

Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Winter 2017

Blast from Bryan

Hello fellow Bus Nuts and greetings from your new president. I am sincerely honored to be trusted with the privilege to be your president.

First things first. I thank you for the confidence of allowing me to serve, and for the opportunity to work with the very capable additional officers and board members of our Bus Nuts chapter.

After meeting with our Advisory Board and officers, one of my tasks is to focus on growing our membership and perhaps even expanding some member services,

all while maintaining the fun spirit, and fellowship that has blessed our Bus Nuts family for years. All your ideas and suggestions ON ANY SUBJECT are welcome and encouraged, to help assure our chapter continues to thrive for future generations of "nuts".

As we begin 2017, Suzanne and I are sad to report we were unable to attend the New Years rally at Titusville....due to the unexpected death of Suzanne's father New Years Eve....our plans took a solemn turn. Sincere thanks go out to Ed Fisher and friends for pulling off another great fun-filled rally, and to all those that took the time to participate.



Some 12 coaches came to the Great Outdoors RV Resort in Titusville for the post-New Years Rally. Past President Ed Fisher and officers hosted the event, which featured several good catered and restaurant meals, and which included a trip to the fascinating American Police Hall of Fame and Museum. See rally report and photos inside!

But the RV wheels will get to roll for us shortly, as we hope to see EVERYONE at the Ocala Sun Resort for our "Valentine" rally Feb 16-19th (see the promo in this issue). **Darlene** and **Manny Montesino** have planned a fine rally for us, and our esteemed treasurer has given us permission to "share the wealth" and let the club subsidize a good portion of this event- and entertainment-loaded rally. Hope we will get to see more of our Bus Nuts family.

As I wrap up my first president's message, fully aware that we all have endured enough political "messages" this last election season to last us a while, I hope that I

can count on all of my fellow Bus Nuts and ask a little favor from each of you....grab your membership directory, (or check it out) and pick up the phone and call one member we may not have visited with in a while.

Let them know they are important to us, and we MISS them. Thanks for being a member, and feel free to reach me anytime at (770)231-3606.

Bryan Bowman, President

See pages 2 and 8 for details on the upcoming Winter/Valentine's Bus Rally

Arcadia Rally Report

This Arcadia rally was different, but a nice relaxing time. Since the official Bus Nuts Post-New Years Rally was so close in time, there was no effort to gather up the SEBN members who were there.

Rally host **Bill Miller** announced he will host it again next year. The weather was just about perfect, except for a couple of nights that were a bit chilly. The entertainment was outdoors which was way better for the sound quality but the chilly temperatures made it hard to judge whether the visible listening audience (as opposed to those who were in their coaches listening) would have been bigger.

Good food and a tremendous variety of buses (about 90 or so) to look over and visit with.

SEBN members who attended the large Arcadia rally were **Ray & Denise Aldridge, Herb Bates & Reen Kukon, Howard & Ellen Best, Jack & Jackie Campbell, Kevin & Camellia Clark, Ed & Anke Fisher, Leonard & Pam Jelkren, Kirby & Linda Karlsson, Lou & Rennea Kirk, Al & Candy Kline, Andy & Anna Metro, Bill Miller & Tisha Howard, Gene & Jeannie Russell, Norm & Maureen Scanapico, Ken Siems & Pam Maichuk, Steve Siems & Harriet Chaires, Lowell & Betty Snyder, and Jim & Bonnie Walters.** Some ex-members were there too, including Don & Sharon Wilson and Tony & Sandy Manna.

By **Judy Bukoski**

Titusville Rally Report

The rally was held at The Great Outdoors rally park in Titusville. The park was a large concrete area, marked off in campsites, each with water and 30 amp electrical, and a dump site at the side.

We had access to all of the many amenities of the facility, and everyone said the format of the rally was great, even though we did not have full time use of the pavilion, as it was pretty heavily scheduled. We had it for two breakfasts, two dinners and the business meeting. Chef Howard Best prepared delicious French Toast and sausage for Saturday's breakfast in the pavilion. Management at The Great Outdoors was extremely helpful.

Weather was great except Saturday, when a rainy cold front moved through. Fortunately, that was the day for our field trip to the American Police Hall Of Fame, which was indoors. The tour was included in the rally fee, and reports say the site was fascinating, with many exhibits chronicling the

advances in police skill and technology. Another highlight was a group dinner over at Dixie Crossroads, a famous seafood joint that was excellent as always!

There were 12 coaches at the rally: **Ed & Anke Fisher, Charlie & Judy Bukoski, Howard & Ellen Best, Gerald & Dorothy Ensley, Andy & Anna Metro, Jack & Jackie Campbell, Jerry & Rosemary Campbell, Lowell & Betty Snyder, Mike & Joan Fryer, Jim & Cindy Conway, Cal Arter, and Craig Bowen.**

By **Ed Fisher**

Great Plans Afoot for Valentine's Rally!

