

Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes: 6th HVBS Meeting, September 23, 2015 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- PC Wiz picked up **Gladiator** and we proceeded to **Surveyor's** abode on a fine Fall day. After an uneventful trip piloted by **Surveyor**, we arrived at the **Hoffman House** on schedule, entering the parking lot just behind the arriving **Ramrod**. Naturally our group had to rag **Ramrod** on the current news concerning VW – the parent of his prestigious Passat. **Ramrod** retorted that all auto companies have recalls, noting that Toyota has a new recall. **Gladiator** observed that Apple is coming out with an electric car.

2- Entering the premises we greeted the bartender and were ushered to our table by a new waitress – a young lady named **Jocelyn**. She informed that **HVBS** Official Waitress **Lorayne** was not available since a five month-old grandchild had just died. **Jocelyn** took our libation orders: the favorite Tanqueray gin and tonic for **Ramrod**, seconded by **Gladiator**, a Stella Artois pilsner beer for **Surveyor** and, in a bow to the season, a Sam Adams Oktoberfest for **PC Wiz**. **HVBS** members toasted to the memory of **HVBS** Founding Member **Deliberator** and to Yogi Berra who died yesterday, September 22, at the age of 90. Members reminisced about his career and came up with numerous of his famous aphorisms, including the favorite “You should always go to other peoples’ funerals; otherwise they won’t come to yours”. **Ramrod** had brought along a sheaf of jokes and read some of the short ones – great fun!

3- **PC Wiz** asked if everyone had paid their school taxes. **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** said they both waited until the last minute, despite the fact that interest rates are so low. **Ramrod** told an anecdote about his father walking the bank to get a bank check (or postal money order) to pay bills; exactly the same as **Gladiator's** father. Of course the big news event raised by **Gladiator** is the Pope’s visit to the U.S. **Surveyor** commented that the Pope had commended Obama on his ‘Climate Change’ initiatives. Which led to discussion of the CNN eleven Republican candidates’ debate at the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley California – **Surveyor** and **Gladiator** viewed the entire debate while **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** did not. **Gladiator** commented that ‘Trump said nothing’ while admitting ‘the Donald’ brought up the issues, **Ramrod** said he ‘can’t stand Trump’. While all members admired Carly Fiorina, **Ramrod** and **Surveyor** thought New Jersey Governor Christy ‘has no chance’.

4- **Waitress Jocelyn** appeared to take our lunch orders. **Ramrod** decided on the French Onion Steak Sandwich while **Gladiator** ordered the Grilled Chicken Breast Sandwich. **Surveyor** opted for the Garlic Steak Sandwich (grilled London broil) and **PC Wiz** ordered Fish & Chips (beer-battered haddock). **Surveyor** raised the topic of ‘fantasy football’ – a fast growing sport for fans with a yen for wagering – and said it is hurting football. He mentioned an anecdote where a person cheered when his fantasy player scored game points; hearing his reaction, others asked what the score was. The player didn’t know (or care) since his winning wager was on the individual he was betting on, not on enjoying the game. **Gladiator** and **Ramrod** agreed that fantasy football is a diversion; the team sport that is actually being played should be the important thing.

PC Wiz mentioned a news item that high schools are dropping football because of fears concerning concussions. Members noted that this was the source of new talent for the game and will affect the future of professional football. **Gladiator** decried the present tendency for talented players leaving school before they complete their studies – becoming more prevalent now than in the past.

5- **PC Wiz** asked **Ramrod** if he had watched the first new season show of NCIS. He had not, watching the Yankee (6) – Toronto (4) game instead. **Surveyor** commented his surprise that CC Seabathia had become the Yankees best pitcher! Talk turned to the salaries present day players receive. **Ramrod** noted that Babe Ruth, breaking the salary norms of the time, had gotten \$100,000 – more than the President of the United States at that time! Also discussed was Yogi Berra's career – playing 18 seasons for the Yankees and, as a player, coach, and manager participating in 21 World Series with 13 wins! **Surveyor** said that outfielder Carlos Beltran, batting fifth, doesn't like manager Girardi. **Gladiator** and **Surveyor** agreed that A-Rod and Teixeira will not be sent to the minors – **Surveyor** noting their expensive contracts.

6- **Gladiator** asked **Ramrod** how his quest for a BMW coupe was progressing. He said the dealer had called with some to look at. **Ramrod** referred to the news of VW's diesel engines meeting emission requirements by having the emission filter only work during emission testing. In normal operation, in order to get more fuel mileage and power, the controls were turned off by the 'cheat software' – resulting in harmful NOx emissions. **Ramrod** feels it is 'all over' for VW with the company setting aside 7.3 billion dollars for the recall of 11 million vehicles (and also subject to perhaps 18 billion in U.S. fines). **PC Wiz** turned to Ford using more aluminum to reduce weight to try to meet new Government mileage requirements. **Russell's** company, Alcoa, has developed a new superior 'Micromill' aluminum alloy which is 40% more formable.

7- It was time for **Jocelyn** to take orders for coffee all around. **PC Wiz** went for the crème brulee, while **Surveyor** decided on the Almond Joy chocolate 'bomb'. **Gladiator** ordered the peanut butter mousse and **Ramrod** opted for the key lime pie. **Gladiator** asked **Ramrod** how the Tappan Zee bridge construction was progressing. He said they are still working on it but had no idea where the money is coming from. **Ramrod** commented that **Dan** told him e-book readers (Nook and Kindle per **Gladiator**) are not selling. **PC Wiz** noted that people are using their iPads for the e-books and observed that he still prefers to read a printed book. This led **Ramrod** to note that the new movie about Apple CEO Steve Jobs treats him 'like a God'. **PC Wiz** who read Jobs biography, which **Gladiator** loaned him, brought up his bizarre diets – only vegetables at one time. **Gladiator** commented that Jobs would have had a longer life if he hadn't diagnosed and treated himself.

8- Because of his pending birthday there was no luncheon charge for **Gladiator**, as per the **HVBS** bylaws. His offer to pay **Jocelyn's** tip was graciously refused. **Surveyor** could not find his telephone calendar app – it had disappeared (he later found it in a new folder that had mysteriously appeared). Meanwhile **Ramrod** pulled his printed card out of his wallet. Wednesday November 4, 2015, weather permitting, was approved. Our first Fall 2015 meeting adjourned.

Thanks to **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** for their prompt reviews.

HVBS Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz** (definitely not in cahoots with VW, regardless of **Ramrod's** implication).
September 29, 2015

Official: October 2, 2015