

"Deliberator"



"Geronimo"



"PC Wiz"



"Shadow"



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes of the sixth HVBS Meeting of 2010 on October 13 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY

- 1- On a bright, sunny Autumn day, **PC Wiz** piloted **Shadow** to our rendezvous at the **Hoffman House**. We found **Geronimo** had arrived earlier and was waiting for us. Glad to see he had been able to drive for the first time to our destination (since suffering from a pinched nerve in his back), **HVBS** members warmly greeted our ailing Southern mainstay. We entered the premises with **Geronimo** leading the way with his sturdy quadri-pod (four-footed) cane and received a cordial welcome, including the normally taciturn bartender. At our usual table away from the window (set up by none-other than owner **Pat Bradley** himself), **PC Wiz** (noting the better light for his note-keeping) changed his position to next-to-the-rear-wall resulting in **Geronimo** sitting next to **Shadow** on the opposite side.
- 2- Our cheery waitress took our libation orders - Cabernet Sauvignon's for **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** and a Sauvignon Blanc for **Geronimo**. **Geronimo** and **PC Wiz** toasted **Shadow** on his approaching birthday and members drank in memory of our dear departed comrade, **Deliberator**. **Geronimo** noted that we did not know our waitress' name and she told **PC Wiz** it was "**Lorraine**" as our hostess **Ginny Bradley** waved to us from the bar. Coming to the report on their vacation sojourn in Virginia, **PC Wiz** showed **Geronimo** some prints he had made while **Shadow** explained the timely story of the Liberty Station restaurant in Bedford. In a spectacular fire, it was destroyed last September. The owner, speaking to us at dinner in the restored historic Norfolk & Western station, said that the town council had noted "the dent in town income" and would facilitate the re-construction. **Shadow** explained that, with quick permits and a local builder that could handle the job, the building with its original stone facade was quickly restored by February.
- 3- Another photo showed **Shadow** at the Cass Railroad - a State-owned tourist operation featuring Shay geared locomotives used in the original logging operations on the mountains around Cass, Virginia. **PC Wiz** also had prints from Snowshoe Mountain resort - a fantastic area with condos, skiing and a shopping plaza where our group had lunch at the "Foxfire Grille"; and a view of the Peaks of Otter Lodge restaurant and gift shop where we stayed in one of the lodge buildings. **Geronimo** brought us up to date on the pinched nerve in his back. He is taking strong pain medication related to codeine, and is being very careful to take as few as possible. Meanwhile, **Geronimo** is getting therapy from a 35 year old former Yugoslav which results in more pain temporarily. Members wished him well as **Geronimo** concluded that an operation might be the only real solution.
- 4- **Shadow** informed us that **Randy's** new house will have a three car garage for their three vehicles, and also that there will be no garden shed. All the tools, snowblower, mowers, etc. will be stored in the spacious garage. Members thought it a good plan. **Geronimo** mentioned all the house maintenance items that he can no longer attempt - OK on the garden tractor mowing but not handling the yard waste, not able to clean the gutters, etc. **PC Wiz** piped in to say he also notes an inability to do any physical chores - undoubtedly age related. **Shadow** interrupted to note that, it being noon on Wednesday, his generator was running on its weekly test. **Geronimo** informed us that he has inquired about a generator and was discouraged, since he does not have natural gas, that a propane installation (the best solution) would cost in the \$10,000 range! That leaves only gasoline with all the problems of storage and supply during an emergency.
- 5- **Shadow** asked about **Geronimo's** family and he replied that he had a telephone call from **Sharon** just the night before. Asked how she was doing, **Geronimo** said quite well in her apartment in New Canaan, Connecticut with the girls. **Ex Bob** is living in their former house. We were also informed that **Dan's** son **Travis** called the day after **Geronimo's** birthday to wish him a happy birthday. **Travis** is considering going to Fort Lauderdale Community

College. **Geronimo** brought along two hilarious jokes which he read. The one concerning an Irish Talking Clock (consisting of a large gong and a hammer) was outstanding.

- 6- In sports **HVBS** members faced the moment of decision of making predictions for the Giants season. **Shadow** wanted to predict the remaining games which **Geronimo** vetoed, insisting that a season prediction would be less confusing. So --- since no-one volunteered to be first (most likely setting a trend) **PC Wiz** fearlessly stated his view that the Giants would have a winning season and predicted 9 wins -7 losses. **Geronimo** countered with a sober 8-8 and **Shadow** with an optimistic 11-5 (the Giants are presently at 4-2). **Geronimo** attributed the better performance of the Giants to their new defensive coordinator Perry Felwell hired in 2010. Members had no opinions on a new manager for the Mets and considered Joe Torre unlikely. They were looking forward to watching Texas Rangers pitcher Cliff Lee's (12-9 in 2010) performance versus the Yankees.
- 7- On the information front, **Geronimo** referred to an e-mail he sent members concerning tire dating. Both **PC Wiz** and **Shadow** agreed that old tires with hardened rubber are a problem. It was one of the reasons **Shadow** bought a set of new tires for his 2001 Stratus. **PC Wiz** related how old, hard tires on his bicycle lost traction and almost caused him to fall. New bike tires were surprisingly better. The e-mail article pointedly seemed to take Sears to task but members agreed tire dating was important and thanked **Geronimo** for the important mailing.
- 8- Official Waitress **Lorraine** returned to take our orders for coffees and **HVBS** members also ordered desserts. **Geronimo** and **PC Wiz** opted for the "special" pumpkin cheesecake with cookie crumb crust while **Shadow** ordered his favorite cobbler with vanilla ice cream. Winding down the meeting, **Shadow** raised the issue of a date for our next meeting. **Geronimo** had a calendar in his wallet and members settled on **Wednesday December 1, 2010** as the tentative meeting date. The meeting adjourned and we received unusual cheery greetings from the staff as we left, including the usually dour bartender.

Thanks to **Geronimo** for his corrections (libation & quadri-pod cane).

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

October 23, 2010