

May 11, 2017

HEARING SOLUTIONS SIG

*“Members Sharing Successes
with Members”*

Announcements

- T-coil receivers & headphones are available from the Monitor in the Social Center, which can be used for events in the Ballroom. You can bring your own headphones.
- Read the Hearing Solutions SIG article on page 92 in the May issue of *Sun Rays*.

Induction Loop Receiver with Headphones



Jerry Gilmore, Veteran



Contact -

Williamson County Veterans Services

Donna Harrell, Director

Georgetown 512 943-1900 – 3151 SE Inner Loop

Cedar Park – 512 219-2340 – 600 N. Bell Blvd.

Jerry Gilmore

I joined the US Navy in 1959 & was assigned to the USS Thetis Bay, LPH6 which was a helicopter carrier. I was an Interior Communications Tech & stayed on the same ship for four years.

The helicopter prop noise was extensive at times. No hearing protection was provided. I got out in 1963. I didn't notice my hearing loss until several years later. When my hearing began bothering me, in 2012, I went to VA in Arizona, where we were living. They told me there were other people who needed medical attention worse than I did, and I agreed.

We moved to Georgetown, Texas. In December 2016, my wife's friend, Head of Veteran's Affairs office in Cleburne, Texas, encouraged me to go the Veteran's Affairs office in Georgetown. She suggested I start the process to get my hearing checked & get hearing aids. "The Veteran's Affairs office will help you get the ball rolling", she said.

We went right away to the VA Office in Georgetown; on December 19, 2016, they ordered all of my military records and encouraged me to go to Cedar Park and get registered. That day, we went to the Cedar Park office and signed in. The girl at the desk asked me if he had Tinnitus (ringing in the ears), & I stated that I did. She told us to talk with a Veteran's Counselor, which we did & got information that day to call and make an appointment for hearing test; we did.

My appointment with ACC Vererans Resource Center, 512 223-5636, at 6001 Airport Blvd, Austin, was on January 19, 2017 for the hearing test. They ordered ReSound hearing aids that very day. The aids came in on February 6th. They gave me 30 days to see if I was happy with my aids.

My experience with the VA is great. Contact Information for Georgetown & the Cedar Park office is on the previous slide.

Louise Smith

Bellman Mino Digital Amplifier



Vibrating Notification Device



Louise Smith

Bellman Mino Digital Personal Amplifier

The Bellman Mino is a personal amplifier with both a directional and omnidirectional microphone, which helps you hear better in most everyday situations. It helps you understand sounds and words and makes listening a more enjoyable activity.

I have found it particularly helpful in a noisy restaurant. I can place it on the table (within reach of the earphone cord) and pick up the table voices over the background noise. The Mino uses digital signal processing which isolates speech while removing background noise and feedback.

It also has a T-coil setting so that if you are going to movie or a play in a T-coil looped auditorium, you can pick up the sound directly from the A/V system rather than through the venue speakers. I have actually used it in a noisy restaurant and had better results than with my hearing aids, because the Bellman cuts out background noise even if not in a T-coil area. And it is a wonderful way to hear better when you are not sure about getting hearing aids. You can point it at the TV to get better sound there also.

Should you want to try out the Bellman, Louise Smith will loan it to you.

Continue on next slide.

Ditto Vibrating Notification Device

This little black “gadget” is called a “Ditto.” It connects to my cell phone by Bluetooth and notifies me by different patterns of vibration when I have a phone call, a text, a calendar reminder, a preset alarm OR I have gotten too far from my phone. I keep the ringer, of my phone, manually turned off but do not miss calls & texts. And I never get so far from my phone that I cannot find it!! .

- NEVER MISS A THING. Ditto notifies you to incoming calls, texts, emails, & calendar updates.
- SILENT BRACELET ALARM. Ditto has a silent alarm that wakes you and not your partner.
- NO MORE LOST PHONES. Ditto's virtual tether reminds you if you've gotten too far from your phone.
- CUSTOMIZEABLE. Customize your Ditto in the Mobile App. Compatible with Android & iOS.
- CLIP-IT. WEAR-IT. ANYWHERE. Each Ditto includes Wristband and Battery.

<https://dittowearable.com/>

Larry Fuhriman

Alead Nolan HearLinks Wireless
Voice Audio Links

A “4 in 1” Device to Hear Better



- A Bluetooth earphone
 - Music streaming
 - Personal sound amplifier
 - T-coil receiver
- Volume control with L/R balance adjustment

Alead Nolan HearLinks Wireless Voice Audio Links

Bluetooth earphone:

Receives Bluetooth signal from Bluetooth device such as a phone or computer. Calls on a mobile phone can be answered from the unit.

Personal sound amplifier:

Microphone receiver. Picks up sound and delivers it to the ear via ear buds or headphone, or to a recording device.

