RLEC
JULY/AUGUST 2021

Volts & Jolts

Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK
and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

Cooperative members enlightened by the power plant tour

See page 3 for details

RLEC Volts&Jolts

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1-800-252-1166 or 811

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Pennington and Marshall Counties:
Ronald Ditsch – 218-779-6758

Red Lake and Polk Counties:
George Stage – 701-306-3511

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit **www.dli.mn.gov** for more information. The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

Our Mission Statement

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.

We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You?

by Stephanie Johnson

Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that Red Lake Electric crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family (28802 Benjamin O Hanson) during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information. After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms (31690 Justin Magner) or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Red Lake Electric, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our cooperative family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

Cooperative members enlightened by the power plant tour

On June 16 and 17, members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative and Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative participated in a tour that included visiting Fort Mandan, Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and the Milton R. Young Station.

The tour started with a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperative's headquarters in Grand Forks, N.D. Tour participants heard from Ben Fladhammer, communications manager at Minnkota Power Cooperative, viewed the control center and took a tour of the warehouse. Minnkota's control center staff monitors Minnkota's transmission lines and load levels throughout northwestern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota.

The second stop on the first day included a visit to Fort Mandan and the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, Washburn, N.D. The historic site (25316 Wayne Malwitz) of Fort Mandan is located on privately owned land along the northeast banks of the Missouri River, about 12 miles west of the city of Washburn. The exact location is unknown and may be partially submerged by the river. A modern reconstruction of Fort Mandan and the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, managed by the North Dakota Department of Parks and Recreation, is located about 10 miles downriver.

The final destination of the first day was Comfort Inn and Suites in Mandan, N.D. Tour participants were treated to a delicious evening banquet, courtesy of Minnkota. The evening program consisted of a presentation on the role Minnkota plays in the generation and transmission of electricity for Red Lake Electric, Clearwater-Polk Electric and nine other electric cooperatives in Minnesota and North Dakota.

The second day of the trip included a tour of the Young Station. The station includes two coal-fired electric plants. Minnkota (27425 Roy Bernstein) receives about 250,000 kilowatts from Young 1 and 355,000 kilowatts from Young 2.

The next segment of the tour included a visit to the open-pit lignite coal mines of BNI Coal. BNI has the contract to supply the lignite for the Young Station. Combined, the two electric generating plants consume over 4 million tons of lignite coal annually. BNI has very large equipment that is used in the lignite mining process. Equipment used for stripping the overburden is called a dragline. BNI's largest dragline is named Liberty, which is equipped with a 77-cubic-yard bucket.

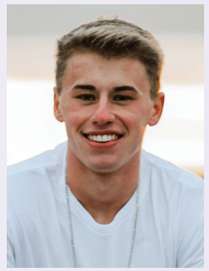
Mother Nature was very cooperative allowing an excellent visit/tour of the open-pit lignite coal mines and Liberty.

Being able to see the process firsthand gives participants a much better understanding and often a better appreciation of what is involved in the generation and transmission of electricity. It is a complex process to get energy from a coal field in southwestern North Dakota to an appliance in northwestern Minnesota.

SCHOLARSHIPS

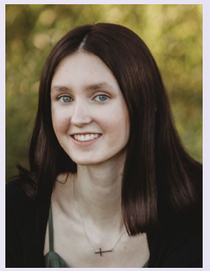
2021 RECIPIENTS

Each year, Red Lake Electric Cooperative provides scholarships for graduating seniors at each of the high schools operating throughout the cooperative's service area. The recipients are selected by the scholarship selection committee of the recipients' high schools. There were 25 recipients this year with each student receiving $500. The funds for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits. **Congratulations and best wishes to these scholarship recipients!**



Adam Benke
Greenbush-Middle River High School
Newfolden
Jeff & Dawn Benke

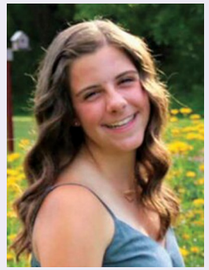
Ashley Benke
Greenbush-Middle River High School
Newfolden
Jeff & Dawn Benke



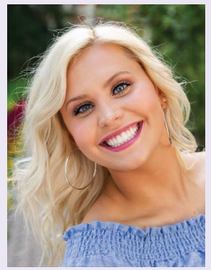
Tayli Brekkestran
Lincoln High School
Thief River Falls
Rick & Shery Brekkestran

Madison Cullen
Grygla-Gatzke High School
Goodridge
Sarah Madison

Tristyn Ferguson
Red Lake County Central
Plummer
Troy & Nicole Ferguson

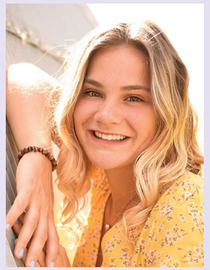


Emily Funk
Crookston High School
Crookston
Curtis & Kristin Funk



Kaitlyn Hagevold
Lincoln High School
Thief River Falls
Marc & Katie Hanson

Kylie Hanson
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo School
Thief River Falls
Jason & Stacy Hanson

