

Ski-aram

SUNDAY EDITION • MARCH 30, 2008



Welcome to the 2008 Winter Sports Clinic

Greetings.

It is hard to believe that here we all are, 22 years later, participating in the greatest show on snow—the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic!

I know I don't need to say it but I will anyway – if it weren't for our two generous sponsors, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Disabled American Veterans, as well as the Aspen/Snowmass Village community and the hundreds of wonderful, car-



Sandy Trombetta, National Director, National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

ing corporate sponsors and volunteers, all that you accomplish this week could not be possible.

This is certainly a week of discovery for us all, but more importantly, it is a week dedicated to the strength and commitment of our disabled veterans' service to our great nation. This is your week to excel, and all the planning we do throughout the year revolves around that one central goal. So I

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Opening Ceremonies Kick Off the 2008 Clinic Tonight

As you enjoy the thrill and excitement of meeting up with old friends and making new ones, be sure to make plans for this evening's opening ceremonies. Each year, this special program marks the official start of the

National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

Join us by 6:30 p.m. in the conference center ballroom, when all of this year's participants are welcomed by VA and DAV senior leadership. (Seating is limited, so do try to arrive early

if you can.) Special guests include Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon H. Mansfield and DAV National Commander Rob Reynolds. Serving in a return role as the program's master of ceremonies this evening is

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WEATHER



TODAY

High: 40°

Low: 29°

Clouds with Rain & Snow Mix



TOMORROW

High: 33°

Low: 12°

Clouds with Snow

ROLL OUT THE



As co-sponsors of the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, key leaders from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will be here in Snowmass Village attending various Clinic activities and events throughout the week.

From VA, both the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Gordon H. Mansfield, and the newly appointed Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable James B. Peake, plan to attend and both have been looking forward to visiting with their fellow veterans at the Clinic. Mansfield, who has been to the event before, is already on-site and will speak on behalf of VA at this evening's opening ceremonies. Peake plans to arrive later in the week and will represent VA at Friday's closing night event after he helps present medals Friday afternoon. Also on the Snowmass Village schedule are members of the Veterans Health Administration's executive leadership board, comprised of VA network directors from across the country. They plan to arrive mid-week and will be volunteering at several activities during their visit. Most are visiting the Winter Sports Clinic for the first time.

From DAV, National Commander Robert T Reynolds; Executive Director of National Headquarters Richard Patterson; Executive Director of Service and Legislative Headquarters David Gorman; and National Director of Voluntary Services Ed Hartman, are all attending the Clinic and will attend tonight's opening ceremonies. Both Reynolds and Hartman will also be at Friday's closing ceremonies. The National Commander is looking forward to handing out medals on Race Day as well.

Look for these VA and DAV leaders at various activities. They'll not only be speaking at the formal ceremonies, but you may also see them out on the slopes, the shooting range, the sled hockey rink, the pool for scuba diving and other Clinic venues. They'll be joined by actress and author Bo Derek, Honorary Chair of VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events, and John Corbett, TV and film star, whose band will entertain you on Wednesday evening.

Be sure to say hello to all of our special guests and let them know how you're enjoying your week in Snowmass Village! ♦



John Corbett ("Sex & the City," "My Big Fat Greek Wedding") will hand out medals Friday on Race Day. Corbett and his band will also perform Wednesday night.



Bo Derek serves as the Honorary Chair of VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events and will be attending various events this week.

Red Carpet

Distinguished guests and celebrities arrive to support Clinic participants.



Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon Mansfield Returns to the Clinic



Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon H. Mansfield, who will greet you at tonight's opening ceremonies on behalf of VA, is an Army veteran who served two tours in Vietnam as company commander with the 101st Airborne Division and was wounded during the Tet Offensive of 1968. He was confirmed Deputy Secretary by the U.S. Senate in January 2004. Prior to joining VA, he was the Executive Director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. In 2006, Mansfield was honored as the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year at DAV's national convention, and was in-

ducted into the Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame in October 2006.

A wheelchair user himself, Mansfield has personally tackled the mountain during past visits, so look for him on (or near) the slopes again this time! This is a return trip to the event for Mansfield, and he has looked forward to meeting as many veterans as possible while he is here.

DAV National Commander Coming for the Week



Robert T. Reynolds was elected as DAV's National Commander at the organization's 2007 national convention. A native of Arlington, Va., Reynolds enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1984 following high school. He served in the 82nd Airborne Division and was injured in a parachute accident while assigned to the U.S. Army Special Forces, 11th Special Forces Group, as a member of A Company. He underwent two years of multiple surgeries before being honorably discharged from the Army with service-connected disabilities in 1990.

