MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC Form 8-K

February 20, 2004

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): February 17, 2004

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC. (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEVADA 0-22088 88-0300760 (State or other jurisdiction (Commission (I.R.S. Employer of incorporation) File Number) Identification No.)

1175 W. Moana Lane, Suite 200 Reno, NEVADA (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(775)825-3355

89509

(Zip Code)

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

NOT APPLICABLE

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

ITEM 12. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On February 17, 2004, Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release reporting the Company's financial results for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2003. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

Also attached hereto and incorporated by reference is Exhibit 99.2, a correction of the press release attached as Exhibit 99.1. A sentence in the first paragraph of the press release was removed from the corrected version in Exhibit 99.2. All financial data and numbers remained unchanged from the original version.

- ITEM 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits
 - (c) Exhibits

99.1 Text of press release dated February 17, 2004.

99.2 Corrected text of press release dated february 17, 2004.

-2-SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.

Date: February 19, 2004 By: /s/ Ben Farahi

Name: Ben Farahi

Title: Chief Financial Officer,

Treasurer and Secretary

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Exhibit 99.1

PRESS RELEASE

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC. ANNOUNCES RECORD REVENUES AND EARNINGS FOR FOURTH QUARTER AND FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

RENO, NV-February 17, 2004- Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. (Nasdaq: MCRI) (the "Company") today announced record net income, earnings per share, casino revenues, net revenues and EBITDA for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. For the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2003, net income improved 36.4% over the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2002, increasing from \$1,298,636, or \$0.14 per diluted share, to \$1,771,073, or \$0.19 per diluted share. This fourth quarter improvement was mainly due to a 26.0% reduction in interest and stockholder guarantee fee expenses over last year's fourth quarter due to reduced debt outstanding and lower applicable interest rates, and to a lesser increase in operating expenses relative to the increase in revenues. Casino revenues increased 7.5% in the 2003 fourth quarter over the same period last year. The increase in casino revenues was mainly driven by improvements in slot machine, Keno and poker room revenues. Fourth quarter hotel revenues also grew in 2003, increasing 2.2% over the 2002 fourth quarter. Food and

Beverage revenues decreased 0.5% in the 2003 fourth quarter as compared to the 2002 fourth quarter, while other revenue centers increased 2.9% over the same period. Net revenues for the quarter ended December 31, 2003, were \$28,263,822, a 4.8% increase over the \$26,960,916 for the same period a year earlier. EBITDA (1) for the fourth quarter of 2003 saw a 16.5% improvement over the fourth quarter of 2002, increasing from \$5,293,624 to \$6,165,987.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, net income increased 11.7% to \$9,605,923, or \$1.02 per diluted share, as compared to \$8,603,346, or \$0.90 per diluted share, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002. This improvement in net income is directly attributable to a 33.0% decrease in interest expense and related stockholder guarantee fee expenses in 2003 over 2002, which resulted from lower outstanding debt levels as well as lower applicable interest rates. The Company also reported record casino revenues of \$74,955,744 for the year, an increase of 5.9% over the \$70,772,939 in 2002. The increase in casino revenues for the year was mainly attributable to increases in slot machine, Keno and poker revenues. Hotel revenues also broke Company records during fiscal year 2003, increasing 4.6% over the 2002 fiscal year results. Food and beverage (2.5%) and other (8.5%) revenue centers also improved during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 over the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002. The increases in all revenue centers contributed to record net revenues for the 2003 fiscal year, increasing 4.4% over the 2002 fiscal year. EBITDA (1) improved 1.8% during the year ended December 31, 2003, as compared to the same period in 2002, increasing from \$27,515,903\$ to \$28,006,847. The Company achieved record EBITDA (1) despite having incurred litigation costs associated with its recently settled lawsuit against the City of Reno and other third parties, as well as an increased gaming tax rate imposed by the State of Nevada that took effect on August 1, 2003. The Company incurred approximately \$505,000 for both of these expenses in 2003, without comparable expenses in 2002.

The Company also announced today that it expects to complete the refinancing of its bank credit facility that matures on June 30, 2004 by February 27, 2004.

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John Farahi, Co-chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Monarch complimented the Atlantis team and the Company's product following the record results: "We achieved record numbers once again in a very competitive environment. I am particularly pleased with our fourth quarter results. Despite increased competition from California Native American casinos and increased gaming tax rates, our fourth quarter EBITDA (1) increased approximately 16.5% over the year 2002 fourth quarter."

Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. also announced today that the Company's 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. local time, at the Company's Atlantis Casino Resort, 3800 South Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada 89502. The record date for stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is Thursday, April 8, 2004.

Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc., through its wholly-owned subsidiary, owns and operates the tropically-themed Atlantis Casino Resort in Reno, Nevada. The Atlantis is the closest hotel-casino to and is directly across the street from the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, which completed a \$105 million expansion and renovation in August 2002. The Atlantis is recognizable due to its Sky Terrace, a unique structure rising approximately 55 feet from street level and spanning 160 feet across the street with no intermediate support pillars. The Sky Terrace connects the Atlantis to a 16-acre parcel of land owned by the Company, that is compliant with all casino zoning requirements and is suitable and available for future expansion of the Atlantis facilities and is currently

being used by the Company as additional paved parking for the Atlantis. The existing Atlantis site offers almost 1,000 guest rooms in three contiguous high-rise hotel towers and a motor lodge. The tropically-themed Atlantis features approximately 51,000 square feet of high-energy casino space with 37 table games and approximately 1,450 slot and video poker machines, a sports book, Keno and a poker room, and offers a variety of dining choices in the form of nine high-quality food outlets.

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 which are subject to change, including, but not limited to, comments relating to (i) future operating performance and (ii) the financial benefits that may result from future operations. The actual results may differ materially from those described in any forward-looking statements. Additional information concerning potential factors that could affect the Company's financial results are included in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, which are available on the Company's web site.

(1) "EBITDA" consists of net income plus provision for income taxes, other expenses (income), and depreciation and amortization. EBITDA should not be construed as an alternative to operating income (as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles) as an indicator of the Company's operating performance, or as an alternative to cash flows from operating activities (as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles) as a measure of liquidity. This item enables comparison of the Company's performance with the performance of other companies that report EBITDA, although some companies do not calculate this measure in the same manner and therefore, the measure as presented, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other companies.

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MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

		nths Ended ber 31,		onths Ended ber 31,	
	2003 (Unaudited)	2002 (Unaudited)	2003	2002	
Revenues					
Casino	\$ 18,708,204	\$ 17,396,640	\$ 74,955,744	\$ 70,772,939	
Food and beverage	8,404,880	8,444 043	34,498,613	33,646,938	
Hotel	4,753,786	4,651,613	21,236,808	20,303,439	
Other	964,448	937,107	4,005,426	3,690,180	
Gross revenues	32,831,318	31,429,403	134,696,591	128,413,496	
Less promotional allowances	(4,567,496)	(4,468,487)	(18,746,078)	(17,375,926)	
Net revenues	28,263,822	26,960,916	115,950,513	111,037,570	
Operating expenses					
Casino	7,285,897	7,331,529	29,321,060	27,690,033	
Food and beverage	4,571,552	4,405,311	17,701,143	17,591,945	
Hotel	1,760,480	1,644,379	6,991,581	6,543,610	
Other	299 , 503	306,503	1,270,624	1,254,179	

Selling, general and administrative Depreciation and amortization		180,403 869,044	,	79 , 570		•	59 , 258 97 , 494	,	41,900 20,403
Total operating expenses			 				41,160	 	
Income from operations	3,2	296 , 943	 2,6	94 , 568	1	 7 , 2(09 , 353	 17,1	95 , 500
Other expense			 					 	
Interest expense	(3	363,695)	(5)	11,810)	(1,60	07,840)	(2,63	33,917)
Stockholder guarantee fee expense	(2	237,397)	(30	00,041)	(1,03	30,010)	(1,30	00,446)
Stock transaction expense		_		(3,020)				(22	28,020)
Total other	((601,092)	(8)	14,871)	(2,63	37,850)	(4,1	62,383)
Income (loss) before income taxes	2,	695 , 851	 1,8	 79 , 697	1	4,5°	71,503	 13 , 0:	33,117
Provision (benefit) for income taxes		924 , 778	58	81,061		•	65 , 580	4,42	29,771
Net income (loss)	\$ 1,	771,073	\$ 1,2	98 , 636			05 , 923	8,60	03,346
INCOME (LOSS) PER SHARE OF COMMON STOCK									
Net income (loss)									
Basic	\$	0.19	\$	0.14		\$	1.02	\$	0.91
Diluted	Ś	0.19	\$	0.14		Ś	1.02	\$	0.90
Weighted average number of common shares and potential common shares outstanding	Ŷ	0.13	Ψ	0.11		Υ	1.02	Ť	0.30
Basic	9,3	340,328	9,4	73 , 664		9,3	79,446	9,45	57,669
Diluted	9,3	374,028	9,53	33,751		9,41	12,459	9,52	21,353

