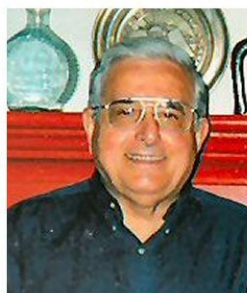


Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

1- With rain showers in the air, **PC Wiz** picked up **Gladiator** and **Surveyor** to bring the Northern Nabobs to the scheduled **HVBS** meeting. On the way the showers ceased and we entered the **Hoffman House** parking lot a bit early. **Hostess Ginny** appeared to wipe the tables outside the patio when **Ramrod**, also earlier than usual, arrived. Greetings were exchanged and our group entered the premises with welcomes from **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne**, bartender **Pat** and **Host Pat Bradley** seated at the end of the bar. Seated at our usual corner debating table, members made their adult beverage selections.

2- With drinks in hand: Tanqueray gin and tonics for **Ramrod** and **Gladiator**, orange vodka for **Surveyor**, **PC Wiz** opting for a Keegan's Mother's Milk. **Ramrod** informed us that **Dan** had just returned from China yesterday where he was ordering samples. He mentioned the difficulties **Dan** is having with the design being done in Wales, Great Britain and the prototypes in China. **Ramrod** also told us **Dan** and he are planning a trip to Greece this October. While looking forward to the trip **Ramrod** admitted to concern for all the walking involved. **Surveyor** said since he had already visited the tourist attractions in the past with **HVBS Associate Member Kay**, it was not necessary to make the arduous treks again. **Ramrod** pointed out that **Dan** would want to visit the sites himself. **PC Wiz** mentioned the beautiful photos that **Ramrod** had taken on the previous trip and **Ramrod** acknowledged the CD video that **PC Wiz** had made of the tour.

3- **Ramrod** introduced 'politics' into the discussion with serious concerns for the Trump campaign. He felt the race was lost because of intemperate remarks the candidate was making – the latest being construed as a threat against Hillary Clinton's life. **Ramrod** was especially concerned about an open letter 70 Republican lawmakers and party staffers calling for the party to cut off funding to Donald Trump. **PC Wiz** started a spirited exchange with **Ramrod** over the overwhelming influence of the media on the contest trying to undermine the determination of voters to vote Republican in November. **Ramrod** does not feel Trump has the character to be our President which led **Gladiator** to ask if that meant **Ramrod** intended to vote for Hillary. The answer was 'never' but he is convinced the election is lost.

4- **PC Wiz** took a group of pictures out of a manila envelope. They were prints of photos taken on last Sunday's flight with **Randy** to the Orange County Airport restaurant for 'brunch'. Of special interest were two taken of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail, just East of Ellenville, NY. It is a sharp, high ridge rising out of the valleys with an extensive hiking trail and a resort on a lake at the top of the ridge. One of the photos, taken at the Albany Airport, was of a jet for transporting horses (presently to Saratoga). Its markings were 'First Class Equine Air Travel'. **Ramrod** informed us of an accident in which **Casey's** Murano was 'totaled'. She loaned the car to a friend and now has no car. **HVBS** members agreed that loaning cars is a bad idea.

5- **Lorayne** checked if we were ready with our lunch orders. **Surveyor** started by ordering the turkey Reuben; **PC Wiz** remarked that was his choice also! **Ramrod** selected the French Onion Steak Sandwich while **Gladiator** opted for the French Dip Roast Beef Sandwich. **Ramrod** mentioned that he had some bad family news. **Casey** loaned the use of her Nissan Murano to friends. They were involved in an accident and the car has been 'totaled'. Which led **Surveyor** to ask **Ramrod** if he had abandoned his 'Beemer' search; **Ramrod** said 'yes'. He also said that there will be no COLA next year (the Social Security trustees estimate 0.2% - the final amount to be determined in October). A discussion about the inadequacy of the COLA's in view of the rapidly increasing cost of medical care followed, not reflected in the COL statistics. **Surveyor** informed us that he has dropped his long-term care insurance. His payments were slated to increase by 60%. **Ramrod** also dropped his with the premium going to \$2000 a year. **PC Wiz** and **Gladiator** noted that they did not have long-term care policies although **PC Wiz** said he had paid for long-term disability insurance while a GE employee.

6- Turning to sports, **HVBS** members discussed the Yankee situation. **Ramrod** stated that Gary Sanchez is a terrific catcher. **Surveyor** agreed and thought catcher Brian McCann was tradeable. Concerning ARod, **Surveyor** thought he would not be playing in his final four games. There have been so many conflicting stories that **Surveyor** concluded that manager Joe Girardi 'is being an ass'. **PC Wiz**, noting that there is increasing talk about a wild-card finish for the Yanks, asked for member opinions. **Ramrod** said 'no'. Concerning the use of steroids, denied by ARod for a long time, **Surveyor** said there was a long list of suspected steroid users but only ARod and Red Sox David Ortiz names were made public. Members were surprised by the mention of Ortiz and asked how he handled the news. **Surveyor** said Ortiz said he would reply to the charge and then just forgot about it – the strategy worked, it was not pursued.

7- **Lorayne** checked with us for coffee; **Gladiator** asked for a glass of water. She listed the available specials and **Ramrod**, **PC Wiz** and **Surveyor** all selected the 'frozen lemonade pie'. **Gladiator** did not order a dessert. In reply to a question by **Surveyor**, members were not viewing the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. The discussion again turned to the losses countries sustain in the contests. **Ramrod** was concerned that the emphasis is on 'country' medals while the Olympic ideal is in individual contest and excellence. There was some talk about the Russian athlete doping exclusions. With the exhibition season beginning, the discussion turned to the NY Giants and their new coach Ben McAdoo. **Gladiator** noted that retired head coach Tom Coughlin has gotten a 'sweetheart job for the league'.

8- **HVBS** members checked their respective calendars and a tentative date of **Wednesday October 5, 2016** was adopted for our next historic meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Thanks for **Ramrod's** review and motion to accept.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

August 14, 2016

On **HVBS** web site – August 29, 2016