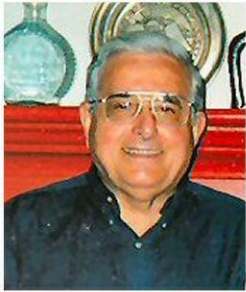


# *HV* *BS* *The Hudson Valley* *Bullshit Society*

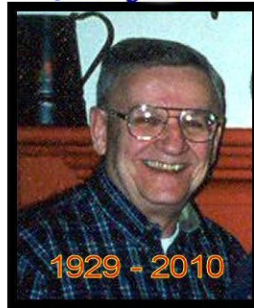
*Jack Gahan*



*Ramrod*



*Gladiator*



*Deliberator*



*PC Wiz*



*Surveyor*

## Official Minutes – April 18, 2018 – 3rd Meeting of the year.

- 1- On a cloudy cold morning **Gladiator** drove to **PC Wiz's** abode. **PC Wiz**, designated driver, then proceeded to our **Hoffman House** destination. It was our first meeting since **Pat** and **Ginny's** traditional Winter shutdown, re-opening for St. Patrick's Day. **Surveyor** was not present, to return from his Florida sojourn on April 30. **Ramrod** arrived at 11:20 AM and we entered the premises. **Host Pat**, busy doing some spackling of furniture in the patio – straightened up and gave us a rousing welcome. **Pat** the bartender was not present – we had a woman tending the bar. **Hostess Ginny**, at her station, welcomed us and escorted us to our familiar corner table. **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** soon appeared to take drink orders for the thirsty travelers.
- 2- Upon inquiry, **Ramrod** was informed that his familiar hot cider drink was not available. He settled for a Jack Daniels Old Fashioned while **PC Wiz** and **Gladiator** ordered glasses of Malbec wine. **PC Wiz** handed out the Official Agendas and noted that there was a page attached. It was an article from the NY Post titled 'Naturally, the Mario Cuomo Bridge is at risk of winding up over budget'. Evidently the contractors are submitting \$900 million for added expenses – actually the builders are contractually prevented from publically discussing the cost-claims! **Gladiator** noted that it was constructed under a 'design-build' contract by Tappan Zee Constructors, an LLC comprised of Fluor Corp., American Bridge Co., Granite Construction NE, and Traylor Brothers. Governor Cuomo's 'under budget' claim looks bogus.
- 3- **Ramrod** told us of a formerly free NYC bridge in the news. Without notice, the State installed EZ-Pass on the bridge. The problem, **Ramrod** said, is that many drivers using EZ-Pass are not signed up for automatic replenishing of the account, paying their accounts by cash or check. He found out that there are stiff penalties if you have a 'negative balance' – up to \$100 per occurrence! Shades of Hurricane Sandy: **Gladiator** told us he saw a TV news video showing water from a heavy rain coming down the stairs of the NYC subway! **HVBS** members complained of the unseasonable cold, rainy weather this Spring with overnight temperatures in the 30's. **PC Wiz** mentioned we now seem to be in a 'Maunder Minimum' – a very low number of sun spots (solar storms) that coincided (1645-1715) with the 'little ice age' in Europe and North America. It is also raining in Virginia – **Russell** reporting that he is mowing weekly but presently the grass is too wet to mow. **Gladiator** had requested **Ramrod** to bring some jokes to our meeting. He related some 'good ones' as **Lorayne** appeared to take our lunch orders. She had a loud laugh at one of **Ramrod's** really funny selections.
- 4- Everyone perused the 'specials' and regular menus. **Ramrod** selected the French Onion Steak Sandwich, **Gladiator** ordered the 3-egg Omelet de la Maison, and **PC Wiz** chose the 'special' pasta-penne shrimp dish. **Ramrod** said he recently had a lieutenant colonel calling him from South Africa with a great

money-making opportunity. He ‘reluctantly’ turned it down. **Gladiator** does not answer the numerous ‘scam’ calls while **PC Wiz**, without call waiting, merely hangs up when offered a ‘free’ cruise. This led to a discussion on computer web security. **Gladiator** purchased ‘Malwarebytes’ for the Mac which **PC Wiz** had recommended. Running full time, it has saved **PC Wiz** from malware and ransomware – even on supposedly ‘safe’ sites such as the NY Post, etc. The program calls these items a ‘possibly unwanted program’ or ‘PUP’ and ‘quarantines’ them. **Gladiator** mentioned the ‘dark web’ where it is impossible to identify the sender since the signal is ‘bounced’ over the world and the message is encrypted. It requires special software and has been used mostly by people living in police states and for buying and selling drugs.

