AMERISTAR CASINOS INC

Form 4

December 15, 2006

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

January 31, Expires: 2005

10% Owner

Other (specify

Estimated average burden hours per

response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

See Instruction

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

BOUSHY JOHN M

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

AMERISTAR CASINOS INC

[ASCA]

(Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

12/14/2006

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

below)

_X__ Director

(Check all applicable)

President and CEO

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)

X_ Officer (give title

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

(City)

(Instr. 3)

1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

(State)

(Zip)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8)

Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

Transaction(s)

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial (I) Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

(A)

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Conversion 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

5. Number of TransactionDerivative

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date**

7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities

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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security		any (Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)		Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		(Month/Day/Year)		(Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Share
Stock Options (Right to	\$ 31.675	12/14/2006		A		44,920		12/13/2007(1)	12/14/2013	Common Stock	44,920

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address Director 10% Owner Officer Other

BOUSHY JOHN M 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY SUITE 490S

LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

X President and CEO

Signatures

a currently valid OMB number.

buy)

Peter C. Walsh, 12/15/2006 Attorney-in-Fact

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Option vests in five equal, annual installments commencing on December 13, 2007.
- (2) Securities owned by The John and Lisa Boushy Family Trust, dated April 9, 2004, of which Mr. Boushy and his spouse are co-trustees. Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays

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