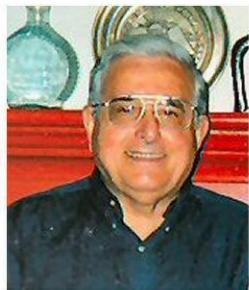


HV *BS* *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

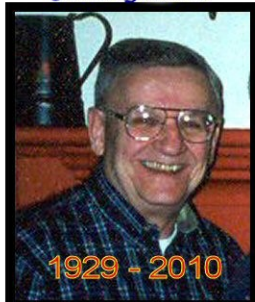
Jack Gahan



Ramrod



Gladiator



Deliberator



PC Wiz



Surveyor

Official Minutes – August 1, 2018 – 6th Meeting of the year.

1- With **Surveyor** absent because of vacation, **Gladiator** arrived at **PC Wiz's** house on a cloudy day with a light sprinkle of rain. Designated driver **PC Wiz** proceeded with **Gladiator** to the Thruway entrance pointing out at the Curry Road Roundabout the closure of the Hamburg Street by construction. The area is being rebuilt to attract new business with sewers, sidewalks and curbs. **Gladiator** remarked that it must be 2 years – what is the 'holdup'? The rain increased on the Thruway, going through showers, some heavy. We arrived at the **Hoffman House** about 11:15 with **Ramrod** appearing a few minutes later. Entering the premises through a light rain ('you won't melt' – **Gladiator**) we were greeted by host **Pat Bradley** behind the bar and the new lady bartender. We went to our traditional table and **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** appeared.

2- **Ramrod** promptly decided on a Tanqueray gin and tonic with a lime wedge (**Lorayne**: 'It will be lime'). **Gladiator** seconded the choice and **PC Wiz** ordered a Heineken. **Gladiator** made the toast to the memory of founding member **Deliberator** and to prosperity and success. **Gladiator** mentioned that **Russell** and family were on vacation at the Outer Banks of North Carolina and had a lot of rain from Sunday to Wednesday noon. Due to leaks in the roof they had to place buckets. They nevertheless had an enjoyable time. The week after they left it rained even harder and members contemplated more buckets being placed for rain water. **Ramrod** told us **Dan** had joined **Chaco** and the boys with her family in Hong Kong. **Gladiator** talked about the length of the flights and their expense.

3- With the **Hoffman House** becoming busier (all women **Ramrod** noted) **Lorayne** arrived to take our lunch orders. **Ramrod** selected the 'Spicy Rigatoni' pasta item from the 'specials' listing. **Gladiator** asked for a French dip with hot au jus but asked for less meat in the sandwich. **Lorayne** said she would see to it (which she did). **PC Wiz** settled for the pastrami Rueben – his favorite sandwich. **Gladiator** mentioned the news about the dreadful fires around Athens, Greece (and in Crete, **Ramrod** noted). It is suspected they were purposely set by terrorists. **Ramrod** wondered why our media is so against President Trump talking to the Russian president. **Gladiator** noted the huge country that Putin leads and **HVBS** members agreed that it is our president's job to communicate with all the world's leaders. **PC Wiz** mentioned an article he read with Putin pictured walking in a procession with church leaders; restoring the Orthodox Church in Russia after much persecution by the Communists. He also restored the church's seized properties – making them the country's largest landholder.

4- **Gladiator** raised the topic of Apple TV. He wants (like many) to ‘cut the cord’ to cable TV. The cable monthly charge is over \$160 and goes up regularly. When it hits \$200 he will be gone. **PC Wiz** and **Ramrod** subscribe to Consumer Reports and **PC Wiz** promised to drop off the ‘Cut the cable’ issue for **Gladiator** to study. It discusses all the options. **Gladiator**, interested in a second TV, mentioned ‘Apple TV’. It is not a television set but a \$199 streaming device (box) that connects to your TV and supplies services from Amazon Prime, Roku, Netflix, etc. to the set. After **Lorayne** renewed **Ramrod** and **Gladiator’s** drinks **Ramrod** related his adventure with the Poughkeepsie Journal. After being a subscriber for 50 years he decided to cancel his subscription, starting with today’s issue. This morning he got a copy of the cancelled paper, as usual. He gave the paper his account number and they have promised to cancel. The cost, automatically deducted from an account, cannot be cancelled but they will withhold the payments. We are waiting to see how this turns out.

5- **Gladiator** noted that police are being targeted - 54 have died on duty this year with 36 of them by gunfire. **Ramrod** mentioned the state of Washington where they are not protecting ICE officers that are being targeted by violent demonstrators. Members referred to Chicago, murders still increasing despite having the most stringent anti-gun laws in the country. **Ramrod** raised the issue of 3D printed plastic guns being made from plans to be put on the internet (that a judge stopped). The NRA points out that undetectable weapons have been illegal for 30 years (but so is crossing our border without permission).

6- Discussion turned to TV programming with **Ramrod** admitting he enjoys the old programming available on, for instance, the MeTV channel. **PC Wiz** agreed, admitting that programs of the past are his favorites such as the original black and white Gunsmoke half-hour Westerns. **Gladiator** watched his Shawshank Redemption DVD with Morgan Freeman instead of the cable offerings. In new programming **PC Wiz** and **Ramrod** agree on Bluebloods as a superior police drama – movie level writing and filming – great character development and realism. **Ramrod** thought his entree would be too much but enjoyed it so much that he cleaned the plate. **PC Wiz** commented that he had scanned the **Hoffman House** dinner menu and was impressed with the up-scale offerings – definitely chef-level food. **Ramrod** said he recently visited his financial adviser – who now works for Raymond James – and had a fine dinner at the **Hoffman House** with **Sharon**.

7- The issue of NFL players kneeling came up and **PC Wiz** praised the (hated) Jerry Jones of the Dallas Cowboys for his command the players to stand or be fired! **Gladiator** thought it the proper decision and admonished the feckless NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell who is paid 40-50 million a year (?) for his decision to let the players stay in the locker room to protest. Which raised the issue of the campaign for legalized sports betting. **Gladiator** said that sports teams, especially hockey, who want part of the gambling receipts are making a mistake. The money will inevitably lead to corruption. **PC Wiz** mentioned the Black Sox scandal of the World Series in 1919 which led to severe regulation (such as the life-time ban (among others) of Pete Rose for betting on baseball)). **Ramrod** commented that the Dodgers have the best-hitting infield in the league; **Gladiator** noted they have lost their latest game 1-0.

8- On **Lorayne’s** appearance members ordered coffee but no desserts. **Gladiator** mentioned the issue of banning plastic straws because of plastic waste (and of the plastic drug needles on beaches). **PC Wiz** noted that the paper straws cost 2 ½ times the plastic and both **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** said the paper ‘melts’ in hot liquids – and that Starbucks is going to a variation of the ‘sippy’ cup. The bill arrived and **Gladiator** said he would pay it in full. **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** strenuously objected but he insisted and asked us to pay the tip – which we did. Scanning the bill **PC Wiz** noted that the cocktails were \$8 each – which surprised **Gladiator** (and me). The date for our next meeting is planned for Tuesday September 4, 2018 – which will, incidentally, be **Ramrod’s** 89th birthday. Not able to outlast the two ladies at our adjoining table and it being after 3 PM, our longest meeting of the year was adjourned.

HVBS Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz** August 4, 2018

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his review and comment on all attending. **Converted to .pdf August 16, 2018**