\$49
Sahara (LV) \$20 Baccarat Plaque (60's)	\$39	Desert Sands (Cabazon, CA.) \$3 & \$5	\$19
Jailhouse - Set of 4: 50c, \$5, 2 Diff \$25's	\$45	Trop (LV) - Brooks Robinson - SIGNED	\$29
Cal-Neva Lodge \$1 Black Rectangle	\$59	Stockmen's (Elko) \$25 Pink; Metal Inlay	\$59
Reno Hilton \$5 Rainbow N4603 or N5168	\$39	Comstock (Reno) \$25 N2736 Obsolete	\$39
Hard Rock Set 7 Obs Multi-Color Rlettes	\$89	Sands 3 Chip Tourney Set \$5, \$25, \$100	\$79
Nevada Club (Carlin) \$5 Green "N.A.W."	\$55	Trop (LV) 5 Match Play Gray/Pink Pie	\$39
Harvey's Obsolete Brass - \$1, \$2.50, \$5	\$29	Harrah's Reno \$5 Octagon "Satisfaction"	\$35
Harvey's Obsolete \$25 Orange Brass	\$59	Ponderosa Reno N.D. Red Plain V5305	\$89
Hacienda 50c Trade Check Yellow V4396	\$29	Opera House 71 Yrs \$1,5,25,100 (19 Sets)	\$249
Caesar's (South Shore) \$1 Gray N4975	\$22	Town House \$5 V9907 Brn SmKey None	\$69
North Shore Club Zigzag "NSC 2" Navy	\$49	North Shore Club 50's "A" SmKey 3 Diff	\$69
Harrah's Tahoe Obs. NCV's 1,5,25,100	\$39	Claim Stake (Sparks) \$1, \$5, \$25 - All 3	\$48
Sowdowner/Virginian 1 ERROR NCV	\$49	The Gambler (Reno) \$5, \$25, \$100	\$49
G. Autry's Htl Continental Red Roul Rm	\$22	Saddle West: 1st Issue H&C: 25c, \$1, \$5	\$49
Foxwoods \$10 - Frank Sinatra	\$38	Harrah's Tahoe \$5 - "Sailboat" 1990	\$29
John's Tahoe Ng't 100 NCV (Ewing Mold)	\$22	Horseshoe: WSOP Sat'ite NCV's 6 Diff.	\$35
State Line N.D. V9838 Chinese Warrior	\$89	The Shack (Lake Tahoe) \$5 Diamond	\$69
Ed's Tahoe Ng't NCV's: 5,25,100,500,1000	\$49	Meeks Bay (Tahoe) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25, 100	\$49
Red Coach (Silver Springs) \$1, \$5, \$10	\$45	Harold's Gun Club (HGCC) 10c or 50c	\$49
The Nugget \$25 Home of More Jackpots	\$799	Cal Neva Lodge \$100 T-Mold Blue HS	\$99
Mr. C's (Reno) \$5 H&C 4-Brn 4-Purple	\$119	Monte Carlo (Reno) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25 O/S	\$49
Eddie's Fabulous 50's: 5, 25, 100 NCV's	\$79	Palms-Playboy Video Set 5 - 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniv	\$55
Tahoe Nugget \$1 Red H&C(CJ)	\$49	Treas Is: #10 Roul; 5 Diff; Never Opened	\$29
Wendover Nugget Roulettes - 7 Diff "C"	\$22	Nugget (Reno) Green H&C(CJ) 3-Red	\$49
The Nugget \$.25 Oran. Sm Key pic of Ng't	\$49	Nugget \$1 Maroon SmKey pic of Nugget	\$59
Casino de Capri (pre-Castro) \$1, \$5, \$25	\$39	Plantation \$25 1 <sup>st</sup> Issue Purple SmCrown	\$49

P&H: Up to \$100 = \$3

\$100 to \$299 = \$4

\$300 or more = No Charge

# Slot Card and Room Key Annual Swap Meet and Trade Session

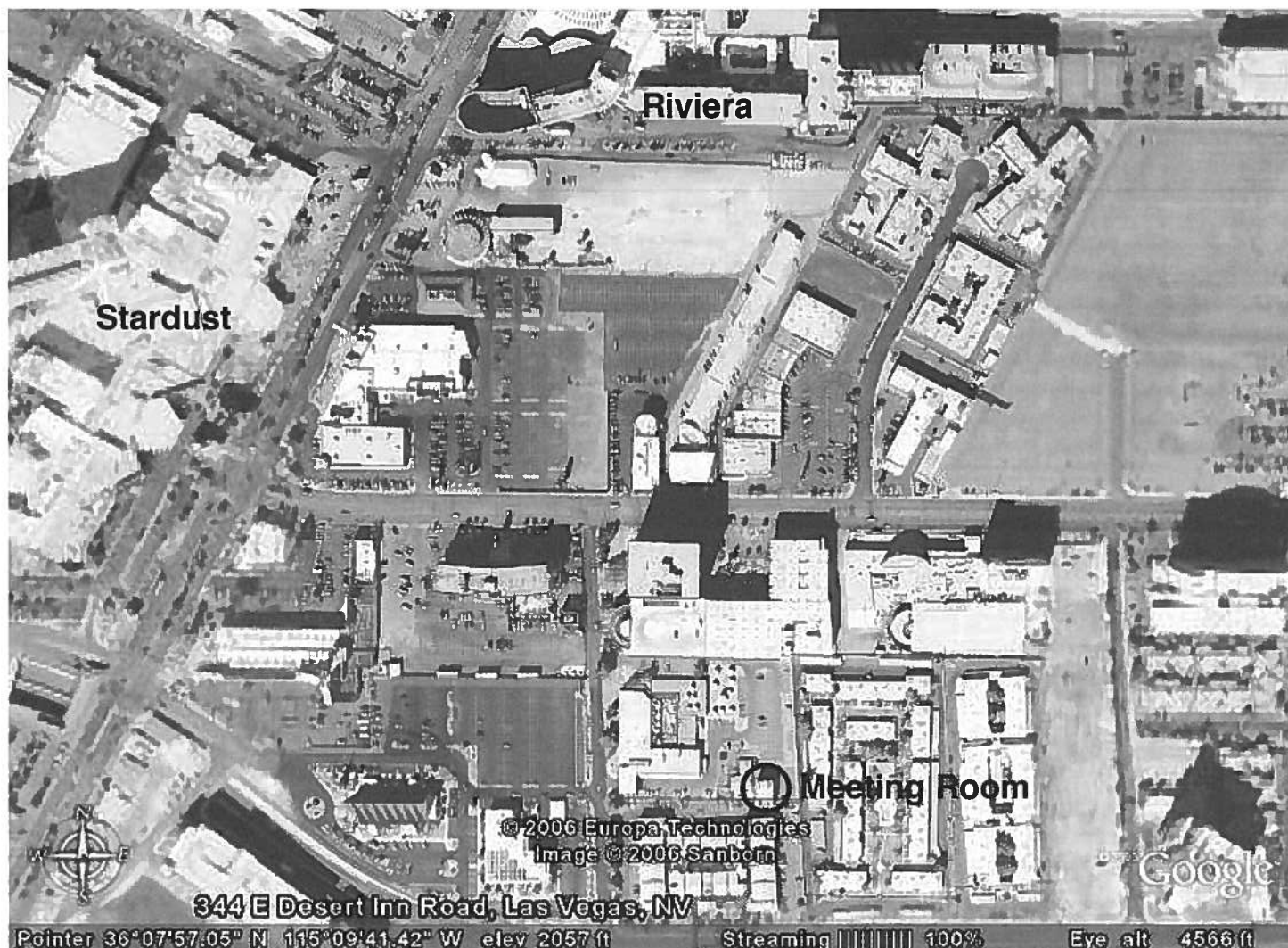
Wednesday, August 8, 2007

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Blair House Suites  
2nd Floor Meeting Room  
344 East Desert Inn Road  
Las Vegas, NV

For further information, call Dave Johnson at  
1-800-553-9111 (from 11pm-7am PDT),  
or 702-437-9366 (any other time).

Free continental breakfast and a hot lunch will be served.



# Report on Election Campaign Mailers and the Club's Do Not Publish List

by Mike Skelton, President

5/7/07

On April 4, 2007, I read a post on the Club website from a member who questioned why he received campaign mailers when he thought his name was on the Club's Do Not Publish list.

Shortly thereafter, two more members posed the same question. To date, these are the only members who have questioned it. I started talking to Wayne about the mailing list that was used for these mailers to find out what could have happened to cause this situation. On April 7, 2007 he emailed myself and the Club's Legal Counsel, Eric S. Rosenblum to inform us what had happened and to ask what the Club needed to do about it. Eric was out of town until April 11 and I told Wayne I would get back to him once I had discussed this with Eric. During this time I gathered the following information.

Wayne stated to me that he had requested a membership from Membership Officer Ralph Myers. Wayne stated that he received the list and began preparing the election campaign mailers and his own mailing list for the postcards. He had spoken with some Club members who had agreed to support him and Belinda Hixon in their run for office in the 2007 Club election by having their names appear on the mailers.

Wayne copied and mailed 10 copies of the membership list to those members who had agreed to have their names appear on the cards. (As a note, I was one of those 10 individuals.) The individuals highlighted the names of members they knew on the list and returned them to Wayne in a prepaid overnight envelope. As I noted above, I received the list, marked it up and returned it to Wayne. Wayne received all 10 copies of the list back. Wayne then used a temporary office worker in his place of business to compile the mailing lists from those names that had been highlighted. The cards were then mailed by Wayne at his own personal expense.

Once the first question arose about a member receiving these mailers, Wayne made a public statement on the Club website that it was the same list as any member could purchase from the Membership Officer and even the Officers did not have a DNP list. Wayne stated to me that he believed this to be a true statement when he made the posting. But in fact Secretary Hixon has a full membership list, that it includes DNPs, to fulfill her Club duties and she posted that fact on the Club bulletin board shortly after Wayne's initial post. In my capacity as President, I receive a full membership list from Ralph about every 6 months or so. I am aware that the list contains all of the DNPs.

Even though I am aware that the list I have contains all the DNPs, the version of the list I have is in no way marked to identify those members as DNPs. In a follow up conversation with Ralph Myers, I asked how the DNPs are marked or identified in lists that are sent to the Officers. According to Ralph, if he receives a request for a membership list from a member, he "sorts out the DNPs" and prints the remaining list. The DNPs are segregated in Ralph's database. In the case of the list that he sends to an officer, he does not sort the DNPs out and they are in no way marked or identified as such.

Wayne says he requested a list from Ralph and should have been explicit about the purpose of the list. It appears that Wayne truly believed in the beginning the list he received was a regular membership list, as is available to any member. He stated that he had never requested a membership list during his time in office so was not aware that it did in fact contain the DNPs. He further stated that he had sent a check for the list to the Club Treasurer. He takes full responsibility for the confusion and stated he should have been very clear about the intended use of the list.

Ralph stated he had never received a request from a Club Officer for a membership list that was to be used for campaign purposes, so he sent the full membership list to Wayne, as he would to any other Officer requesting the list.



As a follow up to this matter, I received several emails and read some postings on the bulletin board that stated that one of the members who originally questioned the mailers and thought she was on the DNP list, was in fact listed on a “regular membership” list that some members had purchased as far back as 4-5 years ago.

After the conversations and emails, we determined that Wayne had in fact received a membership list that contained the DNPs. There does not appear to have been any intent on anyone’s part to purposely release the DNPs or assist Wayne in gaining any type of unfair advantage in the election. In my opinion it was an accidental error, but Wayne accepts full responsibility for the confusion.

Once I was confident that I had gathered the facts of what had transpired and how, I contacted the Club’s Legal Counsel once he returned home to discuss the situation with him, as it pertained to the election. We were in total agreement that as President, I needed to contact the other candidates and disclose the facts of the situation. As it was too late to do anything about the cards that had been mailed, we, as an organization, needed to somehow come up with a fair and equitable solution for the other candidates.

One thought that was quickly dismissed was one that would have voided any votes for Wayne or Belinda that came from the DNPs that had actually received one of the mailers. It would not be fair to a member to void their vote because of an error that they had no part in creating.

The final resolution was to offer the other candidates the same “access” to those members who were DNP, which had been marked by Wayne’s supporters, and then incorporated into Wayne’s mailing database. There was only a portion of the DNPs that actually received the mailers, not the entire list of DNPs and we were able to identify which ones they were.

As an organization we still needed to protect the integrity of the DNP list, but also allow the other candidates the opportunity to have access to that information out of fairness. So the offer to the other candidates was this:

Even though Jim Follis or Joe Pavlik did not go to the effort or expense to do any direct campaign mailings to the membership, if either one or both of them wanted to prepare some sort of mailer, they could send it to me; I would affix a mailing label and postage to it, which Wayne offered to pay for. I would draft a letter explaining what had happened and the reason that a member who thought they were DNP would be receiving these mailers, in addition to the ones that Wayne had mailed. There was never an offer to physically hand over the entire DNP list or even the portion that appeared on Wayne’s mailing database.

I first spoke to Jim Follis by telephone, explained the facts of what I had found and made the offer discussed previously. Jim graciously declined the offer, after we had a conversation about how to prevent this from happening in the future. I informed Jim that we were going to review the process and the database to ensure that any lists generated going forward were clearly marked to identify the DNPs in any version sent to Club Officers.

I next spoke with Joe Pavlik and had essentially the same conversation as the one I had with Jim Follis. Joe also declined the offer and he ended the conversation with the comment of “Maybe you, Wayne and I can have lunch at the Convention.”

I emailed Club’s Legal Counsel the next day and informed him that I had spoken with Jim and Joe, both had declined the offer, neither proffered an alternative solution and both seemed satisfied with the way the situation was handled.

Five days after my phone conversation with Joe Pavlik, he filed an Ethics Claim against Wayne Thompson with Travis Lewin, the Club’s Claims Director. That claim is currently pending. *(On May 14, 2007, Claims Director Travis H.D. Lewin submitted his report on the complaint, along with his recommendation that the Board of Directors dismiss the claim, as he found no violation of the Club’s Code of Ethics. The Board voted 2-0 to accept the Claims Director’s recommendation and dismiss the complaint. Board members Mike Quinlivan and Mike Skelton voted to dismiss. Board Members Wayne Thompson, Belinda Hixon and Ralph Myers abstained, as to avoid any conflict of interest. The matter is closed as of May 22, 2007)*

In conclusion, I am satisfied that the Club handled the entire situation in the appropriate manner. Wayne Thompson accepted responsibility for any error or confusion that may have occurred. He had previously contacted the 2 members who first raised the issue in postings on the Club website, explained what had occurred and offered his apologies to those members. Ralph Myers did not, in my opinion, intentionally provide Wayne with the list containing the DNPs for campaign purposes. Belinda Hixon had no part in obtaining the original list or in constructing the database used for the mailers, though her name did appear in the body of the message contained in the mailers. It is my opinion that it was all an accidental error and there was no intent on anyone's part to obtain or release the DNP list.

The Club does need to review the current method of marking and identifying the DNPs in all lists that are provided to Club Officers. It may be the program that is currently being used needs to be replaced and/or we need to look at the method in which the DNPs are listed in that program. Further, the Club needs to review the list of DNPs and if necessary, request that any member who wishes to be listed as DNP or thought they had previously been so, contact the Membership Officer and make that request again.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Skelton  
President

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# The Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc.

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## Reference Center

Welcome to the CC&GTCC Reference Center! Here you will find useful information on the hobby of casino chip and gaming token collecting.

### [Casino Chip & Token News](#) - A publication of the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club

This official club quarterly is a must-read for every casino collectible enthusiast.

### For The Beginner

- [CCGTCC Mentoring Program](#) - Help others or find help for yourself!
- [2005 Buyer's Guide to Casino Collectibles](#) - Be an informed collector!
- **Ask The Expert!** - a list of CC&GTCC members who have volunteered to answer your questions.
- [Chip Conditions](#) - an official list of CC&GTCC sanctioned terminology used to describe chip condition.
- [Glossary](#) - an extensive list of the terminology used in our hobby - a "Chiptionary", if you will.
- [Chip FAQ](#) - a huge list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding our hobby.
- [Chipology 101](#) - a great intro-to-chipping seminar presented at the national convention.
- [Cleaning Chips](#) - a good primer on cleaning casino chips.
- [Mold Designs](#) - Robert Eisenstadt's mold design project.

### Detailed Reference

- [Fakes/Fantasy/Counterfeits](#) - a large list of fake, fantasy, and counterfeit chips - includes pictures.
- [Brass Core](#) - a thorough presentation of the brass core controversy.
- [Fraternal Order of Eagles](#) - Aeries listed numerically
- [Cancelled Chips](#) - Nevada Casino Chips Known To Exist Cancelled

### Books, Magazine Articles, etc.

- [Club Library](#) - a list of club reference material that you can check-out and use.
- [Gaming In Atlantic City](#) - by Steve Piccolo
- [Playboy Cheques, Chips & Tokens](#) - by Tom Stroh
- [Knapp on Books](#) - A series of book reviews by Michael Knapp
- [The Flamingo Capri Revisited](#) - by Mike Quinlivan
- [Casino Chip and Token News](#) - Back issues

The Education section of the CC&GTCC website offers valuable information on chip collecting, whether you are new to the hobby or have been collecting for years.

In this section you will find reference material about fakes and counterfeits, cancelled chips, brass core chips and much more. *Ask The Expert* gives you access to over 50 collectors who can answer any question about collecting. Each collector is an expert in a particular field. Whether it's casino chips, tokens, silver strikes, ashtrays, dice or collecting by state, country or casino, you can find help here.

Check out the club library for books or search for articles on the *Casino Chip and Token News* website. Other publications and articles are also free to download.

<http://www.ccgcc.com>

# FOGGY DAY IN LONDON TOWN

by Jeffrey P Lindsay



Nothing evokes the romance and nostalgia of a town more than the songs they sing about it. A Foggy Day ....a nightingale sang in Berkley Square....music reminiscent of those heady days when dining out at the Savoy was more often than not followed by a few hours at the tables of your favourite casino in the heart of London's - Mayfair.

Yet strangely those far off days in the swinging sixties seem to me like they were only yesterday as I vividly recall the bustle and excitement of the development of casinos in London in which I was deeply involved.

The English have always had a passion for gambling and it was endemic among the upper classes. It was however deeply frowned upon by the Protestant establishment that made strong moral judgements on gambling.

Games of Chance were popular amongst the "Gentlemen's Clubs" of Victorian England but were illegal. Young aristocrats and gentlemen throughout the realm played Games of Chance under the guise of "Private Members Clubs".

The earliest Gentlemen's Club that was said to have regular Games of Chance was No. 50 St. James's, founded in 1800 it still exists today. No longer a club for aristocrats it is now a modern licensed casino that offers Bars, Restaurants and gaming on each of its 6 floors.

