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- Improved anti-virus integration with Sourcefire's ClamAV engine
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- Significantly smaller download package
- Improved management console with exciting new look and feel

And 3 Rivers still provides SecureIT Plus FREE for one computer, including professionally assisted installation, when you subscribe to our High Speed Internet service. Compare that to Norton or other leading Internet anti-virus software that can cost as much as \$69 or more! Call a 3 Rivers customer service representative today for details.

Current 3 Rivers' SecureIT Plus users should notice that their software has automatically been updated—the SecureIT icon in your task bar should have changed from a gold padlock to a white cross. If yours hasn't been updated, you may simply have to reboot your computer. If you have questions, please call 3 Rivers. SecureIT Plus is available for purchase for additional computers for \$3.95 per month. Assisted installation has a one-time charge of \$9.95.

3 Rivers' SecureIT Plus has a new look & enhanced features!

INSIDE

- Community Enhancement Grants
- Upcoming Summer Events



3 RIVERS
COMMUNICATIONS

Advanced Technology, Personal Touch

Currents

May - June 2008



Stars On the Madison



“Stars On the Madison” will shine brightly during the Madison River Music Festival in Ennis on June 20-21. The Madison Valley Cultural Corporation with support from 3 Rivers Communications will bring you a weekend full of entertainment, including internationally acclaimed Concert Fiddler Marie Rhines accompanied by the Powder River Symphony from Gillette, Wyoming. 3 Rivers has partnered with the Ennis community for the past 6 years to provide outstanding entertainment and musical workshops for the public through the Madison River Music Festival.

The fun doesn't stop once the Music Festival is over. The next weekend 3 Rivers will be hosting a Customer Appreciation Picnic in Pony for the enjoyment of all our members. We will have food, live entertainment and door prizes at the Pony Park on Saturday June 28. If you can't make it to Pony in June try to join us in Augusta for our second Customer Appreciation Picnic on Saturday August 23. Once again there will be live music, lots of food and some great door prizes.

If you want more activity than a picnic, plan to attend the 3 Rivers Charity Golf Tournament in Shelby at the Marias Valley Golf Course on July 25th. All the money raised from this benefit tournament will be donated to a local charity. In the past this event has raised \$13,000 for seven community groups including the Choteau Soroptomist Club, the Ennis Lions Club and the Twin Bridges Library.

We always know the summer is almost over when we attend the Madison County Fair in Twin Bridges. This year the fair will be held from August 14-17 with the Fair parade on Sunday the 17th. Arrange to stop by our booth at the fair and get a great memento of your day; we will print a t-shirt just for your kids with their picture on it. Then they will be the “Stars In the Madison Valley”. ■



BOARD MEMBER RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS OF SERVICE

Thank you, Bud

After 37 years on the 3 Rivers Board of Trustees Howard S. (Bud) Johnson has decided to retire. Since 1971 Bud has worked closely with the other board members and management to make sure that 3 Rivers continued to grow and provide new services and technologies for our members. He has been involved in the many changes in our company including the upgrades in 1973 when we went from party lines to private lines in many areas. Bud was there when 3 Rivers installed the first digital phone switch west of the Mississippi and he remembers when we took the jump to expand our services and provide Internet to our rural customers in 1995.

As part of his commitment to providing the best service to the members of the cooperative he continued to learn about the changes taking place in the telephone industry. He is the Past Director of North Central Regional Processing Center, and served on the boards of the National Informational Solutions Cooperative and Montana Telecommunications Association.

Though he represented the Conrad/East Conrad/Brady/Power/ Shelby exchanges he was a friend to all and will be missed. “Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Director all these years,” were his parting words. No Bud, Thank you! ■



3 RIVERS INFORMATION

Service Information

3 Rivers Communications Divisions

3 Rivers Telephone, Internet and Long Distance

Fairfield: 406.467.2535 or 800.796.4567
Browning: 406.338.2535 Conrad: 406.271.2535
Great Falls: 406.216.2535 Shelby: 406.424.8535
Payments: P.O. Box 489, Fairfield, MT 59436-0489
Correspondence: P.O. Box 429, Fairfield, MT 59436

