

# Commercial Web Hosting

## 3 Rivers Can Help You Get Your Business Online!

Did you know that 3 Rivers offers commercial web hosting for businesses of any size? If you're looking to build your presence online, 3 Rivers can host your website for as little as \$14.95 per month (a one-time-only setup fee of \$29.95 is required). All of our packages offer standard features such as toll-free technical support, FTP and FrontPage extensions, unlimited e-mail aliases/autoresponders/forwarders, SMTP (send e-mail through your domain), unique IP addresses, web-based e-mail and more!

We offer five different packages with options that include 50 to 250 e-mail boxes, 1000 MB to 4250 MB of data storage space and a "host" of other alternatives to suit any need! Prices range from \$14.95 to \$54.95 per month. Visit [3rivers.net/InternetProducts](http://3rivers.net/InternetProducts) for all the details, or call a 3 Rivers Customer Service & Sales Representative at 467-2535 or 800-796-4567.

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# CURRENTS

May - June 2009

## Annual Meeting

Just as spring comes every year so does the 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative annual meeting. This year during the 56th Annual Meeting our General Manager Steve Krogue highlighted the accomplishments of the co-op over the past year and outlined our plans for the coming year.

**"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month." Henry Van Dyke**

**"I love better to count time from spring to spring; it seems to me far more cheerful to reckon the year by blossoms than by blight." Donald G. Mitchell**

Steve started out with the mission of the Cooperative, "3 Rivers' mission is to furnish state-of-the-art communications service to its members at the lowest possible cost, while insuring adequate revenue to maintain and operate its properties and reduce debt." Basically we're upgrading our equipment to the latest technologies to bring our members the services they want today and make sure we're ready for the changes that are coming in the future. We are replacing our older facilities with new fiber lines and equipment. These changes are happening in some of our exchanges that have the oldest equipment, Carter, East Conrad, Fort Shaw, Heart Butte, Dupuyer, Harrison and Pony. We have also made upgrades in Augusta, Browning, Fairfield, Stockett, Big Sky and Ennis.



Things will be looking a bit differently on the Board of Trustees, with long time board member Keith Good retiring after 30 years. Keith served 3 Rivers with diligence and conscientiousness, after taking over for his father Melvin Good, who was on the original 3 Rivers Board. President Mike Johnson relayed the board's congratulations and well wishes for Keith and his wife Sharon while presenting him with a plaque of appreciation from the Cooperative. At his retirement Keith said, "I have learned over the years of Board service that 3 Rivers is a solid Co-op with vast improvements. I think the Broadband concept is the right direction for the Coop. I will miss expanding the technology of 3 Rivers."

Keith Good's son Logan Good was elected to replace him. A third generation member of the 3 Rivers Board, Logan commented, "3 Rivers has been a part of my whole life. From visiting with my dad and observing the coop from the outside,

it seemed 3 Rivers took a very progressive approach in bringing new technology to the rural areas. 3 Rivers wasn't content with just providing basic phone service. I liked that philosophy and I think it continues now." Logan continued, "These are heady times for telecommunications and the technological advances being made. As is its nature, technology is continually evolving. What is the latest and greatest today can be obsolete tomorrow. This creates an exciting and challenging environment for deciding where the company should allocate resources and how to position itself to meet the needs of our customers."

**"As sure as the spring will follow the winter, prosperity and economic growth will follow recession." Bo Bennett**

Steve also touched upon the economic situation that our cooperative and our country are facing. "The Cooperative reported slimmer margins in 2008 due to adjustments made to our cost study calculations as well as a write down to some investments." He also noted that due to a national trend of people dropping their landline in favor of cell phones we are noticing a loss in basic service and long distance revenues.

### 3 RIVERS INFORMATION

#### Service Information

*3 Rivers Communications Divisions*  
 3 Rivers Telephone, Internet and Long Distance  
 Fairfield: 406.467.2535 or 800.796.4567  
 Browning: 406.338.2535 Conrad: 406.271.2535  
 Great Falls: 406.216.2535 Shelby: 406.424.8535  
 Payments: P.O. Box 489, Fairfield, MT 59436-0489  
 Correspondence: P.O. Box 429, Fairfield, MT 59436  
 3 Rivers DBS - Satellite TV/Internet Services  
 406.467.2535 or 800.796.4567  
 P.O. Box 159, Fairfield, MT 59436-0159  
 Website: [www.3rivers.net](http://www.3rivers.net)  
 E-mail: [3rt@3rivers.net](mailto:3rt@3rivers.net)  
 On-line Billing: <https://ebill.3rivers.net>

#### Board of Trustees

- Steve Krogue, General Manager, 467.2535
- Harry R. Barnes, Browning, 338.3440
- Kirk Dige, Big Sky, 995.4769
- William Dringle, Ennis/Harrison, 682.7489
- Brian D. McCollom, Choteau/Pendroy/Dupuyer/Valier, 466.2443
- Logan Good, Carter/Highwood/Great Falls, 761.2743
- Kerry Schaefer, Brady/Conrad/Power East Conrad/Valier/Shelby, 463.2370
- Michael Johnson, Fairfield/Augusta/Ft. Shaw/Helena, 467.2350
- Mary Hill, Raynesford/Geysler/Neihart/Belt/Stockett, 738.4220
- Loren Tucker, Melrose/Sheridan/Twin Bridges Lima/Virgina City, 843.5566

### NEW EMPLOYEES



Scott  
Engineering



Wade  
Plant

## Call Before You Dig

As the construction season approaches, please remember before you do any digging or construction on your property to call 811 or (800) 424-5555.

