

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 pipe smokers and enthusiasts to get together on a regular basis and share their fondness of pipes and tobacco.

At first, our members were mainly from the tri-state area of northern Indiana, southern Michigan and nearby Ohio. But now, through our website bulletin board, we have become an international club with members from a number of other states, as well as Canada, and the United Kingdom.

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

Our informal meetings take place about 5:30 PM the 2nd Tuesday of each month in an area restaurant—one that is pipesmoker friendly, of course. We now have about 35 members of whom 8-15 attend 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 page 14 of this newsletter for meeting information.

Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club recommends:



Fresh Handmade Cigars
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Pipes & Tobaccos

3 Fort Wayne Locations

Downtown: 624 S Calhoun (260) 424-1429
6410 W Jefferson Blvd (260) 432-0002
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<http://www.riegelspipeandtobaccos.com>

10% off pipe purchase with this ad

Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club Newsletter



"An informal society of
pipe smoking friends"

June 2006

"A pipe is good and a lass is good, and a pipe to smoke in cold weather; good the world is good and the people are good, and we're all fellows together." John O'Keefe

Your Club Leadership Team for 2006-07



President
Andy Spencer



Vice President
Larry Hubart



Treasurer
Dennis Nichols



Secretary
Ray Franklin

Welcome to the June 2006 issue of the TSPTC Newsletter! It is my great pleasure to announce the outcome of our annual election of officers held at our June meeting. Andy Spencer will be serving as our Club President this year, and myself assisting him as VP. Dennis Nichols is continuing as our treasurer, and Ray Franklin as our club secretary. On behalf of the whole leadership team, we thank you for your confidence in choosing us. We will do our best to promote our club's goals and to continue improving our club. LH, Vice President

The President's Humidor

A Word from our New President, Andy Spencer.

I want to take a moment to thank those of you who voted for me to be president of Tri-State Pipe and Tobacco Club, and make a solemn promise to ALL members of TSPTC to serve you to the very best of my abilities. It is humbling to occupy this office, previously and ably held by TSPTC founder Larry Rathburn, present TSPTC Secretary Dennis Nichols, and more recently by the very capable outgoing TSPTC President and current V.P. Larry Hubartt. I will endeavor to do my best to live up to the high standards established by previous occupants of this office.

“The President’s Humidor” continued...



Despite previous conversations with Larry Hubartt prior to the last meeting, I had mistakenly understood that he would serve one more term as club president and then nominate me to be president. Obviously, Larry was ready for a more immediate change, having already served as club president for three years, during which time he devoted tremendous apportionments of time, money and effort toward keeping the club running properly.

I will be the first to admit that I am not able to devote nearly the time and energy toward club matters that Larry Hubartt was able to contribute, and as a result am going to need the assistance of our membership to “get ‘er done.” Those who do not appear at meetings will be contacted anyway to see how they may be able to help out in planning and executing club activities, and all members past and present will be (are now, actually) be followed up with to see what their thoughts and ability to actively participate may be.

My initial thoughts are to see how many cookouts, unspecified “special events,” an occasional weekend brunch, and other activities like a fall “members only ‘buy-sell-swap’ “ meet. I will not plan for more than that for which we have the promise of assistance, of that you can be sure. As with most things since the inception of TSPTC, it is really up to the club members as to whether we have an active group of participating members or if we are, collectively, content to just sit back and have a fourth-to-a-third of our membership meet once a month over dinner. I eagerly await your feedback on these and other matters, and should any of you wish to contact me to expedite the process of sharing your thoughts I can be reached at either SANDRE746@aol.com, or by calling (260) 747-5726 (weekday mornings are best—please leave a message if I am not home, so that I may return your call).

Longtime supporter and friend of TSPTC, Steve Monjure of Monjure International, has, as already noted elsewhere, VERY generously donated a \$325 retail smooth bent Roverart pipe for TSPTC to use as a fundraiser. We will, however, need to decide how best to use this gift to our club to generate money. We could sell raffle tickets, but my concern there is that enough money would not be derived from that approach to reasonably approach even a third of the pipe’s true value, thus leaving a good bit of potential revenue to the club untapped.

