



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Summer 2014

Charlie Chat

It was really great to see such a good turn out at the Spring Rally in Charleston. Thanks to all the hosts for their hard work and creative planning.

Hopefully we can surpass our Charleston number of 23 coaches with sign ups for Hoboken on Nov 6-9. Speaking of Hoboken, this will be a new adventure for most of us since we are joining FOTO (Friends of Twin Oaks) for a weekend of good music, food, and fellowship. **Don Wilson** will be hosting this event so we're looking forward to seeing what he has in store for us. Check page seven for more Hoboken rally details and keep the date open.

At this rally we will also have the election of a new slate of officers for years 2015-2017 (page 6).

Currently we are working with **Andy Metro** on details for a February Rally 2015 at the Lipizzan horse ranch near Myaaka, FL. This would be a dry camping, no-host rally. Spouse Judy & I would arrange for one dinner out at a local restaurant and one dinner at the campsite. Judy promises to make her special barbecued beef.

For those who haven't attended a rally here in the past, this family-owned and -operated ranch puts on a daily performance with their beautiful stallions.

It is a top notch show you won't want to miss. Again, keep checking the website for details.

In other business, we welcome **Pam Daniels** to our advisory board. Remember that you can contact this board with any questions or concerns by writing to board@sebusnuts.org.

A lot of you will be traveling far and wide over the summer (see page 6) so enjoy your adventure, drive safely and keep those wheels turning.

Charlie

Secretary's Report

We had 23 coaches present at the Spring Rally in Charleston. Unfortunately **Howard** and **Ellen Best** had mechanical problems on their way to Charleston and had to return home. Their guests, Jim & Pat Stevens, however, came anyway and we were pleased that they did. Other guests were Elaine & Charles McGairty, friends of **Craig & Beverly Bowen**.

We were also pleased that return guests Ann & Doug Pearson were able to join us once again. Doug, the Southeast Area FMCA VP, presented our chapter with a 25 year anniversary certificate from FMCA as well as a check for \$100.

The tours to Patriot's Point, Magnolia Plantation, and the shuttle tour of Charleston were well attended and enjoyed.

(cont'd)



Ed and Anke Fisher provided a special sheet cake and ice cream to help celebrate the club's 25th anniversary at the recent spring rally

•Secretary's Update (Continued)

No new members have joined since last reporting, thus our current membership remains at 91.

Cards of encouragement were signed at the Charleston rally and sent to **Dick & Charlotte Mikuska, Fran & George Showman, and Mike & Anne Cilio.**

Judy Bukoski, Secretary

•Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Marty Nixon** reports that after a settling of all miscellaneous Charleston rally expenses, the chapter treasury balance stands at \$5,100.

The Chapter sincerely thanks **Linda Karlsson** for once again assembling the full-color pictorial roster, which was e-mailed to members on April 1st.

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
Halloween 2014 (Hoboken)	?

Charleston Rally Report—Mike Heron, host

My sincere thanks to the rally co-Hosts, **Ron & Pam Daniels, Marty Nixon & Debbie Spear,** and **Howard & Ellen Best.** Also of key assistance were **Ed & Anke Fisher, Herb Bates & Reen Kukon,** and **Charlie & Judy Bukoski.**

About a third of our 23 coaches arrived Wednesday at beautiful Oak Plantation Resort near Charleston. Of course there was an impromptu cocktail party and potluck dinner to break the ice.

Thursday was devoted to shopping for groceries etc., and greeting more arrivals. That night we had a Carolina fish fry, fixed up by a local caterer. After the dinner we did a fun exercise where pre- 2

assigned people interviewed each other, then stood and introduced their new partner to the crowd.

Breakfasts on Friday and Sunday were arranged by **Judy Bukoski.** Bojangles one day and Dunkin Donuts the other! On Friday late morning, we had the shuttle bus tour of old Charleston. It was all sold out and people had a great time. Unfortunately I got everyone royally lost as we made our way into Charleston. It is a very congested and thickly settled city. However everyone forgave and had great time on the narrated tour. That night we had the back room at Bessinger's BBQ. Again, no complaints!

