

THE CONNECTION

JUNE/JULY 2018



Runestone
Telecom Association

In This Issue

GM's Update 2
Vehicle for Sale 2
What's Your Best
Internet Speed? 3
Local Time & Temp 3
Holiday Closing 3
New Customers 3
FUN Fest Winners 4
New Channel Added 4
Capital Credit Checks 4
Welcome Keaton &
Garrett 4
Available Services 4
Work Anniversary 4

You Are Invited to the Annual Meeting!

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Entertainment by Craig Torgerson - 6:30 PM

Registration - 6:30 PM

Meeting - 7:00 PM

West Central Area School Auditorium, Barrett, MN

Win door prizes! Pie & ice cream served by
WCA FCCLA following meeting.

The RTA Annual Report will not be mailed
out but can be found on our website:
www.runestone.net. If you would like a
copy mailed to you, please let us know.



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Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 am-4:30 pm

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Runestone Telecom Association is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

GM's Update

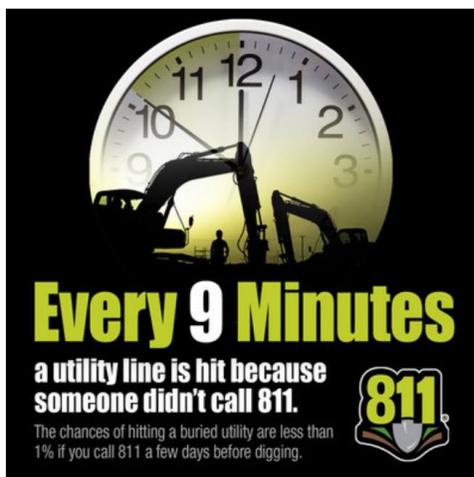
By Kent Hedstrom, General Manager

Runestone Telecom, your local telecommunication cooperative, is looking forward to a very busy and productive summer, especially after what seemed like a never-ending winter. Gophers played havoc on parts of our fiber optic cable throughout our service area. The extremely cold temperatures and lack of snow cover drove not only the frost down, but also the gophers. In a typical year, we will see maybe one or two problems arise from gophers. This past season, gophers chewed through fiber optic cable eighteen times. Our crews spent some very cold days outside repairing what they could. Some of the cable was actually in the frost creating the need for placing temporary cable on top of the ground. Runestone crews also worked on splicing fiber in our Lowry Exchange and the Holmes City 2 Broadband Grant area during the winter months.

As we head into summer, our construction plans are to complete our Holmes City 2 Grant project and finish plowing the rural Lowry Exchange with fiber optic cable. I want to remind everyone how extremely important it is to call Gopher State One Call before you do any digging.

Cut cables are a timely and expensive repair. Please help avoid any mishaps by calling 48 hours in advanced to have our facilities marked. This will not only help us protect out lines but help protect you from a dangerous condition should there be electric or natural gas in the area.

Financially, 2017 was a successful year with net Margins of \$1,725,035. Thus far, in 2018, numbers are down slightly from this point in 2017 mainly due to a reduction in Universal Service support. Unfortunately, further cuts are expected in July of this year and will ultimately affect our bottom line. The increase in revenue from customers outside our traditional service area has lessened the impact of these reductions and we continue to evaluate all opportunities for continued expansion. The Board of Directors have approved a Capital Credit payout to refund the remaining amounts of the years 2000 and 2001 plus 25% of 2016, an amount of approximately \$775,000. We will mail the checks in September to members with service in those years.



I would like to invite all of you to attend our 68th Annual Meeting at the West Central Area High School in Barrett on July 18th with registration at 6:30pm. I hope to see you all there.



Vehicle for Sale on Bid

2007 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Crew Cab

Milage: 151,7xx
Doors: 4
Engine: V8, 6.0L
Transmission: Automatic
Drivetrain: 4WD ABS
Running Boards
Premium Wheels
Towing Package
Ladder Racks & Light Bar
Air Conditioning

Power Windows
Power Door Locks
Power Steering
Power Seat
Tilt Wheel
Cruise Control
Dual Air Bags
AM/FM Radio
Single Disc CD



This may be seen at Runestone Telecom Association, 100 Runestone Drive, Hoffman, MN 56339. This is for sale by sealed bids. All bids must be received by 4:00 p.m., June 18th, 2018. The Runestone Telecom Board of Directors reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

What's Your Best Internet Speed?

