



21<sup>st</sup> National Disabled Veterans  
**Winter Sports Clinic**



Snowmass, Colorado ★ April 1 – April 6, 2007

Volume 21, No. 6

Friday, April 6, 2007

## What You Are Saying...

**Sheryl Belt of Largo, Fla.**

"I think [the Winter Sports Clinic] is the greatest event ever. It makes you feel like you can do what everyone else does. I would definitely recommend this to other veterans."

**Wayne Beachy of Baltimore, Md.**

"Skiing down the mountain makes you feel whole again. What I've learned on the mountain, I use in my everyday life. When I'm at the event, I feel like I've really accomplished something."

**Nicholas Bennett of New Whiteland, Ind.**

"I'm really appreciative of all of the great people who helped make it possible for me to come to the Clinic. This is a chance of a lifetime."

**Carla Best of Aurora, Colo.**

"There is nothing like looking down from the ski lift and seeing the mountainside filled with fellow veterans."

**Jeremiah Bracco of Fruitland Park, Fla.**

"The Winter Sports Clinic is a great event that allows us to experience the freedoms we fought for. To be able to accomplish things we thought were forever restricted by our injuries is so wonderful."

*Buddy Hayes of Chesapeake, Va., and her service dog, Ellie*



**Erin Cavit of Lake City, Colo.**

"The Winter Sports Clinic is a life-changing experience. It is hard to put into words how important it is to be able to get out and do things on your own, after being denied the chance to do those things because of a disability. Once you have skied down your first hill, you know your life is back."

**Daniel Cravens of Redlands, Calif.**

"I have been very excited about returning to the Winter Sports Clinic and seeing my fellow veterans. It is an uplifting and emotional week. It provides more laughter and smiles in one week than most people have in one year."

**Alfred Cummings of English, Colo.**

"The Clinic gives me encouragement, the will to keep trying and the ability to enjoy the beautiful world I live in."

**David Fowler of Katy, Texas**

"Every year that I attend the Winter Sports Clinic, I learn a little more about positive attitudes and overcoming obstacles. I look forward to this every year because it is empowering and I enjoy seeing old friends and meeting new ones. The Clinic has taught me that I can still participate in sports, just sitting down. By pushing my limits further and harder than the year before, I get a real sense of accomplishment."

**Bruce Gibbings of Visalia, Calif.**

"The Winter Sports Clinic has been the most important event in my rehabilitation process. It taught me that I could do everything I did before my accident. The ability to assist other veterans is the highlight of the trip. I urge any disabled veteran to participate in this life-changing process."

**Barry Gray of Largo, Fla.**

"Sports foster bonding and respect, which furthered my conviction to promote teamwork in and out of the military. Attending the Clinic is an adventure like no other."

**James Green of Louisville, Ky.**

"Adaptive sports have made my life complete again. I'm the same athlete I was before my accident, just in a different sport. Mono-skiing is a great release for me. The rest of the world does not exist when you are flying down a mountain. It is just you and the snow."



# 21ST NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE RACE DAY

THEME: **PIRATES OF THE "CARIBEENER"**

6:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast <i>Conference Center Ballroom</i>
8 - 11 a.m.	Alpine Race Day <i>Spider Sabich Race Center</i> <i>Nastar Course</i>
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Cross Country Race Day <i>Top of Village</i>
10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Medal Presentations <i>Snowmass Village Mall</i>
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Taste of Snowmass <i>Snowmass Village Mall</i>
1 p.m.	Alpine Race Day <i>Spider Sabich Race Center</i>
7 p.m.	Closing Ceremonies <i>Conference Center Ballroom</i>
9 p.m.	Victory Celebration with Entertainment by Vocal Trash <i>Conference Center Ballroom</i>

Check with your team leader for your team's race schedule.



## TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST

High 57° F  
Morning Showers  
Overnight Low 33° F  
Rain/Snow Showers Late  
Sunset 7:36 p.m.  
Tomorrow's Sunrise 6:43 a.m.



## WINTER SPORTS CLINIC ONLINE

Share this newsletter (in full color), photos and other interesting information about the 21<sup>st</sup> National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic with your friends and family back home and around the world.

