

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The
Communicator

Vol. 2, No. 6

December 2003

Founding Father

**John Ed Butler
remembers the
early days of
New Hope Telephone**

**New calling feature
and plan introduced**

Holiday promotions

**Recipes,
and more!**



On behalf of the employees and the Board of New Hope Telephone Cooperative, I'd like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas. I hope the upcoming New Year will be a prosperous one for you.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to our members for making 2003 another great year at your cooperative. I'd like to express my appreciation to the great bunch of employees I'm privileged to work with, and to the men who are dedicated to serving on the Board of Directors.

We wanted to do something special for our members this holiday season, so we decided to offer you several great specials on our servic-

es. Be sure to look through this issue for several great offers that you'll find convenient and cost-effective.

With so many options, you may want to consider giving the gift of communications to your loved ones this year. Maybe you'd like pay for Internet access for a family member, or perhaps cable service so they can stay entertained and informed. I'm sure you'll get plenty of ideas while looking through this issue of *The Communicator*.

Thank you again for your support, and may you have a wonderful holiday season.■



Tom Butler
General Manager

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.

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Get online today!

This holiday season is a great time to get online with
Dial Up Internet Service from New Hope Telephone Cooperative.

Sign up before January 31st and we'll *waive the activation fee*
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Save money and start exploring the Internet today!

Call today! 723-4211



You asked for it, we made it happen!

Introducing the new

Guntersville Calling Plan

from New Hope Telephone Cooperative

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per
mo.

in addition to
your standard
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**Unlimited calls into Guntersville
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Call into Guntersville anytime of day
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This plan becomes available after the first of
next year... so call New Hope Telephone Cooperative
today to sign up for our Guntersville Calling Plan.

Call today! 723-4211

NEW CALLING FEATURE

—Call Forward Don't Answer—

Now your calls can follow you wherever you go! With Call Forward Don't Answer, you can set your phone to forward calls to any phone number. And with this new feature, the call will only be forwarded if you do not answer.

Forward your calls anywhere — a mobile phone, your office, a relative's phone. With Call Forward Don't Answer, you can get your calls even when you're not at home!

This feature is so new, the rate has even been established yet. Call the New Hope Telephone office at 723-4211 to find out more.



MOVING RIGHT ALONG—Work continues on the new office building for New Hope Telephone Cooperative. When completed, the building will provide NHTC members with a more accessible, convenient location to do business with their cooperative. The building will house customer service offices, administration, repair, and related functions. The existing building will continue to be used for support functions requiring no customer interaction, such as switching and technological support. The new facility is expected to be completed by May.



APPRECIATION BASKET—Kathy Norman of Sunshine Gifts & Baskets in New Hope recently presented a gift basket filled with goodies to the staff at New Hope Telephone Cooperative. Norman and her partner, Joyce Cobb, said they presented the gift to show their appreciation for the hard work and support of New Hope Telephone employees. Pictured above is Norman, center, presenting the basket to NHTC employees (left to right) Phillip Cooper, Kanita Medlen, Tammy Weeks and Teresa Hunkapiller.

New Hope Long Distance wants to help you stay in touch with family and friends this holiday season.



Why New Hope Long Distance?

- One less bill to pay — All charges appear on your phone bill
- Flat rates — You pay the same per-minute rate no matter who you call, what time you call, what day you call
- It belongs to you—NHTC is a cooperative, so you're helping your company grow while earning capital credits
- Local support — Best of all, you can discuss any questions over the phone or in person with someone right here at your local office!

Call 723-4211 to sign up today!

NHTC began as a Lion's Club project

The story of progress in the New Hope area is the story of the Lion's Club, a group of dedicated residents whose efforts throughout the 1950's and 1960's shaped the future of this region.

The Lion's Club, an organization known for its work in sight conservation, became a driving force locally in community development. Among its many successful projects were attracting a bank to New Hope, leading the way for the town to be incorporated, and helping form the volunteer fire department.

