

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The
Communicator

Vol. 2, No. 2

April 2003

**Prewire your
new home**
Ask us how!

**Annual Meeting Notice • Photo Contest
Flint River Boys • NHTC News**

It appears the cold and wet weather is behind us now. I've enjoyed the warm spring days we've had the past few weeks. I hope you've been able to get outside and enjoy some of them, too.

I am pleased to report that we have at last awarded a contract for construction of our new building. We've waded through miles of government red tape to get to this point. Just when we thought we were there, the bids came in too high. This sent us back to the drawing board to adjust our plans.

Bid requests were sent out again, and on March 13 we opened the new bids. Building Construction Associate Group of Decatur was the low bidder and was awarded the project. Hopefully you will see construction begin soon on the new facility.

Mark your calendar now for the Annual Meeting of your New Hope Telephone Cooperative. This is an important event and, as a member of the cooperative, you should take this opportunity to involve yourself in the business of this company.

As a cooperative, New Hope Telephone belongs to you. You have

state-of-the-art telecommunications services in this rural region because decades ago the people here decided to make phone service happen for themselves. With a cooperative, the bottom line is not profit — the bottom line is people.

That's why the Annual Meeting is so important. It's more than just a chance to see your friends and catch up on community news. It's more than great entertainment and a Board election. It's about continuing the tradition of a community that created this fine company for generations to come. It's about doing for ourselves what no for-profit company was willing to do.

Below I've listed a few of the advantages of the cooperative form of business. Please take a minute to look over these and think about the benefits of having New Hope Telephone Cooperative in Grant, New Hope and Owens Cross Roads.

I look forward to seeing each of you May 20 at the Annual Meeting.



Tom Butler
General Manager

Advantages of a Cooperative

- Provides services when no other companies would come into the service area. NHTC has provided telephone service for 50 years, and cable service for 30 years.
- A cooperative is owned by its members. They can come to Board meetings, elect Board members, and have input into what services they want. NHTC surveys subscribers and encourages involvement.
- High speed Internet using DSL will be available by the end of 2003 to the entire NHTC service area. Many independent companies will only have broadband service to 30 percent of their service area by that time.
- We work individually with customers having a hard time due to loss of job, sickness, and death in the family.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative

is a member-owned corporation dedicated to providing communications technology to the residents and businesses of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads.

Board of Directors

Johnny Cobb, President

New Hope Exchange

Robert Layne, Vice President

Owens Cross Roads Exchange

David Ayers, Secretary

Grant Exchange

Jeff Cooper, Treasurer

New Hope Exchange

James Cantrell

Grant Exchange

Jim Duncan

New Hope Exchange

Greg Glover

Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Barry Mefford

New Hope Exchange

Jimmy Segler

Grant Exchange

The Communicator

Vol. 2, No. 2 April 2003

is a bimonthly magazine published by New Hope Telephone Cooperative, © 2003. It is distributed without charge to all members/owners of the Cooperative. Send address corrections to:

New Hope Telephone Cooperative
P.O. Box 452
New Hope, Alabama 35760
Telephone: (256) 723-4211
www.nehp.net

*This publication is produced for
New Hope Telephone by:*



www.WordSouth.com

It's Annual Meeting Time!

Event set for Tuesday, May 20 at
New Hope High School Auditorium

Doors open at
5:00 p.m.

Meeting begins
at 7:30 p.m.



Board Elections!



Great Entertainment!



Door Prizes!

Board Elections

An important part of the Annual Meeting is the election of NHTC's Board members. The cooperative's Board of Directors makes important decisions affecting the future of your telecommunications provider. Participating in this election is a great privilege – and a great responsibility.

The following positions are up for consideration in this year's election:

- **Place 6, Grant:** This position is currently held by David Ayers. Owner and operator of Grant Hardware for more than 25 years, Ayers also drives a school bus for DAR.
- **Place 7, Grant:** James "Sonny" Cantrell currently holds this position. Cantrell is a brick mason, specializing in residential and decorative masonry.
- **Place 9, Owens Cross Roads:** This position is currently held by Robert "Bob" Layne. A retired maintenance supervisor with PPG Industries, Layne serves as building inspector for Owens Cross Roads and New Hope.

(Members of this year's Nominating Committee are: Chairman Billy McDonald of Grant, Jerry Self of New Hope and Roy Cobb of Owens Cross Roads.)

