



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Winter 2019

Craig's Comments

I can't help being reminded of a time in my life in the mid '80s, when I worked in the engineering department of Consolidation Coal Company's headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA. Hanging on the wall of an engineer's office was a portrait of an old cowboy.

Now this fella looked rough with his old sweat soaked Stetson hat, dark-tanned wrinkled skin and a couple days growth on his face and a dusty old bandana around his neck. You could just tell, this was not his best day! This portrait, I thought to myself, has got to be where the term "rode hard and put away wet" came from! Under the portrait was the caption:

"There's a hell of a lot they didn't tell me when I signed on to this outfit!"

Honestly, that was my very first thought back at the beginning of October. Just days away from \$7,000. worth of chapter rally expenses for Dillard and I was loading up the personal credit card. You see, we had no access to the SEBN bank account. It seems the bank never processed the paperwork we supplied to them requesting the addition of another person to the account and our late Treasurer **Charlie Bukoski** held the only access authority.

Thanks to then-President **Bryan Bowman** the Advisory Board and of course **Judy Bukoski** digging through files and notes to find passwords, we were able to work around the issue just in time for the rally.

We also had problems with the website. The PayPal account was only in Charlie's name and

that prevented us from receiving payments for the rally. The only person besides Charlie that had access to the inner workings of the website was his business partner, who just happened to be out of the country for an extended period. What a mess!

With that being said, we opened a new bank account and a new PayPal account was established, along with the development of new pay codes to make it all work. Trust me, I am not the technical guy Charlie was, but I was learning on the fly and somehow it came together.



Denise and Ray Aldridge were hosts for the recently successful Post-New Years' Rally in Titusville, FL

Today, I'm happy to say, we have control of our finances and the website is running normally. The SEBN financial institution is now Bank of the Ozarks, and we have three individuals with account access authority, and two people authorized with PayPal.

Beginning at the first of the year, we secured the services of our new webmaster, **Stephanie Herdocia**. She is a very bright individual who has and will continue to make improvements to the website. If you would care to send her a welcome note, her email address is located on the homepage. For the foreseeable future, please send any website issues to me and I will address with Stephanie.

Linda Karlsson is currently reviewing all the Chapter's Bylaws and Standing Orders and reporting deficiencies that we need to address. She has also taken on the task of giving the photo roster a new look. At the request of several members, the new roster will include photos of the members, their coaches *and the length of their rig* to aid in rally planning. Linda sent out a request for members to please supply photos of their rigs, but

(Cont'd)

For information on the upcoming Spring Rally at Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, SC see page 6.

Craig's Comments (Cont'd)

Unfortunately, only 10 replied and it was left up to Linda to scour old rally photos and Facebook posts to come up with what she has. If your information is missing from the photo roster, please send your data to Linda as soon as possible.

I have also asked the Secretary, Treasurer and the Communications Director to write down in simple terms how they conduct their normal business, including file access. We simply need to have a plan to take care of the chapter's business, without re-inventing the wheel, when the unthinkable happens.

Charlie was always there to help get things done. His departure has exposed some deficiencies that we need to remedy. I guess you could say, "he's still helping us".

Hope to see you all in Palmetto Cove in April. Safe travels and Godspeed!

Craig Bowen, President

Secretary's Report

It is time to renew your dues! They were due January 1st. FMCA guidelines state that if dues are not paid by March 30th, your Southeast Bus Nuts membership will be cancelled. Also, please remember that your FMCA dues need to be current in order for you to renew your Bus Nuts dues. We do not wish to lose you as a member, so please renew before March 30th. The easiest way to pay is to go to our web site: SEBusNuts.org. Just select the PayPal button on the right side and select the number of years for which you want to renew. You can pay with PayPal or a credit card.

Also, don't forget to update your personal information while on the website. Go to 'Members Only'. Use your FMCA number (with the prefix 'f'), and your zip code for user name and password. Click on the current roster and then click on your FMCA number. Change/amend as appropriate and click on 'Update' and then click on 'Confirm Updated Information'. We are then notified of any changes you have made.

Ron Daniels, Secretary

(If any questions, call me at: 919-616-4217)



Members Meeting, Titusville Rally

The business meeting was called to order by President Craig Bowen on Saturday, January 6th. He introduced guests and new members. New recruits are: **Yvan & Sylvie Lacroix**, and **Patrick & Gina Boudreaux** and son **Patrick, Jr.** We also gained returning members: **Tony & Sandy Manna**.

President Bowen announced that SEBN is celebrating its 30 year anniversary this year!

