

Deliberator*Ramrod**PC Wiz**Shadow*

The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes of the 5th HVBS Meeting August 7, 2013 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1. On a cloudy day threatening showers, **Shadow's** fuel-thrifty Fusion Hybrid brought him and **PC Wiz** to the **Hoffman House** in good time. With his usual precise timing, **Ramrod** appeared at 11:26 AM. Entering the premises, **HVBS** members were greeted by hostess **Ginny** preparing the outdoor patio tables. It was decided to hold our meeting inside so we greeted the taciturn bartender and noted that **HVBS** Official Waitress **Lorayne** was not present. **She took off the day, which left us with former waitress **Kasey**. Informing us that he had no notes with him (we later found out why), **Ramrod** opted for the chair facing the window leaving **PC Wiz** with the better light. **Kasey** immediately accepted our orders for refreshments – a diet Coke with a slice of lemon for **Ramrod**, Keegan's Mother's Milk for **PC Wiz** and a Peroni beer for **Shadow**. Members toasted the memory of our Founding Member **Deliberator** and our brave military.
2. **Shadow** then mentioned that he had invited a good friend, **Bill Lucarelli**, to attend our meeting as a probationary member but **Bill** had a prior golf commitment and couldn't make it. Members then discussed the qualifications necessary to join our select, exclusive debating society with its high standards of spinning and BS. **Shadow** verified that his friend **Bill** can meet all the onerous requirements even, with some effort, the required perfection of BS. He will be most welcome at a future meeting. At this point we found out why **Ramrod** did not have his usual selected joke print-outs (which the staff also enjoys): his Canon printer is on the blink. **Ramrod** tried the usual; removing and replacing the cables. **Dan** went over the machine minutely for 2 hours, checking for driver updates, etc. and concluded the machine had expired. **Ramrod** spent over an hour on the telephone with a Canon tech, evidently in India (hard to understand but knew his beans). The tech reached the same conclusion. **Shadow** said to go to Walmart and get a new printer but **Ramrod** replied that **Dan** had picked out the present machine and he was waiting until **Dan** had time to help with the new purchase. Sadly, **Ramrod** has recently bought new ink cartridges - unlikely to fit another - for the defunct printer!
3. **PC Wiz** said the new printers are mostly wireless types, using Wi-Fi from a router. **Ramrod** said he has a modem but no router so he will have to purchase one that connects with USB. Hopefully (but not likely) one that uses the same ink. **Shadow** volunteered that he has a Wi-Fi router on the iMac for his SiriusXM satellite radio. **Ramrod** informed us that grandson **Travis** is studying computer science. Now that **Dan** and family have moved to Maryland his brother is the only nearby family; **Sharon** not very far away but very busy. **Ramrod** then informed us he is considering transferring his house to **Dan** and **Sharon**. He explained that he personally took care of the arrangements in family funerals, including **Kay's**. Upon his departure there will be no-one with the ability to assume the burden of all the details involved in settling the estate. **Shadow** recommended setting up a trust to help the survivors. **Ramrod** said he discussed it with his attorney who said probate would most likely not be a problem and the only reason for a trust would concern affecting Medicaid benefits.
4. Waitress **Kasey** returned to take lunch orders from our famished crew. **Ramrod** selected the grilled chicken breast sandwich, **PC Wiz** went for the ravioli's and shrimp in cream sauce from the "special" menu, and **Shadow** ordered a char-broiled burger with cheddar. **Ramrod** said he had his roof power-washed to remove the dark mildew deposits which process, he was informed, should last 2-3 years. **Shadow**, who had the same done, said his roof is holding up well. **Ramrod** then mentioned his problem with woodpeckers, **Shadow** having a problem with one that announces his early morning arrival by banging on the roof ventilator. A large one comes to **Ramrod's** bird feeder. If the feeder is empty he bangs on the house demanding a re-fill! **Ramrod** then explained how he out-foxed the acrobatic squirrels. A cone-shaped ring didn't faze them in the least, so he came up with the idea of a tube centered on the support pole. The squirrels can only climb inside the tube and are helpless to get to the food (seeds and suet). Problem solved!