Capital Credit Refunds will be mailed in May

The Board of Directors for New Hope Telephone Cooperative recently approved a two-and-a-half percent (2.5%) refund of capital credits for all members. These refunds will represent 2.5% of the total capital credits each member has accumulated to date, less any refunds already given.

"The Board is pleased to once again authorize a refund of this size," says Tom Butler, general manager of NHTC. "This is another example of the benefit of being part of a cooperative. Our profits aren't sent to investors on Wall Street... they stay here in the communities we serve."

Refund checks are scheduled to be mailed the first week in May.

Music is a family tradition for Grant's Stephen Helton

Traditional music has experienced a surge in popularity in recent years. But long before old-time music was considered an art, it was running through the veins of Stephen Helton.

A resident of Grant, Helton grew up in a musical family. His father played banjo and guitar, and Helton began sawing on the fiddle by the time he was six years old.

The family, including Helton's brother Alan, played bluegrass and bluegrass-gospel at local churches and events. They later played with Donald and Lona Anderson as the Gospel Strings.

In 1985, Helton rode with a friend to Henagar, atop Sand Mountain, to do a little trading with a man by the name of Charlie Louvin — one half of the renowned Louvin Brothers. Helton had grown up listening to this brother duet, and was excited about

the opportunity to meet him. The two talked about music, and quickly became friends.

Later, Helton rode with Louvin to a bluegrass festival in Muscle Shoals. Louvin performed with the Sullivan Family, then surprised Helton with an invitation.

"He called me on stage to do a special with him," Helton recalls, "and we had never sung together before." But having grown up on the unique harmony of the Louvin's, Helton fell right in with a version of "Make Him a Soldier."

"I think I may have surprised him," Helton says. "He must have liked what he heard."

Two weeks later, Helton received a call from Louvin with a question. "When do you want to come to work?" the veteran performer asked.

On Friday, September 13, 1985,

Helton stepped on stage of the legendary Grand Ole Opry in Nashville to play mandolin and sing tenor with Louvin. They would travel and perform together for the next two years.

"Being on the Grand Ole Opry and seeing folks I'd listened to all my life — even getting to jam with some of them — was very exciting," Helton recalls. "It was a good natural high."

Since 1998, Helton has headed the Flint River Boys. The group travels often, with performances scheduled this year in Florida, Texas, Missouri, Michigan, Mississippi, Canada and possibly New York.

And Helton is passing along the tradition. His son Daniel plays guitar (and DAR basketball) and his daughter Ashley plays piano and sings in the DAR choir. "My wife, Margie, is the backbone of the whole deal," he smiles. "She supports us all."



Flint River Boys (left to right) are: Vernon Derrick (played and recorded with Stanley Bros., Jimmy Martin & Hank Williams, Jr.; Steve Smiley (played with Madison County Ramblers); Stephen Helton; Alan Helton; and Etheridge Scott (original member of the Warrior River Boys).

Flint River Boys to perform at DAR Bluegrass Festival

Don't miss the fun at the First Annual Spring Fling and Bluegrass Festival

sponsored by the DAR PTO

April 26, 2003 • 11 a.m. — 7 p.m.
Arts/Crafts - Games - Food and Fun

Entertainment featuring:
Stephen Helton & the Flint River Boys
Plus Mac Rice &
the River Bottom Band

Admission for entertainment: \$8/Adults,
\$3/K-12th Grade, Preschool admitted free

For more info. contact
Kim Burks at 728-5252

OWENS CROSS ROADS 1ST ANNUAL Spring Fling

April 12, 2003
Owens Cross Roads School
7 am – 7 pm

Sponsored by the PTO

*Come help us raise funds for
New Computers and A New PA System*

Concessions will be available

Yard Sale – 7am -11am

Yard Sale Booth Rental - \$15

Activities and Games – Noon until 4 pm

Moon Walk, Bungee Run, Rock Climb,
Fly Trap, Kiddie Swings, Dunking Booth
& much more!

