A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

Communicator



NHTC Lineman Comes Home



Your Magazine goes *Monthly!*

Also Inside:

NHTC in growth mode

Greetings to all! We are blessed to 'welcome back' a couple of our team members. In early February, Sergeant Daniel Martin reunited with our ranks after serving a year in Iraq. Speaking for many, we are very grateful for him and others like him who answer the call to duty. We are also proud to have CATV Technician Ken Wood back after an early December back surgery and two months of therapy. We are all thankful that his recovery has gone well and that he is able to be back with us. We appreciate his contributions, along with those of all of his co-workers, for working to make our company the best it can be.

I would also like to welcome Maria Goodson on board. As of January 2005, she has taken the responsibilities of Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator. Bringing with her several years of experience in telecommunications marketing, she is already proving to be a great asset to our staff. There is no doubt that you will be seeing the fruits of her labors in several avenues.

With Spring just around the corner, we are preparing for great things to happen. I must tell you how proud I am of the Board and the staff for the direction that we are heading. In just a few short months, 'Team NHTC' has taken shape. Not only have we put the wheels in motion for progress, we are doing it on every level.

In mid-January, the Board and I met locally for two full days of management-level training. Mr. Ron Precourt, Director of Member Relations for the National Telecommunications Association, Arlington, VA, was the instructor. He shared a wealth of knowledge on topics such as strategic thinking, goal setting, monitoring progress, board responsibilities and planning for the

future. Participation was great and we all came away with a greater understanding of how to lead your cooperative.

In late January, I, along with representatives from many other rural telephone companies in Alabama, met with the Public Service Commission's staff members in Montgomery to discuss the details of the regulations governing the additional intra-lata calling plans. After thorough discussion, everyone was in agreement that the telephone service providers must request clarification on several points. The request for clarifications has been filed with the APSC and I will continue to monitor the progress.

Employees have also begun the New Year by gaining knowledge and preparing for future challenges. Staff members have represented us at seminars including VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), Marketing, Motivation, and Occupational Health and Safety Training just to name a few. We are sharing and exploring new ideas in every department. We are excited about the potential that we have as a cooperative.

I will leave you with this quote, which comes to us from Sir Winston Churchill: "Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb."



Teresa Hunkapiller is General Manager of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

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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New Hope Telephone Cooperative

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New Hope, Alabama 35760

www.nehp.net

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Communicator

Your community magazine is going monthly!



The Communicator is moving to a monthly format to better serve the people of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads. Since New Hope Telephone Cooperative began publishing the magazine in 2002, our members have come to rely on it for announcements and information about the area.

We're looking for more community news, announcements and feature ideas to help keep our members informed. *The Communicator* is a great way for your school or community organization to share information with local readers:

- ✓ <u>It's targeted</u> circulation is focused on New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads
- ✓ <u>It's thorough</u> every home and business with telephone service receives one
- ✓ <u>It's attractive</u> the full-color magazine style draws readers in

Get your community information in front of the public. Call 723-3748 and speak with Maria Goodson, or mail your information to her at NHTC, PO Box 452, New Hope, AL 35760.

NOTE: While we promise to do our best, we can't guarantee that everything you submit will be printed. Factors like available space and appropriateness of material will affect placement. We reserve the right to refuse to publish any submission, or to publish any submission in the issue we deem most appropriate.

NHTC welcomes Maria Goodson



Maria Goodson has joined the staff of New Hope Telephone Cooperative as Public Relations/Marketing Manager.

Goodson, who began her new duties in January, brings a wealth of telecommunications knowledge to the cooperative. She spent more than 20 years with BellSouth, and had most recently worked for ITC DeltaCom.

Throughout her career, Goodson has held numerous management positions. These have included service in the areas of accounting, marketing, sales and billing.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to help New Hope Telephone grow its marketing and public relations efforts," Goodson says. "This company has a bright future, and I want to use my skills and experience to help the company reach its full potential."

One of Goodson's primary responsibilities is oversight of NHTC's magazine, *The Communicator*. The cooperative's Board of Directors recently voted to publish the magazine on a monthly basis, and Goodson serves as the contact point for the publication's readers.

Email now scanned for viruses before it reaches NHTC members

The safety level has been raised several notches for the Internet customers of New Hope Telephone Cooperative. A recent system upgrade makes it possible to scan every incoming email to protect users from viruses.

"Every Internet user is familiar with software that checks their email for viruses," says Rusty Bright,

Internet Administrator for NHTC. "Our latest upgrade scans for viruses at the server level, detecting and

eliminating many viruses before they ever reach the user's com-

puter."

