



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

January-February 2015

Ed's Editorial

Here comes the first edition of "Ed's Editorial" from your new president.

Your new officers, who were all in attendance in Arcadia, were installed at the president's reception hosted by outgoing president and secretary **Charlie** and **Judy Bukowski**. Your new and returning officers are **Ed Fisher**, president, **Bryan Bowman**, Vice President, **Marty Nixon**, Treasurer, **Anke Fisher**, secretary and national director and **Beverly Bowman**, chaplain.

It is cliché for me to state that Past President Charlie and Past Secretary Judy Bukowski leave Anke and me big shoes to fill. Charlie and Judy have truly put Southeast Bus Nuts into the 22nd century (they leapfrogged the 21st). I doubt that there is another FMCA chapter with an equal info technology system. For Anke and me, it is a challenge to learn I.T., but things are going well because of the training we received at the last two rallies. Good work Charlie and Judy!

Bill and Brenda Phelan hosted an outstanding rally at Arcadia this year. There were 105 coaches in attendance, 34 of which were SE Bus Nuts. In addition to nice weather there were very good meals each evening, along with entertainment every night. The highlight of the entertainment was Sally Langwah's Vegas show, featuring show business impersonations.

I missed the rally seminars due to coach problems which began in South Carolina on our way down from Virginia. See the "Road Fix" Column on p. 2 for a blow-by-blow account.

We now reside in our park model trailer at Bryn Mawr Ocean Resort on Anastasia Island just south of St Augustine, the site of our Spring Rally. The photo at the center is the ocean in front of our unit. Hope you can join us for the rally (or any other time) and enjoy this beach!

Ed Fisher, President



The Bryn Mawr Ocean Resort fronts directly on the Atlantic Ocean. Rally spaces may be reserved now.

Secretary's Report

I am looking forward to serving as your secretary for the next two years. I want to thank **Judy Bukowski** for the great job she did for the last four years. Also I want to thank her for the (manual) notes she made for me.

At the reception, President Charlie asked the members to tell something about their lives. The re-

sults were surprising.

There was no official business conducted at the gathering, therefore no official minutes. Going forward, please provide me with names of those members who need to get well or who need a sympathy card, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Anke Fisher, Secretary

See page 6 for details regarding the Valentine's Rally, set for Feb 12th -Feb. 15

●Treasurer’s Report

Current balance, which includes a few incidental outlays for the Arcadia rally, stands at \$6,582.

Marty Nixon, Treasurer

Road Fix!

by Ed Fisher

On the Interstate in S.C., Anke walked back to the rear of the coach and found it half flooded. She turned off the water pump, and I stopped at the next rest area. We attracted a lot of attention when I opened the baggage doors, and water flooded out like Niagara Falls. Most of the water in the 180 gallon tank had pumped out into the coach.

At least we know that Prevost baggage doors and floors are water tight. I isolated the leak to the bathroom hot water line by trial and error, and turned off the valve serving that branch so we could travel. I tipped the coach to the right with the levelers so all standing water drained out. We were ready to travel after spreading important papers all over the coach to dry.

At Arcadia, with a lot of help and suggestions, I found the leak to be in the hot water line to the clothes washer. Plugged the line and then had hot water to the rest of the bath. After a couple of days in Arcadia, I came to the conclusion that the bedroom carpet would not dry before the floor was damaged, so I cut it out and left it in the dumpster.

Notice in the beginning I said that Anke turned off the water pump. **BIG MISTAKE, IT SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ON WHEN DRIVING.**

As it turned out, the water was the least of our problems in Arcadia. The front slide jammed, and we drove to Parliament Coach in Clearwater where it still sits with the slide extended eight inches.

Not enough room here to go into that!

Editor’s Note: Ed and Anke drive a Prevost H345, converted by Hoffman Coach, Clarendon, PA

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)	?

Important Notice:
Chapter dues were due January 1st. To pay your \$15. drop a check to SE Busnuts, 2493 Insdale Trace, Atlanta, GA 30101, or go to our website and use PayPay or a credit card!

Arcadia Snapshots

Editor’s Note: Once again, thanks to **Linda Karlsson** for the photographs!



Treasurer Marty Nixon’s MC-8 sported new accent stripes and a full clearcoat at the rally.



Chapter Past President Jack Campbell and Jackie have attended all but two Arcadia gatherings.

More Arcadia Photos...



Jim & Roennie Seagraves, left, wait in line for ice cream, with Kirby Karlsson, center, and Leonard Jelkren.



