



Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club Newsletter

May 2007

"An informal society of pipe smoking friends"

*"pipe smoking is properly an intellectual exercise." ~Christopher Morley, 1916
American journalist, novelist, and poet.*

Annual Membership Renewal



It's that time again--membership renewal. Just a reminder that annual club dues are now due again (always in April). Our main use of dues is for the publishing of the club newsletter, the latest issue which you are now reading. So to continue sending you the newsletter, we do need to receive your annual \$12 dues (if you haven't already taken care of it). For the convenience of those whose dues are still unpaid, an envelope is enclosed, addressed to our club treasurer. If you are already paid up, just toss it.

We do appreciate your membership in TSPTC and we have definitely missed seeing some of you at our club meetings. I hope you may be able to drop in for dinner with us. Latest meeting info is always available on our website--www.tsptc.org.

Annual Election of Officers May 29th

At our May 3rd meeting nominations for club officers were made and seconded. The candidates are:

for President: Andy Spencer, Larry Hubartt
for Vice Pres: Andy Spencer, Larry Hubartt
for Treasurer: Dennis Nichols
for Secretary: Ben Fogt

Voting will take place at our Tuesday, May 29th dinner meeting (at the Mad Anthony, Munchie Emporium, 1109 Taylor St. & Broadway Ft Wayne). Annual dues need to be paid in order to vote. If you cannot make the meeting, you can send your ballot in the enclosed envelope.

2007 Club Pipe Update

Here is a post from Pipemaker Paul Hubartt of Larrysson Pipes, received May 16th:

Funny thing, I had only just "rediscovered" the TSPTC nomenclature stamp a few days ago. I wondered to myself if there would be an opportunity to use it again.

The workshop that I began building a year ago is almost complete. The floor has been installed, workbenches, shelves, lights and heating. Only in the past few days have I been unpacking boxes. There is still all the equipment to mount and calibrate, dust extraction and a few odds and ends. I figure there is about a couple weeks work to finish it all. I'll post a few photos of the workshop when it is done.

As for making a club pipe, I would be again honoured, if that is what everybody desires. Of course I realise that there is no obligation. If you like, I can draw up a few designs. I have made arrangements with a well known pipe maker to have my pipes sandblasted, so this finish is available.

Paul is preparing a proposal for our 2007 club pipe.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Andy Spencer (260) 747-5726 agspencer@comcast.net
Vice President: Larry Hubartt (574) 566-2796 tsptc@tsptc.org
Treasurer: Dennis Nichols (260) 744-4797 dennis819@gmail.com
Secretary: Ray Franklin (260) 490-3195 rayjewels2803@msn.com

www.tsptc.org



New Pipemaker News by Clubmember Steve Hutchinson

This is exciting. Just the other Saturday afternoon, I made the trek to Brentwood, TN for a visit to BAW pipes. For those of you who have not met Bruce Weaver, his website www.baweaverpipes.com will give you a brief history and some great pipe shopping. Bruce was very accommodating to share a few hours showing me around his shop and then relaxing with a bowl of SERV discussing life's mysteries. It is hard to believe Bruce just got started in this endeavor not much more than a year ago. His talent and craftsmanship are exceeded only by his eye for detail. Gentlemen, he is a perfectionist in every sense of the word and it shows through in every pipe. As you walk into a person's workshop, you enter their world of creativity. This is the realm where creative juices spill out as the mind races with millions of ideas and one is totally lost in time. We have all experienced this in one form or another. It's a very special place and Bruce was more than gracious to share where this happens for him. His designs are varied and unique. While there are traditional designs in his collection, you will find some with slight variations and others unique in design, works of art. Nothing replaces the beauty of a custom made pipe hand crafted by an artist.

Bruce's philosophy is to create a quality handmade pipe, holding down the cost so they can be in a moderate price range. He sees a niche here in accommodating the working man's pocketbook. He showed me how this is very achievable yet not compromising on quality. This is exciting to me as it should be to all of us in the pipe club. Of course, if we had Andy's money, we would have retired years ago! Ha Ha. I believe Bruce's following is going to grow rapidly and availability will become the issue.

