

Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes: 3rd HVBS Meeting, June 17, 2015 at the Raccoon Saloon in Marlboro NY.

1- On a cloudy, bright day **PC Wiz** picked up **Gladiator** and drove to **Surveyor's** residence. There they transferred to **Surveyor's** luxurious Cadillac for our designated driver to complete our journey to the **Raccoon Saloon**. After an uneventful trip we arrived just after the 11:30 appointed time. Finding a parking spot on a side street the Northern Trio crossed busy Route 9W to the self-styled 'lively restaurant and pub with an upscale menu'. Upon entering the premises we looked in vain for **Ramrod**, the famed **HVBS** Southern anchor. Our waitress **Victoria** told us no-one was waiting for us. **PC Wiz** mentioned in our previous saloon visit **Ramrod** (then **Geronimo**) had appeared at 11:42 AM so he was possibly just a bit late.



HVBS Raccoon Saloon meeting in August 2004 with Deliberator

2- At 12:15 **Gladiator** proposed calling **Ramrod's** house to see if he had forgotten the occasion. **PC Wiz** found no answer and left a message. **Surveyor** noted that **PC Wiz** had not left his cell phone number for **Ramrod** to call back so a second message was left with the information. **Gladiator** then suggested calling the **Hoffman House** to see if **Ramrod** had gone to the wrong destination. **PC Wiz** phoned and got **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** on the line. She confirmed he had just left but could possibly

catch him in the parking lot. It was a near miss. Members now knew he was OK but had no idea where he was going. **Gladiator** noted a barge on the Hudson carrying a huge beam. He and **Surveyor** surmised it was likely going to the Tappan Zee bridge construction site.

3- Members present then decided to make their beverage orders from the list **Victoria** brought us. Toasts were made to our **Founding Member Deliberator** and to a future better organized **Ramrod**. **PC Wiz** raised the agenda item concerning Don Imus' (and Charles McCord's) retirement from broadcasting. He also noted that Imus' New Mexico ranch for children with cancer was up for sale for \$32 million – hopefully to someone who will continue the mission. **PC Wiz** also mentioned that Imus was born in 1940, making him 75 this year. It was decided that it was unlikely that **Ramrod** was coming so lunch was ordered. **PC Wiz** ordered the hot open-faced roast turkey with fries while **Gladiator** opted for the 'grilled petite' 8 oz. cheese burger.

A ‘famished’ **Surveyor** chose the hot open-faced roast beef sandwich and asked for onion rings – **PC Wiz** commented that he had been considering the roast beef also.

4- At 12:50 PM our wayward associate appeared. He joined the group by ordering the same lunch item as **Gladiator** – the petite (8 oz.) cheese burger. We then got the story of **Ramrod’s** peregrinations. He did not remember that our meeting had been scheduled for the **RACCOON SALOON**. He started to complain that the type of our Agenda was too small and easily overlooked when **PC Wiz** interrupted by reminding **Ramrod** that, in an email to members, he stated that he checked and the pub was open and awaiting our presence. It seems that **Ramrod** had waited in the **Hoffman House** patio and consumed ‘a couple of drinks’ when he concluded he was possibly in the wrong place. **Surveyor** noted that **HVBS** members had not exchanged cell phone numbers for just such an occasion. **Gladiator** had told us **Ramrod** no longer had a cell phone. **Ramrod** updated us by stating he had replaced his original cell phone but the number would not have made any difference since (quote) “(all I have to do now is charge it up - wouldn't have worked if I had it with me anyway)”.

5- **Gladiator** mentioned the barge we had seen on the river with a very large beam heading South. **Ramrod** agreed that it most likely was heading to the Tappan Zee bridge site. **Gladiator** related his and **HVBS** Associate Member Shirley’s visit to the Apple store in Crossgates Mall. They are having a problem with the ‘BBOD’ – the ‘beach ball of death’, the colorful rotating symbol of a busy computer processor. Their sales person, Tom Mangino, informed them that Apple supported their computers for five years and their iMac was seven. The authorized repair at Castle Computer had not solved their problems so they are considering a new iMac. **Gladiator** asked **Surveyor** what computer he used. It is an IBM while he also has an iPad and an iPhone. **Ramrod** complained that Time Warner had raised their charges. **Surveyor** asked if he had tried for a ‘special deal’; **Ramrod** said he had tried but TW would not budge. **Surveyor**, who has Direct TV and loves it, suggested telling them he is considering dropping his cable coverage for satellite might work.

