

Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes: 5th HVBS Meeting, August 20, 2015 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- **Gladiator**, the designated driver for the Northern Nabobs, picked up **Surveyor** and **PC Wiz** and we proceeded South on the NY Thruway. It was a perfect late summer day and we arrived shortly after 11 AM at the **Hoffman House**. **Ramrod** appeared promptly and the “patio or inside” question had to be decided. **HVBS** members thought it would be a bit too warm on the patio and we entered the premises. The person bar-tending turned out to be **Host Pat Bradley** who was greeted by **PC Wiz**, leading our group. **Hostess Ginny Bradley**, at the waitress’ station, greeted us warmly and offered our usual cozy corner debating table. Shortly thereafter our long-term **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** appeared to the astonishment of **PC Wiz** who was certain she did not work Thursdays. **Lorayne** took our orders: Tanqueray gin and tonic for **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** while **Surveyor** opted for orange vodka. **PC Wiz** broke the chain by ordering a Keegan’s Mother’s Milk.

2- **Gladiator** informed **Ramrod** that since his birthday would occur next month, before our next **HVBS** meeting, his meal would be free per our bylaws. **Ramrod** objected and wanted to pay part of the bill but he was overruled by the membership. The discussion turned to sports. **Surveyor** commented on the ‘young kids’ the Yankees were putting on the team. **Gladiator** mentioned 25 year old Yankee pitcher Phenom Nathan Eovalde – who can pitch over 100 MPH! **Surveyor** referred to the ARod bonus for his 660th home run, tying Willy Mays record, on May 1st. After much discussion it was decided to pay the reduced bonus (from \$6 million to \$3.5 million) to charity. **PC Wiz** remarked on the new team-oriented ARod returning to some semblance of his former (juiced) home run prowess. **Ramrod** related the story of Zack Hample, a fan, who was at the Yankee – Braves games in his usual right field stand. Hample has caught more than 6000 balls in 50 Major League stadiums since 1990!

3- **Gladiator** informed us it was time for our annual predictions for the coming NY Giant season. **Ramrod** said that the football pre-season was ‘secondary’- ‘soccer can take over’. He said ‘women’s soccer is great’ and watched the U.S. women winning the FIFA World Cup in Vancouver, winning 5-2 over Japan in an exciting game. Members agreed. **Ramrod** stated that the football players are ‘a bunch of hoodlums’ while **Gladiator** mentioned the large number of injuries suffered by the players – in the pre-season games! Returning to the Giant season predictions: **Surveyor** predicted a 6-10 season, **Ramrod** decided on 8-8 while **Gladiator’s** prediction was for a very pessimistic 4-12! **PC Wiz** thought 6-10 quite reasonable. **Ramrod** also said he likes the passion in golf and Jason Spieth in particular.

4- **Lorayne** appeared to take our luncheon orders. **PC Wiz** ordered from the ‘specials’ menu – the angel hair pasta with chicken, seconded by **Ramrod**. **Surveyor** selected his favorite garlic steak sandwich. **Gladiator** settled on the quiche and salad. **Gladiator** announced that he is through with Sirius-XM. They have come up with new rates for his renewal in November: \$254 for the Fusion and \$74 for his Sirius home radio. He complained about the dense operators on the telephone and assured **Surveyor** he had tried to negotiate the fees. The main reason **Gladiator** is not renewing is the loss of his one favorite music channel, replacing it with ‘Puerto Rican’ programming. **PC Wiz** could not understand why they would do this with all the channels they broadcast. **Surveyor** said the young people have their own music on iPods and don’t pay much attention to radio programs.

5- **Gladiator** told us he is presently watching the AMC TV series “Hell on Wheels” – the story of the first trans-continental railroad. He said he bought the DVD’s and it is a terrific series; staying up late at night to watch the stories.



PC Wiz asked **Lorayne** to take a picture of our group (**Gladiator** had reminded him to bring the camera). She did and here is the happy result.

PC Wiz raised the issue of the State supervisory employees suing for wage increases they had been promised but were recently cancelled by Governor Cuomo (union employees had gotten raises but not the non-union, as related to us by **HVBS Auxiliary Member John Gahan**). The employees are being represented by Stewart Jones – a very prominent local attorney.

Gladiator quipped that the mowers on the Thruway are being set really high. **Ramrod** informed us the Tappan Zee Bridge was being worked on and wondered about the financing.

Gladiator replied that they were getting paid – by robbing the Thruway. **PC Wiz** noted that the

Thruway is presently financing the canal system.

6- **PC Wiz** related that Governor Cuomo had visited the GE headquarters in Fairfield to take advantage of a possible move to another state. Connecticut raised their taxes and attempted to tax all incomes – from other states and countries. GE and Aetna Insurance, among others, threatened to move (GE has a committee checking new locations – even possibly Armonk, NY – near the border so executives may not have to move; among other states responding are Florida, Texas and Ohio). **Ramrod** said he has been keeping tabs on Amtrak since his and **Gladiator’s** recent trip to Annapolis – every train has been late from 20 minutes to one hour! **Gladiator** mentioned his recent trip to Little Falls to visit a long-time engineering friend. He told us Representative Tonko, our Congressman, was involved in a local project that he had taken from originally Little Falls, a vigorous town with thriving industries, to Amsterdam – in his district. **Gladiator** noted that the marina will be built in a place with no attractions for river travelers. So far they have built a walkway over the Mohawk River in the 14 million dollar project.

7- **Ramrod** told us **Dan’s** BMW-M3 glass moon roof shattered. **PC Wiz** said it undoubtedly was tempered glass – heat treated for great strength but with the surface layer highly stressed. The dealer wanted to replace the glass with a cheaper after-market part. **Dan** insisted on OE (original equipment) which no insurance policies likely cover. **Dan** will have to cover the difference – members approving his decision. The Liberty TV ad was raised and **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** agreed that you are covered for replacement of a new car only if you have that rider in the policy. **Gladiator** asked how **Ramrod’s** quest for a new coupe was progressing. **Ramrod** said the dealer did not have any in stock he would be interested in and he was waiting for the new BMW 2016 models to come out. **Lorayne** arrived to take our coffee orders. With coffee at hand, it was time for dessert orders. **Surveyor** went for the frozen lemon pie, **PC Wiz** for the frozen key lime pie (quite good) while **Gladiator** opted for the peanut butter mousse. **Ramrod** ordered the Almond Joy dessert with vanilla ice cream and shaved chocolate (he gave portions to the other members). **Lorayne** maintained it was the same dessert **Ramrod** had at our last visit – the Official Minutes proved **Ramrod** was correct: he had ordered the frozen lemon pie. **Lorayne** informed us she had met with our former waitress **Erin** who remembered our group. In the mean-time her NY State Trooper husband had unfortunately died.

8- Members covered **Ramrod’s** bill because of his pending birthday with the reminder that at our next meeting it will be **Gladiator’s** turn for a ‘free-be’. **Gladiator** informed **Ramrod** to be prepared for a ‘big bash’ party that he is going to throw after Labor Day. **Surveyor** took out his iPhone and **Ramrod** his calendar to suggest a date for our next meeting. It is scheduled for **Wednesday September 23, 2015** at the **Hoffman House**.

*Adoption motion made by **Surveyor**, seconded by **Ramrod** and third by **Gladiator**.*

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

August 25, 2015

Official: September 25, 2015