



3rd Quarter 2013 Edition

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CO/IT Seminar Wrap

The Central Office & Information Technologies Seminar was held in September at The Best Western Agate Beach Inn on the Oregon Coast in Newport.

The line-up of industry speakers included **Keith Hansen** from **JDSU** who gave a presentation on DWDM Testing Specifics, followed by **Glen Scymanski** of **CYAN** with his sessions on Dense Wave Division Multiplexing and Connection Oriented Ethernet.

George Kuwamura from **NECA** joined us to talk about why a tech should care about regulation. **Sarah Hughes**, **GENBAND**, provided a session on avoiding common mistakes & pitfalls while deploying hosted IP telephony. **Brandon Zupancic** of **Canby Telcom & Mt. Angel Telephone** offered a look at OTT perspective - turning network expense into network revenue.

Jay Henke with **Clear Creek Communications** provided an overview of Clear Creek's new service of providing security and home automation. **Brant Wolf**, **OTA** rounded out the sessions with his Oregon legislative and regulatory update, focusing on matters of current concern and interest to the telecommunications industry and discussed recent activities of the Oregon Public Utility Commission and related issues at the Federal level.

A big thank you to **GENBAND** for helping to sponsor this year's event! Many thanks to **Brett Davis**, **Canby Telcom** for chairing the CO-IT Committee over this past year.

continued, see COIT



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- event calendar
- seminar information
- member directory
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Show off your stuff...

Are you a new member? Would you like your fellow OTA members to notice your company and products? If so, this quarterly online newsletter is a great way to be seen and make new contacts!

Contact the OTA office today!

503.581.7430



Legislative Review

Over the previous few months the OTA has worked diligently on several legislative and regulatory issues. The legislative session ended in early July and since that time, we have worked with others in the industry and several legislators, primarily on franchise fee legislation.

During the legislative session the cable industry, led by Comcast, sought to pass a bill that would have completely eliminated the existing franchise statute. Among other things this would have resulted in losing the 7% cap as well as allowed a city to assess a fee on just about any service they chose. Clearly, this would be a problem for our members.

In speaking to legislators about this the OTA agreed to work with the cable industry on franchise legislation that would not be as harmful to us if it passed. The goal has been to have legislation ready for the February 2014 legislative session. At this point it is not at all certain that any bill would be ready by then but we will stay engaged in this process and make sure our voice is heard.

While the franchise issue has been a big part of our efforts it is not the only issue we are working on. The Oregon USF is still under scrutiny at the OPUC. Several deadlines for action are looming and the non rural companies have been working on accountability issues with OPUC Staff.

The OTA also continues to work with OPUC Staff on securing some important exemptions from FCC requirements related to the Residential Service Protection Fund. If these efforts are not productive the new FCC requirements will almost certainly result in burdensome paperwork requirements for our members and OPUC Staff.

We have been working on other issues as well but there is limited space to discuss all of them here. If you would like to have the OTA come to your company or attend a meeting of your Board of Directors for a more complete review of legislative and regulatory issues please just let us know.

COIT continued

The OTA appreciates the efforts put forth by the committee members in channeling their ideas and expertise towards developing a seminar program with timely and relevant topics of interest to our member companies.

Stepping into the Chair position for the coming year is **Kerry Benthin, Mt. Angel Telephone**, while **Bryan Lynn, Pioneer Telephone** steps into the Vice Chair position. Thanks guys for volunteering to head up this group!

And, as always, we thank our many loyal vendors that continue to participate in our events. At this year's CO/IT Seminar the following companies were represented:

American Power Systems

Calix

Clearfield, Inc.

EnerSys

Graybar

KGP Logistics

Norcom NW, Inc.

NW Technology Group

Omlid & Swinney

Power & Tel Supply

Repcom International

Structured Communication Systems, Inc.





Canby Telcom Sponsors Lego Build

On August 23 and 24 of 2013, the Bricks & Minifigs LEGO® store in Canby, Oregon was a bustle of activity. In the back of the very popular toy store, enthusiasts of all ages joined together over two days to assemble a 45-inch by 45-inch mural made of LEGO bricks.

The sizable and vibrant work of modern art contains 20,736 1x1 Lego blocks and is the culmination of 9 months of collaborative planning. The individual pieces were placed into 576 pre-color coded bases each containing 36 of the 1x1 Legos. Bricks & Minifigs owner, John Masek, encountered a nationwide shortage of a prominent color in the mural during initial assembly but orders from suppliers in various countries filled the void and completed the project.

This mural is a result of a project partnership between Canby Telcom and Bricks & Minifigs that began in November of 2012. Manager of Marketing at Canby Telcom, Merry Shepard, had a vision to create a community project that would be appealing to all ages and provide a lasting tribute to the effort. "As a local co-op, contributions and company participation in the Canby community is a significant part of our core business model," she said. "LEGO builds are rare due to extensive pre-planning and are usually found only at big movie debuts or comic conventions. Having a LEGO product store in town, we thought having our own local build would be a great opportunity to engage the community. The Bricks & Minifigs team was a delight to work with."

Participants were not told what the finished mural would be. It was a "reveal as you go" collaboration. Children speculated on the picture throughout the build. Some thought it was a scene from a Mario Bros.® game and others felt that it had more of a Batman look. Just a handful of builders were able to deduce in the early stages that the finished picture was a variation of the Canby Telcom MyTech logo and icons. Tony Gonzalez from Canby's CTV Channel 5 captured the mural assembly progress with multiple cameras over the two days and revealed the mystery picture to all in a 1:45 minute time-lapse video now found at www.youtube.com/canbytelcom.

