

Caribbean Casino Collectors Club Quarterly Newsletter

**Volume 1, Issue #1
Winter 2007**

Casinos of the Caribbean

Antigua
Aruba
Bahamas
Bonaire
Cuba
Curacao
Dominican Republic
Guadeloupe
Haiti
Martinique
Puerto Rico
St. Croix
St. Kitts
St. Maartin
St. Vincent
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos

Caribbean Casino News

Casino Openings and Closings and new Chip Issues

Aruba

- The **Crystal Casino** has new \$1 chips with logos to match the new \$5 chips released last year. From Michael Siskin.



- The **Hotel Rui Palace Hotel** opened on July 23, 2007 on the eastern/southern end of Palm Beach. This hotel originally opened in 1968 as a Sheraton and had many ownership changes. It most recently was the Aruba Grand Hotel. This hotel's casino is called the Cool Casino.



- The **Royal Cabana** used to be owned by the La Cabana. The La Cabana was split between the La Cabana Beach and Racquet Club and the La Cabana Villas. Contact Brian Cashman to explain it (he's a BRC timeshare owner), and who owned the rights to the Royal Cabana (I think the BRC contended it owned the casino). It has me very confused. In any case, the Villas and the casino were somehow sold to the Gillman Group of Las Vegas. They have changed the name of the Villas to the Aruban Resort and Casino. Two months ago, a friend spotted them cleaning the Royal

Cabana. The casino is scheduled to open in February (whether under that name or not, I don't know). From Michael Siskin.

- Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. and Belfonti Capital Partners announce an agreement to re-flag Belfonti's newly-acquired 478-room Aruba Resort Spa & Casino as **The Westin Aruba Resort & Spa**. The property will raise the Westin flag in late 2006 upon completion of a renovation to further enhance the property's AAA Four Diamond rating. The hotel also features the 12,000 square-foot Casablanca Casino, one of the Caribbean's premier gaming destinations. Belfonti, which owns the entire property, will manage the casino while Westin will manage the hotel under a long-term agreement.

Bahamas

- LAS VEGAS, May 23 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. (NYSE: PNK) announced the opening of **The Casino at Emerald Bay**, located on the picturesque island of Great Exuma in the Bahamas. The Casino at Emerald Bay adjoins the Four Seasons Resort Great Exuma and is the first and only casino on the island.

"The Casino at Emerald Bay adds an air of excitement to the magnificent resort experience on the island of Great Exuma," said Daniel R. Lee, Chairman and CEO of Pinnacle Entertainment. "Guests travel to Great Exuma from around the United States and the world and this will create yet another reason for them to visit more often and stay longer. We are honored to be a part of such an important tourism component."

Set in a contemporary and comfortable 5,000 square-foot setting, The Casino at Emerald Bay offers guests the distinct experience of a sophisticated casino environment infused with a taste of Bahamian flavor. The casino includes approximately 65 slot machines and eight table games, including blackjack, craps and roulette.

Bermuda

- As reported by the Bermuda Royal Gazette: "A casino within the proposed **Jumeirah Southlands** five-star resort would be a welcome addition, according to one of the developers.

"But without a change in Bermuda's laws it cannot happen, said Craig Christensen as he revealed more about his own personal involvement in the project and what it will mean for one of the Island's last areas of undeveloped wilderness.

"It is for Government to decide if it is time to license gambling on the Island but Southlands Limited co-owner Mr. Christensen would not be adverse to adding a small European-style casino offering entertainment, food and drinks into the already ambitious hotel resort plans..."

Curacao

- The new **Renaissance Curacao Resort & Casino** that should be completed late this year. The casino is set for staff recruiting in the first quarter of 2008 and opening shortly after the training of casino personnel. The location is in Willemstad just outside the old Fort Riff on the Otrabanda side of the sea entrance to Willemstad. From John Genualdi.
- I am attaching a scan of a chip I recently purchased from the **Curacao Hilton** (\$5 NCV). I have seen two eBay sellers selling this chip. One admitted to me to have a box of 100 uncirculated chips. It's listed as a **** chip in Ralph's book. Obviously, the value has dropped and buyers should be aware. From Michael Siskin.



Dominican Republic

- Upon its debut in December 2007, the new **Casino Dominicus** will be operated by one of the most experienced casino management teams in any market. SSG Dominicus, LLC, a United States limited liability company, and its wholly-owned Dominican subsidiary Surcadia Empresarial, S.A., consists of seasoned professional gaming industry executives. The team is skilled at both the day-to-day operations of a successful casino as well as the promotion, marketing, and financial controls of a new venture.

Among the executives listed below there are several members with extensive experience in the Dominican Republic and Caribbean gaming markets. This experience will prove beneficial in executing the company's plan to open the premier gaming establishment in the country.

The Casino Dominicus will provide an exciting, entertaining gaming venue targeted at both the tourist market (primarily with its hotel partners, SunTrust), as well as locals from the neighboring cities of La Romana and Higüey. The company projects hiring and training approximately 150 employees to launch Casino Dominicus.