## London Casinos

As it emerged from World War2 with a vibrant anticipation of the

future, London was an exciting place to be. It was an era that saw ex-patriots and visitors return from America in huge numbers to London once again. And the casinos were high on their list of priorities.

Some of the early clubs that emerged in and around Soho and Kensington at that time such as "The Up All Night Club" were quasi-legal gaming clubs and heralded in a new era of gambling.

There were clubs that had just one Craps table; one such club was set up in a strange but popular location, a basement in Oxford Street in the heart of the renowned London shopping district.

Others were naturally and appropriately more luxurious.



**Crockfords - Palace Gate - Pall Mall - London**

The Worlds Oldest Private Casino founded in 1828 by William Crockford, who was sponsored by the Duke of Wellington. Its opulent surroundings attracted the cream of Regency Society.



**Curzon House - Mayfair**

For many years until it closed its doors in the middle sixties, "The Curzon" as it was affectionately known was recognised as the pre-eminent casino in London's Mayfair. It had a personal style and class all of its own which reflected the rich and famous people from all over the world that frequented its elegant gaming rooms.

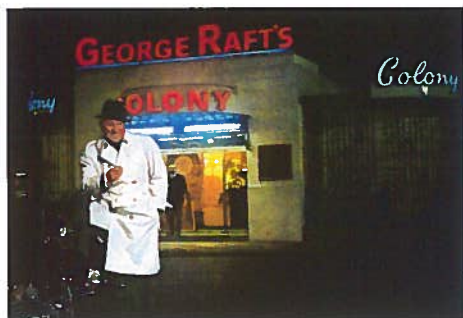


**Aspinalls- Curzon Street**

Established in 1960 by John Aspinall or "Aspers" as he was known, it was one of the most extravagant and elegant gambling houses the world had ever seen and usually filled with Old Etonians and Brit upper class men gambling away their inheritances. Today many famous politicians and diplomats find themselves mixing at Aspinalls now run by his son.



## The Colony Club- Berkley Square - London



Following the banning of syndicated gambling in Havana in 1959, Meyer Lansky expanded to London and opened one of the first quasi-legal casinos. Fronted by George Raft it was the place to be seen.



## Playboy Club-Park Lane

In 1967 Hugh Hefner created headlines when he opened the Playboy Club on 5 floors at 45 Park Lane.



Victor Lownes was the Gaming Director. It quickly became the "night spot" of the new rich and famous.

Many Arabs were visiting London and there was an ex-patriot group that went to Public Schools and Universities in England that became regular members of the Playboy Club, London.

The Middle East war between Israel and Egypt was over and oil prices went through the roof. Arab visitors to London quickly found their way to the casinos.

The Gaming Act of 1968 was well established by now and was the regulator for the compliance of the holders of casino licenses and was enforcing the Gaming Act to the letter of the Law.

In 1975 both the Playboy Club London and Ladbroke's Casino operated in the heart of Mayfair and competed against each other for the 40 wealthy players known as the "whales".

By now, John Huxley (Casino Equipment) Ltd of which I was the CEO, had become the major supplier of gaming tables and equipment, high security gaming chips and playing cards to the English based casinos. The English speaking gaming world

had opened up and London being the centre of trained gaming dealers, the migration of gaming expertise moved to Australia

with the opening of the Wrest Point Casino in Tasmania, the first legalised casino in Australia, albeit Tasmania was a small island off of South Australia. Interestingly enough one of the Playboy casino Gaming Directors was hired by the Tasmanian hotel group to run its fledgling Casino.



## Wrest Point Casino - Tasmania



By this time gaming had also migrated from London to Swaziland, a small independent state in Southern Africa, which created the beginning of the Holiday Inn franchise that grew across Southern Africa to over 15 casinos and formed part of the new homeland of South Africa.

The state of Lesotho known for its precious minerals and gold mining also opened a casino to the local inhabitants. Other casinos opened in Botswana and on the Eastern Coastline of Southern Africa known as the "Wild Coast" and of course the most well known Southern African casino of all "Sun City".





This formed part of Sol Kerzner's gaming empire that we know today.

### Casino History Forum

My involvement in the casino industry over many years has been exciting and rewarding and I have made many friends.

By creating this forum and fellowship, my aim is to identify and make contact with people that were either managing or indeed working in those casinos throughout those early days.

There is a wealth of history and heritage that we should preserve the early beginnings and development of the gaming casino's in the UK and world wide.

In addition to helping reunite old colleagues and charting the evolution of the industry as we now know it, the 'Casino History Forum' seeks to provide a number of services for its community.

### Library of 3000 Chips

The flagship of these services will be the Casino Memorabilia Library. The library currently holds over 3,000 rare casino chips from around the world all fully catalogued and viewable on our website. Members can add their own connections with any of those listed rare chips (or indeed their own general casino memorabilia information) into the library through their own secure space.



A Casino History Forum auction facility has been developed for members enabling trading between members of our specialised community.

If you are from the casino fraternity past or present and are interested in becoming a "Fellow of the Casino History Forum" or would like to be alerted to the site launch, or have a trade enquiry please visit [www.casinohistoryforum.com](http://www.casinohistoryforum.com) or send an email to [info@casinohistoryforum.com](mailto:info@casinohistoryforum.com).



*Jeffrey P Lindsay is the Chief Executive Officer of the Bond (Gaming) International Group of companies, London, England.*

[www.Casinohistoryforum.com](http://www.Casinohistoryforum.com) and  
[www.CollectablesMania.com](http://www.CollectablesMania.com)  
are part of that group.



# Casino History Forum

## What is the Casino History Forum?

*The Casino History Forum is a unique website designed to appeal to anyone with a passion for casinos. Whether you are an industry professional, past or present, a collector of casino memorabilia and rare gaming chips, or simply someone with an enthusiasm for the history and heritage of casinos, this site is sure to have something you will enjoy.*



## Casino History Library

*The site showcases more than 3,000 chips, each of which has its own story to tell.*

*If you have had a connection with any of the casino's in our library we would look forward to your contribution.*



## Auction

*The auction site will allow members to actively trade their collections through a bespoke auction facility. This aspect of the library will be augmented by the growth of our sister site, [www.CollectablesMANIA.com](http://www.CollectablesMANIA.com), dedicated to the collection and trading of limited edition commemorative chips from some of the world's leading brands and franchises.*



## Forum

*Our greatest strength will be our membership. Whether your interest is collecting chips, studying the past and debating the future, or simply reconnecting yourself with the people and places from your past, the Casino History Forum is a place where you can make a real contribution. Join us.*



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

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# North Dakota Charity Casino Chips Bet-Flation

by John K. Kallman



As with most everything else, the cost of placing a wager has increased over the years. For slot machines, while the number of 5c and under machines have increased greatly, the number of lines that one can wager at one time, along with the number of credits per line that can be wagered, the end result is that the total amount wagered is usually more than when \$1.00 slot machines dominated the casino floor and the maximum number of coins/tokens that could be bet at one time was 3. For table games, long gone are the days when one could find a craps game for 25c a bet. And figure the odds on finding a \$1.00 a hand black jack on the strip in Vegas on a weekend or Atlantic City!

However, for the most part, the minimum bet at black jack tables at North Dakota Charity Casinos is still \$1.00! So far, I have only seen a single table with a \$5.00 minimum, and then no one was playing. Across the room, at the only other table which was the typical \$1.00 mini-

mum, there were all of three players! And this was on a Friday night no less.

But as is the case both in Deadwood and the mining towns around Denver, betting limits have increased from the original \$5.00 maximum to \$25.00. However, not all casinos have gone to the higher denominations yet. Those that have added a \$25 chip (per state law). And as any cashier will tell you, with a limited number of tills in a tray, if you add a new denomination, an old one has to give way to make room for the new one. Since \$1.00 bets are still the norm, 50c chips are required for when a player does hit a black jack. Five \$1.00 chips are too cumbersome for a \$5.00 bet, so the odd chip out in this case is the \$2.00 chip. Not all casinos who have gone to the \$25 betting limit have cast aside this denomination, but an increasing number have. So, for those who are looking to protect a vanishing species, you may want to start here.

## Buying and Selling Caribbean Chips

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Web: <http://www.chipman.com> E-Mail: [scott@chipman.com](mailto:scott@chipman.com)



# Marlow Casino Chips

David Spragg  
LM-6180-166

will be at tables 59 & 60 at the 2007 Convention, with Gene Trimble & Dr Luis Alvarez

## Sale of rare sample, proof & prototype Gaming Tokens



On consignment, for sale at this years convention, we are proud to present items from a collection of rare sample, proof & prototype Gaming Tokens, many of which have never been publicly offered before.

We hope to have a catalog available on-line in advance of the convention. Please email me if you wish to join the mailing list for updates on this collection, or any other of our sales, at: [david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com](mailto:david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com)

## Other Convention sales

Our stock at this years convention will include scarce obsolete Las Vegas & Nevada chips, and seldom seen UK chips, manufacturers samples and Palms No Cash Value chips.



Together with Dr Luis Alvarez, we will also have a number of rarer Playboy items on offer.

To view our regular stock, please visit: <http://www.marlowcasinochips.com>

If there is anything in particular from our stock you would like to see at the convention, email me to arrange for it to be brought over: [david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com](mailto:david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com)

## Club Poker Tourny Capper

Once again I am donating Card Cappers to all participants in this years annual club poker tourny. This years capper also matches the 5 tournament chips I recently designed.



As always, remaining chips will be donated to the Building Fund and will be on sale at both the Clubs' and my tables during the convention, or the Building Fund webpage: <http://buildingfund.marlowcasinochips.com>

## Personal 'Splashbar' Chips for the 2007 Convention

Special offer for all members, whether you are attending this year's convention or not! Why not join the many members that have had their own personal 'Splashbar' chips made to trade this August. If you can't attend, then I can trade for you! All I need from you is a photograph or other image for the front of the chip. Chips are just 75c each with a minimum order of 25.



The back of the chip will include your name and club membership number, and the appropriate design indicating whether or not you attended the convention. There is a choice of 9 chip colors available and you can have any mixture you like. I can deliver your chips in August or mail everyone's traders to those not attending. Final date for placing orders is July 27th

To order your chips, simply visit

<http://poker.marlowcasinochips.com/customconv07.htm> or email me!

## Seeking information on Bill Borland

Bill (William F.) Borland was a chip supplier & dealer in Las Vegas from the early 1980's until 1995, operating first with his 'partner' Starr Warrick as "Star Time, Inc", then as "Worldwide Casino Exchange (a division of Star Time, Inc)", and finally as "The Gambler". Borland was a 'prolific' supplier of commemorative, fantasy, personal, home game and licensed gaming chips, many of which we have only recently been able to attribute to him. He also counterfeited hot stamp chips using dies he purchased from the Bud Jones estate. Examples of some of his chips are shown below.



(Borland also supplied chips on 'A-Crest' and HHR molds. All inlay chips were made at Atlantic Standard)

Any recollection of visits to the store, meetings with Bill or Jerry Wall, and old invoices/receipts may be very useful to us. If you can help, please contact Gene Trimble (email: [poker4@cox.net](mailto:poker4@cox.net)), 840 S Rancho Dr #4314, Las Vegas, NV 89106 or David Spragg at Marlow Casino Chips (email: [david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com](mailto:david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com))

**We are also interested in buying ANY chips attributable to Borland**



# Preserving Gaming History

Early this year, we launched the "Preserving Gaming History" website. This is the first step in a major club driven project to provide a permanent on-line archive of as much historical gaming related material & research as possible.

The main focus of the information published so far is the distributors cards for the companies that supplied a large proportion of illegal gaming pieces. Over 500 hours work have so far been invested in indexing 7,000 record cards detailing some 15,000 different chips and other gaming supplies.

This website will be a constant 'work in progress' ultimately owned and driven by the CC&GTCC, under a working group currently headed by David Spragg, with Gene Trimble, Howard Herz and Mike Skelton.



<http://www.preservinggaminghistory.com>

## slabFREE

For more information, visit the slabfree club website:

<http://slabfree.marlowcasinochips.com>



## CC&GTCC Building Fund Fundraising Chips

The chip shown here will be in all of this years convention 'grab bags' once again put together by Debby Meister. The few excess chips will be available from my convention table, together with all other past fundraiser chips, or from my webpage <http://buildingfund.marlowcasinochips.com>



## Customised Genuine Chipco Protech™ Ceramic Chips

As a Chipco agent, Marlow Casino Chips can supply your customised chips at the lowest possible price. For CC&GTCC members only, we can supply 100 chips from \$172 including artwork design by Debby Meister, setup, manufacture and delivery. Additional chips from only \$91 per 100! Visit <http://poker.marlowcasinochips.com/custommembers.htm> for details.



We can also provide a full custom chip service to non-members and businesses at competitive rates in various chips styles. Full details at <http://www.mycustomchips.com>

## Home Poker Chips

We retail a wide range of home poker chips and supplies. We stock all the current lines from Paul-Son, and as a European Chipco agent, we guarantee our prices are the cheapest in Europe.



For our home poker range, visit: <http://www.homepokerchips.co.uk>

David Spragg  
LM-6180-166

# Marlow Casino Chips

38 Oak Tree Road, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3EE, United Kingdom

<http://www.marlowcasinochips.com>

[david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com](mailto:david.spragg@marlowcasinochips.com)



# Nevada Casino Ashtray Project



*Ashtrays • Vintage Casino Pictures • History and more*

Visit us online at  
[www.nevadacasinoashtrays.org](http://www.nevadacasinoashtrays.org)

The Nevada Casino Ashtray Project is a massive undertaking primarily showcasing Nevada Casino Ashtrays. However, it is much more. We have vintage pictures of the casinos and will later be adding the histories and personal remembrances of the places as we find them. IT WILL BE A VALUABLE SITE FOR WHATEVER AREA OF CASINO COLLECTING YOU ENJOY.

Please realize that this site is "under construction" and always will be. Check our home page "Welcome" for site features and sign our guestbook. All new additions are listed under "What's New" and will be posted on *The Chipboard*.

This endeavor has been made possible by a long list of contributors. Many have spent countless hours helping assemble the material to make this dream a reality. New contributors are welcome and encouraged. This is everyone's site.

## *Ashtray Pictures and Casino Photos*

The most important feature of this site is the ashtray pictures. They are all thumbnailed. All you have to do is click on the image and they will enlarge to life size. The pictures and scans of the trays vary in quality. This is due to having many people contributing and different methods being used to convey the images to us. As better pics become available they will be used.

The site is divided into four groupings, Tahoe, Reno/Sparks, Small Town, and Las Vegas. The Small Town group will at first give a list of the towns. Pick a town and click on it and another list will give you the Casinos and Clubs. The other groups will give you a list of the Casinos and Clubs that are specific to that group. Pick one and check it out.

We have endeavored to have a picture of each Casino. In many cases that has been more difficult to obtain than the ashtray. We hope you enjoy our site. Visit often because you never know what you'll find.

Mark & Lynn Englebreton  
Contact us via e-mail at: [mark@communicomm.com](mailto:mark@communicomm.com)



# Seminole HARD ROCK

by Allan Anderson

Peter Morton and Isaac Tigrett established the first Hard Rock Cafe in London in 1971. Hard Rock International began its global expansion in 1982 when Tigrett and Morton agreed to develop their own Hard Rock Cafes in various parts of the globe. Morton opened Hard Rock Cafes in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Houston. Tigrett opened locations in New York, Dallas, Boston, Washington, D.C., Orlando, Paris and Berlin, eventually selling his interest to Mecca Leisure. In 1990, The Rank Group Plc acquired Mecca and continued expansion of the concept in its geographic territory. Rank then acquired Hard Rock America from Peter Morton in 1996 and consolidated worldwide control of the brand.

In March 2007, the Seminole Tribe of Florida acquired Hard Rock International, Inc. and other related entities from The Rank Group Plc for approximately \$965 million. Seminole Hard Rock Entertainment, Inc., is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is headquartered in Hollywood, Fla., near Fort Lauderdale. It is a sovereign government with an elected Tribal Council of five members. Governmental expenditures are earmarked for police and fire protection, emergency medical services, education, health care, housing, water treatment, economic development, and parks and recreation. Its business operations currently include cattle ranching, citrus production, tourism promotion, sports management, tobacco sales and gaming.



The Seminole Tribe own and/or franchises a world-wide network of 123 Hard Rock Cafes in 46 countries. Hard Rock International owns, operates or has licensed rights to seven full service hotels, including Las Vegas, Bali, Pattaya, Universal Orlando, Chicago, Tampa and Hollywood, Fla., as well as Biloxi, Miss. (opening 07/07/07). Hard Rock operates hotels and casinos in Las Vegas, Tampa, Hollywood and Biloxi (delayed because of Hurricane Katrina), as well as one stand-alone casino in London, England.

More than 90 percent of the Seminole Tribe's budget is currently derived from gaming revenue. The Tribe owns and operates Seminole

Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos in Tampa and Hollywood, Fla. The Tribe also owns and operates five more non-Hard Rock Florida casinos in Coconut Creek and Hollywood on the Southeast coast, in Immokalee near Naples, on the Brighton Reservation north of Lake Okeechobee and on the Big Cypress Reservation south of Lake Okeechobee.

The Seminole Tribe has long been recognized for innovation in its gaming and other businesses. It opened the first high-stakes bingo hall and casino in the United States in 1979. That facility was the forerunner of the Indian Gaming movement throughout North America. Analysts believe today's Seminole Tribe operates one of the most profitable gaming enterprises in the world. Nearly 3,300 Seminole Indians live on and off reservations throughout Florida. Seminoles pay taxes, serve in the U.S. Armed



Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tampa, Florida

Forces, and vote in elections. They are descended from a few hundred Seminoles that escaped into the Everglades in the mid-1800s, when the U.S. Government attempted to relocate all of Florida's Seminoles and other Indians to Oklahoma in what became known as "The Trail of Tears." For more information on the Seminole Tribe of Florida, visit [www.semtribe.com](http://www.semtribe.com).

### *Hard Rock, Tampa, Florida*

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino officially opened with the smashing of a guitar, 'Hard-Rock-style,' and Flying Elvi skydivers in Elvis costumes jumping from an altitude of 10,000 feet and performing death-defying free-fall airborne acrobatics before parachuting to earth. With the official guitar smash, the Flying Elvi skydivers and concerts by Hootie & the Blowfish, the grand opening of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ushered in a new dimension of entertainment excitement in Tampa Bay.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa blends the excitement of Hard Rock with a first-class boutique hotel and Las Vegas-style casino. The complex consists of a 90,000 square foot casino within a 210,000 sq. ft. low-rise building, a 12-story hotel tower and an enclosed parking facility with more than 2600 free parking spaces,



House Chips

Grand Opening Chips



all situated on 37 acres. The hotel also includes 10,000 square feet of meeting space, including an 8,000 square foot grand ballroom divisible into eight sections.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa is located east of the city and just off I-4 at North Orient Road on the Seminole Indian Reservation in Tampa. It is 20 minutes east of Tampa International Airport, 10 minutes east of downtown Tampa, and five minutes east of historic Ybor City on I-4. It is located about one hour west of Orlando-area attractions, via I-4.

