

NEWS DRIFTS



October 2022
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2022 Rally Season

Well that was a fun series of rallies and also a caravan this year! A good many kilometers on the road to head to the locations. Once there, we had great fellowship, meals, games and sightseeing.

A HUGE thank-you to all this year's hosts. You put on some great events for our 20th anniversary year. Hosts are the core of all we do at our events. No-host rallies are ok, but they lack the fun and zing of hosted events. So step up and host an event in 2023! Check the website and this newsletter for the initial 2023 plans.

A key recommendation at this year's AGM in Claresholm was that we needed two rigs to "co-host" a rally ... just to spread the load. While members always step up at the event to assist, the planning, purchasing and keeping things on track all take effort, and two can do it better than one.

It was great to welcome 3 new couples to the Chapter. Ian and Brenda Almond, Ernie and Anna Gonzi and Rod and Niki (LeDrew) McLeod. So glad you have joined our group!

But it was sad to see two long-term member couples retire from RVing and the Chapter. With their coaches now sold, they are starting a new phase. All the best in their future to Ed and Lorna Bostock, and Ray and Rosemary Herbert. You will be missed for sure. Don't be strangers! Please visit our rallies!

Have a great winter season wherever you spend it, here in the snow or down south in the sun. Look forward to catching up with everyone in the spring.

Now to the last two events of the year, Claresholm and Beiseker. *(Sorry, no report on the RV There Yet event in August as we were far north in the Yukon, and no reports or photos were received.)*

September Rally @ Claresholm

Anne and I had volunteer commitments that day, so after dashing home to load up the rig and the Club trailer, we arrived after 8:00pm at the campground. Ray Herbert noted that we made quite the light show coming in with the rig and trailer lighting. After getting parked in our usual spot, we joined in the fellowship for awhile, but following a long day, we were soon back in our unit preparing for a cool night (11C and dropping at 10:00pm).



Ron and Gerrit were over at our site bright and early on Friday morning to unload the griddle and set up for breakfast. The second set of trailer keys was carefully pinned to Ron's notice board in Calgary, so a quiet knock on our unit was required to get our keys to open things up. It was a very cool 6C that morning and overcast, following a night of off-and-on rain. Everyone gathered for breakfast, and after all the bacon, pancakes and eggs were eagerly consumed, and everything cleaned up, we all headed back to the rigs.

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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 southernbertadrifters@gmail.com or mail to our Treasurer:

Carr McLeod 35 Ranch Estates Drive NW
Calgary, AB T3G 1J9

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.southernbertadrifters.ca

September Rally @ Claresholm

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Fortunately as the day progressed, it warmed up and it became a lovely day. There was an exploratory excursion into town to check out the local fabric shop ... nothing was purchased but a promise was made to return the next day. We had a pleasant Happy Hour followed by dinner. Our hosts Ron and Lane set up crock pots of chilli and did garlic bread on the bbq, and we all had our fill. Unfortunately Ron dropped the "family heirloom" (family of Costco or Walmart that is) crock pot glass lid on the way back to their coach, but that was quickly cleaned up. As Gerrit's firepit issues have been resolved, we had a pleasant evening as the sun went down. A very big, full moon ended the evening ... very pretty ... sure dark otherwise!



Saturday breakfast required everyone to add on a warm layer or two as it was 2C at 7:00am, and there was frost over everything. But a feast of pancakes, sausages and eggs on the griddle ... that warmed everyone up.



We got everything cleaned up and then set up for the AGM. The full minutes of the meeting can be found on the Club website. But some highlights — Kathie Balogh, Regional VP / FMCA, presented the Chapter with our 20th Anniversary certificate. She also spoke about the FMCA Assist program, and a sheet highlighting the benefits is included in this newsletter ... check it out, it is a great membership benefit.



A lot of discussion went into rally hosting and sites for 2023 Rallies. The preliminary schedule is included in this newsletter.



September Rally @ Claresholm

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Following the meeting we set up for "putt putt golf". Groups of 4 headed out sharing putters, and had a fun hour or so in the field of cups Ron had prepped the previous day. Ron tallied up the scores and handed out prizes, with Rosemary and Gerrit sharing the top spot (which means you have to store the massive trophy for the year!), and Stephen was the most honest golfer. Prizes ranged from flashlights to hats, to a stopped watch (highly accurate twice a day) and a radio/cd player that predates many of the coaches present. A great time was had by all. In the afternoon, Gerrit was seen polishing headlights, and as one can see in the photos he should take it up as a sideline!

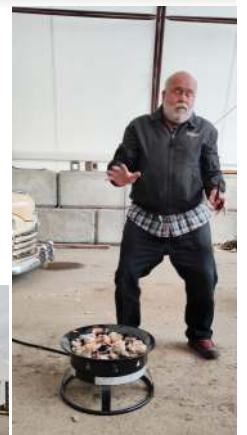


Sunday morning came and was a bit warmer while we gathered over the continental breakfast and said our goodbyes. A few of us will gather for Gobblefest in Beiseker, but for many it is the end of the RV season.



