

Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Summer 2018

Blast from Bryan

Greetings fellow Bus Nuts, I hope this latest newsletter has you feeling well and out and about enjoying some great scenic summer beauty. Well, we have put another successful rally in the books.

Marty Nixon and **Kaydee Black** pulled off a spectacular rally at an equally spectacular RV resort during our May rally. Kudos and atta-girls go to the planning and helpful hands that made the Hilton Head rally a great success! We enjoyed seeing old friends, welcoming some new members and invited guests into our fun and fellowship.

To all that planned, contributed, cleaned, and showed up, a big Thank You! from your president for your participation. Speaking of rallies, our VP **Craig Bowen** and his lovely bride Beverly are our hosts for our next rally in the fall, in the beautiful, cool, north Georgia foothill mountains of Dillard GA. Be sure to see the details in this issue and definitely make plans to be in Dillard in October.



Most of the registrants for the Hilton Head rally showed up for meatball subs at poolside on Thursday night.

Some Bus Nuts business coming out of Hilton Head is the unanimous nomination of **Manny Montesino** as our new incoming VP beginning Jan 2019. As everybody knows, Manny is a true Bus Nut in sooo many descriptions, from the love and knowledge of buses, engines and their systems, to what I believe is his best quality, and that is his friendly, outgoing, WELCOMING, personality. I'm sure there is not a member that can say they have not always been greeted with a smile by Manny and felt welcomed to the Bus Nut family. Congrats friend, we look

forward to having you on the board. And the two-for-one benefit of your appointment is Darlene at your side. What a team! (psst....I have it from reliable resources that these two are already working on some good times in the near future for us)

As for Suzanne and I, this summer is keeping us close to home, as we convert the "Landing Pad" to include a new stick-built home. Yes, after six years of fulltime roaming, loving and enjoying this North American continent, we have decided to put some sticks and mortar together

to see what a couple of thousand square feet living is like again. I might build a closet big enough to accommodate all these t-shirts I've collected from towns and attractions we have visited over the years. We will post pics on our SEBN Facebook® site. Oh wait, you have not joined our group yet? Well, get in on the fun from your Facebook acct. look up SE(space) Bus Nuts, and ask to join. Then, share your summer with the rest of us. And you can go directly to our Facebook site from our SEBN website!

Thanks to all who make our little group of busers a great fellowship. But we need your participation. Please consider hosting a rally, or taking a board office. It's not a lot of work or time consuming commitment. Fresh faces, new blood, great ideas and teamwork are the backbone of our continued success as a group of like-minded families.

Hope to see you soon. As always, if anything is on your mind that would help us to be a better organization, please feel free to reach me on my cell: 770-231-3606.

Your President, **Bryan Bowman**

Secretary’s Report and Minutes

A general meeting of the membership of the Southeast Bus Nuts was convened on Hilton Head Island by President **Bryan Bowman** on Saturday morning May 19, 2018.

It was announced that the rally was planned and conducted by **Marty Nixon** and **Kay-dee Black**, assisted by **Craig Bowen**, **Mike Heron** and others. A hearty round of applause was given to the organizers for putting on a wonderful rally.

Bowman summarized issues undertaken since the October Hoboken rally: **Darlene Montesino** was breathing new life into the chapter’s Facebook® page. The chapter had voted, in light of a cramped winter calendar, to go to three rallies per year instead of four, with the late winter (Valentine’s) rally being dropped. It was also decided that henceforth a rally



VP Craig Bowen’s MCI DL3 looked right at home in the lush foliage of Hilton Head Island Motorcoach resort.

host will be exempt from the rally fee, along with an allowance for two additional nights camping for make-ready and clean up. Another voted change was to allow the chapter president to attend one of the two annual FMCA conventions exempt from the registration fees, as an incentive.

The chapter Secretary reported that we have 64 active members (54 regular and 10 honorary). It was acknowledged that membership is down due to several folks not renewing their FMCA membership, a prerequisite for being in a chapter. (This was slightly offset with the joining of three new member couples at the rally!)

