Hearing accessibility in public

By John Allen, Port Orchard

You’ve finally decided that your hearing loss has isolated you from social events and public places long enough and you’re ready to enjoy public events again—but are public events ready for you?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
The ADA, written in 1990, is the most visible and most mentioned piece of law dealing with access for persons with disabilities. This law, imposed by Congress on state and local governments and on commercial enterprise doing business with the public, is simply a well-intended list of concepts. However, the ADA also mandated that the Federal Access Board develop a set of guidelines that translate these concepts into measurable rules. The result was the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), issued in 1991 and now amended through 2002. The ADAAG covers many subjects applicable to hearing access, but we’ll address only assembly areas here.

Assembly areas
For hearing accessibility, an assembly area is a space where audible communications are integral to the use of the space. Assembly areas must have a permanently installed assistive listening system if there are at least 50 fixed seats or if there is an audio amplification system with any number of fixed seats (concert and lecture halls, theaters, courtrooms, stadiums, etc.) All other assembly areas must be capable of using a portable assistive listening system (meeting rooms, classrooms, welcome areas, etc.)

In both of these situations, receivers and listening accessories must be provided and signage must be posted. The type of system may be Infrared, FM, or Induction Loop (though rare). Churches are exempt from this requirement, and facilities of historical significance get special treatment. Existing facilities (as of 1991) must comply, unless they can demonstrate undue burden.

What to expect
Now, what do these requirements mean to you, the person who arrives for an event at a public assembly area? You should expect to find signage (blue and white hearing access sign) at the entrance, guiding you to a location where you can check out a receiver and listening accessory (or instructing
(Continued from P. 1. Hearing accessibility) you to use your telecoil if an induction loop is in use).

When you are handed a receiver, you can expect to leave some method of identification and receive some instruction on the equipment’s use. You can also expect the receiver and listening accessory to function properly. If this scenario is what you’ve actually experienced, congratulations! You have arrived at a hearing accessible public facility.

The reality
In spite of the ADA being around for nearly fourteen years, many public facilities are simply not yet hearing accessible. You are likely to find any or all of the following: no signage, no help, nobody familiar with the equipment, malfunctioning equipment, equipment not meeting your hearing needs, and no equipment at all.

Often, the listening device provided is a self-contained receiver/headset, a stethoscope-type listening accessory, or a receiver with either a headset or earbud. Although this equipment satisfies the ADAAG, none of these work well for people who have severe hearing losses or who wear hearing aids or cochlear implants. A pending revision to the ADAAG is trying to resolve this problem by requiring facilities to include neckloops in their inventory.

In smaller assembly areas (classrooms, meeting rooms, community centers, etc.), if portable systems are used, they are routinely not set up and the person responsible for the equipment will have little knowledge about it.

Do your homework
If the facility is large and is equipped with a permanently installed assistive listening system, I suggest contacting the facility to determine exactly what type of receiver and listening accessories are available. If the facility doesn’t have what you need, consider taking your own listening accessory—especially if you’ll need a neckloop, silhouettes, or direct audio input.

You could take your own receiver only if it is compatible with the system already in use at the facility (so you need to know not only the type of system, if it is FM or infrared, but the frequency on which it transmits). If the facility is small and you are expecting to use a portable assistive listening system, you must contact the event coordinator in advance. In this case, like the large facilities, you must determine what equipment is provided and you must identify your specific needs.

On the bright side
In spite of the apparently bleak picture I’ve painted, there are accessible public facilities in Washington State. Nearly all of them share one common attribute—persons with hearing loss were involved with the installation and are involved with the ongoing operation of the equipment.

Hearing accessibility in public depends on what you need, where you go, what you do to prepare, and how much effort you are willing to make so that the facility is ultimately accessible for all of us. The law alone won’t do it!

John Allen is a volunteer technical advisor to the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing and a community member of the State Facilities Access Advisory Committee, the Legislative Building Advisory Committee, and the Kitsap County ADA Committee. You can e-mail him at Jcallen@wasa-shhh.org.
The House Health Care Committee in Olympia heard a dozen witnesses stress the importance of hearing aids to enable persons with a hearing loss to function in society. They gave the committee personal accounts of their struggles to get needed aids and voiced strong support for the HB 2281 to require insurance companies to cover hearing aids.

