



The Bowfin Inquirer

Since 1993



September 2025

Block Party & Pix

by Jerry (Photos by Eve)

Many of us Bowfiners got together on Saturday, September 6th for another annual pizza and potluck party. About 30 of us came to enjoy each other's company, partake of some tasty foodstuffs, and celebrate another great year of living on our lovely street! Thank you all for your help in making this one of the nicest streets in town!



Three of the Yango Family

Other block party photos on page 4

Coming Soon to Hillbarn Theatre



Aaron's Question Column



What's inside of a modern fiber optic cable and an insulated copper cable

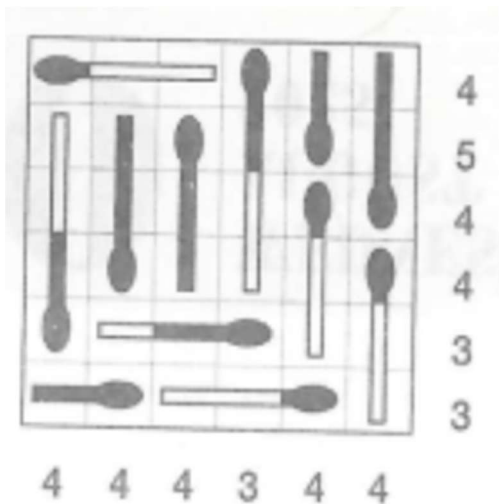
Question: We recently had to switch our landline phone -- which used copper cables that had corroded beyond AT&T's interest in repairing them - to use their 'fiber optic' VOIP ('Voice Over Internet Protocol') solution instead. Are there significant advantages to using fiber optics, not only for AT&T but also for its customers?

-- Eve

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): This is a new subject for me, as I've never learned about cabling before, but it turned out to be a rather complex and interesting field. There are many more advantages to using fiber optic technology as opposed to copper cabling, so it makes more sense to first cover the advantages of copper. Copper cabling is significantly cheaper than fiber optic cabling to manufacture, even with developments in fiber optic technology, simplicity and manufacturing, in many situations being half as expensive as fiber optic technology. Fiber optics are more complicated to install, requiring special tools and training, resulting in a higher labor cost. Copper receiver modules specifically might not be expensive relative to the whole price of the fiber optic or copper cabling, however
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Solution to Last Month's Quiz

MATCH PLAY



This Month's Quiz

BACK TO SCHOOL

Preparing many people for greatness is a great education. Match these famous personages to the school or college they attended in their youths

1. Cameron Diaz
 2. Jennifer Doudna
 3. Albert Einstein
 4. Dwight Eisenhower
 5. Jane Fonda
 6. Norman Lear
 7. Sean Penn
 8. Eleanor Roosevelt
 9. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
 10. Woodrow Wilson
-
- A. Abilene High School (Kansas)
 - B. Allenswood Academy (London)
 - C. Johnstown Academy (New York)
 - D. Long Beach Polytechnic High School (California)
 - E. Luitpold-Gymnasium (Germany)
 - F. Pomona College (California)
 - G. Princeton University (New Jersey)
 - H. Santa Monica High School (California)
 - I. Samuel J. Tilden High School (New York)
 - J. Vassar College (New York)

Target Date for Next Month's Contributions:

October 15, 2025

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos, CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or ideas at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM *or by*

adding a NOTE on our website:
BOWFININQUIRER.COM

BO - by Lerman



Concert at the PJCC Oct. 18
(pjcc.org/concerts or 650.378.2703)

\$30 – Doors 7:30 pm– Concert 8:00 PM

BENNEWITZ QUARTET SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
 — Presented in partnership with Music at Kohl Mansion — PJCC LOBBY

Founded in 1998 and based in Prague, the Bennewitz Quartet is one of the top ensembles on the international chamber music scene. They will preview movements from Haydn and Dvořák. "Drama, expression, and utmost sensitivity." The Strad

Aaron's Answers *continued from pg 1*

per-piece copper modules are less than a third of the price of *low-end* fiber optic transceivers, which perform the same functionality (enabling data transmission through the cables, which do nothing by themselves). All of these downsides are progressively getting fixed as fiber optic technology improves. The final only advantage copper cabling has is that it's currently used in many / most places and is therefore easiest to add on to existing technological infrastructure.

However, fiber optic technology offers overwhelming advantages that explain why AT&T is moving away from copper and why customers benefit as well. Fiber carries signals as light rather than electricity, which means it is immune to corrosion, electrical interference, and signal loss over long distances. It supports vastly higher bandwidth, allowing not only clear, reliable voice calls but also high-speed internet and video services over the same line. Fiber is more durable than copper in the long term, requires less maintenance once installed, and is future-proof since its capacity far exceeds what today's applications demand.

For AT&T, this means lower long-term costs and a single network that can handle everything from phone to gigabit internet. For customers, it means better reliability, higher speeds, and a network that will not become obsolete anytime soon. To really show how much faster it can be, the average fiber optic system can be up to 40 times faster than the fastest copper systems, with critical infrastructure that uses fiber optic cables being up to 100 times faster, and in some experimental systems even thousands of times faster. While copper Ethernet is generally limited to about 10 gigabits per second over short distances,

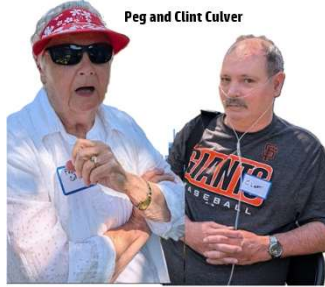
fiber optic systems already deliver 400 gigabits per second in commercial networks, with terabit speeds in testing. This enormous headroom means that once fiber is in place, customers and providers can upgrade to far higher speeds simply by changing the electronics at each end, without having to replace the cable itself.

Other than the temporarily increased cost that is off-set by the future costs of maintenance and other such factors, not only do fiber optic cables provide significant advantages over copper cables, but there is virtually no argument or situation in which copper cables currently win out in any metric against fiber optic cables. This divide is only growing over time, and perhaps one day the infrastructure will be so developed that fiber optic cables can be cheaper than installing custom devices to continue using copper cabling.



Here's the company we hired to re-establish our home alarm system connection to the central office after it "broke" when we switched our Internet provider from Comcast to AT&T. Genie Garry, at 408 839-9298, did a good job. Price was acceptable (not cheap). - Jerry

BLOCK PARTY PHOTOS



Peg and Clint Culver



Roger Tapper



Ken and Kristi Parker



Alicia Breen



A montage of the Keswani family



The Vasquez family (invited guests from San Mateo) and Meera coloring and drawing



Art and Janis Kiesel



Palu Dedhia, Ram Gopalakrishnan, and family



Bowfiners gather for food and fun