

Caribbean Casino Collectors Club Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1 Winter 2008

Casinos of the Caribbean

Antigua	Jamaica
Aruba	Martinique
Bahamas	Mexico
Barbados	Nicaragua
Belize	Panama
Bonaire	Puerto Rico
Costa Rica	St. Kitts
Cuba	St. Maarten
Curacao	St. Vincent
Dominican Republic	Suriname
Guadeloupe	Trinidad and Tobago
Haiti	Turks and Caicos
Honduras	U.S. Virgin Islands

Caribbean Casino News

Casino Openings and Closings and new Chip Issues

Caribbean Region

- The following article on casinos in Central and South America that I thought might be of interest.

http://www.igwb.com/Articles/Market_Outlook/BNP_GUID_9-5-2006_A_1000000000000414077

- **Caribbean to see many more Hilton franchises in near future**

By: Caribbean Business Online, 05/29/2008

Hilton Hotels Corp. is no stranger to the Caribbean market. The corporation currently manages 12 hotels and resorts on nine pristine Caribbean islands including the Bahamas, Barbados, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Margarita Island, Puerto Rico and Trinidad & Tobago. There are numerous future developments in the corporation's pipeline, which include the first Conrad Hotels & Resort brand property in the Caribbean, slated to be a managed hotel and expected to debut in 2010, and the **Conrad Bimini Bay Resort & Casino**, which will be a luxurious 250-room property that will feature a spa, casino, fine dining restaurants and a marina. "To complement our managed-property development, Hilton is also franchising hotels in the Caribbean including the newly signed Doubletree by Hilton San Juan (currently the Best Western Pierre) and Hilton Bonaire," said Gregory Rockett, vice president of franchise & development for the corporation.

"We have enhanced our development team to step up our activities and locate great new opportunities," said Rockett, who added that Hilton Hotels is strengthening its development efforts in the Caribbean's hot market. "In addition to Hilton and Conrad, we are eager to develop other leading brands in the Caribbean, such as Doubletree, Embassy Suites, Hampton Inn & Suites, Hilton Garden Inn and the Waldorf Astoria Collection," said Rockett.

According to Rockett, each year millions enjoy Doubletree's warm chocolate-chip cookie welcome, which has become the brand's hallmark, as well as the comfort and friendly service of the property. "Meanwhile, guests of Embassy Suites hotels enjoy an upscale full-service stay in spacious two-room suites with lush, open-air atriums, a manager's reception every evening and a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast each morning," he said.

"At Hampton Inn & Suites we built more features preferred by our guests and more benefits for our owners," said Rockett, who added these properties are slightly more upscale than the traditional Hampton Inn hotels. "Whether on the road for business or leisure, we offer the amenities and services that help our guests achieve the best travel experience every time." For almost 90 years, Hilton has been offering business and leisure travelers around the world the finest accommodations, services, amenities and value. With a breadth of leading brands spanning the lodging segments from luxurious, full-service hotels and resorts to extended-stay suites and mid priced hotels, Hilton Hotels Corp. is one of the world's largest and most geographically diverse hotel companies.

"As one of our owners, you can count on a network of committed support and service designed to help you operate as effectively as possible," said Rockett. As a result of its devotion to owners, the corporation is growing at a record pace. In fact, statistics provided to CARIBBEAN BUSINESS show 21.8% of the total mainland U.S. hospitality industry construction pipeline belongs to the Hilton Family of Hotels.

Aruba

- **Royal Cabana Reopening Delayed**

By Michael Siskin

The reopening of the Royal Cabana was scheduled for December. That date has now been pushed back to February. People who have seen the site note that it is still an empty shell, and work has progressed very slowly. It is not clear what name the casino will have when it reopens.



Bahamas

- **Bimini Bay Resort and Marina**

Press Release, October 23, 2007

A longtime favorite for big-game fishing and yachting enthusiasts, Bimini is back in the spotlight with the opening of **Bimini Bay Resort and Marina**. Everyone can take advantage of this Bahamian retreat that offers white-sand beaches and emerald waters, located just 48 miles off the shores of South Florida. Real estate opportunities are available, including condominiums, oceanfront and bay front homes and the resort's exclusive private island. Coming soon are the luxury Conrad Hotel, a Robert Trent Jones, Jr.-designed links golf course, Mega Yacht Marina and additional restaurants and shops. For general information, please visit the website www.biminibayresort.com.

A casino is planned for the Bimini Bay Resort and Marina, a grand opening date has not yet been determined.

Belize

- **Former King of L.A. Casino Hits a String of Bad Luck**

By Hector Becerra, Los Angeles Times, October 22, 2008

At one time, George Hardie ran Bell Garden's reputable Bicycle Club. Now, after a venture to open a card club in **Belize**, he's trying to get his son out of a Mexican jail.

George Hardie once ran the world's largest card club. In its prime, the Bicycle Club in Bell Gardens was a second home to some of the top poker players in the country. It had a reputation for clean games, and folks liked to boast they could go there to vie with legendary card players Doyle Brunson and Johnny Chan, as well as celebrities such as Lakers owner Jerry Buss.

Now Hardie is 75, splitting his time between Las Vegas and the tiny town of Corozal, Belize, hoping to free his son and three security guards from a Mexican jail just over the border. Every gambler has his story, and they all come back to luck. Hardie's latest turn came after he put down a big bet on casino gambling in Belize. His

venture wasn't working out as well as he had dreamed even before his son, George Jr., wound up in jail, charged with attempted murder. At first, local newspapers portrayed the two Mexican nationals as innocent victims who were shot at in a quarrel over beer.

