

got tables? By Katelyn Sives

Notorious for their swanky atmosphere, flashing neon lights, and frequently humming slot machines, casinos are often synonymous with gaming and gambling.

Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs is more than glowing lights and the sound of coins being kerplunked into machines, but rather a unique venue for dining, shopping, live music, and nightlife. Mohegan Sun is as Steve Dahle, Mohegan's Vice President of Marketing, would call it, "a complete destination for entertainment." Located in Wilkes-Barre, Mohegan Sun offers eleven restaurants, everything from Johnny Rockets to a more elaborate Pearl Sushi Bar & Ruth's Chris Steak House, five retail stores, including Crossing Vineyards Wine and Cheese Shop, the casino's own radio station (River 104.9 FM), and a harness race track. In addition to dining and shopping, Mohegan offers a variety of nightlife, including live outdoor concerts with the likes of Pat Benetar, Huey Lewis, Foreigner, and, of course, we couldn't forget *gaming*.

As of July, Mohegan has opened 62 gaming tables, featuring craps, roulette, poker, black jack, mini bac, pai gow, three card poker, and let it ride poker. Among the new tables, Dahle explains that black jack and three card poker are the crowd favorites. "Three card poker has the combined live poker action with a smaller, more intimate table setting," said Dahle. In August, an additional twenty tables will be added to the casino floor for a total of 82 new gaming tables. To make room for the tables, Mohegan has created a special designated room, called Penny Grove, which has 291 one cent denomination machines in a non-smoking area. "This room is truly reflective of the beauty of the surrounding area of Wilkes-Barre and Scranton," said Dahle. Penny Grove opened last June and is across from Bar Louie.

In addition to the arrival of new tables, Mohegan is to move eleven black jack tables from the lower level to the upstairs main level in August to create a new non-smoking pit for clients. The lower level will consist of sixteen live poker tables in a non-smoking room. "The demand for live poker is phenomenal," explained Dahle.

With the addition of new table games, Mohegan Sun has created nearly 600 new jobs, with the majority of workers from the local community. The jobs that have been created consist of new dealers, table managers, cashiers, waiters, and the list con-

tinues. Dealers are specially trained to help new guests, novices to table games, learn strategy and join in on the fun.

Starting this September, every Wednesday and Thursday Mohegan offers a "Swipe and Win" free promotion. "Everyone is a winner," said Dahle when guests swipe their players' card at kiosks located around the casino. Prizes range from electronics, food, gift cards, five \$1000 winners, and the top prize of \$10,000.

*A special thanks to Steve Dahle of Mohegan Sun.

OTHER AREA CASINOS



1 The Sands Casino Resort in Bethlehem offers table games as well, including Big Six, Caribbean Stud, Texas Hold 'em, Casino War, and Sic Bo. Tables opened on July 18th. For more information call (877) 726-3777.



2 Mount Airy Casino and Resort in Mount Pocono offers 74 popular table games including craps, black-jack, poker, and mini bac. Tables opened in July. For more information call (877) 682-4791.