



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

September-October 2014

Charlie Chat

We're still on our summer trip. This time we went to Peoria to visit the Caterpillar Visitors Center, then Iowa, then the Union, IL Railroad Museum for Diesel Days, then Michigan for a high school reunion and Pittsburgh so far.

We are now in Gettysburg and next we're off to Washington, D.C, and home eventually.

We do keep in touch with some of our Bus Nuts friends on Facebook, and that is an easy way to have periodic communications. We get some interesting comments and suggestions based on the pictures we post. The best aspect is that we get instant feedback for places and restaurants to visit.

Well, the next big event for us is the Autumn rally. It will be back at the Twin Oaks Music Park in Hoboken, GA. What makes it different this year is that it is in conjunction with FOTO, Friends of Twin Oaks, which is a Blue Grass organization meeting at Twin Oaks monthly. Wow, free entertainment and also great food prepared by **Don Wilson** and **Howard Best!** The deal is that we will provide the food two nights and FOTO will provide it the other night. Not only that, but music everywhere *all the time*. Go to our chapter web site, SEBusnuts.org, and sign up now! It's a mere \$100 for three days of camping, dinners and did I mention music . . . ?

While you're on our web page, make sure your contact data is up to date. To do this, just go to

'Members Only' using your FMCA number and your zip code for your password (unless you changed it). Click on your FMCA number and correct any errors.

After the Autumn Rally (it's a week later than our traditional Halloween one), we'll meet at Arcadia, FL, over New Years and again we'll probably comprise 1/3 or even 1/2 of the 100+ coaches. Go Bus Nuts!

February will find the SEBN at the Lipizzaner Stallion Ranch in Myakka, FL. It is dry camping, but Judy and Charlie will find nearby restaurants and other attractions to visit. Those who attended rallies there a

few years back can tell you it's a nice venue, and we make fun wherever we go. Each day the ranch owners, the Herrmanns, present a spectacular performance, mostly made up of family members in costume. Have you ever seen a large stallion jump vertically into the air with all four hoofs off the ground?

The spring rally will be at beautiful BrynMawr Ocean Resort in St. Augustine where **Ed** and **Anke Fisher** keep their winter RV home. They will host and keep us occupied.

See page five for more info and websites, etc., for all of the 2015 rallies

Hope all of you have had a wonderful summer.

Charlie



The Bukoskis once again were out in the bus for the whole season. "We rode the Durban and Greenbriar Valley RR from Elkins, WV, to the Cheat River. It was a four hour trip with a lunch buffet. This waterfall was at the halfway point." The Cheat is a tributary of the Monongahela.

See page 3 for details regarding the Autumn Rally, Hoboken, GA November 6-9, 2014

●Secretary’s Report

It’s never too soon to renew your 2015 dues for the SEBN Chapter. You can do it on-line with PayPal or a credit card, or you can send your check for \$15 to treasurer Marty Nixon. All information on renewing dues is on the chapter website:

www.sebusnuts.org

Current chapter membership stands at 91 including 11 honorary members.

Judy Bukoski, Secretary

●Treasurer’s Report

Current balance, which includes several Hoboken registrations but no disbursements, stands at \$5,600.

Marty Nixon, Treasurer

Recent Rally Attendance / Coaches

Halloween 2012 (Hoboken)	35
Arcadia (President’s Reception) 2013	40
Valentines 2013 (Kissimmee)	16
Spring Rally 2013 (Stone Mountain, GA)	17
Halloween 2013 (Costley Mill GA)	21
Arcadia (General Meeting) 2014	32
Valentine’s 2014 (Lazy Days, FL)	25
Spring Rally 2014 (Charleston)	23
Autumn 2014 (Hoboken)	?

SEBN members’ summer doings

Marty Nixon and **Debbie Spear** took their annual two week+ trip in their bus and spent time at Pennsylvania’s Lake Wallenpaupack, New York’s Fort Ticonderoga, Canada’s Quebec City, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire. This was the first big trip pulling their large Ford van that carries their large Yamaha motorcycle. “The Series 50 chugged right up the hills, but you knew that heavy van was back there!”



In the photo above, they stopped in

Freedom, NH for a few days of exploring, and part of the fun was steaming fresh lobsters from nearby Portland ME.

Tom and **Karen Hamrick** didn’t make a big trip, due largely to grandparent duties, but they did escape in the bus to Blowing Rock, NC and then to Pigeon Forge, TN for a gospel quartet convention. They promise that 2015 will be a better travel year!