"I'm very afraid that something else will happen to me, because those people have a lot of power and money. They tried to kill me," the wounded man told a local newspaper from his hospital bed. But after Hardie released video from the casino that night, some Mexican newspapers began to criticize the arrest of the four men, with a leading paper in the state of Quintana Roo calling it "a terrible injustice." The case has Hardie looking back at the tough hands he's been dealt in his decades in the gambling business.

None of those bad cards would have come up, Hardie insists, if he hadn't been pushed out of the best game in town. In the mid-1980s, Hardie was holding a sweet hand. He was the de facto king of the card clubs. "Hardie was the driving force that created the Bike club, the largest card casino in the world," said Nelson Rose, a Whittier Law School professor and an expert on gambling. "You could almost say that Hardie was the father of the modern large California card club." The games may have been on the up-and-up, but much of the financing for the casino, it turned out, was not.

In the late 1980s, the casino was raided by federal agents, who accused some of the card club's partners of building up the casino with laundered drug money. An investigation turned up no evidence that Hardie had any involvement, and he testified for the prosecution. Things got worse for Hardie when the federal government got into the gambling business. U.S. marshals seized the club in 1990 after a jury convicted four men of racketeering charges stemming from laundering millions of dollars from drug deals through a number of companies, including the Bicycle Club.

Hardie stayed in the game for a while. But the government ran the club with the caution of a bureaucrat, he said. The feds weren't interested in taking chances on modernizing. Other clubs caught up. The Commerce Casino soon became the preeminent card club, surpassing the Bicycle Club, now the Bicycle Casino. Hardie resigned as general manager in 1994 but remained a partner. But he had been at odds with the federal trustee who ran the casino. Two years later, the state attorney general's office recommended stripping the licenses of that trustee and top managers, saying they knowingly allowed scams, kickbacks, loansharking, illegal games and cheating at the club.

Meanwhile, the club's profits began to decline. The government sold its interest in the club in the late 1990s and the now-Bicycle Casino has since recovered much of its luster. But by the late '90s, Hardie had turned his eyes to Nevada. He ran for county commissioner in Clark County but lost. He looked at opening a casino in Las Vegas but knew he didn't stand a chance against the huge corporate-owned casinos.

Mostly, Hardie's time was consumed by a lawsuit he filed against the federal government, arguing that the feds nearly ran the Bicycle Club into the ground, eroding profits for Hardie and his partners. In 2004, an arbitration panel ruled in favor of Hardie and his partners, saying they were due \$93.6 million from the federal government. The ruling is being appealed. The closest Hardie came to running a casino again was a small "slot parlor" store he owned in Cancun, Mexico. The machines did not give cash, but rather tickets that could be used for prizes, such as meals, at about 40 hotels. Belize was tantalizingly close, and he felt the country would appreciate any business. "I felt like Columbus jumping on the boat, trying to find the trade route to India," Hardie said with a laugh. "You always think big."

Hardie dreamed of high-rollers from Mexico City and other parts of Mexico showing up to gamble in Belize. It took years to raise the funds and find investors, and then to build the casino. There were delays. Two years ago, Hardie's **Las Vegas Casino** finally opened in Corozal. But the high-rollers did not show up. Instead, most of the gamblers were local Belizeans and working-class Mexicans. He knew that one reason the well-heeled had not shown up was that his casino did not have a hotel yet. But the first part of his planned hotel will open by the end of the year, he said. And the rest could be finished by April, he added.

Hardie said he was hopeful. Then, on July 13, two men from the nearby Mexican town of Chetumal showed up at the casino. Hardie was at his Las Vegas home when he got a call from one of the casino regulars in Belize:

There had been a shoot-out in the parking lot. Police in Corozal said two men from Chetumal had been ordered out of the casino for combative behavior and suspicion of being drunk. They returned, firing guns, according to police. At least one security guard apparently fired back, wounding one of the men, who fled over the border. Hardie's son showed up and, with three security guards, drove to the Mexican border. Hardie said they went there to warn Mexican authorities about the shooters. But his son and the guards were carrying weapons.

Mexican authorities arrested them and charged them with crossing the border with guns. "They had every intention of letting the Mexican government know that this shooting happened," said their Mexican attorney in Chetumal, Luis Jorge Fitzmaurice Moguel. "Unfortunately, they presented themselves to the Mexican border with arms, and they were held. It was a moment of carelessness."

Fitzmaurice Moguel said Mexican authorities based the charges on the story the two Mexican men had told them, and that the younger Hardie did not participate in the shooting. Authorities declined to comment, except to provide a statement saying that the younger Hardie and the security guards had violated Mexico's federal arms law and that they were held on additional charges of attempted murder. A judge is expected to determine whether the charges are valid as early as today. Meanwhile, the onetime king of L.A.'s card clubs is cautiously optimistic that they will be released. Hardie said he's going forward with his Belizean gamble, though with a bit less excitement for the hand he's holding.

"This sort of dampened my enthusiasm for being here, quite frankly," he said. "To be honest, I'm just a little disappointed."

Bermuda

- **Cruise Ships Can Run Casinos While in Bermuda Ports**

Caribbean News Digital, Monday, 06/16/2008

Cruise ships will be allowed to open late-night casinos in port after Cabinet approved a plan aimed at fighting off increasing competition from rival cruise destinations. The Opposition United Bermuda Party last night attacked the move, which it said had been made without any public consultation and would open the door to gambling on the Island. Premier and Tourism Minister Ewart Brown announced the decision in the House of Assembly on Friday as one of a number of alterations to cruise ship legislation. The Premier said ships would now be allowed to open bars and signature shops and "provide full entertainment inclusive of the opening of casinos after 10 p.m. while in port".

