

## Hearing Protection: Shooters and Hunters



Firearms are among the leading causes of noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus. Many shooters wear earplugs or earmuffs for target practice and skeet, but wearing plugs or muffs while hunting blocks sounds of approaching game. Rifles and shotguns can produce a 150-160dB sound that can cause permanent hearing loss or tinnitus with just one shot.

At **Wake Audiology** we fit custom ear molds made by Westone Labs in Colorado. They offer several designs specifically for hunters and shooters, from filtered earplugs that suppress the gun blast but don't block normal sounds, to electronic earplugs that actually amplify sound but suppress the gun blast. Another option is the Walker Game Ear available from sporting goods stores. This is a behind-the-ear amplifier/sound suppressor with a foam plug that fits snugly in the ear canal. For wearers who find the foam plug too loose or uncomfortable, we make comfortable and secure custom ear molds to replace the foam plugs. *Give us a call for more information, and you can visit [www.westone.com](http://www.westone.com) to look at their options.*

## Technology Update 2013:

### Open Caption System (Movie Theatre)



**Sony Entertainment and Regal Cinemas** have just released a new closed caption movie viewing system for those with hearing loss. "Regal Access" will be available at all Regal Cinemas by mid 2013. Known as the "open caption" system, the Regal Access glasses are worn while the user is watching the film. It is a free service, but there will be a limited quantity of glasses available on a first come, first serve basis.

Source: Hearing Review-Sony and Regal Cinemas Release "Open Caption" Glasses

## Baby Boomers: In denial about hearing loss

A new study from Applied Research shows older Americans are in denial about their hearing loss and the associated social costs. The majority of "Boomers" believe their hearing is better than average, while their spouse and children wish they would have their hearing tested. A majority of "Boomers" do not currently use nor are they considering a hearing device. With the negative impact of hearing loss so high, why do people avoid the solution? Cost is a major factor, but pride is often mentioned. A third reason is that wearing a hearing aid will "look awkward" or "make them look older". Hearing aid technology has come a long way over the years. Today's digital hearing aids have automated convenience that not only detects sound levels but adjusts automatically to the wearer's particular needs. And today's hearing aids are stylish, discreet pieces of art. Many manufacturers are winning consumer electronic design awards for their innovative designs.



Source: Siemens-Hearing/Applied Research

## Hear From our Patients

*"I have really been pleased how friendly and knowledgeable the entire staff is beginning with Dr. Marquis. They do not stop until you are completely satisfied with your hearing aid." JSS*

[Visit our website at www.WakeAudiology.com to see what others are saying about us](http://www.WakeAudiology.com)

### **WE APPRECIATE YOUR REFERRALS**

*Referring your friends and family is the highest compliment you can pay us. As a thank you for referring new hearing aid patients, we will make a contribution to a charity of your choice.*

*Thank you for choosing Wake Audiology as your hearing care provider.*

*Sincerely,*

*Dr. Catherine Marquis  
Carol and Sandy*

### Hearing Focus Tip:

Too much noise can harm a child's hearing. Learn more about noise-induced hearing loss and how to prevent it.

[www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov](http://www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov)

Visit our website @  
[www.WakeAudiology.com](http://www.WakeAudiology.com)

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