

## About Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club

The Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club was founded in the year 2000 by three friends (Larry Rathburn, Andy Spencer, and Dan Hudson) as a way for pipesmokers and enthusiasts to get together on a regular basis and share their fondness of pipes and tobacco.

Our members are from all over the greater Fort Wayne, Indiana area. Our informal meetings take place about 5:30 pm around the middle of each month in an area restaurant--one that is pipesmoker friendly of course.

Among our members are pipemakers, shop owners, estate pipe dealers, serious collectors and pipe smokers. Meeting nights are social events with pipes sold, bought, traded and more importantly smoked. Many tobaccos can be sampled and purchased. The informal discussions include pipemaking methods & materials, tobacco blends, pipemakers, new acquisitions and more. Members show their newly acquired pipes and the old favorites, including some one of kind pipes.

Our membership is somewhere around 20-25. We get anywhere from 8-15 on meeting nights. Our meetings are open to anyone who is interested and newcomers are always made to feel welcome. So if you are interested in stopping by, check our website or call one of our club leaders listed on the front of this newsletter for meeting information.

Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club recommends:



Fresh Handmade Cigars  
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Maps-Magazines

## Pipes & Tobaccos

### 3 Fort Wayne Locations

Downtown: 624 S Calhoun (260) 424-1429  
6410 W Jefferson Blvd (260) 432-0002  
George Square (260) 493-2806

<http://www.riegelspipeandtobaccos.com>

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# Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club

## Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2  
May, 2003



"An informal society of  
pipe smoking friends"

*"Nowhere in the world will such a brotherly feeling of confidence be experienced as amongst those who sit together smoking their pipes."*  
"The results and merits of tobacco" 1844 Dr. Barnstein



**From Outgoing Vice President, Bob Rhodes:**  
It has been my pleasure to be your Vice-president this past year. Being in the club, getting to know all of the members, and learning the many different things about tobacco and pipes has been very enjoyable. I feel great pride in being a club member.

Puffing away on a pipe while relaxing or doing a simple chore is pure delight. When I got into pipe smoking, I wanted something with a nice aroma and which took awhile to smoke. Now that I'm in a new

apartment with everything on one floor, I'm able to smoke more than one pipe a day.

About five or seven years ago, we were to have Christmas dinner at my daughter's in law (soon-to-be) home. It was mentioned that I smoke a pipe. The lady of the house came up to me and said although there was a no-smoking policy in their home, since I smoked a pipe it would be ok to light up and puff away. She also said she would enjoy the scent. That was a nice surprise to me, and I did so.

I think it looks a bit sophisticated to have a pipe in one's mouth, besides the wonder aroma during and after the bowl is finished.

Being in the club, I've had some great help in buying pipes and in learning to pack a pipe correctly for a nice smoke. I now have 27 pipes and am able to keep them all in good condition. Let's keep on puffin...Bob

### CLUB OFFICERS

**President: Larry Hubartt** (574) 566-2796 [lhubartt@tsptc.org](mailto:lhubartt@tsptc.org)  
**Vice Pres: Sherman Carver** (260) 748-4231 [tank069@msn.com](mailto:tank069@msn.com)  
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[www.tsptc.org](http://www.tsptc.org)

### From Outgoing Vice President, Dennis Nichols:

Greetings, one and all, members of TSPTC. If you missed our April meeting at Bob Evans, then you may not have heard the outcome of our annual election of club officers.

Our new president is Larry Hubartt; our new vice-president is Sherman Carver; and yours truly is now treasurer. Dues were collected at the meeting so all present are now paid up through April 2004. I will be sending postcards to all members who are past due and let you know how much you owe. Dennis N

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### From New Club President, Larry Hubartt:

Hello fellow TSPTC members. Welcome to the second issue (Vol 2) of our club newsletter. And thank you for your confidence in electing me as club president for 2003-04. My goal over the coming year is to improve our club, try out some new fun things for us to do together who are aficionados of the great pastime of pipe smoking.

It is my conviction that the main aim of our club should be to be a group of pipe-smoking friends who enjoy each other's company and help each other explore the world of smoking pipes and pipe tobacco. To this end, I would like to see us continue to have good monthly meetings at various area restaurants friendly to pipe smokers. Working together, we are already planning new ways to publicize our existence and to attract new club members.

I also want to see us continue the tradition of an annual, custom-made club pipe and to have a new supply of club shirts made for us. In the coming year we want to host another club pipe show and some new club events like a club family picnic this summer and a series of our own "home-grown" pipe-smoking contests. I believe we should have fun together and be as helpful to one another as we are able.

Another thing that has been on my mind is my gratitude to our club founders, Larry Rathburn, Andy Spencer and Dan Hudson. These fellows got our club organized, set up a meeting schedule, started the club newsletter, planned and executed two excellent club pipe shows, and generally gave the Fort Wayne area the first pipe club of its kind. Thank you Larry, Andy, and Dan, for your vision and initiative.