He said cruise lines would in return be required to contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to on-Island activities such as the Bermuda Music Festival and Harbor Nights. Opinion over gambling has long divided the Island, with the AME Church recently condemning the controversial casino ship Niobe Corinthian which came to Bermuda and the Seventh-day Adventist Church hitting out against poker games which were being played in bars.

Pro-gambling groups hoped Mr. Scott's successor Dr. Brown would bring a more relaxed attitude, and have pointed to the Premier's participation in overseas poker tournaments, including his much-criticized recent appearance at a gambling tournament at the notorious Los Angeles Playboy Mansion. As well as allowing casinos on cruise ships, Cabinet has also approved a proposal to waive the \$14 cabin tax for Hamilton and St. George's for three years from 2009.

Bonaire

- **Divi Flamingo Using \$1 Aruba Alhambra Chips**

By Michael Siskin

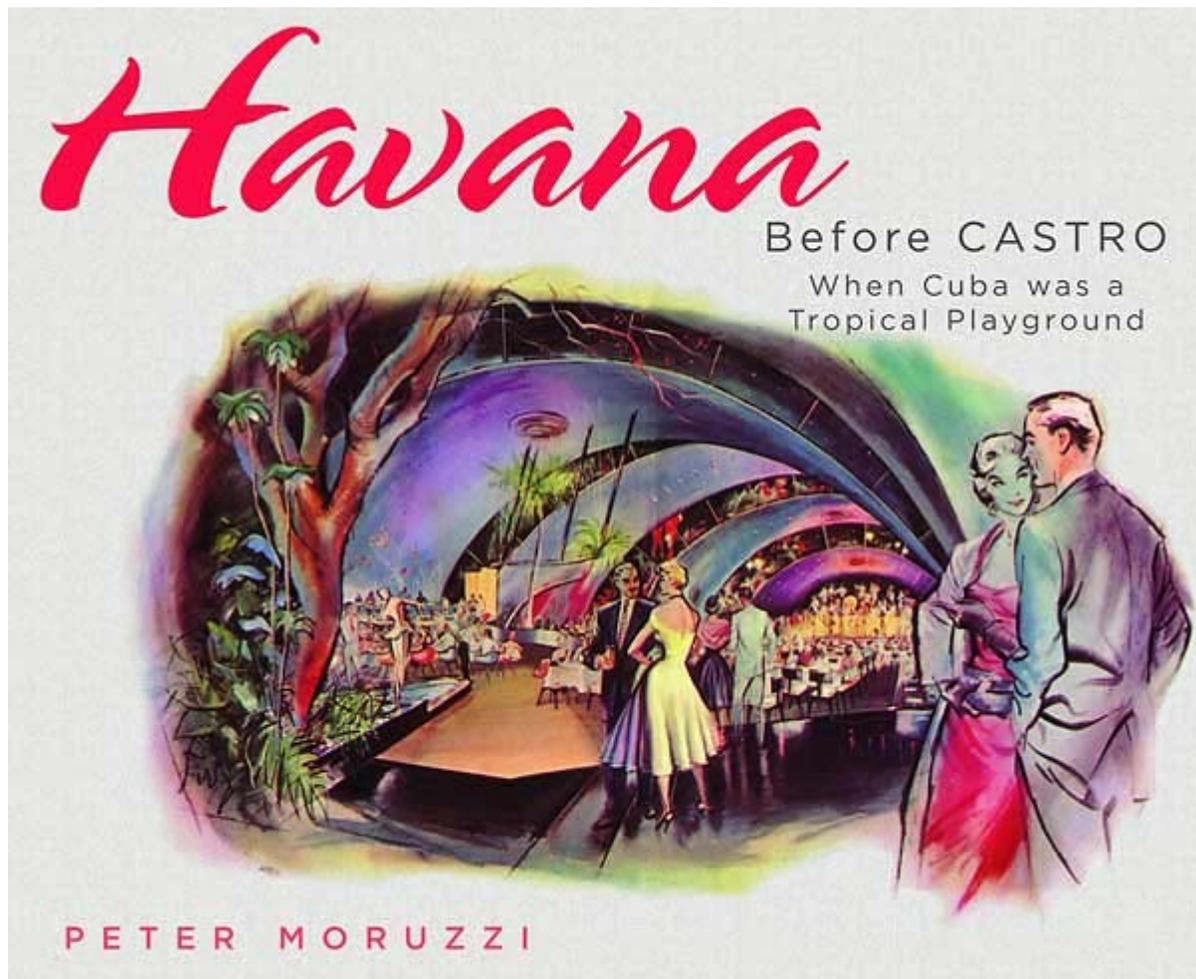
The Divi Flamingo is supplementing their beat up chips with \$1 chipco Alhambra, Aruba chips. They are not using any other denomination. The same hotel company may own both properties. I'm not sure.

Cuba

- **Havana Before Castro: When Cuba Was a Tropical Playground**
by Peter Moruzzi

I've written a book called "Havana Before Castro: When Cuba Was a Tropical Playground" that will appear in bookstores this August. It is also at Amazon.com. Check out my website at <http://www.HavanaBeforeCastro.com> that tells all about it.

The book includes chapters with detailed histories and hundreds of images of all of the big nightclub/casinos plus chapters on the Havana Riviera, Habana Hilton, the Nacional, Capri, Comodoro, Deauville, St. Johns, and the early pre-WWII casinos.



