



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes of the 3rd HVBS Meeting of July 11, 2012 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

- 1- On a bright, sunny Summer day, **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** arrived early at the **Hoffman House**, only to find **Ramrod** parked in the shade waiting for them in his new steel gray VW Passat. After greetings, **Ramrod** got out of the car and demonstrated locking the car by stroking the handle with his finger. The door locks dutifully clicked shut. He then showed us the “key” fob in his pocket, whose presence replaced the traditional key for locks and the push button ignition. We then entered the premises to a warm greeting from **Hostess Ginny Bradley** and **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne**.
- 2- Ready to make our traditional right turn into the dining room, we were re-routed to the left since the original room was set up for a large party. Selecting a table next to the window, with **Ramrod’s** investment broker, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, visible across the street. **Lorayne** asked for our refreshment orders and both **Ramrod** and **Shadow** opted for Tom Collins’ while **PC Wiz** ordered an ordinary house Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cabernet arrived with one Tom Collins – which **Shadow** insisted go to **Ramrod**. **Lorayne** explained that the bar had run out of the drink mixer. **Ramrod** was upset that his drink had a slice of orange instead of lime while **Lorayne** and the bartender claimed the orange was correct. *Correction by Shadow:* “When the first Tom Collins was delivered to the table, with a subsequent complaint by “**Ramrod**” regarding orange versus lime, I told “**Ramrod**” he was wrong and that the bartender had correctly presented the drink. When the second, somewhat delayed Tom Collins reached the table without a tinge of pink coloring, an incorrect comment again was made by “**Ramrod**.” The correct color of a Tom Collins is a very pale, light yellow/green which is what the mixologist delivered.”
- 3- **Ramrod** informed us that **Chaco** is in Japan with the children, visiting her parents for two weeks. She flew over on Japan Air Lines and had to hold the youngest on her lap to avoid a full adult seat charge. The house being empty, **Ramrod** is going down to spend the weekend with **Dan**. **Ramrod** informed us that it is very expensive in **Dan’s** area. He was impressed by the charge for mowing **Dan’s** lawn: \$90. **Ramrod’s** lawn is about two times the size of **Dan’s** and he pays \$45. **PC Wiz** interjected that he thought the higher prices extended up to Poughkeepsie (the Northern end of commuting via Metro North) but **Ramrod** maintained that the Piermont area is noticeably expensive.
- 4- Waitress **Lorayne** returned to take our orders for lunch. **Ramrod** selected the French onion steak sandwich, **Shadow** the BBQ pulled pork and **PC Wiz** the BBQ Chipotle pulled chicken. **Shadow** mentioned the recent storms in Virginia in which many lost their power for days. He emphasized that **Russell** was perturbed that his power remained on; wishing to see his new generator in action. **Shadow** and **Ramrod** thought he should be glad not to have to use the generator but were pleased to have their own for an emergency. **Ramrod** confessed he had not “tested” his for several weeks (**Shadow** looked at his watch and announced his was running the weekly test at this very time). **Ramrod** was urged to do the test to assure it will work when needed.
- 5- Conversation turned to **Ramrod’s** new Passat. He received a survey – from VW headquarters (welcome to the new car owners’ group) and said he “blasted” VW on the long delayed delivery of his new car despite repeated confirmations from the dealer. Also **Ramrod** mentioned a problem he has with the window trim on the car: the

stainless strips show a yellowish discoloration. The dealer tried polishing it out (which **Ramrod** had already tried) and the trim will now be replaced. Otherwise he is well pleased with the automobile and the accessories – which include a navigation system. **Ramrod** confessed that he does not understand all the functions and **PC Wiz** said he also has to consult the (thick) book at times. **Shadow** then turned to his problems with the hardware on an expensive Pella front door. It stays perfect on the inside but corrodes unacceptably on the outside. The hardware was replaced and duly deteriorated in the weather again. When notified under warranty, he was advised to purchase a new set himself at the local hardware store! They finally furnished a new set under warranty which he is holding off on installing. **Ramrod** suggested using a coating of Krylon to protect the metal but **Shadow** (and **PC Wiz**) felt the hardware should be of high quality and withstand weathering, on a very expensive door.

- 6- **Shadow** asked **Ramrod** how his “pain management” program is going. He told us “not too well”. He got the first injection in his right side and never received the second because there was no real improvement from the first. He has been taking Advil to alleviate some of the pain. **Shadow** then told **Ramrod** of his recent visit to a podiatrist. He was diagnosed as having a classic case of “peripheral neuropathy”. When tested with a tuning fork, **Shadow** couldn’t feel the vibrations on his foot but did on his wrist. He is treating the nerve damage by taking B complex vitamins which he says are quite expensive but is hopeful they will help.
- 7- **PC Wiz** asked members if they watched the All-Star game yesterday. **Ramrod** replied “for 10 to 20 minutes”. He and **Shadow** said they are not interested in “all-star” games in general. **PC Wiz**, listening on a local radio station, heard the hosts both mention they fell asleep after a few minutes. As **Shadow** concluded, the game really was over in the first inning with the Nationals running up a five-run score. **Shadow** then brought up an article that he printed out for **PC Wiz** about NASCAR changing the shape of the cars to combat sagging attendance nationwide. He pointed out that, for the Daytona “Firecracker 400” this year, the entire 57,000 seat backfield opposite the finish line was completely empty. The title of the article states they are going to “put ‘stock’ back in stock car racing”. As **Shadow** pointed out, all the cars presently have the same “template” contour – essentially they all look exactly alike except for all the decals and badges.



8- Referring to the agenda, **Shadow** asked members their choice for Republican VP. **Ramrod** had the only clear choice and said he thought Senator Marco Rubio of Florida would be excellent. He is young (41), would help with the Hispanic vote and would bring some fire to Romney’s campaign. **Ramrod** mentioned that they are doing borings for the new Tappan Zee Bridge: routine, said **Shadow**. He estimated the new bridge might still be delayed as much as 20 years. **Shadow** then made a bombshell prediction – that the NY Giants would repeat by winning the playoffs and again be the SuperBowl Champs. He left the members speechless. **Ramrod** brought up a story about a cache of 700 old baseball cards, over 100 years old being found in a Defiance, Ohio attic; valued at \$3 million.

9- Waitress **Lorayne** took orders for coffee and said there were no “special desserts”. **Shadow** opted for an apple cobbler with ice cream and **PC Wiz** ordered the crème brulee. **Ramrod** skipped dessert but members asked **Lorayne** for an extra plate so he could sample. Turning reflective, **Shadow** mused that he had been thinking what life decisions he would have made with his present knowledge (not uncommon to Seniors). He concluded that he would have chosen, like **Ramrod**, a career in the public sector with its superior benefits. Not without a pension and medical benefits like most in the private sector. **Ramrod** then told us about two recent Netflix movies that he had seen and highly recommends: “Warhorse”, about World War I and a cavalry horse – directed by Steven Spielberg; and “Tracker”, a 2011 film set in New Zealand about a veteran of the Boer War who is a master tracker. He thinks both are terrific movies. A proposal of **August 8, 2012** for our next meeting (with August 15 alternate) was made and accepted. **HVBS** members adjourned and went to the parking lot to further check out the features of **Ramrod’s** new automobile.

Thanks to **Shadow** for his detailed correction and **Ramrod** for his rant-free approval.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

July 20, 2012