Discussion at the February 11 public hearing centered on hearing aids’ high cost—upwards of $4,000 to $5,000 for a pair of state-of-the-art aids—and the difficulty faced by persons of limited income. Bev Ziarko, SHHH Western Washington Chapter Coordinator, who wears 20 year-old hearing aids, said that as a single parent she has never been able to afford newer aids and still meet the needs of her children.

Karin Cook, mother of a hearing-impaired 12-year old, told of her failed struggle to get insurance coverage. When her daughter was diagnosed with hearing loss at the age of five, she and her husband had to turn to the Lions and family members for help. She calculated that she’s spent $18,000 out of pocket for aids, speech therapy, ear molds, and batteries. Hearing aids enable her daughter to communicate with grandparents and great grandparents and to participate in the Girl Scouts.

Untreated hearing loss causes isolation, family discord, and problems in school, Penny Allen, WASA-SHHH Vice President, stated. Others face employment barriers, “yet the insurance companies feel that hearing aids are cosmetic.” Everett audiologist, Lisa McKay, said hearing loss was one of the five top health problems, but one least likely to be treated.

Witnesses reported that Medicare does not cover hearing aids, but does cover cochlear implants. Medicaid, a low income assistance program, covers basic linear hearing aids for children, and pediatric audiologist Kimberly Krantz told the committee that these old-style aids are now being phased out.

Wes Brosman, Aberdeen Chapter president, reported on a union program with coverage costing about 13 cents a week for each union member. Rick Faunt, WASA-SHHH President, told the committee: “If you lose a leg, they give you a prostheses; if you lose your hearing, they laugh at you.”

Editor: Per state law, the next step is an in-depth impact analysis during the interim. The bill will be introduced into the 2005 legislative session. Stay tuned. To receive e-mail updates, contact HAIL Chair Penny Allen: Pallen@wasa-shhh.org or see our website: http://www.wasa-shhh.

Ears, Hearing, & Beyond, March 6

Free seminar at the UW HUB auditorium. Bring a lunch or eat in the HUB cafeteria. FM and real-time captioning are provided. To request special accommodations or for more information or directions, contact Christene James at 206-616-4105 or e-mail bloedel@u.washington.edu or see the website: http://depts.washington.edu/hearing/ehb.html.

Exhibits open 9:15 am and close 4:30 pm.

9:30 am-10:00 am: An Overview—The Ear, Hearing and Auditory Disorders; George A. Gates, MD, Director, Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center; Otologist Professor, UW, Otolaryngology-HNS

10:00 am-10:30 am: Catching the (brain) wave—New tests of hearing; Patrick Feeney, PhD, UW, Department of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery

10:30 am-11:00 am: Amplification for Hearing Loss—Carl Loovis, PhD

Break

11:30 am-12:00 pm: Coping with Hearing Loss: Jacqui Metzger MSW

Lunch

1:30 pm to 2:00 pm: Current Status of Hair Cell Regeneration; Edwin W Rubel, Professor, Otolaryngology-HNS, VM Bloedel Hearing Research Center

2:00 pm—2:30 pm: Genetics of Hearing Loss—Valerie Street, PhD, Acting Instructor, UW, Otolaryngology-HNS

2:30 pm-3:00 pm: Balance Disorders in the Elderly; James O. Phillips, PhD, UW, Otolaryngology-HNS

3:00 pm: Q&A – Dr. Gates and speakers
Utilize your hearing aid telecoils

HATIS Director

HATIS Freedom single

Nokia Loopset with cell phone

The Chaamp with Nokia phone


Cellular options

By Steve Hillson, Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center

One of the greatest frustrations of the wireless communications revolution has been the lack of focus on the needs of the hard of hearing, cochlear implantees, and the Deaf. Cell phones continue to evolve into full service hand-held computers, but very few provide the clarity, volume, and real-time text abilities needed to make them fully accessible. A major cause of this neglect was the exemption granted by the federal government to the wireless communications industry. Luckily, this policy has recently been revised in favor of the consumer. Wireless providers now have a little less than two years to develop ADA compliant wireless devices.

Of course, two years is more than a couple of weeks away. Until then, there are a handful of assistive devices that can help to address the gap in telecommunication access. TTY users can choose from a selection of compatible cell phones and text pagers. The Nokia and Motorola neckloop/microphone sets are well known, as are their shortcomings. Putting on a neckloop and activating your T-coils while driving, for example, is no mean trick. Folks in need of a stronger signal than one provided by a neckloop have the option of the HATIS silhouette/microphone sets. Prices can be high, and taking care with all the various wires can often feel like more trouble than it is worth.

