

With over 300 tables for vendors from over 20 countries and more than 1500 pipe smokers coming to buy, the 2016 Chicagoland Pipe Collectors Club took place Saturday 31 April to Sunday 1 May. It was the largest show ever. Next years promises to be even larger!

On Friday 30 April, the United Pipe Clubs of America had its annual meeting. Tom Wolfe of the Seattle Pipe Club became the club's newest vice-president. Tom is also our new webmaster and transferred our club's website to a new site. See it at <http://unitedpipeclubs.org>. Honorary memberships were given to Matt Guss, President of the Seattle Pipe Club; Premal Cheda, owner of Smokers Haven and pipe carver; and master blender and owner of Pipes and Cigars, Russ Ouellette.

Later on Friday at a dinner for over 600 people, I gave greetings from CIPC. I also asked any member of a Canadian pipe club to come see me. However, none did.

On Sunday 1 May the 14th annual US national slow smoke championship was held. Seventy-five people participated. The pipe was Gigi and the tobacco was Calumet, a tobacco especially blended for UPCA by McClelland Tobacco Co. The overall winner and American champion was Tom Dinelli with a time of 1h, 16m, 22s. Hopefully we will see Tom in Nitra. Coming in first place in the women's division was Manduela, with a time of 43m, 08s. The St. Petersburg (Russia) pipe club won the team division.



Tom Dinelli, overall winner and American Champion



Manduela, Women's Champion



St. Petersburg Pipe Club, Team Champions