A great rally is planned for February 17th-19th! **Manny & Darlene Montesino and Bryan & Suzanne Bowman** have put together an event- and entertainment-packed rally. The location of this gathering is right off I-75, exit 341, Rte 484 near the popular Ocala area, at the Ocala Sun Resort. They have grouped us



Plans for the rally include a glass bottom boat tour of crystal clear Silver Springs Park.

all together in spaces on "rally row" right beside the clubhouse and in the center of the action of the resort. Arrive at the rally early on Thursday Feb. 16th and join us for Dutch Treat at the eclectic Stump-Knockers on the River.....

Friday we will have a light breakfast and then the group will enjoy an included and personalized 90 minute glass-bottom boat ride at the beautiful Silver Springs park. The Bus Nuts have exclusive use of the clubhouse for our diners Friday and Saturday nights. Friday night is a catered meal by the award winning Mojoes Restaurant fajita bar treat, followed by a few rounds of BINGO with some great prizes and gift cards.

Saturday morning starts off with a yummy

(Cont'd)

Ocala/Valentine's, Cont'd

pancake and sausage breakfast, a short business meeting, then there are options: the guys can tour



the nearby Big Daddy Don Garlits Drag Race Museum which is included in the price of the rally. This is

much more than just dragsters. Tour three to four large buildings filled with all kind of racing, hotrod, and antique automotive memorabilia.

For the ladies we have made reservations at the posh Ivy House Restaurant for a delicious lunch in a beautiful atmosphere, and then enjoy a fun painting class at Painting with a Twist. (Lunch will be Dutch treat, but the painting class is included in

the rally fee!) The menu lists salads in the \$10.00 range, and sandwiches in the \$9.00 to about \$11.00 range. Ladies please know



The Ivy House—a dining treat!

that you are welcome to tour Don Garlits if you prefer.

For Saturday night a delicious, fully catered Sonny's Barbeque chicken dinner is included, followed by a sensational national tour duo called The Old Hippies. This group is sure to offer song and dance memories for every generation of us older teenagers.

Sunday wraps up with continental breakfast and goodbyes.

Make plans to join us for this fun and feature filled rally. **All for a very low \$185. rally fee (camping fees included!)** Lots to do in this central Florida area, tour the magnificent horse farms, kayak a crystal spring creek, take in an airboat swamp ride, and much more.

Any questions? Contact Darlene Montesino at darlenemarie02@gmail.com

Secretary's Report

I submitted the annual report to FMCA of SEBN officers and the full SEBN membership roster, as required.

Respectfully submitted, **Ron Daniels**

Treasurer's Report

Charlie Bukoski has reported that the current chapter balance, after payment of all recent Titusville rally expenses and camping, totals \$6,435.

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 | 27 |
| Arcadia Rally 2016 (no general meeting) | 18 |
| Post-New Year's Rally 2017 (Titusville) | 12 |
| Valentine's Rally 2017 | ? |

Registered so far for Winter/Valentine's Rally:

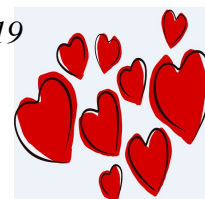
Charlie & Judy Bukoski, Mike & Carol Heron, John & Tara Mellis, Steve Siems & Harriet Chaires, Ken Siems & Pam Maichuk, Tom & Karen Hamrick, Ed & Anke Fisher, Herb Bates & Reen Kukon, Manny & Darlene Montesino (our hosts), Marty Nixon, and Jesus & Donna Orsorio. Also, planning to attend: Howard & Ellen Best, Jack & Jackie Campbell, Bryan & Suzanne Bowman, and many others!

Ocala Sun Resort, February 17-19

Only \$185 inclusive of camping

www.sebusnuts.org

Click rally button



Arcadia Photos



SEBN member Gene Russell, left, discusses his vintage (1948) GM 3741 with Arcadia organizer and fellow Bus Nut Bill Miller.



Buses of every vintage made the trip to Arcadia—almost 90 coaches. The weather was mild and sunny during the days, and a bit nippy in the evening.

Thanks to **Linda Karlsson** for the photos on this page!



There was outdoor musical entertainment on two nights at the Arcadia rally, and heat lamps helped with the chill.



SEBN members and non-members alike met and renewed old acquaintances. The days were pleasant and the sunsets were spectacular!



About 185 busin' enthusiasts attended the 16th annual Arcadia gathering. The indoor facilities were comfortable and conducive to visiting.



From left, Ellen and Howard Best of Kingston, GA, Andy Metro of Venice, FL, and Kirby Karlsson on the golf cart, from Hollywood, FL.

Titusville Photos

Thanks to the Bukoskis for these photos!



