

# NEWS DRIFTS



July 2022  
Volume 20, Issue #3

## June Rally @ Stirling

It was great to see seven coaches come out for the second event of the year. Bob and Cathy welcomed everyone to the Stirling campground and set up ... six member coaches, and one invited guest coach (they joined the club — welcome Rod & Niki!).

What a great event hosts Bob and Cathy Lucas arranged! We had a wine and cheese spread on Thursday afternoon. Following dinner, we played card bingo (luckily for the publishers, Ray used up all his luck winning the dime and quarter pots, leaving the twonie pot for us!). Then it was fire time, and with the wood brought by Bob and Anne, we soon had a decent level of flames, and tales and stories continued into the night.



Thanks to Bob and Cathy ... they arranged and paid for us to have the use of the hall. The weather went from hot to cool to windy to ... typical spring weather.

Bob, Cathy, Gerrit and Elsabé were up early and had the coffee on and a hot breakfast of eggs, hashbrowns, and sausage. Time for a nap after that feast, but it was not to be. The planned visit to the Hutterite colony had been cancelled due to avian flu concerns, but the group headed out to visit the Remington Carriage Museum in Cardston. It is a fantastic museum — in fact, the largest of it's type in the world! — and it was a great outing.

Following another great Happy Hour, we were treated to Cathy's Chicken 'n Sauce with veggies/dip, followed by dessert. What a great spread! Another evening of conversation followed.

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### General Info

**Southern Alberta Drifters** is a registered chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association. Membership is open to any FMCA member in good standing.

All cheques, registration, and sign-up forms, should be sent by e-transfer to [southernalbertadrifters@gmail.com](mailto:southernalbertadrifters@gmail.com) or mail to our Treasurer:

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The Chapter's official mailing address is:  
Ron Kellam 80 Mount Douglas Point SE  
Calgary, AB T2Z 3J9

The Chapter's website address is:  
[www.southernalbertadrifters.ca](http://www.southernalbertadrifters.ca)

# June Rally @ Stirling

... cont'd from pg 1



Saturday was a visit to the Galt Railway Museum in town. Unfortunately your publishers have little to report on that day as we had to take Tazzie to the vet in Lethbridge. As most of you know, she had been poorly since last fall, and she crossed the rainbow bridge that day. Enough said, we miss her deeply.

After Happy Hour, we had a great burger and beans dinner inside out of the wind. It was really blowing ... we tried a fire for a bit after dinner but the wind was simply too much for it ... but the evening was saved

by the gas fire device! It was set up out of the wind in the shelter of the building, so evening conversations carried on.

Sunday morning we had the usual continental breakfast as everyone packed up ... some to head home, and 5 coaches to prepare for the caravan.

Thanks to Bob and Cathy, ably assisted by Gerrit and Elsabé, for a fun weekend in Stirling. They set the bar very high for hosting, basically they jumped over it!



## Caravan to Swift Current Kite Festival

After fond farewells to the two departing coaches, the five remaining gathered in the shelter to get our briefing from co-Wagonmasters, Bob and Gerrit. Bob surprised us with “goodie bags” filled with info on the sites to be visited, maps, pens, pads and pins. Stephen then handed out numbered tags for the coaches and a laminated souvenir overview map. Gerrit then talked up the routes and travel plans. We had downloaded “zello”, a cell phone walkie talkie app to aid communication. (It works but is a bit of a data hog). With that all in hand, we headed out to the first stop, Firerock Campground in Cypress Hills Provincial Park.

After a gas/diesel stop in Dunmore east of Medicine Hat, we headed down the road to the park ... a bit of a twisty minor road with steady traffic coming the other way as the weekend campers headed home. We arrived at the campsite, and after some mix up on the site numbers that required relocation, we were soon ensconced in our sites with a great view of the lake. We gathered at Nels for a fire and Happy Hour with some snacks from Anne and Cathy. Dinner was “leftovers”! Following the reduced attendance at Black Diamond, we had some Shepherd’s Pie left, and picked up a Caesar Salad mix from Costco, so all were well fed this first night of the caravan. A goodly dent was made into Anne’s and Bob’s wood supplies as the evening continued.



Monday came as a cool, wet and spotty rainy day. Everyone more or less did their own thing. Most headed out at various times for a drive around the village and park. The rain and low clouds made for limited views, but Stephen and Anne managed to get their jeep coated in mud — must have been fun. A restaurant meal was suggested for the evening, but everyone voted to stay in. . We all packed up our outside gear as the wind and rain made an evening outside a non starter, thereby getting a head start on tomorrow’s departure.

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# Caravan to Swift Current Kite Festival

... cont'd from pg 3



Tuesday, we hooked up the toads and headed out mid-day in light rain/mist for the next stop ... the Eagle Valley Campground just off Highway 1, near Maple Creek SK. The weather Improved during the drive, but turned cool again after we got set up. Happy Hour was at Lucas' and "Fire Marshal Anne" did her best to continue to reduce the weight in the Lucas and Pick coaches by burning up our wood supplies. Dinner was 'on our own', then back for more fellowship around the fire.



