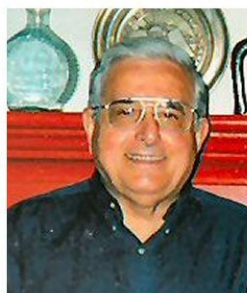


Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes: 2nd HVBS Meeting, March 10, 2016 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- With **Surveyor** vacationing in Florida, **PC Wiz** drove **Gladiator** to our scheduled meeting on a day promising rain but clearing as we reached our destination. **Ramrod** arrived promptly and no one moved until **PC Wiz**, using his cell phone, got no response and left a message for **Ramrod**. Attaching the new handicap hang-tag we noticed roofers installing a beautiful new wood shingle roof. We had noted the sad, aged appearance of the roof with a tarp covering part of it on the occasion of our January meeting. **Gladiator** struck up a conversation with the roofer as it started to rain and they were leaving the job. Thus energized, we entered the premises where **Ginny Bradley** waved a greeting to us and **Pat** greeted us at the wood rack, giving **PC Wiz** a firm handshake. This was opening day for the new season and we were greeted by **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne**. For our thirsty travelers it was definitely time for an adult beverage. **Ramrod** quickly ordered a Jack Daniels Old Fashioned – emphasizing the ‘Jack Daniels’. **Gladiator** ordered a sauvignon Blanc wine and **PC Wiz** opted for a Keegan’s Mothers Milk.

2- **HVBS** members toasted to the memory of Founding Member **Deliberator** and **PC Wiz** proposed a toast to our missing member **Surveyor** happily vacationing in Florida. This raised the issue of members missing meetings and a motion was made to drop any member who misses three consecutive sessions (background note: **Surveyor** is likely to miss our next – his second – meeting, not returning until late April). **Gladiator** seconded the motion, insisting it be recorded in the minutes, and the unanimous vote passed the motion. **Gladiator** noted the new business item on the Official Agenda. **PC Wiz** proposed amending our bylaws to eliminate the complimentary lunches for members celebrating birthdays. **Ramrod** pointed out the cost averaged out but **PC Wiz** thought that, although a generous gesture, it complicated (and temporarily) increased the billing. The matter was discussed with no conclusion.

3- **Ramrod** informed us **Dan** has been offered a position in a firm. Upon carefully reading the proposed contract **Dan** objected to some provisions and rejected the offer, asking for revisions. **Ramrod** commented that **Dan** always checks contracts himself. In response to a question of what printer to purchase, **Dan** sent an email to **Ramrod** with two selections and included a reference to online purchase. **Ramrod** said he prefers to buy these items locally from a store and checked out Staples. His local store went out of business and the next one he tried looked like a ‘going out of business’ sale was going on with few personnel in sight. So **Ramrod** ordered his new Canon printer from Amazon, at no cost using Amex reward points and with free shipping.

4- **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** arrived to take lunch orders. **PC Wiz** ordered from the ‘specials’ menu – pumpkin raviolis (better than it sounds). **Ramrod** was ready with his order of the French onion steak sandwich while **Gladiator** opted for the grilled chicken breast sandwich with Monterey Jack cheese. To his query, **Lorayne** said it was a mild cheese. **Ramrod** highly recommended a Netflix movie he recently watched: “The Intern” starring Robert De Niro and Ann Hathaway (a retired person becoming an intern). **PC Wiz** asked if it was a comedy. **Ramrod** said ‘yes’ and it was highly enjoyable. He also viewed “The Martian”, enjoying the movie until the ending which was ‘highly Hollywood’ with its questionable rescue of the stranded Martian astronaut. **Gladiator** asked **Ramrod** if he had made any decision in his search of a new coupe to replace the Passat. **Ramrod** said the price premium of the BMW2 was \$12,000 more compared to a 2-door Honda, although the price was not an issue. He found the Honda colors but actually had a test drive in a demonstrator trying its fit, with the car’s larger doors, in his garage. The car fit perfectly. **Ramrod** reported that Hondas now have camera views not only to the rear but also to the right and left.

5- **Lorayne** returned to check on drink refills: **Ramrod** opted for a Stella Artois while **Gladiator** stayed with wine – ordering a light White Zinfandel. **Gladiator** told the story of **Randy's** trip to Washington where he participated in a visit to the Boeing plant in Everett. He was impressed by the size of the assembly building – the largest in the world covering 98.3 acres. Returning home, he was waiting for his connecting flight in Atlanta when he volunteered his seat to go on a later flight (overbooked). The airline offered him \$200 but **Randy** countered with \$500 – which he received in credits. He knew **Bobbi** was due in Atlanta for that later flight so he met her at the gate and they flew home together. Not the end of the story: **Gladiator** related that **HVBS Associate Member Shirley** had read a Readers' Digest article in the doctor's office concerning the Federal rules on being 'bumped' from a flight with the maximum compensation set at \$1300! I'm sure **Gladiator** will inform **Randy** of the possibilities.

6- In sports **Ramrod** related the continuing story of football concussions. NFL VP Jeff Miller admitted before a Congressional Committee that there is a 'football-brain damage link' (CTE). **Gladiator** commented that 'two had quit this week'. **Ramrod** has predicted in the past that youth playing football are at the greatest risk which jeopardizes the future of the sport. **HVBS** members toasted to Peyton Manning's retirement after 18 seasons. Rumor has it that he may become a commentator for ESPN. In baseball **Gladiator** declared that 'the Dodgers are a joke' – firing manager Don Mattingly. The team hired Dave Roberts who has never managed a team before anywhere. He was the bench coach for the San Diego Padres.

7- **PC Wiz** raised the official agenda issue of Justice Antonin Scalia's death. He explained the suspicious circumstances after his death on a 'hunting trip' with a well-known Obama supporter – resulting in the latest 'conspiracy theory'. Scalia left his U.S. marshals security in Houston to participate in the secret society (the International Order of St. Hubertus) annual hunt. His body was never examined (over the telephone death certificate, allowable in Texas). Very unusual, especially when a prominent person such as Justice Scalia dies. **Gladiator** noted that the loss of the Supreme Court's leading conservative caused Dow Chemical to settle (\$835 million) a decades-old suit concerning urethane price fixing which was headed to the Supreme Court.

8- **Lorayne** brought us our orders coffees and related the dessert specials. After some discussion about the 'Almond Joy chocolate bomb', **Ramrod** decided on the apple cobbler with vanilla ice cream (a **Gladiator** favorite). **Gladiator** asked for a slice of chocolate fudge cake and **PC Wiz** opted for a slice of Chambord (French black raspberry liqueur) cheese cake. Members mulled over the question of scheduling our next **HVBS** meeting and were unable to set a tentative date. It will most likely be in April depending on **Gladiator's** medical schedule and **Surveyor** still not likely to be able to attend. **Gladiator** proposed that **Ramrod** should bring his brother **Jim** to our next meeting and suggested, since he will be the Northern group's driver, perhaps holding it in our favorite alternate destination – the Raccoon Saloon in Marlboro. **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** had no objection. **Lorayne** left the bill next to **PC Wiz** and he made the decision to pay his usual portion of the tab. Asked about the roof fire **Lorayne** informed us that, as Pat was leaving the premises, he luckily looked back and saw the fire. The fire department was a bit slow in responding because of an exercise they were involved with but they promptly extinguished the blaze. Our 'missing member' session was adjourned. As we left **Lorayne** quietly said 'thank you' for her tip.

Thanks to **Ramrod** who was "half-asleep" when checking the preliminary minutes and to **Gladiator** who found it hard to remain awake!

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

May 10, 2016 -- *Converted to PDF for the web site June 6, 2016* --