

*RGK Wheelchairs, Inc., distributes RGK Products in North America, VARILITE® Seating Systems in Canada, along with Kenda Tires and Tubes, and is now in the process of introducing KiMobility!*



*"Ki," pronounced "key," is the Latin root word meaning "to set in motion."*

*KiMobility is dedicated to developing innovative products that provide optimal performance for the user. They are set to design and build the lightest, most cost effective, and energy efficient folding wheelchair available on the market! More next month and at CSMC!*

## Congrats BR, CA, MX, US!

The USA captured gold on both the men's and women's side in wheelchair basketball at RIO 2007, a multi-sport, multi-disabled event dubbed the ParaPan American Games.

This event followed the Pan American Games held as a qualification tournament for the Beijing Olympics and, likewise, qualified individuals and teams for the Paralympic Games to be held September 06-17, 2008 in Beijing, China.

Congratulations to all the teams, particularly to Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the USA for their qualification to Beijing, and best of luck to the America's as they take on the world next year!



## High Pressure Tires 101

Alan Murphy, Business Admin student and contract worker for us, has had his share of putting wheels together and in particular, changing tires. He has provided his version of changing tires 101 with an emphasis on high pressure tires.

He starts out by stressing how much easier high pressure tires make life for everyday wheelchair users, but is quick to point out that you better make sure you have good rim tape or you will end up with flat tires and a tremendous annoyance.

It is his experience that most flat tires occur from the inside with high pressure tires because the tube is pushed through the spoke holes; tubes are not PSI rated as tires, but when you get up over 55 PSI the vast majority of straight rubber liners to protect the tube from spoke hole damage are not strong enough to do the job and the user is well advised to use the high pressure liners or rim tape on the market or simply put a couple wraps of electrical tape over the rubber liner to avoid issues.



1. Deflate the tube, then work one side of the tire off with three tire levers (use composite as per the black Kenda ones on the left unless you are not concerned about marking your rims or you require additional strength).
2. Remove the tube then pull the old tire off the rim.
3. Check the liner or rim tape and replace it if necessary as per the note above.
4. Check the sidewall of the new tire for directional placement and put half the tire on the rim opposite the push rim.
5. Put the stem of the tube in and place the tube inside the tire. (Some people like to put a little air in the tube at this point and others like to use a non-messy lubricant to ensure that the tube slides into the tire well and is less likely to be pinched in the final assembly).
6. Using your hands and starting with the tire near the valve, put the tire on the rim, massaging it all the way around making sure that the tube is not being pinched anywhere. The more massaging and positioning of the tire in the deepest part of the rim you do, the easier it will be to get the whole tire on the rim.
7. If you are not able to put the tire all the way on, we recommend the use of a tire bead jack for the final few inches of tire placement (see on right).
8. Inflate the tire to the PSI recommended on the sidewall of the tire and inspect the tire for proper seating.
9. Completely deflate the tire and check around the rim to ensure that the tube is not seated anywhere underneath the bead of the tire and then reinflate the tire to the proper PSI and put the cap on top of the valve stem and you should be good to go!





Randy Willett, VP Medical with Cascade Designs (VARILITE®) has had a busy month bringing on board Sherri Olsen, OTR/L, MBA Clinical Education Specialist, and Ray Dapp, Global Sales Manager. We will take the opportunity to introduce them more formally in a future issue.

Welcome on board and we will see Sherri at CSMC and Ray at MedTrade!

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## Belts, Bandits, Bases, Etc.

VARILITE® is well known for its seating systems that compliment the job done by a wheelchair to get a person from A to B. Their cushions and backs are the key to postural support with the Air-Foam Flotation Technology that has made them a leader in the field.

VARILITE® also has a line of secondary supports to enhance overall posture and improve function, contoured chest harnesses, hip belts, chest belts, and the Band-It for ankle support! They come in a variety of styles and sizes to meet the prescribed needs and compliment all the other accessories that we do not talk about nearly enough, like the drop bases, rigidizers, wedges, and cheat sheets.

## Glance Wheels

Glance Wheels are back producing and shipping! We have recently received part of a back order which includes Vortex, Cross, and Sun 25" wheels. We were shipped a couple pair of Terminator wheels which have yet to arrive and must be floating around a customs or UPS warehouse in Buffalo or Fort Erie. Glance Wheels web site includes the latest updates and information pertaining to the development and distribution of their product line. Check out [www.glancewheels.com](http://www.glancewheels.com).

## Hall of Fame Losses

It is with sadness that we relay the passing of Stan Labanowich, Cliff Crase, and Al Youakim, three NWBA Hall of Famers and icons in the development of wheelchair basketball over the last five decades! Joe Luceri, Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee has had a tough job this summer with the reporting of these losses in addition to Debbie Dillon Lightfoot whom we reported on earlier in this publication. The NWBA Hall of Fame includes approximately 110 inducted members and was formed in 1973 on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA), a USA based organization that has welcomed Canadian involvement since 1954 when the Montreal Wheelchair Wonders competed in what is known as the Final 4!

## Bits and Bytes

- Rehab Equipment Expo (REE) September 11 Vancouver, BC;
- CSMC September 19-21 at the Congress Center, Toronto, ON.;
- St. Joseph's/Parkwood Hosp., Clayton Gerein Event September 24, London, ON;
- OSOT Conference North Bay, ON September 28-29;
- MedTrade October 02-04 in Orlando, FL;
- Rehacare Dusseldorf, Germany October 3-6;
- Interurban Spinal Cord Conference, Hamilton, ON., October 25-26.

**BESPOKE PLUS** helps to market and promote **RGK Wheelchairs**, **VARILITE®** Seating and Positioning Systems, **KENDA** Tires, **SPINERGY** and **GLANCE** Wheels, and other products; back issues at [www.4RGK.com](http://www.4RGK.com).

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

