

Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Autumn 2021

Memo from Manny

Our Fall Rally at Marianna, FL was a great success! There were 20 coaches in attendance. Marianna is a charming town and we had fun exploring the area. Some visited the Caverns, some the nearby Brewery which had once been a bank. Good thing it's not a bank any longer since one of our very own BusNuts was caught on video helping himself to the tap outside. No charges were filed but we all sure had a good laugh over that.

There was also a dairy farm nearby giving tours and they had an ice cream shop in town selling their delicious goods. **Norm Scanapico** and my wife Darlene discovered what an "affogato" is. They were particularly interested both being Italian (and this being an Italian specialty).

Thursday, Darlene and I drove to Tallahassee which was about an hour away and toured the State Capitol. Believe it or not we've lived in Florida most of our lives and never had the opportunity to visit the Capitol before, so we were excited to be able to do that on this trip.

The rally meals and the fellowship were awesome and we were so happy to have some guests join us – friends and family of the Boudreauxs from Louisiana. Thank you **Marty Nixon** and **Kaydee** for securing this location for our rally, to **Denise Aldridge** and Chef **Craig Bowen** for bringing it all together, and to all those who lent a helping hand – especially **Judy Bukoski**.

Friday night's entertainment was provided by a local musician, and a big "Thank You" once again to our own **Mike Heron** for providing our entertainment Saturday night. We always have a blast when Mike is in charge of the entertainment! Cash Bingo! There were lots of laughs and a great time was had by all.



**Chapter President
Manny Montesino**

On our way home, Darlene and I had quite an adventure! I have to tell you there is nothing quite like experiencing a blowout of a front tire on the Interstate going 65 miles an hour! Thank God it was the passenger side front tire or it could have been much worse. We were on I-75 near Ocala, traveling southbound in the right-hand lane. Traffic was heavy but thankfully I was able to maintain control of the bus and get us safely to the shoulder, and we even settled next to an entire row of trees that shaded that area. Our Roadside Assistance failed us miserably and we ended up on the side of the road for seven hours!

Ironically, we had just had a discussion about roadside assistance companies at the business meeting held at the rally, and we had decided once we got home we were cancelling our membership with Good Sam's Roadside Assistance and changing to CoachNet, since they were highly recommended.

Two Road Rangers came by, but of course, neither one had the equipment to help us, but guess who came to our rescue – our BusNut friends. **John** and **Lisa Sawyer** had just missed their exit a mile back and stumbled upon us and pulled over to help. Had they not missed their exit they would have never seen us on the side of the road. We do carry a spare tire, and with John's help we managed to get that spare on. They stayed with us until we were back on the road. You can be sure that we will be discussing tires at the next rally!

Until then, happy trails, and I hope to see you at our next rally in Auburndale, FL.

Manny Montesino, President

The next rally, set for January 6-9, 2021 returns to a resort in Auburndale, Florida. See pages 2 and 8 for detail. Registration is now open.

Secretary's Report

A business meeting of the Southeast Bus Nuts (SEBN) was convened at Florida Caverns RV Resort on Saturday morning, October 9, 2021. The meeting was called to order by President **Manny Montesino**. **Darlene Montesino**, Chaplain, began the meeting with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sheriff **Patrick Boudreaux, Jr.** President Montesino welcomed guests **Cameron & Carla Hatch** and **Calvin & Linda Lepine**. The membership also welcomed long-timers **George** and **Bertha Showman** who joined the rally for the day from nearby Mexico Beach. Darlene Montesino provided a social media update.

Denise Aldridge, Vice President, provided an update on the progress of our new website under development by Jim Cassidy. Denise encouraged members to review the website at www.sebusnuts.com and to offer suggestions. Tentative plans are for the new website to be up and functional by January, 2022.

Denise, in her role as Rally Master, also shared that our next rally will be held at Cabana Club Resort in Auburndale, Florida on January, 6-9, 2022 hosted by the officers. Also, **Lou Kirk** and **Steve Siems** offered to host a rally in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia in October, 2022. See page seven for more detail.

Craig Bowen gave the Treasurer's update (see the following report). **Ron Daniels**, Secretary, gave a membership update: we have 45 Regular Members and 10 Honorary Members equaling 55 active members. Ron also gave an update on **Jim** and **Cynthia Threatt** who have both been experiencing declining health and are requiring home health care. **Jackie Campbell** gave an update on her and Jack's grandson, Marshall, who is recovering from a mild stroke. George Showman asked for prayers for his sister June who is dealing with brain and lung cancer.