The virus scanning function was tested for a few weeks before full implementation in February. During the test period, more than 19,000 viruses were successfully blocked or deleted. Some 766,000 total email messages were

processed during this same time.

"This upgrade helps us provide a better Internet experience for the members of New Hope Telephone Cooperative," says Bright. "And best of all, we are proud to deliver this service at no

additional cost to our Internet subscribers."

While this system upgrade will greatly reduce the risk of virus infection, dial-up and

DSL users are encouraged not to let down their guard. "This virus protection is only scan-

ning email, but there are viruses out there that do not use email to infect computers," warns Bright. "Internet users should still have a good antivirus software installed on their computer — and they should keep it updated on a regular basis."

Voice Mail upgrade gives subscribers new greeting feature

Members who use NHTC's convenient Voice Mail system are already familiar with the program's power and ease-of-use. Thanks to a recent program upgrade, there is now greater flexibility in Voice Mail's greeting options.

The Central Office staff at New Hope Telephone Cooperative has been working hard to upgrade the Voice Mail software. Now a subscriber can record multiple greetings and store them on the Voice Mail system. One will serve as a 'default' greeting, while others (such as an 'out of office' greeting) can be reserved for use on specific occasions.

It's a convenient feature, and one that is simple to use. To learn more about this new feature, or to subscribe to Voice Mail, call or visit the New Hope Telephone office today.

Identity theft is a very personal crime... don't become a victim

A street address here. A bank account number there. Signatures and credit card numbers. And, of course, the old faithful Social Security number. All small pieces of information we use everyday to transact business with everyone from our bank to the local grocery store.

Unfortunately, these common pieces of personal data are also the tools of the trade for a new breed of savvy criminal who specializes in taking a person's identity and making it their own — at least until the cash runs out.

The problem of identity theft has gained much attention in recent years. Criminals use any number of means to collect bits of personal information on their victims, then begin their devastating work.

Identity theft can rob people of much more than their money. According to the Federal Trade Commission, "people whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years — and their hard-earned money — cleaning up the mess the thieves have made of their good name and credit record. Some victims have lost job opportunities, been refused loans for education, housing or cars, or even been arrested for a crime they didn't commit."

The Federal Trade Commission has published information about how to lessen your chances of becoming an identity theft victim, as well as steps to take if someone steals your identity, at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. Be sure to download the free brochure "ID Theft: What's It All About?"

In addition to this informative brochure, consumer.gov/idtheft features a downloadable "ID Theft Affidavit,"

along with links to help you file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. The Web site also includes important information for businesses about their responsibilities, along with links for law enforcement personnel.



NHTC accepting bids on generator

NHTC is accepting sealed bids for a 1986 Generac Generator. The specifications are as follows:

- Generator used 393.5 hours
- 25.KW/60 Hertz/1 Phase
- With Hino Diesel Engine
- With 80-gallon Fuel Tank
- On a 10-ft. Dual Axle Trailer
- With Trailer Brakes

Sealed bids may be mailed to or dropped off at the NHTC Business Office, 5415 Main Drive, New Hope, AL 35760; Attention: Teresa Hunkapiller, General Manager. The due date for the bids is 3/31/05. The winning bidder will be notified by close of business on 4/1/05. NHTC reserves the right to reject all bids.

Calling all young artists!

New Hope Telephone Cooperative is looking for budding elementary artists in our service area to participate in a coloring contest.

Memorial Day is set aside each year

to honor the brave men and women who lost their lives defending our freedom. The first **NHTC Coloring** Contest pays tribute to these heroes with the theme "Their Sacrifice, My Freedom."

Students from first through sixth grade should color their interpretation of this theme on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of white paper. Each school should choose their winners from each grade and sub-

mit them, along with each stu-

dent's name and grade,

to NHTC (call and we'll come pick up your entries). We will publish the overall winners in the May issue of The Communicator. Deadline for entry is April 18th.

NHTC lineman Daniel Martin comes home from the battlefield

The banner in front of New Hope Telephone Cooperative's office said it all: "Welcome back Thunder Dan!" It was just one way the employees of NHTC expressed their emotions as they

welcomed lineman Daniel Martin home from the sands of Iraq.

It has been a long journey for Martin who, as a member of the National Guard's 279th Signal Battalion, left in January of 2004 for a tour in Iraq. Leaving behind his wife Marla

and their 17-month-old daughter Erin was the toughest part of the departure.

His tour included providing tactical communications to the U.S. Army. The warfare tactics of the insurgent forces hindered Martin's company from the task of rebuilding the public telecommunications system. The violence — which Martin says came from a small percentage of Iraqi and insurgents from neighboring countries — also earned him a Purple Heart.