The next day, Saturday, we had smaller tours to nearby Magnolia Plantation and Gardens (about 15 folks), and another 10 went to Patriot's Point on the harbor. It is a wonderful naval museum with an aircraft carrier. These tours also seemed well-received.

Did I say that the weather throughout was just excellent? We had been holding our breath that the open sided pavilion would not be a problem in the event of rain. But the weather held out thankfully.

Saturday morning we had **Howard Best's** famous French Toast and sausage. But without Howard and Ellen—they had to return to Cartersville GA for repairs to the bus's clutch. But **Herb Bates & Reen Kukon** and **Ron & Pam Daniels** helped fill the gap.

There was an information meeting after breakfast which **President Bukoski** chaired. During the meeting he introduced our special guest Doug Pearson, our regional VP from FMCA. That night he presented us a special plaque and a check for \$100. to recognize our chapter for 25 years of organization.

On Saturday night we had a 'pot roast extravaganza' organized by **Debbie Spear.** Seven gals fixed pot roasts in their slow cookers, all using the same recipe. It was delicious. And **Ed** and **Anke Fisher** surprised the assemblage with a special sheet cake and ice cream to welcome in our silver anniversary as the Southeast Bus Nuts.

After dinner we played a game called 'Rumor Has It' and everyone participated! It's basically a guessing game where the number of participants was reduced with each wrong answer. It was a nice success. Of course volunteers helped sell 50-50 tickets on Friday and Saturday nights, and there were also nice door prizes and game prizes.

Another good example of how running a rally is pretty easy with all the help available!

Charleston Snapshots, April 24-27

The Editor thanks **Judy Bukoski, Darlene Montesino and Debbie Spear** for the photos!



Buses rolled into Oak Plantation for the rally starting Wednesday, May 23rd.



Rally host Mike and Carol Heron's site served as location for an impromptu social the first night.



The campground was able to group all 23 coaches in the 50 amp, full hookup section.



Ed Fisher's Prevost H3-45, left, sported some new paint and was all shined up for the rally.



Some 21 folks booked the private shuttle tour of Old Charleston. It featured great narration.



At Patriot's Point, from left, Manny Montecino, Jim & Pat Stevens (guests), Cal Arter, Ed Fisher and Marty Nixon.

More Charleston Snapshots



The plantation house at Magnolia Gardens was toured by 15 folks. It's almost 250 years old.



Prior to Thursday's fish fry, attendees found time to socialize and catch up with each other.



Our open-sided pavilion was all the shelter needed for our several meals and meetings.



Craig & Beverly Bowen's gold MCI was begun by Ray Cox. Craig finished it. Has a DD Series 60.



Darlene Montesino, center, dished the ice cream at our 25th anniversary party.



FMCA rep Doug Pearson, left, presented a special plaque to President Bukoski for our 25th year!

Member Spotlight

A recurring feature of this newsletter is a brief profile of a newer member couple and a more long-term coach couple - an effort to get us better acquainted with each other!

Newer Members

Mike and Kathy Mingus of Bishopville SC bought their bus, a venerable Eagle model 01, because it reminded them of when they were road managers, and occasionally drove the band bus, for the early doo-wop group, The Drifters!

Over the last several decades they had worked through various guy toys, the Harley, the 'Vette, another bike. Then the Eagle bug bit them, and one day they set off to find the right bus. They ended up in Danville VA and bought their rig from a private party. It was already converted, but in the past five years they freshened up seating and window treatments.

It's been a dependable bus, but not without a few surprises. Shortly after purchase, Mike took it for a drive on the interstate and it quit on him. After having it towed, he inspected the engine compartment and found that the emergency shut-off valve had closed after going over some rough road! Another time they were sound asleep at a Palmetto Cove rally when they were harshly awakened by a loud explosion—they came to find out a tag axle tire had blown. When it was stone cold! But the next morning the whole rally helped him find a replacement (thanks **Leroy Ashe!**) and get it changed. Great member support.

Their next big improvement—a sophisticated Allison automatic 5-speed. The next big trip—Vegas Baby!! They have a niece working there. It's a great life!



Longer-term Members



Ray and Peggy Cox were among the first people in the south to convert a coach to a motor-home. It started in the '70s with a GM 4104 band bus that the singing group The Tams had brought into his Atlanta shop for repairs. A bank repossessed it from the group, and Ray got it for \$500.

