



# *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

Official Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> HVBS Meeting of 2012 on March 21 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

- 1- On a day predicted to break new records at 80 degrees, **PC Wiz** and **Shadow** made their way South to the newly re-opened **Hoffman House**. Closely followed by **Ramrod** in his Acura our group carefully parked their cars with a Sysco tractor trailer taking up the center of the lot. Upon entering the premises we were cheerily greeted by the bartender and **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** sitting at the bar with her fellow waitress. Seated at our regular corner table at the window, members mulled over the choices for libations. In celebration of the Saint Patrick's birthday on the previous Saturday **PC Wiz** ordered a Guinness, **Shadow** a cabernet sauvignon and **Ramrod** settled on a Keegan's Mother's Milk Stout. Before ordering **Ramrod** asked **Lorayne** if the Guinness was on draft. She said it came in a "pressurized" can. The photo shows the "widget": a hollow ball with a small hole which charges with nitrogen and beer. When the can is opened, the jet of gas from the ball increases the



creaminess of the head.

- 2- The first item brought up by **Shadow** concerned the e-mail selections that **Ramrod** sends out daily. **Shadow** asked **Ramrod** to stop sending him any items concerning President Obama and politics - not wishing to read more about the candidates and the election. **Ramrod** said he would take care of it. After toasting to our meeting, **Shadow** asked **Ramrod** about the delivery of his new Passat. **Ramrod** informed us that there is a problem and how he is going to respond to it. Telephoning his VW salesman about the possible delivery of his car, **Ramrod** was shocked to hear that it was expected in May. At the time of sale the salesman actually had promised a March delivery (mentioned in the **HVBS** Official Minutes of 2-1-2012). Convinced that it is a lie, **Ramrod** is going to respond in the same way that son **Dan** did when he had a delivery problem with his new BMW. He is going to first e-mail a complaint to the VW salesman and then, subsequently, send an e-mail to the corporate headquarters. At least he will have some satisfaction. **Shadow** related his experience with ordering his Fusion Hybrid. On an April order he received delivery in June. He also updated us on his gas mileage - from delivery: an average of 39-40 miles per gallon.
- 3- **Official Waitress Lorayne** arrived to ask if we were ready to order. **PC Wiz** informed her that he was radioactive from a chemical stress test the day before. She stepped back and asked if it was safe. **PC Wiz** re-assured her that she was safe and that he did not glow; "only in the dark" **Shadow** humorously added. Actually **PC Wiz** had been cautioned he would have a problem at airports, entering New York City or near the Canadian border, the radioactivity taking a few days to dissipate. Members commented on the lasting effects of 9-11. **PC Wiz** ordered first, choosing an item from the "specials" board - "Greek" spinach boboli with olives and feta cheese. **Ramrod**, in an experimental mood, requested the Quesadilla - a filled tortilla cut into wedges with Spanish rice. **Shadow** opted for the ever-popular fish and chips. When the food arrived **Ramrod** looked at the unfamiliar food and asked "how do you eat this?". **Shadow** asked if he would order the item again and received a resounding "No".
- 4- **Shadow** asked **Lorayne** how the Hoffman House opening for St. Patrick's Day had gone. They had a exciting time with a notice on Friday from the city to "boil the water" with a restaurant full of people with water glasses and all the corned beef cooked for the weekend. Luckily it was not a main break, only a water supply problem that was soon corrected. **Hostess Ginny** made an appearance welcoming us. Asked where she and **Pat** had vacationed in February,

she said they had gone to Aruba and had a great time with excellent weather. In a personal update, **Ramrod** informed us that **Dan** is currently in China on business. He is presently trying to negotiate a purchase of the house he and **Chako** are renting. He is going to check his employer for a bonus which would be a big help in financing the acquisition. **Ramrod** also informed us that, on the Sunday before our meeting, **Sharon** took daughter **Kristi** to visit colleges. Presently a junior, **Kristi** is going to be a senior in high school and now is the time to check on possible schools. Also that **Kristi** has a job and works two days a week, one day part-time and one full day to save up money for school. As for **Casey**: she is 13 and is convinced she needs a "nose job". Also that she is on Facebook and the page is used for commenting on "each other". **Shadow** asked about the situation with **Bob** and **Ramrod** said "no change". Also that **Bob** has stated that he will not contribute to **Kristi's** education - not a surprise.

