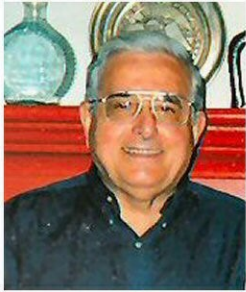


HV *BS* *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

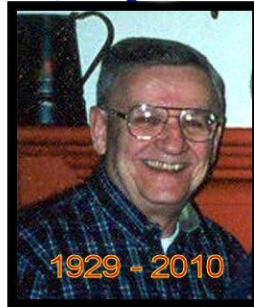
Jack Gahan



Ramrod



Gladiator



Deliberator



PC Wiz



Surveyor

HVBS Official Minutes – July 11, 2019 – Fifth meeting of the year.

1- With heavy showers in the prediction, **PC Wiz** picked up **Gladiator** and **Surveyor** for the trek South to the **Hoffman House**. We proceeded through the Cohoes I-787 construction without incident but ran into stop-and-go congestion –finding without surprise no cause as we returned to normal speed. **Surveyor** speculated that there could have been an earlier accident which didn't show on his iPhone traffic report. As we turned into North Front Street we found the entrance to Green Street blocked for street work. Parking at a meter in front of the **Hoffman House** **Surveyor** offered to enter the premises to find out if we could get into the restaurant parking lot. He returned shortly with instructions to enter the nearby pharmacy parking lot and proceed to Green Street, where it was possible to sneak in front of the construction to our regular 'handicapped' parking space. As we entered the premises **Gladiator** said he had seen **Ramrod** (no car in the lot).

2- **Ramrod**, already at our corner table, told us he had gotten all the lights green on his trip North – which had never happened before – only to find the street blocked. Not sure what to do, he finally asked a young man on a bicycle for directions to parking near the **House**. The young man said he 'loved the **Hoffman House**' and would be pleased to guide him to a good parking place. **Ramrod** followed the fellow ('on his bicycle at 7 miles an hour') to a medical center parking lot about two blocks away. **Ramrod** then walked to the restaurant. **Pat Bradley** offered to find and bring his car but **Ramrod** didn't think **Pat** would find the car. **PC Wiz** offered to walk there with him and direct **Ramrod** the 'back way' into the lot – which they did. Everyone finally assembled; **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** took our orders for a welcome beverage. **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** both chose gin and tonics, **Lorayne** adding 'Tanqueray?' to approval. **PC Wiz** opted for a Heineken while **Surveyor** asked for his customary orange vodka.

3- **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** read some good jokes they had brought; some of **Ramrod's** were outstanding. **Surveyor** also contributed some jests. **Gladiator** commented on the fire that destroyed 45,000 barrels of Jim Beam bourbon. It was caused by a lightning strike and burned for days – the bourbon and firefighting chemicals polluted the river, killing fish and will result in fines. **Surveyor** mentioned the new rules of the independent Atlantic League – robotic plate umpiring and 'stealing' first base. The 'steal' is allowed for any pitch not caught in flight – a throw to first or the ball hitting the batter results in his 'out'. **PC Wiz** heard the robotic umpire covered in the news and said so far there is still an umpire behind the plate making the call – electronically determined. **Gladiator** lamented the days when 'baseball was baseball' and **Surveyor** spoke about the 'juiced' ball and 'old-time' baseball. **Ramrod** expressed his admiration for Yankee DJ LeMahieu, acquired this year, who can play three positions: 1B, 2B and 3B!

4- **Gladiator** turned to NASCAR, lamenting the continual drop of attendance – at least partially due to the obsessive rule-making and changes. He reviewed the latest rain-shortened cup race held at Daytona Beach Florida which was ended by a nearby lightning strike. The winner Justin Haley, representing newcomer ‘Spire Sports’, won when race leader Kurt Busch pitted for fuel and the race, 33 laps to the finish, was shortened. It was Haley’s first cup win and **Gladiator** lauded Kurt Busch, whom he likes, for the way he took the disappointment. Members commented on the current news about the U.S. Women’s soccer team (that won the title) controversy. Co-captain Megan Rapinoe said she would not go to “the F’ing White House if they won; the team was also criticized for running up the 13-0 score against Thailand and celebrating each score.

5- **Lorayne** appeared to take our luncheon orders. **Surveyor** asked for the Quesadilla from the ‘special menu’. **Lorayne** asked ‘the usual’ and **Gladiator** agreed to the French dip with hot au jus. **Ramrod** was considering the dish but objected to the ‘rare roast beef’. **Lorayne** suggested she would have the meat simmered in the au jus to cook it a little and **Ramrod** agreed (it arrived perfectly to **Ramrod’s** taste). **PC Wiz** ordered the meat loaf and mashed potatoes from the ‘specials’ and asked about a vegetable. None was offered so **Lorayne** said she would add some broccoli – **PC Wiz** thought that would be perfect. **Surveyor** said, in his opinion, there should not be pockets in bathing suits. He had been using his iPhone and laid it on the arm of his chair. Going in for a dip he noticed there was no phone on the arm – he had slipped it into the suit pocket. Hoping to save it **Surveyor** put it in dry rice to no avail. All efforts failed and he had to purchase a new cell phone.

6- **Gladiator** mentioned the news item about VP Biden making 15 million dollars over the past two years using a loophole in the law – that Obama had tried to close! **Ramrod** told us that 60% of Congress retirees become lobbyists – **HVBS** members agreed there should be a lifetime ban on such activity. **Gladiator** referred to a Trains Magazine article by Fred Frailey, whose expertise on rail operations he much admires, on the ‘high-speed rail’ fiasco in California. They have already spent 5.4 billion dollars, much of it on consultants for other consultants, with no railroad and no trains – in contrast with the rest of the world; China the leader with more than 5,000 miles in operation.

7- **Ramrod** informed us he has been on well water for 60 years and that the water is high in iron. Recently he made some tea with bottled water and was astounded at the difference. **Gladiator** seconded the difference noting that, although on municipal water, he also had noted the difference between the two waters. On the subject of TV **Ramrod** told us he enjoys all the afternoon Western shows on MeTV – Gunsmoke (which **PC Wiz** also watches), Bonanza, Rawhide, etc. He had especial praise for ‘In the Heat of the Night’ which **PC Wiz** agrees is a high quality program. The star of the program is Carroll O’Connor (1924-2001) of ‘All in the Family’ fame, a fine actor.

8- **Lorayne** brought us all coffees and members decided not to have desserts. **Ramrod** raised the issue of a tentative date for our next session. After some consideration Thursday August 15, 2019 was decided on and our meeting was adjourned. The gas line construction being confined to between our driveway and North Front Street, we had no difficulty leaving on our normal route.

Thanks to **Ramrod** and **Surveyor** for their review of the preliminary minutes.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

July 17, 2019

Official Minutes converted to .pdf for **HVBS** web page: July 20, 2019.