Another currently available option is the CHAAMP amplifier attachment manufactured by Audex. It is not universal, but does work with Nokia cell phones in the 3200, 5100, 6100, and 7100 series. The device sandwiches between the phone and the battery pack. It has no wires, and no extra batteries are needed. The result can be a low maintenance, high performance listening accommodation. Audex and Verizon Wireless have created a package with the CHAAMP and a Nokia 5185 cell phone. Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center is making this package available here in the Seattle area.

The CHAAMP does not amplify the cell phone directly, but instead it can provide up to 30dB of amplification through its own earpiece. It also has an optional high frequency boost to assist with clarity. Its 2.5mm audio output jack allows you to connect directly using a cochlear patch cord, hearing aid boot cable, or a neckloop. You can even plug in an external speaker to create a wireless speakerphone. Of course, more volume alone is not the whole picture.

The CHAAMP's performance with T-coils is very promising. For people with two T-coils, the signal produced by the device is often strong enough to provide clear sound in both hearing aids. When you hold the phone in front of you, both aids pick up the magnetic signal without the fuss of putting on a standard neckloop/microphone kit. Some people have even been able to hear on both sides when holding the phone up to one ear. Even if you have only one T-coil, the performance of the CHAAMP is a noticeable improvement over standard cell phones.

(Continued on page 5)
Many cellular dealers are happy to order equipment for you, but they do not stock assistive devices in their stores. This can make buying a phone a frustrating experience. HSDC does have the CHAAMP and HATIS devices available to test in our Seattle showroom. Stop by before you make your wireless purchase or bring your current cell phone with you.

There is no universal device that can accommodate the full range of hearing loss. New transmission technologies and assistive equipment are helping to remove many of the barriers to wireless communications. Even with the current lack of national standards for hearing loss accommodations, it is worthwhile to explore your options.

Amplified phones
By Colleen Rozmaryn, Access Coordinator, Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Most of you reading the Sound Waves are already aware that the Office of Deaf & Hard of Hearing has a telecommunications equipment distribution program called “TAS” (see sidebar this page). For the last few years we have issued the Ameriphone XL-40 amplified telephone to people who are hard of hearing.

Every few years we like to examine new technology that has been put on the market. One way to do that is to ask for input from hard of hearing people who read Sound Waves. Is there a brand and model of amplified phone that you really like? We will follow up on your suggestions, and investigate the amplified phones you tell us about. We would also like to hear from volunteers who are willing to try out new phones for us and give them a “pass” or “fail” grade.

We keep in touch with other states on a regular basis to see what equipment has been popular with their clients. Sometimes the best information we receive from another state is “Do not buy (a certain model) of amplified phone. Our clients did NOT like it!”

Help us out by contacting me or our new receptionist, Emily Hill, with your comments. Our number is 1-800-422-7930 voice or TTY or you can fax me at: 360-902-0855.

Telecommunications Access Service
If you live in Washington State and have a hearing loss, you are eligible for an amplified phone, Voice Carry-over phone, TTY, and/or telephone signaling equipment. Cost is based upon income. Contact Kelly Robison, Program Manager: Robiskd@dshs.wa.gov or 1-800-422-7930/ V; 1-800-422-7941/ TTY; or write Telecommunications Access Service, PO Box 45301, Olympia 98504.

Low-interest loans
Washington Assistive Technology Foundation (WATF) offers low-interest loans to Washington residents for assistive technology (e.g., hearing aids, augmentative communication devices, computers with adaptive equipment). See the WATF website (http://www.watf.org) or call 206-826-1038 V/ or 800-214-8731V/TTY. No income restrictions.

Equipment donations welcome
WASA-SHHH regularly gets questions about equipment donations, such as phones and assistive devices. We will gladly put you in touch with someone who can use them.

Eye on Washington
Stay informed and protect your rights! Eye on Washington is a national advocacy electronic newsletter published by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) that focuses on activities occurring on Capitol Hill that affect deaf and hard of hearing civil rights. See http://www.nad.org/ezine/ecommadmin.html

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National information and training center for hearing assistive technology (NITC-HAT)

NITC-HAT promotes the use of technology to maximize the residual hearing of people who are hard of hearing. You can find information on hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive listening devices, and disability laws. Articles include Telecoils and Telephones, Hearing Aid Research, Ear Molds and Hearing Aids, Classroom Acoustics, Status of Captioned Movies in Theaters, and the two newest articles—Communication Access During a Power Outage; Financial Assistance for Hearing Aids and Hearing Assistive Technology.

