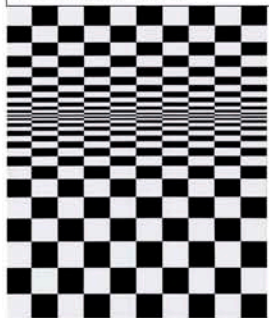


THE ROYAL FLUSH

December 2010

Bathroom Reader • Poker Almanac • Photos • The Tilted Jack Archives



Creating A Movement

Join our movement, be active in it, and help get Jack off tilt!
**CLUB MEETING
SUN 12/5 2PM**



Written by Thomas Jackson

Even though we've already held a couple of ad-hoc organizational meetings, these were informal and behind

the scenes just to get the place up and running with just a handful of members. We had not yet attracted 100 members, which is the minimum requirement to qualify as a *social club* in AZ, as well as the minimum required to become a federal *co-op*.

We have **152 members** after six weeks of continuous activity. This Sunday, 12/5, at 2pm is our first "100 member" meeting at the clubhouse. All members are invited, and the agenda will be filled with all sorts of topics to discuss and other actionable items. The framework is in place, now it's time to start building on it!

As we've said from the start, our primary goal, and the reason we have

created The Tilted Jack, is to work with city and state officials to completely legitimize "off-rez" poker as a viable business subject to regulation, taxation and licensing. Poker clubs should be comparable to billiard halls and bowling alleys, not casinos.

We don't seek to close down any tribal poker rooms. We believe neighborhood poker clubs and casino poker rooms can work together for the betterment of the game. We teach beginners how to play professionally, we bring players in from their garages and basements to compete for our hundred dollars payouts. Tribal casinos and LV/AC will always be where players play for the big money, and if we all were working together, poker clubs could offer satellite tournaments to qualifying players for these bigger fields and bigger payouts.

It is interesting to note that the online *poker* bill (HR2267) has been

making it's way through congress since August of this year, easily passed through the Financial Services Committee. While this bill is being volleyed back and forth between the House and the Senate, a second bill, seeking to legalize online *gambling*, is also gaining momentum. The distinction these two bills make between online *poker* and *gambling* are important. Many states, including Arizona, don't specifically mention poker. Poker is, for all intents and purposes, treated with the same gambling laws as a slot machine. And that just aint right. ♠

— Written by Thomas Jackson

Nightly Club Meeting 7pm
Live Poker Games and Tournaments 7:30 pm
Saturday & Sunday Tournaments at 4 pm!
Saturday at 12 Noon:
Weekly PLO8 tournament!

The Tilted Jack is a movement of the people, by the people and for the people. Our primary mission is to reclaim the sport of professional poker from the gambling industry. We conduct monthly meetings and hold nightly events at our clubhouse. We strive to promote the fun and entertainment of poker in a social gaming environment and provide a safe haven where friends can gather and play a "home game away from home". We will provide the safest, cleanest, best-run facilities in the Valley, utilizing the most professional personnel we can retain.



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1st TTJ Player of the Month offers "Can't Touch This" Challenge!



Jami Tipton, TTJ's first official "Player of the Month" has challenged all contenders by saying "I got my ninth Wall of Game photo and I am offering \$50 of my own cash to the first player who passes me on the Wall of Game. I know a few of you would LOVE me to hand over my own money. So play well and play often!!" Last night, we overheard her saying that she'll bump it up to \$100 if she gets to 15 WoG photos without someone first passing her!

NOTICE! OUR REGULAR MONTHLY CLUB MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 2PM. ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAYS, THAT NOW CONFLICTS WITH OUR PLO8 TOURNAMENT. SO THIS SUNDAY, 2PM. ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED.

Kinfolk?



DonF from Phoenix was officially TTJ's 100th member. **FREEROLL!**

A research intern at **The Royal Flush** noted Don's resemblance to Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, probably the most well-known Confederate commander after General Robert E. Lee. TJ died in 1824, which would make him Don's great, great, great, (great?) grandfather. I know, useless fact, wasted valuable copy space, but hey, DonF is gonna get a freeroll, and Thomas Jackson lives on today!

Part two of a two-part series started last month.

