



# GRAND MOUND PHONET NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter Published for our Customers

March 2007



## SOLAR INTERFERENCE

During the month of March, we will be experiencing solar interference during which degradation or loss of Satellite signal will occur on our CATV system. This will occur between the hours of 2:00-4:00 p.m. for approximately 10 days.

## NEW DIRECTORY LISTINGS AND UPDATES

### -B-

Becraft Automotive  
704 Fulton St Grand Mound.....847-9499

### -C-

Chuck's Body Shop  
720 Clinton St Grand Mound.....847-1600

### -H-

Huff, Bill & Diane  
2225 Hwy 30 Grand Mound.....847-1515

### -S-

Smith, E F  
2058 240 Ave DeWitt.....847-1076

### -T-

Truelsen, J  
2448 210 St DeWitt (Fax Line).....847-1379

## GMCTA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET FOR MARCH 10, 2007

The Annual Meeting of the members of Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association will be on Saturday, March 10, 2007.

The meeting will be held at the Grand Mound Community Center beginning with a 12:00 noon luncheon followed by the business meeting at 1:00 p.m.

The business meeting will be for the purpose of electing directors and transacting other business as necessary.

The official notice of the meeting will be mailed to the members of GMCTA on March 1, 2007.

## *IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!*



**Call Before You Dig!**  
**1-800-292-8989**

Notification service for locating underground

## Or Dial 811

Spring and summer are just around the corner. Of course, that means the digging season is knocking at our door.

Please call Iowa One Call at

**811**

or

**1-800-292-8989**

to have the underground facilities located and marked. Call 48 hours in advance of digging and remember that

**IT'S THE LAW!**



## NOTICE:

**We are now able to accept American Express credit cards along with VISA, MasterCard or Discover as another option for paying your bill.**

## Mobile Malware Strikes Cell Phones

Since the news first broke of companies creating mobile "snoopware" to allow consumers to monitor their partners' text messages and calls, there have been growing privacy concerns over spyware running on mobile phones. Now, the threat landscape is changing to include malware, SMS phishing, and viruses, as criminals set their sites on cellular.

Commercial applications like Vervata's FlexiSpy, which silently record mobile phone calls and SMS messages to transmit them to a remote server, are designed to be "fun tools" to keep track of what spouses or children are doing on their mobile phones.

But, the mobile phone snoopware also has the classic signs of computer spyware: it often installs without any indication of what it is, hides from the operating system, and passes information on to a third party.

Security company F-Secure calls the FlexiSpy software a Trojan. According to their research, phones with spying software typically utilize SMS forwarding, SMS and voice call log information, remote listening, covert conference calling and localization services.

"This basically means that if the victim has a full-featured spy application installed on their phone, they have no privacy whatsoever and that the one controlling the software has access to all of the information that the phone has," said Jarno Niemela, F-Secure's spokesman.

Concerns have been raised in the past that the application could be abused by malware that installs as part of a payload, or by a hacker sending it to open phones in the hope that curious people would try to install it.

As our phones take on more of the capabilities of our computers, attacks targeting mobile devices are on the rise, security analysts say.

This past December brought the news that spyware applications targeting the Symbian operating system for mobile phones had been found. According to researchers at McAfee, the spyware application is bundled together with a variant of the Multidropper mobile phone Trojan, tracking text messages and copying log files with the phone number of incoming and outgoing phone calls.

This type of malware not only indicates that mobile phones will be increasingly targeted; it also shows a change in direction for malware authors. "Rather than destroying data and information, it is stealing it for profit," Jimmy Shah, a mobile antivirus researcher at McAfee, said on a company blog.

Security vendors have also noted incidents of criminal phishing through SMS. Coined as "smishing" attacks, consumers are typically warned that they will be charged a certain amount of money per day if they do not cancel a fictitious website purchase. When victims attempt to cancel the order, they often hand over confidential information, or leave themselves open to malicious websites.

Smart phones, combined mobile and PDA (personal digital assistant) units like the popular BlackBerry, are sure to be regarded with more interest by hackers.

While some security analysts say that malware concerns are premature, especially since consumers will be limited to installing certain third party applications on the iPhone, reports of hackers salivating over it are already circulating around the web.

This year may also bring the first large-scale cell phone virus strike, according to analysts. Malware developers could implement an attack if they create a way to embed a virus in VoIP programs that users download to their mobile phone operating systems to reroute pricey mobile phone calls to the Internet.

*Source: Lavasoft News – February 2007*



### **Grand Mound Coop. Telephone Assn. and Grand Mound Communications Co.**

providing local telephone service for the Grand Mound area, PCS Wireless, Voice Mail, Paging Services, travel calling cards, data and fax services, CATV, Internet, DSL and Wireless DSL.

**(563) 847-3000**

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P.O. Box 316  
Grand Mound, IA 52751

[grmd@gmcta.coop](mailto:grmd@gmcta.coop)

#### **Business Office Hours**

Monday to Friday  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### **General Manager**

Mark Harvey

#### **Office Manager**

Terri Bumann

#### **Office Assistant**

Dee Dee Banowetz

#### **Combination**

#### **Technician**

Chris Beuthien

#### **Part-time Technician**

Scott Butt

#### **Board of Directors**

Dennis Campbell

Joe Dierickx

Roger Green

Rick Mineck

Ruth Schroeder

Harry Slaymaker

Wayne Whitman



## CUSTOM CALLING FEATURES

Information on our Custom Calling Features that you are subscribed to and how to activate and deactivate them is located in our Eastern Iowa Regional Directory (yellow cover) between the Cascade and Center Junction Directory Listings.