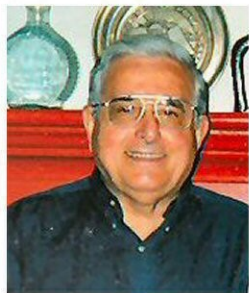


HV BS The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Jack Gahan



Ramrod



Gladiator



Deliberator



PC Wiz



Surveyor

HVBS Official Minutes – May 16, 2019 – Third meeting of the year.

1- On a rare day without rain **PC Wiz**, designated driver for the Northerly Dwelling Group, picked up **Gladiator** and **Surveyor** for our unusual Thursday session. We proceeded to I-787, driving through the construction to turn the portion of the Interstate in Cohoes into a slow-speed boulevard. **Gladiator** remarked on twists in the highway to slow down the traffic. We arrived at the **Hoffman House**, noting the still-present for sale sign, to find **Ramrod** waiting for us in the parking lot. **Gladiator** wanted to see the repairs to **Ramrod's** car (he had been rear-ended). The car looked perfectly like new. **PC Wiz** mentioned that he had been rear-ended in his previous Camry and praised his insurance company. **Ramrod** also had a great experience with his. While on the subject, **Surveyor** told us his wife **Debby** was struck in a parking lot by a woman backing out of her parking place. Entering the premises we were profusely greeted by **Hostess Ginny Bradley** from the cellar stairs and **Host Pat Bradley** who set up a fourth place on our traditional corner table.

2- Our drink orders were taken by a new waitress, **Cierra**. **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** ordered Tanqueray gin and tonics (with lime slices) while **Surveyor** chose orange vodka with club, **PC Wiz** decided on a Heineken. After toasts, **Ramrod** and **Surveyor** read, to loud laughter, outstanding jokes they had brought to the meeting. **Ramrod** then asked if anyone had tried the new orange vanilla Coke flavor. **Surveyor** said he had – he said it had a mild cream soda taste. **Gladiator** told us he is interested in reading Tom Clancy's book 'Without Remorse' (1993) which introduces John Clark in a Vietnam story. **Russell** checked on his phone and found 'The Search for Red October' (1984) was the first in the Jack Ryan series. He ordered the hard cover from Amazon together with an order from **Shirley** (which included waterproof pillow cases because, **Gladiator** informed us, old people 'drool'). It arrived. Checking the contents all of **Shirley's** items were correctly filled. However --- Last out was 'a book' with dust cover upside down and moldy stained pages – not the title he ordered. Needless to say it has been returned. Hopefully Amazon will make an effort to send the correct title.

3- **HVBS** members thought **Official Waitress Lorayne** most likely didn't work on Thursdays when she appeared to take our luncheon orders. Evidently she 'pulled rank' to serve us after **Cierra** had delivered our drinks. **Lorayne** told us she works every day she can, including Sundays. As **Gladiator** hesitated she suggested 'your usual'? He agreed and **Lorayne** volunteered she knew exactly how he wanted his French dip with hot au jus. After some thought **Ramrod** ordered the 'special' sausage and peppers'; **Surveyor** the soup and sandwich: 'short rib' soup (he said 'really good') and a tuna sandwich on wheat. **PC Wiz** requested the scallops Marsala on angel hair pasta from the 'special' menu.

4- **Gladiator** brought up the topic of whether to shut down your computer every day. He said Kim Komando's recommendation is once a week, noting that starting up and shutting down stresses the hard drives on older computers. **Ramrod** and **PC Wiz** both said they shut down every day. **Ramrod** said he enjoys playing Free Cell on line – and is quite good at it. **PC Wiz** noted that **HVBS** Founding Member **Deliberator** was highly skilled at playing the game. **Ramrod** informed us that he has been getting Norton 'attack' warnings after playing a number of games. He now limits himself to 3 or 4 with no further attacks. **PC Wiz** told the members the City of Albany had recently suffered a 'ransom' attack – with their files encrypted. They have been restored with no mention if they paid a ransom for the decrypting key.

5- **Gladiator** suggested going through the Official Agenda item by item. **PC Wiz** showed photos of the white pine uprooted by a recent wind storm and also a photo that shows his house's unusual marker that National Grid refused to remove. Item 3 concerned **Gladiator's** new automatic awning – a welcome addition to his and Shirley's patio. Relating to recent Easter celebrations **Gladiator** said, due to unforeseen problems a reserved family dinner at the Charlton Tavern had to be cancelled. In **Ramrod's** case his entire family, **Sharon**, brother **Jim**, and grand-daughters **Kristi** and **Casey** with their boyfriends had a fine dinner at a Greek restaurant. **Ramrod** related that they wished to order desserts – he urged them not to do so. **Gladiator** was familiar with the tradition of not ordering dessert in a Greek restaurant. Sure enough, the owner duly appeared with a huge selection tray of assorted goodies. **Surveyor** also had a large family gathering with 9 people – including a 10 and 2 year-old.



6- For item 5 **Gladiator** admitted he had his eye on the new Ford Escape Hybrid when at the dealer for routine servicing. A test drive is most certainly in his future. In the meantime, he is having his Fusion 'detailed'. Next came a discussion of changes in Schenectady's Liberty Park (across the street from the Community



College). They are changing the name to LGBTQ Park with a 'rainbow' pride sculpture of wooden frames. **Gladiator** regretted the loss of our culture and history today.



7- On this very quiet day **Lorayne** appeared to ask for dessert choices. She said the patio was quite busy on this beautiful day. **Ramrod** wanted just coffee (leaving some room for his later supper with **Jim**), members also ordered coffees. **PC Wiz** opted for the strawberry crème brulee, which **Surveyor** seconded. **Gladiator** decided on the apple cobbler. **Ramrod** announced he will be visiting **Dan** and his family in Annapolis for one week. **Dan** will drive him down and **Sharon** intends to bring him home. **Ramrod** told us he is in pain in the mornings but it gets better later – which led to a discussion of mattresses. **Surveyor** said to never purchase a 'pillow top' (which has an upper layer of foam). **PC Wiz** who has a pillow top agreed that they are not satisfactory, becoming lumpy very quickly. **Gladiator** mentioned the 'Craftmatic' which resembles an adjustable hospital bed; **Surveyor** has friends who have the 'Sleep Number' mattresses and really like them.

8- **Lorayne** came to pick up the bill which had been calculated with an 18% tip by **Surveyor** and approved by **Ramrod**. In the bill folder members had included the written jokes from **Ramrod** and **Surveyor** for her to read at leisure. After some discussion the tentative date for our next **HVBS** session was set for **Thursday June 20, 2019**. Our meeting was adjourned and we left to greetings from bartender **Pat**.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**
May 20, 2019

Thanks to **Surveyor** and **Ramrod** for their prompt favorable reviews.
Converted to .pdf for **HVBS** web page: May 28, 2019