



# NEWS DRIFTS



July 2024  
Volume 22, Issue #3

## In This Issue

### 1 Caravan 2024

Meeting Notice

### 2 to 4 Caravan 2024

### 5 Upcoming 2024 Events

Caravan 2024

Welcome New Members!

## Officers and Directors 2024

**President**, Gerrit Nel  
gerrit1nel@gmail.com • 403-921-7963  
**Vice President**, vacant

**Secretary**, Stephen Pick  
scamp.mobile@gmail.com • 403-422-0091

**Treasurer**, Carr McLeod  
carr.mcleod@gmail.com • 587-329-0060

### National Director

Stephen Pick

### Alternate National Director

Lane Kellam

**Newsletter**, Stephen & Anne Pick  
scamp.mobile@gmail.com • 403-422-0091

**Membership Director**  
vacant

## 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:

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

Official mailing address is:  
Gerrit Nel 25 Sleigh Drive  
Redwood Meadows, AB T3Z 1A1

Website : [www.southernalbertadrifters.ca](http://www.southernalbertadrifters.ca)

## Caravan 2024

The 2024 Caravan ended all too soon. It was a great trip with great weather ... well a bit hot near the end, but that beats rain or snow! A huge thank you to Carr McLeod, our planner and Wagonmaster. Two new members, Tom and Carol Hewitt and Wayne Bell and Irma Connel were indoctrinated into the Drifter culture and added many a twist of their own. What follows is a brief recap of the trip for the record, and to entice a few of you to join into the 2025 Caravan in July that is already in the planning stages. Northeast Alberta — here we come!

### First Campground: Rivers Edge, Fort Macleod



Following whatever antics we each got up to on Canada Day, we gathered at the Rivers Edge RV Park by Fort Macleod. The Nels were first to arrive followed shortly by the McLeods and Picks (both doing a very quick toad unhook in a rain shower). Shortly after they were parked, the Hewitts and Bells arrived and the skies cleared. We did a review of the Caravan plans over Happy Hour, then had dinner together and a fire before settling in for the night.

*cont'd on pg 2 ...*



## Meeting Notice

Members of Southern Alberta Drifters:

The Annual Business Meeting of the Chapter will be held on August 23rd, 2024 at the Three Hills Campground SalmonFest event. A formal agenda will be circulated shortly.

Key agenda items include the election of a Vice President and a Secretary, and to seek a volunteer to assume the Membership Director role. Details on the duties and responsibilities of these roles will be circulated prior to the meeting. We will also receive the Annual Reports from the President and the Treasurer.

The 2025 Rallies and the 2025 Caravan plans will also be brought forward for ideas and discussion.

*Stephen Pick, Secretary and National Director  
Southern Alberta Drifters*

**NOTE:** The normal meeting date in early September has been advanced given the high level of member attendance at the Three Hills Rally, and the uncertain attendance at the joint Chapter September event.



# Caravan 2024

Wednesday morning came with stormy and rainy weather, and we gathered for the daily coffee meeting. Plans for the day included a trip out to Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump, and then a tour of the Fort Museum, followed by dinner at Macleod Restaurant. Well best laid plans ... the Head Smashed In tour 'highlight' was getting stuck between floors in the elevator for a few of us — a test of the Otis response time to a remote location. The rest of the museum tour and indigenous dancing was great, and those who were stuck earned a "merit badge" from the staff. Dinner at the restaurant was a success, and afterwards we gathered around the campfire for the evening. During the day an Alaskan Caravan Tour group pulled in with 25 or so units for one night with much the same day tours planned ... a somewhat larger group than ours!



## Second Campground: Crooked Creek near Waterton National Park

Thursday was a relocate day. An 'arduous' 1and a bit hours drive to Crooked Creek Campground beside Waterton National Park. We had to pace ourselves so as not to arrive before 1:00pm, since we had an 11:00am checkout time (this minor issue will be repeated a few times yet). After a leisurely morning we pulled out with the Wagonmaster in the lead, interspersing ourselves between the Alaskan RV Tour group departures. After an easy and beautiful drive, we set up and some snoozing went on before it was Happy Hour with various treats laid out to snack on. That was followed by the first Potluck Dinner. As usual it was a fantastic spread, and with full stomachs we set up around the fire for the evening. Irma treated everyone to a special chocolate treat — a Pal-o-Mine bar, one of the oldest, continuously produced, wrapped candy bars in North America! Efforts continued into the night to track down a volume supplier of said bars!



Friday came and after the 9:00am coffee meeting, we all headed out to explore Waterton National Park and area. We met up for a picnic lunch at Red Rock Canyon. Irma and Wayne have great special memories of the falls in the Waterton townsite, but what is revealed on a Caravan stays with the Caravan! Back at the campground it was Card Bingo at Happy Hour, and then a fire after dinner. Not sure how some ate dinner after Beaver Tail and Ice Cream treats in town!

