

Ramrod



Shadow



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes: 4th HVBS Meeting, July 16, 2014 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- On a fine, sunny day **Surveyor** arrived to pick up **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** a bit after 10 AM. It turned out that he had turned toward NY Thruway exit 23 (South) instead of toward exit 25 (West). After a speedy run to 23 **Surveyor** turned to the proper direction and arrived at his destination only a few minutes later. After an uneventful trip we arrived at the **Hoffman House** at a respectable 11:17. Shortly after, **Ramrod** made his appearance. **Shadow** found his door locked and it took quite a bit of coordination to get **Ramrod's** door unlocked so **Shadow** could open it for our **HVBS** Southern Anchor. Entering the premises we were greeted by the bartender and **Hostess Ginny Bradley**. She accompanied us to our customary corner debating table and set the missing fourth place setting. A somewhat distraught **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** appeared to take our orders for suitable adult beverages.

2- **Lorayne** took our orders: Tanqueray Gin and tonic with lime for **Ramrod**. **Shadow** ordered the same and **Surveyor** followed suit. Upsetting the unanimity, **PC Wiz** opted for a cabernet sauvignon. **Lorayne** explained that she had a stressful situation that might affect her performance and asked for our consideration. We would later be informed of the problem. Members toasted to the memory of our **HVBS Founding Member Deliberator**. **Ramrod** commented on his recent stretch of rough weather – heavy rains that the Upstate members had not experienced, receiving only light rains. **Shadow** commented on the large amount of water in the streams he saw along the Thruway. With the All Star game played yesterday, the discussion naturally turned to baseball. To **Ramrod's** query it turned out that he and **Surveyor** had watched the game but not **Shadow** and **PC Wiz**. The celebration of Derek Jeter's final year at the game was commented on at length, **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** having seen the lengthy clips on news broadcasts. **Ramrod** told us of a problem he has been having with the YES channel – momentary black-outs of the picture and sound interruptions. Suspecting a faulty modem he consulted with **Dan** who told him it certainly was not the modem if only one channel was affected. Both **Surveyor** and **Shadow** chimed in with the news that they also had the same problem, with **Surveyor** on DirecTV satellite, so it had to be a transmission problem.

3- **PC Wiz** commented that he found baseball to be a slow game, with the batters walking around the plate and adjusting their gloves, etc. Commentators have frequently mentioned the slowness of the game. **Shadow** brought up the question of the chewing and spitting going on continually, referring to the fire hoses that are used after games to flush out the dugouts. The tragic death of Tony Gwynn of the San Diego Padres at age 54 of cancer was discussed. **PC Wiz** opined that Gwynn, famously known for a wad of chewing tobacco in his mouth, had most likely died from mouth cancer (confirmed that it was parotid (mouth) cancer). Sports news saturated with the LeBron James decision to leave the Miami Heat for the Cleveland Cavaliers turned the discussion to the city of Cleveland. **Shadow** commented that the Cavaliers, with their poor record, will be given first round picks for five years (until 2020). First acquisition LeBron will be a great foundation for the future team. **Shadow** told us that he actually saw "Rapid Robert" Bob Feller pitch for the Cleveland Indians in Cleveland – what a great memory! **Surveyor** mentioned that the Republican Convention will be held in Cleveland which city has improved greatly. **Shadow** said **Bobbi** travels on business almost every week to Cleveland where the headquarters of Key Corp are located.

4- **Official Waitress Lorayne** arrived to take our lunch orders. Everyone perused the “specials” menu and pondered their choices. **Ramrod** started by ordering the French onion steak sandwich, **Shadow** opted for the grilled chicken breast sandwich, **Surveyor** the ever-popular Reuben. **PC Wiz** wavered and finally decided on the beer battered fish and chips to a chorus of “that’s what you always order”. A protest of the last session’s selection of Boboli du Jour (Greek with black olives) fell on deaf ears. Talk turned to the World Cup soccer matches in Brazil with the German team defeating the Argentinians by a score of 1-0 for the cup. Everyone saw at least the end of the completion, and the spectacular acrobatic goal scored by Germany’s Mario Gotze at 113’, with Chancellor Angela Merkel personally congratulating the winning team with hugs. **Ramrod** commented that soccer is a really slow game – with the first goal in the championship game coming after two hours! **Surveyor** said that he didn’t like the game being won by penalty kicks. **Shadow** and **Ramrod** enthusiastically agreed. **Ramrod** concluded that those goals depended on “whether the goalie guessed correctly”.