*Arm Bands - \$12 in advance
\$15 day of Fling*

Talent Show – 5 pm - until
Two Divisions: Children and Adults

For additional information contact:

Mrs. Goode at 725-4233 or
Wendy Anders at 725-2489



Other dates for Owens Cross Roads School:

May 9th - Parents Night Out 6-9:30

May 27th - Academic Banquet 7:00 pm

May 29th - Field Day

May 30th - Awards Day

New Hope Middle School Softball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Mar. 31	Monrovia (A&B)	Home	4:00
April 1	Scottsboro (A&B)	Home	4:00
April 4, 5	Meridianville Tourn.	Away	9:00 a.m.
April 7	Monrovia (A&B)	Away	4:00
April 11	Madison Academy (A&B)	Away	4:00
April 15	Liberty (A&B)	Home	4:00
April 18	DAR (A&B)	Away	4:00
April 21	Central (A)	Home	4:00
April 22	Scottsboro (A&B)	Away	4:00
April 25	Madison County (A&B)	Away	4:00
April 28	Madison County (A&B)	Home	4:00
May 2	Madison County Tourn.	Home	4:00

New Hope Middle School Baseball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Mar. 31	Oakwood	Home	4:00
April 3	Madison County	Away	4:00
April 7	Westminster	Home	4:00
April 10	Madison Academy	Away	4:00
April 14	Randolph	Home	4:00
April 17	New Market	Away	4:00
April 18	Riverton (2)	Away	4:00
April 21	Central	Home	4:00
April 24	Oakwood	Away	4:00
April 28	Madison County	Home	4:00
April 29	Liberty	Home	4:00
May 1	Westminster	Away	4:00
May 5-10	County Tournament	Home	4:00

(2) denotes a doubleheader

New Hope Elementary School Important Dates

April 8 – Report Cards • April 7-11 Testing Dates



Spring is here, and we're looking for great photos that highlight this beautiful season. Send your spring photos to NHTC, and we'll select one for publication in our next issue of *The Communicator*! If your entry is selected, you'll see your photo in print, plus receive a free gift from New Hope Telephone.

Deadline for entry: May 1, 2003

NOTE: Be sure to include photographer's name, address and phone number, as well as name of any people featured in your photos.

All submissions become the property of New Hope Telephone Cooperative and will not be returned. By submitting your photos: (1) you attest that you are the creator and owner of the photos, (2) you give New Hope Telephone permission to publish your material in *The Communicator*, (3) you agree to offer said photos without the expectation of payment from New Hope Telephone, and (4) you understand that photos are selected for publication in *The Communicator* at the sole discretion of New Hope Telephone, and that submission of your photo does not guarantee your photo will appear in the magazine.

Save time and money

Let NHTC prewire you new home

The saws are humming. The hammers are flying. It's building season in north Alabama, and many families are starting construction on their dream homes.

Before going to far with your plans, give New Hope Telephone a call. Your telephone cooperative could save you time and money by prewiring your home.

"When building a new home, phone service is not something peo-

ple think about first," says Donald Roy Paseur, Outside Plant Supervisor for NHTC. "But in fact, it would benefit the homeowner to let us know about their plans early on."

Before your sheetrock goes up, NHTC crews can run phone wire throughout your home, and get phone jacks ready for final installation. And the cost for this service can be quite reasonable.

Calling NHTC early can also save

landscaping headaches. "If a homeowner has a trench open for other utilities," says Paseur, "we can lay the phone lines in there, too."

"That way, we won't have to come back and mess up the landscaping," he adds, "and the homeowner avoids additional charges."

So make a phone call today that can save you time and money (and hassle) on your new building project. Call NHTC at 723-4211.

Come on in

Some services require a visit to NHTC office

Much of your New Hope Telephone business can be handled over the phone. However, sometimes a visit to the office is required for security and privacy reasons.

"Basically, you must come into the office for any service that restricts use of your telephone," explains Teresa Hunkapiller, NHTC office manager. These services include:

- Toll restrictions of any kind
- Non-published agreements

Other services requiring a visit include:

- New phone service
- Sign up for DSL or Dial-Up Internet access
- Changing Long Distance carriers
- Making membership joint with your spouse

There are still many services you can access by calling the New Hope Telephone office:

- Adding or dropping Custom Calling Features
- Ordering an additional phone line
- Requesting a disconnect of service

Thanks for doing business with your New Hope Telephone Cooperative!



