



# *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

## Official Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> HVBS Meeting of September 26, 2012 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

- 1- Driving through sporadic light showers, **Shadow** piloted his gas-thrifty Ford Fusion Hybrid with **PC Wiz** to the Hoffman House parking lot at 11:19 AM. **Ramrod** arrived in his sporty VW Passat a few minutes later. Before **Ramrod** had emerged from his car **Shadow** was minutely inspecting the Passat's chrome trim. Gathering his papers and unlocking the door, **Ramrod** got out and confirmed the trim had been satisfactorily replaced. **Shadow** asked if he now had re-considered trading for another car; **Ramrod** told us he is very satisfied with the superior German engineering – finding the car much-improved compared to his previous autos. Asked if he would go back to the same dealer, he said definitely not considering their lack of support. Entering the **Hoffman House** members, finding **Hostess Ginny Bradley** missing, greeted the bartender and previous **HVBS** waitress **Tara**.
- 2- With **Tara** setting up the third place for **Shadow**, **Ramrod** asked about ordering drinks. **Tara** said **HVBS** **Official Waitress Lorayne** was downstairs but would be up shortly. Members said they would wait. **Lorayne** appeared and took our orders. With adult beverages in hand, members toasted to the memory of **Deliberator** and **PC Wiz** proposed a toast to **Ramrod** on this belated 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration. **Ramrod** told us of a vivid dream he had of **Deliberator** who looked to be in his fifties; when he tried to talk to him he woke up. **Ramrod** then told us a very funny joke in his stack and **Shadow** told a “redneck” joke about using the word “fascinate” in a sentence (I have a shirt with nine buttons but I can only fasten eight). When **Lorayne** appeared **Ramrod** gave her the joke and **Shadow** repeated his.
- 3- We then moved on the member updates. **Ramrod** asked about our trip to Virginia. **Shadow** said we had a very enjoyable time except one night at the Peaks of Otter Lodge there was a storm with high winds. **Shadow** mentioned that he, **PC Wiz** and **Associate Member Shirley** went to the Lodge bar in the evening several times. The bar tender, **Rob Herbst**, chatted with us between his tending duties. **Shadow** explained that **Rob** is a “special-ed” teacher dealing with special needs children. He also is a practicing falconer (he showed us a picture on his phone of his falcon and dog with the bird looking into the camera and shrieking); owns a dog, a barn owl and gerbils which causes some concern by his girlfriend. In describing **HVBS** to him, **Shadow**, promising him a copy of our meeting minutes, learned that **Rob** is a member of a group of animal lovers.
- 4- Also mentioned was a visit to the Blue Ridge Vineyards near Buchanan VA. In the hills at the end of a gravel road we found the family vineyard owned by college professor Barbara Kolb, whom we met, a teacher of oenology – the science of wine making. **PC Wiz** remarked that the trip home – to his house – was 565.0 miles. **Shadow** related that, altogether; he had driven 1906 miles – the Fusion achieving 43.8 mpg! **Ramrod** asked how this was determined – from a dash readout or averaging fill-ups. **Shadow** confirmed it was actual use, although the display was quite close. **Shadow** related that he had signed up with Sirius – 11 days free, 6 months for \$25 and was intending to keep the very appealing service. **Ramrod** then revealed he also has subscribed to Sirius – tuning it on his navigation system display and liked it a lot although he doesn't put a lot of miles on his car. **Shadow** mysteriously lost his connection and described his cell phone call to Sirius service from the parking lot of the Bedford VA Walmart. After some discussion they managed to restore his coverage.
- 5- On our last night **PC Wiz** and **Shadow** were sitting on our veranda at 9 PM, in total darkness except for the crescent moon. **Shadow** suggested trying to photograph the scene with Sharp Top Mountain on the left and the moon shining on Lake Abbott. It seemed impossible but the camera, with a 6 second exposure at ASA 3200, resulted in this picture (even stars we could not see are visible)! **Lorayne** arrived to take our luncheon orders. **PC Wiz** asked about the absence of the hand-written specials tablet. She informed us that it took too much time to



write out and was not always legible so it had been replaced by the printed sheet on the table that looked like an extra menu. **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** ordered the ham Napoleons, a hot sandwich, while **Shadow** opted for the always reliable fish and chips.

