

NEWS DRIFTS



**FAMILY RV
ASSOCIATION**

October 2025 - part 3

Volume 23, Issue #5

Salmon Fest 2025

August 21st - 24th

report by Carr McLeod

Salmon Fest was held at Camp Rocky Mountain House this year. Tom and Carol Hewitt were our hosts, and Don and Madeleine McPherson our co-hosts. They were ably assisted by Ron Kellam (Salmon Chef), Gerrit Nel and Bob Bishop (Breakfast Chefs) and Carr McLeod (Games & Entertainment).



First, a word about the weather for this weekend. Perfection comes to mind. Under permanently clear skies, the daytime temperatures reached into the upper 20s while overnight they dipped to as low as 1 degree. With no wind, it is hard to imagine a better weekend at any time of the year.

All 20 rally participants (11 rigs) were set up and ready by midday on **Thursday**. We met for a brief review of AED/CPR procedures and, of course, our first Happy Hour. Dinner was an 'on our own' event, with a few deciding to eat together and others preferring their coach. We again leaned on Tom as acting fire marshal for the weekend to get us going on our first fireside discussion.

Friday morning, it was only a degree or two above freezing. The hot coffee and hot breakfast cooked up by Tom, Bob, and Gerrit were very welcome. This led to a rousing game of Card Bingo. The middle rounds seemed to belong to Anna. Readers may be happy to know that Gerrit did not win the toonie pot, as he usually does. However, Elsabé did win it, so the Nels maintained their contributions to their retirement fund.

On Friday afternoon, most rally attendees visited the Rocky Museum. It turned out to be a gem. While there were many things we usually see in small-town museums, the quality of the artifacts was at another level. The outdoor section was also great, with one building having a narrated tour available to download on your phone.

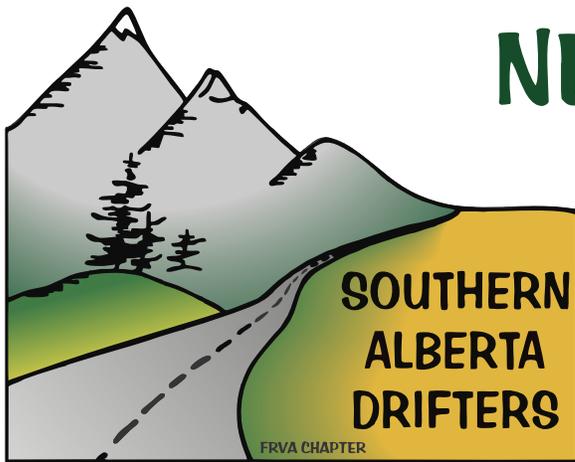


Later that afternoon, we tried our first Bocce Ball Tournament. Anna was our dedicated referee and certainly let nothing go on outside the rules. Teams of two participated, and after a gruelling competition, Carol H and Luzia ended up victorious. Some tweaks to the tournament length may be needed for our next attempt.

After Happy Hour, all gathered for an excellent Potluck Supper, reminiscent of the many such suppers along our recent Caravan route. Fireside chats ensued, but we were not able to make progress on our fireside singing repertoire. We need at least one musician, and we still need to look at getting song lyrics for all to follow. During the discussions, the camp manager dropped off a couple of bundles of firewood.

Another very cool morning arrived on **Saturday**, making the coffee and hot breakfast again very welcome. We were joined by the manager of Camp Rocky Mountain House, Jude Saylor, for our morning LCR game. She had dropped by during Card Bingo the previous morning and insisted on an invite to our next

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2026 Events

Salmon Fest 2025 cont'd

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General Info

Southern Alberta Drifters is a registered chapter of the Family RV Association. Membership is open to any FRVA 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 event's registration form.

Official mailing address:

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

Website : www.southernalbertadrifters.ca

2025 Events

December 8

Annual Christmas Dinner
Location and details TBD

Organizer:
Carr McLeod

2026 Events

May 7 - 10

Lions Bob Lohead Memorial Campground, Diamond Valley

- 50 amp power, water, sewer
- Spring Orientation Meeting

Organizers / Hosts:
Gerrit & Elsabé Nel
Stephen & Anne Pick

June 11 - 14

Enchant Municipal Park, Enchant

- 30 amp power, water, dump

Organizers / Hosts:
Tom & Carol Hewitt
Bob Bishop

July 9 - 20

Caravan 2026 — Alberta Peace Country

- Blackfalds, Whitecourt, Grande Prairie, Peace River, Kinuso, Athabaska, Wetaskiwin

Organizer:
Carr McLeod
Bob Bishop

August 13 - 16

Wagons West RV Park, Sundre
Salmon Fest #4

- 30 amp power, water, sewer

Organizers / Hosts:
Greg & Karen Samson
Bruno & Luzia Montens

September 10 - 13

Founders Park Campground, Irricana

- 30 amp power, water, dump
- Annual Business Meeting, and
- Elections for Vice President and Secretary

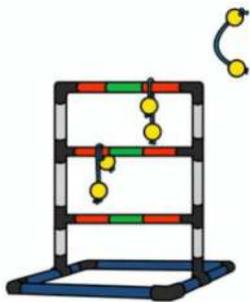
Organizers / Hosts:
Dave & Marilyn Johnston
Ernie & Anna Gonzi

The above events are subject to change. Watch for upcoming event dates and details as they become available!

Salmon Fest 2025

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competition. She fit right in, but like most of us, did not win a pot. Actually, Ernie won two of the three pots, contributing to a pretty good financial weekend for the Gonzis.



Men's and Ladies' Ladder Golf Tournaments were held in the afternoon. Luzia took the ladies' division and Dave the men's, with Dave winning out in the overall championship. Other games were brought out, and people challenged each other to individual matches. Under a pleasant and warm sun, the games lasted until Happy Hour.

The weekend (year?) highlight was the Salmon Fest Supper on Saturday evening. Salmon (and Cod) was again provided by Bob Bishop's sister. The group cannot thank Bob and his sister enough for their continued support of our club. Ron Kellam again displayed his master chef skills by perfectly cooking the fish, layered with onions and wrapped in tin foil. Everyone ate in silence as we recognized how fortunate we were. Completely



sated, our final fireside chat was enjoyed as the sun set and the temperatures began to drop again.

Sunday morning saw the usual continental breakfast, hugs and farewells. Tom thanked the participants and especially Bob, his sister, and Ron for the previous evening's feast. People then packed up and headed home or wherever their next adventure would take them.

