



## Disabled Veterans Take To The Slopes With New Gear

by Jeff Luginbuel

Once again, new state-of-the-art equipment is available to veterans at this year's National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

"We introduce new and enhanced equipment every year," said Sandy Trombetta, National Director of the Winter Sports Clinic. "Our goal is to not only meet the needs of our veterans, but also to assist in the progress of adaptive skiing for everyone."

This year's new equipment includes 130cc Élan complex skis, snow wings, a snowboard rider bar and a shredder plate.

According to Trombetta, the 130cc Élan complex skis allow bi-skiers to have a ski that will carve turns and is easier to maneuver and learn on – it will shorten the learning curve considerably while also giving skiers a better ride.

The snow wings look a little bit like a 1950's hula hoop with a harness in the middle. The harness is attached to the hoop by a series of straps that go around the skier. By holding onto the hoop, instructors are able to guide and steady the participants.

Trombetta says that many of the younger veterans enjoy snowboarding, so Clinic officials are working hard to meet their expectations.

The snowboard rider bar attaches to each boot binding, which rises up from the adjustable binding and has a cross bar, which hits around the waist or higher. (It looks like an upside down "U"). The bar gives a beginner snowboarder something to hold onto as well as the ability to put the board on its edge, either toe or heel. In addition, the unit has a handle



**(Left to right) Matt Lucas from Grand Junction and Sandy Trombetta, Clinic director, unload a snowboard rider bar, one of this year's new pieces of equipment.**

attached to the end of it that gives the instructor the ability to guide and steady the rider.

The shredder plate is a mounted snowboard that can attach directly to a mono-ski binding. This piece of equipment allows the mono-skier to feel what it is like to snowboard.

"The new gear as well as other enhancements at this year's Clinic is just another way of saying thanks to America's disabled veterans for their service to our country," Trombetta said.



# Sending Hometown News From the Winter Sports Clinic

For many years at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, your public affairs team members have operated a “hometown news” program, designed to let our 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 have asked us to prepare one. All week long, we will be calling 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 not written unless we have your permission to prepare one and have provided all of the information needed. 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 do that, it is very important that any veteran with missing information stop by to see us today before noon. Your team leaders will be told if you are on that list. We cannot upload any of the news releases to the web site until they are all completed, so please see us in the Erickson Room right away. We usually need things like 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 registration form, we will make a phone call or send a fax 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 photo we have of you as you ski, to be attached 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



*(Left to right) Susan Broschat, public affairs staff, interviews Kevin Foley from Kings Park, N.Y., for his hometown news release.*

in the Clinic, or when it will appear. Therefore, an envelope will be enclosed in your packet at the end of the week and we hope you will send us a copy of the article for our files. This helps us know when our efforts are successful.

Despite our best efforts, we can never guarantee that any newspaper will print an article. It often depends on the size and type of media market where you live. Please feel free to send another copy of your news release to your local newspaper when you get home. Sometimes, it just takes getting it into the right person’s hand to generate interest and get the article printed.

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

## New Snowboarding Equipment Eases Knee Pain

Snowboarders at this year’s Clinic will be able to experience a new snowboarding device that will allow help eliminate knee and back pain associated with the inward pointed front foot in the lift line, and also while skating on the flats.

The SWIVLER snowboard binding locking rotational plate is made to allow snowboarders of all levels and styles to unlock their front foot, rotate the binding to a comfortable forward

position and relock with just a pull on the leash. The SWIVLER weighs only 12 ounces, mounts on any snowboard and accepts any binding.

Rick White, president of SWIVLER, LLC, designed the apparatus to accommodate his own severe knee injuries. He will be on hand Monday to assist with installations, and can be contacted on his cell phone at (360) 901-5509. SWIVLER can be seen at [www.swivler.com](http://www.swivler.com).





# Winter Sports Clinic Has Its Own ‘American Idol’

by Richard Olague

There is no need to watch for the next “American Idol” to be named because he is here in Snowmass! Though you won’t catch him on the popular reality TV show, you’ll discover the talent of a 17-year-old Ty Nelson when he performs two concerts this week. With a politeness and maturity that belies his boyish good looks, Nelson’s recognition of the work of the Armed Forces and gratitude to America’s veterans is noteworthy.