That led to a 4106 which he rebuilt from the ground up, then maybe 9 or 10 other buses in succession. They currently have a 1984 Prevost which he has substantially rebuilt. It had been stolen, recovered, and impounded for years. The front end was once used as a mechanical shop, and the bedroom was used as a brothel! Peggy is quick to interject that they immediately changed the mattress before much else!

Even though Ray is renowned in busing circles for his former coach repair and service facility, he also has a solid reputation for salvaging burnt-out buses. He maintains that his Prevost is his last bus, but Peggy points out that there's a burned late model MCI with a Series 60 engine on his back lot that he secretly has his eye on!

Everyone knows Ray is a veteran bus guru, but not many know he worked in California drilling test wells in his youth. Or that Peggy for years was a radiation therapist at the Emory Clinic in Atlanta.

There are many members of the Southeast Bus Nuts that Ray has helped at some time with either parts or expertise. He is a treasure!

Guides to free parking

Many BusNuts stop free overnight at Walmarts when out on the road. And most of us know about the various printed books available to guide us there. Two of the more popular are Nick Russell's "Guide to Free Campgrounds and Overnight Parking" (now available on Kindle for about \$5.) and the "Walmart Atlas", about \$20. from Amazon. There are several others.

However there are three continuously updated, *on-line* resources available to us that are becoming more popular than a printed publication. The first is a website for Walmart permissibility. It is updated frequently on RVers' input. <http://halberstadt.macmate.me/Walmart/Walmarts.html>

The second is a free smartphone app that lists 25,000 campgrounds, rest areas and free parking sites, www.rvparky.com

Perhaps even better is a \$10. app for your smart phone that not only lists WMs, but has a navigation program to guide you right there! It also lists ALL public and private campgrounds, Elks, Corps of Engineers, etc. etc. The brand name is "Allstays" and here is a link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.allstays.app.walmartstore>

Preliminary Report, Nominating Committee

Second Posting

The Southeast Bus Nuts' 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 6

SEBN members' summer travel plans

Herb Bates & Reen Kukon will make a return visit to Rene's native Vermont, and maybe a sidestep to the lakes district of New Hampshire; **Ed & Anke Fisher** have New England and Oshkosh WI (experimental aircraft show) on their GPS; **Charlie & Judy Bukoski** have planned a return to the Midwest, also including Oshkosh, along with the Upper Peninsula of Michigan ; and **Kirby & Linda Karlsson** have plans to revisit the great West, including Colorado and probably Wyoming.

Mike & Carol Heron will be ensconced for the seventh summer at their seasonal campground in Freedom NH; **Jim & Cindy Conway** will make their annual pilgrimage to Cape Cod and NH; and **Howard & Ellen Best** will travel with **Andy & Anna Metro** and **Ray & Peggy Cox** along the Natchez Trace Parkway, then Bowling Green, OH for the national tractor pulling fete, finishing up in PA and upstate NY.

Jack & Jackie Campbell are bound and determined to venture out this summer, but have not yet agreed on a destination. However there's a possibility they'll visit son **Jerry Campbell & Rosemary** at their summer job in Urbanna VA; **Duane & Jackie Britt** are thinking about Daytona, and maybe their son's place atop Signal Mountain near Chattanooga; after seeing the Calgary Stampede, **Bryan and Suzanne Bowman**, will spend a fair amount of time along the California coast before joining a caravan to Alaska; and **Marty Nixon & Debbie Spear** are narrowing their annual summer trek to either the Maritime Provinces or the Midwest. **Ron & Pam Daniels** are anxious to put their new Sprinter to the test either this summer or next with a swing through the far west.

All travelers are encouraged to send the newsletter Editor photos and anecdotes about their summer travel!



The National Tractor Pulls at Bowling Green, OH

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 and several meals for \$100. flat! Registration is available now via PayPal on our website.

www.sebusnuts.org

Additional detail and schedule, etc. will be in the next newsletter (Sept-Oct) and on the above website.

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

2015 Rallies—Please Save the Dates!

Arcadia Rally

Although the website (www.arcadiarally.com) for the 2015 event has not been updated, this large 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:

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