Mike Heron, newsletter editor, stressed for members to submit any bus related items for sale to him to be included in future newsletters. Mike also called for a moment of silence in memory of our recently deceased members: **Bud Tatum**, **Don Wilson** and **Mal Harper**.

A discussion of roadside assistance programs was held.

Lou Kirk offered to serve as a back-up FMCA Director, in the event **Rick Bartley** is unable to cover for us. Ron Daniels made the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Ron Daniels, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

As of November 1st our chapter checking account shows a balance of \$4,513 and our PayPal balance is \$673. We are carrying outstanding registration deposits toward the Post-New Years Rally of \$2128.

Total balance is \$7,314. So our available, discretionary funds are **\$5186**.

Craig Bowen, Treasurer



From our Rally Master

Post-New Year's Rally Registration is now open!

Location: **Cabana Club RV Resort**
Auburndale, FL (between Orlando and Tampa) www.cabanaclubresort.com

January 6 - 9, 2022 - Hosted by chapter Officers. Registration fee is \$310.

For registration, use our SEBN website:

www.sebusnuts.org Please be patient if you experience any issues, and be sure to call me (Denise Aldridge) or Craig Bowen if you have any questions.

In addition to two cooked breakfasts we offer:

Thursday Nite: Dutch treat to The Pantry Modern Diner in Auburndale.

Friday Nite: Homemade Authentic Italian Lasagna Dinner (prepared by long time member **Sandy Manna**)

Saturday Nite: Catered Dinner

A Ladies Luncheon will be held Friday at The Back Porch Restaurant in nearby Lake Alfred, FL. A cozy eatery with popular prices. The RV Resort has many activities and entertainment to choose from during your stay. Be sure to check the Resort website and our Facebook page for the full schedule.

A guest speaker is planned to lead a Saturday discussion on tips and tricks for busers. Topics to be determined, but will include what to keep in your bus tool kit, safe driving techniques, and bus tire concerns.

Don't have a bus but want to come to the rally? You can still attend! The RV Resort has cabins available. You will need to make your cabin reservations directly with the RV Resort but you can still register for the rally for a reduced fee, that does not include RV camping, via Bus Nuts website.

Denise Aldridge

Marianna Rally Report, October 9-11

One of the nice benefits of being an active SEBN rally-goer is exploring towns and campgrounds that are off the beaten track. Few of us had been in the small city of Marianna, Fla (pop. 6002) before, but now some 20 of our coaches have travelled there and are the better for it. The modest campground is located on the banks of the crystal-clear Chipola River, which is a fisherman's and kayaker's delight.

Attending were **R. Aldridge, Bartley, Bates, Boudreaux, Bowen, Bukoski, Jk. Campbell, Clarke, Daniels, Hatch, Heron, Karlssen, Kirk, Lepine, Montesino, Noble, Sawyer, Scanapico, and Siems.** Surprise guests on Saturday were **George Showman** and mother **Bertha**, from nearby Mexico Beach. More than half of the coaches arrived a day early (Wednesday) to settle in and explore the area, including the Florida statehouse in Tallahassee, about 60 miles east.

Several members arrived in new (to them) coaches which were the subject of many comments and impromptu tours. Those driving new wheels include the **Hérons** (2000 Prevost), the **Clarkes** (2000 Prevost) the **Daniels** (1995 Prevost) and the **Kirks** who arrived in a vintage 1986 Airstream Motorhome which they have owned since new, but hadn't yet brought to rallies.

The weather forecast was initially troubling, since we knew we would be under an open pavilion instead of in an enclosed clubroom. But overall we had an excellent, clear and warm conditions. And the pavilion was magical because **Craig Bowen** had strung white Christmas tree bulbs in the ceiling, and they created a warm, cozy feeling.

Thursday of rally week was a relaxed day of visiting and settling in. In the late afternoon we all carpooled to Jim's Buffet and Grille for a great southern dinner with fried chicken, porkchops and even some local fried oysters. **Judy Bukoski** made a gift of a chef's jacket and toque to our Treasurer and cook-extraordinaire Craig Bowen, who had taken on extra food prep duties at the rally.

Friday started with a cooked breakfast of special omelets and baked ham, followed by a day of exploration, with outings lined up at the Florida Caverns, just five miles down the road, and the Southern Fields Brewery, which was in nearby Campbellton. The guided cavern tour featured fascinating stalactites and stalagmites, and some beautiful colors. Those doing the brewery tour were treated to a tasting room at the conclusion. Very popular! Back at the campground Craig arranged a catered Italian dinner featuring chicken alfredo and baked ziti with meatballs, along with salad and rolls. Dessert was delicious Neapolitan Italian sherbet. After dinner we were serenaded by a local guitarist/singer, Kaleb Frost, who sounded like a cross between Hank Williams Jr and Merle Haggard. Quite good! There was a 50-50 drawing afterward that netted the winner, Linda Ekaitis, \$160.

