

Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Blast from Bryan

I am hoping this message finds you all doing well and enjoying the changing leaves and fall temperatures.

First order of business for this writing is to express sincere appreciation for the fine job done by **Craig and Beverly Bowen** and friends at our fall rally in Dillard Ga. Craig has been cooking up a storm at the last few rallies and has WORKED himself into our next chapter President. For those unable to attend our last rally, the nominating committee put forth the slate of officers as listed in the Secretary's Report, next page.

As my term as president expires, I want to send out a huge sincere thank you to all those that worked on our board, committees, and advisory council to help make our group great....with the new faces coming in and the continuity of those that have been serving, I am certain our chapter is in good hands for continued growth and leadership.

What did your outgoing president get done? May the Bus Nuts history record that I enjoyed and was honored to be asked to be your president. Going back to changes in our own rules that allowed my coach, (a commercially made RV) not a converted coach, to be a Bus Nut member, to my emotional presentation of our 1st annual Presidents award, the Bukoski trophy.....I am hopeful

some of the things we achieved will be beneficial to members for decades.

As my term winds down, I can not go without saying my heart is still heavy with the passing of our beloved **Charlie Bukoski**. Charlie was one of the hardest working GENTLEMEN in our organization, serving twice as our chapter president, twice as Treasurer and many other board and committee positions, including webmaster.



President Bryan Bowman presents a special plaque to Judy Bukoski in honor of her late husband, Charlie, and his many contributions to our chapter. (See p. 3)

It is in this memory of giving back and promoting our SE Bus Nuts that I asked the board to approve the annual "President's Award". The idea is that the current president may, at their sole discretion, recognize an individual or family members, that have contributed to the goodwill of our chapter by awarding the Bukoski trophy. Hopefully, this will allow the hard work and memory of our passed brother to continue to thrive in spirit over the years. Craig already has his eye on a few well qualified candidates. And it's easy to qualify, just be a worker bee for YOUR Bus Nuts chapter!

Peace, good health, love and safe travels to all in our Bus Nuts family. Suzanne and I will miss you in January as we travel back to Arizona for a winter trip, but we will see you in April at Palmetto Cove. Make your plans now to join us.

For now I thank you for allowing me to serve, and I bid you a fond farewell.

Your President, **Bryan Bowman**

Secretary's Report and Minutes

The annual meeting of the South East Bus Nuts (SEBN) was called to order by President **Bryan Bowman** at River Vista Resort Campground at 9:20 AM Saturday, October 6th.

A round of applause was given to Vice President **Craig Bowen** and wife **Beverly** for hosting the rally. Chaplain Beverly Bowman led us in prayer, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

President Bowman informed the chapter of current vacancies on the board: Treasurer, Webmaster and Nominating Committee Chairman due to the untimely death of our beloved **Charlie Bukoski**. A discussion was held on term vacancy protocols, as per by-laws and SEBN rules.

Ron Daniels gave the Secretary's report: 65 active members (56 regular and 9 honorary). He stated he will be filing required documentation to re-certify SEBN Chapter with FMCA for 2019.

President Bowman presented the financial report, in the treasurer's absence. We have a bank balance of \$11,112.38. *before* any River Vista rally expenses are paid. The Chapter is working to close our Bank of America account and open a new one, as well as change the PayPal account.

President Bowman stated that the late Webmaster's business partner will assist with the website in the interim. Member **Linda Karlsson** was recruited to assist. The website is utilized to reach out to potential new members, renew dues, maintain member contacts, post and pay rally fees, post up-coming rally attendees, order name tags, show member photos, past rally photos, business minutes history, rally host guide, rules and by-laws, and is our chapter lifeline.

After the passing of our past President and Nominating Committee Chair Charlie Bukoski, the Nominating committee consists of **Mike Heron** and **Bryan Bowman**. Mike reported on the committee's recommended slate of officers for a two year term beginning January 1, 2019: **Craig Bowen**, President; **Manny Montesino**, Vice President; **Ron Daniels**, Secretary; **Beverly Bowen**, Treasurer; **George Showman**, National FMCA Delegate and **Darlene Montesino**, Chaplain. President Bowman made a motion seconded by **Herb Bates** to accept the nominations. The motion passed unanimously. Per SEBN bylaws, the new President will appoint committee chairs and an

advisory board.

Darlene and **Manny Montesino** updated us on the workings of the chapter's Facebook page. They shared plans to post rally pictures and feature member coaches. This is our fastest method to share news and activity of the chapter business. Members are asked to post information, pictures on our travels, bus news, grandbabies, sickness, etc

The chapter recognized outgoing Chaplain **Beverly Bowman** for 20 years of outstanding spiritual service and guidance to SEBN.

