



# Record 814 Moose Compete in 3rd Annual Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

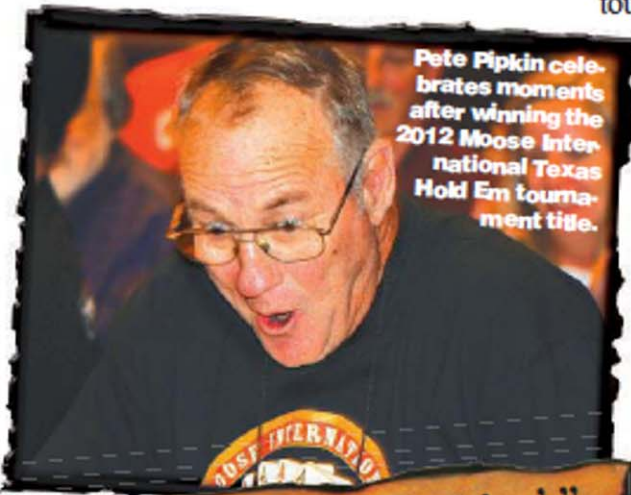
Greenville, NC Lodge 885's Pete Pipkin tops Visalia, CA Lodge 546's Christopher Price to claim tournament title, claim \$16,000 prize

When the 2012 Moose International Texas Hold Em Tournament started, a record 814 players sat in the Golden Nugget's gaming room, all aiming for the \$16,000 top prize.

But when Director of Membership Shawn Baile presented the bracelet to the champion, the winner was Nathan "Pete" Pipkin from Greenville, NC Lodge 885.

"You've got to get lucky to win this thing," Pipkin said.

In two previous tries, Pipkin had never progressed past the first day of play. This year, although



Pete Pipkin celebrates moments after winning the 2012 Moose International Texas Hold Em tournament title.

**"You've got to get lucky to win this thing."**  
— Pete Pipkin, 2012 Moose International Texas Hold Em Champion



The slot tournament always brings an enthusiastic crowd to try to win prize money.

he was still alive on the second day of the three-day tournament, his position wasn't exactly a commanding one.

Pipkin's chip count continued to grow through Tuesday and despite occasional setbacks, he continued his solid run to the final table.

Price was a first-time participant who won his way out." As Price said, "You feel camaraderie and brotherhood with your fellow Moose. There was a lot of good poker, but it seemed like everyone was family." The 2013 tournament is scheduled for Jan. 6-10, again at the Golden Nugget Casino in Las Vegas. ■

Price and Pipkin had relatively similar chip stacks as the final hands took shape. While victory was one goal, both players were, to use the cliché, very happy to be there.



A record 814 players competed in the 2012 tournament, including 2011 champion Tim Donovan (top).

"I felt good going in," Price said. "I took the chip lead back, then lost two hands and then the final hand did it."

Pipkin's son Nathan finished third in the inaugural Hold Em tournament in 2010. Both father and son played this year and both intend to be back in 2013.

"It doesn't get any better," Pipkin said. "It's 1:30 in the morning back home and my daughter just called and she's tickled to death. My wife's out here and she doesn't gamble."

The fraternal bond extended far beyond the desire for victory in this Moose-only event.

"They gave us a questionnaire and they asked us what was the worst thing about the tournament," Pipkin said. "I put down that the worst thing is seeing people you came down

with get knocked out."

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## Tournament Winners

- Nathan "Pete" Pipkin**  
Greenville, NC Lodge 885  
\$16,000
  - Christopher Price**  
Visalia, CA Lodge 546  
\$13,000
  - Mike Vitullo**  
Burbank, CA Lodge 652  
\$11,000
  - Brian Lentel**  
Fort Mill, SC Lodge 1240  
\$10,000
  - Albert Slack**  
Knoxville, TN Lodge 1560  
\$9,000
  - Scott Morgan**  
Azalea Park, FL Lodge 2891  
\$8,000
  - Ricky Porter**  
Scott County, IN Lodge 2324  
\$7,000
  - Ivan Green**  
Madison, IN Lodge 765  
\$6,000
  - Jerry Hardacre**  
Mio, MI Lodge 1035  
\$5,000
  - Keith Donald**  
Luray, VA Lodge 1413  
\$4,000
- Total Prizes: \$165,400**