



NHOPA NEWS

National Home Oxygen Patients Association

Volume 10, Number 6

July 2007

Pete Wilson, former NHOPA Board Member passed away June 14, 2007. Pete was a good friend and fellow laborer in helping those on supplementary oxygen and with COPD. His website, www.portableoxygen.org was an outstanding resource for oxygen users and many healthcare professionals and was recently recognized by ATS as the best website in their pulmonary rehab category. Pete was elated that his hard work was recognized by the medical profession. Lois Wilson, Pete's wife, attended most of the medical and oxygen-related conferences with him. She contributed substantially to his studies and writings. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family at this time and we hope that she will continue as an advocate for oxygen users. Pete's service was held on Thursday, June 21st, in Spotsylvania, VA.

Check Your Schedule

NHOPA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 11:00 am EST.

This annual meeting is via conference call – come join us and see what NHOPA is doing!

New Member Recruitment Project

The NHOPA Executive Office has compiled a list of over 600 pulmonary rehabilitation programs around the country, obtained from various websites. Our goal is to introduce NHOPA to Pulmonary Rehabilitation professionals (largely respiratory therapists, nurses, and clinical exercise physiologists) in their clinics, and to the pulmonary patients they serve in exercise programs. We plan to mail a small number of a recent newsletter to each Program Director with permission to duplicate and distribute to participants. It is our hope that the practitioners will see the value in joining at the "Health Professional" level and, more importantly, encourage their patients to become user members as a way to stay connected and receive valuable information on an ongoing basis. Many pulmonary rehabilitation patients are in a program for only a 2-3 month time period before being discharged home or a maintenance exercise program.

If you are part of a pulmonary rehab program, please feel free to also share a recent newsletter with your fellow exercisers and your health professional(s). NHOPA has a good mission worth sharing.

CALL FOR NHOPA NOMINATIONS

There are 3 three year term oxygen user member Board positions to be filled. If you or someone you know would like to be nominated for the Board, please submit in writing (via e-mail or snail mail) the name and relevant biographical information to the NHOPA Executive Office – All candidates must be NHOPA oxygen user members. **You may nominate yourself.**

The NHOPA Board provides overall supervision for the management and direction of the association. Meetings are held via telephone conference call every other month. The NHOPA user members of the Board select the non user members of the Board every year. All directors serve without compensation.

Nominating Committee Needs Your Help!

NHOPA also needs a few of our User Members to volunteer for the Nominations Committee. The committee reviews and develops the slate of candidates to present to the Board and ultimately the User Members for voting. A few conference calls over the next few months are all that is involved.

Volunteer at the Executive Office Today!

1-888-646-7244

ExecOffice@homeoxygen.org

Updates on the Hill

Understanding S 1484 and HR 621:

The Home Oxygen Patient Protection Act of 2007

The Senate and House of Representatives have introduced legislation that will rescind a Medicare provision that was enacted last year requiring Medicare home oxygen patients to assume ownership of their oxygen equipment after 36 months.

Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) introduced bill S 1484. Co-sponsors of the bill include Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Ken Salazar (D-CO), and George Voinovich (R-OH).

Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) introduced the House version of the bill, HR 621 that now includes 83 co-sponsors. The two bills are identical, meaning the House and the Senate address the same issues. This will reduce or eliminate the need to reconcile the legislation between the two bodies.

Initial Congressional legislation was introduced in 2006, but with a newly convened Congress in January, the legislation had to be reintroduced. Both bills have been reintroduced and this ensures both are considering the legislation.

NHLBI's Breathe Better Campaign

In June NHLBI's (National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute) campaign "Learn More Breathe

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The National Home Oxygen Patients Association is devoted exclusively to improving the lives of people across the country who require supplementary oxygen on a regular basis.

Publication of the NHOPA monthly newsletter is made possible through a generous grant from the American Association for Homecare.

Executive Committee

Jon Tiger, President	Wichita, KS
Bill Anderson, Vice-President	Oconomowoc, WI
Bob Keith, Treasurer	Baltimore, MD
Secretary	

Newsletter Editor

Stephanie Diehl, RRT	Littleton, CO
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Better" reached an estimated 7.5 million people. This was enhanced with two national media appearances by Grace Anne Koppel.

Barbara Walters and Joy Behar on ABC's *The View*. Interviewed Grace Anne and Ted Koppel on June 15th. They spoke openly about Grace Anne's diagnosis and treatment for COPD, including her symptoms and risk factors. They also emphasized the need for greater use of lung function testing.

The July 10 issue of Woman's Day featured Grace Anne's personal story with COPD and her advocacy as part of the Learn More Breathe Better campaign. Grace Anne hopes that sharing her story will encourage those experiencing symptoms to talk with their doctors and get lung function tests. Additional information is included on the Women's Day web site. This information includes links to the Learn More Breathe Better campaign, the National Library of Medicine, the Mayo Clinic, and the American Lung Association. This resource list can be viewed at: <http://www.womansday.com/health/11794/6-sources-for-copd-support.html>.

For more information on the campaign visit www.LearnAboutCOPD.org.

