



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

March 2018

Blast from Bryan

GREETINGS, Bus Nuts, hope this writing finds you all well and hopefully enjoying some warm and dry weather. Around Metro Atlanta here it has been a soggy and cold WINTER, we are certainly ready for spring to SPRING. At the time of this writing Suzanne and I are excited to be attending the 97th Annual FMCA National Convention in Perry Georgia. I'm sure this is going to be a little bit of an event as they are going to be rolling out their new partnership with non-motorized RVs. We look forward to seeing some of our Bus Nuts members and other friends we've made as we've traveled around the country. Just hoping the "grounds" are dry enough, as in memories past, some folks had to be pulled out of the mud holes to exit the fairgrounds. Heck, I will have the winch and my 4-wheel drive jeep, so no worries for us. (wink, wink)

Speaking of rallies, hopefully ALL OF YOU are making plans to join us at a luxurious facility for our next chapter rally in Hilton Head. Rally hosts **Marty Nixon** and friends are 'Puttin on the Ritz' for us at this five-star motor coach resort May 17th thru 20th. With catered meals, live entertainment, and great Bus Nuts group fellowship in a popular resort area we are certain to load up on the fun.

Just be aware we can only take the first 30 or so coaches, and camping registration must be done directly with the resort. We have secured almost 50% off their regular nightly camping rate for those that register by April 1st. So don't miss that deal.



The spring rally is May 17-20 at Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort, one of the nation's finest!

Go ahead and register now with the Hilton Head Motorcoach Resort, then go to www.sebusnuts.net and register for the other half of the rally fee. Yeah, it's a little different than what we're used to, paying one rally fee, but it's worth it.

And for those of you that have not yet signed up on our Bus Nuts Facebook page, we hope you'll plan to join that as well. It's a closed group but not just members only, anyone can join - all you need to do is ask for an invite from the admins and you will be added. We do

this step to keep down the trolls and ads and such. Joining is easy and this is just another outlet for us to keep up with information on a more current basis. It's been fun getting to learn the facts and watching the "profiles" of our member coaches getting the Facebook "spotlight". Thanks **Manny and Darlene Montesino** for taking this task on.

Hoping some good summer plans are on schedule for all of you to keep those tires turning and those big bus motors burning. 'Til we meet at Hilton Head, safe travels.
Bryan Bowman, President

Hilton Head Update

As of publication time 22 of our allotted 30 sites have been claimed. You have until *April 1st* to call the resort (843-785-7699, ext. 5) and put a \$54 deposit on your space. Only 8 remain. Coaches registered to date:

B Bowman, M Heron, M Nixon, H Best, H Bates, S Siems, E Brown, R Bartley, Jack Campbell, D Alridge, M Montesino, G Smith, C Bowen, E Fisher, J Threatt, K Brandt, E Johnson, R Daniels, J Osorio, Jerry Campbell, L Kirk, and C Bukoski. After April 1st the camping rate is \$90.— don't hesitate!

Secretary's Report and Minutes

A meeting of the SEBN was convened at Sun 'N Fun, Lakeland, Florida on Saturday, January 6th. President **Bryan Bowman** stated this rally is hosted by SEBN Officers. President Bowman reviewed the day's itinerary. Officers were introduced.

President Bowman summarized actions taken at the recent Hoboken, Ga. Rally: **Darlene Montesino** is overseeing our SEBN Facebook page, chapter membership voted to change by-laws to require a minimum of three rallies per year rather than four; also the person stepping up to host a rally will receive the benefit of being exempt of paying the rally fee; and beginning with the next SEBN President, the president will be allowed to attend one of the two FMCA National rallies exempt from paying rally fees as a benefit.

Treasurer **Charlie Bukoski** made the motion seconded by **Herb Bates** to also allow any Rally Host to be onsite two additional nights prior their rally at no charge. Motion unanimously passed.

Ron Daniels gave the Secretary's report: 71 active members (60 regular and 11 honorary). Membership voted to dispense with the reading of minutes from the Hoboken, Ga. business meeting. He recognized members sick: **Howard Best** and **Ray Cox**. Members were also informed of the passing of long-time member **Jim Conway**. Sympathy and get-well cards were distributed for members to sign for mailing. Secretary Daniels stated that we are happy that **Carol Heron** is back with us and doing well following surgery.

Vice President **Craig Bowen** suggested the possibility of a future rally at **Ray Cox's** home in Gay, GA and discussion was held.

Treasurer **Charlie Bukoski** informed the members of a \$119.00 expense for domain renewal for three years. Charlie is also our webmaster, and he encouraged members to keep their profile / contact information up to date on the website.