5- **Ramrod** told us his barber had recently gone to New York’s largest new casino in Monticello NY – the Resort World Catskills that cost 1.2 billion dollars. It is built on the old Concord Hotel site, an effort to revive the old ‘borscht belt’ in the Catskills. **Gladiator** noted the tough casino climate in NY although being only 90 miles from NYC is a plus. In the local news was an item about the ‘Rivers’ Schenectady casino. Business has not met expectations and they are asking modification of their agreements – ending payments for business loss to the Saratoga Casino, support for the track, etc. **Ramrod’s** lawyer is retiring so he has been requested to pick up his will and legal papers. **PC Wiz now** who has a new lawyer and will, mentioned his original law firm also went out of business. As with **Ramrod**, he was told the will would be registered with the County Clerk upon his demise. In the meantime **Ramrod** has to find a place for his legal papers - likely a new law firm.

6- **Gladiator** asked his doctor’s secretary at St. Peter’s, Amanda, what her last name is. She replied, ‘Bonjiovi’. It turns out the famous performer Jon Bon Jovi is her father’s \*\*cousin! He also informed us that **Randy’s** mother-in-law **Pat** is walking with her new knee. **Ramrod** reported that **Dan** has returned from his latest trip to China. **Lorayne** appeared to offer coffee and possible desserts. **PC Wiz** informed her that she has been the **HVBS Official Waitress** since our meeting on October 10, 2010 - 7 ½ years! We all cannot believe it has been that long. **Gladiator** asked about the missing ‘For Sale’ sign. **Lorayne** said a new sign was being made and there has been no progress on a sale. For the first time in **HVBS** history there was a unanimous dessert selection – cocoanut custard pie made by **hostess Ginny**! It was very good and **PC Wiz** remarked ‘not too sweet’.

7- **PC Wiz** noted that Don Imus (77), famous ‘shock jock’, has sold his Santa Fe New Mexico ranch where he invited children with cancer to experience ranch life for nine days. Injured falling off a horse, Imus was on continual oxygen because of the 6000+ ft. altitude. The 34,000 acre ranch, listed for \$32 million, sold for \$12.5 million. Concerning an agenda item: **Gladiator** stated that the NY Rangers coach Alain Vigneault was not responsible for the team’s not making the playoffs and should not have been fired. **PC Wiz** observed that is the common fate of sport coaches with failing records – witness the resignation of Siena basketball coach Jimmy Patsos – supposedly for ‘irregularities’ but arguably for his 5-year losing record. As for the NY Yankees (presently 7-7), **Ramrod** commented that right-fielder Giancarlo Stanton is a ‘moderate player’.

8- In May **Ramrod** is planning to fly from Westchester airport to Washington’s Reagan to visit **Dan**. As our meeting was concluding **Ramrod** questioned the frequency of our meetings. He suggested reducing the current 6-weeks to approximately a ‘once-a-month’ meeting. Present members agreed and the tentative date for our next conclave is **Wednesday May 9, 2018**. **PC Wiz** noted that we should very likely welcome the return of **Surveyor** on his return to the Empire State. The meeting was adjourned.

Thanks for correction by **Gladiator \*\***, and review by **Ramrod** with an agenda suggestion.

**HVBS Official Scribe Laureate PC Wiz**

April 25, 2018

**PS** We have a new letterhead logo – suggested by **Gladiator** to commemorate founding member **Deliberator**.

**Converted to .pdf for the HVBS web site – April 30, 2018**