

PS 38: Ultimate Slots History Guide | AL, AK Slots 2018

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #38 of the Professor Slots podcast is the Ultimate Slots History Guide. Last episode, I finished the last of 56 state-by-state reviews. In this episode, I'll going back to the beginning with this online resource I've created for you.

I'd doing this because it's a time of dynamic change in the state of slots gambling in the U.S.. Let's find out together what's happened after 56 weeks since I last reviewed the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. states of Alabama and Alaska. Because this is the second time through all 56 states, territories, and federal district, I've added a few sub-sections.

Previously, in the first series, the sub-sections covered included

1. An Introduction
2. Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling
3. Slot Machine Private Ownership
4. Casinos, and
5. A Summary.

For this second series, I've added a few sub-sections. These include breaking down casinos into the top two casinos, the non-tribal casinos, the American Indian casinos, and other gambling establishments likes those that might be found in nearby states. Finally, due to its importance to us slots enthusiasts, I've started a new sub-section called Payout Returns for available information on theoretical and actual payout returns.

Thank you for joining me for the Professor Slots podcast show. I'm Jon Friedl and this is the podcast about slot machine casino gambling. It is where I provide knowledge, insights, and tools for helping you improve your slot machine gambling performance.

"Jon Friedl from The Professor Slots Blog reveals all of his tips and tricks for thriving in the casino environment. Discover how to assess casinos to pick the best near you, choose winning slot machines, and identify your gambling goals: being entertained, earning comps, winning take-home cash, or combine them. Jon has won 90 taxable jackpots and a luxury car in 9 months of slots play - and made a profit at slots gambling since 2013."

On Last Week's Episode...

In case you missed it, last week, I reviewed 12 states and 1 territory, including Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah,

Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming slot machine casino gambling. Whew! I'm glad there's no need to do so many of those again!

I hope you enjoyed listening to my last episode as much as I enjoyed making it for you.

Programming Update (Optional)

I'd also like to take a quick moment to let you know what goodies I've been working on back in the lab, as it were. Frankly, for me, Professor Slots is a business. I mean, it's fun to learn everything needed to produce a podcast, run a website, and etc. However, and if you're a regular listener you've likely already figured this out, I'm primarily doing this to be of service to you, my favorite slots enthusiast.

To do so though, to me, it means doing so professionally. To be responsible. To do it right. Like playing slots, this is fun. But, also like casino slots, it's serious fun. So, of late, I've been educating myself to do just that. First, it was improving podcast sound quality. What is EQ anyway and, if I had any such thing, how would I know? Like most of these, it took a whole month to figure it out.

Next came the website. Sure, I had a fairly decent website already set and running. Or, so I thought. What I hadn't realized was how much attention I needed to anything that would help Google see what I was up to. I could use terms like keyword phrases and search engine optimization, word count and H1 tags, but I'll stop there. Again, setting all that to simply be better took another month.

Suffice to say, a lot of last year and the year before was spent setting up a website, podcast, logo, catch phrase, social media sites, and basically learning the basics. This year, however, I needed to fix all those things to make them better. And, now, they are.

What I'm trying to get to here is that you will perhaps have noticed or will soon notice a few improvements. For the podcasts, I'll be presenting more slots-related topics which, hopefully, you will continue to find more and more interesting.

Also, if you happen to visit my website at professorslots.com, you'll notice that just about all my posts have a podcast player linked directly to the podcast episode segment on that post. That's what was completed on the last episode, by the way.

Also, I've set up my second of three bedrooms, also known as the non-fiction library, as a video studio. I'd actually already done this, but it just wasn't good enough by, like, a lot. And now it's a lot better. And, easier than ever to record videos for my Professor Slots YouTube channel. It's URL is a long, complicated mess, so I've made the rather simple link, if I do say so myself, of professorslots.com/YouTube.

Before too long, I'll have a bunch more Professor Slots videos completed and ready to upload every two days or so. Oh, and did I mention that it shouldn't be too long before I switch back to weekly podcasts instead of every two weeks.