The management team has in the past directly opened and operated casinos in a variety of jurisdictions including Mississippi, Louisiana, and Indiana in the United States, Argentina, Venezuela, the Bahamas, and many other jurisdictions.

- Palace Resorts has plans to develop the **Moon Palace Casino** in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Initial plans are to offer 1743 rooms with double jacuzzis, balconies and Palace's signature amenities. The hotel will feature a full service casino, eight restaurants, nine outdoor pools, an expansive business/meeting facility, a luxurious spa and a theater for deluxe entertainment. This new all-inclusive will be developed in two phases, the first of which will open in late 2007 with the finishing phase completed in 2008.

Jamaica

- As reported by the Jamaica Observer: "Developers of the **Harmony Cove** resort in Trelawny are considering the use of a 'Las Vegas model' that would include a mega gaming lounge, a facility that would have over 1,000 video lottery terminals (VLTs), according to a reliable source.

"The Jamaican gaming regulator, the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission (BGLC), noted, in its submission to parliament for the current fiscal year that runs to March 31, 2008, that the 'expected advent of mega gaming lounges' would provide continued growth in the sub-sector, currently estimated to rake in J\$20 billion in revenue annually.

"...Currently, the Jamaican gaming landscape is characterized by a large amount of small operators with less than 20 machines -around 1,200 operators - and about 12 gaming lounges licensed to carry between 20 and 150 VLTs..."

Puerto Rico

- November 7, 2007 - **Rio Mar Beach Resort & Spa**, a Wyndham Grand property in Puerto Rico, has reopened its 7,000-square-foot casino after a \$5 million expansion and remodeling.

Some 180 slot machines, 12 gaming tables and a bar with five 50-inch plasma TV screens were added in the project, as well as new carpeting, chairs and tables. The new slot machines are the only ones on the island to offer ticket-in/ticket-out technology. Guests can play blackjack, roulette, three-card poker, Caribbean stud and Texas Hold'em poker at the casino and use the Rio Mar's Club Bahia card, which promotes repeat play and allows players to accrue points that can be redeemed throughout the resort in the spa, restaurants and accommodations. In addition to the casino, the resort features 48,000 square feet of meeting space; two 18-hole golf courses designed by Tom and George Fazio and Greg Norman; a 7,000-square-foot spa and fitness center; 11 restaurants, lounges and entertainment venues; an international tennis center; water sports; and two beach front pools. Visit <http://www.wyndham.com>.

St. Croix

- As reported by the Connecticut Day: "The Mashantucket Pequots' plans to diversify tribal holdings beyond gaming are coming to fruition with the development of resort-style projects in St. Croix and the Bahamas.

"In an interview Tuesday, John O'Brien, Foxwoods' president and chief executive officer, said the tribe is in the very early stages of developing resorts in the U.S. Virgin Islands where gaming would be an element but would take a back seat to entertainment and residential development.

"The tribe's move toward diversification is part of a larger trend in the region's tribal gaming operations.

"...For the Mashantuckets in the Virgin Islands, however, 'nothing is firmed up,' O'Brien said, and the tribe, which filed a gaming-license application in St. Croix, where it owns a stake in 600 beach side acres, back in 2006, is just starting to go through the land-use process. Preliminary plans would include a hotel, casino, marina, golf course and some housing, according to tribal spokesman Bruce MacDonald. The tribe is discussing different types of housing options, including fractional ownership and condominiums, he said.

St. Maarten

- As reported by the St. Maarten Daily Herald: "The more than US \$10 million financing from Scotiabank is in place. The construction agreement has been signed with Liccom N.V. and work is moving full speed ahead. The only snag is that **Caravanserai Resort** is still awaiting its casino license.

"With the ink dried on the construction agreement and five per cent of the total project cost already paid to the contractor, the resort has met the requirement set out by the Island Council for a casino license. Proof of the project financing and an agreement with the contractor to complete the work in 24 months were submitted to government two weeks ago.

"The construction agreement was signed by Caravanserai Resort Managing Director Hareh Manek and Andre Sneep of Liccom N.V. Also present at the signing were Resort General Manager Ron Verhaar, Scotiabank Country Manager Elie Bendaly, Project Consultant Chino Lusia of Access Management and Consultants N.V., and Henk van den Heuvel and Hams Hootsmens of Liccom N.V..."

Trinidad and Tobago

- As reported by Newsday: "The casino industry in Trinidad and Tobago is bracing itself for next Monday's Budget. Yesterday, President of the Association of Members' Clubs (AMC) Brian Phillips, said that he was not optimistic about the upcoming presentation, but called on Government to stick by promises it made to the workers of the casino industry, if it does indeed go ahead with plans to shut the industry down.

"Specifically, Phillips called on Government to reveal plans to retrain the thousands of workers in the casino-industry who will be on the bread line if the industry is shut down.

"...In last year's Budget presentation, Prime Minister Patrick Manning said that Government was strongly against the proliferation of casinos in Trinidad and Tobago..."

