

December 1, 2022 - Worst Storm to Hit Our Network (the Fiber Portion anyway)

The early morning of Saturday, November 5th we had a timber harvest on the Olympic Peninsula! As I was not able to connect with any of our equipment from Irondale, I ventured out in my car. Actually, getting out of my little neighborhood took a series of false starts and backing up to find a path around the damage caused by the large trees that had toppled. Power, Cable and Phone lines were all down. As I crept closer to the turnoff for Indian Island, I was not hopeful as to what I would find on Marrowstone.

Several homes had been hit by falling timber as I learned from one man with a pickup and chainsaw working to clear a large tree from across the E. Marrowstone Roadway. He told me his garage was flattened and part of his house too. But, here he was working away to clear the road so, others (including First Responders) could get through.

It was amazing as I watched another senior citizen clear another tree on E. Marrowstone just north of Meade Road that had fallen along one side of a PUD power pole acting like a big scissor shearing off the power lines and utility cables (including our mainline Fiber cable) right at that pole. As it turned out, there were 7 such Fiber Cable breaks like that one just on E. Marrowstone.

We could not start on our Fiber Cable repairs until the trees were mostly cleared and the Power lines had been restored. Then, we worked around and beside other utility providers to rebuild that mess. I know we are not the only utility still restoring service to homes almost a month after the storm. For you, our clients, the damage and reduced bandwidth was and is still focused on Griffith Point and the immediate Nordland area.

Almost immediately it was obvious that rebuilding the Fiber Mainline cable running from Robbins Road at Beach all the way down E. Marrowstone Road would take a long time. We took a half day to restore an abandoned radio link between the Nordland area and Bush Point over on Whidbey Island just to get some bandwidth to Nordland and Griffith Point. We have on order a new radio link that can handle the full load that we hope will be operational by about the 15th. We also have on order new Fiber electronics to re-activate the repaired Fiber Cable (hopefully before Christmas). That will allow automatic fail-over next time the Fiber breaks...

There has been more than 10 times the damage of any other storm we had weathered before. So, Thanks for your patience. For now, playing family board games and reading books seem to be in order for some of you... (Actually, about 40% of you.)

Peace, David
David G. Brader, President, MACaid, Inc. dba Marrowstone Wireless