

# Caribbean Casino Collectibles Club

## Quarterly Journal



Volume 3, Issue 2  
Spring 2010



### Casinos of the Caribbean

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



# Caribbean Casino News

## Casino Openings and Closings and new Chip Issues

### Caribbean Region

- **Groupe Cogit runs Casinos in Guadeloupe and Martinique**

By Charles Kaplan, January 22, 2010

Groupe Cogit, a French casino management company is now running all the casinos on Guadeloupe and Martinique in the French West Indies:

- Le Casino du Gosier, Guadeloupe
- Le Casino de Saint-François, Guadeloupe
- Le Casino Batelière-Plazza, Martinique
- Le Casino de Trois-Ilets, Martinique

Link to Group Cogit's website: <http://www.groupe-cogit.com/>

- **Thunderbird Resorts runs Casinos in Panama and Costa Rica**

By Charles Kaplan, January 24, 2010

Thunderbird Resorts, under several different brand names runs casinos in the Caribbean in Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and elsewhere.

Website: <http://www.thunderbirdresorts.com>

#### Costa Rica

Fiesta Garden Court Alajuela - San Jose

Fiesta Herradura, Ramada Plaza Hotel - San Jose

Fiesta Presidente - San Jose

Fiesta Cacique - Heredia

Luckys Casinos - four locations: Guapiles, Perez Zeledón, San Carlos and Tournon

#### Guatamala

Fiesta Intercontinental - Guatamala City

Fiesta Mazatenango - Suchitepéquez

#### Nicaragua

Pharaohs Casino Carretera Masaya - Managua

Pharaohs Casino Camino Real - Managua

Pharaohs Casino Holiday Inn - Managua

#### Panama

Fiesta Casino Hotel El Panama, Panama City

Fiesta Casino Hotel Soloy - Panama City

Fiesta Casino Hotel Nacional - David

Fiesta Casino Hotel Washington - Colon

Fiesta Casino Hotel Guayacanes - Chitre

Fiesta casino Hotel Decameron - Panama City

### Antigua

### Aruba

- **Slots Only Casino Opens at the Queen Beatrix International Airport**

Submitted by Michael Siskin

Sometime in the last few months, a slots only casino opened in Aruba's Queen Beatrix International Airport. I could not find any information about the casino online. If you know anything about it, please contact me.

- **The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. Adds to Caribbean Presence with Exclusive Resort Project in Aruba**

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba: Set for 2012 opening

MIAMI, Fl. —February 17, 2010 — The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. and the Government of Aruba announced today plans to open The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, an exclusive 320-room oceanfront resort situated on the Caribbean island's famed Palm Beach. The resort will offer several restaurants, a luxurious spa, two swimming pools and a **24-hour casino**. In addition to spacious rooms and suites, the hotel will include The Ritz-Carlton Club Level, a private floor accessible only by elevator key, offering light fare and dedicated concierge service throughout the day.

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, projected to open in late 2012, will be the seventh location in The Ritz-Carlton portfolio of award winning Caribbean properties, joining existing hotels in St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands), Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Puerto Rico, Mexico and The Bahamas.

"Aruba is an island destination with growing appeal to discerning travelers from Europe and the United States. Its stunning beaches and majestic views make the island one of those exceptional places in the Southern Caribbean, blending serenity and scenic attractions our guests seek when planning a vacation," said Ezzat Coutry, senior vice president, Southeast Region, Caribbean and Latin America, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. "It is an extraordinary location for luxury development on the island," added Coutry.

"I am thrilled to partner with The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company on such an exciting project that will set a new standard for luxury travel to the island," commented Walter Stipa, developer for The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba. "I am confident that The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba will be a highly successful endeavor for all partners involved," he added.

Newly elected Prime Minister Mike Eman stated, "in all honesty, the credit for this project should go to the former administration. Due to a rapid expansion of hotels and condominiums over the last 20 years we are concerned that we are left with too few vacant public beach areas," said Eman. "The fact that we are looking at the addition of such a prestigious hotel as the Ritz Carlton reduces this pain for us. We hope to work closely with Mr. Marriott to achieve the vision of our new government that will put more emphasis on sustainability and durability in the development of our tourism industry for the people of Aruba and our visitors alike," Eman added.

