

Hearing & Beyond

EAC-SHHH

MAY 2002

OK, What Did I Forget?

By Don Varley

Ahh, Spring is here and I want to get started on planning to travel around the state this summer. Since I am a new-comer to Washington, I plan to make the best of it with my camera gear and hope to get some nice landscape photos to add to my collection before I head back to my old homestead in New Hampshire late this year.

Ok, so now I need to start planning where I want to go, what motels to stay overnight and what to see and do. Since most of my travel is done using a car, here are some of the many barriers and tips that I have heard of and wish to share with you.

- Difficulty in using public telephones, hotel/motel phones, etc.
- Difficulty making hotel and transportation reservations.
- Inability to hear or understand scheduled events such as planned activities, tours, museum lectures, and theater presentations.
- Inability to hear hotel room telephones, someone knocking on



"There are many things hard of hearing people can do to help make their travels safe, comfortable, and enjoyable."

the door, or warning signals such as smoke detectors.

- Lack of televisions with closed caption devices on them.

Also, many transportation centers lack visual paging systems, TTY courtesy phones, a sign language interpreter on duty, and scrolling boarding screens. There are also not enough TTYs nor is there adequate signage.

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"We're sorry, but beyond our control, this month newsletter was completed in another format due to technical problems."

NEXT MEETING:

Date: May 11, 2002

Time: 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Place:

Snohomish PUD Building
2320 California Street

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Don't forget the SHHH Convention June 21—24, 2002. For details visit SHHH's Website at www.shhh.org - Be sure to Catch the Seattle SHHH Spirit!
- June meeting will include Potluck, welcomes and farewells to the new & old officers. Dave Pearson will be the host of the game on "Who is HOH Celebrities?"
- Please support our Penny Drive by bringing in your "pennies" that you have been saving in your jars and cans. What a great way to support you local SHHH Chapter!

Making Travel Arrangements:

Here are some tips for making traveling easier for you.

- Try to make all travel arrangements in advance. Once transportation reservations have been made, request written confirmation to insure correct information. Always inform the ticket representative that you are hard of hearing.
- If possible, plans should be arranged in person with a travel agent to allow the opportunity for speech reading or, if necessary, written exchange to help confirm travel plans. Agents can contact airlines, hotels, and attractions to make necessary reservations.



- It's important to arrive early at the airport, bus terminal, or train station. Inform a staff person at the boarding gate that you are hard of hearing and may not hear the boarding announcement. Request that the agent contact you when it is time to board.

- Always confirm the flight number and destination before boarding.

- Inform the flight attendant that you are hearing impaired and request that any in-flight announcements be communicated to you in person.

Telephones:

All public telephones should now

have a "blue grommet" attachment to the handset indicating it is compatible with the "T" switch in hearing aids. Some banks of public phones have at least one amplifying handset. Or, you may purchase a pocket amplifier from your hearing aid dispenser. If necessary, ask someone to place a brief call for you. You will be surprised at how cooperative people are.

Hotel Accommodations:

- Confirm all lodging reservations in writing.

"Travel does not have to be avoided because of a hearing loss. Travel can be successful."

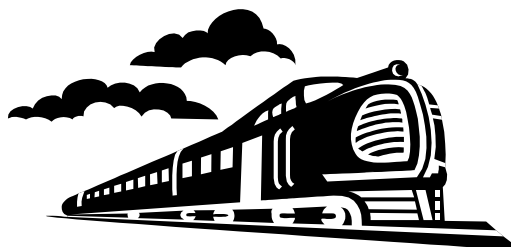
alerting devices to all hotels that do not currently provide them. Only you know what your needs are as the hotel/motel staff doesn't know.

- Inquire if your hotel has amplified or compatible telephones, TTYs [teletype writer], television amplifiers, or closed-captioned television for your use

- Inform the receptionist at the front desk of your hotel or motel that you are hard of hearing. This is very important in case of an emergency.
- Certain major hotel chains, such as Holiday Inn, Marriott, and Sheraton, now provide visual alerting devices to help the hard of hearing traveler recognize the ring of the telephone, a knock on the door, or a fire/emergency alarm. It may be advisable, however, to contact the hotel in advance to make the necessary arrangements. When you register, ask if such equipment is available. They are frequently provided free of charge to hotel guests.
- It is important that you recommend the use of

Assistive Listening and Other Assistive Devices:

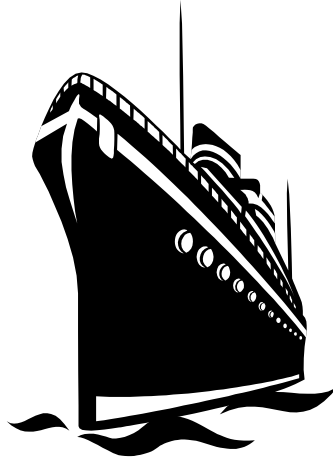
There are many visual alert systems and assistive listening devices that can be useful while traveling



- Telephone amplifiers and induction couplers can be attached to public or hotel phones and can help to increase the volume of the telephone. Induction couplers also make the telephone compatible with your hearing aid telecoil. ATRT produces handsets such as the G6 and G66, which plug easily into any modular telephone.

