

Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

May 3, 2017 – 2nd Meeting of the year

1- On a cloudy, gloomy morning in the 50's **PC Wiz** drove to **Gladiator's** house. There **Gladiator**, designated driver for the Upstate Critics, proceeded to pick up **Surveyor**. Arriving at the **Hoffman House** promptly at 11:15 we found **Ramrod** waiting for our arrival. The staff was preparing the patio tables as we entered the premises. There we were welcomed by **Pat Bradley** seated at the bar, with bartender **Pat** behind the bar. **Hostess Ginny** went with us to our historic corner table and arranged a fourth setting. **PC Wiz** mentioned to **Ginny** that he had visited the **Hoffman House** web site and checked the 'history' tab which had pictures of the condition of the building when they bought it in 1973. **Ginny** stated that the pictures were taken 6 months later and the house was much worse originally.

2- **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** took our orders for suitable adult libations. **Ramrod** ordered a Jack Daniels Old Fashioned, **Gladiator** his 'regular drink' – a Tanqueray gin and tonic. **Surveyor** preferred an orange vodka and club soda while **PC Wiz** chose his favorite Keegan's Mother's Milk. **Ramrod** proposed a special toast to **Deliberator**, his childhood friend and a founding member of **HVBS**. Members enthusiastically joined in.

3- Turning to Yankee news, **Ramrod** mentioned right fielder Aaron Judge from Fresno State. The 6' 7" 282 lb. Yankee is, according to **Ramrod**, 'a good player' and **Surveyor** commented 'a class act'. He is much improved, especially in the home-run category. **PC Wiz** noted that he heard a TV commentary where they talked about his improved batting in striking at fewer bad pitches. Members noted Judge's calm demeanor on and off the field and said it reminded them of Jeter (and that Judge, like Jeter, would make a fine captain of the team). **Gladiator** continued by mentioning he likes Michael Kay's talk show. He then commented that 'money is taking over everything'. With the average MLB salary at \$4.4 million **Ramrod** noted that the money doesn't come from admissions – it's from TV. **Surveyor** brought up 'MLBAM' – BAM being 'major league advanced media' – cash cow money to the clubs. It includes streaming games to smart phones and tablets.

4- Concerning the Mets members discussed the media comments about the failures of the team's pitching coaches. Noah Syndergaard had a predictable arm problem but insisted on his pitching rotation. The result was an injury – a partial latissimus dorsi (lat) muscle tear (out for six weeks). **Gladiator** commented that the 'inmates are running the asylum' where highly-paid athletes are concerned. **Gladiator** then said that the money problems are less in hockey with the average 2016 salary of \$2.4 million (Henrik Lundqvist - \$10 million). **Ramrod** said Henrik is 'still a magic guy'. **Gladiator** replied that Lundqvist is good if he has sight of the puck - making 126 saves of 128 goal shots. **Ramrod** invited member views on the NY Giants first-round pick of tight end Even Engram (Ole Miss), **Surveyor** liked his 'strong arm', especially useful in protecting Eli Manning in passing plays. **Ramrod** brought up his concern about Manning's future and the need for a replacement – members thought, while not a great QB, Eli still would remain.

5- **Lorayne** arrived to take our luncheon orders. Members were prepared and **Ramrod** selected the French onion steak sandwich while **Surveyor** followed with his selection of the Quesadilla from the 'specials' menu. **Gladiator** chose the French Dip with hot au jus and **PC Wiz** opted for the 'special' sesame chicken with broccoli. **Gladiator** said the new Schenectady 'Rivers' casino is 'going bust'. **Surveyor** said they are 'way under projection' with a gang problem. He explained that the casino parking lot is protected so the criminals are following the patrons as they leave for home. Again **HVBS** members returned to their opinions that the casino should have been sited elsewhere – favorites being on the Hudson near the Amtrak station in Rensselaer, Albany or **Gladiator's** favorite: Howe's Caverns – convenient to I-88.

6- Concerning President Trump, **Ramrod** informed us that the president had given his first quarter's salary of \$78,333.32 to the National Parks Service. The check was given to Secretary of the Interior Zinke and superintendent Brandyburg of the Harpers Ferry Park in West Virginia (which **Gladiator** and **PC Wiz** have visited). **HVBS** Members remembered the campaign pledge he was fulfilling and approved its disposition. **Ramrod** also called Trump's budget director, Mick Mulvaney, 'impressive'. Mulvaney announced that if fixing the budget requires a shutdown 'so be it'. The increase in border patrol numbers was noted and **Ramrod** suggested we should have border shacks manned by snipers. **Gladiator** thought they should be instructed to 'shoot to kill'.

7- **Gladiator** brought members up to date on his recent home renovations. With a new carpeted cellar stairs, **Gladiator** says the cellar will be painted and finished. He has a new roof with ridge vents and wants to replace the gutters. To eliminate the chore of cleaning them continuously **Gladiator** is going to install gutter guards. **Surveyor** said his are aluminum with holes and work very well, leaves dry up and blow away. It seems that all types require occasional cleaning but at least the gutters won't fill with debris and clog. **Gladiator** said he is going to do the same as **Surveyor**.

8- **Lorayne** asked about coffees and all members said 'yes' but none decided to have a dessert. **PC Wiz** said Consumer Reports listed the Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie as a top hospital for heart operations. **Ramrod** told us he took his brother, who has serious arthritis, to the hospital emergency room recently and had a disturbing experience. They recommended cold packs, which **Ramrod** correctly says is recommended for the early stages of an injury – not long-term arthritis. The visit also took many hours. **Gladiator** told of a recent emergency room visit that was also exceedingly long. He surmised that they do not wish to admit anyone if they can be treated as an outpatient. **PC Wiz** thought it might be better for 'non-life threatening problems' to go to one of the many satellite 'EmUrgentCare' centers that the Albany Medical Center is establishing in our area – open 9 to 9 every day.

9- **Ramrod** then told us that he had a professional trim his toe nails, not able to do them himself anymore. The nails were trimmed with a tiny grinder and he was charged \$147! **Ramrod** smiled as he told us he got his co-pay of \$20 reduced to a more reasonable \$9. **Gladiator** offered to rent an industrial grinder and volunteered to do the job for him much more cheaply. **Ramrod** declined the offer. At 2 PM our meeting adjourned so that **Gladiator** could get **Surveyor** home by 3:30 (**Surveyor** has joined a golf league that plays every Wednesday). As we dropped him off **Gladiator** noted that he had five minutes to spare.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his review and **Surveyor** for his 'second'.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

May 9, 2017

(.pdf installed on web – May 15, 2017)