

Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes: 7th HVBS Meeting, November 11, 2015 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- Under rainy skies, **Surveyor** brought **Gladiator** to **PC Wiz**'s residence. A few moments later the **HVBS** Upstate Contingent proceeded in **PC Wiz**'s Camry to the local Thruway exit. After a routine trip, with the weather clearing, we entered the unusually crowded Hoffman House parking lot. Champagne colored VW in the parking lot rear corner was concluded to not be **Ramrod** – who arrived a few minutes later in his 'Tungsten Silver Metallic' Passat and took his usual 'handicapped' parking spot. We entered the premises past **Pat Bradley** getting fireplace wood from the outdoor storage and to greetings from the bartender, **Hostess Ginny Bradley** and our **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne**.

2- **Lorayne** and **Ginny** accompanied us to our customary debating table, setting an extra place. **Lorayne** then took our 'drink' orders. **Ramrod**, feeling a bit of Fall chill, ordered a hot, spiced apple cider. **Lorayne** informed him it would be on the menu later in the season and suggested a hot cocoa with Grand Marnier. **Ramrod** decided to order it and **Surveyor** joined in the choice. **Gladiator** opted for a Malbec and **PC Wiz** seconded the choice. When the drinks arrived the cocoas were topped with whipped cream. **HVBS** members toasted to good health, the memory of **HVBS** Founding Member **Deliberator**, and to our armed forces – it being the celebration of Veterans Day (Armistice Day to our older members). **PC Wiz** had researched the **HVBS** Official Minutes that mentioned our first contact with **Lorayne** – who has become our Official Waitress. It was the meeting of October 13, 2010 (whose name **PC Wiz** badly misspelled as 'Lorraine'). He also mentioned **Erin Kathleen Kelly Marie Murphy-Ruzzo** 2007-2009 (married to an injured State Trooper) and later, **Tara**.

3- **PC Wiz** also noted that **Ramrod** had been getting pain therapy for back pain at the time. **Ramrod** (**Geronimo**) mentioned all the household maintenance tasks he could no longer perform – excluding mowing with his tractor. **PC Wiz** identified himself with **Ramrod**'s restrictions. One item referred to a generator for **Ramrod** which, not having natural gas, would require gasoline (storage problems) or an expensive propane tank. **Ramrod** explained that the gasoline generator would require manual starting while the gas types start up automatically upon power failure. He then told us of problems with his computer: losing the home page. He spoke to a nice person, a Dell concierge under his warranty, who could not find a solution. It happens occasionally, leading **PC Wiz** to conclude a newer web site of maliciously installing itself as the home page.

4- **Ramrod**, relating that he is using less sugar, informed us of a recent statistic that Americans consume 150 lbs. a year of sugar. **Surveyor** told us a 12 oz. can of Coke has 8 teaspoons of sugar in it (some as high as 12 teaspoons). **Gladiator** noted that even beverages such as apple cider have considerable (fruit) sugar content (5.4 teaspoons in a cup size). **Gladiator** said his family bought their cider fresh from Leininger's on Carman Road (same as **PC Wiz**, who went to school with a young Leininger). **Gladiator** lamented that modern ciders are pasteurized for keeping qualities – which definitely changes the flavor.

5- **Ramrod** told us that our local homebuilder Amedore homes (Vice President George Amedore – NY State Senator) recently received a \$350,000 grant for senior housing. He also mentioned “zombie homes” – abandoned houses in New York and New Jersey that are being renovated for deserving veterans. **Gladiator** declared that it a good program. Talk turned to the VA hospital problems: **Surveyor** said that the VA hospital in Bethesda Maryland was ‘the worst’. **Gladiator**, stating that veterans are being treated ‘like shit’, inspired **Ramrod** to mention his recent email with a picture of a veteran waiting in an airport asleep with his service dog over him standing guard. **HVBS** members were all moved by the event.

