

TRAVEL

# Get vacation plans rolling at camper, travel & RV show

BY KEELY WYGONIK  
STAFF WRITER  
kwygonik@ec.homecomm.net

Some of us are campers, some of us definitely are not. But no matter what "camp" you're in, you'll find lots of vacation ideas Jan. 24-28 at the Pontiac Silverdome Camper, Travel & RV Show.

Recreational vehicles let you enjoy the great outdoors with all the comforts of home, but there's more to it than that, said show producer Mike Wilbraham.

"RVs are for more than just camping. Avid golfers use RVs when they go on golf vacations because they don't want to stay at a hotel and have the added expense. Some people use them for tailgating parties."

Whether you'd enjoy getting lost in a forest, living the pampered resort life, or just want to spend some quality time with your family, Wilbraham says you'll find something of interest at the Pontiac Silverdome Camper, Travel & RV Show. He likens RVs to a cottage that you can put anywhere you want.

**What:** Pontiac Silverdome Camper, Travel & RV Show  
**When:** 3-9:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, Jan. 24-26, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28.  
**Where:** Pontiac Silverdome  
**Admission:** Adults \$6.50, children (ages 6-14) \$3, no charge for children age 5 and younger.  
**For more information:** Visit [www.showspan.com](http://www.showspan.com)

visiting Michigan this spring for my daughter's graduation from eighth grade."

Wilbraham's wife, Jane, also grew up in a family of campers. "Every summer we get together with her family and our three children at Interlochen State Park," he said. "Those that love music and the arts visit Interlochen Center for the Arts. Some relatives like to fish, but everybody's back in time for coffee and a treat between 3 and 4 p.m."

At the show empty nesters looking for luxury getaways can walk through plush, new RVs, learn about RV resorts that offer golf courses, health clubs, tennis courts and whirlpools. Young families will discover low cost vacation and travel opportunities. Twenty-one RV dealers will display more than 400 new RVs in all price ranges. Patrons will also be able to gather information about more than 30 campgrounds and vacation destinations in both the U.S. and Canada.

this are one of the reasons Wilbraham recommends camping.

"There's more a sense of community in a campground than at a resort," he said. "You can really get away and the family pulls together. Everyone is responsible for helping each other out."

His parents, now retired, sold their home and put the big stuff in storage before hitting the road to "See the USA" in their RV.

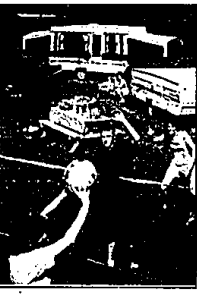
"They spent time in Alaska, New England, where my siblings live, and New Mexico," said Wilbraham. "They're spending the winter in Florida and are

**Memories**

"I grew up camping," said Wilbraham. "We started out with a pole tent with the ties outside. Then my folks decided that camping was the way we would spend our vacations. In 1963 my parents bought a Fan Travel Trailer. It had a wood interior, it was gorgeous."

One of his favorite memories is of the Christmas he and his family - parents, four kids and a St. Bernard - spent camping in Pennsylvania where he grew up.

"There was a pine tree in back of our campsite, it was like our Christmas tree. We actually had fairly warm weather, there was no snow, and we played family soccer games. After our traditional big breakfast on Christmas day we took a walk down by the lake. It was just us and the geese. We saw a soccer ball stuck up in a tree and we climbed up and got it. The ball was fully inflated, it was another Christmas gift we never expected. Cherished family memories like



**Family fun:** Camping is a great way to spend a vacation and enjoy quality time as a family.



**Get away:** You can enjoy all the comforts of home and still get away from it all. At the Pontiac Silverdome Camper, Travel & RV Show patrons will learn how to turn vacation fantasies into reality.

Peninsula, where the state park features a campground on the beach, the Porcupine Mountains where he has RVed to ski in the winter.

"We took the trailer in the park. It was a little chilly but we managed," Farlow said. "Wherever you are is beautiful. This country has got such a wide variety and you can never travel enough to say you've seen it all."

Larry Lonik, will share tips on "Beginning Mushroom Hunting" and "Great Mushroom Hunting Destinations." And comedy

grilling gurus, Mad Dog & Merrell, will share great RV grilling techniques as well as host a tailgate party opening day.

The first 500 people coming to the show will enjoy a free Hillshire Farms CheddarWurst or Brat.

Full-time RVer Bill Farlow who writes for Highways Magazine will discuss "Preparing for Full Time and Extended RVing," "Rx for RVs," and "No Hook-up Camping."

**Favorite destinations**

Farlow has vacationed in all 50 states and every Canadian province. He and his wife Louise usually chose destinations out of curiosity.

Some of his favorite spots in Michigan are the Leelanau

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Observer & Eccentric

## CAMPER, TRAVEL & RV SHOW

SILVERDOME JAN 24-28

Photo by J. Kyle Keene courtesy of Dennis Fries Photo

**A FREE SUMMER OF CAMPING**

**Grand Prize:** 1 week w/full hook-up at Waldenwoods Family Recreation - includes free historical tour  
1 week w/full hook-up at American Campgrounds  
1 week w/electric & water hook-up at Monroe County KOA Campground  
1 week w/electric & water hook-up at Jollystone - Barton Lake  
1 week at Oaklawn Adventure RV Park  
**TOTAL: 5 weeks**

**2nd Prize:** 1 week w/full hook-up at Waldenwoods Family Recreation - includes free historical tour  
1 week w/full hook-up at American Campgrounds  
1 week w/electric & water hook-up at Monroe County KOA Campground  
1 week at Genesee County Parks & Recreation  
**TOTAL: 4 weeks**

**3rd Prize:** 1 week w/full hook-up at Waldenwoods Family Recreation - includes free historical tour  
1 week w/electric & water hook-up at a recreation site at Oakland County Parks & Recreation  
1 week w/full hook-up at Traverse City KOA  
**TOTAL: 3 weeks**

**4th Prize:** 1 week w/full hook-up at Waldenwoods Family Recreation - includes free historical tour  
1 week w/electric & water hook-up includes all scheduled activities at Jollystone Park - Ann Arbor  
**TOTAL: 2 weeks**

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Mail or bring this coupon to the show. Anyone 18 yrs. of age or older may enter. No purchase necessary. Random drawing from all entries received by Sunday, January 28th.

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JAN 24 - 28

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