

Websites: [Wake Chapter](#) [HLAA-NC](#) [HLAA National](#)

[Join our Wake Chapter Facebook Group](#)

In This Newsletter

[Upcoming Meetings and Events](#)

[Preventing Zoom Hackers](#)

[Join Our Wake Chapter Facebook Group](#)

[2022 Walk4Hearing a “Grand Celebration”](#)

[Tech Focus: Types of Audio Loops](#)

[Did You Know: Speech Recognition Measurements](#)

[Chapter Announces 2023 Scholarship Program](#)

[Wake Chapter Contacts](#)

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Wake Chapter: Gael Hannan will be our presenter for a Zoom meeting on **Thursday, November 17th, at 7:00 p.m.** Gael is an **advocate, author, humorist, and speaker** who grew up with a progressive hearing loss that is now severe-to-profound. Her talk will be **“Living Better with Hearing Loss.”** She is a past director on the national board of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) and has served as a speechreading instructor and volunteer for many hearing-related programs. She is a frequent speaker at HLAA and other national conferences and is the co-author, with Shari Eberts, of the new book on hearing loss, **“Hear and Beyond.”** Do plan to attend this meeting (The link to the Zoom meeting will be provided in a later email.)



HLAA National 2023 Convention: The 2023 HLAA National Convention will be held in New Orleans. There will be so many great presentations you can choose from that it is often difficult to decide which to attend. The huge vendor area will be filled with companies, non-profits introducing their products and services ... often letting you try them out. Finally, one of the greatest benefits of the convention is the chance to meet hundreds of others and instantly feel that you are kindred spirits with your shared interests in hearing loss learning and advocacy. Plus, New Orleans is one cool city to visit. See the [HLAA Convention web page](#) for details and plan your 2023 Summer adventure.



Preventing Zoom Hackers

Dr. Neil Bauman, our presenter in our previous Wake Zoom meeting gave a great presentation focusing on ***Coping with Hearing Loss the Right Way***. Unfortunately, thoughtless hackers attending attempted to take over the meeting by rudely interrupting the presentation and adding graffiti overlaying the presentation charts. We were able to quickly expel the hackers, and Dr. Bauman was able to complete his presentation. We'll be implementing some changes that we hope will prevent such interruptions in the future. We'll only be sending the link to the Zoom meeting in a separate email. When you link to future Zoom meetings, you'll be placed in a “waiting room” and will be admitted to the meeting by moderators. Those moderators will be ready to expel any attendees that try to disrupt the meeting. Please only share the link with people you trust ... not publicly.

Join Our Wake Chapter Facebook Group

Our newsletter is only published about 10 times a year, but if you'd like to have a more timely and interactive connection about hearing loss issues and events, you can join our HLAA Wake Chapter Facebook group. You can even ask questions or provide answers to our Wake Chapter hearing loss community. Just go to www.facebook.com and search on HLAA Wake Chapter. Then just click on Join.

2022 NC Walk4Hearing a “Grand Celebration”

Wendy Dembeck called it “a grand celebration.” The 2022 Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) North Carolina Walk4Hearing took place at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary on a sunny October Sunday, attracting 44 teams comprising 443 walkers.

Wendy serves as captain of the HLAA Wake Chapter Team. “It was a wonderful day for our NC Walk4Hearing,” she said. “The weather was beautiful, and the crowd was enthusiastic. Our team placed third in fundraising in the state. So, thank you everyone for supporting us.”

The Wake Chapter Team has raised more than \$2,800 to date. If you’ve yet to support the walk and the chapter team, you have until December 16th to make a donation at https://www.walk4hearing.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=2767.

Overall, this year’s walk has raised \$48,000 to support groups that provide essential resources and educational programs for people with hearing loss in North Carolina and beyond.



Wendy Dembeck meets RJ (Rameses Junior), a mascot for the University of North Carolina and a special guest at the NC Walk4Hearing.



[GO TO Page 1](#)

Tech Focus: Types of Audio Loops

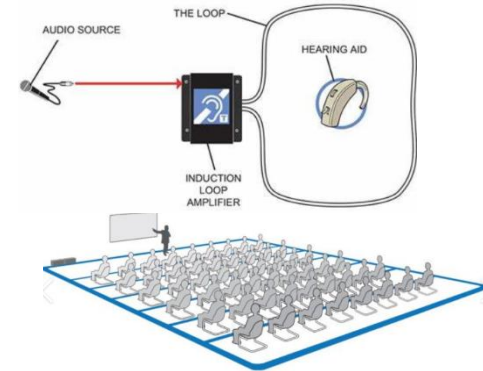
In our last Tech Focus, we introduced telecoils. If you missed it, see it [HERE](#). In this article, we'll cover audio loops. An audio loop is simply a loop of wire attached to an amplifier, just like a speaker would be attached. Instead of creating sound, an audio loop creates a variable electromagnetic field that represents the sound that the audio source has amplified. A telecoil that's in that audio loop will induce a signal that, when input to your hearing aid or CI, will cause it to recreate the sound the source emitted.

You can find looped facilities using www.loopfinder.com or the LoopFinder app available for Apple and Android phones. Any facility with a loop installed should display the sign at the right.