Curacao

- **Renaissance Curaçao Resort & Casino Grand Opening Scheduled for December 2008**
<http://www.renaissancecuracao.com>

Opening in December 2008 and located in the heart of Willemstad, the Renaissance Curaçao Resort & Casino will offer 237 rooms designed with a combination of contemporary Caribbean flavor and traditional European sophistication. Guests will enjoy a casino, spa and fitness center, hip night life, an infinity pool and the

signature Eternity Beach.

The first new branded resort to open on Curaçao in 15 years, the Renaissance Curaçao Resort & Casino will provide up to 50 upscale shops, 15 restaurants and a six-theatre cinema. The history of Curaçao is also reflected in the resort, as it is home to the legendary Rif Fort, a 178-year-old landmark designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

On-site conference and banquet facilities will include a ballroom, atrium and business center. For more information and reservations call (5999) 435-5000 or visit the website.

- **Palapa Curacao Beach Resort - Dive, Marina & Casino**

December 2007, <http://www.allatsea.net/specificissueeditorial.php?featureid=1626>

After more than ten years of planning and consideration the Curacao government at last gave Richard (Boy) Luckert, the owner of Palapa Marina in SXM at Simpson Bay, permission to build his Palapa resort and Marina on his home island Curacao. Luckert, a proud grandfather, who handed over the management of his St. Maarten marina to his daughter Valesca, is building the new facilities in Curacao at the beautiful spot of Caracas bay. There, the existing road had to be rerouted and the sheltered bay had to be deepened at one side and filled in at the other, where once the Mirador overlook partly was surrounded by water, and after the completion will be integrated in the complex. The groundbreaking for the marina last summer was also the start for the building of phase one of the resort: the first two condominium buildings and the marina. The marina will provide space for visiting (mega) yachts, and water sports. Other facilities will be offered to tourists as well as locals. With this, Luckert consciously focuses on tourists getting to know the locals and the local customs of the island better. Luckert estimates the opening of phase one 36 months after the groundbreaking. Grand Opening is expected in 2009.

- **Curacao Casino updates from John Genualdi**

- ◆ **Renaissance Curaçao Resort & Casino** - Casino to be named Carnival Casino and will open first week of November 2008.
- ◆ **Americana Casino** - Casino closed July 2008. No casino presently at location.
- ◆ **Holiday Beach Hotel** - Casino is now called **Veneto Casino**. It opened approximately July 2008. It is open but under renovation. It has a sports book. The exterior signage has yet to be changed. There is a new rack of chips.
- ◆ **Plaza Hotel** - Casino uses Americana chips and Antillean Corp. chips w/silver inserts (recycled). Place is a real pit.

- **Veneto Casino at the Holiday Beach Hotel**

Here are scans of the chips and a TITO from the newly opened **Veneto Casino** at the **Holiday Beach Hotel**. Scans provided by John Genualdi.





- New Rack of Chips at the Hill Ross Casino

Scans provided by John Genualdi.



- New (Old) Chips at the Curacao Plaza Casino

Attached is a scan of some chips from the Curacao Plaza Casino. The \$100 chip has been in storage and is just being used now. The tables have been closed for years but have recently opened. They are currently using the closed Americana Casino chips until they order new \$1 and \$25 Plaza chips. Scans provided by John Genualdi.



Dominican Republic

- Mexican Based Palace Resorts adds first Caribbean Property in 2009

August 25, 2008, zebrabot.com

Palace Resorts will open its 1,791-room **Moon Palace Casino, Golf & Spa Resort** in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in early 2009. The all-inclusive resort, which Palace said will be the largest in Punta Cana and the first for the hotel company in the Caribbean region, will feature 13 pools; 11 restaurants and seven bars; a theater; a spa with 13 treatment rooms; a “Dophinarium” with choreographed dolphin performances; and a nightclub.

The resort also will offer a 45,000-square-foot Las Vegas-style casino, an 18-hole golf course and a

60,000-square-foot convention center that can accommodate groups as large as 2,800 people. Guest rooms will include double Jacuzzis, balconies with ocean or lagoon views, a stocked in-room liquor dispenser, a mini-bar, satellite TV and WiFi access. "The addition of Moon Palace Casino, Golf & Spa Resort marks another exciting chapter in the development of Palace Resorts," said Roberto Chapur, president. The resort chain currently offers 10 all-inclusive properties in Cancun, the Riviera Maya, Isla Mujeres, Riviera Nayarit and Cozumel, all in Mexico.

Guyana

Haiti

Jamaica

- **Jamaica currently allows slot machines in resort hotels**

Here is a list of Jamaica casino locations:

Falmouth

Starfish Trelawny Beach Resort

Kingston

Acropolis Gaming & Entertainment Centre

Terra Nova Hotel - Monte Carlo Gaming

The Derby Gaming Room

Montego Bay

Caribbean Treasures

Coral Cliff Entertainment Resort

Hillshire

Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort

Negril

Grand Lido Resort and Spa

Hedonism II Resort

Ocho Rios

Hedonism III Resort

Treasure Hunt Ocho Rios

Mexico

- **Bally Technologies Announce Exclusive Casino Management Systems Provider to Pringsa Corporation**

Press Release, 30 September 2008

LAS VEGAS, Nevada -- (PRESS RELEASE) -- Bally Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: BYI), a leader in slots, video machines, casino management systems, and networked solutions for the global gaming industry, has signed an agreement with leading Mexico gaming operator Pringsa to be the exclusive, enterprise-wide casino management system provider for Pringsa's 36 gaming locations throughout Mexico. Pringsa, one of Mexico's largest license holders, is jointly owned by CIRSA, a global company with an extensive presence in gaming, and a private Mexican investment group.