5. **Shadow**, just having had a colonoscopy, described how the procedure has been updated. Twenty minutes afterward they gave him a printout with a complete description and even included an appointment date for his next in three years! Not the usual doctor's exam where you do not get the results without a follow up telephone call to the office. **Ramrod's** hip replacement is doing fine but he found out his lawyer is enduring pain from his joint. It seems that cobalt from the metal is leaching into his body causing the pain. He gave **Ramrod** the details so he can refer to his doctor to find out the type of replacement he has.
6. **PC Wiz** mentioned a survey in the latest Consumer Reports relating to survival rates of Medicare patients. Surprisingly, the Albany Medical Center received a "black ball" rating while Albany Memorial got a "good". **Shadow** asked how our local hospitals fared and **PC Wiz** reported both Ellis and St. Clare's were "good". He also checked Poughkeepsie, **Ramrod's** bailiwick. Vassar Brothers Medical Center also rated "good".
7. In sports talk turned to the drug situation. **Shadow** said Biogenesis has affected sports "from the top down". The news of the day is, of course, the probable return of ARod to the Yankees with a long suspension pending from Bud Selig, the Commissioner of Baseball. ARod, with 647 home runs, is slated to be paid a salary of 29 million dollars in 2013 if he plays, plus a bonus of six million dollars for surpassing Willie Mays record of 660. **Shadow** questioned, "What home runs should count" in Rodriguez' drug influenced record? **Shadow** proposed to "throw him out"; **Ramrod** countered that it can't happen because of the union contract. **Ramrod** continued that ARod is done for 2 years and then went on to criticize Cano's performance. He accused him of "loping" to second base – not playing the game seriously as is expected of a highly paid "star". **Ramrod** stated that the Yankees haven't been bringing new players to renew the team from the farm system – members agreed.
8. **Shadow** then laid a new item on the table: he proposed **HVBS** members make their annual New York Giants season predictions before the start of **exhibition games. After due consideration, **Ramrod** proposed a record of 10-6, yes on the playoffs, and no on the SuperBowl. **PC Wiz** predicted a winning season of 9-7, yes on the playoffs and no on SuperBowl. **Shadow** then laid a startling "real Giant fan" forecast before us: season 12-4, yes for the playoffs and yes on competing in the SuperBowl!! **Shadow** said he will be watching OT Justin Pugh (Syracuse University) and commented that CB Terrell Thomas is coming back. Should be an exciting season.
9. In the news we discussed the closing of the Middle Eastern embassies – suspicious that the unknown "threat" was the administration's attempt to divert attention from the Congressional Benghazi hearings. **Ramrod** asked the unanswerable question as to why the Post Office is photographing all the mail. **PC Wiz** proposed that, essentially, they were doing it "because they can". Technology makes these things easier and cheaper – referring to the NAS recording telephone calls. **Ramrod** informed us that CNN is going to make a special on Hillary Clinton's "career" (and an NBC miniseries planned). It has resulted in Republican Chairman Reince Priebus stating that those networks will be boycotted from the 2016 GOP presidential primary debates. **PC Wiz** brought up a news item that the state of Hawaii was offering a one-way plane (or cruise ship) ticket to any of the 48 states to their 17,000 "homeless" people. The Hawaiian legislature has already appropriated \$100,000 to the fund and promise more if needed. **Ramrod** then related a fact that impressed him – The Villages, a senior housing development near Orlando Florida, has grown to a remarkable 55,000 residents. Forbes magazine called it the "No.1 fastest growing small town".
10. Waitress **Kasey** returned for coffee orders. Only **PC Wiz** opted for a dessert, not able to resist the caramel flan. **Ramrod** asked if members were familiar with the movie "Atlas Shrugged". He thought it a great story and wondered when the third segment might be made. **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** both affirmed that they have seen the movie with **PC Wiz** having bought the DVD's. **Shadow** said that he was not impressed in the beginning of the movie but concluded it was a great story and a good film. **PC Wiz** mentioned that he read the book by Ayn Rand and recently purchased a new copy. As to the third (and final) movie he expressed doubt it will ever be made, being originally shown in movie theaters to small audiences. A motion was made for the date of our next debate. A September date was proposed but subsequently revised upon checking calendars. The final date is Wednesday **September 25, 2013**. The meeting was adjourned.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his critical review and "good catch" to **Shadow** on his correction**.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

August 16, 2013