



NEWS DRIFTS



August 2023
Volume 21, Issue #2

July Rally @ Three Hills Campground July 13 - 16th ... 'Summer Heat'

It was time for the annual South African feast and wine event hosted by Gerrit and Elsabé Nel, with assistance from Carr and Carol McLeod. This year the event was held at the Three Hills Alberta campground. It was the first time we had been to this site, and the facilities and reception were great with level and wide sites. We plan to come back in a future year.



The first night we had all but one coach signed in: Hosts Nels and McLeods, Bishop, Picks, Gonzis, Kellams and Frasers (McLeods, Rod & Nikki came Friday). We also had 2 guest couples invited by Bob Bishop — Ken & Kathy Shulba and Tom & Stephanie Charlifoux. The first 'tow-ables' potential members of our Chapter (Stephen and Anne's other trailer RV not counting). After Happy Hour it was dinner on our own, but we soon gathered back at Nels' site for an evening around the fire (Official Fire Bug Anne in charge).



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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 or mail to our Treasurer:

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July Rally @ Three Hills Campground

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On Friday we rose to a clear sunny day, but with a smoke haze overlaying it all. With the griddle soon set up, it was a breakfast of eggs, sausages and hashbrowns. We had invited a group of camping neighbours and they joined us (3 generations). Fun to have a big group, and luckily we had enough food! After lunch, it was time for the Ladder Golf Tournament. With two courses set up, the ladies' and mens' play-downs began. Kristine won the ladies' event and Ernie the men's. The Championship Round pitted the two of them against each other, with Ernie squeaking in a Gold Medal performance. The mid afternoon saw things set up for card bingo. We had just started battling a steady side wind, when the rain began, so play was suspended while we all ran for cover. By 4:00pm the rain had stopped and the game re-started. No record of the winners, too much fun. The Happy Hour and Award Ceremonies were followed by a pot luck dinner. As one can see from the photos, there was lots to choose from and no one went home hungry. Another night around the fire closed out the evening.



July Rally @ Three Hills Campground

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Saturday came, again with clear but smoky skies. That did not hamper appetites as the eggs, bacon and pancakes produced were soon consumed for the most part. The griddle was exchanged for the BBQ (prep for dinner), and the trailer sorted and swept out as it was its first outing for 2023. The Awards Ceremony - plaques and medals - for yesterday's big winners was held after breakfast. Today's event was a Bean Bag Toss which wrapped up before Happy Hour. The one issue with this campground is the lack of shade, and too much wind this weekend to safely put up the tent shelter, so we gathered in the shade of Nels' coach and watched Ron polish the bottom third of his rig. The three dogs Hailey (C & C McLeod) and Casey and Gypsy (Pick) played and braided their tie out ropes multiple times, but also gathered and rested a lot under Nels' rig in the shade. Hailey made a 'great escape' at one point, slipping out of her harness and exploring, only to be cornered by two cats a couple of sites over, and recaptured. Some members took advantage of the short walk (about two blocks) to the County Museum for a visit, and were quite impressed with it. Happy Hour came and unfortunately Ken and Kathy had to leave us at this point having received news of flooding in their home's basement. Hope it worked out okay, or at least as good as such a thing can be. A minor offset of the whole thing was that it was fresh water from a broken pipe, not overland or backup.

The feature South African Dinner was tonight, so the spiced flattened chicken was on the BBQ and the 'boerewors' (South African farmers sausage) made ready for the grill. It was a fantastic spread with potato, bean and noodle salad, buns and a type of special salsa sauce for the sausages. Each coach contributed a bottle of South African wine, and we had quite the variety that we all got to try. That was followed by some South African honey-soaked treats and chocolate cake, and ... We sure did not go home hungry!

With all the gear packed up, we again gathered around the fire. Then a few drops were felt, and at first it seemed the rain would be gentle and mostly pass us by. Boy was that wrong! We first gathered under Nels' awning chatting and laughing about it all, but then the major downpour began. It had us grabbing the few things left out and dashing for our coaches. The heavy rain continued with wind and lightning. So the fire was soaked and out, and everyone stayed in their mobile sanctuaries from the storm.



July Rally @ Three Hills Campground

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It POURED!! and wow! the puddles ...



2023 Events

August 10 - 13

'Salmon Fest'
RV There Yet? Campground, Blackfalds
 • power & water & dump

*Organizers / Hosts:
 Kellams & Frasers*

September 14 - 17

'Another Year in the Books'
Centennial Park Campground, Claresholm
 • power & water & dump station
 • annual kite event, putt/putt golf, horseshoes, ladder golf
 • AGM, Elections for President & Treasurer
 • discussion/planning for 2024

*Organizers / Hosts:
 Kellams & R McLeods*

July Rally @ Three Hills Campground

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Sunday dawned on another smoky morning ... we certainly had a lot of smoke this weekend! ... and the storm last night didn't clear any of it out. Continental Breakfast spread turned into quite the event with all sorts of tempting items. Soon that wrapped up and the goodbyes began. Kellams and Frasers raided the trailer for some items for the next event they are hosting at the RV There Yet? Campground near Red Deer ... a salmon bake, with the fresh salmon supplied by Bob Bishop's sister who resides on Vancouver Island.

It was a great event, and the Nels as hosts went overboard to ensure we had a good time and good food. The McLeods as our cruise entertainment coordinators, had us in games and museum tours. Fantastic job guys, you will have to do it again!



Everyone's departure sure left our party area empty !



One very smoky drive home ...