Under the multi-year contract, Bally will provide Pringsa with its casino management system, along with a significant floor share of gaming machines for Pringsa's extensive network of locations in Mexico, with the potential for up to 2,000 installations of Bally ALPHA Elite(TM) video and mechanical-reel gaming devices within the next 24 months. "We are honored to be in partnership with Pringsa, a company recognized for its

highly successful business throughout Mexico," said Richard M. Hadrill, Bally's Chief Executive Officer. "This agreement paves the way for Bally to further expand its games and systems presence in one of the industry's leading growth markets."

Hadrill also noted that the partnership may lead to opportunities for Bally to further expand its relationship with CIRSA. CIRSA owns the Barcelona, Spain slot manufacturer Unidesa, is the operator/partner in three Spanish casinos, has 16,000 employees, and owns 22 traditional casinos, 100 arcades, 73 electronic casinos, nearly 100 bingo halls, and more than 85,000 slot machines worldwide. The system Bally is providing Pringsa for its Mexico operations offers advanced features for a high-speed floor network including player tracking, bonusing, promotions, cage accounting, and the iVIEW(TM) interactive player network.

The iVIEW(TM) network, which is part of Bally's Networked Floor of the Future(TM) technology offerings, will provide Pringsa with revenue-generating and cutting-edge marketing and promotions capabilities by delivering downloadable content directly to players through full-color interactive iVIEW Smart Screen displays mounted in the gaming machines. "We are eagerly anticipating upgrading our technology with Bally's advanced system features and Networked Floor of the Future tools, which will help us meet our goal to provide players with more advanced promotions, incentives, and rewards for their loyalty," said Jose Angel Lopez, Chief Executive Officer of Pringsa. "The Bally system will also allow us to streamline our accounting and administrative operations, providing us with cost savings and added efficiencies."

Lopez added, "Bally's games are among the highest-performing gaming machines in Mexico. By offering our customers the rewarding and exciting play experience that Bally games have proven to provide, we expect to drive more traffic into our bingo halls." Bally will provide all of the system training, documentation, screens, and reports in Spanish, reflecting Bally's continued commitment to internationalization of its various product lines.

Panama

- **Trump Entertainment Resorts is Planning to Open a New Casino**
ATLANTIC CITY, August 7, 2008

Trump Entertainment Resorts is planning to open a new casino but not in Atlantic City. It will be in Panama, as part of a \$400 million resort development it's building in Panama City with a local Panamanian developer. The casino would mark the first outside the United States for Trump. The company currently has three in Atlantic City, but is selling one, Trump Marina Hotel Casino. Company CEO Mark Juliano tells The Press of Atlantic City the deal is still being negotiated, but would give the company much-needed flexibility.

Puerto Rico

- **Rio Mar Beach Resort & Spa, a Wyndham Grand Caribbean Resort, has reopened its 7,000-square-foot casino after a \$5 million expansion and remodeling project**
RIO GRANDE, PUERTO RICO, Jan 11, 2008 (MARKET WIRE)

The work at this Caribbean resort included an addition of 180 slot machines, 12 gaming tables, a bar with five 50-inch plasma television screens and new carpeting, chairs and tables. The casino offers Blackjack, Roulette, Three-Card Poker, Caribbean Stud and Texas Hold'Em Poker. Guests now may use the Club Bahia card, which allows repeat play and accrual of points that can be redeemed throughout the Caribbean resort.

"The long-awaited grand opening of the casino is here," Stevenson said. "This casino will enhance our overall guest experience by extending the resort's entertainment offerings." This Caribbean resort has retained George Jacobs, former casino director for the Ponce Hilton in Puerto Rico, to lead its casino team. "I am excited at the opportunity to lead the newest casino in Puerto Rico," Jacobs said. "With our commitment to provide a great entertainment experience to our guests, I am confident that we will bring a new level of excellence in the gaming experience to Puerto Rico and the resort."

Caribbean Resort Casino is the Most Advanced in Puerto Rico. The slot machines incorporate ticket-in,

ticket-out technology, which is unique in Puerto Rico, according to Mark Stevenson, the managing director at this Caribbean resort casino. "Our casino now is the most technologically advanced in Puerto Rico," he said. For more information about this Caribbean resort, please visit the Rio Mar Beach Resort & Spa website or call (877) 636-0636.

- **Discovery Bay Resort and Marina Anticipates 2009 Construction Start**

September 2008 Issue, Crew Life by Carol Bareuther

Puerto Rico's northwest corner is a jewel of a destination for water sports such as sports fishing, surfing, and sailing. Now, after a decade of planning, this region will finally have a full-service world-class marina facility that will enable visiting and local yachtsmen alike to access much-needed facilities that can be reached via an easy leapfrog cruise from the Dominican Republic, eastern Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Discovery Bay Resort & Marina, to be built on 270-acres between the towns of Aguadilla and Aguada on Puerto Rico's northwest corner, will be an estimated \$300 million residential, commercial and nautical tourism village development when finished.

"The Caribbean is a hot spot for cruising," says Thomas Cordero, president of Cordeco Northwest Corp., the company that owns the land. "Once you get to the Virgin Islands, there are relatively good marina facilities within a day's sail right down the Caribbean island chain. This ladder isn't the case to the north. Cruisers who sail from Florida, through the Bahamas and Turks & Caicos to Puerto Plata have to travel all the way over to San Juan or Puerto Rico's east coast before finding a marina. Our development will short-cut this trip by providing a full-service stop along the way that bridges the gap between the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands."