Double or Nothing Sit-And-Gos

Dealer Spotlight



Ralph Carlson is one of six dealers pitching cards for you at The Tilted Jack. Ralph was born in Chicago, October of '83 and moved to AZ when he was 10. He attended Thunderbird High School and Arizona State University, is a Cubs fan, Cardinals fan and his favorite color is blue. Ralph's quirk is Western movies. He has been dealing professionally for two years and got his start at Poker Nation which closed in 2010. Ralph is not only a great dealer but he has a solid grasp of the game as a player. He understands the concepts of the TTJ movement and is a well-spoken evangelist. He has recruited at least a dozen members with more sure to follow. Ralph is a real go-getter on the floor too. If there is coffee to be made, floors to be swept, trash to be removed, more often than not Ralph is the first one there.

Thanks Ralph!

The Tilted Jack weekly tournament schedule will stay pretty much the same every month, with Saturdays reserved for trying different things. In December, we would like to try running multiple **turbo Double or Nothing (DoN) Sit-and-Go tournaments on Saturdays starting at 4pm**. DoNs are fun, different, and all you have to do is survive half the field to get double your money!

DoN Strategies differ from normal tournaments, so picking up from last issue, here are

a couple more DoN mistakes you should try to avoid:

Not Checking Down

You don't think it will happen, but it does. The game is down to six players where five get paid, a short stack goes all-in, two players call, and one of them bets at some point post-flop. Facepalm?! It does you no good at all to steal the pot from the other caller. If you win the pot, you double your buy-in. If the other caller wins the pot, you double your buy-in. Those extra chips you might win by

forcing the other guy off his hand are meaningless.

Feeling Obligated to Call All-In

If you have a significant chip advantage on the bubble, just sit back and watch the others sweat out the all-ins. You're going to be safe for several orbits. There is no extra prize for knocking out the last person. If you have a monster, sure, try to end the game right there, but there's no need to call with any two cards. ♠

— Written by Dan Katz
Poker Daily News 2/25/2010

Saturday: DoN Turbo SNGs - Afternoon games start at 2pm & 4pm (:25+5) and Evening Games 6pm & 8pm (:50+5).

New Jersey - Progressive Online Thinking!

New Jersey lawmakers recently passed legislation that will allow licensed Atlantic City casinos to start offering **online gambling** to NJ residents and foreigners.

"We are going to be raising World Trade Organization issues by taking international gaming in New Jersey and showing how juvenile our federal government's policy is with regards to online gambling," said Senator Raymond

Lesniak who proposed this progressive bill.

"It makes no sense, we're trying to isolate and segregate something people want to do, they do everywhere, and we create a mass of restrictions that's unconstitutional and quite frankly just dumb in terms of governmental policy."

Lesniak's ire was directed on US lawmakers that created the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act in 2006. Already, the UIGEA has infringed on international trade agreements. Antigua and Barbuda won a case with the WTO after the UIGEA was created, and the European Union has also taken offense to the US gambling laws.

The bill spells out some specific regulations. One of the stipulations in the bill calls for all equipment used to power the online gaming be located in the licensed AC casino.

Another secure location could be used, but that location would have to be within the Atlantic City limits.

The online gambling is expected to help rejuvenate what has been a stagnant gaming industry in Atlantic City in recent years. If the new law helps, it will not be long before other states start moving in the direction of regulated Internet gaming industries. Florida and California would be the most likely to follow New Jersey into the online gambling market. ♠



THE TILTED JACK

Your Dealers Are Volunteers

Tips from **TOURNAMENT**
and **CASH GAME** winners are
GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Thank you!

Play Poker All Day Saturdays at TTJ

Omaha is the fastest growing poker segment today and it is easy to understand why. More cards, more action, more to chase, bigger pots, more to think about. Many of our weekly \$1-2 PLO8 live game players (8pm Mon) expressed a desire for a regular PLO8 tournament, so we started one up Saturdays at noon! This weekly Omaha tournament will continue on Saturdays as usual, a \$25+5 buyin with a single rebuy and \$20 (\$15+5) 2K Dealer Appreciation addon that can be taken at any time during the first hour of play.

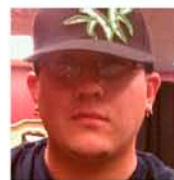
The remainder of the day on

Saturdays in December we will be running a series of "Double or Nothing" Sit & Go Tournaments. The concept is simple enough: survive half the field and get double your money. Run as a turbo blinds (10m) we will start the first game at 2pm and start a new one any time we have 4 or more people ready to go. By scheduling a start time every two hours, we hope to get some multi-table DoN tournaments going.

