





HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS & VIEWS



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HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Manager's Message

by Rick Stevens, General Manager



Gail Rainey, Assistant General Manager, provided a detailed update on the financial condition of the Cooperative noting that HCE is in good financial condition. Gail also reported on capital projects that have been completed and the recent capital credit refunds that were made to HCE members.

The 70th Annual Meeting of Members for Hill County Electric Cooperative (HCE) was held on May 9th in the Student Union Building on the MSU-Northern campus. It was a productive and informative time for all. Attendance was good this year with 76 voting members being present. We are indeed thankful for those that came out to the meeting on such a beautiful morning.



Luck of the Draw scholarship winners (l to r): Josh Viall, Mackenzie Hansen, Alissa Borlaug, Meagan Passon and Michael Compton.

Board President, Stu Smith, brought the meeting to order on time. Up for re-election this year were Gerald Rutledge from District 4, generally comprised of the southern service area and Clarence (Fritz) Keller serving the "at-large" service district that includes all the cooperative's districts. Both were nominated by HCE's nominating committee to represent their respective districts. No nominations were received from the floor and both candidates were re-elected to the Board with a vote of acclamation by the members present. The Board officers will remain the same with Stuart Smith as President, Clarence (Fritz) Keller as Vice President and Lon Waid as Secretary/Treasurer. Gerald Rutledge and Merle Belcourt are the other two current members of the HCE Board of Trustees.

Four "Luck of the Draw" scholarships were awarded to HCE member dependents who attended the meeting with their parent or guardian. Winners included: Meagan Passon and Alissa Borlaug, \$500 each; Mackenzie Hansen, \$300; Michael Compton, \$200 and Josh Viall received a \$100 attendance scholarship.

HCE members, Kelly and Kristi Rutledge, discussed the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) Today's Member program they attended on behalf of HCE last October. The Rutledges reported the program was extremely informational and encouraged other members to apply. They also thanked the HCE Board for selecting them.

Continued on next page



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"Life of A Lineman"
on our website.



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Good news was provided again this year by Doug Hardy, General Manager of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative (Central), HCE's contract power supplier. Doug noted that wholesale power supply costs in 2014 remained stable so no wholesale rate increases were required in 2015. This allowed HCE to hold its retail rates steady again this year. HCE members who have joined our grassroots program were thanked by Gary Wiens, MECA's Assistant General Manager. When legislation was proposed that negatively affected our electric cooperatives, the grassroots members were alerted and instructed on what to do to help. Those that responded truly made a difference for our cooperative this past legislative session.

Important issues discussed at the meeting were as follows:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pushing forward with new, more restrictive environmental regulations for primarily coal fired electricity generation. We are not opposed to new environmental regulation as long as it is combined with a common sense approach. As noted last year, the new regulations being proposed will cost billions of additional dollars, raise wholesale power rates by 75 to 80% based on the EPA's own estimates and provide minimal environmental benefits. That is NOT reasonable, does not show good common sense and therefore is NOT good environmental policy.

Secondly, the "waters of the United States". The Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA want to control all of the waters throughout the United States including small reservoirs and streams that only run a short time each year.

This would cause delays in our ability to repair poles and lines.

Last, was "coal ash". Each year coal ash must be approved to be listed as a non-hazardous substance. Cooperatives would like to have coal ash permanently listed as a non-hazardous substance.

As I did at the annual meeting, I would again like to thank the Board of Trustees for representing our membership so well. I also announced my retirement from the co-op effective the end of this year. I would like to thank everyone for their assistance these past years. I also encourage you to visit our website, www.HillCountyElectric.coop, and take a look at our in-house produced video, "Life of a Lineman". It is a fitting tribute to our dedicated linemen.



Attendees in conversation at our 2015 Annual Meeting.



Mr. and Mrs. Gene Welty, winners of the Grand Prize. A 40 inch Smart TV.

HCE HAPPENINGS



During March, Hill County Electric had approximately 5,800 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

Primary UG Faults: 131
Equipment Or Material Failure: 4,113
Due To WAPA/NWE: 393

Planned Maintenance: 64
Miscellaneous, Public Or Unknown Causes: 1,099

HCE crews worked on locates, work orders and maintenance across the service area. Outback has finished the pole change out project on the Camp Creek Rd area west of Rocky Boy. They will be in a 5 mile area south of the PN Bridge to change out 68 poles.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



This article appeared in the HCE Newsletter July 1968.



4-H Members At Camp Kiwanis

Camp Kiwanis, south of Havre on Beaver Creek, has been a beehive of activity the past two weeks. 4-H members from the counties of Phillips, Blaine, Pondera, Toole, and Liberty have attended camp sessions so far this season.

