

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.riegelpipeandtobaccos.com>

10% off pipe purchase with this ad

Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club Newsletter



"An informal society
of pipe smoking friends"

April 2006

Smoking
solace, a
thoughts

one's pipe is not merely a satisfying habit. It is a source of
companion in one's solitude; it can soothe, it can stimulate
and theories, it can bring inspiration along with the Muses.

--Omar Chowdhury

April 8--Our Big Event of the Year! 6th Annual PIPE & CIGAR SHOW

Friday Eve, Apr 7 7:00 pm
Reception!

All club members and wives invited. Snacks and drinks provided. Your support is urgently needed for this "welcome to our show" reception for dealers and members.

Saturday Morn, Apr 8
Showtime!

Pipe and cigar bargains and deals; tobacciana of all kinds; tons of samples; lots of raffles. Informal lunch for members provided. Let's have a good turnout for the year's most important event.

"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



TSPTC 6th Annual
PIPE & CIGAR SHOW
Sat. April 8th 2006

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Quality Hotel Ballroom
3330 W. Coliseum Blvd.
Fort Wayne

Thousands of pipes, cigars, and other tobacciana. Buy-Swap-Sell-New-Used-Collectibles-etc! Anyone interested in pipes and cigars--don't miss this show! Bargains galore! Lots of freebies! Tons of \$1 raffles! Free Admission!

Tri-State Pipe & Tobacco Club
www.tsptc.org (260-615-8537)

The above ad will run in the sports section of the Sunday Apr 2, Journal Gazette.

Castello Pipes by clubmember Alan Geyer



When talking high grade Italian handmade pipes, you must mention the most famous pipe: the Castello, manufactured in Cantu, Italy. The word Castello is Italian for "castle". Castelllos are known for their quality, superb finishing and their dry smoke. Carlo Scotti, now gone, created the first Castello pipe in 1947 in a little artisan workshop now run by his son-in-law, Franco Coppo. Many collectors consider

Castello the only serious rival to Dunhill when it comes to pipes made in a factory. The Castello factory still works with some of the best briar in the world.

Although Castello produces 4000 plus pipes yearly for world consumption, they are still hard to find in any large abundance in retail stores in the U.S. For this reason, a lot of Castello collectors find more selection on the World Wide Web or pipe shows to expand their collections. Prices for new pipes I have seen range from \$300 upward to \$2600, depending on your choice of smooth, rusticated, or blast finishes. I have found myself more drawn to purchasing the smooth billiard shape, especially if it is adorned with some type of silver band work of which I have several in my collection. In my opinion, if you are fortunate to own a smooth fiammata series adorned with one of the silver chains, these are some of the finest pipes the factory produces today.

If the use of super top briar, hand crafted and a cool, relaxing smoke are important to you, then a Castello should be in your pipe inventory. I challenge you to find the perfect Castello estate, or, if you can spare the bucks and find one to your liking, buy a new Castello. Alan Geyer

Regarding the Evil of so-called Pipe Lighters

NEVER, EVER, light a bowl of tobacco with these wicked devices! You will most certainly destroy your briar because lighter fuel causes the flame to burn much too hot. Always--without exception--use paper or wooden matches!

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Larry Hubartt (574) 566-2796 tsptc@tsptc.org
Vice Pres: Andy Spencer (260) 747-5726 SANDRE746@aol.com
Treasurer: Dennis Nichols (260) 744-4797 dennisnichols@hotmail.com
Secretary: Ray Franklin (260) 490-3195 rayjewels2803@msn.com

www.tsptc.org

2006 Pipe & Cigar Show Just 1 Week Away

Our annual show is now just one week away! Seemed like it would never get here, but now time is flying by as TSPTC is making final preparations.

Just a reminder to all who wish to attend that the show is at the Quality Hotel Ballroom. The Quality Hotel is located at 3330 W. Coliseum Blvd., and both directions AND discounted (be sure to mention that you are here for the Tri-State Pipe and Tobacco Club's Pipe & Cigar Show to get the lower rate!) rooms are available by contacting (260) 484-7711.

