



## Not Hardly...

### *The truth behind cell towers without landlines*

Recently, there have been some editorials touting the demise of the landline telephone system. We have been hearing that the sky is falling for a long time now so generally we don't get too ruffled by it, but occasionally we do like to point out that these articles just aren't accurate.

Let's see if we can dispel a couple of myths for you. Most of us have heard that wireless (cell phones) communication is taking over and there will be no need for the landline companies. Wireless calls just go from tower to tower to tower, etc., don't they? Well, not really. Typically, when a cell phone connects with a tower to make a call, the call is routed down the tower through wires to a base station to determine where the call needs to go. The connection to the next cell tower or traditional phone is done via

landlines. Sometimes the wireless companies own these land-based facilities themselves, other times they purchase facilities from landline companies across the country. Basically, think of the wireless world as similar to your cordless phone at home. Just like your cordless phone communicates with its base station wirelessly, so does your cell phone. But just like your cordless phone, the cell tower base stations are connected to the landline network to deliver your calls. So essentially, the wireless world needs landlines to work.

We also hear about how fast wireless 4G technology is, shouldn't this replace the landline? Two words... "Gigabit City"! Okay, okay... to be fair there are not a lot of gigabit cities out there, and in reality, in most applications, a user does not get to take advantage of a gigabit connection, but some day they will. The take-away here is that the majority of gigabit cities are built using landline based fiber optic cable. Yes, there is wireless equipment that can achieve gigabit speeds, but as a whole, a land-based line has the capacity to provide more speed, hands down, not to mention that landlines are much more reliable and secure. A recent nationwide comparison of the top 4 US carriers: Verizon Wireless, AT&T, Sprint

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*not hardly continued...*

and T-Mobile was posted on [phonearena.com](http://phonearena.com)'s website. They surveyed the 20 largest metro areas in the United States and came up with national speed averages for each carrier. True to their advertising, T-Mobile was the fastest carrier where their service was available; with an average download speed of approximately 9.5 mbps. The other three carriers were a little more than half that speed with download averages below 5 mbps. In comparison to Pioneer broadband, an estimated 90% of our members can have at least 16 mbps of download speed with some members having the capability of 100 mbps. As pricing becomes more favorable, and the desire and need to work and play on faster connections increases, the landline carriers will be the ones capable of giving the consumer what they want.

Of course there is also the question of cellular coverage. Other than a quick mention, we will just point out that there are still many areas where Pioneer serves that there is poor or no service.

So when we are asked if it's all over for landlines, we simply reply, "Not Hardly!"



## **Hurry...College Scholarships Due Soon**

*DEADLINE is March 31, 2015*

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative is once again proud to contribute to and encourage individuals throughout our communities by funding a scholarship program. In order to qualify, the applicant must be a Pioneer member, or a spouse, son or daughter of a member and live in Pioneer's serving area.

For qualifications, applications and more information, visit our website at [www.pioneer.net](http://www.pioneer.net) or call 541-929-3135. Applications must be returned to Pioneer by March 31, 2015 at 4:30pm.

## Board of Directors Nominations

The 2015 Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled for Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Board of Directors will be elected from the following three districts:

**District 5** — Northerly portion of the Philomath Exchange.

**District 7** — Summit, Blodgett and Harlan Exchanges.

**District 8** — Chitwood Exchange.

For more information regarding the nomination process and the descriptions of the districts, contact one of our business offices and request a copy of the Bylaws or visit our website at [www.pioneer.net/about](http://www.pioneer.net/about)

## Mark Your Calendar...

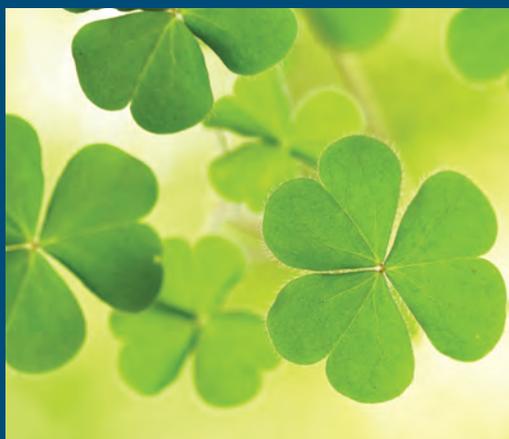
### *Eckman Lake Kid Fishing Derby and Child Safety ID Event*

The Eckman Lake Annual Kid's Fishing Derby and Pioneer's Child Safety ID event will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> in Waldport at the First Baptist Church. Partnering with the fishing derby for over 11 years has been very rewarding and beneficial. During that time, Pioneer has provided over 1000 new or updated IDs to children attending the event.

Pioneer employees will record each child's vital statistics, such as date of birth, height and weight. Fingerprints are also taken and assembled into a free ID kit for parents. Stop by on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> between 8:00am and 12:00 pm to have your child's ID taken...



***See You There!***



## Member Appreciation

Join us Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> for Member Appreciation Day. Stop by from 11:00am to 2pm at the Waldport or Philomath Office for a treat. Member Appreciation is our way of saying *"We value you as our member and are grateful for your continued patronage."*

***We Appreciate You!***



# PIONEER

Broadband and Voice Applications

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## Information

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