



# Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

December 2015

## Ed's Editorial

And a great time was had by all, at least all of the members who attended SEBN's Fall rally, hosted by **Mike Heron** in Brunswick, GA. Thank you Mike and co-hosts the **Bests, Campbells, Coxes, Daniels,** and **Nixon/Spear**. Not only did Mike host the Brunswick rally, but he has volunteered to host the next Spring rally at Palmetto Cove, April 13-16 with the able assistance of non-member Kyle Brandt, and member **Tom Hamrick**. Thanks guys for saving the day for SEBN.

After the rally at Brunswick, several of us caravanned 45 miles over to Hoboken for a no-host rally. My personal hope was to show support for club members who felt so much attachment for Twin Oaks for the Halloween rally. I stayed there through Thursday, and we had a great time together. When I left, there were already 10 Bus Nuts there, including **Gerald Ensley** and **Bud**

At the business meeting, secretary **Anke Fisher** and treasurer **Marty Nixon** resigned for personal reasons, and your nominating committee proposed **Ron Daniels** as secretary, and **Charlie Bukoski** as treasurer. They were voted in by acclamation. Congrats, Ron and Charlie!

SEBN member **Mike Fryer** is the Vice President for membership of The Fountains Of St Augustine, a

luxury RV membership park being developed in St Augustine. He wishes you who will be attending the upcoming Tampa RV show January 13 through 17 to visit their booth and see the plans and meet the developer. The website: [thefountainsofstaugustine.com](http://thefountainsofstaugustine.com) We may be scheduling a rally there in the next year.

Before we left VA for Brunswick, I had suspected a



**Twenty-eight coaches ventured over to the coast, to Brunswick, for the recent Halloween Rally at the Coastal Georgia RV Resort. See pp. 2-5 for a full account of this fun event! Past president Jack Campbell brought his new drone with Go-Pro video camera, and he captured this bird's eye view of our contingent.**

problem with my house battery charging system (six new AGMs this past summer), but it did not show up as a serious problem until we began to travel. Not only did the house alternator fail to charge, but all of the usable battery energy would be drained in less than 24 hours, with all loads turned off. I now have a new high tech three-stage regulator by Ample Power, and problem solved. I am now studying its manual to understand its many capabilities.

Anke and I will be attending the FMCA International convention in MASS. this summer. We would appreciate your advance comments as to subjects you would like discussed, or information to bring back to the chapter.

Until next newsletter, happy travels!

**Ed Fisher**, President

See page 7 for details regarding the upcoming Arcadia Bus Rally set for Dec. 29-Jan 1, 2016

## Secretary's Report

(Note: a complete set of Annual Meeting minutes, including motions and seconds, can be found on the chapter website: [www.sebusnuts.org](http://www.sebusnuts.org))

The Business Meeting of The Southeast Bus Nuts was called to order by President **Ed Fisher** at 10:10 AM. on Saturday, October 31st. He recognized guests Allen Joyner, Gordon and Irene Smith, and new members **Jesus** and **Donna Osorio**. As part of the President's report, Ed presented info on the FMCassist (medical transport program), and distributed brochures.

Secretary **Anke Fisher** gave her resignation as secretary. **Ron Daniels** was nominated to succeed her, and he was approved by acclamation. Ed Fisher recognized and thanked the Advisory Board consisting of **Judy Bukoski**, **Mike Heron**, **Beverly Bowman** and **Pam Daniels**, along with officers.

**Marty Nixon** gave up his position as treasurer, and **Charlie Bukoski** was elected to replace him. A Nominating Committee for 2016's annual meeting was elected: **Charlie Bukoski**, Chairman, **Pam Daniels** and **Mike Heron**.

New Treasurer Charlie presented the financial Report: \$3,100.00 in bank deposits and \$3,100.00 in PayPal deposits, with approximately \$6,200.00 on hand before Brunswick rally deductions and disbursements. Our treasurer encourages all payments to SEBN by PayPal for ease of use, timeliness and accountability. Charlie stated a new SEBN mailbox has been established in Lakeland, Florida.

**Mike Heron**, Brunswick rally host, thanked all who graciously assisted with the rally and meals, and stated that expenses were saved by cooking our own food rather than catering. Mike reported 56 folks in attendance and six additional that paid but cancelled due to mechanical or health issues. President Fisher thanked Mike for hosting the rally and applause was given by attendees. Also, positive comments were made on the RV Park and facilities.