Steve Siems and Harriet Chaires came to the rally in their beautiful Neoplan Spaceliner.



Rally host and SEBN member Bill Phelan ran a great event and even pulled kitchen duty!



Maureen and Norm Scanapico, left, served pepperoni or cheese pizza on the second night.



New chapter secretary Anke Fisher (blue blouse, standing) addressed folks at the President's Reception.



Front, Tom & Karen Hamrick, then Lowell Snyder, Steve & Margie Mann, and Lester Durgin, standing.

Still More From Arcadia



Susan Coker and Ace Rossi came in their Pre-vost H-3. Next year, their truck toy hauler?



(L. to R.) Norm Scanapico, Kirby & Linda Karlson, Tom Mason and Manny Montecino (standing).



From left, Kevin and Camillia Clark and Ray and Denise Aldridge, all of central Florida.



Tom and Nancy Mosson of Spring Hill, FL enjoyed the ice cream social.



Training session for incoming leaders Ed and Anke Fisher, left, conducted by Charlie and Judy Bukoski.



Changing of the guard. Ed Fisher's FMCA oval will now have a special designation for 2 years.

Staying Warm When Boondocking

With the dry-camping rally at the Lipizzaner Stallion Ranch on the near horizon, your editor thought a few words about coach heat might be helpful.

While it's true many converted coaches (and all manufactured coach conversions) have a full-size furnace/heat system, many self-converted coaches, especially in the south, forego the expense and logistical challenge of having central heat for the cabin.

Instead some have one or more spot heat sources for those occasional cold nights. These most frequently are inexpensive, portable, electric "cube heaters", either resistance coil or quartz. They either heat the air or the nearby fixtures and furnishings. Cheap and effective, but difficult to run all night on batteries alone. If one can run the generator all night, it's no problem, but most rallies have a quiet hours, say from 10 p.m. 'til about 8 a.m.

Two alternatives can be recommended for cold overnight camping with no hook-ups:

First, the portable "Heater Buddy" puts out either 6,000 or 12,000 BTU of heat from either a disposable canister of propane for 3-6 hours, or for several nights with a remote "BBQ tank" of propane. (\$120.-\$150.) Be sure to crack a window to replace the oxygen this device consumes.



Second, many SEBN members use a mattress pad heater on their beds, under the bottom sheet. These pads warm the bed nicely to the point that some folks turn it off, or way down, after the bed has been warmed. And the pads only use about three amps of energy, which shouldn't pose a problem for most battery banks. (\$60.-\$120.)

It should go without saying that any heater that burns fuel, whether a permanent furnace or spot heat, requires a carbon monoxide detector. Indeed, the very use of a generator should make use of a CO alarm (\$20.-\$100.) compulsory!

Eagle Trivia

Most SEBN members know that Eagle buses are numbered from Model 01 through Model 20. And most members know that Eagle was the bus of choice for Continental Trailways (just as MCI was the preferred coach for Greyhound).

But did you know that the very first Eagle buses were manufactured in 1956 in Germany and then Belgium? And that these early models seemed to be sturdier and longer lasting than subsequent



A 1971 Golden Eagle, on display at the Hershey Antique Automobile Museum.

you know that a few 05 Eagles had 450 HP Ford gas turbine engines used for transcontinental service, but their poor fuel mileage (4 mpg!) necessitated a change to the venerable DD 8v71?

Due to wage and monetary issues, in 1974 Eagle production moved from Bruges in Belgium to Eagle International facilities in Brownsville, TX. There the model 05 was continued until the models 10, 15 and 20 were sequentially introduced. These were 102 inches wide vs. the usual 96 inches.

Financial pressures forced a move to Laredo, TX, then Mexico, then Gallatin, TN where, undercapitalized, they folded for good.

All told, over 8,000 Eagles graced the roads over 40 years. Eagle Bus Nuts will eagerly testify to their superior ride, due to their patented Torsilastic suspension. Torsion bars instead of air bags made for a road-hugging coach through the curves and corners, unlike buses with air suspension, which often felt like they were going to tip over when turning. But the Eagle tended to porpoise up and down up front on many roads, causing some drivers to brace their seat to reduce the effect!

About 10 members of the SE Bus Nuts drive Eagles, and they love them!

Southeast Bus Nuts' Annual Valentine's Rally - Register now!

