



OmegaTrac wheelchair has a smooth, comfortable ride. This one is painted Deere green.

“All Terrain” Wheelchair Rides Like A Cadillac

What has shock absorbers, automotive-type suspension, and enough power to pull a half ton cart? It's the OmegaTrac Wheelchair built by a company that normally manufactures airplanes.

What prompted Tom Finch of TEFTEC, the manufacturer, to start building wheelchairs was a terrible accident between his son Jim and a drunk driver. The accident left Jim so badly paralyzed he can only move his head. Tom says, “Jimmy was just 14 years old at the time of the accident in 1978. When he got out of the hospital a year and half later we were scared to death because the chair seemed to have a mind of its own. We tried another model with the same results. So we decided to build something better.”

The OmegaTrac chair is designed to handle obstacles – it'll jump right over a 6-in. curb – and it's so heavy built one chair was hit by a Ford F-250 in an intersection and it stopped the truck.

Jim Finch himself did much of the engineering on the chair. His father taught him engineering and he uses a voice-activated computer.

Tom's oldest son, Tom III provided all the computer and software backup. Also an engineer like his Dad and Jim, Tom III primary does electrical designs and runs the manufacturing division.

One unique aspect of the OmegaTrac chair is that the suspension components are aluminum and heat-treated like those on a Corvette so the chair has a smooth and comfortable ride. This ride is not cheap. A basic chair sells for around \$18,000, a price

that Tom says is not out of line for a specialized chair.

The chair features height adjustment that lets the rider adapt to tables of various heights. It also makes it easier to ride in a van.

“Many people spend \$10-\$15,000 dollars adjusting a van to be the right size. A lot of people in wheelchairs never get to see out a window. Our chair makes it easy to drop down. The chair is designed for people up to 600 lbs. It's also designed for rough terrain and can be fitted with dual wheels.”

Other options available are air suspension, power tilt and recline, luggage racks, and a tow hitch. The chair will tow about a half ton cart. Directional stability is also where the OmegaTrac chair really shines, besides allowing the driver to steer straight, the chair is also very maneuverable and will turn in an area with a radius smaller than a yardstick.

The chair can also cross through water up to 4 in. deep. The normal maximum speed is 6 mph. Although most of the chairs come in black, you can also order them in John Deere Green.

TEFTEC individualizes each chair's seat to fit the user. Tom says they provide springs to match the weight of the person. “I usually tell people that this is not an all terrain vehicle. Drive with care.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Finch, TEFTEC, 6929 Old Spring Branch Rd., Spring Branch, Texas 78070 (ph 888 234-1433 or 830 885-7588; fax 830 885-7586).

Monitoring Blood Pressure Just Got Easier

A just introduced device makes it easy to check your blood pressure daily, save the readings electronically, and calculate weekly averages. The wristwatch-style “Mark of Fitness” monitor will keep tabs on two people.

It has automatic inflation and deflation so that once the start button is pressed, it will inflate a band around the wrist to the proper pressure, then deflate and provide a reading. “There's nothing manual about it,” says Stuart Lewis, distributor. “It is truly idiot proof and won this year's Innovation Award for design and engineering at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.”

The monitor comes with two AAA batteries, a hard “clam shell” carrying case, and a two year warranty. It sells for as low as \$99 in the U.S.



Wristwatch-style monitor saves your blood pressure readings electronically and also calculates weekly averages.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steven Ray, Mark of Fitness Head Office, 621 Shrewsbury Ave., Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702 (ph 732 842-4402). In Canada, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Unicare Medical Products, Inc., 770 Lawrence Ave. West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6A 1B8 (ph 800 668-2030).

FARM SHOW®

New Products Especially For Women And The Farm, Ranch Home

“Emergency Tube” Helps Rescue Teams

Fire fighters and other response teams can quickly access critical information about your farm if you take advantage of this new “Emergency Tube” idea developed by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Guelph, Ontario.

The 2-in. dia., 12-in. long weathertight plastic tube is designed to mount on the farm's main electric meter pole. The tube has a light reflective label which makes it highly visible to emergency crews. The idea is to enclose a map of the farmstead that lists the location of tanks, pesticides, compressed gas and other hazards, electrical breakers, available sources of water, location of livestock and machinery, etc.

The tube snaps into a metal clip that attaches to the meter pole.

“We started it as a pilot project four years ago and have sold several thousand of the units through our association,” says Andrew Graham, program advisor. “The response from firefighters and farm safety groups across Canada has been very supportive. Fire departments tell us they won't enter a burning machinery shed unless they first know exactly what's in it. The forms can also include information about your household, such as where the bedrooms are, where the kids are supposed to be, etc. The forms can also pinpoint where your most valuable items are, so if the rescue team has time to save only one item they know what to go after. It's important to keep the information updated every year. We suggest mounting the tube on the meter pole because that's where firemen have to go to shut off the main power.

“We encourage community groups and farm organizations to take the Emergency Tube on as a project in cooperation with local firefighters and other sponsors. We discourage the sale of single tubes to



This 2-in. dia., 12-in. long plastic “Emergency Tube” snaps into a metal clip that attaches to the farm's main electric meter pole. The idea is to enclose a map of the farmstead that lists the location of tanks, pesticides, compressed gas and other hazards as well as electrical breakers, available sources of water, location of livestock and machinery, etc.

inquiring individuals. The idea won't work unless all local rescue teams are aware of it. The cost is \$12 per Emergency Tube and includes the forms to go inside.”

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Andrew Graham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, 1st Floor, 1 Stone Road West, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 4Y2 (ph 519 826-4214; fax 4224).

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