As a personal voice amplifier with embedded microphone and volume, L/R balance adjustment to create a superior and amplification of sound at difficult listening situations such as conversation, meetings, dinner, family gathering.

There are 6 different hearing preference profiles – explained in manual.

Picks up sound from Telecoil (T-coil) where available.

Use anywhere the Telecoil is embedded either in the floor or overhead. Could be retrofit in a home by putting the T-Coil in the attic. This would require purchase of additional hardware, such as a transceiver and connection to the sound producing device. Testing T-coil devices to find out if they are working can be done by being in close proximity to an Electromagnetic Force (EMF), such as a electrical service panel in your home. You will hear a high pitched sound. Also if you have a set of head phones you will hear a buzz. If you purchase hearing aids with T-Coil capability be sure the T-Coil feature can be turned off and on. If they are locked on the EMF sounds will be very annoying.

Alead Nolan HearLinks Wireless Voice Audio Links Contd –

OPINION

- 1) Not very user friendly. My only purpose was for T-coil and the other features made it difficult to use.
 - Other features are available on my phone.
 - T-coil receivers, that are used in our classroom & for our SIG meetings are preferable.
 - Using this device has taken a lot of experimentation.
 - If someone else would like to try it, I would be willing to loan it for testing.
- 2) Could be valuable for someone who does not have T-coil enabled hearing aids. Also valuable for someone, without hearing aids, having problems hearing at functions such as theater, square dancing, and some musical events.
- 3) Using with hearing aids requires headphones.
Can use with earbuds, if preferred without hearing aids.
- 4) Price is less than other units that I found. Currently under \$63 at Amazon. Other units that were recommended were over \$100.

See manual at - <https://www.manualslib.com/manual/990099/Nolan-Hearlinks-Nsrxml3c2hl.html#manual>

Should you want to try out the unit, Larry Fuhriman will loan it to you

Carol Cuddihee



Did I hear that right?
I'll check my CapTel phone.



It can be **FREE** for you!!!

Carol Cuddihee

A Captioned Telephone or a CapTel phone works exactly like any other phone with the added advantage of transcribing what the caller says. There are no extra fees for the service, and with a script from your audiologist the telephone is **FREE**. I have had mine for 3 or 4 years, and I would truly hate to be without it. Many of our members have a caption phone?

Now, why do I love my CapTel phone?

- First and foremost because I can read what my caller has said.
- Think about those calls from Bangladesh or India where they tell you how to adjust your computer or your tablet. Processing the directions is difficult at best.
- Think about the financial calls with all those numbers or complicated directions. Being able to go back and review exactly what was said is a terrific advantage.
- And, if you are really anal, the message is there for an extended period of time so that you can reread it as often as you need to, or even write it out verbatim. This can be a life saver.
- Think about friends and social arrangements – dinner at 5:30 or 6:30???: a meeting time has been changed, etc.
- How about the doctor's or nurse's call that gives you vital information. Being able to review it after the call is helpful and comforting.
- In each of these instances, by being able to read what your caller has just said, you can avoid saying, "Would you repeat that?" "I didn't understand you." or "Did you say the meeting is going to be at 10:30 or 9:30?"
- Can you see why I think it is wonderful?

CapTel Phones Contd -

Features of the CapTel phones.

- How often have you had a call when you aren't wearing your hearing aids? Using the CapTel phone, this is an easy fix. Just push the volume button and problem solved.
- Knowing who is calling is another advantage. In this day of 5, 10 or more unwanted calls each day, it is great to know that this incoming call is a survey, a political call, or a donation. Don't answer, read their message or know if they have hung up without a message, and then you decide if you want to return the call. And the same thing happens with a necessary call – you can read the message rather than just listen. A CapTel phone puts you in charge.
- Re. captions – At first it seemed strange or intrusive to know that someone in Wisconsin was listening to my personal phone call. Then, I realized I had a choice; I could shut off the captioning feature and know that my call would be private or not. However, if I chose to turn off the captions for this call I would have to remember all the details.
- Size – I chose the largest most advanced model because I wanted the largest screen. The foot print is 12" x 9", which some may think will take up too much room on a desk, but to me having a 9" x 5" screen is worth it.

Michael Doebler, a CapTel rep, lives right here in Sun City, & Clark Buxton is only a phone call away. They will come to your house and set up the phone. If there are any problems, they will return and fix the problem.

Caption phones are amazing pieces of technology, and as someone who has used hearing aids for 10 or 12 years, they are an incredible gift! Thank you, CapTel! Thank you Clark!

REMEMBER

Summer Vacation June, July August

NEXT MEETING



September 14, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Have a fantastic summer

Info – Contact Nelda McQuary

mcquary@suddenlink.net