

NEWS DRIFTS



October 2017
Volume 15, Issue #3

Fall is Upon Us

In September, as I sat here starting to put the newsletter together, it was gently raining outside. Not a summer rain, but a fall rain where a 2 degree change will turn it into snow. The leaves are changing colour and the annual clean-up of leaves and packing away of summer chairs and gazebos will soon be done. Now as we finish this issue on October 2nd, it is snowing with high winds, and shingles coming off the roof (in the same area that was repaired in July).

The smoke in the air that has been with us all summer is finally done. The devastation in Waterton has been a highlight on the news and will impact on the park for years to come. But the news of today was from Dinosaur Provincial Park which has closed due to snow and winter weather (it is a year round park!)

Take a look at the event schedule for 2018 and provide some input. The schedule is still a work in progress, we need your input to finalize it. Please email President Ron or I (and the new Wagonmaster when appointed). We are planning a Christmas dinner get together on December 16th at Smugglers, so come on out and enjoy some prime rib or ...?

For all heading south, drive carefully and enjoy the warm weather. For the rest of us remaining here, get the rig winterized and settle it in for its long winter's nap. Remember, spring is coming!



President's Message

With our rally schedule now done for the 2017 season, we have the last event of the year to look forward to ... that being supper at Smugglers on Saturday December 16 at 5:00 PM, before the year is closed out.

It has been quite the year with members' health issues and travels such that we had only 3 rallies that had moderate attendance due to the aforementioned circumstances. However, I must say, I believe they were well enjoyed by those in attendance. It is also good to hear that everyone afflicted has been able to overcome their health issues, and that Lyle has promised to stop trying to learn how to fly by staying off ladders. I look forward to a healthy year for everyone next year.

We also welcomed some new members this year, being Carr and Carol McLeod and Bob and Cathy Lucas. Good to have you aboard.

Our chapter is also pleased to have new members for the executive, and some old and used executive members remaining, that I am sure will be highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter.

One thing I should bring up is the upcoming FMCA vote regarding whether or not towables should be allowed into the FMCA organization. The voting form is on page 46 of the September issue of the FMCA magazine, and also on page 6 of this newsletter. It needs to be mailed in to be received no later than November 30, 2017 which means mailing it 3 weeks earlier because we are in Canada. My personnel position is we have to do something because we have lost the younger membership.

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Coos Bay OR Rally

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August Rally in Nanton



Thursday ... Yes I am repeating myself, but we drove there in the smoke. It should have been a bright sunny day, but this summer! ... smoke, smoke, and more smoke. We arrived at the Nanton

campground just after the Herbets, and were followed in by Carr and Carol McLeod, new chapter members. We joined the Davidsons, Kellams and Wongs who were already there.

The BBQ was soon set up after a few adult beverages were consumed, and soon the meat was cooking and dinner served. Conversations continued until the bugs came out and members retreated to their coaches for the evening.

Friday started bright and sunny with only a few wisps of smoke. The night was quite chilly for August, and as the landlord (read wife) refused to allow the furnace to be fired up, I woke up quite chilled — more blankets needed! The Vasics arrived and soon after that, the Bostocks, completing our group for the weekend.

Ray had a new hook up system for his toad brakes, and found he had to shut it off when disconnected. It is amazing how modern cars are totally power dependent — cannot unlock or open doors, etc. Ron came to the rescue with his generator and battery charger and soon the car was started, and Ray could now open his rear hatch to get to his no longer needed booster cables. Note to self, if one gets a system like that make sure you can get to the cables when needed!



Ray and Lyle then headed out shopping and Ray returned with one of the new lithium battery booster packs that can start the car. (The battery pack looks small, but as we were to find out in Montreal a few days later, they work great. We had a flat battery on the rental car and called AMA who arrived with one of the packs, hooked it up and the car started no problem. Why was the battery flat you ask, well something about the driver (me) leaving the lights on, oops!)

Hot Appie Night turned out great as usual. A wide selection of goodies to feast on.



Saturday morning again started coolish, but we were soon all fortified with Ron's pancake special breakfast.

The Kellams and McLeods then hit the road south to see the eclipse. Anne and I walked over to the Bomber Command Museum to see the four engine run-up of the Lancaster, and the test stand run-up of one of the rebuilt Halifax bomber engines. The museum is currently recovering a Halifax off the coast of Sweden, and will be bringing the parts back to rebuild it.



