

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 24TH NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

Ski Groom

FRIDAY EDITION • APRIL 2, 2010

www.wintersportsclinic.va.gov



Adios Amigos

Another Clinic Draws To A Close

DAV Commander Inspires

As partners with VA at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) helps make the “Miracles on a Mountainside” possible each year.

This year, DAV is blessed to have a National Commander who has “led from the front” and served as a leader and source of inspiration to the Veterans with disabilities at the clinic. National Commander Bobby Barrera is a combat-wounded disabled Veteran from Del Rio, Texas.

While serving as a Marine rifleman in Vietnam, he was severely burned and lost his left arm and right hand when his APC was hit by a 500-pound explosive device.

Here at the Clinic, Barrera has snowboarded and skied for the first time. He also enjoyed shooting sports and the climbing wall.



Congressional **Message**

Once again, Colorado welcomed the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic held at beautiful Snowmass Village. And just as the majestic mountains serve as an inspiration to many, your engagement in these sports activities reminds us of the courage and inspiration you all displayed as you served our country. You have not let limits in mobility, sight or even unseen challenges create any barriers you face in life.

Your rehabilitation as participants in the Winter Sports Clinic provides all of us with the hope that we can achieve far beyond the limits of our human potential. Your service allowed all of us to enjoy freedoms, including those of sport, and to live a life of enjoyment and safety.

As a fellow Veteran, I salute you, and on behalf of a grateful nation we encourage you to now enjoy those same freedoms as you participate in the Winter Sports Clinic. Have fun - you earned it and deserve it.

*Sincerely,
John Salazar
3rd Congressional District*

Thank You **Veterans**

Another incredible year with a group of incredible people.

As we complete this wonderful week, we want to thank you all for sharing your stories with us during our time together in beautiful Snowmass Village. We enjoyed getting to know you at the Taste of Snowmass and the social activities, interviewing you in many locations for video and print articles, taking your fast-action photos on the mountainside, featuring your activities in the daily SkiGram, and watching you interact with volunteers, instructors and especially each other. During the week, we have produced hundreds of individual news releases and photos that are located on the Clinic's Web site, contacted media in your home towns, sent out products on both Facebook and Twitter, distributed six colorful editions of this newsletter, and assisted in lining up numerous media interviews about this year's Clinic. All of this helps us spread the word about this great event and the inspiring participants who attend each year, Veterans like you!

We wish you safe travels home and look forward to seeing you back on the mountainside next year for the silver anniversary celebration of the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. More miracles await you there!

The 2010 NDVWSC Media Center Team

VA Careers

Claim preference and continue sharing your camaraderie of service

The Department of Veterans Affairs employs more than 250,000 individuals across 300+ career fields. A third of VA's workforce is former military, and growing. With tens of thousands of vacancies anticipated over the next few years due to retirements, we invite you to find the position of your dreams among those who share your past and understand your commitment to serving our Nation.

Visit our employment Web site today at www.VAcareers.va.gov to search jobs and learn how Veterans, as well as spouses of 100-percent disabled Veterans, can claim Veterans' preference. Check out the “VA Status Eligible and Veterans Only” link on the Search Jobs page for opportunities that are open only to Veterans and other current/former government employees.

Closing Ceremonies

Be sure to attend the Closing Ceremonies and Victory Celebration tonight beginning at 7 p.m. in the Conference Center Ballroom. Terry Atienza, Director of the VA Medical Center in Grand Junction, will serve as Master of Ceremonies for tonight's program.

Special guests include VA's Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs L. Tammy Duckworth; and DAV National Commander Roberto Barrera. Duckworth and Barrera will be presenting the Sid Ford Award, the Judy Shawo Commitment to Excellence Award and the Linnie Howard Spirit Award this year. The DAV Freedom Award will also be presented to one deserving Veteran selected for courage, perseverance and determination on these spectacular mountains.

Also during the program, Sandy Trombetta, founder and director of the Winter Sports Clinic, will present the always coveted participant awards including such favorites as Best Face Plant and Most Likely to Crash.

