

NEWS DRIFTS



September 2024

Volume 22, Issue #4

Salmon Fest 2024 ... THANKS!!

To kick off this issue we have to give a HUGE THANK YOU to Bob Bishop and his sister Pat Moore for providing the smoked salmon, the fresh salmon and the scampi for the Salmon Fest. This fantastic event would not be possible without their contribution.

The rally report is on page 2, but we just wanted to emphasize how their contribution made this such a memorable event.

President's Message

Thank you SADrifters for an excellent 2024 season! We are a great team together and I am very delighted with the team spirit and spontaneous volunteers to help make it a great experience for all of us during rallies and the yearly caravan. Speaking of which, the caravans seem to get more and more popular by those attending, and if I can predict, July 2025's caravan will have a waiting list — so be ready to commit when registrations open to secure your place.

Please continue promoting our Chapter as we have more room to add good friends and fellow RVers that enjoy each other's company.

I wish you all a great end of our 2024 season as you wind down and prepare to winterize your home on wheels, or plan to go south. Hope to see many of you at our Christmas dinner in December in Calgary. Til next time ...

Stephen's Ramblings

Well that's a wrap for the 2024 Rally season. Great times were had starting at Diamond Valley in May, and ending with a fantastic salmon feast at Three Hills in August. Fit in plays at Rosebud, and the Caravan. It was a great season!

We have also picked up a number of new members. It has been great to have them join our small merry band, and all indications are for more fun and merriment in 2025. Madeleine and Donald McPherson are the latest to join, and we look forward to meeting them soon. Keep up the great recruiting efforts everyone, and let's grow the Chapter a bit more in 2025!

Things are going on at FMCA. First the "doing business as" name changes to Family RV Association. This is to reflect the growing proportion of trailers that are now members, reflect the goal to support all RV types, and retain the "family" focus. Next, two new membership categories have been created. Pathfinders for those looking into the possible purchase of an RV, and Associates for those who have sold their RV but want to remain in FMCA. The most impact on us as members will be the decision to continue the FMCA Assist program. It is a valuable benefit included in our membership fee, but its costs are more than doubling, putting a financial strain on FMCA. Rumors are that there will be a FMCA fee increase, so perhaps temporarily insulate yourself by getting an extra year on your membership in the near future. We are likely to see other cost saving efforts by FMCA as 2025 rolls out.

Finally we "Need A Host" for the September rally. Anne and I were asked to take it on, but our travel plans north in August/September make it impossible. Please let President Gerrit know if you can take it on. Plans were for a rally at Enchant, but if you step up, you can choose a new location if it better fits.

In closing, have a great winter season whether you spend it here in the snow or basking in the sun down south. Drive safely in either case and we will see you at the Christmas dinner or the spring rally in May.

In This Issue

- 1 SalmonFest 2024 ... THANKS!
President's Message
Stephen's Ramblings
- 2 & 3 SalmonFest 2024
- 4 Caravan 2025
- 5 Upcoming 2024 Events
Upcoming 2025 Events
Visit Wild Rose & Klondikers Rally
Welcome New Members!



Officers and Directors 2025

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

Vice President, Irma Connell
irmaconnell2@gmail.com • 403-869-4669

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

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

National Director, Stephen Pick

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

Membership Director, Carole McDonald
cmcdonald99@hotmail.com • 403-815-9666

Webmaster, Peter McDonald
mcdonaldpeter@hotmail.com • 403-815-2212

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

Salmon Fest Rally August 22 - 25 ... Three Hills Campground

Salmon Fest 2024 did not disappoint! Great salmon was supplied by Bob Bishop and his sister Pat. Hosts Dave and Marilyn had all arranged, and this made for a great time. They also provided a great meeting space for our AGM out of the wind and hornets. The Tom and Wayne show served up great breakfasts! Ron stepped up again, and was our salmon chef extra ordinaire. We can not forget the fantastic potluck items and happy hour treats provided. As usual, this is a weight watcher weekend — you can watch it grow that is! Now to the report ...



