

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
Custom Blend Tobaccos
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>

10% off pipe purchase with this ad

Club Pipe Issue

Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

"An informal society of pipe smoking friends" Sept 2003



*"The pipe
shuts up
sation, con-*

*draws wisdom from the lips of the philosopher, and the
the mouth of the foolish; it generates a style of conver
templative, thoughtful, benevolent, and unaffected..."*

William Makepeace Thackeray, from The Social Pipe

A Pipemaking Experience:

My visit with a master pipemaker
by Paul Hubartt



I was greeted at the H.H. Hermann Pfeifenstudio by Marco Janzen (pronounced Yan-zen), a tall, thin, chain smoking 33 year old with thick, flowing, shoulder length hair and sporting a two day's growth of beard. His trousers and shirt are covered in pipe stain and

buffing wheel dust, and he prefers to work in flip-flop sandals. His movements are smooth and precise as only years of pipe crafting can give. He speaks English very well with an occasional German word, asking for the appropriate translation. Marco is friendly and polite, and is a private individual that doesn't often have visitors. We hit it off very well, being of similar age and interests, and he offered that I stay in his flat to save on hotel expenses. Marco's main hobby is cooking, and he can make a delicious meal. Through his large flat is a small office, and through an ornate, swirly patterned door, is the most fantastic old workshop.

I was first introduced to H.H. Hermann Pfeifenstudio by Larry Roush, a well known American pipe artisan. Most know Hermann as a raw materials supplier for pipe makers. Many well known pipe makers have ordered supplies from Hermann, such as Roush, Bonaquisti, Ashton, R. Barbi (which is only 30km away), among many others. Hermann is a supplier, but the mainstay of the business is pipe repair, much to my surprise and delight. (continued page 8)

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Larry Hubartt (574) 566-2796 lhubartt@tsptc.org
Vice Pres: Sherman Carver (260) 748-4231 tank069@msn.com
Treasurer: Dennis Nichols (260) 744-4797 dennisnichols@hotmail.com

www.tsptc.org

" Pipe and Pen"

by clubmember Andy Spencer (our resident philosopher)



I've long maintained that God has a sense of humor. At no time in recent memory has this point been brought more firmly home than at a recent guns how in Crown Point, Indiana. My buddy and I had adjacent tables at the show, and early on the first morning were already remarking to each other about how hot it was in the exhibition hall there at the fairgrounds.

Indeed, it was hot as only it can be on a sunny early September morning in Indiana in a large building without air-conditioning.

It was at that precise moment that it happened. A gentleman strolled past, peacefully puffing on his briar. Stunned, it finally dawned on me that this was one of those rare shows where attendees and exhibitors alike could actually smoke inside. How novel! How civilized! It then also dawned on me that I had neglected to bring my pipes and related gear. How very, very depressing. By eleven that first morning, I had spied a total of four pipesters roaming the vast building. Even at the huge Indianapolis 1500 show I might see one or two other pipesters over a three-day weekend, but the Crown Point show was much, much smaller. Naturally, I continued to see pipe-smokers throughout the weekend (!). Yes, God does have a sense of humor. Given that the aforementioned show was a two-day affair, I suppose I could have stopped at one of the local drugstores and obtained a Grabow and some bulk blend. As I mulled that option over, another reality hit home. I had become a " pipe snob." Oh, not to the point that I would sneer at the fellow smoking a Medico, Grabow, Yellowbole or Kaywoodie. Especially some examples of the latter can be very fine pipes indeed. It is just that having smoked S. Bang, Eltang, Former, Dunhill, Upshall, Ashton, Moretti, Castello, and other high-grade pipes had finally ruined me for anything less. Sort of a case of " If I cannot have steak then I'll show them all by starving myself."

Now, everyone should have enough insight into their own personality makeup that they are able to predict an inevitable course of action. If yours truly were stranded in Crown Point and had no other option for a long while, I would stuff my hands in my pockets and would cheerfully whistle as I trudged down to Walgreens to buy some sort of pipe(s) and supplies. But my thoughts would be with Jess Chenowitsch, Julius Vesz, Jess Chenowitsch and Peter Matz.

