

summer 2014

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THE DCT link

LIFE'S CONNECTIONS DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Congratulations, Marty and Rod!

DCT is proud to announce the certification of two of our employees. Marty Bauer, Central Office Coordinator, and Rod Wolters, Central Office Technician, have successfully completed the Calix Series System Specialist Certification. The process is completed in three different sections, one of which includes Ethernet Access Network Specialist certification. We continue to encourage our employees to attend the latest training courses in order to stay up to date with the ever-changing technology industry. Way to go, Marty and Rod!



Marty Bauer and Rod Wolters

Official Notice of Annual Meeting

Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative

Notice is hereby given, that the 2014 annual meeting of the members of Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative, Carrington, North Dakota, will be held at the Foster County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 4:30 pm, to take action on the following matters:

1. To elect board members in the districts of Bowdon, Sykeston and Woodworth.
2. To present reports for the 2013 fiscal year.
3. Transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.

Individuals were nominated by petition to represent the members in their respective districts.

Following are the candidates nominated:

Bowdon Exchange	Gary Heintz
Sykeston Exchange	Luke Kutz
Woodworth Exchange	Mitch Schulz

Each member of the cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from each district. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as a board member.

The business meeting will precede a meal with member and guest registration beginning at 3:30 p.m. The 4:30 p.m. meeting will conclude with the election of Directors and a drawing for door prizes.

Additionally, all in attendance of the business meeting will receive a complimentary gift. We hope to see you on the 4th!



DCT employees preparing meal for the 2013 meeting.



Letter from the General Manager

Keith A. Larson, CEO/GM

Although winter seemed terribly long this year with the prolonged cold we endured, summer and our 63rd annual meeting is fast approaching.

This past year we constructed a tower at Spiritwood Lake and added antennas to two existing towers to deploy a wireless broadband system providing coverage to the rural Jamestown area currently served by CenturyLink. This system utilizes our 700 MHz spectrum that we purchased a number of years ago. The area being covered lies outside our established service area and does not have adequate broadband service. The wireless broadband system provides a necessary service to the residents of this area, while we continue to seek grant funding to construct fiber facilities similar to the network you enjoy.

Recently, our technical staff received training to install security and monitoring systems. There appears to be a strong demand for these services from the agricultural sector. Similarly, we are investigating our options to providing hosted PBX services to our business customers in the very near future.

The cost of TV programming content continues to be a dilemma, to say the least. The latest rate increases from content providers were substantial—anywhere from a 20% - 60% rate hike per channel; as a result we have adjusted our pricing by \$5.00. As your TV provider, we always strive to bring you the most value for your dollar. While we don't like implementing a rate increase, we hope that you will try our Watch TV Everywhere feature—which is included at no extra charge with our TV service.

Uncertainty continues to prevail in the regulatory arena. Currently, the FCC is in the process of issuing its sixth revision to its Universal Service Fund Reform order issued at the end of 2011. USF reform involves many complex issues and difficult trade-offs. NTCA (our national association) continues to urge the FCC and Congress to move forward with reform that provides sufficient and predictable support for broadband capable networks in areas served by rural carriers.

Our decision to begin replacing our copper-based plant with fiber facilities starting over ten years ago has allowed DCT to recapture much of its investment prior to USF support being jeopardized. For the foreseeable future, we believe additional borrowing to fund capital improvements will not be necessary as we continue to pay down the debt we incurred to construct the fiber network we have today.

I wish you all a great summer and thank you for your support.

Best regards,





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for you to
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current speed and get one month free!



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or \$50 Visa gift card and 'free' months will be billed upon termination.

Watch TVEverywhere is Here!

The day you've been waiting for has finally come! If you have DCTV service, you now have the ability to watch some of your favorite shows and channels anytime, anywhere. WatchTVEverywhere gives you access to your favorite programs on any device that receives an Internet signal, including computers, smartphones, and tablets.



How much does it cost, you ask? The answer is nothing! As a DCTV customer, you are already a subscriber to the TV networks, which means you have access to all of the available programming for free. This includes live sporting events available only via streaming sites such as ESPN3, and not broadcasted on live TV.

So now you ask, "How do I sign up?" To register, visit www.WatchTVEverywhere.com, choose Dakota Central Telecommunications (Daktel) as your provider in the drop-down menu, and register with your account number from your bill statement. Then, watch live TV and prerecorded shows and movies from any device with Internet access, like your smartphone or tablet. If you don't see a certain network available, be sure to check back often, as we are continually adding more content to the portal.

Which Internet Speed is Right for You?

When it comes to Internet speeds, technical terms and numbers can baffle the best of us. Let's take all the confusion away and focus on what you really need!

