

Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Spring 2019

Craig's Comments

"A Good Time Was Had By All", as the saying goes.

Congratulations to **Mike & Carol Heron** and **Kyle & Nancy Brandt** for hosting a great rally at Palmetto Cove. Without the health issues and scheduling conflicts that seemed to plague us this rally, our coach count would have easily been in the 40s. A very good turnout considering our current membership number stands at 66 with the regular membership number at 57 and of course the nine honorary members who have enjoyed the group fellowship over the years and still want to be a part of it. We thank you for that and the fact that your past involvement has helped us reach our 30th year as an FMCA membership chapter.

Good Weather, Good Food, Good Times and most of all Good People. It was great to see so many new members join our Bus Nut family and returning members from past years, who have made their way back to us. We were also honored to have newlyweds **Ron & Vicky Daniels** let us be part of their honeymoon adventure. Congratulations to you both and thanks again for including us!

To those members who did not have their name badges in time for the rally, our apologies. The problem has been corrected and you all should have received them by now. Of course, after attending the rally, you are aware that if you are caught without your name badge you must deal with our rally sheriff, young **Patrick Boudreaux III**. No warnings with that guy, he just collected the fine

and moved on. I expect Wyatt Earp was not much different at his age.

Ed Fisher has the Autumn Rally locked in for us at the American Heritage RV Park in Williamsburg, VA. This area is so loaded up with history and attractions I am planning on a week in the area.

Next up is the Post-New Years Rally in Saint

Cloud, FL. The officers will host this one at **Lou & Renea Kirk's** residence. Dry camping, but we are looking to make this a special time. Kind of gives you goose bumps don't it?

After that, it's **Jimmy & Sadie Clay** hosting the Spring Rally in Sweet Home Alabama. Sadie has promised to show us what "southern hospitality" looks like. We are actively searching for the venue and we have a couple promising leads, but if you are aware of "just the right spot", drop us a note.

Lots of good stuff happening with the rallies. Just remember to extend invitations to friends to join us at a rally. You don't have to be a member of the FMCA to give a look over. It is, however, up to us to make them want to come back.

Work is still moving forward quite nicely with our Facebook account and SEBN website. **Darlene**

Montesino has really gotten everyone involved with the Facebook page and its usage seems to grow by the day. Stephanie Herdocia, our webmaster, is working behind the scenes on improvements and moving servers and who knows what else. She has been a great asset to us, and we thank her for her insight.

Thanks to **Linda Karlsson** for completing the new Photo Roster. Serious time and effort was certainly

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Opening dish: Early arrivals at the Spring Rally got an unexpected treat from Craig Bowen. He made a delicious blueberry/peach cobbler in an old fashioned Dutch Oven over the coals. Delicious!

Craig's Comments (Cont'd)

spent on this project, all while she and Kirby travel the roads out west. If you have not yet seen it, log on and check it out. There are still a few holdouts of information, however, as with any living document, it will only continue to get better.

Many of you have been traveling far and wide over the past few months, with more trips planned. Retirement and Travel, what a life! Just remember Bev and I are still working everyday to help keep those monthly diesel fuel checks heading your way! Did that sound bitter? Well maybe a little....Wherever the road takes you, Safe Travels and Godspeed!

Craig Bowen, President

Secretary's Report

A general membership meeting of the Southeast Bus Nuts (SEBN) convened at Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, S.C. on Saturday, April 13th. The meeting was called to order by President Craig Bowen.

Chapter members shared health updates on members: **Ray Cox** experiencing back pain, **Syl Bowman** with on-going health concerns, **Lou Kirk** in the loss of his mother and **Jack Campbell** recuperating from shoulder surgery.

In addition to introducing regular officers, the president's Advisory Board was introduced: **Judy Bukoski** (absent), **Vicky Daniels**, **Herb Bates** and **Mike Heron**.

