

Deliberator*Ramrod**PC Wiz**Shadow*

The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes of the 6th HVBS Meeting September 25, 2013 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- **PC Wiz** piloted his Camry down a lightly-trafficked Thruway on a perfect, cool Fall morning. He and **Shadow** arrived at 11:15 AM, listening to the "FAN" while awaiting the arrival of our Southern patriot, **Ramrod**. In a few moments a Ford Ranger parked next to us, driven by **Pat Bradley**, the owner. **Shadow** drew a chuckle from him by remarking if he had forgotten something. **Ramrod** entered the **Hoffman House** parking lot at a precise 11:25. We entered the premises noting a fully appointed patio. **Ginny** greeted us at the door and invited us to go to our "usual table". Greetings to the bartender, and **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** escorted us to the table. Listing the availability of special thirst quenchers resulted in **PC Wiz** ordering the Sam Adams "Oktoberfest" beer. **Ramrod** and **Shadow** agreed on gin and tonics – with Tanqueray gin – and a slice of lime. No problem, **Lorayne** informed us.

2- **Shadow** stated that he had taken a liking to the gin and tonics since **Ramrod** first ordered the drink at the **Hoffman House** and inspired him to order the same. **Shadow** related that he has been buying the tonic with lime already added and has a bottle of Beefeater gin at home for his libations. **Ramrod** allowed that Beefeater gin is fine, also. When the drinks arrived, **Ramrod** toasted to the special memory of **Fritzi** and also to our departed member **Deliberator**. **PC Wiz** added congratulations to **Ramrod** on his recent birthday. **Ramrod** brought along a clear plastic photo album with selected family pictures, including recent pictures of his two beautiful granddaughters, **Kristi** and **Casey**. **Ramrod** commented that **Casey** has the features of the classic Greek woman – **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** readily agreed to the remarkable resemblance. He also had photos of his Mother and Father after their marriage. **PC Wiz** noted that he was wearing a suit and hat and his mother had a very chic cloche hat – very common dress in those times.

3- **Ramrod** then livened up our gathering with some marvelous jokes which, after much laughter, led **PC Wiz** to bring up a question from the agenda. Namely, a **Ramrod** update on how he acquired his new printer. He told us **Dan** helped him to pick out the machine – a Canon "all in one" for printing and scanning with an LCD control screen. **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** both said they also had Canon printers which are particularly fabulous for printing photos on photographic paper. **Lorayne** then arrived to take our luncheon orders – our room still quite empty of other patrons. **Shadow** ordered first – opting for the fine pulled BBQ pork sandwich on French bread, **Ramrod** ordered the Quesadilla steak sandwich and **PC Wiz** selected the seafood Boboli with scallops and shrimp from the "specials" menu. When the food arrived, **HVBS** members were quite overwhelmed by the generous portions – **PC Wiz's** Boboli being completely submerged in the toppings and cheese. **Ramrod** informed us that he was going, with **Sharon** and **Casey**, on a visit to **Dan** and family in Annapolis and **Kristi** in Baltimore where she is attending Loyola University. They are having a special awards program that **Sharon** and **Ramrod** will attend during their weekend trip. **Ramrod** is driving to Connecticut and **Sharon** will drive to Baltimore. **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** wished **Ramrod** a good trip.

4- The disastrous season start of the NY Giants was brought up by **Ramrod**. Although the agenda item suggesting updated season predictions was not acted upon, **Ramrod** mused that they may win very few games with the defense being pounded with "three and out" and a completely ineffective protection of Eli Manning in the pocket with numerous sacks. In despair super-fan **Shadow**, who had confidently predicted 12-4*, sadly pronounced that he should instead change that to the reverse 4-12! **Ramrod** then went on to relate the glory days of the Giants – both he and **Shadow** basked in the memories of quarterback Y.A. Tittle who led the team to three straight Eastern Division titles. **Ramrod** concluded with the statement that "Coach Coughlin is a good coach" and will do his best to make the team competitive.