Martin was injured August 18 when a mortar round came over the gate at his base in Najaf and exploded some 25 feet in front of him. He was hit by shrapnel in one ear and both legs, but was treated for minor injuries at the Baghdad Medical Facility and returned to duty. (A fellow soldier, Michael Austin, received serious injuries in the blast.)

"It's great to be back home," Martin says. "Everyone has been so giving, so appreciative. The town, the churches, being accomplished in the Middle East. "CNN and FOX don't tell the whole story," he says. "They don't show the American soldier and the Iraqi soldier working side by side to rebuild the

country."

From
rebuilding
schools to forming the country's
new military,
Martin says the
Iraqis are taking
pride in their
progress. As
Iraqi men
become Iraqi soldiers, they are
part of something they want

Banner design by Tara Graphics

Anchorage

Thursder Dan!

my work... it's just been overwhelming."

He has spent much of his time with family, getting to know his 2 1/2 year old daughter again and "working back into the household duties."

Whatever challenges he has faced, Martin knows the separation has been a real hardship on his wife. "Marla has had it tough," he says. "She's been busy being Mom *and* Dad, and she's done a great job."

As Martin works to bring a normal structure back to his life, he understands that the future is uncertain: he cannot overlook the fact that the unit he replaced last year in Iraq is the same one that came to relieve his unit in January.

When Martin thinks about his experiences in Iraq, he is proud of what is

to do, not something they are forced to do. "It's encouraging to see," Martin says.

Watching parades and seeing the excitement as soldiers came home from the Gulf War more than a decade ago, Martin remembers how appreciative the country was, and the overwhelming sense of American pride. Through his own military journey, this quote from George Washington has come to hold special meaning to Martin:

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, will be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

Veteran will soon have three family members serving in Iraq

Don Bevel of Grant knows what it is like to say goodbye to family and friends and head off to a foreign land. He still remembers the emotions, the sights, the sounds of coming under enemy fire.

And now he watches as a son, a stepson and a son-in-law prepare to endure the same trials in the desert lands of the Middle East.

A retired Army military police officer, Bevel served his country for more than 20 years, including a tour in Vietnam. He comes from a military tradition, with several of his family members having served in the armed forces.

That tradition has been passed to his son Michael Bevel, a First Class Petty Officer with the U.S. Navy Reserves. Michael is due to depart for Iraq around the first of March.

Don Bevel's wife, Cindy, understands. Her son, Jamie Thompson, is a Specialist with the National Guard. He, too, is headed for Iraq soon.

The other family member destined for the Middle East is Joseph Shores, a Private with the U.S Army. Shores is married to Bevel's daughter LeeAnn.

"They're all leaving for Iraq about the same time," Bevel says. "I wish they had spaced it out a little bit."

Bevel describes the situation as "scary," expressing his concern for the young men. "We don't want to lose any of them."



Michael and Delores Bevel, with Austin



Jamie Thompson, with his mom Cindy Bevel



Joseph and LeeAnn Shores, with Rilley and Jasmine

Mark you calendars for the New Hope Telephone Cooperative Annual Meeting **Tuesday, May 17**

(Watch upcoming issues of The Communicator for more details)

We are proud of our local servicemen and servicewomen



Eric Hammond of New Hope is a Tech Sgt. in the United States Air Force Reserves. He is currently stationed in Uzbekistan. A 1981 graduate of New Hope High School, Eric is employed as a domestic violence investigator with the Huntsville Police Department. He and wife Kay have one daughter, Beth, and one son, Casey. Eric is the son of Charles and Mary Hammond of Huntsville. Other family members include: brothers Chris Hammond and Carl Hammond of New Hope, and Corey Hammond of Huntsville; and sisters Myra Blankenship of New Hope, and Melissa Elliott of Huntsville.



Joshua Webster is an Airman First Class with the United States Air Force. As part of the 27th Civil Engineer Squadron, Canon AFB, Joshua was deployed to Tallil Air Base in Iraq on January 4 of this year. He is the son of Kathy Webster of Huntsville, and Ray Webster of Owens Cross Roads. Other family members include: brother Jared Webster; and grandparents James and Elaine Cross of Owens Cross Roads, and Bobbie Webster of Huntsville.



Angela O'Neal Jefferson of New Hope serves in the NMCB unit of the United States Navy. A 1997 graduate of New Hope High School, she is stationed in Okinawa, Japan. Angela is married to Kevin Jefferson of Port Hueneme, California. She is the daughter of Bud and Pat O'Neal. Other family members include brother and sister-in-law Jerry and Heather O'Neal, niece Kelsey O'Neal, nephew Laken O'Neal, and grandparents Beda Shepard and Clyde O'Neal.