Finally, let's talk books. As you may know if you've been listening for a while, I have a book on Amazon Kindle, including eBook and softcover print-on-demand versions. It's called Learning to Win, and it's due to a revision.

Earlier this year I'd told a listener, John C. from Connecticut (Hey, John!), that I had no plans to revise it. Well, John, that's changed. I'm working on a substantial revision, which I hope to have available in a few months.

Why so long? Well, that's the other thing. I've thought of another Professor Slots book topic I also want to get published in the next few months. It'll be about my state-by-state online resource. Basically, I'm planning to make it an offline resource by putting the first 56 articles, series one, into eBook format. Then, a year later, I'll publish the second series of 56 posts into a 2019 version. And, so on.

To be clear, this isn't about making money. If anyone is making money, believe me, it's Amazon. My cut is, well, tiny. Don't get me wrong, they give me a bigger cut than I'd get if it wasn't self-published. How do I know that? Well, of course – I spent a month two years ago educating myself about how non-fiction book publishing works.

What did I learn? Authors don't write books to make money. I write books because some people only read books, so it's the only way I can reach them. You know, just like podcast listeners. Or, people who watch YouTube videos. Or, use Facebook. Or, Twitter. Or, any of the other places I make myself known as Professor Slots.

So, that happened. For you. But, oh, this is a business, right? So, I'll need to make money to pay my bills and maybe, maybe, maybe someday quit my day job for this business. How do I plan to make money, you ask? That's something else I've figured out. Yes, it took a whole month to figure it out. Naturally.

So, between you and me, here's my plan for making money. I don't, at least not for a while. For now, my day job supports this business. My primary task at this time is to reach podcast listeners such as yourself, googling Googlers, YouTube watchers, Twitter tweeters, Facebook meme-ers, and whoever else will listen, watch, or read to subscribe to my email list at professorslots.com/subscribe because I give you free and useful stuff.

Later, when I've reached a certain critical mass of email subscribers, of which I'm currently just over 20% of this goal, I currently expect to offer you and them an online video series about everything you and they need and want to know about slot machine casino gambling.

Don't worry, I'll make sure I spend at least a full month making them all succinct, useful, and everything good and wonderful. But, don't hold your breath, because it's going to be a while. I'm only at 20% of my goal, remember?

If you want it to happen a little faster than one to two years from now, there is something you can do to help. How about you tell someone else who likes slots to listen to this podcast or visit my website at professorslots.com and, well, let nature take its course?

Thanks for your indulgence and patience with this maybe not-so-quick update. But, I thought you'd want to know. Now, let's get on with the show!

Call To Action #1 (add transition/bed music)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

1. Introduction to Ultimate Slots History Guide

Let's get started with the first segment of the show: The Ultimate Guide to Slot Machine History.

As of 2018, the first coin-operated slot machine was invented just over 131 years ago. That's a lot of slot machine history. However, understanding it provides insight into the next technological advancements to expect from this entertainment machine.

In a hopefully fun and interesting way, I'll highlight developments in gaming machines having slots for accepting coins as a sequence of events. Several significant areas of slot machine history includes:

- Technology
- Popularity
- Government Regulations

As you'll learn, slot machine popularity waxed and waned alongside the governmental responses to this type of gambling. The first coin-operated slot machines were invented in or around 1887.

Nowadays, we have modern day penny slots and networked progressive slot machines. Gaming machines show no signs of doing anything other than just keep on developing and improving, likely for another 130 years and beyond.

This episode has the following sub-sections. Don't worry, they'll go quick!

