



**This Week's Headlines**

**July 10, 2008**

Another Great MTA Golf Day for the Memories

Wanted: Experience, Expertise for MTA Committees

Share Your Broadband Success Stories Online

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Verizon Wireless Settles Termination Lawsuit

Big Three Telcos Working To Keep Customers

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PEOPLE & COMPANIES

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 UPDATE

### Another Great MTA Golf Day for the Memories

The cloudy, rainy morning gave way to sunshine just after the horn sounded for the 10:30 a.m. shotgun start of the 35<sup>th</sup> MTA Golf Day. Like the weather, everything else fell into place for a golf day to remember for the 179 golfers. The course at Crow River Country Club, Hutchinson, was in great shape for the 18-hole event that concluded with awards following dinner.

This year's winning teams in the Gross and Net Divisions are: Gross - Paul Freude, Rob Noren, Ryan Maher, Don Dale, Derek Rolle and Bruce Simenson; Net- Kevin Larson, Steve Holmwig, Kim Larson, Trim Trott, Ron Mullins and Bud Morrow. To view photos of the day's activities, [click here](#). The MTA Golf Committee wishes to thank the 35 companies who sponsored a hole and 20 who provided prizes. To view the list of companies, [click here](#).

### **Big Thank You From Pioneers, SITCO PAC!**

Golfers helped worthwhile causes by accepting the challenge on two betting holes set up to support the North Star Chapter of the I.P.T.A. and Small Independent Telephone Company (SITCO) Political Action Committee (PAC). The Pioneers raise \$775.00. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Alzheimer's and many other charities. Another \$1,265 was raised for the SITCO PAC.

### Wanted: Experience, Expertise for MTA Committees

The MTA is accepting nominations for appointments to committees for the 2008. The information and nomination form was distributed to members last week. To be considered, the form must be returned to MTA by July 21, 2008. Current committee members also need to submit the form if they wish to continue serving on their current committee. Contact Gerry Steele at [gsteale@mnta.org](mailto:gsteale@mnta.org) if you have any questions.

### Share Your Broadband Success Stories Online

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.

**MTA Fall Conference  
October 9-10, 2008**

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](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**

More than 48 million business phones shipped last year were capable of carrying IP telephony applications, according to a report from Frost & Sullivan.

### **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.

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### **Centennial Club Gets New Members**

Farmers Union Insurance, the Kenton Group and Lonsdale Telephone Company are the latest members to join the Centennial Club, bringing the membership up to 74 companies. 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**

### **Surveillance Bill Provides Immunity to Telcos**

The surveillance bill that the Senate passed this week and President Bush is expected to sign will eliminate approximately 40 pending lawsuits against telecom companies for their role in the government's warrantless wiretapping activities. An amendment that would have allowed the lawsuits to proceed was defeated. [Read more](#)

### **Verizon Wireless Settles Termination Lawsuit**

Verizon Wireless this week settled a class-action suit involving early-termination fees. The company agreed to pay \$21 million to settle the matter. AT&T is also facing class action lawsuits in California. Sprint's case was heard last month and a decision is pending. [Read more...](#)

### **From Cable When They Move**

### **Big Three Telcos Working To Keep Customers**

The nation's largest three telcos have developed a new program and Web site — with the motto "You move. We Jump" — that provides info on selecting a new provider when they relocate. The effort is the first time Verizon, AT&T and Qwest have teamed up in an effort to keep telco customers from going to a cable company when relocating.

On Wednesday, July 9, the companies launched a new web site, [www.movearoo.com](http://www.movearoo.com), a cost-free, interactive resource that delivers real-time assistance to consumers. According to an AT&T news release, [Movearoo](#) helps consumers with everything from identifying the moving

company to setting up home-related services, such as phone, high-speed Internet, TV, electricity, natural gas and more. [Read more...](#)

### **Comcast, Vonage to Address Network Management**

Comcast has committed to work with Vonage to avoid network congestion, the companies announced this week. Comcast said it will work to ensure that network management techniques are chosen that effectively balance the need to avoid network congestion with the need to ensure that over-the-top VoIP services like Vonage work well for consumers, according to a joint release by the companies. The FCC is investigating Comcast for allegedly blocking Internet traffic, most from peer-to-peer file sharing users. [Read more...](#)

*[Reprinted from Last Week](#)*

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

## **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**

**July 9:** MTA HR Peer Group meeting

**July 10:** MTA Centennial Committee

**Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events**

**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**

Roxanne K. Hacker and Brett R. Christiansen have joined **Interstate Telcom**. Hacker is responsible for regulatory form filings and cost separation studies. She has eight years of telecommunications experience with a service bureau including CABS, NECA reporting, telephone accounting, and regulatory form filings. Christiansen's responsibilities include completion of cost separation studies, circuit provisioning and special projects. He has over nine years of experience in a variety of telecommunications services.

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