

Camping In Winter Boomed By Parks

Camping — once considered only a warm-weather activity — is now one of the fastest growing segments of the winter tourism scene, according to Automobile Club of Michigan.

A survey of all Michigan state parks and private campgrounds shows a 35 per cent increase in those staying open this winter as compared with a year ago. The greatest growth has been in the number of private parks keeping gates open year around.

This winter for the first time, private parks operating from December through March outnumber the state parks. There are 92 private parks staying open this winter. This is 37 more than a year ago, or a 65 per cent increase.

State parks staying open to service the winter camper number 65, an increase of five over last winter.

MANY OF the private park operators staying open this winter claim that snowmobilers are a major reason for the increased demand in camping space.

One of every three private campground operators responding to an Auto Club questionnaire stated that snowmobilers have access to trails from their parks.

Auto Club points out that the family which likes to snowmobile often owns a recreational vehicle that can be towed in winter to where snow conditions are best.

Camping enables snowmobilers and skiers to reduce the cost of a weekend considerably. Nightly fees vary from a maximum of \$2.50 to a minimum \$1.50 at state parks and from \$2 to \$6 nightly at a private park.

These costs are well below the usual \$12 to \$18 nightly motel charge per couple.

The camping family also can save considerably on meals since most recreational vehicles have kitchen and dinette facilities useable in winter.

MANY OF the private campgrounds offer monthly storage plans. Two Grayling-area parks — Pine Knoll and Yogi Bear — charge \$10 monthly to store a trailer on a campsite in winter. The camper pays only the \$4 nightly fee if the trailer is occupied.

Of the 92 private campgrounds in operation this winter, 76, or almost 85 per cent, offer winter storage.

Storing a trailer at a campground is economical and leaves the family car free to tow snowmobilers. Car gas mileage is cut in half in towing a medium- to large-sized trailer. Auto Club points out.

The average new car hauling a trailer will get about seven miles per gallon. The added cost of pulling a trailer 400 miles on a weekend is about \$10, or the cost of monthly storage at some campgrounds.

ANOTHER REASON for the growing popularity of private parks in winter is the

availability of heated shower and toilet buildings in addition to heated activities buildings.

Currently, only four of the 65 state parks open in winter offer heated shower and toilet facilities. Sixty-nine, or 70 per cent, of the private parks have heated shower and toilet facilities. Twenty-seven private parks, or almost one of three, have heated activities buildings for public use.

THE FAMILY that owns an unwinterized camping unit can have it made ready for comfort in sub-zero weather with a \$100 expenditure.

To provide extra warmth, auxiliary heaters — either electric or catalytic — can be used. The cost of good auxiliary heating usually is under \$50. An inexpensive, portable electric heater can cost no more than \$15. Sleeping bags or electric blankets for the lower bunks are usually a good investment for those seeking comfort.

Most units without storm windows can have them added. Clear plastic sheeting can be used to cut down window heat loss by taping it to the frame from inside the trailer.

Your Guide to Michigan Camp Grounds Open This Winter

LEGEND

● PRIVATE PARKS
▲ STATE PARKS

1973 CODE REFERENCE

STATE PARKS
AA Modern facilities
BB Primitive, with electricity
CC Primitive, without electricity
DD No snowplowing, open water hydrants or scheduled personal available. Electricity available.
* Phone park manager to secure maintenance and, if necessary, snowplowing.

PRIVATE PARKS
A Heated shower and toilet building
B Electricity
C Laundry
D Store
E Awned garage
F Trailer sanitation disposal
G Heated activities building

NOTE: Phone before going. Numbers on map indicate general and not exact locations. Areas listed give only minimums. A few private parks operate week-end only.

