



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Harrah's New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)	Date:	20 May 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em 1-Day	Entries:	258
Buy-in:	\$365	Prizepool:	\$77,400

A.J. ALLEE WINS \$365 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM 1-DAY

Mortgage banker and aviation enthusiast from San Antonio wins \$18,965 in the final single-day event of the series.

A.J. Allee and his wife both had a profitable World Series of Poker Circuit series at Harrah's New Orleans. Earlier in the series, she was part of a chop in one of the nightly tournaments, but Allee is going to leave Louisiana with the biggest cash between the two of them.

Allee took down the \$365 no-limit hold'em single-day event to bring his first ring back to his ranch in San Antonio. He defeated 258 entries and earned \$18,965 for his efforts.

"I'm very excited," said the 50-year-old. "I don't think I'm going to be able to sleep tonight. I've been at it, my wife and I have been playing poker, we travel together, and she was here last week. I wish she was here, but I'm very happy. This was a good event. I ran good and I appreciate the game."

He's going to have the bragging rights for this stop, bringing home a Circuit title, but when it comes to the more talented player of the two, Allee didn't hesitate before his response.

"She is."

After a successful career as a mortgage banker, Allee found success on the felt, but his first passion was taking to the skies. About 12 years ago, Allee earned his pilot's license and he will personally fly himself and his wife to most of the domestic poker stops they travel to.

"I travel quite a bit," said Allee. "We fly to Choctaw, we are going to fly to Vegas. We just try to enjoy our lives at this point. We have a ranch that has llamas and chickens, so it's such a joy."

He got his license to fly about four years before he started playing poker. It was his first adult passion, but poker is closing in.

“I think I enjoy poker almost as much as I enjoy flying,” said Allee. “I am up at 11 or 12 thousand feet cruising and I’m thinking ‘I can’t wait to get there and play poker.’”

The strategy, the competition and the possibility of winning large sums of money was probably what drew Allee to poker. It’s the camaraderie and the people he meets on the felt that kept him coming back for more, however.

“I enjoy the relationships you build in the poker world,” said Allee. “There are some crazy kids out there, but I really enjoy hanging out with them. It’s a pretty nice place.”

Allee came into the final table with the chip lead and dominated the entire final table. In about an hour, the final nine players were eliminated, and it was just Allee standing at the end. He defeated Fikret Kovac heads-up, a match that only lasted a couple of hands.

By his own admission, he ran well.

“I had the chips and I played aggressive like a big chip leader like I was supposed to,” said Allee. “I didn’t want to let them get away with it whenever I was in the hand. I raised enough to handicap them. When they made the call, I typically had to run good. You have to catch cards, obviously. I think I only lost one hand in the whole process. The poker gods were pretty good today.”

By most metrics, Allee has been very successful in life. With his first ring, he can just mark off another accomplishment.

“I was just hoping to get a ring,” said Allee about his poker goals. “This was on my bucket list and was one of my dreams. I feel accomplished. I can’t say it’s a lifelong dream because I only started playing eight years ago, but I love it.”

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: A.J. Allee

Nationality: American

Birthplace: San Antonio, TX

Current Residence: San Antonio, TX

Age: 50

Profession: Mortgage Banker

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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OFFICIAL WINNER PHOTO