



Check Out Our New Website!

SkyLine/SkyBest is excited to announce its new, consolidated website launched in July at SkyBest.com. For many years, members and customers have visited the suite of websites— SkyBest.com, SkyLine.org, SkyBestTV.com and SkyBestSecurity.com— to learn about our various services and offerings. Now, we're bringing it all together under one umbrella for a convenient one-stop online destination for all SkyLine and SkyBest services.

You may ask, 'Why did you choose the SkyBest.com domain?' Simply put. Our customers did. The SkyBest.com website receives approximately 2.5 times the number of visitors compared to SkyLine.org, and visitors stay on the SkyBest.com website twice as long as they do the SkyLine.org site.

The new website design was created with today's customers in mind. Check out these great features:

- Mobile-friendly
- Enhanced Help/Support Section
- An easy appointment scheduler for our customer service centers to help you plan your busy day
- Easy navigation with onsite search

Visit us at SkyBest.com to learn more about our company and the wide range of services we offer. At SkyLine/SkyBest, it's our mission to bring you state-of-the-art communications and technology solutions enabled by a culture of excellence in customer service and backed by the most extensive fiber network in western North Carolina.



Photo courtesy: Kayla Lasure, Watauga Democrat

We Relay for Life

If it's summer, it's also time to support Relay for Life, the signature fund-raising event of the American Cancer Society. SkyLine has been a longtime supporter of Relay and our employees play an active role in supporting this effort each year. During June and July, area Relay for Life events have taken place across the region. We'll share more about our fund-raising efforts to support the fight against cancer in next month's issue.



2017 FRS Youth Tour – Washington, D.C. – June 2017

Local Students Tour Washington, D.C.

SkyLine sponsored two area high school juniors— Caroline Current and Jacob Key of Ashe County— for the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. in June. The Youth Tour introduced the telecommunications industry to students from rural America within a legislative context. Aside from the educational aspects of this trip, students also had the opportunity to tour many of the historical sites in the nation's capital. The students were among approximately 100 students selected from rural America to participate in this five-day program.



FRS promotes, educates and advocates to the public, rural telecommunications issues in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life within communities throughout rural America. The foundation was established by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), of which SkyLine is a member.



Co-op Camp

This June, SkyLine sponsored six Ashe County High School students to attend the annual Cooperative Leadership Camp at White Lake. From all accounts, this five-day program was a rewarding experience, and when these students are high school seniors, they also are eligible to apply for the \$1,000 Cooperative Leadership Scholarship. More details about this year's program participants will be featured in the September newsletter.



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Important Tips on Avoiding Malware Attacks & Securing Your Home Network

Malware attacks, like the recent WannaCry, are becoming more common and can have devastating impacts. SkyLine/SkyBest recommends that you always have an up-to-date antivirus program and keep your computers upgraded to the latest operating systems, such as Windows 7 and higher. Here are some additional tips from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and US-CERT (Computer Emergency Readiness Team) on avoiding malware attacks and securing your home network:

- Install and update security software, and use a firewall. Set your security software, internet browser, and operating system (like Windows or Mac OS X) to update automatically.
- Pay attention to your browser's security warnings. Many browsers come with built-in security scanners that warn you before you visit an infected webpage or download a malicious file.
- Instead of clicking on a link in an email, type the URL of a trusted site directly into your browser. Criminals send emails that appear to be from companies you know and trust. The links may look legitimate, but clicking on them could download malware or send you to a scam site.
- Don't open attachments in emails unless you know who sent it and what it is. Opening the wrong attachment— even if it seems to be from friends or family— can install malware on your computer.
- Get well-known software directly from the source. Sites that offer lots of different browsers, PDF readers, and other popular software for free are more likely to include malware.
- Don't click on popups or banner ads about your computer's performance. Scammers insert unwanted software into banner ads that look legitimate, especially ads about your computer's health. Avoid clicking on these ads if you don't know the source.
- Back up your data regularly. Whether it's your taxes, photos, or other documents that are important to you, back up any data that you'd want to keep in case your computer crashes.
- Change default passwords. As soon as you set up any remote device (Router, cameras, home automation, etc.) and absolutely before deploying them on your Network, change the pre-defined passwords. Default passwords are readily available with a quick search, so never leave default passwords on your devices.
- Use Strong Passwords.
 - Use different passwords on different systems and accounts.
 - Don't use passwords that are based on personal information that can be easily accessed or guessed.
 - Use a combination of capital and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.
 - Don't use words that can be found in any dictionary of any language.
 - Develop mnemonics such as passphrases for remembering complex passwords.
 - Consider using a password manager program to keep track of your passwords.

Sources: www.ftc.gov; www.us-cert.gov

SkyLine By-Laws Summarized for Director Elections at Annual Meeting

SkyLine's 61st Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, at Ashe County High School in West Jefferson. The three-year terms of the following directors will expire as of this meeting: Sharon Kasel (Ashe); Bill Bureson (Avery) and Thomas J. McNeil (Watauga).

A summary of SkyLine Membership Corporation's By-Laws pertaining to director qualifications and nominations is provided below (Article VI, Section 4).

Section 4.3 A Director

- Is a natural person and a full-time legal resident, residing in the geographical area for which the person desires to serve as a Director.
- Is NOT an employee, present or former, of the Cooperative and is not in any way employed by or have a direct pecuniary interest in a competing enterprise or a business engaged in selling communication services or communication supplies or constructing or maintaining communication facilities.
- Is NOT a "close relative" to an incumbent director or a present or former employee of the Cooperative.

Section 4.4 Nominations

- It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, not less than forty (40) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected from different geographic areas so as to ensure equitable representation. At least one (1) member of the committee shall be selected from each geographic area where a director is to be elected. No member of the Board, close relative of a board member or employee may serve on such committee.
- Any one hundred (100) or more active members, acting together may make a nomination by petition and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, if any, must be received at least twenty (20) days before the meeting and shall be included on the official ballot. It shall be the duty of the Credentials Committee to verify the validity of any petition. Such ballot shall arrange the names of the candidates by geographic areas, in alphabetical order by last name, and shall also designate the candidates nominated by the committee and those nominated by petition.
- The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for board members which shall include as many nominees for each board position as the committee deems desirable. The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with a Notice of the Meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations.

Members of the Nominating Committee have been appointed, and the Committee will meet on August 1 at SkyLine's Corporate Offices.

Recipe of the Month Onion Dip

Ingredients:

- 2 bags frozen onions, well drained
- 3 blocks cream cheese
- 1 bag shredded parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise

Instructions:

Combine all ingredients in an oven safe bowl, bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes.

NOTE: This dip is great with Bugles!

Submitted by Amanda Estes of Ashe County.



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