6- With the **Hoffman House** becoming unusually busy, **Lorayne** arrived to take our luncheon orders. **Ramrod** started by requesting the grilled chicken breast sandwich with a topping of sautéed onions. **Gladiator** asked for ‘pulled BBQ chicken sandwich’ – **Ramrod** objected that ‘pulled sandwiches’ are pork. **Gladiator** pointed out that his ‘pulled chicken’ was indeed on the menu. **Surveyor** opted for a bowl of sweet potato and sausage soup and an Omelet de la Maison: 3 egg omelet with cheese. Lastly, **PC Wiz** selected a Ham Napoleon. **Ramrod** informed us that when he and his brother go to local restaurants, such as Ruby Tuesday’s, if he has coupons he gives the extra coupons to other patrons. In one instance their waiter approached at the end of the meal stating that an appreciative coupon receiver had paid their bill!

7- **Ramrod** thought it ‘good’ that NY Attorney General Eric Schneiderman issued a controversial opinion (later an order) banning the internet fantasy games Fanduel and DraftKings for organized gambling. **Gladiator** pointed out that NFL owners Jerry Jones of the Cowboys and Patriots Robert Kraft are large investors in the DraftKings venture. There are daily and weekly contests in five sports (MLB, NHL, NFL, NBA, and PGA) to win money on individual player performances. **HVBS** members debated the games as ‘games of skill’ (legal) as opposed to ‘games of chance’ (illegal) which rely on random chance and are ‘gambling’. **PC Wiz** brought up the University of Missouri debacle where student demonstrations resulted in the resignation of Missouri University System President Tim Wolfe on November 9 – after football coach Gary Pinkel supported a player boycott.

8- **Gladiator** concluded that ‘Coughlin is done’ (although he has a contract extension through 2016); it is time for a new head coach for the Giants. With the next game in New York **Gladiator** gamely predicted a NY win while **Ramrod** thought they would lose. (Result was Patriots 27, NY Giants 26). **Gladiator** concluded that Eli Manning is ‘not sure what to do’ – to which **Surveyor** commented that he has been called ‘the smartest QB in football’. To which **Ramrod** said ‘baseball is different’ and stated that the Mets lost the critical game because of pitcher Matt Harvey who should have been relieved. **Gladiator** lamented that managers get no respect because the players get three times the managers’ wages.

9- **Lorayne** took orders for coffee and desserts. **Gladiator** decided on vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup and **Ramrod** seconded the choice. **PC Wiz** ordered rainbow sherbet while **Surveyor** took the last piece left of pumpkin cheese cake. The desserts arrived with small American flags in honor of Veterans Day. **Lorayne** noted that desserts were ‘on the house’ for veterans – unfortunately **HVBS** members paid full price. **PC Wiz** mentioned having to sign up for a new medical and pharmacy plan since GE is eliminating pensioner plans. He has an appointment next Tuesday with OneExchange – a firm hired by GE to help pensioners find medical insurance. ****Ramrod** said he is covered by NYSHIP (New York State Health Insurance Policy under the Empire Plan of Blue Cross/ Blue Shield). His brother James who had been covered by CDPHP is now with a new ‘state exchange’ policy. ** **PC Wiz** has a traditional Medicare plan with Medigap coverage by AARP. **Gladiator**, who has CDPHP, is very satisfied with the plan he has selected and their services.

10- **Surveyor** mentioned the NASCAR wreck where Kenseth deliberately drove into Joey Logano, eliminating his chance of winning the race. He was only banned for two races; his light penalty was debated by members - **Gladiator** feeling it should have been much more severe. To **Surveyor's** query 'no BMW yet?', **Ramrod** replied that he was now waiting until next Spring. *****Ramrod** then informed us that granddaughter **Kristi** is using her grandmother Kay's Honda while a newly purchased Nissan Murano is for granddaughter Casey (and in emergencies by Sharon). ***** HVBS** members thought it an excellent choice. It was decided that our next meeting will be on **Thursday December 10, 2015** – depending on the weather. The meeting was adjourned.



Thanks to **Ramrod** for his corrections of the Preliminary Minutes marked by ****** and *******. Also thanks to **Surveyor** for his seconding of **Ramrod's** review conclusion.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**
November 24, 2015