

MARROWSTONE WIRELESS

Hybrid Networks

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Well, I guess looking back, I will have to say that relating to Marrowstone Wireless operations that 2017 was the year of launching into Fiber To The Home or FTTH networking.

In April 2017, our first Fiber Head-End node was designed, built and energized to run one home on Griffith Point Road for Beta testing (to work out any bugs). The Fiber Head-End is designed to be fed Internet bandwidth from our current High-speed radio system and/or external Fiber. Also, at this time we acquired a used Fiber Aerial Bucket van for safety and speed.

Between April and July much R&D went into selection of Fiber Network components and architecture. Testing of alternate components suited to the chosen architecture started to bring down the cost of building the Fiber mainline along the road on the PUD poles.

September saw us working on getting the Mainline Fiber Cable with it's 12 separate Fiber strands mounted to the PUD poles starting at the Griffith Point Road cul-de-sac working back around the road to Flagler. By October we had working mainline Fiber with 4 FTTH distribution boxes mounted on poles spaced from the cul-de-sac around the north end of Griffith Point. Each distribution box is fed by one of the 12 Fibers in the mainline. Each Distribution box can service 8+ FTTH home connections.

Behind the scenes all this time was a big effort to develop and test the software/hardware for monitoring and control of the new Fiber Network. We have in place great systems that are decentralized fully functional now. These systems have more capability than we can be familiar with right away but, they are currently giving us all the control and security we require at present while holding much promise for the future.

In December, as we struggled to work out the details of doing each FTTH install in winter conditions, it became clear we needed a very special Fiber tool that cost more than the Bucket truck! As Ken proved a couple days ago, this tool is so good we can now produce perfect Fiber Fusion joints and finish installs in the dark with a flashlight! Not our favorite way to work in a Bucket Truck...

We have 6 FTTH installations now on Griffith Point. All installs have required that the Fiber be buried from the pole to the home. That has had its challenges as well... One of the 6 new FTTH entry points is shown at the right.

Happy New Year!

Peace, David