An avid volunteer, Reynolds is involved in numerous chapter community activities and at the

Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Va., VA Medical Centers. He is also the Department of Virginia National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic Coordinator. No stranger to the event, he has volunteered as a coach and instructor for nine years.

Although he is here in a different capacity this year and will be greeting his fellow veterans at the opening and closing ceremonies on behalf of DAV, he has looked forward to returning to Snowmass Village for this year's event.

Welcome back, Commander!

Make the Most of It!

Welcome to the 22nd National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic! Whether you are here for the first time or returning after many years, we hope you will make the most of your experience in Snowmass Village this week.

One sure way to do that is to meet as many people as you can this week – including other veterans, team leaders, instructors, event organizers, staff, volunteers and all the other people who will help make this week one of the best you've ever had! Make it a goal to go home with a whole host of new friends.

Experiencing all that this Clinic has to offer also means trying some new activities. If you aren't skiing, go out and climb the rock wall or try scuba diving, snowmobiling, playing goal ball or sled hockey. Try curling at the Aspen Ice Rink for something really different. Or, go to the Hot Springs in Glenwood Springs, or to Aspen for a fun ride on a gondola. Stop by for an educational course on self defense, photography, or even your basic sleight of hand magic.

There's lots of fun to be had at some of the social events as well. They have been carefully planned to make sure you not only learn to ski but also have a chance to relax and enjoy your surroundings. Enjoy the Taste of Snowmass today and Friday, where you can sample some of the great restaurant fare in this charming resort area. Another favorite activity is the instructor appreciation party on Tuesday evening. Wednesday night, a special entertainment treat will be music from the John Corbett Band. The Kickin' Cajuns will also be here to entertain you on Thursday during an Après Ski reception, and they'll return at the big victory celebration Friday night. Be sure to check the Clinic schedule so you don't miss anything.

So get out there and ski, learn a lot, meet new friends and above all, have fun! ♦

Meet Your Teams Tonight!

Immediately following tonight's opening ceremonies, all veterans will be meeting with their team leaders (and fellow team members) for a brief orientation meeting where important information will be shared. This is a mandatory meeting, so everyone needs to be there. Teams and meeting locations are as follows:

Team	Meeting Location
Baby Ruth	Snowmass Conference Center Ballroom, left stage area
Bear Bottom	Snowmass Conference Center Ballroom, right stage area
Buckskin	Snowmass Conference Center Ballroom, left back area
Bull Run	Snowmass Conference Center Ballroom, right back area
Fast Draw	Max Park Room, Wildwood Lodge
Glissade	Wildwood Lodge Lobby
Head Wall	Cabaret Foyer, Silvertree Hotel, lower lobby
Lodgepole	Cabaret Room, Silvertree Hotel, lower lobby
Longshot	Cabaret Room, Silvertree Hotel, lower lobby
Powderhorn	Bedford Room, Snowmass Mall, lower level (by the medical room)
Rocky Mountain High	Bedford Room, Snowmass Mall, lower level (by the medical room)
Showcase	Janss Auditorium, Snowmass Conference Center, 2nd floor

Veterans History Project Returns to the Mountain

This week in Snowmass Village, you will have the opportunity to participate in the Veterans History Project (VHP). This national program records your stories of service and sacrifice to make sure that veterans' histories remain part of the American consciousness.

Each 45-minute interview will be recorded, with a copy of that recording given to the Library of Congress. Your story then becomes part of our nation's official historical records. For participating, you will receive a VHP tote bag and souvenir coin.

You can schedule your interview at a variety of times this week. Make an appointment today during Registration! Interviews will take place Monday, March 31 – Thursday, April 3, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.; and on Friday, April 4 from 8 a.m. until noon. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please let the VHP team know so that another veteran can be scheduled in your place.

Interviews take place in Janss

Auditorium on the second floor of the Snowmass Conference Center.

We encourage you to contribute your stories because they are all worth preserving and sharing with future generations of Americans. ♦



Contribute your memories, momentos and stories of service to the Veterans History Project. For more information, visit: <http://www.loc.gov/vets>

Welcome 2008

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encourage you to strive even further in your participation and continue to challenge yourself. Also, help those along the way who may need a word of encouragement – or even a little kick in the pants. Never forget that if it were easy, anyone would be able to do it!

I know that you, your families, therapists and coaches, have all worked hard to prepare for the Clinic this year and are up for the challenge to make it the best experience ever. We will do whatever it takes to make sure your week meets and exceeds your expectations.