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- There are small, portable visual alerting systems available that can flash a light when the telephone rings or fire alarm sounds. These can be transported and easily installed in hotel rooms.
- FM assistive listening systems can provide direct amplification in large areas using radio frequency. They can help the hearing impaired traveler listen to lectures, tours, etc., by simply having the speaker use a transmitter microphone, broadcasting his/her presentation over the air waves to the hard of hearing person's receiver.
- Portable infrared systems can be easily used with hotel televisions and



radios. These transmit sound via invisible infrared light to a listener's receiver.

- Portable wake-up alarms can be used to flash a light or vibrate a bed or pillow.
- There is portable TV band radios that can be tuned to TV channels and listened to through an earphone. You can set the volume to suit yourself and watch TV without disturbing others.

Hearing Aids:

If you wearing hearing aids, be sure to pack extra batteries and tubing. These may be difficult to obtain in some travel spots. There are many things hard of hearing people can do to help make their travels safe, comfortable, and enjoyable. Travel does not have to be avoided because of a hearing loss. Travel can be successful. So plan ahead, inform your fellow travelers, transportation hosts, and hotel clerks that you have a hearing problem,

obtain any necessary assistive devices.

Oh yeah , now I remembered what I forgot. Be sure to fill up the gas tank! Enjoy yourself and travel America!

Special Thanks to Elaine Teel and Janet Bailey for bring in pennies for our Penny Drive!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

LILIA Smith 5/11

Elaine Teel 5/25

Loretta Mithoug 5/28

William Parker 5/29

Else Meek providing
Realtime Services

Assistive Listening De-
vices available, ask at
Welcome Table

Thanks you for your Donation to EAC-SHHH:

Richard & Norma Jackson of Langley, WA and May Vanderzicht of Oak Harbor, WA

Be sure to ask about the **Chapter Rebate Membership Drive Entry Form** at the meeting

Next Meeting: Washington State 9-1-1/TTY Education Program

Saturday, May 11, 2002 - 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM.

The meeting will be given by **Donna Platt and Kay Amos, presenters with Washington State 9-1-1/TTY Education Program.**

For more information, you can call 206-322-4996 TTY/V or email to wa911tty@aol.com



SHHH MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you are not a member and want to be, or if you have not already paid this year's SHHH membership dues, we urge you to send your \$25.00 to National. Please bring the coupon on the right to a meeting, or mail to the address listed. Membership includes 6 issues of our Journal.

If you wish to only receive the newsletter, we ask for a donation to help with postage and printing expenses. All donations made to Everett SHHH are eligible for income tax deductions provided in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, then that is \$12.00 a year and received monthly except in July and August.

Check in the address portion of this issue to see if you are current. If you are having problems paying, arrangements will gladly be made.

If you are not a National SHHH member or would like to update your national membership – you can also do so on the attached coupon.

SHHH is the largest consumer organization dedicated to the well being of people with hearing loss. We believe people can help one another, be helped, and participate successfully in society. Our primary purpose is to educate ourselves and those around us about the causes, nature and complications of hearing loss – and what can be done to help.

Check the boxes that apply to you.

- ☐ I/we would like to become a member of, or update my local dues to, the SHHH, Everett Area Chapter (\$12 per person, \$15 for 2 or more in the same household per year). This includes 10 issues of the newsletter. See address below.
- ☐ I'd like the newsletter only (10 issues). Here is a donation of \$____.00. (Remember it is tax deductible). See address below.
- ☐ I want to join National SHHH (\$25 per year). Make check payable to SHHH National and send to: SHHH Membership Desk, 7910 Woodmont Ave. #1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Or you can send your check to SHHH, Everett Area Chapter, address below, and we will forward it for you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Voice/TTY _____

Circle box , and send this form and check to:

Everett Area Chapter
% Annette Johnson, Treasurer
8521B – 238th SW
Edmonds, WA 98026

National \$25.00 ☐ Local \$12.00 ☐
Both \$ 37.00 ☐

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the person submitting the information and not necessarily those held by SHHH. Mention of goods and services does not mean endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

Guest are always Welcome

SHHH-Everett Area Chapter

c/o Dave Pearson

8521 45th Dr NE

Marysville, WA 98270



Self Help for Hard of Hearing People Inc.

Self Help for Hard of Hearing
People, Inc.

Meeting: May 11, 2002

Washington State 9-1-1/TTY Education Program

by Donna Platt

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