Wednesday came and we all made trips into Maple Creek in the off and on rain ... thrift stores, discount stores and bakeries were all hit. The day ended with a trip into town for dinner, since the restaurant in the campground — the original dinner plan — was closed. No lightening of the load of wood stocks this night ...



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# Caravan to Swift Current Kite Festival

.... cont'd from pg 4

Thursday was a beautiful day, and another travel day, but it was a short drive, so the departure was not until mid-day. We gathered in a row at the campground gate, and then we were on our way. We were welcomed at the Ponderosa RV Park in Swift Current, and ushered to our sites. Happy Hour was at Nels' — to the accompaniment of the septic truck making multiple trips back and forth to empty the campground tank, and wow was it noisy! Oh well, memories .....



Friday we woke to steady winds. Plans were made to meet up for mini-golf and ice cream at Dairy King/Rusty Gulch Western Mini-Golf. That was a bit delayed as both Nels and Herberts had to relocate to new sites, as the beautiful shade tree they were parked under, was starting to shed branches. The golf game was a lot of fun! Not sure who won, but with mini golf that is far from important. Apart from the wind, it was a lovely day for mini-golf! Afterwards we gathered for sundaes, milk shakes or cones, while reviewing the scores. Even Casey-dog got his own cone ... and one of life's lessons on eating soft ice cream. Elsalé has the video!



# Caravan to Swift Current Kite Festival

.... cont'd from pg 5

Saturday was Kite Festival day. Stephen, Anne and Casey headed out early and reported back to the group by text on the status of the set-up. Soon we were all there, spread across the site. There was lots of fantastic stunt and team kite flying to see. It became HOT, dusty and extremely windy so we all made our way back to the coaches.

For Happy Hour it was again around Bob's gas fireplace. That in itself is a story ... Gerrit also has a much lauded gas fireplace and he dragged it out to impress us all. Well, if a few 2 to 3 inch flames are your style .... His unit was soon retired and out came Bob's while we listened to stories of regulator exchanges etc from Gerrit. (We have received un-verified reports that the lack of flames on Gerrit's unit has been resolved. It was accompanied by a video, but we all know Gerrit is a computer specialist and with CGI these days ...)

The last evening ended with a pizza party, and one last fire evening. We ordered in from Red Swan and had quite the variety of options.



# Upcoming 2022 Events

July 14 - 16	<b>Irricana Municipal Campground (Founders Park)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>power &amp; water &amp; dump</li> </ul>	<i>Organizers / Hosts:</i> Gerrit & Elsabé
August 11 - 13	<b>RV There Yet? Campground, Blackfalds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>power &amp; water &amp; dump</li> </ul>	<i>Organizers / Hosts:</i> no host event
September 8 - 11	<b>Centennial Park Campground, Claresholm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>power &amp; water &amp; dump</li> <li>annual kite event, AGM, elections for Vice President &amp; Secretary</li> <li>discussion/planning for 2023</li> </ul>	<i>Organizers / Hosts:</i> Ron & Lane, & TBA

## Caravan to Swift Current Kite Festival

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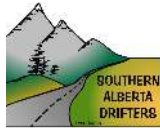


Unmentioned in the chain was the great date squares that Rosemary provided, and Anne's rhubarb coffee cake. Both made Happy Hour and evening fires fun. Well that's a wrap. We all packed up and headed off in various directions the following morning. The McLeods further east, the Picks northward, and the rest back to their home bases in Alberta.

Many thanks to Bob for his hours on the phone making reservations, and to him and Gerrit for getting this event off the ground. A great time was had by all, and if Saturday night's discussions are anything to go by, it's hoped to be a repeated event. A number of ideas on things to improve and enhance were brought up. Now all we need is 10 day route — suggestions always welcome, to add to those suggested in Saturday night's debriefing.

# Host "Cheat Sheet" (aka - why re-invent the wheel)

1. Decide to be the Host !! Take on one of the planned weekends, or find another location and date that works.
2. Confirm the number of sites that have been booked by the Executive, If date and location have previously been arranged.
3. Develop a 'plan' for the weekend. Meals — do it yourself or group, or...?? ... if some of the food is to be provided, know the cost.
4. Develop the budget : campsite fee, food, overhead and confirm numbers with Treasurer (use Ron's spreadsheet! it helps).  
NOTE: events start on Thursday, but some members cannot come out until Friday (work etc), so a price for 3 days and for 2 days attendance has to be developed.
5. Advise Stephen and Anne of the details so they can complete the form (see sample below) to be circulated to the members.
6. Keep track of sign-ups so sites can be added (or dropped) if needed/possible.
7. Make arrangements to have the Club Trailer at the event if required. It can be picked up from Stephen & Anne's place.
8. Assign sites to attendees (size of rig, trailer close to cooking/gathering area, etc), and be there to help with parking.
9. If food or other supplies are needed, arrange to purchase and get reimbursed by Treasurer (keep all receipts).
10. If volunteers are needed to cook, or take on other tasks, just put the word out.
11. Enjoy the weekend and fellowship!



