

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 10

Harrah's Rincon

Valley Center, CA

Event #9

No Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$580

Total Entries: 126

Prize Pool: \$63,000

December 12-13, 2013



Drew Merrick Gets Second Win At Harrah's Rincon

Poker Hall of Famer Tom McEvoy Denied Ring, Finishes Second

Casino Championship a Virtual Lock for Merrick

Valley Center, CA (December 13, 2013) -- Poker hobbyist Drew Merrick won his second gold ring today, just one week after winning his first ring here at Harrah's Rincon in event 1. In addition to the ring, the win today was good for \$17,639.

Merrick battled Poker Hall of Fame Member Tom McEvoy heads-up for over three hours. McEvoy was dead-last in chips at the start of Day 2, but by the start of heads-up play, Merrick had only a very slight chip lead. He grew that lead to 2:1, then saw their positions reversed when McEvoy doubled up with pocket Kings against Merrick's pocket 4s.

McEvoy then had the 2:1 chip lead, but Merrick never gave up. He continued to grind until he had the lead back, then on the final hand, flopped a straight with A4 against McEvoy's two pair. All the chips went in on the turn and McEvoy was drawing slim to four outs for a full house. When the river bricked, Merrick had the win and more gold. Four-time WSOP bracelet winner McEvoy earned \$10,903 for second place and was denied his first Circuit ring.

Third place and \$7,870 went to 'Cowboy' Kenna James, who was fourth of eight in chips when Day 2 began. He went on a rush early in the day, taking the chip lead after busting the 8th and 6th place finishers. Then Tom McEvoy cracked Kenna's pocket Queens with KJ and took the last of his chips with pocket 9s over James' pocket 7s.

Seyed 'Sam' Fakhrai started Day 2 as the chip leader. He busted WSOP bracelet holder Dana Castaneda in 7th place, but never got anything going after that. Fakhrai finished in 4th place for \$5,783.

Day 2 began with only eight players. When they reached the final table of 9 on Day 1, only six minutes remained in level 18 (blinds 2,500/5,000/500 ante) and they opted to finish the level so that the 500 chips could be colored up before chips were bagged for the night. David Luttbeg busted out in 9th place during that six minutes.

This event drew 126 entrants for a total prize pool of \$63,000. The final 15 players got paid. Other notables in the money were Cary Marshall, 2012 Harvey's Lake Tahoe Main Event Champion with 2 WSOP Circuit rings, who finished 10th; Zal Irani, 2013 Horseshoe Southern Indiana Main Event Champion, who finished 14th; and Arkadiy Tsinis, 2011 WSOP bracelet winner, who finished 15th. Full results are available on WSOP.com.

In addition to the two wins, Drew Merrick finished 5th in event 6, the Six-Handed NLH event. With two wins and a fifth-place finish, he has 125 points and a virtual lock on the Casino Champion title. That many points would put him in the top ten on the National Leaderboard, but if he locks up the Casino Championship, he gets an automatic entry into the National Championship million dollar freeroll, so the points won't matter.

Merrick's three wins totaled \$37,030, which is not a bad haul for a week's work. He owns his own business, Aquatech Rain Gutters. He's married to Robyn and they have two young boys, Sonny and Max. In addition, he enjoys surfing, skating, and golfing.

Final Table Results

1. Drew Merrick (San Diego, CA) \$17,639
2. Tom McEvoy (Las Vegas, NV) \$10,903
3. Kenna James (Las Vegas, NV) \$7,870
4. Seyed 'Sam' Fakhrai (Chula Vista, CA) \$5,783
5. Arkan Somo (El Cajon, CA) \$4,323
6. David Byer (Las Vegas, NV) \$3,287
7. Dana Castaneda (Las Vegas, NV) \$2,541
8. Robert Wilkinson (El Segundo, CA) \$1,996
9. David Luttbeg (San Diego, CA) \$1,593

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
- EVENT #3: Jorge Walker defeated 444 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$29,302
- EVENT #4: Josh Reichard defeated 138 players (\$365 NLH) for \$11,589
- EVENT #5: Nyle Rock defeated 135 players (\$365 NLH) for \$11,341
- EVENT #6: Ted Woolridge defeated 141 players (\$365 Six-Handed NLH) for \$12,054
- EVENT #7: Mitch Schock defeated 74 players (\$365 Pot Limit Omaha) for \$7,548
- EVENT #8: Alexandru Masek defeated 151 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,231
- EVENT #9: Drew Merrick defeated 126 players (\$580 NLH) for \$17,639

With the ninth ring event completed, three more remain at Harrah's Rincon.

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter @WSOP or check out WSOP.com.

For additional information please contact:

Kaelaine Minton
WSOP Media Coordinator
kaelaine@hotmail.com