Between commitments obtained at the NASPC Show in Columbus last August and those made since, we are looking forward to hosting the following vendors/exhibitors: Lee Von Erck of Von Erck Pipes, Larrysson Pipes (don't know if Paul Hubartt will be there and if his dad, TSPTC President Larry Hubartt, will be standing in for him), local B & M Riegel's Pipe and Tobacco, Steven Monjure of Monjure International, Premal of Smoker's Haven, CPCC members Denis Cuninan and Patrick Dennis, St. Louis area pipester Keith Marlow, J. and Louise Jones of Hermit Tobacco, Chuck Wooten of Chuck's Racks, John Crosby of Crosby Pipes, Tim West of Tim West Pipes, Mark Gradberg of Gray Mountain Pipes, John Rich of Knoxville Area Pipesmokers, George Burns of Collector's Paradise, Tennessee pipemaker Fred Garlinghouse, Chicago area tamper maker Larry Faulkner, Ohio pipester Garry Whitacre, and collector Bill Kotyk.

Since many exhibitors have multiple tables, please be advised that there are only a few tables left (limited to six-footers at this late point). Looking forward to seeing everyone here! Very Happy

Christopher Columbus landed on the beaches of Cuba and the Bahamas, and so could be said to have "discovered" the Caribbean. On a subsequent voyage he found the shores of South America. Whatever he might have seen, his sailors returned to Spain with wild stories of fighting Indian, and, Heaven be praised, the smoking of "Pipes".

2006 TSPTC Club Pipe of the Year will be a rusticated, quarter-bent pipe from master carver Lee Von Erck. These pipes will be roughly a Dunhill Group Five in size, and will be stained either a dark brown ("chocolate" would be VERY cool, but it will depend on how they turn out) or a deep, dark reddish stain. Those placing orders through TSPTC will also be able to choose either vulcanite or lucite stems, depending on their preference.

Lee is initially producing 15 of these and will determine the ultimate shape/design—you just don't tell an artist how to paint or sculpt, and undoubtedly the ultimate result will be far more representative of Lee's great work if he is free to produce what he envisions—but he **will** have at least one example on display at the upcoming 2006 TSPTC Pipe and Cigar Show.

Lee has designated the numbering sequence for these pipes, with 15 consecutive numbers in his nomenclature pattern this year for these pipes.

The best part? These pipes will sell only to dues-paid TSPTC members and will go for an astoundingly low (for Lee's sandblasts) price of \$200 or maybe even a tad less. Be advised that members have a say as to whether or not Lee puts a vulcanite or lucite stem on the pipe they reserve, but a \$50 deposit payable to TSPTC will reserve your personal Von Erck club pipe. Our treasurer will be holding the deposits to give to Lee whenever he wishes. Not too often do you have an opportunity to own a new Von Erck for so modest a sum, let alone one so special as those which Lee will soon begin work on.

Lee advises that the anticipated delivery date for these pipes is sometime during the fall of 2006, and it would not surprise me at all if that delivery would coincide with the Georgetown Riegel's pipe-smoking contest. I don't know that for a fact, but that would be kind of neat IMHO. Thanks again to Lee for undertaking this task for us! Interested parties should e-mail me at SANDRE746@aol.com.



von Erck Classics, 432 U.S. 41 East, Negaunee, MI 49866
(906) 228-2699

Pipe Smoke by club Vice President, Andy Spencer



The restlessness born of accumulated energy that had been bottled up in winter's icy grip, like an ice flow beginning to break up and threatening to rush downriver, is nigh upon me. Tantalizing temps into the fifties have provided some opportunities to get outside and smoke a pipe now and then, but such occasions are interspersed with fickle southward excursions by the mercury with temps dipping back down as low as the twenties.