## Southern Alberta Drifters May Weekend Rally Registration Foothills Lions Campground - Black Diamond May 10th - 13th, 2018



### Registration Cut-off Date : ????, 2018

The Foothills Lions Campground is located in the town of Black Diamond, on the banks of the Sheep River. The sites we have reserved are full hook-ups: 50 amp power, water, sewer, and wi-fi service.

We have **8 sites** reserved, and these are available on a **first come / first served** basis. If you want to be a part of this rally, make sure you get this form and your cheque in!

### Organizers / Hosts: ??? ?i

#### Thursday May 10th

- 6:00 - 7:00 pm **???? Bring your own meal and eat together ???**
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm Social Mixer

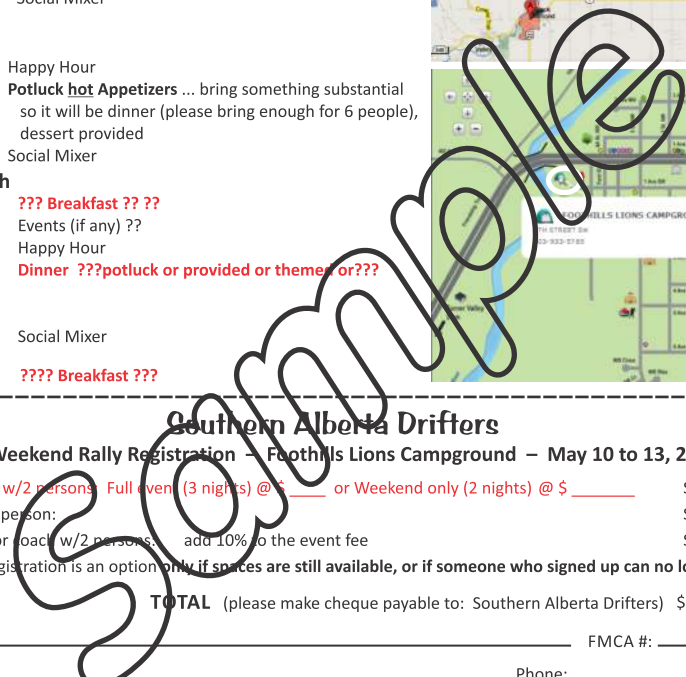
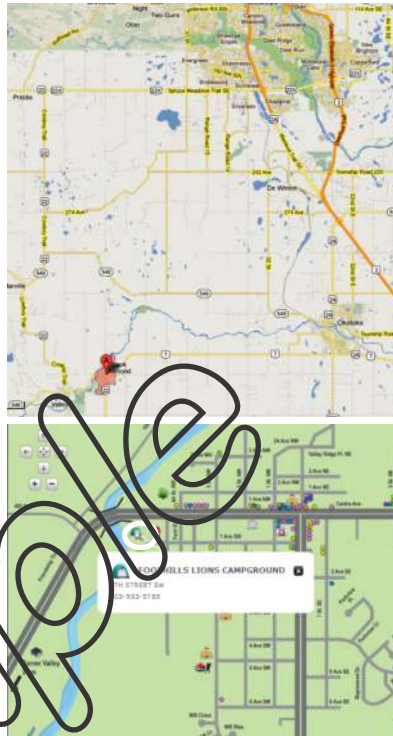
#### Friday May 11th

- 4:00 - 5:30 pm Happy Hour
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm **Potluck hot Appetizers** ... bring something substantial so it will be dinner (please bring enough for 6 people), dessert provided
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm Social Mixer

#### Saturday May 12th

- 9:00 am **??? Breakfast ?? ??**
- Events (if any) ??
- 4:00 - 5:30 pm Happy Hour
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm **Dinner ???potluck or provided or themed or???**
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm Social Mixer

#### Sunday May 13th **???? Breakfast ???**



### Southern Alberta Drifters May Weekend Rally Registration – Foothills Lions Campground – May 10 to 13, 2018

Registration for coach w/2 persons: Full event (3 nights) @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Weekend only (2 nights) @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registration per extra person: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Late Registration \*\* for coach w/2 persons: add 10% to the event fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\* (Note: late registration is an option only if spaces are still available, or if someone who signed up can no longer attend)

**TOTAL** (please make cheque payable to: Southern Alberta Drifters) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ PCode: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coach Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please confirm attendance by email **ASAP** to the Wagonmasters **John and Donna Geib**
  - And make sure to return this sign-up form with payment **by???** to: Carr McLeod  
Treasurer, Southern Alberta Drifters  
35 Ranch Estates Dr. NW  
Calgary AB T3G 1J9
- Note: non-refundable after ?????**