



This Week's Headlines

June 27, 2008

MTA UPDATE

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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

[New Web Site Being Developed](#)

[A Call for Your Broadband Success Stories](#)

Minnesota telcos will soon have another option for publicizing their broadband success stories. The Blandin Foundation is developing a Web site to showcase the many great things happening in Minnesota communities through the use of broadband. The foundation is looking for links to articles describing broadband in action, providing both case studies and best practices on how to use these applications.

The MTA is urging members to participate by sending the links to their broadband success stories to Randy Young, MTA CEO and president at ryoung@mnta.org. The MTA will package the info and submit to the Foundation. These can be stories written in the local newspaper, in a regional magazine, in a journal or study, even blog entries and press releases. Basically anything and everything that highlights broadband in action in Minnesota. The deadline for submitting this info to the MTA is July 18, 2008. However, new initiatives can be submitted throughout the year.

The Web site will feature over 100 applications across categories like Healthcare, Education, Government, Business, and Consumer, according to a letter distributed by the Foundation. It will serve as a resource for communities that want to make the most of broadband and take advantage of all the 21st century has to offer.

[Ready for A Great Day of Golf](#)

Everything is set for a fantastic day of golf. All of the hole sponsorships have been sold and nearly a 180 golfers are registered for The 35th MTA Golf Day, Monday, July 7, 2008 at Crow River Country Club in Hutchinson.

[Be Prepared for Road Construction](#)

The MTA Golf Committee reminds golfers to allow an additional 30 minutes due to road construction. Major road construction between St. Bonifacius and Silver Lake has closed Minnesota Highway 7. The designated detour from the Twin Cities is US Highway 212 to Glencoe and then Minnesota Highway 22 to Hutchinson.

[Associate Members Invited To Join the Club](#)

MTA Golf Day
July 7, 2008

Yes, MTA associate members are welcome to join the MTA Centennial Club. Contributions to the 'Centennial Club' will help the MTA properly observe its 100th Anniversary. The MTA will mark this milestone with a commemorative picture book, a special centennial convention and celebration and 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. [Click here](#) for an invitation to join the Centennial Club. Questions about the Centennial Club may be directed to Mike Nowick at 651-291-7311. To view the Centennial Club membership lists, [click here](#).

Stat of the Week

Minnesota recorded the highest state unemployment rate, 5.4 percent, in 17 years in May, according to the Minneapolis StarTribune. That's up from 4.8 percent in April.

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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INDUSTRY UPDATE

Finding from Latest Study

Over Half of State's Rural Households Have Broadband

A new study released by the Center for Rural Policy & Development estimates that home broadband adoption continued to accelerate significantly in rural and metro Minnesota in 2007, and that now about half of all homes in Greater Minnesota are connected to the Internet using broadband. The report estimates that at the end of 2007 52.3% of households in Greater Minnesota were using broadband, up from 39.7% at the end of 2006. In the seven-county Twin Cities metro, approximately 63% of households were using broadband, and statewide the average was 57.8%. Greater Minnesota is still lagging the Twin Cities, but the gap this year was smaller than it has ever been, with a difference of 10.6 percentage points. To download a copy of the report, [click here](#).

FCC Issues Rules for Internet-Based Relay Services

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) this week adopted a telephone numbering system and E-911 requirements for providers of Internet-based telecommunications relay services (TRS). The Order adopts a system for assigning traditional ten-digit telephone numbers to Internet-based TRS users. This means that Internet-based TRS users will be able to reach and be reached by both hearing users of the traditional telephone network and other Internet-based TRS users by doing something most Americans take for granted – dialing a ten-digit phone number, the FCC said in a news release. Internet-based TRS users will also be able to port their numbers from one provider to another, and users will be able to use any Internet-based TRS provider they choose. The Commission called it the first step towards providing Americans with hearing and speech disabilities with access to the telephone network that is "functionally equivalent" to voice telephone services. [Read more...](#)

Verizon Ordered to Stop Soliciting Ex-Customers

Verizon can no longer use proprietary information to contact former customers with offers of big incentives to come back, the FCC ruled late last week. The company has been contacting customers while they are transferring phone numbers to a different carrier. According to media

reports, the retention efforts have included American Express gift cards of up to \$200. Three large cable companies filed the complaints. The FCC Commissioners were divided on the ruling with Chairman Kevin Martin supporting Verizon and the two Democratic and Republican commissioners opposed. [Read more...](#)

IRS Increases Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service today announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2008. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. The rate will increase to 58.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008, the agency said in a news release. In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2008. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year. [Read more...](#)

[Reprinted From Last Week](#)

[New 2008 Telecom Laws Available Online](#)

A summary of telecom related bills that were passed by the 2008 legislature and signed into law by the governor have been posted by chapter number on the MTA website. During the just completed 2008 legislative session 1,704 bills were introduced in the House and 1,532 bills were introduced in the Senate. 220 bills passed both bodies and were sent to the governor for his signature. The governor signed 190 into law. The 2009 legislature will convene at noon, January 6, 2009. [To view the new laws, click here.](#)

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

JULY 21: FCC FORM 497, LOW INCOME QUARTERLY REPORT: This form is the Lifeline and Link-Up Worksheet and must be submitted to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) by all eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) that request reimbursement for participating in the low income program. The form is available at: www.universalservice.org.

JUNE 30: ANNUAL ICLS USE CERTIFICATION: Rate of return carriers and CETCs must file a self-certification with the FCC and USAC stating that all Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) and Long Term Support (LTS) will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which their support is intended. Failure to file this self-certification will preclude the carrier from receiving ICLS support.

JULY 31: FCC FORM 507, UNIVERSAL SERVICE QUARTERLY LINE

COUNT UPDATE: Line counts are required to recalculate a carrier's per line universal service support and must be filed with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). This information must be submitted on July 31st each year by all rate-of-return carriers and on a quarterly basis if a competitive eligible telecommunications carrier (CETC) has initiated service in the rate-of-return incumbent carrier's service area and reported line count data to USAC in the rate-of-return incumbent carrier's service area, in order for the incumbent carrier to be eligible to receive Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS). The quarterly filing covers lines served as of December 31, 2007.

JULY 31: FCC FORM 525, COMPETITIVE CARRIER LINE COUNT

QUARTERLY REPORT: Competitive eligible telecommunication carriers (CETCs) are eligible to receive high cost support if they serve lines in an incumbent carrier's service area, and that incumbent carrier receives high cost support. CETCs are eligible to receive the same per-line support amount received by the incumbent carrier in whose study area the CETC serves lines.

AUGUST 1: FCC FORM 499-Q, TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING

WORKSHEET: All telecommunications common carriers that contribute to federal Universal Service Fund support mechanisms must file this quarterly form. The form covers revenue information from the prior quarter plus projections for the next quarter.

AUGUST 1: FCC FORM 502, NUMBER UTILIZATION REPORT: Any wireline or wireless carrier that has been assigned an NXX code (10,000 numbers) or one or more 1,000 number blocks; and any wireline or wireless carrier that has received from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) or from another carrier one or more 1,000 number blocks must file this form.

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

June 24: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

July 9: MTA HR Peer Group meeting, CTC, Brainerd, 10:00 a.m.

July 10: MTA Centennial Committee conference call, 9:30 a.m.

July 24: MTA Video Peer Group, MTA office, 1:30 p.m.

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

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