What do you do when your cochlear implant doesn’t meet your needs? Jim Brown of Sedro Woolley’s answer was to get another implant, paired with the old one.

Here is what he worked out: “Nucleus 22 on the left, Nucleus 24 on the right, an odd-ball case of a deaf/blind old goat who is now not quite so deaf, but still legally blind,” he said about getting dual implants. Not permitted to wear hearing protectors while working in a steel mill for three months in 1955 (to be alerted for warning sounds), he emerged with ringing in his ears, and a continuing downhill slide in hearing.

A progressive lower frequency loss finally forced retirement in 1988 from the “nice quiet office job” he took after the steel mill. Discovering that he had become essentially deaf, and with encouragement from Gordon Nystedt, he got the N22 implant eight years ago.

Problems developed, including a facial flinch and a tendency to vertigo from wind noise while sailing his twelve-foot Pelican. “Glowing reports” by Karen Utter about her success with a N22/N24 combination encouraged Jim to get a Nucleus 24.

Jim was implanted with an N24 Contour in November last year. Turned on in December, he was remapped in January – “an eye-opener to what I’d been missing.” The two are BTEs, Esprit 3 G (N24) on his right ear, and its sibling, Esprit 22, on his left ear.

He finds the N24 with an extended frequency range much smoother than the older version, the N22. Comparisons are difficult, however, because the older instrument had five of its twenty electrode settings turned off. All but one of the five were turned back on, but at lower volume to balance the two signals. There is a sizeable tonal difference between the two instruments, but it’s one he finds he can live with.

Jim tells how the dual implants worked for him on a January Sunday: “Today, I used both aids in church, both during the service, and after in the din of conversation. With some purely alto voices, I turned off the N22 to clearly understand them. The N22 is still more shrill than the nice smooth tenor of the N24.

“During the coffee-din with both instruments on noise canceling, I found I could understand one-on-one conversation; the higher pitched N22 was a great advantage. Before, with only the N22, I ALWAYS had to drag the other person outside to understand. Others say I am not so loud now. Understandable, since I can now hear tenor voices. It will take learning to understand clearly with both, but it appears that it will work for me.

“Jennifer (Jennifer Castro, Jim’s Seattle Ear Clinic audiologist) said one client with a similar ear condition abandoned her N22. Since I am a stubborn old goat, I will keep trying for a while.”

The two different coding strategies (SPEAK for the N22 and ACE for the N24) have not created a problem, Jim says. “The brain seems to adapt to them.”

He ends with this message: “If any of you are possible cochlear implant candidates, I STRONGLY encourage you to give it serious thought and investigation. Inclusion in a hearing-speaking society is far too important to settle for less than the best possible.”

We’d like to hear your story, too, about the problems encountered, and the results achieved.

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**Implant corner**

By Ben W. Gilbert, Tacoma

Second implant gives Jim Brown’s hearing much needed boost

Vaccinations urged as precaution

The Food and Drug Administration is monitoring a reported association between cochlear implants and meningitis. Vaccinations against the bacterial infection is recommended. Providers are asked to report cases to the FDA.

There have been 118 such cases worldwide in the year ending May 2003, including 55 in the U. S. Most of the U. S. cases involved children under five years, many with “pre-existing risk factors for meningitis,” FDA reports.

Prompt diagnosis and treatment of middle ear infections in candidates and implant wearers is urged as a precaution. Prophylactic antibiotic treatment of children before surgery should be considered, FDA says.
CIs and hearing aids

NADmag, publication of the National Association of the Deaf recently highlighted a spectrum of hearing loss among implant users and hearing aid wearers. Intern Katherine Firkins wrote that many deaf and hard of hearing individuals use implants “in different, unique ways.”

“Cochlear implants and hearing aids are assistive technology devices used by deaf and hard of hearing individuals to help them hear. Cochlear implant and hearing aid users, with a wide range of hearing loss, different educational backgrounds, and diverse in ages, have different reasons and benefits for using these devices.”

Implant success often depends on determination, NAD noted. Four with declining hearing who opted for implants and two who love their hearing aids were cited.

