

NEILSEN ESTATE OF CRAIG H  
 Form 4  
 April 01, 2011

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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 \*  
 NEILSEN ESTATE OF 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)  
 03/30/2011

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

C/O AMERISTAR CASINOS INC., 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		
Common Stock	03/30/2011		S		3,147 (1)	D	
Common Stock	03/31/2011		S		6,853 (1)	D	
Common Stock	03/31/2011		S		7,000 (1)	D	
Common Stock	03/31/2011		S		1,000 (1)	D	
	03/31/2011		S			D	

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Common Stock				2,000 <u>(1)</u>	\$			17.85	
Common Stock	03/31/2011		S	1,400 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 17.9	31,507,000		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	6,600 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.02	31,500,400		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	2,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.04	31,498,400		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	2,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.05	31,496,400		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	2,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.1	31,494,400		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	2,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.15	31,492,400		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	3,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.25	31,489,400		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	2,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.3	31,487,400		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	2,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.35	31,485,400		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	2,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.4	31,483,400		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	9,487 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.51	31,473,913		D
Common Stock	04/01/2011		S	200 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.52	31,473,713		D

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 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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3,	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Underlying Security (Instr. 3)
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4, and 5)

	Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Options (Right to Buy) \$ 21.3					10/28/2005	12/16/2011	Common Stock	0
Stock Options (Right to Buy) \$ 22.87					12/15/2005	12/15/2012	Common Stock	0

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
NEILSEN ESTATE OF CRAIG H C/O AMERISTAR CASINOS INC. 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY SUITE 490S LAS VEGAS, NV 89169		X		

## Signatures

/s/ Gregory H .Cooper,  
Attorney-in-Fact

04/01/2011

\*\*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) Sales made pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 sales plan implemented by the reporting person.
- (2) The Estate of Craig H. Nielsen exercised the options on March 28, 2007, within one year of the death of the decedent, in a transaction exempt from reporting under Rule 16a-2(d)(1).

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.