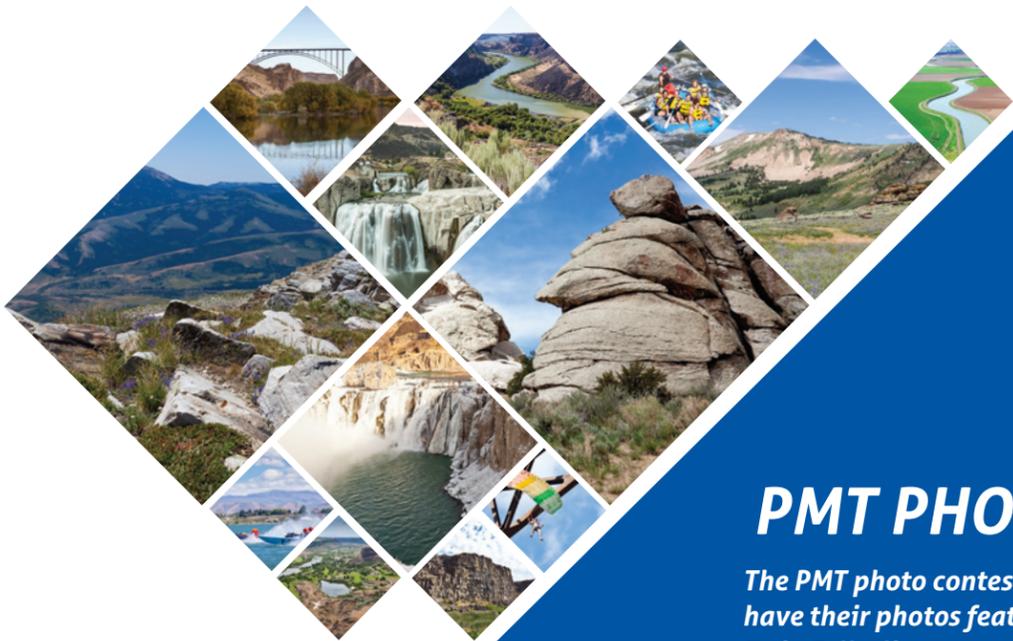
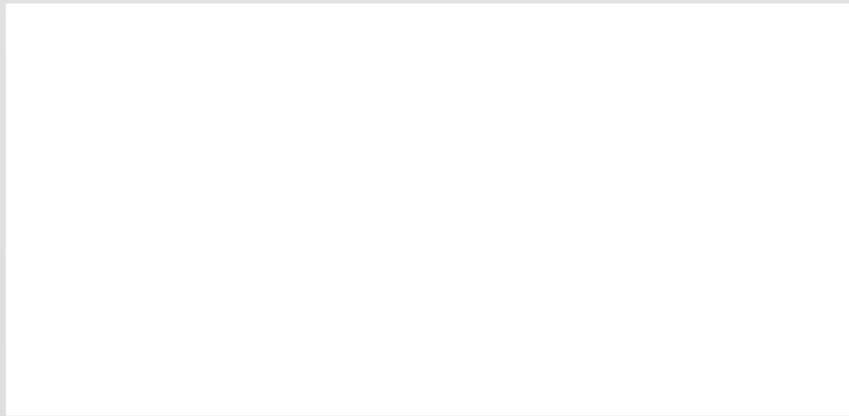




507 G St.  
Rupert, ID 83350



## PMT PHOTO CONTEST

*The PMT photo contest is going on now! Winners will have their photos featured on the Mini-Cassia and Twin Falls directory covers and will receive \$250 each. There is also an option to vote for your favorite photo. The top three photos with the most votes will each receive a \$50 Amazon gift card. For complete details and to enter and vote, visit PMT's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectMutualTelephone/>.*



# PMT Connection

## WINTER 2017

### 2017 Phonebook Work

Work has begun on the 2017-2018 PMT phonebook directories. PMT is once again partnering with Legacy Community Pages to bring you the most useful directories in the Magic Valley. To be sure your business is listed in the most widely used directory, contact a Legacy representative at 1(866) 616-4262 for yellow page information. If you have a change or correction to your directory white page information, please call or stop by any PMT office location.

### Message from the President

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. The new year is off with a bang! Our crews are busy converting customers in the city of Paul over to our new fiber network, in addition to the completion of our fiber builds to two new serving areas, which are Emerson (west of Burger King in Heyburn) and Eagle Way (near exit 216). Our engineering department is well underway with the first phase of our Rupert overbuild and we are excited to get this project out to contract and advancing in the field weather permitting. Speaking of weather, wow, what a winter so far! This winter season seems like a throwback of what we used to experience 20-30 years ago.