For Judy Caraway Wagner of Apple Valley, CA, her implant is a way to appreciate sounds. After struggling for 48 years with hearing aids, the sounds she hears are “just beyond my wildest dreams.” With 16 months implant experience, Judy hears birds, water dripping, the wind, the ocean, her husband’s breathing, and people laughing and conversing “100 yards away.” She says “nothing has changed within my personality with my implant ... life has become easier and I am ready to embrace the hearing world.”

John and JoLene Lambrecht of Hansville, WA, a cochlear implant couple: “The neatest experience is to talk in the dark.” The devices helped them, not only to relate to each other, but also to function in the hearing world in spite of their severe to profound hearing losses. Aids brought them muffled sounds. With implants, they hear well enough to dispense with interpreters and captions.

John Stanton of Los Angeles, a hearing aid user for 25 years, has an implant “for easier communication in the hearing world.” He got an implant three years ago when his hearing aids “became useless,” as his hearing deteriorated. After several months training with implant signals, he retrieved familiar lost sounds. Although finding the implant helpful, he still uses speech reading, captions and interpreters. He feels that “neither the implant nor the hearing aid makes me totally hearing.”

Unfair standards for implant seniors?

Medicare eligible seniors face more severe hearing loss eligibility standards to get cochlear implants than other candidates, according to a web-site release by SHHH.

SHHH would like to hear from any seniors who have been turned down to find out if standards have been applied unfairly to them. SHHH wants to see seniors on the same footing as other candidates. Everyone should face the same screening standards without regard to age, SHHH believes.

The problem reflects differences between Medicare standards and those applied by the Food and Drug Administration. Medicare has established a 30 per cent verbal discrimination threshold ceiling while the FDA allows implantation for individuals with 60 per cent sentence discrimination scores in both ears and 50 per cent in the implanted ear. Exceptions may occur because of “medical necessity,” however.

Ironically both agencies are units of the same federal department, Health and Human Services (HHS). Dr. Terry Portis, SHHH Executive Director, has written to Tommy Thompson, Secretary of HHS, pointing out that the differences in the approach of the two agencies may work unfairly against seniors seeking implants.

Lyla Erol of San Francisco says her hearing aids helped her to speak English clearly and write fluently. However, she still finds a need to use speech reading and interpreters to get along.
Support and education

Although some chapters meet monthly year round, most meet from September through June and host a summer picnic. Meeting times and days sometimes change, so check first with the contact person. See our website (http://www.wasa-shhh.org) for program listings.

Cristwood—350 N. 190th St., Shoreline. Amplification, infrared. Time/location in retirement complex varies. Contact Rose Inouye at 206-542-5541 or e-mail inou@wasa-shhh.org.

Downtown Seattle—2nd Mon. 6:00 pm; Community Service Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CSCDHH), 1609 19th Ave., just off Madison. FM. Focus is on issues and access in the workplace. Judi Carr, facilitator: 206-935-6637 or jstarbright@wasa-shhh.org.

East Jefferson County — 4th Mon. 1:00 pm; Auditorium, Jefferson General Hospital, 834 Sheridan, Pt. Townsend; amplification, FM. Emily Mandelbaum at mandelbaum@olympus.net or 360-379-4978 or Sandy MacNair: smacnair@cablespeed.com or 360-385-1347.

Everett Area—2nd Sat. 11:00 am; Snohomish Co. PUD Commission Rm., 2320 California, Everett; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Myrna Kain: 425-438-0432 TTY (via relay: 711) mkain1@wasa-shhh.org; Dave Pearson: 360-653-6746 or DCPearson@wasa-shhh.org.

Four Freedoms—1st Thurs. 1:30 pm; Four Freedoms House, Rm. 9, 747 N. 135th St., Seattle; amplification. Mary Kahle, Social Worker: 206-364-2440 or kahleflour@aol.com.

Grays Harbor—2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm, Timberline Public Library, 121 E. Market, Aberdeen. Contact Wes Brosman: wesbro@olynet.com or 360-537-0456.

The Hearthstone—2nd Tues. 10:30 am; 6720 E. Greenlake Way N., Seattle; amplification, infra-red; Shelleyrae Murphy: 206-525-9666 or shmurph@hearthstone.org.