6- **Surveyor** told **PC Wiz** he enjoyed the PBS series ‘The American Experience’ very much and mentioned that Thomas Edison had a home in Florida – in Fort Myers, near where **Surveyor** vacations. Edison bought the property in 1885 (partly his interest in botanical growth and to grow bamboo for the carbon filaments in his light bulbs). In 1916 Henry Ford bought an adjoining property. Of course the Edison Works in Schenectady became the General Electric Company. **PC Wiz** told members he had worked in one of the original Edison buildings (#9) in the Apprentice Department (now razed). **Gladiator** raised the topic of the 5 million government workers’ records that have been hacked. **PC Wiz** told of a prominent executive that stated ‘there are two types of companies – those that have been hacked and those that don’t know it’. Hacking certainly is a continuing worry for all of us. **PC Wiz** mentioned a new icon in his computer menu bar –



Microsoft is offering a free upgrade to System 10 but members had no information on it. **PC Wiz** suspects that it will be completely ‘cloud’ oriented and that software will have a monthly rental, such as ‘Office 365’ with automatic upgrades.

7- **Victoria** appeared for coffee and desserts. The coffee arrived but **Surveyor** had been overlooked. When his coffee arrived **Victoria** appeared with a tray displaying dessert selections. **PC Wiz** and **Surveyor** opted for the yellow lemon cake, **Ramrod** the generous sized carrot cake and **Gladiator** selected the ‘Reece’s Pieces’ chocolate cake.

With our orders completed, **PC Wiz** asked our waitress **Victoria** to take a ‘couple of pictures’ of our group. **PC Wiz** then passed out copies of the Official Minutes of the original Raccoon Saloon session in 2004. **Gladiator** informed us that **Russell** is returning to Germany shortly and **Ramrod** told us **Dan** is just back from Malaysia. **PC Wiz** commented that it certainly is a different world today. It seems that **Ramrod** was thinking of trading his Passat for a 2-door coupe but he found out his three-year-old car is worth about half of what he paid for it. **PC Wiz** also had considered a new car but had found the same loss of value. According to **Ramrod Dan’s** BMW is an 8 cylinder turbo – with ‘more horsepower than all of us put together’.

8- Turning to sports, **Ramrod** sympathized with **Gladiator** on the NY Rangers being defeated in the Stanley Cup playoffs. **Gladiator** admitted he had predicted a Cup win for the Rangers, the first since 1993-94, and expressed his deep disappointment over their losing the battle. He simply cannot come to grips with their two playoff losses before a home crowd by scores of 2-0! ** **Gladiator** reiterated that the season is merely the forerunner to the playoffs when players have to be serious and now concludes he will never see a Stanley Cup win for the team. Considering his record, **Gladiator** says he will make no more predictions – except for the NY Giants. Considering the history of his predictions, **Gladiator** said he probably should predict the opposite – the Giants having a losing season. **Ramrod** mentioned the New York Times story of the FBI investigating the St. Louis Cardinals for hacking the Houston Astros – gaining information on team statistics, scouting reports, trades, etc.

9- **Surveyor** asked the **HVBS** members if they were familiar with the movie ‘Money Ball’, which he highly recommended. The story involves the use of ‘sabermetrics’ (the acronym SABR – Society for American Baseball Research) to analyze baseball statistics. The story concerns the 2002 Oakland Athletics who won 19 consecutive games - tying for the longest winning streak in American League history. **PC Wiz** gave **Ramrod** a group of photographs that he printed for him. The photos included our first Raccoon Saloon meeting eleven years ago (above), and of Randy’s 1969 Camaro - which he bought in Indianapolis Indiana from the TV auction show Mecum Auctions. Also a copy requested by **Gladiator** of the **Trains Magazine** photo for train enthusiast grandson **Max** of a train crossing the Corinth Canal in Greece: the locomotive being an Alco made either in Schenectady or the Montreal Locomotive Works.

10- **Ramrod** raised the issue of a date for our next meeting. After much checking of schedules, the conclusion was for **Thursday July 9, 2015** at the **Hoffman House in Kingston**. Members are confident **Ramrod** should have no problem finding the venue. This historic special meeting adjourned.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his review and to **Gladiator** for correcting your scribes ‘glaring error’ in the preliminary minutes of the Rangers scores ** (or lack of).

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**
July 8, 2015