Located off the coast of Venezuela, Aruba is renowned for miles of white powder sand beaches and crystal blue water that boasts a warm tropical climate year-round. The 21 mile-long island is situated on the southern part of the Caribbean Sea and features many diverse influences as a result of its rich history. The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is located in Palm Beach, home to some of the island's finest beaches. Lush tropical surroundings and a balmy temperature allow for swimming, sunbathing and relaxation by the water. The resort will bring a new level of elegance in accommodations and amenities to the island.

## **Bahamas**

- **China bank inks finance deal for Bahamas resort**

By DAVID McFADDEN (AP), April 1, 2010, submitted by Jim Noll

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A stalled mega-resort in the Bahamas seems back on track after a Chinese bank arranged a \$2.5 billion financing deal, a boost for the archipelago whose tourism-dependent economy has been slammed by the global slump. Developer **Baha Mar Resorts Ltd.** announced Wednesday it has signed financing deals with Beijing's Export-Import Bank and contracts with China's state-owned construction corporation for the development of a sprawling resort on 1,000 acres along Nassau's Cable Beach. The deal with Chinese investors has given new life to the Baha Mar project, an ambitious complex that was put on ice two years ago when U.S. casino operator Harrah's Entertainment Inc. pulled out of the project because it took too long to organize.

Under the new arrangement, plans for Baha Mar's first phase include roughly 3,000 rooms, a 100,000-square-foot casino, an 18-hole championship golf course, acres of meeting space and a retail village with upscale shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues. "Financing for mega-hotel and resort developments of this size, scale and scope are extremely rare, particularly in today's economic environment," said Baha Mar Resorts CEO Sarkis Izmirlan. Word that Baha Mar had signed a new financing deal was good news for Bahamian tourism officials, who said the resort would be a boon for the island nation, whose tourism economy has been hobbled by slashed occupancy rates during the recession. "From a tourism development point of view, we're just thrilled that the project is moving ahead on a good track," said Frank Comito, executive vice president of the Bahamas Hotel Association.

The new resort would compete with Atlantis, an established mega-resort that covers three-quarters of Paradise Island, an 800-acre island just off Nassau, the Bahamian capital. The Baha Mar deal, which had been negotiated with Chinese investors since April 2008, includes labor from China State Construction Engineering Corp., which would assume a minority equity interest. Baha Mar says it will "hire as many qualified Bahamians as possible to work on the project." Ultimately, the development company expects the resort to create some 8,000 new jobs for Bahamian workers across all sectors of the hospitality industry.

Baha Mar said it plans to break ground on the resort later this year. It is scheduled for completion in late 2013. Construction start dates are subject to approvals by the governments of the Bahamas and China. The office of Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham did not immediately return calls for comment, but Izmirlan said Baha Mar has enjoyed "unceasing support" from the Bahamian government.

- **Committee Looking at Gambling for Legal Residents**  
By Keva Lightbourne ~ Guardian Senior Reporter, April 7, 2010

The committee formed to comprehensively examine the country's gaming laws may be leaning toward recommending that legal residents be allowed to gamble in The Bahamas, according to Minister of Tourism Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace. "In particular there is a group of people who are in The Bahamas whose income does not derive from The Bahamas, but they are residents in The Bahamas without the right to work," he said.

"In very many respects they resemble a visitor. So they are now prohibited under Section 50 of the Lotteries and Gaming Act from engaging in gaming in The Bahamas. So that is something that we are taking a look at the possibility of enabling those persons to be considered, but that is not a final decision. A great deal of thought is still going into all of the amendments we have to make." Bahamian citizens and permanent residents are prohibited from gambling under the current law. However, tourists are allowed to gamble.

Last year, Bahamas Hotel Association President Robert Sands said the BHA supported a national lottery and the amendment of the gaming laws to allow permanent residents to gamble in casinos in The Bahamas. However, the BHA does not support extending casino gambling to Bahamians. For years, the debate over whether Bahamians should be allowed to gamble in The Bahamas has been a hot topic across the country. There are those like the religious leaders who are adamantly opposed to the idea. Many of them believe it would contribute to the breakdown of families and the society. Then there are others who say legalizing gambling in The Bahamas for Bahamians would help fund sporting activities, culture events and education, etc.

