

DECEMBER 9, 2010 –Alternative Listening Device-ALDS

The meeting was called to order by Gary Shepard and announced that Jim Wooll is stepping down as leader resulting from frequent travel plans and being out of ideas. Gary Shepard agreed to keep the SIG going on a temporary basis as interim leader. Nelda McCrary, Director of SIG's, announced she is seeking volunteers for leader and other positions. Anyone interested should contact Nelda or Gary.

LOOP SYSTEMS

Information came from several sources including Tecear, Center for Hearing Loss Help and a user testimony.

Loop systems work together with hearing aids to enhance hearing.

Hear your TV, FM stereo, Computer or Phone from anywhere inside the wire "loop".

The Loop can be in a room in your home or in your car (they say, without road noise).

Loop systems have a microphone, a loop amplifier and a very thin insulated copper wire.

You can easily setup a loop system: You plug a loop amplifier into an electrical outlet, connect an input device (TV, Radio, etc) into the loop amplifier by a wire cable, place the small copper wire around an area (room) and connect both ends to the amplifier to form the loop. The loop wire can be in the basement below the area, in the attic, around the ceiling or probably best positioned along the baseboard.

In order to use a loop system, you must have hearing aids equipped with telecoils (T-coils). Most recently purchased middle and high end aids are equipped with T-Coils. You Audiologist or owner manual should be consulted if you don't know. Before you buy a hearing aid, you should insist that it have good amplified T-Coils. Your Audiologist can easily switch the T-coils on and set your programs to pick up several different single sound source(s) from within the loop and amplified by the loop amplifier. As the sound travels through the wire loop it converts a magnetic field signal into the sound you can hear via the microphone(s) in your hearing aids without the necessity of loud speakers. You will probably want a minimum of three programs: 1) Microphone only (all room sounds)

2) T-Coil only (just TV or Phone, etc) controlled by a switched on the amplifier and 3) A combination of both the microphone and T-Coil together.

Loop systems are available by many manufactures. One is TECEAR that has a kit that runs \$210 including shipping and handling.

<http://www.tecear.com/>

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES (ALD'S)

There are a large number of ADL devices on the market one on which is Hear Clear. This product was selected because of a user frequency tuning feature and personal testimonial from a known user.

HEAR CLEAR with Audium2 <http://www.audium2.com/index.htm>

Hear Clear is an amplifier with some interesting additional features for a little over \$100. Features include a rechargeable battery, frequency tuning for each ear, balance adjustment for each ear, stereo sound, phone hook up adapter, and a cable connector to plug into TV, computers and other sound sources.

RADIO SHACK amplified listener

<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2104056>

This is just a basic amplifier that has been around for many years. It has volume presets to use with earphones and powered by AAA batteries for around \$25. It was selected to mention because of the know use by two individuals one of which continues to prefer this device over expensive hearing aids for over 10 years. Jim Wooll was familiar with the product and commented on it during the meeting.

LACE <http://www.neurotone.com/lace-interactive-listening-program>

One of our new members recommended this product in the meeting. It was the brain child of several doctors of audiology and appears to sell for under \$100. It is a downloadable auditory brain training program designed to increase speech comprehension in difficult situations such as fast talkers and competing noises. The program also claims to increase auditory memory and provide communication tips useful in enhanced hearing .

OTHER MEETING MATTERS:

Ed Quillen spoke to the group about the group data base he is working on using Microsoft's Access program and circulated an example. Ed is also assisting in the development of a member survey form which will hopefully provide valuable information for use in serving the interests of the group.