Incoming President **Craig Bowen** reported our next rally will be held on January 3-6, 2019 at the Great Outdoors resort at Titusville, Fl. It will be hosted by **Ray** and **Denise Aldridge**. The Spring rally, set for this April 11-14, will be at Palmetto Cove in Cleveland, SC and will be hosted by **Kyle Brandt** and **Mike Heron**. President Bowman encouraged members to step up and host future rallies. He stated our primary existence is to hold rallies! To make it easier on the Hosts: The "SEBN Rally Hosting Guide" is posted on the Website.

Vice President **Craig Bowen** reported on details and showed actual examples of new embroidered clothing. He stated an embroidered SEBN logo will be done on your clothing for \$18.00 or buy an embroidered patch for \$23.00.

A discussion occurred on establishing a chapter policy on refunding rally cancellation fees. This was tabled to allow for SEBN board discussion.

Linda Karlsson made a motion that future interim board and committee vacancies be filled by the SEBN Executive Board. This passed unanimously.

President Bowman informed members of the Executive Board decision that each year the chapter President at his / her sole discretion may award to any single or family member in good standing the "Bukoski" trophy in recognition of outstanding service, volunteerism, or leadership. The trophy will be awarded at the Fall "homecoming" rally.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Ron Daniels, Secretary

Treasury Report: Once the money from Bank of America is transferred into our new account at Bank of the Ozarks, and refunds and remaining monies owed have been paid, the balance in the PayPal and checking accounts will be \$5,784.86.

Beverly Bowen, Treasurer-elect



Dillard Rally Recap

Thanks to all the members who came to the fall rally and made it such a success. We registered 29 coaches and one cabin for the event. It was great to see such long-timers as the Bowmans, Coxes, Bests and Ensleys attend.

We were blessed with perfect blue sky weather, which made visiting the many local waterfalls and attractions very enjoyable. The local tourism representative was most helpful in pointing out highlights of the area, and I would encourage anyone hosting a rally to employ these types of free services.

Hopefully everyone had a chance to visit Osage Farms, just down the road, they were a great source for the fresh vegetables and fruit for our meals.



Darlene and Manny on their 3rd bowl of homemade ice cream. Yummy!

Thank you, **George Showman** for your early morning support and to all who jumped in to help Bev and me peel apples, wash potatoes, make ice cream and assist with serving and clean-up, couldn't have done it without all of your help!

Thanks to **Mike Heron** for the Night at the Races, just plain fun!

I have been wanting to host a rally and cook for you all for quite some time, it was a true pleasure.

Craig Bowen, Host and President-Elect

More on the rally...

Craig is too modest to take full credit, but here is an observer's comments on how well planned and executed this autumn rally was...

All the cooked meals were superb, and the fresh ingredients were outstanding, like the fresh tomatoes and mozzarella with basil and olive oil.

The singer-guitar player on Saturday played all the right songs, and really had the audience going. "The Joe Show."

The gourd painting craft class on Saturday with a professional instructor from the area was much appreciated.

Craig outdid himself on Friday and Saturday at the huge charcoal grill he borrowed from a local bank. Chicken breasts one night and rib-eye steaks the next. Perfectly BBQed!

M.H.

Celebration of Life for Charlie B

On Saturday of the rally, an informal memorial service was held in honor of our fallen member and leader, Charlie Bukoski. It was well attended, and several people shared their reminiscences. There were laughs and tears.

Mike Heron said, "Charlie was our only two-term president (four years!), our Treasurer for the last four years, and he dragged us kicking and screaming into the 21st century by embracing technology. He discouraged folks paying cash for dues or registering for rallies or God Forbid, using a check, insisting on credit cards and PayPal. Charlie was averse to almost all forms of paper. He materially upgraded our website to make it easier for people to register for rallies, and at the same time, see who else had already registered. He insisted on sending the chapter's newsletter out with e-mail – cheaper and faster. He once said 'We can't let our organization's progress be held hostage by a few dinosaurs!'"



Howard Best spoke about his admiration for Charlie's refusal to let his vigorous chemo regimen interfere in the slightest way with his volunteer obligations, his work on his bus, or his trips out in the bus.

Ed Fisher admired Charlie's meticulous care for his coach, even while sick, and recognized his background in aircraft mechanics and his strict maintenance and safety schedules.

George Showman recalled how easy it was as a rally chair to work with Charlie as chapter president. He was supportive and low-key, and stressed the fun aspect of our gatherings.

Pamela Jelkren shared a poem that she wrote when she first heard of Charlie's passing. In it she talked about Charlie's gift as a communicator, and suggested that his constant smile was perhaps his best communication advantage.

Bryan Bowman announced the creation of the Bukoski Award for the volunteer in the chapter who does the most to advance the organization. He also presented **Judy Bukoski** an engraved plaque that honored him. It reads, "Presented in grateful appreciation for his visionary leadership, his resolute advancement of technology, and his warm friendship to both newcomers and long time members."

