

AMERISTAR CASINOS INC  
Form SC 13G  
February 11, 2009

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

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. )\*

Ameristar Casinos Inc.  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock  
(Title of Class of Securities)

03070Q101  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2008  
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

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\* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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CUSIP No. 03070Q101

1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (entities only)

Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Strauss, Inc.

752403190

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (See Instructions)

(a) ..

(b) ..

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

A Nevada corporation

NUMBER OF  
SHARES  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED BY  
EACH  
REPORTING  
PERSON  
WITH

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

1,375,270 shares

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

55,882,730 shares

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

57,258,000 shares

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

57,258,000 shares

10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (See Instructions)

..

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

5.56%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (See Instructions)

IA

SCHEDULE 13G

- Item  
1(a) Name of Issuer: Ameristar Casinos Inc.
- 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
  
3773 Howard Hughes Parkway, Ste. 490S  
Las Vegas, NV 89109
- Item  
2(a) Name of Person Filing:  
  
Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Strauss, Inc.
- 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence:  
  
2200 Ross Avenue, 31st Floor  
Dallas, TX 75201-2761
- 2(c) Citizenship:  
  
A Nevada corporation
- 2(d) Title of Class of Securities  
  
Common Stock
- 2(e) CUSIP Number: 03070Q101
- Item 3 If this statement is filed pursuant to §§240.13d-1(b), or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:
- |     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| (a) | .. | Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o).                               |
| (b) | .. | Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).   |
| (c) | .. | Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).                           |
| (d) | .. | Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8). |
| (e) | þ  | An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);                                      |

- (f) .. An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g) .. A parent holding company or control person in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(ii)(G);
- (h) .. A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
- (i) .. A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3);
- (j) .. Group, in a accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).

Item 4 Ownership:

4(a) Amount beneficially owned: 57,258,000 shares

4(b) Percent of Class: 5.56%

4(c) Number of shares as to which person has:

(i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote: 1,375,270 shares

(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 55,882,730 shares

(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 57,258,000 shares

(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: —

Item 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:  
Not Applicable.

Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:  
The right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the common stock is held by certain clients of the reporting person, none of which has such right or power with respect to five percent or more of the common stock.

Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company:  
Not Applicable.

Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:  
Not Applicable.

Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group:  
Not Applicable.

Item 10 Certification:

By signing below the undersigned certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

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After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

BARROW, HANLEY, MEWHINNEY & STRAUSS, INC.

By: /s/ James P. Barrow  
Name: James P. Barrow  
Title: President

February 11, 2009

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