



Wednesday, April 7, 2004

Vol. 18 Number 4



Thanks of a Grateful Nation



Jenny Shafer Tankersley, Hampton VA Medical Center

When you hear the phrase, “they have the thanks of a grateful nation,” referring to America’s patriotism and appreciation for its veterans, you will know that it definitely applies to the Town of Snowmass and a core group of its citizens. They have made it financially possible to bring 22 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom and their spouses or significant others to this year’s Clinic.

The concept began with a conversation between Neil Camas, Snowmass Village Resort Association’s National Sales Manager (and a Vietnam veteran) and Sandy Trombetta, National Director for the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

Camas, a long-time advocate for this event, has served as an instructor at the Clinic for 12 years. An ex-medivac pilot and disabled veteran, Camas knows first hand the effects of being newly injured. His thoughts went immediately to how the Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom service personnel could experience a challenging and exhilarating event such as the Clinic so soon after their injuries.

The seed was planted. The next step was finding a way to make it happen. Camas first went about it alone, seeking support from the Elks and other fraternal organizations. Then he approached Susan Hamley, Marketing and Special Events Director for the Town of Snowmass. Hamley helped put forth a mass mailing to the local community and homeowners, many who live across the nation. “I could never have imagined the breath of support of the Town,” said Hamley. Soon the money started coming in, the majority of which came from Snowmass Village residents, shops, Skico and Alpine Bank. “I am so proud to live in a community with such a big heart. It is clear that this event has found the right home,” added Hamley. With an initial goal of \$7,000-8,000 to bring a few veterans and their significant others to the Clinic, the totals quickly grew to \$20,000, then \$30,000 and now \$40,000!

“The Lord wanted it to happen and it did,” said Camas. He describes this outpouring of love and support from the Town of Snowmass “a wonderful, wonderful” experience. He credits Trombetta for helping make the vision possible.

With snow swooshing from their skis and winds sweeping past their faces, this unique group of heroes know that the Town of Snowmass is at the heart of the thanks of a very grateful nation.

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

- 8:30 - 11:30 am Downhill Skiing: Bonzai, Free Fall, Sheer Bliss
- 8:30 am - 3:00 pm Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing: Ashcroft Ski Touring Center
- 9:00 - 11:00 am Scuba Diving: Silvertree Hotel Pool
- 9:00 - 11:00 am Sled Hockey: Aspen Ice Rink
- 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Rock Climbing: Conference Center Circle
- 11:30 am - 4:00 pm Shooting Sports & Archery, Basalt Trap Club
- 12:30 - 3:30 pm Downhill Skiing: Grey Wolf, Naked Lady, Sunnyside
- 1:00 - 3:00 pm Rock Climbing: Conference Center Circle
- 1:00 - 4:00 pm Horseback Riding: Carbondale
- 1:00 - 6:00 pm Trip to Aspen & Dinner at Elks Lodge: Conference Center Circle
- 2:00 - 4:00 pm Scuba Diving: Silvertree Hotel Pool
- 4:30 pm Ski Instructor Meeting: Silvertree Hotel, El Dorado Room
- 4:30 pm Team Leader Meeting: Stonebridge Inn, Council Room
- 8:30 - 12:00 pm DJ & Karaoke: Conference Center Ballroom

WEATHER CORNER

40% Chance of Rain/Snow Showers

UV Index 7 - High

Today's High: 52
Tonight's Low: 31



MEALS SCHEDULE

Conference Center Ballroom

Breakfast 6:30 - 8:45 am

Lunch 11:00 - 1:00 pm

Dinner 4:00 - 5:15 pm

Prosthetic & Wheelchair Repair

Conference Center

Host Room

6:30 - 8:45 am

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

4:00 - 5:30 pm

In between those hours:

Wheelchair Repair, Call Don:
710-9500

Prosthetic Repair, Call Joe:
710-9098

Instructional Workshop

Wheelchair Self Defense

Special Agent Mark Copanzzi

United States Secret Service

Max Park Room, Wildwood Hotel

7:30 - 9:00 pm

CEU Opportunities

Adaptive Aquatics

Kearns Room, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Animals as Teachers and Healers

Kearns Room, 7:30 - 9:00 pm



HealthWatch

Tips for Today

Alright everyone, Dr. Clinic says it's time to review what you've learned so far:

Wear your sunscreen! Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or greater, and use it often. Also, don't forget the sunglasses!

Take care of those eyes! Use moisturizing eye drops and nose sprays to keep eye burning and nose stuffiness to a minimum.

First ice, then heal! When you strain a muscle or joint, think ice for the first 24 to 48 hours.

Drink plenty of fluids! Because of the low humidity, along with the strenuous exercise you are undertaking this week, it is very easy to become dehydrated. Always carry water with you and drink it!

Medical Information for Participants

PHONE: (970) 923-5184

Medical Emergencies:

- Call 911 for an ambulance for transport to the local emergency room.

Non-Emergent Care, 8:00 am - 9:00 pm:

- The Bedford 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 access to get to the medical room level is using the elevator at the far end of the mall above the main bus terminal.

