



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

February-March 2014

Charlie Chat

Just when I thought our membership was dwindling as so many chapters are, I am surprised that we are doing quite well in the scheme of things.

Our showing at the Arcadia Rally was the same as in the past, with us having about a third of the coaches there. The next rally we were concerned with was the Valentine's Day affair at Lazy Days. Well worry no more, with 25 coaches that came, it puts us right in line with 20-30 coaches we expect for rallies these days.

As far as membership goes, we had a little over 100 members at the end of the year. We know we'll lose a few due to high fuel and operating cost, old age and lack of interest. We've had calls from folks who are dropping out, and notes from FMCA telling us members are not renewing nationally. On the other hand, a few are joining us for the first time as well as a couple of rejoins. So all in all, we're holding our own very well.

The next big event is the Spring rally in Charleston, SC which host **Mike Heron** is hyping in this newsletter. In the fall comes our own Halloween shindig. It will be back at the Twin Oaks Music Park in Hoboken, GA.

What makes the Halloween Rally different this year is that it is in conjunction with FOTO, Friends of Twin Oaks, which is a blue grass organization meeting at Twin Oaks monthly. Wow, free entertainment and great food prepared by **Don Wilson** and **Howard Best**.

The thing that I always sweat out is upcoming rallies. What luck! **Ron and Pam Daniels** were so impressed with the February rally at Lazy Days, they offered to host our next Valentine's affair there next year. Now we need a 2015 Spring rally host . . .

Oh, and more good news . . . I've been mentioning that we are gaining new members, but not all of them are involved in converting coaches. Some are 'young'ns' who we need to replace us more mature folks. Discussions with HQ

revealed that many chapters are eliminating the need to be a part of their affiliation. (e.g. Foretravel owners, singing Christians, singles, etc.) Therefore, I felt we needed to update our bylaws to eliminate our 'associate' member category and have only regular members/honorary members.

That means anyone except honorary members can hold office. A regular member need only to meet the basic FMCA membership criteria. We held a vote at the Arcadia rally and the update was approved.

Charlie



Twenty-five coaches showed up for our annual Valentine's Rally, at LazyDays Rally Park in Seffner, FL. This is an increase of nine coaches over last year!

•Secretary's Update

Arcadia 2014 was once again well represented by the Southeast Bus Nuts with 32 coaches present at this rally.

The annual President's reception at Arcadia was well attended and all enjoyed snacks and fellowship as well as a short business meeting. New members, **Denise & Ray Aldridge** from Orlando were introduced. In January we welcomed new members, **Roenie & Jim Seagraves** to our group. They winter in Sebring and are friends of **Peggy & Ray Cox**.

We had 25 coaches present at the Valentine Rally which included member, **Cal Arter** attending his first rally. We added new members at the rally, **Linda & Don Levine** from Hollywood FL. Guests included **Mary & Steve Heiser** along with their two sons from Winter Haven. They plan to join us as soon as they get their FMCA number.

Multiple get well cards were sent out in December as well as a sympathy card to **Tom Mason**. In January, a get well card was sent to **Norm Scanapico** and a sympathy card sent to **Kyle Brandt**. In February, sympathy cards were sent to **Cal Arter** and **Aura Griffith** following the loss of their spouses, and a memorial gift was sent to the Millbrook Playhouse in Mill Hall PA in memory of **Susan Arter**. A card of encouragement was signed at the rally and sent to **Dick Mikuska** who is recovering from a stroke.

Our current active membership is 101, however, we expect to lose a few members who will, unfortunately, choose not to renew.