Saturdays will be different each month, and the DoN concept is that and more. We may need to tweak the new formats

as we go, at least initially, but we hope trying different things each month will provide an added level of interest and excitement, as well as provide you with an opportunity to suggest an idea or format for a tournament that you would like to see.

DoN SNG are nothing new, but **Alex Flores** suggested the format while I was at my former club. We never got to try it then, but at The Tilted Jack, we'll give 'er whirl! So we hope to see you next Saturday! ♠



\$50+5 DoN SNG?



Is \$50+5 "too much" when playing in a Double or Nothing Sit 'n Go? People can play more often if the buyin is only \$20 or \$30. But for a DoN SNG is it worth 60 to 90 minutes of grinding to come out \$20 or \$25 ahead? Starting out, we've tried to keep all our buyins affordable. It's not just the economy at play here, the logic is simple: Lower buyins mean more people can play in more tournaments each week. There is the other side of that argument that says we're not going to attract people that only like to "play bigger" that we need to consider as well. For our Saturdays, let's test the waters. Let's play our afternoon DoNs (2pm and 4pm) as \$25+5 SNGs, and our two evening tournaments (6pm and 8pm) as \$50+5 SNGs. See how it goes. Tweak the turbos, or skip every other blind level and leave the blinds at 15 minutes. Your butt in a chair, giving feedback, and putting the new formats to the test of time will provide the answers, and it should be fun trying different things each month!

Did you get your bonus chip?

There is an ongoing debate at just about every club that I've played at regarding bonus chips for being "on time".

Let's examine both sides of this chip and see if we can't find a solution that works for everybody. We'll talk about this at our meeting on Sunday.

We want to be the most player-friendly room in town. Thus, rather than *penalize* late arrivals by not giving them a "full starting stack", we reward players for letting us know they are coming, but will be late. To be player friendly, the ad hoc committee decided that this would be the best way to allow for players that work later than our 7:30 start time. And this is how we've been doing it. As a "call in" bonus, not an "in your seat" bonus.

First, this bonus is NOT for (a) having your meat in your seat one time or (b) for calling in on time. It is for neither.

The bonus is for helping the Tournament Director get the tournament started on-time, but more importantly, with the optimal number of tables and best mix of live players, live seats assigned to a late arrival, and dead stacks in case a random rolls in. We really hate to split up a table after we start the tournament just because three new players just arrived 35 minutes into a 18 seat rebuy tournament.

Who's going to complain about playing against an empty seat with a full starting stack being blinded out? It's free chips, and bottom line, it's more money for the prize pool.

The other side of the debate is it does kinda suck when someone arrives late and sits down to more chips than you have left in front of you. But who's fault is that? Do players actually think that being late gives them an advantage?

What we have started to notice is that people will call in, and arrive 15 or 30 minutes late on a regular basis. This may be viewed by some as abusing the system, but still, what's the problem? It's guaranteed money and easy chips!

But does any of this help accomplish the goal of starting the tournaments promptly and with properly balanced tables?

These players are "guaranteed money". If a player lists and then doesn't show up enough times, they will stop getting a bonus chip because they are no longer considered "bona fide".

We *are* having trouble getting people in their seats and getting the tournaments started on time. That's a pet peeve of mine, and the TD's fault. If I had my druthers, we'd get the cards in the air even if only one person is in their seat ready to go against 8 blinding stacks. ♠



Another ?

We always do a single addon... Why not allow it any time thru 1st break?

Arizona State Statutes, Criminal Code, Gambling (13-3301. Definitions):

2. "Conducted as a business" means gambling that is engaged in with the object of gain, benefit or advantage, either direct or indirect, realized or unrealized, **but not when incidental to a bona fide social relationship.**

7. "Social gambling" means gambling that is not conducted as a business and that involves players who compete on equal terms with each other in a gamble if all of the following apply:

(a) No player receives, or becomes entitled to receive, any benefit, directly or indirectly, other than the player's winnings from the gamble.

(b) No other person receives or becomes entitled to receive any benefit, directly or indirectly, from the gambling activity, including benefits of proprietorship, management or unequal advantage or odds in a series of gambles.

