

CAMPGROUND GUIDE

Loners On Wheels provides support for mobile singles

BY ANDY TAYLOR-FABE
Record-Eagle staff writer

If you are single and have an RV, a trailer-camper, a motor home or even a van, consider taking a pilgrimage to Cheboygan this July for Loners on Wheels' summer rally.

"We're about providing companionship for singles," said Patricia Hample, chairperson of the Michigan chapter of Loners on Wheels (L.O.W.)

Members of L.O.W. gather for monthly camp-outs and rallies where they do crafts, dance, play games, travel and "just have a good time," Hample said.

Edith Lane started Loners on Wheels in 1969 in Death Valley, California. She met other singles on the RV circuit with similar interests, but found that they did not always fit into the couples scene. The club now has chapters in 40 states,

Canada and Mexico.

Although L.O.W. is technically open to people of all ages, Hample said that most members are retirees.

"They have the necessary time, money and flexibility," she said.

Many L.O.W. members have been married in the past but are currently single again, either through divorce or the death of their partners. Some simply never married.

Hample said that L.O.W. is especially important for the latter group because other members act as a surrogate family.

L.O.W. also does its best to keep its organization from becoming a dating service, or as Hample said, "a pick-up club."

Although some people do find partners through their involvement, including Hample herself (she met her fiancée through L.O.W.), a

"matchmaker" environment is discouraged by certain club rules. For example, during official L.O.W. events, no person can share a "rig" with a person of the opposite sex.

The reason for these policies, Hample said, is not to control what people do but to make sure that the true purpose of L.O.W. is made clear: "We are a support system."

The summer rally will be held July 9-13 in Cheboygan. Call (517) 420-2471 for info.

Campgrounds around the region

ALANSON

Camp Petosega 33 sites. 347-6536.
Crooked River RV Park 17 sites. 548-5534.

ATLANTA

Big Oaks 27 sites. (989) 785-4251.
Clear Lake State Park 200 sites. (989) 785-4388 or (800) PARKS.
Mackinaw State Forest: Avery Lake 16 sites. (989) 785-4251;
Jackson Lake 18 sites. (989) 785-4251.

BEAR LAKE

Hopkins Memorial Park 30 sites. 864-3281.
Kampvilla RV Park 92 sites. 864-3757.

BEAVER ISLAND

Wagner Campground 22 sites. 448-2505. (Chamber of Commerce.)
St. James Township Campground 12 sites. 448-2505. (Chamber of Commerce.)

BENZONIA



Record-Eagle/Meegan M. Reid

Shawn James of Spring Lake chops wood while his new wife Suzanne cuts vegetables. The couple was camping at the Traverse City State Park recently.

Homestead Resort: 6 sites. 882-4163 or (800) 686-4163.
Timberline Campground 189 sites. 882-9548.
Vacation Trailer Park 100 sites. 882-5101.

BOYNE CITY

Young State Park 240 sites. 582-7523.

BUCKLEY

Traverse City KOA 119 sites, 5 cabins and 2 lodges. 269-3203.

CADILLAC

Birchwood Resort and Campground 33 sites. 775-9101.
Cadillac KOA 50 sites. 825-2012.
Camp Cadillac 115 sites. 775-9724.
Hemlock 15 sites. 775-8539.
Mitchell State Park 215 sites. 775-7911.
Pere Marquette State Forest, Long Lake 18 sites. 824-3591.
Peterson Bridge South 20 sites. 775-8539.

CEDAR

Leelanau Pines 182 sites, 228-5742.

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