It was announced that longtime member **Howard Best** is recovering from some pesky cardio issues, and a card was circulated for messages of cheer.

Treasurer Charlie Bukoski gave his report (see entry following this piece that is up-to-date and includes all income and disbursements from the Hilton Head rally.)

Reports were given on their ongoing work by newsletter editor Mike Heron and webmaster Charlie Bukoski.

Vice President Craig Bowen put in a plug for the autumn rally, set for October 4-7 at River Vista RV Park in Dillard, GA. (See p. 6 for more detail.)

Ron Daniels, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

As of June 5th we have balances of \$6,100. in our Bank of America account, and \$1,200. in our PayPal account, resulting in a grand total of \$7,300. in the treasury. The Hilton Head rally, at a very first-rate resort, only cost the chapter \$360. in expenses over revenue.

Chas Bukoski, Treasurer

Nominating Committee Report

The Committee, consisting of Charlie Bukoski, chair, Mike Heron, and Bryan Bowman, is putting forth the following

proposed slate of chapter officers, for consideration by the membership at its October annual meeting:

- President: **Craig Bowen**
- VP: **Manny Montesino**
- Secretary: **Ron Daniels**
- Treasurer: **Charlie Bukoski**
- FMCA Dir.: **George Showman**

Terms would commence on January 1st and run for two consecutive years.

Recent Rally Attendance/Coaches

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	24
Spring 2017 (Mt Airy)	31
Hoboken 2017	29
Lakeland Post-New Year’s	23
Hilton Head (Spring)	24
Dillard, GA (Autumn rally)	?

Hilton Head Rally Recap

From the onset, Host **Marty Nixon** wanted this rally to be different than many of our past events. He wanted it to be in a top-rated RV park in an upscale part of the South. He wanted the main meals to be catered, with none of the wives having to cook a covered dish, and he wanted the days free from workshops, discussion groups, etc. so folks could get out and explore. And he wanted professional entertainment on two evenings instead of quizzes and parlor games that some rallies feature.

There were some (me included) who questioned the cost such a rally would entail, who said the May dates were too late into Spring, who were concerned about finding reasonable caterers in Hilton Head, and who predicted sparse attendance. All of us were wrong.

The rally was a resounding success, well attended with 24 coaches showing up, including several new coach couples who attended the rally and joined the chapter.

The weather was great for the most part, with an early evening shower coming in briefly on one occasion. Some folks brought or rented bicycles to explore, some went to the nearby beach, and some shopped the multitude boutiques available.

The food was great, starting with meatball subs on the pool deck, then Chicken Cordon Blue the next night, followed by a delicious pasta dinner on Saturday. The last two meals were catered by Skillets Café, which was recommended by the resort.

And the live entertainment on Friday and Saturday was very enjoyable. A 1950s-60s combo, then a one-man steel drum entertainer the next night. He put us all in a tropical mood.

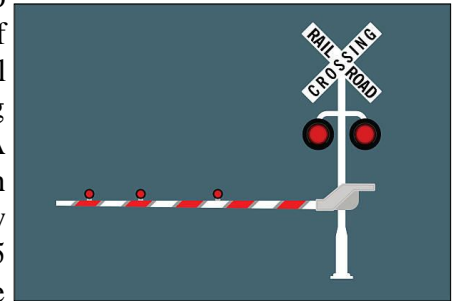
Throughout our stay the resort was gracious. They assigned us a rally concierge, who briefed us on all the great sights to see on the island, and helped secure caterers and services.

Several folks came a day or two early, and a couple of coaches stayed a day or two later. It was very tropical, and very relaxing! Congratulations to Marty Nixon and Kaydee Black and their co-hosts for a job well done!

Mike Heron

Danger at RR Crossings

In this summer of travel, with most of us driving on new and different streets and roads, it is important to be mindful of the overall length of our rig when towing. A 40 foot bus with a four foot tow bar and a 15 foot tow vehicle extends nearly 60 feet, and that can be a problem at railroad crossings.