We are located on the Web at:  
[www.wintersportsclinic.org](http://www.wintersportsclinic.org).



## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE \*

### Bedford A Conference Room

The medical room will be available all day on Friday during Clinic operation hours (from approximately 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.) for non-emergent care. The Bedford A Conference Room is located one level below the mall, across the street from the Mountain Chalet Hotel. There is stairway access from the mall next to Christy Sports. For wheelchair access, please use the elevator above the main bus terminal (at the far end of the mall) to get to the medical room level.

### Transportation to Bedford A Conference Room

Van transportation is available from the Silvertree Hotel to the Medical Room. Catch the medical van in front of the hotel, or call the Medical Room for transportation.

### After Hours Medical Help

Call the Medical Room for recorded instructions on how to contact the on-call medical provider, or dial the hotel operator.

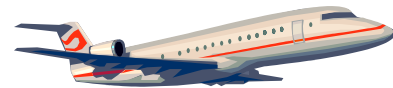
### Medical Room Phone – (970) 923-8330

(Extension 8330 on conference center phones)

\*For life threatening emergencies, dial 911

## WHEELCHAIR & PROSTHETICS REPAIR

On Friday please call (970) 470- 9198 for wheelchair repair and (970) 470-9226 for prosthetics repair. Please do not call after 6 p.m. unless it is an emergency. Wheelchair repair will also be available at the airport on Saturday.



## Departure Information

Be ready to depart for the airport at least two hours before your flight is scheduled to leave the Aspen airport.

Be sure you do not have any CO2 cartridges, matches or lighters of any kind in your carry-on or checked luggage. For carry-on luggage, all liquids must be in three-ounce bottles or less and be placed in a one-quart sized clear plastic zip-top bag. Each passenger is allowed one quart sized bag. Also not allowed are knives of any kind, lighters, larger scissors (pointed), and anything that might look like part of a firearm, such as bullet key chains. You are allowed tools for wheelchair repair and prosthetic devices. Prescription medications are permitted but must be declared.

If you have any questions, contact the Aspen Airport Guest Services at (970) 920-5384.



# Don't Miss Tonight's Closing Ceremonies

Be sure to attend the Closing Ceremonies and Victory Celebration tonight beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Center Ballroom. Dr. Michael Murphy, Director of the VA Medical Center in Grand Junction will serve as Master of Ceremonies for tonight's program. As always, arrive early to get a good seat.

Special guests include Bo Derek, Honorary Chairperson for VA National Rehabilitation Special Events; TV and

film actor and singer John Corbett and members of the "John Corbett Band," James Floyd, Acting Network Director of VA's Rocky Mountain Network; DAV National Commander Bradley S. Barton; and Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, Director of VA's Center for Women Veterans. During the program, Sandy Trombetta, Director of the Winter Sports Clinic and Ed Hartman, DAV National Director of Voluntary Services will distribute several special awards to this year's participants, instructors

and volunteers.

Another favorite highlight of the evening will be the closing video presentation showcasing all of the week's best moments. After the ceremony, be sure to stick around for the Victory Celebration, which is going to feature some really special entertainment from "Vocal Trash," a performance group that uses unconventional instruments (think trash cans) to make their music. Look forward to seeing you tonight!

## Hip Hip Hooray!

Congratulations to the 2007 local organizing committee at the Grand Junction VA Medical Center for coordinating and hosting another fantastic National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. Your hard work, enthusiasm, energy and commitment to this event and our nation's veterans, speaks volumes of your character and professionalism. Some of you have been in your positions for 21 years! You are an integral part of this event and we appreciate all the extra work you do to make it a success.

