



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

January-February 2016

Ed's Editorial

We had planned to depart from our little colonial port village of Urbanna, VA for Arcadia on Monday, December 29, and we did, but not until 10:00 PM. At 9:00 PM, we were finally hooked up and loaded in a spotless coach with a spotless tow car, and found we had no lights on the tow car. It was cold, and just then, it began to drizzle rain. After about an hour, with numb fingers, and wet clothing, working by flashlight, I had the lights working, we drove the 350 miles to Florence SC in a drizzling rain. So much for a clean rig. On the night of the 30th, we arrived in Arcadia.

There were about 82 coaches and one 5th wheel there, and host **Brenda Phelan** told me that 5 Canadian coaches had dropped out at the last minute, due to the cost with one US dollar exchanging for \$1.45 Canadian dollars. We all have been speculating about the reason for declining rally attendance, and many thought it was the cost of diesel fuel. Well, we now know that is not the reason. We filled up in VA as we left at \$1.95 per gallon, and prices are down since then.

I do not have an exact count, but I judge that SEBN was represented by at least 20 coaches and one 5th wheel. You'll never guess who was in that 5th wheel. It was **John Silver**, owner of Central Florida BUS Service. In lieu of a meeting, we held the usual



Generally good weather greeted some 82 bus conversion enthusiasts over New Year's at the annual Arcadia Rally. Bill and Brenda Phelan ran it for the past six years. They are relinquishing host duties and trying to recruit a successor.

President's reception at my coach. It was well attended, and we had fun with all in attendance describing their most memorable trip. We all came away with ideas for future trips.

Bill Phelan announced that we were attending the last Arcadia Rally that they would host after 6 years of doing so. They have done a phenomenal job, and we all owe them a real expression of gratitude. They are asking volunteers to take over in the future, and they had some prospects, but nothing is firmed up.

I hope that everyone is utilizing our wonderful website hosted by Treasurer **Charlie Bukoski**. There is a wealth of information in there about SEBN, its members and its activities and it is very easy to navigate. Just Google SE-BUSNUTS.org, and you are there. If you have not registered before, simply follow the prompts to set up a user name and password. You must register to get to "MEMBERS ONLY".

While you are on the website, why don't you go ahead and pay your 2016 dues, if you have not already done so? At the same time, you can register for upcoming rallies, paying by PayPal or credit card. You can do these things in a jiffy, right from the home page, no pen or paper required.

(Cont'd)

See page 5 for details regarding the upcoming Winter BusNut Rally set for February 25-28, 2016

Ed's Editorial (Cont'd)

Anke and I will be at the Wimauma rally, with or without our coach. I had planned to take the coach home to store inside, so I made reservations at a pet friendly motel in Sun Center City, but there is now a possibility that I can't accomplish that, so the coach may be with us.

Happy cruising with that wonderful \$2.00 fuel!

Ed Fisher, President

Secretary's Report

Get well cards mailed to **Junior Showman** and **Jackie Abbey**. President **Ed Fisher** sent the annual elected officer report to FMCA.

Reminder: please pay your SEBN annual dues. Payments are coming in slowly. An e-mail was sent out to all members with unpaid dues. Please keep contact information up to date on website, i.e. name changes, address, phone number and e-mail address. A special e-mail is being sent out to all members that are not current with FMCA dues. These members need to renew to remain active in SEBN, since we are an official chapter of FMCA.

(Cont'd)

We currently have 71 total members as reported by FMCA: 65 active, 4 expired and 2 on grace status.

Ron Daniels, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Charlie Bukoski reports that the current chapter balance remains slightly greater than \$5,000. as reported after the autumn rally. This will increase over the coming weeks with dues renewals and advance Wimauma winter rally fees..

Recent Rally Attendance / Coaches

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	20
Wimauma	?

Arcadia Rally Photos



(Left) Not that it rained, but several Bus Nuts chose to keep their coaches out of the elements during the four-day rally, held for the last 10 years at the Turner Agri-Center in Arcadia, FL.

(Right) At the New Year's Eve party there were lots of raffle prizes. Former chapter Treasurer Marty Nixon and Debbie Spear were two of many, many winners. Always concerned about keeping his coach clean, Marty opted for wash rags and a scrub bucket!



More from Arcadia



Brenda and Bill Phelan, rally hosts, raffled off a ton of prizes over the weekend rally.



New members Jim and Roennie Seagraves came to the rally from nearby Sebring, FL



Longtime member Linda Karlssen played the bass while jamming Bluegrass.



Several members brought their carts to the informal President's Reception on the afternoon of Wednesday the 30th



Members Kevin and Camellia Clark rolled in from Oviedo, near Orlando, FL.



Plenty of help (and supervision) was available when a bus nut's windshield popped out!

Still More From Arcadia



Almost everyone played Bingo on one night, and there were plenty of prizes.



Susan Coker and Ace Rossi of Lakeland have made most of the Arcadia events.



Gene Russell and Jeannie came all the way from Mill Spring, NC



Steve Siems and Harriet Chaires joined the long line on Tuesday for ice cream.



Renea and Lou Kirk. Lou is recovering well from ortho surgery

Kirby Karlssen, left, visited with Jerry and Rosemary Campbell, center, and Jerry's Mom and Dad, Jackie and Jack Campbell in the foreground.



About 26 Southeast Bus Nut families attended chapter President Ed Fisher's informal reception on Wednesday.



Editor's note:
Our sincere thanks to member **Linda Karlsson** for supplying all of the rally photos!

Junior Showman passes

The Southeast Bus Nuts lost a loyal and popular member on January 25th when word went out from son George that his Dad, known to everyone as Junior, had died. He had been in the hospital most of December, and then several weeks in a rehab facility. But in the days leading up to his death he was at home and showing great improvement. He was 80.

