

Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

August 9, 2017 – 4th Meeting of the year.

1- On a cool August morning **PC Wiz** picked up **Gladiator** and proceeded to the Northern Nabobs designated driver **Surveyor's** residence. He was waiting for us and we promptly proceeded to our destination. As **Surveyor** turned from North Front Street into Green Street (the corner the **Hoffman House** is on) **PC Wiz** noted a Sotheby's Realty 'for sale' sign! Upon entering the premises, we greeted bartender **Pat** and followed **HVBS** Official Waitress **Lorayne** to our accustomed corner table. **Hostess Ginny Bradley** greeted us from behind our procession. Members asked **Lorayne** about the 'for sale' sign. She told us it has been up for about two years and **Pat** and **Ginny** have not had any offers so far. **PC Wiz** mentioned that the Tory Tavern in Schoharie is still for sale. **Gladiator** volunteered that restaurants are a hard sell with people moving toward 'fast food' and with even supermarkets selling cooked food.

2- After we were seated **HVBS** members ordered our usual adult beverages: **Ramrod** a Tanqueray gin and tonic which **Gladiator** seconded (with a lime wedge), **Surveyor** opted for his usual orange vodka and club soda while **PC Wiz** settled for his predictable Keegan's 'Mothers Milk' stout. When our drinks arrived **PC Wiz**



asked **Lorayne** to take a couple of pictures of our group with his new camera – which she did. This led to a discussion of why a 'new camera' after **Gladiator** said it was quite a story. Despite interruptions by **Ramrod** **PC Wiz** related how he had fallen from his bicycle on the Colonie bike trail, not noticing his camera and a gold Cross pen had fallen from his pocket. Checking the next afternoon he found no trace of the items. However, a few days later he saw a notice on the old railroad station's window with a telephone number. The 'good Samaritan' returned the items. **Ramrod** asked why get the old camera if a new one had been purchased – **Surveyor** correctly surmised there were a lot of photos on the original camera's 'sim chip'.

3- **Gladiator** told us of his TV remote troubles, resulting in Spectrum sending him a new one. This led to **Ramrod** enthusiastically recommending a 2017 movie he has seen recently – 'Going in Style' with Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine. Three madcap friends decide to rob the bank that has absconded with their money. **Gladiator** said he would be interested in viewing the Netflix movie and **Ramrod** explained the various ways to subscribe to the service, including streaming. **Ramrod** then asked **Gladiator** how his Amtrak trip back from the **Anagnos** reunion had gone (**Ramrod** was visited by **Sharon**, **Dan**, **Dan's** son **Travis** and brother **Jim**). **Gladiator** told him it was a 'rough trip, they were 25 minutes late because of CSX track work.

Ramrod informed us Amtrak is sending him emails concerning ‘specials’; he has no intention of traveling by Amtrak again.

4- **Lorayne** dropped by and found us ready to order our lunches. **Ramrod** ordered the French onion steak sandwich and **Surveyor** seconded the selection. **Gladiator** asked for the roast beef French Dip with hot au jus, and noted that he appreciated **Lorayne’s** having the meat reduced at our last meeting but he would like even a bit less. She agreed to tell the cook. **PC Wiz** went for a new item (for him) from the menu – the chicken Marsala sandwich. **Surveyor** said it is very good but messy with the gravy (how right he was!). **Gladiator** enthusiastically mentioned the project **Dan** is working on and is now being marketed – ‘state of the art’ electrostatic audiophile earphones for music. **Gladiator** tried out a prototype and said the sound was unbelievable – like the finest speaker systems. He continued: it comes with a custom amplifier whose case is machined out of a solid piece of aluminum – the amp has a control knob with 30 positions. **Gladiator** suggested **Surveyor** might be interested but the \$5000 list price was daunting. **Gladiator** said he could get them for about half price directly from **Dan** but it was ‘no sale’.

5- **Surveyor** told us he is having a new roof installed on his house – with the removal of the existing two layers of roofing. **Ramrod** and other members agreed – not approving of the extra weight of a second layer over the original. **Gladiator**, who recently had his roof renewed (with a great contractor, but **Surveyor** has his own trusted contractor) highly recommended algae resistant shingles made with copper granules in the asphalt to avoid the unsightly staining on the shadow sides. **Surveyor** said his complete roof has no shade but he would look into the new shingles. **PC Wiz** mentioned the latest roofing with an article in the new Consumers Report – solar shingles. **Gladiator** said the new SolarCity (Elon Musk of Tesla) factory in Buffalo is converting from roof panels to solar shingles.

6- **Ramrod** informed us of the discovery of an unknown dinosaur in Argentina in 2012 – ‘Patigotitan mayorum’. It was 122 feet long (more than a football field exclaimed **Ramrod**!) and weighed 76 tons! It was a vegetarian creature. **PC Wiz** commented that, but for the extinction, humans would not exist today. **Lorayne** arrived to take our coffee orders – **Surveyor** opted for water. With her recitation of the dessert selections **Surveyor** chose the cheese cake, while **PC Wiz** opted for the vanilla crème brulee. **Ramrod** asked **Lorayne** to describe the cocoanut chocolate shell dessert; he decided to try it. **Gladiator** asked if he could order an apple cobbler. Yes, was the answer and he added ‘and a scoop of vanilla ice cream’. Members returned to the topic of the **Hoffman House** sale. While purchasing the property was obviously out of the question, **Surveyor** suggested we buy our corner table and chairs. One witty member (**Gladiator**) proposed leasing the corner of the building ‘in perpetuity’ from the new owner – **Ramrod** wisely added ‘with the window’.

7- **PC Wiz** had brought two photos he printed from emails for **Ramrod**. One was of the ‘two buddies’ – **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** – the other a picture taken at the Shadows on the Hudson restaurant in Poughkeepsie attended by **Ramrod’s** family and **Gladiator**. The two men and **Dan** ordered filet mignon (tender fillet) – the larger section is often called ‘chateaubriand’. What was served was evidently not the filet since it had fat and gristle and was not tender. **Gladiator**, expert in filet mignon, complained and the restaurant took ½ off his bill. There was some discussion about NY Giant prospects and, in the news, football concussions with brain damage. **Ramrod** suggested some improvements in the helmets.

8- With the adjournment approaching, **Gladiator** noted that we had not discussed a tentative date for our next session. **Surveyor** checked his telephone calendar for possible dates and we finally decided on **Wednesday September 13, 2017**. The meeting was adjourned promptly at 2 o’clock so **Surveyor** could make his golfing appointment (his commitment will be over by next meeting time).

Thanks to **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** for their exhaustive review efforts.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

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