



## **HRC Shot Collectors invade New Orleans (Part One)!**

**By Denise Black**

Madame et Monsieur,

Thanks to everyone that came out to New Orleans for the annual Shot Glass Collectors Event. We had a great attendance this year and I had a lot of fun seeing everyone again. As usual, we spent a lot of time in New Orleans taking in the sites, experiencing Bourbon Street, making a road trip to Biloxi and for some of us, the ultimate hotel indulgence at the HRH...while losing some money at the HR Casino! All and all, it was a happening party wherever we went and I know I had a blast!

To recap, I'm from British Columbia, Canada so I had a bit of trip to make. There is no direct flight from Canada to New Orleans but to make the most of it, I took a layover in Houston. This of course allowed me to pop into the café to pick up the new red circle shot glass (SCORE!).

Then the next morning, I was off to New Orleans. I arrived on the Tuesday prior to the event so that I could check out the city. And it was hot. Muggy too. The News was reporting on Hurricane Dolly everywhere I went and I was texted a half dozen times for weather updates on *what was it really like* in New Orleans. Guess no one trusts the Weather Man in the US either. But on my first day in 'Nawlins, there wasn't a cloud in-sight.

So after checking into the hotel, I made a break for the Café, which is pretty cool with the huge balcony that wraps around the outside and the party area upstairs. They also had the new red circle shot in so I picked up a few of those (SCORE!).



Then it was off to Office Depot. Yeah, that's right. This became a wee bit of a working trip. I had to buy a new laminator – mine broke on Sunday. Blah. So after taking the trolley bus to Office Depot and back (that made it a bit more fun), I started on laminating the Pre-Party laminates for Thursday night. I had a lot to do and this was no simple task as these were pretty special laminates.

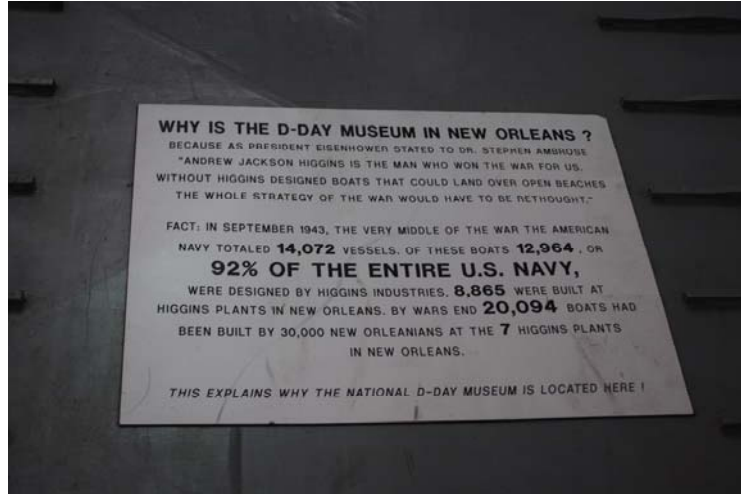
For a few that asked, this laminate is the most extravagant thing I've ever assembled. I have to BLAME a co-worker for suggesting a *neat idea* when I described my first design to him. Then I became obsessed trying to find a way to make his neat idea work – the design went through 3 models (there is no prototype – only one version did actually work). Ultimately, the design is pretty neat, if I do say so myself. The Voodoo Dude has a pull strip that allows the wearer to change the “thing” to voodoo. The lanyard was printed with the group website ([www.hrcshots.com](http://www.hrcshots.com)) and was adorned with 5 white UV ray detection beads that change color when exposed to sunlight. I had to hand out beads somehow! Anyway, here's the finished product of our New Orleans Pre-Party 2008 Voodoo in the Bayou laminate for 2008 (voodoo strip is pictured at left with the available options once assembled and I ran outside to get the beads to change colors before scanning – just for you!):



If you're interested in reading about how this sucker was created, I've written an entry about it. Look for it in an upcoming PinTales newsletter.

Anyway, I didn't spend all my time doing the lamination and by Wednesday, the first few shot collectors arrived in New Orleans. We met for drinks at the New Orleans HRC, and then took to Bourbon Street in search of oysters... not my thing but the Po-Boy sandwich was to die for at Acme Oyster Bar! Tom and Carmen took on the 12 raw oysters without any help from me. I still say ewww. Then it was back to Bourbon Street because well, while in 'Nawlins, where else would you go?

Thursday was the day most people arrived. The morning was spent at the National World War II D-day Museum. For those that haven't been, it is a very well laid out museum with 3 floors that depict the war in chronological order – from the political and social settings of various countries leading to the war, through the invasion of Normandy to the final attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The setup is very well done and the displays are pretty unique with a lot of artifacts from the war – letters home from soldiers, uniforms and weaponry from different countries, even a full size bomber suspended from the ceiling in the hanger! Check it out online at: <http://www.ddaymuseum.org/>



Now, New Orleans is no place to break from tradition, so on Thursday night we held the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Pre-Party event. It was sell out – in that we took up all the tables we could reserve at the Crescent City Brewhouse (thanks for Larry and JoAnn F. for scoping it out for us!). It was incredibly hard to resist the combos of sample size beers!! After meeting and greeting, we sat down to some fine food, sample beers and a lot of catching up!