(continued page 3)

(A Pipe Making Experience cont from page 8) with the derlin tenon split right through the base of the stem, but it took a hammer to do it.

After working on my order, Marco had me " watch the briar" to put aside for my next order. He also offered a big box of 350 small pieces of briar, of which I could make about Dunhill size 2 or 3 pipes. When Marco receives bags of briar, he puts the small pieces in this box, because they don't sell very well (pipe makers are currently after big wood). The briar is very light and well cured, as the box has been kept in the dark and slowly added to over the past decade. I hope to purchase the box by Christmas and start making a line of smaller pipes.

The next day, Marco had a big delivery of pipes to repair. The majority of the repair work were broken stems. About half of the stems broke at the tenon, the other half were bitten through. I had the opportunity to see how pipe stems are replaced to fit perfectly, and all the original stem logos duplicated. Marco does repairs for Dunhill, but I didn't get to see him work on one. The last few hours of my pipe workshop experience was learning how to match stain, mixing a batch of black bowl coating (I finally understand why my recipe was chunky), and proper buffing techniques. All in all, it was a very valuable experience, and I look forward to my next visit later in the year. Marco is going to teach me how to pour resin squares to make rod stock and then make stems from the rods. I can't wait!

At six o'clock, we got ready to see a soccer game. We wandered around Hamburg for an hour seeing a few sites before heading to the stadium. I not a big sports nut, but it was a lot of fun to experience 20,000 excited Germans rooting for their local " football" team. After the game, we went back to the flat for spaghetti and good conversation.

The most interesting thing I found about Marco? Marco isn't really interested in pipes. He knows a good pipe, and the people who make good pipes. He knows how to repair pipes, make stems and drill briar, but he has never made a pipe. Marco has many leather cases of new pipes for sale, but he doesn't own a pipe. Marco, a master pipe repair man, has never even smoked a pipe! Amazing!

- Paul Hubartt 9/08/03

"Don't get upset, drink plenty of coffee, and smoke."

-Javier Pereira (allegedly 167 years old) on the secrets to longevity

Epigrams for Tobacco Jars

Fill the bowl, you jolly soul, And burn all sorrow to a coal.

A weed you call me, but you'll own no rose was e'er more fully blown.

A jar, behold me! taste my store, Take all you want, but take no more. I'm "Solitaire," and Social's pal, I'm Baccyful, not Bacchinal; I'm Friendship's bond, I'm Freedom's type, I'm Welcome's emblem -- take a pipe! Still, should you choose my worth evoke, You'll own my faults all end in smoke.

Although no artist, I can draw my pipe to ease my care; No architect, yet oft I build Grand "castles in the air;" No author, yet I can compose my nerves, if aught should mar my happiness, by virtue of the plant within this jar.

There are jars of jelly, jars of jam, Jars of potted beef and ham; But welcome most to me by far Is my dear old tobacco jar.

There are pipes producing sounds divine, Pipes containing luscious wine; But when I consolation need, I take the pipe that burns the weed.

Cope's Tobacco Plant; pp. 119-122

this space intentionally left blank
(back of Club Pipe order form)

Pipe & Pen (cont.) What does all of this mean? After all, at least from a functional perspective a pipe is nothing more than a vessel to hold tobacco while the blend is being smoked. But for many of us, there are other factors which make a pipe desirable. Shape, fit and finish, and a sense of artistic aesthetics all factor into making a pipe special, as does weight and balance. Even the physical dimensions of the pipe can make or break it for a particular smoker. Some prefer a larger pipe, while others lean toward a smaller pipe more easily stuffed into a coat pocket. Others still try to find that balance in the middle, looking for the equivalent of a Group Four or Five in size from their preferred makers.

When I distill the foregoing down to the essentials, though, there is one inescapable fact which is now emblazoned into my memory. Never, ever forget to pack the pipes and accoutrements first. You see, God really does have a sense of humor. I surely hope I've learned my lesson and don't have to endure two days without my favorite pipes! AS

-Peter Burmann on pipe etiquette, c. 1710 "It is not enough to fill a pipe and put it to the mouth and set fire to it, for even the country bumpkin knows as much. It is only correct to hold it with the left hand, have the right hand provided with the stopper, impress the onlookers with majestic mien, sit in the proper attitude on the chair, and finally, to take enough time for each pipe and not treat with hasty irreverence this heavenly food.