A 50-foot-tall signature Hard Rock guitar modeled after one played by Paul McCartney greets visitors who arrive at the hotel and casino complex. A multi-level fountain highlights another pair of oversized, artistic guitars, perched in front of the hotel's porte cochere main entrance, which leads into the modern hotel lobby, highlighted by extra-large, framed photos of rock music legends such as Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead, The Doors' Jim Morrison, Peter Townsend of The Who, and others. In keeping with the Hard Rock theme, the hotel and casino showcase signed, one-of-a-kind pieces of music memorabilia. Actual guitars are showcased inside the lobby, with the most valuable items in the hotel's rock music memorabilia collection displayed in clear, protective cases. The hotel lobby provides access to the Body Rock full-service fitness center & spa, as well as to the Green Room 24-hour restaurant, guestroom elevators, pool deck and arcade to the parking garage.

250 contemporary guestrooms and suites are located in a 12-story hotel tower. All Seminole Hard Rock Hotel guestrooms include unique extras like Tivoli stereo and CD systems, and ultra-luxury beds with linens of Egyptian cotton and European duvets. Typical guestrooms have natural daylight to the bathrooms, separate enclosures for tub and shower and fully-stocked mini bars, as well as

hairdryers, personal safes, coffee makers, three telephones, T1 direct Internet access, bathrobes and an iron and ironing board. There is also the ultra rock star experience in the Apollo Suite or Filmore Suite, the two largest suites in the hotel.

Body Rock is a full-service fitness center offering massages and facials, manicures and pedicures, body treatments and waxing services, and personal training in the fully-equipped fitness center & spa. Men's and women's steam rooms and Jacuzzi pools add to the Body Rock pampering options.

The casino is open 24 hours every day, the 90,000 square foot casino offers live action poker and more than 2,500 gaming machines, including Wheel of Fortune, Monopoly, Double Diamond and Red White & Blue. The casino also boasts Florida's largest poker room with more than 50 poker tables dedicated to Omaha Hi-Lo, Texas Hold 'Em and 7 Card Stud. High ceilings rise to a center skylight over the Casino Center Bar with its "Tower of Power" audiovisual experience.



Special Edition  
Chips





On Sunday, April 29th at the Seminole Hard Rock's Lobby Bar, the first ever Limited Edition Seminole Hard Rock Girls Poker Chip Case went on sale! The girls featured in the months of the 2007 Seminole Hard Rock Girls calendar have their own poker chips all in a case that comes complete with a certificate of authenticity. Individual chips went on sale May 1st, and a new chip will be rolled out every two weeks after.

Floyd's, Tampa Bay's hottest restaurant and nightclub is open until 6 a.m. on weekends. Dinner is served nightly from 5 to 10 p.m. A lobby bar featuring live entertainment every night, as well as two dramatic "walls of fire" and a circular bar underneath a canopy of metals and rich woods. There is also a Food Marketplace and new 24-hour restaurant, the Green Room, with a separate coffee and dessert bar. The Green Room features casual dining and a breakfast menu available 'round the clock.

The tropical pool area features a backdrop of cascading fountains and terraced areas, where specially-equipped cabanas featuring televisions and refrigerators overlook the pool from inside traditional Seminole "chickees." Adjacent areas are designed to include beach volleyball, horseshoes and table tennis. A separate wading pool complements the main swimming pool, which features a sand-bottom beach entry at one end.



Common reverse



Seminole Hard Rock Girls poker chips with case





Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Hollywood, Florida

### *Hard Rock, Hollywood, Florida*

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino opened on May 11, 2004 and included the traditional smashing of an acoustic guitar, Hard Rock-style, and a painting-to-music performance by high-energy artist Michael Israel. While loudspeakers blared Rock And Roll All Nite, the song made famous by the rock group Kiss, Israel created a vibrant canvas in tribute to Kiss leader Gene Simmons. Leaders of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, which owns the elaborate Seminole Hard Rock project, officially cut the grand opening ribbon to usher in a new dimension of entertainment for South Florida. The 12-story Mediterranean-style tower has 500 spacious guest rooms including 63 suites with panoramic views. The Hotel and Casino is located in the heart of Hollywood, Fla. on US 441.

Guests arriving at the hotel and casino are greeted by the hotel's tropical landscaping and a 50-foot neon guitar modeled after one played by Jimi Hendrix. A Hard Rock Store and a Seminole cultural retail store are located near the main entrance, adjacent to the guest registration lobby and reception desk.





In keeping with the Hard Rock theme, the hotel and casino showcase, one-of-a-kind pieces of music memorabilia, including many signed by the artists. Hundreds of pieces of memorabilia at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood pay homage to several rock music genres, including the Originators of rock music, the British Invasion, Heavy Metal, Legends of Soul, and Southern Rock. The following are represented: Elvis, The Beatles, Madonna, Elton John, Aerosmith, The Who, the Rolling Stones, as well as South Florida's Gloria Estefan and the Bee Gees.

A 4.5-acre lagoon-style pool area of more than 19,000 square feet meanders around the pool bar nestled into the towering rock mountain, which provides a dramatic backdrop to a 182-foot waterslide and a 12-person elevated spa. The pool features dramatic waterfalls, hot tubs and a shallow pool for large parties to enjoy. Deluxe poolside cabanas have been created from traditional frond-covered Seminole chickees and are equipped with televisions and refrigerators, phones, ceiling fans and solid teak and aluminum lounge chairs. Jungle-like landscaping creates a lush and tropical oasis, with dramatic tree plantings and colorful masses of flowers and shrubs.

The focal points for dining and entertainment are the Council Oak, one of South Florida's best steak and seafood restaurants, and the Hard Rock Cafe. The hotel also includes a 24-hour restaurant, the Blue Plate, as well as the Constant Grind coffee bar. The 3,000 sq. ft. Beach Club is the entertainment hub of the pool area. The center bar, located in the middle of the Seminole Hard Rock Casino, provides a birds-eye view of the casino floor while surrounding a metal "Tower of Power" multimedia area, with nearly 70 plasma screen TVs. A variety of food concepts and menu items are available at the 250-seat Food Court.

The Seminole Okalee Indian Village invites you to experience the culture and history of the Seminole People. The facility introduces visitors to the Tribal ways of life through live arts and crafts demonstrations in our authentic Seminole Village. It is also home to over 30 species of Florida animals including: alligators, turtles, river otters, the endangered Florida Panther, and more!

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood is open every day, 24 hours-a-day. 48 live-action Poker tables and over 2,100 of the hottest gaming machines on the planet, including all the favorites like Video Poker, Blues Brothers, Cleopatra, Enchanted Unicorn, Hexbreaker, Little Green Men, Monopoly, Spam, Texas Tea and Wheel of Fortune plus classics like Double



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Hard Rock Live, an acoustically superior state-of-the-art arena, features seating for 5,500 music lovers, sports fans or conventioners in comfort and style. Get close to the action for national acts, world championship boxing, and more.



Paradise Theatre is a 12,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility on two levels of sheer elegance and sophistication that brings the magic of Las Vegas entertainment together with the spirit, and love and passion of Broadway, that has never been seen before live on stage. It provides the most talented, showgirls in the world, creating magical, sensual and explosive choreographed acts that rival Cirque Du Soleil, live and up close. Paradise Theatre is Cutting Edge Dance/Theatre that exceeds all expectations and "pushes the limit of live entertainment to a new dimension!"



The club district, which is located just outside the Hotel and Casino, offers a nightclub experience like no other in South Florida. Visit one of the 9 clubs and lounges featuring dj's spinning the hottest tunes, live bands as well as dancers, tattoo artists and much more. Straight from New York is a spin-off of the world-renowned celebrity ultra-lounge Pangaea and The Gryphon. Murphy's Law has a following that parties until the sun comes up and the Improv Comedy Club features the country's funniest comedians on a weekly basis. Sing-a-long at 88s Dueling Pianos, play some trickshot at Knighttime Billiards, or dance the night away at Passions or Spirits. Called the voice of new Jazz culture, Jazziz Bistro has given many of the hottest Jazz, Blues and New World artists their start.

I would like to thank the following people for making this article possible:

Gina Araya  
Public Relations & Advertising Coordinator  
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tampa

Victoria Martinez  
Dan Klores Communications

Steve Bedo  
Von McKenzie  
Mark Lighterman  
Greg Susong





# The New Show on the Block

by David Takach

June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007 came and went, as did the Nor Cal Casino Collectibles Show put on by TopShelfChips.com and yours truly. Was the Show a success? I guess that depends on who you ask and what your definition of success is...

Did the attendees and the dealers have a good time? I think they did. Most told me they did. And besides, what could be more fun than getting together with some old friends, looking at a whole bunch of chips and casino stuff, buying some chips for your collection, selling some other chips to buy new chips and let's not forget Darla and Emily, the TopShelf Chip Girls...uh huh!

Personally, I looked at it from a different perspective. Being the Show Promoter, my goals were two-fold. One was to get enough dealers there to make the attending public happy and two was to get enough people attending to make the dealers happy. Was that accomplished? Not really...

Everyone told me it's hard to get the first Show off the ground. I wasn't buying it! I'm a very competitive person at heart and it sounded like a challenge to me and I put that thought right out of my mind! I have an extensive business and retail background including some marketing experience...*although from the turnout for the Show you might not have guessed...* I thought if I did some major advertising I could bring the people for the dealers. I also thought that if the dealers knew of my advertising it would bring them as well. Things don't always work out the way you plan.

Once the advertising was planned, one of the first things I set out to do was to get the dealers. Not as easy as I thought. Some dealers knowing this was a "first Show" said they'd wait to see what would happen and they declined my invitation. Others said they couldn't make it because of various reasons...school, family get-togethers, too far to travel, had to prepare for the Convention, had an ebay auction coming up, snow skiing, flat tire...etc. Others just flat out told me "no". (I do appreciate the honesty!) Some actually said yes! Doug Saito had planned on doing a Reno-Tahoe auction and thought Northern California would be a great area for his auction. (Those of you who know Doug also know that he could sell chips on the moon!) But now at least I had

one dealer! Then a few others said they would come out to sell at the Show. (*We're movin' now!*)

I now had a good base of dealers and thought as word traveled I would pick up a few more. I moved on to getting a venue. I knew the area so I called about 40 hotels, 2 Masonic Centers, 5 Community Centers, 4 Civic Centers, 2 City Parks, all the local Indian Casinos and partridge in a pear tree to see what facilities they had and at what cost. The prices ranged from \$2,000 a day to \$15,000 a day. I reminded myself that I wasn't a large club that can afford to put up the kind of money they can and found a place that sounded like it would be great. I chose the Placer County Fair Grounds. Well known for its annual fair and also for its NASCAR race track. The price was within my *ever expanding* budget so I plunked down a deposit. I was now committed.

I then began to work on the advertising. I had decided that a TV ad that caught the attention of the Sacramento valley and the surrounding area should be enough to attract enough of the 800,000 people it would reach. I targeted all the poker shows thinking this would be the best audience that might have an interest in chips. The World Poker Tour, The World Series of Poker, High Stakes Poker and ESPN2 should reach enough chip enthusiasts. I then put together a commercial spot with the help of the experts at Comcast Cable. I did the voice over for the small script and off we went! I ran 70 spots over a period of about 5 weeks. I ran another full page ad in the Club magazine and had already started to send out flyers with my ebay sales. I hit all the local poker rooms and left flyers as well as at any other stores that would allow me to leave them. Then I hit the phones again. Calling other dealers and anyone else I could think of that might be interested in selling or coming to the Show. I had flyers posted in Reno at some of the antique stores and even worked the Sacramento antique fair under the freeway handing out a couple of hundred flyers as I went.

My wife's birthday was a few weeks before the Show so we had planned on going out to Thunder Valley Indian Casino for dinner. I made up about 1000 post cards and I and my wife placed a bunch on windshields of cars in the parking lot at Thunder Valley...*at least until parking lot security asked us to cease and desist...*(by the way...my wife's idea).



David Takach

Of course I also did the usual advertising on Greg Susong's Chip Board as well as my website, TopShelfChips.com. I got a great response to my website from the chip board and a bunch of encouraging comments from the group.

Back to the question at hand, "Was the Show a success?" I think I did get a great bunch of dealers to come to the Show. (I think about 21 dealers and 36 tables in all. Not quite my goal though). But I have to say that with the core group of dealers that we had, any amount of people that showed up would have been very pleased with the variety of casino memorabilia and especially with how cordial and nice the dealers were to the people that did come to the Show! I even got a great comment from the food vendor that I brought in, with her saying that "out of all the shows she's done, these were the most polite group of dealers she ever had the pleasure of serving!"

But was the Show a success??? Well, I did have a few dealers come up to me to tell me that they appreciated the effort I put into the Show and that they would be willing to sign up for next year's Show. (At first I thought they were kidding me. I thought, "How can they want to come to another Show that didn't have the turnout that anybody expected!") But they weren't kidding. They were actually extremely encour-



Emily and Darla

aging and complimentary about the Show and my efforts. Some also told me that they made money at the Show. I was very glad to hear that!

Did I learn anything? I absolutely did. I learned a long time ago that mistakes are good if you only make them once and if you learn from them. I learned that if I decide to do another Show I would make it a one day Show. I might also change the venue.

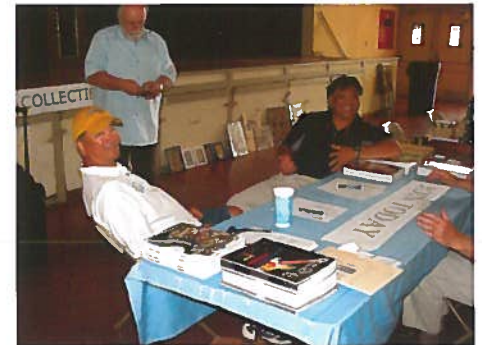
Will I do another Show? I don't know. I will think about the things I did and the way things turned out and evaluate all my options. I think I'll also let the dust settle from this Show before I decide to take on a huge venture like this again. I have a great appreciation for the people that put on a Show like this!

Was the Show a success? I'll have to get over my initial disappointment in the attendance and evaluate what I would do differently if I did another Show before I think I'd be qualified to answer that one. I think it will be best to leave that up to the dealers and the general public that came out to support my first effort at a Show.

I would like to thank all the dealers and club members that did come out to support the Nor Cal Casino Collectibles Show! (First Annual??? We'll see.)



Steve Passalacqua



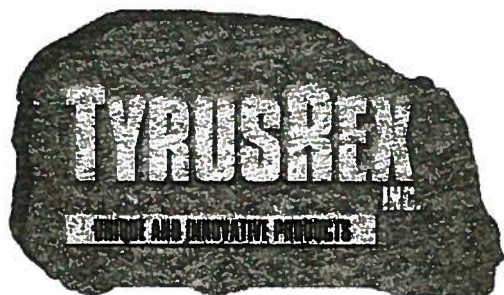
Todd Dingley and John Yee



John Yee and Tyrus Mulkey



Dawn Satter



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# The Southern Nevada Chip Report

by Tyrus Mulkey

Greetings Southern Nevada Chip Collectors!

Little ole Railroad Pass celebrated their 75th Anniversary recently and released a \$5 chip. I would have released a \$4 chip since they hold gaming license #4, but they didn't ask me.



Hooters released the March Calendar \$5 chip.



St Patrick's Day is always fun in Las Vegas. Then again, every day is fun in Las Vegas. Remember the good ole days when Caesars dyed the water in the fountain green? No green fountains this year, but plenty of chips! Ramada Express, Bally's, Paris, Rio, Four Queens, and Fitzgerald's each released a \$5 chip.



The Venetian has signed comedian/singer Gordie Brown and they released a chip to prove it. I consider these chips House chips, they are not Limited Editions.



The Eureka celebrated 10 years and released a \$5 and \$25 chip with identical artwork. This is the Eureka in Mesquite, not the one on Sahara. But speaking of the Eureka on Sahara – I was in there tonight with fellow chipper Dawn S. and we met Elvis' son. At least he told us he was the King's son and no one hanging out at the Eureka bar would ever lie, would they? Next time you're in Las Vegas, visit this little hole in the wall. You'll meet ALL kinds!! Anyway, they removed all of the old Vegas photos in the walls of the restaurant. It's too bad because they had some GREAT pictures of old Vegas. I don't know what happened to them. I do, however, know what happened to all of the old Vegas memorabilia that used to be across the street from the Eureka and on the walls of Tony Roma's. It has also been removed as TR's did a complete remodel. They also had some great old Vegas memorabilia and it's too bad they removed it. That's the Tony Roma's where Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal was when his car



exploded. I eat there about four or five times a month and I always park in Lefty's infamous parking space. A little bird told me the memorabilia will show up again soon – perhaps at the Riviera in August?



The Four Queens issued their 2007 house fifty cent chip. They also issued a \$5 chip for the inaugural running of the Las Vegas Grand Prix. I live downtown and there was a lot of excitement around here building up to the race. Many streets were blocked off as the course was built. Of course, the roar of the engines during practice laps and the race made an otherwise quiet Easter weekend come to life!



And speaking of Easter - Bally's, Paris, Rio, and Ellis Island each released a \$5 Easter chip.



Bally's also released a \$5 showgirl chip.



The Palms released four No Value chips for the River King Poker Tournament held there.



Welcome to the Strip Planet Hollywood! Its official, the Aladdin is no more! The resort officially changed their name to Planet Hollywood on April 17th. All Aladdin chips were removed and will be honored until July 17th. After that, you're stuck with them! The new rack for PH is shown here. NOTE: The baccarat chips are all oversized (43 mm).







A few days after they opened, PH released their first LE commemorating the show “Stomp Out Loud” which will be performing there for a while.



Wow, ‘tis the season for anniversaries! The Tropicana turned fifty and released their first LE in a long time to celebrate! Have you seen the plans for the Trop? They will be adding several towers and are planning 10,000 rooms!! That’s twice the size of the MGM! Go Trop!



The Pearl has opened at the Palms. It’s a new concert theater and Gwen Stefani was the first act to play at the venue. The Palms released a \$5 and a \$25 chip with different artwork.



Hooters released a \$25 Calendar Girl chip with Breanne on it. Although Hooters attempted to release a \$25 chip each quarter, there seems to be no rhyme or reason as to the release dates. It didn’t go as originally planned – no surprise there!



