



Southeast Bus Nuts Newsletter

Summer 2021

Memo from Manny

Hello Bus Nut friends, Our spring rally at the Barnyard RV Park in Lexington, SC was a huge success. I want to thank **Kyle Brandt** and our VP **Denise Aldridge** for putting this together. This rally brought in some old bus friends we haven't seen in a while, like **Mike** and **Kathy Mingus**, **Gary** and **Linda Labombard** and their granddaughter Ashley, and **Eric Johnson** all the way from Ohio.

The park we stayed at was very nice and had a quaint atmosphere with plenty to do nearby. Besides the flea market on site, the capital of South Carolina was close by and some of the Bus Nuts took a tour of the capital that they said was very interesting. There were also museums nearby that some visited and on Saturday downtown Columbia hosted a charming event known as Soda City. Several Bus Nuts attended that fun event, myself included. The city had several blocks marked off where there were food trucks galore and wonderful artisan booths. It was a beautiful day and there were lots of people there. Everyone seemed to have a great time! This event is held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. so keep that in mind if your travels ever take you near Columbia, SC on a Saturday.

Our rally meals and entertainment were, as usual, the BEST! Our Dutch-treat meal Thursday night was held at Shealy's BBQ in nearby Leesville, SC, where we all enjoyed some of the most delicious southern barbecue in an "all-you-can-eat" fashion. Nobody left there hungry, that's for sure!

Friday and Saturday meals were planned and prepared by Kyle and his sweet wife Nancy, and **Denise** and **Ray Aldridge**. Our fare on Friday was Kyle's spaghetti casserole, with artisan bread and garlic spread. On Saturday we enjoyed a choice of roasted chicken or pork

chops. Mmmmm Thank you guys for keeping us well fed with those delicious meals! Of course we had breakfasts Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday featured Denise's famous waffles hot off the iron.

Our Saturday night entertainment was provided by **Mike Heron**, who always does an amazing job! We played a version of "Truth or Lie?" Each attendee had to make two unusual statements about themselves; one was true, one was false. Audience members had to pick the true one. We had so much fun while learning interesting things we might not have known about our fellow BusNuts. And some are very good liars! **Nancy Noble** was the outright winner, but we followed that with a Yankee Swap, so everyone had a prize.

Of course, one of the best parts of our rallies is simply getting together with our BusNut friends. It's amazing how we seem to just pick up where we left off the last time we were together. The weather was beautiful at this rally and in the evenings many gathered around a campfire to chat and listen to some pretty amazing stories. **Gary Labombard**, thank you for sharing some of your adventures with us and helping us laugh like we haven't in a long while. It does a soul good to laugh among friends.

Our next rally is scheduled for October 7th – 10th in Marianna, FL. It's about an hour west of Tallahassee off Interstate 10, at Florida Caverns RV Resort at Merritt's Mill Pond, and will be hosted by **Marty Nixon** and **Kaydee Black**. Make plans now to attend and stay tuned through our website and on our Facebook Group Page for registration info and more details.

Until then - safe travels and God Bless!

Manny



**Chapter President
Manny Montesino**

The next rally is set for October 7-10 in Marianna Florida. Take a look:

www.floridacavernsrvresort.com/

Registration to open soon. Watch our Facebook page and website for new information

Secretary's Report

A business meeting of The Southeast Bus Nuts (SEBN) convened at Barnyard RV Resort on Saturday, May 1, 2021. The meeting was called to order by President **Manny Montesino**. Devotion was led by **Darlene Montesino**. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag was led by FMCA Director **Rick Bartley**. The following members were recognized: **Herb Bates** was in a recent car accident, **Jim** and **Cynthia Threatt** have both been sick, **Vicky Daniels** in the loss of her mother and **Leonard** and **Pam Jelkren** on the tragic loss of their son Bradley. Darlene Montesino led the members in prayer, and subsequently provided a social media update.

Secretary **Ron Daniels** read the minutes from past business meeting. **Mike Heron** shared a Treasurers report on behalf of Treasurer Craig Bowen with \$207.00 in PayPal account and \$6408. in our checking account for a total of \$6615.

