



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Xmas 2020

Craig's Comments

I hope this finds you all healthy and in good spirits!

Here it is, the end of another year, not like any other in my memory and certainly not how I envisioned my second year as President! I don't believe the Bus Nuts have ever been curtailed to holding only one rally for an entire year! Unfortunately, our spring and fall rallies were tied to government-controlled facilities and events, which made cancellation necessary. Nevertheless it's been great to hear that many of our members were still able to travel and enjoy the open road.

My heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your trust to serve as your president for the past two years. Thank you to **Manny Montesino, Ron Daniels, Bev Bowen, Darlene Montesino, Linda Karlsson, George Showman, Judy Bukoski** and the Advisory Board, for what they do to keep our chapter running smoothly.

I especially want to thank **Mike Heron** for his counsel and support. In addition to publishing the finest newsletter of any FMCA chapter, his dedication to the "good of the order" in my opinion is unmatched. I would have been lost without him.

Now it is time to pass the gavel to Manny. I encourage all of you to get behind Manny and his "eye on the future" mantra. We're at a critical time in our 30-year history where we need to open our arms and invite new members. One of several things that drives membership is our

rallies, and we have had some great rallies over the last several years. Come to think of it, I don't believe we have ever had a bad rally!

Given the fact that we are still in the grasp of a pandemic, 2021 could very well present similar challenges with scheduling rallies as this year did. We were able to have an impromptu get-together at Palmetto Cove in October, due to the park being privately owned. Perhaps in 2021, we should focus on privately run facilities where we have less change of being forced to cancel? I urge you to



give Manny a call and volunteer to host, co-host, or just suggest a location for a rally. The chapter gives you all the support you need to succeed by promoting the rally, handling all the finances, helping with food and menus, and locating entertainment. Hosting a rally is not difficult and everyone in the chapter is more than willing to step up and help when asked.

On a brighter note, Bev and I want to wish everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and the hope of a Happy and Healthy New Year.

As you may know, the 2021 Post New Year's rally will be held February 18-21, in Auburndale, Florida. We will be the first to hold a rally in this brand-new facility. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Safe travels and Godspeed!

Craig Bowen, President

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! Our Post-New Years Rally in Auburndale FL is now open for sign-up. See page 5.

Secretary's Report

Membership: 60 Active (51 regular and 9 honorary).

I submitted all required information to FMCA on November 19 to certify our Chapter. This included a Chapter officer update, a Chapter meeting date verification and a Chapter Roster update.

A sympathy card on behalf of SEBN was sent to Leonard and Pam Jelkren for the tragic loss of their son Bradley.

Vicky and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in Auburndale, FL.

Ron Daniels, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

We have a checking account balance of \$2,453.80 and a PayPal balance of \$2,712.25 for a balance of \$5,166.05. However the PayPal account includes credits (\$2,010) for several members who paid for the Alabama rally, which was cancelled. So the true balance in PayPal is \$702.25.

Additionally, we have made pre-event disbursements for the upcoming Auburndale FL rally to reserve the resort and to put a deposit on catering. Also paid out recently was a small fee for two years of website/domain access for www.sebusnuts.org.

Thus the net chapter balance is **\$3,156.05**
Beverly Bowen, Treasurer

New Officers for 2021-22

The following slate was voted on via e-mail this past November and the nominees were unanimously approved:

President: **Manny Montesino** (Winter Haven, FL)

Vice President: **Denise Aldridge** (Orlando, FL)

Secretary: **Ron Daniels** (Butner, NC)

Treasurer: **Craig Bowen** (Villa Rica, GA)

FMCA Director: (open)

Applause for our outgoing president!

As your newsletter editor (and a Past President of our Chapter) I'd like to take a few lines to thank **Craig Bowen** for his steadfast leadership during the past two years. I know of no president in the past 20 years who has faced the challenges and adversity that he has, especially in light of the COVID pandemic.



No president has had back-to-back rallies cancelled for public health reasons (or for ANY reason!). I also salute him for the significant effort to arrange management of our website and our financials after our long term Treasurer and webmaster **Charlie Bukoski** passed away two years ago. Charlie was a whiz electronically, and Craig (like most of us) is not deeply experienced in websites and the internet, on-line rally registration, use of PayPal, etc. But he dove in and sorted things out, hired a part time web manager, and streamlined our banking.

