



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Harrah's Cherokee
Cherokee, North Carolina
Event #4
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$300 (+65)
Total Entries: 1,315
Prize Pool: \$394,500
April 6-9 2013**

John Horsley Wins Record-Setter at Harrah's Cherokee

Fourth WSOP Circuit Event Draws 1,315 Entrants – Largest Tournament Ever for North Carolina

Alabama Native Pockets \$70K and First Gold Ring

Cherokee, NC (April 9, 2013) – John Horsley just won the largest tournament ever held in North Carolina.

The 40-year-old utility worker from Flowery Branch, GA was the last player sitting in record-setting field of 1,315 players who entered the three-day tournament. Horsley pocketed the handsome sum of \$70,023 in prize money. He was also presented with his first WSOP Circuit gold ring with his wife proudly standing nearby.

Poker players from several states flooded into Harrah's Cherokee for the latest WSOP Circuit event, as part of the “12 ring in 12 days” series. This was the fourth tournament on the schedule – a \$365 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em event which outdrew even the most optimistic of projections. Players were stacked so thick inside the tournament arena that alternates had to be taken for the first of two starting flights.

The big numbers were part of an overall explosion of poker here at Harrah's Cherokee. Thursday's opener drew 872 players. Then, Friday's tournament drew 949 entrants. For those who are counting, that's more than 3,000 total players during the first three days of this series. And, to think, some are saying the poker boom is done.

Nonsense.

The new champion had an unusual experience that was befitting this historical occasion, when a new high mark was set for poker in North Carolina. He almost never made it past the first day.

On Day One, Horsley took a few early beats. By mid-day, he was down to just 200 chips, with just enough to post a round of blinds. It appeared that he'd go out unceremoniously in the middle of the pack.

But Horsley managed to catch fire during the next few hours. He roared back and made it to the second day, along with 223 others out of the huge starting field. By Day Three, Horsley was guaranteed a spot and the final table. And the rest, as they say, was history.

Indeed, Horsley made history on this occasion. He will be remembered – at least for the time being until another record is set – as the winner of the largest poker tournament ever held here. But he wasn't alone in celebrating, since more than 100 others were paid.

The tournament generated a nice-sized prize pool totaling \$394,500. The top 135 finishers collected prize money. The final table finishers were as follows:

1st	John Horsley	Flowery Branch, GA	\$70,023
2nd	Hamid Jahangard	Marieta, GA	\$43,395
3rd	Christopher Homan	Augusta, SC	\$31,848
4th	Gehrig White	Charlotte, NC	\$24,065
5th	Drennon Rackley	Dalton, GA	\$18,364
6th	Donta Moss	Stone Mountain, GA	\$14,135
7th	Khanh Vuong	Sevierville, TN	\$11,007
8th	Aaron Lambert	Chapin, SC	\$8,671
9th	Rebecca Montague	Marieta, GA	\$6,912

Tournament Notes

- This region has never hosted any tournament of this size or stature. Most of the surrounding states do not offer poker – including South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, and Virginia. This contributed to a huge opening day turnout.
- The three-day tournament began with 1,315 players – the largest ever for North Carolina and all surrounding states. After play on Day One, there were 202 survivors remaining.
- There were 202 players that started Day Two. It took about 14 hours to play down to the final table of nine.
- The final table included no gold ring winners, which guaranteed a first-time champion.
- The final table lasted about six hours and ended at 9 pm.

John Horsley picked up 50 player points for his victory. The top 90 finishers all received points. The player who accumulates the most overall points in Harrah's Cherokee's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and shall receive automatic entry into the \$1 Million 2012-13 WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof. The qualifier will join the winner of the \$1,675 buy-in Main Event (April 12-15), who also wins an automatic seat.

All players who cash in gold ring events receive points that apply to both the Casino Championship race (good for Harrah's Cherokee gold ring events only) and the season-long race to claim one of the 60 at-large National Championship bids to be awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

The 2012-13 WSOP Circuit at Harrah's Cherokee runs through April 15, 2013.

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