

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Harrah's New Orleans

New Orleans, La.

Event #1

No-Limit Hold'em (30-minute levels)

Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)

Total Entries: 275

Prize Pool: \$82,500

May 11, 2017



Curtis Terry Wins Opening Event in NOLA

Local part-time player posts a win close to home, takes early points lead

NEW ORLEANS, La. (May 12, 2017) — Curtis Terry is the newest first-time winner on the WSOP Circuit. Terry outlasted a field of 275 entries in the series' opening event at Harrah's New Orleans, winning his first gold ring and the top prize of \$19,803. The victory also earned him 50 points and an early lead in the race for Casino Champion at this venue.

The champ is a 54-year-old car salesman from nearby Metairie, a western suburb of New Orleans. "I've got a good heart," he said when asked to describe himself. "I believe in the good man upstairs. That's what I live by."

Terry is proud to be a self-made man, too, having started his own car business in his backyard when he was just 17 years old. That small gig eventually became his full-time career, and poker remains nothing more than a hobby despite some significant success as a part-time player. "It's something I do on the side just for fun," he explained. "I've been playing poker for 11 or 12 years."

He didn't even have to think about how long it's been. The number is an easy one to remember for residents of this area who, like Terry, measure time a little differently than most.

Just shy of 12 years ago, in the summer of 2005, Hurricane Katrina ravaged the region, taking more than 1,200 lives and causing physical damage soaring into 12 figures. It's become the new calendar in these parts, with milestones marked in reference to the storm rather than the date on the wall.

It's no coincidence that Terry found poker in the aftermath of the devastation. "I was a big golfer," he continued. "When Katrina hit, all of our golf courses got wiped out and a lot of my friends moved away. So, basically, I didn't have anything else to do."

After being displaced from home for a few weeks himself, Terry returned to the city as quickly as possible to assist in the rebuilding process. Although he had his group of car dealerships to tend to, he decided to start a clear-cutting company on the fly and got straight to work putting the pieces of his city back together.

