What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container having a heat exchange unit therein and defining an opening in the top thereof comprising:

a platform for receiving the container with its opening positioned in a downward direction;

a conduit positioned to connect to said opening;

a plurality of sources of cleaning and sanitizing materials connected by normally closed valves to said conduit;

means for sequentially controlling the opening and closing of said valves to inject and exhaust said cleaning and sanitizing materials into and from said container;

a source of chilled fluid;

means for circulating said chilled fluid through said container; and

means for injecting carbon dioxide gas under pressure into said heat exchange unit to be adsorbed by compressed carbon disposed therein while said chilled fluid is being circulated.

2. Apparatus for cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container as defined in Claim 1 wherein said means for sequentially controlling the opening and closing of said valves includes a pre-programmed data processor.

3. Apparatus for cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container as defined in Claim 2 wherein said means for sequentially controlling the opening and closing of said valve further includes a signal generator coupled to said data processor and a plurality of sensors coupled to said signal generator to activate said signal generator to generate a signal responsive to detection by a sensor of a predetermined parameter.

4. Apparatus for cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container as defined in Claim 1 which further includes means for lowering the temperature of said chilled fluid to a temperature sufficient to remove heat generated by the exothermic process of adsorbing carbon dioxide gas onto said carbon.

5. The method of cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container having a heat exchange unit including compressed carbon therein comprising:

connecting a plurality of sources of cleaning and sanitizing fluids through a plurality of valves to said container;

sequentially activating said valves to apply said cleaning and sanitizing fluids to the interior of said container to clean and sanitize the same;

circulating chilled fluid through the interior of said container; and

injecting carbon dioxide gas under pressure into said heat exchange unit while said chilled fluid is being circulated therethrough.

6. The method of cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container as defined in Claim 5 which further includes testing the integrity of the container by filling it with a gas under pressure and measuring the pressure for a predetermined period of time to detect any leakage thereof.

7. The method of cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container as defined in Claim 5 which further includes cooling said chilled fluid to a temperature sufficient to remove heat generated by said carbon dioxide gas being adsorbed into said compressed carbon.

8. The method of cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container as defined in Claim 5 which further includes providing a platform for receiving said container, positioning said container on said platform, and connecting a fluid conduit to said container, said conduit being connected to said plurality of valves.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. The method of cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container having a heat exchange unit including compressed carbon therein comprising:

connecting a plurality of sources of cleaning and sanitizing fluids through a plurality of valves to said container;

sequentially activating said valves to apply said cleaning and sanitizing fluids to the interior of said container to clean and sanitize the same;

circulating chilled fluid through the interior of said container; and

injecting carbon dioxide gas under pressure into said heat exchange unit while said chilled fluid is being circulated through the interior of said container.

2. The method of cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container as defined in claim 1 which further includes testing the integrity of the container by filling it with a gas under pressure and measuring the pressure for a predetermined period of time to detect any leakage thereof.

3. The method of cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container as defined in claim 1 which further includes cooling said chilled fluid to a temperature sufficient to remove heat generated by said carbon dioxide gas being adsorbed into said compressed carbon.

4. The method of cleaning and recharging a self cooling beverage container as defined in claim 1 which further includes providing a platform for receiving said container, positioning said container on said platform, and connecting a fluid conduit to said container, said conduit being connected to said plurality of valves.