

NEW LONG DISTANCE PLANS...

Prairie Networks has new Long Distance Plans up and running effective December 16th, 2012. We originally had planned to roll them out in April of 2011, but due to some contractual issues, we were not able to roll these out until now. These plans are available to anyone in the U.S.. Available plans are as follows:

- Talk Is Cheap- \$4.95 per month and unlimited calls at 11¢ per minute
- 50 Yard Plan- 50 minutes for \$5.75 per month
- 100 Yard Plan- 100 minutes for \$11.50 per month
- 250 Yard Plan- 250 minutes for \$28.75 per month
- 400 Yard Plan- 400 minutes for \$46.00 per month

- 500 Yard Plan- 500 minutes for \$57.50 per month
- Default Plan- 13¢ per minute flat rate

Each plan is 12¢ a minute and overage minutes default to 13¢ per minute.

Plans can be changed a month ahead of time if you know that you will be making more calls than you usually do, for example Christmas time, etc.

Did you know that you don't have to be in Agate's service territory to receive these rates?

Give us a call to learn more about what plan might work better for you and how to switch your long distance service over to us.



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DID I PAY THAT BILL???

Do you often ask yourself this question? With life as busy as it gets sometimes, you can often forget to put the check in the mail to pay your bills.

Prairie Networks has automatic payment set-up available via Credit Cards, Debit Cards, and Bank Accounts .

Credit Card and Debit Card charges can be set up to charge your card when you want it to anytime during the month. ACH payments (direct payments taken out of your bank account) can also be set up to your preference date.

We simply hold your bill in the office until your payment is processed. We then send out

your bill, marked paid to you after the payment has been processed. There is nothing for you to do on a monthly basis after the initial set up has been done.

If you are interested in setting an automatic payment up, just give us a call at 719-764-2578 and we can set up your account for automatic payment.

Automatic payments can be cancelled at anytime and there is no charge for the set up of this program.

Give us a call and let us help you alleviate one more thing that you need to get done for the month!

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK...

As spring comes around the corner, it will be good to get rid of the snow. These last few storms have kept us from doing some of the things we had planned but I, however, have been fortunate with my chemo treatments. It seems the storms are after each treatment, so I have not missed one since I started on January 10th.

I have had three treatments since I wrote to you, my customers, and have one more left on March 13th. It has been difficult with the side effects lasting from 4 to 7 days. Being tired most of the time is hard because I "poop out" so easily. But this is normal for these type of treatments. My blood work has not dropped as low as some of their other patients, so I am grateful for that.

I couldn't have done any of this without my family, church family, and friends with all of the prayers, and kind thoughts have been sent my way. I do appreciate it very much and its good to know you have backup people you can call on for assistance.

The next step will likely be radiation, not knowing for sure as I am writing this. However, soon the pages of this chapter in my life will be turned and can go on to better things. I am looking forward to a great summer and getting back to normal, whatever that is.

Gail Pitzer

General Manager/ CEO



NEW SPONSOR FOR AGATE TOWN RECYCLING

Elbert County is no longer able to provide the funds for the recycling in various local towns within Elbert County, so Agate Mutual Telephone has become the new sponsor for the recycling program in the town of Agate. In the near future, a sign will be placed near the recycling bins with Agate Mutual Telephone's sponsor information.

The recycling bins are located on First Street across from the Agate Post Office, on Highway 40. The bins collect newspapers, magazines, paper, brown glass, clear glass, and aluminum cans. The current monthly pick up service will remain the same as it has in the past.

Help out the environment and recycle!



IDENTITY THEFT

Hackers have thousands of tools at their disposal to take advantage of you including tools such as key-stroke loggers. Keystroke loggers record every single keystroke you type on your computer...this includes your private email messages, your bank account password, and your credit card number!

There are five major things that you can do to protect yourself and your information from the evil internet hackers.

- 1) Upgrade your computer to have secure operating systems. Windows 95 and up have built in security systems built into them that help prevent hackers. Also keep your software up-to-date by running updates on them regularly, as software companies are constantly trying to keep up with the bugs and viruses out there.
- 2) Use antivirus software to protect from getting a virus, and block Spyware that can be installed
- 3) Use a firewall! If you are on the internet, a firewall protects anyone from being able to attempt to retrieve your passwords or get into your computer when you are online and attempt to steal your information.
- 4) Use complex passwords (by integrating alphanumeric into your password) so that it is harder for the hackers to figure out. Never use easy things such as dates, names, etc., and never write your passwords down on paper were someone can access them.
- 5) Finally, back up your data often. This allows you to access your previous information if damaged or rendered inoperable by a virus or hacker.

GETTING TECHNICAL...



Another member of the team here at Agate Mutual and Prairie Networks is Daniel Hollembeak. Daniel has worked here since October of 1999. He started while he was in high school and never left.

Daniel moved to Agate in 1997, from Denver, with his parents and two sisters. Daniel graduated in 2000, and stayed in the Agate area and continued to work here and within the community.



Daniel is Captain for the Agate Fire Department and he is also working towards his EMT certification. Daniel met his wife Holly while working on the Limon ambulance service. The couple have three kids and live outside of Agate.

Besides the telephone and DSL troubleshooting, Dan also does Wild Blue Satellite Internet installations, new construction installation, and other outside plant work that is needed.

Daniel also helps the Agate Water Association with the monthly testing, and daily operations. In his spare time, (not that he has a lot), Daniel likes to spend time with his family, work on his old truck and hunting and fishing.

Daniel has been a great addition to the Agate and surrounding communities, and is a big help here at the office and for our customers.





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Were On the Web!!

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Office Hours:

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monday—Friday

SHORT SHORTS

Taking His Money to Heaven

There was a man who had worked all of his life and had saved all of his money. He loved money more than just about anything, and just before he died, he said to his wife, "Now listen, when I die, I want you to take all my money and place it in the casket with me. I want take my money to the afterlife." So he got his wife to promise him with all her heart that when he died, she would put all the money in the casket with him.

One day he died. He was stretched out in the casket, the wife was sitting there in black next to her closest friend. When they finished the ceremony, just before the undertakers got ready to close the casket, the wife said "Wait just a minute!" she had a shoe box with her, she came over with the box and placed it in the casket. Then the undertakers locked the casket down and rolled it away.

Her friend said, "I hope you weren't crazy enough to put all that money in the casket."

She said, "Yes, I promised him that I was going to put that money in that casket with him."

"You mean to tell me you put every cent of his money in the casket with him?"

"I sure did, " said the wife. "I got it all together, put it into my account and I wrote him a check."



F U N F A C T S

Did you know...

- A cow produces around 200,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime.
- There are approximately 1,319,872,109 people on the Internet.
- The University of Alaska stretches over 4 time zones.
- The Yo-Yo originated as a weapon in the Philippine Islands during the sixteenth century.
- The world's tallest snowman was created in Bethel, Maine in 2008. It measured in at 122 feet and 1 inch , and weighed over 13,000,000 lbs.



Do you have something you want to put in our newsletter? Contact us.