

Deliberator



Ramrod



PC Wiz



Shadow



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes of the 5th HVBS Meeting of 2011 on July 27 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.



1- **Shadow** drove the Northern Alliance to let **Ramrod** view his new Ford Fusion Hybrid. We arrived with a special surprise companion, **John "Wingit" Gahan**. By happenstance, **Shadow**, **Associate Member Shirley** and **PC Wiz** were enjoying their Sunday dinners at the George Mann Tory Tavern in Schoharie when **John** and his family walked in. Finding out that **John** was on a vacation week, **Shadow** invited him to accompany us to this **HVBS** meeting. Unaware of this, **Ramrod** arrived, noting the back-seat passenger. **PC Wiz** snapped this photo of the reunion. In the mean time **Hoffman House** owner **Pat Bradley** arrived on his special-edition motorcycle. **Wingit** noted that he had owned a Goldwing which was the origination of his nickname - once even on his auto's license plate. **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** noted that **Randy** and **Bobbi** have Harley's - with **Randy's** being a Special Edition "Screamin' Eagle" V-Rod.

2- Entering the premises, we were heartily greeted by the bartender and **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne**. We introduced **John** to her and she took our "adult beverage" orders: "Cabs" for **Shadow** and **PC Wiz**, the Heineken clone for Killian's Red, Murphy's, for **Ramrod**. **John** asked for Guinness which they did not have -

bottled or on tap. **Lorayne** suggested the local Kingston microbrewery's Keegan Ales' "Mother's Milk" - an award winning stout. **Wingit** pronounced it quite good. When we had gotten our drink orders, **PC Wiz** asked **Lorayne** to take a picture of this special occasion. She did and here is the happy result.

3- **Ramrod** noted that he had a particularly good trip coming to the meeting on the Thruway. He set his cruise control at 60, 5 MPH under the speed limit, and enjoyed his own space with no traffic problems as everyone sped past him. Sounds like he is on to something. **PC Wiz** noted that **Deliberator** used to set his cruise control at 67 MPH. **Shadow** proudly noted that his Fusion dash display gave his MPG to the meeting as better than 46. Not missing the opportunity, **John** asked if he had the decimal point in the right place - possibly 4.6 MPG? **Shadow** said he is very satisfied owning a car made by a company that didn't take stimulus funds and enjoys the remarkable mileage. He said he leased the auto on **Randy's** approval because of the uncertainty of hybrid technology. In three