But perhaps the greatest impact the Lion's Club had on the area — a project that will benefit residents for generations to come — was the formation of New Hope Telephone Cooperative. With the founding of the cooperative, these community leaders ensured that local residents would not be left behind as telecommunications changed our world.

In 1948, New Hope had one phone line connected to Huntsville. Butler Brothers general store and New Hope Drug Company each had a phone on this line. Another connection extended to Poplar Ridge, to the Butler farm. "Our family had a line that we maintained, that tied into Butler Brothers," says John Ed Butler, son of C.T. Butler. "They made the call for us at the store, then hooked us up."

John Ed Butler had just returned to the family farm with a degree from Auburn University. He joined the Lion's Club, and soon found himself

in the midst of a progressive project.

After unsuccessful attempts to bring the big investor-owned telephone company to New Hope, Lion's Club members set out to make it happen for themselves. "We got a government loan to build our own cooperative," Butler remembers.

The loan was made possible by an

great excitement." A board of directors was established and, because of his role in working the Poplar Ridge area, Butler was selected to serve.

For the next 25 years, Butler watched the small cooperative experience tremendous changes. The first lines came alive in August of 1953. Service was extended throughout

New Hope and Owens Cross Roads, and the Grant area was added. Private lines became a reality. The cooperative's first general manager, Charles V. Lee, retired and Tom Butler took the reins. And the telephone company continued offering new services and branching into new businesses to better serve its members.

Today, Butler enjoys a slower pace. But he is still very much active in Maple Shade Farms, Butler & Sons. The land has been in the family since it was purchased in 1875 by Butler's grandfather,

a Confederate soldier who only 10 years before had been released as a prisoner of war. That same grandfather in 1885 built the farm house Butler still calls home.

The farming operation is managed by Butler's son, Charles, who also has two sons involved the business (Sam and Matt). Butler is proud of the fact that five generations have worked this land, and that all but his grandfather earned degrees from Auburn University.

Butler is the only surviving member of the original NHTC board. The other founding board members were Bob Moon, Lawrence Hereford, John G. Butler and James Mann. ■



John Ed Butler lives in the home his grandfather built in 1885

amendment to the Rural Electrification Act which had brought electricity to much of rural America. The amendment made low-interest, long-term loans available to communities in need of telephone service.

Lion's Club members began holding meetings in various communities to promote the idea of a telephone cooperative. They also encouraged people to become members, at a fee of \$28. "We had no trouble getting active members," Butler recalls.

When news came that the loan request met government requirements and New Hope Telephone Cooperative would in fact become a reality, Butler says it was "a time of



Owens Cross Roads welcomes South Hampton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

On your first visit to South Hampton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, you'll realize this is not your typical nursing home. While providing routine care and physical therapy services, the staff works hard to make residents feel right at home.

"We provide loving care," says Ida Sullivan, the Center's new administrator. "We have a compassionate staff that creates a clean, home-like environment."

The 81-bed skilled nursing facility opened last year on Wilson Mann Road in Owens Cross Roads, and has since received a warm welcome from the community. In addition to long-term care, the Center offers mental health and podiatry services; physical, occupational, and speech therapy; and all aspects of skilled services.

Sullivan says the old concept of a

nursing home as 'a place to come and wait to die' is a thing of the past. "We offer plenty of activities for the residents," she says, "from bingo and arts and craft to candle-making and horseshoes."

Residents spend much of their day socializing in group settings to "keep them out of their rooms," Sullivan says. Owens Cross Roads elementary school (located next to the Center) even brings a group of students each month to perform for residents.

Sullivan is excited about her new role as the Center's director. "I was born and raised in the Owens Cross Roads area," she says, "and I'm glad to be home." A 33-year veteran of the health care industry, Sullivan spent two decades in Atlanta before moving to New Market.

For the past 10 years, Sullivan's job required her to travel across four states. "I'm very glad to be settled into one place," she says. "I want this Center to be part of the community, and I want folks to know they are always welcome here. My door is always open."

Sullivan and the Center's staff invites those interested to call 725-3400 to schedule a tour of the facility. "We really want people to come see us," Sullivan adds. "We also give tours on weekends." ■



Ida Sullivan, Administrator

How can I help?

