



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

December 2012-January 2013

Charlie Chat

'Tis the season to be jolly and even though most of us are in the sunshine belt of the country, it is still possible to get into the Christmas mood. For me, most Christmases were in Hollywood FL where the evenings were balmy with a salty breeze coming from the Ocean.

On the other hand, the weather at Hoboken was very pleasant and we were thankful for that. We've experienced hotter and colder temperatures there over the years. Our Halloween rally at Hoboken was well attended with more buses there this year than last. We had a first this year, which being the first time a rally was hosted by one of our ladies. That lady being Debbie Spear and I was happily surprised when she volunteered! It was very well organized and built on the success of last year's, hosted by Al Kline/Herb Bates.

Friday night, as has been the habit, provided us with the Mike Heron (direct from downtown Dunwoody) extravaganza. It was based on the TV show "Minute to Win It" and was a lot of fun as Mike managed to involve nearly everyone. The highlight of Saturday evening was the Italian dinner with decorations to match. It was followed by Mark Alan, the magician discovered by Al and Herb last year. It was a great evening!

Next, we need to highlight the upcoming rallies. I've heard a lot of moaning about us going to the same old places all the time. Unlike some of our sister chapters, ours is *growing*. Not much, but it is growing. But the sense of affairs at FMCA is that total membership is dwindling, and HQ is cutting back and reducing some of the benefits.

Anyway, so the newer folks like our friendliness and enjoy the buses, but want to travel to new places. I think that is why we have coaches in the first place. I know some of us have been everywhere and done everything, but the newer members haven't been and yearn to explore.



Mike and Jackie Abbey's venerable GM-4104 is decorated to the nines for the annual Halloween Rally of the Southeast Bus Nuts, this past October at Twin Oaks Music Park near Hoboken, GA

Firstly, we have the [Arcadia Rally](#) which is a dichotomy. I hear that most of us want to have our own rally instead, but as it turns out, 32 of the 93 buses that showed last year were SE Bus Nuts. So, we'll have our usual no-host rally there, a president's reception at our bus on Sunday, Dec 30th at 3:00pm (BYOB).

We are happy that some of our newer members are volunteering to host rallies at a variety of venues for 2013.

(Cont'd)

Arcadia Bus Rally schedule and registration—see page 8.

Our **Valentine's rally** will be at the [Tropical Palms Resort](#) in Kissimmee, FL next to Disney World, hundreds of mini golf courses and unlimited entertainment. The dates: February 14-17, 2013. See **page 9** for more details. Knowing **Bryan and Suzanne Bowman**, the hosts, a good time will be had by all!

The **Spring Rally** will be at Atlanta's Stone Mountain Park, and will be hosted by **George and Fran Showman**, with our chapter president and secretary, the Bukoskis, assisting. Dates are May 16-19, 2013. Check the park's website at: www.stonemountainpark.com/ This includes a laser show on the side of Stone Mountain. There is a lot of other entertainment there as well.

Our **Halloween Rally 2013** is moving from Hoboken GA to [Costley Mill](#), near Conyers, Georgia. Costley Mill is **Syl and Beverly Bowman's** "plantation" where they accommodate weddings, baptisms and also is the place where the MTV series 'Teen Wolf' is filmed. We're lucky to get a slot there.



Some 35 coaches came out for Hoboken this year, up a few from last year. MCIs, Eagles, GMs, Prevosts, a Neoplan and other rigs.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Arcadia, and if not, hopefully we will have a terrific turnout for the Valentine Rally in Kissimmee. Merry Christmas to all and to all safe travels,

Charlie

Recent Rally Attendance / Coaches

Arcadia 2011 (President's Reception)	20
Valentines 2011 (Titusville)	27
April in Carolinas 2011 (Palmetto Cove)	55
Halloween 2011 (Hoboken)	32
Arcadia (President's Reception) 2012	32
Valentine's 2012 (Lake Okeechobee)	18
April in Carolinas 2012 (Palmetto Cove)	33
Halloween 2012 (Hoboken)	35
Arcadia (President's Reception) 2013	?