The initial meeting between Masek and Shepard to begin the process and discuss the timeline took place in November of 2012. The final design was completed at Canby Telcom and submitted to Bricks & Minifigs for LEGO interpretation in March. Masek and the team at Bricks & Minifigs printed the 2-dimensional art in full-scale at Canby Signs & Graphics, ordered the necessary LEGO blocks from various places around the world and converted them into a 3-dimensional work of art. Shepard approved the final Lego rendering in mid-May. Then Masek, his wife and staff carefully disassembled the mural, created a grid-coordinate pattern on the backboard, and color coded each peg on the 6x6 boards for easy assembly.



Each 6x6 board was packaged into an individual build kit complete with corresponding color(s) of LEGO bricks and grid coordinates for mural placement after assembly.

"Although I have many eye-catching Lego murals in the store, they arrived assembled." Masek commented, "This is the first mural I have built beginning to end, and although the project was significantly more involved than anticipated, it was an amazing experience."

The completed mural has been framed and will be on display at the Canby Telcom lobby beginning the first part of October at 190 SE Second Avenue, Canby, Oregon.

About Canby Telcom

Canby Telcom provides telecommunications, high-speed Internet and digital television services to more than 7,000 customers over an 84-square-mile foot print in the northern Willamette Valley of Oregon. The 106-year-old cooperative has more than 60 employees, and is proud to be an integral part of the community. Visit www.canbytel.com for more information.

About Bricks & Minifigs

Bricks & Minifigs is a chain of aftermarket LEGO stores that began in 2010 in Battle Ground, Washington. With a motto of "Rebuild, Reuse, Reimagine," they buy and sell new and pre-owned lego kits as well as individual bricks, mini figurines and accessories. They now have six stores in Hawaii, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington, with the flagship store located in Canby, Oregon. Visit www.bricksandminifigs.com for more information.

Are You Willing to Serve on a Committee?



Committed and capable leadership is essential to the on-going success and effectiveness of our committees. Please give some thoughtful consideration to the possibility of serving on one of the association committees.

“A committee can be one of the most productive tools that an association has to work with. Whether you are chairing a committee or are a committee member, you face the challenge of getting involved in the work the committee was formed to accomplish.

Your contribution and your participation on the committee will determine its success or failure. If you participate, get involved, and encourage others on the committee to do so, the committee will be successful. Enthusiasm is contagious.

Committees perform a necessary function in the operation of associations. They provide a cross-section of experience and knowledge and allow for continuity of thought and cooperation. The opportunity for an individual to participate in committee work, and the challenge it provides, enhances the feeling of belonging, and of playing a significant role in the association, and increases loyalty toward the organization.”

[Taken in part from an ASAE publication, Getting Involved: The Challenge of Committee Participation].

If you have any questions about possibly serving on any of our association committees listed below, please feel free to contact either Susan or Brant at the OTA office.

- ✓ Accounting Committee
- ✓ Annual Meeting Committee
- ✓ Associate Member Committee
- ✓ Central Office & Information Technologies Committee
- ✓ Consumer Services & Marketing Committee
- ✓ Emergency Preparedness & Network Security Committee
- ✓ ITA Showcase Committee
- ✓ Legislative Committee
- ✓ Outside Plant committee
- ✓ Regulatory & Industry Relations Committee
- ✓ Safety Committee
- ✓ Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors



DECEMBER 2013

- 4th** *CS/MKT Committee Meeting*
Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. at Oregon Public Utility Commission - Salem
- 5th** *Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors Meeting*
Thursday – 10:00 a.m. at OTA Office, Conference Room A - Salem
- 11th** *CO/IT Committee Pre-Seminar Meeting*
Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. at Norcom NW, Inc. - Woodburn
- 13th** *Accounting Committee Meeting*
Friday – 10:00 a.m. at AKT, LLP - Salem
- 19th** *OSP Committee Meeting*
Thursday - 10:00 a.m. at Canby Telecom - Canby

OTA EVENT CALENDAR

2014 ITA Showcase

March 5 – 6, 2014

Holiday Inn – Portland Airport Hotel – Portland, OR

2014 Outside Plant Seminar

April 24 - 25, 2014

Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, OR

2014 OTA-WITA Joint Annual Meeting

May 19 – 21, 2014

Skamania Lodge – Stevenson, WA

2015 OTA-WITA Joint Annual Meeting

June 3 - 5, 2015

Salishan Spa & Golf Resort - Gleneden Beach, OR



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Notification of OTA President of Any Antitrust Concerns

OTA members, representatives and attendees should promptly bring any antitrust concerns to the attention of OTA President. Because antitrust law and policy is legally complex (especially in view of the heavily regulated nature of the telecommunications industry), all OTA members, representatives and attendees are expected and instructed to seek promptly the advice of counsel for OTA in the event that there is any question as to whether any contemplated action, activity, proposal, or other course of action may be in conflict with applicable law.

OTA members, representatives and attendees should terminate any discussion, seek legal counsel's advice, or, if necessary, leave any meeting or discussion where improper subjects are being discussed and explain the reasons for departure to those still in attendance.

For a copy of OTA's Antitrust Policy in its entirety, please contact the OTA office.

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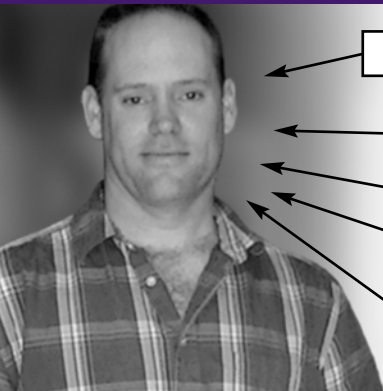
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