Over the years, successive governments have been reluctant to address the issue. Vanderpool-Wallace insisted that the committee has not considered or made any suggestion or recommendation with regard to allowing Bahamians to gamble legally. As the committee considers what laws should be relaxed as it regards gaming in The Bahamas, a group called Bahamas Gaming Reform continues to push to end what it says is discrimination. The group's chairman Sidney Strachan, said: "In response to numerous calls and speculation that the government may be in the process of initiating changes to the current gaming laws, Bahamas Gaming Reform (BGR) applauds any move by the government to reform the country's [archaic] gaming laws. However, BGR stresses that it must be done right and not stop short of ending the blatant discrimination against Bahamian residents."

He said Bahamians are excitedly hoping that what has long been a national pass time — the numbers game — may finally become legal. "Bahamians will no longer feel threatened, terrified or harassed while harmlessly

queuing up at local web cafes," Strachan said. "In spite of the heavy sighs of relief from many quarters of the country, anything short of complete reform (permitting Bahamians to be stakeholders and players in our casinos) will be an affront to Bahamians and only deepen the social divide as foreigners will again be afforded more privileges in this country."

## Belize

## Bermuda

## Bonaire

## Cayman Islands

## Costa Rica

## Cuba

- **Memories of a Slot Machine Mechanic at Wilbur Clark's Parisien Casino**  
Submitted by Eduardo Perez, April 24, 2010

On 1954, at age 15, I got deeply in love with a girl named Angelita Vidal. She was the grand daughter of Raul Vidal, who later on became the mechanic of the slot machines of the Casino Parisien (also known as Wilbur Clark's Casino in the Hotel Nacional). Also named Raul Vidal, brother of Angelita, was hired as slot machine coins cashier in the casino. Later on, they got me the job as a Slot Machine Mechanic Helper. I used to dress in black with a little cowboy tie, exactly the same as the 2 dealers in front of the roulette in this photo taken in the Parisien. I was 18 years old:



IN THE ELEGANT CASINO OF THE NACIONAL OF THE NACIONAL HOTEL IN HAVANA.

U.S. GAMBLERS TRY THEIR LUCK AT ROULETTE, DICE AND SLOT MACHINES.

Raul Vidal's grand father (also named Raul Vidal) was my boss, Frank was his boss, El Mexicano was Frank boss, and gangster Jake Lansky was the top boss. Frank also was in charge of Casino Tropicana slot machines. I was part of the resistance in Habana against President Batista and when Fidel took power on January 1st 1959 I dressed this way in military green. I was living at Calle O #14, right in front of the National Hotel where the Casino Parisien was. This photo was taken in the front of that house during those first days of Cuban freedom.



One day I was called on the phoned telling that a large group of people were looting (destroying and robbing) the Capri Hotel Casino, which was 2 blocks from the Parisien, 3 blocks from my home, and planning to destroy the Parisien next. I rushed to the front of the Hotel and when the mob was almost there I shot a few rounds of my revolver into the air and the crowd dispersed and run away. I saved the Parisien from looting!

This is another photo from those days. It was taken at the Havana Zoo where we set base immediately after Batista ran away. I am the one on your right, with the Thompson machine gun.



On July 1959 I sold that revolver used with the looters to gather funds to go to Europe. I left Cuba with a one way cruise ship and \$180 in my pocket on July 20th and returned on Dec 28th 1959. It was the greatest adventure of my life. At times I was hungry, cold, I found some jobs as cleaning dishes, ridded from Paris to Germany in bicycle. Slept several times at German Jails exchanging my work for food and a warm cell. That made me become interested in traveling. I have visited 53 countries so far. How many memories from those days!!!

You can email Eduardo at [EdwardoPerez@Cox.Net](mailto:EdwardoPerez@Cox.Net) if you would like to exchange additional information with him.

