

"Deliberator"



"Geronimo"



"PC Wiz"



"Shadow"



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

HVBS Official Minutes of the 4th 2011 Meeting on June 15 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

- 1- **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** arrived a bit early at 11:10 AM, **Geronimo** at a respectable 11:21. After initial greetings **Shadow** asked **Geronimo** if he had a short joke available. He did and members laughed heartily at the witticism. **Hostess Ginny** had been puttering in the patio on this perfect Spring morning. Upon greeting **Ginny**, **Shadow** asked if she had been pruning the shrubbery - which she had. Entering the premises we got a hearty welcome from **Pat Bradley** behind the bar. **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** accompanied us to our usual corner debating table by the window. **Shadow** volunteered for the corner place as **Lorayne** added a setting. Her inquiry for drink orders resulted in Killian Reds for **Geronimo** and **PC Wiz** and a cabernet for **Shadow**. **Lorayne** returned shortly to inform us of no Killian's available but they did have "Murphy's Red" in bottles. The offer was accepted. It turned out that Murphy's is an import from the Netherlands made by Heineken. **PC Wiz** and **Geronimo** agreed that it was quite good but different than Killian's.
- 2- **Geronimo**, referring to **Shadow's** display of his special cork-pulling device on his recent visit, mentioned he had seen a website with various wine gadgets including a cork puller that almost magically removed the cork. **Shadow** asked the price and **PC Wiz** said he had seen very elaborate, expensive cork pullers. **Geronimo** then related how one attachment aerated the wine as it left the bottle to "air" the drink. **Shadow** replied that he had seen it in action since **Russell** had the device. Concerning our most important Agenda item, **Geronimo** proudly proclaimed he had selected a new moniker to replace "**Geronimo**". It will be "**Ramrod**" - among other definitions it fittingly means "A person, esp. one in a position of leadership, who is strict and uncompromising". After **HVBS** members accepted the change, **Shadow** asked why specifically he had wanted to change the original. **Ramrod** was disturbed since **Geronimo** was the code name for Barack Obama and "the a**h**e in the water (Osama bin Laden) and he, quite reasonably, didn't want to be associated with them.
- 3- **Ramrod** related that he had recently been on the Taconic State Parkway to visit **Dan** and **Chako**. He was not watching his speed - usually set at 65 on the Thruway - and saw a trooper's lights behind him. Admitting going 65 on the 55 limit Parkway, **Ramrod** was let go by the trooper with a friendly warning (doesn't happen very often, I'm sure). **Shadow**, referring to the "Anagnos homestead on the Hudson", asked how everything was going for **Dan** and **Chako**. **Ramrod** said very well except that **Dan** has to do all the jobs about the house - **Chako** only cares for the youngsters. **Ramrod** suggested that **Dan** should hire someone to clean the house every week or two to lessen his housework responsibilities. **PC Wiz** asked **Ramrod** if he had resumed bike riding. No, he replied, because of a problem with his knee he has not been riding or playing racket ball again. When he recently went to his orthopedist, **Ramrod** was told he was "gone". With no satisfactory explanation, they re-scheduled his appointment where he will consult with the new doctor concerning the new problem with his knee.
- 4- In reply to **Shadow's** query as to how **Sharon** is doing, **Ramrod** said she is doing well with a move from a duplex to a one family Connecticut house. The girls, **Kristi** and **Casey** are fine (**PC Wiz** noted a cap on **Ramrod's** Acura rear-window deck decorated very nicely with artistic pictures of the girls and their names). **Shadow** mentioned that he and **Associate Member Shirley** had sent **Lindsey Sullivan** (his Great Niece) a high school gift of money. She sent them a very nice letter thanking them for the gift which will help her in buying books and supplies when she attends Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.