An alternative approach, and one which I am now weighing, is to have an auction for club members to bid on this pipe. I am bringing the pipe to TSPTC monthly dinner meetings in June and July to show it around. Additionally, perhaps we can persuade Larry to get a photo of it up on the club’s webpage and maybe even have an online auction for club members to participate in.

Lucky dog that he is, outgoing President Larry Hubartt was a pipe in a club raffle last month but it was a pipe which, if memory serves me, retailed for eighty-some (continued next page)

Cloud 9

Pipe Blend Reviews, by Sherman Carver Hermit Tobacco’s “Captain Earle’s NIGHTWATCH”



This is a latakia lover's blend full of dark rich flavorful latakia blended with orientals and red virginias. The aroma is intoxicating for latakia lovers.

Introduced by Hermit Tobaccos in 1999, Nightwatch is four years in the making, and made the old fashioned way with the antique press shown below. It’s a very complex blend composed with LOTS--AND I DO MEAN LOTS--OF LATAKIA!!! So it’s not a blend for the faint hearted. But for those willing to take a chance with a stout complex blend it might hold some surprises. If you’re a fan of potent latakia mixtures, try it out!



This is a cool smoking blend that burns smoothly and evenly all the way to the heel of the pipe, leaving only a dry white ash at the bottom. It burns easily and I thoroughly enjoyed it from beginning to end.

Pressed, aged latakia blends of this complexity are not easy to find. Jay Jones told me some of their other blends are even stronger but the flavor of this one stays at the forefront throughout the pipeful.

Hermit Tobacco blends are all natural, chemical and preservative free, making them perfect for storing. Each blend is carefully blended in small batches, and then hand tinned to insure the highest quality. Nightwatch comes in 2 oz. tins.



Hermit’s Antique Press

Club dues

Just a reminder that annual club dues are now due again (always in April, the month of our Annual show).

Our main use of dues is for the publishing of the club newsletter, of which the June issue is enclosed. So to continue sending you the newsletter, we do need to receive your annual dues.

For your convenience, we have enclosed an envelope addressed to our club treasurer.

We do appreciate your membership in TSPTC and we have definitely missed seeing you at our club meetings. We hope you may be able to drop in for dinner with us at one of our up-and-coming meetings (2nd Tues each month). Check www.tsptc.org for current meeting place

Your fellow pipe club member and
Vice President, Larry Hubartt

There is nothing like being left alone again, to
walk peacefully with oneself in the woods. To
boil one's coffee and fill one's pipe, and to think
idly and slowly as one does it. Knut Hamsun

TSPTC CLUB OFFICERS

President: Andy Spencer (260) 748-4231 sandre746@aol.com
Vice President: Larry Hubartt (574) 566-2796 tsptc@tsptc.org
Treasurer: Dennis Nichols (260) 744-4797 dennisnichols@hotmail.com
Secretary: Ray Franklin (574) 566-2796 rayjewels2803@msn.com
www.tsptc.org

President's Humidor continued: odd dollars. With considerably more revenue potential at stake for the club, I am hoping that the idea of an online auction on the club website would create more interest and hence participation (as well as \$\$\$ to the club coffers). I'm still receptive to other ideas, though, so let it be known if you have some thoughts on this matter. Looking forward to hearing from you!

As some of you are already aware, longtime TSPTC member Sherman Carver is facing some health issues related to complications from diabetes, not the least of which is the (hopefully temporary) impairment of vision in one eye. He is going in for additional testing, and should be able to update clubmembers at some later point. Please remember to keep him in your prayers!

Club Show: Two months after the annual Fort Wayne / TSPTC Pipe and Cigar Show is not too early to begin planning for next year's show. Some unavoidable events and other factors must be taken into account before proceeding with the planning phase for next year's show, however.

The 2006 show was a lot of fun, but on the whole was something of a failure. Fully one-third of the tables to which exhibitors had committed ended up being cancelled—for a variety of reasons—and foot traffic was noticeably off from the previous year despite money and effort spent toward promoting and advertising the show.

