



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

**By Denise Black**

Continuing from my earlier write-up on the New Orleans Event, here's how the rest of the weekend played out.

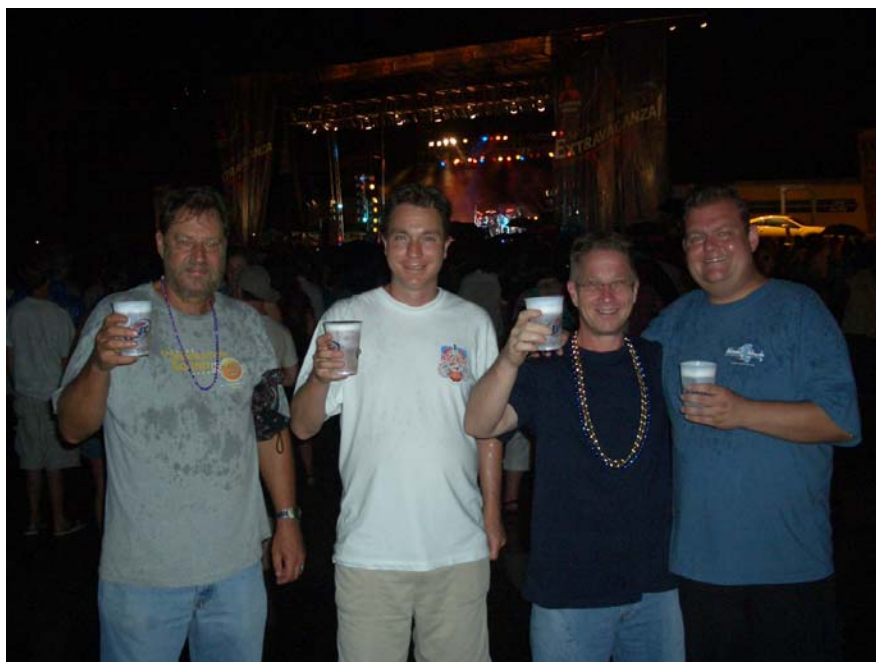
Saturday was a busy day. There was pin trading at the café starting at 10:30 am and I stopped by for about half an hour to say hi to everyone as well as pick up the event laminate. As there wasn't a shot glass released on Saturday and since I don't collect pins (leaving me nothing to trade), I was heading out to take in some more sights.

A group of us decided to check out the swamps, airboat style! Zooming through the water, our guide Justin tracked down some baby gators for us. It was "voodoo love" season in the swamp so most of the bigger gators were out looking for amour, but it didn't keep Justin from finding a 6 year old female protecting her nest. His offer of \$100 to anyone managing to jump from the boat to the nest and back (without her nipping them) wasn't accepted...strangely enough.



That's a baby alligator hunting and catching a puffy and easily thrown guimauve (marshmallow). They love these little treats (better than us)!

I left for Biloxi after the swamp tour but heard about the wet evening in New Orleans. In the evening, Huey Lewis was performing in the parking lot adjacent to the Café, so pin trading rapped up by 5 pm. The concert was free and despite the downpour, I'm told that a lot of collectors went to it. Rumor also had it that Bon Jovi was at the Café watching (he owns part of one team that was in the Arena Bowl) but didn't come out to greet the crowd (or his biggest fan, shot collect: Patrick). Afterwards, it was back to Bourbon Street for cigars and hurricanes for those not afraid of getting wetter!



As the group did split a bit for Saturday, I can't detail that much more about everyone's adventures. The few of us that were in Biloxi early ate at the IP seafood buffet (holy molly – good eats!), checked out the HR Café, Hotel and Casino. The new HR building is beautiful, well designed with lots of memorabilia (including a Harley that you can win through the slot machines) and there were shot glasses from both the hotel and café!! It also offers a Starbucks and a Benny and Jerry's for those early morning and late night requirements/cravings!



Early Sunday morning, I took a quick road trip to the Destin café with Marco. We got there right for opening, stayed for lunch, picked up a few souvenirs and stopped ever so briefly at the beach. I mean, we had to at least see the white sand even if we didn't have time to hang out by the water!

We were heading back to Biloxi so we could get checked into the HRH and spend some time with everyone again. (The rest of the Pin and Shot Collectors were converging at the Hard Rock Hotel for a special rate \$69!!). Let me tell you, it was a great stay and I recommend everyone to at least try it once.



In Biloxi, you can hit the Café, Hotel and Casino within the same corridor – a visit worth making for sure. Now if you've never stayed at a HRH, this one is beautiful (definitely has a lot to teach Chicago – sorry, Tom):

- The room is nicely sized and the layout is great.
- Flat screen TV. Now I will comment it doesn't seem to get many channels or there was a problem because of the storm (a lot of no signal channels) and there is a ton of Hard Rock Café channels...but who's there to watch TV?
- There's a jack for your Nano that connects to the stereo system.
- Mini bar and snacks (careful not to lift anything – move it and you've bought it!).
- Cordless phone. I know, I'm going on and on but how many hotels think to put in a phone that you can pace around with – you know, trying to convince your boyfriend to send “funds” for the Casino?
- Double sinks that look into the bedroom but also have privacy mirrors.
- The bed is high – you literally crawl up onto it. It is so comfortable – with so many pillows. I believe someone said 16 (sixteen) pillows – I didn't think to count, but there was a lot! LOL.
- And oh, the shower. I won't get too personal but there's water everywhere. It comes from the ceiling, it comes from the left, it comes from the right. It was an experience all by itself. Highly recommend it, you know, the shower AND the hotel stay.



The HRH has adult only pool time on Sunday's after 2 pm. No kids allowed. I'll say: meat market but hey, you can drink beer in a bottle in the pool! There was a live band playing too.

The Café hosted a Meet 'n Greet Sunday night. They tried some new appetizers on us – there are new nachos with pulled beef as well as wings with new flavors coming to a Café near you! Although, I can't say when – sworn to secrecy (ok, they didn't tell us). But if you didn't make it, you missed out some free food and a great hotel stay!





And who could forget the Casino, so conveniently located opposite the Café. Slots weren't lucky for me (seemed to be rather lucky for others – no fair!). But the Roulette wheel spun my way for a while (key note – when they change the dealer more than twice in the same 30 minutes, get the heck out!).

More Kudos from the event:

Trevor Markley – he assembled all the pre-party buttons. There were 2 pre-party buttons, so he had to make a lot. Thanks!

There were 3 event buttons in total (1 official and 2 pre-party):



Chris Haas – for bringing everyone a souvenir from Cartagena. And we'd also like to congratulate him again on his recent nuptials to Fernanda. Cheers!



To my chauffeurs – Lois Maxim, Marco Reyna and Paul Hillgren – thanks for getting me around! I had a blast with all of you!

I spent a final night in New Orleans, repeating most of the places I had checked out with the group. This was a very memorable trip and I would definitely recommend checking out New Orleans if you haven't made the journey!

And as mentioned last time, we have pictures of the whole adventure on the group website – we've added in pictures from Biloxi, the swamp tour and more. Check them out here: <http://www.hrshots.com/pictures.htm>

Thanks for reading and Cheers!

Denise