Of course, the most popular highlight of the evening is the video presentation from the VA Salt Lake City video team showcasing the week's most memorable moments.

Our time among the peaks of the Rocky Mountains may be coming to a close, but the experiences, new-found strength, and friendships will continue for years to come.

Another week at the Winter Sports Clinic may be ending, but not before it is celebrated and commemorated in the company of champions of the slopes and 354 champions of the soul. We look forward to seeing you tonight and again next year!

Shipping Out

Sadly, our week is rapidly drawing to a close and it's now time to start packing and heading for home. Below is some information to help make your departure as smooth and hassle-free as possible. Travel plans may change due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances. Check with your team leaders for the latest information.

Returning Borrowed Medical Equipment Caregivers are responsible for returning the Clinic's medical equipment. On Friday, return equipment to the Silvertree's Cabaret Room between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. On Saturday, equipment can be returned in the Silvertree's Eldorado Room A from 6 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Wheelchairs All wheelchairs require tags be attached on the day of travel. An airline customer service agent at the ticket counter will attach tags upon arrival at the airport.

Bring Your Medicine! Travelers should make sure they have at least a three-day supply of their medications in their carry-on baggage.

Forgotten Items If you forgot something at the Silvertree, call the bell desk at (970) 923-8252. The bell captain will work to locate the item, and if found, make arrangements for its return. (Guests will be responsible for shipping charges.)

Advance Check-in

United Airlines is offering advance check-in today, from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Eldorado Room B for those departing from the Aspen Airport tomorrow. This is a convenient opportunity to check your baggage and receive your boarding passes a day in advance. Make sure to bring a government issued photo I.D.

THANK YOU: Local Organizing Committee

We want to express our sincere thanks to the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic's 2010 Local Organizing Committee (listed at right) for again coordinating and hosting a wonderful event.

As always, we have thoroughly enjoyed our week here in Snowmass Village. From the Taste of Snowmass and Opening Ceremonies, to the special entertainment, alternate activities and the exciting events of Race Day, we have seen your hard work and dedication shine through for our Veterans.

It has been an outstanding and exciting week for everyone. Thank you all for making us feel so welcome.