Judy Bukoski, Secretary

•Treasurer's Report

Vice President/Treasurer **Marty Nixon** reported that the post-Valentine's Rally balance in the club treasury was approximately \$4,700. He also mentioned, "2014 dues are now due and payable. Use the PayPal button on our website, or send a check for \$15.00 to the 'Southeast Bus Nuts', 2493 Insdale Trace, Atlanta, GA 30101." 2

Recent Rally Attendance / Coaches

Arcadia (President's Reception) 2012	32
Valentine's 2012 (Lake Okeechobee)	18
April in Carolinas 2012 (Palmetto Cove)	33
Halloween 2012 (Hoboken)	35
Arcadia (President's Reception) 2013	40
Valentines 2013 (Kissimmee)	16
Spring Rally 2013 (Stone Mountain, GA)	17
Halloween Rally (Costley Mill GA)	21
Arcadia (General Meeting) 2014	32
Valentine's 2014 (Lazy Days, FL)	25

Valentine's Rally Report

Kudos to hosts **Ed and Anke Fisher** and co-hosts **Bob and Sandi Thomas** who combined to put on a superb rally over Valentine's weekend.

Some 25 coaches attended, including those owned by **C Arter, H Bates, H Best, B Bowman, S Bowman, J Campbell, R Daniels, G Ensley, E Fisher, S Heiser** (guest), **M Heron, A Kline, A Metro, M Montesino, M Nixon, B Petty, A Rossi, K Seims, S Seims, J Silver, B Thomas, J Threatt, D Wilson** and **B Wright**.

Some of the attractive features of rallies at LazyDays include use of their spacious rally hall and kitchen, a free newspaper each morning at your site, and free breakfasts and lunches!

On the first night we all caravanned over to a local buffet, Buddy Freddy's, for a fine meal and great strawberry shortcake for dessert. Friday night was a delicious catered meal including fried chicken, ham, and all the fixings. After dinner we had a fun game of '50s and '60 trivia, with the entire crowd divided into teams of four. The winning team was comprised of **Bob Thomas, Ken Seims, Beverly Bowman** and **Anna Metro**. The ladies won large heart-shaped boxes of chocolates, and the men received extra-large sized Valentine's bloomers. Afterwards we had a sock hop - even Elvis made a surprise appearance!

On Saturday hosts Ed and Bob and their helpers BBQed 50 New York strip steaks, and they all came out beautifully. Sunday morning saw **Howard Best** turning out his traditional Krusteaz buttermilk pancakes and mild or spicy sausages!

We also had 50-50 drawing on two nights, and lots of great door prizes.

Valentine's-LazyDays Snapshots, February



President Bukoski's bus was a central point during much of the LazyDays rally.



The rally park staff were able to situate all but one of our 25 coaches in the same area.



From left, the Trivia team of Candy Kline, Ace Rossi, John Silver and Debbie Spear.



Treasurer Marty Nixon was on a Trivia team with Carol Heron, center, and Sharon Wilson.



The winning team: Elvis (Bob Thomas), Beverly Bowman, Anna Metro and Ken Seims.



The Sock Hop featured a line dance: from left, Lynne Silver, Susan Coker, Darlene Montesino and Suzanne Bowman.

More LazyDays Snapshots



President Charlie Bukoski and wife, Secretary Judy Bukoski enjoyed the Valentine's socials.



From left, Candy and Al Kline, Howard and Ellen Best, and Rene Kukor.



Poodle skirts and '50s outfits were in evidence at the Do-Wop Dance. Darlene Montesino, left, and Sandi and Bob (Elvis) Thomas, right.



The social hall was a comfortable fit for our 50 attendees at the steak fry on Saturday night.



Howard Best, center, whipped up his famous Krusteaz pancakes and sausages before we pulled out on Sunday.

Arcadia/New Years Rally Snapshots

(Thanks to Linda Karlsson for the photos!)



Norm Scanapico, standing, sells 50-50 tickets to Leo LeBlanc, left, and Steve Mann.



Over 30 member couples attended the President's Reception and general meeting, where our bylaws were amended.



Betty Nohel from the Great Lakes Chapter helps members Harriet Chaires and Pam Maichuk at the ice cream social.



Junior Showman was presented a well-trimmed leg as a gag gift at one of the receptions.



