

MALONE THOMAS  
Form 4  
December 17, 2004

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**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 \*  
MALONE THOMAS

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)  
  
3773 HOWARD HUGHES  
PKWY, SUITE 490S  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/16/2004

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Vice President and Controller

LAS VEGAS, NV 89109

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

(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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |     |       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code  | V  | Amount                            | (D) | Price |

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

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(9-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if | 4. Transaction | 5. Number of Derivative | 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) | Code (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 Shares |
| Stock Options (Right to buy) | \$ 42.6                                  | 12/16/2004           | A               |   | 14,800           |                  | 12/15/2005 <sup>(1)</sup> | 12/16/2011      | Common Stock | 14,800                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                               |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                       | Other |
| MALONE THOMAS<br>3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY<br>SUITE 490S<br>LAS VEGAS, NV 89109 |               |           | Vice President and Controller |       |

## Signatures

Peter C. Walsh,  
Attorney-in-Fact

12/17/2004

\*\*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 15, 2005.

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 a currently valid OMB number.