Call this number at least 2 business days prior to digging so that all of the underground utilities can be located on your property. This will help avoid disruption of telephone, Internet, power or other essential services that may be provided via buried lines on the property. If you do not call first, you may be held liable for any damages done. ■



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Logan is a graduate of Montana State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and is currently farming north of Great Falls with his brother and



Logan Good gives

dad. He and his wife Tammy have four children, Hannah 13, Madeline 11, and twin boys Cole and Alec 9.

The second board member elected at this year's meeting is incumbent Brian McCollum from Choteau. This will be his second term on the board. Earlier Brian remarked, "I like the co-op system. It plays a significant role and function in developing and maintaining our rural economy. Cooperatives are accessible companies, compared to mega-corporations." ■

**"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush."  
Doug Larson**



Board member, Brian McCollom receives capital credit check



Annual Meeting meal served by #9 Chow Line

## Parades, Picnics, Rodeos & Golf! 2009 Upcoming Events

Do you have an event you would like to include in the 3 Rivers Upcoming Events column? The event must be a community sponsored event and be open to all community members. Space permitting we will run the name of your event, the date, time and location. If you have questions or event information please contact: callie.moss@3rivers.coop or susan.wilson@3rivers.coop.



May 2	Twin Bridges	Business Expo
May 8,9,10	Butte	Home & Garden Show
May 23	Virginia City	Summer Kick Off parade
June 6	Fairfield	Days Gone By
June 13	Conrad	Whoop Up Days Parade
June 20	Alder	3 Rivers Customer Appreciation Picnic
June 20, 21	Belt	Belt PRCA Rodeo (beltrodeo.com)
June 27	Valier	Homesteaders Day Parade
June 27, 28	Augusta	Parade/Rodeo
July 4	Ennis	4th of July Parade
July 4	Choteau	4th of July Parade
July 11	Browning	Indian Days Parade
July 15,16,17,18, 19	Bozeman	Gallatin Valley Fair
July 16, 17, 18	Fairfield	Swim Days BBQ and Parade
July 16,17,18	Shelby	Marias Tri County Fair
July 21,22,23,24,25, 26	Helena	Lewis and Clark Co Fair
July 25	Big Sky	3 Rivers Charity Golf Tournament
July 25-Aug 2	Great Falls	Montana State Fair
July 27	Great Falls	3 Rivers day at the MT State Fair
July 26	Twin Bridges	Ruby Valley Hospital Fund Raiser (842-5453)
August 1	Big Sky	Country Fair Parade
August 1	Dupuyer	Grizzly Days
August 8	Dupuyer	3 Rivers Customer Appreciation Picnic



Charity Golf Tournament



Customer Appreciation Picnic

## Rural Community Conference Scholarship

Scholarships are available from 3 Rivers for 10 of our members to attend the Rural Community Conference, a skills-building symposium to help rural communities, scheduled for May 12-13 in Bozeman.

During the conference, which will be at the MSU Strand Union Building, attendees can participate and learn from the community resource fair featuring exhibits and displays highlighting community opportunities, effective strategies and community successes. The conference also will include panel discussions and nationally known speakers. They include Philip Aaberg, composer and musician from Chester, Nancy Matheson, special projects coordinator for the Montana Department of Agriculture and Kevin Walker, president and chief executive officer of Northwest Area Foundation. Aaberg will speak on challenges and assets in rural communities with a special piano performance on the evening of May 12.

If a community is faced with issues related to anything from affordable housing to community food systems and health care, the Rural Community Conference should provide ideas that can help, said conference coordinator Paul Lachapelle. It is intended for service providers, educators, researchers, policy-makers, business and civic leaders, faith leaders and anyone else looking for community-focused strategies to build thriving communities in rural Montana.

"The conference will provide a great networking opportunity for communities to connect with organizations and agencies that they can partner with as they address the many complex issues facing rural Montana," said Lachapelle.

Registration is \$125. A limited number of scholarships are available, and low cost accommodations are available in dorm rooms. For information and online registration, visit [www.ruralcommunityconference.org](http://www.ruralcommunityconference.org) or to request a scholarship from 3 Rivers to cover the registration for the Rural Community Conference, please contact Jane Wolery, MSU Teton County Extension, PO Box 130, Choteau, MT 59422, 406-466-2491 ext. 251, [jwolery@montana.edu](mailto:jwolery@montana.edu). ■

## Big Sky Business After Hours



## Internet Connectivity Issues? Let Us Know

3 Rivers knows the importance of having a reliable Internet connection. Although we make every effort to keep our Internet access up and running 24/7 there may be times that you have trouble connecting to our service. This could be caused by many different sources: trouble with your own computer, a system failure on our end or a problem with a website to which you are attempting to connect.

It's very important that you report Internet connectivity issues to 3 Rivers, not only so we can help solve your problem but also so that we can see if there are larger issues within a specific exchange or our network in general.

If you experience problems with your Internet connection, please call our Technical Support staff toll-free at 1-888-783-7354, available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week help identify and solve your problem. If you are able to connect to the Internet and need Technical Support services for computer questions and/or other problems, you may also get in touch via the Contact link on our home page, [www.3rivers.net](http://www.3rivers.net). ■



### Currents Contributors Acknowledgment

We'd like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals who contributed to *Currents* this issue:

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