Mike Heron, Newsletter Editor, said the newsletter comes out approximately one month

after every rally. It serves as a tool to boost attendance, and is primarily distributed by e-mail. Mike encouraged members to submit articles and photos for upcoming publications.

President Bowman recognized **Charlie** and **Judy Bukoski** for their local work to make this rally possible. President Bowman also thanked **Craig Bowen** for his work and expertise in food preparation for the rally.

It was announced we will not be having a Valentine Rally due to not having a host. Vice President **Craig Bowen** offered to host the Fall Rally in the north Georgia mountains, in Dillard, Ga. Under 'Old Business', president Bowman plugged the new windshield cards, and mentioned that FMCA did approve membership for non-motorized units.

Darlene Montesino updated us on the workings of the Chapter's Facebook page. The decision was made to make our Facebook page public to help grow membership. It was mentioned that SEBN logo attire and paraphernalia is available by the piece from **Diane Ebling**,

whose phone number is 772-485-8697.

Ron Daniels, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

We have balances of \$5609 in our Bank of America account, and \$2043 in our PayPal account, resulting in a grand total of \$7652 in the treasury.

Chas Bukoski, Treasurer

Recent Rally Attendance/Coaches

Arcadia 2016	20
Wimauma—Winter meeting 2016	18
Spring Rally 2016 (Palmetto Cove)	33
Halloween (Hoboken) 2106	27
Arcadia Rally 2016 (no general meeting)	18
Post-New Year's Rally 2017 (Titusville)	12
Valentine's Rally 2017	24
Spring 2017 (Mt Airy)	31
² Hoboken 2017	29
Lakeland Post-New Year's	23



The lush tropical foliage of Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort awaits us on May 17-20.

Lakeland Post-New Year's Rally Recap

The January Rally at the Sun-n-Fun Campus on the Lakeland-Linder Airport was a huge success. It was hosted by the officers. Our camping facilities accommodated the 23 buses that attended including several Bus Nuts from Canada and other US bus chapters of FMCA.

The cold temperatures did not hamper our activities. Our meals and activities were held in a lovely (and warm) hall with plenty of room and lots of fellowship and good food. The days were filled with visits to downtown Lakeland, roaming around the Sun-n-Fun grounds and a tour through the Florida Air Museum on site.

On Thursday most of us carpooled over to Abuelo's Restaurant for a very jovial and tasty Mexican dinner. Friday started with a delicious hot southern breakfast of sausage biscuits and gravy. Then we all stood around and watched a giant wrecker pull Ed Fisher's beautiful Prevost coach out of a sandy camping spot he chose because of arriving after dark. No damage done! Friday night we had a delicious home cooked meal of grilled pork chops.

On Saturday we had an unbelievable hot breakfast of Eggs Benedict. Everyone was in disbelief that **Craig Bowen** could fix that many poached eggs so perfectly! After breakfast we had a substantial business meeting, and the afternoon was left to more exploring.

Saturday night's dinner was a wonderful German meal of various grilled sausages and red sauerkraut! That night we had two fun-filled participation games including Charades led by **Bryan Bowman**, and these were very funny.

Craig and I had a wonderful time planning and cooking all the meals on site. Craig is a great chef and he taught me how to cook on a grand scale for oh, so many people. Thanks to all of the members who pitched in where needed!

Judy Bukoski

Hilton Head Itinerary

This is perhaps the first rally when the campground will have assigned a concierge or activity coordinator to assist with our May 17-20 event. So our special assistant, Alex, will brief us on Friday after breakfast about the many diversions and attractions available to us on Hilton Head Island.

Although some attendees are rolling in a day early (Wednesday) to take advantage of the special \$54 rate, things don't officially start until Thursday the 17th—there will be a no-host get-together at one of the coaches Thursday afternoon.

On Friday there will be a breakfast, along with the orientation mentioned above. Then we'll be free to explore the island, shop, bike the pathways, go to the beach, or just plain relax. Friday night will feature a fully catered meal, along with professional entertainment from the island, which Alex is helping line up.

On Saturday there will be another two meals provided: a breakfast and a catered dinner. Between the two there will be ample time for more exploring, sampling one of the many great HH restaurants for lunch, etc.

Did we mention that the beach is a little more than a mile away? And after Saturday's dinner there will be more professional entertainment.

Attendees are reminded of the firm deadline for registration—**April 1st** is the cut-off! After that the rate goes back to the usual \$90 per night—IF SPACE AVAILABLE - and few of us want to pay that fee. See the flyer on p. 7. for explicit instructions on the two-step registration process.

