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MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC

Form 8-K

February 16, 2005

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

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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 15, 2005

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

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

1175 W. Moana Lane, Suite 200	
Reno, NEVADA	89509
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)	(Zip Code)

(775)825-3355

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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

NOT APPLICABLE

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

ITEM 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On February 15, 2005, Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release reporting the Company's financial results for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended December 31, 2004. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) EXHIBITS

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99.1 Text of press release dated February 15, 2005.

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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 16, 2005

By: /s/ Ben Farahi

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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 BREAKING FOURTH  
QUARTER AND YEAR END 2004 RESULTS

- 2004 EPS BEATS RECORD 2003 BY APPROXIMATELY 72% -

RENO, NV-February 15, 2005- Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. (Nasdaq:  
MCRI) (the "Company") capped an all-time record year as a result of its record  
fourth quarter ended December 31, 2004.

The Company generated a fourth quarter record \$3.9 million net income, or

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\$0.41 per diluted share, on net revenues of \$31.2 million for the three months ended December 31, 2004. The fourth quarter net income was a 118.2% improvement over the Company's previous fourth quarter record of \$1.8 million, or \$0.19 per diluted share, set in 2003. Net revenues also beat the previous record 2003 fourth quarter net revenues by 10.4%. The record quarterly net revenues were driven by significant increases in the Company's casino (+10.3%), food and beverage (+11.6%) and hotel (+12.4%) revenue centers. Total operating costs and expenses increased only 1.6% over the 2003 fourth quarter, leading to strong margin improvements across the board, and a 76.7% increase in income from operations in the fourth quarter of 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. The improved margins also led to record fourth quarter EBITDA (1) for the Company, which reached \$7.8 million, a 26.0% improvement over its previous fourth quarter best EBITDA (1) of \$6.2 million achieved in 2003.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004, the Company also set new all-time records in net income, earnings per share, casino revenue, hotel revenue, net revenues and EBITDA (1). Net income for the year was \$16.5 million, or \$1.76 per diluted share, on net revenues of \$129.5 million. The record net income represented a 72.0% increase over the Company's previous record net income of \$9.6 million, or \$1.02 per diluted share, on net revenues of \$116.0 million, set in 2003. Significant increases in the Company's primary revenue centers of casino (+12.2%), food and beverage (+8.2%) and hotel (+14.5%) led to the record net revenues. Furthermore, promotional allowances increased only 7.9%, leading to a 67.1% flow through of incremental net revenue to income from operations. Total operating costs and expenses increased only 4.5% in 2004 compared to 2003. The combination of increased revenues and cost containment resulted in a significant EBITDA (1) margin improvement of 24.2% in 2003 to 27.7% in 2004. EBITDA (1) for the twelve months ended December 31, 2004, reached a record \$35.9 million, a 28.2% improvement over \$28.0 million EBITDA (1) for the same period a year earlier. The Company also benefited from a 40% reduction in interest expense over the previous year due to principal paydowns on bank debt balance and lower applicable interest rates.

Commenting on the Company's success, CEO and Co-Chairman John Farahi said "We continue to benefit from strong local population growth, especially in south Reno, a superb location, increased bookings at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center next door to our Atlantis Casino Resort, and a dedicated and experienced management team. We are committed and continue to aggressively update and renovate our facilities, products and services in order to keep the Atlantis fresh and appealing to our guests. Our increasing revenues, combined

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with our cost controls has led to exceptional flow through to our free cash flow, which we are using to rapidly pay down debt." At December 31, 2004, the Company's outstanding bank debt was \$32.4 million, a 31% reduction compared to \$47.0 million at December 31, 2003.

The Company also announced today that its 2005 Annual Meeting of Stockholders will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2005 at 10:00am local time, at the Company's Atlantis Casino Resort, 3800 South Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada. The record date for stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is Friday, April 8, 2005.

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. The Atlantis is recognizable due to

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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 is 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.