1. Introduction to *Slot Machine History*
2. Charles Fey, the “Father of Slot Machines”
3. Bell Fruit Gum Slot Machines
4. American Prohibition 1920-1933, the “Golden Age of Slots”
5. Nevada Legalized Gambling in 1931
6. Decades of Bally Slot Machine Development Efforts
7. The Computer Microchip Revolution of the 1980s
8. Arrival of the Internet and Better Computers in the 1990s
9. Online Slots and Involvement with Governments
10. The First Rewards Clubs
11. Computer Networks: Progressive Slot Machines and More
12. Summary of *Slot Machine History*

2. Charles Fey, the “Father of Slot Machines”

The Liberty Bell, arguably the first slot machine for gambling with automatic payouts, was invented in 1887 by Bavarian-born Charles Fey in San Francisco, California. Given a natural disaster I'll mention momentarily, there is some debate as to this exact date.

This slot machine simulated the card game of poker, having 3 spinning reels each with 5 symbols: diamonds, hearts, horseshoes, spades, and an image of the Liberty Bell.

It even had the first slot machine payout table. The highest jackpot, fifty cents or 10 nickels, occurred when all three reels showed a golden Liberty Bell. It was wildly popular and a massive success.

Prior to Charles Fey's 1887 invention in San Francisco, there were gambling machines - but they didn't have slots for coins. Therefore, despite prior technologies being used in that device, Fey's coin-operated machine is generally considered to be the first true "slot machine".

Given the aforementioned loss of historical records, it's worth mentioning that the Sittman and Pitt Company of Brooklyn, New York was developing a coin-operated slot machine at around the same time. It was based on five-card poker, as it had five reels.

Fey is generally considered to be the “Father of Slots”, both due to his invention but also because he popularized the game. For example, he didn't sell his slot machines. Instead, he rented them for a 50% commission of their revenues.

Fey's San Francisco workshop is a California Historical Landmark. Many of Charles Fey's innovations are still common in modern slot machines, including:

- Coin-operated.
- Operated by pulling a (small) handle.

- Rented, not sold, for a portion of gaming revenue.
- Pay table display.

Few Liberty Bell slot machines currently exist. About 100 of them remain of those originally manufactured by Charles Fey in San Francisco, as most were lost in the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake

According to Marshall Fey's fascinating book *Slot Machines: A Pictorial Guide to the First 100 Years*, fires created by the earthquake

"...that day eventually consuming all of the city's slot machine factories, including their tooling and inventory."

and, further, the fires

"...hit most of the city's 2,000 businesses which had slot locations, destroying thousands of machines and the coins which they contained."

3. Bell Fruit Gum Slot Machines

Starting in 1907, Bell Fruit Gum slot machines was manufactured by Industry Novelty Co. This was quickly followed the next year by Mills Novelty Company of Chicago, which had been inherited by Herbert Stephen Mills.

The reels on these machines included cherry, melon, orange, apple, and bar symbols with non-cash payouts in the form of fruit-flavored gum, allowing machine owners to avoid prosecution under the anti-gambling laws of that time.

The cherry and bar symbols became traditional to slot machines, and are still commonly used today. The Mills slot machine added the photograph of a chewing gum pack along with the fruit reel symbols. Soon after these photographs were replaced with a stylized bar symbol, the Mills company logo.

Photographs of early slot machines are available at Cyprus Casino Consultant, Casino Observer, and International Arcade Museum.

For more on the rather interesting if somewhat shady history between Charles Fey and Hebert Stephen Mills, as well as a analysis of these early slot machine photographs, see my post called *Why Do Slot Machines Say Bar on their Reel Symbols?* available way back in podcast episode #11.

Thanks to the efforts of Charles Fey and other early slots manufacturers, by 1910 slot machines could be found world-wide. Europe had mass produced 30,000 of them. In

America, they could be found in most cigar stores, saloons, bowling parlors, brothels and barber shops.

Improvements immediately found in slot machines were:

1. Cast iron machines replaced with wooden cabinets.
2. Improved mechanicals allowed for back-to-back jackpots, not possible in earlier design.
3. New coin acceptor developed to limit the use of fake coins, i.e., “slugs.
4. Machines were designed to be quieter.

In 1909, new laws began to be introduced prohibiting slot machines from dispensing cash, with the results of slot machines having the aforementioned non-cash payouts of fruit-flavored gum.