Enjoy the beauty and power of these majestic Rocky Mountains and remember, we are all here to serve you. We look forward to watching you carving down the slopes and (hopefully) not catching an edge too often. Go for it!

Most sincerely,
Sandy Trombetta
National Director,
National Disabled Veterans
Winter Sports Clinic

Snow Snaps!

Here are some photos from the 2007 Winter Sports Clinic to help get you psyched for the upcoming week. Check this section every day for photos from the previous day's events!



A Taste of Snowmass

Before hitting the slopes tomorrow, let yourself be welcomed today by the wonderful smells and flavors of all that Snowmass Village has to offer by experiencing "A Taste of Snowmass."

Each year, the village opens its hearts and kitchens to veterans, their families, coaches, and volunteers who take part in the National Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. today, on the plaza, you can enjoy superb, hand-crafted menus in a rustic mountain setting.

Snowmass boasts fine cuisine including everything from Italian homemade pasta, Southwestern and French foods, to one of the tastiest hamburgers in the nation—all sure to satisfy the most discriminating culinary connoisseur.

Did we mention desserts? All homemade with the best ingredients, enjoy a slab of the best gourmet pie you've ever tasted, or savor a melt-in-your-mouth assortment of other delicacies.

So, don't miss out on the great dining and camaraderie from village restaurateurs as they set aside their everyday business to focus on paying special tribute to you. Make your way through the crowd, grab a bite to eat and then browse the shops of the village. Let the villagers welcome you during a Taste of Snowmass. ♦



VA Benefits Counseling Available

The Denver VA Regional Office of the Veterans Benefits Administration will have benefits representatives available during the 2008 National Disabled Winter Sports Clinic for participants and their families. The benefits information table will be available Sunday, March 30, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the conference center ballroom; and Monday, March 31, from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. Information on VA benefits such as com-

penetration for service connected disabilities, home loans, specially adapted housing and automobile grants, vocational rehabilitation and employment services, education and life insurance, will be available. Representatives will have copies of the 2008 Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents book. They will also be on hand for face-to-face interviews and to answer your questions. ♦

The Slopes Taking a Toll on Your Body?

Walking, skiing, swimming and all the other activities occurring this week all have at least one thing in common. They'll most definitely work your muscles and tax your body. To relax your sore body and help enhance your Clinic experience, complimentary massages (by appointment only) are available starting April 1 in the Silvertree Hotel's Elbert Room from 9 a.m. until the therapist's schedule is full.

The massage therapist will begin taking appointments starting today at 1 p.m. To make an appointment, call (970) 710-1080. ♦



Goalball

The Winter Sports Clinic will host a goalball game and clinic in the conference center on Monday, March 31 at 7 p.m.

Goalball is a team sport for blinded athletes. It was devised by an Austrian, Hanz Lorenzen, and a German, Sepp Reindle, in 1946 to help in the rehabilitation of visually impaired World War II veterans.

The sport evolved into a competitive game over the next few decades and was brought out of obscurity by a demonstration event at the 1976 Summer Paralympics in Toronto. The sport's first championship game was held in 1978, and goalball became a part of the Paralympics during the 1980 Summer Paralympics Games.

Participants compete in teams of three, and try to throw a ball that has bells or electronic tones embedded in it, into the opposing team's goal. They must use the sounds of the bells or tones to judge the position and movement of the ball. Games consist of two 10-minute halves, and blindfolds allow sighted or partially sighted players to play on equal footing with blinded athletes. ♦



A Canadian player attempts to block a goal during the 2004 Summer Paralympics in Athens, Greece.

Opening Ceremonies

...continued from front page

Dave Gorman, DAV's executive director. The mayor of Snowmass Village, Douglas Mercatoris, will also be on hand to welcome everyone back to the greatest ski resort town anywhere!

After the formal ceremony is concluded, all participants will meet with their team leaders and enjoy a chance to get to know their fellow team members. You will also be provided with additional information and instructions that will help you in the upcoming week. (See listing of team meeting locations on page 4.)

Welcome to the 2008 Clinic – and have a safe and enjoyable week! ♦



A Special Welcome for Our Newest Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is honored to serve all veterans from all wars and conflicts, and is privileged each year to partner with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to sponsor the inspiring National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

Both organizations extend a special 'Welcome Home' to our newest veterans attending the 2008 Clinic. While you are here, we wanted to share some of the newest VA initiatives, benefits and health care services that are available for you.

First, please know that we recognize that all of you are heroes. Second, we take our mission seriously, and are committed to enhancing benefits and healthcare services you indisputably deserve. Third, both VA and DAV are working hard to make it easier for you to learn about those benefits, and also help you apply to receive them.