To his credit, Steve Monjure of Monjure International, who had paid in advance for five tables from which to exhibit his extensive line of pipes, tobaccos and other wares, had given us a heads-up over a week in advance of the show. Several large shipments he had been expecting from Europe were being held up (in customs, perhaps?) and he would have to be present to sign for them. As the day of the show approached, the deliveries were still pending. For these reasons and the fact that, more than most, Steve has long been a friend and supporter of Fort Wayne-based pipesmokers, the club officers decided that Steve's table fees should be refunded. That has already occurred, and it is worth noting that Steve sent a letter expressing how unexpected the refund was, how gratified he was by it, and along with the letter Steve very kindly sent a donation of a \$325 Roverart (special Ardor) smooth bent pipe. More on his donation later.

Steve's five tables comprised nearly half of the cancellations. Three more came when Premal's Columbus Ohio business, Smoker's Haven, was a no-show because one of his employees simply refused at the last moment to work on consecutive weekends. Premal got wind of this information too late, as he was in the Los Angeles area for a show there. His aforementioned employee was supposed to bring pipes and other goods from Smoker's Haven for our show, but failed to do so.

Likewise, Keith and Sally Marlowe of Saint Louis once again failed to appear at our show after having stated that they would do so. And then, we learned at the last moment that Riegels would not be there. (continued next page)

President's Humidor concluded: Yet I am not nearly so concerned with the "no-shows" among exhibitors as I am frankly worried about the declining numbers of show attendees—TSPTC members, walk-ins, etc. Yes, we did have some new faces from southern Indiana and up in Michigan, among other places, but the overall numbers of attendees was down. It is difficult to determine how to move forward when we have so many who are TSPTC members who do not show up. I'm not talking about ones who live such distances away from Fort Wayne or whose finances will not permit a long trip, but rather am directing my concern toward those who live in this area.

It would seem, in my judgment, that while we can continue to host a pipe show indefinitely, we will need both far greater member involvement and a reformatted show structure. The bulk of folks like Lee Von Erck of Von Erck Pipes, Steve Monjure of Monjure International, Jay and Louise Jones of Hermit Tobacco, Chuck Wooten of Chuck's Racks, John Crosby of Crosby Pipes, Mark Gradberg of Gray Mountain Pipes, Larry Faulkner of Faulkner TamperWorks, Tim West of Tim West Pipes, and some others will be at our show whenever they can make it. However, perhaps we need to shoot for a smaller scale than the 30-some tables for which we initially had commitments. We may also want to consider requiring exhibitors to pay for tables in advance, and make those fees non-refundable except in extenuating circumstances as was the case with Monjure International.

My initial thinking on this matter is that we should shoot for something in the high-teens to low-20's in terms of number of exhibitors' tables. There would, therefore, be no reason to hold the 2007 show in the same venue, as it is not helpful to have so much extra space and, by extension, empty tables. We also MUST have club members step forward to actively participate on separate dedicated planning committees which will report back to and coordinate with the club officers. It is imperative that we immediately set about the business of obtaining a suitable site for the 2007 show, as well as begin marketing to prospective exhibitors and begin securing commitments and deposits. With the loss of Riegel's for what small efforts they made toward promoting the show (and please be aware that my displeasure is NOT directed at the Georgetown Square Riegel's, which has long been and continues to be a staunch friend of TSPTC) as well as the cigars we had hoped they would bring for sale at our show, we simply must develop a more effective strategy for drawing in foot traffic. Even with a scaled back 2007 show in the offing, we will still need to have sufficient numbers of attendees so as to make it worthwhile for our exhibitors to return.

All the foregoing issues, and more, will be open for discussion at the June and July TSPTC dinner meetings. I look forward to hearing the thoughts of you, the TSPTC membership, on these and other matters as we begin to enter a new fiscal year and face new challenges. Andy

Why Do We Smoke (Continued)

Returning from a trip to Washington, D.C., my wife and I stopped at a Shoney's somewhere in Virginia and as always I asked for the smoking section. A few minutes later a family arrived and the waitress started to seat them near our table; about two tables away. The woman actually sniffed and demanded in an angry voice to be seated in the non-smoking area and looked at me with fire in her eyes. The waitress picked up on this and said "Yes Ma'am" and seated them at a table on the other side of a low planter from our table; that's right just two or three feet from us but still in non-smoking. The woman became highly indignant and told her husband "Let's go." He smile and told her politely to go sit in the car while he and the children ate; they were hungry and not moving! Though I enjoyed this, I did let my pipe go out; no sense in acting as she did.