Internet tech support around the clock

Now help is just a phone call away, no matter what time of day you need it. New Hope Telephone is proud to announce Internet tech support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is the number to call with you're Internet problems:

- you just signed up with NHTC Internet, and need help setting it up
- you have a new computer and are trying to configure it to log on
- you're experiencing general problems getting on the Internet

24/7 Internet Tech Support
723-8940



Lazy Wife's Fruit Cobbler

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Rub a Pyrex or deep-dish pan with 1/4 lb. butter.
3. Mix 1 cup sugar with 1 cup self-rising flour and 3/4 cups water.
4. Stir out the lumps.
5. Pour pastry mixture in dish.
6. Using any canned or fresh fruit desired, mix with 2 cups water and 1/2 cup sugar.
7. Pour fruit mixture in dish on top of the pastry mixture. DO NOT STIR!!!
8. Bake until brown on top.

Submitted by Mrs. Alton Maples

Grape Salad

ingredients:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 8-oz. cream cheese | 1 4-oz. sour cream |
| 1/2 cup brown sugar | 1 cup chopped pecans |
| 3 lbs. grapes | |

Mix first four ingredients. Fold in grapes.

Submitted by Mirinda Paseur

Corn Salad

ingredients:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 cans Shoe Peg Corn | 1/2 cup sour cream |
| 1 lg. onion, chopped | 1/2 cup mayonnaise |
| 1 bell pepper, chopped | 1 tsp. vinegar |
| 1 cucumber, chopped | 1 tsp. dry mustard |
| 3 tomatoes, chopped | |

Drain corn and mix all ingredients. Let set 3 – 4 hours in refrigerator. Keeps for days in refrigerator.

*In loving memory of Mary Lewis
Submitted by friends & family*

Chicken Spaghetti

ingredients:

- 4 chicken breasts
- 2 small cans mushrooms (bits & pieces)
- 1 small onion
- 1 can Campbell's™ Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 can Campbell's™ Chicken Broth
- 8-oz. Velveeta™ Cheese
- 6 to 8 oz. spaghetti noodles, cooked
- 1 stick Ritz™ Crackers, crushed
- 1 stick margarine, melted

Boil chicken and save broth to boil noodles in. Boil noodles in broth according to package directions. Saute' onions and mushrooms in small amount of butter. In a mixing bowl, mix soup, can of broth, and cheese; melt in microwave. Mix all ingredients together— except cracker crumbs and margarine—and put in 9x13 inch baking pan. Put cracker crumbs and butter on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

submitted by: Tammy Pritchett

Apple Dumplings

ingredients:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 can biscuits | 1 cup white sugar |
| 1 cup brown sugar | 2 cups water |
| 2 sticks margarine | 4 or 5 apples, sliced |
| cinnamon | |

Pull biscuits apart and roll until thin. One biscuit makes 2 dumplings. Put an apple slice in a dumpling and fold over. Lay folded side down in baking dish. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Heat white sugar, brown sugar, water and margarine over medium heat. Pour over the dumplings and bake in a 350 degrees oven for 50 to 55 minutes.

Submitted by: Paula Hendrix

**Send your recipes and home tips to: New Hope Telephone, PO Box 452, New Hope, Alabama, 35760.
If we publish them, we'll have a 'thank you' gift waiting for you at the office!**



Special offer on Custom Calling Features

**Now through the end of May, subscribe to any of our
Custom Calling Features**

and we'll waive the service charge! Call 723-4211 today!

What if you had a device in your home that acted like a personal secretary. It would screen your calls, dial numbers for you, and even ring your morning wake-up call.

Your telephone can do all this – and much more – when it is empowered by custom calling features from New Hope Telephone. For just a few dollars per month, you can put your phone to work around the house.

Customize your phone with these and other custom calling features

Automatic Call Back - \$2/mo.

Caller ID Name Only - \$3/mo.

Automatic Recall - \$2/mo.

Caller ID Number Only - \$3/mo.

Call Forwarding - \$1/mo.

Caller ID Deluxe - \$6/mo.

Call Waiting - \$1/mo.

Three Way Calling - \$1/mo.

Voice Mail - \$4/mo.

Wake Up Voice Mail - \$1/mo.

Caller ID Call Waiting - \$2/mo.

Telemarketers Do Not Disturb - \$2/mo.

See page 9 and 10 in the 2003 Directory for additional information.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative

P.O. Box 452

New Hope, Alabama 35760

Pre-sort
Standard
US POSTAGE PAID
Metro Mail
36201