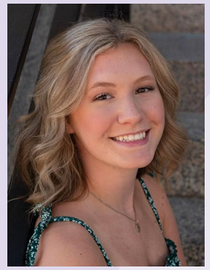


Hallie Harmoning
Lafayette High School
Red Lake Falls
Kurt & Carmen Harmoning

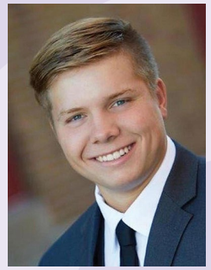
Gavin Haskett
Win-E-Mac High School
Mentor
Maggie & Guy Haskett

Shantel Horachek
Goodridge High School
Goodridge
Doug & Heidi Horachek

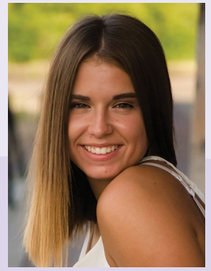
Baylie Johnson
Lincoln High School
Thief River Falls
Brent & Brenda Johnson



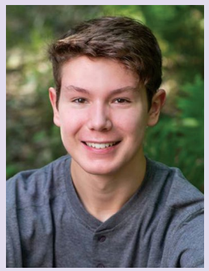
Karena Melby
Red Lake County Central
Oklee
Isaac & Marcella Melby



Levi Kiesow
Grygla-Gatzke High School
Goodridge
Trevor & Keri Kiesow



Hollie Knott
Lafayette High School
Red Lake Falls
Jason & Jannelle Knott

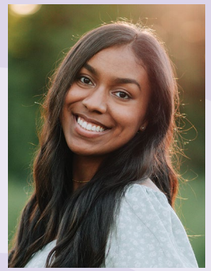


Ethan Lunsetter
Lincoln High School
Thief River Falls
Jerod & Tara Lunsetter

Riley Manderud
Goodridge High School
Goodridge
Dale Manderud & Misty Manderud

Kaylin Mehrkens
Lincoln High School
Thief River Falls
Kyle & Misty Mehrkens

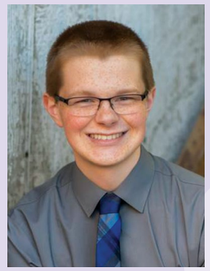
Kinzie Melvie
Marshall County Central High School
Viking
Dayna & Kraig Melvie



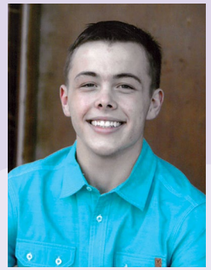
Janae Olson
Red Lake County Central
Oklee
Sara Olson & Dale Olson

Madison Paulson
Goodridge High School
Goodridge
Robert & Bridget Paulson

Kayanna Ray
Marshall County Central High School
Newfolden
Kristina & Jeremy Ray



Andrew Selvig
Lincoln High School
Thief River Falls
Wade & Kathy Selvig



Will Tofstad
Win-E-Mac High School
Trail
Kristi & Ben Tofstad

Anke Wiersma
Crookston High School
Crookston
Jacoba de Boer & Jochum Wiersma

STAY SAFE EXPLORING THE GREAT OUTDOORS THIS SUMMER

Summer is in full swing, and that means it is time for fun in the sun! As you find yourself spending more time outdoors, Red Lake Electric Cooperative reminds you to stay safe.

Planning a home improvement project? When working outdoors, (23745 Lyle Bjorge) you may be using tools, such as ladders, power tools, shovels – or even paintbrushes with extendable arms. These items help you get the job done but have the potential to be dangerous if used improperly.

Pay attention to where you place metal ladders or dig for fence posts. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to dial 811 first to find out if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines. Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.

Exploring the great outdoors is a great way to spend time with the family, but keep these safety tips in mind.

Children should never climb trees near power lines – always assume a wire is live. Fly kites and remote-controlled airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines.

Planning to take a dip in the pool? Electrical devices, such as stereos, should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources, and outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered. If you hear a rumble of thunder, exit the pool right away.

Speaking of thunder, summer storms can be dangerous if you're caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you find yourself outdoors during a storm, move toward suitable shelter with covered sides, and stick to low-lying ground if possible.

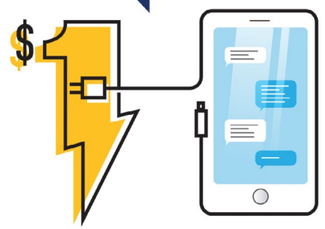
These are just a few tips to remember when you are spending time outdoors this summer with your family. Have some fun out there, and always keep safety in mind!