Laughlin, NV held the 25th annual River Run in April. Although Laughlin is just a short drive from Las Vegas, it’s the first River Run that I’ve ever attended. It won’t be the last, though, because I had a great time. My traveling companion, Sam Wagmeister, and I met up with fellow chippers and walked countless miles in the Nevada heat. We hit every casino in town filling up our bags with chips, our skin with sunburns, and our bellies with Cadillac Margaritas. Sam attempted to get us beat up several times by hitting on “biker chicks” but, when exhaustion set in, he decided to take a rest. When Sam attempted to sit down at a slot machine he missed the chair!! Unfortunately, my back was turned since I was buying chips, but everyone else in the Harrah’s poker room saw it. Too bad we don’t have access to the surveillance tapes because I hear it was so funny that we’d be

guaranteed the top prize on America’s Funniest Videos! We survived the trip and brought back the following seven chips that were released from the Golden Nugget, Aquarius, Colorado Belle, Edgewater, River Palms, and the Pioneer (two chips).





The Orleans has yet to issue a 2007 \$1 or \$5 chip, but they did release a 2007 \$2 chip – their first \$2 chip. It's used on some of the poker games, as well as being used by dealers as a drop chip.



With time about to run out, Hooters released the April calendar girl Tiffany \$5 chip.



Happy Cinco de Mayo to all of my Mexican readers! It was a crazy weekend in Las Vegas. We had Cinco de Mayo, which is a party unto itself, and the Kentucky Derby and a fight all in one weekend. The Rio and the Hard Rock each released Cinco de Mayo chips.



The MGM released \$5, \$25, and \$100 chips for the De La Hoya vs. Mayweather 'The World Awaits' fight. All three denominations had the same artwork, which was also on keys used at the MGM for the week-end.



Arizona Charlie's Decatur released a three chip set celebrating the 2007 Triple Crown. One chip has the state of Kentucky outlined with the May 5th date (Kentucky Derby), the second chip has the state of Maryland outlined with the May 19th date (Preakness Stakes), and the third chip has the state of New York outlined with the June 9th date (Belmont Stakes). The common reverse states "Celebrating 19 Years of Good Food & Fun" making these Anniversary chips as well!

Ellis Island continued their "Honoring Immigrants" series with a Norway chip.



Please stop by my booth at the annual convention and say hello. I look forward to seeing everyone that I know and meeting everyone that I haven't met. Mention my quarterly articles and I'll give you one of my personal chips. Tell me how GREAT my articles are and I'll give you TWO chips!! A good time will be had by all!

Special thanks to Paul Hegge ([www.silver-state-treasures.com](http://www.silver-state-treasures.com)) for providing the high dollar Planet Hollywood chip images. Thanks Paul!

That's it for Southern Nevada! Thanks for reading.

All of the chips mentioned in this article, and thousands of others, can be viewed 24/7 at [www.TyrusRex.com](http://www.TyrusRex.com).



# \* Captain Q \*

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## 2006 Convention Chip – \$4.00

Prior Year Chips Available- '95, '96, '99, '01, '02, '03, 04 (\$4.00 each)

Set of 8 convention chips (including 2006) \$25.00



## 2006 Riviera Convention Chip – \$5.00

## 2006 Poker/Blackjack Tournament Chip Set – \$15.00

Prior Year Sets Available - '01, '02, '04, 05

2 or more sets \$12.00 each



## 2006 Convention Pin

\$4.00

Prior Year Pins Available 1997-2005

\$3.00 each

Set of all 10 Pins (including 2006)

\$25.00



## CC&GTCC Member Pin

\$5.00 (New)

## 2006 Convention Medal Set

\$25.00

2005 Convention Medal Set – \$25.00

1993 - 2004 Bronze Only \$3.00 ea



**2006 Convention Tee Shirt – \$10.00**

Sizes Small – XXXL. 2005 sizes small - L

Prior Year Tee Shirts – \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00 (Not all sizes available)

**CC&GTCC Tee Shirt – \$10.00**

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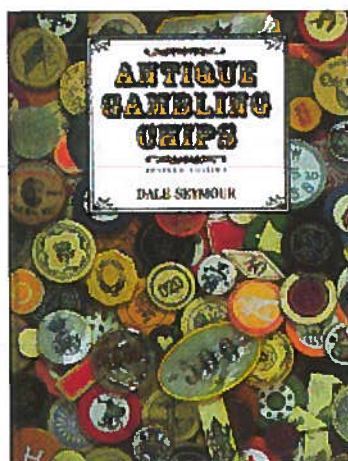
**Dale Seymour's 'Antique Gambling Chips' Hardback – \$15.00**

**Casino Chip & Token News Back Issues**

(1998-2005) – \$3.00 ea.

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Inquire About Issues Prior to 1998



CC&GTCC Cap



2006 Convention T-Shirt

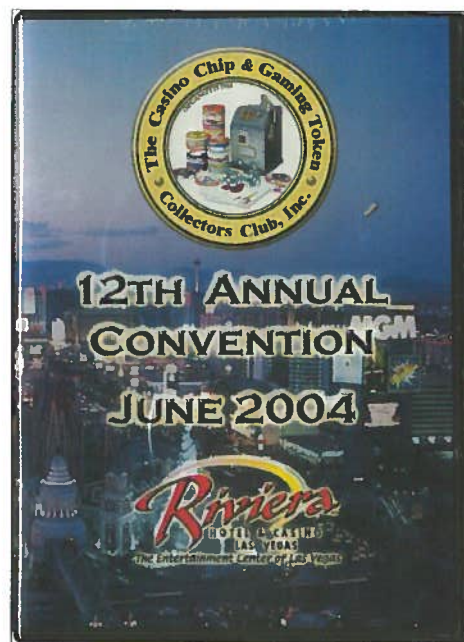
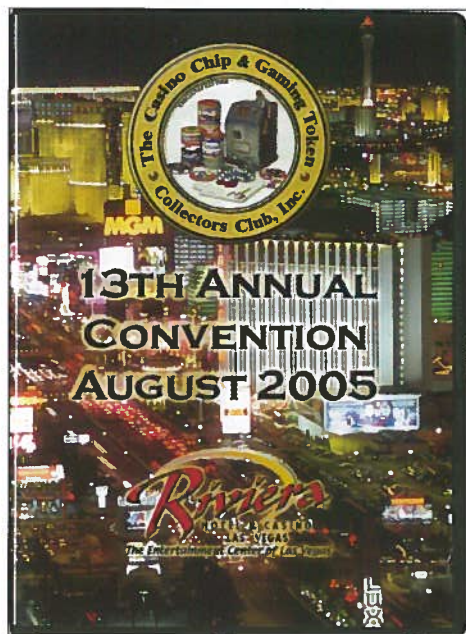


CC&GTCC Polo Shirt



CC&GTCC T-Shirt





2006 Convention DVD – \$15.00

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All 3 DVD's for \$25.00

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# CC&GTCC Building Fund

by Andy Hughes

## Building Fund Committee

The balance in the Building Fund as of December 31, 2006 is \$94,463.

The Building Fund Committee is comprised of the following club members:

Jim Kruse (Chairman)  
Robert Pardue  
Andy Hughes  
Archie Black  
Greg Susong

## Vision & Feasibility Committee

The Vision & Feasibility Committee is comprised of the following club members:

Jim Pierre (Chairman Emeritus)  
Bill Judge  
Mike Quinlivan  
Jim Kruse  
Wayne Thompson  
Eric Rosenblum  
Nate Pincus  
Chuck Tomarchio  
Travis Lewin  
Mike Skelton

Below are items that are for sale with ALL of the money going to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Building Fund!

Please mail a check out for the correct amount to:  
Mike Quinlivan  
Treasurer CC&GTCC  
P.O. Box 249  
Atwood, CA 92811-0249

Once the check arrives Mike will let the Building Fund Committee know & the items will be mailed out.

**Nevada Casino Chips** had the chip below made up in April of 2007. 100 were made with engraved numbers & they are oversized (44MM) chips. ALL of the money raised from the sale of the chips goes to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Building Fund! The price is \$100 each.



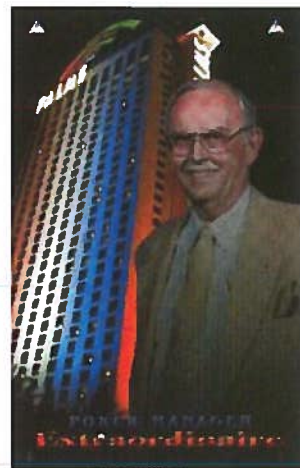
The NCV **Palms** chip below was given out one per person with a coupon at the 2002 CC&GTCC Convention. There were only 850 made & the Palms graciously donated the remainder to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Building Fund! The price is \$10 each.



The chip below was designed by **Debby Meister** who had it made for the 2004 CC&GTCC Convention. There were only 100 made. The price is \$20 each.



The room key below was made for Palms Poker Room Manager Gene Trimble. There were only 250 made. The price is \$10 each.



Trump Marina set of three non-gaming tokens (shown with the common back). The Trump Marina graciously donated the tokens to The Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club Building Fund! The price is \$10 a set.



Common back



These are some of the chips available from David Spragg on behalf of the CC&GTCC Building Fund. 100% of the proceeds (net for the personal stacker set) will be donated to the building fund. There is no charge for shipping. For more information on these chips got to: [www.marlowcasinochips.com](http://www.marlowcasinochips.com)



2006 Palms show reception & trade session. \$10.00.



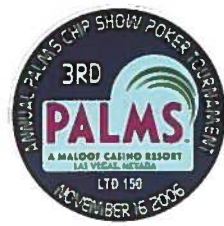
2006 CC&GTCC Convention grab bag. \$15.00.



Slab Free - \$10.00



2006 Palms chip show poker tournament players in the form of card cappers. \$10.00.



2005 Palms show reception and trade session attendees. \$10.00.



2006 Palms chip show poker tournament players. \$10.00.



2005 Palms show reception and trade session attendees. \$10.00.



Happy Halloween 2006. Donated by Debby Meister and Steve Palumbo. Standard sized ceramic plaque. \$20.00



2004 Palms show "last dance". \$10.00.



First 4 in a stacker set of 5. \$5 each.



Given out as gifts to 2006 CC&GTCC Convention poker tournament players in the form of card cappers. \$10.00



4th annual ChipBoard get together at the Palms, 2004. Donated by Greg Susong. \$5.00



2006 Palms show reception & trade session. \$10.00.



House of Hanover. \$5 denom A-crest mold. Various colors. \$15.00





# RIVERBOATS

by Greg C. Susong

Hello Riverboat Collectors! Sorry I missed last issue. There hasn't been much going on in the way of new riverboat casino chips.

The Horseshoe Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa has released a \$5 Brad Paisley chip.



Harrah's in Council Bluffs, IA has two new celebrity chips, a \$5 Tony Bennett and a \$5 James Brown.



Ameristar Casino in Council Bluffs, IA has put new \$2.50, \$5 and \$25 chips on the tables.



Hollywood Casino in Baton Rouge, LA opened in March 2007.



Thanks to everyone that helps keep me informed about new casino openings and new chip releases. It would be impossible for me to gather all this information without your help. If you are connected to the internet, please stop by <http://www.chipguide.com> to see my complete online guide with all these photos and thousands more in full color.

There are several hundred chip collectors who get together every day and discuss the hobby on The Chip Board at <http://www.thechipboard.com>. Please feel free to join in.

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# Interesting Facts About the Riviera \$20 Silver Strike

by Richard B. Anderson

The Riviera \$20 silver strike was minted by Letcher Mint in 1995. A sample was approved on 07/14/95 and the quantity approved at that time was 1010. The description of the strike under remarks was “The Entertainment Center of Nevada.” All of the above came from the 1995 Nevada Gaming Commission print out.

Letcher Mint (LM mint mark) changed their name to Global Mint (Gmint mark). The NV Gaming Commission gave Gloabl Mint a variance so they could continue to use the LM mint mark on existing dies.

Now comes the interesting part. The obverse eagle design used on the Riviera \$20 strike is the “Official Emblem of Syria.” The banner below the eagles tail feathers has Arabic writing. The banners’ English translation is “The Syrian Republic.” The Gaming Commission should have listed the obverse design in the remarks column. The inscription on the reverse side below Riviera Hotel Casino is “The Entertainment Center of Las Vegas, Nevada.”

The Westward-Ho also had a \$20 different obverse eagle It was listed undwer the remarks column as “Eagle, Limited Edition Collector’s Series.” The strike was approved 07/03/95.



Actual size. Notice the inscription on the “banner” below the eagles tail feathers

# Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Biloxi

## Grand Opening 07/07/07



by Allan Anderson

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Biloxi has set their official Grand Opening for July 7, 2007. The property, which was originally slated to open August 2005, has undergone a renovation and rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. The Peavey guitar, a brand symbol which withstood the Hurricane, stands waiting to welcome guests. At 112 feet tall, it rises as high as an 11-story building and will be the largest guitar sign at any Hard Rock Cafe. The Grand Opening will have an electrifying lineup of musical talent headlined by recording artist Kid Rock and band 3 Doors Down. Hard Rock Biloxi will continue its inaugural summer lineup with legendary rock acts like Cheap Trick, Steppenwolf, Poison, and Mötley Crüe's Vince Neil, as well as newer artists such as Chris Daughtry's

eponymous band Daughtry, Macy Gray and The Big Heavies, and Blue October. Guests of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Biloxi age 21 and older can enjoy these concerts throughout the summer

Hard Rock Biloxi, located in the heart of Biloxi, features 318 guest rooms and suites in a 12-story, purple and white hotel tower that brings a new level of accommodations to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. All 26-suites feature views overlooking the Gulf of Mexico or the Hard Rock pool deck. Standard rooms are equipped with high tech comforts and luxury amenities such as 42" plasma screen televisions, touch screen phones, Bose CD Music Systems, wireless internet, Aveda bath products, three-shower-head baths and all-white posh duvet

cover tucked beneath a six-foot-tall, deep-purple headboard.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Biloxi will proudly boast historic, cool, unforgettable pieces of rock memorabilia, a nostalgic and famous staple of the Hard Rock International brand. Hard Rock owns the greatest collection of music memorabilia- its first piece being a guitar once owned by the legendary Eric Clapton, which will be on display at the Biloxi property during the opening.

Upon entry guests are greeted with an impressive two-story memorabilia display including newly appointed guitars, plus celebrity pants, shirts, awards, miscellaneous instruments, posters, photos and



more. Recovered pieces of memorabilia, including Johnny Cash's guitar that was found by a local citizen and returned to Hard Rock, will be featured in the separate Katrina memorial located on the entrance wall to the Casino, next to Ruth's Chris Steak House. Elvis Presley's Army uniform, found on a mannequin floating in the Mississippi Sound, will also be back on display. Famous artist memorabilia is abundant throughout the property with the right mix of genres and decades to suit all demographics and tastes.

Among the property's entertainment offerings, Hard Rock Biloxi will boast a club/lounge from Rande Gerber, nightlife proprietor who along with his brother Scott are founders of Gerber Group and creators of independent lounges around the world. Accessed by a dedicated elevator on the hotel's top floor, RISE encompasses approximately 4,000-square-feet of cool, luxurious architectural detail replete with floor to ceiling windows giving a pristine and unobstructed 180 degree view of the Gulf of Mexico and central Biloxi. Chalet VIP nooks, one possessing 300 square-feet with its own private bar, creates an intimate lounge within a lounge. RISE will debut a new genre of nightlife to the region fusing cut-



Reception area



ting-edge interiors, exclusive clientele and signature cocktails to create an ambience of unparalleled style and sophistication.

The legendary upscale steakhouse group, Ruth's Chris, founded in New Orleans over 40 years ago, will be the hotel and casino's premiere culinary offering. The 223-seat restaurant will be located just outside the gaming entrance along the hotel's main thoroughfare.

The casino's Center Bar is located in the center of the casino floor on an elevated platform and will display musical relics like BB King's guitar Lucille, as well as mannequins, graphics, and photos of such rock and pop-culture icons as Aerosmith and Prince.

The Biloxi casino's beachfront emblem, the world's largest guitar Hard Rock sign, replicates the HP Signature™ guitar, named for Peavey's founder and sole owner, Hartley Peavey. Hartley operates the prestigious Mississippi-based company known throughout the world as one of the best manufacturers of musical instruments and sound equipment. It takes 1.5 million volts of

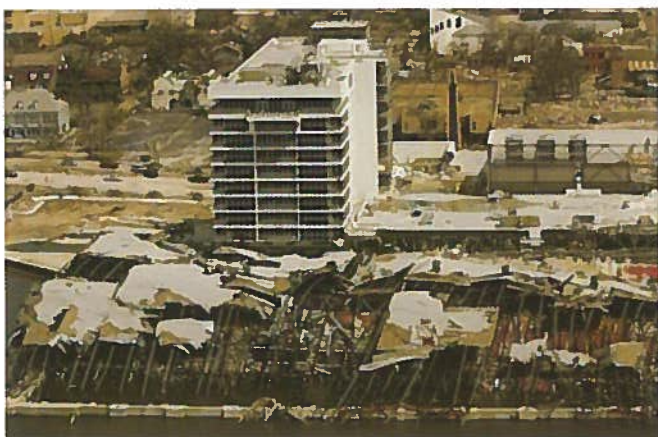
electricity to illuminate the sign and an exhaust system circulates air in the sign's interior. The foundation starts 90 feet under with 12 concrete pilings, the base columns weigh roughly around 40,000 pounds. The sign will have 6,210 feet of neon and was made to withstand winds up to 180mph.

