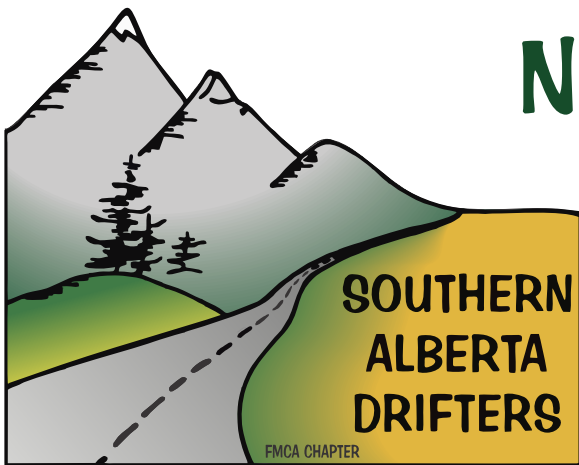




NEWS DRIFTS

March 2024
Volume 22, Issue #1



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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:

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

President's Message

With a great 2023 in the rearview mirror, a rather strange winter so far with record low temperatures, we are all experiencing some above normal temps that make us itchy to go get that RV out for the new 2024 camping season. I rather suggest you calm that itch for a couple more months and start preparing mentally for a great season ahead.

We like to welcome 4 new SAD members that have joined the club recently: Wayne Bell & Irma Carrol (Okotoks), Ernie Mylymok (Medicine Hat), Terri and Lorne Blakley (Foothills) and Peter & Carol McDonald (Cochrane). We are looking forward to meeting you all at our rallies, and remind the group that our first rally is May 9-12, 2024 at Bob Lockhead Lions Memorial Park, Diamond Valley, AB. Stephen and Anne Pick will be our hosts, and Gerrit and Elsabé Nel will be the co-hosts. Hope to see you there!

Stephen's Ramblings

The preliminary info for the May 9 to 12th rally at Diamond Valley is on page 5 (the info and sign-up form will be sent out separately in early April). Please let us know ASAP if you plan to attend (or if you definitively can not) so we can finalize site numbers with the campground. Yes, there are still 2 months to go and things change, so it is not a binding commitment, just extremely helpful information to us as hosts. Payment is not needed until April. There may be a few tweaks to the schedule yet, but the basic concept is there.



It's time to get the rigs out of winter hibernation soon! For us here on "the ridge", planning/preparations are in progress for the 2024 season. The most recent task has been installing a cupboard and some shelves in the travel trailer to better organize storage (not to increase it ... weight, as always, is a consideration for RVs!). Now to check all the seams, re-caulk as needed, then polish up the rigs.

Our first trip in April will be a wandering route out to Campbell River BC to visit my brother, and then south to Albany Oregon for the spring FMCA Northwest planning meeting ... I will update you all on FMCA goings-on at the May rally.

If all goes as planned this year, we have 3 trips planned, and will touch 2.75 of Canada's 3 ocean coasts (and around 25,000 km in total). Why 2.75 you ask? ... well Montreal is a bit short of reaching the Atlantic coast (but is on the seaway, and 3/4s of the way there from here!). I hear one member is heading to Alaska on a caravan, perhaps some ramblings from them on the trip will appear here in future. Any others have major trips in planning?

With 4 new members this spring, we asked for a brief RV bio from the new members to introduce themselves to the Chapter. In this issue we have a first RV-Bio, and hopefully more to come in subsequent issues. Perhaps the re-newing members can also provide a short intro paragraph as well to remind all of

New Members !

Wayne Bell & Irma Connel, Okotoks

Peter & Carole McDonald, Cochrane

Ernie Mylymok, Medicine Hat

Lorne & Terri, Foothills County



It is fantastic to have new members in the Chapter, but it is with regret that we report that Bill and Carol Newman will be leaving the Chapter and selling their motorhome. We enjoyed having them as members and wish them the best going forward.

Member Recruiting


As we go into the 2024 Rally season, consider inviting your RV friends to join us for a rally.

Encourage them to use this QR code to access our website and learn all about us, and our rally schedule for 2024, so they can choose an event that fits in with their schedule.



