

# Sun River Electric Cooperative

## Ripples

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2527 or 1-800-452-7516

Web site: [www.sunriverelectric.coop](http://www.sunriverelectric.coop)

After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:  
406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

If calling from a local number or cell phone –  
please use: 467-2526 or 467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

JUNE 2016

## The Infamous Tax Day Storm of 2016

The early morning hours of April 15th brought one of the worst ice storms to hit Sun River Electric Cooperative since perhaps the early '80s.

By mid-morning, some 80 percent of Sun River's members were out of power, as power lines accumulated more ice than they could handle and, with the wind, ultimately brought wire, crossarms and poles to the ground. Crews worked all day, and by nightfall we had only(!) 30 percent of our members without electricity. Each day we made progress, but it took us another seven days before all of our residential members were back in power.

We called for help that same day and, through Sun River's Mutual Aid Agreements with other cooperatives, we received much-needed and welcomed help. I owe special thanks to Vigilante Electric Cooperative, Missoula Electric Cooperative, Ravalli Electric Cooperative and Glacier Electric Cooperative for their very timely and generous support. These co-ops all sent line crews, trucks and equipment. Also, we had tremendous help from Red Rock Power, which sent us five crews from Great Falls and Havre.

Early reports were for many poles

down, so we quickly called on our pole supplier who "overnighted" three semi-truck loads of power poles.

All told, we replaced about 230 poles and put up more than 30 miles of new conductor, which was needed when the existing conductor was torn up too badly to be put back in the air.

Even with all the extra help, restoration was slow going at first due to snow, and then the mud. We had much-welcomed assistance from area farmers pulling our trucks around in the mud with tractors. Red Rock Power brought in a tracked digger/derrick truck, which really helped.

With all that equipment running, the first day of the outage left us with diesel in short supply, since the gas stations in Choteau, Fairfield and Vaughn were without power. So, here's a special thank you to farmers who lent us diesel from their own storage tanks that first day. 352658

This was a very expensive storm. Our preliminary estimate is at about \$1.3 million, but we still have a lot of clean-up to do so the total will likely be greater than that.

I've already been asked if the storm will trigger an automatic rate increase in 2017, or perhaps even sooner. We are working to avoid that. We have already met with FEMA and the DES and have started the ball rolling for a grant. This is a pretty involved process and will take some time, but we are hopeful that at least part of the storm cost can be mitigated.

Please accept heartfelt thanks from the Sun River board and employees for your tremendous patience during this event. Rural Montanans are the BEST, and we are all proud to serve you!

Scott Odegard  
General Manager



## Co-op Connections Card Corner

Spotlighting these businesses

### Gary & Leo's Fresh Foods

Receive a free ice cream cone with the purchase of any combo meal from A&W.

Conrad, MT • 406-278-7843

Business hours: 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily

### Liberty Safe of Montana

Secure your important assets with a safe from Liberty Safe of Montana. Receive a "free" dehumidifier — a \$45 value — with the purchase of a Liberty Safe.

Business Hours: By appointment

Conrad, MT

email: [JShevlin@3rivers.net](mailto:JShevlin@3rivers.net)

### Gary Kasper & Company, Inc.

Stop in and let us assist you in your copying or notary needs. No charge for these services. Limit to 10 pages on copying.

Fairfield, MT • 406-467-2410

Show your card at these  
businesses for valuable  
discounts. Each month we will  
spotlight different businesses.



# 2016 Scholarships

## 2016 Basin Electric Power Cooperative/Sun River Electric Cooperative Scholarship

Allie Steinbach of Fairfield High School is the recipient of the 2016 Basin Electric/Sun River Electric \$1,000 Scholarship.

Allie will be attending Montana State University in Bozeman, where she plans to major in engineering. Allie is the daughter of Shawn and Karmon Steinbach of Fort



Shaw. Allie is active in National Honor Society, Student Council, Pep Club, Basketball, Volleyball and Track.