Andy Spencer: Pretty easy to chalk up my pipe hobby to Lee Van Cleef, the onscreen counterweight to Clint Eastwood's roles in so many of the "spaghetti westerns" from the 1960's. Van Cleef was often shown smoking a pipe (usually but not always a yellowing bent meerschaum), and he just exuded "cool."

From there I soon noticed that many of the characters depicted on the big screen who smoked pipes were also intelligent, thoughtful, deliberate men, usually of pretty good character to boot. Shortly after, maybe in the very early seventies, my uncle gave up cigarettes in favor of a Dr. Grabow and a large tin of Captain Black white label. I loved the aroma and the ritual of loading, lighting, tamping, relighting, etc. By the time I was 17 I largely gave up cigarettes in favor of the pipe, which by the following year I was smoking almost exclusively (did still enjoy the occasional cigar--yes, I started young--but even grocery store-bought packs of A & C Grenadiers were more expensive than pipe tobacco, and didn't taste nearly as good to my palate...the MUCH more expensive and, to me, preferred Partagas #10's were only for when I was flush with cash).

Chuck Wooten: not really sure what brought me to the pipe, just one day i thought i wanted to give it a try, i went to a local shop (now closed) and bought a 20 dollar wall pipe (basket pipe) and a ounce of house blends was giving to me with the pipe purchase. i muddled thru a couple months and was about to give up, just was not getting it right, then i found a couple online club type places (knoxville cigar) some of those guys over there helped me tons, (thanks Regor) and some one sent me a box of better tobaccos, got my first taste of latakia mmm good. i had a couple pipes by then and was seeing some i wanted but could not afford so i started brain storming ways to earn money that i could use to buy pipes. decided making pipe racks was the ticket. now i would not give up the hobby for anything i am hooked.

Roger Price: Part of the reason is that it helps me to relax and deal with things better. Another reason is that it taste so darn good!! Many years ago I went to a Military school. The teachers could smoke in class and a few of them did. They always seemed so peacefull and relaxed and that though stayed with me for a lot of years and is part of the reason I took it up again late in life

Why Do We Smoke (Continued)

Mike Leverett: Well; let's see. At a relative young age, I and my friends decided to see what was so amazing about cigarette smoking and received a spanking for our experience. We latched onto the idea of smoking rabbit tobacco in a reed pipe and found we had less spankings. Then in 1958, while in the Marines, cigarettes were \$1.00 per carton on base, too expensive on a private's pay, but a Falcon was only \$1.95 and a tin of Prince Albert was only a nickle, and yes, the pipe could be used over and over, therefore a lot cheaper than the ciggys. Laughing

As a comparison with off-base prices;
cigarettes were \$2.50 per carton
Falcon pipes were \$9.95
Medicos (yuck) were \$1.95
Kaywoodies were \$5.95
Petersons were \$7.50 to \$15.00
Dunhills were \$15.00 to \$25.00
PA was ten or fifteen cents per tin.

A private's pay was \$58.00 out of which came your clothing allowance, snacks, drinks, bus fares home, etc.

This year will be my 48th year smoking pipes which started with a Falcon in 1958 and 41st year researching the history of pipes and pipe smoking, along with several tangents of researching several different brand names, researching dating information on Peterson pipes, etc. All in all, it has been a really nice journey. Actually my pipes have held up better than this old body. The one article of my pride and joy, an article on Samuel Weingott and his career of making pipes, both briar and meer-schaum and a subsidiary firm making Calabashes, has been turned down by one publisher and Tom Dunn passed away before he could print the Ephemeric in which he had it scheduled. I just now submitted it to another publication with fingers crossed.

