



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes of the 3rd HVBS Meeting May 8, 2013 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- With rain predicted, **Shadow** piloted his Ford Fusion Hybrid Southward into intermittent showers, heavy in spots. Arriving at the **Hoffman House** at a spiffy 11:19, we awaited **Ramrod's** arrival. He appeared promptly and parked at the entrance path to the restaurant. After an interval he exited his Passat and asked why **Shadow** had parked in the farthest corner while **Shadow** retorted by asking why **Ramrod** had to be in front of the door. It was closer, he replied, as **PC Wiz** countered that he and **Shadow** were opting for the exercise the extra walk. Approaching the building in the rain, we noticed the door was open. With the traffic on the street beyond shimmering under the opposite door, **Ramrod** thought he was viewing a leaky ceiling. All was well but the usual staff was not present: our doughty bartender sent us to our table and brought the menus. Instead of our usual street corner table **Ramrod** selected the inside table that was skewed on an angle. **Ramrod** noted with surprise that we were not the first patrons, as per our tradition of opening the tavern for the day. The middle table was occupied by two elderly ladies who had arrived earlier than us, before the formal opening time of 11:30.

2- The bartender took our orders for beverages: a Pepsi for **Shadow** who was a bit "under-the-weather", sauvignon blanc for **Ramrod**. **PC Wiz** asked about Murphy's or Killian's – not available, so he went for the always reliable Keegan's Mother's Milk. The discussion began with **Ramrod's** mention of recent action taken by his doctor's group practice. An organization of 125 doctors, they joined with another group of 250 – resulting in a now huge organization of 400 doctors. **HVBS** members concluded it must be in response to the imminent ObamaCare implementation, although enlarging the practices was not logical to **Ramrod**. Continuing, **Ramrod** related his experience in a recent visit to his podiatrist. The doctor's cortisone injection had not brought relief so the podiatrist recommended a "high-tech" salve. The \$65 prescription was not covered by insurance. Although the doctor maintained it might help, **Ramrod** could not get an answer to how a salve could help pain from a heel bone spur – a growth causing pain. With no satisfactory explanation, **Ramrod** did not fill the prescription.

3- A new waitress arrived at our table and members requested our **Official Waitress Lorayne**. Shortly thereafter, **Lorayne** arrived with our drink order. **Ramrod** gave **Lorayne** a hilarious picture of a woman in a T-shirt with a suggestive message. She laughed and asked to show it to the staff. **Shadow** related his recent experience with his urologist. After the exam, he ordered a blood test for PSA. Both **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** stated that doctors' have re-examined results and find they have no value over the age of 75. **Shadow** was startled to find they had already planned a visit for him for blood work next year! **Ramrod** advised that he canceled his appointment and will only go with new symptoms to stop the endless appointments.

4- **Ramrod** is still receiving physical therapy for his back pain and mentioned that he has three doctors. **Shadow** told us about recently taking **Fritzi** to the veterinarian for a health evaluation and skin problems. **Ramrod** asked if he were suffering. **Shadow** replied that the doctor (**Shadow** had insisted on the exam by **Fritzi's** original vet, Dr. Peter Ferrell whom they have had over the years) said his heart is very strong and he was not in pain from his fatty tumors. **Shadow** assured us he would not allow his little friend to suffer. **Fritzi** received two shots that cost \$76 but the results were spectacular – itching gone and an infected skin wound healed.

5- **Lorayne** came to take our luncheon orders. All three **HVBS** members ordered from the "specials" menu. **Ramrod** opted, as at our last meeting, to order the Boboli du Jour, **PC Wiz** the pasta dish with cheese raviolis and scallops. **Shadow**, after some question about the (usually large) size of the serving, ordered the always attractive Portobello sandwich.

