

"Deliberator"



"Geronimo"



"PC Wiz"



"Shadow"



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes of the fifth HVBS Meeting of 2010 on September 1 at Coppola's Restaurant in Poughkeepsie, NY.

- 1- On a sunny, hot day **PC Wiz** ferried **Shadow** on the Taconic Parkway to our scheduled meeting with our indisposed Southern mainstay, **Geronimo**. Picking up **Geronimo** at his house, **PC Wiz** drove to the restaurant and managed to find a shaded parking place on the sweltering day. We found the attractive restaurant quite empty (only two other tables were eventually occupied). Ordering our usual "suitable adult beverages", **Shadow** ordered a glass of Chianti ("the good stuff"), **PC Wiz** a house cabernet and **Geronimo** an iced tea because of the pain pills he is taking. They are codeine based and **Geronimo** voiced concern over addiction. **PC Wiz** related his mother's use of codeine cough syrup which she found very effective. **Geronimo** is presently going to therapy for the injury to his leg that he suffered in a fall. He mentioned that his hip problem is related to arthritis. **Geronimo** was toasted on the occasion of his 81st birthday on September 4 and we also drank to the memory of our cherished member, **Deliberator**.
- 2- Our waiter, a bit hard to understand because of his accent, brought sliced bread and butter to the table. Scanning the menu, **Shadow** asked **Geronimo** what he was ordering. Informed that the selection was veal parmigiana **Shadow** seconded the "excellent choice". **PC Wiz** ordered the chicken parmigiana (very good) and all three members opted for the pasta with the meal instead of the salad, penne for **Geronimo** and **PC Wiz**. **Shadow** asked for angel hair pasta, which they did not have, and settled for spaghetti (very thin, the waiter assured him).
- 3- **Geronimo** casually asked **Shadow** how the Dodgers were doing and commented on the loss of Manny Ramirez to the White Sox. Ramirez, suspended for 50 games for drug use last year, disputed a called strike (on the first pitch) as a pinch hitter and was ejected from the game. It was his last appearance with the Dodgers - the Sox picked him up on waivers (batting .283 for the Sox). **Shadow**, remembering when Manny took three consecutive strikes without a swing, commented that Manny is always about Manny with no concern for the team. **PC Wiz** stated that he could not understand why the Mets released Jeff Francoeur to the Texas Rangers. Members, agreeing that Francoeur was a valuable player, pointed out that Angel Pagan took his place and Carlos Beltran returned to the lineup. When **PC Wiz** opined that the Mets performance was "dismal", **Geronimo** pointed out that the Mets were either #1 or #2 in payroll. **HVBS** members agreed that the new stadium didn't improve their playing.
- 4- **Geronimo**, referring to the present football exhibition games, asked **Shadow** what the team's prospects, in his estimation, were. **Shadow** thought their efforts were ineffectual and hoped the team would improve by opening day. **PC Wiz** mentioned "America's 10 Dying Cities" from 24/7 Wall Street. Number one was Buffalo, NY and, surprisingly, Albany NY was #7! **Shadow** remarked that Buffalo was no surprise since it has been declining since their local steel industry closed. Albany, the Capitol of the State, was a surprise - a declining economy and population despite being the center of government.
- 5- **Geronimo** informed us that he is considering investing in a generator for the house. **Shadow**, approving **Geronimo's** thought, brought us up-to-date on the size and circuits his installation can handle - just about everything but the 220 volt dryer and kitchen stove. **Geronimo** said he would go for the smaller unit for lights, refrigeration and heat (or cooling). Unfortunately, to **PC Wiz's** query, **Geronimo** does not have natural gas (as **Shadow**) for fuel so he would have to use either gasoline (with storage problems) or a tank of propane. In our **Tech Corner**, **Shadow** informed us that he had purchased a new "combo" VHS and DVD player when their Panasonic player had died. **Geronimo** laughed at the reference since VHS has become an obsolete technology (but we do have a lot of "obsolete" tapes).

- 6- From the dessert menu requested by **Shadow**, **PC Wiz** selected vanilla ice cream. **Geronimo** and **Shadow** were going to share a Napoleon. The waiter informed us that the Napoleons were gone. **Shadow** and **Geronimo** then ordered canoli's - and were informed they were not available. **Shadow** then ordered the chocolate cake and **Geronimo**, opting out, shared a portion of the ice cream and cake. Later the chef appeared and informed us that the canoli's had just been delivered but, since they smelled "rancid", he had rejected them. **PC Wiz** thanked him for his diligence. **Shadow** mentioned that **PC Wiz** and **Associate Member Shirley** are now carrying cell phones thanks to efforts by **Russell**. Clarifying the issue, they are on a Verizon account in the name of **Randy** which allows a number of family accounts. They will pay their bills (\$9.99 a month plus taxes, fees, etc.) via the Verizon Wireless web page by credit card.
- 7- **Geronimo** thanked **PC Wiz** for his transportation to the restaurant and also **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** for paying for his repast in recognition of his pending birthday. **Geronimo** couldn't resist reminding **Shadow** that, at our next meeting, he would be the recipient because of **Shadow's** coming October birthday. The last order of business for our meeting was the date of our next scheduled gathering. Missing the presence of our distinguished **HVBS** Official Scheduler **Deliberator**, **PC Wiz** offered the date, figuring six weeks, of **Wednesday October 13, 2010**. The date was accepted and the meeting adjourned; **PC Wiz** drove **Geronimo** home. Returning on the Taconic Parkway, **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** made a slight detour through Chatham, stopping to photograph the railroad station on which DeBrino Caulking Associates had done some restoration.

Thanks to **Geronimo** for his cogent comments on the Preliminary Minutes.
HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**
September 14, 2010