Dennis Abens, *Host Room Coordinator*

Allen Baugh, *Team Leader Coordinator*

Henry Bullock, *Transportation Coordinator*

Jill Cordova, *Continuing Education Coordinator*

Shane Elliott, *Communications Coordinator*

Dr. John Hunter, *Medical Director*

Mary Lane, *Food & Beverage Coordinator*

Gig Leadbetter, *Cross Country Instructor Coordinator*

Matt Lucas, *Equipment Coordinator*

Lori Mead, *Medical Room Co-Coordinator*

Jose Llamas, *Public Affairs Coordinator*

Teresa Parks, *Clinic Operations Director*

Barry Sharp, *Bootloader Coordinator*

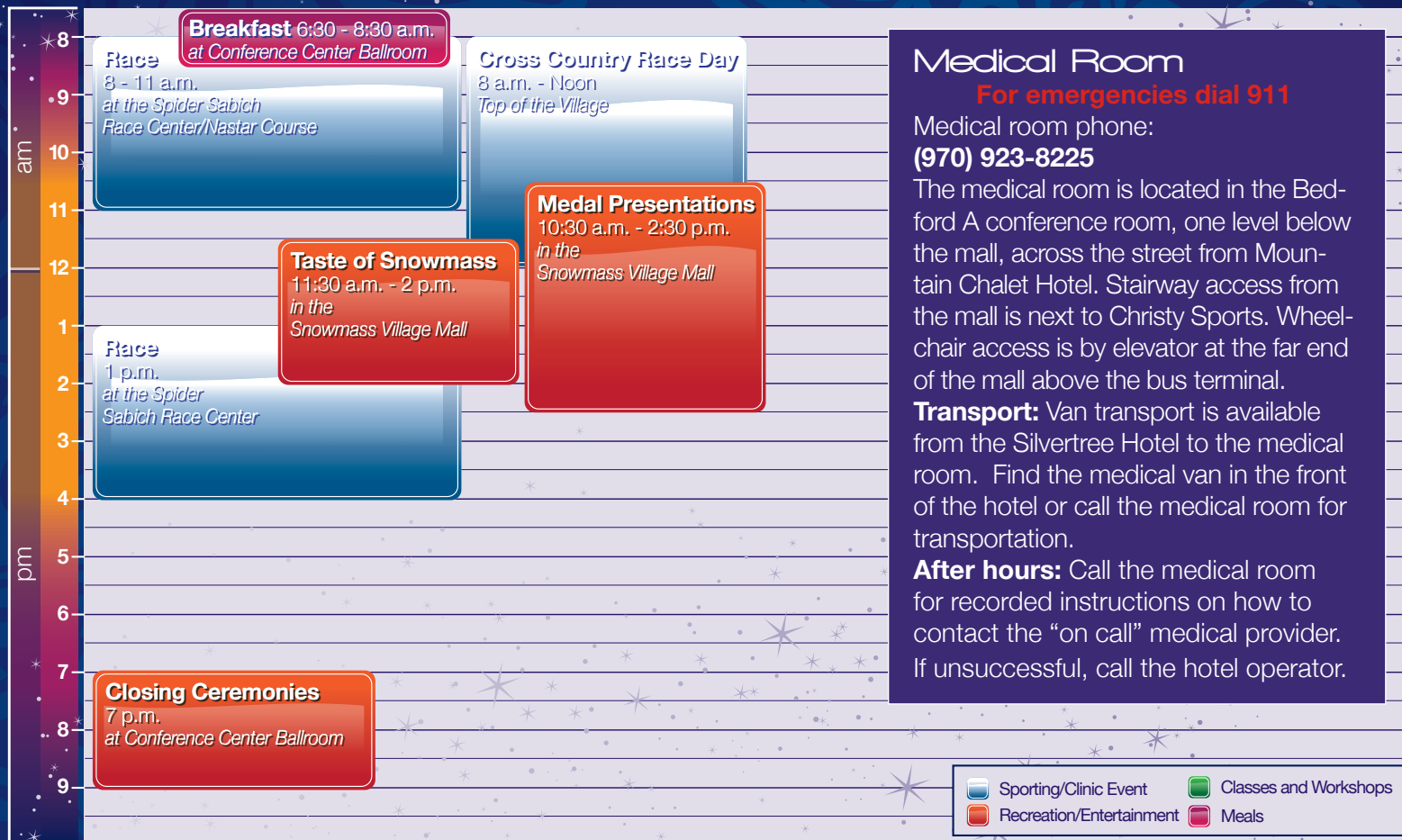
Wendy Shingleton, *Medical Room Co-Coordinator*

Sandy Trombetta, *Director, Winter Sports Clinic*

Annie Tuttle, *Alternate Activities Coordinator*

Pat White, *Ski Instructor Coordinator*

Schedule for Friday April 2, 2010



What Did You **SAY?**

Every day this week, we'll go out and ask one question. Here are your responses.

QUESTION Who would you like to meet most, and what would you ask them?



Wanda Janus
Portland, Ore.
Navy
"My father, who passed away when I was young, and if he thinks I did OK in life."



Susan Haley
Kansas City, Mo.
National Guard
"Clive Barker. I'd ask if he would produce one of my movies!"



Joe Garrett
San Diego, Calif.
Navy
"Bode Miller, and what it feels like to win a gold medal in the Olympics."



Trey Lafitte
Laurel, Miss.
Marines
"I'd like to meet UFC fighter Chuck Liddell. I'd ask how it felt to beat Tito Ortiz."



William Campbell
Anchorage, Alaska
Army and Navy
"President Obama. I'd ask his help to get more Vets into this Clinic and the other events."