I would like to single out and say thanks, to our Network Operations department. At this time, they are working diligently to upgrade our Meta-Switch (which is the brains behind how calls are connected), along with several other important network equipment upgrades, that need to be complete and will work in conjunction with our fiber overbuild projects.

If you haven't been by our business office lately, please stop in and visit with one of our Retail Service Agents. We have rearranged our business offices with some new upgrades and we will be remodeling them in the near future to make them more customer friendly.

I wish everyone a safe and fulfilling winter season.

Thank you for being a PMT customer.

Dan Hoover  
President and CEO, PMT



### Save the Date PMT Annual Meeting

PMT's 2017 Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. A nominating committee has been appointed by the Board of Directors to select a slate of candidates to fill one, three-year director position. PMT members can place their vote at any one of the three PMT business offices that day until 5:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are also available by written request.

If you have questions about the meeting, or the voting process, please call or stop by one of the three local offices.



**Win Great Prizes!**

**Play Our Free COLLEGE BASKETBALL CONTEST!**

**From PMT**

**Pre-register beginning March 1. Visit [www.pmt.org](http://www.pmt.org) for more details.**

# Fiber Optics – The Next Generation of Telecommunications

You may have heard of Google Fiber, that promises Internet speeds up into the gigabits (1 GB=1,000 Mbps), in large metropolitan areas like Atlanta, Kansas City, Salt Lake City, and you're probably thinking speeds like that would never make it to small-town, rural Idaho. But what if we told you that those speeds are currently available through PMT in select areas and we have plans to bring them to our entire customer base? Hold on to your hats, because it's true!

PMT is able to bring these amazingly fast speeds through fiber optic cables. So what is fiber optics? Commonly referred to as fiber, fiber optics is the future of communications technology. Fiber optic cable contains strands of optically pure glass, thinner than a human hair, which carry digital information over long distances. Digital signals are sent as pulses of light down the glass fibers, without interference or limitation that we experience on our traditional copper plant. Once your home or business is connected to fiber, it is connected using the most advanced communications technology currently available. This digital transport system is faster, clearer, more reliable, and will give you the bandwidth to access the digital communications services of the future, and with today's IP-based broadband apps such as digital streaming TV, VOIP, video conferencing, home security systems, remote appliance management, your household will need Internet speeds up to 1 Gigabit (=1,000 Mb) and business speeds up to 10 Gigabit. The sky is the limit with fiber optics. The challenge so far has been development of equipment from suppliers to interface with the fiber cables to make the technology work.

## The Advantages of Fiber Optics Are Clear:



### SPEED

The fastest connection speed known to man - up into the gigabits. We currently offer an unmatched 1 Gigabit (=1,000 Mb) residential speed to our customers.



### DISTANCE

Unlike copper, there is no resistance in the fiber optic cable, so the signal can travel much further distances.



### RELIABILITY

Fiber-to-the-Home uses a pure ethernet connection back to your ISP, without needing intermediate equipment like a modem. This results in a much more stable, reliable service, which means no down time for you.



### LESS INTERFERENCE

Because it's literally light being transmitted, there is no interference from electromagnetic noise such as radios, motors, power lines, or other nearby cables. This means a clearer signal and better broadband connection for you. Even lightning strikes, which can be transmitted by copper cabling, are not transmitted by fiber optic cable.



### UNLIMITED BANDWIDTH

Unlimited carrying capacity means NO CAPS. The bandwidth, like speed is only limited by the processing power of the electronics on each end of the fiber. We will never cap your data usage, or throttle your speeds. Stream as much video as you like without ever worrying about overages.



### LESS MAINTENANCE

Fiber optic cables cost less to maintain than traditional copper lines, saving us all time and money.

## PMT Overbuilds Copper Plant with Fiber Optics

PMT recognizes the value fiber optics has for our members and our community, and that is why we've spent the last several years over-building our traditional copper plant with fiber optics. It started about 10 years ago when we emerged in Twin Falls, building fiber to businesses. Businesses have recognized the value of fiber there, and we've been very busy connecting and growing this end of the valley, so much that we are starting to make a presence in the city of Jerome. Bringing it back closer to our headquarters in Mini-Cassia, PMT and our contractors have been very busy this past year laying our fiber optic network in the city of Paul, west of Burger King in the Emerson area, and in Eagle Way near the river in Declo.

