



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Summer 2024

Denise's Diary

Hello my fellow Bus Nut members!

It's a great day here in the City of Orlando. A hot one to say the least. Family obligations have kept us close to home this year, but we have managed to get out and about in the bus a few times. Aside from our NASCAR races and fabulous Southeast Bus Nut rallies, we are currently on our way to our annual family scalloping trip in the Gulf of Mexico. I think this year we will have a total of 14 attending. Always a fun time on the water.

We are looking forward to and planning our big trip for this year leaving mid August returning home first week of November. We will be meeting up with **Kevin** and **Camellia Clark** somewhere in Virginia heading north to our final destination in Maine. Lots of traveling adventures along the way. Thanks to all our fellow Bus Nuts who shared tips and advice for things to do and places to see along the way and in Maine. Your input has been invaluable.

We are excited to finish our trip circling back down into North Carolina to attend the Fall Rally in Winston Salem hosted by our Vice President **Bo Noble** and his lovely wife **Nancy**. They have been hard at work planning, coordinating and organizing a fantastic rally. Be sure to mark your calendars to attend the rally October 24-27, 2024. We will open registration tentatively around August 24th through September 24th. That gives you 30 days to get registered. Register as early as possible!



Chapter President Denise Aldridge

We understand that sometimes circumstances change that may require a cancellation or late registration, however, a change in registration causes a domino effect for adjusting headcounts for any catering that is being done, the purchase of food for meals, and for any tours that have been scheduled. We will continue to do our best to accommodate everyone as we certainly want you all to attend if possible but please be mindful of the extra effort it takes to make changes after the cutoff dates. We love seeing everyone and really enjoy having as many Bus Nuts at our rallies as are willing and able to come. Remember....you don't have to have a bus, you just have to be Nuts!

When we left Columbus, Ray and I traveled up to Blue Ridge, GA then on to Bryson, NC, then stopped off in Shelby, NC before landing in Darlington, SC for our spring NASCAR race. We rode two different scenic railroads and two different rail cars. We stumbled into the Earl Scruggs Museum which was quite interesting to learn about the beginnings of blue grass music. We also attended a few concerts locally in Florida with **Kevin** and **Camellia Clark**. We stayed at an Elks Lodge in St. Augustine and saw Cheap Trick and REO Speedwagon. I think this was my third time seeing REO. One of my favorites. We saw the Rolling Stones at Camping World Stadium in Orlando. They were AMAZING! A first for me to see them live. I guess they keep playing because they just can't get no satisfaction. What do you think? We also camped at a horse farm

AUTUMN RALLY
Salem Breeze RV Park
Winston Salem, NC
Reg'n opens August 24th

Denise's Diary (Cont'd)

and attended Kid Rock and Jason Aldean's Rock the Country music festival where **John** and **Lisa Sawyer** joined us. Until our paths cross again, keep the wheels on the bus rolling. You gotta get your money's worth out of those tires!

Denise Aldridge, Chapter President

FMCA Director's Report

We are traveling but there is really nothing new from FMCA except to remind SEBN members that this summer is their big 109th International Convention in Redmond, Oregon, August 14-17.

Camellia Clark, National Director

Secretary's Report

The membership met on Saturday morning at the spring rally. The composition of the Nominating Committee was voted on and approved: It consists of **Manny Montesino**, past president, as chair, **Mike Heron**, and **Bo Noble**. The committee has met twice via conference call and selected the following slate of leaders for 2025-26:

President: **Bo Noble**, Vice President: **Jerry Hodge** of Manning, SC, Secretary: **Lisa Sawyer** and Treasurer, **Denise Aldridge**.

Their names will go before the general membership for final vote at the SEBN annual meeting at the autumn rally in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Their two-year terms will commence on January 1st, 2025.

The membership paused to recognize the long and distinguished service of **Craig Bowen** as chapter treasurer for the past four years (and he inherited the job from his wife, **Beverly**, who served two years as Treasurer before him!)

Effort has been made to update the membership roster as there are lots of members whose current dues are now past due.

Lisa Sawyer, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Our balance sheet as of July 4th shows \$6,827.06 Those funds consist of \$6738.31 with Bank OZK and \$88.75 with PayPal.

We have no recorded outstanding deposits, refunds, or credits, and the pay to our Webmaster is current. We will look to reduce our balance sheet over the next several rallies to keep in line with SE Bus Nuts standing rules.

Thanks to everyone for bringing their memberships current.

Craig Bowen, Treasurer

Vice President's Update:

We had some family issues come up in May that prevented us from going to Winston Salem and reconning the fall rally site, but **Jerry & Patsy Hodge**, **George & Clairevon Nixon**, and **Jack Campbell** were able to enjoy several days there and made great recommendations for activities for our October rally. Get registered early as we will have the entire park for ourselves and space is limited to 24 coaches. Start thinking about how to decorate your coach exterior for Halloween and a Saturday costume party.

We made several trips in the bus with family in May, it was a blessing to have everyone travel together, and the coach performed flawlessly dragging our 'new to us' TOAD (2010 Chevy HHR). I picked it up in Florida after seeing it on FB Marketplace. Earlier **Rick Bartley** went by and gave it a once over at the seller's house nearby Auburndale.

In June we were excited to have George and Clairevon Nixon stay with us in their beautiful Prevost for several days. While George was here, he helped me do some regular Preventive Maintenance on our coach. We identified several items that are being updated for the long-term safety and dependability. Thanks George!!

In August, after 25+ years of service between Ohio Army (1984-1993) and NC ANG (2008-2024) I will be retiring from the 118th ASOS, North Carolina Air National Guard. See you at the autumn rally in Winston Salem, NC!