Saturday breakfast consisted of fresh chopped fruit and pancakes, prepared by **Denise Aldridge** and **Herb Bates'** daughters, Tammy, Teresa and Linda. It was followed by a membership meeting with good attendance and participation. The afternoon was given over to tours of Cindale Farms and its creamery, which boasts the best chocolate milk in the land. It also gave visitors the chance to actually milk a cow! But the best part was a visit to the Farms' ice cream store, which featured tastes of some very good flavors, e.g. salted dark chocolate!



Dinner that night was a big production. Chef Craig worked his magic and did a spectacular Low Country Boil, complete with local gulf shrimp and special Andouille sausage brought over from New Orleans by the Boudreaux family. Delicious! After dinner we played eight quick Bingo games and the top prize, \$50, was won by **Cameron Hatch**. The 50-50 drawing was \$130 and was won by Ron Daniels. **Patrick Boudreaux III** drew the winning ticket both nights.

Sunday was a quick coffee and rolls breakfast and departures for most of us. Unfortunately **Judy Bukoski** blew a tire before leaving, but a good group effort got her rolling quickly. On the way home to Fla. the Montesinos also blew a tire, but with minimal damage, and the Boudreaux family lost a fan belt enroute to Louisiana, but managed to limp home.

Our rallies are always an adventure!

MH

Marianna Rally Pix



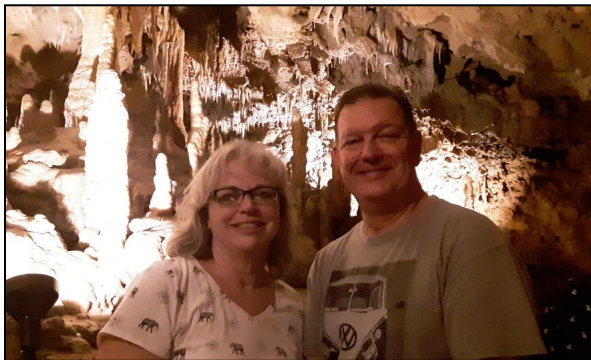
Some 21 coaches came to the Autumn Rally, some as old as a 1947 GM up to late model Prevosts. The weather was great, as was the wonderful spirit of camaraderie!



We caravanned to our Thursday night dinner venue, Jim's Buffet and Grille, which is famous for its southern cooking and reasonable prices. We were among the first to be seated!



At Jim's Buffet, from the left, Craig Bowen, Jack Campbell. Ron Daniels, Rick Bartley, Herb Bates and his three daughters Teresa, Tammy, and Linda, Vicky Daniels, Jackie Campbell and Judy Bukoski.



Nancy and Bo Nobel were among the BusNuts who toured the Florida Caverns, about five miles from the campground. The winding cave structures were colorful.



A mix of BusNuts are relaxing in the tasting room after a tour of the Southern Fields Brewery in nearby Campbellton, FL. The products were deemed quite refreshing!

More from Marianna



Friday's omelet breakfast was engineered and served by the crew of, from left, Judy Bukoski, Craig & Beverly Bowen and Gena Boudreaux.



Saturday's breakfast of waffles, ham and fresh chopped fruit was prepared and served by Tammy Bartley and her sisters Teresa Hunt, and Linda Ekaitis, and Chapter VP Denise Aldridge.



This Creamery tour photo features Judy Bukoski, Maureen Scanapico, Darlene and Manny Montesino, Norm Scanapico and Bertha Showman.



Norm and Darlene were among many who could not resist the ice cream store at the Creamery.



Two vintage buses graced our rally On the left is a GM 4905 owned by new member Cameron Hatch, of Westwego, LA. Parked next to it is a 1947 GM driven by Patrick Boudreaux of Marrero, LA.



Local singer Kaleb Frost joined us on Friday night. His country & western repertoire was quite entertaining.

Even More from Marianna!



VP Denise Aldridge poses with the logo for the Southern Fields Brewery.



The nights of the rally were mild, and having a pavilion with a lighted ceiling worked out beautifully. The campground clubhouse was new and modern, and although it was not large enough for group dining, there was an adequate serving kitchen for our purposes.



Chef Craig Bowen, left, and George Showman served up a magnificent Low Country Boil on Saturday night. Craig ventured down to the coast earlier in the week and picked up fresh shrimp. The Boudreaux family contributed the Andouille sausage to go with the potatoes, corn on the cob and onions. Delicious!