First phase of the development will include a state-of-the-art marina with 500 floating dock slips for vessels of up to 180-feet in length, along with a dedicated yacht club. There will also be a full service dry dock and repair yard for vessels up to 75-feet in length, and a dry-stack facility for up to 500 vessels. "We expect to finish up our preliminary environmental impact studies by January 2009," says Cordero. "Then, we anticipate the final permitting will be complete and construction underway by the end of the year."

(The plans for the project include a casino, see www.discoverybay-pr.com)

- **Ritz-Carlton hotel slated for Dorado**

By Elsa Fernandez Miralles, Caribbean Business Online, 07/31/2008

It's official. The famous Ritz-Carlton brand is coming to what used to be the **Hyatt Dorado Beach Hotel**. The development of the five-star hotel is first in line for Caribbean Property Group (CPG)—owner of the Isla Verde Ritz-Carlton Hotel & Casino—and local developers Prisa Group, Dorado Mayor Carlos López confirmed to CARIBBEAN BUSINESS. CPG and Prisa are partners in a joint venture through a private equity fund for an undisclosed amount that involved the acquisition of Dorado Beach, the Cerromar hotel, four golf courses, adjacent properties and residential developments.

According to López, details on the ambitious mixed-used hospitality and residential project to be anchored by the Ritz-Carlton hotel will be unveiled Saturday during a private VIP event in which the developers will preview their plans for what they call "an American icon" but, according to the mayor, all the parties agreed not to provide specific details about the project until Saturday. Neither Federico Stubbe, president and CEO of Prisa Group, nor any of the CPG executives could be reached for comment at press time Monday.

The project has been progressing according to the plans outlined by Stubbe last year (CB, Dec. 20, 2007) after acquisition of Cerromar and Dorado Beach from the Pritzker family. Back then, Stubbe disclosed tentative plans for converting the Dorado Beach into a five-star hotel and the Cerromar into a four-star hotel plus residential and commercial developments. Total planned investment in all properties was more than \$1.5 billion. According to sources, the Dorado property and its various components will be developed first. Plans to

be unveiled Saturday are reportedly inspired in Laurance S. Rockefeller's original vision 50 years ago of Dorado Beach as a unique resort and natural sanctuary of untouchable beauty and harmony.

Rockefeller—a stateside financier, philanthropist and conservationist (today, environmentalist) born in 1910—once described the Dorado Beach property as a “rarified blend of sun, sand and serenity.” Today, CPG and Stubbe are using Rockefeller's original dream as inspiration for a new rendering of Dorado Beach that combines environmental authenticity and cultural sensitivity with modern sophistication and Caribbean style. “We expected to have some decision made by January so we can proceed,” Stubbe told CB in 2007. “We first have to go through a design and permitting process, which will probably take us all of 2008. We hopefully will begin construction full blast by the first months of 2009. We hope to have all the planning structured by the first quarter of next year.”

Besides the Isla Verde Ritz-Carlton Hotel & Casino, CPG also owns the Ambassador Hotel & Casino, the Normandie as well several real-estate properties and shopping centers in Puerto Rico.

- **Sheraton Convention Center to open on schedule**

By : Elsa Fernandez Miralles, Caribbean Business Online, 06/19/2008

With so many hotel construction projects delayed or halted, it's good to know that at least one main hospitality project is on time and on budget. The Sheraton Hotel in the Convention Center District is expected to open on schedule November 2009. The 500-room installation, which will serve as anchor hotel for the Puerto Rico Convention Center, is already eight floors into its total of 12. Moreover, the site will feature the first Sheraton Internet Café, free for use by its guests and customers.

How can they possibly manage all of this while prices have been skyrocketing due to fuel increases? “You can always buy for the future, and that is what we did in this case. We bought materials well before this unprecedented increase in prices occurred, so we have been able to continue building within budget and without cutting corners,” said Jaime Fortuño, executive vice president of Interlink, the firm developing the property.

Willie Chin, director of sales & marketing for the **Sheraton Puerto Rico Convention Center Hotel & Casino**, said the hotel already has several bookings working in tandem with the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau (PRCB) for 2010. “We have a very close relationship with the PRCB, but we also need a very strong sales force since we have our own 35,000-square-foot meeting space to sell as well,” he said. Chin said the hotel will have two outstanding features: a 53-square-foot pool on the fourth floor with a breathtaking view of San Juan Bay and an **18,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art casino with the latest and most innovative technologies in the gambling industry.**

“The outside look of the building was changed from ultramodern to more contemporary, but we have kept the ceiling wave in synch with the Convention Center. We are in the process of being certified by the Green Building Council, and that is very costly. But it is better to do it now rather than later. Besides, that is the only way to go nowadays. We will have a spa and a gym, but we have not decided yet if we will have memberships or if it will be just for the use of our guests. And we are also negotiating with several upscale restaurant franchises to have at least a couple of big names on our property,” stated Chin.

- **Empresas Santana to invest \$240 million in six of its hotel projects**

By : Elsa Fernandez Miralles, Caribbean Business Online, 03/20/2008

Although the government assures the eternal permits dilemma has been simplified and that now construction and other related permits are more agile, Empresas Santana is still waiting to go ahead with several of its hospitality projects that have been in the pipeline for a few years. As a consequence, with the increase of oil and other materials, including cement, most of the projects now will cost more. The newest development in this company's hospitality division is the confirmation it will demolish the **Isla Verde Howard Johnson Hotel** to construct a 250-room **Isla Verde Four Points by Sheraton**. The approximate investment is \$45 million and demolition and construction are scheduled to begin by 2010.

