

Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Summer 2025

Noble Thoughts

by Bo Noble,
Chapter President

Mid-summer report. I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather and traveling. I see on social media and personal calls that lots of our folks are on the road in multiple directions somewhere!

So, for those who were at the Perry Rally you saw what happens when a bunch of Bus Nuts have too much time on their hands. I took most of my generator home in a box and **Ray Aldridge** took the generator head south to Florida. It apparently overheated while boondocking the first night at Perry and developed a knock. While sitting around and enjoying the company of friends relaxing, talking, and telling lies, Ray and **Kevin Clark** said, "Let's take it apart and find out what's wrong with it." I said, "Are you kidding me? Here?"



President Bo Noble

After almost completely disassembling the genny in the Perry fairground field over two days, we found the source of the knocking. Well, long story short, my generator is back together and running smoother than before. Ray and **Denise Aldridge** came up to our place in South Carolina while doing an extended road test on their new coach lithium batteries, and helped me reassemble the motor. And Ray couldn't help himself looking at my big excavator yard art (a massive track hoe that was left here when we bought the property). We dug into it, getting it running as

well. It was probably just two minutes from actually running when the starter gave out. Stay tuned on the continuing saga of "Will it run?" (I have the rebuilt starter back from the shop now.)

In other news **Jerry and Patsy Hodge** and **Ed and Anka Fisher** have a great location put together for our Fall Rally (October 23-26) on the Outer Banks of North Carolina! Plan to sign up when registration opens—it will be awesome. Also get your calendar marked (January 1-4, 2026) for the winter rally in Wildwood, FL (near the Villages). See p. 6 for more info.

See you soon, hopefully, here or down the road!

Treasurer's Report

Greetings and happy summertime from sunny Florida! I am pleased to report that we are successfully registered with the state of Florida as a not-for-profit corporation, as Family Motorcoach Association, and opened a bank account DBA Southeast Bus Nuts. Woot-Woot!

Per chapter bylaws, both the president and the treasurer are listed on the account. So now when we have a change in officers, it's an easy process to change signers. In addition I was also been successful in opening a new PayPal account. I have not been able to get the Zettle account linked with PayPal but I am not giving up! Sometimes you just have to get the right person on the phone to comprehend what you're trying to do. Patience!

Cont'd

Noble
out-
Al-
vannah

Treasurer's Report, Cont'd)

After transitioning from our previous treasurer, we have a combined available balance of \$3377.20 as of this writing. I would also like to remind everyone that dues are past due. The website has been updated, so please check your status for your last paid year, and if you're behind go ahead and submit your dues via the 'dues' button. I will be sending a dues reminder anyway as well. If you experience any difficulty paying dues, contact me right away at either 407-466-4431 or at denisea2@cfl.rr.com PayPal has been a little finicky since we have a new account, which is good on one hand as they are being cautious regarding fraud. But on the other hand it can be frustrating when you just want to pay dues and be done.

Until we cross paths again, keep those wheels a spinning. Ray and I are preparing for our summer travels with **Kevin** and **Camellia Clark**, heading for the headwaters of the Mississippi River, and down the Great River Road. If anyone has favorites to pass along, please do!

Denise Aldridge, Treasurer

Secretary's Report

Treasurer **Denise Aldridge** gave the Secretary's Report for **Lisa Sawyer**: We are now caught up with the membership updates. So our roster is as follows: 36 regular members 13 honorary members.

Board Minutes

President **Bo Noble** called the meeting to order at 8:36 am. Chaplain **Jerry Hodge** gave the invocation, and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Bo welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. No Secretary Report was given.

Next Rally:
October 23-25, 2025
The Outer Banks
Rodanthe, NC

Vice President **Jerry Hodge** had some license plates made with Southeast Bus Nuts logo (thank you **Dan Aldridge**) that are available for purchase for \$25. (See photo on p. 3) Contact **Jerry** if you would like to get one.

President **Bo Noble** presented a new logo to the group to update the van to an actual bus. It was suggested that the new logo be included in the newsletter so that all members have an opportunity to see it and provide feedback. Everyone in attendance agreed. See artwork on p. 5.

There was some discussion about our Facebook page and posting information explaining the difference in being a member of our Facebook group versus being a paying member of our FMCA Chapter. President **Bo Noble** will get with our Facebook administrator **Darlene Montesino** to work on that.

It was brought up and discussed that the group would like to get back to bringing one's own plates and utensils to our meal gatherings to minimize the expense of purchasing these disposable items. A motion was made by **Jerry Hodge**, seconded by **Dan Aldridge**, and the motion carried unanimously to update the Standing Rules to reflect this change.

Another item that was brought up and discussed was to eliminate coffee being made at each breakfast gathering. There is too much coffee being tossed out at the end of the breakfasts. Typically a large pot of caffeinated and decaffeinated are prepared; however, more than half continues to be thrown out after each breakfast, as members are bringing their own cups of coffee from their coaches. This will also eliminate the need to haul the large pots to and from rallies along with the coffee and supplies, which often expire before they are consumed.

A motion was made by **Linda Marin** seconded by **Jack Campbell** and the motion carried unanimously to update the Standing Rules to reflect this change.

Secretary **Lisa Sawyer** is working on three possible locations for our 2026 Post New Year's Rally in Florida. Vice President **Jerry Hodge** and **Ed Fisher** are co-hosting the fall rally in the Outer Banks North Carolina. More details to come in the next newsletter. For the good of the order **Denise Aldridge** had girl scout cookies for sale after the meeting. 'Magnolia' thanks you for your support!



Perry/FMCA Rally Pix



Far left: Linda Marin, Kaydee Black, Phyllis Ceccini and Denise Aldridge attended a line dancing seminar.