4. American Prohibition 1920-1933, the “Golden Age of Slots”

From 1920 to 1933 is when Prohibition existed in America, making the consumption or supply of alcohol illegal.

Since slot machines were mainly found in bars and saloons, they moved to speakeasies alongside the distribution of alcohol – and returned to offering cash prizes.

Slot machine popularity increased even more. The time of Prohibition is also referred to as the “Golden Age of Slots” due to this tremendously increased popularity.

5. Nevada Legalized Gambling in 1931

Gambling was legalized in the state of Nevada in 1931, the first state to do so. This was done due to the increasing popularity of gambling despite governmental pressure on the gaming industry.

In the 1940s, an early slot machine was installed in the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. By doing so, American mobster Bugsy Siegal showed slot machines to be a lucrative business opportunity for casinos.

After World War II, municipalities were drawn by the prospect of tax revenue, and exponential growth occurred in the manufacturing and playing of slot machines well into the 1960s.

6. Decades of Bally Slot Machine Development Efforts

Slot machine development advanced from a fully mechanical machine to an electro-mechanical device in 1963 with the Money Honey slot machine by Bally Technologies, a company formerly limited to the manufacturing of pinball machines.

Besides improving game play and all manner of flashing lights and sounds, electrical components allowed for multi-coin bets with higher payouts.

By 1970, Bally had added more reels and made coin-handling improvements to allow for more coins and higher denominations, resulting in larger jackpots for consumers. Bally went public in 1975, trading on the New York Stock Exchange as the first gaming company.

The first true electronic slot machine, e.g., the video slot machine, was developed in 1976 in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was placed in the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas and, after further security modifications were made against cheating, received approval from the state of Nevada.

Atlantic City, New Jersey legalized gambling in 1978, by which time Bally had cornered 90% of the market for slot machines. Bally continued to add reels, knowingly decreasing the odds of winning but also increasing the size of jackpots.

Over time, the number of symbols per reel were increased to a maximum of 25 and wagers were raised to \$5, \$25, and eventually \$100.

Bally also hired a computer programmer to increase the size of jackpots without losing profits for the company, which was accomplished by utilizing a random number generator (RNG), resulting in yet another technological revolution in slot machine gaming.

For the first patented RNG, see U.S. Patent Number 4,448,419, awarded in 1984 to Igne S. Telnaes, entitled "Electronic gaming device utilizing a random number generator for selecting the reel stop positions". This patent is freely available via Google Patents.

7. The Computer Microchip Revolution of the 1980s

In the 1980s, computer microchips allowed a leap forward in slot machine technological advances, including video slots, online slots, and linked machines for progressive slots. In Las Vegas in 2003, a linked slot machine with a shared jackpot reached an extremely large size before it was won: nearly \$40 million.

One of the first slot machines with video reels was the Fortune Coin by Walt Fraley. Slot manufacturer IGT purchased its patent from Fortune Coin, then developed it further to overcome an initial distrust of this new technology by slot machine players as well as improving its overall technical operation.

Due to the application of targeted marketing techniques, video poker machines were found to be fair and could be trusted, thereby overcoming people's initial skepticism over how fair the video slot machines would be, and building a public perception of trust.

8. Arrival of the Internet and Better Computers in the 1990s

In the 1990s, the advent of the internet and increasingly fast and powerful computers allowed for the first electromechanical slot machines with bonus games, multiple lines, and the modern version of online slots.

With today's ready online access, casinos have established a wide base of slot players while online game developers are mostly only limited by their imagination.

The first video slot machine with two screens was created in Australia in 1994, followed by America in 1996. The second screen was used to provide the player with a different environment in which bonuses could be played.

9. Online Slots and Involvement with Governments

Online slots began in 1994 with the passing of the Free Trade and Processing Act by Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean, allowing companies from all over the world to open online casinos legally. Online gaming software was first developed by Microgaming.