Anne and I arrived at Three Hills joining the many members already set up (Johnsons, Nels, Kellams, Frasers, Ernie M and Bob B). Dave and Marilyn had assigned sites so it was straightforward. After the fun of getting into a back-in site with the almost invisible to the driver club trailer in tow ... (enough said), we joined in the merriment with adult beverages in evidence. Tables were moved and set up in Dave and Marilyn's site and Happy Hour began. After dispersing for dinner, we gathered around the fire pit there. It turns out Anne now has competition for fire duties as both Wayne and Tom are budding fire bugs.

Friday morning after getting the griddle and coffee pot set up, the Tom and Wayne breakfast show began. Sausages, hashbrowns and eggs were soon consumed. After clean-up, the games were on.



The ladder golf showdown began and after the elimination rounds, it was Gerrit and Anna facing off for overall champion. Carr, our games master couldn't be there, so there were no 'insignificant prizes'. Instead they each won a can of smoked salmon, brought by Bob. Yum! The games continued after lunch with a very windy round of card bingo — hang on to your cards folks! - The final twoonie round was split 4 ways!



Following Happy Hour (with a smoked salmon appie from Bob) the pot luck dinner began with the usual extensive and tasty spread. Too many items to list but thanks to all for providing mains to desserts! As we ate, the breeze was picking up and we were advised of a major storm warning that would arrive overnight. The wind kept the fire size limited, but we all still gathered around it for awhile.



Saturday morning and we are all still here, not blown away. The major part of the system veered off before hitting us. Breakfast was a challenge for the duo chefs. The wind impacted the grill and we had to employ tinfoil and a vehicle as a wind break! Keeping the bacon on the grill and watching the wind flip the eggs was amusing.



Salmon Fest Rally August 22 - 25 ... Three Hills Campground cont'd from pg 2

Dave cleared out their massive trailer, and we brought chairs inside this small 'meeting hall' ... not that small, we all fit! Carr and Carol joined us by car for the meeting, their RV having been heavily hail damaged and still waiting for insurance resolution. Key items of the AGM were the election of a new executive (see the box on page 1), discussions about membership and interaction with the other FMCA Alberta chapters, and a review of the proposed 2025 rally and caravan plans. The minutes will soon be posted on the website in the members only section.

The afternoon came and we had a rousing game of LRC (trash talk encouraged of course) with 14 participants. A few members played a round of bocce ball that Ernie G set up yesterday before breakfast. Then happy hour including scampi provided by Bob as an appie.



The Chapter BBQ was set up with serious consideration, and another strategic vehicle placement, as to wind direction and wind blocks. Then Salmon Chef Ron was hard at work. Marilyn provided salads and then there were desserts. A fantastic spread of goodies.



With the wind finally backing off a bit, we gathered around the fire for the evening. It was music night! Ernie brought out his guitar and Peter his, and soon we were listening then stumbling through the words to a number of old songs. Boy do we need song sheets to reduce the need to hum along ...!! Rod then joined in for awhile, so we have a trio of players with great skill ... now to work on the singers a bit (Marilyn was the star outstanding in this category).