Simple area loops are just a wire around the room connected to an audio source. If you're in that loop with telecoils as your source, you'll hear the audio. But simple area loops can only support an area of about the size of a large room. Simple loops can be portable and temporarily installed for a meeting, or they can be permanently installed and only used for that room.

More complicated area loops, called a "phased array loops," allow larger areas to be supported without signal strength variations. Phased array loops have many overlapping loops, each covering an area like a couple of rows of seats in a theatre. They can also solve the problem of nearby metal limiting the signal strength and provide a strong signal regardless of telecoil orientation.



Neckloops are simple loops you wear like a necklace. There are wired neckloops you can plug into any 3.5 mm audio output (like a headphone jack), and some that are Bluetooth that can be wirelessly paired to Bluetooth sources. These can be used to hear CD players, computers, TVs, phones or assistive listening receivers often loaned at movies, live theatres, churches and other facilities. Some facilities loan your choice of a neckloop or headphones that are telecoil compatible. You can buy your own neckloop starting at about \$40.



Other small loops include **tabletop loops**, used to support one person standing in front of them ... perhaps at a pharmacy counter, or a reception desk, **chair pad loops** you can patch to your TV and sit on, and **silhouettes**, tiny loops in hooks that hang on your ear beside your telecoil compatible hearing aid or cochlear implant.



Limitations: Telecoils will also induce sounds if they are in any variable electromagnetic field. Typically, this is from electromagnetic interference (EMI) generated by older fluorescent lights, dimmer switches, automobile ignition systems, large electric motors, or other sources. This interference is heard as an unwanted buzz if you are near an unwanted electromagnetic field. Large amounts of metal near a loop (like rebar in a concrete floor) may reduce the signal a loop generates. A professional loop installer can usually resolve these problems (see phased array loops, above). Telecoils induction capability varies with their orientation in a hearing device. Some telecoils are oriented to hear a telephone near your ear, and some are oriented to hear an area loop better. Now, most are oriented for area loops since Bluetooth commonly provides streaming for telephones.

Costs: Loops vary in prices. It's possible to buy a small loop system for your TV room and install it yourself for under \$300. A small portable loop with an amplifier, the loop and a couple FM microphones, and a suitcase might cost as little as \$500. Installing a loop in a permanent facility can cost from a few thousands of dollars to tens of thousands of dollars, depending on size, the difficulty of hiding the loop, avoiding problems like interference sources or rebar in a concrete floor, and whether a phased array is required.

The next Tech Focus will cover all the ways that you can use your telecoils to hear better in various situations.

[GO TO Page 1](#)

Did You Know: Speech Recognition Measurements

Most of us have had an audiogram at the audiologist's office. Usually, in addition to plotting our loss on a graph by dB vs. frequency, it also includes a measurement of our ability to understand words or sentences. Over time, those measurement approaches have changed. In some cases, the audiologist simply covered their mouth, and said a few words (like "baseball," "ice cream" etc.) but more recently, recordings have been used that provide a more standard approach. Sometimes, still just words, often preceded by something like "Say the Word ..." or "Ready ..." followed by a word you're supposed to repeat. For example, "Say the word: Purple," or "Ready: Purple." Other approaches use complete sentences, such as "Mary asked me to go shopping tomorrow." Often, the recorded words or sentences are spoken by men vs. women.

The important thing to remember is your score can vary based on which type of test is used. For example, if you score 95% on word recognition using sentences, you might not score as well on tests using individual words. It's just a data point, not a perfectly accurate or repeatable result, especially if different test types are used. The results can vary from visit to visit or as you try different hearing aids, CIs or settings. Such changes may help you and your audiologist know that your ability to understand speech has improved, or gotten worse, but sometimes it just means a different test type was used. The difference between 95% and 85% may just be the test type, and not a real difference.

Chapter Announces 2023 Scholarship Program

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Wake Chapter will again sponsor scholarships for high school seniors with hearing loss.

Applications for the 2023 Wake Chapter scholarship will be available from the [HLAA Wake Chapter website](#) in late December. Submissions will be accepted from January through March, and recipients will be announced in May. The chapter has awarded scholarships to eight students since the program began in 2020.

Applicants must reside in Wake County and be seeking acceptance at an accredited university, college, or community college. They also must have a moderate hearing loss or more and wear a hearing aid or cochlear implant. Financial need is not a consideration. The \$500 scholarship is a one-time award and will be sent to the recipient when s/he begins classes.

The HLAA Wake Chapter scholarship program is made possible by the generous support of participants in the North Carolina Walk4Hearing, a hearing health awareness and fundraising event.

HLAA Wake Chapter Contacts

Steve Latus (President)

slatus@comcast.net

Steve Barber (Media)

steve.barber@earthlink.net

Janet McGettrick (Member Outreach)

jmcgettrick106@gmail.com or 919-469-0924

Susan Goldner (Treasurer)

goldaub1@aol.com
630 Upchurch St, Apt H
Apex NC 27502



Parker Shoun, a 2021 recipient of an HLAA Wake Chapter scholarship, participated in the 2022 NC Walk4Hearing. Parker, now a sophomore at Barton College in Wilson, posed with Wake Chapter board member Steve Latus.

[GO TO Page 1](#)