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	December 31,		
_	2003		2002
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash\$	9,711,310	\$	9,961,484
Receivables, net	2,818,727		2,724,726
Federal income tax refund receivable	756,698		-
Inventories	1,245,967		993,260
Prepaid expenses	2,234,773		1,961,763
Prepaid federal income tax	_		176,321

Deferred income taxes	542,457	492,457
Total current assets	17,309,932	
Property and equipment		
Land	10,339,530	10,339,530
Land improvements	3,226,913	3,191,371
Buildings	78,955,538	78,955,538
Building improvements	6,304,642	6,262,903
Furniture and equipment	63,230,354	58,086,570
	162,056,977	156,835,912
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(63,618,047)	(55, 985, 653)
	98,438,930	100,850,259
Net property and equipment	98,438,930	100,850,259
Other assets, net		319,817
	\$115,877,125	
	_	

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	December 31,			
	2002	2001		
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY Current liabilities Current maturities of long-term debt Accounts payable	\$ 47,184,591 8,407,887 6,707,257	\$ 8,279,095 6,227,124 6,146,440		
Total current liabilities	62,299,735	20,652,659		
Long-term debt, less current maturities Deferred income taxes	- 4,854,587	52,000,000 4,526,744		

Commitments and contingencies

Stockholders' equity		
Preferred stock, \$.01 par value, 10,000,000		
shares authorized; none issued	_	-
Common stock, \$.01 par value, 30,000,000		
shares authorized; 9,536,275 issued;		
9,436,275 outstanding	95 , 363	95 , 363
Additional paid-in capital	17,432,635	17, 381,517
Treasury stock, at cost	(1,437,614)	(202,692)
Retained earnings	32,632,419	23,026,496
Total stockholders' equity	48,722,803	40,300,684
	\$115,877,125	\$117,480,087

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY RECONCILIATION OF INCOME FROM OPERATIONS TO EBITDA

		Three Months Ended December 31,		ve Months Ended December 31,	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	
Net income Adjustments:	\$1,771,073	\$1,298,636	\$ 9,605,923	\$ 8,603,346	
Provision for income taxes	924,778	581,061	4,965,580	4,429,771	
Stock transaction expense	-	3,020	-	228,020	
Interest expense	601,092	811,851	2,637,850	3,934,363	
Depreciation & amortization	2,869,044	2,599,056	10,797,494	10,320,403	
EBITDA	\$6 , 165 , 987	\$5 , 293 , 624	\$28,006,847	\$27 , 515 , 903	

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Exhibit 99.2

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over the same period. Net revenues for the quarter ended December 31, 2003, were \$28,263,822, a 4.8% increase over the \$26,960,916 for the same period a year earlier. EBITDA (1) for the fourth quarter of 2003 saw a 16.5% improvement over the fourth quarter of 2002, increasing from \$5,293,624 to \$6,165,987.

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This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 which are subject to change, including, but not limited to, comments relating to (i) future operating performance and (ii) the financial benefits that may result from future operations. The actual results may differ materially from those described in any forward-looking statements. Additional information concerning potential factors that could affect the Company's financial results are included in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, which are available on the Company's web site.

Contacts: Ben Farahi at (775) 825-3355 or benfarahi@monarchcasino.com

Karl G. Brokmann at (775) 825-3355 or kbrokmann@monarchcasino.com

For additional information including artist renditions and photographs,

visit Monarch's web site at monarchcasino.com.