3 Rivers DBS - Satellite TV/Internet Services

406.467.2535 or 800.796.4567
P.O. Box 159, Fairfield, MT 59436-0159

Website: www.3rivers.net

E-mail: 3rt@3rivers.net

On-line Billing: <https://ebill.3rivers.net>

Board of Trustees

- Steve Krogue, General Manager, 467.2535
- Harry R. Barnes, Browning, 338.3440
- Kirk Dige, Big Sky, 995.4769
- William Dringle, Ennis/Harrison, 682.7489
- Brian D. McCollom, Choteau/Pendroy/Dupuyer/Valier, 466.2443
- Keith Good, Carter/Highwood/Great Falls, 734.5371
- Kerry Schaefer, Brady/Conrad/Power East Conrad/Valier/Shelby, 463.2370
- Michael Johnson, Fairfield/Augusta/Ft. Shaw/Helena, 467.2350
- Mary Hill, Raynesford/Geyser/Neihart/Belt/Stockett, 738.4220
- Loren Tucker, Melrose/Sheridan/Twin Bridges Lima/Virginia City, 843.5566

Community Enhancement Grants

Greenfield School PTA
 Highwood Recreational Development Organization
 Sheridan Main Street Improvement Committee
 Friends of the Madison Valley Library
 Browning Community Development Corporation
 Carter Volunteer Fire Department
 Pondera Arts Council
 Sun River School District
 Golden Ridge Community Hall
 Pals of the Pavilion

How can you get your name on this list?

Each of these organizations has received a Community Enhancement Grant from 3 Rivers Communications. Through this program there is new playground equipment at the Greenfield School and in the park in Simms. There are handicapped accessible doors at the Marias Medical Center and needed improvements to the Pavilion in Choteau.

Beginning in 2004 our Board of Trustees has annually set aside money to provide grants to local organizations to help them improve their communities. We have awarded over \$33,000 to twenty-one groups in our serving area from Browning to Lima.

There is grant money available now. This program is structured so the grants are awarded throughout the year with disbursements quarterly.

If you would like more information about the 3 Rivers Community Enhancement Grant program please contact Susan at 467-4133 or email susan.wilson@3rivers.coop. ■

55th Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

The 55th annual membership meeting of 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., was held at the Fairfield Community Hall on Monday, March 17. 3 Rivers' general manager and auditors reported that 2007 was another good year for the cooperative.

There were the usual hellos to new and returning board members and goodbyes to a retiring board member and a great meal was enjoyed by more than 600 people. Over \$1.3 million was dispersed in capital credit checks this year.

Following lunch, 3 Rivers Board Secretary Mary Hill formally opened the business portion of the meeting with formal announcement and ratification of last year's meeting minutes. President Mike Johnson followed with his comments. Johnson's report stressed that 3 Rivers is YOUR cooperative and mentioned he has confidence that 3 Rivers' professional and sophisticated staff under the direction of new General Manager Steve Krogue will meet the current and future needs of the cooperative.

Johnson then introduced the current board of trustees and the election of new trustees began. Two candidates ran for the seat being vacated by retiring member Howard "Bud" Johnson, covering the Conrad/East Conrad/Brady/Power/Shelby area. Three candidates, including the incumbent Mary Hill, ran for the Geyser/Raynesford/Neihart/Belt/Stockett seat and Bill Dringle ran unopposed for his Ennis/Harrison spot. Each candidate made a brief speech, and ballots were collected and counted. Kerry Schaefer was elected to fill Bud Johnson's position and Mary Hill was re-elected to continue to represent her area.



After the Audit Report by Rick Betts from 3 Rivers' accounting consultants Moss Adams, General Manager Steve Krogue gave his report. Krogue touched on the challenges facing the cooperative today, from regulatory changes that affect the bottom line to the technical challenges the co-op faces in keeping up with current technologies and launching services provided via new technologies such as the long-awaited launch of our 3RTV video service. Steve thanked Bud Johnson for his more than three decades (!) of service to the cooperative and his contribution to the success and growth of 3 Rivers during that time.

Mike Johnson then returned and formally thanked Bud Johnson and presented him with a plaque. Bud Johnson then delivered a speech outlining the time and commitment he gave to the cooperative, through his service on the board and his participation in regional and national telecommunications organizations. Listening to Bud speak, it made one appreciate the constant change in our industry and what it takes to continue to be successful.

