



This Week's Headlines

Online Registration for MTA Golf Now Open

Membership in the 'Club' Growing

Fast Easy Online Registration for Next MTA-U

Digital TV Transition to Be Tested In N.C.

New Wireless Company to Build Nationwide WiMAX

Qwest to Offer Verizon Wireless Services

FCC & Regulatory Filings

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

Save The Date

MTA Fishing Day
July 10-11, 2008

MTA Golf Day

May 9, 2008

MTAUPDATE

Online Registration for MTA Golf Now Open

For the first time, the MTA is offering fast, easy online registration for Golf Day. You can register, suggest which players you want in your group and sponsor a hole all within a few minutes. The 35th annual event is Monday, July 7, 2008 at Crow River Country Club in Hutchinson. The \$135 fee includes golf, cart, club house facilities, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and prizes. For non-golfers, a \$40 dinner-only option is available. To register [click here](#)

Membership in the 'Club' Growing

You Have Only Two Weeks to Join

To date, nearly 50 MTA members have joined the Centennial Club. Contributions to the 'Club' will be used to help the MTA properly observe its 100th anniversary. The Centennial Club is open to all MTA members. At its meeting this week, the Centennial Committee members indicated they were extremely pleased with the response from MTA members. The committee will continue accepting club contributions for another two weeks to give more MTA members an opportunity to be a part of history.

The MTA will mark this milestone with a commemorative picture book, a special centennial convention and celebration, as well as publicity across the state and nation.

In recognition of your contribution of \$500, your company will be listed as a 'Centennial Club' member in the commemorative picture book and at next year's convention. The book will be found at telephone companies, libraries and museums across the state for years to come. Questions about the Centennial Club may be directed to Mike Nowick at 651-291-7311. Send your contribution to the MTA office, 30 East 7th St, Suite 1650, St. Paul, MN 55101

The following companies have joined the Centennial Club.

Centennial Club Members

- 702 Communications
- Ace Telephone Association
- Albany Mutual Telephone Association
- Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.

July 7, 2008

Stat of the Week

Motorist in the Twin Cities are paying \$3.54 on average for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline. The national average is \$3.645, according to a survey by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Is there someone in your organization who you would like to add to the distribution list? Send their name, company, and e-mail address to info@mnta.org and we'll add them to the list.

WEEKLY BULLETIN is intended for MTA members. Redistribution is limited to internal audiences only.

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Minnesota Telecom Alliance
www.mnta.org
Tel: 651-291-7311
Fax: 651-291-2795
E-mail: info@mnta.org

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- East Otter Tail Telephone Company
- Midwest Telephone Company
- Osakis Telephone Company
- The Peoples Telephone Company of Big Fork
- Twin Valley-Ulen Telephone Company

Badger Communications Corporation

Benton Cooperative Telephone Company

BEVCOMM

Blackduck Telephone Company

Calix

CC & I Engineering, Inc.

Christensen Communications Company

CoBank

Consolidated Telephone Company

diversiCOM

- Mainstreet Communications, LLC
- Melrose Telephone Company

Dunnell Telephone Company

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company

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Federated Telephone Cooperative

Garden Valley Telephone Company

Halstad Telephone Company

HickoryTech

Interstate Telcom Consulting, Inc.

KM Telecom

Lakedale Communications

Lowry Telephone Company, LLC

Martin Group, Inc.

National Information Solution Cooperative

NECA

North Star Chapter Pioneer Club

NU-Telecom

Onvoy Voice Services

Midwest Data, LLC

MP Nexlevel, LLC

MRV Communications

Olsen Thielen & Company, Ltd.

Park Region Mutual Telephone Company

- Otter Tail Telcom
- Valley Telephone Company

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PCS Technologies, Inc.

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Sherburne Tele-Systems, Inc.

Shields Environmental, Inc.