October Gobblefest in Beiseker

Around 4:00pm, members started to arrive at the trucking yard in Bieseker. Hosts Ed and Lorna Bostock were set up in their old coach, the use of it borrowed for this event. Your editors were the first to arrive with our new-to-us towable unit that we picked up the weekend before. We had been doing a few nights' test trip in it to make sure everything functioned, and before moving it into our shop for the winter, where solar panels will be added and some upgrades will be done to prep it for 2023 season trips to Northern Canada. Now as a Chapter we can say we have had towables at our events, as we work to fit in with the evolution to wider membership options at FMCA. Next to arrive in sequence were Rick Burgess, Gerrit and Elsabé Nel, Carr and Carol McLeod, Rod and Niki McLeod, and then Ray and Rosemary Herbert arrived later, just in time for Happy Hour. Regrets were received from both Bill and Carol Newman and Ron and Lane Kellam, but their coaches are in for repairs/upgrades.



October Gobblefest in Beiseker

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Lots of fellowship followed in the shelter. Gerrit's firebox (of past CGI fame) was set up, and it made just enough warmth and ambiance for a nice evening get together. Those fireboxes sure consume a lot of propane with Gerrit's soon consumed, and Rod and Rick stepped up to continue the flames with their bottles. Proof that in the past the flames were CGI was when lighting it, Gerrit got singed by the "new to him" real flames, and he can be seen in the photo using his cell phone to adjust the flames ... so the story continues ... After Happy Hour, there was a pot luck spread laid out with enough variety and quantity to address any appetite.

Saturday morning was a very foggy one, and breakfast was at a diner in Biesecker. They did not open until 10:00am so more of a brunch. We all ate our fill with some left overs for the canine mascots Casey and Maverick. Not sure about Maverick, but I think Casey gains weight at these events given all the treats he receives from certain attendees (openly and in secret)



The afternoon was spent with various group chats (while swatting a LOT of flies with various devices, including a vacuum !) and addressing various coach issues from power, to hitches to ... The weather was amazing for the time of year ... a lovely sunny afternoon and evening. The oil fryer made its appearance in due time, and the turkey was cooking, the potatoes boiling, dressing and veggies being made. A fantastic meal was put on by Ed and Lorna. We all had our fill and more, of this Gobblefest spread. Afterwards the desserts came out with Rosemary's trifle, and two varieties of cake. The evening continued around the fire and then slowly broke up as we headed with full stomachs to our respective coaches and trailer for the night.



FMCA Assist

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When Should I Call FMCA Assist?

- Always contact 911 first in any emergency.
- Anytime a physician has advised that you or your covered family member is in need of emergency medical transportation.
- Anytime you or your covered family member has been **admitted as an inpatient** at a hospital, or anytime you feel you may need future assistance with transportation due to a medical situation.
- Anytime you have general questions about your coverage and the services available through FMCA Assist.

What Happens When I Call FMCA Assist?

- If immediate assistance is required, we will request that you provide **your name** and **FMCA member** number in order to take the next necessary actions.
- We will obtain details of your current situation and add a notation to your profile.
- If assistance is not required immediately, we will ask you to call us back if/when assistance becomes necessary.
- We will answer any questions you have about your coverage benefits.

What Is FMCA Assist Unable To Do?

- FMCA Assist is not medical coverage and will not pay your medical bills.
- We cannot perform medical management or provide guidance to your treating physicians.
- We cannot discuss or coordinate medical insurance coverage or medical benefits.
- We cannot coordinate roadside assistance. (*You may have other coverage for this service.*)
- We cannot discuss your medical condition or transportation arrangements with your family members (unless specifically authorized by you) or with any other member of FMCA.



AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK
Program our number into your phone or tablet!

www.fmca.com/fmca-assist

FMCA
Your RVing Family



Your Benefits

The following benefits are included in your coverage and are provided worldwide while on a Trip. To view the Full Schedule of Benefits for U.S. and Canadian residents, visit www.fmca.com/fmca-assist.

Medical Evacuation and Repatriation

This benefit provides coverage if while on a trip, a covered person is injured or becomes sick and the treating physician determines that emergency transportation to a hospital for appropriate medical care and treatment or to their primary residence is required. The emergency transportation must be arranged by the Assistance Services Administrator Europ Assistance.

Family Travel Expense

If while on a trip, a covered person requires a Medical Evacuation or Repatriation, and the attending Physician recommends that a family member be at their side, this benefit provides coverage for the travel expense of that family member to be with the covered person.

Return of Dependent Children

If while on a trip, a covered person is injured or becomes sick and requires a hospital stay making them unable to care for an accompanying dependent child, this benefit provides coverage to return their dependent child to return to their primary residence. The transportation must be arranged by

the Assistance Services Administrator Europ Assistance. For this Return of Dependent Children Benefit only, dependent child includes any child under the age of 18 traveling as a guest of the primary insured person regardless of the child's relationship to the primary insured person.