This is why I didn't hesitate to buy a pipe while there and will be kicking myself shortly for not grabbing up the other one I liked. Chicago will be very kind to Bruce and a great encouragement to his talent as a premium pipe maker. The world of pipes is a richer place, thank you Bruce.

BAW Pipes "VEPRES TUBULI FUMANTIBUS" (" Briar Pipes for Smoking" -for those not familiar with Latin) Bruce A. Weaver P.O. Box 1081 • Brentwood , TN • 615-831-3155

Consider the Pipe

by Dave Halliday, Pipes By George Raleigh, NC 27603

As I sit by the fire, canine buddy at my feet, puffing slowly on a well seasoned briar, I wax philosophical. The warmth and feel of pipe in hand, filled with finely aged and seasoned tobacco, produce a synergy that tantalizes my senses. The thick, sultry smoke wafting up my nose yields an almost narcotic composure, a halo of sorts, reducing the day's tribulations to insignificance. I ponder life and enter a world of my own, a personal space where I can sort out my feelings, my priorities, my desires and my dreams. Time seems to stand still . . . for the next hour or so there is goodness and well-being.

The preceding episode isn't unique. Many practiced pipe smokers relate similar experiences and feelings; the particulars may vary, but in short, it doesn't get any better than this!

The pipe smoker considers himself in good company: Mark Twain, Albert Schweitzer, J.R.R Tolkien and Ernest Hemingway indulged in this passion. Picture Sherlock Holmes, deep in thought, sorting out " a three pipe problem" or Albert Einstein pondering relativity while gently puffing on his briar. The brotherhood of the briar has included presidents, Nobel Prize winners, as well as many of our own role models. Few among us smell a fine blend of tobacco smoldering without it conjuring up memories of their youth. .

Pipe smoking is an art that requires thought and dedication. The rituals of loading your pipe, lighting and tamping to produce a wonderful smoke take patience and practice. In time, as you become accustomed to your new briar friend, you develop your own rites of preparation and puffing to achieve full smoking enjoyment. There are as many opinions on the " correct" techniques as there are pipe smokers. The whole ritual, from loading, smoking and emptying your pipe is a very personal thing, an art rather than a science, that you may find well worth the effort. *(continued next page)*

(Consider the Pipe) Moderate pipe smoking is a hobby rather than a habit, a diversion rather than a mechanical need, a well earned indulgence. Aged and meticulously blended pipe tobacco is enjoyed for its flavor and aroma; there is no need to inhale. While conceding any burning substance inhaled, even incidentally, is somewhat unhealthy, the benefits, such as stress reduction and general well-being, provide compensation.

Pipe smokers are generally viewed as thoughtful, reliable and relaxed. Even in this day of anti-smoking fanaticism I have received positive comments from both men and women regarding the aroma and memories of pipe smokers long gone.

During the era of the 1980s when people sought instant gratification, pipe smoking suffered a substantial decline. This trend is slowly reversing itself. The cigar boom in the mid 1990s has been a step in the right direction. The pipe isn't far behind; smokers are rediscovering the finer things in life are worth the time and effort.

Once you obtain the basics (a few pipes, pipe cleaners and a tamper) the cost is minimal; 15 to 40 cents, depending on the blend, will provide an hour of pleasure. There are literally thousands of tobacco blends and pipes available, each combination providing a unique taste sensation. The quest for the "ultimate smoke" is a fun ride.

Pipe clubs, where smokers gather once a month or so to discuss blends, show off new acquisitions and maybe engage in a trade or two, flourish across the country. Here in Raleigh, NC, we have regular pipe club meetings that attracts 20-25 smokers regularly and a yearly pipe show attended by hundreds of devotees. The Triangle Area Pipe Smokers or T.A.P.S. meet once a month to share knowledge, sample tobaccos and enjoy genial conversation, all in all a great night out. There is probably a club near you also. If you decide to give pipe smoking a try, speak to your tobacconist or give us a call at Pipes by George. We can get you started correctly and/or provide information on clubs near you. The pipe certainly isn't for everyone, but if you decide it is for you, welcome to the brotherhood of the briar!

