

Communicator

A Quarterly Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



Top photo, left to right: Derek Barr, Dana Dyer, Becky Kimble, Denise Miller, Jeff Sites, Theresa Funk, Phil Rinker, and Matthew Crites; bottom left photo, left to right: Felicita Bird and Butch McPherson; bottom right photo, left to right: Jack Walters and Phyllis Cook

Youth Board Tours Hardy Offices, Learns Dangers Of Texting While Driving

Hardy's Youth Advisory Board took an in-depth tour of Hardy's Lost River headquarters during a meeting on December 22, and the group discussed the dangers of texting while driving.

Hardy Project Manager Bobby Armistead explained the capabilities of the company's central office switch, which essentially is the brains of Hardy's operation. The central office switch is the mechanism that routes all calls to their appropriate location. Hardy currently is installing a new Metaswitch unit, which is software-based and will greatly enhance the calling features and other services that Hardy can offer.

Bobby then led the group to Hardy's battery room, which houses the batteries used as back-up power in the event of an electrical power outage. The electricity needed to power Hardy's machinery is somewhat like running your clothes dryer 24 hours a day, seven days a week, he said. The equipment generates so much heat that air conditioners must run around the clock or else the batteries may overheat, he said.

After the tour, the students watched a documentary short film titled "Distracted: The True Story of Ashley Umscheid".



Members of Hardy's Youth Advisory Board (from left: JoBeth Delawder, Stephen Hott, Ashley Dove, Tyler Bradfield, Tressa Parker, and Garrett Keller) listen to Hardy Project Manager Bobby Armistead (far right) explain the battery back-up system Hardy uses to ensure continuous service.

Ashley Umscheid was a 19-year-old Kansas State University freshman who was killed in May 2009 when her vehicle crashed along a Kansas road. The investigation revealed that she had been sending text messages on her cell phone while driving. The Foundation for Rural Service released the film in an effort to warn teens about the dangers of distracted driving.

Board member JoBeth Delawder, a Moorefield High School freshman, said the film had a valuable lesson for young drivers.

What's Inside

- Hardy Sending Two Local Students On Free D.C. Trip
- Hardy Offering FRS College Scholarship
- Youth Board Hears Dangers Of Texting While Driving
- HardyNet Completes Work On Alternate Internet Route
- Hardy TV Franchise Agreements Approved

Calendar

- Feb. 11 Deadline: FRS Youth Tour Applications
- Feb. 11 Deadline: FRS College Applications
- May 30 Memorial Day Holiday - Offices Closed

Hardy Honors Employees For Service Milestones In 2010

Hardy Telecommunications honored its own on November 19, 2010, with a special dinner to recognize employees and directors reaching service milestones with the company.

Eight employees and two members of the board of directors hit special service marks with Hardy. The company rewards employees for every five years of service. Also, two employees who announced their retirement from Hardy received special recognition. Matthew Crites was the most

senior employee honored at the dinner. In 2010, Matthew completed 30 years of service with Hardy.

Six employees hit the 10-year mark in 2010. Those were Becky Kimble, Dana Dyer, Denise Miller, Jeff Sites, Phil Rinker, and Theresa Funk. Derek Barr completed five years of service last year.

Board President Phyllis Cook became a 25-year director in 2010, and Jack Walters hit the 25-year milestone as the company's corporate attorney.

The service award dinner doubled as an event to honor Franklin "Butch" McPherson and Felicita Bird, who announced their retirements from Hardy. Felicita left the company in mid-2010 after nine years with Hardy Telecommunications, and Butch will retire in February with more than 11 years of service.

Jeff, Felicita's and Butch's supervisor, praised both employees for their work ethic and positive attitude. Felicita and Butch will be sorely missed, he said.

Hardy Sending Two Local Students To D.C.

Hardy Telecommunications is offering local students the opportunity of a lifetime by sponsoring a free four-day trip to our nation's capital, during which the students will meet peers from all over the U.S.

One junior each from Moorefield and East Hardy high schools will be selected to attend the 2011 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 4-8. The trip includes sightseeing as well as educational sessions to teach today's youth about the telecommunications industry. Hardy Telecommunications will pay all basic expenses, including travel.

The Youth Tour provides students from rural areas with a look at the telecommunications industry, and educates them about the legislative and governmental processes with visits to the U.S. Capitol and the Federal Communications Commission.

East Hardy High Seniors Jesse Cook and Ashley Dove participated in the 2010 Youth Tour. Both students said the trip was a wonderful experience and encouraged others to apply.

This year's preliminary agenda includes visits to the



FRS Youth Tour - Trip to Washington, D.C. - June 2010
2010 Youth Tour participants pose at the U.S. Capitol. Photo courtesy of FRS.