Below is a sample of our recruitment card ... you can give one out to a prospective member you meet when camping ... if they join FMCA and mention your 'F number', you will receive something from FMCA in recognition of your recruitment efforts.

Recruitment cards are available at rallies. Be sure to get yours!



camaraderie and fun weekends!
Why join Drifters?


Southern Alberta Drifters is a registered chapter of FMCA, based in Southern Alberta. Receiving our charter in 2002, we are currently an active group of approximately 28 member RVs ... motorhomes, 5th wheels, and travel trailers.


We all enjoy our 'portable cottages' and our members are always willing to share their experiences, and the varied things they have learned over the years.

We schedule 4 to 6 rallies over the rally season that extends from May to October. Rallies are held at campgrounds primarily in various southern Alberta locations. Weekend rally fees range from \$125 to \$190 per RV unit depending on the location, the number of nights (2 or 3), and if meals are 'potluck' or 'full inclusive'. Attendance ranges from 5 to 10 RVs for the weekend events.

Membership is open to any FMCA member in good standing. Annual dues are \$20.00 and name badges are \$20.00 each.

For further information, check our website:
www.SouthernAlbertaDrifters.ca





Why join FMCA?

If you're an RV owner, here are some quick reasons you should join FMCA:

Family : The greatest member benefit is the fun and camaraderie shared by people who enjoy the common interest of RV travel.

Benefits of Membership :

- FMCA's monthly magazine (check full of handy tips and RVing info)
- FMCA assist medical emergency & travel assistance programs
- roadside assistance
- campground savings
- tire savings program
- Chapter rallies, Area rallies and International Conventions
- RV caravan tours at discounted rates

Chapters : more than 460 active Chapters throughout North America, which hold rallies throughout the year.

www.fmca.com

Referred by: _____

F _____

Message from Dennis Martin Northwest Area President

Greetings to all who enjoy the RV lifestyle!

With the holidays behind us, we turn our attention to where and when we want to travel. Planning is such an important consideration, else we end up either not going, or ending up in a place we didn't plan.

The Northwest Area is hosting the International FMCA rally on August 14-17, 2024, in Redmond Oregon, and it goes without saying that we need "planning" to meet this challenge. Further, each of your individual chapters are planning where and when you plan to go. I appreciate your attention to detail. If you have not sent me your rally dates, please do that soon so I can update my calendar.

Speaking of Planning, hosting the International FMCA rally requires a more intensive plan, including the need for a large representation through your registrations, coordination of "Captains" and the need for many volunteers! I am respectfully requesting that you contact your chapter members to see if they are planning to attend the Redmond Convention, and if they will be volunteers. Not only do we need lots of volunteers, but it would be awesome to see NWA Chapters "caravan in" to the rally like we did in past years. We could park together, enjoy fellowship, meet new friends, perhaps acquire new chapter members! As you can see, our need for participation, volunteers, & captains cannot be overstated! The future of FMCA is going to be what we make of it. We need special attention from you to encourage your chapter members to register, volunteer, and participate in this Redmond, Oregon Convention.

Please contact the NWA Redmond Volunteer Coordinator, Cindy Haynes (cwhaynes2@msn.com) with your list of volunteers, and/or for volunteer questions. We have a great opportunity to showcase our Pacific Northwest Area and we need all the participation, support, and volunteerism that we can muster. I am asking respectfully for your support in this matter. I will be more than happy to answer any other questions you or they may have.

Safe travels!
Dennis Martin, Northwest Area President
513-824-4949
dvrcommanders@gmail.com

Stephen's Ramblings

.... cont'd from pg 1

us about their RV history? Send it in, we are always looking for new content for your News Drifts (it also helps you by limiting my ramblings!).

We are trying out a US Travel SIM card for the April trip. A 15 day plan for \$50 which beats the \$12/day Rogers charges for USA "roam like at home". e-SIM cards are cheaper, but my phone allows dual SIMs, but not e-SIMs. A full USA/Canada annual plan is available, but it's not cost effective for just 14 days in the USA this year (and they want me to upgrade to a 5G phone to get a "preferred" rate). Has anyone of you had any experience with travel SIM cards?