The South Hampton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is here for the community, so the staff welcomes community involvement. There are many ways you can lend a hand to enhance the lives of our senior citizens:

- **Prize donations** — Bingo is a favorite pastime of residents, and they love to receive small prizes for winning.
- **Supplies** — Many residents enjoy making arts and crafts, so these supplies are always in demand.
- **Christmas gifts** — During the holiday season, residents win play money at bingo games. They use this play money to shop at the bingo store, where they buy gifts for loved ones.
- **Christmas decorations** — The holidays are special for residents, and Christmas decorations bring them more enjoyment from the season.

- **Time** — This is the most important donation of all. Volunteers are needed throughout the year for special activities. This is especially true during the holiday season.

For more information about donations or volunteering your time, contact Sheila LaCourse or Jeri Clayton at 725-3400.

Poplar Ridge School dedicated

Some 70 area residents were on hand October 25 to dedicate the placement of a historical marker at the Poplar Ridge School. The Poplar Ridge Homemakers Club spearheaded the drive to raise money for the marker. The school began as a log cabin in 1858, and once had an enrollment of 100. It ceased being used as a school in 1941, when its enrollment was consolidated with New Hope High School. Today, the building is still used for community purposes.



Volunteers needed for 15th annual New Hope Founder's Day celebrations

This year's New Hope Founder's Day celebration was a huge success. Organizers wish to thank the following for their support: the mayor and city council; the volunteer fire department; area merchants; volunteers; and, of course, the families who came out to enjoy the day's events. Next year marks the 15th such celebration, and organizers want to make it the best one yet. If you would like to participate, contact event chairman Billy Jones.



Show Horse Winner — Shane Glover, 12, of Owens Cross Roads came away a state champion at the 31st Alabama State 4-H Horse Show, held at the Garrett Coliseum Complex in Montgomery. He earned top honors in the senior gelding division, showing his horse Coosa Valley (a

American Quarter Horse) in the halter class. Training a horse for such a competition takes a great deal of time and dedication, and Glover thanks Tex Johnson for his help in preparing for the competition. Glover is the son of Greg and Harriet Glover.



New Hope High School Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	TEAM
Dec. 12	Skyline	Away	5:00	JVB, VG, VB
Dec. 16	MCHS	Home	5:00	JVB, VG, VB
Dec. 19	Danville	Away	5:00	JVB, VG, VB
Dec. 29-30	New Hope Christmas Tourn.	Home	TBA	VG, VB

DAR High School Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	TEAM
Dec. 12	Arab	Home	3:30 p.m.	9B, JVG, JVB, VG, VB
Dec. 16	Huntland, TN	Away	6:30 p.m.	VG, VB
Dec. 19	Arab (Elem.)	Away	4:00 p.m.	JVG, 9B
Dec. 19	Arab (HS)	Away	4:30 p.m.	JVB, VG, VB
Dec. 26, 27, 29, 30	Oneonta Christmas Tournament			VB

DAR Middle School Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	TEAM
Dec. 11	Boaz	Home	4 p.m.	7G, 7B, 8G, 8B
Dec. 15	Albertville	Home	4 p.m.	7G, 7B, 8G, 8B
Dec. 18	Brindlee Mtn.	Away	1 p.m.	7G, 7B, 8G, 8B
Jan. 2-3	New Hope Tournament		TBA	7G, 7B, 8G, 8B
Jan. 5	Arab	Away	4 p.m.	7G, 7B, 8G, 8B
Jan. 8	New Hope	Away	4 p.m.	7G, 7B, 8G, 8B
Jan 10-17	Marshall Co. Jr. High Tournament @ Arab (games & times TBA)			

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For just a few dollars a month, you can transform your phone into a powerful home management tool!

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Christmas Photo Winners

1st Place

MaHaley Belle Mann
Photo submitted by
Joey & Davina Mann of
New Hope.