If you pull across train tracks and traffic happens to be stopped for a light or stop sign on just the other side, is your tow vehicle still on the tracks? Granted, there's plenty of warning if a train approaches, but some traffic lights do not cycle if a train approaches, for safety considerations. And trains don't screech to a quick stop. You may get boxed in and sit there helpless. Check this video to appreciate the danger inherent to big RVs at all RR crossings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJ16mRCjk-8>

Be careful out there.

The campground listed several premium sites that backed up to a scenic canal and walking/jogging path. A low steel fence was in place to define the



boundaries, and to keep children from accidentally going into the water. This chap may have been talking on his cell phone while backing up, or he may have hit the accelerator instead of the brake, but the fence was no match for his 25,000 pound rig!

Hilton Head Highlights



VP Craig Bowen and Beverly cooked hot breakfasts, like these sausages and home fries, on Friday and Saturday!



Music on the first night was provided by the Ross Duo Plus One, a great local group.



Sadie and Jimmy Clay are relatively new members, attending the rally from Minor Hill, Tenn.



From left, Kaydee Black, Marty Nixon, Frank and Ginny Callan and Jack Campbell. The restaurant is Hudson's on the Docks. Many informal groups explored Hilton Head's cafes and restaurants.



Norm and Maureen Scanapico showed up with their new Prevost H3-45, a real beauty. He gave tours throughout the rally.



From the left, Beverly and Craig Bowen, Debbie Wells, Eric Johnson, and Darlene Montesino. Eric and Debbie won the prize for coming all the way from Ohio!

More from Hilton Head



Linda and Tom d'Arcy joined at the rally. They hail from Cathedral City, CA



From left, Manny Montesino, John & Carol Coughlin, Nancy & Kyle Brandt, and Jackie & Jack Campbell.



Our president Bryan Bowman presided at the Saturday morning business meeting.



Treasurer Charlie Bukoski and Judy in foreground, and Secretary Ron Daniels and Vicky Cates dancing in background.



Line dancing was very popular among the ladies at Saturday's banquet. The steel drum musician made it feel like a cruise ship!



Our 'one-man-band' featured Melvin, who was from New York but who played like he was from Nassau.

And Two More Rally Pix!



The Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort featured a beautiful function room, overlooking the pool and jacuzzi. Kaydee Black and Marty Nixon decorated it well.



New members Carol and John Coughlin are full timers who coincidentally are based in Hilton Head, SC.

Autumn Rally in Dillard GA Shaping Up

October 4 thru 7
20 River Vista Drive
Dillard, Georgia 30537

Register now: www.sebusnuts.org

The River Vista camping resort is nestled in a valley at the confluence of the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountains—only 45 minutes from the southern gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Join us and enjoy the cool mountain air; wake up refreshed by



your visit to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Georgia.

The park has full hookups, indoor & outdoor pools, an adult sauna, cable tv, fitness center, two laundry facilities, and an off-leash dog park.

Our entertainment will be provided by The Joe Show, a guitar soloist and singer. Joe puts on a great evening and I have employed his services in the past. We are still working on other activities.

Our registration fee of \$210. is inclusive of camping, breakfast Friday and Saturday, dinner Friday and Saturday, and Sunday continental breakfast.

The menu will have a mountain/country theme with fresh vegetables sourced from Osage Farms local to Dillard. Grilled Ribeye steaks on

Saturday night, with everyone required to help turn the crank on the homemade ice cream freezer!

We need 20 coaches to register by **September 1st** to keep our low camping rate.

Craig & Beverly Bowen, hosts

Recipe— Breakfast Pie

One of the delicious cooked breakfasts prepared by Craig and Bev at the recent Hilton Head rally was “Breakfast Pie”. They received several requests for their recipe, so here it is!

- 2 pie shells (deep dish)
- 1 lb of cooked sausage
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 red or yellow pepper, chopped
- 1-1/2 cups sharp cheddar
- 4 oz jar mushrooms
- 1/2 cup milk
- 8 or 9 eggs



Combine cooked sausage with uncooked vegetables and cheese, fill the pastry.

Cover with a custard mixture.