## Curacao

### Dominican Republic

- Lots of casinos  
dr1.com, June 23, 2009

Gambling is gaining ground in the country. In addition to the sports betting parlors, casinos have taken a big leap, going from 20 in 2005 to the 56 currently in operation, reports today's *Diario Libre*. This increase has been accompanied with illegal activities and more than one of these establishments is operating without the permits and requisites as required by Law 351, and this is why several licenses have been canceled, according to the report.

At least two casinos are going up in the city of Santo Domingo without licenses and another two are operating without the established requisites. Such is the case of one being built on the San Isidro Highway on the site of the former **Blue House** restaurant, and for which the Ministry of Hacienda Casino Department has yet to issue a license. The same thing is happening with the casino that is going to be built in the installations of the old Agua y Luz Theater, whose promoters, Dawn Properties Ltd. have not managed to recover the license revoked by Hacienda in 2005.

According to Article 1 of Law 351, the Executive Branch is allowed to grant licenses for "the establishment of gaming rooms in first class hotels and other places, also first class" that are for the use of tourists. In Article 2 of the law, it is established that for the authorization of the gaming centers, the location, installation and money invested must be examined, and that the Casino Commission created for this purpose has to verify that these can classify as being of first class standards and meet the international requisites acceptable for tourist development.

Director of casinos Conrado Abud said that in the case of the casino at San Isidro, it is awaiting the construction of a hotel on the location before issuing an authorization. Nonetheless, the **Princess International**, located on 27 de Febrero Avenue, and open to the public since last December, has a license to operate without any sign of a hotel there or nearby. Abud justified this by saying that the licenses are granted only with the presentation of plans and a detailed description of the investment.

He added that the Princess has been notified that it has a six-month deadline, of which four months have elapsed, to either build a hotel or lose the license. Another that had its license revoked was the casino at the **San Geronimo** Hotel, after the hotel closed down, but it is still operating, as a simple "gaming room", according to Abud. At present, casino owners are supposed to pay RD\$10 million for a license, according to a resolution by the Ministry of Hacienda dated 12 August 2008.

- Palmas Club Casino Chips  
May 24, 2010, by Charles Kaplan

The Palmas Club Casino ordered a rack of HHR (Horse Head Right) chips, but the casino never opened. The chips were returned to the manufacturer and then sold to a dealer. An individual bought the chips from the dealer to resell for home poker games. That same individual had additional chips made up by the manufacturer to supplement the original chips purchased from the dealer. The additional chips were made with the same design, but say "**Palmas Club**" instead of "**Palmas Club Casino**" that appear on the original chips. The

additional chips are in different colors and edge spots from the original chips and the additional chips do not say “RD” or “US” for the denomination. See the examples below.



## Guatemala

### Guyana

- **Guyana to open South American country's 1st casino**  
February 19, 2010, Business Week, submitted by Jim Noll

GEORGETOWN, Guyana. Guyana's first casino is opening this weekend as the small South American country looks to boost its fledgling tourism industry. Oguz Tayanc is the operations director for the Turkish-owned Princess Casino Guyana. He said Friday that the casino's biggest challenge will be marketing itself because the country attracts fewer than 300,000 tourists annually.

Management plans to offer package tours combining visits with stops in countries such as Suriname, Trinidad and Belize. Locals are barred from gambling at the casino unless they are registered as guests at the 150-room hotel. The restrictions were imposed after church groups in the socially conservative nation protested, saying the casino would lead to moral decay.

- **Guyana's first casino opens**  
CaribbeanNetNews, Published on Monday, March 22, 2010, submitted by Jim Noll

GEORGETOWN, Guyana -- The Princess Hotel in Guyana on Friday evening opened the country's first in-house casino, while President Bharrat Jagdeo decried the fact that Guyanese will not be allowed to participate in the activities of the casino. Jagdeo said the restriction is by law as the parliament passed the Gambling Prevention (Amendment) Act in 2007, three years ago, which placed a restriction on Guyanese gambling after a national outcry by religious leaders and some political parties that this may lead to many homes being broken.