Bryan and **Suzanne Bowman** enjoyed a two month trip from the Calgary Stampede through Alberta, British Columbia, The Yukon and Alaska this summer. “The weather was great, the scenery phenomenal, wildlife abundant, but the roads...well not so good in many places. Oh yeah, those diesel prices...well let’s just say that those are much better in the lower 48.” In the photo above they pose at the Sign Forest in Watson Lake, Yukon Territory, at mile 635 on the Alaska Highway. “We traveled with 23 other rigs in a Fantasy Tours caravan. It was great meeting all the nice folks, but a little too fast moving for our tastes. Several areas we would’ve enjoyed more time to explore off the typical tourist stuff.”

Mal and **Mary Harper** had planned to journey in their MCI from middle Georgia to Virginia to be with their daughter, who was expecting to give birth to their latest grandchild. But it turned out that the bus needed tires, kirgpins, an alignment, and some rust repair before they could take it anywhere. Bottom line: all repairs are done, the baby arrived safely, and Mal is relieved on several counts! They’re planning on being in Hoboken.

Summer Doings, Continued...

SEBN Vice President **Ed Fisher** and wife **Anke** visited Lock Haven PA for the annual ‘Sentimental Journey’ at the Piper Aircraft Museum. Member

Cal Arter, who developed the museum, hosted them there. Before visiting friends on Cape Cod, they made the most of their trip though New Hampshire. In



the shot above, they ventured out onto Cathedral Ledge, in North Conway, one of the east coast’s more popular mountain climbing training areas.

Up from FL, members **Jim** and **Cindy Conway** made a scheduled stop at US Coach in NJ to have their balky parking brake adjusted, along with some other light maintenance. They had been on Cape Cod and Lake Winnepesaukee (NH) for several weeks visiting friends and family.

Your editor **Mike Heron** and wife **Carol** returned to The Bluffs seasonal campground near New England’s Lakes District for the seventh consecutive summer. One of the strong attractions is its close



proximity to their grandkids in nearby Massachusetts. In this photo Mike and grandson Dan pose atop Mt Washington, the second tallest mountain in the

east. But they didn’t climb it, they rode the famous Cog Railway to the top!

Manny and **Darlene Montecino** did not get out of Winter Haven, Florida, but did make a couple of nice improvements in their beautiful Eagle. They installed new backsplash on their kitchen counter, and they put in new electric windshield wipers, too.

Autumn Rally Schedule and Plans

Don and **Sharon Wilson** are hosting the autumn rally, along with **Howard** and **Ellen Best**. The event is scheduled for November 6-9, 2014, the weekend *after* Halloween, and registration is now open. The fee is \$100 per two-person coach. See p. 5 for directions on ways to register.

Howard and Don wish to remind all SEBN members that we are merging our rally with the Friends of Twin Oaks Park (FOTO), a long-time BlueGrass Music group that meets monthly at the park.

The preliminary schedule:

Wednesday, the 5th—dinner. Early arrivals (\$25 extra per night) should plan to go out to a Dutch treat dinner at a Waycross eatery.

Thursday, the 6th—breakfast. Don plans to cook his legendary country breakfast for the early bird crowd. Yum!

Thursday dinner— Don and Howard and their wives are planning a wiener roast. SEBN members are asked to bring desserts to share.

Friday the 7th—breakfast. Don and Howard are planning a cooked breakfast of waffles and pancakes.

Friday dinner— Don is planning his famous ‘one pot surprise’ dinner. Bus Nuts should again bring a dessert to share.

Saturday the 8th—cooked breakfast. Planned by Friends of Twin Oaks (FOTO)

Saturday dinner— special meal planned by the FOTO. SEBN guests should bring a side dish to pass.

Sunday the 9th—breakfast. Coffee, doughnuts and fond adieus.

There will be ample Blue Grass music for entertainment on all three nights.

Don also points out that on Saturday the 8th there is the gigantic Big Z garage sale on the grounds of Twin Oaks Park, open to all. He says it is well-known through out Waycross and Ware County, and encourages members to browse and take it all in.

Twin Oaks Music Park is located 10 miles east of Waycross GA, off US route 82.

Recommended Books, Guides and Reference Materials to Carry on Your Bus

A piece by former bus nut Nick Russell on his Gypsy Journal blog triggered the idea that a short list of ‘must have/should have’ reference books might be useful aboard your coach.

In order of importance (to your editor) are these:

1. **Rand-McNally Road Atlas** of US state maps. Usually available from WalMart. \$6.97
2. **Directory of Free WalMart Parking**, including street addresses, phone numbers and turn-by-turn instructions. (Wiley) \$24.95
3. **The Next Exit**. Every fuel stop, restaurant, and related travel need, at every Interstate exit in the US. (Next Exit Corporate) \$9.97
4. **Bus Garage Index**. This one provides information on recognized bus repair facilities in the US. (Power Trade Media) \$35.00
5. **Mountain Directory**. Lists mountain passes and steep grades. East or west edition. (R&R Publishing) \$16.95

Report, Nominating Committee

Third Posting

The Southeast Bus Nuts’ annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday morning, November 8, at the Autumn Rally at Twin Oaks Music Park, Hoboken, GA. At this time members present will elect new officers for the organization.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following preliminary report regarding future officers and the next nominating committee.