*cont'd on pg 3 ...*





# Caravan 2024

## Third Campground: Lost Lemon Campground, Blairmore

Saturday morning came and it was time to move on to the Lost Lemon Campground in Blairmore. Again a short drive, so a short stop at Leitch Collieries on the way to tour, and wait until the sites opened up. Soon we were all set up and the AC was running. Another HOT day. After Happy Hour another fantastic gourmet spread was laid out for Potluck Dinner #2. One thing for sure, you do not lose weight on these trips!



Sunday morning and after the daily coffee meeting it was time to explore the Blairmore area, the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, and meet up for a picnic lunch at Lundbreck Falls. After lunch people continued their explorations and arrived back at camp for Happy Hour and a ladder golf tournament. Insignificant prizes were handed out to the category winners Gerrit and Anne, and the top dog Gerrit.





## Caravan 2024

### Fourth Campground: Fort Steele RV Campground near Fort Steel Historic Village BC

Monday morning and we were back on the road, heading for Fort Steele. We set up there in the heat (34C !!), so we all hung out in our coaches with the AC running. At 4pm we gathered in the shade of a coach for the 2nd Annual Wine Tasting, with cheese added in to cleanse the pallet. With Anne and Elsabé serving the tasting glasses, we had the arduous task of working through the 5 wines (4 reds and 1 white). We then dispersed to the coaches for dinner and to cool off. A Fantasy Tours Caravan of 27 coaches pulled in and squeezed their big rigs into various sites. Luckily we had booked sooner and had 50 amp service for 3 of us and 30 for the rest..



Tuesday was a local tour day and we all headed out in various directions, some doing the circle road tour through Kimberley and Cranbrook. The plan had been to visit the Fort Steele Historic Village, but with staff shortages they were on reduced hours, and there were no events going on. The Happy Hour card bingo event was held in the shade for sure, and then we dispersed to get ready for the dinner out at the Fire and Oak restaurant in Cranbrook. Too hot for a fire, so after a nightcap all went back to the cooled coaches.



### Fifth Campground: The Canyon RV Park in Radium Hot Springs BC

Wednesday and it was off to The Canyon RV Park in Radium Hot Springs. They had assigned us sites and 4 were side by side, and the Picks were ostracized off across the road and over a bit. But being ostracized is not at all bad when you get a 50 amp site to run the AC continuously, vs the need to carefully manage a 30 amp feed! Given the heat, we all played hide and seek in our rigs and skipped Happy Hour. Then we gathered for Potluck Dinner #3, which — despite the challenge the hot weather provided — was amazing as always. As the evening cooled off, a rousing game of card bingo was played with Tom's inauguration as caller.

*cont'd on pg 5 ....*





## 2024 Events

**August 22-25**

### 'Annual Salmon Fest'

**Three Hills Campground** — power/water/sewer & dump station

- AGM, Elections for Vice President & Secretary
- discussion/planning for 2025

*Organizers / Hosts:*  
*Johnstons, Nels*

*Breakfast Chefs:*  
*Bells, Hewitts*

**September 6-8**

### Joint Rally with Wild Rose and Klondiker Chapters, Harmattan Hall

- dry camping, catered meals
- See registration form sent out by email — deadline August 30th

*Organizers / Hosts:*  
*Klondikers / Wild Rose Chapters*

## Caravan 2024



Thursday morning after the coffee meeting, we all headed out to explore the area ... some perhaps to the hot springs, some white water rafting? In the afternoon, given the 37C temperature, Happy Hour was skipped once again. We gathered what has become the traditional 'Last Night Pizza Dinner', and stuffed ourselves on quite the variety. Then to close things out, and fund some fuel purchases? to get us up the hill out of the campground, the LRC Dice game came out. As a handicap, the winner had to down a shot of "Apple Pie" liqueur after each round! The winner benefits from the \$s and the sippy, and the rest hope it does become a handicap!



Friday morning and the last one of the Caravan came, and after the coffee meeting, Carr officially declared the 2024 Caravan over, and 'we are to reconvene for Caravan 2025 in July next year!' (Credits to the Olympic wind-up ceremonies, but paraphrased.) We all slowly drifted off (except for Wayne and Irma who got going immediately as they had a deadline to get home for).

It was a wonderful adventure with great friendly campgrounds, perfect weather (well a bit hot, but beats the flood waters of 2023!), and great fellowship and fun. The Canyon RV Park won the 'best campground award', but the other four were not slouches either. Everyone would be happy to go back to any of those great campgrounds.



For a great, fun time, join the group for the Caravan 2025 Event! We are working on plans to explore Northeastern Alberta. It will be an event you will not want to miss!

## New Members !



**Tom & Carol Hewitt**  
Dunmore, AB

