



This Week's Headlines

Telco Marketing Group Summer Gathering Announced

Centennial Club Gets New Members—More Wanted

Qwest Granted Exemptions for Broadband Pricing Rules

Verizon Completes RCC Deal

AT&T Offering Bandwidth On Demand

Delta to Offer Wi-Fi

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 These Dates

Telco Marketing Group Conference
Sept. 10th -12th
Fair Hills Resort
Detroit Lakes

August 8, 2008

[Print Friendly Version](#)

MTA UPDATE

Telco Marketing Group Summer Gathering Announced

'Marketing by the Numbers' and 'Big Town-Small Town Marketing Comparison,' are just two of the topics planned for the MTA Telco Marketing Group's Summer Conference. The two day event is being held September 10-12, 2008 at Fair Hills Resort in Detroit Lakes. The event gets under way at 3:00 p.m. with a nine-hole golf outing at Wildflower Golf Course, followed by a social gathering at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday and concludes at noon on Friday. The cost for MTA members is \$100. The agenda and registration form is available on the [MTA Web site](#) (scroll down to bottom of page). If you need to reset your user name and password [click here](#). For more on the conference, contact [Paul Solsrud](#).

MTA Supports 4H At State Fair

For the fifth year, MTA (following in the tradition of MART) will be sponsoring the 4HCow/Calf competition at the Minnesota State Fair. If you are at the fair on Friday, August 22, stop by the Coliseum at 4:30 for the awards ceremony. Better yet, if you are interested in making the presentation on behalf of MTA, contact [Randy Young](#) at 651.291.7311. This is a community service to rural Minnesota that MTA is proud to sponsor.

Video Peer Group Meeting Minutes Online

The minutes from the last Video Peer Group meeting are now available on the MTA Web site. To view, [click here](#). This information is located in the members' only section and requires a user name and password. If you have forgotten your access info or need to signup, [click here](#).

Centennial Club Gets New Members—More Wanted

Add OSIG, Power & Telephone Supply and Telcom Construction to the list of member companies in the MTA Centennial Club. That brings the total number to 83 companies in the Club. All members, particularly associate members, are invited to join. 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.

**MTA Customer
Service Peer Group
Fall Conference**

September 17-18, 2008
Hilton Garden Inn,
Maple Grove, MN

**MTA Office Managers
Fall Meeting**

Sept 24th- Sept 26th
Best Western- Kelly Inn
St. Cloud

MTA HR Peer Group

Meeting, Sept. 25,
2008, Sherburne
TeleSystems, Big Lake

**MTA Fall Conference
October 9-10, 2008
Northland Inn
Brooklyn Park**

Stat of the Week

Nearly half of U.S. residents would oppose allowing cell phone use aboard flights even if there are no problems with interference with the aircraft communications systems, according to a Dept. of Transportation survey.

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

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

Qwest Granted Exemptions for Broadband Pricing Rules

After rejecting Qwest's request for price deregulation last week, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has granted the company exemptions from regulation for data services for business customers and competitors. The StarTribune reported this week that the deal was actually approved in late July but wasn't reported by the Commission on its Web site until this week. AT&T, Embarq, and Frontier have all received similar exemptions in recent years, the paper reported. [Read more](#)

Verizon Completes RCC Deal

Verizon Wireless announced this week that it has completed its purchase of Rural Cellular Corporation, doing business as Unicef, for \$2.66 billion in cash and assumed debt. The FCC approved the deal last week and the Justice Department had already given the go ahead with the stipulation that Verizon sell overlapping assets in six states. Verizon said the acquisition will expand its network coverage to many rural markets around the country and increase the company's customers by more than 625,000. [Read more](#)

Verizon Offering Emergency Communications Service

Verizon Business has introduced a new service designed to enable police, fire and other public safety personnel to communicate directly with one another by radio, phone or e-mail during an emergency - even if they are using incompatible communications systems, according to a company news release. The service, Verizon Communications Interoperability Solution, is an Internet protocol (IP)-based platform that integrates radio as well as voice, data and wireless networks so that they can operate as a single network, thus enabling better communications among diverse federal, state and local public safety organizations. [Read more](#)

With "Cloud Computing" Service

AT&T Offering Bandwidth On Demand

The U.S. Olympic Committee is one of the first clients for AT&T's new cloud-computing services for its business customers. The technology allows customers to temporarily extend the capabilities of their network bandwidth and can eliminate a company's need for a data center, according the Wall Street Journal. AT&T said on its web site that the service lets customers pay for bandwidth on a demand basis. IBM, Google and Verizon Communications have announced plans to offer the service and Verizon is planning to enter the market next year. [Read more](#)

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

If you wish to be removed from the MTA e-List, click here to [unsubscribe](#).

© copyright 2008,
Minnesota Telecom Alliance
www.mnta.org
Tel: 651-291-7311
Fax: 651-291-2795
E-mail: info@mnta.org

MTA Officers: John Finke,
Chairman; Robert K. Eddy,
Vice Chairman;
Brent J. Christensen,
Secretary-Treasurer;
Randy Young,
President/CEO

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

Delta to Offer Wi-Fi

Beginning next month, Delta Air Lines will begin offering wireless Internet access on some domestic flights for \$9.95 to \$12.95 depending on the length of the flight. The lower rate is for flights of three hours or less and the higher rate is for flights more than three hours. Delta said it will offer the service on its entire domestic fleet by next summer, according to media outlets. The bandwidth will be similar to DSL service, the company said.

[Read more](#)

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

AUGUST 29: COPYRIGHT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS: The Copyright Statement of Accounts form plus royalty payment for the first half of calendar year 2008 (January – June) is due to be filed by August 29 at the Library of Congress' Copyright Office by cable TV service providers.

AUGUST 31: USAC LIFELINE CERTIFICATION: All eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) must file with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) by August 31, 2008 that the ETC has complied with state Lifeline verification procedures. Minnesota and Wisconsin companies should file a certification; North and South Dakota companies must file a certification and a verification, Iowa companies should file only a verification.

SEPTEMBER 2: FCC FORM 477, LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPETITION AND BROADBAND REPORTING FORM: Facilities-based providers of broadband connections to end user locations must report user data through June 30, 2008.

SEPTEMBER 30: FCC FORM 507, UNIVERSAL SERVICE QUARTERLY LINE COUNT UPDATE

OCTOBER 1: STATE CERTIFICATION OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT: State Public Utility Commissions must certify by October 1, 2008 that eligible rural carriers are using universal service support for the intended purposes. State commissions must file this annual certification with the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

Aug. 5: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Service Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

Aug. 11: Pinnacle's Telecom Industry Appreciation Golf Day, Wapicada Golf Club, St. Cloud

Aug. 13: MTA Safety Committee, Benton Cooperative Telephone Company, Rice, 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 14: MTA Centennial Committee conference call, 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 18: MTA Board of Directors, Brainerd, 9:00 a.m.

August 25: Legislative Committee meeting, conference call, 2:00 P.M.

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Former MTA President William Glaeser is gravely ill at Auburn Home, a hospice facility in Waconia. Glaeser, 83, is the former owner of Western Telephone Company in Springfield and served on the board of directors for Sherburne County Rural Telephone Company from 1989-2006. He served as MTA president in 1972. His wife, Marian, is in the Alzheimer's unit of the Lighthouse, an assisted living community in Waconia. Tony and Signey, Bill and Marian's son-in-law and only daughter, are the primary care givers. Please keep them in your prayers during this difficult time. For more, contact [Bob Eddy](#).

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