More and more of you are electing to claim your VA benefits. Nearly 800,000 returning Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veterans have become eligible for VA health care since October 1, 2002. Nearly 300,000 of those veterans have obtained VA health care since that time, exhibiting a wide range of medical and/or psychological conditions. VA is closely monitoring the health care utilization of our newest veterans to make sure its health care and disability programs are tailored to meet the needs of this generation of OEF/OIF war veterans.

Regarding health care, VA provides cost-free health services and nursing home care for conditions possibly related to military service and enrollment in Priority Group 6, unless eligible for enrollment in a higher priority to:

- Currently enrolled veterans and new enrollees who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003. These veterans are eligible for enhanced benefits for five years after discharge.
- Veterans discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, who applied for enrollment on or after January 28, 2008. These veterans are eligible for the enhanced benefit until January 27, 2011.

During this awesome week, as you conquer new challenges and experience an amazing spirit of camaraderie, be sure to take advantage of this unique opportunity to ask fellow vet-

erans about their VA experiences, as well as tips and advice on how to make the most of your benefits. Also, there are many VA employees helping with the event here who would be pleased to help answer your questions.

Some additional VA services that may be available to you:

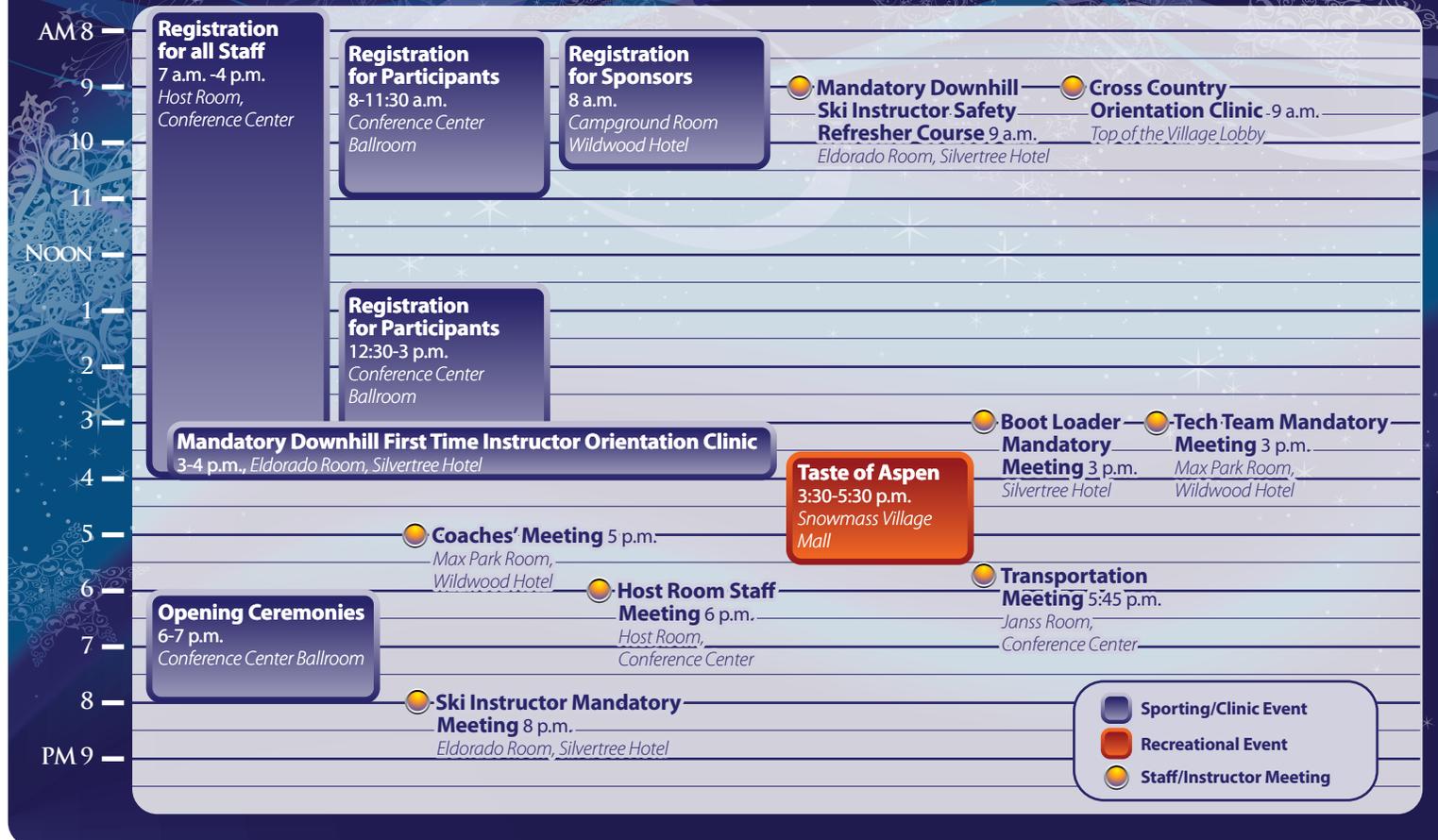
- VA, in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD), has developed an extensive outreach program to inform these veterans of their benefits.
- VA has placed staff at key military hospitals to assist returning service members.
- VA has implemented a priority scheduling system to make sure you receive needed care with no unnecessary delays.
- VA has implemented new initiatives in the area of mental health to confirm prompt evaluation and treatment, expanded counseling services and other medical care services including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Together, VA and DoD are working to identify departing service members who may be at risk for PTSD.
- VA has expanded its four polytrauma centers in Minneapolis, Palo Alto, Richmond and Tampa to encompass additional specialties for patients with multiple complex injuries.
- VA offers certain dental treatment for one-time correction of dental conditions that meet defined criteria, provided that the veteran applies for VA dental treatment within 180 days of discharge or release.