Dillard, GA Rally Highlights



River Vista was a very pretty park, beautifully maintained, and our coaches were centrally gathered.



On the first night we literally took over the Dillard Café, for some real home cookin', including fried green tomatoes.



The activity center had a very complete kitchen, and we had plenty of counter help, including Beverly Bowen, left, and Beverly Bowman. Ellen Best looks on.



Our rally host, Craig Bowen, grilled 55 rib eyes at one time on Saturday, and they were done to order!



The advisory board met late into the night Thursday, coping with treasurer and website issues.



Bus Nut ladies were treated to a crafts class that taught gourd painting. Here Judy Bukoski is aided by the instructor.



More from Dillard



Many rally goers visited the Foxfire expo in Dillard Saturday afternoon: George Showman, left, with Darlene and Manny Montesino and Dexter and Gwendolyn Wingfield.



Two hot breakfasts and two home cooked dinners kept attendees happy and well fed.



Ed Fisher, left, showed off his vintage MG-TD replica to Lou Kirk.



At the Saturday board meeting, Secretary Ron Daniels reported on current chapter membership.



Craig Bowen, left, was elected Chapter president, and received the 'gavel' from outgoing leader Bryan Bowman.



New Chapter officers: Manny Montesino, Vice President, Darlene Montesino, Chaplain, Craig Bowen, President, Beverly Bowen, Treasurer, George Showman, FMCA delegate, and Ron Daniels, Secretary.

And Two More Rally Pix!



“Mom, thanks for serving as our SE Bus Nuts chaplain for the past 20 years. Your inspirational messages of positive thinking, belief in God and his blessings, and being a better person to others have been appreciated. You have done an outstanding job as chaplain and presented the messages professionally and graciously. Thanks for a job well done.”

Bryan Bowman

January Rally in Titusville Shaping Up

Our post New Year’s Rally will be in Titusville Florida, Jan. 3-6. It will kick-off SEBN’s 30th season!

Ray and Denise Aldridge will be hosting the event at the Great Outdoors RV Resort. The Aldridges have planned an outing to the Jungle Adventures Wildlife Park. This is a real Florida animal park, the natural habitat jungle home of the rare Florida panther, black bears, wolves, white-tailed deer, tropical birds, reptiles, and other critters. Sounds like a wild time!

Thursday is a Dutch Treat dinner at Dixie Crossroads, a Bus Nut favorite serving seafood and land-lover fare. Friday, the officers will be spreading out the newspaper for a low country boil. Saturday, we will be enjoying a catered sit-down dinner at the resort’s Blue Heron Restaurant. No hints on the menu, however Denise and Chef Larry are working hard on the tasty event.

The Titusville area is loaded with nearby adventures, from the Kennedy Space Center, Merritt Island Natural Wildlife Refuge, Fort Christmas, dog racing, the list goes on and on.

Throw in all the above, plus three nights of camping, a couple of breakfasts and you have a real deal at \$195.00 per coach.

Registration will be open soon. The chapter is in the final stages of completing the website links. Mark your calendars; we will send out a notice as soon as completed!



Kevin Clark found time at the rally to change out the tired batteries in his 1990 Prevost.

Road Fixes and other challenges

Long time members **Jack and Jackie Campbell** were driving to the rally but only got 25 miles from home when a bad air leak developed in their service brake valve. No replacement valve was immediately available, so they had to return to Polk City.

Leonard and Pam Jelkren had cooling issues on his way up from Oviedo, FL but Len worked on his radiators at the rally and got the issue corrected.

Several members overcame mechanical trouble on the way home. **Denise Aldridge** reported: “**Kevin and Camilla Clark** had a blow out on his car trailer that damaged his bus tail lights... and Ray and I were traveling south on I-75 somewhere between Atlanta and Macon when the bus engine shut down just like that. No warning, no alarms, just complete shut down. Ray pulled over, changed into a work shirt, got his test light out and went to troubleshooting. Within 15 minutes we were back on the road, southbound once again. We had lost our 12 volts going to the ECM on the engine. Ray borrowed 12 volts from another source.”

And **Manny and Darlene Montesino** developed differential and miter box problems on his Eagle, and had to drop the bus at JB’s Eagle Classic Coach in Bushnell FL for some heavy repair.

As **Ray Aldridge** always says, “Smooth water doesn’t make for a good sailor!”

Experienced 2-stroke mechanics

Good mechanics who can work on our venerable DD two-stroke engines are getting harder and harder to find. And when you need one, you really really need one! All it takes is a broken injector, a bad turbo, a cracked exhaust manifold, a loss of fuel prime, etc. and you could be high and dry.