Members from Hill County are scheduled to arrive at the camp on Sunday, June 23rd to finish up the 4-H camp schedule.

County Extension personnel from these six Hi-Line counties, as well as parents and 4-H junior leaders have worked with individual 4-H Clubs in preparation for camp classes and events. Other camp staff people teaching classes throughout the day include Maurice Powell of Blaine



4-H members from Blaine County operate electric projects at Camp Kiwanis 4-H Camp.

County, Sgt. Martin Dahl of the Montana Highway Patrol, Wilbur Anderson of Hill County Electric Cooperative, and Mr. and Mrs. Harlan McKechnie of the Turner area.

Excellent meals are being prepared for as many as 135 people at a time by cooks, Mrs. Roselle Hollingsworth, Miss Beverly Branden, and two able assistants. The trip to Camp Kiwanis is

the highlight of the 4-H year for many young people along the Hi-Line. It also provides an opportunity for members to get out into the mountains, enjoy group activities, and to attend classes in safety, art, handcrafts, electricity, and public speaking. Each group is divided into families or sections, with each sharing duties of cleanup and washing dishes.

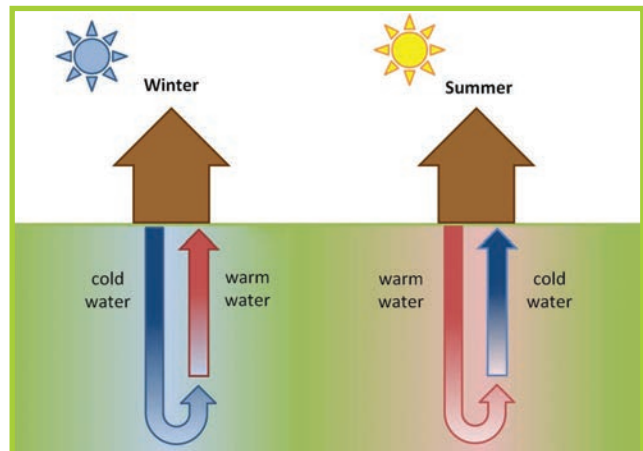
The time and money spent in providing young people with a chance to attend summer camp can well be considered an investment in our future, with the hope and assurance that these people will be better citizens.

A great deal of credit should be given the Hill County Commissioners, the Park Board, and our local civic organizations who have made these facilities available to use.

Have You Checked Into A Ground Source Heat Pump Lately?

What is a Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP)? GSHPs use the earth's stable temperature to heat and cool a home or business. A liquid cycles through a "loop field" and simply moves the heat from one location to another as shown in the diagram to the right. The whole system is highly efficient, which means lower cost to you, plus it is environmentally friendly.

Hill County Electric (HCE) is excited to offer a new promotion for HCE members interested in installing a GSHP system. HCE will pay for the first year of electric energy costs and special metering installation.



Contact the HCE office at 394.7804 for more information, a complete list of guidelines and how to apply.

HCE HOSTS CELEBRATE YOUTH DAY



Hill County Electric (HCE) and Triangle Communications hosted their annual Celebrate Youth Day on Thursday, May 14th. Fourth and fifth graders from Havre, Harlem and Big Sandy visited the Havre complex and learned about Electric Safety, Energy Conservation, Internet Safety and the importance of Calling Before You Dig. Thank you to all the kids, teachers and chaperones who came and enjoyed the day with us!



HCE linemen show students how they work safely around electricity.

SWAP & SHOP



SWAP & SHOP is a classified advertising section of the Hill County Electric and Triangle Communications websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To include an ad, go to itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop and complete the online form. Administrators will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will appear on the website. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the HCE & Triangle newsletters printed during that 60 day window. HCE and Triangle reserve the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis.

AGRICULTURE

2009 Case IH Air Drill, 2005 Case IH 2388

Combine and a complete line of farm machinery. For more info call 406.265.0076.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Virgelle Outdoor Antique Flea Market

Over an acre of antiques and collectables from many vendors. Sunday, July 12th from 9am until 5pm at Virgelle (off US Hwy 87 between Fort Benton and Big Sandy). Lunch will be available. Sponsored by Virgelle Merc Antiques, for more information call 1.800.426.2926 or visit www.VirgelleMontana.com.

FOR SALE

Poly Tanks For Sale

2-1650 gallon poly tanks, 2" ball valve shut offs. Only used for water. \$700 each. Call 406.395.5289, 406.945.0855 or e-mail cgraham@gmail.com.

Hot Tubs For Sale

2 Man Sundance Hot Tub \$750 & 2 Man Bullfrog Hot Tub \$3000. Covers in good condition. The Sundance has a slight leak, easily repaired. Call 406.372.3196.