

**Caller ID
on Call
Waiting
only
\$8 per
month!**

Caller ID on Call Waiting--just \$8 per month!
This great calling feature delivers caller name and phone number information on an incoming call while you're on another call. Standard Caller ID and Call Waiting are included. If you currently have either Call Waiting or Caller ID, you can upgrade to Caller ID on Call Waiting for pennies a day.

3 Rivers has lots of ways to make your life easier!
Visit www.3rivers.net, click on the Local Telephone/Features page and you'll find a list of more than 20 features you can add to your phone service that will save you time and stress. Find out how you can bundle features in a package and save!

Special Offer!
We'll let you try out any feature you'd like free for two months (and we'll waive any activation fees). When the two months are up, if you don't feel it will be worth the extra expense to continue, just give us a call and we'll turn it off, no questions asked.

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3 RIVERS
COMMUNICATIONS

Advanced Technology, Personal Touch

Currents

November - December 2008

FIBER OPTICS

The Best Choice for Communications



3 Rivers Communications is in the process of upgrading major portions of its network using fiber optic cable whenever feasible. Fiber optic technology is a more reliable and efficient way to serve our telephone, Internet and future video customers and it positions us to better meet needs yet to come.

Most people currently receive telephone and Internet services via copper wire, which has a limited bandwidth capacity compared to fiber optic cable. The farther your home or office is from a central office, the slower your data delivery is. Fiber optic cable is a thin strand of glass that allows pulses of light (data) to pass from one end to the other. Light can travel great distances over fiber optic cable without any weakening of the signal, so the speed of data delivered via fiber optic cable is not distance dependent. And with a much greater bandwidth capacity, it can transfer more data to and from your home or office at a much faster rate.

3 Rivers has long range plans to replace copper lines with fiber optic cable running all the way to customer premises in many exchanges. We refer to this as "fiber-to-the-premises" or FTTP. FTTP allows us to provide even more capacity for fast transfers of large amounts of data. Fairfield customers have been cut over to fiber this summer and fall. Twin Bridges is next, followed by Sheridan. 3 Rivers began the first phase of FTTP in Ennis by starting to plow and place fiber optic cable this past summer.

As 3 Rivers continues to upgrade its overall network, you will benefit from fiber optics even if it doesn't run directly to your residence or office. We are replacing older copper wire with fiber optic cable in many stretches throughout our network, adding speed and capacity as we go.

By providing fiber optic cable to the edge of your property or directly to your home or office, you can receive regular phone service, high speed Internet and even video all over one line. This technology still leaves additional bandwidth for future applications. While it's impossible to know what your future bandwidth needs will be, we know for sure that fiber optic cable will be much more capable of handling those needs than

will copper. Other broadband technologies used today, such as wireless and cable modem, are already struggling to provide bandwidth-heavy services. Fiber optics ensures that as more products and services become broadband enabled, your connection is powerful enough to take it—today and tomorrow. ■



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
E-mail: 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
- Keith Good, Carter/Highwood/Great Falls, 734.5371
- Kerry Schaefer, Brady/Conrad/Power East Conrad/Valier/Shelby, 463.2370
- Michael Johnson, Fairfield/Augusta/Ft. Shaw/Helena, 467.2350
- Mary Hill, Raynesford/Geyser/Neihart/Belt/Stockett, 738.4220
- Loren Tucker, Melrose/Sheridan/Twin Bridges/Lima/Virginia City, 843.5566

NEW EMPLOYEES



ERIC
Plant Department



KAARE
Plant Department



KARI
Office Department



LORI
Office Department



MIKE
Sales Department



PRIDE
Office Department

3 Rivers Employees with 15-20 Years of Service



Chris
16 Years of Service



Jane
16 Years of Service



Rick
16 Years of Service



Bonnie
16 Years of Service

WildBlue - When DSL is Out of Reach

3 Rivers is constantly improving our network and extending the reach of our wire line High Speed Broadband Internet services. Areas that in the past were not capable of receiving DSL Internet service from 3 Rivers can now do so, and we're adding more all the time. However, some of our telephone customers are simply located too far away from our facilities to get DSL and have been relying on a dial-up connection to the Internet. 3 Rivers has an excellent option for those folks—WildBlue High Speed Satellite Internet!



Much like satellite TV service, all you need is a clear view of the southern sky and you can be online and downloading information at speeds up to 1.5 Mb (that's up to 30 times faster than a dial-satellite dish and modem, you'll not only be able to browse the Internet faster, you'll be downloading music files and digital photos in seconds rather than minutes!

For a limited time, 3 Rivers is offering WildBlue for a one time equipment cost of \$99, including shipping and FREE installation-- monthly plans start at \$49.95! And you'll receive the same great local service from local people that 3 Rivers delivers to all its customers! Visit 3rivers.net for more information or call a 3 Rivers customer service representative at 467-2535 (800-796-4567 from outside 3 Rivers' local service area). ■



WILDBLUE



Currents Contributors Acknowledgment

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

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Susan Wilson
Don Serido

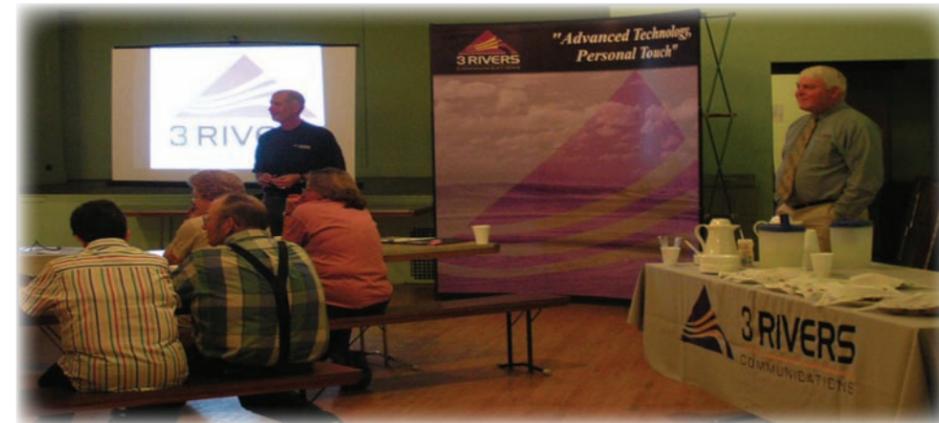


3 Rivers' 1953 Ford pickup in Big Sky Country Fair Parade

Carter Community Center Packed for Town Hall Meeting

3 Rivers hosted a community meeting in Carter on October 1. Over 30 customers from the area attended and took part in a lively question and answer session after a formal presentation by 3 Rivers' staff. Discussion topics included the ongoing upgrade of 3 Rivers' network in the area and longer term plans for installing new fiber optic cable to replace aging copper facilities.

3 Rivers' General Manager Steve Krogue and Plant and Facilities Director Mike Henning were put on the hot seat and answered any and all questions from the audience. Door prizes for \$25 and \$50 gift certificates towards 3 Rivers services were given out and lemonade, coffee and homemade baked goods were enjoyed by all at the conclusion of the meeting. 3 Rivers generally holds two community meetings each year. Earlier in 2008, a meeting was held in Melrose. ■



Customer Appreciation Day in Augusta, MT



Top Ten Benefits of Landline Telephone Service

1. Provides security in an emergency with reliable 911 service
2. Superior quality of sound and clarity
3. Works in a power outage
4. Never needs charging
5. Unlimited local calling
6. No dropped calls
7. Can't be "hacked"
8. Can't get DSL High Speed Internet without it
9. Capital credits (for cooperative members)
10. Provided by a local company with local employees in a local office