The following is an incomplete list of tried and true independent shops/mechanics, most of whom have helped me in my travels along the eastern seaboard. Contact me with any additional ones, and I will update the list.

Central Florida Bus Repair, Lakeland, FL. Member John Silver has a couple of very good mechanics for both 2-strokes and electronic engines. Phone 863-445-8155

Eagle Classic Coach, Bushnell, FL. JB (John Batten) will actually come to you if you are reasonably close, and he has helped several BusNuts recently. Phone 352-470-3535.

Coach Services (Ray Cox and Dexter Wingfield) Gay, GA— an hour south of Atlanta. Part time but very knowledgeable, and a great source of parts. Phone (770) 927-9894.

ChooChoo Express Garage, Prater Road, Rossville, GA just south of Chattanooga, TN. (just off I-75). Ask for Joel. Great for brakes, rack adjustments, etc. 706-891-1242.

Gene Russell Garage, Mill Spring, NC, about an hour north of Spartanburg SC, off I-26. Although out in the countryside, these guys are experts in the older buses. Gene is a former SEBN member. Phone 828-863-2102 .

US Coach and Equipment Sales, Mill Road, Vineland NJ. Owner Luke Bonagura and ace mechanic Bill Miller know everything about our two-strokes and our coaches. Many Bus Nuts have been helped at 'Camp Luke'. 856-794-3104.

Once again, if you can add to this list based on your personal experience and satisfaction, please e-mail me: mikeheron@bellsouth.net

FMCAssist Program

SEBN members are reminded of this service that is *included* in your FMCA membership fees. If you are traveling more than 100 miles from home, it covers emergency medical evacuation/repatriation, return of dependents, pets, bus conversion/tow car, and even return of mortal remains.

SEBN members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the terms of this beneficial aspect of FMCA membership. This policy has recently helped a SEBN member. To learn more, visit this site:

www.FMCA.sevencorners.com/fmca

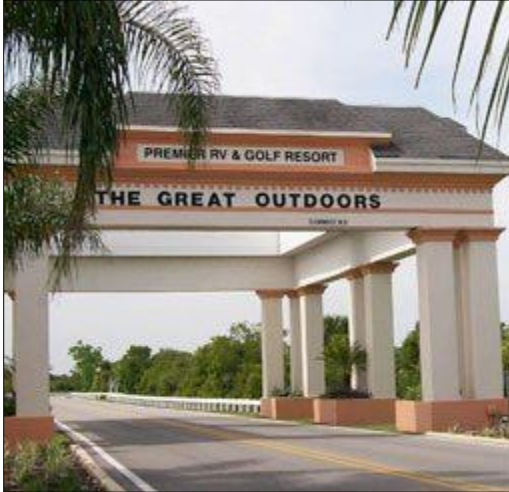
For Sale

1978 MCI. 8V-92 Detroit w/4 speed auto and Jake Brake. 10KW Powertech generator, Webasto hydronic heating throughout, basement air. Satellite equipped, 2 TVs plus amplifier, DVD player, and speakers throughout. Finished in Miami/Tropical colors. Meticulously maintained by aircraft mechanic/owner. Includes all parts and maintenance manuals. Beautifully maintained interior. Ready to roll. Asking \$45,000

O.B.O. Phone Judy at: 863-670-3993 or E-mail: Judy@bukoski.net



- Save the dates! -



Post New-Years Rally

Ray and Denise Aldridge are hosting this winter's rally at The Great Outdoors RV Resort in Titusville, FL. Dates are **January 3-6, 2019**. It's a fascinating RV destination with access to the Kennedy Space Center and the fabulous Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Check out the resort:

<https://www.tgoresort.com/>

See p. 6 for preliminary details and reg. fee.

Spring 2019 Rally

Kyle Brandt and Past President **Mike Heron** are teaming up to bring our spring rally back to beautiful Palmetto Cove Campground in Cleveland, SC. Dates are **April 11-14**. Stay tuned for more info.



Autumn 2019 Rally

President Elect **Craig Bowen** is actively looking for volunteers to host the annual "homecoming rally" of the Chapter. Past locations have included Hoboken, GA, Brunswick, GA and Dillard GA but the location could be anywhere in the south!

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Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers

President— Bryan Bowman bbowmanga@gmail.com
Vice-President—Craig Bowen CBowen3117@gmail.com
Treasurer-elect -Beverly Bowen Bbowen300250@gmail.com
Secretary—Ron Daniels ncrealauctions@frontier.com
FMCA Nat'l Dir –George Showman gshowman@aol.com

Advisory Committee:

(in addition to Chapter Officers)

Judy Bukoski
Ed Fisher
Mike Heron
Vicky Cates
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
5715 Hwy 85 N, Crestview, FL
32536