Under old business. President Bowen suggested that each member go into the pictorial roster and list the length of their bus/coach. This will help rally hosts in the future to be better able to assign sites at rallies to accommodate various coach requirements. Also, it was reported that re-certification for FMCA had been completed. Current active members were at 56 prior to this current rally, plus 9 honorary members. National Director **George Showman** announced that he will be attending the FMCA Annual Meeting and family gathering in Perry, GA.

Under New Business Bowen reviewed rally host responsibilities and the need to find rally hosts for the Fall Rally in 2019 and Rallies in 2020.

Future Rally venues / locations were discussed, and it was determined that since most of our coaches can accommodate dry camping venues, having a boondocking session would depend on the season and the location. Various places were discussed but no decisions made.

There was much discussion about whether the Southeast Bus Nuts chapter members would wish to have people with towable RVs (trailers and 5th wheels) become members. The majority of members expressed the feeling that prospective members should at least have some interest in buses since that's what our group was founded on initially. President Bowen will check with FMCA and present the issue to the membership at the next rally in April.

Darlene Montesino reported that the SEBN Facebook Page now has around 90 members. Get-well cards were signed at this rally and sent to **Kirby Karlsson**, **Syl Bowman**, and **Ray Cox**.

Submitted by **Judy Bukoski**

Treasurer's Report

As of 2/1 we have a total balance, post rally, of \$5186.53

Beverly Bowen, Treasurer

Titusville Rally Recap

Who knew you could have so much fun in a parking lot?

That's exactly what we did at the Post New Year's Rally at the Great Outdoors RV Resort in Titusville, Fl. The SEBN sold out the entire rally lot of 25 spots and unfortunately had to turn away several coaches. **Denise** and **Ray Aldridge** hosted the rally and managed to feed everyone without a kitchen!

Thursday we all trooped off to Dixie Crossroads restaurant, famous for its rock shrimp. Mmmmm.

Friday was low country boil night, with **Craig Bowen** cooking two 80 qt. pots of shrimp, potatoes, corn and sausage. **Mike Heron** provided the entertainment of Team Trivia with cash prizes being awarded to the winners. All I know is, never place a bet against **Lou Kirk** and his knowledge of geography!

Saturday night was a catered dinner at the Blue Heron Restaurant on the resort property.



Delicious food with a special cake and celebration of **Bertha Showman's** 80th birthday! It sure was great to see her at the rally. The evening was finished off by Mike Heron singing a humorous rendition of "Side by Side". What a great way to finish the evening.

A trip to Jungle Adventure was fun for all, especially watching the tour guide get in the swamp with 10 ft gators and hand feeding them raw chicken parts! Not sure what drives a man to do such things but being a little "touched" may help!

We had two visiting coaches that became new members of the SEBN. **Yvan** and **Sylvie La-croix** from Canada in their GM 4905A. Very nice rig with an unusual paint job. **Patrick** and **Gena Boudreaux** with son Patrick Jr. from the New Orleans area. As young Patrick describes, with true bus nut conviction, they came in their 1947 GMC Greyhound Silver Side with a 671 Detroit Diesel. The boy has already got the bug!

All in all it was a great rally and just goes to show we can have fun with the simplest of amenities. **Craig Bowen**

Titusville Rally Photos



On Friday of Rally weekend the entire contingent of 25 coach-couples journeyed over to Christmas, FL to Jungle World, an 'old Florida' style attraction that featured a pontoon boat ride through a tropical river and swamp teeming with gators, reptiles, exotic birds and mammals and other wildlife. The attraction property had been in rally host Denise Aldridge's family for years and she knows the owners.

No one was lost on the cruise.

More Titusville Highlights



On Thursday evening the rally dined at Dixie Crossroads, famous for seafood, especially rock shrimp.



On Friday morning we had a delicious hot breakfast outdoors. The rally had only one rain event, and we were indoors then!



Members Jack Campbell, left, Tony Manna, and Norm Scanapico enjoyed the pontoon ride. Lots of gators!



An 'easy-up' and portable tables were all that was needed for our outdoor meals. We had comfortable temps in the 70s throughout.



Our new president, Craig Bowen, did a fine Low Country Boil on Friday at the Titusville rally.



Renea Kirk got to handle a baby *Alligator Mississippiensis* as part of the jungle tour. Yes, that is tape on its snout!



A few more Titusville photos



Our second cooked breakfast on Saturday was in a private pavilion. Once again Denise and Ray Aldridge outdid themselves. Since Denise lives close by, she went home at 5:00 a.m. and used her kitchen to rustle up a delicious hot breakfast! Now that's attention to detail!