## PMT Announces Fiber Construction in Rupert

Rupert city residents will begin to see construction crews around town this summer. PMT will move from section to section of town as we complete our fiber over build project. This project is expected to last two years.

## Construction Process

Overlaying our copper plant with fiber optic cable is a very intensive process that takes several months of planning and construction. After spending months of planning and building blueprints, we are finally able to start the actual physical labor. We first bore or plow in plastic conduit underground, which is a good method because it has very little environmental impact. We then blow the fiber optic cable through the conduit using compressed air moving at very high speeds. The high-velocity air flow causes the cable to float, and that way we can feed it through very easily. Where the fiber needs to be spliced to serve homes, we put in handholds, or buried manholes with loops of fiber, this also allows for us to branch off and pick up new homes in the future. When a home or business connects to PMT fiber we bring the fiber directly to the premise via a drop, which we then connect to an optical network terminal that we mount on the premise to make the service works inside the home or business.

View a list of Frequently Asked Questions at [www.pmt.org/fiberfaqs/](http://www.pmt.org/fiberfaqs/), or feel free to give us a call at (208) 436-7151.

## Identifying Fraudulent Emails

Spam riddles our email inboxes every day. No matter what you do, fraudulent emails-otherwise known as phishing emails- will somehow make it into your inbox. How do you tell the difference between a fraudulent message and a legitimate one?

### Here are a few tips which can help you identify them:

#### 1. Poor spelling or grammar / Excessive use of capital letters

Companies messages are reviewed for spelling, grammar, and legality. If a message is filled with these errors, it is probably fraudulent.

#### 2. Asks you for personal information

No matter how official an email might look, reputable companies will not ask you for personal information, passwords, or answers to security questions.

#### 3. Unrealistic threats

Some emails will use intimidation to scare victims into giving up information. An example of a scam email will read, "your bank account has been compromised and requires that you send a form along with your account number and 2 picture ID, otherwise your account will be canceled and assets seized." Some scam artists will even send messages claiming to be the IRS, FBI, or other government agency.

#### 4. Addressed to a vague user / Strange recipient list

It is a bad sign when the recipient list on the email is long and alphabetical, or if the email message is addressed to absolutely no one.

#### 5. Crazy links listed in email

Fraudulent emails will frequently have mislabeled links in their emails.

#### 6. Prompt to call a "helpdesk" phone number for help

These phone numbers are made to look as if it is an official one, but in fact will be the scammers themselves.

#### 7. Asked to send money to cover expenses / Offers too good to be true

If you receive a message from someone unknown to you, and they are making big promises, the message is probably a scam.

### Here are a few steps you can take for prevention:

#### 1. Look at the link, but do not click

Check the integrity of the link by hovering your mouse over the link. Do not click the link, but take note of the actual site that the link is pointing to.

#### 2. Call official site to confirm

Do not call or email any phone number listed in the email itself. Use a web browser to search for a legitimate number off of the official website and confirm the email that was sent to you.

#### 3. Do not open attachments

Attachments will frequently contain viruses which will lock down your computer and encrypt your data in order for them to hold it for ransom.

#### 4. Do not allow remote access into your computer

Scammers will typically run commands on your computer to steal your private information.

#### 5. Install an Anti-virus solution on your computer

If you do not already have an anti-virus program, TechForce will recommend and gladly assist you to install one on your computer.

#### 6. Backup important files

Documents and pictures that are important to you should be copied to an external hard drive, or backed up over the cloud on a regular schedule.

Remember – If you need any help at all, PMT TechForce is only a call away to help you identify if an email is a scam, or with any other computer related issues.

## PMT Foundation Scholarships

Applications for the 2017 PMT Foundation Scholarships are now available at [www.pmt.org](http://www.pmt.org), or through participating area high school counselors' offices. The Foundation will award at minimum three, \$2,000 scholarships in 2017.

# **Business Spotlight:** **Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce**

Address: 2015 Neilsen Point Place, Twin Falls, ID 83301

Phone: (208) 733-3974

<http://twinfallschamber.com/>

PMT is happy to be a "Partner" level member of the Twin Falls Chamber, and has seen firsthand the success of being an active Chamber member. PMT participates in the Chamber Ambassador Program and helps take some of the video footage of the Chamber events including Ribbon Cuttings, Extra Mile Awards and Business After Hours. They also have a very active Facebook page that can be found under "Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce".