Shadow then, with apology for touching on a sensitive subject, asked **Ramrod** if **Dan's** employment situation had changed. **Ramrod** said he had good news to report – **Dan** has definitely been hired by the Baltimore firm. Not only that, he and his new firm had been able to get his original employer to reduce the “no compete” clause to six months from one year – removing the last obstacle. **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** both expressed their delight at **Dan's** success. He will begin his new employment in August. **Ramrod** also informed us that **Max** is speaking fluent English and that his brother, who follows **Max** everywhere, is mimicking his brother. In further great news **Ramrod** reported that **Dan's** house has been sold – for cash – to buyers from New York City. **PC Wiz** had predicted an easy sale because of location – on the Hudson River shore and in the New York commuting area. **Ramrod** related that, with the advantage of not working and with the aid of his real estate agent's advice, **Dan** had cleaned and painted the house to spiffy perfection.

6- As an aside, **Ramrod** suggested that if **Randy's** new house were situated in **Dan's** area it would sell for \$2 million dollars. **PC Wiz** commented that it was the influence of rich New York City buyers still within commuter distance. **Shadow** remarked that **Randy's** employer Express Scripts, which bought out Medco in 2012, has a new “Technology and Innovation Center” in St. Louis. He asked the question of who is supplying the computer servers that **Randy** is buying for the new center. The supplier is the same company which made the Medco servers – IBM. Concerning his FiOS Verizon telephone service, **Ramrod** says he is quite satisfied after being reassured that they have their own power supply and would not necessarily lose service in case of power failure like cable. Of course, TV is still not available because of not having a license from the County. If it happens in the future, **Ramrod** would be able to get a complete package of TV, telephone and computer.

7- In the news, the case of the Boston Marathon bombers came up for discussion. **Ramrod** mentioned the news that Tamerlan's brother Dzhok Tsarnaev had been Mirandized and stopped talking and that three of his college friends (two from Kazakhstan) were charged with removing evidence from his dorm room. **Shadow** related that Major Hasan's (of Fort Hood massacre infamy, 13 dead and 30 injured) relatives have been threatened. **PC Wiz** said the Major has not even been charged yet for his crime. **Ramrod** raised an issue from a recent Poughkeepsie Journal article concerning his power supplier, Central Hudson Gas & Electric. The Public Service Commission is being asked to approve their being bought out by a Canadian holding company, Fortis, Inc. Fortis is offering a lowering of electric rates to smooth the way but **Ramrod** is suspicious that they intend to “flip” the company for profit. In other news **Shadow** was incensed that Mayor Bloomberg is spending \$12 million of his fabulous fortune to support the “Safe Act” gun law. While members agreed it is his to spend they commented on the lunacy of his proposals on soda sizes, locking away infant formula to encourage breast feeding, etc. Glenn Beck addressed the National Rifle Association convention and showed a video clip of Mayor Bloomberg with a Nazi salute and his new NY slogan – “You WILL love New York”. **Shadow** commented that it's all about “power and money”.

8- **Official Waitress Lorayne** was back to clear the dishes and took our orders for coffee. On her return she recited the dessert offerings but members, in a moment of strength, refused the tasty dishes. An item on the Official Agenda for **Ramrod** was suggested by **WingIT**. His exact words were, “ask **Ramrod** about the ‘Moose on the loose’ in LaGrange”. It seems a young moose was spotted in Millbrook on April 20. Subsequently, according to **Ramrod's** account from the Poughkeepsie Journal, it wandered near a highway in LaGrange where it was tranquilized and taken to the Adirondacks. Never know what will turn up in the untamed wilderness near **Ramrod's** house.

9- In sports **Shadow** was relieved his NY Rangers had made the playoffs but was a bit apprehensive over their “schizophrenic” performance – ranging from brilliant to no-scoring losers. Members seemed satisfied over the Yankee record – outstanding considering the many injuries of star players. **Ramrod** commented on ARod – still on the comeback trail, having an “off-year” but still being paid his fabulous salary. **HVBS** members adjourned to the parking lot, completely overlooking the critical setting of the proposed date for our next meeting.

Thanks to **Shadow** and **Ramrod** for their cogent reviews.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

June 11, 2013

Addendum: Later correspondence by **Ramrod** and **Shadow**, seconded by **PC Wiz**, has set the date for our next meeting for **Wednesday June 19, 2013**.