

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



Snowmass, Colorado ★ April 1 – April 6, 2007

Volume 21, No. 1

Sunday, April 1, 2007

## WELCOME to Your Miracles on the Mountainside!



Your hosts at the Grand Junction VA Medical Center and VA's Rocky Mountain Network, along with the Clinic co-sponsors, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), all welcome you to the 21<sup>st</sup> National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic here in the

beautiful and majestic Rocky Mountains!

This year, you'll find a host of exciting activities planned for the week. The event just keeps getting better and better, offering you the latest in technology in this perfect therapeutic milieu to create those "Miracles on the Mountainside" for all of you. They are there, waiting for you to capture the utmost feelings of freedom and awe. There is an approximate 68-foot base at the top of the mountain and a 58-foot base mid-mountain, with more snow likely to continue for at least the first part of the week. The conditions should be great for skiing, learning, exploring and fun!

Two new events this year are curling and the biathlon. A revised race training and development program will allow you to work toward the Paralympic ski program as well as other winter sports activities.

You're in great company this year, with nearly 400 fellow veterans accepted to participate in the 2007 Clinic. Of those registered, over 140 are first timers. A special welcome goes to the more than 90 veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom who signed up to join us this week.

For all of you, you're in for an experience of a lifetime as the many VA, DAV and community volunteers make this week, **your** week. We are all here to help you learn new skills that you can carry over into your daily lives, and enhance the skills you already have. We want to make numerous miracles happen for you – not only here on the mountainside, but also back at home. *See you on the slopes!*





# 21ST NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Registration for team leaders, alternate activities, medical staff, transportation, the tech team, communications, ski instructors and volunteers  
*Host Room, Conference Center*
- 8 a.m. Sponsor Registration  
*Campground Room, Wildwood Hotel*
- 8 - 11:30 a.m. Participant Registration  
*Conference Center Ballroom*
- 8:45 - 11 a.m. Mandatory downhill instructor mountain orientation clinic  
*El Dorado Room, Silvertree Hotel*
- 9 a.m. Cross country orientation clinic  
*El Dorado Room, Silvertree Hotel*
- 12:30 - 3 p.m. Participant Registration  
*Conference Center Ballroom*
- 3 p.m. Mandatory meeting for boot loaders  
*Silvertree Hotel*
- 3 - 4 p.m. Mandatory first time downhill instructor orientation clinic  
*El Dorado Room, Silvertree Hotel*  
*(for first time Instructors only)*
- 3 p.m. Mandatory meeting for tech team  
*Max Park Room, Wildwood Hotel*
- 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Taste of Snowmass  
*Snowmass Village Mall*
- 4 p.m. Mandatory meeting for public affairs team  
*Media Center, Erickson Room*
- 5 p.m. Coaches' meeting  
*Max Park Room, Wildwood Hotel*
- 5:45 p.m. Transportation Meeting  
*Janss Room, Conference Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*
- 6 p.m. Mandatory Meeting for host room staff  
*Host Room*
- 6:30 p.m. Opening Ceremonies  
*Conference Center Ballroom*
- 8 p.m. Mandatory meeting for ski instructors  
*El Dorado Room, Silvertree Hotel*
- 8 p.m. Team Meetings  
*Conference Center Ballroom*

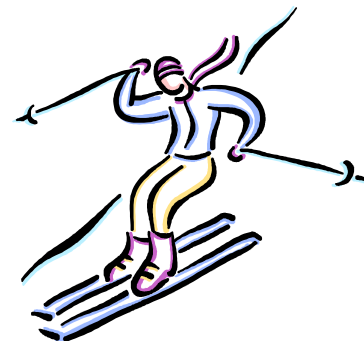


## COME TO THE OPENING CEREMONIES TONIGHT!

Don't miss the Opening Ceremonies of the 2007 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. Festivities begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. this evening in the Conference Center Ballroom – but be sure to arrive early to get a good seat. Special guests from VA include Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson and Acting Director of the Rocky Mountain Network James R. Floyd. Welcoming this year's participants from DAV are National Commander Bradley S. Barton, and National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. The Mayor of Snowmass Village, Douglas Mercatoris, will also be in attendance to welcome the Clinic back to his beautiful town. Serving as master of ceremonies this evening is DAV's Executive Director Dave Gorman. Norisa Harrison, affectionately known as "Sergeant H," is also on tonight's agenda to perform several inspirational musical selections for all in attendance.