### Thank You Team!

- Dennis Abens, Host Room Co-Coordinator
- Allen Baugh, Team Leader Coordinator (21 years)
- Henry Bullock, Transportation Coordinator
- Dr. Mary Clark, Medical Director
- Jill Cordova, Continuing Education Coordinator
- Lyndon Fogg, Communications Coordinator
- Pat Hitt, Host Room Co-Coordinator

- Mary Lane, Food and Beverage Coordinator (21 years)
- Matt Lucas, Equipment Technician
- Gig Leadbetter, Cross Country Instructor Coordinator
- Lori Mead, Medical Room Co-Coordinator
- Wendy Shingleton, Medical Room Co-Coordinator
- Gena Tadych, Alternate Activities Co-Coordinator
- Mike Tadych, Alternate Activities Co-Coordinator
- Pat White, Ski Instructor Coordinator (21 years)
- Richard Wright, Equipment Coordinator (21 years)
- Teresa Parks, Clinic Operations Director
- Sandy Trombetta, Director, Winter Sports Clinic (21 years)



*You All Rock!*

## United Airlines - \*Important Information About Your Return Travel\*

- United Airlines is offering **Advance Check-In**, as a service, to all customers involved in the **Winter Sports Clinic** who are scheduled to depart from the Aspen Airport on Saturday, April 7, 2007. We recommend that everyone take advantage of this **convenient** opportunity to check baggage and receive your boarding passes a day in advance.
- **In order to ensure your checked baggage arrives at your final destination by your scheduled arrival time, it is important that you check as many baggage pieces as possible in advance.**
- All passengers need to present themselves, along with a government-issued photo ID, for **Advance Check-In**. Boarding passes will also be available at this time.
- Anything not received in advance, such as boarding passes or checked items, must be processed at the

**Advance Check-In**  
**Friday, April 6**  
**Any time from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.**  
**El Dorado Room A & B**  
**Sivertree Hotel**  
**Level 4**

- airport on your day of travel.
- All wheelchairs will require tags to be attached on the day of travel. Upon arrival at the airport, please see a Customer Service Representative at the ticket counter.
- It would be greatly appreciated that as many pieces as possible be checked in advance. However, any necessary items, such as medication, should be packed in a carry-on bag. Please plan on a two-day supply in the unfortunate event of travel delays due to weather.
- We hope that this **Advance Check-in** service will provide a pleasant travel experience for you. United Airlines looks forward to serving you.





# 21ST NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC



Carol Adams, Lake Park, Fla.



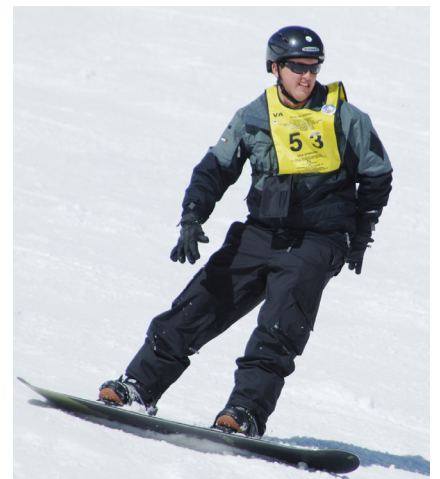
Elmer Williams, Cupertino, Calif.



Elmer Alexander, Los Angeles, Calif.



David Bradbury, Riviera Beach, Fla.



Eric Browy, Huntersville, N.C.



Greg Brooks,  
Greenwood, Ind.



Nicholas Bennett, New Whiteland, Ind.



Philip Burgess,  
Oceanside, Calif.



Jerry Braun, Ft. Gordon, Ga.



# 21ST NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC



Ryan Coffield,  
Fayetteville, Ga.



Joseph Garrett, San Diego, Calif.



Nicholas Paupore,  
Clarksville, Tenn.



Julius Fleischman,  
Washington, D.C.



Michael Petlansky,  
Riverside, Calif.



Randy Sirbaugh, Grand Junction, Colo.



David Zurfluh, Tacoma, Wash.



Floyd Bethany, Visalia, Calif.





## Hooked on Curling? Tell Them About It.

One of two new sports to be added to the Winter Sports Clinic, curling has proved to be quite the hook with veterans who have tried it. As much as the veterans have been enamored with pushing rocks on ice, Steve Brown, the national development coach for wheelchair curling and a Paralympic curling coach, swore the adoration was mutual.