- years, if he wishes, he can purchase a new car without the problem of ownership.
- 4- Upon perusing the Official Agenda, **John** noticed an error that **PC Wiz** had overlooked. Namely that our **HVBS** logo had not been updated to our Southern Bastion's new moniker - **Ramrod**. It was still captioned "**Geronimo**". This caused an uproar among the members who questioned **PC Wiz's** competence to stay in the revered office. However, **PC Wiz** apologized most humbly for the inexcusable error and the meeting settled down to business with **Shadow** quoting from the Agenda.
 - 5- In our personal updates **Shadow** told us of his experience with a questionnaire from Ford concerning his satisfaction with the sales staff. He got several phone calls from them asking about problems and inferring that they needed "perfect" responses since they would be graded on the scores. **HVBS** members said they had similar experiences and that businesses seem to all be involved in customer satisfaction surveys. **Shadow** asked **Ramrod** how his carpal tunnel and hip problems are doing. He informed us that he still cannot play racquetball but he is going to a gym for leg strengthening exercises and hopes to be able to play soon. **PC Wiz** explained the laser treatments he has been getting from his ophthalmologist, Dr. Kearney. High pressure in the eye can lead to glaucoma, a deterioration of the optic nerve. Using a laser the doctor opens up new passages to relieve the internal pressure (**PC Wiz's** left eye dropped from a dangerous 23 to a normal 16).
 - 6- To **Shadow's** question as to how son **Dan** is doing, **Ramrod** told us he is presently in China on Company business. **Dan**, needing house and auto insurance, was surprised to find that State Farm, with whom he had policies for many years, is no longer writing new policies in New York. No credit for his former loyalty. Otherwise, all was going well. **Shadow** mentioned that son **Russell** had recently been in Germany for his firm, Alcoa. **PC Wiz** commented that it is a different world with the younger generation traveling all over the globe. Which brought up the issue of TSA searching of airplane passengers. **Shadow** repeated his vow not to travel by air (except with **Randy** in a private plane) if at all possible. Since we were on family concerns, **Shadow** said **Russell's** stepson **Christopher** was working quite a bit of overtime on his job at the Norfolk Light Rail in Virginia. **Wingit** informed us that **Ryan** is now the owner (has made the first two payments) of our departed member **Deliberator's** house. He, with the help of a friend, has renovated the house's two bathrooms. Also, he has traded in his grandfather's Buick on a car more suitable for a young person. **John** had brought along some of the voluminous and detailed notes that his father had kept throughout his life. He found notes on how much was spent on Christmas gifts going back to 1991!
 - 7- In our tech section **PC Wiz** related his shock at not being able to order new ink cartridges for the Dell printer that **Ramrod** had so generously given him to replace a failing HP. It seems that the printer model has been quietly dropped from the listing for ink - available only from Dell. An e-mail to Dell resulted in a reply from "Prabhjot Kaur" which had two links - one "no page available", the other to an ad for a Dell printer. So **PC Wiz** bought a Canon printer for when the Dell's ink runs out. It is a printer "only" - rare these days of "all-in-one" and wireless, which is what **Ramrod** is looking for to replace his printer which still will not accept the color cartridge. It has five ink "tanks" which can be replaced individually: four are dyes for color and the fifth is a pigment black which prints a really clear text. It cost \$85, which included a \$15 rebate from Canon and free shipping from H&B Camera in NYC. Really nice but they will make it up in ink costs - \$14 for the individual colors, \$17 for the pigment black.
 - 8- **Ramrod** commented on the debt ceiling issue that Medicare is going bankrupt and hospitals are closing. **John** noted that his job for NY State includes analyzing medical costs of State programs and said there are too many hospitals in New York City, "one almost every block". **PC Wiz** had no solution for the situation but fell back to his position that income is limited and we must establish priorities for all the responsibilities of government - education, health care, security, infrastructure, etc. **Ramrod** then commented that he strongly thinks politicians should be limited to one term of six years; we have too many professionals who have never had experience in the private sector. **PC Wiz** remarked that the Founders envisioned citizen legislator's who would return to ordinary civilian life after their terms. Which led to **PC Wiz** asking **John** if he was familiar with "The Business Review" - he said he was. **Shadow** gave **PC Wiz** a copy of the issue devoted to "Schools Report 2011" which went into all the details on schools in the Capitol District. Surprisingly his district school (of which **John** is a former Board President) was at the bottom in expenditure per pupil at \$14,000, while Albany with terrible schooling results, spends \$20,000 per pupil.
 - 9- **PC Wiz** mentioned that he has been reading quite a few blogs of people angry with a recent Netflix increase in charges and asked **Ramrod** what his opinion of the new rates is. **Ramrod** said he is more satisfied since the change because he is now paying less for Netflix. He noted that they want everyone to go to "streaming" which would mean an adapter box for his TV. **Ramrod** said he is very satisfied with the disks which arrive very promptly and, since they have "un-bundled" disks and streaming his monthly charge has dropped from \$16 to \$10. Nice!
 - 10- In sports the issue of Tiger Wood's firing of his caddie was raised. **Shadow** said his problem is that the "bimbo's done him in" and, he predicted, Wood's would win no more tournaments. Concerning the NFL agreement - **PC Wiz**

asked why the owners insisted that the union be re-instated when it had been decertified. Members pointed out that that would have required 1900 separate agreements - instead of 32 reps under the contract. **PC Wiz** mentioned that Plaxico Burress had been released after a two year term. Members agreed that his sentence, because of Mayor Bloomberg's involvement, was too harsh. **Shadow** thought Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick's sentence was also excessive, although we all reject the notion of animal cruelty.

- 11- **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** arrived to ask if we wanted coffee. All agreed to the coffee. With **John** abstaining, members ordered desserts. When the bill arrived, members told **Wingit** that he was our guest and we would cover his charges. He objected and offered to pay **Lorayne's** tip, which was accepted. **Ramrod** proposed **Wednesday September 7, 2011** for our next meeting, seconded by **Shadow**. This extraordinary **HVBS** meeting, with our special guest, adjourned.

Thanks to **Ramrod** and **Wingit** for their review of the preliminary minutes.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

August 15, 2011