

Computer Wizardry – Local Options for Internet Service

The Polk and Rutherford County areas have a variety of Internet Options, from limited Dial-up Services into DSL/Cable and then a Speed of Light Fiber Optic Internet Service.

Residential Internet Service is provided by the Phone, Cable and Wireless Internet companies. Your provider depends upon your location, with some overlapping. See the sidebar for company contact information, if you are not sure of your provider ask your neighbors or call the companies. Some Cable companies offer phone and some phone offer TV, so the confusion begins.

Dialup (25-50Kbps) service may be available thru the phone companies, but costs almost as much as DSL lite.(256Kbps). The numbers in parenthesis are the Internet Download or Connection speeds. K's are Kilobytes and M's are Megabytes. DSL package (from 256Kbps to 6Mbps) availability depends upon your proximity to their equipment building. Cable packages (from 1 Mbps to 10 Mbps) are available in some areas. Wireless speeds (500Kbps to 5Mbps) may require line of sight to Tryon Peak or a certain Sky satellite view. In most cases Close Proximity to the equipment means a faster Internet Speed.

With faster services you can utilize a wired/wireless router to share the service within your home, business or complex. Wireless Routers like the Linksys WRT54G include security features. Such a router allows multiple computers to share one Internet connection at a home, office or housing complex. A Wireless receiver (Linksys WUSB54G) is another (\$50) one time cost for sharing.

You may have to relinquish your cherished email address if you change or share. Free email e-mail addresses are available from Hotmail, Yahoo and others, Gmail is from Google.

Call your phone or cable company to see what is available to you. If you have existing service, the price may have dropped or the offerings increased, so make the call regardless every six months. If you cannot get DSL/Cable or dislike the monopolies, contact one of the nearby Wireless companies.

Business Services include "Speed of Light" PANGAEA Internet as well as the Residential services above. PANGAEA's Fiber Optic Network serves the School Systems, Governments and businesses within Polk and Rutherford County. Non-profit e-Polk's PANGAEA service offer the fastest download and upload speeds, as it is not a "shared" service. Download speeds start at 5 Mbps. Upload speeds on PANGAEA start at 2 Mbps, which sends attachments, pictures, etc to the internet quickly. The PANGAEA service is only available along its 125 mile fiber path. PANGAEA's speed is only limited by the equipment in use. If your business is relocating to the area and/or needs superior Internet Bandwidth/Speed, PANGAEA may be your Internet provider of choice.

Test your internet speed at www.speakeasy.net/speedtest and choose the Atlanta Server. Please see www.pangaea.us for information on PANGAEA and/or myself. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me, Stu Davidson aka stu@e-polk.org.

SideBar:

Internet Providers

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|--------------|-----------------|---|--------------|
| Fiber Optic: | PANGAEA | www.pangaea.us | 828-817-0863 |
| Phone: | Windstream | www.windstream.net | 800-347-1991 |
| | AT&T/Bell South | www.att.net | 888-321-2375 |
| Cable: | Charter | www.charter.com | 888-438-2427 |
| | Carolina Cable | www.redfox.tv | 828-894-2750 |
| | Northland | http://www.northlandcabletv.com/ | 877-212-9510 |
| Wireless: | Skyrunner | www.skyrunner.net | 828-258-8562 |
| | Skycatcher | www.skycatcher.net | 888-525-8899 |
| | Hughes | www.hughes.net | See Website |
| | Verizon | www.verizon.net | See Website |