



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Summer 2016

Ed's Editorial

Anke and I have been back home in Virginia since the first of April, at least I think it's home. Since we are here for less than six months per year, I'm not really sure where home is.

Those who missed the Spring rally at Palmetto Cove missed a great one. Location, weather, food, activities, and entertainment were all outstanding. Congratulations **Mike Heron** and **Kyle Brandt** on a job well done. At the business meeting on Saturday morning, we discussed an alternative to the Arcadia New Year rally. **Brenda** and **Bill Phalen** have announced they would be unable to host this rally in the future. Jack Conrad, the previous host, told us

that there was very little hope there would be an Arcadia rally next year. Older SEBN members remember the fun New Year rally's held by SEBN before Arcadia, and it was a no brainer to schedule our own SEBN rally again to replace Arcadia. As it was customary for the SEBN New Year's rally, the next one, which will be held the weekend *after* the New Year's holiday, will be hosted by our excellent group of chapter's officers .

I have been getting our coach ready for summer travel. This week, she got her engine and generator serviced, and the generator compartment cleaned. Always a messy job, handling 12 gallons of oil and six filters (oil and fuel). Several more projects in the coming weeks. Speaking of Summer travel, we plan to visit Irwin PA, Quebec City Canada, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Springfield MA. Of course we will attend the very next Family Motor Coach Assn



Some 33 coaches turned up for this year's Spring Rally at Palmetto Cove, SC

international convention in Springfield, MA., with Anke representing our membership at the board meeting. Anke requests your input as to info you wish presented to the board, etc. There will be no FMCA election this year.

Many of you know of the problems we had with the battery discharge from our coach with all disconnects turned off, and short battery charge life when dry camping. Well, that problem is now solved. Prior to fixing the problem, we had to run the generator twice a day to keep the charge above 23.8 volts, and they would go from full charge to 23.8 volts in 3 days with all house disconnects pulled, and only 1 to 1.5 amps for parasitic load. Now, we can go 48 hours with conservative use and the side-by-side electric fridge running, and 18 days with all disconnects off.

What did I do? First, I removed the ground connection from all six house batteries, and let them sit for four days, and got only an insignificant discharge, and all voltages finished very close. This proved I had no bad batteries. Next I took a good look at the two, parallel-wired 100 amp equalizers. One appeared to have been overloaded, so I disconnected it, and problem solved!

Anke has been very ill, with a lot of muscular pain since January. At times, she could not get out of bed

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See page five for a report on the Palmetto Cove/Spring Bus Nuts Rally

Ed's Editorial, Continued

without help. Prayers answered -- she gradually improved without a definitive diagnosis, and is even pulling weeds from the landscaping now.

Again, we invite our traveling friends to stop for a visit. We have a full hookup with 50 amp electrical for your coach at my shop, and better yet, we offer a guest bedroom, overlooking the harbor. We are looking forward to a possible visit soon from your newsletter editor, and hope to see others.

Happy Travels!
Ed Fisher, President

Secretary's Report—Minutes of General Meeting

President Ed Fisher opened the Saturday, April 16th meeting. He requested **Mike Heron** inform chapter members about Treasurer **Charlie Bukoski's** health status. Charlie is battling Multiple Myeloma, and members are asked to keep him in their prayers as he undergoes therapy. Mike added that, unsurprisingly, Charlie is intent on not letting the inconvenience of chemo keep him from his normal schedule, etc.

Beverly Bowman led the invocation. She asked if there were other members who are ill. Names included **Mike Cilio**, Stan Gilley's wife Brenda, and **Norman** and **Maureen Scanapico**. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Fisher confirmed that there was a quorum present for this meeting. Nineteen coach/couples were represented at the session. Ed thanked **Mike Heron** and **Kyle Brandt** for leading this rally. Mike in turn thanked all members who had assisted. He also stated that 36 coaches had signed up to attend the rally, but 33 showed.

Secretary **Ron Daniels** reported that the minutes from the last meeting were posted on the website for member's review prior to this meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the previous minutes as posted.

Secretary Daniels also reported that our rolls show 86 active members, of which 14 are Honorary. He also informed the chapter that we had received a letter from FMCA confirming our delegates. **Anke Fisher** is the delegate and Mike Heron is the back-up

delegate. The FMCA convention is August 3, 2016.

Mike reported that the 2016 Nominating Committee (Charlie Bukoski, Chairman; **Pam Daniels** and himself) had recommended the following candidates for the Fall election: **Bryan Bowman** for President, **George Showman** for Vice President, and Ron Daniels and Charlie Bukoski to remain as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

President Fisher expressed the need for a host for the Winter Rally in 2017. **Manny** and **Darlene Montesino** agreed to assist, but a lead host is still needed. This issue was put on hold.

President Ed discussed that it is doubtful there will be another Arcadia Rally. In the past, SEBN had a New Year's rally that was hosted by the officers. Beverly Bowman made a motion to have a SEBN New Year Rally. The motion passed.

