



# CONNECTIONS

PUBLISHED BY POLAR COMMUNICATIONS AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

SUMMER | 2015

## **POLAR WILL BE CLOSED**

Friday, July 3rd and  
Saturday, July 4th.

We wish everyone a safe and  
happy Independence Day!

## **Capital Credits Paid to Patrons**

This year Polar Communications returned \$500,000 in capital credits. This year's payout was a partial amount from service years 1997 and 2014. Checks not picked up at the June 4th annual meeting were mailed the week of June 8th.



# **POLAR**

PO Box 270 / 110 4th St. E  
Park River, ND 58270  
701.284.7221 / 800.284.7222  
www.thinkpolar.com

### **Hours**

Monday-Friday / 7:30AM-5:30PM  
Saturday / 8:00AM-4:30PM (assistance by phone)

24/7/365 Technical Support  
888.700.7652

## **Polar Holds Annual Members Meeting**

The Annual Members Meeting of Polar Communications was held on Thursday, June 4, 2015. A total of 252 members registered during the meeting. Members and guests were served a meal prior to the meeting.

Randy Christmann of the Public Service Commission, Grace Dickson of Senator Heitkamp's office, and Randy Richards of Representative Cramer's office addressed the membership. Jolene Halldorson, Park River City Coordinator, welcomed the attendees to Park River and Pastor Mark Antal gave the invocation.

President Ron Steinke conducted the meeting. General Manager/CEO David Dunning and President Ron Steinke gave a joint presentation to the members.

Three directors were re-elected to Polar's board of directors. Ron Steinke of Cavalier will represent District 1; Joe Torgerson of Fairdale will represent District 2; Brian Udby of Lankin will represent District 3. All three directors will serve a three-year term.

The 2015 John G. Walters Scholarships were presented to: Esten Beneda of Lankin, Michael Durkin of Forest River, Rylan Setness of Park River, and Ryan Thompson of Lakota. Alexis Tatum of Neche was not present to receive her scholarship.

*Continued on Page 3*





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## Polar Welcomes New Employee



Michael Denault began his employment with Polar on June 8th, 2015, as an Area Service Representative. Michael's duties include installing and maintaining telephone, digital TV and broadband Internet services.

Michael has degrees in Computer Networking and Support and PC Technology. He currently resides in Minto with his wife Tisha and their three children.

## Chris Nelson Appointed to Polar Board of Directors



The Board of Directors of Polar Communications appointed Chris Nelson to the director position for District 2. Chris is a district conservationist for USDA-NRCS Pembina County in Cavalier. He has worked for USDA-NRCS throughout North Dakota for 16 years. He grew up in Edinburg and graduated from Edinburg High School and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Natural Resources Management from the University of Minnesota Crookston. Chris also volunteers as treasurer for the Fjalla Cemetery Association. He and his wife Malinda live in rural Milton.

## Polar Wins National Award

Polar recently won the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association's (NTCA) TeleChoice Award for our 2014 Annual Report. NTCA's TeleChoice Awards honor excellence in independent telco public relations and marketing. Winning entries were on display during the PR & Marketing Conference in Austin, Texas, and will be showcased in an upcoming issue of Rural Telecom magazine and at the Regional Conferences.





## Annual Meeting *continued from page 1*

The 2015 Polar Leadership Scholarship was presented to Bethany Brumbaugh of Cavalier.

The 2015 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship was presented to Hope Jehlicka of Fordville. Alexis Tatum of Neche was not present to receive her FRS Scholarship.

Secretary-Treasurer Amber Meyer reported to the members.

Several prize drawings were held throughout the meeting.



*Above: Members wait for the meeting to begin.*



*Left: President Ron Steinke presented awards to the scholarship recipients attending the meeting. L-R: Ron Steinke, Hope Jehlicka, Bethany Brumbaugh, Rylan Setness, Michael Durkin, Esten Beneda & Ryan Thompson.*

## Three Directors Re-Elected to Polar Board

Three directors were re-elected to serve on Polar's board at the annual meeting on Thursday evening, June 4th, 2015, at the Park River City Hall. Representing District 1 is Ron Steinke of Cavalier, representing District 2 is Joe Torgerson of Fairdale and representing District 3 is Brian Udby of Lankin. All three directors will serve a three-year term.



*Ron Steinke, Cavalier - District 1*



*Joe Torgerson, Fairdale - District 2*



*Brian Udby, Lankin - District 3*

# SCHOLARSHIPS & YOUTH AWARDS

## FRS Youth Tour

The Foundation for Rural Service's (FRS) annual Youth Tour is one of the most visible examples of the foundation's involvement with, and commitment to, rural youth. Each year, in collaboration with NTCA member companies, FRS brings rural students from across the United States to Washington, DC, for a four-day tour of some of the most historical sites in the nation.

