WALSH PETER Form 4 March 05, 2012

FORM 4

Form 5

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

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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)

(Last)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * **WALSH PETER**

(First) (Middle)

16633 VENTURA **BOULEVARD, SUITE 1050**

(Street)

ENCINO, CA 91436

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

AMERISTAR CASINOS INC [ASCA]

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

03/05/2012

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

OMB

Number:

Expires:

response...

Estimated average

burden hours per

(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title _ Other (specify below)

SVP, GC, Chief Admin Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

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

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - Non-l	Derivative	Secur	ities Acqui	red, Disposed of,	or Beneficial	ly 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. Securit or Dispos (Instr. 3, 4	ed of (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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	03/05/2012		M	10,000	A	\$ 13.18	52,636	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012		S	100	D	\$ 19.265	52,536	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012		S	200	D	\$ 19.27	52,336	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012		S	100	D	\$ 19.295	52,236	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012		S	500	D	\$ 19.3	51,736	I	Family Trust (1)

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Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	100	D	\$ 19.305	51,636	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	500	D	\$ 19.31	51,136	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	1,100	D	\$ 19.32	50,036	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	100	D	\$ 19.325	49,936	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	1,100	D	\$ 19.33	48,836	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	500	D	\$ 19.332	48,336	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	1,600	D	\$ 19.34	46,736	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	400	D	\$ 19.35	46,336	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	600	D	\$ 19.36	45,736	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	200	D	\$ 19.365	45,536	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	400	D	\$ 19.38	45,136	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	100	D	\$ 19.39	45,036	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	890	D	\$ 19.4	44,146	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	100	D	\$ 19.405	44,046	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	300	D	\$ 19.41	43,746	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	200	D	\$ 19.415	43,546	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	300	D	\$ 19.42	43,246	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	400	D	\$ 19.43	42,846	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	110	D	\$ 19.44	42,736	I	Family Trust (1)
Common Stock	03/05/2012	S	100	D	\$ 19.45	42,636	I	Family Trust (1)
						92,424 (2)	D	

Common Stock

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 Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of or Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed or (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Expiration Date (Month/Day/Yea	xpiration Date		7. Title and Amount Underlying Securition (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amou or Numb of Sha	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 13.18	03/05/2012		M	10,000	04/02/2003(3)	03/08/2012	Common Stock	10,0	

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
WALSH PETER 16633 VENTURA BOULEVARD SUITE 1050 ENCINO, CA 91436			SVP, GC, Chief Admin Officer				

Signatures

/s/ Peter C.
Walsh

**Signature of Reporting Person

O3/05/2012

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) Securities owned by the Walsh Family Trust dated 9-11-03, of which Mr. Walsh and his spouse are co-trustees.

Reporting Owners 3

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- (2) Balance includes previously reported restricted stock units, each of which constitutes the right to receive one share of common stock in the future.
- (3) Option vested in five equal annual installments commencing on April 2, 2003.

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.