

NEILSEN RAY H
Form 4
August 11, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
NEILSEN RAY H

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
AMERISTAR CASINOS INC
[ASCA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
08/10/2009

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Chairman of the Board

3773 HOWARD HUGHES
PKWY, SUITE 490S

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	08/10/2009		S	1,000	D	\$ 18.75 158,645 ⁽¹⁾	D	
Common Stock	08/10/2009		S	1,100	D	\$ 18.76 157,545 ⁽¹⁾	D	
Common Stock	08/10/2009		S	4,082	D	\$ 18.7617 153,463 ⁽¹⁾	D	
Common Stock	08/10/2009		S	1,300	D	\$ 18.77 152,163 ⁽¹⁾	D	
Common Stock	08/10/2009		S	100	D	\$ 18.775 152,063 ⁽¹⁾	D	

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Common Stock	08/10/2009	S	100	D	\$ 18.785	151,963 ⁽¹⁾	D
Common Stock	08/10/2009	S	800	D	\$ 18.79	151,163 ⁽¹⁾	D
Common Stock	08/10/2009	S	400	D	\$ 18.765	150,763 ⁽¹⁾	D

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

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(9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Reporting Transaction (Instr. 6)
				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
NEILSEN RAY H 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY SUITE 490S LAS VEGAS, NV 89169	X	X	Chairman of the Board	

Signatures

/s/ Peter C. Walsh,
Attorney-in-Fact

08/11/2009

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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).
- (1) Balance includes previously reported restricted stock units, each of which constitutes the right to receive one share of common stock in the future.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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