(c) [Must be 21].

(d) Players "compete on equal terms with each other in a gamble" when no player enjoys an advantage over any other player in the gamble under the conditions or rules of the game or contest.



POKER PLAYERS ARMY

Loopy Social Gambling Law

Our organization is not conducted "as a business". In laymen's terms, a Phoenix City Council staff member paraphrased this in a meeting we had "as long as it's not for profit, it should be okay".

In legalese, as you can see in the left sidebar, "Conducted as a business" is defined as a mouthful of nebulous and all-encompassing "benefit" language that is so broad it may not even be unenforceable, but the key phrase we are interested in for this article is "*but not when incidental to a bona fide social relationship.*"

One of the things we don't like about the language of this is exactly the same problem the casinos had when they State initially told the tribes "you're running your poker rooms for profit and that's against State law and not covered by the Compact."

That word "benefit" could allow the State to prosecute not just an owner, dealer, window washer or housekeeper, but the city and state themselves benefit with permits and license fees and taxes collected from such venues. But we're saving a future page to discuss the poorly written "benefit" language.

We are not a BIA casino and we are not on "sovereign" soil. We're in Phoenix, the fifth largest city in America, in Arizona, our state, which celebrates only it's 100th birthday on Valentines Day, 2011.

We're not operating "for profit", if that matters... probably not, that damn "benefit" language is pretty black and white and all encompassing... but what *does* matter is our

bona fide social relationship. This term is *not* defined in the statutes, but it has been clarified by the Department of Gaming that "the act of sitting at the same poker table or being in the same room together does not constitute a bona fide social relationship".

The Tilted Jack... is it a poker room? Yes. But *first and foremost*, we are a lobbying organization – a grass roots movement just starting out – that seeks to enact change in the Arizona state laws on gambling, specifically *as they relate to poker*, which we can all agree is different than all other forms of gambling (possible exception of sports betting) because there is no "house edge" with decidedly advantageous odds in games that rely on pure luck or chance to determine the outcome (i.e., slots, blackjack).

Our *movement* forms our "bona fide social relationship" and is why The Tilted Jack is unique among all Valley poker rooms. We have a *bona fide social relationship* not because we are sitting at the same table playing poker, or hit it off while shopping for a new chip set at our local poker retail outlet, but because *we are a social movement!* We seek to work with legislators or through a direct ballot initiative to allow private poker rooms to operate outside of a casino in "another country" just east of Pima Road. We would like to see poker regulated like other major sports, with a player-elected commissioner and a players association and some guidelines and oversight as necessary from

State or City officials. And we would see the domestic cities we live in as well as the State, the power and authority to license, tax and legitimately permit the sport of poker in professional, private environments where we can "contend". Let us outside of our basements and garages and free us from the illicit BIA casinos where we have no control over the game, where they rake up to \$6 per hand, some of which goes to silly chance events like bad beat jackpots, monte carlo hands, aces cracked and similar pot diminishing schemes that we, the players, have no control over. What this all amounts to, truly, is a state-sanctioned, illegal monopoly on the game of poker. As if the State or the BIA own the sport of poker. We need to free poker from the gambling industry. That's our job number one as a movement, and as an organization, we believe we can.

It has already been proven and held up in court that poker is a game where player's individual skill – not luck or random chance – is the dominant factor in the long haul.

No poker clubs have operated as a non-profit cooperative where every member is an equal owner. And while this certainly helps our argument that what we're doing is *not illegal* it isn't as substantial in terms of the law, or the loopholes if you want to call it that, as our bona fide social relationship. Next month, we'll discuss the benefit language in the social gambling exemption. For now, relax, *we are all bona fide social.* ♠

Welcome new members in November!



POKER PLAYERS KNOW OTHER POKER PLAYERS

♠ **REFER A FRIEND AND WIN!** ♠

EACH NEW MEMBER THAT YOU REFER
TO THE TILTED JACK EARNS YOU ONE ENTRY
INTO OUR **\$200 BONUS DRAWING 12/31!**

On **New Year's Eve** we will randomly draw 10 names.
Each name drawn will be able to select one of ten envelopes,
which each hold \$10 to \$50. Need not be present to win.

Winners will be notified and have through the month
of January to collect their prize money. Win more than once!