1 BIDE-A-WILE. Near Marquette. \$3. (ABCF) PH. (505) 249-1711
2 HORSESHOE LAKE. Near Gwinn. \$2.50. (ABCF) PH. (505) 248-9927
3 TANKU SAFARI. Near Powers. \$4. (ABCF) PH. (505) 497-3457
4 WANDERING WHEELS. Near Munising. \$4.25. (ABCF) PH. (505) 287-2315
5 DRIFTWOOD SHORES. Near Marquette. \$3.50. (ABCF) PH. (505) 241-5252
6 HULLBERT. Near Hullbert. \$2. (BDG) PH. (505) 876-2330
7 HIDE AWAY. Near Sault Ste. Marie. \$2. (ABCF) PH. (505) 495-2978
8 MEL'S PLACE. Near Pickford. \$2. (B) PH. (505) 647-6709
9 LAKESHORE. Near Cross Village. \$4.50. (ABCF) PH. (516) 526-2791
10 EAST WILLET LAKE. Near Indian River. \$4. (ABCF) PH. (516) 238-7450
11 E. RANCHO ALANSON. Near Petoskey. \$4.50. (ABCF) PH. (516) 248-7871
12 CAMPER'S HOME. Near Wolverine. \$3. (ABCF) PH. (516) 525-8512
13 BAY-WOOD. Near Wolverine. \$2.50. (ABCF) PH. (516) 525-8272
14 TUNER SHORES. Near Northport. \$6. (ABCF) PH. (516) 386-5191
15 HOLIDAY PARK. Near Traverse City. \$4.50. (ABCF) PH. (516) 947-5001
16 SWEET HIDEAWAY. Near Manistowish. \$4. (ABCF) PH. (516) 584-2489
17 CROOKED CREEK RANCH. Near Atlanta. \$3. (AB) PH. (517) 785-3140
18 HIBER'S RESORT. Near Hillman. \$3. (AB) PH. (517) 742-4385
19 WOODY'S RESORT. Near Alpena. \$1.50. (BDP) PH. (517) 358-0127
20 HOBBS' HOME. Near Bay Mills. \$3. (B) PH. (516) 882-4416
21 VACATION. Near Benzonia. \$2.50. (BDG) PH. (516) 882-5101
22 PAT'S PLACE. Near Mesick. \$2.50. (ABCF) PH. (516) 885-1056
23 CHIPPERNA. Near Lake Lake. \$2.75. (ABCF) PH. (516) 879-3571
24 SAN SHERI. Near Fredrick. \$2.50. (ABCF) PH. (517) 248-8497
25 PINE KNOLL. Near Grayling. \$4. (ABCF) PH. (517) 348-7194
26 YOGI BEAR'S. Near Grayling. \$4. (ABCF) PH. (517) 348-7194
27 GREENLEAF PARK. Near Leelanau. \$4. (ABCF) PH. (517) 348-9494
28 PINE ACRES. Near Mio. \$2.50. (ABCF) PH. (517) 876-5590
29 WHISPERING PINES. Near Mio. \$2.50. (ABCF) PH. (517) 876-3231
30 COOL WATER. Near Cadillac. \$2. (B) PH. (516) 882-3473
31 PARK & PLAY. Near Roscommon. \$4. (ABCF) PH. (517) 821-6891
32 LOD VALLEY. Near Lupton. \$4. (ABCF) PH. (517) 473-2201
33 ACRES & TRAILS. Near Oscoda. \$2.75. (ABCF) PH. (517) 739-5115
34 GOLDEN ARROW. Near Oscoda. \$3.50. (ABCF) PH. (517) 739-5115
35 SNOW BOWL. Near Houghton. \$3. (B) PH. (517) 420-5588
36 LAKE VIEW. Near Prudenville. \$2. (B) PH. (517) 366-5573
37 PRUDENVILLE. Near Prudenville. \$2. (B) PH. (517) 366-5573
38 WEST BRANCH KOA. Near West Branch. \$4. (ABCF) PH. (517) 345-1203
39 SHADY OAKS. Near Tawas City. \$2.50. (ABCF) PH. (517) 362-5023
40 SCOTTVILLE. Near Scottville. \$2. (B) PH. (516) 767-4729
41 XAMP INDS-DO. Near Walhalla. \$2. (ABCF) PH. (516) 462-3468
42 C & B. Near Baldwin. \$2.50. (B) PH. (516) 745-4244
43 GIDLEY'S. Near Baldwin. \$2.50. (ABCF) PH. (516) 898-2458
44 WOODS 'N' WATERS. Near Baldwin. \$2.50. (ABCF) PH. (516) 745-4392
45 HUSKOGAN SHORES. Near Esau. \$4. (ABCF) PH. (516) 754-5246
46 VETERANS. Near Marion. \$1.50. (ABCF) PH. (516) 743-2212
47 OLD LOG RESORT. Near Marion. \$2.75. (ABCF) PH. (516) 743-2212
48 WITHILL. Near Harrison. \$2.50. (ABCF) PH. (517) 539-2128
49 DODGE LAKE. Near Harrison. \$1.50. (ABCF) PH. (517) 539-2128

Winter Camping Can Be Enjoyable

DETROIT — So it's cold outside. That doesn't stop the camper or trailerite from enjoying the great outdoors with his favorite recreational vehicle.

All the gear needed for enjoying winter-time camping or trailering will be on display at the sixth annual Detroit Camper and Travel Trailer Show from Feb. 10-18. It will be in the Detroit Artillery Armory, 4400 E. Eight Mile.

EMPHASIS, of course, will be on the good-weather travel and camping, but the trailer industry knows that today's outdoor families like their skiing and snowmobiling. Trailers and campers are built to go where the fun is.

"Motor homes, travel trailers and truck campers can be heated quite easily," pointed out Dan Dowsett, director of the show. "They are built to nationally-recognized standards to insure adequate ventilation and safety for the user. Proper insulation also is a must. Fiberglass and styrofoam are usually used. Some units can



BEAUTEOUS BOATS (and boaters) will be on display at the 1973 Greater Michigan Boat Show in Detroit's Cobo Hall Saturday, Jan. 27-Sunday, Feb. 4.

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