

# Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

December 2017

## Blast from Bryan

Seasons Greetings, Merry Christmas, and a fantastic Happy New Year to you all!

I am hopeful this season finds you in good spirits, good company and in good health. And with all that good, that you are making your plans to join us in Lakeland for the upcoming New Years rally, hosted by your officers....(with major "local" help from our own beloved Bukoskis). The Sun 'n Fun facility in Lakeland is going to be invaded by BusNuts beginning Jan 4th and ending on the 7th. The word is out and the spots are filling up. This is going to be a fun- filled rally in an area where everything SUNNY Florida is within a short drive.

Well, the vote is in, and the FMCA leadership has announced that a majority has voted to allow non motorized RV's into this great "family camping organization". Congrats on this historical decision; it will certainly solidify the membership foundation of our parent association for years to come. They voted the way we did; I'm glad we supported this decision.

Your own SE busnuts chapter has been a little busy making a few changes too. During that fun Hoboken rally a few weeks back (thanks to the Showman family), your officers and advisory board met and decided to implement a few important changes ourselves.

First, is that we voted to amend our rules to allow the "flexibility" of having only three rallies per year, as opposed to the "required" four. This was done in part because we have struggled trying to get hosts to step up and take charge of a rally, in particular, the Valentine rally, with a warm-enough location that time of year that is not filled with snow birds. While the vote was to remove the "requirement" of four events, I think it is fair to say the "mood" was that we don't really want that Valentine's/Winter rally to go away.

In an effort to have increased volunteers who "step-up" and host a rally, your board agreed we will be changing our policy to allow the PRIMARY host to attend their hosted rally *without* a rally fee. It is just a give-back thank you for helping host and is intended to ENCOURAGE more volunteers to take on the hosting task...a task that has really become much easier with the behind the scenes help of our treasury, public relations, and co-hosts.



**Early Hoboken rally attendees awoke Thursday morning to a heavy fog, but weather throughout the rally was mostly OK.**

The third decision the board approved was to allow the chapter president to have the option to to attend ONE of the National FMCA rallies during their two year term, and have those rally fees (only) covered through the SE Bus Nuts treasury. No travel expenses; only the rally fee would be covered by the chapter. The hope here is that this move would be a THANK YOU perk for serving as president, and should our BusNuts president elect to attend, would give us a presence for reaching out to new members to recruit

Cont'd

See pages 7 & 8 for information on the Post-New Years Rally

## **Blast from Bryan (Cont'd)**

for our own chapter. Another positive development coming out of the Hoboken rally was the confirmation that we want a SE Busnuts Facebook® page. Those of us with personal Facebook accounts know that this social media outlet is a great way to keep in touch with each other, post pictures, get out the news, brag about the new grandbaby, the new bus and even share prayer requests for the sick. Thanks to **Darlene Montesino** who stepped up and volunteered to “manage” this page for us. It is in it’s infancy, so let’s go post some pics, hellos, travel shares, or just ‘atta girls’ for Darlene’s volunteer efforts, and help use this as another way to reach out to potential new members. Check us out on Facebook at SE Busnuts.

We are hopeful all members will view these decisions as part of small advances to keep our chapter alive well into the future, Thanks to the board members and advisory council for the discussion, feedback and guidance to make positive decisions for our group. It keeps our chapter thriving and returning a little give-back for those who volunteer. Your thoughts, ideas and suggestions are always welcomed.

Thanks to every member past and present for the history and future - we have to keep this thing called BUSNUTS rolling along. Feel free to give me a ring with your feedback.

**Bryan Bowman**, President

## **Secretary’s Report and Minutes**

A Meeting of the SEBN convened at Twin Oaks, Hoboken, GA. Friday, November 10, 2017 at 9:30 AM. The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Bowman.

President Bowman welcomed and recognized first time attendees **Wayne Crow** and **Ronnie Mewbourne**.

Rally co-host **George Showman** gave an itinerary for the rally events, and he stated 29 coaches signed up for rally.

**Ron Daniels** gave the Secretary’s report:

- \*68 active members (57 regular and 11 honorary);
- \*FMCA has issued the annual certification;
- \*reminder for members to maintain active membership with FMCA and SEBN;
- \*reminder for FMCA members to submit ballots to FMCA CPAs by 11/30/17 concerning change of by laws to allow non-motor home campers as members;
- \*Secretary contacted honorary members without a e-mail address to poll interest in receiving SEBN newsletter and worked with Judy Bukoski to update membership status;
- \*thanked **Linda Karlsson** for the letters to new FMCA members inviting them to join SEBN;
- \*and announced new members **Tammy** and **Rick Bartley** (**Herb Bates’s** daughter and son-in-law), and **Jimmy** and **Sadie Clay**.

