

"Deliberator"



"Geronimo"



"PC Wiz"



"Shadow"



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes of the 2nd HVBS Meeting of 2011 on March 30 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

- 1- On a beautiful clear day, **Shadow** drove his Dodge Stratus with **PC Wiz** to the **Hoffman House**, arriving at 11:17 AM. **Geronimo**, driving his newly detailed Acura arrived just moments later. He said he can no longer do such a clean-up and the car looked spotless. Members agreed. Entering the dim premises, we were cheerily greeted by the staff and **Pat Bradley** brought us to our debating table and furnished us with menus. We immediately ordered our beverages: Cabernet Sauvignon's for **Shadow** and **PC Wiz**, a Killian's Red for **Geronimo**. Our drinks were served by our **HVBS Official Waitress, Loranye**.
- 2- After toasts to our departed companion **Deliberator**, Good Health and "to the last of the White Sh**t", **Geronimo** regaled us with selected jokes. While waiting for our lunch orders to be taken **Shadow** mentioned he was glad to hear **Chako's** family were not injured in the devastating earthquake and ensuing tsunami, asking how **Dan** and **Chako** were doing in their new house. **Geronimo** said **Dan**, reflecting his engineering background, made a scale layout of the house and fitted the scale furniture to the rooms. Both he and **Shadow** laughed and informed me they would just move the furniture around until it was in the right place. **Geronimo** drew an elevation drawing to illustrate **Dan's** driveway. The house is on the side of a hill where they have a grand view of the Hudson River. The driveway slopes to the South, has a sharp turn to the left, and then slopes down to the house. The turn is sharp enough that the movers had to park at the turn and move the furniture by hand to the house. The driveway is so steep that home owners keep their cars parked beside the road when inclement weather is expected in the Winter. Work is going well and **Dan** is scheduled to travel twice to China next month.
- 3- **Official Waitress Lorayne** returned for our lunch orders. **PC Wiz**, intrigued by the "special" tablet entry, ordered the tortellini pasta dish (with artichoke hearts and capers), **Geronimo** the grilled lamb and onion sandwich and **Shadow**, claiming to be different, ordered the ever-popular French dip sandwich. **Geronimo** informed us that he is having trouble with his computer printer. His color cartridge had to be replaced and the machine has rejected several new ones by not recognizing them as installed. **PC Wiz's** only response was that they have a lot of circuit contacts, one or more not making contact (not very helpful). So **Geronimo** now can only print in black and white. **PC Wiz** reported that **Shadow** is presently car shopping and **Geronimo** mentioned that we had broached the subject at our last meeting. **Shadow** said he and **Associate Member Shirley** had visited Terry Morris Ford and actually test-drove the Ford Fusion 6-cylinder and the Ford Fusion Hybrid. They were very impressed by the hybrid with its 2.4 liter 4-cylinder engine, 17 1/2 gallon tank, and 275 volt nickel-metal-hydride battery for the electric drive. We were told that it has a key start, runs on the battery up to 47 MPH and has a range of 700 miles on a tankfull of gasoline. **Geronimo** was skeptical of the leasing plan, informing us that **Dan** had leased cars and no longer does so - especially because of the extra charge for miles over the plan (they were very careful using the cars as they approached the limit). **Shadow** said they were next going to test-drive a Honda Accord. **Geronimo** highly recommended the Honda's - referring to **Associate Member Kay's** Honda which is now 9 years old and served **Dan** faithfully this last Winter.
- 4- **Shadow** asked **Geronimo**, now that his house-guests have left, if he still intends to sell his house, noting that 13% of U.S. homes are vacant. **Geronimo** said he has thought about it and changed his mind. He found a lawn service whose contract is 1/2 of what he paid the last service. He is very satisfied with the snow-removal and can live comfortably and relatively inexpensively in his present residence. **Geronimo** also related his experience with plumbers when **Shadow** asked if everything in the house is now in order. He is back with his original, more

expensive plumber and very satisfied with the repairs. "It's worth paying more to get the job done right", he said. **Geronimo** had visited his eye doctor yesterday, prompting **PC Wiz** to mention his recent appointment where the doctor used a laser to open drainage canals and reduce the high pressure in his left eye. This pressure leads to glaucoma and is very serious. **PC Wiz's** pressure dropped from "24" to a perfect "16" an hour after the procedure. We were informed by **Geronimo** that he has decided to have the second carpal tunnel operation on his right wrist that his doctor has recommended. He suffers with numbness from his hand to the fore arm. The new operation is less invasive and recovery will be much faster than the original. Discussion turned to our problems here in NY State. To **Shadow's** question whether we will have a budget by the April 1 on-time deadline, **Geronimo** opined he thought Governor Cuomo would succeed. Concerning the public union situation, he commented that SUNY contracts had been made with no oversight to control the process. **Geronimo** also mentioned he will now get the Enhanced STAR rebate, **Shadow** said he also will receive it this year. **PC Wiz**, already receiving the benefit, said it is worth about \$1000 off his taxes.



6- To **Geronimo's** question about how his work is going, **Shadow** mentioned a job on the Robert Moses Power Dam on the St. Lawrence River that he recently looked at. It seems that they have a leak in the dam behind the "eel ladder" whose repair was botched by a previous contractor. **Geronimo** had not heard of an "eel ladder" before. Evidently eels return to the Great Lakes to spawn after spending time in the Atlantic. The photo at left shows the stairway alongside the eel ladder that **Shadow** had to climb to inspect the problem. Talk turned to **Bobbi** and **Randy's** new house being constructed. **Shadow** was impressed by the fact that, although a standby generator is too expensive to buy at present, the new house

has an entrance power panel that is set-up for a generator for the whole house and does not need an additional supplementary panel as in **Shadow's** installation. When they purchase the generator no new wiring will be required. Which reminded **Geronimo** that a month was up and he should run his generator. **Shadow**, looking at the time, remarked that his had already run that day as it does every Wednesday at noon automatically, although the timing was off by one hour because of the daylight savings time change. **Geronimo** then described his procedure to manually test his generator, since he does not have natural gas and propane proved too expensive. 7- Turning to sports, members did not hold out much hope in the NFL lock-out. **Shadow** opined that the league would be bankrupt in three years. When asked about the chances of a play-off spot for the NY Rangers **Shadow** informed us it was unlikely. Unless they won the night's Buffalo game, "that's it". Referring to the Agenda, **Shadow** mentioned that **PC Wiz** had purchased a bottle of Cherry Heering - the "dark" beverage **Geronimo** had asked for at our last meeting. **PC Wiz** stated that his store had not carried it for years but now had it on the shelf again. **Geronimo** said he has it in his liquor cabinet at home. Concerning a date for our next meeting - two dates were proposed: **Wednesday April 27** (four weeks) with a secondary **Wednesday May 4th** (five weeks). Our meeting was adjourned with good-byes to the staff and **Ginny Bradley** (who had come to our table to say "hello").

Thanks to **Geronimo** for his "blazing A" review of the preliminary minutes.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

April 6, 2011