The property will include a Hard Rock casino with 1,445 slot machines, 50 table games, and a

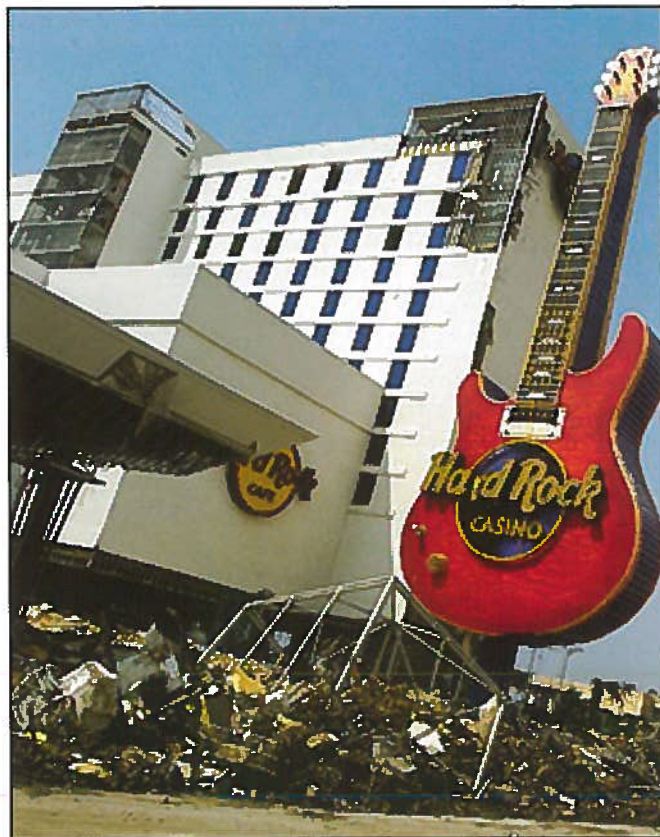


Hallway

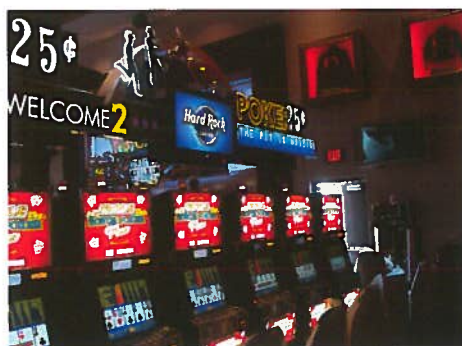




Hurricane Katrina damage

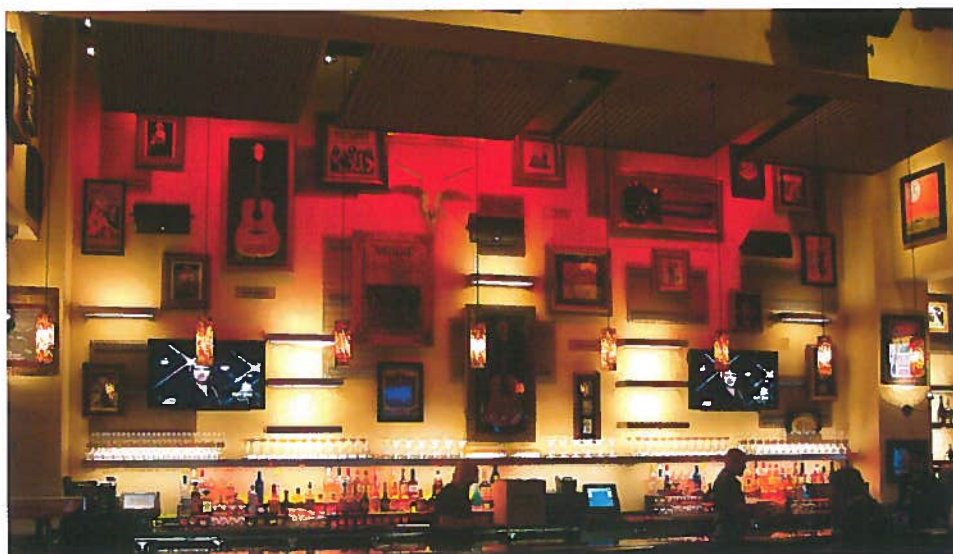


poker room. The Rock Spa, a full-service, Aveda Concept Spa, will offer services such as facials, massages, body wraps, and nails. Salon Merge will be a further amenity located within the Rock Spa. Additional conveniences include a fitness center, a unique beach pool with underwater music features, Rande Gerber club/lounge, five restaurants including Ruth's Chris Steak House, Satisfaction Buffet, 24/7 Grille, Vibe, a world fusion gourmet, and Hard Rock Café. Hard Rock Live®, an entertainment venue, will be open to general admission, holding 1,454 seats. Visitors to the casino and guests of the hotel will have the opportunity to enjoy 322 reserved balcony seats.



Retail shops and partner restaurants are the Rock Shop, locally owned clothing store, Taunt, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, and Starbucks.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi is owned and operated by Premier Entertainment Biloxi LLC d/b/a Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Biloxi.



I would like to thank Christine Catarino, Dan Klores Communications for making this article possible.

Bar





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# 2007 Convention Update

## Riviera Hotel

Las Vegas NV

August 8 – 11, 2007

by Jim Steffner

Aloha 15 Yes we've reached a big milestone, this is the 15th Annual Convention.

There is a lot planned for this years big event...chips, tokens, silver strikes, ashtrays, matchbooks, slot cards and room keys, and other casino memorabilia, plus exhibits, seminars, trade sessions, and best of all the chance to meet some really great people. See the convention schedule in this issue along with a floor plan and dealer listings.

The Riviera Hotel will be our host for 2007 and is anxious to provide another first class venue. Meet your friends in the Royale Ballroom 1-4. The large show floor, close parking and easy access, spacious meeting rooms, and many exciting events await. We look forward to seeing everyone in just a few short weeks.

### Hotel Reservations

Reserve your room directly with the Riviera Hotel. Call their toll free registration number 800-634-6753 or 702-794-9412. Be sure to mention that you are with the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club. Ask for your confirmation number. Deadline to book our special room is July 20th, 2007 or until our block of rooms is filled.

Hotel room rates for the 2007 convention will be \$69.00 for Sunday thru Thursday, and \$79.00 for Friday & Saturday. Special rates are effective from Friday August 3rd thru Monday August 13th for those who wish to arrive early or stay over. All reservations made at the Riviera and included in our special club room block help the club keep costs down in future years and assist us in negotiat-

ing more favorable contracts for future conventions. If we do not generate enough hotel room nights the cost of the show floor and meeting rooms could rise. Support your club and stay at the Riviera.

Members booking rooms at the host hotel provide the club with the low cost convention facilities and make our group a welcome convention in Las Vegas. The room elevators are only a short distance from the showroom, banquet, exhibits, and meetings.

### Early Bird Banquet and Trade Session

The banquet is scheduled for Wednesday evening, August 8th. Our guest speaker this year is Ms Marilyn Winn, President of Bally's, Paris, and

the Rio. Ms Winn has been reported to be a very dynamic speaker and we are very lucky that she will be able to join us. Look for some very interesting and educational stories.

A special contest will be held during the banquet; the "Big Kahuna Shirt Contest". President Mike Skelton is donating the first place prize of \$100.00 in cash. Here's your chance to dress the part, since our convention theme this year is "Aloha" and "Hawaii", and take home some cash to boot. Or you could always spend it on the show floor for some nice chips.

Banquet attendees will receive another collectible, in-a-series, banquet ticket which will be in your registration envelope which can be picked up at the registration desk on Wednesday between 9AM and 4PM ONLY.

When the banquet ends about 8PM, the tables will be open for a gigantic trade session. Bring what you can carry, allow space for others and remember NO direct selling of items. Have fun!

### **Exhibits – Royale 1-4**

This is one of the highlights of the convention and members look forward to seeing what other members collect. In the past exhibits have included chips, tokens, silver strikes, ashtrays, dice, belt buckles, money clips, hotel history, security badges, t-shirt quilt, and much more.

Contact Casey Focazio-Follis, Exhibit Chairman at [thecrow\\_95\\_2001@yahoo.com](mailto:thecrow_95_2001@yahoo.com) if you would like to enter an exhibit.

### **Educational Seminars**

Sheldon Smith, Education Director has lined up some excellent speakers. On Wednesday at 3:00pm Doug Saito and Dick Covington will host "The First Timers Convention Workshop". If you haven't attended a previous convention, this is your chance to learn all the ins and outs of what to see and do. Plenty of chances to ask questions. Get the scoop on how to navigate and have a great time.

On Thursday morning James Campiglia and Michael Knapp will be presenting "The Guide Gurus, TCR & CW3. Both of their chip guides are used by most collectors and this is your opportunity to find out which is best for your particular collecting interests. Thursday afternoon at 3:00pm, Carey Burke, Cameron & Sandra Kessinger, and Don Durnin will be hosting "Nevada Gaming History in Paper". Don't miss this opportunity to see some of the old paper collectibles from casinos that are no more. Friday morning at 8:00am enjoy Steve Fisher, author of "When the Mob Ran Vegas" who will talk about his latest book "The Las Vegas Showgirls". The first book was great, let's see if he can top it with his latest release. Later in the day on Friday, at 3:00pm, Ralph Pollack will be presenting a seminar on "Gaming in the Entire Caribbean". Many foreign chips and collectibles are fascinating and Ralph should keep you entertained the entire time. And finally, on Saturday, Howdy Herz will present "Records of the Chip & Token Companies and Their Vital Nature to Collecting" This is a don't miss seminar with loads of very useful information.

### **Local club meetings**

The Florida Chip Collectors, TITO Collectors, and Silver Strike Club will be holding meetings during the convention. Check the schedule for times and locations if you are interested in attending.

### **Bruce Landau Memorial Auction**

The auction will be Friday evening August 10th and once again Barry Weintraub will be organizing the popular event. With near record bids last year, he has assembled some excellent lots for this year's auction. Be sure to order your auction catalog as they usually sell out by show time. (See auction catalog order form).

### **Poker Challenge and Blackjack Tournament Palms Hotel & Casino**

The poker and blackjack sessions will again be held at the Palms, same as last year. The Palms and Gene Trimble have gone out of their way to provide a nice facility for both tournaments. The action starts on Wednesday with the Blackjack Tournament at Noon. The Poker Challenge will be Thursday evening with a start time of 7:00 PM. Check related article for all the details. Advance signup for both sessions can be done on the registration form or on-line at the club web site. Players can also sign up at the convention for the Poker Challenge if seats are still available, but they usually sell out well before.

A special set of tournament chips will be available and one set is included with each players seat. These chips are used for both the blackjack and the poker tournaments and will be available to players and for purchase



starting on Friday morning when the show opens. Additional sets can be purchased from the Promotion table at the show or by mail. For any questions, please contact Bob Pardue, robert.pardue@cox.net

### Trade Sessions

Several trade sessions are planned during the convention. Check the

schedule at the show for times and locations. Bring some binders but leave space for others. Please, no outright sales of merchandise.

### Last Dance Swap Meet

On Saturday, August 11th, the Last Dance Trade Session will be held. The event will begin at 7PM and last until the last two traders call it quits. This is not a "dance" with a band or music

but just the last chance for members to get together after the convention closes to find that elusive chip, token, or slotcard. Check show schedule for location.

See you all in August and have fun collecting! Aloha 15

## Convention Schedule

### Wednesday – August 8

9:00 am registration opens  
Dealers and Members

9:00 am General trade session – Capri 112 & 113

9:00 am to 4:00 pm – Trade session – No sales

9:00 am Dealer setup begins – Royale 1-4  
Dealer credentials required for entry

12 Noon Blackjack Tournament  
Palms Hotel & Casino

3:00 pm Educational seminar – Royale 7  
"The first timer's workshop"  
Doug Saito & Dick Covington

4:00 pm General trade session closes

Pre-registration & banquet ticket pick-up closes

5:00 pm Dealer setup closes

5:30 pm Early Bird Banquet – Grand B-D  
Ticketed event – Advance purchase only

8:00 pm Member trade session opens  
Grand B-D

### Thursday, August 9th

7:00 am Dealer setup continues – Royale 1-4  
Dealer credentials required for entry

8:00 am Educational seminar – Royal 7  
"The Guide Gurus – TCR & CW3"  
James Campiglia & Michael Knapp

9:00 am Registration opens

10:00 am Opening ceremonies – 2007 show begins  
Royale 1-4

2:00 pm Standards & Archives Committee meeting  
Capri 110

3:00 pm Educational seminar – Royal 8  
"Nevada Gaming History in Paper"  
Carey Burke, Cameron & Sandra Kessinger, Don Durnin  
Silver Strike Forum - Royal 7

5:00 pm Silver Strike meeting – Royal 7

5:30 pm Show floor entrance closed – Exit only

6:00 pm Show in recess until 10:00 am Friday

7:00 pm 10th Annual Poker Tournament  
Palms Hotel & Casino

General trade session – Capri 112 & 113

7:00 pm Show floor secured

## Friday – August 10

8:00 am Dealers with credentials may enter showroom

8:00 am Educational seminar – Royale 7  
Steve Fisher – “The Las Vegas Showgirls”

9:30 am Registration opens

10:00 am Show floor opens to members – Royale 1-4

11:00 am Florida Casino Chip & Gaming  
Token Collectors Club meeting – Capri 112

1:00 pm TITO Collectors Club Meeting – Capri 112

3:00 pm Hall of Fame Committee meeting  
Capri 110

Educational seminar – Royale 7  
“Fifty Years of gaming in the Dutch Caribbean”  
Ralph Pollack

4:30 pm Show floor entrance closed – Exit only

5:00 pm Show in recess until 10:00 am Saturday

6:00 pm General trade session – Capri 112 & 113  
Show floor secured

6:30 pm “Bruce Landau Memorial Auction”  
Royale 7

## Saturday, August 11th

8:00 am Educational seminar – Royale 7  
“Records of the Chip & Token Companies and their  
Nature to Collecting” – Howdy Herz

Dealers with credentials may enter showroom

9:30 am Registration opens

10:00am Show floor opens to members – Royale 1-4

11:00 am Annual CC&GTCC business meeting  
Royale 7

3:30 pm Show entrance closed – Exit only

4:00 pm 2007 Show closes – See you next year

6:00 pm All dealers must vacate show floor

7:00 pm “Last Dance” trade session  
Capri 112 & 113

\*\*\*Times and locations subject to change. Check  
schedule at convention.

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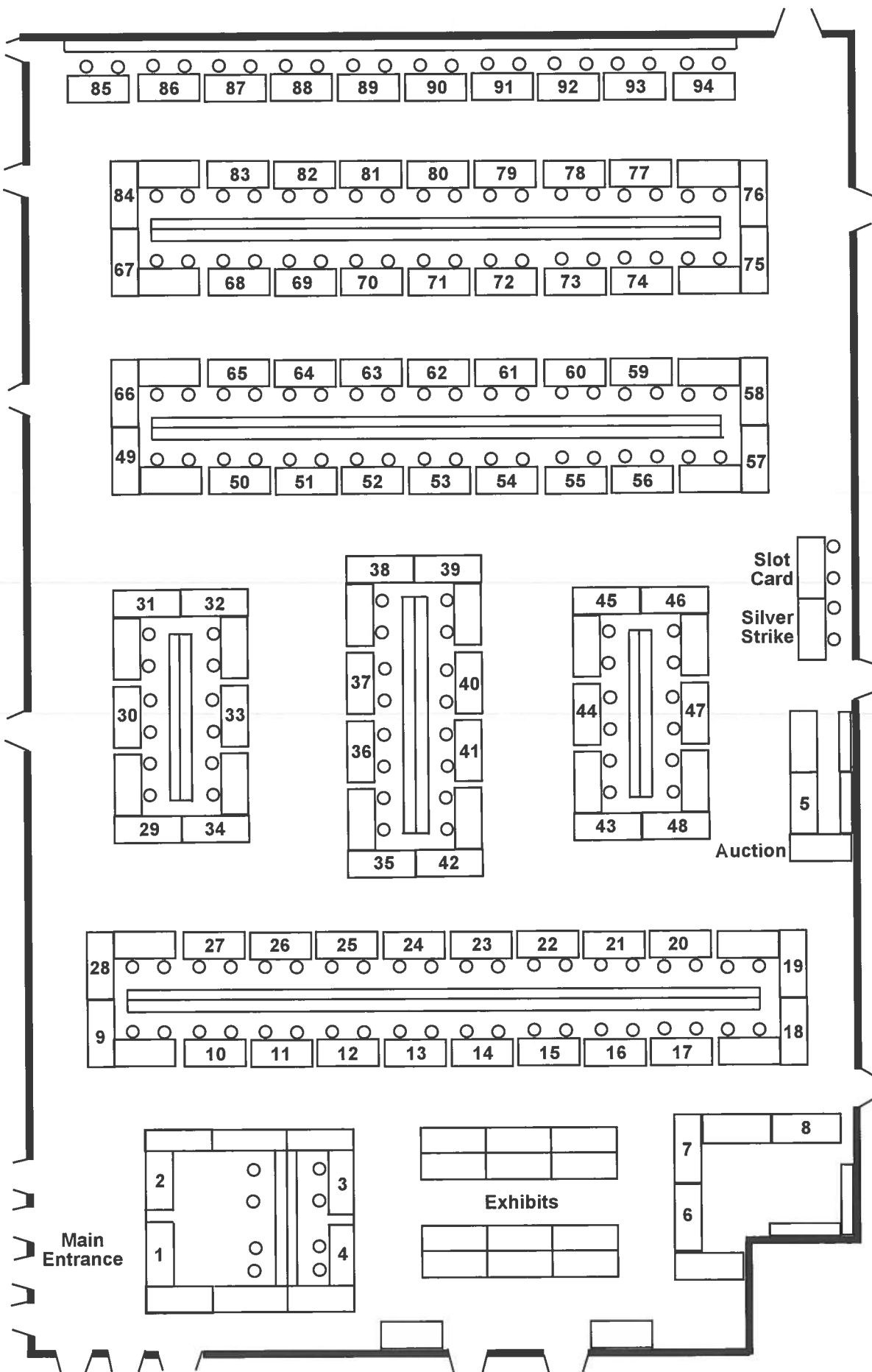
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# Dealers and Table Numbers

Last	First	Table	Last	First	Table
Banick	Allen	24	Minsberg	Ron	17
Benon	Joe	29	Mulkey	Tyrus	69
Betker	Larry & Fran	12	Munding	Jim	20
Birl	Gerald	14	Muscat	Frank	72 - 73
Blanchard	Jim	40	Myers	Allan	39
Bosseler	Bob	36	Nathan	Peter	80
Brach	Dick	62	Olsen	Rick	55 - 56
Bracken	D.P.	77	O'Neal	Janice	25
Brooks	Lynn	30	Passalacqua	Steve	51
Campiglia	James	43	Pfaender	Armin	76
Christensen	Mike	37	Piccolo	Stephen	63 - 64
Cohenour	William	83	Pleau	Tom	91 - 92 - 93
Colangelo	Chris	85	Poluyanskis	Al	88
Cutler	Steven	9	Porter	Dean	21
Deems	Doug	58	Rasmussen	Wes	81
Dirzulaitis	Walter	66	Rauzy	Jim	48
Dolce	Joe	10	Reznick	Joel	67
Ensley	Robert	84	Rodgers	Charles	6, 7, 8
Finn	Dennis	82	Rosenblum	Eric	32 - 33
Fischer	Steve	87	Saito	Doug	49 - 50
Garrett	Henry	11	Sarles	David	41 - 42
Gehl	David	74	Sax	Paul	89
Gonski	Walt	31	Shaffer	Terry	94
Goodrich	Steve	65	Schultz	Wendy	38
Harber	Dave	70	Seymour	Dale	15
Harouff	Dwight	75	Shepherd	Gary	52 - 53
Hartman	Scott	35	Spinetti	Michael	18 - 19
Hayden	Bob	47	Spragg	David	59 - 60
Heller	Mitch	90	Strandwold	Ralph	16
Herz	Howard	79	Takach	David	68
Judge	Bill	86	Thompson	Wayne	23
Kaplan	Howard	26	Totoian	Don	78
Kessinger	Cameron	28	Van der Kar	Peter	71
Kruse	Jim	22	Weintraub	Barry	45
Landau	Eileen	61	Wilker	Stan & Betty	13
Lazarus	Terry	57	CC & GTCC Promotions		1
Lighterman	Mark	46	CC & GTCC Promotions		2
Lonski	Rick	27	CC&GTCC Membership		3
McColum	Robert	54	Building Committee		4
Meyer	Bud	34	Bruce Landua Memorial Auction		5
Miller	Andrew	44			





# Ten Years After

by Joe Shaw

In my high school days, that would have conjured up visions of Alvin Lee and what was one of the first concerts that I went to. (Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention was the first concert that I ever went to, but that's a totally different story for another time ...)