He then asked **Shadow** how his NY Rangers were faring. **Shadow** brought him up-to-date on his new Sony 47" flat-screen TV with LED screen backlighting. **Shadow** and **Associate Member Shirley** also changed their Time Warner package from "Basic" to the "Standard" which includes the Madison Square Garden sports channel. **Shadow** mentioned that he can now watch Ranger hockey games, and even the pre-season games. To **Ramrod's** question how he views the new coach, Alain Vigneault (former head coach of the Vancouver Canucks), **Shadow** replied "love the guy".

5- With the NY Yankees fading in their pursuit of a wild card position, **HVBS** members commiserated on a dreadful season rife with injuries and poor pitching. **Shadow** remarked that Robinson Cano is "not a leader" and would applaud Yankee management if they do not sign him. **Ramrod** pointed out that "everyone knows" that Cano won't strike at the first pitch, giving the opposing pitcher a golden opportunity for a first strike. **PC Wiz** asked **Ramrod** if he is still playing racquetball, considering his recent pain problems. He explained that he has a problem with macular degeneration in his right eye so, playing doubles, he always plays on his partners right. This means that the partner (a good player) gets most of the shots and **Ramrod** fortunately has an easier game. **Ramrod** then informed us that he has an appointment with an orthopedist concerning his hip joint. It is a DePuy metal-to-metal joint implicated in leaching of cobalt. Unfortunately, the only way to check the joint is with an MRI.

6- After we had finished our lunch **Shadow** proposed treating **HVBS** members to a glass of port wine which, he pointed out, Michael Savage had pronounced a "rotten wine". **Lorayne** took the order, **PC Wiz** opting out of the offer. In the news, **Ramrod** stated that Vladimir Putin had "beaten the ass off Barack Obama" in the furor over Syrian chemical weapons. **PC Wiz** related that Mark Levin had offended him by his passionate personal attack on Putin. He was a colonel in the KGB, not the head of it, and is President of Russia, deserving some respect. Certainly avoiding a U.S. war with Syria was a great accomplishment. **Ramrod** felt that the only Middle Eastern war that justified U.S. involvement was Kuwait (George Herbert Walker Bush in 1991). **Shadow** made his views known on the NASCAR scandal (where Clint Bowyer purposely (allegedly) caused a caution by going into a skid to enable his team-mate Martin Truex to qualify for the "final ten" championship) which caused NAPA to drop their sponsorship of Michael Waltrip Racing. **PC Wiz**, who listens to a NAPA sponsored program on the radio, heard the sponsor's rep comment that the \$300,000 fine might cause all their prices to go up – and then said it was "just a joke".

7- **Lorayne** stopped by to ask if we wanted coffee. All agreed and **PC Wiz** ordered the only dessert, a caramel flan. When she returned, **Shadow** recommended **Ramrod** show her the "robot joke". Although very busy, she read it and laughed uproariously at the punch line – "Robot for sale!" **Shadow** related that his plumber is scheduled to install a pump-up second toilet in the basement. **Ramrod** said he found his unit indispensable, especially when **Dan's** family lived with him temporarily. **PC Wiz** asked if **Ramrod's** unit was the same as **Shadow's**: the grinder tank behind the toilet. No, **Ramrod** explained, his tank, below the floor, had to be excavated with a jack hammer. He also mentioned it is a good idea to flush it occasionally to work the system. **Ramrod** informed us he has an article pending publication in the Poughkeepsie Journal. He will send us a copy when they print it. Incidentally, **Ramrod** mentioned that he has been sending opinion letters to the newspaper for 60 years! A date for our next meeting was proposed and after some debate **Wednesday November 6, 2013** was ratified (with November 20 as an alternate date). Since this was the meeting after **Ramrod's** birthday, per the **HVBS** bylaws relating to a free celebration lunch, **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** dug deep to pay the tab. Upon leaving the premises on this beautiful Fall day, we found the patio quite busy with patrons.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his review and to **Shadow*** for finding the statistical error in the Giants story.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

October 4, 2013