Time to stop the rambling. As noted above, all are invited to send in a bio or article/column to be included in future issues. We hope to see many of you at the Diamond Valley rally in May!

FMCA Assist

CHUBB®

Access to Chubb Travel Assistance, Worldwide

When an emergency happens far away from home, Chubb partners with AXA Assistance, a leading global travel and medical assistance provider, to give you access to local care and assistance—*wherever you are*.

If you are insured and need to access local care, AXA Assistance is available to help anywhere around the world by calling the telephone numbers on the ID Card.

To verify eligibility, call the multi-lingual call center 24 hours a day at:

- Within US: +1-877-352-0785
- Within Canada: +1-877-350-3532
- Outside US: +1-202-659-7803 (Collect)
- Email: MedAssist-USA@AXA-Assistance.us

When calling AXA Assistance, please be prepared with the following:

- Name of caller or relationship to covered person
- Covered person's policy number
- Covered person's organization name
- Reason for calling

24/7 Assistance Services

In addition to the insurance protection provided by your insurance plan, you have access to travel assistance services around the world. These services include, but are not limited to:

Medical Assistance

- Medical provider referrals
- Medical monitoring and treatment
- Guarantee of medical payment (GOP)
- Dispatch of physician
- Dispatch of prescription medication
- Emergency medical evacuations
- Medically necessary repatriation
- Transport of family member/ Escort of dependents
- Return of mortal remains
- Global Teleconsultation
- Remote Behavioral Health

Travel Assistance

- General travel information
- Pre-trip medical referral
- Emergency travel arrangements
- Lost/stolen personal item assistance
- ID theft assistance and advice
- Vehicle returns
- Emergency cash advance
- Translator or interpreter assistance
- Embassy and consular information
- Emergency message transmission
- Legal/bail bond referral

Security Assistance

- Access to 24/7 security assistance and safety advice
- On-the-ground crisis response for security, natural disaster, or political evacuation and repatriation

Travel Assistance Portal

- Access to real-time, destination-based health, security, and travel-related resources with self-service tools before or during travel excursions, including security alerts and country profiling
- Go to TravelAssistance.Chubb.com and register or log in
- Download the mobile app available for iOS or Android devices after registering for the travel portal via the desktop site

Scan the QR Codes

Scan the QR Codes below to save the following on your mobile device:

Starter Kit PDF



Save the Chubb Travel Assistance Program Starter Kit and add to your files on iOS or Android devices.

Add v-Contact Card



Customize and label contact details and note "Policyholder Name" and "Policy Number" from the cutout portion of ID Card below.

This information provides you with a brief outline of the services available to you. These services are not insured benefits. Reimbursement for any service expenses is limited to the terms and conditions of the policy under which you are insured. You may be required to pay for services not covered. A third-party vendor may provide services to you. AXA Assistance makes every effort to refer you to appropriate medical and other service providers. It is not responsible for the quality or results of service provided by independent providers.

