



Quattro Club

RGK are now producing a version of their famous court chair for club use ... a unit that is made in four different widths and a series of different set ups to meet the needs of a Class 1, 2, 3, or 4!

It comes standard with a Chrome moly frame, an offensive wing, side guards, height adjustable back and footrest, quick release height adjustable fifth wheel, cross laced quick release wire wheels complete with Kenda tyres, hard anodized hand rims, 72mm Krypto castors with extruded forks, adjustable black upholstery, 5cm foam cushion and a calf strap all for \$2,500.00 retail!

Pressure Mapping

PRESSURE MAPPING MYTHS & FACTS (Reprinted from VARILITE® LITE Reading)

Therapists in seating and mobility clinics often use pressure mapping systems to help detect areas that could be at risk for developing pressure sores. Pressure mapping shows where pressure is being exerted and distributed, and whether a person is weight bearing evenly. This helps the therapist make decisions about cushion and seating system choice for clients. However, recommendations for a cushion and seating system can not be made based on pressure mapping alone.

Myths of Pressure Mapping

- It can take the place of a traditional hands on assessment by therapist
- Acts as a stand alone diagnostic device
- It will identify all significant problem areas
- Guarantees support surface (cushion) performance
- Requirement for every patient assessment

Limitations

- Imprecise & subject to many variables
- Uncertainty of absolute pressures (what is zero?)
- Measures pressure – NOT shear or friction
- Must understand, many factors can cause skin breakdown, not pressure alone
- Most systems do not measure creep (the effect of sitting on a cushion for many hours)
- Position of sensor pad is crucial for accurate reading straight, right way up, creases)
- Cost of system

Who Needs Pressure Mapping?

- Clients with any stage pressure ulcer or history of pressure ulcer
- Clients who have had significant medical intervention
- Flaps/grafts, amputations, spinal fusions
- Clients who have had equipment modifications
- May be beneficial as a tool for justification to the insurance company
- Clients or caregivers requiring education on pressure relief; use as a form of biofeedback to show clients how effective their pressure lift or pressure relief technique is.

Protocols

- Test in current system
- Test on flat/firm surface
- Assess positioning strategies, cushions, backs, etc
- Document and compare results
- Make recommendations from overall assessment, not just pressure map results
- 6-8 minutes is generally the optimal sitting time before stable pressure measurements should be taken – but pressure could increase up to 20 minutes

As a reference, please go to http://varilite.com/knowledge_pressuremaps.aspx for a visual of pressure mapping we have done with the VARILITE® cushions. These maps show that overall, VARILITE® cushions perform very well! **Sherri Olsen, OTR/L, MBA.**



Retired???

Many of you have seen this couple hanging out at our trade show events. Meet my big sister Mable (Nurse) and her husband Lloyd Haase (Engineer).

Thank you very much guys for another super job at ISS and that 50th must be coming soon (picture above is from the 45th)!

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Ki Mobility C5 Ti



Light, stiff, scratch and corrosion-resistant, the Catalyst 5Ti uses the alloy Ti3AL/2.5V — more than twice as strong as aluminum at the same weight; and now you can get a titanium folder with all the features and options available on the popular Catalyst 5. These units shipped in the last two weeks and have some of these features:

• Innovative Swing Away Footrests

They can swing-in or swing-out, latch straight on, and they don't have to swing completely away to take them off. It's the easiest swing-away you will find.

• Easy Adjust Axle Plate

Only one wrench is needed for this adjustment. The locking index washer makes adjustments a snap.



• **Height Adjustable Arms with a “no-rattle” design** - Arm rests lift on and off and adjust easily.

ISS a Success

The International Seating Symposium has become a premier event for educators, therapists, manufacturers, and everyone else in the seating and mobility field to network and learn from their peers. The organizing committee through UBC in Vancouver ran a very successful event this year.

Next year, the ISS team at the University of Pittsburgh will run the 25th ISS in Orlando, March 11 - 14 (Pre-Conference Workshops, March 10). ISS will be returning to the same location as the 2007 Symposium, the Buena Vista Palace Resort and Spa, Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), FL. The ISS web site is housed at the U of Pittsburgh www.iss.pitt.edu and provides all the information you need to make your decision to attend in 2009!

Bits and Bytes

- CWBL Conference Finals March 14-16 Sherbrooke, QC;
- NWBT Final Four Lexington, KY;
- CWBL Finals April 11-13, Regina, SK;
- Drug Trading 2008 Show April 11-3, Toronto Congress Center;
- Prairie Seating by Therapy First April 17-18, Winnipeg, MB;
- MEDIChair Regina Show April 22 and MEDIChair Saskatoon April 24;
- MEDIChair Oakville (Halton) April 24!

BESPOKE PLUS helps to market and promote **RGK Wheelchairs**, **VARILITE®** Seating and Positioning Systems, **KENDA**, and **Ki Mobility** products, along with Spinergy, Gance, Rogue, Frog Legs, Schwalbe, KIK, Sun, MBL and other great products.

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