



# BESPOKE PLUS

*"If your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt."*

## Active Living Alliance



Jane Arkell, Executive Director of the Active Living Alliance (ALA), thanks everyone who took the time to complete their on-line survey distributed the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013. They wanted to know how children between the ages 5 to 17 spend their time after school; what parents think about after school programs that their children are participating in; and what children who are not in after school programming are doing during this time period. They have received a good response and are now tabulating the results. The findings will be used to educate parents about the value of after school initiatives in increasing physical activity and healthy eating, to influence the decisions parents make about after school programs, and to help after school programs better reflect the needs of children with disabilities and their parents.

This initiative supports a collaborative formed in 2010 called the Canadian Active After School Partnership (CAASP). For more information on this, check out the ALA at [www.ala.ca](http://www.ala.ca) or send a note to Jane Arkell, Executive Director at [jarkell@magma.ca](mailto:jarkell@magma.ca).

## VARILITE® at ISS

Randy Willet recently introduced the newest VARILITE® distributor, SMOI, doing business as Specialized Mobility Operations and Innovation, Pvt. Ltd. SMOI's territory is the important, fast growing country of India.

Under the leadership of their Managing Director, Prashant Singh, SMOI launched the first India Seating Symposium last November. The University of Pittsburgh's Rehabilitation Engineering department supported the symposium and members of its staff were key presenters. Susan Cwiernia, VARILITE® Clinical Education Specialist, represented the company at the symposium and then

worked with SMOI to introduce VARILITE® products to clinics and therapists in India.

VARILITE® will be at the 29<sup>th</sup> International Seating Symposium (ISS) March 5-9 at Opryland in Nashville, TN. Stop by **booth 95** and say hello!

## Ki Mobility at ISS

**Booth 179** is where all the new products from Ki Mobility will be on display at ISS, but just check out their web site to see all the changes that have occurred in the last two months.



The Rogue reviews are great, the on-line Shoppe is now open, the press page has lots of reading, and the on-line parts manual makes it easy to visualize and label every part of the family of Ki Mobility products; and it likely allows Canadian engineer Murray Slagerman and his team to now get a little more rest.

## RGK Update



We expect to see a number of new developments coming mid year from RGK in both daily use and active living products.

They have always had a number of sponsored athletes/ambassadors and currently have an open invitation for folks to apply to be in the 2013 crop of the chosen ones. Do you think you may be an ideal ambassador for 2013? Check out [www.RGKLife.com](http://www.RGKLife.com) and click on the contact us link to apply.



Note: Fantasy Green and Blue colors are discontinued!

## Can I Try it a Month

If I had a nickel for every time I hear this “can I try it for a month to see if I like it not” I would be rich. I am sure that the dealer network would be a lot richer as they are more likely to get this being on the front line so to speak. What is baffling to me is that more and more folks want to have a custom built, one off unit, and there is an expectation that someone else will fund the building of a one off unit.

Generally speaking, those requests come with a caveat where the end user requires funding approval which takes anywhere from a month to six months, but there is an expectation that the two hour specification sheet be done and that we provide a drawing of the unit at our earliest convenience.

We continue to work with each and every end user request to do the best job possible in nailing down the needs with the information we glean and build units that we collectively feel will best meet the individual needs; and if it does not work, we regroup, rethink, and meet the end user needs.

## ISS – User Friendly

For the first time, the International Seating Symposium’s exhibit hall will be open to consumers on Wednesday, March 6. This will give end users the opportunity to see, touch, and explore the latest in products and services from over 100 manufacturers of mobility and seating products. Check out [www.iss.pitt.edu](http://www.iss.pitt.edu) for more info.



## Losing Friends

The wheelchair basketball community have lost a number of good friends recently. Ernie Blanchette, long time wheelchair basketball player and Abilities Council employee in Saskatchewan passed away. And, a fellow he would have competed against in his early years, Ken Hall, former national team member also passed. Most recently, national team coach, Jerry Tonello lost his father.

We are thinking of these folks and their families wishing them all the best.



## Maintenance

It is always a challenge to keep your chair in good working order; we some how seem to take our rides for granted. A friend of mine sent this image before doing a bit of overdue maintenance.



Manufacturers produce a user manual and have a good portion of it talking about maintenance. In the case of Ki Mobility, the following is provided:

### A. INTRODUCTION

1. Proper maintenance will improve performance and extend the useful life of your chair.
2. Clean your chair regularly. This will help you find loose or worn parts and make your chair easier to use.
3. Repair or replace loose, worn, bent or damaged parts **before using this chair.**
4. To protect your investment, have all major maintenance and repair work done by your authorized supplier.

**If you fail to heed these warnings your chair may fail and cause severe injury to the rider or others.**

## Bits and Bytes

- 49 29<sup>th</sup> ISS March 5-9, 2013 Nashville, TN;
- 49 Superior Seating March 21-23 Thunder Bay, ON ;
- 49 MEDiChair Shows in Regina/Saskatoon Mar 25/27;
- 49 Rolling Spokes Reopening May 16 Brandon, MB;
- 49 Spitfire Challenge Aug 2-5, 2013 GTA;
- 49 OSOT Conference September 27-28, London, ON!

**BESPOKE PLUS** helps to market and promote **RGK Wheelchairs**, **VARILITE®** Seating and Positioning Systems, **KENDA**, and **Ki Mobility** products, along with Spinergy, Glance, Frog Legs, Schwalbe, Sun, MBL, Natural Fit, Blax, and other great products. **Please give us a call or contact the editor, Reg McClellan, if you have something that you think we should expound on.**