The first online casino, Internet Gaming Inc. (ICI), was launched in 1995 and InterCasino began the following year. The online gambling industry grew prodigiously in the years following with the number of available software companies, online casinos, and games.

To protect and support online players, the Canadian Kahnawake Gaming Commission was established in 1996.

What followed was a period in which brick-and-mortar casinos were financially threatened by the sudden influx of online casinos, where players were depositing money to make wagers and played various games of chance online.

In 2006, market competition between land casinos and online casinos had become intermittent, when the U.S. Senate passed the Unlawful Internet Gaming Enforcement Act (UIGEA) which, in part, banned wire money transactions to and from the accounts of online gambling companies.

Further, it prohibits amongst other things, a casino operator from accepting a bet by means of the internet, when it's already prohibited where the bet is initiated or made.

Such transactions have potentially severe criminal and civil sanctions attached, as imposed by the UIGEA, upon both the casino operator and on financial institutions involved in the wager.

However, it does allow for wagers placed within a single state where the method for placing and receiving the bet is authorized by that state's law, provided that the intermediate routing of the transmission does not extend outside of the state.

In the U.S., only state-sanctioned casinos could legally have physical slot machines. By 2013, some local-level governments within the state of Illinois have allowed bars and restaurants in their jurisdictions to offer slot machines and other electronic gaming machines.

10. The First Rewards Clubs

Going back to the early 1980s, the airline industry introduced the first customer loyalty programs. Since that introduction, they have shown significant growth in the tourism and hospitality industries, among many others.

These loyalty programs often take an industry-wide adoption approach of "follow the leader", where competitors quickly adopt a loyalty program if their competitors have done so.

Customer loyalty programs have always existed in the gaming industry, especially by casinos employing hosts to create personal relationships with their premium players by providing complimentary rewards.

More recently, along with technological sophistication came casino customer slots clubs for all casino patrons, which casino operators attempt to use in order to create a competitive advantage.

Casinos offer players club rewards based on amount of play. Being able to track how much each player spent gambling allows a casino to value the complimentary gifts they give to these players.

Previously, it was left up to casino operators and managers to determine whether a player would be offer a free dinner, a hotel room, cruise, or other "comp" based on their relationship.

Given the relatively overwhelming number people frequenting casinos, it became ineffective for casinos to depend on employees judging the performance of players. In

essence, the introduction of players clubs allowed a finer control over company costs, thereby improving casino profits.

Becoming a member was also to the advantage of most players with regards to being relatively fair in the distribution of complimentary gifts. Players club systems were discussed in Professor Slots podcast episode #16, along with tips on how to capitalize on the complimentary gifts received through them.

11. Computer Networks: Progressive Slot Machines and More

In the early 2010s, slot machine manufacturers introduced yet another revolutionary technological change: computer network connectivity. The most obvious change of this feature to slot machine appearance was replacing LED signs having single-color displays to multi-color LCD touch screens for the player reward system.

With these touch screens, and the associated connectivity to the casino's computer network, players are able to order drinks whenever desired without waiting for an attendant to appear nearby.

As a result, this connectivity allowed casinos to somewhat reduce their labor force of waiters and waitresses, again resulting in a corresponding increase in company profits.

Another technological change introduced recently has been the ability of the player to choose the value of each credit from a limited number of possible values. While this is a somewhat minor feature, it provides evidence of the slot machine gambling/gaming industry providing convenience to their customers as well as increasing **company** profits.

The labor force of slot technicians was reduced again, as this higher level of connectivity to slot machines allowed casinos fully eliminate one role of their slot machine attendants – the relatively time-consuming task of physically updating the payout odds on each and every individual machine.

Technicians still service slot machines for both planned and unplanned maintenance, but each machine's network connection to a computer hub now finely controls the payout odds of slot machines.

The consequences of this change in payout odds being finely controlled by the casino is discussed in several of my winning slot strategies. In them, I explain how to “beat” the algorithm used to improve playing odds from below the typical payout return percentage of 90-98%, i.e., losing money, to have effective odds over 100%, i.e., making money over time.

