

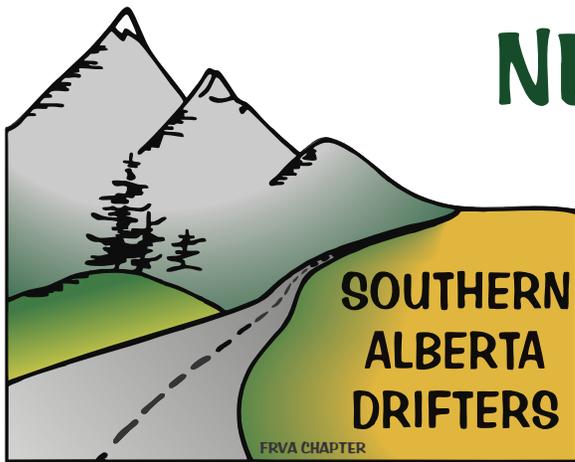
# NEWS DRIFTS



**FAMILY RV**  
ASSOCIATION

October 2025

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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](mailto: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](http://www.southernalbertadrifters.ca)

## President's Message

With many of you already on route on vacation somewhere warmer, still planning to go, or just plan to stay at home this year, we like to wish you safe travels and strong health til we meet again either at the Christmas dinner in Calgary (date and venue to be confirmed by Carr), or at our first rally next year in May.

This year was indeed memorable with several new members joining, one dear friend departing us (RIP Wayne Bell), a very successful caravan tour, an amazing Salmon Feast, and several other rallies with fun and games enjoyed by all.

From our executive team I like to extend a heart-full thank you to all SAD members for your friendship, participation, host volunteering, sharing stories, offering free advise with campfire smoke control, great food during potlucks, sharing special port wines/beverages and snacks ... too many experiences to mention. You indeed are a great bunch and we are looking forward to the next season together.

*Gerrit*

## September Rally @ Rimbey

We all arrived at the Rimbey Lions Nesting Place Campground on Thursday afternoon, and were greeted by our hosts David Johnston and Bob Bishop, and were soon set up in our assigned spots, then with chairs and beverages in hand, gathered for Happy Hour (or is that hours?). Those in attendance included Johnstons, Bishop, Nels, McLeods, Burgess, Gonzis, Sampsons, Montens and Picks. Everyone left for dinner on our own, and afterwards re-convened around the firepit handled by Bruno with his fantastic axe skills to create piles of kindling, and Anne who proceeded to burn it all up. As is now the norm, we started the afternoon with the AED procedures go-through, and found out we had an expert in attendance ... Greg Sampson.



Up early Friday morning and Dave and Bob had the griddles and tables set up for breakfast. A bit of a different menu with turkey sausages, frozen hash browns (with peppers, onions etc) and scrambled eggs. Nice to have a new twist. With

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# September Rally @ Rimbey

.... cont'd from pg 1

breakfast cleared, the tables were re-arranged for the bus races. The bus game was brought out of long term storage in the trailer, and with Bob as instructor and Carr on the computer as bookmaker handling the odds, we all had a good time. The afternoon came with a rousing game of card bingo. There was an extra round played with a special prize, a neat bird house made by Bruno that Carol won. Then it was off to Hawktail Brewery for a tour followed by dinner. Back to the campground to again rely on the skills of Bruno and Anne for the evening fire.



Saturday came and with it more sunshine, and blue sky to have your coffee under and then eggs, pancakes and bacon to chow down on. Following breakfast it was time for the Annual Business Meeting, the minutes of which will appear separately. After that, a game of LRC kept things going until we left for a museum tour. Lots of old International trucks and then some local area farming and regional growth history. It was potluck dinner night and as usual, everyone excelled in providing quite the feast. Then to close things off an evening around the fire with some excellent port, provided to those who chose, by Bruno (a carpenter, kindling maker and wine maker!)



# September Rally @ Rimbey

.... cont'd from pg 2



Then it was Sunday morning and time to head out. Again the weather was perfect. The coffee urn was going and had a workout, then the usual muffins and yogurt to steel us for the drives home. Goodbyes were said, and it will be awhile until we gather again in our coaches in May at Black Diamond. We were also reminded of the upcoming Christmas Dinner in December for all who can come! Have a great off season, and will see you all at the next rally in the spring!

cont'd on pg 4 ....



## Annual Dues

### Have you paid your 2026 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](mailto:SouthernAlbertaDrifters@gmail.com)

to ensure that you get newsletters, rally sign-ups, and all other info during the year.

## 2026 Roster Info

Before year end you will get a listing of your current Chapter roster information. Please review it, approve, and/or note any changes required, and return promptly to Stephen, the Chapter Secretary. The contact information is needed to send out notices and emails, and the coach info is now required for bookings at many campgrounds. Thanks in advance for your assistance with this. The updated listing will be available in the member area of the website.

## 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!*

## Rimbey Rally Exodus

*.... cont'd from pg 3*

One by one, members packed up and started heading home ... leaving the Johnstons to enjoy another evening there on their own, and visiting family the next day.



## Stephen's Ramblings

Well that was a great rally season! From all reports the Caravan was enjoyed by all attendees. Yes, as Carr frequently comments, we were just "book end" members this year attending just the first and last rallies. As absentees our season was spent at our "Trabin" near Sundre, and then a 7+ week trip to Northern BC and the Yukon. By pure chance we met up with Emery and Jeanette Leraand at Radley Park in Kitimat!

We had a great time in the Yukon, but just a couple of minor issues. The first broken leaf spring on the trailer was found and replaced in Dawson City. The second breakage on the opposite side was found when we got back to Sundre. The trailer was then towed to Standens for a full upgrade to better springs and reinforcement bars. The Dawson repair done on short notice with "similar" parts was pricey by comparison, but we could not complain about the friendly quality work done that kept us rolling for the rest of the trip. Prepare for, but roll with the events that occur ... after all, they almost always end up being the most told happenings of the trip!

***Have a great off season wherever you are or travel!***