Members also voted to have the rally the first weekend *after* the New Year's holiday.

President Fisher also noted that a host is also needed for the Spring Rally in 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 am. Respectfully submitted,

Ron Daniels



Past President Jack Campbell took this overhead drone shot at Palmetto Cove.

Treasurer's Report

Charlie Bukoski wrote in that the current chapter balance, following payment of all spring rally expenses, totals \$5,100. with no outstanding debt. The recent Palmetto Cove rally made a slight profit.

Recent Rally Attendance / Coaches

Spring, 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 2015(Brunswick, GA)	28
Arcadia 2016 (General Meeting)	20
Wimauma—Winter meeting 2016	18
Spring Rally 2016 (Palmetto Cove)	33
Halloween (Hoboken) 2106	?

Palmetto Cove (Spring) Rally Photos



Eight coaches made an early caravan from GA up to Palmetto Cove, arriving Wednesday.



Some 20 couples arrived early for the meatball sub, chips, and pudding for dessert.



John Mellis and Carol Heron tackled the second tray of Ann Gallant's delicious Monkey Bread.



Dave Lang and wife Carol (background) treated us to great local Carolina sausages on the grill.



Debbie Spear hosted 25 of the wives for a Ladies Lunch on Saturday at the Victoria Valley Vineyard. Some stayed for a special wine tasting after the light lunch.

More From Palmetto Cove



President Ed Fisher led a one-hour general meeting of the membership on Saturday.



Omelets-in-a-Bag by Howard Best and Jack Campbell were very popular one morning.



From left, John Mellis, Tom Hamrick and Eric Brown do the Eagles' hit 'Seven Bridges Road'.



'The Jumpsuit Man', a/k/a BusNut Marc Woodward, did a great Elvis Presley tribute show Saturday nite.



Chapter treasurer Ron Daniels and Karen Hamrick prepare large Idahos for the Friday feast.



Co-Host Kyle Brandt managed to get 65 potatoes in one oven—lots of toppings to choose from!

Still More from Palmetto Cove



Gary LaBombard did some Merle Haggard on Friday. Gary was a big help with rally promotion.



Ed and Anke Fisher did up a NC smoked & chopped pork BBQ with slaw and 'puppies' for the Saturday meal.

Palmetto Cove Spring Rally Report

As reported, we had 33 coaches show up for the rally. This is a three year high for spring. We would have had more, but three paid registrants had to cancel. We also had some drop-ins who had heard or read the buzz on the Bus Conversions Bulletin Board. One in particular was very interested in the engine transplant discussion and stayed for dinner as our guest.

We were also extremely pleased that a couple of old timers who are no longer busin' stopped by to say 'hello' including **Lila** and **Leroy Ashe** who live quite nearby, and **Don** and **Sarah Riddle** of Fountain Inn, SC. These folks worked together on our first spring rally at Palmetto Cove years ago.

Surprisingly, more than 2/3rds of the total roegistrants came early on Wednesday afternoon, and we all enjoyed **Carol Heron's** meatball subs in the twilight. After the informal dinner we went around the circle of lawn chairs and everyone recounted their best bus story from this past winter's travels.

Thursday's dinner was prepared by **Ron & Pam Daniels** and by **Tom & Karen Hamrick**: delicious sloppy joes with layered salad and homemade pound cake for dessert. After dinner we brought up to the mike anyone who missed the opportunity to tell their winter bus story. Following that, we were pleased to have **John Mellis**

serenade us with some lively karaoke.

Ed and **Ann Gallant** were up at the crack of dawn on Friday to prepare and serve their delicious, hot Monkey Bread for breakfast. At no expense! And lunch was also a treat, literally, as **Dave** and **Carol Lang** grilled special Carolina sausages in the outdoor pavilion. The whole deal was their gift to the chapter!

Friday night was **Kyle Brandt's** baked potato extravaganza, with large Idaho bakers, and about ten toppings, including chili, sautéed mushrooms, and creamed chipped beef. Half the crowd had brought desserts, so it was a full dinner; no one went away hungry. After the meal there was a trivial pursuit game, with folks divided into teams of three, then a 50-50 drawing. Fol-

lowing that, John Mellis coaxed others from the crowd to sing karaoke; he was joined by **Tom Hamrick**, **Eric Brown** and **Gary LaBombard**.

Saturday's breakfast was omelets-in-a-bag, which always seem to be popular. For the mid-day meal most of the gals enjoyed a Ladies Lunch at the local winery. The guys grilled burgers and had a tech talk session (see p. 7). Dinner was **Ed** and **Anke Fisher's** Carolina chopped pork BBQ with all the fixing's. Dee-lish.

Our special guest for Saturday night's entertainment was BusNut **Marc Woodward** from Albemarle, NC who reprised his Elvis performance of 2006. He was fabulous (again!) and yes, he had scarves for all the women. A very special night!

