

Dealing the dealers one way you can go at the camping show

By LEM MOSEK

Outdoors writer



Public interest in recreational vehicles doesn't cool down. A record 170,000 outdoor recreation enthusiasts are expected to attend the Detroit Camping Show, which continues through Sunday, Feb. 19 at the Detroit Artillery Armory, Eight Mile Road near Northland.

If you (wisely) resisted the opening days rush last weekend, there are some deals in store for you.

Monday is senior citizens day, when admission for seniors is 50 cents before 6 p.m.

Tuesday is ladies day, when women are admitted for 50 cents before 6 p.m. Wednesday is public safety day, and firemen and police officers (with identification) can get in for the same deal. Thursday is armed forces day for military personnel (same deal).

On display will be 800 travel trailers, fold-down campers, motor homes, vans, truck campers and the rest.

A friend told me how he got an excellent deal on a camping cap for his pickup truck: "I went the last day, and then I looked for an out-of-town dealer. I figured he wouldn't want to haul his unsold merchandise all the way home, and he'd let it go for less."

It worked.

THE NATIONS—or at least the Midwest's—top expert on wolves, Durward L. Allen, will speak at the annual meeting of the Detroit Audubon Society next Saturday evening.

The meeting will be at Madonna College, 1-96 (Jeffries) Freeway at Levan in Livonia. Scientific papers will be presented in the afternoon session in the Science Lecture Hall beginning at 2 p.m.

Allen is famous for his extensive studies of wolves on Isle Royale, Michigan's only national park. He is professor of wildlife ecology at Purdue University and is completing a book to be entitled "Wolves of Mining." Publication by Houghton, Mifflin Co. is scheduled for later this year.

Tickets are \$8.50 for the dinner and evening program at which Allen will speak, and \$2 for the afternoon program.

NEXT WEEKENDS' special events at Huron-Clinton Metroparks include:

• "A pancake walk" at 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 19 at the Stony Creek Metropark nature center, near Rochester. Naturalists Roger Bajorek and Bill Thomas will lead an outdoor stroll of an hour. The pancake breakfast is \$1.50 per adult, 50 cents per child. To register, call the park office at 781-4621.

• "Spider Lore," a one-hour program of slides and talk by Naturalist Bob Hotelling at Kensington Metropark nature center near Milford.

• "Looking Back," a two-hour indoor-outdoor program at Kensington at 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 19. Naturalist Dave Moilanen will show how the land, people and ways of life have changed over the last 400 years. To register for either of the Kensington programs, call the park office at 688-1561. The programs are free, but there is park admission of \$1 per car or \$5 for a season pass.

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CAC members reappointed

Two members of the University of Michigan-Dearborn's citizens advisory committee (CAC) have been reappointed to four-year terms by the U-M board of regents. The action was taken at the regents' January meeting.

Named to a second four-year term on the CAC were Allan D. Gilmour and Thomas Turner. Both have completed their first four-year appointment and will serve through 1981.

The committee is composed of 18 Detroit area business, professional and governmental leaders who meet regularly to advise U of M-Dearborn Chancellor Leonard E. Goodall on campus affairs.

Allan D. Gilmour (Dearborn) is executive director of corporate and North American analysis for Ford Motor Co. Gilmour is a graduate of Harvard University and holds his MBA from U-M.

Thomas Turner (Detroit) is president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO Council. In addition to his post on U of M-D's CAC, Turner serves as chairman of the board of Southeast Michigan Transit Authority. He is also a national board member of the NAACP, vice president of the Torch Drive Fund and a member of the National Health Planning and Development Council of HEW.

Sign crackdown burns little businesses

By TIM RICHARD

Federal and state efforts to clear roadsides of billboards may be cheered by environmentalists, but they're a grave worry to small businesses.

The Holiday Inns won't be hurt, but the mom-and-pop motels and independent restaurants will, they told the Michigan Tourist Commission last week. The tourism group held a public hearing in Southfield.