Turks and Caicos

- Turquoise Development, Inc. (Pink Sheets:TQDC) announced that **The Players Club**, Providenciales' newest entertainment destination, is opening its doors to the public on Sunday, December 10, 2006.

The Players Club is a joint venture between The Game International and Carib Gaming Ltd. and Turquoise Development owns a 25% stake in Carib Gaming. It is recognized that despite its natural beauty, Providenciales currently offers little in the way of nighttime entertainment. The Game International and Carib Gaming feel that a sophisticated gaming parlor will prove a strong entertainment draw for both visitors and residents of the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Providing this unique nightlife setting in Providenciales, The Players Club will have 100 gaming machines, including the brand new multi-player Roulette, Blackjack, and Poker games in a comfortable air conditioned environment. These new games provide the look and feel of table games with the benefit of digital monitoring. And for the first time in Provo, the Players Club will provide progressive jackpots. Located at the Queen Angel Resort in Turtle Cove, The Players Club will offer an exciting gaming experience. Operating hours will be from 4p.m.-2a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 4p.m.-4 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

"Our mission is to provide a first class player experience -- our commitment to quality, excellence and customer service will be second to none in the Turks & Caicos Islands," said Mr. Rhynie Campbell, president of The Game.

"Carib Gaming has been a long-standing business in the Turks and Caicos Islands, we are committed to making the Players Club a successful venture and bringing a new gaming experience to the community," added Jack Tatum, vice president of operations for Carib Gaming.

Caribbean Casino Collectors Club News

- 2007 is now winding down to a close and soon we will welcome in the new year of 2008. Look forward to a new collectible CCCC membership card. Those who paid up dues for 2008 will automatically get the new card mailed to them. To those whose dues expire at the end of 2007, I will send out dues renewal notices.

If you would like to pay 2008 dues ahead of time, and save the club some postage, please send your checks or money orders to:

Caribbean Casino Collectors Club
c/o Charles Kaplan
11 Calais Court
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Dues are \$10 per year, you may also pay \$20 for 2 years.

- I am currently working on a Caribbean ChipGuide website. The website has the look and feel of Greg Susong's ChipGuide, www.chipguide.com. Greg very generously allowed me to copy the style of his website. The programming is completely original, done with PHP and MySQL. At this point the website is functional, but I keep on adding some new features as they occur to me. For instance, I just the capability to sort the list of casinos within a country by either city or name.

The major effort involves data collection. I started by loading the data base tables with information from my personal collection. Additional information was gathered from a number of sources, credits for these sources will be listed on the website. And the most time consuming part of the project are chip images. Each chip has to be scanned, cropped, resized, minimized, saved with a unique filename that is then added to the data base table. Double that for a chip that is not the same on both sides. I can do about 25 chips/hour and I have over 1,300 chips to do.

As it turns out, Terry Shaeffer was also working on a similar project. He was not as far along as I was, so we decided to join forces. We are going to use my website design and he is sending me all the chip images he has collected to date. That will be a tremendous help. Thanks, Terry.

Currently, I have completed the following countries: Antigua, Bahamas, Bonaire, Curacao, Haiti, Martinique, St. Croix, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Suriname, Tobago, Trinidad and Turks & Caicos. By completed, I mean that I scanned in images of all the chips in my collection from these locations. I am about 30% completed with Puerto Rico, out of a total of about 650 chips in my collection.

I am not going to wait until I have all 1,300 chips scanned in, just enough to make the Grand Opening presentable. I know that there many, many more Caribbean chips out there than are in my collection. I would appreciate the following information:

Casinos - location (country, address, zip, etc.), phone, website address, opening and closing dates and pictures

Chips - casino name and location, issue date, and scans (full size and 150 to 300 dpi)

Please send the info, it does not have to be complete, as much as you have will do, to chas@ckaplan.com.

Every chip scan is acknowledged on the website with the name of contributor. Please be patient, it will take some time for me to catch up with the backlog of all the scans I have yet to do. Look for the Grand Opening sometime in December, 2007.

- The CCCC will continue to have ads in CC>CC's Casino Chip and Token News, as long as we can provide articles. Please send me any articles that you would like to have published and I will work with the editor to get them in.
- Our first CCCC meeting will be at the 2008 CC>CC Convention, scheduled for June 18 to 21 at the Riviera Hotel. At this meeting, I would like to get the CCCC organized. That means electing officers (President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership) and drafting a constitution and bylaws. Those interested in participating in any capacity, please let me know. Hopefully, we will also be able to run a swap session at the meeting. Any other ideas?

There will also be a Caribbean themed educational seminar at the 2008 convention. Ralph Pollack did an excellent job at the last convention, I was amazed to see images of rare Caribbean chips I never even knew existed.

- If you will be vacationing in the Caribbean over the winter, please make sure to send me information about casino openings and closing and any new chip releases.

So that's it for now, happy chipping.

Charles Kaplan

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TOTALS: Printed 44 of the 44 records.