

NEILSEN CRAIG H  
Form 4  
August 25, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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**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 CRAIG 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)  
08/24/2006

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
CEO/President

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) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	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)
			Code	V	Amount or Price (A) or (D)		
Common Stock	08/24/2006		P		300 A \$ 19.61		D
Common Stock	08/24/2006		P		800 A \$ 19.62		D
Common Stock	08/24/2006		P		600 A \$ 19.63		D
Common Stock	08/24/2006		P		500 A \$ 19.64		D
Common Stock	08/24/2006		P		1,500 A \$ 19.65		D

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Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	1,001	A	\$ 19.66	31,063,101	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	2,727	A	\$ 19.67	31,065,828	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	5,073	A	\$ 19.68	31,070,901	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	3,000	A	\$ 19.69	31,073,901	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	2,799	A	\$ 19.7	31,076,700	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	1,300	A	\$ 19.71	31,078,000	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	1,400	A	\$ 19.72	31,079,400	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	400	A	\$ 19.74	31,079,800	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	5,500	A	\$ 19.75	31,085,300	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	3,500	A	\$ 19.76	31,088,800	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	3,833	A	\$ 19.77	31,092,633	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	2,800	A	\$ 19.78	31,095,433	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	6,867	A	\$ 19.79	31,102,300	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	1,100	A	\$ 19.8	31,103,400	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	2,300	A	\$ 19.81	31,105,700	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	600	A	\$ 19.82	31,106,300	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	700	A	\$ 19.83	31,107,000	D
Common Stock	08/24/2006	P	1,400	A	\$ 19.84	31,108,400	D

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

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