Anyway, I'm sure all of you have heard my adventures on this journey; my beginning smoking efforts, my Voodoo Woman, my odd pipe smoker, my first true pipes and experiences with them, pre-1492 pipe smoking, etc. Some of you have asked me to write a book, well thanks for your confidence, but I am not a writer as evidenced by the above article being rejected, as well as, the rejection of a short article on the Voodoo Woman. But I am still having a great time on this journey which I hope will last a few more years, well maybe thirty more years, HA! I have met some great pipesters along the way, including all of you and had much fun doing it. Yes, I have even enjoyed the anti-tobacco nuts, so here is a little story: (continued page 13)

"Off the Rack" our club members a new feature by club Treasurer, Ray Franklin



We all have pipes on our racks and they each have a story. It may go something like, "I bought that pipe because of this reason or that reason. I acquired that pipe from so and so on trade." No matter how you come to own a pipe there is a story. I look at each and every pipe club member as a pipe on a rack and we all have a story to tell. Each month I will be pulling a member off the rack and we are going to feature their story.

This first edition of Off the Rack will feature one **Mr. Andy Spencer**, TSPTC co-founder and newly elected club president.

Ray: Tell us a bit about yourself, beyond what other members of TSPTC might know.

Andy: Well, I grew up just west of Cleveland in Elyria, Ohio. Both of my parents were public school teachers, my dad being 6th grade teacher in the elementary school that I attended there. I was, and still am, a big Cleveland Indians fan as well as vainly rooting for the Cleveland Browns (oddly enough along with their arch-rivals, the Pittsburgh Steelers—I pulled for them way back in 1969, when they were an awful 1-13).

Ended up moving back to my parents' native eastern Kentucky when I was 12, as both continued their teaching careers there. I discovered the Cincinnati Reds more because my maternal granddad pulled for them than because of the heady days of "The Big Red Machine." Also discovered University of Kentucky athletics, and became a big supporter of their various athletic programs. I ended up attending the University of Kentucky and obtained a degree there, and after stints in the newspaper and counseling businesses (as well as an earlier career in radio broadcasting) went into the world of business.

Keeping in the sports vein, I have always been a huge fan of auto racing. If it had a motor I was interested in seeing it raced, although I do have a decided preference for road racing (Formula One, LeMans, the Rolex Sports Car Series, etc.). Ended up being recruited to work for a government contractor in southern Indiana back in the eighties, and met my wife at the one and only Kentucky Derby—the coldest on record, in 1989—that either of us ever attended. She has always lived in Fort Wayne, which is what initially drew me to the area in January of 1990. We have two sons, ages 12 and 14.

Ray: How did you come to love the pipe?

Andy: That is easy! My uncle was an avid pipesmoker, and the delicious aroma of Captain Black white pouch blend wafting from his Dr. Grabow was captivating. Tried several Dr. Grabow pipes that I subsequently purchased, but quickly became disenchanted with several shortcomings of those pipes. (Continued page 6)

“Off the Rack” continued: The finish easily became too hot and lost its initial luster, and being filter pipes it was impossible to run a cleaner all the way through to clear a clog or gurgle (unlike Savinellis with filters and filterless adaptors, the Grabows I tried without using a filter were horrid).

So bad were my first attempts at smoking a pipe that a couple of those early Grabows ended up in a nearby creek, flung there in frustration by a young man who knew that it (i.e., the whole pipesmoking experience) just HAD to be better than what I was experiencing. Unfortunately, my mom's brother, perhaps fearful of being accused by his sister of helping me along in the smoking “habit,” proved to be of little to no help in terms of advice on loading, lighting, and other aspects of the gentle art of pipesmoking.

The worm finally began to turn for me after I moved to Lexington to continue my studies at the University of Kentucky. In a nearby shopping mall I found heaven, or at least as near to the real place as I was liable to find in this realm of existence. Paul Schwab's Pipes 'n' Stuff was the consummate small pipe shop, with an array of Preben Holm, Dunhill, Peterson, Savinelli, GBD, Comoy and other fine pipes. They also had a fine walk-in humidor where, on those rare occasions when I was flush with funds and could afford a fine cigar in addition to my usual bags of pipe tobaccos, I would purchase one or two Partagas # 10's at a time. I never looked back after discovering Schwab's, and receiving advice on techniques for loading and lighting pipes from the owner. He has since passed on, but as of 2004 his son was running the shop, itself having already been relocated across New Circle Road from its original location and now being located in Woodhill Plaza in Lexington.