President Bowman gave a update on his dad, **Syl Bowman**, who is diagnosed with Parkinson’s and is on a feeding tube. President Bowman asked that we keep him in our thoughts and prayers. President Bowman also expressed the members’ happiness at **Carol Heron** being back with us after a time of sickness.

Treasurer **Charlie Bukoski** presented a Treasurer’s report. SEBN has approximately \$4,600. spread over two accounts with Bank of America and PayPal.

Newsletter editor **Mike Heron** encouraged members to submit articles and photos for upcoming publications.

President Bowman recognized and thanked the Showmans for hosting this rally. He explained the process of hosting a SEBN rally, and he shared that the post-New Year’s rally

will be hosted by chapter officers January 4<sup>th</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Sun ‘n Fun facility in Lakeland, Fl. **Judy Bukoski** gave a update on the rally specifics. The chapter is still seeking a host for the 2018 Valentines rally.

President Bowman informed members of upcoming Spring rally May 10<sup>th</sup> thru 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Hilton Head Motor Coach Resort to be hosted by **Marty Nixon** and friends.

President Bowman distributed post cards to place on potential member’s windshields as an effort to attract new members and promote the chapter.



**Most rally attendees participated in the Chapter’s annual meeting on Friday morning.**

## Minutes, Cont'd

**Darlene Montesino** made a motion to change SEBN standing rules to require a minimum of three rallies per year with option to have more, seconded by **Jack Campbell**. Motion passed with one opposed.

**Ed Fisher** updated the membership on FMCA's up-coming vote to amend the constitution and by-laws to allow RV families as members rather than restricting membership to those of motor homes only. A discussion was held concerning SEBN accepting membership by other than coaches and motor homes with no motion introduced.

Darlene Montesino encouraged the use of SEBN Facebook page and volunteered to assist in updating our usage.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

**Ron Daniels**, Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

Our treasury balance, after having paid off all Hoboken rally expenses, totals \$6,820. This does not include registration fees for the upcoming Lakeland rally, which are in escrow until disbursement is required.

**Charlie Bukoski**, Treasurer

## Hoboken Rally Report

Kudos to the entire Showman Family for a wonderful experience at the recent rally at the venerable Twin Oaks Music Park. That includes **George**, who ran point, matriarch **Bertha**, children **John**, **June Lewis**, and their spouses, **Lisa Showman** and **Harry Lewis**.

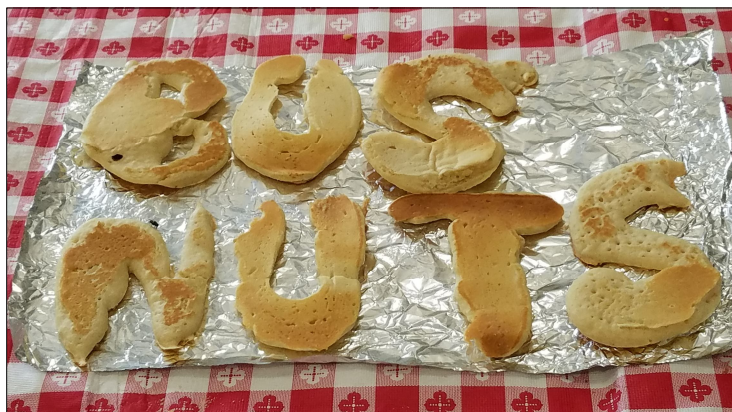
The event drew some 29 coaches, and had a proud Veteran's Day theme. We started off welcoming early arrivals on Wednesday with a roaring campfire. We sat around and told lies and munched on appetizers. Chilly but fun.

On Thursday everyone did their own thing, but that evening we all trooped into Waycross for a great seafood meal at Captain Joe's, a joint we have gone to off and on for a decade—and never a bad meal.

Friday many folks went exploring to the nearby Okefenokee Swamp, but the real highlight

was the "Soup Wars" we experienced for dinner. Four of the Showman clan served homemade soups, and many of us brought rolls, muffins, breads and crackers to accompany. The four soups were chicken noodle (John), Margaritaville chili (George), bean (June) and cabbage (Bertha). The winner was George, edging out his mother—a dangerous thing, but in reality all of the soups were hearty and delicious. There was a 50-50 drawing afterwards that netted \$100 for the Chapter and an equivalent amount for **Laurier Poirier**. Before the drawing we had an auction for a score of gifts the Showmans had secured.