(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. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (UNAUDITED)

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Twelve Months Ended December 31,	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
Revenues				
Casino.....	\$ 20,641,420	\$ 18,708,204	\$ 84,131,876	\$ 74,955,744
Food and beverage.....	9,377,418	8,404,880	37,333,977	34,498,613
Hotel.....	5,344,046	4,753,786	24,318,082	21,236,808
Other.....	1,017,746	964,448	3,892,669	4,005,426

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Gross revenues.....	36,380,630	32,831,318	149,676,604	134,696,591
Less promotional allowances.....	(5,184,472)	(4,567,496)	(20,219,714)	(18,746,078)
Net revenues.....	31,196,158	28,263,822	129,456,890	115,950,513
Operating expenses				
Casino.....	7,535,435	7,285,897	30,513,391	29,321,060
Food and beverage.....	4,737,160	4,571,552	18,859,211	17,701,143
Hotel.....	1,852,275	1,760,480	7,858,616	6,991,581
Other.....	296,654	299,503	1,344,163	1,270,624
Selling, general and administrative.....	9,007,820	8,180,403	34,979,998	32,659,258
Depreciation and amortization.....	1,940,674	2,869,044	9,627,870	10,797,494
Total operating expenses.....	25,370,018	24,966,879	103,183,249	98,741,160
Income from operations.....	5,826,140	3,296,943	26,273,641	17,209,353
Other expenses				
Interest expense.....	(323,004)	(363,695)	(1,448,125)	(1,607,840)
Stockholder guarantee fee expense..	-	(237,397)	(136,164)	(1,030,010)
Total other expenses.....	(323,004)	(601,092)	(1,584,289)	(2,637,850)
Income before income taxes.....	5,503,136	2,695,851	24,689,352	14,571,503
Provision for income taxes.....	1,639,392	924,778	8,162,912	4,965,580
Net income.....	\$ 3,863,744	\$ 1,771,073	\$ 16,526,440	\$ 9,605,923
Earnings per share of common stock				
Net income				
Basic.....	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.19	\$ 1.76	\$ 1.02
Diluted.....	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.19	\$ 1.76	\$ 1.02
Weighted average number of common shares and potential common shares outstanding				
Basic.....	9,406,224	9,340,328	9,378,225	9,379,446
Diluted.....	9,479,234	9,374,028	9,407,343	9,412,459

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## MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	December 31, 2004	December 31, 2003
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	(Unaudited)	
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets		
Cash.....	\$ 11,814,778	\$ 9,711,310
Receivables, net.....	2,959,894	2,818,727
Federal income tax refund receivable.....	493,797	756,698
Inventories.....	1,452,696	1,245,967
Prepaid expenses.....	2,346,242	2,234,773
Deferred income taxes.....	1,115,719	542,457
	-----	-----
Total current assets.....	20,183,126	17,309,932
	-----	-----
Property and equipment		
Land.....	10,339,530	10,339,530
Land improvements.....	3,226,913	3,226,913
Buildings.....	78,955,538	78,955,538
Building improvements.....	7,524,680	6,304,642
Furniture and equipment.....	65,146,594	63,230,354
Leasehold improvement.....	1,346,965	-
	-----	-----
	166,540,220	162,056,977
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization..	(68,791,045)	(63,618,047)
	-----	-----
Net property and equipment.....	97,749,175	98,438,930
	-----	-----
Other assets, net.....	406,620	128,263
	-----	-----
Total assets.....	\$ 118,338,921	\$ 115,877,125
	=====	=====
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities		
Current maturities of long-term debt.....	\$ -	\$ 6,059,591
Accounts payable.....	5,747,775	8,407,887
Accrued expenses.....	7,918,299	6,707,257
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities.....	13,666,074	21,174,735
Long-term debt, less current maturities.....	32,400,000	41,125,000
Deferred income taxes.....	6,509,505	4,854,587
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; 9,405,224 outstanding at 09/30/2004, 9,340,328 outstanding at 12/31/2003.....	95,363	95,363
Additional paid-in capital.....	17,463,272	17,432,635
Treasury stock, 131,051 shares at 09/30/2004, 195,947 shares at 12/31/2003, at cost.....	(954,152)	(1,437,614)

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Retained earnings.....	49,158,859	32,632,419
	-----	-----
Total stockholders' equity.....	65,763,342	48,722,803
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Total liabilities and stockholders' equity...	\$ 118,338,921	\$ 115,877,125
	=====	=====

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MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.  
RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO EBITDA (1)

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Twelve Months Ended December 31,	
	2004 (unaudited)	2003 (unaudited)	2004 (unaudited)	2003 (unaudited)
Net income.....	\$ 3,863,744	\$1,771,073	\$16,526,440	\$9,605,923
Adjustments:				
Provision for income taxes.....	1,639,392	924,778	8,162,912	4,965,580
Stockholder guarantee fee expense	-	237,397	136,164	1,030,010
Interest expense.....	323,004	363,695	1,448,125	1,607,840
Depreciation and amortization....	1,940,674	2,869,044	9,627,870	10,797,494
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EBITDA (1)	\$ 7,766,814	\$6,165,987	\$35,901,511	\$28,006,847
	=====	=====	=====	=====

(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.



