

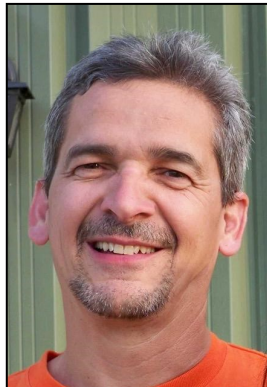
Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Spring 2021

Memo from Manny

Hello Bus Nut Friends,

For those of you who don't know me, and since I've been elected the new chapter president, let me share a bit about myself. My wife and I have been married for 44 years, we have two grown sons, two wonderful daughters-in-law and six beautiful grandchildren all of whom live nearby in Central Florida; but I was born in Cuba and came to this country in 1967 at the age of 10. My family and I were blessed to leave Communist Cuba and come to this land of freedom. I fell in love with this great country right away and it didn't take long for our family to settle in. My father was a pastor in Cuba and so with the help and encouragement of the church family here, my father and mother immediately began working. There were seven of us, my parents, my maternal grandmother, three siblings and myself.



**Chapter President
Manny Montesino**

I began working at the age of 15 as a dishwasher but I moved onto other things and wound up working at the Miami International Airport. I actually loaded the planes with goods purchased from the Duty Free Shop by boarding passengers. I graduated from high school where I met my wife, Darlene (our chaplain). We married later that same year and settled in Central Florida where I was attending Southeastern Bible College. While attending college, I also worked part-time at UPS loading the trucks in the evenings. I finished two years of college and then went full-time at UPS driving a package truck. I delivered for 20 years then moved onto driving the big semi trucks – pulling doubles for five years, then I retired from UPS.

Before I retired from UPS, I started my own business as a locksmith, I worked nights and weekends building up a clientele, and when I left UPS I then worked the locksmith business full-time. My wife and I are starting our 30th year with our locksmith company. We service mostly commercial accounts these days.

So, you are probably wondering, how we got involved with the SE Bus Nuts. Well, my wife and I have always been campers since our early years of marriage. We started out with a pup tent, then when our two boys came along we got a large tent, then we upgraded to a pop-up, and boy we thought we had arrived! When I retired from UPS we bought a Class C but I wasn't thrilled with how it was built and how it handled. When I retired I actually missed driving the big rigs. So I started researching buses. I have kept up my CDL certification and even added the passenger endorsement in recent years. I realize this is not required for a private coach, but I'm glad I have that training.

As I continued doing my homework, I stumbled upon the bus bulletin boards where I learned of these bus clubs and chapters. We also found many buses that were for sale. We found our 1972 Eagle 05 and a few months later we attended our first rally in Arcadia, FL. What an experience that was – we were so excited! But the best thing that came out of that rally was the folks we met there. We fell in love with the bus folks and decided to join the SE Bus Nuts in 2009.

Cont'd

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! Our Spring Rally in Lexington, SC at the Barnyard Campground April 29-May 2, is now open for registration. See page 3.

Memo from Manny (Cont'd)

So that's a bit of history about me, and now fast forward to today – we are happy to report that we just came back from an AWE-SOME rally in Central Florida at a brand new park, the Cabana Club Resort in Auburndale. There were 24 coaches in attendance, and they had a wonderful time! If you were not able to attend, be sure to check out this amazing resort in Central Florida. It's very close to Disney, Legoland, Orlando, Tampa, and the beaches on both coasts. AND they have cabins for your friends or family who might want to vacation here with you.

It was great to get back on the road again and connect with our Bus Nut friends after the craziness of 2020 when so many of us were grounded at home base.

We look forward to more great rallies this year. Our newly elected VP, **Denise Aldridge**, has accepted the position of Rally Master and she will be helping rally hosts coordinate rallies. She is asking our veteran members to share their past knowledge and experience, which will provide suggestions for rally locations (rally worthy places you would like to return to) and for newer members to go back to their hometowns and find places in their areas that would make good rally destinations. Teamwork is what it's all about, and we are blessed to have a great team in our members.