Our club finances are in great shape. We have a regular schedule of club meetings throughout the year, and we have a great group of guys who I will be depending on through the coming year to make our club and the hobby of pipe-smoking better than ever. --Larry Hubartt

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*"...if I had not smoked I should have been dead ten years ago."*

-Francois Guizot (French historian), upon being asked how he lived so long despite his smoking

# Cloud 9

## Pipe Blend Reviews

by Sherman Carver



### Dark Star by McClelland Tobacco Co.

Dark Star comes in 50 and 100 gram tins. According to the tin, this tobacco begins as bright, yellow, sugary, top-grade Virginia and Carolina leaf. Through careful triple aging, pressing, and stoving, it become rich, cool, and dark with a spicy aroma. On opening, it is plainly a Virginia flake, and easy to rub out to any texture you prefer. In my opinion, however, it may be better for larger pipes with long shanks. Like most Virginia blends, it burns hot because all of the natural sugars in Virginia leaf. But if you like Virginia blends, this may be "right up your alley".

Til next time, keep puffing away and maybe one of these days you'll find a blend that is your CLOUD NINE...

### "Pipe Smoke"

In our continuing series of using both famous and original poems, as well as lyrics and other excerpted literature, to elevate the otherwise mundane world which surrounds us I have selected a famous work by the great American poet Robert Frost for this month's newsletter. Frost is best enjoyed slowly and contemplatively, (and with a smoking pipe, of course) swirling the words around in your mind like you would taste a fine cabernet. Take your time to reflect upon and get a full sense of what Frost may have been thinking when he wrote the following:

#### Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know  
His house is in the village though  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake

The woods are lovely, dark and deep  
But I have promises to keep  
And miles to go before I sleep  
And miles to go before I sleep

of “Ruff Stuff” and anywhere from an ounce-and-a-half to two ounces of Virginia Black Cavendish (VBC). I may not yet be done experimenting with what is in that blend, let alone in what proportion, but I feel it yields a highly satisfactory smoking experience for those who are still open-minded enough to try a decent aromatic blend every now and again. I do find that this blend does best in larger and wider-mouthed bowls, and would therefore be more inclined to smoke it in, say, a decently sized pot-shaped pipe bowl than in a chimney-style bowl (the latter being far better for flake tobacco, anyway).

Also read Sherman Carver’s review of McClelland’s “Frog Morton on the Bayou” with some interest, having tried that blend on a couple of occasions. Couldn’t imagine something more different in its characteristics than the aforementioned experiments in aromatic blends, but this latest Frog Morton variant is an outstanding smoke nonetheless. Very mild, yet it has a depth and complexity of flavors intermingled within. I notice that Al Geyer smokes this one quite a bit, and as Al generally has excellent taste in such matters I imagine I’ll have to buy a couple of tins to keep on hand so as to try this one a few more times, at my leisure, although my initial impression is that I prefer both “Frog Morton on the Town” as well as plain ol’ “Frog Morton” somewhat more. Such a comment is not a slight against this latest “bayou product,” just an observation that, at this early point, anyway, I would pick the other two (and most particularly “...on the Town) first for an everyday smoke. Personal taste and all that, I suppose.

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## “News & Notes”

**Congratulations Frank & Marcia Bougher:** on the arrival of a brand-new baby daughter, Catherine Irene, on Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of April! Mother and daughter appear to be doing fine. No word yet on whether they have been able to revive Frank or not. As the only male in a household of the fairer sex (four daughters and a wife), the poor fellow doesn’t stand a chance!

### Your invitation to get in print

Do you like to write? Got any thoughts or musings on the gentle art of pipe smoking? Do you have any good poems or quotes? I know some of you can write a good piece. Simply email whatever you have to [lhubartt@tsptc.org](mailto:lhubartt@tsptc.org).

## “Pipe and Pen”

by clubmember Andy Spencer (our resident philosopher)



The Tri-State Pipe Club elections have taken place since the past newsletter was printed, and I wish to express my most heartfelt gratitude to both our outgoing president, Dennis Nichols, and to our exiting vice-president, Robert Rhodes. Dennis and Bob have both performed a greater service to TSPTC than most will ever know by doing so many things in terms of member contacts and club management to keep things afloat during what proved to be a fairly tumultuous year.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank incoming President Larry Hubartt and new Vice-President Sherman Carver for caring enough about TSPTC to agree to run for office and sacrifice some of their personal and family time in order to manage club affairs for at least the next year or so. I know from my own past experience that this can be a greater demand upon one’s own time and energies than what most might imagine. Good luck, gentlemen, and salut!

On a different note, we all have our own definition of what constitutes a great pipe. However, the attributes which make up a great smoking pipe may be somewhat less stringent in some regards. Handcraftsmanship is really secondary to how the thing smokes, and on that count there are still some excellent bargains available in the pipe world. For those who are as yet unfamiliar with them, the English Willmer pipes are truly a bargain! Many of these pipes are available in the \$30-60 range, and offer a truly impressive smoking experience.