The 250-room Sheraton hotel that would anchor Ponce's new 60,000-square-foot convention center that was due to open by March 2009 (CB March 22, 2007) at an approximate cost of \$32 million is delayed. Now the **Ponce Sheraton Hotel & Casino** is expected to begin construction in 2010 with an investment of around \$60 million. And \$60 million is also the new estimated cost of the 140-room **Barceloneta Four Points by Sheraton Hotel & Casino** to be built adjacent to the area's outlet mall. Initially, this was to be a 200-room hotel, but the number of keys has been reduced and the budget increased from \$32 million to \$60 million.

Plans have also changed in the case of the now 115-room **Manatí Four Points by Sheraton** with an increased investment of \$7 million. Its construction was to begin at the end of 2008, with an investment of \$23 million and without a casino, but now the \$30 million project will include a casino although the company is still waiting for the necessary permits and hopes to begin construction by 2009. In the case of the condo-hotel scheduled for construction in September or October of 2007 next to the 107-room **Four Points by Sheraton at Palmas del Mar**, Empresas Santana has been waiting for a permit from the Department of Natural & Environmental Resources since 2007. This development will consist of 55 condo-hotel villa units with a total of 120 rooms at an approximate investment of \$25 million.

St.. Croix

St.. Kitts

St.. Lucia

St.. Maarten

- **Dunes Casino Opening Delayed**
By Scott Harmon

I doubt very much that the Dunes will be opened in April of 2009. Their opening is tied in with the construction of 200 additional rooms at Caravanseri hotel next to them. I believe it is a couple of years away as we have heard nothing of its opening.

Suriname

Trinidad and Tobago

Turks and Caicos

Caribbean TITOs

By: Jim Noll CCCC R-017

The 35 known TITOs from the Caribbean area have been added to the upcoming Ver. 2 of the TITO Collectors Catalog and to the Caribbean Chip Guide, thanks to the collectors who have helped reach that number, now it is time to identify more types and add them to both reference sources.

I am reviewing the casino/hotel web sites for the other Caribbean locations and trying to determine if they use TITOs. To date I have identified 5 more locations that have or should have TITOs, including the Atlantis World in Dominican Republic, Hilton Ponce in Puerto Rico and The Players Club in Turks & Caicos which issues slot and electronic table game pay out TITOs and the Las Vegas Casino in Belize and the Veneto Casino in Panama. Charles indicated several new casinos soon to open in the last newsletter so more TITO locations should be on the way.

The AWG people are soon to open the Dunes Casino in St.. Maarten, when that happens all the AWG casinos most likely will get new design TITOs as they list all their casinos on the TITO backs. They have issued a slot card with the Dunes name on the back so the TITOs should follow

As I do not travel to the Caribbean area, I am asking those of you that do to add TITOs to your collecting interests during Caribbean trips.

Anyone with questions on TITOs and TITO collecting please feel free to contact me at jenca@pacbell.net.

Caribbean Casino Chip Hordes

Knowledge of the quantities of available casino chips will help collectors to determine values. Please send additions and modifications for this list to: chas@ckaplan.com

Aruba

- Americana - Bud Jones brass and silver inlay racks, most denoms (Nevada Jacks)
- Aruba Caribbean - Bud Jones rack, most denoms (Nevada Jacks)
- Aruba Palm Beach, H&C rack, most denoms (Nevada Jacks)
- Arusino, H&C rack, all denoms except \$1
- Concorde, chips with hot stamp overlays
- King International, H&C rack, all denoms
- Palace, Chipco \$5, \$20 and \$25 chips (Nevada Jacks)
- Palm, Bud Jones \$5, \$25 and \$100 chips (Nevada Jacks)

Cuba

- Casino de Capri - SMKEY rack never reached casino before it closed

Panama

- Casino Nacionales de Panama, H&C rack, \$1 and \$5 (Spinetti's)
- Club Asia Colon, \$10 (Spinetti's)
- Club Las Asiaticos, \$10 and \$50 (Spinetti's)
- Club Mundial De Panama \$10 (Spinetti's)
- El Panama, H&C rack, \$1 and \$5 (Spinetti's)
- Holiday Inn, H&C rack, \$1 and \$5 (Spinetti's)

Puerto Rico

- Ambassador Plaza, H&C rack, most denoms (Nevada Jacks)
- Caribe Inn - Bud Jones and HCE racks, most denoms
- Cerromar Beach - Bud Jones, HCE and LGKEY rack, most denoms (Nevada Jacks)
- Condado Beach - Bud Jones and H&C rack, all denoms
- Dorado Beach - Bud Jones, HCE and HHR racks, not all denoms (Nevada Jacks)
- Dutch Inn - Bud Jones rack, all denoms
- Flamboyant Hotel - rumored that a Florida collector has most of the chips
- Palm Hotel - casino never opened, all chips available
- Ponce de Leon - SMKEY rack, all denoms (Spinetti's)
- Quality Inn - Bud Jones rack, all denoms
- Ramada - Bud Jones rack, all denoms
- Ritz Carlton - H&C rack, most denoms

St.. Marteen

- Mullett Bay - Bud Jones rack, all denoms

Caribbean Casino Collectors Club News

If you haven't already heard, CCCC member Greg Susong recently went in to the hospital for some very serious surgery. He has already returned home and is recovering. Greg's contributions to the hobby are epic. The ChipBoard is owned and operated by Greg and has given the diversely located members of our hobby a daily way to be connected to each other. The ChipGuide remains the standard for an online catalog of hobby collectibles. The Caribbean ChipGuide is based on Greg's design, with his permission of course. In case you are interested, Greg's interest in collecting Caribbean chips is Aruba. Greg is also the organizer of the annual ChipGuide Get Together at the Palms casino on the Tuesday night before the start of the CC>CC convention. For all his contributions to the hobby, Greg was elected to the CC>CC Hall of Fame and is an active member of that committee. We wish Greg the best of luck for a speedy and full recovery. And we hope to see him up and around soon. Thanks also to Greg's devoted family for taking such good care of him and helping to keep the hobby well informed of his progress.

