

# Camper, RV show runs to Feb. 20

By LEM MESESE  
Outdoors writer

Even when I'm not in the market for anything big, it's fun to wander through the Detroit Camper Show, which isn't in Detroit at all but in Oakland County east of Northland Center on Eight Mile Road.

The big attractions are the recreational vehicles—camping, trailers, truck campers, travel trailers, motor homes and those big rigs.

But even if you have one, or are a year away from buying, it's great fun to look over the accessories—hitchhikes, supplies, awnings, steps, toilets, heaters and so on.

Or I may accumulate pamphlets on conservation clubs, insurance, campgrounds and resorts.

THE ANNUAL show opens at 6 p.m. Friday and runs through Sunday, Feb. 20.

Saturdays and Sundays, it opens at noon, and weekdays at 2 p.m. Closing hour is 10 p.m. every day except the final Sunday when it will be 8 p.m.

Admission price is \$2.50. It may look steep, but it's cheaper than a movie, and you can't beat the convenience of making one drive to visit hundreds of merchants.

Watch for the special activities days:

Monday, Feb. 14: Senior citizens (50 cents until 6 p.m.); Tuesday, Feb. 15: Ladies day (50 cents for all females until 6 p.m.); Wednesday, Feb. 16: Public safety day (all policemen and firemen 50 cents until 6 p.m.); Thursday, Feb. 17: Armed forces day (servicemen in uniform 50 cents

until 6 p.m.); Friday, Feb. 18: Industry day; and Saturday, Feb. 19: Club day.

(Note to readers: The announcement from the sponsors says "servicemen" and "policemen" and "firemen," but I suspect uniformed women would be admitted under the same rules.)

SPONSOR is the Michigan Association of Recreational Vehicles and Campgrounds (MARVAC), a division of the Michigan Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Institute.

If that's a bewildering title, consider them as 700 dealers, campgrounds, manufacturers and suppliers.

Another way to think of them is as local merchants.

THE CAMPER and RV show is a great place to be in this weather because it makes you think of summer, and the ice fishing is terrible, anyway.

What makes ice fishing cold is not so much the temperature, although you need to be super-equipped when the mercury hits zero. What makes you cold is when you don't catch fish. Contrariwise, I've never been cold when the fish are biting.

Fishing reports are almost uniformly poor, from Lake St. Clair to the local inland lakes. One exception is supposed to be Kent Lake, where some good catches of panfish were reported.

Snowmobilers are having a ball, however. A few years ago, prospects for snowmobiling were dim because there were many winters when we had only 10 days of good snow (four inches or deeper).



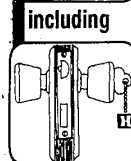
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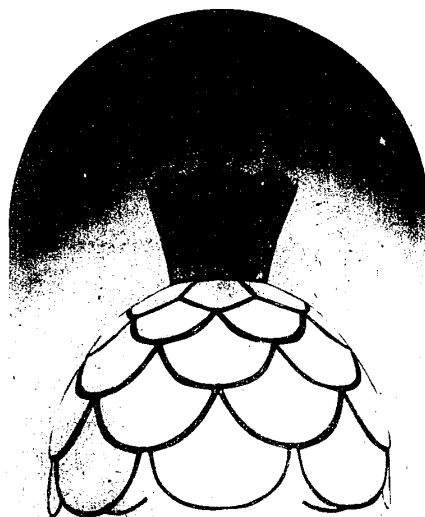
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