Kevin and Camellia Clark arrived in their new ride, a shiny 2000 Prevost Featherlite XL. This was its maiden voyage!

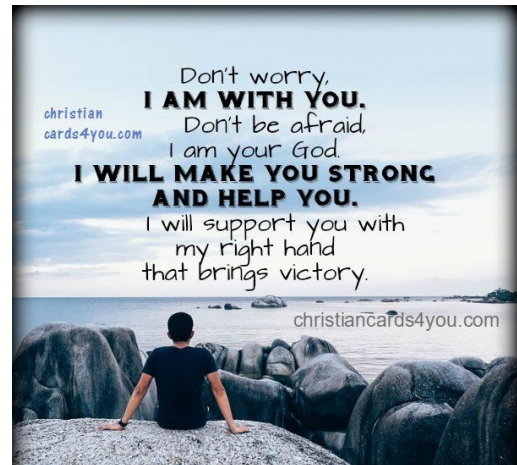


The Montesinos blew a steer tire enroute back to Winter Haven, FL, but despite poor performance from their road service, they made it home safely.

Chaplain's Corner

Hello Dear Friends... There is no denying that we are living in very uncertain times, but if we believe and trust in God, then we have nothing to fear. NOTHING takes God by surprise. HE loves us and HE always wants the best for us. Draw close to HIM and may you feel HIS presence and experience HIS perfect peace. God Bless,

Darlene Montesino
SE Bus Nuts Chaplain



FMCA Member Benefits

Most SEBN members know that in order to become a chapter member one has to first be a member of FMCA. One of the biggest benefits to the chapter of affiliation with FMCA is the blanket liability insurance we get for the rallies we hold.

But there are many benefits to individual Bus Nut members too, Here is a recap of some of these:

+*Motor Coaching magazine.* Each monthly issue is filled with valuable information concerning RV technology, the RV industry, and family news as well as colorful travel features, technical and DIY articles, and insightful stories that focus on various aspects of the RV lifestyle.

+*Stay connected.* You are a member of the FMCA 'family', and as such you can participate in on-line forums, Facebook and Instagram messaging, international conventions, and open chapter rallies across the US. The next international convention and RV Expo is in Tucson, AZ, March 23-26, 2022.

+*Medical emergency.* If you get sick while traveling in your bus and cannot safely continue, this wonderful program will repatriate you via air, and will provide a professional driver to return your coach to your home base. It covers you anytime you are 100 miles or more from home—with worldwide coverage A few SEBN members have had medical emergencies



while traveling, and relied on this program. They were satisfied with the results.

+*Mail Forwarding.* FMCA's optional mail forwarding service, powered by Your Best Address, is a fast, affordable way to check your home mail right on your computer. Whether you are hitting the road for a brief getaway or an extended stay, it's a convenient service you'll appreciate. Receive an email notification in your virtual "Anytime Mail" when your mail arrives. Log in to view your mail, and with a simple click of the button, opt to have each individual piece of mail forwarded, shredded, or opened and scanned!

+*Tire savings program.* You could save hundreds of dollars on bus or RV tires through the Michelin Advantage and Continental Choice Tire Programs brought to you by FMCA. Buy tires at the program price at any participating commercial Michelin or Continental RV Tire Dealer across the United States. Fees for mounting, balancing, federal excise tax, state and local taxes, and tire disposal are extra.

+*Windshield replacement program.* The Guardian RV Glass Network works with insurance companies to make sure your claim is processed efficiently so you can get back on the road.

+*International Travel Insurance.* Planning on busin' to Mexico this winter or Canada next summer? FMCA offers International Travel Insurance that can cover you anywhere in the world.

For the full benefits brochure:

https://www.fmca.com/pdfs/16PgBenefitsGuide-BR05_FMCA1217.pdf

Future Rallies—Hold These Dates!

Our annual Winter Rally!

Cabana Club RV Resort, Auburndale, FL

January 6-9, 2022

Registration now open:

www.sebusnuts.net

Reg fee \$310.

This new resort was so fabulous last year we have re-booked it for this January!



Our annual Spring Rally!
-Scouting a location in Alabama
-Identifying a possible host

Watch this space for further details!

Autumn Rally - October 20-23, 2022 in the Blue Ridge Mountains!

Hosted by **Lou Kirk** and **Steve Siems** in their premier mountain home community, St Cloud Estates, off Interstate 77, near Fancy Gap and Hillsville, VA.

This is a gorgeous area, and Lou and Steve have recently proven their skill at hospitality, hosting the winter rally in central FL in 2019!



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

Southeast Bus Nuts
c/o Manny Montesino
P.O. Box 2918
Winter Haven, FL 33883

