



'Biggest ever' RV show to open at convention center



50 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE OF THE PITTSBURGH RV SHOW

1968-1977



1978-1987



1988-1997



1998-2007



2008-2017



- Winnebago's mass production of "luxury traveling lodges" makes travel affordable for the majority of Americans
- In 1968, first Pittsburgh RV Show opens at **Hunt Armory** in Shadyside
- Show moves to **Civic Arena** in 1972
- Oil crisis hits the RV industry hard in both 1973 and 1979

- Many RVs include entertainment centers, satellite dishes, saunas and hot tubs
- Pittsburgh RV Show takes place while Steelers play in Super Bowl XIII (1979) and Super Bowl XIV (1980)
- **Original David L. Lawrence Convention Center** serves as new site in 1982
- More display space is needed as Pittsburgh RV Show grows in late '80s

- Larger motorhomes offer comforts of home including full kitchens, bathrooms with shower and multiple sleeping areas
- RVs with slide outs and expandable space become popular
- Blizzard of 1994 shuts down Convention Center for a day during move in
- Steelers lose close AFC Championship Game during 1995 Pittsburgh RV Show

- Manufacturers introduce models with expanding walls to provide more room
- Number of campgrounds increases to accommodate growing number of campers and RVs on the road
- Pittsburgh RV Show is delayed but moves to uncompleted **NEW David L. Lawrence Convention Center** in February 2002
- Show returns in January 2003 when center is just about finished

- Numerous high-tech features include Wi-Fi, GPS, satellite dishes, LED lighting and touch screens
- Fuel prices lead to rise in popularity of trailer campers and ultra-small trailers
- RV industry suffers economic low and Pittsburgh RV Show cuts back to one floor
- Pittsburgh RV Show returns to two floors in 2011
- Record crowd attends show in 2015



PHOTOS: Civic Arena courtesy Heinz History Center; original Convention Center courtesy Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation