

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 10

Harrah's Rincon

Valley Center, CA

Event #2

No Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$365

Total Entries: 155

Prize Pool: \$46,500

December 6-7, 2013



Mark Alag Takes Time Off From Work To Win Gold

Valley Center, CA (December 7, 2013) — Mark Alag is a Radiologic Technologist who works two jobs and plays tournaments as a "stress reliever from work". Today his stress relief resulted in a \$12,555 payday. On the final hand, Alag shoved with A9 suited and got Chuck Anderson to call all-in with K8 offsuit. Alag's hand held up for the win. In addition to the first-place prize money, Alag also takes home a gold WSOP Circuit ring.

Chuck Anderson finished second for \$7,759. He was understandably disappointed, as he held the chip lead with three players remaining. Alag doubled up through Anderson when he caught a gutshot on the river and got Anderson to pay him off. Alag took the chip lead with three remaining and never gave it up.

David Boyett was the chip leader when the final table began, but he never got any traction. He busted in third place when his K2 shove ran into Chuck Anderson's AQ. Boyett earned \$5,585 for third place.

The last woman sitting in this event was Cheryl 'Roxy' Allen. She was 5th in chips when the final table formed and she went out in 5th place, earning \$3,053.

Total number of players for this event was 155, creating a prize pool of \$46,500. The final 18 players got paid. They hit the money about 10:40pm on Day 1 (Friday) and then reached the final table of nine with 20 minutes remaining in level 20. After getting some sleep, the final table reconvened at 2pm Saturday. Three hours and forty-five minutes later, it was all over.

Mark Alag asked for Thursday and Friday off from his jobs to play tournaments here at Harrah's Rincon. He entered Event 1 and played "really aggressively", busting out early. On the drive home, he resolved to play better in Event 2, which he obviously did. He recalled a key hand on day one where he held pocket Queens. He raised and got one caller on his left. After the big blind 3-bet, Alag just called, then the player on his left 4-bet. The big blind folded and Alag wanted to see where he was at, so he 5-bet. The player on this left shoved. Alag said "I think you have Kings" and folded his Queens. His opponent showed pocket Kings and validated Alag's read. Alag still had about 7k of his 10k starting stack and felt that hand was a turning point for him.

Regarding the final table players, Alag felt that Chuck Anderson "was the best player", referring to him as "conservative" and "smart". Alag had played with most of the final table players on Day 1 and thought he had a good understanding of their styles as the final table began.

Mark Alag earned 50 points in the Casino Champion race, which put him second behind Event 1 winner Drew Merrick. They're tied in points, but the amount won breaks the ties and Merrick's payday was bigger.

Unfortunately Alag won't be able to chase the title as his 100-hour workweeks keep him busy and he won't be back to play again during this series.

Final Table Results

1. Mark Alag (Chula Vista, CA) \$12,555
2. Chuck Anderson (Temecula, CA) \$7,759
3. David Boyett (Vista, CA) \$5,585
4. Haiau 'Hyle' Han (Santa Ana, CA) \$4,093
5. Cheryl 'Roxy' Allen (Carlsbad, CA) \$3,053
6. Jeff Burquist (El Centro, CA) \$2,317
7. Mark Ross (Oceanside, CA) \$1,788
8. Stuart Pfeifer (Los Angeles, CA) \$1,403
9. Nick Johnson (Rochester, NY) \$1,119

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Harrah's Rincon's twelve gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship to take place at Caesars Atlantic City in Spring of 2014.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Champion's race and the season-long race to claim one of 50 at-large National Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harrah's Rincon:

EVENT #1: Drew Merrick defeated 221 players (\$365 NLH) for \$16,576

EVENT #2: Mark Alag defeated 155 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,555

With the second ring event completed, ten more remain at Harrah's Rincon.

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