This year's tour was May 30th - June 3rd. While there, students also learned about the telecommunications industry, as well as the regulatory and legislative processes. Educational sessions on these topics were greatly enhanced by site visits to the U.S. Capitol and the FCC to meet with industry leaders and members of Congress. The students were also given ample time to explore the nation's capital and its many attractions.

Polar was proud to sponsor three local students this year; Abbie Watkins, Jessica Johnson and Julia Johnson. Here is what the students had to say about their trip:

Abbie Watkins - *"I would like to thank Polar Communications for sponsoring my trip to the 2015 FRS youth tour in Washington DC. I had a blast and met many new friends! I had the pleasure to be able to visit many different exhibits at the Smithsonian, take a bus tour in the Arlington cemetery, and visit many memorials including: the Vietnam, holocaust, JFK, Theodore Roosevelt and the Martin Luther King Jr.. I had many great experiences at Mount Vernon, from seeing our first president George Washington's house, to seeing the beautiful lake at the bottom of the hill. Thank you to all who made this trip possible for me, it was truly a wonderful experience and I had an amazing time!"*

Jessica Johnson - *"I was so excited to find out that not only I, but my twin sister and Abbie, had been chosen for the FRS youth tour. I had always wanted to go to Washington, D.C. and I'm very grateful that Polar gave me the opportunity! Some of my favorite things about the trip were meeting new friends, the Library of Congress, the night tour, and the Newseum. Thank you so much Polar for this great opportunity and all the memories!"*

Julia Johnson - *"Thank you so much to Polar for sending us on this trip! I learned so much about telecommunications and had a lot of fun. My favorite part was meeting people from all over the country and touring the Washington Monument. Thanks again for this wonderful opportunity."*



Jessica Johnson, Julia Johnson and Abbie Watkins visiting Mount Vernon.

## Leadership Scholarship



The Leadership Scholarship is sponsored by Polar Communications, in cooperation with its retired employees. This scholarship is awarded to a student who is involved in their school, serves their community, achieves leadership roles in activities, functions or organizations, and strives to reach their highest potential. Consideration is also given to any work or internship experience outside of school. Applicants must be a senior in high school or freshman or sophomore in college, and their parents or guardians must be Polar customers.

The recipient of the 2015 Polar Leadership Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 is being awarded to Bethany Brumbaugh of Cavalier, North Dakota. Bethany is currently a freshman at UND, majoring in psychology.

## FRS Scholarship

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) offers an annual college scholarship program to students from rural America for their first year of college, university, or vocational-technical school. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company.

This year's recipients are Hope Jehlicka of Fordville, North Dakota, and Alexis Tatum of Nече, North Dakota. Hope is receiving \$2,500 with \$2,000 coming from FRS and \$500 from the sponsoring company, which is Polar in this case. Alexis is receiving \$3,000 from FRS. The FRS College Scholarship Program seeks to encourage students to return to their rural communities upon completing their education.



*Hope Jehlicka*



*Alexis Tatum*

## John G. Walters Scholarship

This year Polar awarded five \$1,000 scholarships in honor of former General Manager John G. Walters. The awards are given to outstanding high school seniors whose parents or guardians are current subscribers of Polar Communications or its subsidiaries. Applicants are judged on essay content, grammar, academic achievement and community involvement.



*Esten Beneda*  
Fordville-Lankin High School



*Michael Durkin*  
Midway High School



*Rylan Setness*  
Park River Area School



*Alexis Tatum*  
North Border-Pembina  
High School



*Ryan Thompson*  
Lakota High School

## ATTENTION STUDENTS!

**In support of the continuing education for rural youth, Polar Communications and its subsidiaries offer scholarships and youth opportunities for high school and college students.**

### Available Opportunities Include:

- Polar's John G. Walters Scholarship - \$1,000
- Polar's Leadership Scholarship - \$2,000
- Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) Scholarship - \$2,500
- FRS Starulakis Family Scholarships - \$5,000
- Telecom Management Services - \$1,500
- Everett Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship - \$2,500
- Colt Ford Rural Scholarship - up to \$15,000
- Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour to Washington, DC

Be sure to check back in the fall for more information! If you know a student, please encourage them to participate in these great opportunities. Applications and information regarding all of the scholarships can be found on Polar's website at [www.thinkpolar.com](http://www.thinkpolar.com). For applications, details, or questions on any of the scholarships, please contact Carol LaHaise: 701-284-4361 / [clahaise@polartel.com](mailto:clahaise@polartel.com).



# Get the Most From Your WiFi

## Four Ways to Improve Your Internet

Polar is offering lightning fast broadband Internet speeds, but if your WiFi router is out of date or not set up correctly, your service may not be as fast as it could be. Here are some tips to help improve your Internet service.

