

# CONNECTIONS

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Fall 2006

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## Polar Celebrates Grand Opening of Mayville Office

Polar Communications celebrated the grand opening of their new office in Mayville on Saturday, July 22, 2006. The open house was from 11:00am to 2:00pm with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:00am. General Manager/CEO David Dunning welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Pastor Janna Kontz gave the blessing. Two hundred sixty people were served a meal of BBQ pork sandwiches, coleslaw, macaroni salad and root beer floats. T-shirts were given to the first 25 kids that came to jump in the OctaBounce. During his comments, Dave Dunning, Polar CEO stated "Polar's investment in this new headquarters facility is representative of our commitment to the Mayville/Portland community. We are proud to be members of this community and appreciate the customer acceptance of our products."



L-R: Brian Udby, Polar Board President; Ron Steinke, Polar Telcom Board President; Don Moen, Mayville Mayor; Tim Strand, May-Port Business Association; Sharon Bares, May-Port Business Association; Sven Mickels, Portland Mayor; Pastor Janna Kontz; David Dunning, Polar General Manager/CEO



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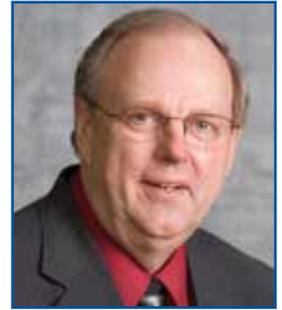
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# Employee Corner

## Slominski Retires After 41 Years

When Ernie Slominski retired from Polar Communications on April 30th, 2006, he was the longest running employee at the company, working for 41 years. Ernie began his employment on June 2, 1965 as a Lineman and retired as Plant Manager. During his time at Polar, Ernie saw many changes in the telecommunications industry and took a lead role in pioneering many new services in our area. He also served his country in the Vietnam War during his tenure.



Ernie Slominski

Ernie represented Polar on boards such as the AT&S (Apprenticeship Training & Safety) Program of North Dakota, and was a member of the Prairie States Plant Managers Group. He is highly respected throughout the industry at the state and national levels.

On behalf of the Staff, Management, and Board of Directors at Polar – Best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement Ernie!

## Welcome New Employees



Mike Waechter



Robyn Watkins



Brad Schatz

Mike Waechter began his employment with Polar on June 1, 2006 as a Combination Technician. Some of his duties include installing high speed Internet and telephone service and repair. Mike and his wife Gloria reside in Park River. They have two grown children Angela & Matthew and a son Ryan who is a senior in High School.

Robyn Watkins began her employment on August 14th as a Supply Clerk. She works with maintaining inventory of supply. Robyn and her husband Joe live in Grafton with their daughters Ellie, 11 and Abbie, 7.

Brad Schatz began his employment with Polar on August 28th as a Combination Technician with the Construction Department. Brad's duties include trenching cable, locating faults, splicing cable and construction of telephone lines/service. Brad is originally from Anamoose, ND.

# Construction Update

The underground installation of the fiber optic and copper cables (112 miles) is complete in the Hunter, Arthur and Galesburg exchanges and 33 new CSA (Carrier Serving Area) sites have been installed. The local Rural Electric Coop's, Cass County Electric and Nodak Electric have been working on installing the electric meters to provide electric power to the CSA sites.

Aerial contractor's fiber optic splicing crews can also be seen in the rural areas splicing the fiber optic cables.

Aerial Contractors is now plowing 35 miles of cable in the Michigan exchange going north to Whitman where 11 new CSA sites will be installed.

Aerial Contractors is also Plowing 36 miles of cable in the Wolverton/Walcott exchanges where 7 new CSA sites will be installed.

The contractor will be moving to the west portion of the Cavalier exchange where 43 miles of cable will be plowed and then the Drayton exchange, where 43 miles of underground cable will be plowed.

The contractor is scheduled to have the underground cable installed by freeze up barring any weather delays, which so far has not been a problem for them this year.

In 2007 it is anticipated that the CSA design will be constructed in the Hoople, Crystal and St. Thomas exchanges, just to mention a few. It is our number one goal to have high speed broadband services available to 100% of our customers.