**Jack Campbell** reported the Winter Rally at Wimauma, FL (February 25-28, 2016) is being planned to include great meals, at a very affordable facility with both dry camping and electric utilities.

President Fisher reminded folks it's time to pay 2016 SEBN dues...\$15. He once again encourages payment via PayPal.

**Doug Pearson**, North Florida Regional VP, Southeast Area FMCA, reported that the last two

South East Area Rallies ended financially in the black with a \$35k and \$85k profit. He further reported no SEA rally scheduled for 2016 due to the up-coming National FMCA gathering in Perry, GA, scheduled for March 16 - 20th.

Respectfully submitted, **Ron Daniels**, Sec'y

## Treasurer's Report

**Charlie Bukoski** reports that the current chapter balance, after Brunswick rally expenses, is \$5056. The rally made a slight profit of \$277.

## Recent Rally Attendance / Coaches

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)	32
Arcadia (General Meeting) 2015	34
Valentine's 2015 (Myakka City)	13
Spring Rally (St Augustine)	15
Halloween Rally (Brunswick, GA)	28
Arcadia (General Meeting) 2016	?

## Brunswick Rally Report

We had 28 coaches, and another three who registered then had to drop out for mechanical or family matters. The resort was first class, and worked well with us. They grouped us near the pavilion where all of our gatherings took place.

On Friday most of the attendees went on a guided trolley ride of St Simon's Island, conducted by a true southern belle, Miss Bunny. After the tour many folks stayed downtown and ate lunch or toured the famous lighthouse.

That night we had homemade Brunswick Stew, featuring seven pounds of chopped pork from a local smokehouse, and another seven lbs. of smoked chicken. There was none left after a few remaining portions were auctioned off.

After dinner we were entertained by a local storyteller who told us tales of both friendly and scary ghosts that are widely believed to haunt the low country.



(Cont'd)

On Saturday we had our annual meeting, a well-attended affair. Late that morning every lady (save two) piled into cars and caravanned with **Debbie Spear** over to nearby Jekyll Island for a Ladies' Lunch at the historic Jekyll Island Club Hotel. The atmosphere, food and service were all excellent, and everyone enjoyed it.

That night we had a highly participative Low Country Boil. Every person in the crowd was asked at various points to come forward and add a certain ingredient or spice to the three cauldrons that were boiling away. The results seemed well worth the time and toil. One of the secrets was buying fresh local shrimp in downtown Brunswick. Twenty-one pounds of it to be exact. Then add smoked sausage, corn on the cob, red potatoes, onions. Don't forget the three Zatarain's spices and the Old Bay seasoning!

Following the feast, we had a lively game of "Name that TV Theme Song". Everyone was assigned a teammate that was *not* his or her spouse. Then Rally Host **Mike Heron** played 20 seconds of a popular TV theme, five from each of the last five decades. Two teams ended up tied and there was a 'play-off'. The duo of **Reen Kukon** and **Bryan Bowman** won!

Hats off to the great rally co-hosts: **Howard & Ellen Best, Marty Nixon & Debbie Spear, Jack & Jackie Campbell, Ron & Pam Daniels, and Ray & Peggy Cox.** Others who really pitched in: **Chas & Judy Bukoski, Herb Bates & Reen Kukon, Manny & Darlene Montesino, Ed Fisher, Bryan Bowman** and Low Country Boil pro **Craig Bowen.** Thanks!!

### Pam Daniels' Recipes

Pam very generously prepared our rally dinner on Thursday night—Sloppy Joes, with one of her special layered salads. Several attendees asked her for the recipes, so we are reprinting them there. Delicious!

#### *Sloppy Joes* (For 50)

- 1 lb. ground beef (10lb.)
- 1/4 c. chopped onion (2 c.)
- 1/4 c. chopped celery (2 c.)
- 1 c. tomato sauce (9-12 c.)
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar (3/4 c.)
- 1 tsp. mustard (3 T.)



- 1/2 tsp. garlic (3 tsp.)
- 2 Tbsp. vinegar (3/4 c.)

Brown the ground beef. Add onion and celery and sauté until tender. Add the remaining ingredients and simmer for about 20 minutes. Serve on toasted hamburger buns.