For our concluding dinner we enjoyed a catered buffet at The Blue Heron restaurant on the grounds of The Great Outdoors park. The food and desserts were excellent, and our FMCA Director George Showman surprised his mother Bertha Showman with a cake and candles on her 80th birthday.

Need additional bay storage space?

Ever since converting our MCI coach in 2000 I have left the over-the-road bus air conditioning intact. About 10 years ago I gave up trying to keep that system charged with Freon and just relied on my roof airs. I never did remove any of the heavy equipment used for over-the-road air conditioning. I was certainly lugging around lots of extra weight!



Before

This winter it occurred to me that I could gain a great deal of additional bay storage by removing the heavy condenser and 24 volt fans in the condenser bay behind the driver. It's a fairly easy job, and an additional benefit is taking that copper-laden condenser to a recycling yard where they will pay you for the copper scrap. I got \$104 for mine.

Attached are before and after pictures of the bay, and after plating over where the fans had been, I did gain about 15 cubic feet. Not a bad deal. A special thanks to **Jack Campbell** for helping me remove that heavy condenser—it weighed over 200 pounds!

Mike Heron



After

For Sale

1978 MCI. Price reduced to \$36,000! 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. Phone Judy at: 863-670-3993 or E-mail: Judy@bukoski.net



SEBN Spring Rally! April 11-14, 2019
Palmetto Cove Park,
521 Table Rock Road, Cleveland, SC



Registration is now open for this fun rally. We have 18 coaches already registered! To join us, just go to our website and click the buttons for registration, and, if interested, extra nights. The rally fee is *only* \$165 which includes three nights camping with full hook-ups, and six cooked meals, plus games/entertainment. Extra nights are available for \$30.

Palmetto Cove is a pristine, bucolic rally park in the beautiful foothills of the Appalachian chain. Scenic views abound. Come help the Southeast Bus Nuts celebrate our 30th Anniversary!

The schedule:

Thursday

Dinner: Mike Heron's hearty meatball subs, chips, and puddin' for dessert.

Friday:

Breakfast: Chefs Craig and Beverly Bowen will do ham & eggs, toast & coffee

*Optional 11:00 a.m. tour of BMW Assembly Plant in nearby Spartanburg \$10.

*Optional 2:00 p.m. tour of BMW plant

Dinner: Chefs Kyle and Nancy Brandt do their famous baked potato extravaganza with chili. Lots o' toppings choices! Sweet teas and dessert.

Entertainment: "Rumor Has It" - a total audience participation game with prizes.
50-50 drawing

Saturday:

Breakfast: Chefs Rick and Tammy Bartley do pancakes and a healthy bowl of chopped fruit

Mid Morning: General membership meeting, President Craig Bowen presiding

"Happy 30th Anniversary SEBN!"

Lunch: Optional "ladies lunch" at nearby Victoria Valley Vineyards. Light fare: sandwiches and salads. The rest of us will gather under the pavilion for burgers, chips, etc.

Dinner: Chefs Ed and Anke Fisher do their famous chopped pork BBQ with hand-cut coleslaw, hush puppies, sweet tea and dessert.

Entertainment: Cash Bingo
50-50 drawing

Sunday

Breakfast: coffee and doughnuts, and fond adieus.

Your rally hosts: Kyle Brandt and Mike Heron

** The BMW tours are \$10.00 per person. To sign up, contact Mike Heron at mikeheron@bellsouth.net to get your name on one of the lists. Space is limited. The tour will require walking about one mile, and NO open-toed shoes will be allowed.*

- Save the dates! -

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**. See previous page for more info.



Autumn 2019 Rally

Past President Ed Fisher and wife Anke have agreed to host the autumn rally at magnificent **Bethpage Campground** on the banks of the Rappahannock River in tidewater Virginia on **October 10-13**. Just voted Best National Park of the Year for the 3rd time!

Check the website:

www.bethpagecamp.com

Post-New Year's Rally

Chapter Officers will host this post-Holiday rally on the grounds of the Lou Kirk property in St Cloud, Florida. This will be an inexpensive, dry camping rally with lots of home-spun fun! Stay turned for further details. **Dates are January 9-12.**



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 Committee:

(in addition to Chapter Officers)

Herb Bates
Judy Bukoski
Vicky Cates
Mike Heron

Darlene Montesino, 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*, 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:

mikeheron@bellsouth.net

Southeast Bus Nuts
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