

The



Connection

July 2006

Annual Meeting a Big Success!

This year's meeting of the Plains Cooperative Telephone Association, Inc. was held in the Seibert exchange, at the spacious Seibert Community Center. Over one hundred cooperative members were in attendance for the dinner and meeting. After registration, the attendees enjoyed a truly delicious barbecued beef dinner prepared by the Community of Christ Church ladies group and assisted by several men from the church. The church's youth group helped with serving the meal. Toward the end of the meal, a slide show made up of pictures entered in the annual photo contest was presented. We received many excellent photos from very talented area photographers. These photos are a great reminder of the beauty we see surrounding us here in Eastern Colorado. You can view some of these photos when you visit our website. Each time you visit, a different photo from the 2006 contest will display on the home page.

The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Board President Jim Cecil introduced the Board of Directors and company attorney, Ed Zorn. Susie Peters, Customer Service and Marketing Rep for Plains, introduced the employees of the company. Kyle Mills of Hi-Plains High School was appointed to serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting. Dave Aspenson, company auditor, gave a very positive annual financial report for the cooperative. The remaining capital credits for the year 1997 were retired, with a total of \$237,442.00 returned to members who had service during 1997.



Some of our great cooks photo by KC Holtman

Manager Kevin Felty summarized the activities of the last year and spoke about future plans for the Cooperative.

Directors from the Cope (Jim Cecil), Kirk (Allen Liming), and Seibert (Kelly Burr) exchanges were up for reelection. All three had filed proper petitions for the positions, and since they were all running unopposed, a motion was made, seconded, and carried, to cast a unanimous ballot for each of them to the Board of Directors. Each of these three directors will serve a 3-year term on the Board.

Prize drawings were conducted throughout the meeting. The progressive cash prize drawing of \$400.00 was drawn from the full membership, with the prize being awarded only if the member whose name is drawn was in attendance at the meeting. The South Y-W Ambulance Service was awarded the prize, since Steve Sackett, representing the ambulance service, was in attendance. The ambulance service will be able to put this prize money to good use as they continue to provide this vital service in Southern Yuma and Washington counties.

"Today Plains Cooperative Telephone has one of the most modern plant facilities in the state of Colorado and the Western United States."
-Kevin Felty, General Manager



Are summer activities taking you away from your home or office? Remember Plains Telephone **Voice Mail and Call Forwarding.**

You can check your voice mail from any phone, or you can have calls to your home or office forwarded to your cell phone or another number while you're away.

With these simple calling features from Plains Telephone, you can easily keep in touch with those you need to while keeping up with your busy summer schedule.



Progress

"The universe is full of magical things, patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper." This quote from British novelist Eden Phillpots reminds us that we can certainly be thankful for all the visionaries in our history who have been able to see these magical things, and then have persevered with their "crazy ideas" to make the technology that we take for granted every day a reality. It has been 130 years since Alexander Graham Bell spoke to Thomas Watson on the first telephone. Obviously, today's technology has come a long way since that first phone call, but we still have those special people envisioning more advancements even today.

Of course, there are always people with not quite so active an imagination. In 1865 the Boston Post reported that "well-informed people know it is impossible to transmit voice over wires. Even if it were possible, it would be of no practical value." Then there was the Western Union internal memo sent in 1876 which stated that "this telephone has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is of inherently no value to us." The Boston Post and Western Union had certainly been proven wrong a century later in 1977, when Ken Olsen, the president and founder of Digital Equipment Corporation, stated that "there is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." Although it's easy for us to be amused by these quotes, I wonder how many of us could have predicted the multitude of changes we've seen in technology, many of them coming in just the last twenty years.

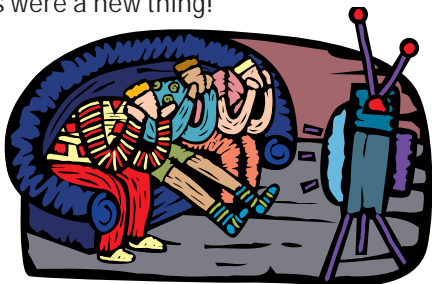
For those of you who are longing for the simpler times, here's a little bit of trivia to put those "good old days" into perspective. Just like today's computers, early telephones were very confusing to new users. Some actually became so frustrated with the new technology, they attacked the phone with an ax or ripped it out of the wall. There are probably more than a few computer users out there who can relate to that frustration!