Saturday afternoon provided a fun and funny golf cart race—in which the drivers were blindfolded and taking instructions from a co-pilot through a curvy course. Some dozen couples tried the course, but the winners were **Jerry** and **Rosemary Campbell**. What a hoot! Saturday was also the time of the Big Z Garage Sale, and Twin Oaks Park was awash in vendors large and small selling slightly used tools, crafts, clothes, and rare junk.



**Saturday's pancake breakfast was great, and chef George used pancake batter to create a welcoming centerpiece.**

After Saturday's delicious catered dinner of pork chops and chicken, we were entertained by Doc Thornton, a local magician who played the bagpipes and did a variety of tricks that held us all in thrall. And a second 50-50 drawing netted another \$100 for the chapter, with **Leonard Jelkren** winning the jackpot.

All-in-all, a great rally, and the Showman clan did themselves proud. Our sincere thanks to each and every one of the family who did such a nice job in planning and executing such a memorable gathering.

P.S. Because of the thrifty planning and home cooking of the Showmans, the chapter ended up in the black for the event!

# Hoboken Highlights



**A warming campfire on Wednesday night!**



**Thursday dinner out was at Captain Joe's Seafood in nearby Waycross, GA.**



**The Showmans: June, John, Bertha, George, and sitting, a likeness of the late Junior.**



**Friday began with a home-cooked Breakfast Casserole, along with juice and coffee.**



**Darlene Montesino, navigator, and husband Manny tried their luck in the golf cart race.**



**The serpentine course for the cart race was rather challenging, especially when driving blindfolded!**

# More from Hoboken



**President Bowman and his board. From left, Ron Daniels, Chas Bukoski, Bryan, Dorothy Ensley, Judy Bukoski, John Showman, and Mike Heron.**



**Pancakes and sausages, served hot and with a smile by the Showmans.**



**We were able to use the newer dining facilities at Twin Oaks... Much nicer.**



**The Thursday dinner "out" at Captain Joe's was a near sell-out. The restaurant specializes in seafood.**



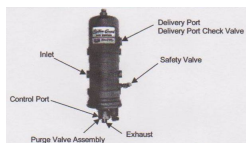
**Laurier Poirier won \$100 in Friday's 50-50 drawing.**



**Magician Doc Thornton amazes Cindy Conway with a cut-the-rope trick.**

### Aging Air Dryer = Winter Woes

Most of our buses require an air dryer to keep moisture out of the numerous tanks, valves, lines, etc. It's located on most buses between the front wheels, and when the dryer purges water it makes that distinctive SSSSH sound that one hears from large trucks and fellow buses. According to **Luke Bonagura** at US Coach the dryer cartridge, often a Bendix



AD-2, should be replaced every year or two. It's about \$50 before labor. The cartridge is filled with thousands of BB-sized metal balls of desiccant. They don't absorb water, but present more surfaces for the moisture that's naturally in compressed air to adhere to. The desiccant is purged automatically with a large burst of compressed air every 10-20 minutes of driving.

Problems can occur in cold winters when an old cartridge freezes up from prolonged outdoor storage. That means you can't release your parking brake, etc. Don't ask me how I learned this!

MH

### Wireless Brake, Turn Signals for Tow Car

Bus Nuts are borrowing a neat product from the tow truck/wrecker industry. Instead of running 20 feet of wire from their bus rear bumper to their tow vehicle to power turn signals and brake lights, some are using a bright LED light bar that receives its signals from a small radio transmitter in the bus engine compartment. No wires! The light bar has two 100 pound strength magnets to keep it in position on the roof or trunk of the tow car.



The bar needs recharging after 10 hours –just like a cell phone. It comes with a transmitter and a charge cord. Has a sending/receiving range of 1,000 feet.

Chapter VP **Craig Bowen** had one on display at the recent Hoboken rally, and he is very pleased with its durability and simplicity.

These units are not cheap, usually running over \$200.

Check out a couple of these units on the web by going to Amazon, and keying in 'wireless towing lights'.

