

The Connection

JULY 2019

Red, White, and You!

Runestone Telecom hopes you and your family enjoy a wonderful Independence Day. Since July is also National Independent Retailer Month, we encourage you to support small independent businesses whenever possible.

Location Change for Our Annual Meeting

Due to the construction underway at West Central Area School this summer, our annual meeting will be held at the Kensington Community Center on Wednesday, July 17th at 7 p.m. We hope to see you there! To view this year's annual report, visit www.runestone.net.

Contact

Runestone Telecom Association
100 Runestone Drive
PO Box 336
Hoffman, MN 56339
Phone: 320-986-2013
Fax: 320-986-2050

Office Hours
M-F 8 am to 4:30 pm

Office Closures
July 4th for Independence Day

Email
rtaoffice@runestone.net

Visit Us Online
www.runestone.net




FEEL★FREE to Shine

Our country was built by people willing to blaze new trails, face new challenges, and learn new skills. In that spirit, we encourage you to move forward in your technology journey. If that journey requires faster internet service, feel free to call us

Call us today to increase your internet speed!

CALL 320-986-2013

*Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Contact us for details.

With eBilling, You Can Pay It Your Way

We're all looking for ways to make life a little easier, and one way Runestone Telecom does that is by offering you free eBilling. With eBilling, you save time and money:

- No check writing or postage is necessary.
- View your current or past bills online anytime you want.
- Pay online in seconds with your credit or debit card.
- Enjoy security protections via your account number and password.
- No need to worry about lost or stolen paper statements.

In addition to eBilling, we also offer other convenient payment options so you can "pay it your way." Choose Automatic Payment



to have your Runestone Telecom bill amount automatically deducted from your chosen bank account each month — you don't have to do a thing! You can also make a credit or debit card payment over the phone by calling our office and providing your card number.

To sign up for eBilling or get details on any of our bill payment options, visit www.runestone.net or call 320-986-2013.

FUSC Rate Change

The current Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) factor of 18.8% will increase to 24.4% effective July 1, 2019. This will be reflected in your Runestone Telecom bills.

2019's National Moon Day Celebrates a 50th Anniversary

National Moon Day is observed annually on July 20 to commemorate the day man first walked on the moon. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on July 20, 1969 —when Neil Armstrong said these unforgettable words as he stepped onto the lunar surface at 10:56 p.m. EDT: "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

Buzz Aldrin joined Armstrong soon thereafter and described the moon's surface as "magnificent desolation." The two astronauts explored for two and a half hours, collecting 47.5 pounds of lunar material and taking photographs.

They left behind an American flag, a patch honoring the fallen Apollo 1 crew, and a plaque on one of Eagle's legs. It reads, "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon. July 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all mankind."



Where were you on that day? Wherever it was, you were most likely watching television. Caught up in the thrill of the adventure, more than half a billion people around the globe watched the live broadcasts of the moon landing and witnessed history being made.

NASA and many other organizations throughout the country will be celebrating this 50th anniversary with special events. For example, some museums and science centers are going to extend hours into the evening so highlights from July 20, 1969 can be viewed, reenacted, and celebrated at the time they actually happened.

How can you observe National Moon Day? Talk to family and friends about your memories of the moon landing. View the moon through a telescope and explore the surface. Start a discussion about space exploration and how it's influenced the world today. Use #NationalMoonDay to share on social media.

Runestone Telecom works hard to bring you an "out of this world" selection of communications services. To learn more, visit www.runestone.net.

Capital Credit Checks

The following is a list of previous members with an outstanding Capital Credit Check from 2011. Please call our office at 320-986-2013 if you have a CURRENT address or telephone number for any of these customers so we can send them their check. THANK YOU!

Barrett

Banks, Clyde Jr %Ardys Hardy
Barker, Ella R
Bear, Charles
Bigot, Mabel
Bjerke, C H
Erickson, Florence
Kedrowski, Doreen J
Kloss, M Catherine
Kraft, Todd
Ladwig, Dean
Pickar, Charles O

Cyrus

Farmland Ind Dept 42 Attn: L Rhodus
Jagush, Michael
Strand, Hazel
Urban-Johnson, Carol A

Donnelly

Sperr, Raymond

Elbow Lake

Acuna, Cris
ADP Autonet
Anderson, Vernon & Mary
Baier-Larson, Barbara
Bernard, Miranda
Brown, Orda
Davis, Stuart J
Early Education Station
Eitreim, Martin & Elaine
Elbow Lake Gravel Inc
Erickson, Maybelle A
First Presbyterian Church
Rev Lewis Koerselman
Hauter, Roy & Karen
Henry, John & Inez
Hoppe, Kristin A
Isely, Dorothea %Wendy Hanson
Jorgenson, Michelle
King, Yvonne %Diana Hollister
Kratz, Marvin & Mary
Larson, Cory %Susie Huffman
Matz, Patrick A & Stephanie
Peterson, Keith
Rude, Calmer III & Hayley
Schmidt, Jason
Severud, Helen
Solomon, Robert & Jeannette