- 5- **PC Wiz** asked **Ramrod** for an update on his lawn situation, referring to last year's catastrophic use of incorrect chemicals that resulted in ruining the lawn. A recent visit from the "Lawn Doctor" verified that the re-seeding (with clumps that **Ramrod** had to personally break up) was not a success. They promised, after seeing it, to re-seed the lawn in the Fall. Upon being asked how his job is going, **Shadow** said, after four months when they could not get any new work, they have been overwhelmed for the past two weeks. With customers demanding immediate attention, the firm has re-called all of their laid-off workers and **Shadow** said they have had to go to the Union Hiring Hall for additional people. He also related the Sarah Lawrence College job has started. They have to take apart a stone arch bridge and re-build it exactly like original (with each block marked for position).
- 6- **Ramrod** told us about a program he had seen recently on the History Channel called "The crumbling of America". Concerning our crumbling infrastructure, one of the program's topics was the Tappan Zee Thruway bridge over the Hudson River that **Dan** has to cross twice a day to go to work. Built at the Hudson River's 2nd widest point in 1955 (location decided by Governor Dewey), it was constructed on untreated piling and was estimated to last 50 years. There are discussions going on for a replacement for this unsafe bridge. **Ramrod** bemoaned the present day lack of bridge and infrastructure maintenance. He said in his day all the bridges in Dutchess County were in good shape. **Shadow** concurred that it was so. **Ramrod** then asked **Shadow** if he had seen the new "Taj Mahal" which has replaced the building where he worked. The original building has been torn down with asbestos abatement required. Evidently the new brick building is on a flood plain so the first floor has been reserved as a garage. **Ramrod** informed us that it has a steeple (?) - without a clock.
- 7- **Ramrod** mentioned receiving a check recently as the result of a class action suit. "So did I", interjected **PC Wiz**. **Ramrod** said the check for \$35 luckily included an extended warranty since the Tecumseh engine on his snow blower required a new carburetor (it would not start). **PC Wiz's** check for \$21.84 was for his Toro riding lawn mower. Evidently there was some misrepresentation of the horsepower rating. **PC Wiz** asked **Ramrod** if he had resolved the problem with his HP printer. He had **Sharon** try to get the color cartridge to work, with no better results. **PC Wiz** said **Randy** advised buying a new printer - printers being essentially "disposable". **Ramrod** told us he had asked his "guru" **Dan** for advice and was given the precise Canon model to buy. **Shadow**, owning a Canon printer highly recommended them. We hope to have **Ramrod** able to print in full color shortly.
- 8- **Shadow**, being very familiar because of the use of high-pressures in his work, explained hydro-fracking which is in the news lately because of a State ban on the process. On a recent job that **PC Wiz** is familiar with, McGregor Dam, **Shadow** used equipment with pressures of 10,000 lbs./#in. to renovate the dam surface. In hydro-fracking, as used in oil or gas extraction, pressures in the range of 100,000 lbs./#in. are used with chemicals that absorb the gas for recovery. In sports, the Dallas Mavericks won the NBA title - their first championship in their 30 year history. According to **Ramrod**, Mavericks owner Mark Cuban paid for the parade in Dallas and a \$90,000 bottle of champagne to celebrate with! In baseball, **HVBS** members discussed Derek Jeter's "march to 3000 hits". With both **Shadow** and **Ramrod** bringing up the career of Pete Rose, #1 in NL history with 4256 hits. They both bemoaned his fate - banished from baseball, and the Hall of Fame, for gambling (but not on his team).
- 9- Members ordered coffee and desserts as **HVBS** Official Waitress **Lorayne** cleared the table. When the bill arrived, **Shadow** made the calculations and gave us our individual share figure. **Ramrod** inquired as to why the bill was so high (we seem to be setting some records ourselves). Then he remembered that **Shadow** had ordered two cabernets and **Shadow** retorted that **PC Wiz** and **Ramrod** had shared an extra Murphy's. **Ramrod** objected that it was not "equivalent" but sanity prevailed and members coughed up the cash while **Ramrod** used his American Express card (paying **Lorayne's** tip in cash). We then set the date of our next meeting for **Wednesday July 27, 2011** (August 3 next open date). The meeting was adjourned with greetings from the staff on the way out.



Thanks for corrections submitted by our eagle-eyed **Ramrod** in his review.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate PC Wiz

July 1, 2011