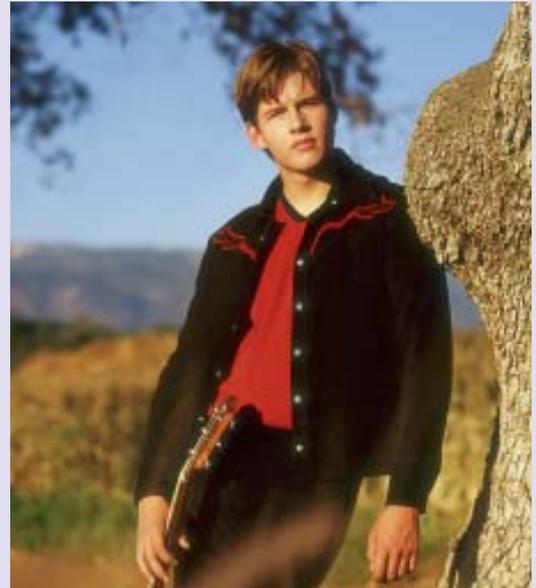
“Living in San Diego, which is a military city, allowed me to be very close to the military and feel its presence,” said Nelson. “My family has friends who serve and have served. I’ve met brave men and women not much older than I who have committed their lives to America.”

It is the connection to the military that has given Nelson a focus for some of his recent tour dates. “I made a commitment to help support the military through my music in any way I could,” he said.

Nelson makes good on his promises. He personally contacted former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi about how he could get involved with America’s past and present heroes. Months later, Nelson now plans to perform at each of VA’s National Rehabilitation Special Events, the first being performances here in Snowmass.



Nelson says he’s most excited about meeting the participants face-to-face. “That will be the highlight of my time here...my personal interaction with these brave men and women.



**Ty Nelson performs today at the Blue Door.**

I’ve looked forward to meeting everyone at the event and to personally extend my thanks for their service to our country.”

If you missed Nelson’s performance last night as part of Opening Ceremonies, you can catch his second act today at the Blue Door, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Two Country Stars Share Their Music and Camaraderie

Vince Gill and Amy Grant, two country music entertainers, will be here Thursday, April 7. They will be available for you to meet beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Village Mall.

Their concert begins at 9:00 p.m. Due to limited space for the concert, doors will open at 7:30 p.m. for veterans and their family only. Winter Sports Clinic staff, volunteers and coaches can enter at 8:30 p.m. Everyone must have their credentials to enter.



**Snow Showers**  
**High 38° F**  
**Low 17° F**



## Marine Corp Reunion

All marines and their guests are welcome to attend the reunion tonight from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Blue Door. Special guest General Richard Kelly will attend. For more information, contact John at (516) 698-0588

## Prosthetic and Wheelchair Repair

Conference Center, Sinclair Room  
6:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For assistance in between those hours, call:  
Wheelchair Repair (Don at 710-9740)  
Prosthetic Repair (Joe at 710-9060)



# Photos from the slopes. . .



**Darrell Wilson from San Antonio, Texas, celebrates the Clinic with friends!**



**Chris Lynch from Pace, Fla., receives help with his participant number from Lauren Rheume.**



**Jake Hipps from Cleveland, Ohio, is weighed during registration with assistance from Glenna Stark from the Grand Junction VA Medical Center.**



**Jean Van Trump from West Palm Beach, Fla., waits in line with her friend, Jack.**

# REGISTRATION



# Photos from the slopes. . .

*(Photo right)  
Military volunteers greet Clinic participants as they disembark their plane at the Aspen airport.*



*Suzanne Nicholson, wife of VA Secretary Jim Nicholson, meets with Chris Devlin-Young, world champion mono-skier, and Laura Miller, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management, during Saturday night's sponsor dinner.*



*(Photo left)  
Ty Nelson, country singer, skis downhill with David Johnson, Challenge Aspen ski instructor.*



*(Left photo)  
Rudy Ruettiger, Notre Dame football hero, tries out a three-track skier with the help of Jeff Inouye, adaptive ski program assistant director.*



**Taste of Snowmass**



For your reading pleasure...

# Zodi Yak

Preparer of horoscopes and predictor of your future ....



Veterans History Project interviews continue through Friday, April 8, in the Janss Auditorium on the second floor of the Snowmass Conference Center, but you must schedule an appointment.

This historic project is meant to honor 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, all veterans are invited to share it with our VHP program staff this week during the Clinic.

Each participant will receive a VHP tote and a DVD copy of your interview before leaving the event.

Interview times are:

√ Today through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

√ Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

If you were unable to make an appointment during registration and would like to participate in the VHP, stop by the Janss Auditorium at the top of each hour to see if there are appointments still available.



Want to submit a story idea for the daily SkiGram?

The Public Affairs Team will be preparing news

releases, writing articles for the daily *SkiGram*, and working with the media to publicize the events of this week.

If you have ideas for news stories, photographs or something you’d like to see in the *SkiGram*, stop by the Media Center located in the Erickson Room of the Convention Center. We’d love to hear from you!