In other words, this latest technological innovation has turned slot machine gambling from a mostly luck-based game of chance, to a skill-based game.

12. Summary of *Slot Machine History*

In summary, coin-operated slot machines have had a rich 130-plus year history. Understanding how they have developed over time is useful to both you and I, and we gain useful insights into what may very well happen next. Or, at the least, we will be less surprised by what will become, eventually, yet more slot machine history.

Areas of existing slot machine history includes the key elements of technology, popularity, and the regulatory responses of state and federal governments.

The episode segment began with Charles Fey in 1887, considered the “Father of Slots” for his innovations and popularization efforts. Herbert Stephen Mills, known as the “Henry Ford of Slot Machines,” quickly followed with his mass production efforts of early coin-operated slot machines.

This was followed by World War I, a time when slot machines began being mass produced around the world. This was shortly followed by American Prohibition, the “Golden Age of Slots.” from 1920 to 1933 alongside Nevada legalizing gambling in 1931.

For decades afterwards, slot machine technologies were primarily developed by Bally Technologies, much later purchased by Scientific Games Corporation. These commonly known technologies include the random number generator as well as multiple pay lines and denominations.

This episode segment concludes with the introduction of the computer microchips, the internet, off-shore online gaming, federal laws to protect players, rewards clubs, and the recent innovation of centralized computers being used to control slot machine odds in casinos.

Call To Action #2 (add transition/bed music)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

Introduction

Up next is the second segment of the show on slot machine casino gambling. Here, I provide a brief overview of the current state of gambling in **three** U.S. states, territories,

or federal district emphasizing, by far, anything of interest to slot machine casino gamblers.

Up first is Alabama slot machine casino gambling 2018. Here goes!

Alabama slot machine casino gambling consists only of Class II gaming machines. In Alabama, these machines have the appearance of slot machines, but are not of the style seen elsewhere. In actuality, these machines are single player bingo games where each machine's spinning reels are for "entertainment purposes only".

There are three American Indian tribal casinos and one pari-mutual facility racino offering Class II bingo-style slots in Alabama.

There are no legal limits on theoretical payout returns at Alabama tribal casinos. Also, the tribal casinos of Alabama are not required to provide actual payback return statistics about their gaming machines.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Alabama

The minimum gambling age in Alabama depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 21;
- Poker Rooms: 21;
- Bingo: 18;
- Lottery: N/A;
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18;

Alabama's bingo-style slots are rapid pace machines with whirling displays and chimes resemble slot machines. Casino owners argue these machines are allowed by state laws.

In 2016, the Alabama Supreme Court twice ruled that electronic bingo is illegal in the state. The most recent Supreme Court decisions were made in December of 2016. In part, they reversed a lower court judgment siding with a casino.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Alabama

Next up is a usually short statement about slot machine private ownership, which I have included in case you live in this U.S. state and are considering owning a slot machine. Here it is:

Private ownership of a traditional Class III slot machine in Alabama is illegal.

However, it is legal to privately own a Class II or bingo-style gaming machine.

Gaming Control Board in Alabama

Alabama has not yet established a state gaming commission.

The tribal casinos are regulated through the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988, a federal law.

Alabama has not yet negotiated a state-tribal compact with the federally-recognized Poarch Band of Creek Indians to allow for Class III Vegas-style gaming within existing American Indian tribal casinos in Alabama.

The pari-mutuel wagering facilities are regulated by state law.

Casinos in Alabama

In this section, I'll discuss Alabama casinos.

As usual, the website links for each casino, assuming they have set up a website, is available by clicking on this segment in the show notes available at professorslots.com/e38

There are three American Indian tribal casinos and one non-tribal racino in Alabama.

The largest casino in Alabama is Quincy's 777 Casino and Victoryland Greyhound Park in Shorter, having 3,200 gaming machines and 0 table games.