Ray: How did you first become involved with Larry Rathburn, and what was the first office you held?

Andy: Back in either 1997 or 1998, Frank Bougher at Riegel's suggested that I contact Larry Rathburn, who was then nurturing the idea of starting a pipe club. I learned so very much about pipes and tobaccos from Larry, With a great deal of assistance from then-manager of a Tinderbox franchise, Dan Hudson, the three of us began what is now Tri-State Pipe and Tobacco Club. Larry and Dan and I remain fast friends, but due to the demands of family, business, church and other responsibilities do not get together nearly frequently enough these days. Couple of great guys, those two, and without either of them TSPTC would not have gotten off the ground. Larry was president for those first three or so years, I was vice-president, and Dan was club secretary.

Ray : What were your hopes for the club?

Andy: My hopes for TSPTC remain largely as they have ever been, namely that the club can continue to attract new members while at the (continued page 7)

(Chicago Show 2006 Report, continued) Tobacco wise--McClelland's introduced their new Royal Cajun blends that are made using the 1st new process for tobacco developed in many years. They were giving away samples of all 3 Royal Cajun blends at Show--Royal Cajun Dark, Ebony and Special. It is exceptionally cool and mild, tastes smokey but not like Latakia, in fact it is not like anything that I have smoked before

Also, MacBaren introduced their new Vintage Syrian HH with 500 tins available. (Dennis and I brought back 5 tins). The base of the blend is a smooth Latakia from Syria. Turkish Oriental has been added and a mix of different Virginia tobaccos from 3 continents and a little Dark Fired Kentucky. When you empty your pipe after smoking, you only find fine grey ashes, the sign of a slow and dry smoke.

The silent auction had a good variety of pipes, including a Bo Nordh. The miniatures that the ladies had made the night before were up for auction. All were sold. Each smoking room was really well done. They will be on the web site and you can decide for your self which is best.

Most collectors who had tables and were doing the "sell-some buy-some", told me they were well pleased. All the ones I spoke to had some new additions. The overall consensus seemed to be that it was another very successful Chicago pipe show.

Why Do We Smoke? (from the club bulletin board)

Dennis Nichols I saw this question on a couple other forums & thought I'd ask it here. My reasons? I've been interested in pipes since I was a boy. Had a little mini corncob then, and later a couple Tom Thumb pipes, all from the excellent tobacco dept. at Sears (remember when?). My first smokes were w/ the tobacco from my dad's Camel cig butts. Surprising after that that I wanted to keep it up. Started pipe smoking full-time w/ parental permission at 16. Started working in tobacco shops at 18. Churchill's of Birmingham here in Ft. Wayne, and when I attended AADA in NYC at 19 I worked for Dunhill's, and later the Wilke sisters. Later back to Dunhill's between theatre jobs till they got sick of me leaving and coming back. Always liked the smell, the style, the old-time nostalgia of pipe smoking. I had two pipe smoking uncles on mom's side, and Dad would smoke them once in awhile trying to cut down on his cigarettes, Camel straights or RYO. I like old fashioned things and values. I collect walking-sticks, knives, hats of all kinds, but mostly fedoras, and I like to shave with a straight razor. There's a sentimentality to pipe smoking. I remember what pipe I smoked on most important occasions in my life, and try to smoke the same one when the anniversary date rolls around. My wife calls me a sentimental fool, but adds that she loves me that way. (continued page 12)

(Chicago Show 2006 Report, continued) and friends had a great show. They sold out of some blends. The year long changes in pipe shows was evident, again. There were far fewer Danes and Italians pipe makers. Collectors, pipe buyers, seemed to be either looking for reasonably priced pipes or really high end, in the four figures.

Dennis (Nichols) and I enjoyed seeing all the familiar faces, making some new friends and with 289 exhibitor tables, certainly found it overwhelming. Once again the CPCC, gang of nine guys did an outstanding job. At our club table, we gave away almost all of the Altadis "goody bags" that we had leftover from our Ft. Wayne Show.