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Brenda and Don Mackay arrived and spent a few hours chatting. We heard tales of their Alaska RV caravan trip — tales that make one want to go, but at the same time it seems the roads leave a bit to be desired. Were they as bad as in my trip up there in the late 1960s Don? (*see below*)



Dinner that night was catered by the Bostocks. They did it all INCLUDING a special desert. Shish Kabobs, Caesar salad, kale salad, Irish potatoes with a cream sauce, and then a lemon mousse to finish it off.

The usual move to sit around the fire and chat was shorter than normal as we could not have a fire (Fire Ban in effect), so as the evening went on, it cooled significantly and members disappeared to warmer coaches.



Sunday ... and another chilly morning. Luckily we had planned a hot breakaway breakfast of ham and egg burritos, hash browns and grapes. It was only 3.8C at sunrise. It did warm up as the day progressed, but we were then all packing up and heading home.

See you all in Claresholm!



September Rally in Claresholm



Thursday ... It was a smoky and very windy drive to Claresholm on September 8th. We arrived late afternoon to find all the usual suspects in deep conversation with Kathy Balogh, our FMCA Regional VP. Given the presence of adult beverages, I assume it was a relaxed event. Those present the first night were the Kellams, Davidsons, Herberts, Picks, Wongs, with Rick Burgess being the last to arrive.

As we got the BBQ out of the club trailer we found a few bolts on the trailer floor, and a VERY wobbly unit. Got it loosely hooked back together well enough to cook up the burgers for that night's dinner. Note the fancy pie decorations! Conversations continued until it got dark and all retreated to their respective units.



Friday started with Ron's eggs/sausages/hashbrowns breakfast and Bill's great coffee..

Kathy then presented us with our Chapter's 15 year certificate. Seems like only yesterday we were celebrating the tenth! Time flies it seems.



visits. Many miles to go before they sleep today!

The AGM was started at happy hour (see minutes elsewhere). The new officers and exec were put in place, and discussions on 2018 rallies were held. Time ran out so the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, and we all dug out the Hot Appetizers we had cooked up for that night's dinner. Tasty and filling as always. And then to top dinner off, Lane arrived with ice cream drumsticks.

Saturday morning was windy. After a repeat of Bill's great coffee and Ron's signature pancake breakfast, we started to work on the BBQ rebuild. Parts were all removed and cleaned and Ron dug out his trusty tube of lock-tight and some tools, and we proceeded to

reconstruct the BBQ. Hopefully this time the rattling around in the trailer will not loosen everything up again.

The AGM was reconvened and we received the treasurer's report and made some basic plans for the 2018 rallies as shown on the schedule in this newsletter. A key matter is the need for a Wagonmaster. So if you are not already on the executive, stay by your phones as we may be calling you to fill this role!



Bob and Cathy Lucas joined us that morning. They are checking us out and may join the Chapter (they did! I have the application and cheque in hand).



Conversation groups formed and broke up during the day. The technical committee formed up to work on Bill's electrical issues and while no solution was found, the likely issue was identified.

During the day the wind came up even more, and while a few attempts were made to fly kites, it was just too high and gusty a wind to be successful.



Ron once again brought out his trusty tools and the installation of the flag pole began. With the wind we only tested it at a fraction of its height, but it seems to be solid.



A decision was quickly made to take the shelter down given the intensifying wind — it and the tablecloths were stuffed into the trailer to be folded later. So the potluck dinner was held "al fresco" but luckily the wind eased enough that we didn't need to make our way over to the shelter.



Sunday came after a great few days of fun and fellowship. After a breakfast of egg burritos and hash-browns that seemed to vaporize off the grill, we all set about packing things up for the drive home. The trailer was swept out and food stuffs cleaned out to prepare it for its long winter nap. Just a bit of restocking, and it will be ready to hit the road to Black Diamond in May.

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Southern Alberta Drifters Annual General Meeting, September 8/9, 2017 Claresholm Centennial Campground

Call to order

President Ron Kellam called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Ten members were present. Ron declared that a quorum was present, and that the club membership had been advised of the meeting according to the bylaw requirements.

Elections

Several club members who did not attend the Claresholm rally had been approached to accept committee positions. Those that agreed had their names submitted. The following members were elected by acclamation:

National Director	Don Mackay
President	Ron Kellam
Treasurer	Carr McLeod
Membership	Brenda Mackay

The following are to serve their second year terms:

Vice President	Ed Bostock
Secretary	Ray Herbert

Donna Gieb is to be approached to serve as the club Wagonmaster.