There was so much news for this issue, I made the fonts smaller in order to accomodate it all. If it is too difficult to read, please let me know so that I can work on a solution for the next issue.

Not much other club news to report this time around.

The Caribbean ChipGuide

The Caribbean ChipGuide is progress along and we are nearing the 5,000th item, which should happen before year end. Dr. Luis Alvarez recently sent me scans of a number of Cuban chips that will keep me busy for a while and take me beyond the 5,000 milestone. Otherwise the flow of new submissions is relenting.

In two weeks I will be presenting the implementation of the Caribbean ChipGuide to a group of computer programmers on Long Island. The purpose of the presentation is to demonstrate how easy (for someone computer programming skills) and inexpensive it is to design and implement a professional looking website. I will demonstrating what tools were needed and how they were used in developing the website.

With the winter months approaching, many of you will be taking Caribbean vacations to get in some warm weather fun. When you do, please be on the look out for new items for the Caribbean ChipGuide. Including: chips, tokens, playing cards, slot cards, TITO's, dice, postcards, room keys, matchbooks, ashtrays, pictures or anything else with a casino logo on it.

So that's it for now, happy chipping.

Charles Kaplan

Caribbean Casino Collectors Club Member List

<u>LastName, FirstName</u>	<u>MbrNbr</u>	<u>Email</u>
Alvarez, Luis	R-055	tecnamar@aol.com
Bartley, Dick	R-012	dbartguy@aol.com
Baxter, Dave	R-045	blackbart91919@yahoo.com
Bequette, Debbie	R-046	paris919@bellsouth.net
Birl, Jerry	R-027	jerrybirl@mchsi.com
Black, Archie	R-004	ablack2@optonline.net
Blanchard, James	R-034	apple@maine.rr.com
Campagna, Michael	R-016	mikel2chip@aol.com
Cashman, Brian	R-006	mr-splashbar@comcast.net
Charles, Westen	R-054	westen98@yahoo.com
Chopek, John	R-029	chopek1@verizon.net
DeKeyser, Fred	R-022	midwestchipper@aol.com
Donoghue, Ray	R-024	rdonoghue@nyc.rr.com
Doroskio, Phil	R-014	phildoro@yahoo.com
Dunham, William	R-041	beachbum92672@yahoo.com
Follis, James	R-033	jim@gamingore.com
Genauldi, John	R-007	jtgenual@yahoo.com
Gross, Irwin	R-036	doc144@optonline.net
Harmon, Scott	R-023	scotto23@optonline.net
Harouff, Dwight	R-048	goldplated@aol.com
Hartman, Scott	R-050	scott.thechipman@gmail.com
Heistand, Bob	R-030	bobngail@optonline.net
Hempel, Fred	R-051	fred4970@aol.com
Heron, Mike	R-040	mheron@dc.rr.com
Hodges, Rich	R-009	rfhodges@earthlink.net
Hudik, Peter	R-015	peter.hudik@us.army.mil
Kaplan, Charles	R-002	chas@ckaplan.com
Liscio, Paul	R-025	goto66@optonline.net
Lueders, Don	R-032	don@lueders.us
McGhee, Andrew	R-031	amcghee@suddenlink.net
McKenzie, Von	R-043	deputyfl@yahoo.com
Moruzzi, Peter	R-056	pmoruzzi@earthlink.net
Myers, Allan	R-026	myersmyers@insightbb.com
Nathan, Peter	R-021	vegaschipman@aol.com
Nesbitt, Don	R-044	dont44@aol.com
Noll, James	R-017	jenca@pacbell.net
Pollack, Ralph	R-001	ralph.pollack2@verizon.net
Pushkin, Ricky	R-049	all-chips@comcast.net
Rapley, Luke	R-013	lrapley@aol.com
Richter, Michael	R-020	lisgar@earthlink.net
Robbins, Marty	R-038	martyandmichelle@insightbb.com
Rollins, Albert C.	R-042	albertrollins@hotmail.com
Rosenblum, Eric	R-037	lesr@optonline.net
Scalzo, Albert	R-047	albertscalzo@gmail.com
Scanlin, Terry	R-053	tscanlin@hotmail.com

<u>LastName, FirstName</u>	<u>MbrNbr</u>	<u>Email</u>
Schuff, Monte	R-052	mscuff@charter.net
Shaffer, Terry	R-058	terryshaffer@rocketmail.com
Silverman, Neal	R-035	neal@chequers.com
Siskin, Michael	R-005	littleem@optonline.net
Smith, Christine	R-011	sheldon655@hotmail.com
Smith, Sheldon	R-010	sheldon655@hotmail.com
Steiner, Dave	R-019	steiner@rutgers.edu
Strutzel, Kurt	R-039	johnnydeuces@comcast.net
Thorne, Phil	R-018	pdthorne@cox.net
Volberg, Pete	R-003	qualpete@aol.com
Williams, Dan	R-008	ddhdk@aol.com
Yaksich, Rudy	R-057	serb2222@aol.com
Zilberg, Boris	R-028	

TOTALS: Printed 58 records.