6- **Shadow** asked **Ramrod** how his family was and how his birthday had been celebrated. **Ramrod** said they are all fine and that they had taken him to the Raccoon Saloon for lunch. To **Shadow's** question if the food was still as good as at our historic meeting there, **Ramrod** said it was very good and that they were seated in a different room than the one we had with the splendid view of the Hudson. **Shadow** remarked that we should hold one of our sessions there in the future. **Dan** took **Ramrod** to Yankee Stadium for a game where he found the long walk from the parking lot very tiring – having to stop frequently to recover. They also visited several wineries on Long

Island. Also **Sharon** gave him a gift wine subscription. Every month he gets two bottles of wine. **Ramrod** also mentioned that he now has a hang tag for “handicapped” parking. He had to be persistent enough to go to two doctors; the second readily agreeing to permanent privileges.

- 7- **Shadow** is seriously considering dropping his land-line telephone and getting a second cell phone. **Shadow** also mentioned that he would like to be able to communicate with his Fusion so he will require a cell phone with Wi-Fi. **PC Wiz** commented that most young people rely only on cell phones. The complication being that his and **PC Wiz's** internet connection is DSL which requires a phone line while **Ramrod** is on RoadRunner. **Shadow** said he will look into transferring his phone and internet to Time Warner. **Ramrod** said he is also thinking of changing. His service is Verizon basic with unlimited long distance and local since **Kay** made a lot of family long distance calls. The original \$45 went to \$47; the same package is now \$53.
- 8- In sports **Shadow** said the Giants are looking good so far and repeated his contention that they would again win the playoffs and SuperBowl this year. With the unusual schedule this season, short weeks between games, **Ramrod** said it might be helping by giving the players “less time to think between games. Making our predictions – **Ramrod** conjectured a season of 11-5 while **Shadow**, after due consideration, made his prediction of 10-6. As in the media, **HVBS** members discussed the really poor officiating of the replacement officials. **Shadow** minutely viewed the final play in the Packer Sea Hawk game and declared positively that it was not a touchdown. **Ramrod** and **Shadow** were surprised that the League backed up the decision – in a season of only 16 games each win is important.
- 9- Returning to general topics **Ramrod** told us daughter **Sharon** is an “arch-conservative”. She has viewed the movie “2016: Obama’s America” and was impressed by it. Concerning the imminent election: **Ramrod** thought it a problem that 47% of the population is getting benefits from a government program and will vote for the person who they think will increase those benefits. **PC Wiz** declared that the country cannot afford what it is spending and that Congressman Ryan’s plan would be a good starting point for the Congress. **Shadow** went into the many tax and Medicare increases we are facing on January 1. **Ramrod**, hoping that Romney-Ryan are elected, fervently stated that he is convinced Mitt would be a great President. **Ramrod** then mused that the most important button on his TV remote is the “mute” button which he uses when President Obama appears on the screen (frequently). **PC Wiz** seconded his thought although he uses it mostly for commercial “breaks”, which now appear in blocks of at least 5 minutes – loud and annoying. **Shadow's** observation was that he simply changes the channel (hard to remember the days when we had to actually get up and manually turn the channel knob).
- 10- **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** returned to remove the plates and take our order for coffee. As to dessert, **Ramrod** said he would pass while **PC Wiz** ordered the strawberry brulee (really excellent) and **Shadow** opted for a dish of vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup. In the meantime **Ramrod** had re-thought his decision and asked for the amaretto cheese cake. While enjoying the desserts, **Shadow** toted up the bill for he and **PC Wiz** since **Ramrod's** was free due to our bylaw provision celebrating member birthdays. After some discussion, the date of **Wednesday November 7, 2012** was adopted for our next **HVBS** session. The meeting was adjourned.

\*\*\* **Addendum:** New meeting date because of conflict – **Thursday November 8, 2012**.

Thanks to **Ramrod** and **Shadow** (yes, “enology” is also correct) for their review of the preliminary minutes.

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

October 8, 2012