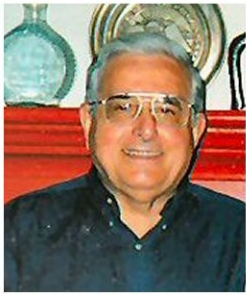


Ramrod



Shadow



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes 1st HVBS Meeting March 19, 2014 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- On a cloudy morning **PC Wiz** conveyed the **HVBS** Northern Outpost members to our first conclave of the year. Originally planned for February 4th or 5th, it was postponed because of an imminent snow storm – which arrived as scheduled. South of Albany's NY Thruway exit 23 we saw the northbound side traffic backed up with officials present at the accident site. **Shadow** and **Surveyor** observed an overturned vehicle. It was a 2000 GMC SUV from Kingston with 4 passengers. Three were ejected, one dead. The least injured was an 86 year old woman – the only one wearing a seat belt! On arrival at the **Hoffman House** we waited for **Ramrod** who arrived shortly after us. All still seated in the cars, **Shadow** informed us it was time to start moving. He roused **Ramrod** out of his Passat and we entered the premises. **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** greeted us and escorted us to our customary table. We noted a change in the décor – several tables placed together in a diagonal. To **Ramrod's** query, it was not set up for a party but just a change.

2- It was time to quench our thirsts with suitable adult beverages. **Lorayne** took our orders: Because of Guinness' dropping sponsorship of the St. Patrick's Day New York City parade (supporting gay protestors who wanted banners which were not allowed), members agreed on a boycott of their brews. **PC Wiz** opted for a Keegan's Mother's Milk; **Ramrod** ordered the hot rum drink, complete with a stick of cinnamon. Having a choice between light or dark rum **Ramrod** followed **Surveyor's** advice and went with the dark. **Shadow** ordered a Malbec and **Surveyor** seconded the decision. With drinks in hand members toasted the memory of **Deliberator**. **Shadow** informed the meeting that he had ordered "several cases" of wine from the Williamsburg Winery in Virginia that morning with **PC Wiz**. **PC Wiz** confirmed the order but revised the quantity to the actual 6 bottles. **Surveyor** asked about the number of years that the group had been holding meetings; that he remembered one he attended in our Upstate area. **Shadow** said all our meetings had been at the **Hoffman House** except for a short period. **PC Wiz** interjected that it was because members arriving after St. Patrick's Day found the place closed because renovations had not been completed. **Ramrod** mentioned Roudigan's steak house nearby which we found quiet and acceptable from 2004 to 2006 when, at **Shadow's** suggestion (we lost our **Official Waitress Jessica**), we met at Mahoney's in Poughkeepsie. We then returned to the **Hoffman House**.

3- Returning to **Surveyor's** original question, **Shadow** remembered the meeting he was referring to. It was not **HVBS** but rather with **Associate Member Shirley's** employer Vern Hoffman (co-incidental name there) at a restaurant on Ballston Lake. They had a fire and the location is now a pizza place. All this talk about meeting sites led to **Shadow**



suggesting we might consider the Raccoon Saloon in Marlboro New York for a future meeting. The photo is from the August 25, 2004 **HVBS** meeting held there. The restaurant overlooks the Hudson River (in the background) and was a very pleasant place. **Shadow** mentioned that he recently got new glasses after an eye exam. When he was informed of the price of new frames he kept his original titanium frames. **Shadow** now has sharp and clear far vision.

4- **Lorayne** returned to take our lunch orders. **Ramrod** went to the regular menu to order the French onion steak sandwich; **Shadow** ordered the pulled BBQ pork sandwich

while **PC Wiz** and **Surveyor** preferred the “fish and chips” beer-battered haddock. With Spring a day away, **PC Wiz** noted that quite a few snow storms had missed the capital area, going to the South. **Ramrod** confirmed that he had received a lot of the “white stuff” and had to hire people to remove the snow accumulation from his house roof. The result was deep snow on his shrubs and blockage of the Bilco door, his only entrance to the cellar. The conversation turned to the subject of generators. **Surveyor** told us he has a new small-capacity generator that runs the refrigeration, lights and furnace. When his service was checked, the house being of an age, it was found that he required a new breaker box. **Surveyor** related what beautiful, precise wiring was found in the original installation. **Shadow** mentioned that both **Russell** and **Randy** have large-capacity generators.