Put That in Your Pipe...

As an act of rebellion against political correctness, pipe smoking is hard to beat
by Rick Newcombe, author of "In Search of Pipe Dreams"

The end of the last century saw the birth of two Germans who are among the most famous Put That in Your individuals in history: Adolf Hitler, the bloodthirsty dictator, and Albert Einstein, the peace-loving scientific genius. Both men held strong views about smoking, and it is worth examining their opinions as we approach the end of the current century. This is especially true in light of the bills pending in Congress that would ban smoking in buildings open to the public, raise tobacco taxes by huge percentages, and regulate tobacco as a drug.

Hitler was a zealot about many things, so it is not surprising that he was an extremist on the subject of smoking, which he considered vile and disgusting. "Adolf Hitler was a fanatical opponent of tobacco," reports *Time*. He was fond of proclaiming that women of the Third Reich did not smoke at all, even though many of them did. In his fascinating book "Cigarettes Are Sublime", Richard Klein, a professor of French at Cornell University, writes that Hitler was "a fanatically superstitious hater of tobacco smoke." (continued next page)



Our thanks to Kevin Hooley for the great cartoon

(Put that in your Pipe... continued) Einstein, on the other hand, was very passionate about his pipe smoking. During one lecture, he ran out of pipe tobacco and borrowed some cigarettes from his students so he could crumple the tobacco into his pipe. "Gentlemen," he said, "I believe we've made a great discovery!" He later decided that his conclusion was premature. He realized that cigarette tobacco lacks the aroma, the fullness, and the taste of pipe tobacco. But what appealed most to Einstein was the entire ritual of pipe smoking: carefully choosing from a variety of pipes and tobaccos, delicately loading the briar, puffing and tamping, and the associated contemplation. "I believe that pipe smoking contributes to a somewhat calm and objective judgment in all human affairs," he said in 1950 at age 71, when he became a lifetime member of the Montreal Pipe Smokers Club.

Fanatical intolerance, as opposed to moderation and consideration, is at the heart of the smoking debate in America today. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration wants to ban smoking in the workplace. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) has proposed what he calls the Smoke-Free Environment Act, which would prohibit smoking in any building that is entered by 10 or more people at least one day a week (except residences, so far). What if the building is privately owned and its owner wants to smoke? Too bad. His private building will be classified as a "public facility." I am a successful entrepreneur who is responsible for sending millions of tax dollars to the state and federal governments each year- from my own taxes, from my company, from our shareholders, from our employees, from our clients, and from our vendors. This tax money finances politicians seeking to pass laws forbidding me to smoke a pipe in my own office.

Smoking has been around for hundreds of years, and it won't go away, regardless of legislation. The *Los Angeles Times* recently observed: "Russia once whipped smokers, Turkey beheaded them and India slit their noses. The Massachusetts colony outlawed public smoking in the 1630s, and Connecticut required smokers to have permits in the 1940s. At various times between 1893 and 1921, cigarette sales were banned in North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Iowa, Tennessee, Arkansas, Illinois, Utah, Kansas and Minnesota." Despite such efforts, about a billion people around the world continue to smoke.

As Klein, the Cornell professor, notes, there is a direct link between freedom and the right to smoke. He writes: "Like other tyrants such as Louis XIV, Napoleon, and Hitler, James I despised smoking and demonized tobacco. The relation between tyranny and the repression of the right to grow, sell, use, or smoke tobacco can be seen most clearly in the way movements of liberation, revolutions both political and cultural, have always placed those rights at the center of their political demands. The history of the struggle against tyrants has been frequently inseparable from that of the struggle on behalf of the freedom to smoke."

Cigarette smokers are reluctant to speak out against anti-smoking measures. It is difficult to be a moderate cigarette smoker, and the typical cigarette smoker is clearly at risk of suffering heart attacks, lung cancer, and emphysema. Despite these health hazards, adults have a right to continue smoking cigarettes. But I hope they will consider pipe smoking as an alternative. The difference between chain-smoking cigarettes and moderate pipe smoking is the difference between drinking a case of beer every day and having a glass of wine with lunch or dinner.