Secretary's Update

The Annual Meeting of the Southeast Bus Nuts was called to order by President, Charlie Bukoski at 10:15 AM on Saturday, October 27th.

- A moment of silence was observed for those members who have passed away since our last meeting: Chuck Blair, George Henderson and Len Keith. This was followed by the invocation given by chaplain Beverly Bowman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was also led by Beverly.

- President Bukoski reported that the minutes from the 4/21/2012 meeting were posted on the website for member's review prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Steve Siems to accept the minutes as posted on the website, and the motion was then seconded by Mike Heron.

- Secretary's report was presented by Judy Bukoski.

She reported current membership is 114 and that all but four members are receiving updates and newsletters by e-mail. New members were announced as being: Ben Cart, Michael and Joan Fryer, Steve

and Brenda Jackson, David and Harriet Jones, and Richard and Dolores Wilson. Secretary Bukoski again reminded members that the *initial* membership fee of \$35 includes current annual dues and name badges for two persons.

A special thanks was given to Linda Karlsson for her work on the newest pictorial roster.

Secretary Bukoski then reminded members that their 2013 dues are now due and payable and that a sheet is posted on the bulletin board with dues dates posted for their review. She added that she and the treasurer will be available to accept 2013 dues following the meeting.

It was announced that get-well and friendship cards were sent to Wynn & Kathy Silver and she informed the membership that fresh cards will be passed for signing for Wynn & Kathy Silver, Lynn and John Silver, and Fran Showman following the meeting. Jack Campbell was asked to provide a medical update on Wynn Silver, who had hoped to attend.

Bertha Showman gave an updated report on Luther Delp, who is doing well in physical therapy and rehab. The secretary reminded the members to please call or e-mail her to notify of any illnesses or surgeries so cards can be sent in a timely manner.

• **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Marty Nixon estimated a current bank balance of \$4816 with approximately \$2800 in the Pay Pal account. He estimates a balance of approximately \$3985 following payment of expenses from this rally. A motion was made by Steve Siems and seconded by Beverly Bowman to accept the treasurer's report as read.

• **National Director's report:**

Bertha Showman, our National Director, reported that she attended the National FMCA Reunion Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. She reported the following:

1. The provider of the FMC Assist program ended its free program on 9/30/2012. The committee then obtained three bids and decided, due to cost, that the new policy would now need to be voluntary participation. The cost would be \$85 per year single and \$105 for a family. She added that this was voted on and passed.
2. The 88th Family Reunion Showcase will celebrate FMCA's 50th anniversary in Gillette WY on June 19-22nd, 2013.
3. FMCA office staff is down from 53 to 37, and salaries have been reduced. The operating budget has been reduced by 17% and the budget for 2013, as passed, will have an approximate balance of \$50,000. This and future rallies was totally under volunteer members and will continue this way in the future. Also, Governing Board Members will



Secretary Judy Bukoski, left, Treasurer Marty Nixon, center, and rally host Debbie Spear at the Saturday annual meeting.

also no longer be reimbursed their rally fee!

4. The Policy and Procedure Committee brought 14 proposals to be voted on. 12 were passed, one returned to committee and one (Stipends and Financial Enumeration) was deleted entirely.

5. With reference to "Tow-ables", under Article 3; Membership, it was voted to NOT PERMIT membership to tow-able units (such as fifth-wheels, travel trailers, etc.)

• **Webmaster report:**

President Bukoski announced the change of our website name to: SEBusnuts.org. He added that rally and member information has been updated and walked the membership through the log-on process and how to update their information. He

added that dues and rally fees can be paid on line with a credit card or through PayPal.

• **Nominating Committee Report:**

Mike Heron reported the following slate of officers for January 1, 2013- December 31, 2014:

President: Charlie Bukoski

Vice-President/ Treasurer: Marty Nixon,
Secretary: Judy Bukoski.
The President asked for a vote to accept this new slate of officers, and it was passed unanimously.