I really should not complain, since this has been, by all standards, a very mild winter. Yet creeping old age, a bout with the flu, and having too many irons in the fire have prevented me from visiting with old friends as much as I might have liked. In an effort to not disturb the rest of my family so much as in the past, I have tried to limit my smoking of heavy latakia-based blends, instead turning more to Virginias like 5100 and 2005 Christmas Cheer (along with burley-blended 2010 and Hartwell's Signature Blend), compromise blends such as "Aromatic English" and "Middle Earth," and even the occasional aromatic in a meer.

Several weeks back I decided it was overdue to catch up on things with some valued friends while at the same time giving in to the mounting sense of restlessness this time of year seems to bring. It was time to fire up the Jeep, load some pipes and gear, and visit with names long-associated with Tri-State Pipe and Tobacco. Distance was a barrier in some instances, but I did speak with both John Smeltzer and Jack Femeyer. John is doing MUCH better following his surgery last year, and thanks to the generosity of some here at TSPTC and at area organizations, has regained a surprising measure of his ability to get around. Unfortunately, he is absolutely restricted from being around ANY smoke, but even with that seemingly insurmountable obstacle his spirits are very much upbeat and he **did** make some noise about coming to see us at a meeting or show at some point anyway. No idea if that will work out for him, but he will certainly continue to be a friend, both personally and to the club, and will also remain on my prayer list. He is missed.

Discouragingly, I also found out that Jack Femeyer had endured some health issues and had in fact been in the hospital for a week or more. He is home now, and is thankfully doing much better. Jack was well enough, in fact, to let me know that he is on the prowl for a nice older straight English bulldog, perhaps an old Comoy's or something along those lines. A group four or five along those lines, ideally from the era ranging from the forties through the sixties or so, and with plenty of wood on the bottom of the bowl's exterior to prevent the hotspots so common to some interpretations (Continued pg. 7)



Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club
our 2006 6th Annual, Fort Wayne

PIPE & CIGAR SHOW



Thousands of pipes and tobacciana. Buy--Swap--Sell--New--Used--Collectibles--etc! Pipe smokers, collectors, dealers, pipe-makers... anyone interested in any aspect of the gentle art of pipe smoking, don't miss this show. Browsing encouraged. Bargains galore!

Saturday, April 8, 2006

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Quality Hotel Ballroom

**3330 W Coleseum Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808
(260) 484-7711 Fax: (260) 482-1856**

TSPTC fund-raising raffle throughout the day. Dozens of great prizes. Tickets \$1.00; need not be present to win.

Sell-Swap-Display Table fees: 8 ft \$40; 6 ft \$30. First come, first served. Specil show room rate \$69 (up to 5 people per room). Special reception for incoming dealers on Friday evening. Complimentary lunch provided for dealers on Saturday.

"Nowhere in the world will such a brorly feeling of confidence be experienced as amongst those who sit together smoking their pipes"



"The results and merits of tobacco" 1844 Dr. Barnstein

Some of our Show Exhibitors

Tim West of Lioncrest

Tim West is an American icon in the pipe making trade, and is considered one of the premier pipe artisans in the country. Many of the pipes are one of a kind, so pick yours out today. Better yet: have one custom-made for you by Tim himself!

Each Tim West briar pipe is crafted by hand, by Tim for the best design and smoke possible. Tim made his first pipe in 1967 and went full time as a pipemaker in 1975. Only the best quality fully cured Greek briar goes into a Tim West pipe. Tim's designer shapes are designed for eye appeal as well as a great smoke. All processes, step by step, are natural processes insuring a sweet, cool smoke for every recipient of a Tim West Briar pipe. <http://www.lioncrest.com>

Steve Monjure of Monjure International

A PIPE SELECTION BEYOND COMPARE! Monjure International is privileged to import into the United States some of the finest hand crafted briar pipes to come out of Italy, Germany, and Denmark.