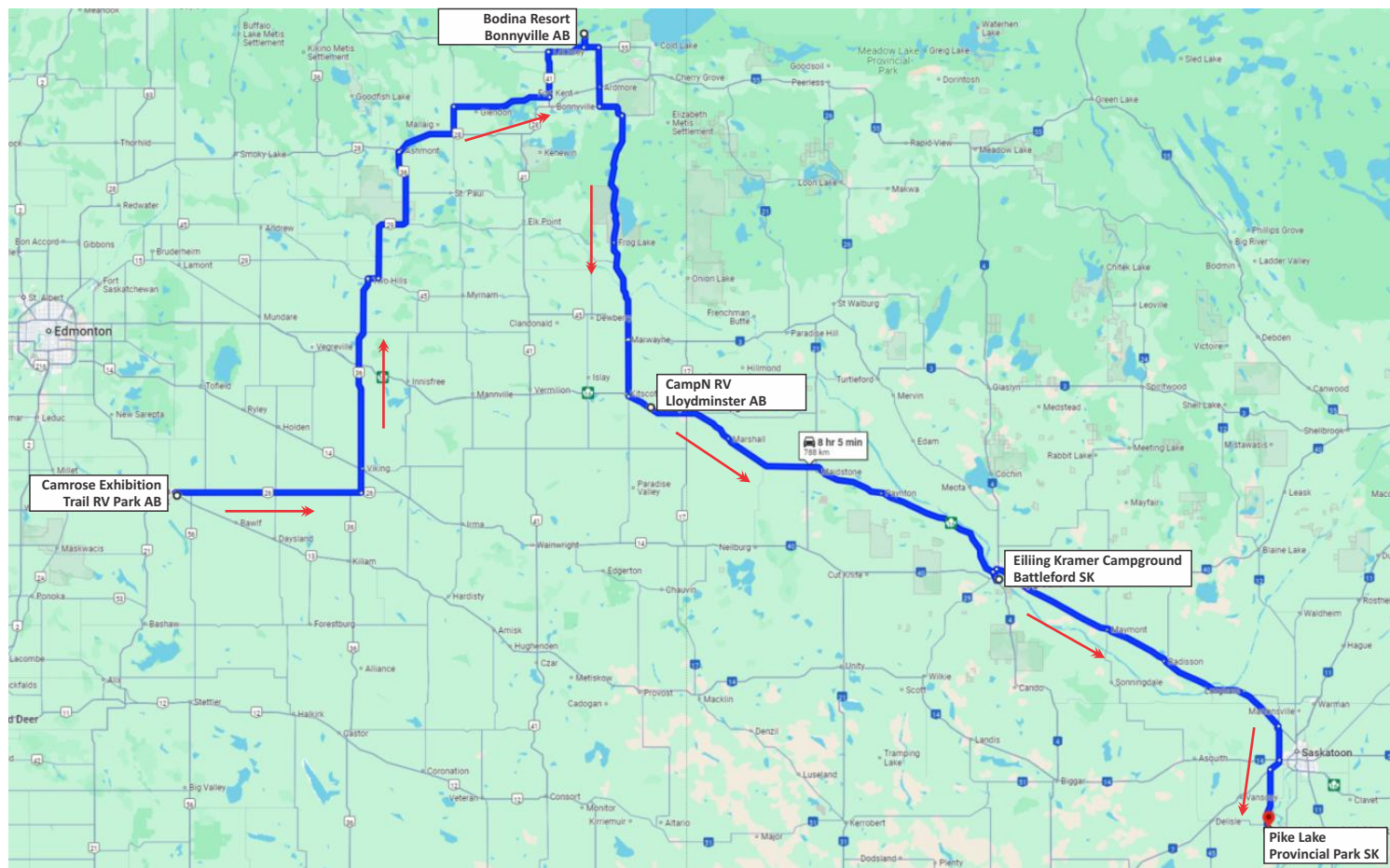
Sunday came and members began their departure rituals. We gathered for a continental breakfast with various goodies to choose from. What's a few extra pounds at this point anyway. Lots of chats and laughter and then hugs as the evitable exodus began. It was a great rally. Huge thanks to all who made it possible.

Caravan 2025

Thursday July 10 to Sunday July 20, 2025

The plans for Caravan 2025 are well along. If you are interested in participating, you must advise Carr Mcleod ASAP as he is going to start to make reservations at the chosen locations. Please note that as bookings have yet to be finalized, the final list of locations may change.

