



NEWS DRIFTS



FAMILYRV
ASSOCIATION

April 2025

Volume 23, Issue #2

Note from the President

Our current hosts (Peter and Carole McDonald) who had volunteered for the June rally in Drumheller have experienced a potential availability challenge to join us for this rally. We are therefore looking for alternate hosts and would appreciate it if any of you are willing to be standing in for this weekend. Please contact me (copy the McDonalds) and we can make further arrangements with you during or after the Diamond Valley Rally in May.

We are also looking for hosts and a location for our last rally of the year September 18-21. If you are interested, let's discuss and sign you up for this event. Any new hosts that do not know much as to how to go about it, will be gladly coached and assisted by our executive team, that has the experience and will be there for assistance as required.

An AED training session has been arranged for Friday May 9th at the Diamond Valley rally (1:00pm). All members are encouraged to attend even if you are not attending the rally.

Stephen's Ramblings

Time to get the rig out of its winter resting place, be it here in a snow drift, or from its warm site down south, and prepare it for the 2025 S.A. Drifters Rally season. Some new and interesting campgrounds are on the roster this year, and the Caravan will be covering some great spots in July.

Anne and I have been out camping near Sundre a few times so far this spring. Some beautiful days but freezing nights. The first time, the stabilizer jacks were frozen to the ground, and took some effort to get them to retract for our trip home! We had the usual first time out issues, where is the xx ..., is the propane that low?... not to mention all the batteries that have to be replaced in smoke alarms and all our toys. Then check that the bear spray has not expired. But all in all, nice to be out camping again.



Planning for 2025 trips is also underway for a few. A couple of members are heading to the east coast, a trip we hope to do next year. Ourselves we are looking forward to a trip north again starting in mid July ... time to wet our feet in the Arctic ocean again.

Putting out supportive thoughts to the McDonalds whose coach broke down on the drive back to Canada, requiring them to leave it at a shop for repairs there, and return home in their toad. Also to the McLeods whose coach was broken into (via crowbar to the compartments, etc). Unfortunately attendance at the May rally by both is therefore iffy. Hopefully resolution for both is prompt and satisfactory.

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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.

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New Members!

Officers and Directors 2025

President, Gerrit Nel

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National Director, Stephen Pick

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Membership Director, Carole McDonald

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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

2025 Events

May 8 - 11	Bob Lochhead Lions Memorial Park Campground, Diamond Valley Alberta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Chapter Meeting, AED Training Session • power, water, dump 	<i>Organizers / Hosts: Gerrit & Elsabé Nel</i>
June 12 - 15	Hand Hills High Country Campground, Drumheller Alberta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • power, water, dump • Tyrrell Museum, Atlas Coal Mine, Badlands 	<i>Organizers / Hosts: TBD</i>
July 10 - 20	Caravan 2025 — NE Alberta/NW Saskatchewan Loop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camrose, Bonnyville, Lloydminster, Battleford, Pike Lake 	<i>Organizer: Carr McLeod</i>
August 21 - 24	Black Sheep Camp, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta Salmon Fest #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dump, hiking, Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site, Saturday Farmers' Market • Annual Business Meeting, and elections for President and Treasurer 	<i>Organizers / Hosts: Irma Connell & Wayne Bell</i>
September 18 - 21	To Be Determined We need hosts and a location. A suggestion was to hold it at the Enchant Campground or at Irricana, however the host will select.	<i>Organizers / Hosts: TBD</i>

Stephen's Ramblings

.... cont'd from pg 1

Welcome to our new members, Rick & Nancy Hyatt, and Luiza & Bruno Montens. We are off to a great start for our 2025 membership drive.

Unfortunately we have also had two members resign. The Shulbas and McLeods (Rod). We are so sorry to see you go, and all the best to you in future.

For us older folks, Alberta Parks has a seniors discount program. It's not available at all of the parks, but still a good deal at 25% off. www.albertaparks.ca/seniordiscount/

The Family RV Association has put out an updated Benefit Brochure (black cover and new logo). It can be found on the FRVA website: www.frva.com/recruit-new-members-promotion
RV There Yet filmed an episode for Family RV Association while at the 110th International Convention in Perry Georgia. Here is the link to their website: www.rvthereyettv.com/ should you like to look at their videos. This episode can be located on their calendar: www.rvthereyettv.com/p/schedule.html
 It will be broadcast on the Discovery Channel on Saturday, May 10th at 8:30 – 9:00am Eastern.

Now you are all up to date with goings on at FRVA. In the benefit book there is a new RV campsite group. RV Overnights (similar to Harvest Hosts) is just starting up and has numerous USA locations, and is starting to get a few Canadian ones. www.rvovernights.com
 The link from FRVA gets a significant decrease from the market rate for members (\$29.99 vs \$49.99).

In this same vein, for Canadian sites (primarily eastern Canada), take a look at Terego. www.terego.ca Their catch phrase is "a tasty alternative to camping in Canada" so one can guess their focus is on spots with interesting food options.

The Klondikers, one of the other Alberta FRVA Chapters, is having a spring rally in Blufton Alberta at the community hall, and have invited Drifters members to attend. The dates are May 23, 24 & 25. Meals are catered. Contact President Gerrit for sign up info.

To conclude on a lighter note ... the USA Park Service has issued its usual warning ... one of many ... as smart bears are brighter than dumb tourists it seems.

How about this lighter touch? ...

"Ah, spring! Temperatures are warming, the birds are chirping, and large wildlife will soon be unwilling participants in your unflattering selfies."



Yes, it's time for Annual Public Service Announcements for national park visitors. It seems like too many people just don't "get" a straightforward "Keep away from the bison" warning. Now we know those who follow us here are not the misbehaving type. We see you as our amazing park ambassadors, who can help share out these important reminders to those that may need a friendly nudge (much nicer than being launched into air by a high-capacity assault cow).

New Members !



Rick & Nancy Hyatt
Okotoks, AB

Bruno & Luiza Montens
Okotoks, AB