After the ceremonial part of tonight's program, all participants will be meeting with their team leaders, getting to know their fellow team members and receiving further instructions for the week ahead.

Welcome to the 2007 Winter Sports Clinic!



## TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST

**High 53° F**

**PM Showers**

**(30% Chance of Precipitation)**

**Overnight Low 33° F**

**Snow Showers Late**

**Sunset 7:31PM**

**Tomorrow's Sunrise 6:51AM**

*"Welcome, my old friend,  
Welcome to a foreign fireside.  
Ah, how good it feels! The hand  
of an old friend."*

*~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*





## WELCOME BACK, MR. SECRETARY!

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson, is joining us in Snowmass Village for another eventful Winter Sports Clinic. This will be his second trip to the Clinic, and we hope this year's visit is as fun and exciting as the last. Secretary Nicholson has said in many forums that he is proud to be part of such a therapeutic and patriotic program. "The daily courage and determination of these true American heroes are examples for us all. The men and women of the Department of Veterans Affairs are proud to serve these wounded and disabled veterans on their path to recovery," Nicholson said.

A graduate of West Point, Nicholson served eight years on active duty as a paratrooper and Ranger-qualified Army officer, then 22 years in the Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of Colonel. He is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War.

As Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Nicholson is the principle advocate for veterans in the U.S. government, ensuring that they receive the care, support, recognition and dignity they deserve for their service to our country.

On behalf of VA, Secretary Nicholson will deliver remarks at tonight's Opening Ceremony, and hopes to spend time with as many veterans as possible during his stay.

*Welcome back to the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, Mr. Secretary!*



## DAV LEADERS RETURN TO THE CLINIC

As always, Winter Sports Clinic participants and guests welcome the national leaders of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to the 2007 event. Co-sponsor of the Clinic since 1991, DAV joins VA each year to deliver this outstanding rehabilitative program to so many American heroes.

"DAV is proud to team with the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide this opportunity for so many brave, wounded warriors," said DAV National Commander Bradley S. Barton. "It is truly a miracle to see the transformation take place on that mountain as these men and women push themselves to the limit and rehabilitate both body and mind."

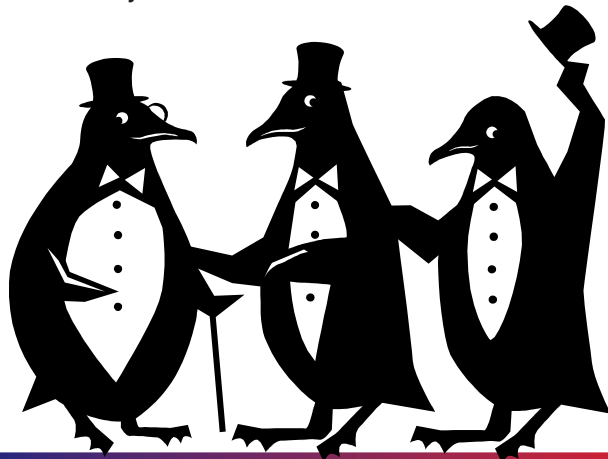
Each year, a number of DAV top officials spend time at the Clinic to visit with participants and enjoy all aspects of the event. Executive Director Dave Gorman will once again serve as emcee at tonight's Opening Ceremonies. National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson and National Commander Bradley S. Barton will also be on hand to offer welcoming remarks. All three will be visiting the venues and interacting with participants throughout their stay. They will also be visiting with the Clinic's generous sponsors to thank them for their tremendous support.

*Welcome back, DAV!*

## WINTER SPORTS CLINIC ON THE WEB

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

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





## **The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic... More Than Just Fun!**

Everyone agrees that we're all here to have fun this week, right? Isn't that what this 'Miracle on the Mountain' thing is all about? While having fun is most definitely an important part of the week ahead, there is really so much more.

For 21 years, the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic has been inspiring and literally life changing for the veterans who accept its challenge, and even for the many behind-the-scenes folks who make this incredible event possible. Although each of you will - and should - strive to do your best, this week is not about competition and winning. Rather, it is about soaking in the whole experience of the week - relishing countless moments of growth and discovery, and seizing all the opportunities the event offers.