Steve Seims (with hose) helped Lou Kirk wash down his pretty Neoplan and trailer.



Members Bob and Donna Petty brought their impressive 1996 Prevost H series, right, which they are trying to sell.

Member Spotlight

An occasional feature of this newsletter is to profile both a newer member and a more long-term coach couple, an effort to get us better acquainted with each other.

Newer Member

Cal Arter's introduction to RVing was a bit unusual. He and his late wife Susan drove a semi all over the country for 15 years, hauling a Piper Aircraft display designed to build interest in a museum that Cal was championing at the legendary airplane manufacturer's earlier site in Lock Haven PA. They camped in the rig and hit all the air shows around the country, building enthusiasm for the project, which is now a reality, and which is an often-visited tourist attraction.

Tiring of the criss-crossing, they retired the tractor trailer and bought a Class C to use as transportation between their half year in Winter Haven FL and six months in upstate Pennsylvania. In both locations Cal is extremely active in community theatre, helping with management and fund raising. While in Florida he met SEBN member John Silver who had a beautiful H-3 Prevost for sale and it was love at first sight. Unfortunately Susan passed away this winter and didn't get the opportunity to enjoy the new coach.

Before retirement Cal was a long term Piper Aircraft executive, serving as chief test pilot, then branching into sales of their business aircraft, which he flew all over the world to demonstrate for corporate executives.

He has been a member of SEBN for about a year.



Longer-term Members

Don and Sharon Wilson have converted eight buses and the latest, an H3-45 Prevost, is a dream. Everyone who enters it is convinced that it is a multimillion dollar Marathon or Parliament.

Don has been building big things since his youth, when he converted an old bread truck into a camper at age 15! He spent his working life as a general contractor, and in recent years has been heavily involved in the pre-stressed concrete business, supplying product for bridges, overpasses and buildings.

And converting buses is not his only avocation. He has established a fine reputation for creating guitars in his woodworking shop. Don comes from a musical family, and he and Sharon are both heavily involved in the bluegrass scene. Getting to the bigger concerts is a cinch in their Prevost.

This past summer they took an unusual 10,000 mile trip in the bus. They took their entire family out west. Half flew to Denver for the over the road segment to Las Vegas, then that group flew home and the other half joined them from there to back east. At one point they had eight kids and grandkids traveling with them!

In the hundreds of thousands of miles they have been busin' they only had one major setback—a turkey flew into their windshield, shattering it. Fortunately, only the bird was injured.

6 Don and Sharon have been members of the Southeast Bus Nuts for 18 years!

Preliminary Report, Nominating Committee

The Southeast Bus Nuts' Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following preliminary report regarding future officers and the next nominating committee. Absent changes we expect this report to be adopted at the annual meeting of the chapter, set for Saturday November 8th at the Halloween Rally.

All terms are two years in duration and will commence January 1st, 2015.

For President:

Ed Fisher, Urbanna VA

For Vice President:

Bryan Bowman, Covington GA

For Treasurer:

Marty Nixon, Acworth, GA

For Secretary:

Anke Fisher, Urbanna VA



Further, the committee recommends the following past presidents be named to the Nominating Committee, for a two year term beginning 1/1/15:

Charlie Bukoski, Polk City, FL (Chair)

Mike Heron, Atlanta GA

Howard Best, Kingston GA

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Heron, Jack Campbell and Howard Best

FMCA Convention, Perry GA

Our southeast area representative from FMCA, Doug Pearson, has written to all S.E.A. chapters with the following message:

“We still need volunteers to help work at the 89th Family Reunion in Perry, GA. March 17-20. As of now we need about 24 volunteers for ‘Tram Driving’ and about 21 volunteers for the ‘Seminars’. If you, or any of your members would like to step up to the plate and help out for this effort it would be greatly appreciated. We (The Southeast Area) are after all the hosts for this rally and we want it to be one of the best ones yet. Volunteers need to contact Kay Alexander at kayalexander@bellsouth.net.

