

Cigar Shop News

Featuring Premium Cigars, Pipes, Pipe Tobaccos and Accessories

West Coast Cigars

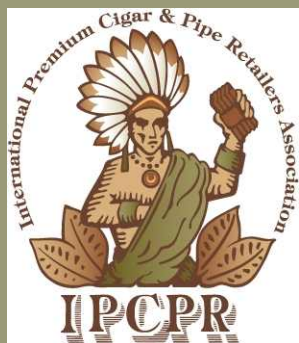


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Cigar Industry News

An update from the General Cigar Company, dated January 19, 2009

On January 15th, the Senate Finance Committee passed its own version of SCHIP, which was revised to include funding for a dental program. While we are still waiting to receive a copy of the Senate Finance Committee bill, we have been informed by our lobbyists that this version is slightly different than the House version and reflects a very small increase in excise tax rates.

Specifically, the Senate Finance Committee version of SCHIP has very minor differences (than the House version) in terms of the proposed new excise tax rates – one source has reported that the large cigar tax rates will be just over the 52.4% in the House version and the large cigar cap will be slightly higher than the 40 cent per cigar cap in the House version. While a noted source from the tobacco industry reported a specific excise tax rate of 52.45% and a cap of 40.2 cents in the Senate Finance Committee bill, we cannot confirm this without having read a copy of the legislation which has not previously been made available.

Notably, the Senate Finance Committee version is reported as having no floor stock tax on large cigars and the effective date is April 1, 2009.

It is expected that the full Senate will consider SCHIP in the next two weeks. However, because the House and Senate must pass identical versions of SCHIP before it can be sent to the President to sign into law, the two bodies will have to reconcile the differences between their versions of SCHIP.

We will continue to press forward with our lobbying efforts among members of the House and Senate and will continue to provide you with information as it becomes available.

SCHIP Signed into Law by President

February 4, 2009- Following a long, drawn-out political fight started in 2007, President Obama signed into law the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) renewal and expansion bill. In order to avoid further delay, the House of Representatives voted to accept the Senate's amendment to the SCHIP bill.

There will be no floor tax on "large cigars" (weighing three pounds or more per 1,000 cigars (this includes most premium cigars). Despite strong lobbying efforts, the floor tax remains in effect for all other tobacco products. The new federal excise tax rates to take effect April 1, 2009.

Editorial Comment : *This does not necessarily represent the views of the owners of West Coast Cigars or Knickerbockers. It is just the opinion of the writer.*

Looks like all those that partake in the "Love of the Leaf" is going to have to take a "bite" out of this tax sandwich. This includes those who smoke cigarettes, cigars, pipes or use snuff.

While the idea behind SCHIP is a good one, the funding of it is skewed. Once again our country is taxing the few, to support the many. Doesn't seem to be very democratic, does it?? ~ Dan

Cigars Shop News

February 6th marks the 3rd anniversary of West Coast Cigars! Bill and Robin Davis have been the awesome proprietors and hosts at West Coast.

Their first day open was on Super Bowl Sunday XLI and it has been a “party” ever since. Each year Bill and Robin throw a Super Bowl party to celebrate their anniversary and of course the game.

There is a lot of camaraderie, fun and of course cigars! This year, West Coast will be featuring the Alec Bradley Tempus. There will be buy 3 get 1 free deals on Alec Bradley. We will also have some other items on sale and clearance. There will be raffles every hour starting at 2:00pm. You will receive a raffle ticket for every \$20 spent. We will also have a separate raffle for the Alec Bradley Event, for this you will also receive a raffle ticket for every \$20 spent on Alec Bradley products.

If you are in the area Super Bowl Sunday, stop in and say “hello”. Try out the Tempus and enjoy some of the West Coast Cigar hospitality.

Tobacco Reviews

Voodoo Queen - I really enjoy this tobacco, and it is the essence of why I like to smoke a pipe. It is medium in strength, but full of flavor. A real tobacco taste with some complexity, it has a musty, smokey, latakia sweet flavor going on that makes it such a pleasure from start to finish as the bowl is smoked. The slight trace of perique adds a nice powerful, fruity aroma to it.

I would recommend this pipe tobacco to anyone who is looking for “sweet”, smokey flavor to enjoy ~ Dan

Count Pulaski - This stuff is fabulous. Richly strong without being overpowering and pretty well stays that way to the end of the bowl. The flavors are tantalizingly complex; A hint of perique, certainly VA, a little fruity without being able to decipher the flavor (maybe a little chocolate?), latakia is notably present without being obtrusive. The room note is definite but also not overpowering, in my opinion.

It lights easily and stays lit extremely well. Smokes cool without even a hint of a bite. Never feel I have to suck up for a billowing cloud to get all the satisfaction out of it.

I would recommend this tobacco to a “seasoned” pipe smoker as well as a new pipe smoker. ~ Dan

Ashton Heritage Puro Sol Belicoso – Puro Sol means “Pure Sun” and this dark brown wrapper is the essence of this. A well made cigar with very little veins or imperfections. Toasted up and lit nicely, with a nice even burn throughout the time I smoked this cigar. The ash was nice silver with hints of black.

The flavor was kind of uneventful at the beginning, but changed after a couple of minutes into it. The spiciness picked up and it had hints of wood and leather. It stayed this way for the rest of the cigar.

Overall, I would say that this is a pretty good cigar to try. On a scale of 10, I would give it an 8 for an overall score. ~ Dan

Come and join us as we try new and different cigars from the some of the best cigar manufacturers in the world!

Texas Holdem Leagues

Wild Bill will be hosting two Winter Texas Holdem Leagues, starting in February. The Winter League will be 8 weeks long and will be held at both West Coast Cigars and Knickerbockers.

Just like the end of last year, the league based on accumulated points that you earn for playing. You get a point for playing each week, points for where you place each week and of course points for the "knock-out" of other players.

Bill will email the weekly results to the League players each week and we will post them in our monthly newsletter as well.

At the end of the 8 weeks, the top 4 placing players from West Coast Cigars and Knickerbockers will be issued Gift Cards from their respective shops. In addition, the top 4 from each shop will also meet up for a "best-of-the-shops" tournament!

The entry fee for each week is \$20.00. You will receive a premium cigar from Bill upon presenting your Admissions Receipt and automatically earn one point.

The last league was quite competitive and fun!!! If you have any questions or would like to confirm that you want to play, please email Bill at: billd@westcoastcigars.net or billd@knickerbockerscigars.com.



West Coast Fall League – Final Stats

Place	Name	Total Hits	Total Points
1	Cowboy	8	168
2	Al	5	162
3	Tony	8	149
4	Linda	6	148

Knickerbockers Fall League – Final Stats

Place	Name	Hits	Total Points
1	Leon	13	186
2	Jeff	7	168
3	David	7	156
4	Tamara	5	138

Upcoming Cigar Events!!!

West Coast Cigars

Renee – Cigar Rolling – Wednesday, February 11th from 3-10pm.

La Flor Dominicana – March 6th from 5-9pm.

Knickerbockers

Renee – Cigar Rolling – Saturday, February 14th from 2-9pm.

Alec Bradley Tempus – March 7th from 4-9pm.