Questions from the floor were entertained by 3 Rivers senior management and door prizes were given away to conclude the day. The main door prizes given out for the past few years were gift certificates for 3 Rivers service, and this year was no different. Twenty \$55 certificates were given to randomly drawn attendees. In case you didn't catch the significance of that dollar amount, it signifies one dollar for every year the cooperative has been around. I heard talk of members looking forward to next year's \$56 drawing! ■



Major Upgrades to 3 Rivers' Network

As mentioned in the last issue of *Currents*, 3 Rivers' plans to spend several million dollars this year on network improvements. We are in the process of building a redundant and extensive Ethernet network that will provide the ability to offer many types of advanced services that cannot be provided on the traditional telephone network. This work involves changing out a significant portion of our existing facilities, including switches, hardware, software and more, which will increase bandwidth capabilities for residential and business subscribers in our service areas. When finished, we will be able to provide more stable service, higher speed broadband Internet access, at lower cost, to more customers and eventually offer advanced telecommunication technologies such as video over phone lines via your broadband connection.

While this process is underway, minor service interruptions may occur, especially when we "cutover" from old facilities to new facilities. We have recently heard from customers in some service areas who have experienced Internet outages or disruption in telephone service. We apologize for this inconvenience and encourage you to contact us should you experience service issues so that we can address them as soon as possible. We at 3 Rivers appreciate your patience as we strive to provide the most up-to-date service to our cooperative members, now and in the future. ■

Upcoming Events

Do you have an event you would like to include in the 3 Rivers Upcoming Events column? The event must be a community sponsored event and be open to all community members. Space permitting we will run the name of your event, the date, time and location. If you have questions or event information please contact: susan.wilson@3rivers.coop

May Fair Home and Garden	Butte	May 9-11
Summer Kick Off Parade	Virginia City	May 24
Whoop Up Days Parade	Conrad	June 7
Fly In	Twin Bridges	June 14-15
Rodeo and Parade	Belt	June 14-15
Madison River Music Festival	Ennis	June 20-21
3 Rivers Customer Appreciation Picnic	Pony	June 28
American Legion Rodeo Parade	Augusta	June 28
Homesteader Day	Valier	June 28
Historic Crail Ranch Annual Mtg	Big Sky	June 29
4 th of July Parade	Choteau	July 4
4 th of July Parade	Ennis	July 4
North American Indian Days	Browning	July 11-13
Gallatin County Fair	Bozeman	July 16-20
Swim Days	Fairfield	July 18-19
Marias Tri-County Fair	Shelby	July 17-20
3 Rivers Charity Golf Tournament	Shelby	July 25
Lewis and Clark County Fair	Helena	July 23-27
Montana State Fair	Great Falls	July 25-August 2
Grizzly Day Parade	Dupuyer	August 2
Montana Fair	Billings	August 8-16
Country Fair and Parade	Big Sky	August 9
Madison County Fair	Twin Bridges	August 14-17
3 Rivers Customer Appreciation Picnic	Augusta	August 23

And the New Board Member is...



Kerry Schaefer is a native of Power and returned to live there with his wife, Phyllis and 3 sons in 1976. During this period he served the Power School Board, Church boards, as Boy Scout Leader, Little League Coach and Power Harvest-Fest Committee member. Schaefer has 30 years of experience in the grain business, merchandising grain to international markets and managing country grain operations across Montana, Idaho, North Dakota and Montana. He has served professionally as a board member of the Pacific Northwest Grain Dealers Association, President of the Montana Grain Elevator Association, Governor Racicot's Agriculture Vision 2005 Task Force as well as board member and chair-elect of the Montana Chamber of Commerce. He also served on three joint venture management boards while Regional Manager of General Mills, Inc., Northwest Grain Division. In 2002, after General Mills, Inc. made the decision to downsize their grain operations, Schaefer became an independent contractor doing communications, membership and fundraising work for the Montana Chamber of Commerce out of his home in Power and operating a 250 head cow/calf ranch.

Schaefer says, "I have been fortunate to be able to earn a living using 3 Rivers Communications services rather than move after a job change to another state. This is a dynamic business with strong rural roots and the Board of Trustees and management team has held fast to meeting the mission of the cooperative. Looking forward it will be very important to stay on the leading edge of new technologies and new opportunities to bring the service and returns to members that they have learned to expect. I would hope that some of these opportunities would lead 3 Rivers Communications to be able to have a positive economic impact on the communities in which they do business and it is one of my goals to promote that effort." ■



Currents Contributors Acknowledgment

We'd like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals who contributed to *Currents* this issue:

Callie Moss
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 Don Serido