



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes of the 4th HVBS Meeting of August 8, 2012 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

- 1- With **PC Wiz** at the wheel, he and **Shadow** proceeded to our rendezvous on a typical humid, hot Summer day. Arriving shortly after the Camry was parked in the shade (**Shadow** suggestion) **Ramrod** entered the parking lot aimed directly at **Shadow's** door. After a short session of frantic gesticulations, **Ramrod** properly parked his gleaming Passat by backing in the next slot nearer the exit. After greetings, **Ramrod** inspected **PC Wiz's** new "super-white" Camry LE and ascertained that it had a 4 cylinder engine, same as **PC Wiz's** 2007 Camry, but with new features such as electric steering – no hydraulic pump. **PC Wiz** mentioned that one of the new BMW models has gone from an in-line 6 to a new 4. When **Ramrod** asked if it had a turbo, **PC Wiz** affirmed it does.
- 2- Entering the premises, we were greeted by the bartender and **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne**. As we proceeded to our usual corner window table she brought the third place setting. For adult libations, **PC Wiz** ordered a Keegan's Mother's Milk – a milk stout, **Ramrod** a gin and tonic – asking if it would be made with Tanqueray gin, the London dry gin. **Lorayne** said it would be. **Shadow** ordered a Tom Collins. When they arrived members said they were quite satisfied with their drinks. **HVBS** members toasted our Armed Forces and to the memory of **Deliberator**. **Shadow** brought up the topic of NASCAR's new line-up: for the first time in it's history there will be no Chrysler products racing. Penske Racing, the only Dodge team in NASCAR since 2009, has signed up to race Fords. **Shadow** explained that NASCAR originated with the stock cars of the three American makers and he feels it should have stayed with that format. He was against the addition of Toyota, as a foreign make, although manufactured in the U.S. Now NASCAR will be GM (China motors), Ford and Toyota.
- 3- Actually, **Shadow** explained, Dodge had recently unveiled a new Charger specifically designed to meet the 2013 specs only to have to drop the entire Sprint Cup Series program when Penske defected. **Shadow** also noted that NASCAR is having trouble filling the stands and owners getting car sponsors – blamed on the economy although **Shadow** blames it on short-sighted changes that have basically changed the sport – such as the use of the restrictor plate resulting in major wrecks. **PC Wiz** raised the issue of the stories about the two Jet quarterbacks, Mark Sanchez and Tim Tebow. News programs are making a big deal about the "competition" between the two. **Ramrod** stated that he thought Tebow a distraction, the public taken by his humble personality and public expressions of his faith. In the news was the death of Garrett Reid, 29, son of Philadelphia Eagles Andy Reid. Working for the team's strength and conditioning coach, Garrett most likely died of a drug overdose. Also mentioned was the death of daughter Casey of Jets owner Woody Johnson (Johnson & Johnson), a long-time drug addict. **Hostess** (and owner) **Ginny Bradley** leaned into the room and warmly greeted the **HVBS** group.
- 4- Continuing with sports, **Ramrod** turned to the NY Yankees. He is upset by Robinson Cano's performance – "he trots to base". Satisfied by Cano's field and at-bat play, **Ramrod** wants to see hustle to first. **PC Wiz** agreed that anything can happen and has often seen safe calls on close plays. **Shadow** asked how the weekend with **Dan** went with the family in Japan. **Ramrod** said it went very well with **Dan** taking **Ramrod** and **Jim** to a Greek restaurant in the Greek community of Astoria for genuine feta. **Shadow** asked if the Astoria was in Long Island. After a confused colloquy, it was determined that the restaurant was in Queens on Long Island. While debating the issue, **Ramrod** mentioned that their trip using **Dan's** built-in navigation system took them through Harlem. It had been left set up for local roads rather than the shortest on highways. Brother **Jim** suggested closing the windows because of the neighborhood while **Ramrod** noticed that **Dan's** new Series 3 BMW got many approving glances and "thumbs-up" gestures from the local residents.