The present legislation states that the issuance of casino premises licences will be granted only to a new hotel or resort complex which has a minimum of 150 rooms allocated for accommodation. Jagdeo said, while he does not endorse gambling, for a country in which the citizens have freedom of choice barring Guyanese from the establishment did not sit well with him as he recalled the outcry when the law was amended. "For me, this is something that I find distasteful. I believe that Guyanese should enjoy all of the choices in the country... our society is a moderate one...there was opposition, but we will give people choices," Jagdeo said.

The president explained that his government took the decision to allow gambling in Guyana as a way of allowing investors in the hotel business to accelerate their profitability. The president further said that the government will limit the number of casinos in the country, and they will be strictly monitored. The Princess Casino, which employs about 140 Guyanese, began operating last month for the hotel's guests and is equipped with 300 slot machines and game tables. The hotel, originally Buddy's International Hotel, was opened prior to

the 2007 Cricket World Cup and in 2008 was sold to Irish investor Sudi Ozkan, for US\$15 million and renamed the Princess Hotel, which forms part of an international chain of such facilities.

## Haiti

## Jamaica

## Mexico

- **POKERTEK INSTALLS TABLES AT CALIENTE PROPERTIES IN TIJUANA AND MEXICO CITY**  
Matthews, NC – January 19, 2010, Press Release, submitted by Jim Noll

PokerTek has installed eight PokerPro® Electronic Texas Hold’ tables at Caliente-operated properties in Mexico. The cutting-edge Hipódromo de Agua Caliente in Tijuana opened its Texas Hold’ room with five PokerPro® tables, and it is currently PokerTek’ largest installation in Mexico.

PokerTek also added three PokerPro tables at Caliente’ Bosques property in Mexico City, where they are celebrating with a Grand Opening party this weekend. Caliente operates 59 properties throughout Mexico and intends to open Texas Hold’ rooms around the country. “We are pleased to place our product in Caliente’ properties as they expand their Electronic Texas Hold’ offering,” said Mark Roberson, PokerTek’ Acting Chief Executive Officer.

“Hipódromo de Agua Caliente is a truly amazing facility offering live greyhound racing, sports betting, slots and other electronic games. With the opening of the poker room, Hipódromo is now able to offer its customers the only legal poker in Baja California.” Caliente, a recognized Mexican company with an international presence, has more than 92 years of experience in the gaming entertainment industry. They operate modern electronic gaming terminals, bingo halls, sports books and greyhound racing.

- **POKERTEK INSTALLS 40th POKERPRO TABLE IN MEXICO**  
Matthews, NC – February 2, 2010, Press Release, submitted by Jim Noll

PokerTek, Inc., the worldwide leader in automated poker tables, announced today that it recently completed its 40th PokerPro table installation in Mexico across 19 properties. PokerTek’s recent installations include properties in Acapulco, Aguascalientes, Cancun, Chihuahua, Guadalajara, Mexico City, Monterrey, Puerto Vallarta and Tijuana. These installations bring the total number of PokerPro tables installed in Mexico to 40 as of January 31, 2010.

“We are pleased with the progress in Mexico,” said Mark Roberson, PokerTek’ Acting Chief Executive Officer. “Our casino customers are now able to offer live poker on PokerPro and the response has been impressive.”

## Nicaragua

- **Pharaoh Casino Fantasy Plaques**  
By Charles Kaplan, 1/4/2010

When I first saw this plaque on eBay, I thought it was a great find for the Caribbean ChipGuide. But I guess my suspicious side took over and got me to do some research. As it turns out, I found a site that had these made and is selling them for use in home games. They are selling chips and plaques from the **Pharaoh’s Club and Casino**. The chips have the location “Cairo” on them, but the plaques do not. This plaque is the only one that has the Sphinx head logo, the same as the real casino chips from the Pharaoh’s Casino in Managua, Nicaragua.