2nd Place

Haley
Photo submitted
by Paw Paw Bad
Wolf & Maw
Maw Reny



3rd Place

Rebecca & Leslie Carlisle
Photo submitted by Paw Paw
Marvin & Maw Maw Faye

PHOTO CONTEST: February is the month of love, and we're looking for your favorite sweetheart photos. Send them to NHTC, and we will select winners 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 NHTC. **Deadline for entry: December 26, 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.

CAKE RECIPES

Faye's Never Fail Upside Down German Chocolate Cake

1 cup chopped nuts	1-3.5 oz can sweetened flaked coconut
1/2 cup margarine	8 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 Tbsp. margarine	1 1-lb. box confectioners sugar
1 box german chocolate cake mix (prepared by pkg. directions)	

Preheat oven to 350°. Melt 2 Tbsp. margarine in bottom of 9x13 pan, then cover bottom of pan with nuts and coconut. Pour cake batter on top. Melt the margarine in a bowl; add cream cheese and confectioners sugar. Mix with mixer until smooth. Spoon over unbaked batter. Bake 40 to 42 minutes. (NOTE: You cannot test for doneness with a cake tester, as the cake will appear sticky even when it is done.)

—Submitted by Faye Carlisle

Pumpkin Cake

4 eggs, slightly beaten	2 cups sugar
1 cup oil (or applesauce)	2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking soda	2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt	2 cups pumpkin
1 cup chopped nuts	

Blend all ingredients together, then fold in nuts. Bake at 350°. Time: Bundt pan 50–55 minutes; round pan (3 layers) 20–25 minutes. This is best served with cream cheese frosting.

—Submitted by Ms. Timmy Lawrence

Maw Belle's Sour Cream Coconut Cake

1 box Duncan Hines cake mix (butter)	1 cup water
1 small box instant vanilla pudding	4 eggs
1/3 cup Crisco oil	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease & flour 2 round cake pans. Blend all ingredients in large bowl. Beat at med. speed for 2 minutes. Bake 38–43 minutes in 8-in. pan or 33–38 minutes in 9-in. pan.

Filling:

2 cups sugar	1 cup sour cream
1/4 cup whipped cream	1 lg. pkg. frozen coconut (less 1/4 for top)

Mix all together and save out one cup for icing. When cake is cool, split layers to 4, and put filling between all layers, but not on top.

Icing:

1 medium tub whipped cream, thawed	1 cup filling
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Mix together and spread over entire cake and use remaining coconut to sprinkle on top. Keep refrigerated. I also make these cakes ahead and freeze.

—Submitted by Era Belle Pritchett

A Cable Christmas Special

from New Hope Telephone Cooperative

Sign up for NHTC Cable
(*your* local cable company)
and we'll give you the credit!

\$44
credit

**Plus, we'll waive the
installation fee!**

Need more reasons to take advantage of this holiday special?

- Local channels at *no extra cost!*
- Local channel with community programming!
- No contract required!
- It's *your* cable company, locally owned by
your New Hope Telephone Cooperative

Catch this great lineup!

3-HN	23-CNN	43-Comedy Central
4-TNN	24-Community Ch.	44-TV Land
5-ESPN	25-FOX Sports So.	45-Court TV
6-USA	26-TV Guide Channel	46-SCI-FI
7-WAFF	27-WB Network	47-Fox Sports World
8-WAAY	28-ESPN2	48-Oxygen
9-WHNT	29-Lifetime	49-PAX
10-WDHF-UPN	30-Weather Channel	50-MTV
11-WZDX	31-Turner South	51-FOX News
12-TBS	32-Turner Classic	52-VH-1
13-WGN	33 Hallmark	53-BRAVO
14-AMC	34 HGTV	54-Outdoor Channel
15-TNT	35 Food Network	55-C-Span
16-Nickelodeon	36 Travel Channel	56-HSN
17-CMT	37-Cartoon Ntwk	57-C-Span2
18-A&E	38-Animal Planet	58-Tech TV
19-ABC Family	39-FX	59-PBS
20-Learning Channel	40-WE	60-TBN (Trinity)
21-Discovery	41-E!	
22-Disney	42-History	

Hurry! Offer ends January 31st
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