And when it came to rallies, Craig was right there manning the grill to do 50 sirloins, 10 pounds of hotdogs, 45 servings of Eggs Benedict, etc. He was invaluable to the rally hosts.



President Craig loved to help cook at our rallies, which always put us ahead budget-wise in place of catering!

Fortunately for our FMCA chapter, Craig will continue his service as chapter Treasurer, inheriting the job from his wife **Beverly**. Of course, with Beverly these past two years we had a "two-fer" keeping things going. Thanks Bev!

So, here's a 'hats off' to our outgoing leader! You did a great job Craig! Many thanks!

Mike Heron, Newsletter Editor

FMCAssist— Members are reminded of this great benefit in the event we get sick on the road and need to be transported home (or have your coach delivered home). Check this website for details:

https://www.fmca.com/pdfs/federal_ea_id_card_fmca.pdf

Palmetto Cove ‘gathering’

In the wake of the cancellation of the planned September rally at Stone Mountain Park, GA, our president and officers thought an informal meet-up somewhere convenient might be safe and worth doing. Approximately nine coach couples journeyed to the familiar campground in the South Carolina mountains this past October 22-26. There were no indoor activities or planned meals, just informal visiting and relaxing.



Long time member **Dexter Wingfield** came up to ‘the Cove’ from Mableton, Georgia



Marty Nixon, left, brought his Pontiac sports car to tool around the mountains. **Ed Fisher** is on the right.



Chapter president **Craig Bowen** and our Treasurer, his wife **Beverly**. That’s ‘Trouble’ between them.



Mike and Kathy Mingus, front, and **Tommy and Karen Hamrick**.

More from Palmetto Cove

The weather was very nice at Palmetto Cove, and during the daytimes there was informal visiting, some toured the beautiful Caesar's Head Overlook, and some took scenic drives. At night folks retreated to their own coaches for meals and relaxing.



Kyle and Nancy Brandt are members of Palmetto Cove, and ensured that our small group got good campsites, clustered together.



Palmetto Cove is in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Escarpment, nestled at the foot of Caesar's Head promontory.



Marty Nixon compares notes with newer member, **Bo Noble**. Marty is from Acworth, GA and Bo and wife Nancy are from Matthews, NC.



Craig and Beverly Bowen treated the group to their famous blueberry cobbler in a dutch oven one evening. There were no complaints (nor were there any leftovers!).

SEBN Post-New Years Rally! Feb 18-21, 2021

Cabana Club 5-Star RV Resort (just south of Interstate 4 - between Orlando and Tampa, in Auburndale, FL.)



www.cabanaclubresort.com
361 Denton Avenue
Auburndale, FL 33825

This is a brand new RV resort, and we will be the first group to book a rally there. Lovely pull-through and back-in sites with full 50 amp service. Sparkling new clubhouse with all the amenities. Our rally hosts, Darlene and Manny Montesino are well acquainted with the owner-developers. We're very fortunate to secure this park for the rally during the high season in busy central Florida.

Registration is now open. We have 30 full hookups reserved, so don't delay! To join us, just go to our website—www.sebusnuts.org - and click the button for registration, and, if interested, extra nights. The rally fee is \$270 which includes five meals, three nights camping, plus games/entertainment. Extra nights are available at \$58. each. One click reserves your spot in the rally and books your camp site—please do not reserve camping directly with the resort.

Preliminary schedule:

Thursday, Feb. 18th, Dutch Treat dinner at a local diner

Friday, Feb 19th, Cooked breakfast provided by Judy Bukoski and Craig Bowen
Lunch for the Ladies at a famous Tea House nearby (dutch treat)
Men's tour of working aircraft propeller repair facility
Steak dinner being catered on site
After dinner: Round table discussion on how we're coping with the pandemic

Saturday, Feb 20th, Cooked breakfast provided by Judy and Craig
Chapter membership meeting after breakfast
Lunch (on your own)
Special Session for the Ladies
Special Session for the Guys
Dinner -Barbecue Dinner on site
Team trivia contest with cash prizes. Win in any of four categories: Geography, TV, Music, General stuff or win it ALL

Sunday, Feb 21st, Continental Breakfast and fond adieus

Your rally hosts: **Manny and Darlene Montesino**. Any questions, contact them at (ph) 863-585-1315 or e-mail: locktech@tampabay.rr.com

Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers (through Dec. 31, 2020)

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 Daniels
Mike Heron

Darlene Montesino, Chaplain

Past Chapter Presidents: Art Hemen, 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

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