

270-665-5186

News From Your Manager

*Greetings to each of you
as we start a new year, 2008!*



We have completed the capital credits distribution for the year 1998. The capital credit checks are rewards for customers who chose our cooperative's service. Ballard telephone mailed checks in the amount of \$848,293 to the members that had phone service during the year 1998. Since the first distribution in 1991 Ballard has paid to its customers \$14,199,218 in capital credits. Again, thank you, the members who have helped to make the year 2007 a very successful year of outstanding growth and accomplishments. We owe it all to you, the cooperative member.

Ballard digital TV customer base has grown to approximately 1,614. Our high speed/DSL internet customer base has grown to over 1794 with dial up internet around 597.

Technology is making a lasting impact on our community. And it can't stop here. Your Board of Trustees and Management have launched a long range program to provide fiber cable to the home in order to offer more broadband coverage. We will be taking one exchange at a time. In order to complete our coverage area we estimate a five to six year completion program. I thank every cooperative member for allowing us the privilege to serve you. We always welcome your thoughts and suggestions for improving your experience with our cooperative.

Harlon E. Parker
Chief Executive Officer

FASTER INTERNET DSL SPEEDS AVAILABLE

Ballard Internet is please to announce the availability of faster internet DSL speeds in addition to our regular DSL and DSL Lite packages. Below are the available new DSL service packages along with the speed and monthly charge for each package.

Service	Speed	Monthly Charge
DSL Residential Fast	1.5 Mbps/512kbps	\$54.90
DSL Residential Gamer	3.0 Mbps/512kbps	\$64.90
DSL Business II <small>(New Rate for existing package)</small>	1.5 Mbps/512kbps	\$94.90
DSL Business III	3.0 Mbps/768kbps	\$114.90

Please note that the faster speeds may not be available at every Ballard Internet subscriber's location. Speeds available vary based on distance and existing subscriber's service. Please call us at 270-665-5186 to inquire about which DSL service is right for you.



**Ballard
Long
Distance**
665-5186



**BALLARD
CELLULAR**

**270-665-TALK
(8255)**



BTC

**Ballard Internet
(270) 665-9600**



**BALLARD
TV**

Low-Income Assistance for Telephone Service

Lifeline and Link-up service provide assistance with monthly recurring and connection charges to qualified residential telephone subscribers receiving certain type of income based benefits, such as:

- Medicaid
- Food stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing, Section 8
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TAMF)
- National School Lunch (NSL)

These programs make telephone service more accessible to those who otherwise might not be able to afford it. For more information on Low - Income Assistance, call us, 270-665-5186 or visit our office.

IMPORTANT

Please call before you dig!

Call Ballard Telephone at 665-5186 before you begin that outside digging and excavating project. All too often, private homeowners and construction crews unintentionally dig up land where our fiber optic and copper cables are located. As a result there is a tremendous amount of cost and inconvenience to everyone when your telephone, internet and television service is out of service unnecessarily. When lines are cut, so is your E911 service.

Just A Reminder:

When reporting a trouble after hours and left on the recorder; please make sure to leave the phone number of the residence where the trouble is being reported.



\$1,000.00 Scholarship Available for Local Students

Ballard Telephone Scholarships in the amount of 1,000.00 each have been made available for the year 2007-2008. Ballard Memorial High School, Heath High School and Lone Oak High School guidance counselors will be able to help you apply for these scholarships. The scholarship recipient is selected by the local high school guidance counselor and a group of teachers.

Service Awards

The Ballard Telephone Cooperative would like to congratulate the employees who earned a service award for their years of service in 2007.

These employees include Kenny Franklin (25 years), Randy Grogan (25 years), Craig Shepherd (10 years) and Janet Dennis (5 years). Also, Gina Garnett, Jeremy Parker, Leigh Travis, and Darrin Bishop were recognized for 1 year of service.

The Cooperative would also like to congratulate Mr. Paul Steele, a Board of Trustees for his 25 years of service.

OPEN HOUSE

We would like to thank everyone who had a helping hand in making the Ballard Telephone Cooperative's 4th annual "Christmas Open House" a great success. We had over 600 people visit our office during the open house. The open house winners are: Betty Seaton - TV and Patty Anselm - 1 year of free local service.

2007 Board of Trustee's Fees and Expenses

Trustee	Meeting Pay	Expenses*	Total Compensation
Willard Davis	\$5,350.00		\$5,350.00
Elbert W. Chandler	\$5,350.00	\$833.20	\$6,183.20
Lindsey Price	\$5,250.00		\$5,250.00
Joe Cooper	\$5,250.00		\$5,250.00
Paul Steele	\$6,000.00	\$4,250.00	\$10,250.00
Mike Jones	\$6,450.00	\$10,239.09	\$16,689.09
Jack Giles	\$5,950.00	\$8,200.18	\$12,299.18
Total	\$39,600.00	\$23,621.57	\$63,221.57

* Expenses vary due to NTCA Board member certification.