Hoffman

Benson, Goldie
Britton, Terri
Eichman, John K
Eiken, Eugene G
Ekern, Howard D Mrs
Handorff, Peter M
Ihnen, Gladys
Johansen, Dale C
Johnson, Hazel %Curtis Loschy
Liebl, Brad
Mittelstadt, Carl Mrs
Olson, Silas
Petermann, Gary B
Sorenson, Violet
Zobitz, Terry

Kensington

Barkosky, Adrian G
Brown, Lisa
Bruno, Joseph & Patricia
Diekmann, Frances S %Robert Abbott
Fuchs, Audrey
Johnson, Reuben Mrs
Listening Ear Crisis Center
Nelson, Edrald & Ruby
Pederson, Kristen A
Samuelson, Morris

Norcross

Brandt, Ray & Ruth
Garcia, Martin
Resendez, Eleazar Jr

Tintah

Gellman, Morton
Harris, Jason
Herman, Meredith & Nellie
Mosey, Mike Mr %Paul Mosey
Pena, Nicandro
Randall, Barbara A
Smith, James D & Barbara
Wassmuth, Richard

Wendell

Aguilera, Gonzalo
Bergan, L A
Correll, Terry
Gullickson, Sarah
King, Michael L & Mary E
Morales, Jose
Shelden, David



Relish the Tastiness of Pickle Month

Oh, pickles! There's something else to celebrate in July — National Pickle Month. Here are fun facts to get the party started:

- Julius Caesar's soldiers ate pickled cucumbers as health aids.
- Cleopatra claimed pickles contributed to her beauty.
- If all of the pickles consumed each year were placed end to end, they would reach the moon and back 8.25 times.

Dill pickles are the most popular but other options include sweet, gherkin, polish, lime, and bread and butter.

Whenever you're "in a pickle" over communications technology, contact Runestone Telecom for friendly help.

New Members

Cyrus

Aeikens, James
& Diane320-795-2124

Hoffman

Westberg, Arlene320-986-2421

Kensington

Hoffman, Jeffrey
& Dionne320-965-6267
Khamidullaev, Olimjon...320-965-4099

Lowry

Jones, Scott & Barb.....320-283-2079

Wendell

Roots & Hooves
Foods218-458-2042

Lifeline Support for Affordable Communications

Lifeline is a federal program to help low-income subscribers stay connected by providing a monthly discount of \$9.25 on their wireline phone, wireless phone, or broadband internet service. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household. Lifeline is available to eligible low-income subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands.

To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in at least one of the assistance programs listed below:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

You can check eligibility with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at www.lifelinesupport.org. Or call Runestone Telecom at 320-986-2013.



Why Buffering Occurs and How You Can Minimize It

When you're excited about watching a movie or TV program via streaming, the last thing you want to see is the annoying rotating arrow or spinning circle that indicates buffering is taking place. Before we share tips on how to minimize buffering, let's start with an explanation of why it happens.

Buffering refers to downloading a certain amount of data before starting to play the video. One common form of buffering occurs when your internet connection is too slow to stream a video in real time. Your device will buffer the video data and start playback when there is enough to prevent video lag. If the streaming video reaches the point where it has to wait until more information is available, it will pause, and you'll again see the loading screen. Once the video stream catches up, it plays again.

This process can take just a few seconds or might last several minutes. If the video is long, you might encounter several buffering sessions during your viewing time.

If you experience buffering often and are frustrated by it, you may want to upgrade your internet speed. A slow connection will delay the delivery of audio and video information, in which case you will see the loading screen. A fast connection can stream movies and TV programs virtually without interruption and easily accommodate high-definition or 4K video. For an optimal streaming experience, we recommend an internet speed of 25 Mbps or higher.

An additional consideration is how fast your router can send the video and other information to the computers, media streamers, smart TVs, and internet-enabled Blu-ray disc players connected to it. Routers designed to work with streaming video, sometimes called AV routers, can stream more data, reducing playback interruptions. When looking for wireless and power-line adapter accessories, check the speed ratings; they indicate whether they're optimized for AV, so you can stream high-definition video and audio.

If you have questions related to buffering or need help selecting a faster internet plan, call Runestone Telecom at 320-986-2013 or stop by our office.

