

"Deliberator"



"Geronimo"



"PC Wiz"



"Shadow"



## *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

### Official Minutes of the 1st HVBS Meeting of 2011 on February 9 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

- 1- In sunshine the Northern **HVBS** operatives' with **PC Wiz** at the throttle, journeyed South under gradually increasing cloud cover. We entered an icy parking lot, clear of snow but slippery. **Geronimo** arrived at a respectable 11:22 and members offered aid to our recovering member. Spurning our efforts, he exited his Acura and walked - without a cane - to the building, obviously continuing his remarkable recovery from the operation. Entering the building we greeted the staff and **Waitress Tara** escorted us to a table. Our usual spot was set up for extra guests so **Geronimo** and **Shadow** opted for our old table at the window. **PC Wiz** felt warm air and **Tara** helpfully pointed out that we had two ducts in the floor warming our area.
- 2- An ebullient **Geronimo**, before we had ordered our usual adult beverages, told us he had a special event to celebrate and in honor of that offered a special drink. On the way in he had tried to think of an apertif from the past - "that dark stuff". Finally, with that meager clue, **Shadow** came up with Cherry Heering. That's it, cried **Geronimo**. Our **Official Waitress Lorraine** had arrived and **Geronimo** asked her if the bar had that liqueur. It did not, so he ordered "anisettes on the rocks" to which **Shadow** offered "that's Sambuca which is anisettes and one of my favorite drinks". **Lorraine** returned with the Sambuca's and a rather continuous clink of glasses ensued, with toasts to **PC Wiz's** 81<sup>st</sup> birthday, good health, **Deliberator's** memory and, of course, the event responsible for the celebration. **Geronimo's** house guests, **Dan** and family, are leaving the residence on February 25 for a leased house in the village of Piermont NY. It is in Rockland County, South of the Tappan Zee Thruway bridge which means **Dan** will have to cross the bridge to Westchester County (with it's high taxes and living expenses) every day to go to work in Elmsford, off the Cross-Westchester Parkway.
- 3- In other news we learned that **Dan** has bought a new M3 BMW, which has turned out to be dreadful in snow and ice (de rigour this Winter). The low-profile wide tires which give the car superb handling and road-grip in normal weather are useless under slippery conditions. **PC Wiz** mentioned that **Randy** has a complete set of snow tires for his BMW and that a local mechanic says on the radio that he is now selling a lot of Winter tires after a lull when front-wheel cars first appeared. **Geronimo** told us **Dan** could not "get out of the driveway" with the new car and borrowed **Geronimo's** Honda which **Dan's** mother had driven. No problem after that, **Geronimo** reported. On the news that **Dan** had previously leased cars but bought this one, **Shadow** related that he had visited his local Honda dealer, Mohawk Honda, and was considering leasing a new car. To **Geronimo's** query of "why?" **Shadow** replied that the lease covered all repairs and service which he no longer wanted to be concerned with. **Geronimo** advised him to get the "6 cylinder top-of-the-line model" and he wouldn't be disappointed. **Shadow** then mentioned **Randy** had advised him to look into purchasing a BMW also and he might check that out.
- 4- Conversation, with a clink of glasses, then turned to the Winter weather with **Dan** involved in snow removal from **Geronimo's** roof. **PC Wiz** reported using his new roof rake, purchased last year, and how beautifully constructed and how well it worked. Made in Canada, he said "they know how to handle snow in Canada". **Shadow** related a mishap while using his roof rake. It seems he climbed the snow bank below the house eaves but it didn't support him and his legs sank into the snow. Then he couldn't climb out - the snow was holding his feet fast. Chipping away with a screwdriver, his only tool, **Shirley** fortuitously happened to look out the window and saw his figure sprawled in the snow. **Shadow** actually had to pull his foot out of his boot to release himself, a very frightening event.
- 5- This led to a discussion of the spate of roof collapses this Winter season. **Geronimo** stated that buildings should be designed for a 48" snowfall while **Shadow** said the buildings should be able to support 40 lbs. per square foot.

**Shadow** asked for the photos **PC Wiz** had printed of **Randy's** house construction with views of the front with the stone application almost completed and the three-door garage. **Geronimo** was astounded by the triple garage; "the area must be larger than my house", he exclaimed! **Shadow** said that when they move into their new house, most likely in April, they will have a "blast" of a house warming. **Shadow** then described **Randy's** projected wine cellar located in a special jog in the cellar wall designed for it and said they would have to sample the stock. **Geronimo** then told us that **Bobbi** had told him he is "#1 on the guest list" and **Shadow** volunteered that he is welcome to stay at his house anytime.

- 6- **PC Wiz** gave **Geronimo** a print-out concerning the problem the Greeks are having with illegal immigrants from Turkey. They are presently building a wall to protect the frontier - much like the wall we are supposedly building on the Mexican border. This led to a discussion of the threat that Muslims pose to the Western Christian states. **Geronimo** mentioned that German prime minister Angela Merkel has blasted the Turks. **PC Wiz** said the English and French governments are also having major problems with their growing Muslim populations especially concerning Sharia law and the burqa for women.
- 7- **HVBS** members commented on **Geronimo's** walking into the tavern without a cane. He told us of a "big event": he was now able to tie his own shoelaces! When asked by **Shadow** what he found the most difficult to do since the operation **Geronimo** responded that it was "getting in and out of bed". Luckily, he had an implement to help himself - a rod with a loop so he could raise his leg using his arms. To **Shadow's** query, **Geronimo** explained the "90 degree rule"; that he could not bend forward during the healing process, the strain would damage the hip joint. During our session **Geronimo** had related three jokes he brought along. They were so funny **Shadow** asked for the copy to give to a friend. **PC Wiz** and **Geronimo** found that they are both fans of NCIS and discussed the latest new program broadcast on Tuesday.
- 8- While enjoying our desserts, Kahlua cheese cake for **Geronimo**, apple cobbler with vanilla ice cream for **Shadow** and the flan for **PC Wiz**, **Shadow** mentioned **Randy** had flown to Las Vegas on the Company Gulfstream and he followed the entire flight Sunday morning on his iMac. They were flying at 40,000 feet, above the turbulent weather, and the return flight was made in record time with a strong tailwind. Not much was covered in sports. Concerning the SuperBowl **Geronimo** and **Shadow** both supported the Packers, **Shadow** being offended by Steeler quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's being charged with sexual assaults (including one in Milledgeville, GA where **Randy** owned a lake house). **Geronimo** related the story about Packer's quarterback Aaron Rodgers signing a football for a fan in a very personal way. Members felt that he is a "very stand-up guy" and wished him success. Concerning the Yankees, **Shadow** rather pessimistically thought they should do well in "3-4 years".
- 9- This meeting being a celebration of **PC Wiz's** birthday, his lunch tab was picked up by **Shadow** and **Geronimo**. The special occasion Sambuca was generously covered by **Geronimo**. **Shadow** brought up the question of a date for our next meeting and **Geronimo** mentioned that he had a calendar. However, prior appointments have cancelled out the meeting decision. Presently we are committed to **March 21, 22 or 29, 30**, depending on the weather conditions. **HVBS** members exited the establishment with greetings to the staff and bar tender. In the parking lot we carefully traversed the icy lot successfully.

Thanks to **Geronimo** for his review of the Preliminary Minutes.

**PC Wiz**, **HVBS** Official Scribe Laureate

March 3, 2011