

**Our Vision:**  
Of Course You Can!

## TelAlaska Contact Information

Interior Telephone Customer Service  
1-800-478-3127

Mukluk Telephone Customer Service  
1-800-478-7055

TelAlaska NetWorks  
1-888-478-3127

Eyecom Cable  
1-800-478-2982

TelAlaska Long Distance  
1-888-797-5200

Email Addresses:  
Customer Service  
custsvc@telalaska.com

TelAlaska Long Distance  
tald@telalaska.com

TelAlaska NetWorks  
sales@telalaska.com

# TeleTalk

News from TelAlaska's  
Family of Companies

Interior Telephone  
Mukluk Telephone  
TelAlaska NetWorks  
Eyecom Cable  
TelAlaska Long Distance

Summer Issue 2008

## Cancer Claims TelAlaska President/CEO



Lifelong Alaskan, outdoorsman, and national telecommunications authority Jack H Rhyner, 55, died April 19, 2008 at home with his family after a six month battle with cancer. His was a characteristically valiant and aggressive effort to combat the disease.

A celebration of Jack's life took place on May 1 at the Quarter Deck of the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage. According to his wishes, his ashes will be spread at a favorite Cold Bay duck hunting retreat in the fall.

Jack was the chairman and chief executive officer of TelAlaska, an innovative technology company that serves rural and urban Alaska. The company was founded by his father, the late Richard Rhyner, in 1968, and Jack began his telephony career working at his father's side.

At age 16, Jack painstakingly refurbished damaged telephone equipment salvaged after the 1967 Fairbanks flood. He cleaned the equipment in the basement of the family home with high-pressure water hoses and brushes, using Emory boards to smooth gold points on the mechanical switches. Once the equipment was fully operable, father and son installed a telephone system in Fort Yukon where residents until then shared a single phone line at the airport. Today, more than 300 Fort Yukon residents have single-party lines and access to Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) Internet service.

Jack assumed the leadership of Interior Telephone in 1982 and in subsequent years operated TelAlaska companies in partnership with his wife Donna, TelAlaska's Chief Information Officer and board secretary.

TelAlaska is the parent company of Interior and

Mukluk local telephone companies and Eyecom Cable and NetWorks advanced data services companies.

Jack Rhyner played an active role in the telecommunications industry, testifying on federal and state issues. He was a member of the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Task Force on telephone regulatory issues and at the time of his death was serving his second term as president of the Alaska Telephone Association, where he had for years also led the Government Affairs committee. He received ATA's coveted Kaguyak Award for outstanding contributions to the advancement of Alaska Telephony.

As a member of the Western Telecommunications Alliance (WTA), Jack served as chairman of the WTA Public Policy Committee since its inception. He received the organization's President's Award in 2007 for "tireless dedication to the association and rural telecommunications."

Jack also served on the Board of Directors of the Alaska Exchange Carriers Association (AECA) and chaired the AECA Rate Development Committee.

A member of the National Rifle Association and an avid sportsman, his shooting team prevailed as champions for more than a dozen years of Spring League competitions at Birchwood Shooting Park.

Jack leaves his wife Donna, sons Ryan of Anchorage and Richard Rhyner II and daughter-in-law Andrea Rhyner and grandchildren Victoria, Christian, all of Fairbanks; his niece Kathleen Hendershot of Anchorage, his sister Kym Morgan of Mount Shasta, CA, and aunts Faye Brown of Grafton, WI, and Kathy McGrath of Wilkesboro, PA, formerly of Anchorage. He is preceded in death by his father Richard; mother Anita (Hamblin) Rhyner, and brother Gilbert Rhyner.

The family suggests memorial donations to Cold Bay Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. The address is Cold Bay Ducks Unlimited, c/o Lillian Sager, P.O. Box 131, Cold Bay, Alaska 99571.



### And the winner is...

Nadja Roessek, formerly of Nome, won the 2008 TelAlaska Phone Book Cover Photo Contest. Roessek's photo of Exit Glacier, taken on the Kenai Peninsula, will appear on the cover of the 2008 Nome/Seward/Unalaska Telephone Directory. Roessek is a Web and graphic designer based in Homer.

Watch your mailboxes later this summer for the new directories.

### Don't go digging up trouble

Avoid cutting underground utility lines in your area. Please call the Locate Call Center of Alaska two working days before you dig. In rural areas of the state, please notify the Locate Call Center of Alaska at least 10 but no more than 20 working days before you dig. TelAlaska will then mark the utilities on your property so you know where you can safely dig. **1-800-478-3121.**

## American Broadband Acquires TelAlaska

The stock purchase of TelAlaska Inc. by American Broadband Communications LLC (ABB) was finalized May 30, 2008, with TelAlaska continuing as an independent subsidiary of ABB. The new owners are headquartered in Charlotte, NC.

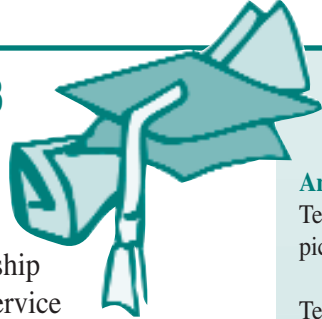
Pat Eudy, President and CEO, said ABB is growing through strategic investments in rural communications companies across America. TelAlaska is its only Alaska property.

