

## *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

### Official Minutes of the 8th HVBS Meeting December 18, 2013 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1. As reported in the Official Agenda, a late change was made in the transportation for the Northern Nabobs. A local person of note was nominated for the open position in the Society due to the untimely death of **HVBS** founder **Deliberator**. **Bill Lucarelli** arrived at 10:01 AM at **PC Wiz's** domicile for him and **Shadow**. **Shadow** remonstrated **Bill** for his tardiness, not a good way to qualify for membership. **Bill** thought one minute qualified but accepted the criticism with good humor. His transgression was forgotten when it became clear the transportation was a brand-new 2013 Cadillac with all the trimmings. Otto Cadillac came up with an \$8,000 discount and threw in an iPad, an offer impossible to refuse.
2. We arrived a few minutes early at the Hoffman House's well-plowed parking lot and awaited the appearance of **Ramrod**. He entered the parking lot at 11:25 AM, not aware of our presence in **Bill's** unfamiliar car. **Ramrod** attached his handicapped hang tag and the conversation turned to the Cadillac and its features – very similar to **Ramrod's** Passat, including the "touch" locking of the vehicle. Entering the premises we were greeted by the bartender with **Ginny Bradley** at the end of the hall. **Waitress Jocelyn** escorted us to our familiar corner table and set an additional place. She informed us that **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** was present. **Lorayne** appeared wearing a bright red Santa hat, very appropriate to the season. She took our orders for suitable adult beverages: **Ramrod** asked for a suggestion of a drink to "warm him up". She offered a hot rum drink which **Ramrod** and **Bill** ordered. **PC Wiz** and **Shadow** opted for cabernets. The rum drinks arrived with a wedge of lemon and a cinnamon stick in each. They definitely felt warmer.
3. **PC Wiz** asked **Ramrod** to explain his reference to receiving funds from **Deliberator's** estate to help fund our **HVBS** luncheon. **Ramrod** said he had received a check for \$75.00 from **Wingit**, executor of the estate. This resulted in another round of toasts to **Deliberator's** memory – which led to a discussion of tips for our waitress. **Ramrod** maintained that **Deliberator** belonged to the "20 %" group – to which **Shadow**, **Bill** and **PC Wiz** replied that they agreed – while **Ramrod** continued that a proper tip would be 15%, explaining the simplicity of calculation by taking 10% and adding one-half. **PC Wiz** interjected that large groups are routinely charged a minimum tip with 15% added to the bill and we should be more generous; **Ramrod** felt that proved his case. **Shadow** read some engineering puns sent by **Bill** via an e-mail – all very funny twists on the language.
4. **Bill** being a probationary **HVBS** member, **Shadow** said he had to have a moniker and suggested "**surveyor**". **Ramrod** noted that three members were all surveyors but the moniker was accepted. In the future it can be changed as **Ramrod** did in the past. **PC Wiz** noted that **Surveyor** was now a "probie" as on NCIS – a state that never ends with McGee and, on occasion, even Gibbs himself by Mike Franks. **Shadow** mentioned he has recently watched the NCIS shows, a favorite of members. All approved of **Ramrod's** selection of Tom Selleck's Blue Bloods while they found some of the other crime shows too dark and disturbing. To **Ramrod's** question, **Surveyor** said he is fully retired although he still works two days a week.
5. The **Hoffman House** was unusually busy; probably a consequence of the coming Holidays and parties surmised **Surveyor**. **Lorayne** arrived to take our luncheon orders. **Ramrod** selected the Reuben with pastrami while

**Surveyor** ordered the same with turkey. **PC Wiz**, while admitting the Reuben was his favorite, went for the fish and chips. **Shadow**, taking advantage of the wide selection available, ordered a chicken chimichanga – a deep fried burrito made with a flour tortilla. When the food arrived **Surveyor** noted the generous sized large, rather than several smaller, chimichanga. Conversation turned to sports and the disappointing Giant season. **PC Wiz** mentioned a talk show concluding that Eli Manning – contractually the quarterback for at least the next 3-4 years – left as the only option the firing of Coach Tom Coughlin and re-organizing the coaching staff. Members rejected the notion out of hand, supporting Coach Coughlin. **Surveyor** noted that the Giant receivers were “not in sync” and linked it to the offensive coaches, especially offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride. **Ramrod** complained that Eli does not scramble while **Shadow** said he still has to be considered an elite quarterback with his two SuperBowl wins. However, he considers the Giant performance “pathetic”. **Surveyor** expressed his baffled feeling that they “can’t make a screen play work” – a basic play that other teams use successfully. **Shadow** opined that General Manager Jerry Reese’s “picks suck”, thus commenting on his poor recruiting skills.