Spring Grove Communications

Suttle

TDS Telecommunications Corporation

- Arvig Telephone Company

Moses Dennis

- Bridge Water Telephone Company
- Mid-State Telephone Company
- Winsted Telephone Company

Walker and Associates

West Central Telephone Association

Wikstrom Telephone Company

Windstream Supply

Woodstock Telephone Company

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Fast Easy Online Registration for Next MTA-U

Attendees at the next MTA-U will come away with a better understanding of basic finance and accounting, and tips on handling emotionally charged people. Now in its fourth year, MTA-U for managers and supervisors is the annual source for developing leadership skills and learning important human resources responsibilities. Members have the option of taking the one-day course on June 5 or June 6 at the Radisson Suite Hotel in St. Cloud. The course will cover de-escalating emotionally charged people; industry update & technology trends; and finance for non-accounting professionals. Online registration for the course is available at www.mnta.org

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Digital TV Transition to Be Tested In N.C.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Kevin Martin this week announced Wilmington, North Carolina, will be the first market to test the transition to digital television (DTV) in advance of the nationwide transition to DTV on February 17, 2009. The commercial broadcasters serving the Wilmington television market have voluntarily agreed to turn off their analog signals at noon on September 8, 2008. Beginning at 12:00 pm on September 8, 2008, some local stations will broadcast only digital signals to their viewers in the five North Carolina counties that comprise this television market. The DTV transition for the whole country will take place on February 17, 2009, when all full power television stations must turn off their analog signals and broadcast only digital signals. This test market will be an early transition that will give broadcasters and consumers a chance to experience in advance the upcoming DTV transition, according to a FCC release.

New Wireless Company to Build Nationwide WiMAX

Sprint Nextel and Clearwire Corporation this week agreed to combine their wireless broadband businesses to form a new \$12 billion wireless communications company that will build the first mobile WiMAX network. Google, Intel, Comcast, Time Warner Cable and others have collectively agreed to invest \$3.2 billion into the new company.

The new company, which will be named Clearwire, will be focused on expediting the deployment of the first nationwide mobile WiMAX network to provide high-speed access to multimedia content via cell phones,

laptops and other wireless devices. Upon completion of the proposed transaction, Sprint will own the largest stake in the new company with approximately 51 percent equity ownership.

In related news, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday that Deutsche Telekom, which owns T-Mobile, is considering purchasing Sprint. A combined Sprint, T-Mobile company would be the nation's largest wireless carrier.

Qwest to Offer Verizon Wireless Services

Qwest Communications and Verizon Wireless have reached a 5-year agreement for Qwest to market and sell Verizon Wireless service beginning September 2008. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed. The deal will end a similar arrangement Qwest has with Sprint, which expires next year. Under the agreement, Qwest customers will have access to the full line of Verizon Wireless phones as well as high-speed broadband.

[Reprinted from Last Week](#)

FCC Caps USF for Wireless Carriers

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) last week approved a temporary cap on payments to wireless carriers from the Universal Service Fund. The Commission said this action was a crucial first step toward comprehensive reform of Universal Service and intercarrier compensation, two carrier compensation regimes that are directly interrelated. Such comprehensive reform is critical to ensuring the continued provision of affordable telecommunications for all Americans.

Because competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (ETC) currently receive support based not on their own costs and revenues, but on the costs and revenues of the incumbent rural carriers, universal service support to competitive ETCs would increase dramatically in the event intercarrier compensation rates declined. Until the Commission took the necessary first step of capping support to those competitive ETCs, any attempt to reform intercarrier compensation would have resulted in even more explosive growth of the Fund. "Capping support for competitive ETCs was a critical first step," stated the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau Chief Dana Shaffer. "It will control the growth of the Fund while the Commission considers options for more fundamental reform."

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

MAY 31: EMPLOYMENT REPORT: FCC FORM 395, all carriers, including wireless carriers, with 16 or more full-time employees must file their Common Carrier Employment Report by May 31. This report tracks carrier compliance with rules requiring recruitment of minority employees. The FCC also requires all common carriers to report any employment discrimination complaints they received during the past year with the May 31st filing.

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

May 8: MTA Centennial Committee

May 9: MTA Human Resources Group

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

May 28: MTA Video Group, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

May 28: MTA Board of Directors, PT. Douglas, 2:00 p.m.

May 28: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

For a look at 12 months and more of industry events, [click here](#)

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Best Wishes

George Nustad, MTA president in 1983, is in failing health and is under hospice care at this time. George was director of Independent Relations for Northwestern Bell Telephone and later general manager of Melrose Telephone Company. George and Ardelle, his wife, would appreciate hearing from telecom friends at this time. You may send your correspondence to them at: 1506 East Rose St. Owatonna, MN. 55060 You may call George between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 507-455-2285.

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