

Loyalty Has Its Rewards

Your loyalty to this telephone cooperative has had its rewards. Over the last 58 years Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative provided telephone and now Digital TV and High Speed Internet over a reliable and robust network, which we were able to maintain due to your continued support. We've brought state-of-the-art broadband services to rural areas, when neighboring telephone companies wouldn't make the investment for their customers.

Now it's time for another reward. Sign-up for Silver or Gold Total Package or a Silver or Gold Video plus High Speed Internet Package by September 1st and get a FREE cordless phone PLUS 1 month of FREE HBO. If you aren't already enjoying the great channel line-up and the amazing speed of High Speed Internet, now is a good time! Entertain the entire family at home with local programming, news, sports, and music. Add optional premium channels like HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, and Starz. Travel the world online this summer. Check out some fun websites such as: www.exploratorium.edu (Great for kids); www.solitairecentral.com (Solitaire rules, Online games); www.ipl.org (Great for kids); www.ecola.com (Browse magazines, resources, television networks & newspapers from every country); www.oneacross.com (Crossword puzzle help for everyone). ❖

Unique Rural Business Appreciates Broadband in the Country

You won't find directions to Duraframe Dipnet on any signposts in the Sabin telephone exchange. You probably couldn't find the assembly workshop unless you knew where to look since the company is "in the middle of nowhere," according to owner Dave Crook.

But the small Richland County-based manufacturer is no secret at all to a group of fisheries, biologists, and university researchers that insist on the Cadillac of dipnets.

For the record, a dipnet is the industrial version of what anglers use to land a fish.

Crook and his wife, Maryann, began making nets for fish hatcheries 34 years ago after his discharge from the Navy. The original models were made for their own short lived hatchery and were fashioned from wood and steel. The Crooks reasoned that everybody who ran a hatchery needed a dipnet and, since their own hatchery was floundering, they decided to go into business making nets for others. They made 125 nets and took off on a three month journey zig-zagging across 17,000 miles of the U.S.

They sold some nets and did a lot of listening. Out of this marketing research came improvements that were incorporated into their nets. The couple now sells 80 different models which have evolved into state-of-the-art designs featuring aircraft grade aluminum and stainless steel rivets. They weigh a few pounds but can pick up a 100 pound fish without stress fatigue. The Crooks have several part time employees that help cut, bend, drill, and lace the various models together. All of the equipment used to make the nets was either built from scratch by Crook or from modified parts and accessories that are a testament to his innate sense of mechanical engineering genius.

Duraframe Dipnets are used all over the country by hatcheries, departments of natural resources and researchers. "I made a special net for the Smithsonian,"

2009 Scholarship Awards

Each year deserving graduates from area high schools are awarded \$500 scholarships from Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative. This year's recipients are **Michele Campbell** (Richland Center), **Robyn Fredericks** (Riverdale), **Brittney Zitzner** (Kickapoo), and **Tiffany Troxel** (North Crawford). All 4 young ladies plan on attending colleges within the Wisconsin university system.

Richland-Grant Telephone, who also sponsors students for statewide telecommunication awards, is proud to announce that **Hillary Hartley**, of North Crawford High School, will receive a Wisconsin State Telecommunications Foundation scholarship. This award of \$1500 is one of only 34 scholarships given statewide. In addition to that award, Hillary was selected to receive another \$1500 scholarship from the Bruce Reuber Memorial Scholarship program. Mr. Reuber, who passed away in January of 2008, had dedicated his entire career to the rural independent telecommunications industry. Hillary plans to attend the UW-Madison majoring in Dairy Science. She was selected for her scholastic record, energy, and dedication. Congratulations to all graduating Seniors! ❖

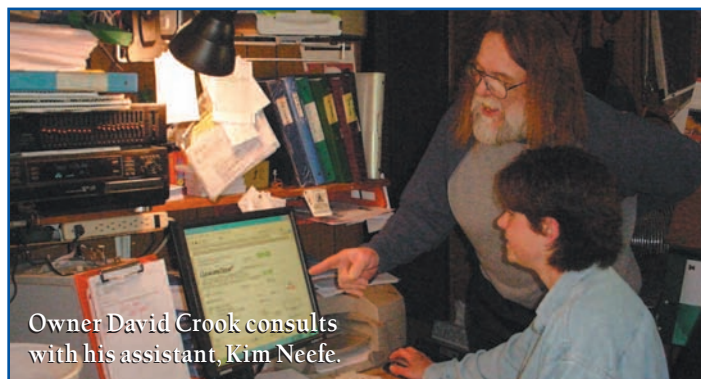
Crook says, "they were going to the Amazon to catch eels." Crook has also sold nets to the University of California, Berkley and Notre Dame, to name a few. International sales have been largely to Canada and Switzerland.

Those in the business of dipping fish for a living "want something they can use," Crook says noting that some sales are generated when end users relocate to new jobs. "Once they use something good they're not going back," Crook adds.