U.S. Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II Memorial, Mount Vernon (home of George Washington), the Vietnam War Memorial, the Smithsonian Museums, the Korean War Memorial, the National Zoo, the National Cathedral, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Applications for the tour may be picked up from the guidance counselors at both high schools or by contacting Derek Barr at Hardy's offices. To be eligible for the trip, students must be high school juniors of the 2012 graduating class, be either 16 or 17 years old at the time of the tour and

receive service from either Hardy Telecommunications or HardyNet.

The deadline to return applications is February 11, 2011. Applications may be returned to either the high school guidance counselors or directly to Derek.

Hardy Sponsoring 2011 FRS College Scholarship

Hardy Telecommunications is sponsoring the national Foundation for Rural Service 2011 College Scholarship Program to graduating seniors at Moorefield and East Hardy high schools.

The scholarship, open to applicants who receive local telecommunications service (either telephone or Internet) from Hardy, is worth \$2,000, and Hardy

Telecommunications will contribute an additional \$500 to the amount, bringing the total one-time scholarship award to \$2,500. Interested students can contact their guidance counselors at the two schools or download the application at the FRS website at www.frs.org. Students also can contact Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr at 304-897-9911 for an application.

Students are asked to return their applications no later than February 11, 2011. Applications should be returned to the guidance counselors at Moorefield and East Hardy high schools or to Derek at Hardy's offices.

The FRS will award 30 scholarships nationwide. A qualified selection committee of current educators determined by FRS

will select the winners; Hardy Telecommunications itself has no input in the process.

Applicants must be accepted by an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school; have at least a C grade point average; express an interest in returning to a rural community following graduation; and be sponsored by an FRS contributor.

Hardy Granted TV Agreements For OneNet Fiber

Hardy Telecommunications has had television franchise agreements approved by Hardy County and the towns of Moorefield and Wardensville.

The franchise agreements are the first steps necessary for Hardy to begin offering TV service as part of its Hardy OneNet Fiber-to-the-Home project. Funded by a \$31.6 million grant/loan award from the federal government, Hardy will build fiber-optic connections directly to consumers. The fiber network will allow Hardy to offer high-definition TV with local channels such as WHSV-TV3, faster Internet speeds and digital voice service.

Hardy General Manager Scott Sherman said the fiber build-out will take three years, but he hopes the first round of customers should receive service in late summer 2011.



From left: Curt Durst of WELD radio station, East Hardy High Principal Brad Simmons, Ray "Red" Funkhouser of Capon Valley Bank, and Derek Barr of Hardy Telecommunications. Photo courtesy of Jean Flanagan of the Moorefield Examiner.

East Hardy High School Presents Certificates To Business Partners

Hardy Telecommunications was one of three East Hardy High School business partners recognized at a recent Hardy County Board of Education meeting.

Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr accepted a plaque certifying the partnership from EHHS Principal Brad Simmons.

"Very few people realize what our business partners do," Mr. Simmons said. "And when they do, they tend to take it for granted. I've been trying to find ways to show them how much we appreciate all they do for us."

Hardy Telecommunications, Capon Valley Bank and WELD radio are the three EHHS business partners.

Hardy Completes Alternate Internet Route

HardyNet recently completed work on an alternate route for its Internet service that greatly increases reliability by providing a secondary pathway for Internet traffic if the main route is unavailable.

The project's completion means that if HardyNet's main network path to the rest of the world is not operable, Internet traffic automatically is transferred to the alternate route so that customers do not see any disruption in service. Previously, HardyNet had only one route for its Internet traffic; if that network was not working, all of HardyNet's customers would lose service. HardyNet Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr said the new route provides a back-up path.

"Our goal as an Internet service provider is to offer as reliable a network as possible, and this alternate Internet route is a critical part of that process," he said.

As an Internet signal, or a telephone call, leaves the Hardy County area, it must travel over other companies' networks to be completed. Hardy Telecommunications has had multiple paths and back-up plans for other services, such as long distance calls, for quite some time, but Internet traffic had only one route. Now, if necessary, HardyNet traffic has multiple routes on which it can travel.

Derek said the new route was completed in conjunction with Shenandoah

Telecommunications (Shentel). The traffic connects with the Shentel network on its way to the rest of the world. Final testing on the new route was completed December 14.

"We had our people and Shentel representatives monitoring the test, and everything worked just as we hoped it would," Derek said. "(Hardy Telecommunications Central Office Supervisor Bill Schmidt) said there was no drop in our Internet connection or Shentel's services when the test was performed, both switching from the primary route to the secondary route and switching back from the secondary route to the primary route."

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