• **Rally Report:**

President Bukoski thanked the rally host, Debbie Spear, and Co-Host Mike Heron. Debbie reported that 35 buses are attending this Halloween Rally, up three from last year. It would have been several more, but there were late cancellations due to health etc.

Brian Bowman reported on plans for the Valentine Rally to be held at Tropical Palms Resort in Kissimmee FL on Feb 14-17th.

President Bukoski announced the following rally schedule:

Arcadia Rally 2013: President's Reception at 3 PM on 12/30/2012;

Spring Rally at Stone Mountain, Atlanta, GA: April 16-19, 2013;

Halloween Rally 2013: Costley Mill, Conyers, GA.

Comments were presented by a few members with regard to their displeasure in not returning to Twin Oaks park next Halloween. Additional comments from other members stated it may be time to try a new location.

• **New Business:**

1. President Bukoski presented the current standing rules along with proposed changes to rally organization with regard to responsibilities of the Rally Host, Treasurer, and Communications Director. Discussion followed and concluded with a motion to table the changes for the time being. Motion to table the issue made by Andy Metro, and seconded by Jack Campbell.

Dick Mikuska then suggested the board E-mail members with the changes for an on-line vote.

An amendment was presented by Steve Siems followed by discussion as to how an on-line vote would be handled. President Bukoski stated he would prepare the information and present

it to the board for acceptance, and determine whether this will be the best way to handle this issue. The amendment was seconded by Jack Campbell.

2. Dues:

President Bukoski presented the issue of rising costs to the membership, and reported to the membership that the board has discussed the issue of *raising membership dues from \$10 per year to \$15*. Jack Campbell made a motion to raise membership dues to \$15 effective January 1, 2013. The motion was

seconded by Beverly Bowman and approved by the members present.

- There being no further business, Beverly Bowman moved the meeting be adjourned and seconded by Jack Campbell. Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Bukoski, Secretary

Health Update:

The club is sad to learn of the very recent passing of former member **Doris Robertson**, wife of Don. Also we have heard that long time member **Hank Walker** was rushed to the hospital with acute kidney failure. The chapter is asked to keep both in your thoughts and prayers.

Rally Highlights

No one went away from Hoboken hungry. **Thursday** night there was a group dinner in a nice alcove at Cedar River Seafood in Waycross

Friday night's dinner featured homemade pot roast with sides, and

Saturday night was a delicious Italian feast with two hot pasta dishes and lovely decorations and music.

There were continental breakfasts on Friday and Sunday, but Saturday we had Howard Best's and Jack Campbell's 'omelet

in a bag'. Lots of ingredients to throw in!

One highlight for the ladies Saturday afternoon was a unique presentation by member Darlene Montesino regarding build-it-yourself keepsake lockets. While that was going on Howard Best ran another of his useful tech sessions.

Regarding entertainment, almost every rally attendee was on a team for Friday night's reprise of "Minute to Win It", patterned after the Guy Fieri cable TV show. And Saturday night featured the return of the very funny and entertaining magician Mark Alan with a whole new routine!



If you have a mechanical problem with your rig, there's no better place for advice and assistance than a bus rally! Gerald and Dorothy Ensley's MC-9 had a dripping radiator.

Hoboken Memories—October, 2012



Cedar River Seafood—great hush puppies, and plenty of ‘em!



The rally attracted over 70 people and we picked up several new members.



Home-made pot roast—Debbie Spear had nine slow cookers going!



Mike Heron was the host for our episode of TV's 'Minute to Win It'.



Can you stack 27 drink cups into a pyramid, then unstack them?



Ever wear a slinky on your head, and try to get it coiled up?

More Hoboken Memories—October, 2012



Move that Oreo cookie from your forehead to your mouth—no touching! Don't drop it!



Howard Best investigates a leaky differential on President Bukoski's MC-8.



'Chef Luigi' sings the menu at Saturday's Italian Night dinner. He should stick to cooking.



All diners Saturday received a commemorative photo. Here are new members Steve and Brenda Jackson.



Past president Gerald Ensley goes through the food line. Lots of volunteers served and cleaned up.