The company will operate under the direction of its existing management team, with the exception of Donna Rhyner, who has retired. "The untimely death of former President and CEO Jack Rhyner is an unexpected and tragic loss to the company and the industry both locally and nationally," Eudy said.

Jack Rhyner planned to remain on a consulting basis through a transition period and continue his state and national efforts on behalf of rural Alaskans and their communities.

Eudy said the company's capable and experienced team will continue to bring high quality, affordable communications services to the Alaska communities it serves. He said, "The company motto "Of Course You Can" speaks to the dedication of employees to ensure that rural Alaskans have access to high quality voice, data, and video service. The Rhyner traditions of excellence and service will continue."

## Announcing Our 2008 Scholarship Winners!



TelAlaska is pleased to announce our two scholarship winners from TelAlaska service areas. High school juniors are encouraged to check back with us next spring for information on how to apply for our scholarship program.

**Bessie Hausmann of Galena** has been selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from TelAlaska's Interior Telephone Company. Hausmann is a graduate of Galena City School and plans to attend the University of Alaska Anchorage Civil Engineering program.

**Victoria Sinnok of Shishmaref** was the winner of the \$1,000 Mukluk Telephone Company scholarship. Sinnok is a graduate of Shishmaref School and plans to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

***Congratulations, Bessie and Victoria!***

## Unalaska Student Selected for National Telecommunications Scholarship

**Unalaska student Haleigh Zueger** has been awarded a \$1,000 academic scholarship from the Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED). The award is given based on merit and demonstrated commitment to rural life.

Zueger graduated from Unalaska City School in May and plans to attend Adelphi University in New York. Her scholarship application was sponsored by TelAlaska's Interior Telephone Company.

This year, the 61 scholarship recipients were selected from nearly 160 applications nominated by nearly 90 OPASTCO member companies from across the United States.

FRED Scholarship applications for 2009 will be available in the fall of 2008 at [www.fred.org/scholarships](http://www.fred.org/scholarships).

FRED, a national charitable foundation located in Washington, DC, was founded in 1989 by the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO). The FRED Scholarship Program is made possible through the generosity of small, independent telephone companies and their vendors that operate in rural areas across the United States and Canada. TelAlaska is both a member of OPASTCO and a supporter of FRED.

## Spring 2008 Calendar of Events

*The following is a list of recent community events supported by TelAlaska.*

### Anchorage

TelAlaska continued to donate Web hosting services to Hospice of Anchorage. [www.hospiceofanchorage.org](http://www.hospiceofanchorage.org)

TelAlaska donated to the Girl Scout Susitna Council.

TelAlaska was a sponsor of the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women luncheon in March.

TelAlaska donated to the Children's Lunchbox annual fundraising event held in May.

### Cooper Landing

TelAlaska supported the Cooper Landing Historical Society

TelAlaska donated to Cooper Landing Emergency Services.

### King Cove

TelAlaska donated a gun for the King Cove Ducks Unlimited Banquet held in April.

### Nome

TelAlaska supported the Nanook Basketball Camp.

TelAlaska donated to the Nome Community Center's Food Drive for the Nome Food Bank during the month of April.

### Seward

TelAlaska continued its support of the Seward Senior Center.

TelAlaska donated to the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazer's annual Mayor's Cup Race in March. Kyler Dow, a Seward TelAlaska employee, was our racer this year.

TelAlaska continued its sponsorship of the Armed Services Combat Fishing Tournament in May. This year's event hosted more than 250 active duty combat veterans.

TelAlaska again provided food and prizes for the annual U.S. Forest Service's Kid's Fishing Day at Lower Summit Lake on June 7.

### Unalaska

TelAlaska is a business member of Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence, and donated to the annual Soup-off fundraiser.

TelAlaska donated to Iliuliuk Family and Health Services 2008 Wall of Support. Proceeds from this year's fundraiser go towards replacing their ultrasound system and exam tables.

TelAlaska donated auction items for the Unalaska Preschool ice cream social fundraiser on February 11.

TelAlaska continued to support the Museum of the Aleutians.

TelAlaska donated to Camp Qungaayux for children grades four to 12 from July 28 – August 2.

*To see if your community event meets TelAlaska sponsorship guidelines, go to [www.telalaska.com/about/contributionspolicy.pdf](http://www.telalaska.com/about/contributionspolicy.pdf)*

## Spyware, viruses and worms?

**SecurityCoverage**  
Guaranteed Computer Protection

Now there's help with SecureIT Plus available from TelAlaska's arctic.net. Recognizing the need to help our customer protect their computer, we have partnered with the only guaranteed computer protection service on the market—SecureIT Plus.

SecureIT Plus service provides:

- Firewall Protection
- Fully automated protection and removal of viruses, spyware, and adware
- Parental controls: access and time management controls, content filtering
- Automated hard drive maintenance and optimization
- Automated installation of tested Microsoft patches
- Monthly e-mail reporting
- Free technical support

With SecureIT Plus you'll never have to think about Internet Security again. Plus, the service is guaranteed. If you do have problems with an Internet-delivered issue while using SecureIT Plus services, they will repair your computer at no charge.

**SecureIT Plus is offered to our Internet subscribers at the reasonable rate of \$4.95 per month. To sign up for the service, please call TelAlaska at 1-888-478-3127.**