

Sun River Electric Cooperative

Ripples

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
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Web site: 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.

MAY 2017

Annual Meeting Recap

Sun River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Highlights

The 80th Sun River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting was held at the Fairfield Community Hall on March 31. A roast beef dinner with all the fixings was prepared by the Log Cabin in Choteau. The Fairfield High School FFA served the sit-down dinner to the members, with the cleanup done by Fairfield High School's Spanish Club. Brothers Bill and Spencer Pearson entertained the crowd by singing before the business meeting, and sang the national anthem.

President John Burgmaier discussed the April 2016 spring snowstorm, including how everyone worked together. Employees, members, other cooperatives, and contractor crews provided much-needed help. He pointed out that members/neighbors offered fuel, food, water, etc. to the crews, and pulled out stuck vehicles with tractors.

President Burgmaier recognized several employees with years of service awards. Ten-year awards were presented to Leona Huidekoper, office manager and to Chris Christensen, staking engineer. Fifteen-year awards were presented to Robbie Dockter, and Jay Progreba, linemen in Conrad. Twenty-five year awards were presented to Robert Anderson, operations manager, and to Ross Oveson, marketing/member services. President Burgmaier also thanked the rest of the employees for their service and congratulated Sun River Electric employees for having worked 15 years without a lost-time accident.

Melissa Soldano of Douglas Wilson and Company shared the 2016 audit report. SREC was again granted an unmodified opinion, which is the highest standard obtainable.

General Manager Scott Odegard addressed the membership and talked



President John Burgmaier addresses the crowd.

about the co-op world changing, political effects, war on coal and big changes in the Environmental Protection Agency. He also talked about the demand charge and gave an explanation of how it is calculated. Manager Odegard touched on how electric efficiency is rewarded by a lower demand charge.

Manager Odegard pointed out that the backup transformer is installed and ready for use in the South Conrad substation. This transformer gives SREC greater reliability if the South Conrad substation were to fail.

Next Manager Odegard discussed what went well and what did not go well with the April 2016 spring snowstorm, damage assessment and difficulties with conditions. The loss of power at SREC headquarters meant that computers were not up and running so the TWACS metering system could not tell us whose power was on or off. Four other co-ops: Ravalli County Electric Cooperative, Vigilante Electric Cooperative, Missoula Electric Cooperative and Glacier Electric Cooperative, and five crews from Red Rock Power, came to help with the storm. Manager Odegard mentioned the mutual-aid agreement between

cooperatives and thanked all of the co-ops that came to help. In the end, 230 poles were replaced, more than 30 miles of wire had to be put back up, and it took just over a week to get the last consumer restored with electricity. The total cost of the storm was \$1.5 million. SREC applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance and has received \$900,000 to date, with possibly \$250,000 more additional funds to come later. Manager Odegard does not see a need for a rate increase because of the storm. He also thanked all involved with the storm efforts and the patience of SREC's members.

The election of trustees was conducted by legal counsel Maxon Davis. Russ Bloom from District 2 and Robert (Bob) Pasha from District 7 were re-elected by unanimous ballot. 279281

Guest speakers Gary Weins, assistant general manager of Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association and Doug Hardy, CEO of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, addressed the membership. Weins discussed the 2017 Montana Legislative Session and how the issues affect the cooperatives in Montana. Hardy shared information about costs and purchasing power to supply SREC with affordable power. He then discussed some EPA changes, legislative changes, and happenings in Washington, D.C.

A variety of door prizes provided by cooperative suppliers and by SREC were won by attending members. John Wisse of the Choteau area was the lucky grand prize winner of \$100 cash.

Thank you to all of our members who came to share the day. Sun River Electric Cooperative cannot conduct our business without you, our member/owners, attending the annual meeting.

Capital Credit Checks

Sun River Electric Cooperative has retired capital credits for the years 1985 – 1989. Below is a partial list of past members we are trying to locate. If you know any of these people or businesses owners, please contact them and have them call the office at 467-2527 or 1-800-452-7516, and ask for Leanne. (A full list is available on our website.)

Anderson Lahr L & C Co	Jacob R Johnson	Phillips Petroleum Co
Balcron Oil Co	Jael Murray	Ramble Inn –
Brian Severin	James H Boadle	Charlotte McIntyre
C R Frisbee	James R Peters	Ray Bouma
Carson Oil Exploration	Jerry D Vandenaere	Richard Bottomly
Clyde Lee	John D Carlson	Richard Kurth
Dave McCracken	John H VanDyke	Sun River Farms –
Dewey A Robertson	John Shuler	Douglas Swingley
Earl Crowder	Joseph R Greenebaum	Sun River Grocery
Ed Pearsall	Lightner-Smedrud Inc.	Sunburst Exploration
Elizabeth Cure	Lloyd E Holbrook	T Ranch Inc. –
Fort Shaw Merc	Lynn Poor	Ledger MT
Goff Ranch	Margaret A Short	Thomas A Denning
Gypsy Highview	Montana Merch Inc.	Truck Stop Café –
Helen Campbell	Mtn Sts Res Inc.	Bill Hutchison
Highwood Bar	Philip J Carden	Walter W Bier

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

Trivia Question

How many states have electric cooperatives?
(Correct Answer is upside down on the bottom of this page)

Pay as you go with **prePAY**
electricity from SREC.
It is easy! Call SREC to get started.



monitor. pay. alert. reload.

Reminder:

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



**Call 811
before
you dig**

Swap Column

FOR SALE: Two-man cross-cut saw, \$180; Berge transit-level, \$300; stainless steel kitchen sink, \$60; Stanley hinge template kit, \$60; 1 piece of green metal roofing, 32"x16", \$25; rectangular chimney cleaner, \$25; triple wall chimney pipe, 6"x36", \$75; white ash 3"x4"x8' post, \$20. John Bushilla, 264-5990.

FOR SALE: 1978 Chevy 2-ton farm truck, 18' box with stock rack & steel floor. Dale Beck, 467-2301.

FOR SALE: 1988 1-ton 4x4 Chevy pickup with Marflex sprayer, 60' hydraulic booms, Outback GPS, Raven controller, \$8,500 for both or can sell separately, obo. Ken Hager, 788-3234 or 788-7141.

FOR SALE: 2 commercial rototillers; older Case tractor power take-off unit; large Braden winch PTO & boom; new Shaver hydraulic fencepost pounder; 4'x10' 2-screen gravel separator; large metal/wood lathe, 9' bed. George Morrill, 453-7735.

FOR SALE: Small fridge, 18"x16"x24" tall, runs great, \$45; Hodgeman waders #13443, size large, new & shoes #19204, size 10, lightly used, both \$55; 8' SeaEagle inflatable boat, excellent condition, used 3 times, \$295; 3 goat or dog cart harnesses, all \$85. Nancy Jones, 467-3389.

FOR SALE: 2 black Sim Angus bulls. Gilbert Anderson, 799-2519.

FOR SALE: New electric water heaters. 40 & 50 gallon \$250. 66 gallon \$350. Call Ross at Sun River Electric for details. 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516.

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 by the first of the month.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Dishwasher Efficiency Tip:

Air dry clean dishes to save energy. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the dishwasher after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

BONUS: Name the three that don't! (Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island)

Answer to Trivia Question: 47