Fantasy Plaque - \$5,000



Real 50c Chip

**Panama**

**Puerto Rico**

- **Airport Casino Closed For "Remodeling"**  
Submitted by Bob Heistand, 04/24/2010

The Airport Casino has been closed for approximately two months due to "remodeling". They mention it on the hotel's website: <http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do?propertyCode=71016>  
I was there yesterday. It does not look like a remodel. Nothing being done on the interior. Something else is going on. Here is a picture of the sign in front of the gate blocking the casino entrance:



## St. Kitts

## St. Lucia

## St. Maarten

- **Dolphin Casino Closes**

Submitted by Bob Hiestand, 04/26/10

The on again/off again **Dolphin Casino** is now closed again.

- **Dolphin Casino Assets Auctioned**

The Daily Herald, Mar 31, 2010 16:54 UTC

~ **Government could revoke license** ~

SIMPSONBAY - Time ran out for Dolphin Casino. Although given a month extension to settle tax debts with the Island Government March 5, casino management was unsuccessful. As a consequence the Island Receiver descended on the premises Tuesday morning to carry out a public auction of physical assets. By press time Tuesday personnel of the receiver office were still busy on location. A report of the auction will be ready sometime after the Easter holidays.

The next question is what the Executive Council will decide to do with the licence considering that the business is now inactive. Government has revoked a number of casino licences in the past that were not being utilised. Dolphin Casino clearly has financial problems which could hasten government's decision to revoke.

Dolphin Casino has been suffering through major decline in its business which has resulted in a significant decline in revenue. The situation got so bad, electricity service to the building was shut off due to outstanding bills. The casino operator then opted to run his business solely on generator power for at least 6 months.

## Suriname

## Trinidad and Tobago

## Turks and Caicos

## U. S. Virgin Islands

## Venezuela

## Recent eBay Sales

		
Castle Harbor, Antigua - \$25	Joe Mikes, Antigua - \$10	Reef Casino - \$5
CH-25A \$227.50	JMC-10a \$315.25	REF-5b \$48.00
		
Casinos Nacionales, Panama	Casinos Nacionales, Panama	Flamboyant Hotel - \$1
NAC-1v \$56.58	NAC-1w \$56.58	FLA-1h \$63.85
		
Holiday Inn, Puerto Rico - \$5	Wilbur Clark's Casino, Cuba	Wilbur Clark's Casino, Cuba
HOL-5 \$89.00	WC-5a \$84.00	WC-25a \$108.00

		
Haiti International, Haiti - \$1	Americana, Puerto Rico - \$1	Americana, Puerto Rico - \$1
HI-1b \$66.00	ANA-1n \$153.61	ANA-1c \$73.58
		
Americana, Puerto Rico - \$1	Condado Holiday Inn, PR - \$1	Condado Holiday Inn, PR - \$1
ANA-1d \$73.58	CHI-1g \$46.58	CHI-1o \$57.24
		
Caribe Hilton, PR - 5 Dice	Aruba Caribbean - 5 Dice	Haiti International, Haiti - \$1
CHC-DICE6 \$66.99	ARU-DICE1 \$48.77	HI-1b \$125.50



Set of Wilbur Clark Casino chips from Havana, Cuba - \$1, \$5, \$25 and \$100

WC-1a, WC-5a, WC-25a and WC-100a - \$449.99



Set of Club Nautico de Varadero, Cuba - Crest & Seal roulette chips

CNV-Ra, CNV-Rb, CNV-Rd and CNV-Re - \$169.00



Casino de Ponce, PR

CDP-Ra \$255.00

Espanol Balneario, Cuba

CEB-0a \$62.06

Havana Riviera, Cuba

HR-0b \$74.95



Carib Inn, PR

Colonial Inn, Cuba ????

Joe Mikes, Antigua

CAR-1e	\$404.00	???	\$387.00	JMC-5b	\$224.50
					
Colonia Espanola, Bayamon		Casino de Ponce, PR		Casino de Ponce, PR	
ESB-0a	\$300.00	CDP-Ra	\$255.00	CDP-Rb	\$318.00
					
Curacao Hilton, Curacao		Isla Verde Beach, Puerto Rico		Masquerade Casino, Aruba	
HIL-1.1	\$76.58	VER-1b	\$616.00	MAS-SS40a	\$204.50
Reserve Not Met		<b>Record price for \$1 PR chip</b>			
					
Curacao Hilton, Curacao					
HIL-1p	\$228.50				

**Caribbean Casino Profile**  
**Excelsior Casino**  
**at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort Aruba**



I was married in November 1978 and honeymooned at the Holiday Inn Aruba. At that time the casino in the resort was called the King International. The hotel and casino opened in 1969. In 1972, the casino changed ownership and became the King International. In 1985 casino ownership changed again and the casino was now called the Grand Holiday. And in 1999 the casino got its current name, the Excelsior. The hotel has always been known as the Holiday Inn. Today the simple little hotel has become a full blown resort with all the amenities you would expect in a luxury resort.

