

# No snoring in winter camping class

We were over at Bob Resch's hideout, drinking his "Two-Way" Canadian Tea — "Two-Way" according to the Steady Eddy definition: If you can't drink it, you can always smoke it — and Resch was telling me why I didn't qualify for the Winter Camping class he's going to conduct for the UW Extension next January and February.

"It's nothing personal," he said. "It's because you snore."

"A lot of people snore," I said.

"A lot of people sleep loudly," he said. "But only you and Hovde snore."

I remember the lonely morning in northern Ontario when I had unzipped my little tent to discover that this very Resch, along with my other skulking comrades, like thieves in the night, had moved the main camp so far away I thought they had taken the canoes and left



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By George Vukelich

without me. I only yelled for a little while.

"We set up the Winter Camping class," Susan Thomas of Extension's Environmental Resources Unit said earlier, "because Wisconsin winters need not lock you indoors. But to camp out you have to know what you're doing, so we got Bob to teach."

There's a backpack full of wisdom in that because Resch, long the guiding spirit behind Petri Sports, has probably field-tested more sporting gear than anybody in town, with the possible exception of Steady Eddy, and only because Steady's definition of gear includes poker decks and cribbage boards.

In three evening discussions, Resch plans to discuss and demonstrate the winter use of tents, packs, sleeping bags, cooking utensils, clothing and first aid supplies. He will also review camp care, survival skills and safety precautions, along with the use of cross country skis and snowshoes.

Two field trips are part of the class: The first is a "shakedown" weekend in the Black River State Forest. The second is a longer trek in the Upper Peninsula's Porcupine Mountains. Resch says to contact Susan at 262-0142 for all the details, but the whole package shouldn't cost more than \$50.

"What I intend to get across,"

Resch says, "is how it's possible to camp out in winter weather, with as little gear as possible, and really enjoy yourself."

He allowed that if there was a prerequisite for the course, it's simply "a damned good" sleeping bag, one with 8 to 10 inch loft that would be "comfortable" down to 20 below zero.

Resch points out that the field trips are optional.

"But of course," he notes, "that's where the real fun is. The more people you can pack into a tent in the winter, the better. All bundled up and cozy. And not a real snorer in the bunch."

I stared at him for a long while. It sometimes takes awhile, but eventually you find out who your friends are.

I folded my tent and went out to look for Hovde.