I look forward to working alongside Denise who I know will be a tremendous asset to our group, as well as **Ron Daniels** who is continuing as our secretary, **Craig Bowen** is our new treasurer, **Darlene Montesino** will continue as our chaplain and she also oversees our social media group on Facebook, and our wonderful advisors – **Mike Heron**, **Judy Bukoski**, **Herb Bates** and **Vicky Daniels** have agreed to stay on-board. I would like to welcome **Rick Bartley** who has accepted the position of National FMCA Director for the SE Busnuts. He will represent our chapter at the convention(s). Our former director **George Showman** is stepping down from this position for now and we would like to sincerely thank him for representing us so well these past years. Looking ahead, I see great things in store. Stay strong in your

faith, stay happy and well. Hope to see you at our next rally!

Manny Montesino
Chapter President

Secretary's Report

Following the rally our membership came in at 53 active members and nine honorary members, for a total of 62 on the rolls. Members are encouraged to keep longtime BusNuts Jim and Cynthia Threatt (Olanta, SC) in their thoughts and prayers. Jim had been struggling with COPD and is now fighting a difficult case of Shingles. Cynthia had taken a fall last year but is recovering nicely after several pelvic fractures.

Ron Daniels, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Our balance sheet remains strong and we are financially poised to enjoy another season of rallies and fellowship. As of March 14th our bank account balance is \$5,676.60 and our PayPal balance is \$315.31 plus an extra gift card of \$25. So our subtotal is \$6,016.91 However we are holding deposits from the cancelled spring rally totaling \$510. Therefore, our total available funds amount to \$5,506.91

Craig Bowen, Treasurer

Bus for Sale

This gorgeous 1987 MCI is 102 inches wide, has an 8v92 turbo DD, auto trans, gorgeous paint, beautifully maintained by a former pilot, and always stored inside.



It belonged to our late member Mal Harper, in Griffin, GA, south of Atlanta. Other features: queen bed, separate bath with shower, FlexSteel furniture, custom woodworking, open, spacious salon with no overhead cabinets. Powertech generator with few hours, back-up camera, three low-profile roof airs. Asking \$34,000 or best offer. If interested, please contact Mary Harper at

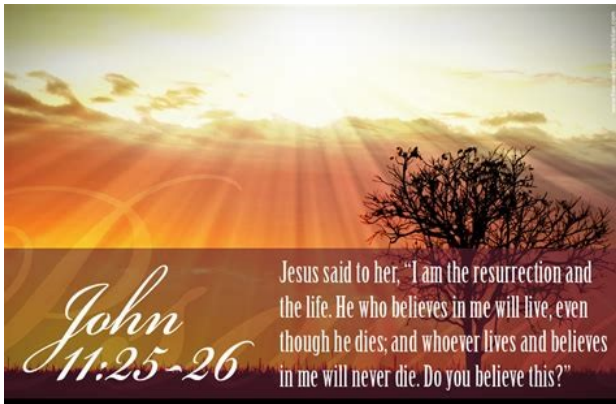
2 marybharper2@comcast.net

Chaplain's Corner

Hello everyone. Since Easter is near I wanted to remind you of the hope we have in Jesus—He made a way for us to have eternal life. May each of you have a blessed Easter. “For the believer there is hope beyond the grave, because Jesus Christ has opened the door to heaven for us by His death and resurrection” (Billy Graham)



**Chaplain
Darlene
Montesino**



SEBN Spring Rally Registration Open!

**Location: Barnyard Campground
Lexington, SC (near Columbia SC)
April 29-May 2 - Rally host, Kyle Brandt**

Note: Due to the pandemic and other timing factors, registration is quite limited. We apologize in advance if you are unable to get your name in, and will add you to a standby list.

Registration fee \$240. Use our website to pay and get your name in. DON'T WAIT!

**Thursday nite: Dutch treat to Shealy's BBQ
Friday nite: Crock Pot Spaghetti & salad, etc.
Saturday nite: Catered meat and three from Lizard's Thicket**

**Recommended attractions: SC State Museum;
Confederate Relic Room (\$)**

Although the campground address is Lexington, it is close to the state capitol.

Winter Rally report

Some 24 coach couples attended the February 18-21 event at Cabana Club RV Resort in Auburndale, FL. Members registered included **D Aldridge, R Aldridge, Bartley, Bates, Bowen, Boudreaux, Brandt, Bukoski, Jerry Campbell, Jack Campbell, Cook, Kirk, K Manna, T Manna, Montesino, Nixon, Noble, Sawyer, Scanapico, S Siems and Sowerby.**

Guests included Jess Burrier from Kentucky, John Fahnstock, Massachusetts, and James Harrell from Georgia. Several guests expressed an interest in joining SEBN.