Ron Daniels also reported the membership includes 50 active members (41 regular, 9 honorary). He encouraged all members to review the Chapter website and update addresses, phone numbers and email addresses as applicable, and to be sure and keep Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) membership current. SEBN was annually recertified with FMCA on 11-19-2020. A dues due reminder email was sent out on 3-22-2021 to delinquent members. Our name tag vendor passed away and his wife closed the business. A search for a new vendor is underway. FMCA Chapters are required to link their websites to FMCA.com in order to be covered under FMCA media liability insurance, SEBN website links only responds to Safari browser but not to Google, Firefox, Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge.

Denise Aldridge, Vice President /Rally Master, led a discussion of upcoming rallies. The Fall rally is October 7-10th in Marianna, Florida with **Marty Nixon** and **Kaydee Black** as hosts. A return to the Cabana Club, Florida is set on January 6 – 9th, 2022 with Manny and

Darlene Montesino as rally hosts. A discussion was held about a possible rally in March, 2022 in conjunction with FMCA National Convention in Perry, Georgia. A possible Fall 2022 rally in Hartsell, Alabama is being examined.

Rick Bartley had been planning on attending as SEBN Delegate to FMCA National Convention business meeting in Gillette, WY but a family health issue cropped up. **Anke Fisher** will represent us. (Anke later withdrew due to coach mechanical issues. A delegate is still being sought).

Denise Aldrich, Vice President led a discussion about efforts to update our website's old technology to a new more manageable platform. (See below.)

Ron Daniels, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

As of June 6, 2021 our bank account balance is \$6,902.07 which includes \$2,128. in advance payments for future rallies, which accrued when several people cancelled their reservations to the South Carolina rally but did not want their fees returned. So the available bank balance is \$4,774.07 We also have a positive balance of \$278.80 in our PayPal account.

The chapter is carrying no outstanding debt. The total of available funds is **\$5,052.87**

Craig Bowen, Treasurer

www.sebusnuts.org

Our beloved sebusnuts.org website is getting a makeover and will be redesigned, moved to a new platform, and updated. The current server is expiring, and we must move by January 2022. In addition, the current webmaster, Stephanie Herdocia, is no longer available to help out our group and the developer, Bill _____ (coming from Judy) _____, longtime friend of former Webmaster Charlie Bukoski, is retiring. We want to extend our sincere appreciation to both Bill and Stephanie for their many web contributions !

There is good news though. Vice President, Denise Aldridge, unknowingly discovered that a distant family member is a webmaster extraordinaire. Denise has been able to secure the services of Jim Cassidy. He has a deep background in web development and services.

We look forward to the new and improved website, which will be up and running in time for our next rally registration in mid-August (for the 2 October rally at the Florida Caverns RV Resort).



Chaplain's Corner

Hello Sweet Friends! Let's talk about daily devotionals...



**Chaplain
Darlene
Montesino**

Do you have resources for daily devotions or Bible Study? If you are looking for some daily inspiration to help you with your study of God's Word, check out these sources:

Our Daily Bread. Devotionals can be found on-line as well as in print. The on-line version offers an audible reading of the daily devotional, and the printed publication offers an **extra large print quarterly version** that might make reading a bit easier.

Give Him 15 is a daily devotional that can be found in print, on-line, or on YouTube. Dutch Sheets is a sweet gentle man of God who shares a quick devotional daily that I believe will bless you.

Holy Bible App. Did you know that you can download the Holy Bible App to your phone where you can read, search, and even listen to scripture and even whole chapters of the bible in your favorite version?



Remember. God is our strength and our joy and He is always by our side'

Until we meet again, God Bless!

Darlene Montesino, Chaplain

From our Rally Master

The *October rally* in Marianna, FL is still in the works for planning details. My last conversation with host **Marty Nixon** was that he was going to visit the site and put together the itinerary some time in the next few months, so nothing new to report for that rally at this time.



**VP Denise
Aldridge**

The 2022 *post-New Years rally* is confirmed for Cabana Club in Auburndale, FL for January 6-9, 2022. I am working on recruiting a rally host, so if interested please contact me directly (dinesea2@cfl.rr.com).