6. Turning to baseball, **PC Wiz** asked **Ramrod’s** opinion of the Robinson Cano move to the Mariners. **Ramrod** is glad Cano is gone since he, although a “natural great hitter”, was not a leader on the team and he thinks the Mariners will face the same problem. **Surveyor** was glad Cano will not be paid “big money”. **Ramrod** then mentioned that the Yankee farm system no longer supplies great talent to the team compared to earlier results – members then went down a list of famous Yankee players from the farm teams of the past. To wrap it up **Shadow** said the Yankees are the #1 over-spending team with his favored Dodgers #2. To **Ramrod’s** question, **Shadow** said the NY Rangers are “worse than last year”.
7. **Shadow** said **Russ’s** wife **Kris**, on her nursing course, got an 88 on her finals this semester. He told us that there were 100 questions and they were given 2 ½ hours to complete it. He congratulated her and, finding out she finished early and only checked it twice, jokingly asked why she had not gotten a 98! **PC Wiz** mentioned his new Samsung 40” flat-screen TV – replacing a 1999 JVC 27”. When **Shadow** bought his new 47” Sony the salesman told him that they would no longer accept the tube sets after the first of the year for recycling so **PC Wiz** decided it was time to make the change. The new sets are “smart” and **PC Wiz** detailed his travails in connecting to his wireless router. **Surveyor** said he has a 55” Samsung and is very pleased with its performance. Concerned that very few birds were visiting his new bird feeder, **Ramrod** informed us that the problem has been solved by re-locating it. The feeder has to be within 10-15 feet of trees or birds will not visit it. **Shadow**, also noting a lack of birds, may have the same problem with his feeder in front of a window for viewing but in the center of an open area.
8. Talk continued about that perennial topic, Obamacare. **Surveyor** had a cut in his hand treated by a physician’s assistant, instead of seeing a doctor. **HVBS** members predicted that many doctors are going to retire rather than face the stifling government regulation of their practices – just as millions are going to be added to the insured roles. **Shadow**, one of the three members on Medicare and not affected by the Affordable Care Act, related the story of his recent bout with a kidney stone. After several visits to the Emergency Room at Ellis Hospital they finally operated. **Shadow** saw a preliminary bill for \$16,000 with removal to come. He opined that it should have been done sooner at much lower cost.
9. **Official Waitress Lorayne** appeared to take possible dessert orders. All present ordered coffee as they mulled over their choices. After coffee arrived **Ramrod** asked about the carrot cake. **Lorayne** said it was a very tall cake and very good. **Ramrod** and **Surveyor** ordered the cake, **PC Wiz** his usual “pumpkin” cheese cake and **Shadow** opted for vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup. It came time to reckon up the bill and the discussion turned to methods of payment for routine bills. **Ramrod** and **Shadow** stated that they either pay cash or send checks each month, and will continue to do so. **PC Wiz** remembered **Shadow’s** father who did the same – **Shadow** reminisced that he walked to the Schenectady Savings Bank on Broadway to purchase the checks, not having his own checking account. **PC Wiz** said his first checks were “Check Master” – you were charged 10 cents for each check you wrote. **Surveyor** and **PC Wiz** use auto-pay for their routine bills – National Grid, Time Warner, etc. The world has changed.

10. Dessert was over and **Ramrod** still had a very large piece of his carrot cake remaining. Members urged him to have it boxed and take the remainder home. It was too much for **Ramrod** so **PC Wiz** agreed to take half (it was an excellent cake). The cake arrived at our table in Styrofoam containers with a “happy face” on the lid. After detailed calculations by **Ramrod**, including the \$75.00 from **Deliberator’s** estate, the final toll for members was \$20.00 each including **Lorayne’s** tip. **Surveyor**, having successfully survived the grueling initiation process, was admitted to probationary membership by a unanimous vote of 3 white balls – **Ramrod** insisting on the procedure used in the Golden Age of Greece. After eliminating date conflicts and confirming a Winter closing date for the **Hoffman House** of February 14, a tentative date, weather permitting, was set for **Wednesday February 5, 2014**. This momentous meeting which has resulted in a new member being admitted was adjourned. Chatting in the parking lot it was noticed that **Surveyor’s** Cadillac was running. He had used the remote starter on his fully equipped car. **Ramrod** confirmed he had the same on his Passat but had not had an occasion to use it. **Shadow** said his new (most likely Fusion Hybrid) will come equipped also.

Thanks to **Shadow** and **Ramrod** for their comments on the lack of facial hair on **Surveyor’s** countenance (a photo will have to be taken in the future, Paint Shop Pro beard added in our next meetings’ letterhead per **Shadow’s** suggestion).

Also to **Wingit** for his comment on the tipping practices of **Deliberator** – quoted here:

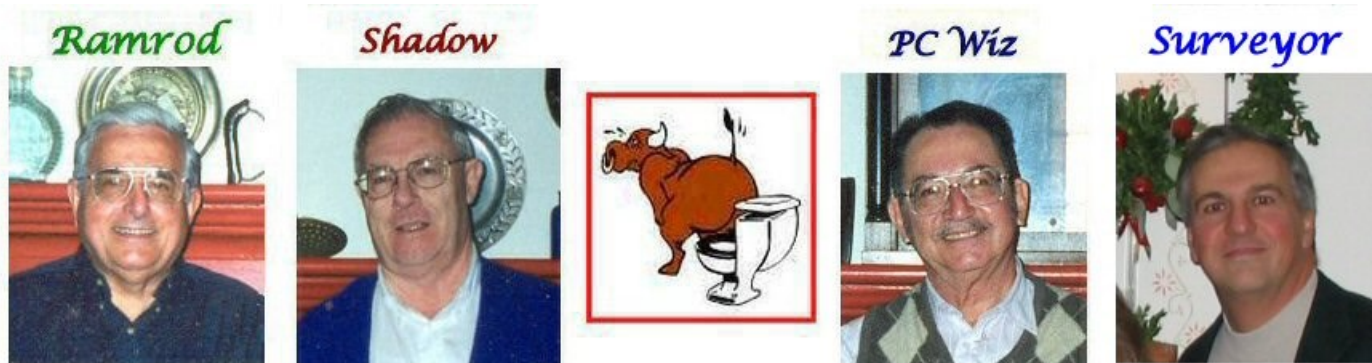
*”If I could be so bold to provide comment on the tipping practices of the **Deliberator**. He was of the 18 to 20 percent if the service was above average, which I assume would be at your meeting establishment.”*

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

February 3, 2014

Gentlemen:

Here is the temporary new letterhead for our next agenda. Your scribe forgot to take a portrait of our new probie so I lifted a picture from the archives.



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