In chip collecting, it meant that I became a proud 10-year member of the CCGT&CC club. I realized that I had reached that milestone when I received my 10-year pin last year.

In looking back, I would like to share some chip and non-chip related memories during the past 10 plus years of chip collecting. I look forward to another 10 years of memories.

**CONVENTIONS** - I only missed 2 out of the 10 Conventions since I became a member. I missed Convention 2006, but I'm ready for 2007. Already have my room reserved and my bags are packed. I am also glad to have served as the Exhibits Chairperson for the past 5 Conventions.

**MY FIRST CONVENTION** - It was at the Aladdin and I still remember my newby eye candy experience going to my first Convention. Chips and Silver Strikes everywhere. A newby's dream. Embarrassing moment #1 was that I went though all the cash that I brought after 10 minutes of frenzied buying. Cash that was budgeted for collecting and gambling. Worse part was that I was still planning on staying 3 more nights. Funny how as the years progressed, I kept on bringing more and more cash (and still had to resort to check writing).

**CONVENTION AT THE ORLEANS** - It was the year that Jerry Wall was selling his collection/inventory. I remember jostling 3 deep at his table looking at the endless binders of chips that he had for sale. I spent hours looking and eventually bought so many chips that it (again) depleted all the cash that I brought and eventually resorted to check writing.

**STUCK IN LAS VEGAS #1** - Sounds like a dream come true to most, but it was not. I don't recall the year, but I was there on business. I stayed an extra night for some chip collecting and was leaving for home on Friday

night on the last flight from Las Vegas to San Jose. I had checked in early, got my Southwest boarding pass and was just waiting for my flight. With time to kill, I walked around the airport. While walking around, unknown to me, they had changed the boarding gate. I did not find out that my flight had already departed until I noticed that everyone waiting in line had different colored boarding passes. Unable to find a room at the last minute on a Friday night, I spent the night at the airport. The unpleasantness of sleeping at the airport was nothing compared to having to deal with the wrath of the wife who had been circling around San Jose airport expecting to pick me up. This was before cell phone days, so there was no way of contacting her. I think I was banned from going to Las Vegas for 3 months after that.

**STUCK IN LAS VEGAS #2** - I was in Las Vegas on business. Arrived on a Sunday night and was supposed to depart Wednesday night. The video poker gods were very kind to me on this trip as I hit 5 Royal Flushes within 24 hours. The joy of hitting the Royals was overshadowed by the news that I heard when I woke up the next morning. It was September 11th 2001. I was again stuck in Las Vegas because of the FAA's suspension of all flights. My memorable stay in Las Vegas ended when I managed to get a flight back home late Friday night, 2 days later than planned. Glad I left when I did too. Cell phone battery was near dead and clean underwear was non existent.

**MAIN STREET STATION** - 1997, when Main Street Station first opened, I went there for chips. Went to the cage and picked up their new house chips. They also had a \$5 commemorative chip (the first one in the Mucha series) of which they would only sell one. I decided to stay and play for a half-hour then went back to the cage (other side of cage) in hopes of picking up another one. The original teller recognized me and yelled out across the cage "He already got one! Get out!" I think that was the last time I stepped foot into Main Street.

**CHIP HUNTING IN RENO** - One of my most memorable chip hunting memories happened back in October 1999. I was in Reno for the sole purpose of seeing what chips I could get. What I came back with even amazed myself. And the best part was that all was at face.

116 \$7 Silver Strikes (Harrahs, Circus Circus, Fitzgeralds & Flamingo Hilton)  
100 Fitzgerald's 25¢  
100 Fitzgerald's 50¢  
30 different \$5 Reno commemorative chips  
20 assorted Harrahs brass cores  
plus an unknown number of current house chips.

Also envision myself with all of the above trying to make it back to my hotel room at the Flamingo Hilton. Lesson #1 learned in chip collecting - casinos do not furnish you with shopping bags when you buy chips and silver strikes from the cage.

DALE SEYMOUR - I was extremely fortunate to visit the home of Hall of Famer Dale Seymour. I recall seeing an amazing collection of different types of chips, slot machines and other antique gaming paraphernalia. Even more amazing was his home, which was featured on Home & Garden's TV show Extreme Homes.

CHIP HUNTING IN ELKO - Summer of 1998. The family had gone somewhere and I was left alone with nothing to do. I decided to take the 4-hour drive up to Reno, stay overnight for some chip collecting and video poker, then drive back. Not finding much in way of chips that I needed in Reno, I decided on the spur of the moment that it might be fun to try looking for chips in Elko. Thinking that Elko was only about an hour's drive from Reno, I decided to make that east bound trip. Before leaving Reno, I stopped and got gas for the car and ask directions on how to get to Elko. It was a good thing I did because I found out at that Elko was NOT an hour away. It was more than a 4-hour drive away (about 300 miles). Sanity set in at that point and I drove home instead. To this day, I still have not been to Elko.

SILVER STRIKE MACHINE - I remember sitting down to a 25-cent Silver Strike machine at the now closed Riverboat in Reno. I fed in a \$10 bill. To my surprise it gave me 80 credits. Thinking that I put in a \$20 instead of a \$10, I put in another \$10 bill. Again it gave me 80

credits. I happily played for awhile on the machine (until I ran out of \$10 bills), then decided to leave with my winnings before they found out about the machine malfunction. When I went back there the next morning, I was saddened to see a "Out of Order" sign on the machine.

SIGHTSEEING & FINE DINING IN RENO - It was early in my chip collecting days. I was in Reno and met up with Hall of Famer Doug Saito. Doug took me on a newby tour of casinos in downtown Reno. He also introduced me to "Awful Awfuls". A huge messy heart stopping burger that comes with a large unfinishable basket of fries offered at the restaurant (if you can call it that) in the back of the Nugget. I have since passed on the knowledge of this culinary extravaganza to my son, who has made Awful Awfuls a mandatory stopover every time we visit Reno. (I also highly recommend the fried calamari sandwich)

WRESTLING IN RENO - My son did wrestling in all 4 years of high school. One of the perks that I got out of it was that he wrestled in 2 tournaments in Reno every year. One in December and one in April. Chip collecting and video poker came to mind when I first saw his wrestling schedule. It was December 2004. We made the 4-hour drive to Reno without any problems. Our drive back a few days later was another story. A storm had come in and they were expecting heavy snow. It took 6 hours to reach the California border (an 8-mile drive), only to be told that we had to head back to Reno because the highway was closed. Luckily we managed to get a room at the Golden Phoenix. Dinner that night, of course, was Awful Awfuls at the Nugget.

The past 10 plus years of chip collecting has been great. What I collect have changed over the years. The chips that I need to fill the holes in my collection have become harder and harder to find. I look forward to the upcoming Convention. Seeing collectors from previous years and meeting new ones. Maybe this will be the year that I find the chips that I need. See you all in August.

# I'm Walking, Yes, Indeed, But Not Talking The Great 1929 Slot Machine Scandal

by John Bollinger

With legalized gambling in many states, slot machines today are an accepted part of American life. According to the American Gambling Association, in just casinos and race-tracks around the US alone, slot machines annually bring in over \$21 billion in revenues. A lot of nickels, dimes, quarters and Sacagawea dollars.

However in post-St. Valentine's Day Massacre Chicago, the slot machine business was still in its infancy; one with parents from organized crime families. An easy way to make money, the mob placed slot machines any where they could exploit the Roaring Twenties' love of getting rich at the pull of a handle.

In 1928, According to then Illinois Assistant States Attorney, Henry E. Ayres, "So many machines were placed in operation that truant officers were compelled to demand that the police remove the machines from the vicinity of school buildings where school children frequently gambled on the machines."

In December of that year, shortly after the election of Mayor Anton Cermak to clean up the corrupt administrations of William Thompson and William Dever, John A. Swanson, a former judge, was installed to clean up crime as the Cook County States Attorney. Investigating slot machine syndicates and bringing them to justice would be his first major undertaking. Feeling public opinion was with him, Swanson started a well-funded undercover investigation into Chicago slot syndicates.



A 1928 Rockola retrofitted Mills Novelty slot machine with Skill Play function that allowed players to stop individual wheels to think they had a better chance of winning. (Picture Courtesy of Ray Stuart of Games Stand).

Little did Swanson and the public know that the investigation and the subsequent trials would be ruined by David C. Rockola, a smalltime, slot machine, street operator (and later the founding father of the jukebox business), much less how Rockola's part in the trial would single-handedly save the slot machine business.

As a brand new DA, Swanson was not only hampered by having a new and inexperienced staff, but also by

conflicting local laws and regulations concerning slots. Slot machines being legal in Eastern Indiana did not help, but Illinois Attorney General Oscar Carlstrom's ruling that slot machines were okay that did not give cash payouts (but rather tokens or vouchers that could be redeemed for cash), highly complicated their work. Though one might wonder what the difference was to Carlstrom, this rule was made in several states to make certain that jackpot payout amounts were as displayed. Even though slots rarely enriched the player, operators were known to short the winnings.

After several months of rounding up everyone known to be involved in the slot business and questioning manufacturers, owners, distributors and players (housing potential witnesses in hotels), Swanson, in June 1929, formed a grand jury in which Rockola and slot machine manufacturer William Keeney spilled the beans on the Southside Slot Syndicate of James N. "High Pockets" O'Brien.

Keeney testified he did split profits with O'Brien on slots, however the machines split on were the legal token type or were operating in slot-legal Northern Indiana. He also stated High Pockets (via his minion Rockola) introduced illegal mechanical additions to his machines that gave immediate payouts.

However, Rockola's grand jury testimony on the syndicate did far more damage.





The future Jukebox King, David Rockola (left) posing during the trial with his attorney Louis Piquette (later to be John Dillinger's last lawyer). (Picture Courtesy Chicago Examiner from Chicago Crime Commission)

Age 35 at the start of the trial, Rockola -- who would hyphenate the name of his company to Rock-ola well before Bill Haley rocked around the clock -- was still a Canadian citizen, telling investigators he had spent 17 years in Chicago. Both a smoker and a drinker, he was married to Margaret, who was an executive in his company.

Though his name ended in a vowel, and many assumed him of Italian heritage, Rockola was White Russian. His father, George, a blacksmith turned inventor (developing and patenting a double-stroke pump in 1906) immigrated to McCauley, Canada from Byelorussia in the 1890's.

Rockola's industriousness and determination were exhibited at an early age. While living with his mother, Sarah (then separated from his father) in Virden, Canada, young David and three of his four brothers built the house they lived in. At age 14, David left home after his mother died and worked his way through several Canadian cities before landing in

Chicago, then a highly experienced 18 years old.

In his grand jury testimony, Rockola said that he worked on his own under O'Brien in 1927 and 1928, before that, from 1923, for W.E. Kenney as a mechanic. Prior to that he was an inspector for one of the largest slot machine manufacturers, OD Jennings and Co. At the time of investigation, Rockola was retrofitting payout devices on slots for the biggest slot companies in the world. Two in particular, Jennings and Mills Novelty, were companies with major ties to Frank Costello and other mob families in New York City as well as the Chicago mobs.

Dubbed a "Crown Prince" of the slot syndicate by Chicago's news editors, Rockola was the middle management of High Pockets syndicate's menial and managerial duties.

On the menial side, according to Rockola's grand jury testimony (presented publicly at trial to give him immunity), he and an accomplice took truckloads of confiscated machines out of three police stations, doling out a total of \$500 to one sergeant and two police captains in the process.

Conversely, he wasn't just a piano mover. As we'll see, Rockola also showed his executive legerdemain with not only the police, but with major politicians and competing gangsters, and in manipulating the system.

Because of Rockola and Keeney's testimony the State filed bribery and corruption of public morals charges against the Southside Slot Syndicate. Prosecutors said the syndicate was an annual million-dollar operation, approximately \$11 million today.

High Pockets O'Brien, 42 at the time, was so nicknamed because of his unusual height: his pants pockets at eye level to most people. After many years of running bars in Genoa, Illinois, he had moved to Chicago and opened the Horn Palace Saloon at 43rd and Halsted, directly across from the stockyards.

Perhaps feeling he might never get the chance to travel there, when prosecutors handed out the indictments in the second week of September 1929, High Pockets high-tailed it to Europe where he was tracked to both London and Paris. Subsequently, Chicago authorities started the extradition process.

Despite their star hood's absence, the State indicted a riverboat load of, 28, defendants, including six police captains. Indeed having this many police indicted was unusual for Prohibition era Chicago, but adding to the drama, many politicians and supposed "legitimate" businessmen were served papers as well. Dr. William H. Reid (the most politically prominent of the group): political fixer and Smoke Inspector under Mayor Thompson; Frank Heydorn: a Seventh Ward politician; Elmer Brown: Tenth Ward Committeeman; Arthur Dyer: Fifth Ward Committeeman; John Huff: a Thompson politician and Sam Hare: a cabaret owner were among those who made the list.

Before the official start of the trial, Fred Mills, the head of Mills Novelty, regarded as one of the most prominent potential defendants in the case (the company would be the largest manufacturer of slot machines for the next six decades) and Martin Guilfoyle, the head of the Northwest Side syndicate had the charges against them dropped, ostensibly for lack of evidence.

However, Guilfoyle and O'Brien were not the only rackets runners named in the case. Danny McFall, a Southside gunman and racketeer was rounded up, as was one of the city's finest examples of flamboyant gangster, Spike O'Donnell.

Edward "Spike" O'Donnell, the longest lived of the city's beer runners, added color to the trial, first by firing his lawyer, then his stenographer, then by stating that he couldn't be bothered with reading and then by attempting to grab newspaper headlines. Pre-trial, O'Donnell crowed to reporters, "Wait'll I get that guy Rockola on the cross-examination. I'll give him plenty." At the start of jury selection for the trial, O'Donnell was so busy pumping up his own image (talking about the Notre Dame-USC football game with reporters and hangers on outside the courtroom) that he had to be summoned into court.

Another character with a prominent though less public role in the eventual outcome was a beer runner, Leonard Boltz, but more on him later.

No matter the exceedingly large number of defendants and the power of the names in the trial, Chicago newspapers would make David C. Rockola the "star" of what turned out to be a series of trials.

As High Pockets was indulging in his Grand Tour of Europe, Dr. William Reid was named the primary defendant in the first trial because of his close association with former, and soon to be again, Mayor Thompson. From Rockola's grand jury testimony Dr. Reid, was given a \$400 bribe as his cut of the slots. When Reid complained it was not enough, Rockola handed over two more envelopes to the Doctor, one for \$400 and another for \$300. Along with this, Rockola negotiated a \$500 envelope for com-



Rockola appearing to run the court and his lawyer Piquette.  
(Picture Courtesy Chicago Examiner from Chicago Crime Commission)

mitteeman Dyer (through Spike O'Donnell) and \$1000 to Elmer Brown, the Board of Improvements Attaché.

From this testimony we see that Rockola wasn't merely a doing the grunt work. Though it appears the riches of the mint vending machines were leading to everyone putting a hand into Rockola and High's pockets, the level of pols involved meant they were dealing with a better crowd.

However this may be why Rockola, the Crown Prince of the syndicate, agreed to rat. Rockola had 450 to 600 machines running charging between \$100 and \$150 per machine and letting the owner take one third of the proceeds, with Rockola keeping two. After O'Brien's 75% (\$750,000) cut this left the Crown Prince with only a self claimed \$190,000.

Needless to say, with this sort of cash available and potentially much more, Rockola drew the most prominent of legal representation. William Scott Stewart was Rockola's initial attorney. Formerly a Chicago DA,

Stewart was one of the first to go from prosecuting criminals to defending them. So fabulously famous was he that he became the role model for the lawyer Billy Flynn in "Chicago" of Broadway show and Oscar winning movie fame. Later, with the initial work done, Louis Piquett, John Dillinger's attorney (another former DA), would take over the case.

Before the official start, the trial venue was moved to the county building, when Committeeman Dyer's attorneys successfully argued his heart condition meant he needed to be near downtown medical help.

When the trial finally began, prosecutors presented a previously unheard of list of over 500 witnesses, including Police Commissioner, William F. Russell, who had recently been brought in to clean up corruption in the Chicago police force.

Ten minutes prior to their initial testimony, Rockola and Keeney told Prosecutor Ayres they were prepared to work for the State. It appeared to the State that they were on the edge of destroying the menace of slot machines.

However, according to court briefs, "it is strange what money and outside influence can do in a criminal case. It can hire the best attorneys, intimidate witnesses and apparently pay David Rockola a "salary". Indeed Rockola's attorney informed me [a court officer] that he had received \$10,000.00 cash to defend Rockola, and that other defense attorneys had received similar initial compensation"

Suddenly, both star witnesses decided to invoke their Fifth Amendment rights (a relatively new defense tactic, but one that would be used over and over again by Organized Crime) and the court was in pandemonium.

Though Judge Chief Justice John P. McGoorty considered bringing conspiracy charges against him, he limited his wrathful comments to Rockola, "You are largely the one who started the machinery of the law in motion on this case. Now, by your contumacious attitude, you may render it impossible for the state's attorney to proceed. It is now the duty of this court to find you guilty of contempt, and the court does so, sentencing you go six months in the county jail."

When Keeney decided that he too would take the Fifth, Ayres suggested prosecution of the business executive for perjury. Outraged, McGoorty publicly scolded Ayres for his statement and when the case was nolle prossed (dropped so that prosecutors would be able to retry at a later time), Keeney was allowed to go unscathed.

With Rockola turning his back on the State, suddenly High Pockets decided he had had enough of Europe (particularly as he was arrested and extradited from Paris). He returned to Chicago, while his street associate cooled his heels in Cook County Jail.

Bowed but not broken, Swanson and Ayres decided to concentrate on a much smaller portion of the information they had received in their year-long investigation and a few weeks later indicted Officer Frank Beran, an evidence room custodian.