Bo Noble, Vice President

(Editor's Note: Congrats, Bo!!)

Chaplain's Report

Summer is full of activities, travel, family outings, etc. Through all of these things, we may encounter challenges, problems, and maybe even uncomfortable situations. Instead of seeing challenges as obstacles, view them as stepping stones. Every challenge we face can help us grow in faith and become stronger and more resilient, which can help us navigate future difficult times.

Lord, help us move through trials towards a brighter future, and give each of us a clear vision of your will and give us the strength to follow it.

Note: I will not be able to be with you at the Fall Rally, however, I trust it will be yet another fun filled adventure. I leave you with an interesting fortune cookie saying: "People are just as happy as they make up their minds to be". So let's all have a "Happy Summer".

Judy Bukoski, Chaplain

Columbus Rally Report, by Denise

I hope that everyone who was able to attend the Spring Rally in Columbus, GA had a good time. All told we had 16 coaches. The family-owned second generation campground was super welcoming, and the accommodations were very nice. Huge shout out to my sidekicks **Phyllis Cecchini** and **Camellia Clark**. They are always willing to lend a hand. And I cannot give enough thanks to my co-host, our chapter Secretary, **Lisa Sawyer**. Lisa whipped up some amazing French toast baked breakfasts and some super yummy white chicken chili. Ladies, you were all shining stars and are appreciated for all that you do!! Then of course, my **Ray** was there on the griddle doing his thing with bacon,

fried “taters” and onions. I received lots of positive feedback on all the meals including the catered steak dinner from Burt’s Butcher Shop. One thing about our rallies, we do not go hungry.

We also had a special guest in attendance, past President **Howard Best** and wife **Ellen**. Thank you to our Treasurer, **Craig Bowen**, for grilling up some hot dogs and putting together a lunch gathering to visit with Howard and Ellen. Turns out there were five past presidents in attendance. In my opinion, that speaks volumes to the success of our chapter of FMCA and its ability to have longevity. It takes volunteers to keep it going and this shows how committed our members are.

Chapter Leadership on display at Columbus rally



Five Past Presidents attended the recent spring rally of the Southeast Bus Nuts. From the left, Mike Heron, Craig Bowen, Howard Best, current president Denise Aldridge, Jack Campbell and Ed Fisher. Howard and wife Ellen drove down in their Chevy Suburban from nearby Cartersville GA, as his days of piloting that dependable MC-8 are in the rear view mirror.

Columbus, GA Rally



The facilities at Lake Pines RV Park were spacious and roomy. The meeting hall/venue is popular for weddings/receptions.



These folks enjoyed the audience participation game of "True or False" on Friday night.



Denise Aldridge serves delicious cornbread muffins with the three chilis offered on Friday.



Chef Craig fired up the grill for the Past Presidents' Lunch. Great hot dogs!



The music was provided by a local duo, Dave and Donnie, and they had the audience up and dancing!



Chapter VP Bo Noble and wife Nancy showed everyone how it's done!

More from Columbus



The Fishers, left, and the Herons discovered a BBQ joint that was in an old Greyhound bus station in downtown Columbus!



Dexter Wingfield is served chili and cornbread by chapter secretary Lisa Sawyer.



There was no shortage of desserts at this rally, as this line-up at-tests. Lot's of delicious baked goods!



VP-Nominee Jerry Hodge and wife Patsy head the table at one of our wonderful outdoor meals at the Lake Pines RV Park and Campground.

NEAR RIGHT: The membership meeting was on Saturday morning of rally weekend. One of the highlights was the Nomination of officers for 2025.

FAR RIGHT: Ray Aldridge, center, cooked several breakfasts for the attendees: eggs, bacon, and fried potatoes & onions were a typical menu.



SEBN Autumn Rally

Save the dates!

October 24-27

Winston Salem, NC



It's a great park and we may have it to ourselves!

<https://www.coolbreezecampground.com/salem-breeze-rv-park/>



SEBN Registration opens around September 24th through September 24th

Any questions, please call Bo Noble, chapter VP and rally host, at (704) 502-6055

Future Rallies—Watch for These Dates!

Salem Breeze RV Park

**Fall Rally – Winston Salem, NC
October 24-27, 2024**

[https://
www.coolbreezecampground.com/
salem-breeze-rv-park/](https://www.coolbreezecampground.com/salem-breeze-rv-park/)

Rally Center is complete, this is a great place for RV Clubs & Rallies. Lots of area attractions like Old Salem, RCR Racing Museum & Shop, The Winston Cup Museum, Bob Timberlake Gallery, Childress Vineyards, Lexington BBQ and much more!

Post New Years Rally January 2-5, 2025

Some 25 sites have been reserved at beautiful **Creek Fire Resort** in historic Savannah, GA !

[https://covecommunities.com/rv-resorts/
georgia/creekfire-resort/](https://covecommunities.com/rv-resorts/georgia/creekfire-resort/)



Spring Rally!

Our Spring rally will be incorporated in with FMCA's 110th International Convention in Perry GA, **March 12-15, 2025**

Rally host/hosts needed. Contact Bo Noble for information. (704) 502-6055



Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers (through Dec. 31, 2024)

President– Denise Aldridge denisea2@cfl.rr.com
Vice-President—Bo Noble bonoble@outlook.com
Treasurer - Craig Bowen CBowen3117@gmail.com
Secretary—Lisa Sawyer lisaasawyer@yahoo.com
FMCA Nat’l Dir—Camillia Clark kc72761@aol.com

2024 Advisory Committee:

(in addition to Chapter Officers)

Judy Bukoski, 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, and Manny Montesino
(* 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

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