John Crosby's table was right across the aisle from ours and John reported satisfactory sales of his fine pipes.

Jay and Louise of Hermit were there, as always, buying and selling, with their amazing selection of estate pipe and vintage tobacco and unique items from Tom Dunn's collection which they have acquired. I'm sure they had a good show.

Steve Monjure and others were selling the "Pipes, Artisans and Trademarks" book by Jose Manuel Lopez. One of the best books on pipe ever done. A must for any serious collector.

Patrick Dennis was there selling his Brotherhood of the Briar, tee-shirts, hats, and pins. They were very popular by the number of folks I saw wearing them.

(continued page 11)



"Off the Rack" continued: same time serving the interests of existing members. What this has come to mean is that , as some attrition takes place with members moving away or being otherwise occupied by outside interests and demands, new members have continued, and will hopefully continue apace, to fill the ranks of active membership. By "active" I specifically refer to those members who are able to regularly attend meetings and participate in the planning and execution of various club activities.

Ray: Are you happy with where TSPTC is, at present?

Andy: Not really. We have too few activities, too little participation in both regular and special activities, and are really at a crossroads as to what the club will become. Some of our members are perfectly content simply to meet once a month to dine, smoke pipes and converse with one another. Others are happy to read the newsletter when it comes out, and only a few are "regulars" who can and do participate in meetings, the club show, and club cookouts. Plus, our recent pipe show was something short of expectations, with a full third of oral commitments for table rentals failing to show AND foot traffic being off considerably when compared to the previous year's attendance.

Ray: As the new president, what will be your first order of business?

Andy: Ray, I have already begun to contact individual TSPTC members, as well as recent members whose memberships have lapsed. I want to re-involve those who are able to be part of our activities, and to at least touch base with ALL so as to better gauge the direction we should take for the future.

My preliminary impression is that we need to develop a more aggressive plan to recruit potential new members year-round, should add several Saturday morning brunches for those who can make it, must scale back our expectations for the show while continuing to host it (more on this subject at the upcoming June dinner meeting), and should probably add a fall members only buy-sell-swap meet along the lines of our first pipe show. This would provide a nice counterweight to our spring show, while being MUCH more relaxingly informal and involving a carry-in with all participating members bringing in food items instead of having one or two families doing it all (as has recently been the case with club cookouts and both the hospitality event and the pipe show, with Larry and Nikki Hubartt having provided so much of the food and drinks).

Ultimately, the membership will define the direction in which we will head, either with their participation or lack of same. I would caution, however, that as is the case with any sort of organization attempting to maintain the status quo (as opposed to actively seeking growth) inevitably leads to decline and eventual dissolution.

Ray: Last but not least, who is your favorite pipemaker and what is your favorite brand of pipes AND tobaccos?

(continued page 8)

“Off the Rack” continued:

Andy: Wow, that's a tough one! Not trying to be diplomatic, but with both pipes and tobaccos I have several that I have tried and would include in that “favorite” category. Dealing with pipes first, I favor Moretti, Ardor and Castello pipes among the Italian briars. Hard to leave so many top Italian brands off, though, and while Caminetto, Radice, Ascorti, and others all deserve more acclaim there are just so many fine pipes from that nation! I would say that TSPTC member Chuck Wooten and others would probably have more to add to that category. Wish I had some experience to relate with regard to the very fine Rinaldo pipes which, like the Ardor and Roverart pipes, are imported by longtime friend to TSPTC Steve Monjure of Monjure International. Perhaps someday, when my kids are finally out of school for good, I'll have some extra money in the cookie jar for a Rinaldo—those who have them really seem to like them a lot!

Among the Danish pipes I have tried a very wide variety, with Karl Erik (and the late maker's upscale Ottendahl brand), Stanwell, some of the less fancy estate Preben Holm and Ben Wade's, and Lasse Skovgaard Jorgensen's sandblasts being the best bargains out there. At the very top of those makers I would again include the young Jorgensen (with whom I am tremendously impressed), along with Hans “Former” Nielsen, and also Tom Eltang.

