AMERISTAR CASINOS INC

Form 4

December 28, 2012

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB

Check this box if no longer subject to

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

3235-0287 Number: January 31, Expires:

2005

OMB APPROVAL

Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

may continue.

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

burden hours per response... 0.5

Estimated average

See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

(First)

(State)

(Middle)

(Zip)

HODGES LARRY

(Last)

(City)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

AMERISTAR CASINOS INC

[ASCA]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/26/2012

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(Check all applicable)

3773 HOWARD HUGHES

PKWY, SUITE 490S

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

_X__ Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below)

President, COO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

(City)	(State) (Zip) Table	e I - Noi	n-De	erivative S	Securi	ties Acq	uired, Disposed o	of, or Beneficial	ly Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	nsaction Date 2A. Deemed th/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)		3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)				5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	12/26/2012		Code F	V	Amount 2,429 (1)	or (D) D	Price \$ 26.4	(Instr. 3 and 4) 108,308 (2)	D	
Common Stock	12/26/2012		G	V	4,511	D	\$0	103,797 (2)	D	
Common Stock	12/26/2012		G	V	4,511	A	\$0	117,986	I	Family Trust (3)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)		4. Transaction	5. orNumber	6. Date Exerc Expiration Da		7. Title		8. Price of Derivative	9. Nu Deriv
Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	(Monda Day/ Teat)	any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/ e		Underl Securit	lying	Security (Instr. 5)	Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
HODGES LARRY							
3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY	X		President,				
SUITE 490S	Λ		COO				
LAS VEGAS, NV 89169							

Signatures

/s/ Larry A.
Hodges

**Signature of Reporting Person

12/28/2012

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- The Compensation Committee of the issuer accelerated the settlement of certain previously reported, fully-vested restricted stock units, which would have otherwise settled within 45 days of January 3, 2013, in order to permit the reporting person to recognize the taxable income in the current year. Restricted stock units entitling the reporting person to receive 6,940 shares of common stock were either settled in stock or withheld for payment of tax liability on the transaction date.
- (2) Balance includes previously reported restricted stock units, each of which constitutes the right to receive one share of common stock in the future.
- (3) Securities owned by The Larry Hodges Family Trust, of which Mr. Hodges is the sole trustee.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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