5- **Shadow** mentioned the surprise letter **PC Wiz** received in the mail from the Town of Rotterdam Highway Department. **PC Wiz** related that they were short of money from their operations and the Town Board had voted a \$50 fee for yard waste pickup, too late to be included in our recent Town tax bill. A form that has to be notarized was included to opt out of the pickup. To ensure payment the unpaid amount will be added to next year’s bill. **Ramrod** surmised that people who have their lawns mowed usually have the service remove the clippings. He added, to **Shadow’s** amusement, that he has a lot of land in back of his house and he simply dumps the grass cuttings there. In **Shadow’s** case his yard waste is, by contract with his town, picked up by County Waste, a very satisfactory solution. **Surveyor** mentioned that the clippings supposedly enrich the soil so he merely mulches the mowings, which **PC Wiz** also does (his yard waste consisting of tree trimmings and bagged leaves in the Fall).

6- During the meeting **Ramrod** read some of his selected jokes to everyone’s enjoyment. **Official Waitress Lorayne** arrived to take orders for coffee and asked **Ramrod** for the jokes so she could show them to her friends on the staff. Returning, she took orders for desserts. Everyone participated: **PC Wiz** the crème brulee with chocolate chips, **Shadow** opted for a scoop of vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup, while **Surveyor** and **Ramrod** selected the Bailey’s cheese cake. **Shadow** informed us he is awaiting the delivery of a new Ford Fusion Hybrid, the same as his present leased car. He bought it from Orange Ford in Albany after a surprising lack of follow-up by Terry Morris Ford – his original dealer. **Shadow** and **Associate Member Shirley** drove to Albany to make the deal on a day when it started to snow. Although the roads got quite slick **Shadow** was happy to report his Fusion responded perfectly. **Shadow** said he referred to the Kelley Blue Book for an idea of his car’s trade-in value. **Ramrod** said he highly recommended car.com which shows available cars in your area by zip code (checked it – very nice site). **Ramrod** had to have a headlight support replaced on his car and concluded from his experience that “the squeaky wheel gets the grease”. The squeaky wheel had no difficulty getting the part replaced under warranty.

7- In family news **Ramrod** told us that **Sharon** has a new dog. To **Shadow’s** query, he said it is a mongrel – usually healthier than pure breeds. She has installed an electronic fence for the dog whose special collar gives him a shock if he goes over the line. **Ramrod** said the good dog quickly learned the boundaries. **PC Wiz** related that there are two small dogs on his walking route that have the fences and they never go past it into the street. **Ramrod** then told us **Kristi** has her first “boyfriend” and that **Casey** went skiing with her father. **Shadow** repeated his invitation to **Ramrod** to visit them. He said he is working on it. In the discussion about TV cable providers **Shadow** said his channel 44 delivers all the hockey he wants. While **Shadow** is holding his breath hoping the NY Rangers can make the playoffs, **Surveyor** mentioned that the Union College hockey team is presently #1** in the nation. To **Ramrod’s** question concerning outdoor hockey games, both **Surveyor** and **Shadow** said they like them. Time Warner also services **Ramrod** but there is no competition with Verizon FiOS, which he has for his telephone, because of the local town license.

8- As our meeting was winding down **PC Wiz** asked **Surveyor** for his birth date – December 26 – for the record concerning our bylaw provision for a complementary lunch at our nearest meeting. Today’s lunch was “on the house” for **PC Wiz**, although there was some commotion about February 5 being too far in the past. While **Shadow** sharpened his pencil to assess the damages, **Surveyor** whipped out his smart phone and came up with a calendar for the date of our next meeting. **HVBS** members approved **Wednesday May 7, 2014**. The meeting adjourned and members were greeted by **Hostess Ginny Bradley** and our long-suffering bartender on the way out.

Thanks to **Ramrod** and **Surveyor** for their reviews and **Shadow** for his correction** of Union’s hockey standing.
HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**
May 13, 2014