The assembly voted on three important motions during the meeting: *Passed*: campground costs and rally fee to be waived for the Host of all SEBN current and future rallies. *Passed*: the current and future SEBN President may attend one (1) annual FMCA rally at Chapter expense, not including transportation costs. A discussion was held concerning the eligibility of fifth wheel and travel trailer recreational vehicle owners to become members of SEBN. *Passed*: these FMCA members will be eligible for membership with the SEBN.

Ed Fisher spoke of the upcoming Fall rally he would be hosting, to be held at American Heritage Campground in Williamsburg, Virginia. The rally will be the last weekend in September, 2019. And **Lou Kirk** shared that he will host the Winter Rally at his place (dry camping) in St Cloud, FL.

Secretary Ron Daniels gave a membership update: we have 66 active members (57 regular and 9 honorary).

Secretary Daniels extended his thanks to Treasurer **Beverly Bowen** for her excellent financial record keeping and communication. SEBN will give a gift to The Watson Clinic Foundation of Lakeland, Florida in memory of our late SEBN President, Treasurer and Webmaster **Charlie Bukoski**.

New members were recognized: **Dale & Dawn Van Patten, Patrick, Gina & Patrick, Jr. Boudreaux, Yvan & Sylvia Lacroix** (absent), **Eric Wendorf & Maria Andreu** (absent), **Bo & Nancy Noble**, and **Ronnie & Diann Mewbourn**.

Darlene & Manny Montesino updated us on the workings of the Chapter's Facebook page. We are up to 106 Facebook members! They shared plans to post rally pictures, feature member coaches and member profiles.

In wrapping up the meeting **Mike Heron** presented a brief slide show on the 30 year history of the SEBN, 1989 -2019. We began when some 20 dissatisfied bus nuts split off from The South East Cruisers due to a variety of conflicts.

Ron Daniels, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The total in our treasury with combined bank and Paypal accounts is \$6105.73 This is inclusive of all income and disbursements from the Palmetto Cove rally.

Beverly Bowen, Treasurer

FMCA Director's Report

I attended the 99th International FMCA convention at Perry, Georgia this past March to represent our Bus Nuts chapter. It was a great time and fun was had by all. There were many new things that made it more enjoyable.

Some of them included top notch Entertainment like on Saturday which included the World Famous "Coasters, Platters, and Drifters" - many songs from our past.

A new spin on the convention was the planned 'block parties'. This year FMCA gave chapters money to help promote smaller gatherings. These were scheduled for one afternoon and evening, and helped to bring people together in smaller more intimate groups where everyone could talk and get to know each other better rather than the BIG planned entertainment.

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FMCA report, Cont'd

It was nice to step back to our roots and socialize more rather than sitting in our coaches waiting for some big planned entertainment. It was also encouraged to float between block parties to experience how other chapters and groups socialized.

In another event one day around lunch, we had a Whiskers contest with the whole convention participating. "Yours Truly" won the Goatee classand the grand champion was a fella that looked just like Kenny Rogers.

There were over 2290 Family Coaches and pull behinds in attendance. I recall seeing about 200 pull behinds thru-out the fairgrounds, so say maybe 10% of total registrations. Many of these were younger families with children, which was refreshing to see.

There was a question on the "FMCA Assist" benefit on our Southeast Bus Nuts Facebook page. Yes, FMCA Assist is a benefit of our dues and doesn't cost us anything out of pocket. This benefit helps in an emergency. If a "Medical event" during a trip prevents you from continuing your travels, it will get you, your family, and your coach home safely. You must be at least 100 miles from home to be able to use this benefit. I'm sure **Judy Bukoski** can enlighten y'all on her positive experiences when Charlie passed.

I will be attending 100th International convention in Minot, North Dakota this summer and representing our chapter at the Directors' Meeting there. If there are any issues that I need to address please contact me either by Phone/Text (770-527-7691), or Facebook.