**1. Choose the right channel and frequency.** Routers have numerous channels. Sometimes just changing the channel can make a big difference. Channel 6 is the default of most routers, so we would advise against using it. You run the highest risk of it being congested, especially in apartments and condos. A better choice would be choosing a channel closer to 1 or closer to 11. Routers also have different frequencies. Generally speaking 2.4 GHz is better for bigger homes with multiple floors because the signal travels farther and through walls. For smaller rooms or homes, 5 GHz is great because it offers faster speed, just at a shorter range.

**2. Move your router to its ideal position.** Keep your router centrally located and away from water, windows, and thick walls made of brick or concrete. Another option is to install a wireless access point in the locations which have issues. A wireless access point will “boost” or “repeat” the signal in the areas in which it is installed. Installation involves running an Ethernet cable from your router to the location of the access point. Once connected, traffic will run from the router, through the Ethernet cable, and be broadcast wirelessly from the new access point.

**3. Make sure your router is secure.** Protecting your router with a password or limiting which devices can access your network will keep other people from using it and slowing it down.

**4. Update your router.** It may surprise you the number of devices in your home that are accessing your network. Things like computers, phones, tablets, gaming consoles, and smart TVs can easily exceed your router’s capacity if used simultaneously. A router is essentially the brain of your network, as everything runs through it. A high WiFi signal is not an indicator of high WiFi speed. Issues can arise if your router cannot handle the amount of traffic passing through it.

Please contact our office if you have questions or would like suggestions on improving your WiFi service at 284.7221 or 800.284.7222.



## SPEEDS TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

### RESIDENTIAL

- 10 Mbps download/upload - \$44.95/month
- 30 Mbps download/upload - \$54.95/month
- 50 Mbps download/upload - \$64.95/month
- 100 Mbps download/upload - \$89.95/month
- 200 Mbps download/upload - \$139.95/month
- 1 Gb download/upload - \$249.95/month

### BUSINESS

- 10 Mbps download/upload - \$59.95/month
- 30 Mbps download/upload - \$69.95/month
- 50 Mbps download/upload - \$79.95/month
- 100 Mbps download/upload - \$104.95/month
- 200 Mbps download/upload - \$154.95/month
- 1 Gb download/upload - \$249.95/month

**No matter which speed you choose, you get all these benefits:**

- Free email spam filter & email virus protection
- Up to 5 email accounts
- Monthly Enewsletter
- 500Mb of space for a personal website
- 24/7/365 technical support
- Free webmail

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Polar provides comprehensive technical support to ensure that your services are working properly. Our technical support staff will assist you in troubleshooting any issues to get you up and running as quickly as possible.

The first two calls or trouble cases are free within the first six months. After six months the charge is \$7.95 per incident.

