

*Ramrod*

*Gladiator*

*PC Wiz*

*Surveyor*



## *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

Official Minutes: 4th HVBS Meeting, June 23, 2016 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- **Gladiator**, designated driver for the Upright Upstaters, picked up **Surveyor** and **PC Wiz**. On a day with a predicted all-day rain we proceeded from clear weather to a high overcast in Kingston. **PC Wiz** spotted **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** setting the tables in the patio. **Gladiator** shouted a welcome to her; she responded with a wave. After a few minutes **Ramrod** arrived, **Gladiator** aiding him with hand signals to indicate proximity to the hedge. Approaching the premises we encountered **Hostess Ginny Bradley** and **Host Pat**. **Ginny** said our regular table was waiting. **Lorayne** promptly took our orders for adult beverages. **Ramrod** ordered a Tanqueray gin and tonic, **Gladiator** seconded the choice. **PC Wiz** asked for draft choices and settled for the Sam Adams Summer Ale. **Surveyor** opted for orange vodka. Inquired as to the name of our bartender **Lorayne** said it is **Pat**.

2- **PC Wiz** asked **Ramrod** how he had fared in ordering Amtrak tickets for his and **Gladiator's** trip to visit **Dan** in July. He found the site very confusing and **Gladiator** related spending an hour and a half to complete the order for his Amtrak tickets to Poughkeepsie. He said he had to enter the 'CVV' (credit verifying value) credit card code twice for some unknown reason. Success finally with his tickets printed out! **Ramrod** said he is waiting for **Dan** to cope with the Amtrak computer system after he figures out what has happened to **Ramrod's** computer. Every night he turns off the monitor and 'puts the computer into sleep mode'. This time he cannot get the machine to operate – getting the traditional message "your computer did not properly shut down" with options to start 'normally' or in 'safe mode'. However, although the computer keys light up, there is no response to any of the keys or the mouse. **Ramrod** announced that his computer is seven years old and he is going to buy a new 'all-in-one' computer from Dell. In the meantime he will take advantage of his Dell service to see if they can bring it back to life as long as he doesn't have to get to the back to access the wires. The furniture is too heavy to move so he will wait for **Dan** to try to bring it back to life in that case. **Surveyor** commented 'it won't be an American' which **Ramrod** acknowledged.

3- The new computer will, of course, come equipped with a camera. **Dan** has told **Ramrod** he will install a program so he can video talk to the grand children (VOIP). **PC Wiz** suggested it was probably Skype (since acquired by Microsoft) but **Ramrod** said **Dan** knows a better program. Incidentally, **Ramrod** mentioned **Dan** has bought a Mazda CX-9 crossover SUV \*with the highest trim level including a tan/black interior\*. **Surveyor** said his Cadillac has a very dark gray while **PC Wiz** noted that Toyota has black but offers a tan color also. **Ramrod** then noted that **PC Wiz** had not made out an agenda for the meeting; **PC Wiz** weakly responded that he had no ideas for this meetings' agenda. **Ramrod** then announced that possibly the **HVBS** scribe should be replaced. **Surveyor's** hand immediately shot up to vote "no". He explained that he knew he was the only possible replacement for the scribe and he didn't want the job. The three then held a new vote on 'no agenda, no salary' which passed without opposition.

4- **Lorayne** appeared to take our lunch orders. **Ramrod** selected his usual French Onion Steak Sandwich while **Gladiator** ordered the pulled BBQ pork sandwich. **Surveyor** opted for the chicken Marsala sandwich. **PC Wiz** ordered from the 'specials' menu which offered penne with shrimp and chicken. The discussion turned to sports with **Ramrod** stating that some 17 athletes were 'bailing out of the Olympics' with Rory McIlroy and LeBron James the latest not to attend. The spread of the Zika virus is causing a lot of athletes to rethink their attendance while **PC Wiz** brought up the pollution of Rio bay which the Brazilians had promised to clean up. Also because of their economic crisis much of the construction is not finished. Which led **Gladiator**, with **Surveyor's** concurrence, to propose that the summer Olympics be permanently held in Greece where they historically originated.

The Olympics are a losing proposition for the countries that win the bids; construction costs are more than expected and the venues are not the permanent attractions promoters promise. **Ramrod** said the original site would not work and worried how Greece could cover the expenses of the required new construction. He said Greece has ‘thousands of islands’ and an Olympic Island would be a perfect solution. Members proposed fees from the participating countries and thought the games would be very profitable.

**5-** There was much discussion of Dustin Johnson’s bunker penalty in the US Open with **Surveyor** explaining the rules concerning ‘grounding’ of the club in a bunker. Members brought up the fact that cameras (the video that was used to confirm the balls’ movement – Johnson had called the violation on himself) are only on the leaders. This is obviously unfair to them since the lower tier of players is not covered – **HVBS** members concluded that all players should have cameras on them as they play. **Ramrod** said soccer is becoming more popular with the NY City Football Club playing at Yankee Stadium. The Yankees are part owners (20%) of the club which intends to build a stadium for themselves next to Yankee Stadium. **Ramrod** commented, and members agreed, that Lionel Messi (Barcelona) was ‘unbelievable’. Barcelona defeated Bayern-Munich in a semi-final game 3-0. **Surveyor** related that Yankee general manager Brian Cashman admitted that Yankee Stadium’s short right-field porch was a mistake. It led to a bevy of pull-oriented lefty hitters with lots of hits. Opposing teams have developed a shift that nullifies the advantage.

**6-** **Lorayne** returned to take orders for coffee. **PC Wiz** opted for the strawberry crème brulee (with pieces of strawberry in the brulee), **Surveyor** chose the cheese cake while **Ramrod** selected vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup. **Gladiator** ordered an apple cobbler. **Surveyor** asked **PC Wiz** if he finished reading Jeff Shaara’s ‘To The Last Man’ – the World War I novel he had recommended. **PC Wiz** affirmed he had and, although familiar with the war, found it very interesting – especially Baron Von Richthofen’s story and General Pershing. Which reminded him of an NCIS episode where the terrorists used ‘bouncing betties’ – a WWI mine that sprang into the air when stepped on – with devastating results. **Ramrod** said NCIS’s DiNozzo (Michael Weatherly) has a new series called ‘Bull’, an attorney. **PC Wiz** said he knew it was Michael’s last season with NCIS.

**7-** **Ramrod** informed us that **Dan** had telephoned him from England and it was as clear as a local call. When outside the U.S. Dan uses ATT which has a far better network than Verizon. In the U.S. however, Verizon has better coverage. **Gladiator** mentioned BREXIT – the referendum that passed and will remove the UK from the European Union. **Ramrod** said England is the largest importer of U.S. goods. **HVBS** members thought independence was the correct way for the English to remove themselves from the EU bureaucrats’ regulations and open borders for ‘refugees’.

**8-** A tentative date for our next **HVBS** meeting was set for **Wednesday August 10, 2016**. The meeting was adjourned.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for the correction in section 3 – model number and details \*

**HVBS** Official (Still) Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

June 28, 2016

(PDF to the **HVBS** web page 08-08-2016)