The second largest casino in Alabama is Wind Creek Casino & Hotel Wetumpka in Wetumpka, having 2,520 gaming machines and 0 table games.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Alabama

Alabama has one racino. This racino is a dog racing pari-mutuel wagering facility with simulcast betting as well as a separate casino with slot machines:

- Quincy's 777 Casino and Victoryland Greyhound Park in Shorter, located 25 miles east of Montgomery.

American Indian Casinos in Alabama

Alabama has three tribal casinos:

1. Wind Creek Casino & Hotel Atmore in Atmore, located 50 miles northeast of Mobile.

2. Wind Creek Casino & Hotel Wetumpka in Wetumpka, located 20 miles northeast of Montgomery.
3. Wind Creek Casino & Hotel Montgomery in Montgomery.

These three tribal casinos are operated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. They have offered Class II bingo gaming since 1988. The tribe's reservation is located in Atmore.

The tribe is one of the most successful in the country at Class II gaming, said Robert McGhee in 2015, vice chair of tribal council for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, in this mid-2015 article.

Per the IGRA of 1988, Class III Vegas-style gaming at tribal casinos requires a state-tribal compact be negotiated between the state and a federally-recognized tribe within that state, then approved by the U.S. Department of Interior.

Alabama and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians have yet to negotiate such a compact.

Other Gambling Establishments

There is no state lottery available in Alabama. At the time of this writing, there is no law prohibiting online gambling in Alabama.

As an alternative to enjoying Alabama slot machine casino gambling, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state.

Alabama is bordered by:

- North: Tennessee
- East: Georgia
- South: Florida
- West: Mississippi

Each of the links above will take you to my state-specific blog for that bordering state to Alabama.

Payout Returns

There are no legal limits on theoretical payout returns for the Class II bingo-style gaming machines available at Alabama tribal casinos.

The tribal casinos of Alabama are not required to provide actual payback return statistics about their gaming machines.

Summary of Alabama Slots 2018

In summary, for those of us that are interested in slot machine gambling, there really isn't any such thing as *Alabama slot machine casino gambling*. Slots consist only of Class II bingo-style slot machines, where the reels are for entertainment purposes only.

Class II bingo-style machines are offered at three American Indian tribal casinos and one pari-mutual facility racino. There are no legal limits on payout returns, nor are payout statistics publicly available from any of the gambling establishments.

Annual Progress in *Alabama Slot Machine Casino Gambling*

In October 2016, Alabama Governor Robert Bentley created a new commission to study gambling and make recommendations to the Alabama legislature. This 7-member commission is called the Alabama Advisory Council on Gaming.

In January 2017, the Montgomery Advertiser reported a delay on the Alabama gambling report being produced by the Alabama Advisory Council on Gaming. Since then, there has been no known progress in establishing an Alabama State Gaming Commission.

Alabama and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians have yet to negotiate a state-tribal compact to allow for Class III Vegas-style gaming in Alabama..

Call To Action #3 (add transition/bed music)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

Introduction

Up next is Alaska Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2018. Here goes!

Alaska slot machine casino gambling simply does not exist, as there are no casinos located in Alaska having electronic gaming machines. However, there are a few pull-tab "casinos" and community bingo halls as well as a few visiting cruise ships.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Alaska

The minimum gambling age in Alaska depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 21 (pull-tab casinos);
- Poker Rooms: n/a;
- Bingo: 19;
- Lottery: n/a;
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: n/a;

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Alaska

Regarding slot machine private ownership, in Alaska it is legal as long as it is not being offered as a gaming device for unlawful gambling.

State Gaming Commission in Alaska

Alaska has not yet established a state gaming commission or gaming control board.

Relevant to eventually having video lottery terminal slot machines, Alaska has also yet to establish a state lottery.

Class II gaming facilities are authorized by the federal National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC). The NIGC was established by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. These facilities offer bingo and pull tab games.

Most recently in 2008, voters were asked whether they wanted to legalize gambling and establish an Alaska Gaming Commission. It failed with 61% against.

Alaska does not have any Las Vegas-style casinos nor pari-mutuel facilities. However, it does have pull-tab casinos as well as many community bingo halls.