George Showman
FMCA Director

Palmetto Cove Rally Wrap-up

Well, we dodged some raindrops at the fun April 11-14th Palmetto Cove rally, but for the most part, the affair was dry, and no plans had to be altered. Families attending included **Aldridge, Bartley, Bates, Bianco, Boudreaux, Bowen, Brandt, Clay, Cook, Daniels, Eisner, Ensley, Fisher, Gallant, Hamrick, Heron, Johnson, Kirk, LaBombard, Mellis, Mewbourn, Mingus,**

Montesino, Noble, Scanapico, K Siems, S Siems, Threatt, VanPatten, Willett, and Wingfield, Day visitors included **Gene Russell, George Showman** and **Butch Schmidt**. There were also three cancellations due to illness.

All of the meals were well received, but a couple deserve special mention. Chefs Kyle and Nancy Brandt did their Baked Potato Extravaganza on Friday night. In addition to the usual toppings they offered homemade beef 'n bean chili, and another homemade treat—white bean chicken chili.



All chapter past presidents in attendance joined Craig Bowen in blowing out the candles on our 30th anniversary cake. From the left, Craig, Ed Fisher, Mike Heron and Gerald Ensley.

And our new member from Louisiana, **Gina Boudreaux**, brought a special Mardi Gras treat, King Cake.

The Saturday dinner was Ed Fisher's superb chopped and smoked pork BBQ with hand-cut cole slaw and hush puppies. For dessert, see the attached photo—a special sheet cake touting our chapter's 30th Anniversary.

There were two excursions to the exciting BMW assembly plant down near Spartanburg, and about 34 folks went on these. It's a highly automated plant that does the X version sport utility vehicle. Another outing attracted about 25 ladies to a nearby vineyard restaurant for a light luncheon. Check the photo gallery for a snapshot.

Odds & Ends: The folks who came the farthest to attend were **Dale and Dawn VanPatten** from Richland, MI. Four members of the New England-based Busin'Buddies attended, several on their way back north for the summer. **John Mellis** won the 50-50 drawing on Friday. We had an exciting eight games of Bingo on Saturday, and among the winners were **Ed & Ann Gallant** and **Kyle & Nancy Brandt**. The rally finished up about \$400 in the black.

Mike Heron & Kyle Brandt, Co-Hosts

Palmetto Cove Photo Gallery



Some 31 rigs joined up at Palmetto Cove. The park has very panoramic views and sits in a pleasant valley.



Friday's breakfast was a family affair! Chefs were, from the left, Rick Bartley, Reen Kukon, Tammy Bartley and Herb Bates.



Saturday's breakfast included homemade Caribbean croissants, baked fresh by chapter president, Craig Bowen.



The main function room at Palmetto Cove has undergone a major facelift and upgrade since our last rally there two years ago.



Several meals were enjoyed under the open portico at Palmetto Cove, including the meatball sub opener on Thursday night.



President Bowen, left foreground, urges the Alabama and Tennessee folks to consider hosting a SEBN rally over their way.

More Palmetto Cove Photos



Our general membership meeting on Saturday included a 15 minute slide presentation on the birth and growth of the SEBN.



Our Saturday dinner concluded with a special commemorative birthday cake, and a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday"!



Rally co-Host Kyle Brandt cooked burgers for all of the men on Saturday



Most of the womenfolk dined Saturday at Victoria Valley Vineyards, just two or three miles from the campground, while the men did the burger thing back at the ranch.



A cozy, warming hearth. - It really took the chill off for Saturday's breakfast, a European affair with hard boiled eggs, cheeses, smoked ham, and coffee.



The Boudreaux family from Marrero, LA. Patrick Jr was the rally sheriff and fined anyone without a name tag. Lots of fun!

Still More Palmetto Cove Photos



Saturday's evening entertainment was a night of Bingo. Eight different games were played with cash prizes for the winners. The Chapter is now in possession of a complete Bingo set-up for future use.



The Boudreaux family donated five of the heralded King Cakes, a MardiGras treat. They're made from a sweet brioche dough in the shape of a hollow circle with a glazed topping sprinkled with colored sugar. A very well received dessert. Thanks guys!