INTERNET ACTIVITY	DOWNLOAD SPEED (Mbps)			
	20 Basic	30 Social	50 Pro	100 Enterprise
Emailing	●	●	●	●
Online Shopping & Surfing	●	●	●	●
Downloading Music	●	●	●	●
Social Networking (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest)	●	●	●	●
Sharing Photos		●	●	●
Streaming Video Clips		●	●	●
Internet Gaming		●	●	●
Streaming SD Video		●	●	●
Online Video Conferencing			●	●
Emailing/Uploading large files			●	●
Downloading Movies			●	●
Multiple users & devices online simultaneously			●	●

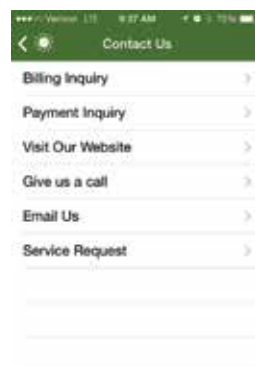
Introducing SmartHub!



We know how busy you are, so we would like to make your life easier! Therefore, we bring you...SmartHub!



SmartHub gives you account access at your fingertips and two-way communication with DCT online or via your mobile device. How convenient! You can manage payments, notify our Support Team of service issues, and receive special messages from DCT, all with one easy app. SmartHub is available on Android and iOS devices as well as on the Web. To register go to www.daktel.com and click on "My Account" under Tools. Then click on "New user" on the SmartHub log-in page.



Some key features of SmartHub:

- Bill reminders
- Fast and easy bill payment
- Customer service contact
- Safe and Secure Access
- Free to use





C-Store Manager, Dana

Business Spotlight: Jamestown's Cenex Convenience Store

For many business owners, one of the main goals is to protect the business. John Fritz, General Manager of Farmers Union Oil in Jamestown, thought he had everything in place to monitor his business. However, after experiencing a robbery last year at the Cenex C-Store, he realized he didn't have functional equipment. Unfortunately, the surveillance system that was in place at the time was faulty, which prevented him from retrieving the information he needed to catch the criminal. When business owners experience a break-in, they want to make sure they have taken all the necessary actions to prevent it from happening again in the future. John explained that when he heard DCT installs surveillance and monitoring systems, he called quickly to replace the old defective system.

DCT technicians initially installed six high definition cameras throughout the Cenex property, and John plans to have two more installed outside in the near future. One of the key features of DCT's Surveillance Systems is the ability to access the wireless Samsung camera feed from

a smartphone, computer, or tablet. This means that John can manage the store and his employees from virtually anywhere in the world. Fortunately, the system is very user-friendly. Another key feature of the system is the DVR capability. The use of DVR to record, play back, and save footage is crucial for catching and prosecuting drive-offs.

While he appreciates all of the great features of DCT's Surveillance Systems, the most valuable aspect is the support that comes with it. According to John, DCT's technicians are very knowledgeable about the products, and are always helpful. "I know the guys would be down there right away if we ever needed anything. I know this is going to be a dependable system, I have no complaints about it. And, the service is always good," says John. We'll take that as a thumbs up!

If you are interested in learning more about DCT's Security and Monitoring Systems, contact Lori at 652.3184.



Meet the Nominees

DCT Board of Directors Nominations



Gary Heintz

Luke Kutz

Mitch Schulz

Nominations for the Dakota Central Board of Directors

were recently made to elect board members for the Bowdon, Sykeston, and Woodworth Exchanges. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, nominations for board members were made via petition to represent the members of their respective districts. Following are the members who were nominated and whose names will appear on the ballot at the annual meeting on June 4th.

Bowdon Exchange - Gary Heintz

Sykeston Exchange - Luke Kutz

Woodworth Exchange - Mitch Schulz

BOWDON EXCHANGE

Gary Heintz has represented the Bowdon Exchange for 30 years, and is seeking re-election. Gary also serves on the board for the Rural Development Finance Corporation, Bowdon Community Cooperative, Bowdon Meat Processing Plant, and is a member of the Bowdon Lutheran Church. Gary currently farms in the Chaseley area. In his own words, Gary says, "as a Bowdon Exchange director for the past 30 years, I feel that my experience is my best qualification."

SYKESTON EXCHANGE

Luke Kutz is seeking re-election for a second term as a director representing the Sykeston Exchange. Luke also serves on the Carrington Health Center Safety Committee, St. Elizabeth's Parish Council, and St. Elizabeth's Cemetery Board. Luke is currently a Radiology Technologist at Carrington Health Center, as well as a farmer and rancher. Luke and his wife Angela live outside of Sykeston, along with their two children.