Help us honor our local soldiers

We want to help the community say 'thank you' to all our men and women serving in the War on Terror. Send us the name, and a photo, of your family member from Grant, New Hope or Owens Cross Roads

who is serving our country overseas. Please include the high school they graduated from and the year, names of their family members, their branch of service and the unit they are assigned to. We'll publish them

in The Communicator throughout the year to show our appreciation for their sacrifice. Send material to New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Attn. Maria Goodson, PO Box 452, New Hope, Alabama 35760.

Historical Association working to preserve history of New Hope

Around town

March 2

Little Folks Ball Game • 9 AM Owens Cross Roads Contact: Jody Barnett 774-1551

March 5

Little Folks Ball Game • 10 AM New Hope Contact: Sheila Mitchell 723-8879

April 9

Owens Cross Roads
Contact: Jody Barnett
774-1551
Send your community
announcements to:
NHTC, Attn: Maria Goodson
PO Box 452
New Hope, AL 35760

Spring Fling • 10 AM - 3 PM

Correction

In the January/February 2005 issue of *The Communicator*, there was an error in the feature article "Edith Roberts touched many lives through her gift of teaching." The article should have read:

"It is appropriate that, when she left this world to go home to meet her Maker on February 28, 2004, she departed from the original New Hope Private Kindergarten room, which had become her bedroom."

We apologize for this error, and regret any inconvenience it may have caused.

The New Hope area is blessed with a rich heritage. Unfortunately, many residents are unaware of the town's history.

A group of citizens is seeking to keep the history of New Hope alive. In November of 2004, the New Hope Historical Association was incorporated, and its non-profit status applied for.

"We are working together to preserve and record the history of our communities," says Lou Ann Poole, one of the association's organizers and board members.

"We also wish to emphasize to the public and youth in this area the importance of preservation and history," she adds.

Members of the historical association have many goals in mind. These range from projects as simple as interviewing long-time residents to those as ambitious as establishing a historical district designation.

"We want to make this an attractive place where you want to stop, sightsee, stroll and come back to again and again," Poole explains.

The association is also considering a pictorial publication featuring the people and places of New Hope and the surrounding area.

There are currently more than 30 members of the New Hope Historical Association. Individual membership is \$25, with family membership set at \$35. The association meets the third Monday of each month at the New Hope City Hall (first floor), beginning at 7 p.m.

The group is especially interested in collecting old photographs, newspapers clippings, interviews with those who have memories of the early years, or general historical information. Anyone with information about the area's history should contact one of the following board members: Lou Ann Poole, 723-2525; Teresa Ballard, 723-2161; or Billy Jones, 723-4241.



The Owens Cross Roads Homemaker's Club is concerned with educating the community. Curves is a physical fitness club for the body and heart. Several members from the ladies club have joined with Curves. "The new business in our area is relaxing and enjoyable," according to the Homemakers. "It is carefully monitored at all times for physical safety. The management is very conscientious of their ladies' health and progress." Pictured at left are: Curves manager Simone Courtney and assistant manager Tammy Story; and Homemaker's Club members Debbie O'Neal (president), Denise Brannum, Sherry Gray, Barbara Webster, Phyllis Watson, Margaret Mann and Terra Wilcox. For more information, contact the Homemakers at 725-4566.



Cook of the Month

Do you know a great local cook? Maybe it's you! We're looking for a few good cooks to be considered for our Cook of the Month feature. We will soon begin featuring a Cook of the Month in each issue of *The Communicator*. And we're not just looking for southern fare — gourmet chefs are welcome, too.

To be considered for this new feature, please send us four to six recipes, along with the name and contact information for the cook. Feel free to tie recipes to a specific holiday, event or theme. We plan to feature a Cook of the Month in each issue, so start sending in those recipes! Mail to Maria Goodson at NHTC today!

Note: Submission does not guarantee publication. Please send copies, not originals. Submit only 'tried and true' recipes that have been kitchen-tested.

Crisp Garlic Potato Skins

Here's a low-fat, low-sodium version of at a popular restaurant-style appetizer.