#### *Seven Layer Salad* (for 25)

- 1 head lettuce or bag of salad mix (2 heads or 2 family size bags)
- 1/2 to 1 cup frozen peas (1/2 lb.)
- 1/2 c. celery, chopped (1 c.)
- 1/2 sweet pepper, chopped (1)
- 1 c. cheese, grated (2 c.)
- 1 c. bacon pieces (1/2 c.)
- 2 c. mayonnaise (1 qt.)
- 3 Tbsp. sugar (6-8 Tbsp.)



In a casserole dish, place lettuce in bottom. Distribute peas, celery and peppers over lettuce. Sprinkle 3/4 c. cheese and 3/4 c. bacon over salad mixture.

Combine mayonnaise and sugar until blended well. Spread over the salad and then sprinkle remainder of bacon and cheese on top. Cover and refrigerate three-four hours before serving.

These are the ingredients used for the SE Bus Nuts dinner. You may vary according to your personal taste. Other ideas may be broccoli, carrots, pineapple, onions, radishes, mushrooms, hard boiled eggs. This is a very versatile salad. ENJOY!

### Message from Doug Pearson, FMCA rep

"Ms. Ann and I want to extend our sincere appreciation to all the Bus Nuts who were in attendance at the October rally in Brunswick, GA. You have once again warmly accepted us into your arms, and made us feel very much a part of your fine organization.

"From the first night of Sloppy Joes, through the Brunswick Stew (which by the way is still very tasty), to the last evening of Low Country Boil and entertaining games. It was our pleasure to be able to enjoy the fun and be able to communicate and impart information on behalf of the Southeast Area Motor Coach Association..."

# Brunswick Rally Photos



The weather was conducive to outdoor socializing at the rally. It was beautiful throughout the event!



One evening members shared their recent bus conversion travels and challenges. Lots of laughs.



A 90 minute guided tour of St Simon's Island was one highlight of the rally.



Tour guide Bunny Marshall combined southern charm and a sense of humor for our group.



The rally pavilion was roomy and airy, and proved a great gathering place.



When in Brunswick, make Brunswick Stew! Carol Heron (l.) and Ellen Best take their turns stirring.

# More From Brunswick



Debbie Spear helps Marty Nixon (l.) and Howard Best chop pork and chicken for the Brunswick stew.



Most attendees came to the Saturday morning annual meeting of members.



Almost all the gals attended Debbie Spear's Ladies' Lunch at the prestigious Jekyll Island Club Hotel.



Judy Bukoski made coffee and Howard Best prepared pancakes and sausage Saturday a.m.

Junior Showman and his daughter June Lewis, immediate right photo, add some of the ingredients to the Low Country Boil on Saturday night. Everyone pitched something in.

Far right, there was plenty of shrimp, corn, sausage, potatoes and onions for everyone. And the shrimp were very local, very fresh, and very sweet!



## 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 Couple



**Mike and Joan Fryer** attended their first SEBN rally last month in Brunswick, GA.

The retired naval officer migrated from driving warships to operating a small fleet of mega yachts for charter. He and Joan also were in the catering business and at one point had the world's largest BBQ—a custom 18-wheeler that worked the World Series, Super Bowl, and other big events.

At one point several years ago they decided to liquidate their homes, boats and possessions and go full-time as RVers. They knew a bus was going to be better for this than their conventional motorhome. They found a good looking band bus on Craig's List—the Dave Matthews bus from the unfortunate Chicago bridge/holding tank disaster of 2004— and they embarked, spending more than a year on the road, seeing the country. They eventually ended up in Florida as sales reps for Thousand Trails memberships. While working at the Orlando club property last year they made the acquaintance of the developers of St Augustine Fountains, a high-end RV destination (like Disney's vacation club) near the ocean in the historic northern Florida city.

Joan has had a long career in real estate, has her broker's license, and will work side by side with Mike as they work to put the luxurious property on the map.

Joan has driven the bus on interstates, but leaves the tight stuff to 'The Captain'!