Anke Fisher and Gerald Ensley, foreground, represent members who may have traveled the farthest (Gerald) and the shortest (Anke) distances.

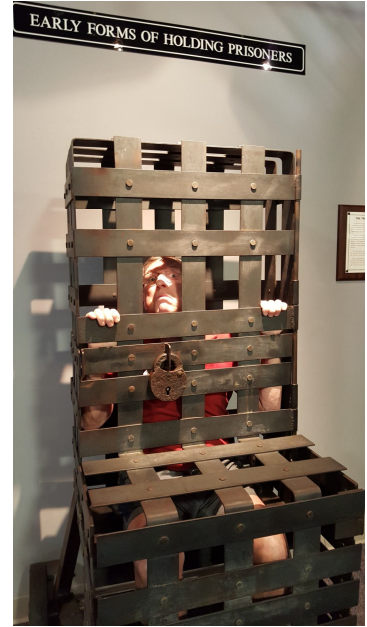


Newer members Mike & Joan Fryer's 45 foot VanHool coach pulled a 25 foot trailer! The Fryers live in Belleaire Bluffs, Florida.



The American Police Hall of Fame was a fascinating tour for rally attendees, and admission was included in the rally fee!

If you look hard you'll see past president and current treasurer Charlie Bukoski in this 'lock-down' prisoner chair, on display at the Police Museum. Charlie looks uncomfortable.



Not to be outdone, advisory board member and past Secretary Judy Bukoski wears a SWAT vest as she coordinates a hostage rescue at the top of a high rise (also at the Police Museum).



From, left, Jackie Campbell, Jerry Campbell, Jack Campbell, and, on the right, Cindy and Jim Conway.



More From Titusville



Diners at Dixie Crossroads enjoyed private seating and a very inexpensive dinner with several seafood offerings.



All of the coaches were able to fit into the cozy rally park at sprawling The Great Outdoors RV, Nature and Golf Resort in Titusville, FL.



Awning-to-awning: lots of time to visit during the days and late afternoons at the Post-New Years Rally.



Yes, those are coats on the backs of chairs. The rally weather was great except for one day of chilly rain.

For Sale

Occasionally members ask to have some bus-related parts and equipment listed for sale. There is no charge for a listing; just send an e-mail to your editor, mikeheron@bellsouth.net

Eagle Model 05, fully converted by BB Coach of California in 2001, includes 14 kW gen, large holding tanks, DD 8v71 with Allison 5-speed, awnings, and a 14" roof raise. Asking \$12,000. Contact Luther or Debbie Delp at DDNiteOwl@aol.com or ph 904-641-0392 in Jacksonville.

Blue Ox folding tow bar for sale for \$50.00 and a Remco Driveshaft Disconnect Unit for a Chevy S10, for \$50.00. Jim Conway at 352-522-1057 or conwayje13@gmail.com

Heavy-duty 50 amp shore cord. 4 wire, 25 feet in length, with molded male plug. Contact grammie_60@bellsouth.net \$25.00 Also two standard side mirrors, black, for MCI MC-8-9-102. \$20.00 for the pair.

Motorized handicap boost seat, to enable a disabled person to get up into the bus from street level. This was Junior Showman's seat, and Bertha would like it to go to a worthy and needy recipient. For details, contact Bertha at ph. 904-553-5208

Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems

Several SEBN members have tire pressure systems (TPMS) on their coaches – on six to eight tires! - and some of these have also added it to their tow vehicle. There are after-market systems that allow the driver to monitor as many as 12 tires while rolling down the road, or for that matter, before setting out on a trip. These after-market systems usually come in two configurations. The more common and least expensive consists of pressure sensors on each tire valve stem. Member **Howard Best**, former member Jack Conrad, and Nick Russell, editor of *The Gypsy Journal*, have used this version. One said, “The first time you avoid a blowout due to low tire pressure on either the bus or the tow, the system will have paid for itself.”



The Tire Traker external system is a popular unit among some Bus Nuts. Its

the metal rim. **Charlie Bukoski** and **Lloyd Ebling** use one of these “internal” sender systems called “Tire Safe”.

Both systems send to a monitor screen up near the driver that pinpoints the air pressure and sometimes the temperature of each tire. In the event of a high reading an alarm will sound.

There are plusses and minuses to either type. On the valve stem application, the small batteries on each sender are easier to change. But when battery changeover time comes in the internal system, each tire has to be removed.

On the other hand, the less expensive external senders are more subject to mechanical damage, aggressive fluids, and theft. Both systems may send a false low pressure alarm when starting out in cooler weather, due to the effect low temperatures have on tire air pressure.

Folks who have these systems think they are a good safety investment. Aside from warning of a blow-out, tire pressure surveillance can result in better fuel mileage and longer tire life.

Factory installation of TPMS on new US cars became mandatory starting in 2008.