The original casino at the Holiday Inn was opened by none other than Cliff Jones (CJ) and Jake Kozloff (CJ) whose initials (CJ JK) appear on the first issue chips. What is definitely known about Cliff and Jake is that they were partners together in several Las Vegas casinos. Jake was involved in the hotel industry and Cliff was a lawyer who went into politics and eventually became the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Nevada. In the early 1950s Jones was implicated in a skimming operation at his Thunderbird Hotel for the benefit of Meyer Lansky and his brother Jake. Jones and Kazloff then took off for the Caribbean opening up the casino for Meyer Lansky at the Nacional Hotel in Cuba. They then went on to open casinos in Aruba, Curacao, Suriname, St. Maarten and Antigua.



# Caribbean TITOs

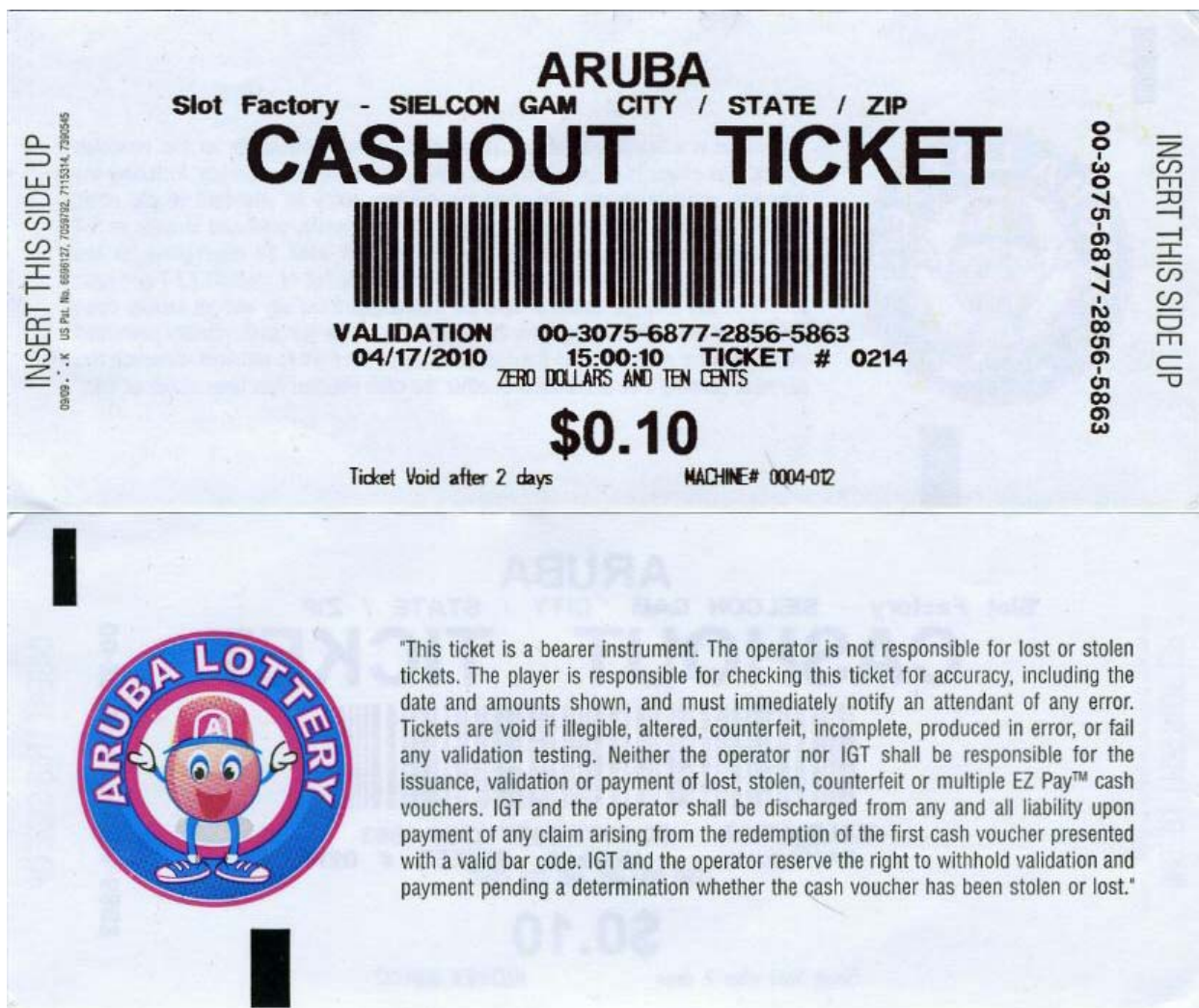
By: Jim Noll CCCC R-017

In 2010 we have had four "new" TITO's to report that were added to the CCG. One is a 2010 item from the Aruba Lottery, from the Queen Beatrix Airport in Aruba. So it looks like the Lotteries in the Caribbean area are getting more active in installing slots. Two of the new items were from Panama, Vento and Crown our first TITOs from Panama. The fourth item was a Venito item from Curacao. (All of the new TITO's are available for viewing on the Caribbean ChipGuide.)

The 43 known TITOs from the Caribbean area contained in Ver. 2.01 of the TITO Collectors Catalog and its 05/09 to 05/10 update. The catalog and update is available from me on CDROM in Word for \$25 including shipping, in total over 2200 TITOs are now cataloged.

As I do not travel to the Caribbean area I am going to ask 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 except \$1 (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)

### **Bahamas**

- Bahamia, H&C rack, all denominations (www.thechiproom.com)

### **Cuba**

- Casino de Capri - SMKEY rack never reached the 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)
- Dorado Riviera, \$5 Small Key, RIV-5aa
- Dutch Inn - Bud Jones rack, all denoms
- Flamboyant Hotel - rumored that a Florida collector has most of the chips
- Hilton International, Mayaquez - \$5 bud jones, \$25 and \$100 H&C
