

## E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATE...

At Prairie Networks, we are trying to keep our customers abreast of any outages, problems, or important information that you may need. We know that some of you do not use your [prairienetworks.com](http://prairienetworks.com) address as your primary e-mail account. Therefore to alert you of any problems, we need to get your **MOST used e-mail address** so that we can keep you updated.

Please contact us with you information at [aher@amtca.net](mailto:aher@amtca.net) or call us at **1-877-565-2045**.

We appreciate your help in this matter. As a small business we will NOT be providing your information to anyone other than the internet provider's alert systems to keep you informed.

Thank you for your help, and continued customer support!

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SEPTEMBER 2011

## SECUREIT PLUS 2011 UPGRADE

Is your computer causing you headaches? Are viruses flooding your laptop and slowing it down? We have a quick, easy, and painless solution for you!

SecureIT Plus has been updated and brings with it a complete overhaul of the product, including management console, firewall, and most importantly brand –new virus detection components.

SecureIT 2011 now incorporates a new and improved anti-virus and anti-malware engine increasing security



protection.

### SecureIT Plus Features

- Anti-Virus/ Anti-Spyware Protection
- 24/7 Technical Support
- Hands Free Updates
- Hard Drive Maintenance
- Personal Firewall
- Parental Controls
- Guaranteed Protection
- Monthly Summary Report
- Online Reporting

Give us a call, and we can set you up over the phone... that's how easy it is!

## MANAGER'S CORNER

**I**t seems every day we are inundated with gloom and doom from our government and the debt we are all carrying on our backs. I have never seen a time when negativity surrounds us in all areas.

Some of you may have received a letter regarding the National Broadband Plan the Federal Communications Commission has proposed and the loss of revenue to our company. Now on a local level, the PUC wants to reduce and or eliminate the Colorado High Cost Fund, which all customers pay into. If there proposal is adopted, which our Telecom Association is fighting against, your Coop will lose \$4900/year. It is not a significant amount but the fund helps rural customers maintain affordable phone service.

Therefore, between fighting the closure of our Post Office, writing letters to Congress about the National Broadband Plan and supporting comments to the PUC, this summer has disappeared.

### New Carrier for Our Traffic

On August 17, we switched all our traffic from Qwest, which took our calls into Colorado Springs then out the world, to Onvoy Services. Now our traffic goes from Agate onto the CCT fiber ring into Denver, which will improve our service. I know we still have issues the Least Cost Routing issues but Agate now has the capability with Onvoy to investigate calls not coming into our exchange. We will still need as much information from you as possible regarding these failed calls: time of day and date, as well as the number the call originated from (using you caller ID information), and the number the call terminated to (your number). Any intercept messages would also be helpful in tracking down what the problems were.

*Gail Pitzer*

General Manager



## IS YOUR PASSWORD PROTECTED...

Most people use passwords that are based on personal information and are easy to remember. However that also makes it easier for an attacker to guess or “crack” them. Consider a four-digit PIN number. Is yours a combination of the month, day, or year of your birthday? Or that last four digits of your SSN? If so, you may be susceptible. Below are some tactics to use when choosing a password:

- \* Don't use passwords that are based on personal information that can be easily accessed or guessed.
- \* Develop a mnemonic for remembering complex passwords.
- \* Use both uppercase and lowercase letters.
- \* Use a combination of letters, numbers, and special characters.
- \* Use different passwords on different systems.



## A FACE BEHIND THE VOICE...

**I**f you have ever had to call the office for some sort of question, problem, or just to talk, you have most likely talked to Larry Pitzer, the Plant Manager of Agate Mutual Telephone and Prairie Networks, LLC. Larry has been with the company for 20 years, and has done several jobs within the company, including bury cable, telephone repair, customer service just to name a few. Larry is originally from Burlington, Iowa which is approximately 166 miles southeast of Des Moines. Larry also lived in Los Angeles for approximately 13 years before coming to Colorado and building a house west of Agate near the Chaparral with his parents.



Larry has several hobbies, but his main hobby is barbecuing. He is a member of the Rocky Mountain Barbecue Association and a certified judge with the Kansas City Barbecue Society. Summertime, Larry travels on weekends to Colorado and Kansas events and judges items entered into contests for their tastes, flavor and quality. He has judged in Grand Junction, Parker, Loveland, Lamar, Las Vegas, Nevada, North Platte, Nebraska, and Garden City, Kansas.

Larry is the oldest of three children, and is married and has a grown daughter. When asked about being in the newsletter, Larry replied, “Bah Humbug!” For those of you that know Larry pretty well, you know that this is a typical response for him. Thanks for being a good sport!





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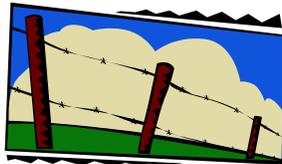
Were On the Web!!  
[www.prairienetworks.net](http://www.prairienetworks.net)

Office Hours:  
8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Monday—Friday

## SHORT SHORTS

### Funny Farm

Our farm borders a main highway, and my husband and I wage a perpetual battle to keep our cows from heading for greener pastures across the road. One evening, as I slogged along the perimeter of our property looking for loose fencing, I saw a neighbor, also a farmer. His greeting sent me on my rounds with a lighter step. "I see," he



said, "you're Secretary of DeFence tonight!" (Taken From the Reader's Digest, Contributed by Eugenia Mathes).

## SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION...

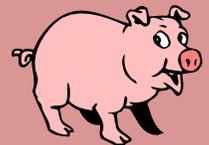
Remember to watch for children walking in the streets, and buses stopping at bus stops doing pick-ups and drop-offs.



## F U N F A C T S

Did you know...

- It is physically impossible for pigs to look up at the sky.
- It takes about 63,000 trees to make the newsprint for the average Sunday edition of The New York Times.
- The 57 on Heinz ketchup bottles represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.
- On average, 150 couples get married in Las Vegas each day.
- A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.



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