



NEWS DRIFTS



November 2024

Volume 22, Issue #5

Carr's Updates and Bits and Pieces

Seasonal Celebration Dinner

The Drifters annual Christmas Dinner will be held on **December 9th at 5:00 PM**. We have needed to change the restaurant, but not the location (!). Smugglers was not too conducive for our type of group. They are clearly focussed on corporate groups where the boss pays the whole bill ... which is not our situation.



So, we have moved the reservation to BOLERO Restaurant. The location is the same as Smugglers (6920 Macleod Trail S, Calgary, AB T2H 0L3) ... just upstairs. We have 19 people expected to attend, including retired club members Ray and Rosemary Herbert.

Please look at the Bolero website ... <https://bolerocalgary.com/> ... as the restaurant is not a normal a la carte service. It is definitely made for carnivores! If you are not able to make it, please let Carr know by December 5th.



Caravan 2025

We have 12 rigs expressing an interest in our 2025 adventure (and one on standby). The route will take us from Camrose to Lloydminster to Meadow Lake Provincial Park to Battleford and end up in Pike Lake Provincial Park near Saskatoon.

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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 dues, rally registration fees, and other payments, should be sent by e-transfer to
southernalbertadrifters@gmail.com

Rally sign up details should be sent by email to the host as per that events registration form.

Official mailing address is:

Gerrit Nel 25 Sleigh Drive
Redwood Meadows, AB T3Z 1A1

Website : www.southernalbertadrifters.ca

Stephen's Ramblings

Winter has certainly arrived in dramatic fashion! After a slow start, the 20+cm we woke to on November 18th was a bit more than expected. Now the cold spell will arrive. Either you like snuggling in for winter, or are heading south, or are already there.



We managed to fit in two 7+ day motorhome trips this extended fall. First in October, to Two O'Clock Creek Recreation Area along Highway 11, west of Rocky Mountain House. Then in November, out to Dinosaur Provincial Park. Cool nights but great weather overall.

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Annual Dues

Have you paid your 2025 dues?

It's just \$20 per year ... consider paying for more than one year to make things easier!

Send your e-transfer payment now to SouthernAlbertaDrifters@gmail.com to ensure you get newsletters, rally sign-ups, and all other info during the year.

2024 Event

December 9



Christmas Dinner

Bolero Restaurant — upstairs at 6920 MacLeod Trail, Calgary
starting at 5:00pm



*Organizer:
Carr McLeod*

2025 Events

May 8 - 11

**Bob Lochhead Lions Memorial Park Campground,
Diamond Valley Alberta**

- Spring Chapter meeting
- power/water, dump

*Organizers / Hosts:
Gerrit & Elsabé Nel*

June 12 - 15

Drumheller Alberta

- power/water, dump, Tyrrell Museum, Atlas Coal Mine, Badlands

*Organizers / Hosts:
Peter & Carole McDonald*

July 10 - 20

Caravan 2025 — NE Alberta/NW Saskatchewan Loop

- Camrose, Bonnyville, Lloydminster, Battleford, Pike Lake

*Organizer:
Carr McLeod*

August 21 - 24

**Wiley West Campground, Drayton Valley, Alberta
Salmon Fest #3**

- power, dump, ice cream parlour, hiking trails, e-bike rentals ...
- Annual Business Meeting and elections

*Organizers / Hosts:
Irma Connell & Wayne Bell*

September 18 - 21

To Be Determined

We need a host and a preferred location. Suggestion was to hold it at the Enchant Campground, however the host will select.

*Organizers / Hosts:
TBD*

Carr's Updates cont'd

All campgrounds have been contacted and reservations have been "pencilled in" at the non-Parks sites. For the Provincial Parks, we have reserved a group site at each park that will handle our number of rigs and the maximum sizes (with some challenges). These park sites do have 30 amp power as well.



The club will confirm sites at the remaining parks in January, and will be asking for deposits to confirm attendance at that time. Twelve rigs may prove a challenge, so Carr is asking for help and patience, particularly at the Provincial Park locations.

McLeod's Motorhome

Sadly our Class C was severely damaged in the August hailstorm. After the usual debates with the insurance company, it was declared a total loss, and we took a cash settlement. We are currently shopping around, including considering one rig currently offered for sale from an existing club member.



Stephen's Ramblings cont'd



Nice to have a rig with a furnace and cozy blankets!

Now everything is packed away in our heated shop waiting for spring ... after the annual "Tetris" game of fitting the trailer, motorcoach

and Jeep in, while leaving space for shop work and minor rig repairs and upgrades.

So with winter underway, it's time to start plans for 2025 trips and adventures. The paper maps are out, and Google maps and campground websites are in play. The available planning resources are so much more now than when we started camping in the 60s with only gas station maps and trip kits from the auto club. All that planning rarely survives the first construction, weather or other variable in our case, but with our rigs it is easy to be flexible. The 70 cent (or lower) dollar will perhaps make USA bound trips a bit more challenging. But with 4 more months before our first excursion, who knows. We have heard of some major travel plans from a few of the members. We wish them great and interesting travels.

Anne and I wish you 'soon to be members of the Family RV Association' all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Details and roll out of new name is slated for early 2025.) We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Dinner on December 9th.