Part of choosing the right internet plan is future use. Avoid buffering and slow-downs as you grow, because the average household now has at least 7 internet connected devices and is growing.

you may need to eliminate buffering. A connection that was blazing fast a few years ago may seem agonizingly slow today. Call us to try faster internet today.

If you haven't increased the speed of your internet service in several years,



Check The Box That Fits Your Family

How many devices do you have? Count tablets, watches, computers, thermostats, mobile phones... anything connected in your home.

Email & Surf | 1-3 Devices
Recommend: 10-15 Mbps \$72.12 (price includes phone service).

Streaming and Social | 4-8 Devices
Recommend: 20-30 Mbps \$82.12 (price includes phone service). Works when usage is concentrated at night or many users at once.

Streaming, 4K, Upload Efficient, Work@Home | 9+ Devices for optimum streaming, gaming, & fast large file transfers
Recommend: 40-50 Mbps \$90.12 or 75-100 Mbps \$121.12 (price includes phone service). Works best when usage is concentrated day or night, or when many users use at once.

The REAL Local Time & Temp

Don't trust an app or a far-away news source! Get the real temp & time from a live local weather station. Put your local number on speed dial and find out anytime.

- Barrett - 528-6611**
- Cyrus - 795-6611**
- Donnelly - 246-6611**
- Elbow Lake - 685-6611**
- Hoffman - 986-6611**
- Kensington - 965-6611**
- Lowry - 283-6611**
- Norcross - 284-6611**
- Tintah - 369-6611**
- Wendell - 458-6611**



Holiday Closing

In honor of the 4th of July, our office will be closed that day. Technicians will be on call.

Welcome New Customers!

BARRETT
Lohse, Alva..... 528-2058
Quiggle, Larry..... 528-2033
Smith, Justin..... 528-6280

CYRUS
Williams, John..... 795-2019

DONNELLY
Friesen, Mary..... 246-2015
Henrichs, Haley..... 246-2016

ELBOW LAKE
Hagen, Scott..... 685-2081
Halena, Travis & Sarah..... 685-2944
KR-Digital Photography Framing & Gallery..... 685-2200
Kvamme, Kathy..... 685-4860

HOFFMAN
Hammer, Kelsey..... 986-2161
Petersen, Philip..... 986-2657
Thorstad, Daniel..... 986-3223

LOWRY
Dvorak, John Allan..... 283-2189
Hay, Barlow A..... 283-2100
Blanshan, Kaiya..... 283-2255
Radil, Samuel..... 283-2038
Trousil, Bob..... 283-5833
Wardell, Michael..... 283-2006

NORCROSS
Backroads Repair & Sales..... 284-2282

WENDELL
Beckman, Dennis..... 458-2055

FUN Fest Winners

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth at the FUN Fest in April. We gave away 2 Roku Express streaming players.

Our lucky winners were: Bryan Hauglie and Les Alvstad.

New TV Channel Added

We added Quest to the lineup on May 1st. It is located on Channel 17.4 or 328. Quest is a network that entertains and informs with adventure programming about nature's dangers, history's greatest mysteries and man's greatest achievements. Rescan your TV's to have it added to your watch list!



Capital Credit Checks are Coming!

The Board of Directors have announced the upcoming refund of Capital Credits. If you had service in the years 2000, 2001 or 2016, you will be receiving a check from us. We are planning to mail out checks in September.



Welcome, Keaton and Garrett

We are proud to introduce our new employees. Keaton Long and Garrett Haley have joined our outside summer crew. Welcome to our team!



Keaton Long



Garrett Haley

Available Services To Runestone Telecom Association Customers

Runestone Telecom offers the following local exchange telecommunications services to all consumers throughout its serving area:

- Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- Local exchange service, including an amount of local usage free of per minute charges, under a flat rated local service package;
- Dual tone multi-frequency signal;
- Single party service;
- Access to emergency service;
- Access to operator services;
- Access to interexchange service;
- Access to directory assistance; and
- Toll blocking without charge to qualified low-income customers.

Basic, local exchange residential monthly service rates, excluding EAS rates, are as follows:

TOWN:

Barrett, Cyrus, Donnelly, Elbow Lake, Hoffman, Kensington, Lowry, Norcross, Tintah, Wendell

MONTHLY LOCAL LINE AMOUNT:
\$18.00

Subsidized discounts are available to customers meeting certain low-income criteria. Information concerning these plans is available at Runestone Telecom Association at 320-986-2013.

Work Anniversary

Dave Redepenning will celebrate his 25th year of service in June. He works as a Network Technician installing services as well as maintaining our cable TV system. Thank you for your dedication and service.