Pipe smoking is a fun hobby. It is relaxing. It tastes good. It feels good. It helps us unwind. It helps us cope with stress. It enhances objectivity. It facilitates contemplation. People like Waxman and Kessler never mention these intangible benefits. They just want to know if the activity in question is "good for you" in a strict biological sense. If not, or if they *think* it is bad for you, they will attempt to outlaw it. This sort of reasoning would also support a ban on obesity, a requirement that all Americans exercise, the prohibition of junk food, limits on alcohol and caffeine consumption, and so on. The irony is that Waxman is, frankly, a little chubby, while Kessler used to be fat (and yo-yo dieting is quite unhealthy).

Compare these two with Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is as healthy as a horse and a dedicated cigar and occasional pipe smoker. I work out regularly myself. I have even trained with Arnold. In fact, I am something of a health nut. I go for a five-mile run at least once a week as part of my exercise program, which includes a minimum of four hours of strenuous workouts each week. I am in terrific physical condition. Yet I'm put on the defensive and treated as a pariah because I enjoy a pipe.

Our tax money is used to sponsor anti-smoking propaganda- official hate speech from the state. Anti-smoking billboards and TV commercials are aimed at encouraging the average citizen to loathe smoking and, by implication, smokers. Several days ago, I was standing on a street corner in Santa Monica waiting for the light to turn green. A city bus with an anti-smoking message on the side passed by, spewing filthy exhaust fumes. I crossed the street and entered the Tinder Box, a tobacco shop that was founded when Calvin Coolidge was president. The aroma was magnificent. I chatted with the store's founder, Ed Kolpin, who has come to work every day since 1928. He was puffing on his pipe, looking very contented. Ed attributes his good health and long life to the sense of peace that 65 years of relaxed and intelligent pipe smoking have given him. (continued next page)

(Put that in your Pipe... continued) Ed reminded me of a story about François Guizot, the French historian and statesman. A woman visited Guizot at his home one evening and found him absorbed in his pipe. She exclaimed, "What! You smoke, and yet have arrived at so great an age?" "Ah, madame," he said in reply, "if I had not smoked, I should have been dead 10 years ago." I believe we would have heard similar replies from many other famous pipe smokers who lived long and healthy lives, including Albert Schweitzer, Mark Twain, F.A. Hayek, Carl Sandburg, Bing Crosby, and Norman Rockwell.

An article in the Summer 1990 issue of *The Compleat Smoker* describes an interesting longevity study conducted in Pennsylvania during the late '60s and early '70s. An organization called No Other World performed the research with the assistance of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Lung Association and regional chapters of the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association. "In the study," reports *The Compleat Smoker*, "pipe smokers attained an average age of 78- two years older than their non-smoking male counterparts." This may say something about the stress-reducing benefits of pipe smoking. At the very least, it suggests that moderate pipe smoking is not a significant health hazard.

I began smoking a pipe in 1978, at the age of 28. At the time, I was a two-pack-a-day cigarette smoker. I could not run a mile without collapsing from wheezing, and on many nights my hacking cough woke me up. There was no way for me to be a moderate cigarette smoker. I decided that cigarettes were poison for me, but I still wanted to smoke, so I tried a pipe.

It took a while to get the hang of it. I suffered tongue bite; I broke one pipe because I didn't know how to handle it; I was not used to smoking without inhaling; I smoked way too fast and burned the briar on several pipes- and made a dozen other mistakes typical of the beginning pipe smoker. Pipe smoking is a ritual that requires patience and study. You can't just go to a drugstore, buy the least expensive pipe you can find, and expect to enjoy the smoke. It can take years of study and practice before your enjoyment reaches that point of contentment that only professional pipe smokers know.