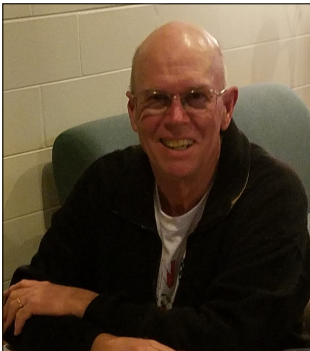
Bake at 350° for about 45 minutes. Test for doneness with a clean toothpick at center.

A finely chopped Jalapeno pepper is a nice addition!

Road Fix!

Sooner or later we all are confronted with a mechanical challenge that we just have to figure out on the side of the road. In this story, long-time Canadian member Blake Wright discusses his recent challenge...

All of a sudden there is an air line, with a brass fitting on it, whipping around my head like a snake charmer's snake. The line to the driver's air seat had just blown off.



Blake Wright lives in Brechin, Ontario.

I had been watching the air pressure, it had been a little erratic, at times approaching 150 lbs., then back to normal. Linda thought she heard air leaking somewhere under the coach. The air pressure immediately dropped to zero when the line blew.

The first bit of luck was that this happened at an exit, and we were able to safely pull off the highway and still stay on the pavement. It also gave us a location reference.

It was 2:00 p.m., we were four hours into our 26 hour trip to Florida (excluding overnight stops), the temperature was -5F with a 17 mph wind, and we were stopped on Highway 401 (the busiest highway in Canada) with no air pressure. I tried crimping the seat airline with a pair of vise-grips but the compressor couldn't overcome the air leak under the coach. The scenario was that something went wrong with the air compressor governor (cold temps?), and that the pressure in the system has gone well over 150 lbs. There is a safety valve on the wet tank that should have released at 150, but it didn't (it's supposed to be removed and cleaned every 50,000 miles).

A second bit of luck was that a month before our trip we joined the FMCA Roadside Assistance Program (SafeRide RV Motorclub, \$69. per year). We called and explained our situation to Ashley in Texas. The first thing she said was, "Do you need the police or an ambulance?" She called back in a half hour and had arranged for a wrecker, and again the first thing she said was, "I checked the weather and I see it's very cold there—are you all right?" We were obviously

very impressed.

The tow truck arrived and they got it right—it was big enough. We talked with the driver for a few minutes, and he said, "I think I can fix the problem." The coach was still running, and he could hear air leaking near the front axle.

The third bit of luck was that the driver was able to raise the front of the coach with his wrecker, and had found a plastic air line that had come apart, and he was able to reconnect it. As soon as he did that the coach was able to build air. The driver presented us with the bill and said, "Just sign here, everything is looked after."

We were on our way again, but the problems with the compressor governor still existed. But I was able to keep pressure at 120 lbs by opening and closing the vise grip pliers on the crimped air seat line.

When we go to Florida we usually spend the first night in Chatham, Ontario, at Sue Miller's home (she has a nice heated 60 foot garage). This year her son was using the garage and it was too cold to over-night outside, so we weren't going to stop.



The notorious Bendix D-2 governor.

The fourth bit of luck was that the garage had now become available, and Sue's place was only about an hour from where we had broken down, so it worked out perfectly. I was able to replace the governor (\$19.00), we had a good visit with Sue, and a day later we were on our way.

Conclusion: BUY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE! We were very impressed with the service that is now available from FMCA.

Talking with people after the fact, I learned that these air compressor governors can be troublesome, and the old truckers always carried a spare, and many were changed in parking lots or on the side of the road (two bolts and an air line).

I will carry a spare from now on!

**Linda & Blake Wright,
1970 MCI MC-7**

- Save the dates! -



Autumn Rally

Your chapter VP **Craig Bowen** has reserved space for our Autumn rally at River Vista in Dillard, in the North Georgia mountains. Dates are **October 4-7**. See details on page 6.

Visit their website:

<https://rvmountainvillage.com/>

Post New-Years Rally

Chapter President **Bryan Bowman** and VP **Craig Bowen** are currently trying to recruit a rally host for this annual Florida post-New Year's event. Dates will be **January 3-6, 2019**.

Stay tuned as details develop.



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.

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 –George Showman 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

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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