Likewise, the less expensive pipes from Danish craftsman Karl Erik are wonderful smokers, and really offer some decent graining on some of his nicer smooth pieces for something on the order of \$75 or so. Karl Erik offers a variety of shapes, so there should be something for just about everyone’s taste. As with the Willmers, and also as seen with Paul Stanwell pipes, these pieces smoke about as well as one can hope to ever have a quality pipe smoke. I highly recommend that folks try these brands, if they have not already done so. They offer some fine bang for the buck from among today’s brandname offerings.

Speaking of reasonably priced pipes, Riegel’s still (at the time of this writing, anyway) has available some of the Savinelli 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pipes in several different shapes. These are wonderful “old briar” sandblasted pipes which have been sitting around for over a quarter of a century, and provide a tremendous smoke. I snapped one up, a cute little bent bulldog, the night this past November that tobacconist and pipe legend Peter Stokkebye stopped by to speak on his experiences in the tobacco industry.

(Speaking of Mr. Stokkebye, he was a most gracious and accomodating guest lecturer who provided real insights into the tobacco industry. Both Al Geyer and I have purchased Stokkebye pipes, as well, and are well-pleased with their smoking characters. I was even lucky enough to get to speak at some length with this true giant of our industry—a very congenial and accomodating gentleman!)

Moving up the price ladder you would be well-served to take a look at the higher grade Bjarne pipes. These fine briars should be listed in all price categories, for that matter, as Bjarne has pipes for almost every pricepoint. Some awfully nice pieces for under \$90 or so, if I recall correctly.

Conversely, while one does not HAVE to spend big money to obtain the finest smoke, one had better plan on spending upwards of \$500 for a first-class handmade pipe such as a Bjarne “A” or a Stokkebye “I” grade or better. In fact, both of the aforementioned pipes comprise some of my favorite pipes .

Whatever you smoke, savor any time you can steal away to puff on a favorite pipe. I highly recommend such “organized loafing.” Happy puffing! --Andy Spencer

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### Quips and Quotes

Reading these selected quotations about tobacco, pipes, and smoking will probably not increase your eloquence, make you smarter, or result in you being invited to the White House during the Administration of your choice. However, you may find them inspiring. And, one never knows...

#### PIPESMOKING

*When care has got me on the hook, And life begins to drag, I like to seek a quiet nook, And fill my pipe with shag.*

*The turmoil of the world forgot, My fancies playing tag, I dream of some enchanted spot, In rings of fragrant shag.*

*Then peace falls like a cooling dew, And time forgets to nag, While life takes on a shining hue, In golden clouds of shag.*

*“The fact is, squire, the moment a man takes to a pipe, he becomes a philosopher. It’s the poor man’s friend; it calms the mind, soothes the temper, and makes a man patient under difficulties. It has made more good men, good husbands, kind masters, indulgent fathers, than any other blessed thing on this universal earth.” -- Sam Slick, the clockmaker*

### “Pipe ‘n Pouch”

(More musings by Andy Spencer)

After doing a favor for a neighbor by taking her son to school for a couple of weeks while out dropping my own kids off at their school, the lady showed up unexpectedly at my doorstep the following week.

“I knew you smoked a pipe because I’d seen you with it while you drove down the street,” she began, “but I didn’t know what blend you smoked. I hope you like some of these.”

The neighbor then produced four different “drug store” blends she had picked up. Noticing a couple of them were variations of cherry blends, I kept smiling anyway and thanked her for her thoughtfulness. After all, it IS the thought that counts, right?

At any rate, my experience with the first tobacco, Carter Hall, wasn’t bad at all. Kind of bland, but then so is my favorite morning smoke, plain old Kentucky Club. Whatever they use to add flavor back into white burley must be the mildest stuff going. Seemed to smoke cooler than Kentucky Club “blue-‘n-white,” although not quite as tasty to my palate. Carter Hall might be better for briars, being a cooler smoke in that it does not tend to overheat the wood so much as does Kentucky Club, while I would still tend to prefer Kentucky Club in a favorite meerschaum on pure flavor and burning rate.

The next blend was Prince Albert Cherry Vanilla. One whiff of this stuff upon opening its package convinced me that some serious blending was going to be required to make this tobacco tolerable! Using the Dennis Nichols philosophy that any tobacco can be rendered satisfactory by cutting it sufficiently with other tobaccos, I haphazardly mixed in equal parts of Prince Albert Cherry Vanilla, Kentucky Club, and Riegel’s “Match It.” Eureka! The result was a fairly mild smoke which produced a pleasant but not overpowering room aroma.

I am always loathe to throw out tobacco, and was delighted that I had been able—through pure good luck as much as anything—to salvage the Cherry Vanilla blend into something that was truly a pleasure to smoke. I’ll let everyone know what the other two blends were that also came into my possession that fine morning as well as what results were obtained by blending and smoking them, although I do not harbor much hope for at least one of those two tobaccos based on its moisture content and extremely heavy casing.

An update on my article in the last newsletter regarding blends—I have now modified my mocha blend to three ounces of Columbian Mocha to two ounces