



## World's Largest Disabled Ski Clinic Snowmass, Colorado

Another year at the Winter Sports Clinic has come and gone. As usual, I met many new faces and made many new friends. The sad part is how many of those new friends are barely older than my son as they come back from Iraq and Afghanistan with brain injuries, missing limbs, blindness or paralysis. The excessive amount of new injuries does shine a new light on the clinic as well as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games but the price is obviously way too high. I would much rather see the numbers starting to dwindle instead of setting record attendance levels as we are doing now. I thank God for events like the WSC and the NVWG to focus the attention of these young men and women on the many things they can do instead of the things they cannot do anymore.

Aspen/Snowmass had record snowfalls this year and we reaped the benefits of the great winter weather. I have seen years when you could see patches of grass on the slopes due to the warm air and melting snow but not this year as we got more than a foot of snow over night on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Downhill skiing is my favorite event of the clinic. However, if you don't care for the speed and "on the edge" ride of downhill, there are so many other events taking place that you are bound to find a few that strike your fancy. First, you can do your downhill skiing in the security of two professional

ski instructor's hands. Most quads just sit back and enjoy the ride as their instructors bucket them down the slopes with no danger involved. They have cross country skiing, snowmobiling, curling, trap shooting, sled hockey, gondola rides in Aspen, goal ball, rock wall climbing, concerts every night, parties every night, great food, classes everyday on a variety of subjects, the golden opportunity to meet fellow veterans with similar injuries and the chance to meet a few celebrities.

The clinic is always around the last week of March – first week of April so don't let the next one go by without you. Applications usually get sent out around November. Come out and join Al Cummings and me as we enjoy the benefits of KIPVA membership. As they say, membership has its privileges.

-by  
Jim Green  
Sports Director