### **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 – Feb 19)**

You are one social being, Aquarius! You will enjoy going to all the parties this week – but you still need to learn to ski!

### **PISCES (Feb 20 – March 20)**

You are very responsive, Pisces. We are all watching you today.

### **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

You like action, and that’s a good thing. Get out there today and explore the potential.

### **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

You won’t master skiing in one day, but we know you will try to!

### **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

You are very curious, Gemini. You will enjoy many new experiences today, and for the rest of the week.

### **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

You feel secure here. Don’t worry about looking silly on the slopes today. You’re in good company.

### **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

You’re such a fire sign, and you looked “hot” at the Opening Ceremonies last night, Leo. What are you doing later?

### **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

It’s mind over matter, Virgo. You CAN do this!

### **LIBRA (Sept. 23 – Oct. 23)**

You were graceful and charming last night at the Opening Ceremonies. Keep it up on the slopes today!

### **SCORPIO (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22)**

You desire power and intensity. Prove it when you ski today – and also later this evening...

### **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21)**

You are honest and straight-forward, even when you fall down. Please try not to do that today.

### **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)**

You will be making something of yourself today, Capricorn. Enjoy your independence at the Clinic.





# The Chef's Corner



## Today's Meal Schedule

Conference Center Ballroom

6:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	Dinner

## Breakfast Buffet

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

## Lunch Buffet

- Potato Salad (no eggs), Fresh Fruit Salad
- Hamburgers, Bratwurst, and Hot Dogs with Buns
- Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Relish, Pickles and Sauerkraut, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup, and Cheese
- Potato Chips

## Dinner Buffet

- Caesar Salad with Croutons and Grated Parmesan Cheese
- Spinach Salad with Red Pepper and Feta Cheese with Oregano Dressing
- Penne Pasta with Meatballs and Marinara Sauce
- Meat Lasagna
- Four Cheese Lasagna
- Zucchini with Red and Yellow Peppers
- Italian Bread with Butter



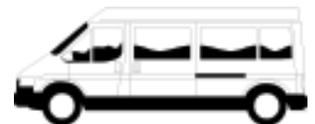
## Medical Assistance

### Bedford A Conference Room

A medical room is available each day during Clinic operation hours (from approximately 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 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 Silver Tree 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





# Today's Schedule

MONDAY, APRIL 4

- 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.     **Yoga Warm Up**, Max Park
- 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.   **Snowmobiling**, T Lazy 7 Ranch
- 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.   **Downhill Skiing**  
Grey Wolf, Naked Lady, Sunnyside
- 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.     **Trip to Hot Springs**, Glenwood Springs
- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.     **Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing**  
Top of the Village (lunch)
- 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.   **Scuba Diving**  
Silvertree Hotel Pool
- 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.   **Sled Hockey**  
Aspen Ice Rink
- 10:00 a.m. to noon         **Rock Climbing**  
Conference Center Circle
- 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.   **Trip to Aspen Mountain for Gondola and Snow Cat rides**  
Lunch at Elks Lodge
- 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.   **Shooting Sports and Archery**  
Basalt Trap Club
- 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.   **Downhill Skiing**  
Bonzai, Free Fall, Sheer Bliss
- 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.     **Rock Climbing**  
Conference Center Circle
- 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.     **Scuba Diving**  
Silvertree Hotel Pool
- 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.     **Yoga Cool Down**  
Max Park
- 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.   **Apres' Ski Entertainment**  
Country Singer Ty Nelson  
The Blue Door
- 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.   **Goal Ball**  
Conference Center Ballroom

## Chester's Massage



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. Appointments can be made by calling Laurie at 710-9586.

## Important Meetings

- 4:30 p.m.     **Ski Instructor Meeting**  
El Dorado Room  
Silver Tree Hotel
- 4:30 p.m.     **Team Leader Meetings**  
Stone Bridge Inn Council  
Meeting Room
- 5:00 p.m.     **Coaches Meeting**  
Max Park Room  
Wildwood Hotel
- 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.   **VA Informational Meeting:**  
Adaptive Housing; Compensation/Pension  
Claims; Power of Attorney; Max Park Room

## CEU Opportunities

- 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.   **Pool Techniques for Individuals with Neurological Deficits**,  
Wildwood Lodge Pool, presented by Jo Miller,  
CTRS
- 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.   **Advanced Group Processing Tools**, Kearns Room, presented by  
Mary Ann Loeffler, CTRS



**Lost and Found**

If you have misplaced an item, check the Lost and Found located in the Sinclair Room.



## SkiGram is on the Web

Look for the full-color edition of this newsletter on the Web at: [www.wintersportsclinic.org](http://www.wintersportsclinic.org)