WOODWORTH EXCHANGE

Mitch Schulz is completing his fifteenth year as director for the Woodworth Exchange, and is seeking re-election. Mitch also serves on the Volunteer Fire Department and the Lowery Township Board. Mitch farms near Woodworth, where he has resided for 49 years.

Farm Rescue Sponsored by DCT

DCT is a proud sponsor of Farm Rescue, a local organization that provides planting, harvesting, and haying assistance to farm



families that have experienced a major injury, illness, or natural disaster. Farm Rescue is there to help farmers keep operations running when they can't do it themselves.

Many families in our area depend on planting and harvesting a crop to live, so when they face an unexpected injury, illness or natural disaster it is a major financial burden. It is nearly impossible for a farmer to continue planting or harvesting on his own when faced with a crisis, however, thanks to many area businesses those farmers can complete their growing season with some assistance. DCT is glad to have the opportunity to help those families in a time of need.

For more information on the Farm Rescue organization, visit www.farmrescue.org.

Join the "Rural Is Cool" Movement!

The NTCA - Rural Broadband Association created the "Rural Is Cool" movement in 2013 as a way for rural Americans to use their voices to shape the future of their communities and local industries.

What makes rural

cool? There are many things that make rural "cool" including a hardworking labor pool, shorter commutes, lower cost of living, more room to spread out, beautiful and quiet outdoor spaces, friendly neighbors, and farm-to-table food.



Help us highlight the positive impacts and contributions of rural America by sharing your stories on social media. Use the hashtag [#ruraliscool](https://twitter.com/ruraliscool) and send us your pictures and stories on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+ to tell the world what makes our rural, small-town communities a great place to work, learn, live and play!

DVR Tips: Deleting a Recording

DCTV service along with a DVR (Digital Video Recorder) allows you to record up to 100 hours of video programming. The videos are stored on the DVR hard drive until you delete them. If you record a significant amount of programming, it won't take long to fill up the hard drive, and you will not be able to record additional content until you make room on the hard drive. **To delete stored content on your DVR, highlight the recording you wish to delete and press the red button in the center of the remote.** Confirm the deletion by pressing "Yes" again.



It may also help to review your scheduled recordings. Changing a series recording from "all" to "new" will reduce the number of recordings that will save for that particular series, or you may choose to eliminate future scheduled recordings that no longer interest you.

If you have questions about managing your DVR, call 652.3184 or 952.1000 to talk to a member of our support team or visit www.daktel.com/support.



We'll See You at the Speedway!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 14th! For the 14th year, DCT will once again sponsor Kids' Night at the Jamestown Speedway. DCT employees will be there to hand out trophies to the race winners as well as prizes to kids whose names are drawn. Children under the age of 12 will also have the opportunity to ride a lap around the track with their favorite driver. Come out and join us for a night of racing, drawings, prizes, and fun! See you on the 14th at the races!



Building a Home?

A key part of any new construction or remodeling project is ensuring that the structured wiring will meet your needs for future voice, data, video, and security services. Whether you are a builder or an owner planning your dream home, it is a good idea to prepare any new home for future wiring.

We are proud to offer Fiber-to-the-Home services, and as we continue to update this new technology we recognize that inside wiring is an important part of the process. Connecting fiber in a new home increases the value home by as much as \$4,000-7,000 as well as potentially aiding in future resale efforts. Fiber readies your home now for new and expanding entertainment capabilities as well as improving your current service clarity and speed. For optimum compatibility with Dakota Central's fiber equipment, we recommend planning for the following specifications when constructing a new or updating an existing homes:

- An AC outlet adjacent to the interior electrical service entrance which will be utilized to power the interior battery backup unit.
- A 24-inch piece of plywood installed between both the exterior and interior surfaces of the studs adjacent to the power meter/electrical service entrance location.
- Homeowner needs to decide if inside wiring (for TV/Phone/Internet) will be done by an electrician or the DCT crew. (Note: If your electrician includes communications wiring in their bid, they are responsible for wiring.)

Interior Outlet locations where a telephone, television, or computer could be located should include the following:

- Two home runs of CAT 5 wire from each location to demarcation point by electrical panel.
- 865 B Termination.

Please contact us to schedule an on-site meeting to discuss wiring options with one of our knowledgeable technicians.





Keith Larson, Laura Kulsrud, Michelle Willyard, John Cunningham, Dan Wolf, Paul Roller

Employee News... **2014 Service Awards**

A big THANK YOU to our wonderful employees and directors for their dedication and hard work throughout the years. We wouldn't be here without you!

We would like to recognize the following employees and directors for their years of service and commitment to DCT. Thank you for all that you do!