To really understand the potential and pulse of this amazing event, just spend a few minutes with Sandy Trombetta, VA National Director for the Winter Sports Clinic. "The Clinic is recreation therapy at the highest level, using adaptive skiing as the method to promote healthy, happy and rewarding

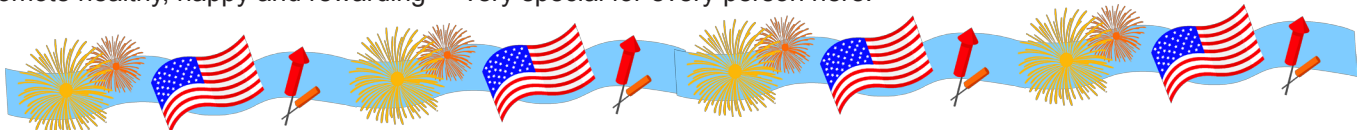
lives," he says. "And this week's ride of discovery in this beautiful setting makes you think that perhaps Mother Nature is the greatest teacher of all."

Although many veterans here are repeat participants, a large number are here for the first time, coming with recent and serious injuries. Some have not yet even been officially discharged from the hospital, understandably worried about what lies ahead. According to Trombetta, the Clinic helps veterans see that a fulfilling, rewarding life is possible after an injury, and that each of the new participants has something important and unique to contribute when they return home and get involved in their communities. "Once they get a taste of life, they go back home and get serious about their rehab to grow stronger and get better," he says. Trombetta further explains that the idea of the Clinic is to put challenges before the veteran participants that build confidence and self assurance, and have them say, "If I can do that, there's much more that I can do."

The Clinic literally offers something very special for every person here.

"Everyone comes away with something new, something different," Trombetta explains. "As we are touched and inspired by the courage and heartfelt determination of these veterans, we all learn things that we take home and apply in our daily lives."

The Clinic's main goal is to improve the well-being of the whole person. You'll experience new things, learn coping skills and gain a greater sense of independence. Obviously, the Clinic's physical challenges promote bodily strength and endurance. This helps participants, along with their family and friends, realize they can physically do things they may not have dreamed possible. There are also deeper, even more profound benefits than just the physical ones. Sandy Trombetta puts it like this, "Here in this amazing place called Snowmass, we are of like mind, sharing a creative energy and a deep sense of camaraderie, seeing and celebrating abilities rather than disabilities. That makes this a week like no other."



### **THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT RETURNS TO SNOWMASS**

Throughout the week, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Library of Congress invite you to be part of an important national effort - the Veterans History Project (VHP). If you are new to the Clinic or have never before participated in the VHP, now is the time!

The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress has collected 45,000 personal accounts of veterans - the largest oral history collection in the country. This project was launched in October 2000 by the U.S. Congress and honors our nation's veterans by creating a lasting legacy of their military experience. Regardless of branch or period of service, age, military career or experience, VHP needs your story. By participating, you will help make history come alive.

Each 45-minute interview will be recorded, with a copy of that recording given to the Library of Congress. You and your story will then become part of our nation's official historical records. In appreciation, you will receive a DVD copy of your interview, as well as a VHP tote bag and souvenir coin.

Your interview will be scheduled at your convenience this week. Make an appointment during Registration today. Interviews will take place Monday, April 2, through Thursday, April 5, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. On Friday, April 6 (Race Day), interviews will continue from 8 a.m. until noon. If you are unable to keep your appointment for any reason, please let the VHP team know so that another veteran can be scheduled in your place.

Interviews will take place in Janss Auditorium on the second floor of the Snowmass Conference Center.

*Only you can tell your story, and it's a story worth preserving and sharing with future generations!*





## Sending Hometown News From the Winter Sports Clinic

For many years at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, the public affairs team members have operated a Hometown News program, designed to let participants' hometown newspapers know about their participation in this exciting event. Located on the Clinic's Web site, this effort generates an individual news release for all veterans who asked us to prepare one. Throughout the week, we will be calling your local newspapers to generate interest in this wonderful story. You will receive a copy of your own news release at the end of the week.