### Longer-term couple

**Mal and Mary Harper**, below, of Griffin, GA, are long time RVers, with lots of time in camping trailers, a Class C motorhome, then a Winnebago. After he retired with 33 years service as a Delta pilot, he took a job in 1998 delivering tour buses for ABC Bus in Florida. "I knew I wanted a bus conversion, and I thought I'd rather learn and make mistakes on theirs than a bus of my own!"

Eventually ABC put a nice MC-102c3 on the resale market, and the price was right. Probably because it had a blown engine and a manual transmission! Deal! Mal and Mary gutted it, then got a great local mechanic to redo the engine and install an automatic tranny. Former member Fred Hobe got involved in raising the roof and adding RV windows. The whole process took two years.

Their longest trip to date was out to Oshkosh, WI for the experimental airplane convention (he has one of those too), and then on up into Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

But their typical pattern of use is to visit Melbourne FL each winter to spend time with their daughter and grandkids, and in summer up to Virginia Beach to visit their son and grandkids.

They've got their MCI set up to their satisfaction, and no interior upgrades are contemplated, but he knows a new set of tires is on the near horizon. Mal and Mary are long time members of the Southeast Bus Nuts, and try to make at least one rally a year. And 'yes', Mary can drive the bus in a pinch, but prefers the co-pilot's seat!





# Arcadia Rally



This is the **largest** bus conversion rally in the country. An independent rally, it is hosted by SEBN members Bill and Brenda Phelan  
**December 29th - January 1st**

**The Southeast Bus Nuts will gather at President Ed Fisher’s coach for the Annual President’s Reception on Wednesday, December 30th, at 4:00 p.m. Bring a chair and a beverage of your choice. Dry nibbles provided.**



**The Turner Agri Center is the location of the 16th consecutive busin’ event. It’s in Arcadia, FL, approximately 46 miles east of Sarasota.**

To register, go to [www.arcadiarally.com](http://www.arcadiarally.com) and check the box “Registration”.

New this year:

- CPR and Concealed Weapons Seminars
- Live entertainment: Kenny Flint and the Rough Diamond Band
- Additional entertainment being lined up

Registration fees:

**Rally fee**, includes ice cream social, two dinners, coffee & doughnuts each morning, live entertainment, and seminars: \$95. for one coach/ two persons, plus these **camp fees**:

Full hookups	\$27.38 per night
or Water & electric hookup	\$16.43 “ “
or Dry camping	\$ 5.48 “ “

For additional info, or questions, contact Bill or Brenda at [bphelan340@gmail.com](mailto:bphelan340@gmail.com)

- Save the dates! -

## Late Winter Rally



Masonic Park, Wimauma, FL—about eight miles east of Ruskin on U.S. Rte. 301

[www.masonicparkflorida.com](http://www.masonicparkflorida.com)

February 25-28, 2016

Featuring some really good home cookin'  
Your Hosts, Jack and Jackie Campbell. Co-Hosts,  
Herb Bates and Reen Kukon.

## Spring Rally

Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, SC

April 13-16, 2016

-about 40 minutes northwest of Greenville

[www.palmettocove.com](http://www.palmettocove.com)

After three years, we return!

Mike Heron, Kyle Brandt—Rally Co-Hosts



## Halloween Rally



Twin Oaks Music Park, Hoboken, GA

Back again after a year's hiatus!

October 27-30, 2016

Details to come!

Mike Abbey, Rally Host

[heresccloud@yahoo.com](mailto:heresccloud@yahoo.com)

## Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

### Chapter Officers:

President— Ed Fisher [aandedfisher@gmail.com](mailto:aandedfisher@gmail.com)  
VP—Bryan Bowman [bbowmanga@gmail.com](mailto:bbowmanga@gmail.com)  
Treasurer— Charlie Bukoski [chasjudy@bukoski.net](mailto:chasjudy@bukoski.net)  
Secretary—Ron Daniels [ncrealauctions@frontier.com](mailto:ncrealauctions@frontier.com)  
FMCA Nat'l Dir -Anke Fisher [aandedfisher@gmail.com](mailto:aandedfisher@gmail.com)

## Advisory Committee:

*(in addition to Chapter Officers)*

Judy Bukoski  
Pam Daniels  
Mike Heron  
Beverly Bowman, Chaplain

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, Duane Britt, and Charlie Bukoski. (\* denotes deceased)

Visit our website:

[www.sebusnuts.org](http://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](mailto:mikeheron@bellsouth.net)

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