## Dear Polar Customers,

I was privileged to attend the NTCA Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington D.C. as a representative of Polar Communications. During my visit I attended educational sessions focusing on telecommunications and governmental processes. I learned the importance of telecommunications in my community and to myself. I also learned of the various job opportunities in telecommunications. Senator Mark Dayton of Minnesota spoke to our group about current issues and our perceptions of these issues. While in Washington I visited various sites such as the Smithsonian Museums, Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, and our nation's Capitol. I would like to thank Polar Communications and it's members for giving me this wonderful opportunity. I acquired much knowledge and met many new friends. Thanks again.

Sincerely, Rebecca Midgarden



# Government Stops Collecting Long-Distance Tax

The U.S Treasury conceded a legal dispute over the 3% federal excise tax on long distance telephone service. Due to this decision, Polar Communications customers will no longer be billed a federal excise tax on the long distance portion of their bill. The tax will still be applied to other charges that pertain to local service only.

The IRS will refund the portion of the excise tax applied to long distance charges from February 28, 2003 through August 1, 2006. Residential customers will receive the refund directly from the IRS when they file their 2006 income tax return. Customers do not need to research three years of phone bills, as the IRS is designing a straightforward process that taxpayers may use when they file their tax returns this year.

Refunds for businesses will work differently as the IRS asks that they calculate the tax paid on long distance before requesting a refund. Individuals who don't file a tax return will need to complete a special form to collect their refund.

Polar Communications recommends that customers with questions contact their legal/tax advisor on how to apply for their refund.

## Polar Announces Wireless Internet Project in Mayville

At the Grand Opening of its Mayville office on Saturday, July 22nd, Polar Communications announced plans to begin a Wireless Internet project in this area. Polar was initially contacted by customers expressing the need for an Internet solution in rural Mayville and Portland. Working in conjunction with local residents, the area was surveyed to determine interest. After reviewing the project analysis and business plan the Board of Directors approved the project at their June meeting.

The equipment will be located at the May-Port Farmers Elevator in Mayville. The signal will reach a 10-mile radius from the transmit location depending on the lay-of-the-land. Plans are underway to order the necessary equipment, obtain easements, bury fiber and construct a building. The projected completion date is October 2006.

		
Premieres September 8	Premieres September 21	Premieres September 29

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# Yes, you can afford telephone service



Federal Law and state lawmakers believe that every person in America should have access to quality, affordable telecommunications service. In fact, they've created a system to do just that. If you participate in programs, such as food stamps, Medicaid, the national free-lunch program, Section 8 housing or supplemental security income, or if your household income is below a certain threshold level, you may qualify for a discount on your telephone bill.

*If you think you may qualify for any of these services, please contact our office.*



701-284-7221 / 800-284-7222

2006-2007 DIRECTORY

## Coming Soon!

Your 2006-07 Polar Directory!  
Extra copies of Polar's Directory can be obtained at our business offices at:  
• 110 4th St E., Park River, ND  
• 112 Main St. W, Mayville, ND



Area Codes: 701 & 218

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### Attention new and existing Polar Communications Customers...

Polar Communications is offering a \$25.00 scholarship to new or existing Polar Communication customers. Limited seating available...get registered today!



### Friday, October 27, 2006

@ Polar Communications  
112 Main Street West  
Mayville, ND  
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Friday, November 3, 2006

@ Polar Communications  
110 4th Street East  
Park River, ND  
8:30 a.m. to Noon

**\$49.00**

Course outline and online registration:  
[www.ndsbdc.org/events](http://www.ndsbdc.org/events)  
or call 701.352.3550





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# CONNECTIONS

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## Board of Directors

Greg Steffes .....Arthur  
Amber Meyer.....St. Thomas  
Beverly Jensen .....Drayton  
Eric "Ike" Meberg .....Park River  
Peter McKenzie .....Michigan  
David Monson .....Edinburg  
Ronald Steinke.....Cavalier  
Joe Torgerson .....Fairdale  
Brian Udby .....Lankin  
*David L. Dunning .....General Manager / CEO*

## Hours of Operation

### Park River Office

MON - FRI / 7:30am - 6:30pm • SAT / 8am - 4:30pm

### Mayville Office

MON - FRI / 9:00am - 3:00pm

**24-Hour Customer Service / 284-7127**

# Customer Appreciation Days

## Join us for an Appreciation Lunch!

**Monday, Oct. 9, 2006  
11:00am - 1:00pm**

**Lakota Community Center**

**Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006  
11:00am - 1:00pm**

**Arthur Community Hall**

**Monday, Oct. 16, 2006  
11:00am - 1:00pm**

**Neche Fire Hall**



**Come and register to win FREE phone service for one year!**