EMPLOYEES

Michelle Willyard, 10 years
Denice St. Michel, 10 years
Rod Wolters, 10 years
Laura Kulsrud, 15 years
Paul Roller, 15 years
Dan Wolf, 15 years
John Cunningham, 20 years
Keith Larson, 35 years

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mitch Schulz, 15 years
Gary Heintz, 30 years



Rod Wolters, Denice St. Michel



Gary Heintz



Mitch Schulz

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and greatest on



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811

Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



TRAVELERS

Common Ground Alliance



700MHz Wireless Internet

Although all of our service territory is served with fiber optic technology, there is a portion of Century Link territory surrounding Jamestown that is considered underserved with broadband service. In an effort to bring Internet to those customers, we have installed a system which utilizes the 700MHz spectrum that was purchased a number of years ago. In the past year, we constructed a tower at Spiritwood Lake, which allows us to extend the area that we provide wireless broadband coverage to. We are in the process of applying for grant funding to help us cover the costs of the project.

Straight from the Helpdesk...

Become a Password Pro

With all of the recent data breaches online, the password "password," is no longer sufficient. Now more than ever, it is necessary to create secure and unique passwords for each account online. With the advanced technology available these days, simple passwords are easy to hack. However, it is still possible to choose a password that is hard-to-crack by using unlikely combinations of letters and numbers. Here are some tips for creating a strong password that you can still remember. Visit www.wikihow.com/Choose-a-Secure-Password to learn more!

- Longer = Stronger.
- Use a random sequence of words and/or letters.
- Add numbers to the base word to make it more secure.
- Use punctuation and symbols to complicate it further.
- Create complexity with upper and lowercase letters.
- Generate similar but altered passwords for each account, using similar base words.

Do not...

- Use your name, children, or pet's names.
- Use obvious numbers like your birth date, phone number, or address.
- Write your passwords in a conspicuous place that can be easily seen.
- Re-use an expired password.

Where do you find
**YUMMY FOOD,
GREAT ENTERTAINMENT,
& STINKY FARM ANIMALS**
all in one place?



THE COUNTY FAIR!

Join the fun and check out
the local county fairs this summer
as well as the North Dakota State Fair!

Wells County Fair June 19-22
Foster County Fair June 24-26
Stutsman County Fair July 2-5

ND State Fair July 18-26

Concert line-up:

Lady Antebellum	July 18
John Mellencamp	July 19
The Charlie Daniels Band	July 20
Randy Houser	July 23
Florida Georgia Line	July 24
Three Days Grace	July 25
Brad Paisley	July 26

**DCT IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF
LOCAL 4H CHAPTERS**





PAGE ANDERSON
Kerry and Sara Anderson
Carrington



KYLIE KVAMME
Jeff and Jona Kvamme
Carrington



LOGAN HOFFMANN
Rory and Kim Hoffmann
Medina



AUDRA MONTGOMERY
Dennis and Betty Montgomery
Carrington



BAILEY SCHUMANN
Shane and Alison Schumann
Carrington



JERISSA BROCKEL
Collin and Virginia Brockel
Hurdsfield



DONAVAN MOSER
Dean and Tammy Moser
Medina



COURTNEY HEUPAL
Joseph and Faye Heupal
Medina

Dakota Central Awards \$5000 in Scholarships

Dakota Central is proud to announce the 2014 Scholarship winners.

Ten \$500.00 scholarships have been awarded to outstanding graduating seniors whose parents or guardians are customers of Dakota Central. Applicants were judged on community involvement, school activities, financial need, grades and achievement. Consideration was also given to those looking to pursue a career in the telecommunications industry.

This marks the 14th year of the scholarship program having awarded \$70,000 to date. Dakota Central is proud to offer the scholarship program to show its commitment to area youth. Hats off to this year's Dakota Central Scholarship winners and to the entire class of 2014!



MADISON WENDEL
Shane and Mary Wendel
Carrington



MEGAN JONES
Todd and Jackie Jones
Bowdon

CONGRATULATIONS C L A S S O F 2014



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The DCT Link is published by Dakota Central Telecommunications.

Carrington office: 630 5th Street N Carrington, ND 58421 p: 701.652.3184 f. 701.674.8121	Jamestown office: 604 18th Street SW Jamestown, ND 58401 p: 701.952.1000 f. 701.952.1001	Office hours: 8am-4:30pm M-F To report trouble call your local office and follow prompts.	Internet Help Desk hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
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Win credit on your DCT bill!

Win **\$25 credit** on your DCT bill. Just return this coupon by July 31, 2014, to be eligible for the drawing.

Congratulations to last issue's winner:
Ardis Hochalter, Medina.

NAME

PHONE #



www.daktel.com 652.3184 952.1000