The event started Thursday night with the group going Dutch Treat to The Pantry Modern Diner in Auburndale. On Friday the ladies went for lunch at the Sweet Magnolia's Tea Bistro in nearby Auburndale, and the guys visited an aircraft propeller repair facility nearby. Thanks to **Jerry Campbell** for organizing the prop shop visit. Afterwards the guys lunched at Winter Haven Airport.

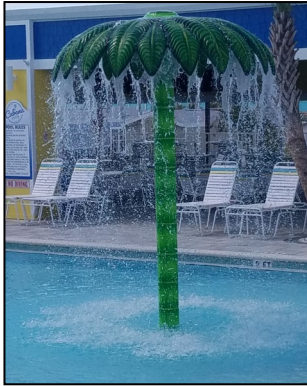
On Saturday there was a members' meeting after breakfast, and Past President **Craig Bowen** awarded the President's Award *in absentia* to **Mike Heron**. In the afternoon all attendees were invited to tour Fantasy of Flight in Polk City, a wonderful aircraft mu-



seum and collection. Thanks to **Steve Siems** for lining this up. There were two catered dinners in the sparkling new clubhouse: grilled steak on Friday and BBQ on Saturday. Very few leftovers! **Maureen Scanapico** and **Denise Aldridge** won the trivia contest.

The weekend weather was dry but cool. Everyone remarked on the first-class nature of the new RV resort, and SEBN officers were encouraged to re-book for next winter!

Auburndale Rally



A large pool and water slide welcomed guests at the just opened Cabana Club RV Resort.



The activities room was brand-new and first class. It looked out on the water park. The ladies met up on Saturday for a book review and recipe swap.



Thursday's dinner was Dutch Treat at a new diner in Auburndale.



First SEBN rally as members: John and Lisa Sawyer of Ft Myers, FL



The ladies enjoyed lunch at Sweet Magnolia's Tea Bistro on Friday afternoon...



...while the menfolk toured a propeller repair facility nearby in Auburndale, FL

More from Auburndale



Jerry Campbell, far right, organized the tour at the prop shop. where he happens to work!



Dinner on Saturday was delicious pulled pork and BBQed chicken.



Some of the rally organizers huddled before the members' meeting on Saturday morning. From left, Manny Montesino, Craig Bowen and Judy Bukoski.



Fantasy of Flight was the main attraction on Saturday. It takes visitors back to the pioneering days of aviation, including WWI and WWII. Most of the aircraft are still air-worthy. Most SEBN rally attendees went on this excursion.



'Cripes A' Mighty' is the name on this perfectly restored P-51 Mustang, one of dozens of warbirds at Fantasy of Flight.



Judy Bukoski tries her hand on the putting green at the resort.

Future Rallies—Hold These Dates!



The Barnyard Campground is near Columbia, SC, not far from Interstate 26 or Interstate 20.

Our annual SEBN Spring Rally!

April 29-May 2

Barnyard RV Park, Lexington, SC,
near Columbia.

201 Oak Drive, Lexington, SC
Registration now open; just go to our
chapter website

www.sebusnuts.org

and register on line. \$240.

See p. 3 for additional detail.

Our annual October Rally!

Florida Caverns RV Resort, Marianna, FL.
Near Tallahassee

Mark the dates. **October 7- 10**

Registration not yet open.

floridacavernsrvresort.com

A tranquil country setting along the banks
of a crystal clear, spring-fed river.



Our annual Winter Rally!

Cabana Club RV Resort, Auburndale, FL

January 20-23, 2022

Registration not yet open.

This new resort was so fabulous we have
re-booked it for next winter!

www.cabanaclubresort.com

Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers (through Dec. 31, 2022)

President– Manny Montesino locktech@tampabay.rr.com

Vice-President—Denise Aldridge denisea2@cfl.rr.com

Treasurer - Craig Bowen CBowen3117@gmail.com

Secretary—Ron Daniels ron.grandslam@gmail.com

FMCA Nat'l Dir –Rick Bartley sandrover@yahoo.com

2021 Advisory Committee:

(in addition to Chapter Officers)

Herb Bates

Judy Bukoski

Vicky Cates Daniels

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, Bryan Bowman and Craig Bowen. (* 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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