

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

FORM 8-A

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES
PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State of incorporation or organization)

73-0664379
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

One Gaylord Drive
Nashville, Tennessee
(Address of principal executive offices)

37214
(Zip Code)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class
to be so registered

Name of each exchange on which
each class is to be registered

Preferred Share Purchase Rights

New York Stock Exchange

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A. (c), check the following box.

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A. (d), check the following box.

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates: None.

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None.

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

On August 12, 2008, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Gaylord Entertainment Company (the "Company") adopted a shareholder rights plan, as set forth in the Rights Agreement, dated as of August 12, 2008, by and between the Company and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as rights agent (the "Rights Agreement"). Pursuant to the terms of the Rights Agreement, the Board declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right (a "Right") for each outstanding share of common stock, par value \$.01 per share. The dividend is payable on August 25, 2008 to the shareholders of record as of the close of business on August 25, 2008.

The Rights will initially trade with, and will be inseparable from, the common stock. The Rights are evidenced only by the balances indicated in the book-entry account system of the transfer agent for the Company's common stock or, in the case of certificated shares, the certificates that represent such shares of common stock. New Rights will accompany any new shares of common stock the Company issues after August 25, 2008 until the Distribution Date described below.

Each Right will allow its holder to purchase from the Company one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock ("Preferred Share") for \$95.00, once the Rights become exercisable. This portion of a Preferred Share will give the shareholder approximately the same dividend, voting, and liquidation rights as would one share of common stock. Prior to exercise, the Right does not give its holder any dividend, voting, or liquidation rights.

The Rights will not be exercisable until the earlier of the following (the "Distribution Date"):

- 10 days after the public announcement that a person or group has become an "Acquiring Person" by obtaining beneficial ownership of 15% or more of the Company's outstanding common stock; or
- 10 business days (or a later date determined by the Board before any person or group becomes an Acquiring Person) after a person or group begins a tender or exchange offer which, if completed, would result in that person or group becoming an Acquiring Person.

Until the Distribution Date, the balances in the book-entry accounting system of the transfer agent for the Company's common stock or, in the case of certificated shares, common stock certificates, will evidence the Rights, and any transfer of shares of common stock will constitute a transfer of Rights. After the Distribution Date, the Rights will separate from the common stock and will be evidenced solely by Rights certificates that the Company will mail to all eligible holders of common stock. Any Rights held by an Acquiring Person or any associate or affiliate thereof will be void and may not be exercised.

The Board may reduce the threshold at which a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person from 15% to not less than 10% of the Company's outstanding common stock.

If a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, all holders of Rights except the Acquiring Person or any associate or affiliate thereof may, for \$95.00 (subject to adjustment as provided in the Rights Agreement), purchase shares of the Company's common stock (or, in certain circumstances, Preferred Shares) having a market value equal to twice the Right's then-current exercise price. In addition, if, after a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, the Company is later acquired in a merger or similar transaction after the Distribution Date, all holders of Rights except the Acquiring Person or any associate or affiliate thereof may, for \$95.00 (subject to adjustment as provided in the

Rights Agreement), purchase shares of the acquiring corporation having a market value equal to twice the Right's then-current exercise price.

Each one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share, if issued:

- will not be redeemable.
- will entitle holders to quarterly dividend payments of \$.01 per one one-hundredth of a share, or an amount equal to the dividend paid on one share of common stock, whichever is greater.
- will entitle holders upon liquidation either to receive \$1 per one one-hundredth of a share or an amount equal to the payment made on one share of common stock, whichever is greater.
- will have the same voting power as one share of common stock.
- if shares of the Company's common stock are exchanged via merger, consolidation, or a similar transaction, will entitle holders to a per share payment equal to the payment made on one share of common stock.

The value of one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share will generally approximate the value of one share of common stock.

The Rights will expire on August 12, 2011, unless previously redeemed, or such later date as determined by the Board of Directors of the Company (so long as such determination is made prior to the earlier of the Distribution Date or August 12, 2011).

The Board may redeem the Rights for \$.001 per Right at any time prior to 10 days after such time that any person or group becomes an Acquiring Person. If the Board redeems any Rights, it must redeem all of the Rights. Once the Rights are redeemed, the only right of the holders of Rights will be to receive the redemption price of \$.001 per Right. The redemption price will be adjusted if the Company has a stock split or stock dividends of the Company's common stock.

After a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, but before an Acquiring Person owns 50% or more of the Company's outstanding common stock, the Board may extinguish the Rights by exchanging one share of common stock or an equivalent security for each Right, other than Rights held by the Acquiring Person and its associates and affiliates.

The Board may adjust the purchase price of the Preferred Shares, the number of Preferred Shares issuable and the number of outstanding Rights to prevent dilution that may occur from a stock dividend, a stock split, a reclassification of the Preferred Shares or common stock. No adjustments to the Exercise Price of less than 1% will be made.

The terms of the Rights Agreement may be amended by the Board without the consent of the holders of the Rights. However, the Board may not amend the Rights Agreement to lower the threshold at which a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person to below 10% of the Company's outstanding common stock. In addition, the Board may not cause a person or group to become an Acquiring Person by lowering this threshold below the percentage interest that such person or group already owns. After a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, the Board may not amend the Rights Agreement in a way that adversely affects holders of the Rights.

A copy of the Certificate of Designations of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of the Company and a copy of the Rights Agreement (including as Exhibit A the form of Certificate of Designations, as Exhibit B the form of Right Certificate and as Exhibit C the Summary of Rights to Purchase Preferred Shares) have been filed as Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively, to this Registration Statement on Form 8-A and are incorporated herein by reference. The foregoing description of the terms of the Rights Agreement and the Rights does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Certificate of Designations and the Rights Agreement.

Item 2. Exhibits

1. Certificate of Designations of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Gaylord Entertainment Company classifying and designating the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 13, 2008.
2. Rights Agreement, dated as of August 12, 2008 between Gaylord Entertainment Company and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as Rights Agent, which includes the Form of Certificate of Designations of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (Exhibit A), the Form of Rights Certificate (Exhibit B) and the Form of Summary of Rights (Exhibit C), incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 13, 2008.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

Date: August 13, 2008

By: /s/ Carter R. Todd

Name: Carter R. Todd

Title: Senior Vice President, General Counsel and
Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

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