DOT Advisory for Traveling with Batteries

Portable Oxygen Concentrators (POC) have provided many with the freedom to travel, however safety with these units must also be recognized. Recently the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued an advisory informing the traveling public and airline employees about the importance of properly packing and handling batteries and battery-powered devices when they are carried aboard aircraft. These battery-powered devices include POCs as well as cell phones and computers along with other devices. Thousands of batteries and battery-powered devices are safely carried aboard passenger aircraft each day, but recent incidents involving batteries in checked or carry-on baggage illustrate the risk of overheating and fire that can occur when regulations are not followed.

Federal regulations require that electrical storage batteries or battery-powered devices carried aboard passenger aircraft be properly packaged or protected to avoid short-circuiting or overheating. The following are practical

measures for complying with the regulations and minimizing transportation risks.

- Keep batteries installed in electronic devices
- Pack spare batteries in carry-on baggage
- Keep spare batteries in original retail packaging
- If original packaging is not available, effectively insulate battery terminals by packing in a sturdy plastic bag
- Separate batteries from other metallic objects (i.e. keys, coins, jewelry) by packing individual batteries in a sturdy plastic bag
- Securely pack battery powered equipment in a manner to prevent accidental activation
- Do not carry recalled, damaged or counterfeit batteries (Information on recalled batteries can be found at www.cpsc.gov)
- Ensure batteries are undamaged and purchased from reputable sources.

More information can be found at <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/phmsa0307.htm> or <http://safetravel.dot.gov/>

Questions & Comments

Jack Norton wrote “We currently use an [concentrator] for our nightly oxygen. Its electric usage is excessive. Have you any knowledge of a more energy efficient machine or direct us to some one who could help us in this matter?”

Stationary concentrators run off household electricity and power consumption will vary between the various units available. Insurance does not reimburse for electricity associated with powering your concentrator.

The power consumption of your particular unit is 390 watts per the manufacturer’s website (4.3 amps at 5 L/min). This is not a lot of draw for energy (per electronics authority). If you feel that your unit is using a high amount of electricity, speak directly with the manufacturer to see if they can troubleshoot with you. The manufacturer can provide you with specific information on your machine. You can also check electrical specs for your device on the manufacturer’s website. Also check with your homecare supplier to see if there is some maintenance or tune up that might need to be done. Remember that some concentrators have filters that should be washed on a regular basis.

Regarding other energy efficient machines, there are several machines available that deliver anywhere from 0.5 to 10 L/min; however most are around this same wattage.

Travel Feedback

Scott Smith wrote regarding the NHOPA airline oxygen website page: “It would be helpful if you added a date next to each airline to indicate when your site was last updated concerning that airline’s policies. A spreadsheet indicating airlines on the rows, the equipment on the columns, and the cells indicating which units approved by which airlines would be very helpful too. Just my thoughts, as I hope to fly again...more conveniently”

Scott thanks for writing and the suggestion. The website is updated on a regular basis as new information becomes available. The website was just recently reviewed for current airline policies for POC and in-flight oxygen and has been updated to reflect the changes.

Your suggestion of presenting the information as a table for easier reading is a good one and will be presented to the Board to consider it for the next major update.

Another resource is the Airline Oxygen Council of America’s (AOCA) website at (<http://www.airlineoxygenCouncil.org>) for a list of airlines and their oxygen and POC policies.

New Products

The following information on new products/companies available on the market is for informational purposes only. NHOPA does not specifically endorse ANY products. Contact your physician for further information regarding your healthcare or the specific company for product information.

The **MD Turbo™** is a handheld companion to metered dose inhalers (MDIs) that addresses two important limitations of MDIs: coordination of the press-and-breathe action needed for proper use of an inhaler and counting remaining doses in the inhaler so the user always knows how much medication is left. This unit is compatible with a number of MDIs and is available by prescription only. This unit is marketed by TEAMM Pharmaceuticals More information can be found at www.mdturbo.com or by contacting TEAMM Customer Service at 1.866.832.6747 for assistance.

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Annual membership dues renewal notices have been mailed out.

Make sure that you renew promptly so you don't miss out on all the news from NHOPA!

- The FDA has launched two new initiatives aimed at enhancing consumer information. These new initiatives will feature stories on pressing FDA topics, provide links to the most requested information and will provide interactive content.
 - A website titled *Consumer Health Information for You and Your Family* that can be found at www.fda.gov/consumer. This website provides comprehensive and timely consumer information.
 - A free monthly newsletter titled *FDA Consumer Health Information* at www.fda.gov/consumer/consumerenews.html

13 reasons to smile

(Received via email – anonymous)

- Now that food has replaced sex in my life, I can't even get into my own pants.
- Marriage changes passion. - Suddenly you're in bed with a relative.
- I saw a woman wearing a sweat shirt with "Guess" on it. - So I said "Implants?" She hit me.
- How come we choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?
- A good friend will come and bail you out of jail...but, a true friend will be sitting next to you saying, "Darn...that was fun!"
- I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!
- When I was young we used to go "skinny dipping," now I just "chunky dunk."
- Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.
- Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over? AMEN, AMEN!!
- Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?
- Wouldn't you know it... - Brain cells come and brain cells go, but FAT cells live forever.
- Why do I have to swear on the Bible in court when the Ten Commandments cannot be displayed in a federal building?
- Bumper sticker of the year: "If you can read this, thank a teacher -and, since it's in English, thank a soldier!!"