Telephone service has served as the basic communication link in this country and the world. Today cellular phones, computers, and the Internet have revolutionized personal and business communications. It's going to be interesting for our children and grandchildren to see what the next 130 years have in store for the telephone and communications!



Did you know....?

In the early 1880's some well-to-do telephone owners started the unusual trend of paying to have a theatre employee hold a telephone receiver backstage, transmitting live plays and operas into their living rooms. And we thought that home entertainment systems were a new thing!





Frustrated by Telemarketing Calls?

Are you aware of the Colorado No-Call List? In 2001, the Colorado General Assembly passed legislation that allows consumers to protect themselves from many unwanted telemarketing calls at home. Since June 1, 2003, consumers may also add their wireless telephone numbers to the Colorado No-Call List. If you do not want to receive telemarketing calls or faxes at your residence, you may add your number to this list. Coloradans are encouraged to register their numbers on both the Colorado No-Call list and the National Do-Not-Call Registry.

The Colorado No-Call list updates on a quarterly basis. If you were to register your number during the second quarter of the year, between April 1 and June 30, telemarketers would have until July 31 to update their lists and stop placing calls to your residence.

For numbers registered on the National Do-Not Call Registry, telemarketers have 31 days from the date of registration to stop calling that number.

Although registration on the no-call lists will greatly reduce the calls that you receive from commercial telemarketers, please be aware that businesses with whom you have an existing relationship and certain non-profit and political organizations are excepted from the rules of the registry, and will still be allowed to place calls to your number. Your registration will remain in effect for five years, and at the end of that time your number will need to be registered again.

To register your phone number, to confirm that your number has been registered, or to learn more about the no-call lists, go to www.coloradonocall.com for the Colorado state list. You can link from that website to the national registry, or you can go directly to www.donotcall.gov. You can also register your number on the Colorado list at (800) 309-7041 and on the national list at (888) 382-1222.

If you'd rather let us do the work for you, please call us at Plains Cooperative and we will be happy to register your number on both these lists, or confirm whether or not your number has been registered.

Orange Summer Cooler

This sounds like a great treat for a summer afternoon!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups orange juice 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups cold water 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 cups orange sherbet 3 cups crushed ice

Directions:

- Blend all ingredients until smooth.
- 6 servings



D. Kevin Felty.....General Manager

Board of Directors

Richard Meade.....President
Joes exchange, 358

Elva Masters.....Vice President
Anton exchange, 383

Terry Oestman.....Secretary
Eckley exchange, 359

Kelly Burr.....Treasurer
Seibert exchange, 664

Jim Cecil.....Director
Cope exchange, 357

Allen Liming.....Director
Kirk exchange, 362

Denise Weyerman.....Director
Idalia exchange, 354

Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm,
Monday through Friday

Photo Contest

It's the annual Plains Telephone directory cover photo contest...with a twist! This year's photo contest has the theme of "**Hometown Favorites**". The photos we want to receive should represent aspects of our communities, such as landmarks, scenery, landscapes, activities, people, animals, or anything else found throughout the area.

Many of the photos we have received in the past would fit a theme like this one, but maybe we'll inspire some new entrants to add their talent to the great pictures we've seen in past years.

The winning photo will appear on the 2007 Plains Telephone directory. We will need your entries by **October 31, 2006**. Photos can be mailed to our office, or emailed to photocontest@plainstel.com. If you email, please send your photos as a jpeg or gif. All photos will be returned by mail.

Thanks for your participation!



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Joes, Colorado
PERMIT NO. 4



Summer in Eastern Colorado means....

- sunflowers.
- bugs on the windshield.
- county fairs.
- softball.
- grilling outside.
- road construction.
- swimming and boating.
- fresh berries.
- high school reunions.
- wind.
- lemonade.
- fishing.
- school's out!
- mosquitos
- harvest.



How many of these will be a part of your summer?

The complex block is enclosed in a rounded rectangular border. On the left, there is a vertical column of stylized icons: a car, a truck, a house, a person, and a leaf. To the right of this column is a large central sun with a spiral center and rays. Further right are icons for a fishing net, a fish, and a wavy line. The text 'Summer in Eastern Colorado means....' is in a bold, reddish-brown font. Below it is a list of 14 summer activities. To the right of the list is a small illustration of a blue car parked on a black and white checkered surface under a night sky with stars and a rainbow. At the bottom of the block is the question 'How many of these will be a part of your summer?'.