5- **Shadow** and **Ramrod** both commented on the “gun” violence in Chicago on the July 4th weekend when 16 were killed and 66 injured. **Shadow** observed that the city, with the most restrictive gun laws in the country, still suffers from out of control violence. The mayor, Rahm Emanuel, continues his Democrat party line campaign to tighten the gun laws even more. **PC Wiz** voiced his view that the only answer was tighter, serious law enforcement like “stop and frisk” which worked well in New York City under Mayor Giuliani. The discussion turned to our border problem with **PC Wiz** reporting on Senator McCain’s visit to the Mexican border where officials restricted where he could go and insisted on no photos, even from the Senator’s cell phone. **HVBS** members unanimously support sealing the border and deporting the illegals. Not much hope was placed on House Speaker Boehner’s proposed suit against President Obama, maintaining it would languish in the courts with no decision until after his term ends.

6- **PC Wiz** raised the issue of where the money for the new Tappan Zee construction is coming from. **Ramrod** informed us that, while Governor Cuomo so far has not mentioned where the 3.9 billion dollars will come from, a proposal has been made to borrow \$255 million from the State Clean Water Revolving Fund for design and planning. The fund is administered by EPA and is 80% Federal funded. **HVBS** members did not think this a proper use of “clean water” funds. **Surveyor** is predicting a Republican sweep this November. **Shadow** referred to the email **Surveyor** sent with a video from Fox Business Network concerning E-15. **Shadow** considers the implications most disturbing: the manufacturer’s warranties on cars 2012 and older would be voided if fuel with more than the present 10% was used. The video mentioned separation of the alcohol, leaving 2 octane lower gasoline, and the corrosive nature of the additive on fuel lines, injectors and pumps. The move to E-15, made mostly from corn, increases the price of our food, **Surveyor** pointed out. Although **PC Wiz** disputed the “engine damage” from lower gas octane (due to computer control of engine timing) he verified damage to marine engines – who, up to recently, could buy straight gasoline at marinas.

7- **Ramrod**, referring to his recent visit to **Dan** and family mentioned that **Dan** has a large wine cooler with two zones, one for red wines and the other cooler zone for white. **Surveyor** informed us that he also has a wine cooler that can hold 18-20 bottles. An interesting bit of information came up concerning **Dan’s** family’s recent trip to Japan. Foreign cell phone use of the Internet resulted in a bill for \$100! **Surveyor** informed us of a cell phone mode (in iPhones) called “airplane mode”. It avoids roaming charges while travelling Internationally and you can save money by using local wi-fi locations for checking email and browsing (not texting or phone calls). **Ramrod** continued his Sirius saga of the 40’s music – since restored, telling us he had received a subscription renewal offer in the mail. **Surveyor** recommended negotiating the price. He was offered a one-year renewal for \$500! Some haggling resulted in the next year for \$99. **Ramrod** noted that Time-Warner stock is up in price (could it be that ComCast offer?).

8- **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** brought coffee for all except **Shadow**, who opted for hot tea (in a tea pot, no less). Hopefully asking for dessert orders she got refusals from **Shadow** and **Ramrod**. **Surveyor** ordered the cheese cake and **PC Wiz** went for the flan – again to a chorus of “that’s what you always order”. It was time to schedule the date for our next meeting. **Wednesday September 3** was proposed and ratified. **Ramrod**, smiling broadly, reminded us that his birthday is on September 4 – entitling him to lunch “on the house” as per our by-laws. **Lorayne** stopped by with the check and told us all was well. She had received a call from the police wanting to talk to her daughter. An upset **Lorayne** couldn’t get the daughter, who was sleeping, on her cell phone. The police were interested in talking to the daughter’s friend. So all ended well. The meeting adjourned, ending a most satisfying longer-than-usual session.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his motion of acceptance and **Shadow** for his review.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate PC Wiz

July 28, 2014