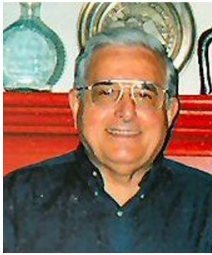


Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes - December 6, 2017 – 7th Meeting of the year.

1- On a morning that had happily turned from cloudy to sunny, **Surveyor** picked up **Gladiator** and **PC Wiz** for the trip South. After an uneventful sojourn to the **Hoffman House**, members waited for **Ramrod** who took the second handicap spot at the entrance. After greetings, the **HVBS** group straggled into the premises and met **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** in the bar passageway. **Lorayne** had just arrived, so a nice young waitress escorted us to our traditional table. Since we had not seen her before **Ramrod** asked her name – she said it was Nicolle and, although not new, had not seen us before. **Lorayne** arrived with a tasseled hat and wished us a Merry Christmas, stamping her feet in festive reindeer fashion.

2- The first order of business was ordering adult beverages. **Ramrod** quickly ordered a hot cider with cinnamon stick. **PC Wiz** asked **Lorayne** for the on-tap beers; she mentioned something named 'IPA' or India Pale Ale (actually created to withstand the voyage and heat encountered in India of the British Empire), which **PC Wiz** opted for. **Gladiator** wanted a glass of Malbec while **Surveyor** ordered a Michelob Ultra, a low carb, low calorie light beer. On our table was a tempting bottle of 'Federalist' red wine – a North coast California blend of merlot, zinfandel, and cabernet sauvignon with 14.5% alcohol. **Gladiator** checked the bottle and decided to try it if his favorite store, All-Star Liquors, carries it (about \$18).



3- With the beverages in hand, **Surveyor**, **Ramrod**, and **PC Wiz** congratulated **Gladiator** on his and **HVBS Associate Member Shirley's** 60th Anniversary. They and family members **Bobbi**, **Randy** and **Russ** and **Kris** from Virginia, had an anniversary celebration at the Desmond. **HVBS** members also toasted **Surveyor** on his pending December 26 64th birthday. He raised a shopping bag from the floor. In it were bottles of the latest vintage (surprise) of **Surveyor's** personally made wine – a bottle for each for us. It was labeled Lucarelli Montepulciano 17 for the grape variety, originally from the d'Abruzzo region of Italy. **Surveyor** said he bought the Montepulciano grape juice, noted to produce a fruity, dry, low-tannin wine. **Surveyor** produced the wine which **Gladiator** said should be drunk fresh because of the low tannins; **PC Wiz** noted – the French call these wines 'Beaujolais Nouveau', which should be consumed soon after being bottled.



4- **PC Wiz** asked **Surveyor** how he found the condition of his Florida condo after recent Hurricane Irma. He said there was minimal damage that was easily repaired but he saw evidence of the storm by finding trees down. They were out of power for three days, fortunately before his visit. **PC Wiz** noted that he had received an early Christmas card from **Bobbi** and **Randy** – a custom card with their photos on it.

Ramrod said he also had gotten the card. **Gladiator** said they are presently in Florida visiting friends. **Gladiator** produced photos to show **Ramrod**; ‘Polaroids’ from the famous ‘instant cameras’ many years ago. They were of a quite unrecognizable **Ramrod** in ‘days long gone’.

5- The news dominated by the California wild fires, **Surveyor** said the winds fanning the flames were at 80 MPH – making fighting the fires impossible. With no rain in sight to relieve the extreme dryness they are waiting for calmer conditions. **Gladiator** wondered why the construction of houses was allowed in such hazardous areas. Which led **Ramrod** to comment that, after Texas Hurricane Harvey, 3.5 million dollars had been sent to ‘dead people’! **Ramrod** also mentioned another news item concerning President Trump’s reducing the size of two National Monuments in Utah by 2 million acres. President Obama (unlawfully?) had increased the Federal lands in Utah by 554 million acres!

6- **Lorayne** appeared to take our lunch orders. **Ramrod** promptly asked for the French onion steak sandwich while **Surveyor** selected the chicken Marsala sandwich. **Gladiator** opted for the cheddar and spinach quiche which came with a salad. **PC Wiz** settled for ‘fish and chips’. **Ramrod** said that **Dan**, who is under ‘Obamacare’, is facing a \$650 a month increase in his family’s medical coverage. **Surveyor**, who has MVP coverage, said his monthly charge is going from \$1049 to \$1270. **PC Wiz** and **Gladiator** are getting increases to their Medicare coverage. **HVBS** members are waiting to see what the Congress comes up with in the form of tax cuts – which would help mitigate the medical increases. **Ramrod** brought us up-to-date on **Sharon’s** situation. She is presently working with a new company in Purchase and finds the traffic very heavy. **Surveyor** noted that he is very familiar with the area and the traffic is very heavy at all times.

7- **Gladiator** asked **Ramrod** how **Dan’s** ‘cutting edge’ headphones were doing. **Ramrod** told us that while the assembling is being done in the USA the parts are manufactured in China. **Dan** has found the Chinese require constant supervision to maintain quality in the parts so he has to frequently fly there. **Gladiator** said he was interested in checking out the new Ford Fusion Hybrids to see what new features they have introduced. **Ramrod** then mentioned a new car pricing and information web site called ‘TrueCar’. It has 13,000 dealerships that pay the costs to get buyers contact information. You sign up to get actual prices that new-car buyers have paid and pricing from the network.

8- It was time for **Lorayne** to take our orders for coffee and possible desserts. **Ramrod** asked for ‘the cocoanut ice cream something’, while **PC Wiz** and **Surveyor** opted for the crème brulee. **Gladiator** ordered a cobbler. **Ramrod** noted that the **Hoffman House** had gotten busy with the hum of conversation increasing. Feeling us a minority in the restaurant, he counted the room and found we were the only four males present – making the count 19 to 4! **Surveyor** checked the figure on his phone calculator and, including the staff, 80% WERE WOMEN! Meanwhile, **Ramrod** had made jocular contact with the women at the table to our side. **Surveyor** reminisced that his first calculator was a Royal that was limited to 4 numbers with 4 more displayed next. **PC Wiz** said his era was the slide rule with 3 places and his first calculator was a Texas Instrument. **Gladiator’s** work involved the use of the logarithm tables with their 10 places (we all remember them).

9- **Ramrod** informed us he is watching Tiger again. **Gladiator** followed him closely in the past and he commented that Tiger’s drives are comparable and even longer than before. **Surveyor** said Tiger has a different attitude now – the arrogance is gone and he is friendly with spectators and press. **Ramrod** brought up the issue of sports betting with Governor Christi lifting the New Jersey ban against it. The Supreme Court will determine whether States other than Nevada can have betting on single games. After some discussion, tentative dates of January 10 or January 17, 2018 were set. Our momentous meeting was adjourned.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his move to accept the Preliminary Minutes and to **Surveyor** for his second.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

December 15, 2017

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