Some very artistically interesting handmades are coming out of Japan right now, but my experience there has been limited to the Tsuge Ikebana line. Gorgeous pipes, but they use a bowl coating that, at least to my palate, lends a less-than-pleasing flavor to whatever tobacco is being smoked. Maybe too much charcoal; it is hard to say. Again, another TSPTC member, Indiana pipemaker John Crosby, could probably offer a more complete overview there.

My list of American makers is a very short list of favorites. While there are a number of fine U.S. pipemakers, and I have only sampled a relative few of this ever-increasing list, I would place the pipes from Lee Von Erck, John Crosby, and Brad Pohlmann at the very top of this group. Hard to leave out Paul Bonaquisti, Skip Elliott, Ed Andrews, Tim West, Elliott Nachwalter, Rolondo Negoita, Todd Johnson, and other top Americans, though.

Narrow the Italians down to Moretti and Ardor (for me, at least), include the trio of Americans listed above (Crosby, Von Erck, and Pohlmann), Danes Jorgensen, Nielsen and Eltang, along with British makes Upshall, Ashton, and Dunhill, and those are my top choices (hard for me to leave the old Charatan, GBD and Comoy's out).

Pipe tobaccos are only marginally easier for me to pick. Among latakia blends, those which most impressed me over the years were old tins of Dunhill 965 and Medium Mild Mixture, Star of the East and LondonBlend 1000, G.L. Pease Abingdon (and his temporarily discontinued Bohemian Scandal), Hermit Antique Pressed Syrian, and Riegel's Thee Blend. If forced to pick just two from that list, I would have to go with LondonBlend 1000 and Bohemian Scandal. (Continued next page)

“Off the Rack” concluded: Among Virginias I really like aged and slightly dried McClelland's 5100 above all others, with my choice for a “straight-from-a-freshly-opened-tin” choice being McClelland's 2005 Christmas Cheer (although I have never been so fortunate as to have enjoyed a sample of McCranie's famous 1983 Red Ribbon—I've heard raves about that one!).

At any rate, those are my picks based solely on personal preference derived from year's of experience.

Ray: Andy, thank you for being here and sharing your life with us, but for now you are back on the rack.

Chicago Show 2006Report

By Larry Hubartt

The 2006 Chicago Pipe Show ended Monday morning (May 8th) at noon. It now has not only a pre-show on Friday but a post-show on Monday morning. This year's show was officially dedicated to the memory of the late Tom Dunn, publisher of The Pipe Smokers Ephemeris, with the assistance of pipe book author Ben Rapaport and the blessing of the Dunn family.

There was an exhibit table with photos, personal items, and information about Tom as well as a dedication book for the visitors to sign and write short notes if they choose. The book will be presented to the Dunn Family. At the Friday evening welcome dinner on May 5, a good friend of Tom's will gave a short talk about his life.

I asked myself why is Chicago different than all other pipe shows? It is the educational and entertainment aspects of the show. The seminars, workshops and special ladies events, the golf tournament, etc. This year Lee Von Erck ran the pipe makers workshop and the Rob Cooper--Tony Soderman seminar on the estate market was standing room only, to name but a few events. It is physically impossible to actually attend every seminar and event. The displays at the entrance to the main hall on (Sat. & Sun.), of Bob Nobles, all encompassing, collection of JT Cook sandblasts and the John Morrion's Ardor Giant collection, were well worth looking at, and further enhanced the show atmosphere. All the above are what makes Chicago stand out from all the other pipe shows.

The early birds arrive there on Wednesday, but most dealers, traders, collectors etc. don't get going till Thursday afternoon and evening. That's when the hunt for vintage tobaccos takes place. By Friday little is left, and when the main show opens on Saturday anything left is either very pricey or obscure.

Friday morning was the pre-show and I heard this year it was pretty much pipe makers and collectors exhibiting on their free half tables. Very few dealers.

Saturday the show proper began at 10 AM. Coffee sponsored by Craig Tarler of Corneil & Diehl. I know Craig, Patty, family and company (Continued page 10)