

ATLANTIC CITY CASINO COLLECTIBLES CLUB

c/o Charles Kaplan, 11 Calais Court, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

May 2008 Newsletter

Our next meeting is Sunday, May 18 at the Trump Marina Hotel Casino, on the 4th floor, in meeting room Biscayne II. There will be signs posted at the top of the escalator and on the 4th floor to guide you. Members may enter after the room has been set up and a brief meeting of the club's BOD. Doors open at 11:00 AM. Along with reports by the club officers, the club auction and 50/50 drawing, the winners of the Chip and Slot/Key Card of the Year will be announced.

Highlights of our last meeting

The meeting was well attended with 69 members and 7 guests. Among those who traveled the farthest were Reggie Gummer of Tennessee, Chuck Tomarchio of Illinois and Brian Freirmuth of Nevada! It was also good to see our friend Jack Heiman, however we again missed Archie and Brenda Black. Speedy recovery Archie! Thanks to everyone who came out and made this meeting another success! Among issues discussed were:

- President Jerry Birl reported the club is considering holding a poker tournament after one of our future meetings. The tournament will most likely be held at Trump Taj Mahal.
- Membership Officer Charles Kaplan told us about the new website he created for Caribbean Chips. It's quickly becoming THE source for information about Caribbean Chips and casinos. You can visit the site at the following address... <http://www.caribbeanchipguide.com>
- In the club auction I noticed some very nice stuff! There were some beautiful high-end chips that I'm sure would have sold if people weren't saving for the convention in June. It reminded me of auctions we used to have at Resorts and Sands. Back then, for me, the auction was the highlight of the meeting! In my opinion better chips in the auction would bring more people to the meetings, just to have the opportunity to bid on something nice. I hope this trend continues!

The highlight of the meeting was our guest speaker Jerry Porta. Jerry is a former casino executive and current representative for Paris and Bally's in Las Vegas. Jerry began working in Las Vegas in the early 1960's at a time when casinos were owned by individuals, not corporations... such places as the Desert Inn, Riviera, Stardust, Dunes, Sands, Sahara and Frontier. Jerry spoke of his experiences with celebrities such as Frank Sinatra, Joey Bishop, Dean Martin, Elvis, Liberace, Louis Prima, Keely Smith, Bob Maheu, Wayne Newton and Steve Wynn. Thanks Jerry!

News

A great deal has happened since the last meeting. The biggest news so far has to be the HUGE find of Atlantic City Playboy chips in Hernando, Mississippi. In 1985, when the Atlantic City Playboy closed, a company called Green Duck was hired to destroy the chips. As we now know, instead of destroying the chips, Green Duck buried the chips and paved them over with a thick concrete driveway. In 2002 the City of Hernando purchased the property and used it for their police department. The property has since be converted into a community center. Several weeks ago, during an expansion of the community center, thousands of the Playboy chips were uncovered in most denominations. Once rare chips valued at up to \$3,000 can now be found for \$5 each. In other news:

- A proposal to ban smoking in casinos was passed by the Atlantic City Council. The Mayor will sign the ordinance and the smoking ban will go into effect in October.
- MGM has announced that it WILL build the \$4.5 billion MGM Grand on 75 acres it owns adjacent to Borgata. The complex will have a 200,000 square foot casino, a 9,000 space parking garage and three hotel towers. The smallest at 600' high will have 1200 rooms. The middle-sized tower will be 700' high with 1200 rooms and suites and the largest tower will be 800' high with 500 suites. MGM is presently expanding their office complex on Delilah Road to accommodate the additional staff necessary to develop the MGM Grand site. MGM has it's project manager and his team working to able to break ground in September or October of this year.



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- Curtis Bashaw, a local real estate developer and former head of the CRDA and Wally Barr, former president of Bally's and Caesars have unveiled plans for a \$2 billion casino hotel at Albany Avenue and the Boardwalk, next to Hilton. The proposed Atlantic Beach Resort and Casino will have 210,000 square feet of retail space, a 210,000 square foot casino, a 4,200 space parking garage and an 852' high, 2,000 room hotel tower. When complete this would be the tallest tower in New Jersey. Bashaw and Barr hope to break ground in 2009.
- Revel Entertainment's \$2 billion casino entertainment complex at New Jersey Avenue and the Boardwalk, next to Showboat, is now under construction and scheduled to open in 2010!
- Although Pinnacle Entertainment has put their project, at the site if the former Sands, on hold until the financial markets are right, Pinnacle is still seeking properties to add to its site.
- I still haven't heard who won the bidding for the Tropicana but it's anticipated that whoever buys the Tropicana will spend at least a few hundred million to update the complex.
- The new \$350 million tower at Harrah's is now open. Borgata's new \$400 billion Water Club will open in June and the new \$250 million tower at Trump Taj Mahal is scheduled for an August opening and Bader Field will be sold later this year.

New Releases

There have been no new chips issued since the last meeting and I've heard no news or rumors. I saw a post by Dick Brach on the Slot Card BBS that Trump Marina has issued new room key cards. I also saw a post from Ron Leis that Tropicana has issued new Slot Club Cards.

Closing Notes

There was a thread posted on www.thechipboard.com about the possibility of a chip show on the east coast. I replied that we have two members of the AC Club who were working on it and asked for volunteers. Within minutes I received two emails, one from someone politely telling me why it will never happen. The other from someone volunteering to help! Organizing a chip show is hard work. There will be disappointments and it will take many volunteers to make it happen. I'm not talking about moving the convention to Atlantic City but the possibility of something in the off season. Perhaps we could start with just a few tables at a regional coin or antique show. It doesn't have to be in Atlantic City. It could be Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York or anywhere in the region. Everything that has ever been done started as a thought. If anyone is serious about an east coast chip show lets hear your thoughts. Volunteer!

Thanks again to our Secretary, Lin Weisenstein. Because of her announcements printed in many regional newspapers, I continue to get phone inquiries about the AC Club!

With the price of fuel rising daily (\$3.399 per gallon of regular in S. Jersey) some of our members may want to consider car pooling to save money. If anyone would like to attend the meeting and wishes to share the ride, please post a message on the AC Club's message board or www.thechipboard.com

Best regards,

John Chopek

John Chopek R-418

Vice-President ACCCC

Chopek1@verizon.net