## 2016 SREC Scholarship Winners

Sixteen area students have been selected to receive the 2016 Sun River Electric Cooperative scholarship.

Over the past 22 years, SREC has awarded more than \$144,000 to 10 area schools. This year's SREC Scholarship is for two \$500 scholarships per school. Funding is provided by unclaimed capital credit checks. SREC believes in supporting the education of today's young adults.

### The winners are:

- Augusta: Bryar Mills, Corey Hayes
- Choteau: Cheyenne Browning, Denver Krone
- Conrad: Reese Spears, Jenae Johns
- Dutton/Brady: Aubree Hitchcock, Sierra Johnson
- Fairfield: Elizabeth Evans, Kenzie Seibel
- Power: Breyer Hill, Lucas Kalanick
- Simms: Jake Bloom, Timothy Small
- Valier: Mariah Stoltz, Darin Habel

## Trivia

How many poles are on SREC's system?  
A) 450 B) 4,500 C) 45,000

(Correct Answer is upside down on the bottom of this page)

## Board of Trustees

### Officers

John Burgmaier, President .....406-463-2522  
Randy Parker, Vice President .....406-467-2974  
Roberta Rohrer, Secretary/Treasurer.....406-278-5673

### Trustees

Russ Bloom .....406-431-0168  
Mitch Johnson .....406-467-2109  
Leonard Sivumaki .....406-264-5482  
Robert Pasha .....406-99-733-2028  
Scott Odegard, Manager .....406-467-2527

## Swap Column

**FOR SALE:** Marflex pick-up sprayer, 60' booms with hydraulic lift on booms, Raven controller, will sell with pickup or without; 6" aluminum main line with risers. Ken Hager, 788-7141 or 788-3234.

**FOR SALE:** 2011 Ford Fusion SEL, 109,000 miles, only 2nd owner, \$9,500. Justin Winston, 980-0325, call or text.

**FOR SALE:** AT&T Go-Phone \$25 refill card, has been activated but never used, will sell for \$18; 2 - clothes line poles, 5' wide, 8' tall, welded 3" pipe, \$150 for the pair; 4-wheel warehouse platform truck, 30"x48" steel deck & 8" wheels, \$200; 1 piece green Delta rib tin roofing, 32"x16', \$30; small dog or cat run, 30"x10' long, welded from chain-link fence pipe, fits under RV, \$200. John Bushilla, 264-5990.

**FOR SALE:** Wood desk chair, swivels with wheels, \$80; 2-twin bed book shelf headboards, \$80 for the pair; old pump-organ, needs lots

of work, \$25; Hoyer body-lift, chrome, manual operation, 400-lb. capacity, \$600; Big heavy-duty work bench vise, \$280; 1 triple-wall chimney pipe, 6"x36", Ameri-Tec vent, \$75. John Bushilla, 264-5990.

**FOR SALE:** Whirlpool electric stove, \$150; Kenmore side-by-side frost-free refrigerator, \$200; Whirlpool microwave, \$75. Rick Corey, 466-5409, if no answer leave message.

**FOR SALE:** New Holland 688 round baler, twine and a 540 PTO; flat-bed for a pick-up. Larry Beerman, 463-2517.

**FOR SALE:** 17 older vehicles, for sale "as is" at bill of sale. Bill O'Neil, 750-5519.

**WANTED:** Tailgates from 1950s Chevy or Ford pickups. Vicki Beck @ Buffalo Joe's (Dupuyer), 472-3399.

If you would like to place an advertisement in the Ripples Swap column, please contact Sun River Electric at 1-800-452-7516 or 467-2527, or email Kathy at [kscott@sunriverelectric.coop](mailto:kscott@sunriverelectric.coop) by the first of the month.



Call  
**811**

before you dig

## Reminder

Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.

## Hidden numbers

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer:

**406-467-2527 or 1-800-452-7516**

Answer to Trivia Question: Answer—C. SREC has approximately 45,000 poles on the system.