



National Disabled Veterans *Winter Sports Clinic*

Skier Profile

William Fry – There is Always a Way

William Fry of Beavercreek, Ohio, is one person who believes that everything is possible. He is whole-heartedly committed to the old adage, “Where there’s a will, there’s a way.”

Fry, 44, spent more than 20 years in the Air Force as a computer specialist for NATO, and travelled extensively throughout the United States and Europe. It was during his final stay in Greece that Fry was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. “They initially thought it was vertigo, but when so many things started going wrong at the same time they discovered it was MS,” Fry remembers.



An avid skier prior to his diagnosis, Fry knew that he could do it again – he just had to find a new way. That method came to him while he was receiving care at the Dayton VA Medical Center. “I was talking to a representative from the PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America) and learned about the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic,” he said. In 2008, Fry made his first trip to the annual event, held each year in Snowmass Village, Colorado. There, he participated in sled hockey, snowmobiling and skiing. He laughs about his newfound skiing technique. “Now, I start off sitting down instead of finishing that way,” he says. He is excited to return to Snowmass Village this year and may add cross country skiing to his list of events.

It seems that Fry’s positive outlook may be catching on with other local veterans from the Dayton area. Last year, Fry and two other vets were the first to attend the Winter Sports Clinic from the Dayton VA Medical Center and this year, there will be six.

Fry’s outlook is indeed positive and he believes strongly that anything is possible. “If you can’t do something, it’s only because you don’t want to,” he said. “Anything can be adapted – scuba diving, skiing, even motorcycling.” The latter has been a passion of Fry’s since he began to ride when he was five years old, so it wasn’t an activity he was ready to surrender. Fry still has limited movement in his legs and found a company to make special leg braces for him, allowing him to continue riding a motorcycle using the normal foot and hand controls.

Having a background and interest in computers, Fry now plans to learn web site design because it is something he can do on his own time and from home. As he puts it, “There is always something you can do or learn.” No matter what the obstacles may be.

Miracles on a Mountainside!