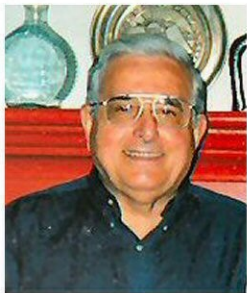


HV BS

The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Jack Gahan



Ramrod



Gladiator



Deliberator



PC Wiz



Surveyor

HVBS Official Minutes – March 20, 2019 – Second meeting of the year.

- 1- On the first day of Spring the weather was clear and predicted to be in the 50s! **PC Wiz** drove to **Gladiator**, designated driver for our journey South. We picked up **Surveyor**, just returned from his Southern redoubt, and headed to the Northway. **Gladiator** pointed out his new EZPass remote on the windshield and **Surveyor** noted that Florida uses a system called SunPass, good in FL, GA, and NC. They have a mini transponder for \$4.99 that cements to the windshield and does not have a battery. Like Virginia you can use Express Lanes, charges are related to traffic. We arrived a bit early and, while waiting for **Ramrod**, **Gladiator** spotted a bird on the bush in front of the car that he said was definitely a titmouse.

- 2- **Ramrod** arrived and waved at **Gladiator** to move forward. **Gladiator** felt we were not centered in the parking spot so we moved to the left – again being waved continually forward by **Ramrod**. Entering the premises we encountered **Host Pat** who followed us to our traditional corner debating table. **PC Wiz** told **Pat** he had read their Facebook page and learned that this was their 42nd year at the **Hoffman House**. ****Pat** confirmed it and **Gladiator** asked if he would go another 8 years to 50 and he said maybe another ½ year with a chuckle. **** HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** appeared to take orders for drinks. Members commented on her hair; **Lorayne** said she got a permanent for some curls. **Ramrod** asked for ‘something warm’ like the hot cider – **Lorayne** said she would check if they still had it. Returning with ‘no luck’; **Ramrod** ordered a Tanqueray gin and tonic – **Gladiator** seconded the order and added ‘with a slice of lime’. **Surveyor** asked for an orange Stoli while **PC Wiz** opted for a Heineken.

- 3- **Surveyor** mentioned he had returned for a short visit partially to take care of his income taxes. **PC Wiz** said he had already received his Federal and State refunds – having a small \$35 State refund to make sure his form had been accepted. **Ramrod**, not sure what would happen with the new tax law, was pleasantly surprised to receive a ‘big refund’. **Ramrod** told us he had no jokes for our session; **Surveyor** volunteered he had printed a few and **PC Wiz** said he had jokes from a **Ramrod** email of 2014! After a good laugh at **Surveyor’s** jocularities **PC Wiz** had a list of Jeff Foxworthy’s ‘You know you are a true Upstate New Yorker when’. A rib-tickler was ‘Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow’. **Ramrod** then told us a couple of rousers from memory. **Gladiator** referred to the great email from **Surveyor**: ‘Fixing potholes in Europe’. It demonstrated a machine that quickly installs pre-sized patches to repair street potholes – permanently. **Gladiator** criticized highway procedures that put cold-mix in wet and dirty pot-holes; **Ramrod** commented that they should at least clean the holes and roll the material.

4- **Official Waitress Lorayne** arrived to take our luncheon orders. The **Hoffman House** was getting quite busy, unusual for mid-week. **Lorayne** asked if we had any jokes – **PC Wiz** offered her a copy of his. After she went over them **Ramrod** told one of his jokes to explosive laughter – she asked him to hold the other until the room had cleared somewhat. **Surveyor** ordered the French onion soup with half a tuna sandwich. **Ramrod** followed up with the French onion steak sandwich and **PC Wiz** opted for the angel hair and scallops in marinara sauce from the ‘specials’ menu. **Gladiator** decided to go for the French Dip with hot au jus; **Lorayne** said she knew how he wanted it. **Ramrod** raised the issue of the NY State property tax relief credit check, part of the STAR program. Governor Cuomo has proposed changes this year, especially income verification (incidentally, all Dutchess County school districts are in compliance with the spending caps). **Surveyor** noted that Florida, with no income or inheritance tax but with a sales and personal property tax, has schools that are really inadequate – with lack of teaching materials and run-down facilities.

5- **Surveyor** also told us some of the details of the development he lives in. Not only are the grounds taken care of but they periodically power-wash the tile roofs and the walls of the condos – and also paint when necessary (owners are assessed for the maintenance, of course). He also mentioned that during daytime hours the gates are open for visitors, deliveries, maintenance, etc. **Gladiator** noted that there are still guards at the gates and patrols – a very secure community. Which led to a discussion of a fascinating email **Surveyor** had sent concerning a pothole repairing machine in Europe – filling precisely cut patterns in the pavement with pre-sized pavement shapes to permanently repair the pothole. **HVBS** members were unanimously in favor of the U.S. adopting this technology.

6- **Gladiator** said NASCAR has again ‘tweaked’ the rules resulting in no drivers willing to go first in qualifying. The result, in a race that **Gladiator** nemesis Kyle Bush won, was that no car had competed in qualifying! He also noted that his NASCAR races, historically with 43 cars in the starting lineup, now have only 37 – highlighting the declining attendance and popularity of the sport. **PC Wiz** mentioned the move in NY State, instead of raising the gasoline tax, to change the taxation to a mileage tax. The increasing popularity of electric cars (and hybrids, **Gladiator** noted) is reducing gasoline sales tax revenues when the State budget has a large deficit. It will be interesting to see how they determine the miles we’ve driven. **Gladiator** recently had his car serviced and the dealer asked if he would be interested in trading the ‘Fusion beast’ (Ford is discontinuing their large sedans)!

7- This led to comments on how automated automobiles have become. **Ramrod** related how the auto gives a message to ‘keep hands on wheel’ if it detects inattention. **Surveyor** told us that if you insert dimensions (trailer length and width) there is now a car that can automatically park the combination! **Gladiator** said he is interested in replacing his house thermostat with one of the new programmable types that can be controlled remotely. **Ramrod** asked **PC Wiz** what he will do when he can no longer drive a car. He thought most likely using a taxi and **Surveyor** suggested using Uber or Lyft instead. Needing a ride from the airport to his condo he checked the Uber charge - \$17. Using a taxi had costed him \$55-\$60; he used Uber.

8- **Lorayne** arrived to take our coffee orders. With those in place, **HVBS** members decided on possible desserts. **Surveyor** asked for a crème brulee while **Gladiator** ordered a chocolate mousse. After some discussion **Ramrod** decided on a special heart-shaped chocolate dipped dessert and **PC Wiz** wanted a dish of sherbet. **Ramrod** took the opportunity to tell **Lorayne** his uproariously funny ‘Lone Ranger and Silver’ story. We were sure the staff later heard it from her. On a down note **Gladiator** said this is going to be the 25th year the NY Rangers will not win the Stanley Cup so he will have to ‘wait until next year’. It was time to determine a date for our next session – [Wednesday April 24, 2019](#) at the **Hoffman House**. The meeting was adjourned.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**
March 27, 2019

Thanks to **Ramrod** and **Surveyor** for their reviews, thanks to **Gladiator** for his **Pat Bradley** correction**
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