Near left: A cozy dining pavilion was set up between Bo Noble's and Ray Aldridge's coaches. Protection from sun and rain! On one night Ray Aldridge and helpers put on a great steak dinner for everyone!

Far right: The first big night of the Perry Rally was a sensational concert by "The Three Divas", whose repertoire spanned country and western, pop, and disco, especially Donna Summer. Excellent!



Near right: Two off campus restaurants were booked, a quintessential southern buffet and then a Mexican spot, and they were both very good.



Far left: One evening in the 'dining pavilion' featured a catered southern BBQ. Food always tastes better outdoors!

Near left: Dan Aldridge, right, conceived of a new SEBN affinity license plate for our coaches. They sell for \$25 each and went fast. He has teamed up with chapter VP Jerry Hodge, left, to market the vanity plate. More will be available at the autumn rally.

More from Perry



Far left: Piracy and Buccaneers were the themes of the large Perry rally, and cutlasses were made available to settle differences. Here Jerry and Rosemary Campbell squared off.



Near left: There were dozens of RV seminars and product demos every day, and one of the most popular was "Introduction to Air Frying in your RV".

Near right: On the third night of the event there was a big concert by The Dueling Pianos, which had the house jumping. The Andrews brothers, natives of Georgia, got everyone singing along.



Far right: On the Saturday morning after another great Ray Aldridge breakfast, the SEBN membership met for a board meeting with president Noble presiding.



Far left: President Noble was not afraid to get his hands dirty as he tackled an ailing generator (with lots of advice from the gallery!) Between Ray Aldridge, Jess Burrier and Kevin Clarke, no move went uncriticized.

Near left: A spectacular fireworks show over the fairgrounds lake was held toward the end of the rally.

Marty Nixon has taken his Prevost H-series coach from home base Atlanta out to Forest City, Iowa, for a complete re-spray at prestigious CDI Custom Painting. That's 1,000 miles away! Check out the "during" and "after" shots below. A thorough one-month project. She will look



brand new when finished next week.

Marty decided that going to a large well-organized paint shop was better than a small in-

dependent operation, in part because they allocate four weeks for each job on a schedule that is tightly adhered to.



That, and their use of superior primers and paints, sealed the deal.

Congratulations Marty. We can't wait to see it in person!

SEBN past president **Jack Campbell** and friend Linda Farrell are on a summer-long bus excursion with other Bus Nuts, and they are hitting top tourist spots as they work their way west.

They began by heading from home in Polk City, FL, out to New Orleans, accompanied by fellow SEBN members **Tony** and **Sandy Manna**. Lots of fun on Bourbon Street. From there the foursome traveled out to Branson, MO, where they took in some shows and a dinner cruise.

After Branson the Mannas headed to Tony's family homegrounds in NY State, and Jack and Linda went up to the Chicago area to visit Linda's son's family.

Out in the great Midwest Jack and Linda hooked up with SEBN members **Lou Kirk** and **Renea Mason**, and **Steve Siems** and **Harriet Chaires**.

From there the three coaches headed

further west, to South Dakota and Wyoming, where they toured Mt Rushmore and Yellowstone. They have no set agenda and, who knows, there's no telling where they will end up!

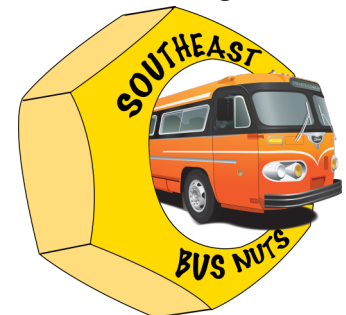


Westward Ho! SEBN members visiting famous Mt Rushmore last month are, from the left, front row: Harriet Chaires, Renea Mason and Linda Farrell. Back row are Steve Siems, Lou Kirk and Jack Campbell

New SEBN Logo?

At the forthcoming SEBN Autumn rally and annual meeting out on the Outer Banks, N.C., the chapter membership will consider a redesign of the venerable SEBN logo.

Shown below, the proposed artwork was retooled by President **Bo Noble's** daughter, Bethany, who attended graphic design school. "She seemed to really enjoy dusting off her design application on the computer and doing something she loves to do.



Member **Dan Aldridge** provided the original FLX design, and Bethany freshened up the colors and typography.

Future Rallies—Mark These Dates!



Autumn Rally!
Jerry Hodge and Past President Ed Fisher have agreed to co-host a rally on the NC Outer Banks!

**Camp Hatteras Campground
Rodanthe, NC
October 23-26, 2025**

(Registration will open on our chapter website July 20-August 20)

**Post New Years Rally
January 1-4, 2026
Wildwood RV Village
(near The Villages, FL)
For details: Lisa Sawyer, Sec'y
lisaasawyer@yahoo.com**



SEBN 2026 Spring Rally

**Rally Hosts needed.
Contact Bo Noble for
details (704) 502-6055**

Watch this space for further information

Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers (through Dec. 31, 2026)

President– Bo Noble bonoble@outlook.com

Vice-President—Jerry Hodge jandphodge1@gmail.com

Treasurer - Denise Aldridge denisea2@cfl.rr.com

Secretary—Lisa Sawyer lisaasawyer@yahoo.com

FMCA Nat’l Dir—Denise Aldridge denisea2@cfl.rr.com

2025 Advisory Committee:

(in addition to Chapter Officers)

Jerry Hodge, Chaplain

Mike Heron

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, Craig Bowen, Manny Montesino and Denise Aldridge (* denotes deceased)

Visit our website:

<https://www.sebusnuts.com>

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 Bo Noble
520 Log Creek Road
Edgefield, SC 29824