Ballard TV Channel 1

Have you noticed Ballard TV Channel 1? It is fast becoming one of our most watched channels! We hope you are enjoying the pictures from across our serving area of Ballard and McCracken Counties. On February 15 we taped our first show that will air exclusively on Ballard TV Channel 1. Watch Channel 1 for the airing times of the 'River Rhythm Revue'.

With over 1,600 subscribers, we can offer your business a unique opportunity to market directly to the people you see in your business all the time. There is not a medium available that can touch your customers as effectively or economically.

We also will be offering inexpensive ways to say 'Happy Birthday' or 'Congratulations' to the people who are special in your life. Ballard TV can also promote items for sale or special events.

For more information, contact Stephen Jones at 665-5186 or visit our website at www.brtc.net.

News From Ballard Cellular

Attention: New Unlimited Calling

To anyone, anywhere in the U.S.

One Flat Rate

For a single line the cost is \$99.98. Unlimited minutes, no roaming or long distance. If you are a single line and you are spending more than \$100 per month for your cell phone bill, please call our office to inquire about our new rate plan.

Tower Update

Some of you may have noticed that our batteries aren't lasting as long as they used to. The reason is Verizon is updating towers in our area and some have already had the update, and others are still in the works. During this time, it is really important that you update the software in your phones. **You need to dial *228 send.** The message will say "press 1 to program or 2 to update the roaming capabilities." You will want to press the number 2 key and listen to the over the air music until it tells you your phone was programmed successfully.

Please call our office with any questions or concerns. 270-665-Talk (8255)

Jenny Mallory

Leigh Travis



Digital Television Transition, Are You Ready?

New Federal laws require full-power television stations to switch from analog broadcasting to digital broadcasting before February 29, 2009. This move will free up frequencies for police, fire and emergency rescue communications. The switch will also allow broadcasters to offer programming with better picture and sound quality and offer more programming choices.

Currently many over-the-air television stations are broadcasting in both analog and digital TV (DTV) formats. After February 29, 2009, full power TV stations will only broadcast in digital. The DTV transition will affect those who watch free over-the-air television through a rooftop antenna or rabbit ears. If you watch over the air programs on an analog TV, you will be affected by the transition. What should you do?

- 1) Connect your analog TV to a digital-to-analog converter box (digital antenna may be required). These boxes are available in stores and have a one-time cost of \$40-\$70. Visit www.dtv2009.gov for information about money saving coupons.
- 2) Buy a digital television.
- 3) Subscribe to Ballard TV! Our all-digital service will not be affected by the new law.

Order Ballard TV Today and . . .

First month is Free - HBO, Cinemax, Showtime and Starz all Free for the first month - Free installation!

Ballard TV is your only true local choice! No far away call centers, phone answered by a person - not a machine and your money stays right here at home! Call 665-5186 and order Ballard TV. For more information, visit our website at www.brtc.net.

BTV Comment by Customer:

Hallie Christian, "I watch Channel 1 during the day to see if I can guess the area that a picture was taken in. This is such a great channel that I keep my front room TV on this channel all the time."



Dial A Cook

"Peaches & Cream Dessert"

Janice Chittenden, Public Relations Manager, shares Farrah's favorite recipe. On her birthday, Farrah enjoys eating this dessert instead of cake. I have 5 children with five very different birthday desserts - no birthday cakes for this bunch.

1st layer/crust: Combine 1 cup all purpose flour, 1 stick oleo, 1/2 cup chopped pecans. Spread in a 9x13-inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for about 10 minutes or until light brown. Cool completely before adding next layer.

2nd layer/filling: Whip 1 (8 oz.) pkg of cream cheese until fluffy then mix in 1 cup powdered sugar and 1 heaping cup cool whip. Spread over crust.

3rd layer/peach glaze: Slice 4-5 peaches and mix with homemade *peach glaze or packaged peach glaze. Spread this mixture over 2nd layer.

• (Peach glaze: 1 (10 oz.) 7 UP, 1 cup sugar, 4 Tablespoons cornstarch, 2 Tablespoons Peach Jello. Mix and cook all ingredients for 5 minutes or until thick. Cool before mixing with peaches.)

4th layer/whip cream: Top with remaining Cool Whip (need 1 large container of cool whip.)
Enjoy!