As of this date, there are about 2240 coaches registered for this wonderful event.”

Which House Batteries?

Several members have moved into AGM batteries (absorbed glass mat) for their ‘house’ bank, mostly because of low/no maintenance. The Deka 4-Ds and 8-Ds are popular choices and are substantially below the Lifeline in price. Caveat: some adjustment in charge rate should be made to nurture these expensive batteries.

For Sale

From time to time, the newsletter is asked to post notice of members' buses or bus-related equipment for sale. Address submissions to mikeheron@bellsouth.net

MC-12 Bus without engine. Is immaculate. Doors and Stainless Steel are like new. Most parts will fit MC9/12/102. Whole bus is available or just parts. Contact Gerald Ensley at dirtdauber@gmail.com or via telephone at 205-338-3113.

Webasto motor late model, paid \$125. Best offer. Jim Conway 352-445-0155

MCI parts, Pumpkin for MCI, 4:11 ratio; also 4.10 rear from MCI 12, ring and pinion gears only from MCI 102C3, rear Lights from MCI 12 (just like 102C3) Jack Campbell at 863-206-3838 or e-mail jack.campbell1090@gmail.com

2014 Spring Rally -Register NOW- April 24th-27th (weekend after Easter)

Oak Plantation Campground
3540 Savannah Highway
Charleston-Johns Island, SC
www.oakplantationcampground.com



ONLY 24 SITES HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED US*. Reservation cut-off is **March 24th!!** Many people attending the recent Valentine's rally have registered already for this next event.

Rally hosts: Mike & Carol Heron
Co-Hosts: Howard & Ellen Best
Ron & Pam Daniels
Marty Nixon & Debbie Spear

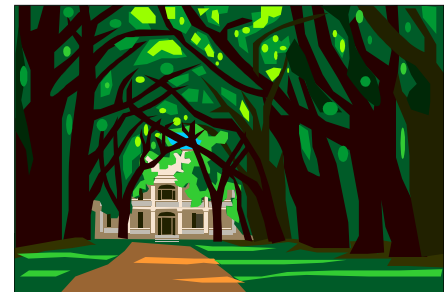


Rally planners are arranging several optional side trips to enhance the Charleston experience:

- Guided coach tour of Old Charleston;
- Tour of Magnolia Plantation and Gardens;
- Tour of Patriot's Point, home of the carrier USS Yorktown, a submarine, and one of the Nation's premiere naval museums.

Three breakfasts:
Friday, Bojangles egg/sausage biscuits
Saturday: Howard Best's French Toast & sausage;
Sunday, Coffee & doughnuts
Thursday night, group trip to local BBQ joint
Friday night, catered meal
Saturday night, Pot Roast extravaganza

Mark your calendar, and plan to join us!
Rally fee: \$215. per coach (two people)
Electronic registration now open on Chapter website. or send your check to SEBN, 2493 Insdale Trace, Acworth, GA 30101



* Additional campsites may be available in other sections of the campground. Our 24 sites are clustered together.

Save the date!

2014 Halloween Rally

November 6-9, 2014

Twin Oaks Music Park, Hoboken GA

That's right folks, we are returning to the scene of many a happy Halloween Rally after a one year absence.



We will be joining The Friends of Twin Oaks (FOTO) for home-cooked meals and blue grass entertainment!

Hosts: **Don & Sharon Wilson** and **Howard & Ellen Best**

Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers:

President– Charlie Bukoski chasjudy@bukoski.com

VP / Treasurer– Marty Nixon nixonmarty@aol.

Secretary--Judy Bukoski judy@compzrs.com

FMCA National Director-Bertha Showman
jrbmshow@aol.com

Advisory Committee:

Howard Best

Jack Campbell

Dorothy Ensley

Mike Heron

Leah Johnson

Chaplain: Beverly Bowman

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, and Duane Britt.
(* 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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