And you know we just had to hold the annual Drinking for Royalty contest here (Hello! *Sample size beers!*). This year we simplified the contest, in hopes of getting a few more participants (it sort of worked?). The objective was to drink as fast as you can, one sample size beer and one shot of the participants choosing. For the men, we had to have an extra beer to proclaim the winner before we could re-crown a King and Queen of Shots – Tom C. – the first back to back King – and Julie B., who reclaimed her throne after sitting out last year (doesn't feel good to be a peasant, does it Julie?).



Of course with the laminate, beads, buttons and drink contest, there was a special shot glass issued for the attendees. The recipe on the back was supposed to be the shot for the drink contest but I never actually tried it until after the shots were printed... and decided against it (so it's on the glass as a voodoo curse only – try it if you dare!).



After the Pre-Party, we regrouped at the Hard Rock Café New Orleans for a few drinks:



Then for some of us, it was a trip down Bourbon Street to understand the legend (for others, to see if we remembered from the previous night). Bourbon Street is very colorful and there is a lot to take in and ya know, consume. We spent a few nights around this area but mysteriously, few seem to be sending in pictures from the wee hours spent here.



And even after having the famous Pat O'Brien's Hurricane drink, which promises near instant intoxication..., some (only some) crawled out of bed to hit the New Orleans Aquarium on Friday morning! Definitely comes by its rating of Top 5 Aquariums in the world honestly.



After the aquarium, it was back to the hotel to change as another group event was being held at Emeril's Restaurant. We were booked into the wine room for a private lunch. It was a very different experience – everyone was served at exactly the same time (multiple servers), the food was exquisite (so good, we had to take pictures), and as Trevor and Penny proved, dessert can't be passed up (they tried ALL of them!). Oh and yes, that's Carmen in a tie.



And then it was back to the hotels... to change again. It was hot and muggy in New Orleans and dress attire just didn't go. Some people went for a nap (wimps) while others headed off to the Café du Monde for beignets. Ah, beignets (fried dough with icing sugar, Mon Dieu!).

Then it was off to the New Orleans Hard Rock Café for the Collectors Shot Event. A shot glass was released for the event (HAT TRICK BABY!):

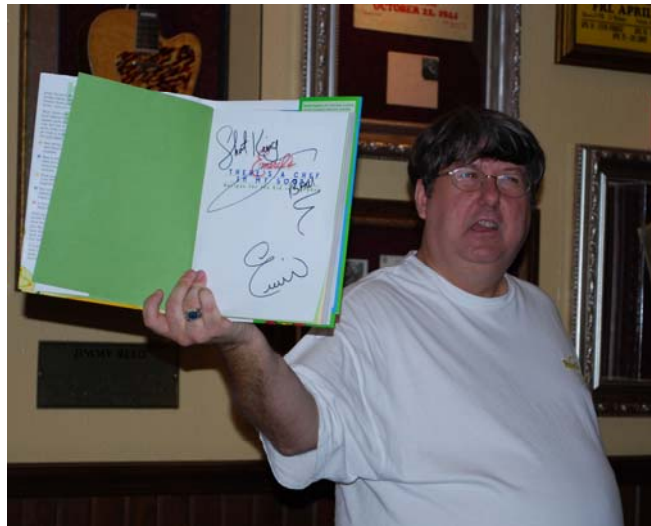


And keeping with tradition (again, who are we to break it?), we also had a Charity to support through auctions and raffles. This year it was the Habitat for Humanity's Musicians' Village. Great charity!! Thanks to everyone that donated items as well as bid on items. Over the weekend, the cafe raised some good coin.

### **Some special kudos:**

Paul Hillgren: for organizing donations for Friday night.

Floyd and Janice Terry: not only did Floyd donate 2 special shot glasses but Janice had 3 cookbooks signed by Chef Emeril for the Charity Live Auction: dedicated to the Shot King, Shot Queen and Hard Rocker – BAM!! This was a great idea and made for special and unique auction items! Each book fetched a great donation – thanks again to the bidders!



For more information on the Charity, please check out:

[http://www.habitat-nola.org/projects/musicians\\_village.php](http://www.habitat-nola.org/projects/musicians_village.php)

As a group, we'd also like to thank our server Mary and bartender, L\$ (aka Louis). The staff were great and even made a special drink for us shot collectors, appropriately named (for the accident on the water that week) Mississippi Oil Slick. A delectable concoction that we can't replicate because Louis wouldn't tell us what was in it! Regardless, it was a nice touch that many of us enjoyed (maybe a bit too much).

Well, this entry got a lot longer than I expected so I've split it into 2 parts. This is end of Part 1 – Saturday adventures and Sunday in Biloxi to come in Part 2, appearing in the next issue of PinTales! If you'd like to see more pictures from the event – check out:

<http://www.hrshots.com/pictures.htm>

Cheers for now!

Denise