Another reminder: no golf-carts or trailers.

The Hilton Head area abounds with fun outdoor activities including sightseeing, boat rides, Atlantic beaches, salt marsh tours, etc. Plus the historic city of Savannah is only an hour or so away!

Join us!



Saturday night frolics. Emcee Bryan Bowman got everyone involved in team activities. Lots of good clean fun!

Sun 'n Fun Highlights



Abuelo's Mexican restaurant in south Lakeland was a popular and fun spot.



Yvan LaCroix and partner Sylvie, lower left, are Bus Nuts from Quebec, and enjoyed them-



Some 23 coaches from the US and Canada joined the rally. The newer MCI is new member Rick Bartley's. He's Herb Bates's son-in-law.



Linda and Blake Wright are also from Canada, but are frequent attendees at our winter rallies. That's past President Ed Fisher, right, with them.



Lynn and John Jarriott, foreground, are from Ontario, and Brenda Sullivan and John Nutter, top, are from New Brunswick!



Our emcee, Bryan Bowman, prepared the audience for a spirited version of Charades on one night, and just about everyone was involved!

More from Lakeland



Homemade biscuits and sausage gravy, a true southern breakfast



Left, Dennis and Renae Hafenbreadl from Wisconsin, and Wayne and Lin Schell, right, from Colorado.



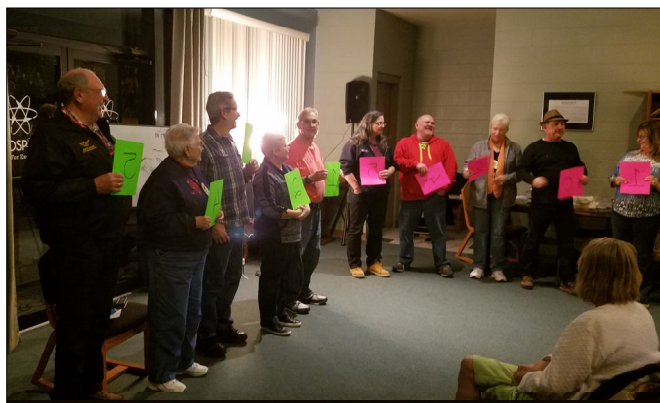
The activities building at Sun-n-Fun was just the right size for our group.



Ed Fisher's Prevost parked in a sandy spot at night, and needed a quick tow next morning. Attracted a crowd. Fortunately, no harm done.



Perfect Eggs Benedict for 50 diners! You can tell from Lowell and Betty Snyder's expressions that they were delicious!



Teams of five competed in one of the Saturday games by Bryan, and had everyone in stitches.

And Two More Rally Pix!



The rally grounds on the Sun-n-Fun campus were very new, and we were their first event. A pleasant, roomy park with full hook-ups.



Grilled pork chops with coleslaw, baked potato, and green beans made a delicious dinner on Friday evening

Time for New Tires?

Your editor finally realized that the drive tires on his 1985 MCI needed replacing. They were purchased eight years ago, and most Bus Nuts will tell you that six or seven years is about the age limit for safety, and I certainly follow that guideline on the steer tires. But I stretched that out a year this time, and, fortunately, got away without a flat or blowout.



The 'date code' is in an oval on the sidewall. Four digits for the week and year made.

They were Sumitomo tires, first purchased at Crawford Tire in Ocoee, FL, near Disney-World. I made a few calls to other places to see how much Firestones would cost. Both Atlanta Commercial Tire and Boulevard Tire in Lakeland quoted me tires for \$650 and up. The quoted price again from Crawford for the Japanese tires was only \$407. mounted, balanced, and out the door. They are 12R22.5 and model ST727. Over the past eight years I



was happy with their ride and performance.

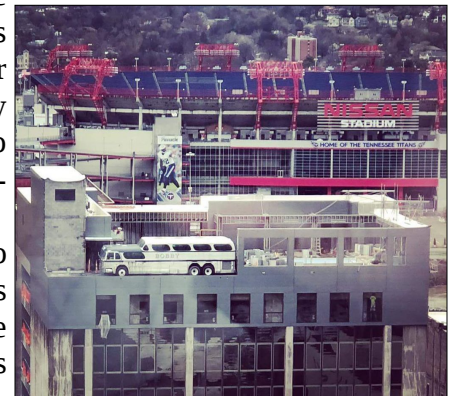
So I spent four hours at Crawford Tire, a modest Mom 'n Pop place, but was happy with their skill and professionalism.