Newsletter

Ron reported that he had discussed the annual award for the best FMCA club newsletter with Kathie Balogh, the FMCA NW Area VP. The Southern Alberta Drifters strongly recommend that our newsletter publishers Stephen and Anne Pick be considered for this award.

Rallies

It was generally accepted that 3 rallies a year were too few, and 5 to 6 may be more agreeable.

Adjournment

Ron adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m. due to the imminent arrival of the evening meal. The meeting was scheduled to resume the next morning.

Meeting re-commencement

Ron re-commenced the meeting on September 9, 2017 at 10.30 a.m.

Rallies (continued)

Many suggestions were forthcoming. May 10 - 13 at Black Diamond, skip June 8 - 10 as several members are planning to go to the NW Area Rally at Coos Bay, July 26 - 29 (location tbd), August 23 - 26 (location tbd.), and September 27 - 30 at Claresholm are potential planning points. Locations of Pine Coulee and Nanton were also suggested destinations. The new wagonmaster will formulate a plan once the position is confirmed.



Treasurer's Report

Anne Davidson submitted her annual treasurer's report:

Annual Income	\$ 1,070.00
Annual Expenses	\$ 971.00
Account Balance	\$4,047.44

(as of August 2017)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

2017 / 2018 Events - A Work in Progress!

December 16, 2017 Christmas Get Together at Smugglers at 5:00 pm Organizers: Ron & Lane Kellam

May 10 - 13 Black Diamond - now with a new rebuilt campground following the June 2013 flood

June 21 - 24 FMCA Rally at Coos Bay OR — see event flyer on page 6 — a number of members have expressed interest in going, and a few days' convoy to the event may be organized (in lieu of a local rally)

July 19 - 22 TBD (based on 3rd weekend, and avoiding Stampede week)

August 16 - 19 TBD (based on 3rd weekend)

September 6 - 9 Claresholm

September 27 - 30 Gobblefest ? TBD (if there is interest — weather dependent as many locations are closed for the season)

For July, August and October, these points were raised by those in attendance at Claresholm:

- July & August dry camping is OK, October must have power
- Pine Coulee, High River, Chain Lakes were mentioned
- Look for a possible location north of Calgary was requested for at least one event

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

President's Message

.... cont'd from pg 1

I would like to remind everyone of the historical pictures that showed families out in their motor coaches. There were more coaches (buses) back in those days than homes, therefore the name of the organization. This brings me to the family part of the name as those old pictures also showed children along for the outings.

These were younger members with young families. Today's younger members are more likely to have a towable, due to the economic conditions of the last 10 or so years, and the decline of the Motorhome industry. They are more prone to going "camping" out in the boonies, rather going to a campground as campgrounds have become quite expensive. I know, as I have one of those in my younger son who has a 26 foot bumper pull, although there is hope there, in that he actually went to a rented spot in a campground his last outing. He has a young family and friends with young families that all go camping. None of them have a motorhome probably due to the cost of ownership.

They probably will eventually migrate upward to a motorhome when they get older. While there is nothing wrong with the age group we have, the average age is creeping upward and we need some balance by attracting younger membership. It is the members we need, and to restrict membership based on what kind of RVing they enjoy, we are greatly limiting our potential by being exclusive to motorhome ownership members only.

Anyway the point is, these are the type of members that started FMCA, albeit they had motorized RVs, and the type of members we need to restore the organization's membership. These are the 40ish

to 50ish folks that have families, now use towables and are potentially the future motorhome owners. They need to be attracted into our membership to secure our sustainability as an organization or they will go elsewhere.

So, I am firstly urging everyone to vote their position be it yes or no, and secondly, I would encourage everyone to consider a Yes vote for the reasons I have outlined above.

Now, off to next year and some adventuresome outings. I look forward to hearing the ideas from our new Wagonmaster. I believe that elsewhere in the newsletter is information on the FMCA rally in Coos Bay, OR next year. A few of us, not wanting to pre-empt our new Wagonmaster, thought it would be a great experience to attend. Kellams are committed to going. It would great if we could get a "Show of Hands" of who all would be interested in forming our contingent to this Rally to help out our new Wagonmaster.

The general discussion around the non-existent "campfire" at Claresholm, definitely expressed that 3 outings were very insufficient. and there was support for 5 or 6 outings. So, I look forward to the schedule of events for the new year.