Red-checked tablecloths candlelight, Dean Martin crooning Italiano—ahhh - *la dolce vita!*

More Hoboken Memories—October, 2012



Some folks had a pickin' session on Saturday afternoon. Linda Karlsson is on bass.



50-50 drawings on Friday and Saturday nights. Dick Mikuska and Steve Siems helped sell tickets.



We were blessed with great weather once again! Lots of outdoor visiting and relaxing.



Jim & Cindy Conway's cat travels with them, and has its own perch (when parked!)



Junior & Bertha Showman's Flxible has been there and done that—and has the stickers to prove it!



Mark Alan had a whole new magic and comedy act for us, and most of the crowd stayed!

Note: The editor thanks Manny Montecino and Linda Karlsson for the many photos!



ARCADIA RALLY

Rally Fee: \$85.00

Dates: Dec 29-30-31, 2012



The annual New Year's SEBN gathering is folded into the large and successful Arcadia Rally, an independent event which attracts Bus Nuts from all over the US.

Generally the Southeast Bus Nuts—sometimes 30-35% of attendees—are invited to a President's Reception an hour or two before dinner one day of the rally. The precise time and date will be selected in the future. This is usually a social event, but our chapter president always provides an informal update on chapter developments, etc.

Arcadia rally organizers **Bill** and **Brenda Phelan** write:

“This rally was originally started eleven years ago by **Jack** and **Paula Conrad**. It has been held in Arcadia from its onset. Originally starting at the Rodeo Grounds it quickly outgrew that location and moved to Horizon Coach. After outgrowing Horizon, it was moved to its current location at the Turner AgriCenter.”

In a December e-mail Bill announced that most of the electric/water sites were gone, but reminded everyone that there remains plenty of boondocking space.

Also, he said “In the past it has been mainly buses or converted vehicles for RVing. We have always had a number of fifth wheels, motorhomes and even a few campers however, due to the economy and lifestyle changes, downsizing, upgrading, etc. This year's rally is open to all RVing enthusiasts.

“Dinners and evening activities this year will be held inside with vendors, seminars, and some activities outside under the open sided pavilion as in the past. This year we will be adding more vendors... We hope to have an array of coaches, RVs and campers available for display and sale, and a few more crafts for all in attendance along with bingo every afternoon with prizes, and we are working with local businesses to provide discounts and/or door prizes.”

For some great photos of last year's event see this site:

<http://s1230.photobucket.com/albums/ee494/arcadiarally/>

To register, or for more info, visit the rally website:

www.arcadiarally.com



SE BUSNUTS VALENTINE RALLY 2013

ITS TIME TO GET YOUR PLANS TOGETHER FOR THE SEBN VALENTINE RALLY

WHEN: FEB 14th - 17th

WHERE: TROPICAL PALMS RESORT 2650 HOLIDAY TRAIL

KISSIMMEE, FL 34746 (407) 396-4595

WWW.TROPICALPALMSRESORTFL.COM



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For more information visit The Tropical Palms website or
contact Rally Hosts Bryan Bowman 770-231-3606 or
Suzanne Bowman at 770-722-9764

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Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers:

President— Charlie Bukoski chasjudy@bukoski.com
Vice President— Jerry Campbell rcamp1@windstream.net
Secretary--Judy Bukoski judy@compzrs.com
Treasurer—Marty Nixon nixonmarty@aol.com
FMCA National Director-Bertha Showman
jrbmshow@aol.com

Advisory Committee:

Howard Best
Jack Campbell
Dorothy Ensley
Mike Heron
Steve Siems
Beverly Bowman
Chaplain: Beverly Bowman

Past Chapter Presidents: Art Hепен, Gene Brotherton*, Russ Drummond*,
Howard Best, Mike Jackson*, Lewie Hinman*, Bill Zibell, Andy Metro,
Ray Stiltner, Gerald Ensley, Jack Campbell, Mike Heron, and Duane Britt.
(* denotes deceased)

Visit our website:

www.sebusnuts.org

This newsletter is now posted on the above website, FYI.

Newsletter Editor: Mike Heron

Please send stories, updates and photos to:
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