For the second trial, the judge was Otto Kerner, major friend and backer of crime busting Mayor Anton Cermak and father of Otto Kerner Jr. the convicted Illinois Governor from 1961-68.

In the Beran trial, Rockola's runner, Floyd Grotz, testified that he and the Crown Prince took more than 45 slots from City Hall in April and May of 1928.

Summoned again to the stand and after much prodding from Ayres, Rockola decided he would talk, "I talked with Beran several times in his office in the City Hall. I asked him if I could get some of the confiscated slot machines back. If I remember correctly I said that James O'Brien had sent me down to ask if I could get the machines back." It was the only testimony he would give.

Outside the courtroom the press clamored for the reason Rockola testified in the Beran case. Louis Piquett related his client's thoughts, "This thing has gotten my goat," and "I am now going to tell all I know of the entire transaction."

But was Rockola's goat gotten or was he manipulating an even better deal for himself with The Outfit? With the first trial nolle prossed, the prospect of another trial against the initial defendants loomed very large. Suddenly Rockola had a lot of leverage with both the law and the bad guys.

In a fascinating tip sent to the Editors of the Chicago Tribune and then to the Chicago Crime Commission, an anonymous source snitched that while the slot trials were going on, the Rock-ola Mfg. Co. was still working on remanufacturing slots and that there were people at the offices "who wish to be known to the public outside Cook County as manufacturers of slot machine devices."

According to CCC documents, indictments were having an effect in the underworld. Leonard Boltz, one of the original 28 defendants and more than a beer runner as previously mentioned, approached Keeney in order to open an account for 100 machines to be distributed in New York. Add to this that all of the slot machine manufacturers Rockola had worked for were connected to New York mob families.

Through the 30's and 40's, in Southern states, the only slot machines that were allowed to be placed by Carlos Marcello (head of the New Orleans mob) were the ones cleared by his close associate Frank Costello of New York, those machines were Chiefs from OD Jennings, one of the companies Rockola reworked payout mechanisms for. In fact over the next thirty years after the slot trials, Rock-ola would swap executives with Jennings several times.

Just perhaps Rockola's change of heart had helped him truly become a "crown prince". The move to suddenly become a state witness again certainly would have made Machiavelli notice a very keen student.

Beran, as you might expect of the lowliest of those indicted, was convicted of accepting \$250, \$125 and \$80 bribes to let the slot machines out the back door. Swanson, thinking perhaps the tide was turning in his -- and the public's -- favor, brought a third trial against High Pockets.

Prior to its opening, Judge McGoorty (again hearing this trial) refused a defense request to quash, as they argued that bribery, according to Chicago ordinance, had to be of police officers with higher rank than captain. It seems that defense attorney's saw the need to actually practice law rather than rely on the state's prime witness being bought off. The defense argued the State was playing fast and loose with the law, but frequently in court briefs their justification was the large public outcry.

Prosecutorial rawness notwithstanding, from the two trials, the State thought it was effectively narrowing its focus, and kept up the pressure. During the third trial, two clerks of the police custodian's office stated seeing Morgan Collins, the Chief of



Police in the Dever Administration, introduce O'Brien and Rockola to the custodian's office. It appeared the noose was tightening, particularly with the formerly intransigent star witness seeming to play along.

However in the third trial, Rockola for the second time refused to testify. McGoorty admonished Piquett, "This court is not at all satisfied with your actions as counsel, Louis Piquett. I do not like your attitude at all. A lawyer has a duty to the courts and to the public. I believe your client has been badly advised. I feel that you are not without responsibility in this matter, Mr. Piquett. The court has grave reason to question your good faith. This court has grounds to believe that there are other reasons than those stated as to why you advised your client not to testify."

Once again, Rockola was sent to jail for contempt, even though he pleaded for leniency as his wife, Margaret, was close to having their first child.

With the case in shambles, O'Brien's defense refused a nolle pross attempt, so he could not be retried and the state continued on with the trial for several days, despite McGoorty saying he would set aside a guilty verdict because prosecutors had admitted they had no case without Rockola.

After ten minutes of jury deliberation, High Pockets walked out of the courtroom Scott free.

As with a third strike, Swanson declared, "The State is unable to proceed. The evil has been removed. The gambling stopped," effectively ending all prosecution.

This however, was far from the end for Rockola. His newly found notoriety, plus newly found connections led to a much larger circle of influence. Making certain that he didn't appear to be a mobster was very important to his future success. A William Scott Stewart appeal of his contempt was affirmed by the supreme court. However, after being arrested for forfeiting his bond, he was granted another trial, where he was convicted again. Finally on another appeal, the Supreme Court vacated the verdict. In 1932 Rockola asked for and received executive clemency from the State. Proving the value of powerful legal representation.

Eventually, everyone initially indicted in what the State thought would be an open and shut case went free, when Judge Kerner returned to the case again to rule on Beran's appeal and granted a retrial where he was acquitted.

Yes, some blame for the lack of results in this investigation should go to a relatively inexperienced DA's office, but while The Great Slot Machine Scandal was going down in flames, it should be remembered the only way authorities could prosecute Al Capone was via Internal Revenue Service laws. No Racketeering or RICO laws existed and far too frequently criminals went free.

However, another major reason all 28 defendants went free relates to outside influences: organized crime groups from out of state.

During and immediately after the trials in which he refused to incriminate himself, Rockola was applying to numerous business organizations, including the Chicago Association of Commerce. Did he know his seesawing of the justice system afforded

him greater opportunities? Did he pull the handle on a slot machine he had set to pay off?

By 1936, at the former Gulbransen Piano factory on Kedzie Street (which he had purchased in 1931) Rockola would have more than 1,000 people on payroll in his 60,000 square foot factory. In vending machine trade publications that would exalt him in future years, Rockola himself said only 10% of the factory was utilized (during The Depression), making furniture, along with pinball machines, scales and jukeboxes. But what could have been going on with the remaining 54,000 square feet? Sublets to his benefactors?

Several decades after the slot machine trials, speculation would be that Cleveland DJ Alan Freed would coin the phrase Rock and Roll as a paean to Rockola's and Rock-ola's organization, helping to solidify the now industrialist's position in music and the legitimate business world.

Though all through the 40's, 50's and 60's, Chicago manufacturers would be charged and arrested because of jukebox mob warfare, Rockola and Rock-ola would always avoid prosecution. The nickels and dime of teenagers across the country and the poor in the South looking for entertainment were a billion dollar way to make and, perhaps more importantly, launder money.

In 1931, Chief Justice McGoorty said, "It is a matter of common knowledge that for many years there has been a fixed scale of prices for advancement." Was this quote the result of hearing the Rockola trials?

Rockola passed away in 1993 at the age of 98. His jukebox, vending machine and weighing scale compa-

nies have all been dissolved or sold to other companies. However, today, in much of the Latin world, as Xerox is with photocopying or Kleenex with tissue, Rock-ola is still synonymous with jukebox. A fitting testament to his knowing the price of fixing the scales of justice and advancement.

#### About the Author

John Bollinger is a 23-year veteran of the business side of media, from his own NYC local publication Pierless to Reader's Digest and international publications.

A few years back while trying to find the provenance of a Rock-ola portable bar, he stumbled across the Slot Scandal story, which he hopes will lead to a book.

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# Knapp on Books

by Michael Knapp

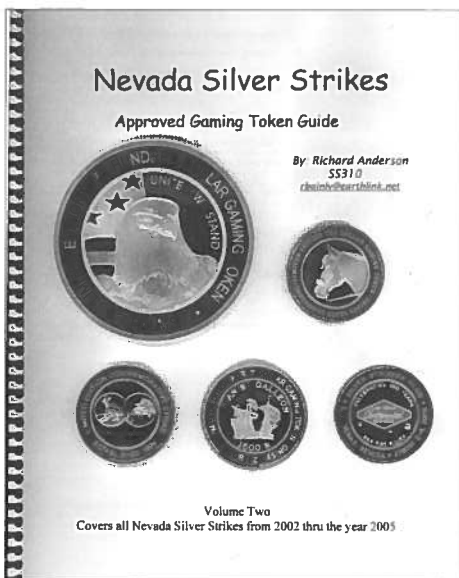
I try to review all books as they are published, and will fill in with books published some time ago, but which are still available from their authors or in bookstores.

I have to have books in order to review them, so if you're an author, let me know by sending me an e-mail at [ChipProf@aol.com](mailto:ChipProf@aol.com) to arrange for a review copy. For readers of the column, If there are books you'd like to see reviewed in this column, please also drop me a note and I'll be glad to try to accommodate your request.

As with all reviews, this column contains my opinions.

This time we go back to two hard-copy publications, one of which is a new, revised edition of a book we previously reviewed, the other of which is a new comprehensive.....well, I'm getting ahead of myself!

## NEVADA SILVER STRIKES – Approved Gaming Token Guide, by Richard Anderson, 2 volumes



Richard Anderson published his *Nevada Silver Strikes* descriptive catalog and price guide in 2002, a detailed, high-quality fully illustrated color guide with its own consistent and easy-to-understand numbering system. Our praise for the book appeared in the first "Knapp on Books" column.

Now Anderson has published a supplement to his original edition, and new purchasers of the book now receive two volumes: the first, consisting of 275 pages, covers Nevada premium tokens from 1992, when the first silver strike machines were introduced, to 2002. The just-released second volume covers those tokens from 2002 through 2006 (although the cover says 2005), and consists of 138 pages.

In addition to gaming control approved silver premium tokens, there is a two-page section with photos of brothel tokens that are not gaming approved, and are sold by a private company in California for \$20 each. They may be redeemed at the brothels for \$10 in services, but have no gaming purpose.

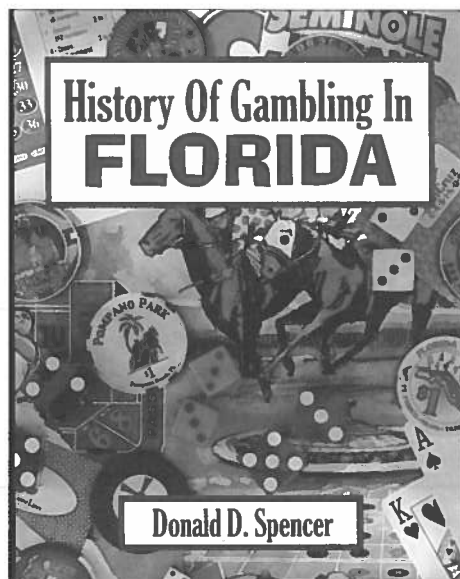
Although it doesn't arise often in Richard's book, there are a few instances where I'd appreciate a bit more information. A few words of additional description would be helpful to the reader in distinguishing between similar tokens in some cases.

One thing Anderson has added to the first volume (the original edition) is a two-page description of the 1995 \$20 Riviera silver strike featuring an eagle on the obverse. With enlarged illustrations, the design is shown

clearly as the Syrian national emblem, complete with a banner in Arabic! Now there has to be a story behind that design!

Silver strikers will need this book, and even casual silver strike collectors will find it a helpful and enlightening addition to their bookshelves.

## HISTORY OF GAMBLING IN FLORIDA, by Donald Spencer



Don Spencer's published a number of primers for chip collectors on a number of different subjects. His latest book is a bit of a departure. True to its title, this book's about gambling in Florida and its history, not about chips or tokens nor even exclusively casino gaming.

In his profusely illustrated 200-page book, Spencer begins his history of organized gaming in the Sunshine State with Henry Flagler, who began building the railroad down the east coast of Florida in the late 1890's to open the state to tourists. As he built the railroad, he built luxury hotels along the way, always building a casi-



no as well for the tourists. Locals weren't welcome.

The Bacchus Club in St. Augustine and the Beach Club in Palm Beach were two of Flagler's most famous, the Beach Club, owned by Edward Bradley, was also one of the longest-lived Florida gaming establishments, lasting from 1894 through 1945.

Separate chapters cover illegal casinos, floating casinos, greyhound racing, horse racing, poker rooms, jai

alai, lotteries and racinos, and cruise ship gambling. The possibilities for gamblers in Florida have been broader and more varied than in most other states.

While chips, dice and cards are colorfully featured in Don's book, this is not a chip book. There is no attempt to create any kind of catalog or price guide to Florida chips. Rather, the book is exactly what it says it is: a study of the history of gambling in Florida. Spencer tells the

story with old postcards, photographs, matchbooks, chips, advertisements, with some old and interesting memorabilia shown in full color. But the illustrations are examples and ways to tell the story, rather than becoming the story themselves.

Certainly Floridians, but anyone interested in gambling in the United States, its often illegal roots, its sometimes mob-influenced operation, and its evolution from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, will enjoy Spencer's book.

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**Happy chippin' . . . Archie & Brenda Black**

# A Batch of Illegal Chips from Cicero

by John J. Binder

While I have been interested in Chicago organized crime for years, writing on the subject and also collecting photographs and books, until late 2004 I had no real interest in chips or other gambling paraphernalia. In December 2004 a group of clay poker chips with a Cicero, Illinois pedigree were offered for sale on ebay. This was my entree into collecting illegal chips (at least those from the Chicago area) and researching the “rich” history of illegal gambling in the area.

I purchased the 227 chips in question from John Jeanneret of Western Springs, Illinois. John grew up in Cicero, at 1215 S. 49<sup>th</sup> Court, and his father, Albert Hengge, worked part-time as a carpenter. On one occasion his father’s crew remodeled a store on 14<sup>th</sup> Street (1400 south in the Chicago numbering system, which is also used in Cicero), between Cicero Avenue (4800 west) and Laramie (5200 west). This is known as the Grant Works section of Cicero. In the walls Albert Hengge uncovered poker chips and other gambling paraphernalia. Mr. Hengge got some of the chips while (sadly for me) the rest of the items went to other workmen in the crew.

A little background information about the town of Cicero is appropriate at this point. The polite way to describe Cicero is that it was a hotbed of illegal gambling and vice from (at minimum) 1924 onward, after the Torrio-Capone gang moved in and took over, with the assistance of the town’s Republican politicians (see my book *The Chicago Outfit* for further details). A more accurate description would be that a careful ranking of dens of iniquity in the world’s history would begin with Cicero, followed by Sodom and Gomorrah.

With organized crime in Chicago partly closed down during the 1923 to 1927 term of reform mayor William Dever, John Torrio and Al Capone shifted their headquarters to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street (later renamed Cermak Rd.), just west of Cicero Avenue, in Cicero and opened a number of gambling places. Just west of Chicago, it was a convenient location; accessible to patrons from the city but under the jurisdiction of the corrupt Cicero and Cook County Sheriff’s Police. Newspaper articles and the records of the

Chicago Crime Commission indicate that the gambling, for size and other reasons, tended to be located regardless of the decade on the main arteries in Cicero, such as 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Street (Roosevelt Rd.), Cicero Avenue and Laramie Avenue. After Prohibition there were numerous gambling joints in Cicero ranging from handbooks for racetrack betting, many of which also contained slots, blackjack tables and ran poker games, to high end casinos such as the Rock Garden (which is of particular interest here and is discussed further below). These places ran well into the 1960s and, as was true in the case of the Rock Garden, sometimes served as the locations of the Outfit’s famous Floating Crap Game (originally referred to as The Big Crap Game).

According to an article in the Chicago Tribune (denoted hereafter as CT) entitled “Cicero and Burnham Repositories of Folklore from the Gangster Era” (CT, Oct. 23, 1987, sec. 7, p. 7), the strip on 14<sup>th</sup> Street where the chips were found was dotted with speakeasies during Prohibition. Many of the garages between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Street, from 50<sup>th</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue, contained illegal distilleries during that era. Capone himself was known to frequent a club/hangout at 1346 S. 51<sup>st</sup> Ct., which is on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Also, during the 1960s and 1970s there were many social clubs along 14<sup>th</sup>, according to an old-time Cicero resident, which had active card games. This gives the chips of interest some connection to the gambling places elsewhere in town because there was heavy illegal activity in the area they were found going back to Prohibition.

There are four kinds of chips in this batch and they are all Taylor mold, made by Taylor and Company with the distinctive circle of letter T’s molded around the center. Taylor, a premier supplier of illegal gambling equipment in the United States, was located originally at 4848 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street in Cicero and was owned by Chicago mobsters Claude “Screwy” Maddox (real name John Edward Moore), Robert Ansani (aka Robert Ansoni and Bobby Taylor) and Joey Aiuppa. During the 1950s Maddox ran

Cicero for the Outfit. He was succeeded in that position by Aiuppa, who later rose to be Boss of the entire Outfit. The first type of chip is cream colored, with blue inserts and is hot stamped "J&J" (in blue) on one side and "\$1.00" on the other. The other type of cream colored chip has green inserts. It is stamped (in blue) "S&M" on one side and "\$1.00" on the other. The red colored chips are hot stamped "JVT" on both sides. The hot stamp is gold and there is a small dot over the V. Finally, the yellow chips are hot stamped "JV" on each side in blue. While the "J&J" chips were already in collectors' hands, the other chips were newly discovered.

John Jeanneret rightly suspected that these chips were from illegal gambling places in Cicero, which was fairly clear from their location and the fact they were hidden with other gambling items. But no definite proof of their origins was found with them. The first piece of information — and the key to entire puzzle — was provided by my friend Kenn "Doc" Finstuen, columnist for the now defunct Gaming Times magazine, who identified the "J&J" chip as a well known illegal. According to a record from Taylor and Company, 4000 of them were ordered in 1954 and over 8000 additional chips were ordered again in 1960. The record card, which was purposefully vague because many of Taylor's customers were illegal clubs, shows that the chips were ordered by the 4807 Club in Cicero Illinois. Not only does this conclusively identify the one type of chip as from an illegal club, but it adds to the credibility of the others because they were probably all used by the same gambling operators at the same or related places.

Based on Doc's lead, I researched the history of these chips using information from Chicago newspapers, other public sources and research materials on organized crime in my files. It was only when the Taylor records became available on-line recently (after my research had been completed), through the outstanding efforts of David Spragg and Gene Trimble, that I obtained the further information from the manufacturer's records which is discussed below.

I have not been able to find any newspaper articles or other references, beyond the Taylor and Company record, to a place with the exact name "4807 Club." But there was for years a major, even by the standards of the Chicago Outfit in Cicero, handbook/gambling operation at 4807 W. Cermak in Cicero, which seems to have operated during its heyday in the building with street addresses 4807-4809 W. Cermak. After an extensive search of the Chicago Tribune on-line archives, it is the only gambling place I have found with the street number 4807 in Cicero.

If that place did not have an explicit name, it likely was simply referred to as the 4807 Club. Just as the gambling place a door or two west of it at 4811 W. Cermak was generally referred to as the 4811 Club (see "Dice Games Richest Source of 'Velvet,' Records Show", CT, October 27, 1941 and the FBI file on Joey Aiuppa) and many other Outfit places around Chicago were referred to similarly. Or a seemingly legal bar in the front of the building, through which one entered the bookie joint in the back, may have been called the 4807 Club.