Kitsap—3rd Sat. 1:00 pm; Givens Community Center, Cascade Rm., 1026 Sidney Ave., Port Orchard; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Evelyn Busick: 360-697-3884 Voice/TTY; 360-697-7890 FAX; e-mail: embusick@juno.com or call Linda Nopp at 360-307-8358.

Lake Washington—Bellevue area. Informal meetings. Contact Diane Jandl: 425-643-7713 or Kathi Forbes at dkforbes@gte.net for time and place.

Orcas Island—2nd Wed. 10:00 am, Orcas Senior Center, 62 Henry Rd., Eastsound; amplification, FM. Contact Susan Kosiur: 360-376-5746 or e-mail: swkosiur@aol.com.

(Continued on page 9)
New!

Pasco—3rd Thurs. 1:00 pm, Pasco Senior Center, 1315 N. 7th Ave., Pasco. ALDs are available. Contact Robin Traveller: RTraveller@wasa-shhh.org or toll-free 1-888-543-6598

Pt. Angeles—Chapter discontinued. Please attend the Sequim Chapter.

Sequim—2nd Tues. 10:00 am, St. Luke’s of Sequim, 525 N. 5th Ave., Sequim. Amplification, FM. Ginger Nichols at 360-681-2055 or dalenann@olympus.net.

SHHH Kids—Just for hard of hearing children and their families. Meets in the South King County area. Time and location change due to scheduled activities. Ms. Sidney Weldele-Wallace: 253-833-9111, ext. 4705 (wk); 253-833-6487 (h); sweldele@greenriver.edu.

South King County—2nd Fri. 6:45 pm; Auburn Regional Med. Center, Rm. 327, 202 N. Division, Auburn; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Rick Faunt: 253-833-9147 or rfaunt@wasa-shhh.org.

Skagit—2nd Tues. 1:00 pm; Fidalgo Ctr., 1701-22nd St., Anacortes; amplification, FM, captioning. Danny Beatty: 360-293-2793 or dflyb@telcomplus.net.

Spokane—2nd Sat. 9:30 am at Rock Pointe-East, 1313 N. Atlantic, Spokane, in the DVR conference room; amplification, FM, computer captioning. Please be sure to arrive at 9:30 am. If you arrive late, there will be no one to let you in since the doors are locked and everyone will be in the meeting. Contact Bob Roberts: 2bob2@comcast.net; Mary Jo Harvey: harvemj@netzero.net; or Denise Jones: mdj@wasa-shhh.org or 509-328-2740.

Tacoma—2nd Sat. 10:00 am at TACID, 6315 S. 19th St., Tacoma. Amplification, infra-red, real-time captioning. Jerry Hansen: jerrathansen@earthlink.net, 253-531-6532; or Marcee Widland at mwidland@msn.com.

Tri-Cities—3rd Tues. 7:00 pm; Kennewick Library, 1620 Union St. Kennewick; amplification, FM, and captioning. Robin Traveller at toll-free 1-888-543-6598 or RTraveller@wasa-shhh.org and Bill Henderson at roscoe@owt.com.

West Seattle—3rd Wed. 1:30 pm; Fauntleroy Church, UCC Lounge, 9260 California Ave. SW, Seattle; amplification, induction loop. Elaine Maros: elainemaros1@juno.com or Doug Gray at 206-932-6427.

New chapter starting

Whatcom County—Interested in being part of a new chapter starting in Bellingham? Contact Charlene MacKenzie at 360-738-3756; CharMacKenzie@cs.com; Bert Lederer 360-671-0859 or bert@lederer.net

Gone to the dogs

L to R: Mill Creek Lions president Sunny Shove, Sue Chaplik (NW Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing), Myrna and Austin, Phil Thorleifson (Mill Creek Lions member)

Myrna Kain, president of the Everett Area Chapter, has a new sidekick—Austin. He’s a hearing assistant dog, trained to alert her to such sounds as the telephone, doorbell, and smoke detector.

Austin was the result of a collaboration between the Mill Creek Lions, the Snohomish County Foundation for Sight and Hearing, and the NW Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing. Myrna traveled to Anacortes and trained with Austin for two weeks at the Summit Assistance Dog School before receiving her graduation diploma. Congratulations, Myrna!