February 12-15, 2015

Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Ranch

31404 Singletary Road, near Myakka City, FL (about 21 miles due east of Sarasota) For questions: Charlie & Judy Bukoski at chasjudy@bukoski.net

Preliminary list of registrants: Herb **Bates** & Rene **Kukon**, Howard & Ellen **Best**, Richard & Barbara **Best**, Chas & Judy **Bukoski**, Jack & Jackie **Campbell**, Ed & Anke **Fisher**, Mike & Carol **Heron**, Marty **Nixon**, Kirby & Linda **Karlsson**, Lowell & Betty **Snyder**, Blake & Linda **Wright**, two guest couples of the Best's, and several more tentatives.

The original Lipizzan Stallions of Austria! Witness the beauty and grace of these majestic white show horses at our February Rally. Attendees will have the opportunity of experiencing winter training sessions in the ranch's cozy outdoor arena Thursday/Friday at 3p.m. and on Saturday at 10a.m. Check the website: www.hlipizzans.com

To register for the rally, go to our website www.sebusnuts.org and click on the rally button on the right side of the page. Then you will have the choice of either using a credit card or using PayPal. Or, you can mail a check to 'SE Busnuts' at 2493 Insdale Trace, Acworth, GA 30101



Rally fee is \$75.00 per coach, which includes three nights of dry camping, one BBQ dinner, and campfire desserts each night.

Abbreviated schedule:

Thursday, February 12—Arrival in the afternoon, and then a dutch-treat group dinner out at the Myakka Kountry Kitchen. Bonfire after—bring marshmallows.

Friday— On your own to either take in the Lipizzaner show, or car pool to the FMCA Southeast Area Rally in Sarasota, or car pool to Solomon's Castle in nearby Ona FL. That night at the camp, a BBQ dinner. Sides, paper plates, napkins, etc. provided.

Saturday— Same options as above, except the Lipizzaner show is 10:00 a.m.. For dinner bring whatever you want to cook over an open bonfire. Condiments provided.

Rally tips: There are no lights at the campground, so bring lanterns, flashlights, etc. Also, bring your own camp chairs. There is no dump station, so plan accordingly.

- Save the dates! -

SEBN Spring Rally



April 30-May 2, 2015

Bryn Mawr Ocean Resort

www.brynmawroceanresort.com

In historic St Augustine, FL

(Limited to 25 coaches)

Although rally registration is not yet open, we suggest that interested members call the park and reserve a site. Some are on the front row by the beach, and others are interior. Prices vary. See the park website (above) for the park map. All sites have paved motor home parking and patio. Most have a raised, elevated and covered deck. All sites are different, because they are individually owned. Bryn Mawr phone numbers are 904-471-8730 and 888-768-9638. The park address is 4850 A1A South, St Augustine FL 32080. Three nights on an interior site—\$264. Three on a beachfront is \$291.50

One of the few RV resorts directly on the Atlantic!

The separate rally fee will be additional. Rally registration will open in mid-February after the Valentine's Rally. This rally will include three breakfasts, Friday dinner to which the members bring their own meat to grill with the other food, drinks, and desert, and the Saturday covered dish dinner, which includes the meat and drinks. There will be an exciting Bingo game with prizes on one night, and a fast paced game show with prizes on another.

Also included will be a **guided train tour** of historic St Augustine. This tour includes 23 points of interest, and it lasts as long as you like, because you can stay on the train, or get off as long as you care to. The tickets are good for three days, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

For questions: Ed & Anke Fisher: aandefisher@gmail.com



Halloween Rally

October 27-November 1, 2015

Coastal Georgia RV Resort

Brunswick, GA (I-95, exit 29)

www.coastalgarvresort.com

Close to Jekyll, Cumberland and St. Simon's Islands! Large, paved, full hook-up sites with fabulous waterfront clubhouse. Free cable TV and Wi-Fi. This is the newest RV park in the region. This rally immediately precedes the annual Friends of Twin Oaks bluegrass rally just 40 miles west on US Rte 82 in Hoboken, GA. Join the caravan! Further info: mikeheron@bellsouth.net

Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers:

President— Ed Fisher aandefisher@gmail.com

VP—Bryan Bowman bbowmanga@gmail.com

Treasurer— Marty Nixon nixonmarty@aol.com

Secretary/FMCA Nat'l Dir—Anke Fisher

Chaplain: Beverly Bowman

Advisory Committee:

(in addition to Chapter Officers)

Charlie Bukoski

Judy Bukoski

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, Duane Britt, and Charlie Bukoski. (* 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

Southeast Bus Nuts
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