As a follow up to the discussion on possibly combining the big FMCA rally in Perry, GA in March with our SE Bus Nuts spring rally—that is a no go for 2022. FMCA will not be having another rally in Perry, GA until March of 2023. In which case we will plan to attend as a chapter, as there appeared to be good interest in joining the two rallies. I spoke with FMCA about attending as a chapter, and have a plan on how we can register and caravan into the site. We will have to open registration for this early, in the fall of 2022, so that I can coordinate all the details.

So this means we need a location for the *spring 2022 rally*. I have the Hartselle, AL location on standby for April 2022. I won't be able to confirm until September/October 2021. Maybe by then **Sadie** and **Jimmy Clay** will be able to host.

At the October 2021 rally I can present a list of other possible sites for both the Spring and Fall rallies for everyone to decide on which one they'd like me to pursue. Lots of options out there. We just have to plan ahead.

Special tribute to our late Past President

The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award is an annual award presented by the FAA to deserving pilots who have achieved a total of 50 + years of exemplary aviation flight experience. Application for **Charlie Bukoski's** award was suggested by a fellow instructor and previous recipient. The process goes thru numerous steps including the FAA obtaining all flight records, both military and civilian. Once reviewed, the pilot (or in my case, his widow) is notified when the application is accepted. Pictures and articles are then collected and sent to the FAA representative in preparation for a presentation ceremony. The live ceremony was to have taken place at Sun n Fun 2020, but due to Covid, the show was cancelled. It took place on May 4, 2021, which would have been Charlie's 80th Birthday. Multiple fellow Air Force and civilian pilots as well as multiple family members and friends were notified in advance and around 30 folks joined in. Following the presentation and video of Charlie's flying 50+ year history, there was interaction among those present for a time of fellowship and a few laughs. It was like a reunion to see all those faces once again!



Judy Bukoski

Lexington, SC Rally



One of the best aspects of SEBN rallies is the opportunity to do some ‘front porch sittin’ and catch up with old and new Bus Nut friends. The late May weather in Lexington was very conducive to visiting, tire kicking, and down home relaxing. Some 14 coach couples attended the rally, including R Aldridge, Bartley, Brandt, Daniels, Campbell, Heron, Johnson, LaBombard, Kirk, Mingus, Montesino, Noble, Scanapico and Threatt.



Left: Kyle Brandt and wife Nancy were the hosts of the rally, and did a great job. They live in Greer, SC.



Right: the whole group journeyed to Shealy's BBQ in nearby Leesville SC on Thursday night for a delicious BBQ buffet. All you can eat at popular prices!

Left: Darlene and Manny Montesino joined Eric Johnson at the street festival “Soda Fest” in downtown Columbia on Saturday.

Right: Member Keith Cook used his contacts to arrange a tour of the state capital. The guide shown is displaying the SC State mace.



More from South Carolina



Four of the 14 coaches attending the rally line up at The Barnyard RV Resort



Darlene Montesino, standing, gives her true and false personal statements in the fun game, "Truth or Lie" on the last evening of the rally.



Volunteers are ready to serve the Saturday evening meal of chicken and porkchops. From the left, Denise Aldrige, Tammy Bartley, Darlene and Manny Montesino, and Ray Aldridge.



The function room at The Barnyard RV Resort was bright and airy, and served us well despite no oven or range. We still had hot meals with griddles, air cookers, etc.



From the left, Nancy and Bo Noble, Tammy Bartley and Jackie Campbell.



There were pleasant evenings around the campfire. Here Gary LaBom-bard does a riotous reenactment of his recent experience thinking there was a snake in his pants!

Future Rallies—Hold These Dates!

Our annual October Rally!

Florida Caverns RV Resort, Marianna, FL.
Near Tallahassee.

Mark the dates. **October 7- 10**

Registration not yet open.

floridacavernsrvresort.com

A tranquil country setting along the banks
of a crystal clear, spring-fed river.



Our annual Winter Rally!

Cabana Club RV Resort, Auburndale, FL

January 6-9, 2022

Registration not yet open.

This new resort was so fabulous we have
re-booked it for next winter!

www.cabanaclubresort.com

Our annual Spring Rally!

Watch this space for further details!

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
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