

"Deliberator"



"Geronimo"



"PC Wiz"



"Shadow"



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

**HVBS
Meeting on
March 3,
2010**

- 1- Arriving a little early, **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** brought the box of food from the Center Stage Deli into **Deliberator's** dining room. Just about on schedule **Geronimo** arrived and, asking that the youngest present help him bring in some packages, got **Shadow** to volunteer to help. They then brought in **Geronimo's** old Dell computer, which he has donated to **Mark**, who has no computer. Computer guru son **Dan** had cleaned up the hard drive for **Mark** and **Geronimo** notified **Deliberator** that the first thing **Mark** should do is to install all the Microsoft Windows XP updates that have been missed. **PC Wiz** verified that it was for **Mark**, since **Ryan** has a laptop that he uses at college and uses **Deliberator's** desktop at home.
- 2- **PC Wiz** then opened the bottle of California Cabernet Sauvignon supplied by **Deliberator**, commenting that son **John** enjoys the brand. When our glasses (and mugs for those imbibing the premium Belgian beer brought by **Geronimo**) were raised, **Deliberator** proposed a toast to good friends and the 80th birthday of your scribe, **PC Wiz**. While the lunches were being distributed, **Ryan** appeared in the kitchen and **Shadow** asked him if he knew the SCCC administrator he and **Associate Member Shirley** had met recently at a dinner. The young student server said he knew **Ryan**. **Ryan** said that he was not familiar with the woman and had not been scheduled for this particular event. **Shadow** asked about whether **Frank the plumber** had finally repaired **Deliberator's** shower leak. Finally overcoming his illness, **Frank** had done the repair and also replaced the furnace humidifier water connection with a proper valve with a handle that shuts it off with a single motion.
- 3- After **PC Wiz** mentioned his 4 1/2 hour power failure in the recent snow storm, **Deliberator** informed us that he has a stand-by generator powered by natural gas. It is large enough to run the furnace, refrigeration and lights. **Geronimo** and **Shadow** both stated their intention to also purchase generators; **Shadow** being especially prone to power failures. **Geronimo's**, unfortunately, would have to use gasoline with the problem of supply storage and stale gasoline while **Shadow** luckily has natural gas available. **Geronimo** lost power on one side of his line from a snow-loaded tree branch. His electrician moved essential items, such as the critical water pump, to the powered side of the line. Central Hudson Power finally got to his repair after 4 1/2 days and, according to **Geronimo**, did a fine job of trimming the tree.
- 4- **Shadow** brought up the topic of the economic situation in Greece - pointedly noting that the Greeks were asking the Germans (already financing 30%) and the French (financing 20%) to rescue them with a loan. Admitting the turmoil in Greece with national over-spending and increasing debt levels (113% of GDP in 2009) **Geronimo** referred to conversations he has been having at the local Greek diner with friends. According to them, the average Greek is paying only \$100 to \$200 a year in property taxes while retirees receive 14 checks a year! In an aside, **Geronimo** noted that Greek Easter (based on the Julian calendar) falls on April 4, the same as the Easter celebrated on our Gregorian calendar. (Note: the Julian calendar is some 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar).
- 5- Members then asked **Deliberator** to update them on his recent cataract operation by **Dr. Kearney**. It was done at St. Mary's Hospital in Amsterdam because of questions concerning **Deliberator's** health. The operation was delayed because of the doctor's late arrival and went well - a "state of the art" "crystal" lens was implanted at an additional cost of \$1855. Since the hospital does not have laser equipment available, **Dr. Kearney** surgically altered the eye to lower the eye pressure. In the subsequent second visit the pressure came down to a perfect 17 from being in the marginal 20's. The operation took an unusual 1 1/2 hours but our **Deliberator** came through with flying colors.
- 6- Spurred on by the Federal rebate, **Deliberator** purchased new appliances, a new refrigerator, washer and dryer. While the washer and dryer are GE's, the GE refrigerator would have interfered with the door so he purchased a 31" Amana - thereby losing the GE retiree rebate on the refrigerator. Son **John** took him to Appliance Giant for the

purchases (personal problem with Marcella's) while **Deliberator** would have preferred going to our local Marcella's. Since **Deliberator** has decided he will not be buying a new Buick Lucerne (a step up from the Buick LaCrosse) he went for the new more energy-efficient appliance purchase.

- 7- **Shadow** vigorously protested the latest increase in Time Warner's cable rates - a 10% rise, stating he is seriously considering changing to "basic" service. In light of that, **Shadow** mentioned he is thinking about subscribing to Netflix for movies for TV programming. **Geronimo**, very satisfied with the service and entertainment, gave the details for Netflix as \$9.00 + tax a month for, essentially, one DVD a week. The service is very fast with postage paid and, with fast viewing, even more movies (one at a time under the minimum plan) may be viewed. **Deliberator** stated that he has changed to the "digital" tier and **Geronimo** informed us that RoadRunner and the digital service costs him \$114.00 a month.
- 8- In a general discussion of the Winter Olympics in Vancouver BC, members generally watched some of the competitions. **PC Wiz** offered the opinion that the figure skating and ice dancing primarily appeal to women. **Geronimo** said that **HVBS Associate Member Kay** was concerned with the problem of scoring figure skating. Members thought the sport has declined because of the favoritism and subjectivity of the scoring in the past. **Shadow** especially enjoyed the bobsledding and **Deliberator** thought it was "great". All thought the horrible luge fatal accident by Kumaritashvili should not have been possible while authorities, raising the curve wall, denied there was a problem with the track. **Geronimo** commented on Putin's displeasure at the poor results of the Russian effort and calling for the sports managers to resign.
- 9- **Shadow** informed us that he is plowing through Alan Greenspan's book "The Age of Turbulence", slow going but reading he recommends. **Shadow** then noticed Greenspan's book in **Deliberator's** bookcase. He evidently hasn't read it yet but **Shadow** encouraged him to make the effort. Coffee was served with desserts. Because this meeting celebrated **PC Wiz's** birthday the Deli bill was shared in thirds by the other members. **HVBS** Official Scheduler **Deliberator** then proposed **Wednesday April 14, 2010** for the date of our next meeting. After some discussion the date was ratified. It hardly seems possible that another year has passed. The next meeting will celebrate **HVBS** senior member **Deliberator's** 81st birthday (April 29) with our usual complimentary lunch. As noted by **Shadow**, we celebrate in the month of the birthday, if possible.
- 10- The meeting was adjourned. **PC Wiz** on the way out brought in the mail for **Deliberator**. Meanwhile **Shadow** had spotted a new single re-cycling container from County Waste that had been left at the foot of the driveway. **Shadow** parked the container at the house as **PC Wiz** informed **Deliberator** and gave him the instructions. What a striking coincidence since **Shadow** had told the meeting about his new container (and every week pick-up of all recycling in one container) with new \$140,000 trucks County Waste has purchased. Pickup will be safer and faster without the two men hanging on the rear of the trucks in all weather conditions to pick up the recycling.

Thanks to **Geronimo** for his review and to **Deliberator** for his kind comments (congrats on getting back to the computer).
HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**
March 15, 2010