Hometown news releases are only written if we have written permission and have all your completed information. Releases are downloaded to the Clinic Web site ([www.wintersportsclinic.org](http://www.wintersportsclinic.org)) and are available to anyone accessing the site (look under "Participant Information"). We expect to have this year's news releases posted to the site by Thursday morning, and the photos by the time you return home.

In order to complete this mission, it is important that any veteran with missing information stop by to see us **by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 2**. Your team leaders will be told if you are on the list for missing information. We cannot upload the news releases to the web site until they are all completed, so please see us in the Erickson Room (Conference Center) right away. We usually need things such as home phone numbers, birth dates, local VA medical facility, branch of service, or perhaps a quote to

personalize your news release. If you gave us the names of your local hometown newspapers on your release form, we will make a phone call and send an e-mail to the paper this week, notifying them that you are here and referring them to the Web site for your release and photo (if we have one). We will select the best digital action photo to attach to your news release on the Web site. We will also give you a single copy of that photo at the end of the week, but you can certainly download and print more.



Unfortunately, we usually have no way of knowing if your newspaper decides to print an article about your participation in the Clinic, or when it will appear. We have no guarantee that any newspaper will actually print an article. Our best efforts are to ensure that they have the information they need to produce a story about your participation. Therefore, an envelope will be enclosed in your packet at the end of the week so you can send us a copy of any articles published by your hometown newspaper. This helps us know when our efforts are successful.

Thank you for helping us tell your community about your participation in the Winter Sports Clinic this week!



## 20th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic





# 21ST NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

## NDVWSC

### TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE

*Actual loading times and bus departure times. Please show up at least 15 minutes prior to departure, as buses will leave on schedule.*

**All buses load and depart from the Conference Center circle.**

**Cross Country Skiing:** Cross Country is located at the Top of the Village. Buses will begin loading at 8:15 a.m. and will depart at 8:45 a.m. Another bus will load at 1 p.m. to transport cross country skiers to the Top of the Village. This vehicle will also pick up participants at the Top of the Village after unloading the 1 p.m. group, and can transport anyone wishing to return at that time. Buses will pick up everyone remaining at the Top of the Village at 3 p.m. All morning cross country skiers will eat lunch at the venue, courtesy of the Elks Lodge.

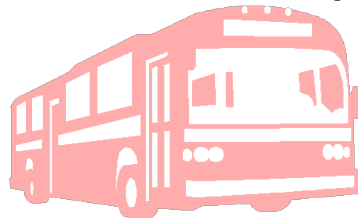
**Snowmobiling:** There will be two trips per day to the snowmobiling venue. *You will be assigned to either the first trip or the second trip, so please check to make sure you are on the correct bus.* The first trip begins boarding at 6:45 a.m. and departs at 7:15 a.m. The second trip boards at 9:00 a.m., departing at 9:30 a.m.

**Sled Hockey:** Buses will begin loading at 7:45 a.m. for this trip. The bus departs at 8:15 a.m.

**Glenwood Springs Hot Springs Pool Trip:** Buses will load at 9:30 a.m. and will depart at 10:00 a.m.

**Trapshooting:** Buses will begin loading at 10:00 a.m., departing at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided for everyone at the trapshooting venue.

**Gondola Trip:** Buses will load at 10:00 a.m. and depart at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided at the Aspen Elks Lodge for everyone attending.



## TOMORROW'S MEAL SCHEDULE

*Conference Center Ballroom*

6:30 - 8:45 a.m.

Breakfast

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch

5 - 6:15 p.m.

Dinner

*Pick up tomorrow's newsletter at breakfast for the day's menu!*

## 20th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic





## ZODI-YAK

*Welcome to Another Year of Winter Sports Clinic Astrological Antics!*



**Aquarius** (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

*(John Marti and Carla Best – pay close attention.)*

Your contagious positive energy will stand you in good stead during registration today. Spread that around!



**Pisces** (Feb. 18 – March 20)

Don't fish around for something to do today – go out and enjoy Taste of Snowmass.

*(Don't eat too much "fishy" seafood, James Wu and Russell Worth!)*



**Aries** (March 21 – April 19)

Don't stay out at the Opening Ceremonies too late. Catch some early snowmobiling at T Lazy 7 Ranch.