Dash Video Camera Systems

Going down the road, how many times have we, as Bus Nuts, had another motorist pull in front of us and stop short? It happens frequently, and unfortunately in some cases the motorist causes an accident, either a crunched car bumper or much, much worse. In some of these cases the motorist will cast blame on the Bus Nut, saying we were following too closely, etc. His word against ours, and often in the eyes of the policeman taking the report, the larger vehicle is automatically at fault.

Or how about this? We are all set up in a campground, perhaps a corner lot, and we go off to Cracker Barrel for the early bird. We return to find that another RVer has taken the corner too closely and has crunched your front bumper. No note and no witnesses. Hello \$500 deductible.

Or this nasty situation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TgXTw1pvw0>

For these reasons and others RVers are starting to employ a “Dash Cam” to protect themselves against liability and wrongful claims, and to provide a measure of security when we are away from our coach. A related reason, far down the priority scale, is to document an especially beautiful trip to share later with friends, etc.

Fortunately the price has come way down on some of the better dedicated units—about \$50. will get you a unit that has sharp lens resolution (read that escaping license plate!), the ability to ‘save’ important encounters and otherwise erase every 8-12 hours, and good day *and* night recording. **Charlie Bukoski** is very satisfied with his Garmin dash cam, which constantly documents his vehicle speed, and records off its own battery when he is parked and away from his MC-8.



**\$39.00 -
\$259.00**

Experts caution against using the highly respected GoPro video camera or using the video function of a Smartphone to serve as a dash cam. These units do not record on a loop, and will quickly fill their data capacity or chip. They are also too pricey to leave in plain sight on your dash or windshield when away from the coach. For a review of some of the best buys in dedicated dash cams, check it out: <http://www.popularmechanics.com/cars/how-to/g9/5-dash-cams-tested/>

Winter Rally—Ocala Sun RV Resort

February 16-19, 2017



Located just west of I-75, exit #341, in south Ocala.

This rally is a great bargain. **The fee of \$185. is inclusive of camping, several meals, and several tourist attractions.** The fee is subsidized by the chapter treasury. This is a very nice RV resort that makes special arrangements for rallies. We will all be grouped together and have exclusive use of the recently remodeled clubhouse.

Rally schedule:

Thursday, the 16th

Dutch treat dinner at StumpKnockers on the River, on the banks of the Withlacoochee River in nearby Dunnellon.

Friday

Breakfast at the resort.

Glass bottom boat tour of fabulous Silver Springs Park.

Dinner in clubhouse catered by Mojoes Fajjita Bar.

After dinner entertainment: Bingo with prizes and gift cards.

Saturday

Pancake and sausage breakfast at the resort.

Free tour of Don Garlits Drag Race Museum.

-or-

Ladies' Dutch treat lunch at posh Ivy House, followed by free painting class at Painting with a Twist.

Dinner in the clubhouse is catered by Sonny's Barbeque, featuring BBQ chicken and all the fixin's.

Entertainment following dinner: The Old Hippies, on a national tour. This duo will really take you down memory lane!

Sunday

Continental breakfast and fond adieus



The Don Garlits museum is a must for all motor-heads and bus nuts!



Ocala is famous for its thoroughbred breeding and horse farms.



Silver Springs State Park is home to crystal clear waters.

To register, go to our chapter website www.sebusnuts.org and click on the rally button. Choose to pay either with a credit card or PayPal. Done! If you would prefer to send a check, make it out for **only \$185.** payable to SE Bus Nuts, and mail to Treasurer, 5337 N Socrum Loop Road, Box 203, Lakeland, Florida 33809.

- Save the dates! -

John and **Tara Mellis** have agreed to host the next Spring Rally, and they aim to take us to Mayberry Campground in Mt Airy, NC, about 100 miles due north of Charlotte. Maybe an Andy Griffith sighting? John hopes to link our rally to one with lots of Eagles from the international group.

Rally dates: May 11-14, 2017

Spring Rally



Autumn/Halloween Rally



Twin Oaks Bluegrass Park, Hoboken, GA

We will return for the second year in a row to the traditional site of the annual SEBN Halloween Rally. Our Hosts will be **George, John and Bertha Showman**. Dates are October 26-29th. Watch this site for additional details! Our recent rally there after a year's absence drew 27 coaches.

New hosts for 2016-17, **Bill Miller** and **Tisha Howard**, drew close to 100 coaches to the traditional Arcadia, FL site, including some 18 SEBN members. Bill is fully onboard to doing it again for the 2017 holiday season. Likely dates are December 28-31st.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for additional information and details.

New Year's Rally



Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers

President— Bryan Bowman bbowmanga@gmail.com

Vice-President—Craig Bowen CBowen3117@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

Ed Fisher

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

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 Bryan Bowman, President
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