For more detailed information on these benefits, and to learn more about all VA benefits and services, check out numerous resources at www.va.gov, including:

- Combat Veteran Eligibility (Fact Sheet 16-4, Jan. 2008)
- Facts About the Department of Veterans Affairs (Fact Sheet, December 2007)

VA's Seamless Transition Program home page also provides tips for applying for VA benefits at: www.seamlesstransition.va.gov. ♦

TODAY'S SCHEDULE Sunday, March 30



GENERAL INFORMATION

Medical Clinic information

For life threatening emergencies, dial 911.

Medical room phone: (970) 923-8330

Located in the Bedford A Conference Room, one level below the mall across the street from the Mountain Chalet Hotel. Stairway access from the mall is next to Christy Sports. **Wheelchair users must use the elevator at the far end of the mall, above the main bus terminal, to get to the medical clinic level.**

A transport van is available from the Silvertree Hotel to the medical clinic. Find the medical van in front of the hotel, or call the medical clinic for transportation.

After hours: Call the medical room for recorded instructions on how to contact the "on call" medical provider. If unsuccessful, please call the hotel operator.

More on Massage

Complimentary massages are available by calling and scheduling an appointment. Massage is located in the Elbert Room in the Silvertree Hotel.

You can call for an appointment beginning Sunday, March 30 at 1 p.m., and then Monday, beginning at 9 a.m. until all slots are full. The phone number is (970) 710-1080.

Wheelchair and Prosthetics Repair

Located in the conference center Host Room.

Hours (daily):

6:30 - 8:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

- For wheelchair assistance between scheduled service hours, call (970) 710-1336 and ask for Don. Emergencies only after 6:00 p.m., please.
- If you need to contact the Prosthetics Repair person (Joe), please call (970) 710-1426. After 6 p.m., only emergencies will be responded to.

Transportation Schedule

Buses load at the conference center circle.

Snowmobiling

First Trip: Load, 6:45 a.m., depart, 7:15 a.m.

Second Trip: Load, 9 a.m., depart, 9:30 a.m.

Note: You will be assigned to either the first or second trip. Make sure you board at the correct time.

Sled Hockey:

Load at 7:45 a.m., depart at 8:15 a.m.

Cross Country Skiing

Load at 8:15 a.m., depart at 8:45 a.m.

There will be another bus loading at the conference center circle 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 they unload the 1 p.m. group, and transport anyone wishing to return to the circle. The buses will pick everyone up from the Top of the Village at 3 p.m.

Hot Springs Pool Trip:

Load at 9:30 a.m., depart at 10 a.m.

Trapshooting:

Load at 10 a.m., depart at 10:30 a.m.

Gondola Trip:

Load at 10 a.m., depart at 10:30 a.m.

Curling:

Load at 12:40 p.m., at depart 1 p.m.

Fishing:

Load at 8:40 a.m., at depart 9 a.m.

Happy Birthday!

Robert Paredes

celebrated a birthday yesterday!

Thanks to the Veterans Canteen Service, he has a birthday gift waiting for him in the Media Center, in the Erickson Room.

We truly hope you had a happy birthday and have a wonderful Winter Sports Clinic!