“We came here trying to promote the sport because we only have about a dozen wheelchair athletes across the nation in curling and none of them are veterans,” Brown said. “Having seen the level of interest and the talent of some of these veterans on their first try, I can tell we have been missing out on a tremendous opportunity before this.”

Indeed, curling has proven so popular in its first year, Brown is seeing a long and happy future for curling at the Winter Sports Clinic and maybe a few new prospects for the national team.

“Actually, we’ve seen probably about a half dozen people who, with some limited training, could be very, very competitive for a national position pretty easily,” Brown said.

However, Brown’s interest in veterans for curling goes far beyond bolstering his Paralympic team. After seeing the level of enthusiasm veterans at the Clinic have for the sport, he hopes many of them will decide to make it a permanent recreation in their lives.

“We’re not just looking for the elite two percent that would make a national team,” Brown said. “We want any adaptive curlers who would just enjoy the sport and maybe go back to join the leagues in their area. Ninety-nine percent of the people involved in curling are in recreational leagues.”

For veterans who are truly hooked on curling, Brown suggests looking up a local league at the U.S. Curling Association website, [www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org). On the site is plenty of information about curling and an 800 number that will lead veterans to a representative for a league in their area.

“In curling, the number one rule is to have fun,” Brown said. “I think the veterans who have tried it here all agree that it is. Not one has left the rink disappointed with the experience, and not one has left the rink without thoroughly delighting the instructors.”

Brown does encourage each veteran who has enjoyed curling at the Winter Sports Clinic to contact the U.S. Curling Association, if not to join a league then to provide positive feedback about curling at the Clinic to the association.

“We need feedback from veterans to the U.S. Curling Association that this was really well received by all of the participants who were here,” Brown said. “If the association knows the athletes loved it, then they will support us to come out to other venues and back to the Clinic in the future.”



*Steve Brown instructs Diane Marsh, of Denver in Curling.*

## Thanks from the Public Affairs Team!

We extend our sincere thanks to all of the participants who so willingly shared their stories this week at the 21<sup>st</sup> National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

We’ve been busy preparing news releases about you, and articles for the daily SkiGram, working with numerous news media to let people know about the Clinic, getting the inspiring photographs of you participating in all of the various events, and posting lots of information on the Clinic web site.

When you have an opportunity, please check out the web site at [www.wintersportsclinic.org](http://www.wintersportsclinic.org) and tell your

friends and family to take a look as well. We strive for 100% success rate for photographs of

all participants who gave us permission to produce a news release about your participation. Your release and photograph will be available later today in an envelope with your name on it.

Many thanks to all the team leaders, coaches, instructors, and other staff and volunteers who helped us throughout the week – telling us about interesting stories and photograph opportunities, tracking down interviews, and helping us get quotes and missing information. You were wonderful!

As always, we go home inspired by all we have seen and heard this week, and we thank you for reminding us not to be limited by the challenges we face, but to let those Miracles on a Mountainside keep happenings each and every day. We look forward to seeing you in Snowmass Village next year!

### 2007 Winter Sports Clinic Public Affairs Team

- Jenny Tankersley Ballou
- Stephen Bates
- Jeff Bowen
- John Buehler
- Jeff Bowen
- Gene Davies
- Robert Figueroa
- Judy Howell
- Jose Llamas
- Jeff Luginbuel
- Joe Nguyen
- Bob Pedersen
- John Sokolowski
- Robert Turtill
- Sharon West
- Rebecca Sawyer-Smith
- Kristi Nuckols Bell
- Elaine Buehler
- Kim Byers
- Kevin Casey
- Eric Eisen
- Robin Franklin
- Robin Kerr
- Shelley Long
- Jeanne Miserendino
- Richard Olague
- Barbara Sellon
- Ryan Steinbach
- Jeff West





## ZODI-YAK



**Aquarius** (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)  
Your hard work and discipline shone through all week. You have a real spirit of success. Enjoy the Victory Celebration. That goes for *Randy Reece, Scott Quilty* – and all the rest of you!