Our thanks to Kevin Hooley for the cool cartoon



The Coolest Pipe in the World
The brainchild of Mars, Pennsylvania's William Curran, "The Striker" touts itself as "the coolest pipe in the world." It offers a cool smoke because of its considerable heft but, while size indeed matters, there's more to the Striker than a lengthy stem. A chiropractor, Curran

has devised a convoluted system of tubes within the stem, which increases the smoke channel to about seven times its size. When your pipe smoke ambles through approximately two feet of aluminum tubing before reaching you, it makes for the coolest smoke imaginable. The Striker also breaks down and reassembles very easily, making for simple cleanings.

Curran, who's smoked a pipe for the last quarter century, says the "bite and burn" of traditional pipe smoking sent him to the drawing room with the Striker in mind. "This pipe will never bite you," he comments. "Its coolness is easy on your nasal passages, allowing you to enjoy your tobacco's flavor that much more."

William Curran, 226 Dobson Road, Mars, PA, Tel: (877)-776-4379, Fax: (724)-625-1961.



A personal note from our club president, Larry Hubartt: Welcome to the Sep 2003 "club pipe" issue of the TSPTC Newsletter! It is my great pleasure to announce that at our Aug 2003 club meeting at the Golden Corral, our club decided to commission the making of our Year 2003 Club Pipe to one of our own club members--pipemaker, Paul Larryson Hubartt. Since going to England with his new bride, Paul has begun persuing a career in pipemaking and launched his new *L arraysson* line of fine, briar smoking pipes. Be sure to read Paul's personal letter to us on pages 6 and 7, and also his account on page 1 of his experience with a German master pipemaker.

Our club pipe this year will be a "billiard" style with various custom options available (smooth or rusticated; saddle or tapered bit; natural or stained finish). If you have further questions, you may email him directly: larrysson@hubartt.com or contact him by phone (see his letter).

It is also my pleasure to announce our Annual Pipe & Tobaccania Show this coming March 27, 2004. The show will be at the Clarion Hotel on W Coliseum Blvd in Fort Wayne. Our goal is to have a least 30 display tables. We have already begun our promotion campaign of contacting potential show exhibitors. There will be plenty of ways for you to get involved. Let's work together to put together a great show!

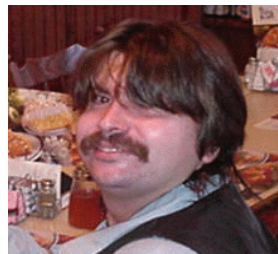
Cloud 9

Pipe Blend Reviews

by Sherman Carver

Exclusiv Sherry & Cherry

Aromatic mixture



A mild mixture of Virginia, Burley and oriental tobaccos with a dash of excellent spanish sherry and the aroma of ripe cherries. A mild mixture with a finely ribbed, well-burning cut, this is a blend for all lovers of a mixture that is mild to the tongue. Available in 50g sealed pouch, 50g and 100g vacuum tins and the 200g economy tin. Til next time, keep puffing away and maybe one of these days you'll find a blend that is your CLOUD NINE...

TSPTC YEAR 2003 CLUB PIPE

Order Form

Yes, I want to order a *L arraysson* Year 2003 Club Pipe!
I understand that it will be a "billiard" style pipe and that as far as possible, Paul will try to work with me to include my preferences as to size, finish, and type of stem.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mail this form with \$25 deposit enclosed to: Dennis Nichols,
TSPTC, 819 Kinsmoor Ave, Fort Wayne IN 46807

(A Pipe Making Experience, cont.) The business was founded by Marco's father, H.H. Janzen. Hermann was a fantasy name given to make the business sound professional. H.H. Janzen worked for an obscure tobacco company near Hamburg until the company went belly-up in 1959. Mr. Janzen purchased and modified equipment from the company to start his own pipe repair business.

Marco started to learn the trade when he was 17 to help pay his way through college. H.H. Janzen sold the business to Marco ten years ago, and he has run it ever since. His father still comes in to help with pipe repair during the busy winter months. Marco explains that he must order raw materials in quantity (for pipe repair) to get a better cost. By offering the extra materials to individual pipe makers, he can reduce his unused stock during the year and realise a better annual profit. H.H. Hermann became a supplier simply to generate a better income from his extra stock.

We started the evening by going through bags of briar and choosing the right size pieces for the club pipe. I was searching for the lightest pieces that had no visible hairline cracks around the edges. After "watching the briar" as Marco put it, we drew the appropriate lines on each block to help guide the drilling process. The first hole drilled was the tobacco chamber. The briar block was placed in a home made two jaw chuck on an old Myford Super 7 lathe. The drill bit was hand made and sharpened from a tapered, rectangular bar of HSS steel. Marco is very talented with metal working as well as woodworking. The next hole drilled was the mortise followed by a 4mm air channel. These were aligned simply by rotating the briar 90 degrees to the lateral line. Another special bit with a flat top was used to make the mortise exactly 8.8 mm, the same diameter of the derlin tenon.

After the briar was drilled, we turned our attention to choosing stems. I decided on two acrylic stems of similar size and shape, half being a tapered bit and half being a saddle bit. Again we drilled 8.8mm holes in each stem, using a smaller metal lathe. Using a two part epoxy, the derlin tenons were inserted into each stem. On six of these stems, Marco taught me how to inlay ornamental wood. I am looking forward to the final results. Derlin tenons are strong because they are made from acrylic and are recessed in the pipe stem one half inch with epoxy, making it very hard to break. Marco placed a standard stem and a stem fitted with a derlin tenon in a vice. Both were very tough. The standard stem snapped at the base of the tenon right away, simply by pulling on it. The stem (concluded page 11)

Some Blends of Note

I recently had the opportunity to try a bowlful of Solani "The Blend 633," which as the tin's lead pronounces is a Virginia with Perique. I don't pretend to know how much perique is in this particular blend, but it seems to be just enough to round off any sweet topnote from the virginia leaf. Not hard on the tongue at all, at least not for me.

This blend had an outstanding, pure tobacco flavor with none of the sharpness which typically characterizes most virginia blends. My only complaint is that the last third of the bowlful was nothing as nice as the first two-thirds, becoming rather nondescript and uninteresting. I was not the only one making this comment, either, as several of us tried this blend at the same sitting.

Definitely worth trying, although I don't know that I will make this tinned tobacco a steady part of my rotation. As virginia-based tobaccos I believe I still somewhat prefer Dunhill's Three-Year Matured Virginia, MacBaren's Navy Flake (which, in all fairness has a fair amount of burley, as well as virginia), and Presbyterian Mixture. However, I would still recommend that you give this Solani offering a try. After all, there are enough variations in taste and preference so that vanilla icecream has lots of competition. Certainly pipe tobacco and individual taste are the same way. What IS evident is that Solani 633 is a blend of quality leaf. Well worth giving it a whirl.

Another blend of which I recently became aware involves various portions of Match It, Latakia and Harvest Cut. Bill Bougher at Riegel's had put this together for another customer, and as I have a Bjarne Nielsen "A' Grade" Danish bulldog which smokes Match It (Lane IQ) like a dream I thought this might be somewhat of an improvement over straight Match It while still maintaining a nice room aroma.

"Wow!" What a tasty blend! I may get Bill to further reduce the portion of Match It in favor of slightly more latakia and perhaps will have him add a good bit more Harvest Cut, but the potential is certainly evident in this flavorful combination. Again, it may not be everyone's cup o' tea but it is certainly to my liking. Moderately sweet yet not hot, straightforward without being uninteresting, this could make a good "all day" smoke for aromatic fans looking for more tobacco flavor and less tongue-bite than their current blend.
--Andy Spencer

A personal letter from TSPTC's own pipe-maker

Paul Hubartt

Hello Gentlemen and Club Members,

I would like to introduce you to *L arrysson* pipes. It has taken weeks to complete these pieces, as special tools had to be ordered and technical questions answered. Many emails and conversations with other pipe makers greatly helped whenever I became stuck with a pipe making problem.