Duraframe's link to the world is through a high speed Internet connection from Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative. When customers call Crook, he directs them to the website so he can take them on a personally guided tour in real time.

Being in such a remote area can often mean slow Internet access for businesses served by other telecommunications companies. Not so for Duraframe Dipnet. Crook says his friends not served by the Co-op are down right envious.

www.duraframedipnet.com ❖



Owner David Crook consults with his assistant, Kim Neefe.

MySpace, Facebook, and Internet Safety

What You Need to Know for Yourself and Your Children.

MySpace and Facebook are two of the most popular online community sites on the Web today. These sites make it easy to express yourself, connect with friends and make new ones, but remember that what you post publicly could embarrass you or expose you to danger. For teens, MySpace and Facebook are popular online hangouts because these sites make it easy for them to express themselves and keep in touch with their friends.

As a parent, please consider the following guidelines to help your children make safe decisions about using online communities.

- Talk to your kids about why they use MySpace, Facebook, or any other on-line community site. Ask them how they communicate with others and how they represent themselves on these sites.
- Kids shouldn't lie about how old they are. MySpace members must be 14 years of age or older. Facebook members must be 13 or older. Both sites take extra precautions to protect younger members and are not able to do so if they do not identify themselves as such. Typically these sites will delete users whom they find to be younger than 13, or those misrepresenting their age.
- MySpace is a public space, Facebook profiles are viewed by members as connected friends. Members shouldn't post anything they wouldn't want the world to know (e.g., phone number, address, IM screen name, or specific whereabouts). Tell your children they should avoid posting anything that would make it easy for a stranger to find them, such as their local hangouts.
- People aren't always who they say they are. Ask your children to be careful about adding strangers to their friends list. It's fun to connect with new friends from all over the world, but members should be cautious when communicating with people they don't know. They should talk to you if they want to meet an online friend in person, and if you think it's safe, any meeting should take place in public and with friends or a trusted adult present.
- Harassment, hate speech, and inappropriate content should be reported. If your kids encounter inappropriate behavior, let them know that they can let you know, or they should report it through the sites' reporting links or the authorities.

Always follow these important safety tips when using MySpace, Facebook, or other online communities:

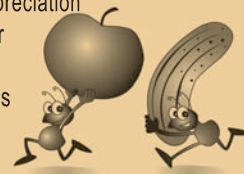
- Never share your password with anyone.
- Adjust privacy settings to match your level of comfort, and review them often.

More information regarding Internet safety can be found on the following sites:

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| OnguardOnline.gov | WiredSafety.org | CommonSense.org |
| TRUSTe.org | ConnectSafety.org | NetSmartz.org |
| WebWiseKids.org | facebook.com/safety | myspace.com/safety |

Mark Your July Calendar

Richland-Grant Telephone Employees and Directors look forward to serving our member patrons at a Customer Appreciation Picnic this summer. You're invited to join us for food and fun between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, July 21st in the Crops and Gardens Building at the Gays Mills Fairgrounds. Back by popular demand: Soft serve ice cream!



Digital Signal – the New Method for Video Transmission

Since Feb 17th most of us are watching television in digital format, whether we subscribe to cable, satellite, video from the cooperative, or even if we use an antenna. The components of what make up a television picture are a very complex formula of information that became the basis for our national TV standard known as NTSC video.

Prior to Feb. 17th, the analog video was transmitted over the air and you tuned the receiver in your TV to that channel and were able to see the picture and hear the sound. Because analog signals are subject to destructive manipulation, electrical noise and other interference can degrade the picture.

Digital picture and sound information is encoded into a series of ones and zeros and it is this information that is transmitted. A digital TV picture should theoretically be an exact copy of the original signal. Imagine 10,000 tiny trains going to your TV, with each car in the train carrying a bit of the color, or a bit of the sound needed for the broadcast (the ones and zeros). Now imagine that the caboose suddenly gets ahead of the engine going down a hill. The picture is no longer perfect because the packets of ones and zeros are out of order. You, the customer, might see what we call tiling or pixels. If the picture gets bad enough, our video customers can often correct the problem by restarting the Comtrend modem--just pull the electrical power cord out for about 10 seconds. This allows the train cars (your video signal) to get realigned.



What Did You Say?

YOUR GUIDE TO TEXT TALK

Here are just a few of the most common abbreviations used in text messaging. Get up to speed, and soon you'll be "texting" as fluently as your kids!

<3	Sideways heart, meaning Love, friendship	G2G	Got to go
@TEOTD	At the end of the day	IDK	I don't know
2MI	Too much information	ILBL8	I'll be late
AFAIK	As far as I know	ILU	I love you
AITR	Adult in the room	IMHO	In my humble opinion
BBIAF	Be back in a few	L8R	Later
BTW	By the way	LOL	Laughing out loud
CUA	See you around	ROFL	Rolling on floor laughing
G/F	Girlfriend	TSNF	That's so not fair
G2CU	Good to see you	TTYL	Talk to you later