Junior was well respected for many qualities, but at least two things stand out in your editor's judgment: He was a strong family man.



Junior and Bertha.

Both sons and one daughter were Flxible bus conversion enthusiasts, and he brought them all into our chapter. Second, he was a legendary Flx expert. At one Greyhound rally he drove in with an ailing engine, but by the time the rally was over, he had rebuilt it right there on the fairgrounds!

Bertha and Junior attended the recent Halloween rally in Brunswick, and they enthusiastically took part in all the activities. Although confined to a wheelchair in recent years, he was always full of pep and enthusiasm.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Bertha and the family at 3603 Claridge Road, East, Jacksonville, FL 32250.

R.I.P.

Need Tires?

Your editor has been in need of two decent tires for the MCI's tag axles for the past several months. My steer tires are three-year-old Firestones and my plan is to simply move them to the tag position, and buy new tires for the front. The shopping has begun.

One member, **Herb Bates**, got an excellent price on new American-made General tires from Crawford Tire in Ocoee, Fl. near Disney World.: \$403. each mounted, not balanced.

A great price but they were 11R24. Several knowledgeable Bus Nuts suggested I move to a 12R24 truck tire, which are so plentiful that they are hundreds of dollars cheaper, but Alas! I have invested heavily in 22.5 inch Alcoa wheels and I am committed to the standard bus tire.

Herb said Crawford also sells Chinese bus-sized tires for about a hundred dollars less! Disclaimer: I do have four Sumitomo tires across the drive axle. They have been fine there for the past four years. But I just can't bring myself to trust them or any Asian tire in the more crucial position of steering.

A friend had bought eight brand new Chinese Samson tires five years ago and they gave fair service, but he didn't like the ride, so he disposed of them after only 40,000 miles and five years age.



The Firestone 12R22.5 steer tire, Model 561.

Past Treasurer **Marty Nixon** mentioned that he had just gotten a fairly good price on Firestone tires from Atlanta Commercial Tire, which has 11 facilities around Georgia. Some price checking confirmed that I could get their respected steer tire, the 561, for about \$550 each, which is their out-the-door price including taxes and balancing. They're made just up the road in Nashville. As a possible added bonus, they might make me an offer to buy the old tag axle take-offs if they turn out to be retread candidates.

So in a few days I will be back to having 'good feet' all around, and brand new tires on the front. Stay tuned for an evaluation regarding ride and handling in the next newsletter.

Of course no article about tires for our heavy RVs is complete without the admonishment to begin thinking about replacing your tires at 5-6 years of age, and definitely don't run on tires that are 7+ years old!

MFH

Southeast Bus Nuts' Annual Winter Rally

February 25-28, 2016 Wimauma, Florida (Near Tampa Bay, 8 miles east of Ruskin on U.S. Rte 301)

**Masonic RV Park and Youth
Camp**
813-634-1220
www.masonicparkflorida.com



Rally fee—\$50.00 per coach—two people; camping is another \$25. per night for sites with electric and water. Dump station is available. Cheaper boondocking is also available if that is your preference. Rally fee includes two dinners and two breakfasts. See Agenda, below.

Registered/Planning to Attend:

Herb Bates & Reen Kukon
Howard & Ellen Best
Chas & Judy Bukoski
Jack & Jackie Campbell
Ron & Pam Daniels
Lester Durgin & Patty Keane
Ed & Anke Fisher
Mike & Carol Heron
Leonard & Pamela Jelkren
Marty Nixon & Debbie Spear
Lowell & Betty Snyder

Nearby Attractions:

Florida Flywheelers Annual Meeting only 33 miles south
Florida Aquarium
Tampa Bay History Center
Florida Museum of Photographic Art
Museum of Science and Industry
Ringling Museum of Art
Busch Gardens
Hard Rock Casino

To register Go to our chapter website www.sebusnuts.org and on the right side of the home page, under the rally heading, click on the tab "Add to cart". Either use your PayPal account or a credit card. This is the easiest and fastest way. If paying by check, make it out to 'SE Bus Nuts' and send to 5337 N. Socrum Loop Road, Suite 203, Lakeland, FL 33809-4256 *Note: You must call the campground and make a reservation. See the phone number above.*

Informal agenda:

Thursday arrival—Dutch treat dinner at nearby restaurant, **Friday** breakfast, afternoon sightseeing and visiting, Friday dinner by Herb & Reen: Caesar salad, meat and vegetarian lasagna with garlic knots, tira misu for dessert. **Saturday**, breakfast, afternoon sightseeing and visiting, dinner by Jack & Jackie Campbell: ham or chicken with sweet potatoes and salad, followed by The Match Game—an audience participation TV game show, by Mike Heron. **Sunday**, coffee and fond adieus. Rally Hosts: **Jack & Jackie Campbell** jack.campbell1090@gmail.com; co-hosts: **Herb Bates & Reen Kukon**

- Save the dates! -

Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, SC

April 13-16, 2016

-about 40 minutes northwest of Greenville

www.palmettocove.com

After three years, we return!

And so does 'Elvis'! (Jumpsuitman)

Early Bird special registration \$49. until

March 15th—then \$69.

Mike Heron, Kyle Brandt—Rally Co-

Spring Rally



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

The Arcadia hosts over New Years for the past six years, **Bill and Brenda Phelan**, longtime members of the SE Bus Nuts, have reluctantly announced that they will no longer be able to plan and manage this large gathering. However Bill is actively trying to recruit a successor.

THANKS, Bill & Brenda, for a great job over the years!

Arcadia Rally

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Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers:

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

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
c/o Ed Fisher, President
P.O. Box 1184
Urbanna, VA 23175