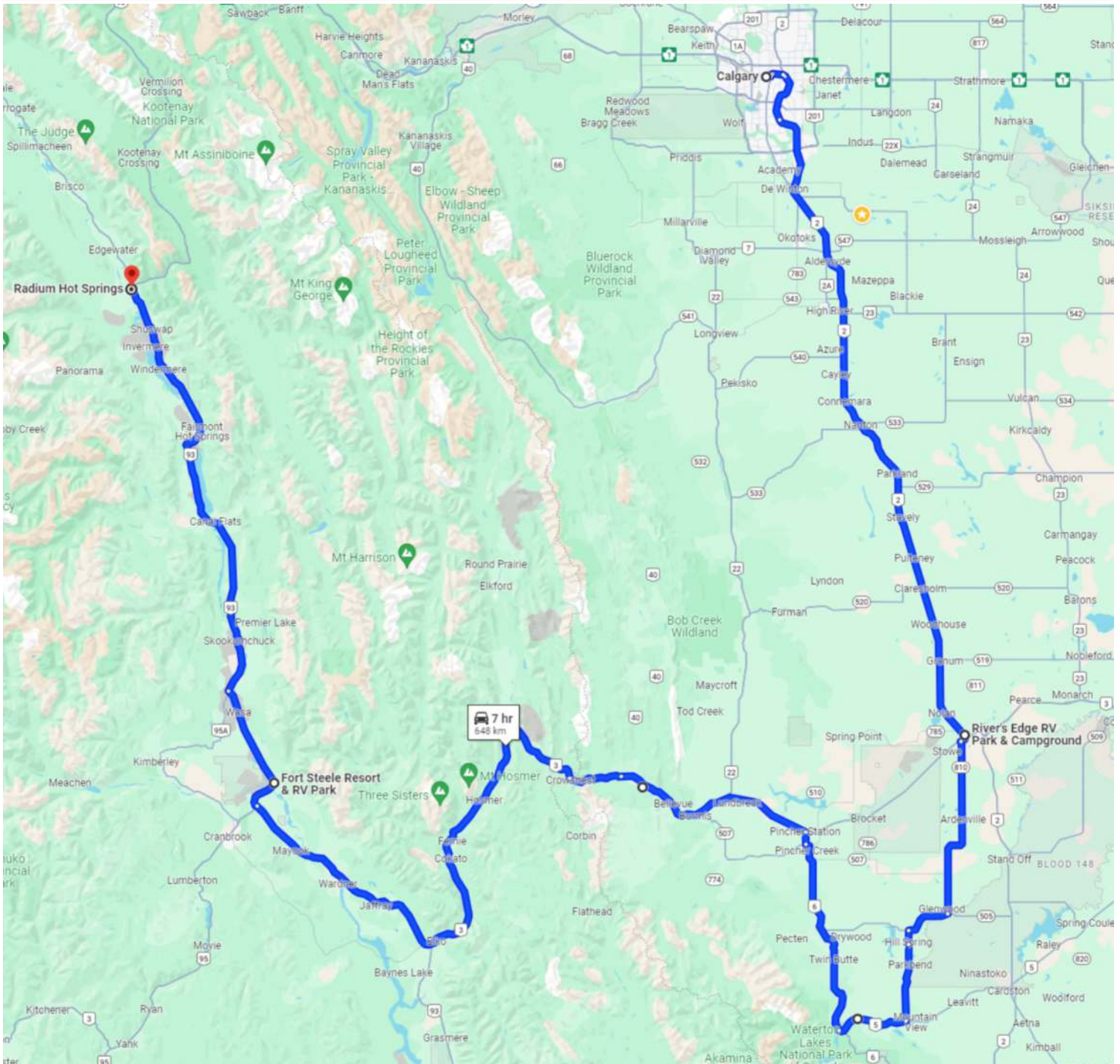
In all cases, the medical provider, facility, legal counsel, or other professional service provider suggested by AXA Assistance are not employees or agents of AXA Assistance and the choice of provider is yours alone. AXA Assistance assumes no liability for the services provided to you under this arrangement, nor is it liable for any negligence or other wrongful acts or omissions of any of the legal or health care professionals providing services to you. Travel assistance services are not available if your coverage under the policy is not in effect.

Your Travel Identification Card Please cut out your identification card below and carry it with you at all times so you can be best served in case of an emergency.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>CHUBB®</p> <p>For travel and medical assistance services, please call:</p> <p>Chubb Travel Assistance</p> <p>Within US: +1-877-352-0785 Within Canada: +1-877-350-3532</p> <p>Outside US: +1-202-659-7803 (Collect)</p> <p>Email at: MedAssist-USA@AXA-Assistance.us</p> <p>Travel Assistance Portal</p> <p>Visit website: TravelAssistance.Chubb.com</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">CHUBB® AXA</p> <p>Policyholder: FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION, INC.</p> <p>Policy Number: 99087626</p> <p>AXA Assistance provides emergency medical and travel assistance services and pre-trip information services. Call when you require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital or doctor referral • Emergency medical assistance; hospitalization • Medically necessary evacuation or repatriation • Guarantee of payment for medical expenses • Translation or interpreter assistance • Security/political event emergency support <p style="text-align: right;">This is not a medical insurance card.</p> |
|--|---|