2 large baking potatoes
2 tsp. olive oil or cooking oil
2 tomatoes, seeded and chopped
1/4 tsp. dried basil, crushed
1/8 tsp. garlic powder
2 tsp. grated parmesan cheese

One day or several hours ahead, prick potatoes with a fork. Bake in a 425 degree oven for 40 to 50 minutes or until tender. Cool, wrap and store in refrigerator. At serving time, cut baking potatoes into quarters. Scoop out the insides (reserve for another use), leaving 1/2 inch thick shells. Lightly brush both sides of the potato skins with olive oil. Place, cut side up, on a large baking sheet. Bake at 425 degrees about 15 minutes or until crisp. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine chopped tomatoes, basil, and garlic powder. Spoon some of the tomato mixture into each potato quarter. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Bake for 2 to 3 more minutes until heated through. Makes 4 servings. -Submitted by Kanita Medlen

Lemon Cheesecake Squares

3/4 cup shortening
1/3 cup packed brown sugar
1 cup rolled oats
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup seedless raspberry jam
Filling:
4 pkgs. (8-oz.) cream cheese, softened
1-1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup all purpose flour
4 eggs
1/3 cup lemon juice

In a mixing bowl, cream shortening and brown sugar. Combine flour, oats and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture. Press dough into a greased 13x9-inch baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-18 minutes or until golden brown. Spread with jam.

For filling, beat cream cheese, sugar and flour until fluffy. Add eggs and lemon juice until blended. Carefully spoon over jam. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes or until center is set. Cool on wire rack. Cover & store in refrigerator. Yield: 20 servings.

-Submitted by Irmgard Elston

Ann's Baked Potato Soup

6 medium potatoes, baked, cooled, peeled, and cubed

2 Tbsp. butter

1 large peeled and diced yellow onion

1-1/2 cup diced celery

8 cups milk

1 Tbsp. salt

2 tsp. black pepper

3 Tbsp. additional butter

5 Tbsp. flour

Sour cream

Bacon bits

Fresh chives, chopped

Cheddar cheese, grated

- 1. In a heavy 6-quart pot, melt 2 table-spoons butter over medium heat.
- 2. Add onion and celery and cook for 15 minutes, stirring often.
- 3. Pour in milk. Add salt and black pepper. Continue to heat, stirring often, until boiling.
- 4. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, melt 3 tablespoons butter and whisk in flour. Cook while whisking for five minutes over medium heat.
- 5. Ladle a small amount of warm milk mixture into skillet and whisk to blend with flour mixture.
- 6. Pour this back into soup and whisk well to dissolve. Soup will begin to thicken.
- 7. Add cubed potatoes and cook 20 minutes, stirring often.
- 8. Stir well and season to taste with salt and pepper before serving.

To serve: Ladle hot soup into bowls and top with a dollop of sour cream, bacon bits, chives, and cheddar cheese.

-Submitted by Ann Graves

Crock Pot Candy

16-oz. dry roasted peanuts, (8-oz. salted & 8-oz. unsalted)

1 bar sweet german chocolate

12-oz. chocolate chips

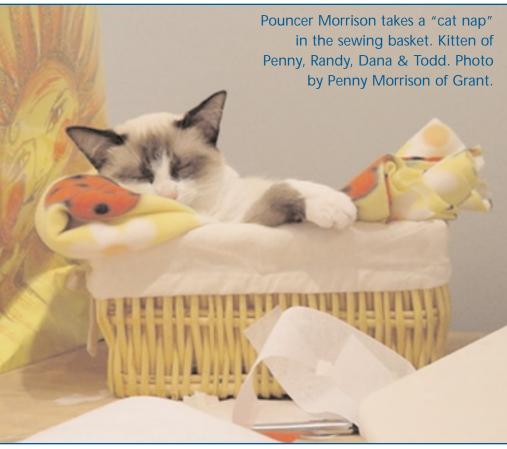
1-1/2 bars white almond bark

Put all ingredients together in a crock pot and cook for two hours on low. (Do not lift lid.) Stir after two hours and drop on wax paper. Or pour into pan, let set, then cut into squares. Makes a lot!

-Submitted by Semmone Burrow

They're Picture Purrfect







"Little Rosie"
with "Bowser"
(now deceased)
Photo by Ann
Graves of New
Hope.

"Boo"
Submitted by
Connie Jo
Burgess of
New Hope





"Socks"
Submitted by
Joyce Vance of
New Hope.

COMMUNITY PHOTOS: Our May photo theme is "Scenic Shots." Send your favorite photos to: NHTC • Attn: Maria Goodson • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760. We will select winners for publication in our next issue! If your entry is selected, you'll see your photo in print.

Deadline for entry: March 28, 2005.

NOTE: Be sure to include photographer's name, address and phone number, as well as the 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.

Put your phone

TO WORK

with NHTC's



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 cut down on interruptions from telemarketers. **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.

Speed Calling - \$1/mo.

Caller ID Call Waiting - \$2/mo.

Telemarketers Do Not Disturb - \$2/mo.

See page 8 and 9 in the 2005 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