

*Ramrod*

*Gladiator*

*PC Wiz*

*Surveyor*



## *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

Official Minutes: 2nd HVBS Meeting, April 15, 2015 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- On a cool Spring day **Surveyor** drove to **Gladiator's** home and joined **Gladiator**, designated driver to pick up **PC Wiz** and proceed to the **Hoffman House** for the **HVBS** meeting. We cruised smoothly along in **Gladiator's** Ford Fusion Hybrid, arriving just after 11 AM. **Surveyor** noted that **Gladiator** had parked in **Ramrod's** customary spot. Next to us was parked a spiffy, shiny new Suzuki Boulevard motorcycle. Host **Pat Bradley** greeted us and proceeded to carefully wipe the cycle. **Gladiator** asked if it was his and he answered in the affirmative. **PC Wiz** commented that he had mistaken it for a Harley. **Pat** said that the bike had cost him \$8,000 while a Harley was an unaffordable \$28,000! **Ramrod** arrived at the appointed time and, as we prepared to enter the premises, **Pat** motored off to enjoy his day off with a little golf.



2- We greeted **Hostess Ginny** who took us to our customary debating table and set two more place settings. Our **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** promptly arrived to take our libation orders. **Ramrod** asked for his "hot cider" drink, if available. **Gladiator** then opted for a gin and tonic "with Tanqueray gin" with **Ramrod** changing to the same. **Surveyor** asked for a Diet Coke with a wedge of lemon. **PC Wiz**, after a listing of the "house wines", selected the pinot noir. With our drinks in hand, **Ramrod** started the toasts with a toast to **HVBS Associate Member Shirley's** 80<sup>th</sup> birthday which was immediately followed with toasts to the memory of our founding member **Deliberator**, tax day and the beautiful Spring day. **Gladiator** then reminded us of his prognostication concerning the NY Rangers in the playoffs – still confident of their winning the Stanley Cup. **Ramrod** brought up the news concerning doctor compensation under Medicare. Doctors were scheduled to take a 21% cut in payments. So many doctors threatened to leave the program the cut was rescinded and future payments revamped. **Ramrod** said his blood pressure is being watched. **PC Wiz** responded that the Consumer Reports Health Newsletter gave advice for accurate readings. They recommend not talking, five minutes of resting and not taking it over clothing – which **PC Wiz's** doctor does. **Gladiator** and **Ramrod** said their doctors do not but **Surveyor** said it has happened to him.

3- **PC Wiz** mentioned that his doctor has converted to digital records, evidently in response to ObamaCare requirements. He commented that these records are now 'hackable', unlike the paper records of the past. **Surveyor**, observing that personal records are now available on line, found that he was unable to access them. **PC Wiz** found them not very valuable when he found it impossible to enter medical information that was missing – a feature only available to the staff. (When he gave them the information on paper they did not enter it into the computer but scanned it and put it into the paper file!). **Ramrod** has been raking his yard, as has **Gladiator**. **Ramrod** has to take so many rest stops when doing the raking that he is thinking of "strapping a chair to his ass" to speed up the process. **Surveyor** said he was startled to find out the quantity of sugar in orange juice, which **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** also have with their breakfasts. He said there is 10 teaspoons of sugar in a glass of orange juice – which is the same as in a Coca Cola can (grape juice has 15 teaspoons of sugar). The advice is to drink water – not 'liquid candy' all day long.

4- It was time to order our lunches and members scanned the 'special' menus. **Ramrod** stated that the quiche looked good and **PC Wiz** commented that he had considered it. **Ramrod** gave **Lorayne** his order for the favorite 'medium-well' French Onion Steak sandwich. **Gladiator** selected the Pulled BBQ Pork Sandwich. **Surveyor** opted for the Reuben with pastrami, not sliced turkey, and **PC Wiz** seconded the choice. **Gladiator** queried **Ramrod** on how his family holiday celebrating the Greek Orthodox Easter had gone. He said they had a fine time but confessed he had again had to tell granddaughter **Casey** to put away her cell phone during their dinner at a local restaurant. **PC Wiz** was relieved that **Casey** was still talking to her grandfather after the recent first incident. **Gladiator** informed us that **Randy** was in Mexico on business and **Ramrod** said **Dan** was leaving for China that very morning. He also clarified the remark at our last meeting concerning international airports. **Ramrod** said that **Dan's** China flight required him to first fly to Chicago for the connection with no direct flights from the Capitol region airports.

