

Deliberator*Ramrod**PC Wiz**Shadow*

The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

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

- 1- On a rainy Fall day **Shadow** transported the Northern Pair to the **Hoffman House** for our seventh **HVBS** meeting of the year. At the appointed time **Ramrod** appeared in his Tungsten Silver Metallic Passat. Entering the premises, we were greeted by the waitress at the end of the passage and **Hostess Ginny** behind the bar. We were taken to our usual corner table and waitress **Jocelyn** set a third place. She mentioned our regular waitress **Lorayne** was not available, we arriving on a Thursday rather than the habitual Wednesday. **HVBS** members ordered drinks – **PC Wiz** opting for the Samuel Adams Oktoberfest beer and **Ramrod** and **Shadow** both ordering gin and tonics. **Jocelyn** was asked by **Shadow** if they had Tanqueray gin; she said “yes” and he then instructed her that the drinks had to have a slice of lime, not lemon.
- 2- When the drinks arrived, members toasted to our departed member **Deliberator** and **Ramrod** drank to the memory of **Fritzi**. **PC Wiz** pulled out a print of **Fritzi** and **Shadow** explained that it was of an oil painting that **HVBS Associate Member Shirley** was giving him as a birthday present. **Shadow** then continued with the story of **PC Wiz’s** deception concerning a picture of his little friend. He wanted a good picture to remember him by while, in the background, the ordering of the painting was going on. **Ramrod** then informed us that **Sharon’s** dog is failing with a tumor on the spine. The doctor estimates her dog has three months. In good news: **Dan** is closing on his new house in Maryland on November 11 after having the usual hassle with the three credit rating agencies. **Ramrod** is baffled how they came up with three different scores. **Shadow** related his experience with them by disclosing that **Shirley** has a higher score than he. With literally no debt he thinks he should have the highest score. **PC Wiz** and **Ramrod** pointed out that his record actually counts against him. The agencies want a record of debt being regularly paid back.
- 3- **Ramrod** then produced a news bombshell on our meeting. He informed us that **Sharon’s** ex Bob has had his second marriage break up. He then told us that daughter **Kristi** has finally completely broken off from her father and wishes nothing to do with him. **Ramrod** told us how much he admires **Kristi** and is assisting for her college expenses. He stated that she is calm and “laid back” like **Kay** and very artistic – the very image of **Kay**, who left us five years ago. **PC Wiz** asked **Ramrod** about the tests he took yesterday – an MRI and a test of the nerves in his neck and arm. Concerning the MRI, he was surprised when the technicians covered his abdomen with a thick sort-of blanket. **Ramrod** had no idea why they did that since it made a tight squeeze into the machine. “No problem”, he said, and they successfully threaded him into the testing tunnel. **PC Wiz** mentioned that the new GE units are open-sided – no tight tube that many people find upsetting. The other test was an EMG – electromyography: to study nerve and muscle function. Hopefully the doctors will find a treatment for the pain in **Ramrod’s** arm and neck.
- 4- Last meeting **Ramrod** informed us he had an article pending for publication in the Poughkeepsie Journal. It has not made it into print so he suspects his opinions were a bit too much for the editors. **Shadow** was surprised he still subscribes to a newspaper but **Ramrod** finds it useful for local news. **Ramrod** asked if we subscribe to Netflix, which he finds a great, cheap way to see new movies. Also, he still prefers to receive the disks instead of the streaming **PC Wiz** suggested. He highly recommended “The Company Men” with Ben Affleck, Kevin Costner and, the star of the story, Tommy Lee Jones. It is the story of a large concern that lays off many employees because of financial problems and what happens in the lives of the displaced executives. **Ramrod** inquired as to what we were planning for Thanksgiving. **Shadow** replied that he really didn’t know but we would probably have a holiday dinner with **Bobbi** and **Randy**. **Ramrod** is having Thanksgiving dinner at his house this year. **Dan**, **Chako** and the children will spend the weekend at his house and he will have the dinner catered by his local Greek diner. **Ramrod** humorously remarked that they will probably cook the turkey “like a lamb”.
- 5- **PC Wiz** asked **Ramrod** to tell us about his recent problem sending e-mails and his experience with the Dell techs. When he tried sending an e-mail the type automatically became very tiny and he had other problems. Naturally, (well, naturally with Dell service) the techs on the telephone were all in India. He estimates spending 6-8 hours on the phone

before the problem was solved – talking to a new tech each time until he ended with a woman who seemed to know what she was doing. It seems some form of malware was present. After that was solved by “stepping back” the system to a time before the infection (love that feature of System 7), the tech rebooted the system – correcting a “corrupted file” and **Ramrod** was finally back on line. This gave **Shadow** the chance to comment on the aftermath of Ramrod’s e-mail problems – receiving 25 in one mailing! **Ramrod** retorted that he actually had carefully sifted his stash of backed-up e-mails to sending the best. **Shadow** brought up a recently discovered asset of his digital Time Warner cable programming – above 1000 he has channels with music of almost any variety. **Ramrod** affirmed that he knows of the service and also has them on his TV.

