

Ramrod



Shadow



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

HVBS Official Minutes: 2014 2nd Meeting May 14, 2014 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- On a morning that turned overcast **Shadow** entered the **Hoffman House** parking only to find **Ramrod** waiting for our arrival. **Ramrod** had opted for the right hand handicapped parking spot and **Shadow**, attaching his tag took the left side. **HVBS** member cars thus, for the first time, straddled the entrance to the establishment. **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** greeted **Ramrod** – **Surveyor** not able to attend this meeting. **Ramrod** examined **Shadow's** new Fusion Hybrid carefully, commenting on the beautiful color (Sunset Metallic, **Shadow** informed us, selected by **HVBS Associate Member Shirley**). He examined the interior and **Shadow** told him of the voice activated radio, telephone and navigation system. **Shadow** showed **Ramrod** the emblem on the trunk lid - "Titanium", – the top-of-the-line model. It has a rear-view camera and folding seats in the back. **Shadow** demonstrated the touch number pad on the front door frame in case of a forgotten key. This led to a discussion of Sirius, included at no charge for the first six months. **Shadow** told us of his problems with Sirius phone support while **Ramrod** said he is considering not renewing his subscription because he doesn't drive the car enough to make it worth the cost.



2- We received a warm welcome on entering the premises from the staff, bar-tender and **Lorayne** at the wait station.



In the dining room **Hostess Ginny** was tidying up as we took our usual corner deliberating table. **Shadow** asked where she and **Pat** had gone on this year's vacation and **Ginny** told us they went to Pennsylvania. Prompting **PC Wiz** to comment about Thailand last year and now Pennsylvania? **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** took our beverage orders – **Ramrod** ordered a Jack Daniels Old Fashioned while **Shadow** opted for a gin and tonic with Tanqueray gin. **PC Wiz** went for a rather pedestrian house cabernet. Before the drinks arrived **Shadow** went out to the parking lot to check if the cars were locked. ** Good catch – the Hybrid was unlocked, while he found **Ramrod's** Passat properly locked. Earlier in the parking lot **Shadow** had asked **Ramrod** about his cataract* operation. It had

gone well and now he has two functioning eyes. He elaborated with the details of the operation and the remarkable difference removing the cloudy lens made. **Ramrod** now has clear vision to his left.

3- Our drinks arrived and members toasted to the memory of **Deliberator**, good health and our Armed Forces. **Shadow** and **Ramrod** discussed the IRS scandalous purchasing \$96.5 million dollars of furniture (chairs from Herman Miller which sells \$1200 chairs) while Treasury Secretary Lew is requesting a 7% budget increase because they are short

of funds to “do right by the American People”! **Shadow** and **Ramrod** then talked about the video with South Carolina Senator Gowdy who has been appointed Chairman of the Senate Select Committee assigned to investigate the circumstances of the deaths of four Americans, including the American ambassador in the American diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya. **PC Wiz** mentioned that President Obama was scheduled to be in Tarrytown today at the Tappan Zee site to push for Congressional approval of a transportation bill. **Shadow** expressed surprise **Ramrod** was not in Tarrytown for the event (reply censored).

4- **Ramrod** brought selected jokes as usual. **HVBS** members’ enthusiastic laughter attracted **Lorayne**. Given the papers she immediately took off to show them to the staff. **Ramrod** applauded Jay Leno for his “one-liners”. **PC Wiz** and **Shadow** agreed that, in their opinion, Jay had been fired for his even-handed sharp humor (Bush – fine, Obama – not). Concerning TV: **Shadow** remarked he found nothing interesting on TV other than the coverage of NY Ranger hockey. **PC Wiz** interjected that **Ramrod** had Netflix to replace the lackluster TV programming. **Ramrod** said he enjoys listening to Charles Krauthammer on Fox News. One of the “hot” news items has been the “climate change” controversy. Krauthammer responded by noting that China and India are responsible for 96% of the carbon while our power plants are being shut down to reduce our emissions. **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** agreed with **Ramrod** in his opinion while **PC Wiz** also lauded George Will (avid Chicago Cub fan), whom members highly appreciated for his penetrating commentary.

5- **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** appeared to take orders for lunch. Members perused the “specials” sheet but opted for items from the regular menu. **PC Wiz** ordered his favorite hot sandwich – a pastrami Reuben. **Ramrod** asked about the grilled lamb and onion sandwich. **Lorayne** said it was really good – “to die for”. **Shadow**, after some thought, decided on the French dip roast beef sandwich with hot au jus. **PC Wiz** reminded him that he found the meat too rare the last time. **Lorayne** said she would see to it that the meat would be the way he wished it – “medium well” (it arrived “perfect”). **Ramrod** gave us a printed out commentary concerning the Donald Sterling L.A. Clippers owner story. It is quite critical of the “racist” overtones – especially by the NAACP which intended to give him the second “lifetime achievement” award (now rescinded). The article clearly defined the story and members thought, while Sterling is definitely not a “nice guy” he was unfairly attacked (especially considering the behavior of his alleged “girlfriend”).

