

*Ramrod*



*Gladiator*



*PC Wiz*



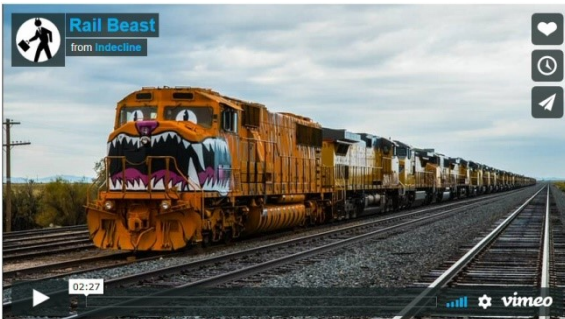
*Surveyor*



## *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

**October 25, 2017 – 6th Meeting of the year.**

1. With **HVBS** member **Surveyor** presently in Florida, **Gladiator** drove **Associate Member Shirley** to **PC Wiz's** home. Designated driver **PC Wiz**, with **Gladiator**, then proceeded to our **Hoffman House** destination. The partly cloudy day turned completely cloudy. We turned into Green Street, noting the 'for sale' sign still in evidence. The restaurant was receiving a delivery with the large truck squarely centered on the entrance path, thus blocking both handicapped spots we usually occupy. Presently **Ramrod** arrived and parked next to **PC Wiz**. The truck leaving, **Ramrod** moved to the handicap spot next to **PC Wiz**. We entered the premises to welcomes from **Hostess Ginny** and **bartender Pat**. With menus from **Ginny**, **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** appeared to take our 'adult beverage' orders.
2. **Ramrod** asked **Lorayne** for something 'warm' and she suggested the hot cider with a stick of cinnamon. He readily agreed. **Gladiator** ordered a Tanqueray gin and tonic while **PC Wiz** asked Lorayne about the Keegan's 'capital' drink mentioned on the outside board. It was 'Old Capital' – a nice golden ale. **Ramrod** commented on being bothered by the high humidity. **Gladiator** asked if yesterday's heavy rains had also occurred in Poughkeepsie – they had. The big TV news is President Trump's feud with his Republican 'establishment' opponents Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) and Senator Jeff Flake (R-AR). **Ramrod** stated that 'they are on their way out' – not running for re-election. In local news **Gladiator** related that a local gun store in Glenville had been robbed. The thieves entered between midnight and 2 AM stealing at least 40 guns. The alarm system (not required by law according to **Gladiator**) did not go off. When inspected minutely by the alarm company it functioned perfectly – **Ramrod** commented 'inside job'.
3. **Ramrod** said drones are becoming more common – some the size of small planes used in surveillance and bombings. **PC Wiz** mentioned a Trains News Wire item about unknown persons flying drones around and through moving trains (and putting the videos on YouTube). Members agreed that our Federal laws need to be brought up-to-date to cover drones. Also an item about vandals breaking into a Union Pacific yard and completely painted a locomotive with a shark face. **Ramrod** wondered why no cameras in the yard. Turning to the agenda, we discussed President Trump's release – tomorrow – of the 'sealed' JFK assassination papers. **PC Wiz** asked what could they possibly contain - that would contradict the conclusion of Oswald as the lone assassin. Rumors at the time included the Russians, Castro and, hard to believe, even the CIA.



4. With the **Hoffman House** becoming busier, **Lorayne** came to take our luncheon orders. **Gladiator** ordered a burger with cheese and a slice of onion – ‘no pickle’. **Ramrod** ordered the pastrami Reuben. **PC Wiz** was tempted (his favorite) but opted for the ‘special’ cheese ravioli’s with scallops. The next agenda item concerned NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell – who has been paid \$205,000,000 from 2008-2015 making ‘a lot of money for the owners’. Members discussed the ‘kneeling’ disrespect for the flag and national anthem problem. **Gladiator** lauded Jerry Jones – Dallas Cowboys – for threatening to bench any demonstrating player. Fact check: Clark Hunt (son of Lamar – 2006) of the Kansas City Chiefs did not make the locker room speech attributed to him. Goodell, after a meeting on the subject, made the ‘wishy-washy’ statement that the league wanted zero players to protest but ‘won’t force them’. **Ramrod** commented that the smaller TV sponsors are dropping the NFL games as attendance drops weekly.

5. **Ramrod** asked about the NY Rangers – presently with a dismal 2-6 record. He mentioned Monday’s loss to the San Jose Sharks 4-1. **Gladiator**, who informed us he listens to all the talk shows after the games, said the coach is the problem. The Rangers, who have won only two Stanley Cups in 77 years, allowed the Sharks to score in the first two minutes. He said they were ‘asleep, not alert’. **Ramrod** raised the issue of the FBI investigation of a tiny (2 employees) Montana power company ‘Whitefish Energy’ (from the home town of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke) that got a 300 million no-bid contract to re-build Puerto Rico’s power grid destroyed by Hurricane Maria. Governor Ricardo Rossello has cancelled the contract. **Gladiator** told us about Elon Musk’s getting permission to build a 10.1 mile tunnel from the State of Maryland. His ‘Boring Company’ wants to construct two 35 mile tunnels between Baltimore and Washington. He is hoping this will lead to an underground ‘Hyperloop’ system to go from NY to DC in 29 minutes!

6. **Lorayne** took our orders for coffee and listed the available desserts. **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** opted for the pumpkin ice cream (really quite good), while **Gladiator** first chose the peanut butter mousse – then changed his mind for the cocoanut custard dessert. **PC Wiz** informed **Ramrod** he had purchased a new snow blower – as predicted at our last meeting. It is an Ariens – the same as his retiring 30 year veteran (1987!). **Ramrod** said his is a TroyBilt (the same brand as **Gladiator** had checked out at Lowe’s). **Ramrod** said his is a smaller model two-stage that is fine unless he has a heavy snow. He then told us recently some of the lights in his house would not go on so he called his trusted electrician. Unfortunately, water had penetrated the service entrance and entered some of the breakers in the box. The solution was a new service – of greater capacity – and now all is well.

7. **PC Wiz** mentioned going to the Adams Fairacre Farms web site after hearing an ad on NPR. It looked like a fabulous store. **Ramrod** agreed. He purchases fine cooked meals whose menus vary depending on the day of the week; the entrees being planned by graduates of the Culinary Institute of America. **Ramrod** told us the latest revamp of the store is a bakery – with baked goods made in the store fresh every day.

8. No specific date was set for our next meeting but it will most probably be sometime in December. **Gladiator** commended **Ramrod** for the jokes he had brought – bringing quite a bit of levity to the meeting. **Ramrod** commented that the number of jokes he gets from his web friends has declined quite a bit in recent times. On that note the meeting was adjourned.

*Thanks to **Ramrod** for his painstaking review of the preliminary notes, checking for corrections.*

**HVBS** Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

October 30, 2017

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