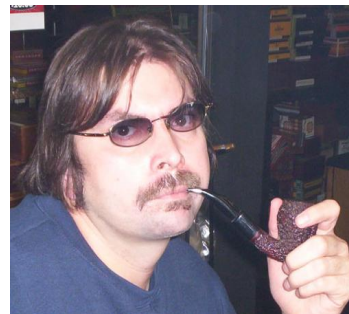
When it comes to pipes, I'm strictly a beginning student. Christopher Morley wrote in 1916 that "pipe smoking is properly an intellectual exercise." I have read 17 books on the (continued next page)



Cloud 9

Pipe Blend Reviews,
by Sherman Carver

Mac Baren
"HH Mature Virginia"



Mac Baren introduced HH Mature Virginia, a special edition signed and numbered by Per Jensen at the Chicagoland Pipe Show May 4th - 6th.

22 different tobaccos were used to create this blend, and of these 15 are Virginia tobaccos. Before blending the tobacco the Virginias has been stored for years to mature and develop the final aromas, just like when good wine is put aside for aging. Virginia types like bright yellow/golden leaf, mature red/mahogany leaf, dark Virginia and a black Virginia Cavendish are blended and left to store so that each tobacco taste marry into a taste unity. To enhance and support the Virginias a touch of Oriental is added and finally the taste is rounded with just an easy hand of pressed Burley.

This is a nice, light and slightly sweet Virginia that is the same from the top to the bottom of the bowl (kind of unusual for Virginia tobacco). It loaded and stayed lit well. If you do not like straight Virginias you will not like this otherwise this is a solid smoke. Good taste, aroma and consistent from the first puff to the last. Visually the tobacco was gorgeous...blond,red,and dark. The smoke was cool and dry, truly a "bite-free" Virginia!

Checkout our club bulletin board: Be sure to log in to our club bulletin board at <http://www.tsptc.org/phpBB/> to keep in touch with your fellow club-members.

Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club recommends:



<http://www.riegelpipeandtobaccos.com>

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

Fresh Handmade Cigars
Custom Blend Tobaccos
Maps-Magazines

About Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club

The Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club was founded in 1999 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.

Most of our members are from 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 35. Anywhere from 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 the front of this newsletter for meeting information.

(Put That in your Pipe..." continued) subject and hundreds, perhaps thousands, of articles, and I still learn something new every time I visit a knowledgeable tobacconist. The best overview of the subject I've seen is *The Ultimate Pipe Book* by Richard Carleton Hacker, a fact-filled volume written in an interesting and fun style. Pipe collecting as a hobby has become such a passion for me that I own nearly 200 pipes, some dating back to the 1920s and '30s. I know the history of nearly all of them and the biography of the pipe carver. There may be only a few pipe smokers left, but we are intelligent and dedicated.

If smoking has any future at all, it lies in moderate pipe smoking. I realize excessive pipe and cigar smoking can contribute to some forms of mouth, throat, or lip cancer, but it is the excess that is the problem. It is relatively easy, with time and practice, to be a moderate pipe smoker.

As a statement of rebellion against political correctness, it's hard to beat pipe smoking. It's not nearly as risky as smoking cigarettes, and it offers unique pleasures. A whole new world of enjoyment will open up for you once you start discovering the various types of briar, the thousands of blends of exquisite tobaccos from all over the world, the hundreds of traditional and unusual shapes, sizes, and finishes for a pipe, and the possibilities for beautiful artwork carved into meerschaum and briar pipes. Remember the advice of this century's greatest scientist: Pipe smoking facilitates relaxation and objectivity. Also keep in mind that Einstein did not worry about defying convention. And to be a pipe smoker in America in the 1990s, you really must be an individualist.

The Poetry of Christopher Morley

Christopher Morley's (one of the founders and long-time staff member of the Saturday Review of Literature) poetry is frequently mannered as almost Edwardian, and too often steeped in the prejudices and predilections of his time. But like Nash or Lear, at his best Morley is playful enough to transcend the parlor values of his era, as in "My Pipe," excerpted here from his 1929 *Collected Poems*:

My pipe is old And caked with soot; My wife remarks; "How can you put That horrid relic, so unclean, Inside your mouth? The nicotine Is strong enough to stupefy a Swedish plumber." I reply: This is the kind Of pipe I like...