THE JOYS OF LUXURY TOBACCOS! Not only do they feature a superb assortment of pipes, but Hermit Tobacco Works Company feature a prodigious selection of premium tobaccos from around the world. <http://www.monjureinternational.com/>

Jay & Louise Jones of Hermit Tobacco Works

Hermit Tobacco is proud to support, by attending, all major Pipe Shows east of Kansas City. We attend more Shows each year than any other retailer, dealer or collector. Sixteen this year. This is how we are able, for 3 years, to offer over a 1,000 pipes each year to the collector/smoker. We sell pipes for several collectors both known to the pipe smoking community and those who are not. We are still working on a large 3,000 pipe collection. It is our opinion that we offer the most diversified number of smoking pipes available on the net and at the Shows! Thank you to all for your support of Hermit Tobacco. <http://www.pipestyle.com/>

Pipe Smoke Cont: As I was leaving St. Mary's a espied an intrepid groundhog watching passing traffic from the relative safety of his grassy knoll, and chuckled as I visualized what he might look like with a smallish group two Dunhill jutting from his toothy muzzle. Here's to hoping that his appearance was a sign, a harbinger of oncoming spring to keep the early arrival robins and pipesmokers emerging from their winter caves company as we all get out and about to abate our restless feet and spirits. Winter is dead, long live Spring and outdoor pipesmoking...and old friends. AS

Some Great Raffle Prizes at this Year's Show



Several tobacconists are donating tobacco for our raffle prizes AND Peterson of Dublin has donated a handsome Sherlock Holmes Professor pipe!

Altadis USA sent us FIVE boxes containing 18 Goody bags each and one box containing 10 Goody Bags! Each Goody Bag consists of 20 one & a half ounce pouches of a variety of tasty tobaccos! Someone else can do the math & figure out how many lbs that is. Amazing generosity! Thank you Altadis!

Still another box arrived from MacBaren full of great samples and giveaways to be distributed at the show

Another box from Greg Pease via Cornell & Diehl has also arrived! We haven't opened it yet, and think we may wait till day of show just to add to the suspense! All this along with the Sherlock Holmes series Professor pipe that Peterson of Dublin sent, should make for some very happy prize winners! Tell all you know, come to the show!

Checkout our Club Bulletin Board

Be sure to log in to our club bulletin board at <http://tsptc.org/phpBB/> for late breaking news and comments on this year's show.

Here's what Chuck Wooten posted: "this show was lots of fun last year I can't wait for it this year. The weather had not been great for my work but I am dealing with it and will be ready, let the wheeling and dealing and selling and buying begin."

Cloud 9

Pipe Blend Reviews,
by Sherman Carver



McClelland's "Christmas Cheer 2005"

For all of you who enjoy Virginia blends, you owe it to yourself to give this one a try. This is one fine tobacco, and seems to be a blend that could only get better with age.



Every year the folks at McClelland tobacco pick one single strain of Virginia tobacco from one region. It is selected for its superior qualities and is presented in holiday tins in a flake form. Though McClelland rates the tobacco as perfect to smoke now, it should age exceptionally well because of its high natural sugar content and balance.

Handblended, premium pressed Virginia Flake tobaccos. A fine vintage, naturally sweet. The 2005 blend is made with a special selection of deep orange, sun-dappled flue cured Virginia from the Middle Belt crop of 1997.

From the first charring light, I knew this was a winner! A wonderful Va flavor, representative of the genre. Hard to imagine that this tin was only sealed about 5 months ago.... but then the tobacco had already aged about 8 years before it went into the tin.

As the bowl progressed, the flavor increased, as expected. By mid-bowl I was in a state of altered consciousness. This is wonderful stuff. Very subtle nuances, and a thoroughly delightful flavor throughout.

That's what Christmas Cheer is all about. Happy Smoking.

Annual Election of Officers Coming Up

A club member expressed the desire to have a proxy or mail-in vote for tsptc officers as he can't attend mtgs. Club officers have conferred and decided we can do nominations and the whole voting process this way this year. Therefore, we will begin accepting nominations for the year 2006-07 immediately. Non-computer using members can still cast their ballot by more conventional means, at our May meeting.