**24/7/365 SUPPORT:  
1.888.700.7652**

# DIRECTORY UPDATES

Clip this page and keep it with your Polar directory



Accent Furniture 181 N Cavalier St Pembina.....	701-825-6348	Schaumburg Mary M. 61 Borg Dr Mountain.....	701-993-8190
Adekunle Ademola & Ruth Drayton.....	701-454-6118	Schweitzer Curtis 102 River St Cavalier.....	701-265-4057
Ambient Inc Pembina.....	701-825-6556	Scott Stormie res Petersburg.....	701-345-8434
Atherton Nathan & Becky res Park River.....	701-284-7104	Shirek James T 102 S St W Lakota.....	701-247-2366
Balli Joseph C 308 W Mill Ave Drayton.....	701-454-3460	Smith Taylor & Ashley Wolverton.....	218-995-2100
Beneda Edward 12520 60 St NE Lankin.....	701-593-6130	Snyder Rachael A 305 Dakota St E Cavalier.....	701-265-4024
Bernice Ferguson Community Library PO Box 328 Michigan...	701-259-2108	Sveen Dan & Krista res Adams.....	701-944-2234
Brown Kelly J. 15113 County 1 Shop Bathgate.....	701-265-4008	Symington Graham 410 4 St Neche.....	701-886-7403
Byron's Bar Mountain.....	701-993-8212	Terrell Richard V 201 S Main St Edmore.....	701-644-2270
Cavalier Do It Best Hardware 502 Division Ave S Cavalier .....	701-265-8252	Thacker Travis & Kellee 10269 140 Ave NE Cavalier.....	701-265-4201
Cavalier Do It Best Home & Lumber 501 Division Ave S Cavalier.....	701-265-8435	Tofte John & Mary 8955 Highway 18 Hensel.....	701-265-4160
Chrisman Jarad 224 C Ave E Lakota.....	701-247-2198	Tollefson Lauren N 4828 35 Ave NE Fordville.....	701-229-3236
CHS Lake Region 301 1 Av SW Lakota.....	701-247-2917	Tucker Benjamin 243 6 Ave St Thomas.....	701-257-6402
Cox Ronald res Cavalier.....	701-265-4455	Vigen Construction 103 S Dakota St Nekoma.....	701-949-2110
Dallmann Aimee 316 1 St W Hunter .....	701-874-2225	Yellowtail Brenda res Park River .....	701-284-6473
Davis Robert 2167 156 Ave SE Arthur.....	701-967-8476		
Elden Sharon 405 W Melbourn Ave Drayton .....	701-454-6200		
Ernst Blaine 133 3rd Ave E Hunter .....	701-874-2299		
Farm Equipment Assembly 208 4 Ave SW Hwy 2 Lakota .....	701-247-2660		
Flaten Stacy 6171 159th Ave SE Walcott.....	701-469-2045		
Fracasso Amanda R 507 Division Ave N Cavalier.....	701-265-4542		
Greenwood Kaley K 206 Bjornson Dr Cavalier .....	701-265-4677		
Grounds Matt 133 3 Ave E Hunter.....	701-874-2104		
Hallgrimson Larry 98 1 St E Mountain.....	701-993-8745		
Hanson Bridget 5655 173 Ave SE Christine.....	701-998-2039		
Hanson Todd & Laurie res Arthur.....	701-967-8418		
Haugland Cole & Breanna 5854 Highway 1 Brocket .....	701-655-3504		
Heck T res Park River .....	701-284-6297		
Hjelseth Maynard res Lakota.....	701-247-2358		
Holdman Todd & Nicole Rostad 17029 63 St SE Colfax .....	701-998-2008		
Home Will 303 Division Ave S Cavalier.....	701-265-4456		
Hunter Pat res Edinburg.....	701-993-8147		
Kainz Jeremy & Jana 15441 9 St SE Hunter .....	701-488-2247		
Kalgard Wade farm Park River.....	701-284-6671		
Kemp Preston res Drayton.....	701-454-3491		
Lee Darin & Kyann 112 Summit Ave S Park River.....	701-284-6405		
Littrell Scott & Kay 407 Main St St Thomas.....	701-257-6543		
Martinez Benigno res Cavalier.....	701-265-4634		
Mastre Mike D. farm Park River.....	701-284-6275		
Michigan Munchkins Michigan.....	701-259-2104		
Miller Lynn res Michigan.....	701-259-2146		
Morrison Nicholas & Victoria 14517 County 1 Bathgate.....	701-265-4058		
Morrissey Michael J 503 4 Ave Adams.....	701-944-2220		
Myrdal Ian res Park River.....	701-284-7071		
North Star Field Drainage Cavalier.....	701-265-4172		
Nossur Tarjei 12853 70 St NE Park River.....	701-284-6055		
Novacek Richard res Aneta.....	701-326-4300		
Nupdal Eva res Mountain .....	701-993-8335		
Nupdal Steve 61 Borg Dr Mountain .....	701-993-8106		
Ochoa Cleofas G. 107 Maple St Park River .....	701-284-6489		
Olson Don & Vicki 405 D Ave E Lakota .....	701-247-2494		
Ostenrude John 3060 Glendale Ave Hoople .....	701-894-6149		
Pohlkamp Jason 305 Boundary Rd E Cavalier .....	701-265-4378		
Post Michael Jr. 203 1 St S Aneta .....	701-326-4112		
Quad Farms Inc 14181 98 St NE Cavalier.....	701-265-4348		
Rath Leland 145 4 St Walcott.....	701-469-2066		
Reiten Tylla J 3730 Highway 32 Petersburg .....	701-345-8208		
Reyes Maria 301 Ransom Ave Niagara.....	701-397-5209		
Richard Sara Drayton.....	701-454-6134		
Rick's 15852 Highway 5 Pembina.....	701-454-6201		
Rose Donovan C res Mountain.....	701-993-8274		
Sampson Frank 502 S Main St Edmore .....	701-644-2458		



# POLAR

Polar Communications | Polar Telcom  
Polar Cablevision | Wolverton Telephone Co.  
PO Box 270 | Park River, ND 58270

## Introducing...Our New Logo!

We are proud to announce the launch of the new company logo as part of the ongoing evolution of our company's brand. Our business has grown and evolved over the last 63 years, and we felt it was time for a change. We have refreshed our logo to reflect who we are today and to symbolize our dynamic future.

FROM THIS...



TO THIS...



# POLAR

**About the design:** Our logo incorporates a stylized "P" illustrated as a television antenna, derived from Polar's celebrated history in the telecommunications industry. The mark is one continuous line, exhibiting versatility, innovation and progressive thinking. The typeface is sturdy and bold, complementing Polar's innovative foundation built by more than 60 years of experience.