



NEWS DRIFTS



October 2023
Volume 21, Issue #4

September Rally @ Centennial Park Campground Claresholm September 15 - 17 ... 'Another Year in the Books'

Anne and I arrived on Friday afternoon, so I have no idea of the antics the members who came on Thursday got up to.

It was a jovial group (well it was Happy Hour) gathered in the shade of Kellams' rig who warmly greeted us late arrivers. Present were Kellams, Nels, McLeods, Johnstons, Bishop, Burgess and Shulbas. We are becoming a more diverse group with both Picks and Shulbas in trailers, McLeods in a Class C, Johnstons in a Super C, Bishop in a bus conversion, and everyone else in gas or diesel Class A's.



After lots of discussions to catch up, we had a great chili dinner hosted by Ron and Lane.

Following dinner we set up the propane fire pit — AKA Gerrit's Glow Pit — (yes the club plans to buy its own) by Stephen and Anne's for the evening get together. By 9:00 pm it was getting cool and dark, so gradually members drifted away to their rigs for the night.



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Membership, Everyone !!

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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September Rally @ Centennial Park Campground, Claresholm cont'd from pg 1



The next morning started off rather cool at 8 degrees. Soon the coffee pot was going, and we all gathered over at Kellams' for breakfast. As usual the feast they put on with eggs, back bacon, etc had us all well fed. A big thank-you to Bob Bishop for the use of his BBQ griddle. As we came with our truck and trailer (more on this later), the club's trailer was not there.

With dishes cleared away and tables rearranged it was time for the annual business meeting. Wide ranging discussions on membership, 2024 rallies and caravan, the 107th FMCA Convention attended by us, and the election of our Chapter's 2024 slate of officers. See the side panel on page one for the new lineup. The Chapter expressed its sincere thanks to Ron for his many years of service as President.

With the business out of the way it was time for games. The annual "Putt Putt" golf event was soon underway. Knowledge of the great game of golf being totally unnecessary, and perhaps a hindrance to your play. When the dust finally settled Ron took first place, Gerrit and Dave tied for second, Stephen was third, and Anne was the most honest golfer. So Ron gets to store the trophy for another year!



Our dinner guests began to arrive. We had invited past members to join us. Bob and Kathy Lucas, Ray and Rosemary Herbert and Lyle Davidson joined us for Happy Hour. Dinner was bring your own meat, and the sides were provided. All were soon gathered around Bob's big grill and various cuts of meat were sizzling and coming off it.

Shortly after dinner all our guests had to leave for their long drives home before dark. It was great to have them all join us and share stories. An event to repeat in 2024?

The after dinner propane fire was soon on and the great fellowship continued into the evening around it.



September Rally @ Centennial Park Campground, Claresholm cont'd from pg 1

Sunday morning came, and we gathered over at Ron and Lane's for the departure continental breakfast with some sweet rolls. We were soon after on our way as we had miles to go to get to the FMCA Northwest Area Business Planning meeting in Albany Oregon (1,500km over 2 1/2 days), which is why we had not been able to bring the club's trailer. Again, more on this separately.

As always a fun time was had by all at this end-of-season event. Some now pack their rigs away for the winter, and others prep to head south. We look forward to getting back together in the spring.



Stephen and Anne's FMCA Travels

With fires and smoke to the north, Stephen and Anne were wondering where to go in August. The Yukon and NWT were either on fire or thick with smoke. Bob Bishop had previously encouraged us to attend a FMCA International Convention at some time. So as Gillette Wyoming was not "that" far away, an August travel plan came to life.

Taking a circuitous route there through Montana and North Dakota to finally set up at the CamPlex Event Center in the Box Elder Campground on August 21st. For Stephen as the Chapter National Director it was 3 days of meetings. A NW Area caucus meeting Monday afternoon, FMCA planning meetings Tuesday, and the Governing Board meeting on Wednesday, *ALL day Wednesday!* Then it was time to go to the trade show, play and attend seminars, various entertainment in the evenings, and getting to meet many other FMCA members. It all wrapped up Sunday morning, and we began our loop home. Unfortunately it was limping home with a somewhat sick rig.

We both recommend you attend a FMCA convention at some time. You get to learn a lot about FMCA, and the seminars are very educational. In 2024 there will be a convention in Redmond Oregon (August 14 to 17). Think about attending. One factor to be aware of is that due to low attendance numbers (below 1,000 coaches), FMCA will likely move to a one-convention-a-year format, and most will likely be in the east. So take the opportunity to one in the NW area!

Now on to September ... there was a bit of arm twisting in Gillette for Stephen to attend the NW Area Planning meeting in Albany Oregon. So we left Claresholm in the truck and trailer (the motorcoach still needing engine work), and headed southwest. It was a fast run to arrive there by Tuesday August 19th by noon.



2024 Events

May 9-12	Lions Campground, Black Diamond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power/water/sewer & dump station 	Organizers / Hosts: Picks
June 13-16	High Eagle RV Park, Rosebud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power/water & dump station 	Organizers / Hosts: Nels
July 2-11	Caravan through SW Alberta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> itinerary, details to come 	Organizers / Hosts: McLeods
August 22-25	'Annual Salmon Fest' Three Hills Campground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power/water/sewer & dump station 	Organizers / Hosts: TBD
September 12-15	'Another Year in the Books' Joint Rally with other AB Chapters ??, Location TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power/water & dump station TBD annual kite event, putt/putt golf, horseshoes, ladder golf AGM, Elections for Vice President & Secretary discussion/planning for 2025 	Organizers / Hosts: TBD

Stephen and Anne's FMCA Travels

... cont'd from pg 3

Most of the attendees were from Washington and Oregon, with us being the only Canadians present. The meetings covered the usual bases with President's and Treasurer's reports (all is well) and then moved on to planning for the Redmond rally. We also made up a Chapter Board for Drifters (see photos). The two nights camping in the Lynn County Fairgrounds lot was paid for, and dinners provided. It was a fun rally with the usual evening get together for Happy Hour, and games after dinner. The Chapter is invited to send two coaches to the next rally event in April (23 - 25), again in Albany. The focus of that meeting will be planning for the Redmond convention, and getting volunteers.

So that covers our FMCA work as your National Director in 2023. Let me know if you have any questions or comments.



We set the banner up ... advertise when you can!

They display all the NW Chapters' boards at rallies.