**Pisces** (Feb. 18 – March 20)  
Your strong desire for new ventures continues to take you to new heights. *Peter Engel, John Devine*, and all our other Pisces, don't lose that charismatic enthusiasm!



**Aries** (March 21 – April 19)  
You've recognized your own inner power, *Joseph Garrett, Troy O'Donley* and all the other Aries here! Use your new skills and positive energy to reach your highest potential.



**Taurus** (April 20 – May 20)  
*Ben Garcia, Karen Christine* and fellow Tauruses at the Clinic – your magnetic charm has drawn people to you this week. Treasure your new friendships.



**Gemini** (May 21 – June 21)  
Your dynamic personality has kept you purposeful. Celebrate your victories tonight. (And that goes for *Michael Rasch, Nancy Peters*, and all Gemini Twins or Triplets!)



**Cancer** (June 22 – July 22)  
You've found new stimulating and challenging experiences all week. Enjoy the Closing Ceremonies tonight, *Patrick Thomas, Raymond Warren*, and all your fellow moon children. You're really not crabby at all.



**Leo** (July 23 – Aug. 22)  
Always directed toward achievement, you have excelled all week, and your medals await you in Snowmass Mall today. As always Leo, you rule. (That includes *Mark Drake, David Fowler* and the rest of our lion-hearted friends.)



**Virgo** (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)  
Your inner need to shine and inspire others has taken you to new heights this week. *Dallas Chambless, Ryan Hackett* and all their Virgo pals have easily won the hearts of others.



**Libra** (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)  
Versatile and multi-talented, your need for diversity and excitement took you in many new directions this week. *Scott Nyman, Clinton Hale* and Libra veterans everywhere – we hope to see you all next year!



**Scorpio** (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)  
Sensitive and restless, you've taken on many new challenges and also taken time to enjoy the beautiful scenery. Now, take the time to really celebrate tonight. (That goes for you *Bruce Hall, William Hatcher* and all your fellow Scorpions.)



**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)  
Your ambitious, optimistic attitude took you far this week. Enjoy your victories tonight, *Vernon Krockner, Dennet Oregon*, and all your Sagittarius comrades at the Clinic.



**Capricorn** (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)  
With your need for action and adventure, the Winter Sports Clinic gave you the opportunity to explore new territory every chance you had. Enjoy the taste of victory, *Ronald Mayfield, Nader Elguindi*, and all of the Capricorns who found miracles on the mountainside this week.



## ~MENU~

Breakfast Buffet  
**6:30 - 8:45 a.m.**

*Conference Center Ballroom*

Fresh Sliced Fruit  
Oatmeal with Granola, Raisins, Almonds,  
Sliced Bananas  
Skim Milk  
Breakfast Breads, Muffins and Biscuits  
Breakfast Sausage  
Bacon  
Fresh Ground Coffee,  
Decaffeinated Coffee,  
Herbal Teas, and Assorted Chilled Juice  
Omelet Bar with Cooked-to-Order  
Omelets to include Ham, Cheese,  
Mushrooms, Roasted Peppers, Fresh  
Tomatoes, Green Onions, and Salsa

Taste of Snowmass  
**11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
*Snowmass Village Mall*



Thank you to all of the veterans who participated in the Veterans History Project this week. *You have made history come alive!* Interviews conclude today at noon.

### PLEASE EXERCISE CAUTION!

The Conference Center Staff has advised caution in the area of the exercise room and street on the third level of the Silvertree Hotel. Pumps will be used to pull water from the mountain's natural run-off. Please be careful in that area after dark. *Thank you!*

### WOMEN VETERANS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

*Hear, hear!*  
A meeting for women veterans will be held today at 2 p.m. in the Max Park Room. All women veterans are invited!



## 21ST NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

### More of What You Are Saying...

Michael Guilbault of Attleboro, Mass.

"Once on the mountain, I am like those without a disability and that's my miracle."

\*Clinton Hale of Mary Esther, Fla.

**\*Only veteran who has participated in the Clinic ALL 21 years!**

"At the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, you quickly learn that the only limitations are those you set for yourself."

William Hatcher of Alexandria, Va.