SUMMER ENERGY TIPS

It might be hot outside, but keep your cool with these simple energy-saving tips!

- If you use air conditioning, set your thermostat to as high as comfortable. The less the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your cooling bill will be.
- Make sure your air conditioner or heat pump is in good working order. A tune-up by a professional can often lead to energy savings and extend the life of the system.
- Switch out incandescents to LEDs.
- Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat out (21253 David Beito) during the summer.
- Run ceiling paddle fans on medium, blowing down in summer when you are in the room. The fans will help spread the cooled air more evenly throughout the home, allowing you to raise the temperature on the thermostat. The feeling of air moving (24999 Tim Brule) across skin also helps cool.
- Make sure to clean and change HVAC filters per manufacturer's instructions.
- Air dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher's drying cycle.
- Use a microwave rather than a conventional oven when possible.
- If you have an older central air conditioner, consider switching to a new, more efficient model or a versatile air-source heat pump when the unit breaks down. Going from a SEER 10 model to a SEER 16 model can save about $65 per year in cooling costs. That's a savings of $325 in five short years. Great rebates are available for heat pumps that work like an AC in the summer but provide very efficient heating in the fall, winter and spring as well.

What can you get for $1?



1,700 hours of smartphone charges

Electricity keeps the world at your fingertips, no matter your budget. Did you know it costs only $1 to charge a smartphone for about 1,700 hours? That's a low price for endless social media posts, vacation searches and calls to your mom!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

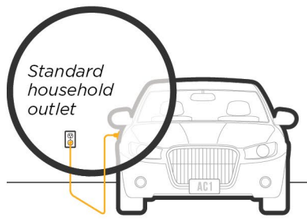
During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of *Volts & Jolts* are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with $5 on your electric bill.

Electric Vehicle Charging Levels

AC Level One



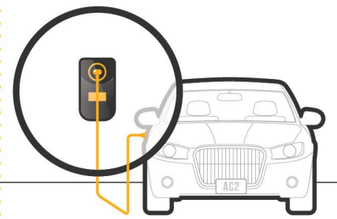
VOLTAGE:
120V 1-Phase AC

AMPS:
12-16 Amps

CHARGING LOADS:
1.4 to 1.9 KW

VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:
3-5 Miles per Hour

AC Level Two



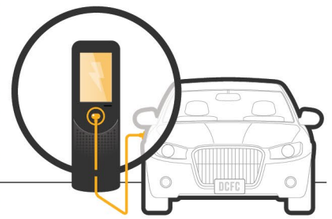
VOLTAGE:
208V or 240V 1-Phase AC

AMPS:
12-80 Amps (typ. 32 Amps)

CHARGING LOADS:
2.5 to 19.2 kW (typ. 6.6kW)

VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:
10-20 Miles per Hour
20+ for some EV models

DC Fast Charge



VOLTAGE:
208V or 480V 3-Phase AC

AMPS:
<100 Amps

CHARGING LOADS:
50-350 kW

VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:
60-80 Miles in 20 Minutes

Sources: Advanced Energy and EPA

Red Lake Electric Cooperative

POWERING

Your Life With Ability

Our modern lives depend on electricity, yet we rarely ever notice it working in the background as we go about our day. Electricity heats and cools our homes, cooks our food, cleans our clothes, heats our water and keeps our lights on. It powers computers, TVs, smartphones and the other technologies that are changing the way we connect with the world.

It takes ability to power our local communities. And your cooperative works hard to ensure it's there for you by focusing on these five abilities.

RELIABILITY

Your cooperative supports an all-of-the-above energy strategy to meet the 24/7 demand for electricity. A diverse mix of coal, wind and hydro power resources work together to keep our member homes, farms, schools and businesses energized.

AFFORDABILITY

Your cooperative works hard to maintain competitive electric rates, while still providing the high level of service you've come to expect. While the cost (20638 Danni Newton) of most goods and services has increased significantly over the years, electricity remains a relative bargain. The average homeowner uses about $5 of electricity per day. That is less than the cost of a fast-food meal to power your life.

SUSTAINABILITY

Your cooperative is committed to keeping our water, air and land in pristine condition for future generations. About 42% of the electric generation capacity your cooperative receives is derived from carbon-free resources. The implementation of carbon capture technologies is currently being evaluated,which would complement major investments that have already been made to reduce power plant emissions.

DEPENDABILITY

Cooperative employees work around the clock to respond to external forces that can impact electric grid operations. Protective measures (22639 Ryan W Iverson) are taken to prevent the impacts of extreme weather events, cybersecurity risks and other threats to power generation and delivery systems.

ADAPTABILITY

Demand response programs are a true win-win for you and your cooperative. These programs, which allow for temporary control of off-peak loads, help shield cooperative members from high market prices and increased costs, similar to what was experienced in Texas this past winter. In exchange, cooperative members receive a discounted electric rate.