MH

To see an overhead video of our buses at the rally, taken by past President **Jack Campbell**, click his recent Facebook posting: <https://www.facebook.com/earl.j.campbell.5?fref=ts>

Member Spotlight

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

Newer Members



Jesús and Donna Osorio joined the Southeast Bus Nuts this year, and they are already on their second converted coach! They attended the recent rally in Brunswick, GA in their 1978 Eagle, a former Greyhound which they had converted over six months, starting back in 1996. But when they attended the Palmetto Cove event last month, they rolled up in a beautiful Prevost Liberty.

After a western trip in the Eagle where it struggled on some of those long uphill grades, they started looking for something fresher, with less mileage and a modern drive train. The new coach has a DD Series 60 with a six speed Allison World transmission. The hills are no longer a problem.

They were very pleased to take the coach to a meeting of the Prevost Community up in Nashville, which was very instructive about Prevosts in general and their coach in particular.

Come this June 1st they will depart on a summer-long trip to Oregon to see family. Donna is from Beavercreek, OR and Jesús is from Washington State, so there's a lot of family to visit. They'll take a circular route home and hit New Jersey where several of their children live.

Jesús is a master upholsterer, and has done many fine restorations of vintage cars, exotic yachts, and of course, coach conversions. But their big project for the Prevost is ripping out carpet and installing tile floors—always something!

Longer term Members

Dorothy and Gerald Ensley have been members of the SEBN since the year it started, and Gerald is proud to have served as chapter president in 2002-03.

They were first attracted to the idea of a coach conversion because buses were so valued by Country & Western performing artists. The search began, and it took a couple of years, but they finally found a GM 4905 in Jacksonville (where our chapter started!), and bought it from a man who had sold several other SEBN members their coaches. Despite warnings from a few members about this model, they purchased the bus and were in it for the next 15 years.

They upgraded to an MC-9 which they ran for another 10 years before deciding the engine should be replaced. By then, enough club members had had good experiences installing the DD Series 50. The engine – and just about all the running gear, power steering and front end – came out of a wrecked prison bus. Gerald personally did the wiring. All told, it was a nine month project. But Gerald and Dorothy essentially now have a new bus on an old frame. And they're happy with it, getting between 6 - 8 mpg with very good power.

They have taken their rig far and wide, and are usually the most distant attendees at SE Bus Nut gatherings, coming all the way from Cropwell, Alabama, east of Birmingham.



Repowering Discussion—Saturday Afternoon, April 16, 2016

The discussion started with general tech and bus questions after a men's grilled burger lunch under the pavilion, facilitated by past president Howard Best



Eric Brown, orange shirt, center, explained how he managed to install a beautiful DD Series 60 motor in his '05 Eagle. One of his motivations was the relatively low power of his original DD 8v71.

Eric also realized that fewer diesel shops had competent two-stroke mechanics to meet challenges on the road. The newer technology of the Series 60 makes it serviceable at any DD/Allison shop.

However Eric said that the one indispensable piece of equipment was the digital engine analyzer that accurately reports the location and source of any engine malfunction. It has worked beautifully for him.

Eric received lots of praise for his Eagle—he had taken it down to a bare frame and did a complete restoration—magnificent!

Eric owns a cabinet shop in Chesnee, SC.

Marty Nixon, facing camera, center, is the proud owner of a very sharp looking MC-8. It sports a raised roof and a new paint job, but the one feature he is proudest of is his DD Series 50, installed about five years ago.

In fact Marty was the first of six chapter members to venture into the uncharted waters of transplanting the newer four-stroke motor.

Marty's donor motor came out of a western prison bus—a fleet that had the newer motors transplanted by legendary Stewart and Stevenson—at more than \$40,000 per coach! His project took about nine months and cost about \$5,000 in total, not including Marty's labor, and he is extremely pleased with its performance. In fact this past summer Marty and Debbie logged over 10,000 miles on an extensive, six-month trip to Alaska!

Marty owns several day-care centers in Marietta, GA.



- Save the dates! -

Halloween Rally



Twin Oaks Music Park, Hoboken, GA
Back again after a year's hiatus!
October 27-30, 2016

Details to come!

Our SEBN Chapter is looking for a rally host or co-hosts for this event. If you can help, contact **Ed Fisher** at aandefisher@gmail.com

Mark your calendars for the weekend *after* New Years Eve, January 5th-8th.

We have reserved the rally park at The Great Outdoors Resort in Titusville for this fun event. We had a great Valentine's rally there in 2011. For general info: <http://www.tgoresort.com/>

Stay tuned for further information in the next newsletter

Post-New Year's



Winter Rally



www.ocalasunrvresort.com

Manny and Darlene Montesino agreed to find a suitable location for the winter rally, and they turned up a beaut! VP **Bryan Bowman** negotiated the contract.

February 16-19, 2017

Contact member **Debbie Spear** to help with this fun event:
spear.deborah@gmail.com

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.

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Please send stories, updates and photos to:

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