"Every time I attend this event I feel stronger than before, and it always gives me the opportunity to meet some of the best people."

Kerry Howell of Bremerton, Wash.

"The reward of self-confidence that can be attained through experiencing the Winter Sports Clinic is immeasurable. Your body and mind feel rejuvenated and alive again. Life will flow through your body, almost making you forget you have a disability."

Walter King of Anchorage, Alaska

"The Winter Sports Clinic brings ability to disability. Participating in this event makes you realize that the only limit is what you decide for yourself."

Raymond Lehr of Erie, Pa.

"The Winter Sports Clinic is a very therapeutic event. Participating in this program has given me courage, a sense of pride and increased my self-confidence. What a rush it is to learn how sports can be adapted for someone who is different - but really isn't so different after all."

Charles Livermont of Cheyenne, Wyo.

"The Winter Sports Clinic is very helpful and healing to all disabled veterans. The Clinic helped me accept my athletic limitations and increase my self-confidence. You cannot help but experience growth and healing in every way by taking part in this event."

Kenneth Macklin of Tomah, Wis.

"The Clinic has motivated me and given me a better outlook on life with a disability. I would encourage other disabled veterans to focus on what they can do and never give up."

William Malcomb of Great Falls, Mont.

"This is a tremendous event. It lets you soar like an eagle."

James Mayo of Butner, N.C.

"The Winter Sports Clinic is one of the highlights of my life. It has made me a better person, both spiritually and mentally. I have enjoyed meeting all of the fine people over the years and I encourage all disabled veterans out there to attend the Clinic. Once they glide down the slopes, nothing will keep them away."

Gary Nagy of Key West, Fla.

"I have looked forward to skiing at the Winter Sports Clinic. When I fall down, I make snow angels."

Gary Orlando of Erie, Pa.

"Skiing made me feel like a normal person as I fly down the

mountain. I have looked forward to meeting new friends and seeing old ones. We all become one, just like we were in the military. The Clinic makes me feel alive."

Michael Paul of Murfreesboro, Tenn.

"The Winter Sports Clinic...gives me hope and motivation, and it inspires me to want to do more. I think that all disabled veterans should attend the Clinic at least once to share that experience. It will give them hope for a better future filled with the desire to excel in life."

Michael Petlansky of Riverside, Calif.

"The Winter Sports Clinic is a wonderful event that brings a real smile to everyone involved. The Clinic opened up a part of my life that I thought was lost forever. I will take home the memories and the new friendships."

Lauren Reddy of New Bedford, Mass.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for all disabled veterans. The Clinic is a great place to witness Miracles on the Mountainside, and prove to yourself that you really can do it. Everyone is a champion here."

Wayne Ross of Scituate, Mass.

"This is an escape from reality, with hot tubs, hot springs, scuba diving and top-notch entertainment. Skiing is the icing on the cake. It's like being on a cruise ship with all the activities, gourmet food, cheerful staff and great entertainment."

Carol Schultz Denver, Colo.

"This event opens up new doors for me. Things that I thought were out of reach, I realize now are possible."

Anita Shorb of Aurora, Colo.

"The Winter Sports Clinic empowers, inspires and enables veterans of all abilities to realize what the human spirit is capable of doing. This event also educates and awes the community. The show of support from volunteers and organizations is amazing."

Stephen Stratmann of Edwardsville, Ill.

"I came here to find out what I can do. I couldn't wait to make some friends and take on new challenges."

Linda Strong of Ojai, Calif.

"Participating in the Winter Sports Clinic is an opportunity to discover new ways to enjoy and experience life's meaningful lessons."

Angela Strotz of Mountain View, Calif.

"There is no pressure at the Clinic; we are all friends with a bond that most people will never have or understand."

Michael Thomas of Milwaukee, Wis.

"The Winter Sports Clinic never seems long enough. Participating in this event makes me proud, and downhill skiing sets me free from my limitations."

Jerry Vang of Palmdale, Calif.

"I have looked forward to attending the Winter Sports Clinic this year because I really liked how special everyone made me feel at this event last year."

# Hope to See You All Next Year!