Charlene MacKenzie, former Skagit Chapter president and co-organizer of the new Bellingham Chapter, will proudly introduce her dog, Haley, and explain how her companion alerts her. Attend these chapter meetings to find out first hand about hearing dogs.
A “wild” convention
June 10-13, 2004 SHHH International Convention Omaha, Nebraska

Jim Fowler, Host of Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom on Animal Planet, will be the keynote speaker for the International SHHH Convention in Omaha. Mr. Fowler will also bring several exotic animals.

Symposium: The Inner Ear: The 21st Century Frontier
Seven speakers, moderated by Dr. Patrick E. Brookhouser (Founding Director of Boystown Research Hospital), will present their hearing-related studies that go beyond gene recognition and identification of hearing loss to the next step in therapy, which include gene therapies.

Workshops and Training Classes
Advances in Technology, Surviving and Thriving at Work, How to Talk to Your Doctor, Loss of Hearing-Loss of Self, Our Love/Hate Relationship with Hearing Aids, Age-Related Vision and Hearing Loss, Teamwork for Hearing Health (Rocky Stone), What’s New in CI Research, Reading Lips and Sharing Tips (Gael Hannan), Hearing Dogs, ... and many more!

Convention Exhibit Hall
Meet over 50 vendors representing some of the most exciting developments in hearing assistive technology.

Register online at www.hearingloss.org or call 301-657-2248 (Voice) or 301-657-2249 (TTY) for more information.

Thanks!
We appreciate you!
Your donations help us fund projects that benefit people with hearing loss. These contributions are for December through January:

- Lois Adams—Chelan
- Judy Barnes—Portland, OR
- Raymond Bebee—Seattle
- Marilu Boe—Edmonds
- Bernie Camin—Langley
- Judi Carr—Seattle
- Jenny Cummins—Seattle
- Harold Dalton—Tacoma
- Harley and Pat Davis—Vashon
- Elizabeth Eisenhower—Seattle
- Dr. Martha Fales—Seattle
- Rick Faunt—Auburn
- Ben Gilbert—Tacoma
- Frances Hayes—Issaquah
- Bill Henderson—Pasco
- C. Leon Hopper—Seattle
- Highline Audiology—Seattle
- Ann Hyman—Edgewood
- David Johnson—Bellevue
- Dorothy Johnson—Olympia
- David Kietzke—Seattle
- Brenda Kochis—Spokane
- Beth Kopyar—Redmond
- Susan Kosiur—Orcas
- Doris Linkletter—Des Moines
- Erlene Little—Seattle
- Dixie Llewellin—Port Townsend
- Charlene Mackenzie—Bellingham
- Emily Mandelbaum—Port Townsend
- Elaine Maros—Normandy Park
- Betty Martin—Bellevue
- Marjorie Martin—Anacortes
- Audrey Matzen—Seattle
- Joyce McDaniel—Lynnwood
- Aileen Miholovich—Seattle
- Nancy Moore—Seattle
- Gordon A. Mowat—Seattle
- William Mulligan—Seattle
- Erla Musser—Auburn
- Dale and Ginger Nichols—Carlsborg
- Dan O’Connor—Renton
- Gene and Margaret Pankey—Steilacoom
- Jean Prael—Seattle
- Red and Marian Prater—Port Orchard
- Carol Ann Quigg—Spokane
- Cecelia Roop—Seattle
- Frederick Rose—Bellingham
- Jerry and Jo Roux—Auburn
- Dorothy Sangl—Seattle
- Eileen Severns—Oak Harbor
- Avis Shek—Bellevue
- Shoreline SHHH Chapter
- South King Co. SHHH Chapter
- Grace Tiessen—Pasadena, CA
- Mary Thomas—Bremerton
- Diana Thompson—Bellevue
- Marjorie Thomson—Denver, CO
- Margaret Vorwerk—Banbridge
- Fred Wendover—Lynden
- Jane Carlson Williams—Seattle
- Merilynn Wilson—Port Townsend

United Way
You can make regular contributions to WASA-SHHH through United Way and help hard of hearing people in our state. These readers have supported this newsletter throughout the year through United Way:

- Erlene Little—Seattle
- Dave Pearson—Marysville
- John C. Robbins—Renton
- Della Ramsden—Seattle
- George Ross—Seattle
- Lilia Smith—Camano Island
- Mark and Susan Svancarek—Redmond
Special thanks to the Office of Deaf & Hard of Hearing for funding printing for outreach newsletters through June. We send our newsletters throughout the state, and rely on this funding.