6- **Shadow** asked **Ramrod** how his Passat was doing. **Ramrod** said he is very pleased with the car’s performance and inquired of **Shadow**’s latest thoughts on the car to replace his Fusion Hybrid after his lease expires. **Shadow**, in a recent visit to his dealer, Terry Morris Ford, found out that the Ford company occasionally offers to “buy-out” owners near the end of their leases – depending on market conditions. The company makes the remaining payments if they buy a new Ford. Since he has decided to go for the new Fusion Hybrid (and will have no car when the lease is up) **Shadow** will consider an offer, if made. He also said he will want Sirius radio in the new car. **PC Wiz** and he listened to a program on Sirius on the way to the **Hoffman House** which was absolutely clear, unlike ordinary radio.

7- Talk then turned to the election results in Virginia where former DNC chairman and Clinton favorite Terry McAuliffe won a close contest with the Republican former Attorney General Cuccinelli. **Ramrod** commented that the new Democrat governor was “dead meat” since the legislature is “all” Republican. **PC Wiz** said he read that Obama finance groups had supported the “third party” libertarian candidate – syphoning off enough votes to defeat Cuccinelli who lost by 2 ½ percent. **PC Wiz** felt this “fixed” the election and was dirty politics, emblematic of Bill and Hillary Clinton’s tactics. **Shadow** raised the issue of Governor Christie’s election in New Jersey and how he is being selected as the Presidential candidate in 2016. **Ramrod** raised the Agenda item of Bill DeBlasio’s election to be New York City’s next mayor. He is viewed as “to the left” of David Dinkins – if that is possible. **Ramrod** said DeBlasio held his marriage in Cuba and **PC Wiz** interjected that he also had serious dealings with the Nicaraguan Sandinistas. **Shadow** commented that the NYC people are getting the government “they deserve”, that Bloomberg overall had not been a bad mayor.

8- **Shadow** turned the conversation to sports with his view of the New York Giants. His original prediction of a 12-4 season blown he was going to make a startling prediction: the Giants will win the *NFC* East title, get to the SuperBowl and win the February 2 SuperBowl to be held in Rutherford’s MetLife stadium. **Ramrod** was staggered by the possibility but had no comment – it is not impossible. While the news is full of commentary on football injuries, **Ramrod** held that Packers QB Aaron Rodgers broken collar bone was caused by a “typical” tackle. Concerning the “deal” the Yankees offered Jeter – a one year contract \$12 million deal (better than the \$9.5 million option choice). **Shadow** said it is a good deal for Jeter, probably in his last year as a player. Naturally ARod had to enter the conversation with the fact that he had failed one drug test. **Ramrod** pointed out that league rules call for the failing of two tests. We shall see if the Yanks still have their troubled third baseman.

9- Both Upstate members voted against the Casino Constitutional Amendment, understanding the drawbacks of casinos and not convinced gambling is the industry of the future. **Ramrod** informed us he voted for it (the majority, most votes in the NYC area – it lost in Upstate) because he is familiar with the depressed economy of the Catskills and feels a casino would help restore their economy and help the people.

10- **Ramrod** then told us of his lawn problems. He has had problems in the past but the present people were doing a good job. Until “spots” turned up in **Ramrod**’s lawn. A telephone call resulted in a promise to topsoil and seed the spots but, at the next service call, the tech told **Ramrod** “we don’t do that”. A “pumped-up” **Ramrod** hit the telephone and got the owner of the service on the phone who repeated “we don’t do that”. He is now looking for another lawn service, a shame since the latest did a good job maintaining his lawn. **Ramrod** described an animal he saw on his lawn that he didn’t recognize – not a cat or skunk. **Shadow** smiled and said, “you saw a possum” and **Ramrod** realized that it was indeed an opossum. **Shadow** related how he and **Shirley** enjoy their new bird feeder, now serving more birds each day such as chickadees, etc. **Waitress Jocelyn** brought us coffees. On hearing the specials **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** ordered the pumpkin pie while **Shadow** opted for his favorite apple cobbler. **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** shared the check in celebration of **Shadow**’s recent birthday. A proposal of **Wednesday December 18**, weather and doctors permitting, for our next meeting was made by **Shadow**. It was accepted, the meeting adjourned and we and a party of ladies exited, leaving the premises ready for the **Hoffman House**’s dinner clientele.

Thanks to **Shadow** for his first catch of the Section 8 correction ** and **Ramrod** the same error report.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

November 18, 2013