



After 35 Years of Dedicated Service Ken Ricke to Retire

Ken Ricke, Outside Plant Technician, is retiring in December after 35 years of service to this company. Known affectionately around the company as “the silver haired fox”, he always has a joke and a friendly smile.

His years of service and dedication are very much appreciated and he will be missed by all of us that have had the pleasure of working with him.

SCTelcom is hosting a reception in Ken’s honor at the Knight’s of Columbus Hall in Sharon, Kansas on Nov. 10th, 2008 from 5 PM to 8 PM.

Please come and help us wish Ken a Happy Retirement!

Refreshments will be provided.



Attention All High-School Juniors and Seniors!

Apply for a once in a lifetime chance to spend an expense paid week in Washington D.C. to learn about government, civic affairs and the telecommunications industry.

The Leadership Through Learning Program is sponsored by the Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED) and the Na-

tional Exchange Carrier Association (NECA). SCTelcom is a member of

member’s daughters and sons take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

Learning Through Leadership Program offers an expense paid trip to Washington D.C.

both organizations and is very eager to see our own

Drop by one of our offices – Kiowa , Pratt or Medicine Lodge – to pick up an application. **The application deadline is December 8, 2008.** The program event will take place over the dates of April 19-24, 2009.

College Scholarship Reminder

Several scholarships worth up to \$2,500 are available from the Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED) program of the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telephone Companies (OPASTCO) for high

school seniors and existing college students.

The top FRED scholarship applicant in the country will receive the Everett Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000.

Please be sure to stop by one of our offices—Kiowa, Medicine Lodge or Pratt—to pick up an application.

The application deadline is Monday, February 16, 2009.

Spoofing—The Art of Fooling and Deceiving

Spoofing is deception. In telecommunications, spoofing refers to the practice of masquerading one's identity to appear as someone else. Caller ID spoofing and email spoofing are on the rise and are deceitful practices of which everyone needs to be aware.

Caller ID spoofing is the practice of making a call appear to come from any phone number the caller chooses, rather than the number from which the call originated. Caller ID spoofing is often used for fraud or prank calls. Fraudulent callers are able to get personal information using Caller ID spoofing because consumers believe the call is coming from the number that appears on their Caller ID and believe they know the person with whom they are talking.

All of SCTelcom's customers need to be aware that Caller ID spoofing is prevalent and to be very careful giving any personal information over the phone. If you ever doubt the identity of a caller, offer to call the caller back and verify with whom you are speaking. Spoofing is also used by Prank callers to protect their personal identities.

Email spoofing is the practice of sending an email that appears to originate from a different source. This is usually used for spam email or phishing. Spam email is the sending of unsolicited bulk messages. The sender of these emails uses email spoofing to make the mes-



sages appear to be sent from an email address other than their own. Normally the address the email messages appear to come from is an unsuspecting individual that has been the victim of a phishing scam.

Phishing is attempting to acquire sensitive information such as username,



password, social security numbers or credit card information by masquerading as a trustworthy entity. These emails appear to originate from a legitimate company informing the receiver there is a problem with his account and he must email back personal information, often a username and password in order to resolve the issue.

If you receive an email asking for personal information and you think it might not be legitimate, do not respond to the email, and instead call the company that the email is supposedly from. Be sure to use the phone number from a previous statement, not a phone number from the email. Legitimate institutions such as banks and government agencies do not ask for personal and account information via the phone or email.

SCTelcom does not send out e-mails or make calls asking for account information or other personal information from our customers. We want all of our customers to be aware of the ways criminals use these types of scams. Please call SCTelcom at 877.728.1953 for more information.

Zack Odell, Director of Operations

SCTelcom Phone Book Photo Contest will have Photo Finish!

The photo contest is going to be a horse-race! We have received several quality images from participants and it will be hard to pick a winner. That's why we have already chosen a panel of expert judges to make the selection.

We want to encourage everyone who has any photos of people, places or things relevant to this region to send us the cream of the crop.

Please submit your photos for the 2009 SCTelcom phone book cover competition to any SCTelcom office on or before January 12, 2009. You can also email your entries to lpelzl@sctelcom.com or mail them to:

Photo Contest
PO Box B
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104