- 5- **PC Wiz** produced an envelope of photos of **Shadow** and **Shirley's** grandson **Alex's** graduation ceremony. Yorktown High School held the affair at the basketball arena of William and Mary College in Williamsburg VA. **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** appeared and asked if we were ready to order our lunches. **PC Wiz** ordered from the special tablet – cheese tortellini with shrimp in pesto sauce. When **Ramrod** ordered the French onion steak sandwich **Lorayne** asked him how he wanted the steak cooked. **Shadow** opted for the ever popular fish and chips. **Ramrod** then told us the story about the mottled trim on his new Passat. The lower window trim has yellowish spots that the dealer (last meeting) thought could be polished out but to no avail. He was told to call in two weeks – which he punctually did – only to be told it would now take two months! Being the senior **HVBS** member, **Ramrod** feels that time is now roughly relative to “dog years” – two months being a seriously long time at his (and **PC Wiz's**) age. **Shadow** prompted him to communicate directly with the VW Company – not the feckless dealer. **Ramrod** agreed and will make all possible efforts. **PC Wiz** thought it no way to treat a customer who has bought an expensive automobile and which should never have passed final inspection with this blemish.
- 6- To **Ramrod's** question “how are your roundabouts working”, **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** replied that they seem to be operating quite well. It seems to have solved the Curry Road – Carman Road problem, although **PC Wiz** hasn't seen it during the daily rush period. In his area **Ramrod** mentioned particularly the roundabouts near Vassar College. He says they work only because there is presently only 30 – 40% of the previous traffic: drivers finding alternate routes to avoid the back-ups. **Ramrod** noted that drivers are not yielding to cars in the circle. **Shadow** noted that you have to follow the traffic rules to make the system work. He continued by saying he is “driving in circles to get mileage” on his leased Fusion. This led to a discussion of the leasing rules. **Shadow** stated that, being his first time, he made two mistakes with his lease: “bought like buying” with all the accessories (except the navigation system), and opting for 12,000 miles per year instead of the minimum 10,000 – which would have reduced the monthly payments and been closer to his actual use.
- 7- **Shadow** continued by protesting that there is “no money back” if less miles are used. **PC Wiz** commented that it



VW CC (pictured).

is a contract and those are the terms. **Shadow** reiterated with his experience with construction contracts. To balance the penalty of finishing late on a contract there always is a bonus if the job is finished early. It seems to **Shadow** that this practice should also logically apply to auto leasing. **Ramrod** said he is so disappointed with his trim problem (otherwise a fine automobile) and the obvious lack of technical expertise of the dealer's service management, that he is seriously thinking of trading shortly – definitely with a different dealer and perhaps a different make. **Ramrod** mentioned he might be interested in the sporty 2013

- 8- **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** cleared the table and asked if we wished coffees. After the coffee arrived it was time to decide on possible desserts. **PC Wiz** opted for the amaretto cheese cake while **Ramrod** and **Shadow** pondered. **Shadow** suggested sharing an apple cobbler which **Ramrod** had recommended to him. It was agreed and **Shadow** asked about the cinnamon (which he wished applied sparingly but which **Ramrod** enjoys and has been found to be healthful). **Lorayne** said she applies the cinnamon and would follow their wishes. The desserts arrived in due course and members commented on the half-portions – which were quite generous.
- 9- **Shadow** told us about his problems with having his blacktop sealed. After a long wait for the job to be done, a section under his carport looked like it had been missed. Actually something on the blacktop dissolved in the dressing and bled through. Eventually “a kid with tattoos” re-did the section and **Shadow** reported that it is still not right but better (the surface should have been washed before the original sealing). As to his Fusion, **Shadow** reported he is very satisfied with the car and its exceptional gasoline mileage – in the area of 760 miles on a tankful. He concluded that he had no problem with the car; his problem was with the organization. He never received a reply from Ford concerning a critical software omission (warning of failure and engine shut-off).
- 10- Concerning the pending vacation - **** A report be made at the next meeting describing the annual event of boozing it up at the Virginia wineries by the upstate members. Hopefully Associate Member Shirley will be available in case the supposedly tasting only imbibers are unable to "walk the line".** A date was proposed for our early Fall meeting. After discussion, the date of **Wednesday September 26, 2012** was adopted. The meeting was adjourned.

Thanks to **Shadow** for his prompt review and **Ramrod**, whose addition is published in its entirety ******.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate PC Wiz

August 16, 2012