MH

## For Sale

**From time to time members ask that buses and bus conversion-related equipment be listed for sale. If you have an item, just tell your newsletter editor.**

\***1999 Prevost**, 45 feet, Detroit Series 60 w/ Allison 6-speed. Converted by Hoffman. Tires new in 2015, batteries in 2017, air bags in 2016, and three new roof airs in 2014. Coach is all-electric w/ Aqua Hot heat and hot water, and two Trace 4000W inverters. 160 gallon combined grey/black, and 160 gal fresh water, Martin 15 kw generator. Interior is laminate throughout, private toilet, full vanity and shower in bath. Cork flooring throughout. Asking \$165,000. Contact **John Evans**, Polk City, at 717-982-1439

\*Converted **1988 MC-102 A-3** with DD 8v92 and Allison 740 transmission, with only 102K miles. Tires are one-two years old, batteries are one year old. Air bags, brakes, leveling system and exhaust all new in 2005. All-electric coach with eight house batteries, 4000 watt inverter and 12.5 K diesel generator. Beautiful oak and maple cabinetry, laminate floors. Beautiful FlexSteel furniture, and wired with satellite TV. Price \$55,000. Tow car also available. Call **Jim Conway** at 302-522-1057

Join The Southeast Bus Nuts for our

# Post New Years Rally!

January 4-7, 2018

Sun 'n Fun Campground,  
Lakeland-Linder Airport,  
Lakeland, FL.

Reg'n fee \$225. incl. three nights  
camping for one coach.

Register\* on our website

[www.sebusnuts.org](http://www.sebusnuts.org)



Important notice: The annual Arcadia Rally, formerly hosted by Bill Miller, and held the week between Christmas and New Years, is now officially **cancelled**. Make your reservations now for Lakeland, a pleasant place in central Florida.

## Preliminary rally schedule

**Thursday, January 4th**

Arrive at Sun-N-Fun campus with Dutch Treat dinner at local restaurant.

**Friday**

Friday: Cooked, hot breakfast, then lunch on your own, with a special home cooked dinner on the grounds. After dinner maybe try Lakeland's First Friday (see box) for a stroll and some fun.

**Saturday**

Full cooked Breakfast, Business Meeting following breakfast. Lunch on your own, then a fabulous Home-cooked German Dinner on site. Special night's entertainment set for after dinner!

Note: There's a large Flea Market available on Friday & Saturday in nearby Auburndale. Also, Lakeland's Downtown Farmer's Market open from 8-2 on Saturday.

**Sunday**

Coffee and doughnuts, and fond adieus

*\*Misc. info: Full hook-ups for the first 30 coaches, after that, it's dry camping. Also, additional nights are available both before and after the rally at \$30. each. See website.*



Lakeland's "First Friday" is a street festival the first Friday of each Month. Crafts, food wagons, street musicians and jugglers, etc. Great fun!



A tour of Florida's Air Museum is included with each rally registration, and is on the Sun 'n Fun campus. A jewel-box of a museum, it includes classics, ultra-lights, antiques and warbirds.

- Save the dates! -



Campground & aviation museum

## Post-New Year's Rally

Your chapter officers have reserved the camping facility on the Sun 'n Fun grounds at Lakeland-Linder Airport in Lakeland FL. The dates are **January 4-7, 2018**.

At press time, all but two of the 30 full hookup sites have been taken! Overflow dry camping is available.

## Winter 2018 Rally

Chapter President **Bryan Bowman** and VP **Craig Bowen** are currently trying to recruit a rally host for this annual winter/Valentine's weekend event.

Stay tuned as details develop.

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Member **Marty Nixon** is in negotiations for the SEBN to venture to the upscale Hilton Head Motorcoach Resort for the annual Spring Rally.

Projected dates are **May 17-20**, which is the weekend *after* Mother's Day weekend. Watch this space for further details. This marvelous resort is only one mile from the ocean, and includes a fantastic pool, manicured grounds, and well-equipped clubhouse.

<http://www.hhimotorcoachresort.com/>

## Spring 2018 Rally



HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
MOTORCOACH RESORT

## **Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership**

### Chapter Officers

President— Bryan Bowman [bbowmanga@gmail.com](mailto:bbowmanga@gmail.com)  
Vice-President—Craig Bowen [CBowen3117@gmail.com](mailto:CBowen3117@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 –George Showman [gshowman@aol.com](mailto:gshowman@aol.com)

## **Advisory Committee:**

*(in addition to Chapter Officers)*

Judy Bukoski  
Ed Fisher  
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, Charlie Bukoski and Ed Fisher. (\* 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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