Admittedly, my search of the newspapers also indicates that there was a J & J Club at 2336 S. Cicero Avenue in Cicero, which was known as the Star Lounge in the 1960s. While it has the same initials as the one type of chip and there was gambling at that location, it seems to have been quite minor in comparison to the action at 4807 Cermak. Furthermore, the initials of the operators of 4807 (discussed below) also explain the monograms on some of the other chips, indicating that 4807 Cermak the location that used the J & J chip.

During Prohibition, 4809 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. was a pool room run by George "K. O." Brown and is clearly visible on early photos of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street strip. Pool rooms in Chicago were historically fronts for gambling operations so it is likely that it was the location of a handbook well before the 1920s. At least one famous gangland killing, of Theodore Anton, was believed to have occurred there and Fred Goetz (rightfully suspected of being a gunman at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre) was killed as he left the bar next door at 4811 W. Cermak in 1934. On the other side of the building, 4805 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street housed the Little Italy restaurant, which was frequented by Al Capone.

This place was not a run of the mill gambling establishment either. As noted in the attached chronology related to 4807 Cermak, associated locations and individuals, the club was raided numerous times and the newspapers report not only a thriving handbook but also on occasions card games going on, which was not unusual for an operation of that type. After the Rock Garden casino, operated by Capone's cousin Rocco Fischetti, closed at 2131 S. Cicero due to a fire, it simultaneously operated at two Cicero locations in the early 1940s: 4730 Cermak and the place of interest, 4708 Cermak. The Rock Garden was as "high end" a gambling place as could be found in the Chicago area, giving 4807 quite a pedigree as an illegal gambling club. As the chronology notes, the two locations were linked in various ways and through various individuals over the years. In fact, 4807 may have been tied to the Rock Garden's location at 2131 S. Cicero as well.



Much later, in the 1950s and 1960s, 4807 Cermak was known as the Aloha Grill because a grill operated in the store front on the street side that served as an entrance to the gambling operation. Sometimes there were 100, 200 or even 300 patrons gambling there. For example, an article on March 8, 1950 (p. 12) notes that investigators from the State's Attorney's Office found 175 patrons and 27 (!) employees at that location. From 1952 to 1963 the Chicago Crime Commission sent 65 letters to various authorities complaining about gambling at 4807 Cermak, putting it near the top of that organization's "watch list" during this period. In 1959, an FBI informant described the Aloha Grill as probably the biggest handbook on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street strip in Cicero. It was frequented by Joey Aiuppa, the Outfit's overseer of Cicero rackets in the 1960s.

It was common for the owners/operators of illegal gambling places to put their initials on the chips used there. The fact that two individuals with the first initial "J" (see the chronology), John Varlas (or Varlos) and Joseph Vaccaro (aka Joseph Vacco or James Vaccaro), were often arrested as the "keepers" (operators) of 4807 or the sister location at 4730 W. Cermak explains the "J&J" stamp on the chip already linked to the 4807 Club by the Taylor & Co. records. It represents the first initials of these two individuals. It is possible that Vaccaro ran the handbook operation, taking the bets on the horses, while Varlas managed the card and other games. This information also links the chip stamped "JV" with the 4807 Cermak address. "JV" is simply the first and last initials of Varlas (most likely, given his later stature in the Outfit) or/and Vaccaro.

Additional newspaper information also ties the chip stamped "JVT" to John Varlas. A computerized search of obituaries and other newspaper articles indicates that Varlas is a very uncommon name in the Chicago area. However, a burial notice (CT, 11-30-48) for Anthony T. Varlas of 2110 S. 49<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Cicero mentions a brother, John T. Varlas. Because the name is uncommon — which is due to the fact that this was not the original Greek surname, the family having changed it from Varellas (as the parents' obituaries indicate) — and he is from Cicero itself, this is almost certainly the John Varlas of interest. More conclusively, two other *Tribune* articles (Sept. 24, 1952 and Aug. 18, 1953) list John T. Varlas as one individual who applied for a federal gambling tax stamp in Cicero during the years 1952 and 1953.

Further information finalizes that the Varlas in question was legally known as John T. Varlas. A July 18, 1963

report by the Intelligence Division of the Chicago Police Department, listing some 150 (mostly higher echelon) individuals involved with the Chicago Outfit along with their addresses and motor vehicle registration information, has an entry for John T. Varlas (and his wife, Nina), who lived at 3040 Harlem Avenue in Riverside, Illinois. This reinforces the information from the obituary discussed in the preceding paragraph, because later obituaries for the same family (i. e., John Varlas's brothers), list John's wife as Nina. The red "JVT" chip is, therefore, most definitely stamped with John Varlas's monogram, the T representing his middle initial.

The Taylor records which are now publicly available confirm these conclusions beyond any possible doubt. Slightly more than twelve thousand of the "J&J" chips were ordered from 1959 to 1960. The record shows the order was placed by Johnny Varlos, for the 4807 Club, also called the Rock Garden on the card. The same information is on the record card for the "JV" stamped chips, of which over 12,500 were ordered in a variety of colors between 1952 and 1957. A single order for 2020 of the "JVT" chips was placed for the Rock Garden/4807 Club (with no mention of Varlos's name on the record) in July 1957.

These quantities certainly indicate that 4807 Cermak was the queen of the Cicero gambling places. In fact, the only chip orders (based on existing records) rivaling these are of "OC" stamped chips by the mysterious J. Barnett. I was recently able to tie the latter, totaling (as in the orders by the 4807 Club) roughly twenty-six thousand chips shipped to the Jerome Hotel in Hammond, Indiana, to an employee of the Owl Club in Calumet City, Illinois named Joe Barnett. The action at the Owl Club apparently matched that at some Las Vegas casinos in the early 1960s, providing another measure (based on the similar size chip orders) of what the 4807 Club must have been like in its heyday.

While Vaccaro faded from history, Varlas/Varlos gained some prominence in the Outfit. Later newspaper articles note that he attended Tony Accardo's Independence Day bash in 1956 and that he was closely associated with Cicero Mob boss Joey Aiuppa during the 1960s. He was also tied to Joe Ferriola and James "Turk" Torello, prominent members of the Outfit's Taylor Street crew, by informant Lou Bombacino (as noted in the chronology). In fact, Bombacino first met Ferriola, Torello and Varlas at the MGM Lounge in Cicero, owned by Nick Kokenes, a well known Mob figure. (Kokenes was likely a cousin or uncle of Varlas, because the mother of the John T. Varlas mentioned in the 1948 burial notice was born Kokenes).

Interestingly, one Ciceroian I met dated a young lady in the early 1960s, who he acknowledged was the daughter of a Greek gambler named John Varzos (as he recalled the last name). The “Varzos” family lived in Riverside at the time according to this gentleman. It was a common practice for people engaged in crime to change a letter or two of their last name to create an alias, so perhaps the family used the name Varzos at the time. A newspaper article in 1966 again gives Varlos/Varlas’s address as on Harlem Avenue in Riverside, indicating that John “Varzos” is very likely the Varlas/Varlos who ran 4807.

John Varlas also seems to have faded away, or at minimum out of the newspapers, over time. At least I have found no references to him after 1966 in regard to gambling or other criminal activities. Social Security death records show, however, that John T. Varlas (born on November 11, 1915) died on May 25, 2000 in Westchester, Illinois (just a few miles directly west of Cicero on Cermak Rd.). A search of the internet indicates that he or his family were apparently parishioners of Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church in Westchester.

Similar perusal of the Social Security death records finds several Vaccaros named Joseph (the usual first name appearing for him in newspaper articles) or James who died in Illinois or had a social security card issued there, including one who lived in Cicero at the time of his death. But, the birth date for this Vaccaro is not consistent with Vaccaro’s age as given in newspaper articles listed in the chronology. However, a Joe Vaccaro residing in Tampa, Florida appears on an FBI list of organized crime figures dated January 1969 and has the appropriate birth date, indicating that the Vaccaro of interest had moved to Florida by that time (to further the Outfit’s gambling interests there). There is no matching Vaccaro in the Social Security records, but this is not surprising as many hoods did not apply for Social Security. Consistent with this, there is no Social Security number shown for Joe Vaccaro on the FBI list.

What about the chips stamped “S&M”? Until recently they have remained a bit of a mystery. The Taylor and Company record indicates that 4027 of these were ordered on May 20, 1958. The card has no information on who ordered the chips, which usually indicates that it was a (local) walk-in order and picked up rather than mailed. The most likely explanation is that “S” and “M” are the initials of the individuals who ran the sister operation of 4807, at 4730 Cermak, at one time or another. For example, when 4730 Cermak was raided in 1955 (CT, 11-15-55) police dispersed 250 patrons and arrested three men as operators of a gambling house, including John Sarno, age

39. A better fit for the letters “S” and “M” is found in an earlier article. When 4730 Cermak, during its days as the Rock Garden, was raided in 1944 (CT, 3-21-44), Constantinous Mologorisis was named as the operator and John Strathakoz’s name appeared next among the list of employees in the article.

And, what about the town of Cicero itself? Well, times change. The public in the Chicago no longer tolerates what it once did, such as open, illegal gambling. Coupled with legal (albeit limited) gambling in Illinois, the Outfit run gambling places hosting casino type games – which were once as abundant as gas stations or convenience stores – are a thing of the past, in Cicero and elsewhere. A drive through Cicero reveals that the strip joints of yesteryear are also all gone.

But those affected by nostalgia need not be too remorseful. A recent Cicero town president, Betty Loren Maltese, was convicted along with other public officials of working with the Outfit to loot the town of some \$12 million dollars. The jury is still out on whether the Cicero of today has seen any real political reform.

The author is grateful to Dave Brown, Kenn “Doc” Finstuen and Gene Trimble for their comments and assistance. He can be reached at [wsidejack1@aol.com](mailto:wsidejack1@aol.com).

### **Chronology of Newspaper Articles (from the Chicago Tribune) Related to 4807 W. Cermak, the Rock Garden Club and Various Individuals**

Date of Article	Details
10-17-35	Gambling facilities on the second floor of 2131 S. Cicero, the famous Rock Garden Casino owned by Rocco Fischetti, and at the rear of the tavern at 4807 Cermak (referred to hereafter as 4807) were reported to be <b>similar</b> and causing parking congestion in the area. 2131 Cicero was once the location of the Ship, a Capone place that was a major casino during Prohibition.
12-02-38	4807 is raided.
09-16-41	Raid on the Rock Gardens finds 6 games of blackjack and poker.

09-19-41	Operators of 4807 and 2131 S. Cicero are fined in court for gambling, following recent raids.	01-13-51	4807 is raided again. <b>Charles Casie</b> is fined as keeper of this location (see his tie to 4730 Cermak below).
10-27-41	The Chicago Crime Commission's survey of gambling places in Cook County in June and July notes 100 patrons at 4807. The Rock Garden is noted as the most expensive of all the gambling places with over 100 well dressed patrons.	07-11-51	4807 raided yet again. 300 patrons are dispersed and <b>Joseph Vaccaro</b> is again arrested at this location, as keeper of the establishment.
10-23-43	Cook County State's Attorney ordered Sheriff's Police Chief McCarthy to raid 4807.	07-29-51	4730 Cermak is raided by the Cook County Sheriff. It is named as the second location of 4807.
10-31-43	Rocco Fischetti, owner of the Rock Garden, is charged with aiding and abetting gambling. The Rock Garden is noted as having <b>two locations</b> : 4730 Cermak and 4807 Cermak. Virgil Peterson, in an article published on 11-04-56, confirms this with regard to operations in 1943. This explicitly links the two places, which is suggested or implied by some of the articles above. An article dated 10-10-43 notes that the 2131 location burned down a few years ago, seemingly in late 1941, and that 4730 Cermak is <b>one</b> of the current locations for the Rock Garden.	08-08-51	State's Attorney will seek an injunction against four often raided gambling places, including 4807.
		08-12-51	4730 Cermak is raided and <b>Charles Casie</b> , previously arrested as the keeper of 4807, is booked as the keeper of this house, again linking the two places.
		10-06-51	Raid on 4807 finds 90 customers and six employees.
		10-16-51	State's Attorney asks Western Union to no longer furnish the telegraph wire service racing results to 11 places in Cicero, including 4807 and 4730 Cermak. Western Union revokes their privileges.
02-28-50	State's Attorney's investigators find open gambling at 4807.		
03-08-50	State's Attorney's investigators find 175 patrons, 27 employees, four card games and a handbook running at 4807.	10-27-51	A Cook County grand jury singles out 18 individuals in indictments related to gambling in the county. Along with future Mob Boss Sam Giancana, the list includes <b>James Vaccaro</b> and <b>Carl Cannata</b> , who were arrested many times at 4807.
07-03-50	Both 4807 and 4730 get horse racing news by telegraph from Continental Press. The same individual, G. Park, is listed as the subscriber at each place.	09-24-52	Federal gambling tax stamps were recently issued to <b>Joseph Vaccaro</b> and <b>John T. Varlas</b> , as well as <b>Charles Casie</b> (could this be Carl Cannata, who gave an address of 4807 Cermak?). All three gave 2131 S. 47 <sup>th</sup> Ct. as their address.
10-10-50	4807 is raided. <b>John Varlas</b> is arrested as the keeper, along with seven others including <b>Joseph Vaccaro</b> and <b>Charles Casie</b> .		



08-18-53	Federal gambling tax stamps again issued in Cicero to <b>Joseph Vaccaro</b> and <b>John T. Varlas</b> , as well as <b>Charles Casie</b> .		party in 1956, along with various Outfit heavyweights. These functions were attended by higher ranking Outfit members.
08-25-54	State's Attorney Gutknecht names 4807 Cermak, the front of which is now the Aloha Grill, as a gambling place.	01-04-62	<b>Joseph Vaccaro</b> AKA <b>Joseph Vacco</b> found guilty of keeping a handbook after a June 15, 1961 raid on 4730 Cermak. Other individuals were booked as keepers of the casino games.
02-17/18-55	Poker game is raided at Aloha Grill at 4807. Three poker tables seized.		
07-29-55	Aloha grill raided again. 200 patrons dispersed and two keepers seized. The restaurant is one of <b>six</b> entrances to the gambling place in the back.	06-25-65	<b>John Varlas</b> is at the MGM Lounge, at 1839 S. Cicero Ave. in Cicero, with Joe Ferriola and James "Turk" Torello. This is according to testimony by mob informant <b>Lou Bombacino</b> . Ferriola and Torello both later bossed the Outfit's Taylor Street crew, which ran the Cicero area. Varlas later testified on behalf of Ferriola, Jack Cerone and other defendants, to rebut testimony by Bombacino, in a gambling case brought against them. The MGM was owned by Nick Kokenas/Kokenes, managed by John Kokenes, and was long known as an underworld hangout (CT, 08-05-70)
10-23-55	Aloha/4807 raided again.		
04-09-56	John Varlas of the Aloha Grill address, identified as a gambler, appears in a line-up related to a murder.		
07-24-56	Raid at the Aloha disperses 100 customers.		
11-18-56	Virgil Peterson, Operating Director of the Chicago Crime Commission, notes that <b>John Varlos</b> , who had been arrested as the keeper of 4807, was at Mob Boss Tony Accardo's July 4 <sup>th</sup>	02-26-66	<b>John Varlos</b> , described as a protégé of Cicero Mob overseer Joey Aiuppa, is arrested in connection with gambling at 5535 W. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Place.

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# *In Memory of Rick Miner*

Rick Miner was one of those rare people whom it was impossible not to like. The first time I met him, in 1999 over breakfast at Harrah's Reno, I asked him what he did for a living.

"As little as possible," he said. I remember smiling and saying to myself, "I like this guy."

Rick lost his battle with cancer on May 30 in Reno. And the CC&GTCC lost one of its most popular members.

Rick and I crossed paths often when I lived in Sacramento, about two hours from Rick's beloved town of Chester, Calif. He and his inseparable companion (and later his wife), Sue McHargue, were regulars when the club's Nor-Cal-Nev chapter met in the Lake Tahoe or Reno areas. He was probably the easiest guy in the world to trade with because he simply loved interacting with people. His fondness for black chips was evident even then.

My last communication with Rick was in February, when I received an envelope containing the newest \$1 chip from Baldini's Sports Casino in Sparks. I didn't remember making a trade with Rick for this chip, but when I noticed the note that accompanied the chip, everything made sense.

"Steve, I figured you could use this chip," he wrote, remembering that my collection focused on northern Nevada. "Enjoy. I'll see you later."

Those who knew Rick undoubtedly aren't surprised by that gesture of kindness. And when I reciprocated by sending him a \$1 chip from Georgia, near where I now live, he sent me an e-mail with one of those little frowning faces attached. "You weren't supposed to do that," he wrote.

Rick's final communication with the chipping community came on March 26 in a post on Greg Susong's Chipboard. Here is the text of his message:

*I'm here a little misty eyed because I fear this may will be my last post to you, my friends. The cancer has taken its toll and I'm not doing well. Just felt I wanted to let you all know why I haven't been around here very much. Or with my poker buddies. I miss you guys.*

*I've come across a lot of really fine people through this hobby. Some, I've had the pleasure to meet. Others just through conversations on this BB. But I will say, I've never met a bad one. And I say that truthfully. You're all the best.*

*Some of my most fun times were volunteering at the convention. If you have the chance, please give a small amount of your time to help out. It's all much appreciated and I think you'll feel a wee bit better for having done so.*

*So, if I don't see you again, please accept my best wishes for a long and happy life.*

*May all your chips fall right side up.*

*Always.....Rick*

Rick's club number was 5270, and he later became life member 100. Before that number was assigned, I had always thought that a special number such as 100 ought to go to a special club member. As it turns out, it went to the club's most special member, a man whose legacy will be with us forever.

Steve Blust, LM-4120-79



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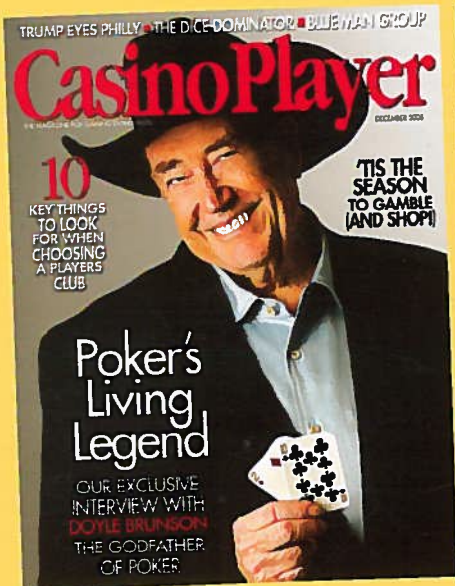
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