- 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

# The Caribbean ChipGuide

Here are some recent additions:



## Caribbean Casino Collectibles Club News

The 2010 Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club is almost upon us. The convention will be held at the South Point Hotel and Casino for the second year. It is a new and wonderful resort and they treat the Club as well as you can imagine. This year I arranged a promotion for our Caribbean Club. The card below entitles anyone who is not a current member of the Caribbean Club to a free 1 year membership in the Club and will receive the annual Club convention chip.



Chips will be distributed at the Annual Meeting. For those who do not attend the annual meeting and want a chip, please send me an email and I will mail one to you after the convention.

I am on the educational program for the 2010 CC&GTCC convention. The title of my presentation will be "Pirates of the Caribbean" how the Mob started the Caribbean casino industry. The presentation is almost done, but it will never be done because there is so much information out there to find and many of the stories never reached public ears.

So that's it for now, happy chipping.

*Charles Kaplan*

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TOTALS: Printed 72 of the 72 records.

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## Michael Siskin

CCCC R-005

I collect almost any casino collectible from **Aruba** and chips from **Bonaire** and **Curacao**. I am looking for many chips, playing cards and matchbooks and especially the **\$1 Aruba Palm Beach**, **\$1 Porto Paseo** (Curacao) and **\$1 Black Coral** (Bonaire) chips.

*Please send me your trader lists and scans.*

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## Oscar Espinoza

I'm looking for a chip from the Byblos Casino in Quepos, Costa Rica. The casino is part of the Gallo Group, so it may say that. Do you have one laying around or any other leads? Since this is the last chip I need to complete a collection it has been nearly impossible to find.

Email me at [espinoza.oscar@gmail.com](mailto:espinoza.oscar@gmail.com)

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