*(Your fellow rams William Kalbaugh and Jamey Bollinger feel the need for speed... do you?)*



**Taurus** (April 20 – May 20)

*(Wayne Beachy and Joseph Bozik, are you listening?)*

This is your chance to shine. You will discover hidden talents on the slopes tomorrow – or maybe on Tuesday.



**Gemini** (May 21 – June 21)

Just when you thought things couldn't get better, you'll find yourself at the hot springs later this week.

*(Grab your swimsuits and meet some other twins like David Zurfluh and Mark Dunford!)*



**Cancer** (June 22 – July 22)

The sun is in your health zone today, making it easy to eat right and exercise. Don't overdo it at Taste of Snowmass.

*(Jon Albright and Kenneth Schoenlein, this goes for you, too!)*



**Leo** (July 23 – Aug. 22)

Get up there where the air is rarefied. Enjoy the gondola trip in Aspen.

*(Listen for the roar of fellow lions, especially Michael Brickert and Buddy Hayes. Hey, did you bring your dog?)*



**Virgo** (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

The energizing planets are in your orbit this week, a good one for health and fitness. We'll see you scuba diving at the Silvertree Hotel.

*(Virgos Rhonda Akers and Alan Babin – get in the pool, now!)*



**Libra** (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

Shut off your cell phones, get out and enjoy the fresh air at the Top of the Village.

*(We hear that Mannie Allen and Frank Washburn will be hanging out there this week.)*



**Scorpio** (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

You have the uncanny ability to make conversation flow.

*(William Braun and Philip Burgess know all about that!)*

Scorpios will make many new friends at the Winter Sports Clinic.



**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

Leave your bow behind today and pick up your foil. Try fencing!

*(AP Apineru and Angel Barcenas – en guard!)*



**Capricorn** (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

*(Capricorns Aubrey Youngs and Jerry Braun know this is true!)*

You and your goat-hearted friends have tons of ambition and energy. Take in as many new activities as you can this week, Capricorns!



# 21ST NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

### Bedford A Conference Room

A medical room is available each day during Clinic operation hours (from approximately 8 a.m. - 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

### Conference Center Host Room

*Hours:*

6:30 - 8:45 a.m.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

4 - 5:30 p.m.

*In between these hours, 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.*

## LOST & FOUND

### Conference Center Host Room

## MASSAGE THERAPY

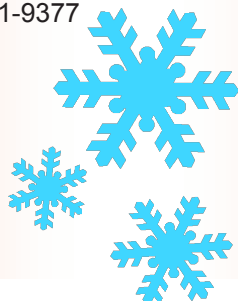
### Cabaret Room

Complimentary massages are available by calling and scheduling an appointment.

Massage is located in the Lower Level Lobby of the Silvertree Hotel in the Cabaret Room.

*Call for an appointment beginning Sunday, April 1, at 1 p.m. and then Monday, April 2 beginning at 9 a.m. until slots are full.*

*Phone – (970) 261-9377*



## VA BENEFITS COUNSELING AVAILABLE

### Conference Center Ballroom

The Department of Veterans Affairs Denver Regional Office will have benefit representatives, including the Denver Regional Office OEF/OIF Coordinator, available during the Winter Sports Clinic for participants.

The benefit information table is scheduled for Sunday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as Monday, April 2, from 8 to 11 a.m.

Information on VA benefits – such as compensation for service connected disabilities, home loans & specially adapted housing, vocational rehabilitation & employment, education & life insurance – will be available.

Representatives will have copies of the 2006 Edition of the Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents book.



## THE INTRIGUING AROMAS AT 2007 TASTES OF SNOWMASS

This afternoon, everyone will have the opportunity to taste local delicacies or traditional American-style food from Snowmass Village restaurateurs.

From 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., the Village Mall will entice Winter Sports Clinic participants and guests with a mix of intriguing aromas and extraordinary displays of food from another "Taste of Snowmass."

Each year, the local eateries open up their kitchens – and their hearts – to Clinic participants so they can share in great food and company. The Taste of Snowmass has become a favorite tradition of the Clinic for participants, volunteers, staff and Snowmass locals alike. Wander through the mall and experience the sites and aromas of Snowmass.

Food vouchers for Taste of Snowmass will be available today during registration (when you receive all of your meal tickets for the week.) This will be the only meal served today. *Don't miss out on experiencing the many flavors of Snowmass!*

