



BESPOKE PLUS

"Pushing to be Better, Faster, and Stronger"

September 2006

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RGK
Wheelchairs, Inc.

Join us at the
12th Annual Rehab
Equipment Expo

September 12th

Seaforth Armouries
1650 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C.

Booth
56, 57, 58, 59

Free Admission

Lunch
Education
Resources

Wheelchairs
Accessories
Cushions
Backs and
Secondary
Supports

Varilite .ca 4RGK.com

RGK Ergo

RGK's ERGO seating is well proven as a superior option for wheelchair users. RGK ergo seating can reduce the amount of dump desired by one third while having the balance factor remain the same as per a straight seat setup. This not only provides better balance and comfort, but it also distributes pressure better and makes it a lot easier for the end user to get in and out of the chair.

Now, there are an increasing number of manufacturers incorporating this design into their stable of units available to the general public. Congratulations for coming on board!

RGK
Wheelchairs, Inc.

RGK has had
ERGO seating
for over a decade!

Congratulations to the
other companies now
promoting enhanced
seating and mobility!

Wheelchairs
Accessories
Cushions
Backs and
Secondary
Supports

ERGO
SEATING

Varilite .ca 4RGK.com

Welcome to the 12th Annual Rehab Equipment Expo September 12th at the Seaforth Armouries in Vancouver, BC.

GF Strong's, Ian Denison has assembled a fine group of professionals to educate, enlighten, and otherwise encourage info sharing between clinicians and consumers.

Our booth space is at 56, 57, 58, & 59!



AMERICAN KENDA

Kenda has been making high quality tires, tubes, and flat free products since 1962! Today, they are making products for scooters, power chairs, sport, and daily use chairs to give comfortable rides, longer wear, and increased puncture resistance for indoor and outdoor use. Last year, they purchased **American Airless** and relocated that manufacturing facility from California to their biggest North American facility in Ohio. Visit www.kendausa.com and www.americanairless.com for product lines and more information.

Go Titanium

Most anyone using a wheelchair would like to have one that is stronger, lighter, and more durable, but they often want a number of options whether they are needed or not. At RGK we promote using only the options required to meet the needs of getting from A to B comfortably. This will ensure that you end up with as light a product as possible and the least number of moving parts; therefore, a stronger more reliable product. Most of us have listened to the manufacturer's promotion and understand that titanium is stronger, lighter, and has superior corrosion properties over chrome moly and aluminum. When we look at the frames alone, a titanium frame is 50% lighter than an equal sized chrome moly frame with the ID and OD we use, but this is only about one third the overall weight of the wheelchair. We add wheels which may be anywhere from one to six pounds per wheel depending on the size, type, tire, tube, axle, etc. Then there is a folding backrest that adds in 258 grams, aluminum side guards add 305 grams, screw in push handles is another 200



Titanium frames are 50% the weight of chrome moly frames (the frame is about one quarter to one third the total weight of the chair). Complete RGK titanium chairs weigh in at about 24% less than the same size and optioned chrome moly based chairs!

What Wheels?

corima.com
decon.se
glancewheels.com
karma.com.tw
Mbl.dk
nthawk.com
spinergy.com
strykersorano.com
sunmetal.com
vulcanwheels.com
velocitywheels.com
x-corewheels.com
zipp.com

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grams, and quick release stroller handles at 650 grams per pair the unit is becoming a lot heavier! The brakes, type of footrest, upholstery, cushion, and back products all add in the pounds. There are a large number of castors available in different sizes, composite and metal materials, all of which have different weights. A titanium camber bar is 32% lighter than an equivalent chrome moly camber bar, but the piece is usually only 20 or so inches long and is not a significant amount of weight in the overall scheme of things; but, we only use a titanium camber bar in fixed frame situations or when the camber is less than three degrees primarily because of the amount of flex that piece would have. So, although there are a lot of areas to be aware of when we talk overall weight, we often focus on the six pound difference between titanium and chrome moly. This does not seem like that much when a lot of us would be better off losing that much around the waist! However, when that six pounds is at arms length and you have to lift it 10 to 30 times a day, 300 to 900 times a month, 3600 to 10,800 times a year, my shoulders tell me go for it and reduce the weight of the product as much as possible and minimize the danger of repetitive strain injury! When the laws of physics get done with that six pounds it becomes more like 16 when that six around my stomach has not changed as dramatically! **Note:** A Manchester University study revealed that titanium products with Spinergy wheels had 25% improvement in acceleration, 5.5% increase in speed, -26% weight reduction, and -15% reduced energy requirement in relation to chrome moly units with standard steel spoke wheels!

VARILITE®

VARILITE® is the leader in ultra-lightweight Air-Foam Floatation wheelchair seating systems and back supports. Air-Foam Floatation combines the best characteristics of air and foam to provide excellent pressure distribution, comfort and stability. Check out the **Evolution™**, **Meridian™**, and **Wave™** Series at our booth along with the whole family of postural support systems including other seat cushions, back supports, secondary supports, and seating accessories. See the web sites at www.varilite.com and www.varilite.ca.

Fresh Ideas
 New Solutions
 More Choices
 Evolution Wave Meridian Wave™
 Wheelchairs Accessories Cushions Backs and Secondary Supports
 Varilite.ca 4RGK.com

Bits and Bytes

- MedTrade Atlanta Sept 19-26, 2006 Varilite® Booth 3753 Kenda 853;
- CSMC Oct 4-6, 2006;
- Shoppers in Calgary Nov 3 and Toronto November 20, 21, 2006.

BESPOKE PLUS helps market and promotes **RGK Wheelchairs**, **VARILITE®** Seating and Positioning Systems, **KENDA** Tires, **SPINERGY** Wheels, and other products through the North American company called **RGK Wheelchairs, Inc.** Back issues on www.4RGK.com.

If you have something that you think we should be expounding on, please contact the editor, Reg McClellan.