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MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

		nths Ended ber 31,		onths Ended ber 31,	
	2003 (Unaudited)	2002 (Unaudited)	2003	2002	
Revenues					
Casino	\$ 18,708,204	\$ 17,396,640	\$ 74,955,744	\$ 70 , 772 , 939	
Food and beverage	8,404,880	8,444 043	34,498,613	33,646,938	
Hotel	4,753,786	4,651,613	21,236,808	20,303,439	
Other	964,448	937,107	4,005,426	3,690,180	
Gross revenues	32,831,318	31,429,403	134,696,591	128,413,496	
Less promotional allowances	(4,567,496)	(4,468,487)	(18,746,078)	(17,375,926)	
Net revenues	28,263,822	26,960,916	115,950,513	111,037,570	
Operating expenses					
Casino	7,285,897	7,331,529	29,321,060	27,690,033	

Food and beverage	4,571,552	4,405,311	17,701,143	17,591,945
Hotel	1,760,480	1,644,379	6,991,581	6,543,610
Other	299,503	306,503	1,270,624	1,254,179
Selling, general and administrative	8,180,403	7,979,570	32,659,258	30,441,900
Depreciation and amortization	2,869,044	2,599,056	10,797,494	10,320,403
Total operating expenses	24,966,879	24,266,348	98,741,160	93,842,070
Income from operations	3,296,943	2,694,568		17,195,500
Other expense				
Interest expense	(363,695)	(511,810)	(1,607,840)	(2,633,917)
Stockholder quarantee fee expense	(237,397)		(1,030,010)	
Stock transaction expense	-	(3,020)	(1,000,010)	(228,020)
beeck transaction expense		(3,020)		(220,020)
Total other	(601,092)	(814,871)	(2,637,850)	(4,162,383)
Income (loss) before income taxes	2,695,851	1.879.697	14,571,503	13,033,117
Provision (benefit) for income taxes		581,061		4,429,771
Net income (loss)	\$ 1,771,073	\$ 1,298,636	\$ 9,605,923	\$ 8,603,346
	========	========	========	========
INCOME (LOSS) PER SHARE OF COMMON STOCK Net income (loss)				
Basic	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.14	\$ 1.02	\$ 0.91
Diluted	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.14	\$ 1.02	\$ 0.90
Weighted average number of common shares and potential common shares outstanding				
Basic	9,340,328	9,473,664	9,379,446	9,457,669
Diluted	9,374,028	9,533,751	9,412,459	9,521,353

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	December 31,			
_	2003	2002		
-				
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash\$	9,711,310	\$	9,961,484	
Receivables, net	2,818,727		2,724,726	
Federal income tax refund receivable	756 , 698		_	

Inventories Prepaid expenses Prepaid federal income tax Deferred income taxes	1,245,967 2,234,773 - 542,457	993,260 1,961,763 176,321 492,457
Total current assets	17,309,932	16,310,011
Property and equipment		
Land	10,339,530	10,339,530
Land improvements	3,226,913	3,191,371
Buildings	78,955,538	78,955,538
Building improvements	6,304,642	6,262,903
Furniture and equipment	63,230,354	58,086,570
Less accumulated	162,056,977	
depreciation and amortization	(63,618,047)	(55, 985, 653)
	98,438,930	100,850,259
Net property and equipment	98,438,930	100,850,259
Other assets, net	128,263	319,817
	\$115 , 877 , 125	\$117,480,087
	========	=========

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	December 31,			
	2002	2001		
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY Current liabilities Current maturities of long-term debt Accounts payable	\$ 47,184,591 8,407,887 6,707,257	\$ 8,279,095 6,227,124 6,146,440		
Total current liabilities	62,299,735	20,652,659		

Long-term debt, less current maturities Deferred income taxes	- 4,854,587	52,000,000 4,526,744
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity Preferred stock, \$.01 par value, 10,000,000 shares authorized; none issued Common stock, \$.01 par value, 30,000,000	-	-
shares authorized; 9,536,275 issued; 9,436,275 outstanding	95,363 17,432,635 (1,437,614) 32,632,419	
Total stockholders' equity	48,722,803	40,300,684
	\$115,877,125	\$117,480,087

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY RECONCILIATION OF INCOME FROM OPERATIONS TO EBITDA

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Twelve Months Ended December 31,	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
Net income Adjustments:	\$1,771,073	\$1,298,636	\$ 9,605,923	\$ 8,603,346
Provision for income taxes Stock transaction expense	924 , 778 -	581,061 3,020	4,965,580	4,429,771 228,020
Interest expense Depreciation & amortization	601,092 2,869,044	811,851 2,599,056	2,637,850 10,797,494	3,934,363 10,320,403
EBITDA	\$6,165,987	\$5,293,624	\$28,006,847	\$27 , 515 , 903