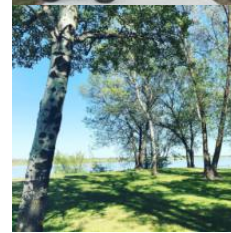
July 10	Camrose Exhibition Trail RV Park, Camrose Alberta
July 12	Bodina Resort, Bonnyville Alberta
July 14	CampN RV, Lloydminster Alberta
July 16	Eiling Kramer Campground, Battleford Saskatchewan
July 18	Pike lake Provincial Park Group Area 2, Pike Lake Saskatchewan



*Camping in Camrose
has never been easier.....*

The Camrose Exhibition Trail RV Park provides a great place for campers to park and attend events and activities or explore the many interesting sites around the Camrose area and Boomtown Trail. Whether your stay is just overnight or several days, the country charm and hospitality will certainly make your visit an

enjoyable one!



2024 Event

December 9

Christmas Dinner

Smuggler's Inn • 6920 MacLeod Trail, Calgary • starting at 5:00pm

*Organizer:
Carr McLeod*

2025 Events

May 8 - 11

Founders Park Campground, Irricana Alberta

- Spring Chapter meeting
- power/water, dump, Pioneer Acres Museum

*Organizers / Hosts:
Gerrit & Elsabé Nel*

June 12 - 15

Dinosaur RV Park, 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, Llyodminster, Battleford, Pike Lake

*Organizer:
Carr McLeod*

August 21 - 24

Willey West Campground, Drayton Valley, Alberta

Salmon Fest #3

- power, dump, ice cream parlor, 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 can select.

*Organizers / Hosts:
TBD*

Visit at Wild Rose & Klondiker Chapters' September Rally

Carr McLeod met up with the two other Alberta FMCA Chapters at their Harmattan rally on September 7th. Here is his report ...

I described our club membership, typical rally format, and caravan, and mentioned our club trailer, and the upcoming AED acquisition. I distributed our rally plan for 2025, noting that the dates were firm but the campgrounds still need to be finalized. They questioned when we had to reserve our campgrounds, and how we knew how many would attend so far in advance. They also questioned if we always had a shelter, and what we would do if the weather turned bad. I noted we had a tent that covered several tables, and have rarely had it be a long-term problem.

Both clubs are small — similar in size to us but with fewer active members, and several who will not return next year. Wild Rose seems to be in better shape than Klondikers.

The reason they prefer catered rallies at community centres is that some time ago they could no longer get anyone to volunteer to cook. They voted and it was decided that catered meals would be the rally format. I can see some pluses (the breakfast looked good, and the previous night's turkey dinner was reportedly excellent). They were however in the middle of nowhere, to be generous. I counted six coaches although the meeting attendance was closer to 20 from the 2 clubs. They only plan 2 rallies a year.

One attendee was a member of RV Alberta's Wild Rose Chapter (these are the left-behinds from Good Sam pulling out of Canada). I said I thought RV Alberta was making progress since last year as their website (rvalberta.ca) is much improved and has some chapter links working. He was very upset with them, indicating

that they were only interested in Edmonton area activities. He said that maybe the answer was for them to join the Drifters en masse.

I was invited to stay for the Wild Rose meeting. Both the president and treasurer were stepping down as they no longer had a motorhome. The current Klondikers president agreed to stand for president with the understanding that his main goal would be the amalgamation of the two clubs. He was elected. Bob Bishop was then elected treasurer. The Klondikers president reported on the Redmond rally and the decisions made. He was 100% sure that the fees were increasing to \$100 per year. He was also however supportive of sticking with FMCA.

Designing 2025 rallies was left to the new executive, but it was felt that they should plan a joint rally (Wild Rose and Klondikers) for early June. It will likely be in Harmattan (or Buford?) as they seem to like the caterer and the hall.

Before I left, I asked that they consider attending Irricana in particular. Hopefully, that would encourage some of our members to return the visit by attending their first rally In June.

New Members !



Madeleine & Donald McPherson
Calgary, AB



WELCOME!