Transport:

- Van transport is available from the Silvertree Hotel to the medical room. Find the medical van in front of the hotel, or call the medical room for transport.

After Hours:

- Call the Silvertree Hotel operator at "0" or (970) 923-3520, who will contact the doctor on call.



Specially Adapted Housing Grants

There will be a class tonight explaining the two types of grants available for adaptive housing, with discussion of eligibility criteria and requirements for the program. The class will be from 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Kearns Room in the Conference Center.

The Veterans History Project

There are still slots available for interviews in the Veterans History Project, to capture your account of your military service for preservation by the Library of Congress. If you are interested, contact Butch Miller in the **Janss Auditorium** on the second level of the Convention Center, **today through tomorrow** from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm**.

Sore and Achey, In Need of Relief?

Chester's massage team is here to serve Clinic participants! If you're feeling a little beat up from your day on the slopes, call 710-9506, or visit the Caberet Room in the Silvertree Hotel, today through tomorrow from 9:00 am till 12:00 noon; and 2:00 to 6:00 pm. On Friday, hours are 9:00 am till noon.

Menu

Lunch today (11:00 am - 1:00 pm): Soup and Salad; Barbecued Chicken; Italian Sausage Sandwiches; Chips; Granola Bars.

Dinner today (4:00 - 5:15 pm): Green Bean Salad; German Potato Salad; Stuffed Cabbage Rolls; Pork Chops with Sauerkraut; Red Cabbage; Carrots and Potatoes; Bread; Coffee and Tea.

Breakfast tomorrow (6:30 - 8:45 am): Fresh Fruit; Oatmeal; Scrambled Eggs; Bacon and Ham; Home Fries; Coffee, Teas and Juices.

Hitting the Slopes!



Chris Nowak,
Clayton, N.J.



Joe Garrett,
San Diego, Calif.



Richard Miller,
Costa Mesa, Calif.



Don Peters,
Anchorage, Alaska

Our Latest Picture of Inspiration

By Meredith Steiner, National Programs and Special Events

This week, 325 participants from 41 states are taking on the thrill of the mountains at the 2004 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. One hundred and eight are first timers and 22 of them served our nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). One such veteran is David Vidana, 25, of Sun Valley, Calif.

This California Marine enthusiastically registered for the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, and is snowboarding for the first time ever in Snowmass this week. Initially, Vidana was apprehensive about snowboarding. "It was better than I ever expected because of the atmosphere and the attentiveness from the ski instructors," said Vidana. "Next year, I definitely will try downhill although I feel very natural on the snowboard. Just being here makes me believe that people are able to do anything, regardless of their disability."

Instructors are vital to the success of veterans like Vidana. One instructor who has taken notice of our newest heroes is Don Rogers, a ski instructor from Santa Fe, N.M., who has participated in the Clinic for the past ten years. "What keeps me coming back year after year are the participants," said Rogers. "I met a couple of the Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans last night and they are amazing human beings. All of the veterans are wonderful, inspiring people. There is so much love exchanged between the participants and the instructors."

In addition to the importance of the instructors are the coaches who accompany the veterans here and the team leaders who coordinate their activities at the Clinic. Team Leader Dan Bence said, "Some of the Iraqi Freedom veterans knew each other at Walter Reed and this Clinic is sort of like a reunion. From what I've noticed they are not having any problems taking on the mountain." The OIF veterans come from 14 states, from New York to Alaska. The youngest is 21 and the oldest attending is 36.

As for Vidana, he is excited already about next year. Although he felt very natural on a snowboard and hopes to try downhill next time, skiing is not his only memorable experience at the Clinic. Vidana participated in the Veterans History Project (VHP), an oral history of his military experience that will become part of our nation's official history at the Library of Congress. "I recommend all of the veterans here make their appointment to take part in the Project," said Vidana. He also climbed the wall on Monday and hit the pool for scuba yesterday.

As Dan Bence reminds us, "This Clinic is a great reminder of the price we pay for freedom." We thank all of you for your courage, inspiration and energy here at the 2004 Winter Sports Clinic.

Goal Ball



On Monday night, the Clinic's annual goal ball tournament was held in the Conference Center before a large and enthusiastic crowd. Sixteen teams battled to work their way through the bracket, all vying to come out on top. When the dust settled, teams Four and Eight were tied for third place, team Seven captured second place, and team One came away with the championship. Congratulations to all the goal ball players!

Team One

Trisha Owens
Jason Lewis
Steve Kendall

Team Two

Gary Waldfogel
Bob Heins
Chuck Yancey
Jim Hogan

Team Three

Ron Clark
Steve Moffitt
Scott Nyman

Team Four

Charles Blackwell
Lisa Bard
Pat White

Team Five

Pablo Guerra
Todd Kemery
Gloria Kennedy

Team Six

Mimi Dowling
Danae Matthews
Harry Vazarenaz

Team Seven

Charlie Hoel
Gary Waldfogal
Bryce Davis

Team Eight

Erin Cavit
Alen Mackey
Chuck Kays