6- **Ramrod** updated **HVBS** members on the Greek financial situation by telling us that Greece has received the first bailout installment of 6.3 billion Euros as a result of austerity measures they have taken. The government has, excluding interest on the debt, wiped out its deficit (BBC April 1, 2014). With all the news lately about radical Islam, **PC Wiz** commented on the history of Cyprus. Greece and Turkey got into a dispute about the population on Cyprus and the eventual solution was separating the Muslims and Christians. **PC Wiz** concluded that, with the Koran’s insistence on conversion or death of “infidels”, separation might be the only answer to increasing problems in Europe and our country. **Ramrod** told us that he belongs to AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association* – founded in 1922), a group dedicated to remembrance of the Ottoman atrocities committed against Greek Christians, Assyrians and Armenians in the World War I period from 1914-1923. **Ramrod** then commented, and **PC Wiz** agreed, that he thinks Assad has won in Syria. **Shadow** then reminded us that Major Nidal Malik Hasan, the Muslim major who killed 13 unarmed soldiers, is still alive.

7- **PC Wiz** had prints of the pictures **Ramrod** took on his visit with **Dan** to the World War II Memorial. **PC Wiz** was very impressed by the memorial and **Ramrod** pointed out in one photo the veterans (some disabled) visiting it. He said it was a very humbling experience. **PC Wiz** mentioned that it was the memorial that had been barricaded during the “sequestration” to bar veteran trips to the site. During the visit **Ramrod** came up with “monikers” for grandsons **Max** (**Kiddo**) and **Alex** (**Buster**). **Max**, now five years old, loved the moniker so much that he filled in his name on a school paper as “**Max Kiddo Anagnos**”! **Shadow** returned to a recent problem he had with Ford – “a flea fighting an elephant” was his conclusion. It seems **Shadow** was eligible for an “early bird special” on an early trade of his leased Fusion Hybrid by purchasing a new Ford. The Company took a payment they were not entitled to under the agreement. **Shadow** went to Orange Motors Vice President Carl Keegan who said he “has no clout with Ford”. **Shadow** then dealt with his salesman who, although he couldn’t refund the overpayment, offered the irate **Shadow** “lifetime” free service for his new car. **Ramrod** thought it was a satisfactory arrangement and reinforced his “squeaky wheel” complaint theory. He then told us of his problems with his oil supplier, to whom he mailed a payment five days before due, only to be docked a “penalty” for late payment! He found out that the payment had to be mailed from the branch office to the main office resulting in a late arrival! Not only did **Ramrod** get the penalty removed but the company sent him a check for \$50 for his trouble.

8- Our meeting finally turned to sports. **Ramrod**, who does not usually watch hockey, happened to tune in at the end of the second period of the Ranger - Penguins game. Members toasted the Rangers who tied the NHL Eastern Conference finals 3 games apiece after being behind 3 games to 1. Though not a hockey fan, **Ramrod** marveled at the saves by Ranger goalie Henrik Lundqvist and concluded the Rangers are not “wimps”. He watched the game to the end. **Shadow**, confident they would win the game on our meeting night, mentioned that Lundqvist, who came from Sweden to the Rangers in 2005, has never been on a Stanley Cup winning team (the Rangers last Stanley Cup win was 1994 (?)). Hopefully, this is the year! Which prompted the memory of Dan Marino, the Miami Dolphins star quarterback who in 17 years on the team brought them to the playoffs ten times – and never won a SuperBowl!

9- Waitress **Lorayne** arrived, expecting orders for desserts. Both **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** settled on the raspberry cheese cake while **Shadow** had decided to just have coffee with no dessert. **Lorayne**, undeterred, repeated the selections emphasizing a serving of ice cream. **Shadow** changed his mind, complimenting **Lorayne** on being a “good sales lady” and ordered the vanilla ice cream – with chocolate syrup. Returning to baseball, **Shadow** commented that center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury, obtained from the Red Sox, is a good player. Also that recent Yankee Curtis Granderson, now playing for the Mets, is “killing the Yankees”. **Ramrod**, turning nostalgic for the moment, calculated that he and **Shadow** have been friends for 54 years! Talk turned to how their fathers had been very compatible in their views with a common conclusion on how to set things right in the world of their day. **Shadow** mentioned that **Randy** and **Bobbi** would shortly be on their way to visit Italy, flying with the Arab Emirates airline. They had a fine visit with **Surveyor** and **Debbie**, receiving many tips and suggestions from their Italian experiences. **Shadow** also brought up the fact that they saved about half the fare by flying Emirates instead of El Italia – and the entire fleet consists of new Boeing 777’s.

10- It was time to set the date for our next meeting. **Ramrod** checked his handy calendar and the final proposal, ratified by the members present, is **Wednesday June 4, 2014**. We adjourned and said our goodbyes to **Hostess Ginny**, a smiling bartender and the staff.

Thanks to **Ramrod*** for his two glitch catch and to **Shadow**** for his factual correction in the preliminary minutes.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

May 23, 2014