- 5- **PC Wiz** asked about how the repaired well is performing. **Ramrod** said he is still impressed how the plumber found the well location. In the past a detector had been tried with no success and the ground dug up in a possible location with no results (the pipe was actually within 18" of the hole but they didn't find it). Everything is working perfectly and **Ramrod** said he does not expect any more trouble with the well in his lifetime. The day after our meeting **Ramrod** is expecting to have his lawn serviced. He related the story of his last lawn experience when the workers used a high power blower on the grass and actually blew away portions of the turf. It now has to be completely re-seeded. As to yard work, **Ramrod** re-iterated that he is comfortable using the tractor for mowing but will hire others to do the rest of the work. **Ramrod** has bird feeders in the yard and complained that the "dirty birds" are actually littering the ground with cedar trimmings from the trees. **Shadow** informed us that he had telephoned County Waste, who picks up his yard waste (**Ramrod** having an area behind his house to dispose of the yard waste, unlike **Shadow** and **PC Wiz**). They told him the schedule starts in April so he is storing the bags in his carport, using the recent fine weather to get a head start on Spring clean-up.
- 6- **Shadow** asked **Ramrod** how his pain management is coming. In a recent session **Ramrod** received an injection of pain medication in his right side and reported that it felt better. He is now waiting for the left side to be treated. With the airport security TSA people in the news (agenda item: Orlando Airport is trying to opt for private screeners), **Ramrod** was sure he would have trouble with the detectors because of his hip replacement. **Shadow** told us that he has had screener problems because of "shrapnel" in his knee. Many years ago, on a paving job when he was working for Ben Smith in Albany, a worker was driving a probe to check pavement thickness with a sledge hammer. **Shadow**, standing nearby recording the results, was struck in the knee with a piece of the hammer head. It lodged behind the knee-cap and is still present.
- 7- In answer to **Ramrod's** question, "how are the NY Rangers doing", **Shadow** replied that it all depended on the outcome of the days' contest between the Rangers and Redwings (note: which the Redwings won in Overtime 2-1). **Ramrod** brought up the Denver Broncos signing up an available Payton Manning for their primary quarterback. **PC Wiz** mentioned the rumor that Tim Tebow was being considered by the NY Jets. **Shadow** then told members to sit tightly because he was going to make a special announcement. He flatly predicted that **the NY Giants would be contenders in the Superbowl again** - a feat seldom repeated consecutively. **Ramrod** then asked if the LA Dodgers had been sold yet. **Shadow** said no, the deal had fallen through. The Joe Torre group backed out after the owners wanted to keep the lucrative parking lots and sell only the stadium.
- 8- **PC Wiz** said he is presently reading **Shadow's** copy of the biography by Allan Greenspan. He found Greenspan's views on economics fascinating - basically a conservative view of maintaining the dollar's value. **Shadow** stated that he had read four books since the first of the year - a reflection of his recent retirement. One of the books is "Steve Jobs" by Walter Isaacson ( presently on **PC Wiz's** "to be read" list). **Shadow** told us that Jobs had no interest in the retail end of the business and when they decided to open the Apple Stores Tim Cook was assigned to design them. They are a great success and when Jobs became ill Cook took over as CEO. **Shadow** also mentioned that Apple, now the world's largest company (stock value), will begin to pay a dividend and buy back shares.
- 9- **Official Waitress Lorayne** arrived to take orders for coffee and members opted for desserts. After discussion, the date for our next meeting was tentatively set as **Wednesday May 2, 2012**. The date was ratified and the meeting adjourned.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his review of the preliminary minutes.

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

May 1, 2012