I decided to go with name Larrysson after considering all the possible names written down during a brain-storm session. I settled into this one for a few different reasons. One, it's my middle name. I was born in Reykjavik, Iceland during which time my parents were serving as missionaries. Icelanders take the fathers first name and add "son" or "daughter" to the end, depending on the sex of the child. Larry is my dad, and I'm his son. I'm "Larry's son". This is a unique name that I'm proud of. Second, it has a great sound to it as a pipe name. Third, I wanted a name that pipe smokers will remember and not mispronounce, as Hubartt so often does.

My nomenclature works by pipe number, then year. For example 01 would be the first pipe I made in the year 2003. Lets say I have made 30 pipes by the end of year. I will have made my 31st pipe in the year 2004, so the nomenclature would be 31-04. I thought this would be a good record keeping system, which may change if something better presents itself.

As I continue developing my pipemaking skills, and acquire the proper tools, you will see many changes. I am under no illusion, however, that my greatest hurdle is simply the lack of experience. Getting that experience takes loads of mistakes, wasted blocks of briar and many failed experiments. I am confident that the quality of product will slowly but steadily increase. The technical, engineering, and attention to details will get better and better. The pipes you see today are from a beginner (but I think they are really good!). Tomorrow, hopefully, a well respected pipe maker.

Here is a short list of changes one will see in the near future:

1. Nomenclature: An *L* stamp on the stem, and a *L arrysson* 'stamp on the shank. Under my name will be a stamp of "HAND MADE and ENGLAND" followed by the pipe number and year.

2. Stem work: I will soon have proper hand files which will help with the shaping process. Hand files will greatly reduce shape inconsistencies and deep scratches in the acrylic, presently caused by a electric belt sander that is too powerful with too rough a belt. (very hard to control amount of material taken off. ... acrylic is softer than briar).

3. Tenon work: Getting a good tight tenon to mortise fit is very difficult. The tolerances are extremely fine, and the pipe maker has only one chance to get

it correct. If its too tight, it can be easily modified without difficulty. If it is too loose, it may be slightly tightened with the consequential problem of an out-of-round tenon. This gets better only with experience.

4. New colour stains and a two colour staining process.

5. Carbon bowl coating: I am presently using a bowl coating made from sterilized black carbon and sodium silicate. I am grinding the charcoal by hand, and it is difficult to get a fine powder. I am still experimenting with the mixture, trying to avoid any lumps or carbon granules. The bowl coating creates a fire wall that protects the briar until a cake is formed.

Thank you for the opportunity to make the TSPTC club pipe for 2003. The price for each piece is \$75, and \$60 for the rusticated pipe. Delivery will be around the end of November. I would greatly appreciate any and all feedback, constructive criticism and suggestions. Also please feel free to contact me personally by phone if you have personal preferences which you would like for me to know about. Phone calls to England are very reasonable. Please make calls between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Eastern Standard time. My number is: 011-44-1579-346795

One last thought: I have had to purchase a significant amount of briar blocks to begin work on the club pipes. I would like to request that each of you desiring a club pipe fill out the order blank on page 9 and make a \$25 deposit. You may either mail this to our club treasurer, Dennis Nichols, or bring it to the October club meeting.

Looking forward to hearing from you.
Pual Larrysson Hubartt

P.S. I really miss the club!!!

Here is the first club pipe for my Dad. He wanted a large one, so this one is 7 1/2 x 3 in with 3/8 inch walls around the bowl.



--**Thomas Henry Huxley:** *I hated tobacco. I could have almost lent my support to any institution that had for its object the putting of tobacco smokers to death...I now feel that smoking in moderation is a comfortable and laudable practice, and is productive of good. There is no more harm in a pipe than in a cup of tea. You may poison yourself by drinking too much green tea, and kill yourself by eating too many beefsteaks. For my part, I consider that tobacco, in moderation, is a sweetener and equalizer of the temper.*