



### This Week's Headlines

July 3, 2008

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

### Save The Date

### MTA Golf Day

## MTA UPDATE

### MTA Golf Day Is Monday

The 35<sup>th</sup> MTA Golf Day at Crow River Country Club, Hutchinson, will get under way with a shotgun start at 10:30 a.m., Monday, July 7, 2008.

Registration closes at 10 a.m. Hot dogs and refreshments will be served on the course. Social hour begins at 4:00 p.m. with dinner at 5:00 p.m.

### Allow Time 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.

### Requesting Committee, Peer Group Nominations

The MTA sent a letter this week to member companies requesting committee and peer group appointments for the 2008. Return the appointment form to MTA before July 21, 2008. Current committee and peer group members also need to submit the form if they wish to continue serving on their current committee.

For our association, as well as the industry, to be able to take full advantage of the vast pool of expertise and experience in our industry, the MTA needs members' help in identifying individuals within their organization who would be a good addition to one of the committees. It is only with strong committees that MTA and the industry are able to stay on top of the important issues that our industry is facing. Contact Gerry Steele at [gsteale@mnta.org](mailto:gsteale@mnta.org) if you have any questions.

### Wanted: Your Broadband Success Stories

The Blandin Foundation wants to help spread the word about your company's broadband success stories. The 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

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[ryoung@mnta.org](mailto: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.

#### **Stat of the Week**

**AAA is estimating 40.5 million Americans will travel this Fourth of July weekend, down 1.3 percent from last year.**

#### **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](mailto: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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#### **Associate Members Invited to Join**

#### **Deadline Approaching for Joining Centennial Club**

With the deadline for centennial picture book around the corner, MTA members don't have much time to join the MTA Centennial Club and be included in the book. The MTA Centennial Committee will continue accepting members until July 10. All members, particularly associate members, are invited to join. Contributions to the 'Centennial Club' will help the MTA properly observe its 100<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

### **INDUSTRY UPDATE**

#### **Christensen Appointed to Broadband Task Force**

MTA Director Brent Christensen this week was appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty to serve on the High-Speed Broadband Task Force. Also among the 20 appointed are JoAnne Johnson, manager for government and external relations for Frontier, and John Stanoch, president of Minnesota operations for Qwest Communications.

Christensen, vice president of Christensen Communications in Madelia, is appointed as the representative of telephone companies with 50,000 or fewer subscribers located outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The task force will meet on the 3rd Friday of the month for the next 18 months. The High-Speed Broadband Task Force was created by the 2008 Legislature to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the creation of a state high-speed broadband goal and a plan to achieve it. The task force consists of 26 members, including 20 appointed by the Governor. [Read more...](#)

## **Key Findings From Center for Rural Policy & Development's 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](#).

### **PUC Gives Qwest Relief From Scripting Requirements**

The Minnesota PUC has voted to grant Qwest's petition for relief from IntraLATA scripting requirements. Action taken previously by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has already relieved Qwest of InterLATA scripting requirements. The Department of Commerce (DOC) in supporting Qwest's petition urged that the scripting requirements not be eliminated for other Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) at this time. AT&T, MIC and MTA had filed comments asking that the scripting requirements be eliminated for all LECs. The PUC in deciding to grant relief solely to Qwest cited an open FCC docket addressing LECs interLATA scripting requirements and commissioners echoed staff comments by saying it seemed reasonable to address intraLATA scripting requirements after the FCC has concluded its interLATA scripting requirement docket. Upon release of the FCC order eliminating the scripting requirement for all other LECs, Commission or DOC staff, or any other interested party may bring the matter back before the Commission.

### **FCC Video Franchising Rules Upheld**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit recently upheld an FCC rule regarding local franchising authority for new entrants in video services. Particularly, the court upheld the FCC's 90-day period for local regulators to approve applications from new entrants in cable and other pay TV services, according to media reports. The courts also reaffirmed the FCC's rule that state utility commissions can't demand favors for granting approval. The National Cable & Telecommunications Association and several major cities challenged the FCC ruling. [Read more...](#)

### **Reprinted from Last Week**

### **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...](#)

## **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](http://www.universalservice.org).

**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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**

#### **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 14:** MTA Legislative Committee conference call, 2:00 p.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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