There are zero non-tribal casinos, 10 American Indian tribal casinos, zero non-tribal racinos, and 2 cruise ships based in Alaska.

The largest gambling establishment in Alaska is MIC Gaming Hall in Metlakatla, having 90 pull-tab machines, bingo and zero table games.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Alaska

None are available, other than the cruise ship options mentioned below.

American Indian Casinos in Alaska

While not casinos, strictly speaking, the gambling establishments offering either bingo, pull-tabs, or both are:

- Agate Pull Tabs in Sand Point.
- Atka Ira Council Pull Tabs in Atka.
- Klawock IRA Pull Tab Shoppe in Klawock, operated by the Metlaktia Indian Community.
- MIC Gaming Hall in Metlakatla.
- Native Village of Barrow Pull Tabs in Barrow.

The community halls offering only bingo are:

- Juneau Tlingit and Haida Tribal Bingo in Juneau.
- Kake Tribal Heritage Bingo.
- Sitka Tribal Bingo in Sitka.

Other Gambling Establishments

There is no state lottery available in Alaska. At the time of this writing, there is no law prohibiting online gambling in the state.

As an alternative to enjoying Alaska slot machine casino gambling, consider exploring these visiting cruise ship options:

- Anchorage: Crystal Cruises – Crystal Serenity; and
- Juneau: Royal Caribbean International – Radiance of the Seas.

Finally, Vegas-style casinos with traditional slot machines do exist in Canada. From Ketchikan in southern Alaska, it's only 50 miles to Chances Prince Rupert Casino in British Columbia. It has 100 slot machines and 12 table games.

The next nearest Canadian casino is located 2,200 miles further south, specifically Casino Nanaimo in Port Place across the Strait of George from Vancouver, British Columbia. It has 350 slot machines as well as Vegas-style table game options.

Payout Returns

There are no casinos in Alaska, and therefore no theoretical or actual payout return statistics available.

Summary to Alaska Slots 2018

In summary, Alaska slot machine casino gambling does not exist as there are no casinos in this state. The difficulty facing tribes with developing casinos is two-fold:

1. The land they are constructed on must be trust or restricted land, which is limited in Alaska.
2. The more usual issue of the State not yet approving casino-style gaming.

Annual Progress in Alaska Slot Machine Casino Gambling

Over the last year, there has been no change regarding the legal status of having slot machines available in Alaska. However, bingo community halls and pull-tab gambling establishments have shown some small changes.

Specifically, combined pull-tab and bingo facilities in Alaska have increased from 6 to 8 establishments. Most of the previously existing establishments from one year ago still exist, however they appear to have different if similar names.

Call To Action #4 (add transition/bed music)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

On the Next Episode of Professor Slots

Part I of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is expected to be a review of the slot manufacturer International Games Technology PLC 2018 to get an idea of how they are doing as well as reviewing their best thoughts on how the slots industry to coming along from a business perspective.

Part II of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast will include more brief overviews of the current state of gambling in two U.S. states, territories, or federal district. Next time, I'll be talking to you about the great U.S. territory of American Samoa and the great U.S. state of Arizona. Here's to looking forward to learning what's changed with slots at both places over the last year!

Closing (closing music)

That's the end of another great episode of the Professor Slots podcast. Thanks so much for listening!

Show notes for this episode are now available within most podcast Apps, but are also available on my website at professorslots.com/e38.

I plan to have the next episode come out very soon for you, where I'll have more amazing content for the show.

Until the next episode: Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye.

320-character description:

The 130+ year slot machine history helps us understand of the future of slots, including technology, popularity, and regulation. Learn the origin of pay tables, bar reel symbols, the RNG, and who did what when for these gaming machines we so love to play. Plus, Alabama and Alaska slot machine casino gambling 2018.

156-character description:

The 130 year slot machine history helps us understand of the near future of slots, those gaming machines we love to play. Plus, Alabama & Alaska slots 2018.