Since July 1905, when Twin Falls businesses banded together to form the Twin Falls Commercial Club, our city's entrepreneurs have focused on making our community a better place to live and do business. The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce continues this tradition thanks to more than 830 member businesses that voluntarily advance the commercial, financial, industrial, and civic interests of our city.

Even though Twin Falls is the 8th largest city in the state of Idaho, the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce has the 3rd largest membership – demonstrating an active and engaged business community. The Twin Falls Chamber has a dynamic Ambassador Program that participates in ribbon cuttings, monthly luncheons, Business After Hours events, Extra Mile Awards and Chamber Leadership Courses. Members of the Twin Falls Chamber enjoy a variety of ways to network their business and get involved in the community. The Twin Falls Chamber also participates in several charitable giving events each year.

Recently, the Twin Falls Chamber built a brand new visitor center at the gateway entrance to Twin Falls, near the Perrine Bridge. This magnificent building was constructed to mirror the colors and grandeur of the bridge and canyon. The new visitor center has literally drawn busloads of tourists to Twin Falls. The Twin Falls Chamber offices are nestled in the back of the visitor center and has a conference room rivaled by no other, overlooking both the breathtaking canyon and the Perrine Bridge. Businesses from all over the world now have a professional location to meet and discuss possible new opportunities in the Magic Valley.

If you join the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce and get involved, you will see your business grow. In fact, the Chamber Ambassadors have this as their focus this year, "Grow your business with the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce".

The Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce was one of PMT's first customers when we started offering services in Twin over 18 years ago. When they moved to their current location we were able to convert them to our fiber Internet and phone services and they love the speed and reliability of our products. Shawn Barigar, President & CEO of the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce states, "PMT's comprehensive systems handle the telephone and Internet needs for the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce – connecting our staff, our members and our local and worldwide communities. They offer extensive expertise right here, close to home. The PMT team is always available to address challenges and bring us solutions to improve our organization and the service we provide to our customers. We appreciate their partnership and commitment to the Magic Valley!"

PMT is happy that they are a customer of ours and we look forward to a prosperous partnership for many, many years.



## **PMT Department Spotlight:** **IT/NOC Departments**

They say an individual becomes an expert in a field after 10,000 hours. The engineers in the Information Technology and Network Operations (IT/NOC) departments have an average of 45,700 hours in their respective fields, and that doesn't count overtime! Suffice it to say that PMT's network is in good hands.

The Network Operations department consists of Dave Praegitzer, Russell Terry, and Brent Stimpson while the IT department consists of David Asher, DJ Johnson, and Leonard

Nelmida. These fine gentlemen take care of the PMT core network as well as the network that connects customers to the varying services PMT offers. The PMT network carries telephone, Internet, and television services to our valued PMT customers.

Our engineers have expertise in a variety of technologies and fields. We have professionals who have college degrees, trade certifications, and technical certifications. We work hard to stay current with certifications and up to date with key technologies. Our training fields include: Cisco certification for networking, BICSI certification for cabling and infrastructure design, switching training and certification for telephone networks, and a myriad of specialized software trainings.

Education and training are core values for the group, but an even more important value is a commitment to customer service. There is nothing quite like working on a bad piece of equipment in the middle of a snow storm! You could say that we are much like the postal carriers, "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these men from keeping customers talking on the phone, surfing the Internet, or watching TV." Our team is committed to keeping the services we offer up and running.

So, next time you surf the Internet or talk on the phone, remember that there are some talented, committed individuals working to give you the best experience possible. When you see us around town, please say "Hi" and make sure we know that you are one of our valued customers!



## **We want to hear from you** **Fill out the survey below and be entered to win an Amazon Echo.**

PMT mails out this newsletter every quarter to our customers. We'd like to know how you'd prefer to receive this information. Fill out the survey below and mail it back to us (PO Box 366) Rupert, ID 83350 or online at [pmt.org/pmt-newsletter-survey](http://pmt.org/pmt-newsletter-survey)

**How would you prefer to receive the PMT Connections Newsletter?**

- Email
- Mail
- Both

**How often would you prefer to receive the PMT Connections Newsletter?**

- Once a month
- Bi-monthly
- Quarterly

Name

---

PMT Account or Phone Number

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(This information is only needed if you want to be entered into our prize drawing)  
*\*We must get 150 responses to be eligible for the Amazon Echo drawing)*