Simply send in your nominations to our club Secretary by mail: (Andy Spencer, 6917 Corline St Fort Wayne IN 46819) or email: SANDRE746@aol.com

President _____
Vice President _____
Secretary _____
Treasurer _____

CURRENT CLUB OFFICERS

President: Larry Hubartt tsptc@tsptc.org
Vice Pres: Andy Spencer sandre746@aol.com
Treasurer: Dennis Nichols dennisnichols@hotmail.com
Secretary: Ray Franklin rayjewels2803@msn.com

Our Goals: TSPTC is a group of Northern Indiana, Ohio and Michigan (and other places all over the country) pipe enthusiasts interested in furthering the gentle art of pipe smoking and/or collecting, through club meetings, pipe shows the World Wide Web, and the exchange of pipe related information. We have three basic goals:

1. To become a rallying point for serious pipe smokers and/or collectors (whether beginners or veterans) as an informal society of pipe smoking friends.
2. To provide and publish knowledgeable information about pipe smoking, pipe making, pipe collecting, pipe tobaccos and pipe lore, for amateurs and professionals alike.
3. To publicize and promote events for pipe smokers and/or collectors such as exhibitions shows, smoking contests and social affairs of any and all descriptions, for the general enjoyment of our members.

Pipe Smoke Cont: of the bulldog style (including several older Dunhills of my past experience), is really what is called for here although a similar Italian piece might also merit consideration. Anyone knowing of such a pipe in very good or better condition please let me know, and I will pass along the pertinent information for Jack to follow up on it. Unable to attend this year's shows in Fort Wayne and Chicago, Jack is relying on us to locate what he's looking for and he'll take it from there. Evidently the pipe selection where he presently lives in Wisconsin is less than stellar.

Recently spent some time with TSPTC co-founder Larry Rathburn back around St. Patrick's Day, and the always genial visionary behind the club's founding had several pipes with him which were made by his own hand. Larry has been making pipes, strictly for his own enjoyment and not for resale, for several years now and is really making some very nice pieces at this point. Such work is clearly a labor of love, having been born of much investment of both time and money (for equipment), and Larry's pipes reflect his longstanding preference for straight billiards although he does occasionally turn out variations on that theme. I saw one pipe he had made and banded, sort of a Dublinesque pipe, which really showed fairly advanced pipemaking technique in my humble opinion. Larry continues to do pretty well physically since his double transplant a couple or so years back, and hopefully will be able to drop by for the upcoming 2006 TSPTC Pipe & Cigar Show at the Quality Hotel here in Fort Wayne on Saturday, April 8th. Larry's son and fellow pipesmoker, Brad Rathburn, now resides in the Berne area but if he can get away to make it up for the show I hope to see both of these guys at the show, barring anything unforeseen.

I recently had occasion to be in the St. Mary's, Ohio area and, anticipating that, had made plans to have lunch with original TSPTC member Marty Dodrill while there. This lunch visit was undoubtedly the highlight of any recent forays out and about as winter grudgingly yields to spring, with good food and a great smoke and conversation making the past several years apart melt away like the spring ice to which I earlier alluded. Marty is simply one of the best guys ever, and is sorely missed in the ongoing activities of TSPTC. Unfortunately, he is once again going to have to be out of the area when the TSPTC Pipe & Cigar Show is held, but passed along well wishes to the club and it's members. Marty suffered several years back from a medical condition best described as frozen shoulder syndrome, and as an avid golfer as well as just someone wanting to regain a full range of motion in order to improve his quality of life, he at that time began a rigorous physical therapy regimen which somewhat limits his ability to travel from an already distant location to regular club functions. He has been and continues to be very much on the minds of some of us "longtimers," though, and we look forward to perhaps seeing him at a meeting or weekend get-together sometime during the coming months. (Cont. page 8)