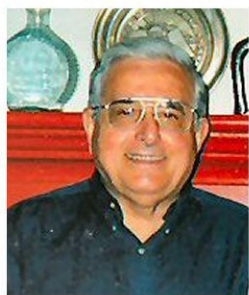


*Ramrod*



*Gladiator*



*PC Wiz*



*Surveyor*



## *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

1- On a perfect Fall day **Surveyor** picked up **Gladiator** and **PC Wiz** for an uneventful trip to the scheduled **October 12, 2016 HVBS** meeting at the **Hoffman House** in Kingston. As **Surveyor** turned into Green Street he noted **Ramrod** turning into the restaurant parking lot. With a large Sysco tractor-trailer occupying the right-hand side of the lot **Surveyor** carefully pulled into a space next to **Ramrod** who occupied one of the 'handicap' parking spots. Entering the premises we again found **Hostess Ginny Bradley** policing the patio tables. Entering the building, we were greeted by **Host Pat** at the bar, bartender **Pat** behind the bar and **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** proceeding ahead of us to the table with menus.

2- The first order of business was ordering drinks. **Ramrod** opted for a Jack Daniels Old Fashioned, **Surveyor** his usual orange vodka. **PC Wiz** asked for the beers available and chose a Samuel Adams October ale on tap, **Gladiator** settling on a Tanqueray gin and tonic. We toasted to **Deliberator**, our Founding Member and 'Bon Voyage' to **Ramrod** for his pending Greek tour with **Dan**. **Gladiator** gave him a greeting card from members wishing him a memorable tour and containing cash for 'member gifts from Greece'. **Lorayne** arrived with our beverages and was shown the card with 6-\$5 bills. **Gladiator** mentioned 30-\$1 bills had been considered and she suggested we might have considered pennies, to laughter. **Ramrod** informed us they are flying Delta and the itinerary includes several islands like Mykonos, besides three days in Athens. He especially wants to take **Dan** to the place his grand-parents lived. **Dan** has rented a limo to take them to Kennedy Airport from Poughkeepsie – which members heartily approved.

3- The subject of antacids came up when **PC Wiz** mentioned **HVBS Associate Member Shirley** had long been using Tums. Her doctor gave her a medication (omeprazole – 'Prilosec') which was performing wonderfully and she was off the Tums. **Surveyor** volunteered that he is on the same medication and **Ramrod** responded he also! **Surveyor**, an MVP member, was surprised to recently receive a refund check for \$305. **Surveyor** explained that his area MVP had exceeded a profit limit under ACA (Affordable Care Act) at least 80% of the premiums have to be spent on care – doctors, hospitals, etc. or the excess has to be returned to the subscriber. In his own case **Surveyor** informed us that healthcare premiums for him and Debbie come to \$11,000 a year with a whopping \$2400 deductible before the insurance begins to pay.

4- **PC Wiz** took some pictures he had brought to show **Ramrod** from an envelope. One showed a small GE steam turbine generator being loaded on a barge at Lock 8 on the Mohawk River. Going to the lock for a walk, **PC Wiz** found the road heavily parked and a crowd on the bike path. Watching the workers at their job, he had conversations with some of the onlookers – two of which were the mother and father of the barge owner from Coeymans. Another photo was of a power pole on Altamont Avenue with an electric meter feeding two flat plates – facing up and down the street – and a light with a dark blue bulb. Members had no idea of its purpose.

5- The last two were of **PC Wiz's** new 2017 'gray mica' Camry. **Ramrod** noted that he had said there was



no new car in his future. **PC Wiz** said **Randy** had done all the negotiating and the result was a deal he could not refuse – including a Toyota \$2000 rebate. The new car, an XLE, has a lot of new features such as a back-up camera, leather heated seats, aluminum wheels, etc. Asked if he still was thinking of trading his Passat **Ramrod** said he had not changed his mind, the BMW he favored was too expensive. He quickly turned down **Gladiator's** suggestion of a VW Rabbit. His 4 ½ year-old car has only 32,000 miles on it. **Ramrod** asked member opinion on whether he should replace the battery, although the tires are good. **HVBS** members agreed that a new battery was a good idea and suggested he consider changing the anti-freeze (almost at the 5-year mark).

6- **Lorayne** arrived to take our luncheon orders. **PC Wiz** ordered the chicken Marsala sandwich (hard roll), **Surveyor** a cup of soup and the Omelet de Maison. **Gladiator** opted for the grilled chicken Caesar salad while **Ramrod** chose the grilled chicken sandwich. Asking if he could have 'home fries' **Lorayne** informed **Ramrod** they did not have them but he could have 'steak fries' or sweet potato fries. **Ramrod** decided to stay with the French fries. When the order arrived **Surveyor** observed to **PC Wiz** that he had eaten the chicken Marsala and found it good but 'messy'. **PC Wiz** agreed. With the Hoboken train wreck in mind, **Ramrod** brought up the issue of train derailments. **Gladiator** explained the train was operating in 'push-pull' style – with the locomotive in the rear and the train's engineer in the 'cab car' in front. Members brought up 'Positive Train Control (PTC)' which is not yet in operation. **Gladiator** informed us the operator still cannot remember anything of the accident.

7- In the news, **Ramrod** brought up the subject of BREXIT – Great Britain leaving the EU (European



Union). **Gladiator** mentioned **Russ** just returned from a business trip to Germany and England, flying Virgin Atlantic. He accomplished his goal of flying the new Airbus 380 – the giant two-deck 4-engine airliner (525 to 853 passengers) and the Boeing Dreamliner 787. **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** agreed that England staying with the Pound currency will ease the transition. **PC Wiz**, familiar with the German 220 volt round pronged outlets, questioned **Ramrod** if the Greek electrical outlet plugs have round or flat prongs. **Surveyor** said he used an adapter on his Italian trip for the different voltages and outlets.

8- **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** appeared for coffee and dessert orders. All ordered coffees except **Gladiator** who asked for water with the lemon slice **Lorayne** suggested. Upon the coffees arriving **Lorayne** asked if anyone wished dessert. The only taker was **PC Wiz** for the pumpkin cheese cake. **Ramrod** asked if others had the new Microsoft Windows 10 which he found confusing. **PC Wiz** said his Windows 10 was totally annoying – with unwanted messages and, **Ramrod** concurred, too many automatic downloads. **PC Wiz** lamented the loss of the control he had with Windows 7 but concluded users were not given a choice – a future of more complication and automation. Somehow the new GEICO commercials came up with members marveling at the ingenuity of the ad agency – especially the unique gecko ads. **Ramrod** raised the issue of a date for our next meeting. Consulting his 'smart phone' calendar **Surveyor** checked possibilities. The tentative date for our next meeting is **Wednesday December 7** (noted Pearl Harbor Day), **2016**; meeting adjourned.

**HVBS Official Scribe Laureate PC Wiz**

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