See you all at the Christmas supper.
Ron Kellam
rgkellam@shaw.ca



ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION & CONSTITUTION — BALLOT

INSTRUCTIONS: Printed in this issue of the magazine are proposed changes to the current Family Motor Coach Association Articles of Incorporation and Constitution. This is the return ballot. You may vote for ONE (1). Mark your ballot by placing an "X" in the box, remove the ballot, and mail (postal mail only) to:

MANDEL AND ASSOCIATES INC. • 431 OHIO PIKE, SUITE 201 • CINCINNATI, OH 45255

Full, Full Lifetime, Life, or Honorary members who have advanced from one of these classes are entitled to cast a vote. One vote per FMCA member number. Ballot must be filled out completely to be valid.

Accept The Changes To The Articles
Of Incorporation & Constitution

YES **NO**

NAME AND FMCA MEMBER NUMBER

CITY AND STATE/PROVINCE OF MEMBER

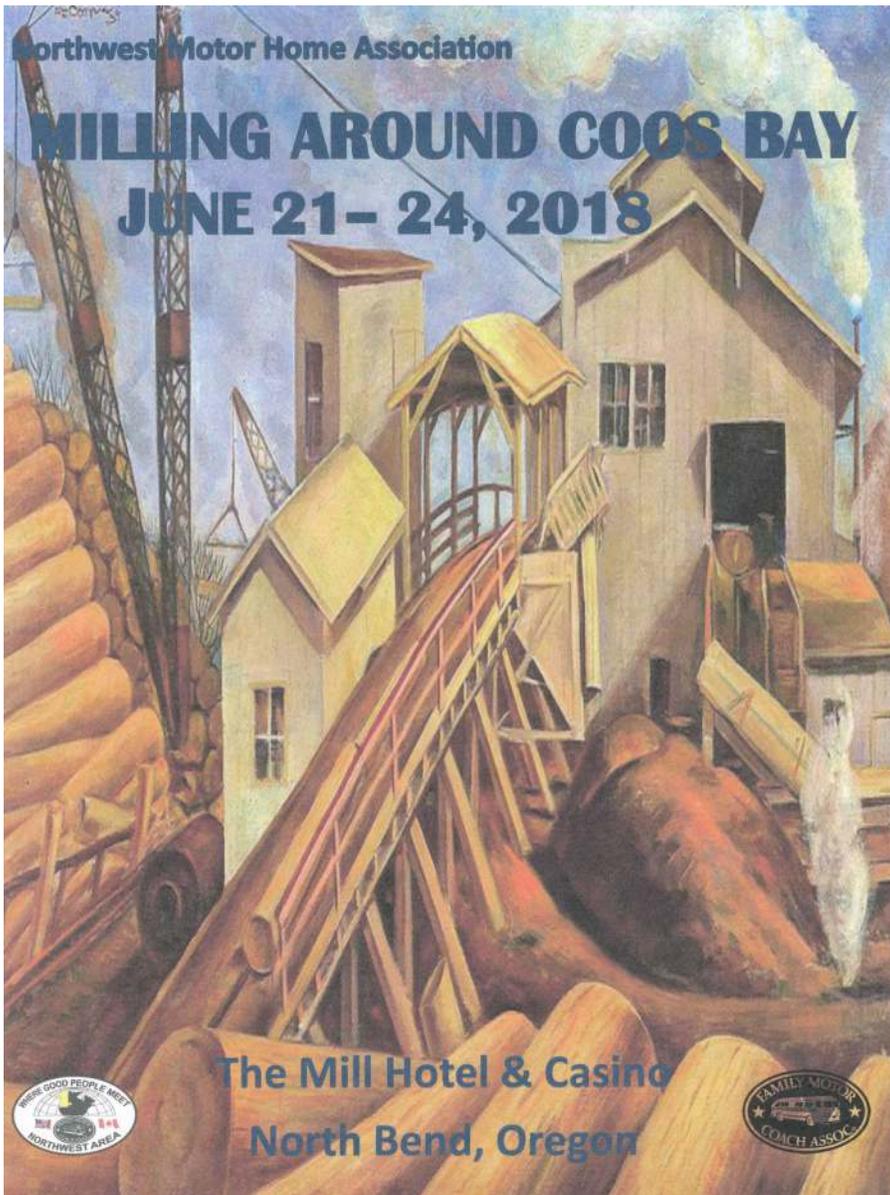
SIGNATURE

BALLOT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT BY NOVEMBER 30, 2017

Northwest Motor Home Association

MILLING AROUND COOS BAY

JUNE 21-24, 2018



The Mill Hotel & Casino
North Bend, Oregon