Reaching out to hard of hearing people

Fundraising for projects in the works

- **Facing the Challenge:** WASA-SHHH is compiling a hearing loss resource guide for our state. We will be looking for sponsors to help fund it.
- **Projectors:** We need up to six projectors that can be shared between our chapters for captioning at meetings. We will be working on a state-wide fundraising drive to cover costs for new projectors, but we would also welcome working used or donated projectors.
- **Sound Waves:** We need funding for our state newsletter for outreach copies. Our grant from ODHH runs out in June. We are considering sponsors and/or advertising. Please contact us if you’re interested.

WASA-SHHH meetings for 2004

WASA-SHHH meetings are open to SHHH members and the public. General meetings are scheduled in the morning, followed by a potluck, with the board meetings in the afternoon. Visitors may observe the afternoon board meetings. All meetings are captioned and have ALDs. **Plan to take part in our raffle! Quality raffle items will be raffled at each of our meetings.**

Saturday, February 28, 10:00 am: TACID, 6315 S. 19th St., Tacoma.
Saturday, May 22, 10:00 am, South Shore Mall community room, 1017 Boon St., Aberdeen
Saturday, August 28, 10:00 am, Spokane
Saturday, November 20, 10:00 am (annual meeting and elections), TACID

**Editor:** Please see our website or contact Judi Carr, Meeting Planner (jstarbright@wasa-shhh.org), for more information.

**WASA-SHHH Board**

- **President:** Rick Faunt, Auburn; RFaunt@wasa-shhh.org or Ph: 253-833-9147
- **Vice President:** Penny Allen, Port Orchard; (Access/Advocacy Chair, Sound Waves Editor); PAllen@wasa-shhh.org or Ph: 360-871-0997
- **Secretary:** John Allen, Port Orchard; jcallen@wasa-shhh.org
- **Treasurer:** Sue Campbell, Seattle; SueCampbell@wasa-shhh.org (Newsletter Chair)
- **Acting Past President:** Don Pickens, Redmond; DPickens@wasa-shhh.org (Finance Committee Chair)
- **Western WA Chapter Coordinator:** Beverly Ziarko, Kent; (Database Manager); bevziarko@wasa-shhh.org or Ph: 253-631-3141
- **Eastern WA Chapter Coordinator:** Robin Traveller, Pasco; RTraveller@wasa-shhh.org or toll-free 1-888-543-6598.
- **Michael Bower, Auburn; MABower@wasa-shhh.org**
- **Sandra Bunning, Renton; Sandrab@wasa-shhh.org (Correspondence Coordinator)**
- **Judi Carr, Seattle; jstarbright@wasa-shhh.org (Speakers Bureau Chair, Meeting Coordinator)**
- **George Cooper, College Place; sargeco@wasa-shhh.org**
- **Ben Gilbert, Tacoma; bengilbert@wasa-shhh.org (Implant Corner Editor)**
- **Jerry Hansen, Tacoma; jerryhansen@earthlink.net**
- **Denise Jones, Spokane; mdj@wasa-shhh.org (E. WA Outreach/Access Chair)**
- **Erla Musser, Auburn; erlamusser@juno.com**
- **Sidney Weldele-Wallace, Auburn; sweldele-wallace@wasa-shhh.org (Captioning Committee Chair)**

**Newsletter information**

We welcome your articles, letters, and notices of coming events. Articles may be abbreviated due to space constraints. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of WASA-SHHH or of SHHH. Mention of goods or services does not mean endorsement, nor does exclusion suggest disapproval. Any portion of this newsletter may be reprinted or disseminated, as long as credit is given to the individual author or to this publication. This newsletter is posted on our website, along with back issues. We encourage hearing health professionals to make copies available to their clients.
Visit our state website at http://www.wasa-shhh.org

WASA-SHHH, Washington State Association of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, is affiliated with the national organization of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc., headquartered in Bethesda, MD. SHHH is an educational organization devoted to the welfare and interests of hard of hearing people.

Subscription Order Form

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Subscription renewal is January of each year and runs through December. We will gladly provide back issues if subscription is made during the year. WASA-SHHH is a 501(c)3 organization and relies on your support to fund outreach projects that help people with hearing loss. Please Make checks payable to WASA-SHHH and mail this completed form to WASA-SHHH, PO Box 4025, Kent, WA 98089. Note: names and addresses are strictly confidential. We do not sell or distribute this information.