Return Home

If while on a trip, a covered person is injured or becomes sick and a physician determines they are unable to continue traveling, this benefit provides coverage to return them to their permanent primary residence. It also provides coverage to return any dependents who are travelling with the them to the covered person's permanent primary residence. The transportation must be arranged by the Assistance Services Administrator Europ Assistance.

Return of Mortal Remains

If while on a trip, a covered person passes away due to an injury or sickness, this benefit provides coverage for the covered expenses to return their remains to their permanent primary residence. The transportation must be arranged by the Assistance Services Administrator Europ Assistance.

Return of Recreational Vehicle*

If while on a trip, a covered person is injured or becomes sick and a physician deems them unable to drive the recreational vehicle to their permanent primary residence and/or no one traveling with the covered person is capable or competent to drive the recreational vehicle, this benefit provides coverage

for eligible expenses to return the recreational vehicle (as well as any additional private passenger automobile, trailer, or travel trailer that is legally hitched to their recreational vehicle at the time of the accident or sickness) to their permanent primary residence. The transportation must be arranged by the Assistance Services Administrator Europ Assistance.

Return of Private Passenger Automobile*

If while on a trip, a covered person is injured or becomes sick and requires Medical Evacuation or Repatriation and/or is unable to drive their private passenger automobile to their permanent primary residence, this benefit provides coverage for eligible expenses to have the private passenger automobile returned to their permanent primary residence. The transportation must be arranged by the Assistance Services Administrator Europ Assistance.

Pet Return

If while on a trip, a covered person is injured or becomes sick and is unable to care for their cat or dog, this benefit provides coverage to return the cat or dog to an authorized caregiver. The pet must have current/up to date vaccinations as required by law to be eligible. The transportation must be arranged by the Assistance Services Administrator Europ Assistance.

Prescription Medication and Glasses Replacement

If while on a trip, a covered person misplaces their medical prescription or damages their eyeglasses or contact lenses and requires replacement, this benefit provides coverage for the shipping of the item. Arrangements for the shipping must be coordinated by Europ Assistance .

Accidental Death and Dismemberment

This benefit provides coverage for a covered person's accidental death or dismemberment. The covered Loss must occur within 1 year after the accident.

Emergency Cash

If while on a trip, a mechanical breakdown to a covered person's private passenger automobile or recreational vehicle occurs and continued travel is not possible, this benefit provides a daily cash payment for the cost of food and temporary lodging until travel continuation becomes possible.

Emergency Room Cash

If while on a trip, a covered person is injured and needs to obtain treatment in an emergency room of a hospital, this benefit provides a daily cash payment.

*These benefits do not apply to vehicles located outside of North America.

In regard to the Accidental Death, Emergency Cash, and Emergency room cash benefits you may report the claim to Europ Assistance, but you may also report claims directly to Chubb for expedited handling:

CHUBB Insurance Company
Accident & Health Claims
P.O. Box 5124
Scranton, PA 18505
ACEAandHClaims@Chubb.com
Customer Service : 1-800-336-0627

For medical referrals, evacuation, repatriation, vehicle return or other services please call:

Europ Assistance
Chubb Travel Assistance Program
877-352-0785 (Inside the USA)
877-350-3532 (Canada)
1-202-659-7803
(Outside the USA Call Collect)
OPS@europassistance-usa.com



2023 Events

May 25 - 28	'First Rally of the Year' Black Diamond Lions Campground (possible location change) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power, water, sewer 	Organizers / Hosts: Picks & Nels
June 16 - 27	Alberta Caravan 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> loop through Rocky Mountain House, Drayton Valley, Sangudo, Edmonton, Camrose, and Trochu 	Organizers / Planners: McLeods, Nels & Lucas
July 13 - 16	'Summer Heat' TBA	Organizers / Hosts: Nels & Lucas
August 10 - 13	'Salmon Fest' ... RV There Yet? Campground, Blackfalds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power & water & dump 	Organizers / Hosts: Kellams & Frasers
September 7 - 10	'Another Year in the Books' Centennial Park Campground, Claresholm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power & water & dump annual kite event, AGM, Elections for President & Treasurer discussion/planning for 2024 	Organizers / Hosts: Kellams & McLeods

October Gobblefest in Beiseker

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Sunday morning came and we said our goodbyes and made our various ways home.

Two special goodbyes ...

- This was Ed and Lorna's last event. They have hosted so many similar great meals and rallies over the years, from other turkey meals, fried chicken and a chilli feast at Banff on a cold winter night. They have always been there to help out and provide great advice on RV issues and travel spots.
- Also at their last rally were Ray and Rosemary. They are selling their motorhome and retiring from the RV lifestyle. They were also mainstays of the Chapter, attending almost all of the events, hosting events with corn feasts, and helping out as needed. The Chapter will greatly miss them all.

Have a great winter everyone wherever you land and we will see you in the spring! Remember to check the website from time to time to see the calendar of events unfold as rally destinations and details are finalized.