Rick Collamer, manager of the Win Schuler restaurant on W. Maple Road, summed it up: "Our West Bloomfield place isn't on a major artery. It's on a rolling countryside. Definitely, signs are a major plus for us."

BOB HACKER, general manager of Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor, said his firm had lost eight billboards because of highway beautification laws.

Meanwhile, it added three others, but found land prices have tripled. "Many independents (restaurants)

can't afford national advertising. This is making larger billboard companies richer and the small guy poorer."

Bruce Firestone, general manager of Mt. Holly Ski Area, said, "I don't believe in large signs to block the trees. But we do believe we need some sign to say we are there, we are available."

Firestone noted one proposal would allow some signs for businesses that operate for six months. "But our industry's season is only three months long and would be negligible. "But our numbers justify signing. We draw 150,000 visitors in three months... and we hope to go to 250,000 or 300,000."

Fred Bahlau, who owns Stagecoach Stop and heads the Irish Hills Tourist Association in Jackson County, said, "We seek recognition for our area as a whole, not for individual businesses. We have a lot of visitors from Ohio and Indiana."

LEN BARNES, editor of AAA Motor

News and chairman of the tourist commission, summed up the dilemma:

"The billboard industry thinks they are great, and there are 67 companies in Michigan which own 10 or more billboards, and 13,800 owners of 10 or fewer sign facilities."

"Environmentalists think there should not be a single billboard in the state along any highway."

"In the middle are millions of Michiganders and visitors to Michigan who come here to enjoy the tourist attractions of our great state."

"They need information to tell them where to turn off a freeway when they are about to run out of gasoline, where to find their favorite restaurant or motel chain, where they turn off to see Tahquamenon Falls or Paw Paw's wine-growing region or Greenfield Village."

"But they don't appreciate seeing the scenery along the highway being marred by product ads—Buy X brand bread, 'Smoke Y brand cigarettes.'"

THE MICHIGAN Department of State Highways and Transportation is working to set up 56 "informational plazas" by the end of 1979. These are to be at freeway rest stops.

Individual businesses can be listed in these plazas if they meet certain standards—remain open at least six months of the year for tourist attractions, have eight units and telephones for motels, have 50 sites and modern facilities for campgrounds.

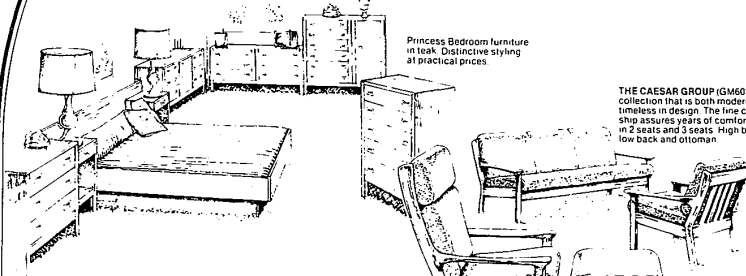
They would be listed on one-by-six inch nameplates with the business name, address, telephone number and hours.

AAA's Barnes pointed, however, to systems of bare-bones informational signs on highways. Vermont, for example, has 1,000 signs on state highways. They are 16 feet high, five to six feet wide, and give the business names and directions. To be eligible, businesses would have to be approved by the Tourist Information Council.

see it all! Royal Danish Days At The House Of Denmark

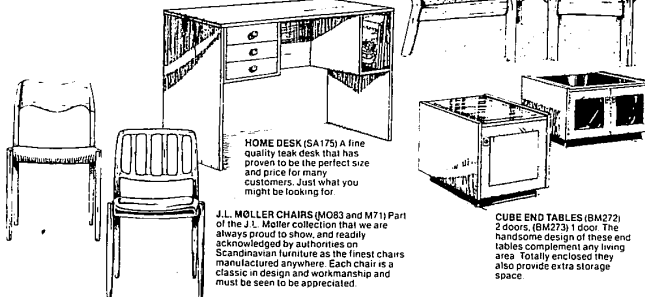
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