5- **Gladiator** mentioned that **Russell's** business flight to Germany has been re-scheduled. **Ramrod** is looking forward to his forthcoming visit to **Dan** and family in Baltimore. He is going to drive to **Sharon** in Stamford and she will be driving down to Maryland. **Ramrod** intends to return home via Amtrak. He enjoys travelling by rail – especially with the Acela. **Gladiator** said he has some more railroad tapes for the boys who are both railroad fans. **Surveyor** told us when he visits New York City he drives down to Beacon to board MetroNorth to the city. **Ramrod** inquired why Beacon when Poughkeepsie is closer. **Surveyor** said for no special reason, Beacon seemed a good place to get on the train to Penn Station. **Gladiator** asked **Ramrod** if he had any news concerning the new Tappan Zee Bridge. He said there was no news but construction was still going on although he 'had no idea where the money is coming from'. **PC Wiz** interjected that the EZ Pass web site was announcing toll hikes for the Hudson River bridges and said Governor Cuomo still hasn't mentioned how much Thruway tolls will increase to help pay off the cost.

6- In the news, **Ramrod** mentioned the serious California drought – Governor Jerry Brown has decreed 'only every second use flush' which naturally led to some ribald comments. **PC Wiz** wondered why the authorities have waited so long with restrictions. Members commented on the TV videos showing the low level of the reservoirs. Following up on this theme, **Ramrod** told us of the White House building new 'transgender' restrooms. **Surveyor** said that his Shenendehoa School district already is working on it. **PC Wiz** quipped that they will be labelled 'men, women, whatever' while **Gladiator** wondered why 'unisex' didn't cover it all. **Lorayne** arrived for coffee and dessert orders. After her description, **Ramrod** and **Surveyor** ordered the 'almond joy chocolate peanut bomb'. **PC Wiz** opted for the Bailey's cheese cake and **Gladiator** wanted just some vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup.

7- In sports, **Ramrod** called the NY Yankee team 'the worst since World War II'. Looking like a tough year, **PC Wiz** said Tanaka appears to be improving but Seabathia is really struggling with his usual 'bad inning'. The big news concerned the Augusta National Masters Golf Tournament won by 20 year-old Jordan Spieth, 18 strokes under par. **Surveyor** related the new lucrative 10 year contract with UnderArmour sports clothing (Jordan Spieth Golf Shoes). **Surveyor** explained to **PC Wiz** about the famous green jacket: the winner wears it for a year and it is then returned to Augusta and held for him. Talk turning to famous golf personalities, **Surveyor** noted that Gary Player, 'Mr. Fitness', is a 'health freak'. At 79, 'the softest thing about him is his teeth'!

8- **Gladiator** turned to the construction of the casino in Schenectady on the 'brown field' of the former Alco property. He reflected on the news of declining revenues of casinos generally. **Ramrod** observed that online gambling is killing casinos. **Surveyor** ruminated about the gambling boats on the Mississippi River off New Orleans before land-based casinos were allowed. Concerned with setting a date for our next meeting, **Ramrod** informed us that he is having a cataract operation on his second eye in June. Considering the various appointments of **HVBS** members, the date of **Wednesday June 3** was finally settled upon (tentatively). **Gladiator** proposed, as a special occasion, holding the meeting at the Raccoon Saloon in Marlboro, NY, a bit South of Poughkeepsie on the Western shore. **PC Wiz** and **Ramrod** enthusiastically endorsed the site and **Surveyor**, unfamiliar with the establishment, welcomed the proposal. Another epochal **HVBS** meeting was adjourned.

Thanks to **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** for their review of the minutes.  
**HVBS** Official Scribe **Laureate PC Wiz**  
April 23, 2015