For President:

Ed Fisher, Urbanna VA.

For Vice President:

Bryan Bowman, Covington GA.

For Treasurer

Marty Nixon, Acworth, GA.

For Secretary

Anke Fisher, Urbanna VA.

Further, the committee recommends the following be named to the Nominating Committee, for a two year term beginning 1/1/15:

Charlie Bukoski, Polk City, FL (Chair)

Mike Heron, Atlanta GA

Howard Best, Kingston GA

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Heron, Jack Campbell and Howard Best

Ever Tried ‘Workamping’?

Some members of the SEBN have had good experiences working for a season at a campground or state/national park, and getting either free camping and hookups for part time work, or getting all that plus a wage for full time work. In some cases both husband and wife worked part time and got more than free space, etc.

Results have been generally good, but the occasional lousy boss or difficult co-worker can spoil the summer.

A recent piece in the fulltimer blog Technomadia (Cherie VeArd and Chris Dunphy) described a more corporate approach to workamping, sponsored by Amazon at their regional fulfillment centers. Their program is called Amazon CamperForce, and it seems to have no trouble attracting RVers to sign on for a season. They put you up at one of their ‘campgrounds’ (either a real campground or just a paved lot with full hook-ups, cable, etc.) and pay a about \$10.00 an hour or more.

As you might expect, the work revolves around fulfilling orders at the giant on-line retailer. There may be odd shift times, but those pay a bit higher, and there is often a bonus if you stay to the end of the season (e.g.: December 23rd for the Christmas season). Amazon’s three fulfillment centers are in Campbellsville, KY, Coffeyville KS, and Fernley, NV.

Members **Jerry** and **Rosemary Campbell** have worked at two of the sites and have generally enjoyed it, met some nice people, and made a little cash for their next busing adventure. Amazon admits that it can be fast paced, strenuous work, with standing, walking and physical lifting, but do-able for many applicants. It’s picking, packing, stowing and receiving. The stint generally lasts about three-four months in the winter. If you are interested, check out Amazon’s website:

www.amazonfulfillmentcareers.com/programs/camper-force



2014 Autumn Rally

November 6-9, 2014

Twin Oaks Music Park, Hoboken GA

That's right folks, we are returning to the scene of many a happy Halloween Rally after a one year absence. *Take note:* This is a week after Halloween.



Three nights camping (Thurs.-Sat.) and several meals for \$100.00* flat! Registration is available **now** via PayPal on our website... www.sebusnuts.org

Or send a check for \$100.00*, made out to 'SE BusNuts', and address to our treasurer at 2493 Insdale Trace, Acworth, GA 30101

We will be joining The Friends of Twin Oaks (FOTO) for home-cooked food and live blue grass entertainment! For additional information about this friendly group, check their website:

<http://www.twinoaksfriends.com/>

Hosts: **Don & Sharon Wilson** and **Howard & Ellen Best**

For questions contact Don at busdon04@comcast.net

*Extra nights camping—\$25. for 50 amp sites—payable upon arrival

2015 Rallies—Please Save the Dates!

Arcadia Rally

The website (www.arcadiarally.com) for the 2015 event has now been updated. This large Bus Nuts rally generally starts a couple of days after Christmas and goes to Jan 1st. Specific questions can be sent to organizers Bill and Brenda Phelan at bphelan914@gmail.com

The SE Bus Nuts often comprise as much as one-third of attendees, and we have a President's reception one afternoon.

Arcadia is about 46 miles east of Sarasota, FL.



Valentine's Rally

February 12-15, 2015

Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Ranch

www.hlipizzans.com

Myakka City, FL (about 21 miles due east of Sarasota)

For questions: Charlie & Judy Bukoski at

chasjudy@bukoski.net

(Dry camping, with a \$20 per night charge. Thanks to Andy Metro for liaison with the Ranch!)



Spring Rally

April 30-May 2, 2015

Bryn Mawr Ocean Resort

www.brynmawroceanresort.com

In historic St Augustine, FL

For questions: Ed & Anke Fisher

aandefisher@gmail.com

(Limited to 25 coaches)

One of the few RV resorts directly on the Atlantic!



Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers:

President– Charlie Bukoski chasjudy@bukoski.com

VP / Treasurer– Marty Nixon nixonmarty@aol.com

Secretary--Judy Bukoski judy@compzrs.com

FMCA National Director-Bertha Showman
jrbmshow@aol.com

Chaplain: Beverly Bowman

Advisory Committee:

(in addition to Chapter Officers)

Beverly Bowman

Bryan Bowman

Pam Daniels

Mike Heron

Past Chapter Presidents: Art Hempen, 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:

mikeheron@bellsouth.net

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