I was hoping that Gary Crawford would buy back my take-offs, since they had 50% tread left and no defects, but the answer was no. "Eight years is too old. Can't legally sell them". Too bad because if they had been only six or seven years old I could have gotten \$40 each!

Lesson learned.

A restored 1956 Greyhound Scenicruiser sits atop the "Bobby Hotel" in Nashville. It is intended to be part of the hotel's pool and bar scene. A large crane lifted the 20,000 pound bus to its perch earlier this year. The new hotel is adjacent to the Tennessee Titans NFL stadium.

Thanks to New Jersey Bus Nut Nick Badame for sharing this unusual photo!



Join the Southeast Bus Nuts for our

Spring Rally, May 17-20th

Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort

Urgent Deadline!

Act now, because registrations must be made by April 1st. Only the first 30 coaches to register can be accommodated!



This resort is one of the finest motorcoach destinations in the US! Meticulously maintained grounds, lush tropical vegetation, sparkling clubhouse and first class amenities. The individual sites are privately owned and personally landscaped, with ample privacy between lots. The resort caters to motorhomes only—no fifth wheels or travel trailers—on a par with Pelican Lake in Naples and Outdoor Resorts/ St Lucie West. Truly first class!

Registration is a two-step procedure...

First, go to our chapter website www.sebusnuts.org and register. This part of the fee is \$150 per coach (two people) and includes meals, activities and prizes.

Second, call Alex at the resort at 843-785-7699, extension #5, to reserve and pay for your spot.

Our special rally rate is \$54 per night for three nights: Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The discounted rate is also available for Wednesday arrivals. After April 1st the regular rate of \$90 per night applies.



Preliminary rally schedule (further detail to be provided):

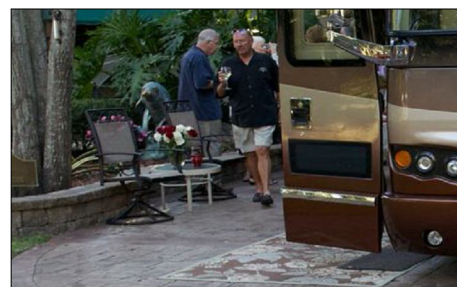
Thursday: Arrival and informal no-host get-together.

Friday: Breakfast and orientation: Our resort activities coordinator will give a brief talk on resort amenities and local tourist attractions: “100 things to do on HHI for under \$20!” Later, catered dinner with professional entertainment.

Saturday: Breakfast; chapter membership business meeting; a full day of exploring, then another catered dinner with professional entertainment.

Sunday: Continental breakfast and a fond farewell.

Our 30 bus rally rate includes the use of all amenities of the resort as well as the 2nd story of the clubhouse which has a fireplace, pool table, new carpet, tables and chairs, stage and dance floor. There is a beautiful heated pool, hot tub and snack bar. All registrations must be made by **April 1st**—there will be no drive-up registration. Also, please note that trailers, pull behinds, and golf carts are not permitted on the property. Bus Nuts towing a car dolly must stow the dolly in the resort storage area. Your rally host is **Marty Nixon**, with co-hosts **Craig** and **Beverly Bowen**. For questions, call Marty at 404-376-6169.



Visit their website for video tours and photo gallery: www.hhimr.com

- Save the dates! -



Autumn Rally

Your chapter VP **Craig Bowen** has reserved space for our Autumn rally at River Vista in Dillard, in the North Georgia mountains. Dates are October 4-7. Details to follow.

Visit their website:

<https://rvmountainvillage.com/>

Post New-Years Rally

Chapter President **Bryan Bowman** and VP **Craig Bowen** are currently trying to recruit a rally host for this annual Florida post-New Year's event. Dates will be **January 3-6, 2019**.

Stay tuned as details develop.

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Spring 2018 Rally

President-elect **Bowen** will recruit a host for this annual event. The host will select the site and dates. One possibility is a return to April in the Carolinas.

Stay tuned for details.

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Southeast Bus Nuts Leadership

Chapter Officers
President– Bryan Bowman bbowmanga@gmail.com
Vice-President—Craig Bowen CBowen3117@gmail.com
Treasurer– Charlie Bukoski chasjudy@bukoski.net
Secretary—Ron Daniels ncrealauctions@frontier.com
FMCA Nat’l Dir –George Showman gshowman@aol.com

Advisory Committee:
(in addition to Chapter Officers)

Judy Bukoski
Ed Fisher
Mike Heron
Beverly Bowman, 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 and Ed Fisher. (* 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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c/o Bryan Bowman, President
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