Judy Bukoski's new coach

The good news is that former chapter secretary Judy Bukoski has sold their 1978 MC-8, and the better news is that she is fully committed to staying active with the SEBN! She sent this recent update:

"It's a 2008, 24ft. Winnebago View 3500. Diesel engine on Mercedes/Dodge Chassis. She's a beauty and just the right size. I got it only one week before



the annual Sun 'n Fun Fly-In so had to quickly get it equipped and ready for the nine nights out at the airport. Weather was cool so no need for A/C.

"I just returned from a week in the FL Panhandle, visiting son, Jeff, and brother, Phil and family. People sometimes think that offering you a bed in their home will make you more comfortable-- well, not the case. I still love having my own space-- and the same bed every night like most of you do.

"I am planning a trip to Michigan in July to visit family and friends while there, as well as along the way both there and back. Hope to see you at the Fall Rally up in Williamsburg, VA. Hugs to all, JB"

P.S. I'm thinking about naming "her" Judy's View.

House water pump woes

After about 18 years my trusty variable speed Flo-Max 12 volt house water pump started to act up. The symptom was refusing to completely shut off after pumping sufficient water for a shower, etc. It wouldn't race full blast, but rather it would sit there and slowly cycle off and on.

I called the folks at Xylem, the Irvine, CA company that makes the Flo-Max, and the technician there said that they had been having problems with these pumps especially in the yachting industry. He said that there was no adjustment on the pressure regulator to play with.

The tech recommended that I upgrade to a more durable on-off pump that feeds the water



lines via an accumulator, which is a one gallon tank with an air bladder inside, so one could make small demands for water without the pump coming on, etc.

Long story short, I went with the new set up, and it is spiffy. In the photo above, the accumulator is the white canister. It's always something!

Mike Heron

- Save the dates! -



HISTORIC WILLIAMSBURG, VA!

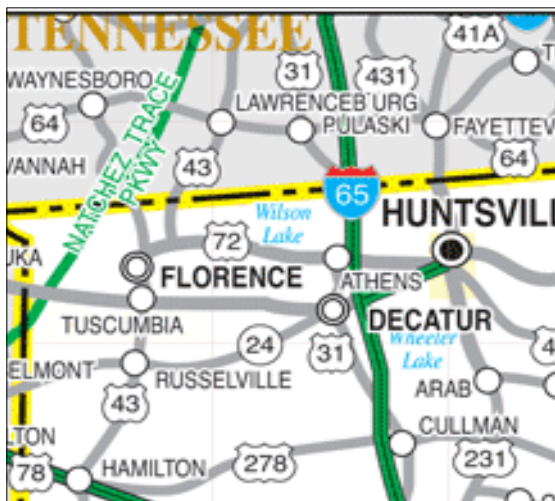
Autumn 2019 Rally

Note date and location change!

Past President **Ed Fisher** and wife **Anke** have moved the date and location of the autumn rally to the last weekend of September, at American Heritage RV Resort in historic Williamsburg, VA. on **September 26-29, 2019**. Registration will open soon on our website—check back for details.

Post-New Year's Rally 2020

Chapter Officers will host this post-Holiday, early January rally on the grounds of **Lou & Renea Kirk's** property in St Cloud, Florida. This will be an inexpensive, dry camping rally with lots of home-spun fun! The dates are **January 9-12, 2020**. Stay tuned for further details.



Spring Rally 2020

Newer members **Jimmy & Sadie Clay** are exploring options for a spring rally, perhaps at a state park, in the Northern Alabama-Southern Tennessee area. **Stay tuned for dates, etc.** Our chapter has only had one prior rally in each of these two states before this, so we are all looking forward to a new adventure!

Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers

President– Craig Bowen CBowen3117@gmail.com
Vice-President Manny Montesino locktech@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer-Beverly Bowen Bbowen300250@gmail.com
Secretary—Ron Daniels ron.grandslam@gmail.com
FMCA Nat’l Dir –George Showman gshowman@aol.com

Advisory Board:

(in addition to Chapter Officers)

Herb Bates
Judy Bukoski
Vicky Daniels
Mike Heron
Darlene Montesino, Chaplain and
Social Media Director

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*, Ed Fisher and Bryan Bowman. (* 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:

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