Travel assistance services are non-insurance services that are provided by third-party providers. Insurance provided by ACE Property & Casualty Insurance Company, ACE American Insurance Company, or Federal Insurance Company and their U.S.- based Chubb underwriting company affiliates. All products may not be available in all states. Chubb is the marketing name used to refer to subsidiaries of Chubb Limited providing insurance and related services. For a list of these subsidiaries, please visit our website at www.chubb.com. Chubb, 202 Hall's Mill Road, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889-1600. Form 44-01-0233 (Rev. 1/24)

July 2024 Caravan - Current Plans



Caravan 2024 — July 2nd to 12th

2 nights at each location

| Location | Campground | Area Activities |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1) Fort Macleod | Rivers Edge RV Park | Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump, NWMP Museum |
| 2) Waterton | Crooked Creek Campground | Waterton National Park |
| 3) Blairmore | Lost Lemon Campground | Frank Slide, Lumberck Falls |
| 4) Fort Steele, BC | Fort Steele Resort and RV Park | Heritage town and gold panning |
| 5) Radium, BC | The Canyon RV Resort | Hot springs and mountains |

2024 Events

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| May 9 - 12 | Lions Campground, Diamond Valley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power/water/sewer & dump station | <i>Organizers / Hosts:</i> Picks |
| June 13-16 | High Eagle RV Park, Rosebud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power/water & dump station | <i>Organizers / Hosts:</i> Nels |
| July 2-12 | Caravan through SW Alberta and into BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fort Macleod, Waterton Park, Blairmore, Fort Steele, Radium | <i>Organizers / Hosts:</i> C McLeods |
| August 22-25 | 'Annual Salmon Fest' Three Hills Campground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power/water/sewer & dump station | <i>Organizers / Hosts:</i> TBD |
| September TBA | '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 | <i>Organizers / Hosts:</i> Klondikers / Wild Rose Chapters |

Member Minute

Wayne Bell & Irma Connel

Wayne and I started our RV adventures in 2004 when we purchased a 1977 truck and camper. We travelled to Waterton National Park and a few other campgrounds. Wanting a little more space, we purchased a Rockwood Ultra-Lite bumper pull and a Toyota Tacoma to pull it. We enjoyed the space it allowed us as we travelled to Boulton Provincial Park, Writing on Stone, Elkwater in Cypress Hills, Goldsprings, GasCity in Medicine Hat, to name a few. After trading in the Tacoma for a Tundra, and the bumper pull for a Minnie Winnebago fifth wheel, we continued to explore our favourite campgrounds in Southern Alberta and added a great adventure when we attended the Music Festival, "Waynestock" in Wayne AB during the Labor Day weekend in 2022. THAT is an adventure we will repeat in September, 2024. 2023 saw us trade in our fifth wheel for a 27 foot Coachman Pursuit. Although we have only travelled to a few campgrounds with our motorhome that we have named "Miss Daisy", we look forward to 'Driving Miss Daisy' to wherever the road takes us in 2024!



May Rally in Diamond Valley

The Bob Lochhead Lions Campground is located in the town of Diamond Valley (east), 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. Rally hosts are Stephen and Anne Pick ... please let them know if - or if not - you are able to attend. Planning is in progress, and it would be helpful to have an idea how many to plan for.

Meals

May 9 (Thursday)

- Arrive and check in at the office for campsite #
- Eat dinner together (bring your own)

May 10 (Friday)

- Hot Breakfast (provided)
- Potluck Dinner ... salads and dessert are provided

May 11 (Saturday)

- Hot Breakfast (provided)
- BBQ Dinner provided

May 12 (Sunday)

- Continental Breakfast (provided)

Activities (all or some, weather/interest/etc dependent) 😊

- Firesides
- LRC Dice game (bring 3 loonies per person)
- Cornhole Tournament
- Card Bingo (\$5 entry or bring correct coins)
- Saturday excursion TBD
- Walking paths along the river and parks

FMCA International Convention

Remember !! Registration for the 109th FMCA International Convention in Redmond Oregon opens on April 3rd! Register early for discounts! www.fmca.com