

# 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

**RL**  
**EEC**

DECEMBER 2021

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From your employees and directors  
at Red Lake Electric Cooperative

### Holiday Office Hours

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters  
will be closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

In case of an electric outage or emergency, please call  
the after-hours phone number at 218-253-2200.

### EMPLOYEES

Kelli Brateng	Darcy Cardinal
Steve Conely	Aaron Derosier
Javen Eidsmoe	Jordon Gervais
Stephanie Johnson	Jenny Kelley
Christie Klipping	Brett Knott
Chris Knott	Melanie LaCrosse
Laurie Malwitz	Warren Malwitz
Branden Narlock	Sam Olson
Cindy Pahlen	Sam Pahlen
Troy Schmitz	Casey Thronson

### DIRECTORS

Cecil Anderson	Colette Kujava
Stacy Blawat	Steve Linder
Bonnie Christians	Peter Mosbeck
Aaron Chervestad	Randy Versdahl
Mark Hanson	

### Employee Service Awards

Steve Conely  
20 Years

Jordon Gervais  
10 Years

Sam Pahlen  
10 Years

Chris Knott  
5 Years

### Director Service Award

Stacy Blawat  
10 Years



Pictured (left to right): Stacy Blawat, Jordon Gervais, Chris Knott, Sam Pahlen and Steve Conely



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**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

President ..... Stacy Blawat  
Vice President..... Peter Mosbeck  
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Mark Hanson  
Directors ..... Cecil Anderson,  
Aaron Chervestad, Bonnie Christians,  
Colette Kujava, Steve Linder, Randy Versdahl  
*Stephanie Johnson ..... General Manager*  
*Steve Conely ..... Manager of Electric System Operations*  
*Kelli Brateng. .... Manager of Member Services*

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (218) 253-2168  
Toll-Free: 1-800-245-6068  
Fax: (218) 253-2630

**AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS**  
**218-253-2200**

Website: [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com)  
Email: [info@redlakeelectric.com](mailto:info@redlakeelectric.com)

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**  
**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](http://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.*



# Value during volatility

by Stephanie Johnson

Last winter, a polar vortex event sent energy market prices soaring. Fewer resources across the country were able to generate electricity in the historic cold, and demand was high for the few resources that were generating enough to sell into the electric grid.

Utilities are experiencing those high market prices again – but it’s not (31343 Quinten Moulds) because of a single major weather event this time. It’s the climbing cost of natural gas.

“Natural gas is one of those resources that typically helps manage the variability in electricity generation, and we’re seeing prices that are significantly higher than what we’ve seen in the past 10-15 years,” explained Todd Sailer, senior manager of power supply & resource planning for Minnkota Power Cooperative (Red Lake Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider). “We’re seeing prices double and triple what they were last year, or even over the last couple of years.”

While the energy markets soared for only 7-10 days in February 2021’s polar vortex, Sailer says this volatility could last throughout the winter season, or longer. That’s good insight for cooperative members on the demand response – or off-peak – program, which allows the co-op to temporarily interrupt service to a participant’s off-peak loads (electric heating, large-capacity water heaters, electric vehicle chargers, etc.) in exchange for a lower electric rate.

“The projection is that these high prices will likely drive our demand response more than we’ve seen in the past years,” Sailer said.

Minnkota’s energy marketers are preparing for 200 hours of off-peak

load control this winter, but Sailer says that could rise if natural gas prices continue to climb. He also notes that load control could be spread out over more days and not always coincide with major weather events.

“If we have days of low intermittent resources in the region, like wind power, the expectation is that the markets will respond and you’ll see higher markets, which will result in more off-peak control,” he said.

Ultimately, the cooperative will deploy off-peak load control when it needs to protect itself from buying high-price energy from the market. This system was established years ago to avoid building more generation facilities for peak need that only arises a few days out of the year. That, in turn, keeps rates (23433 Jerry L Lindom) low for consumers. By being a part of the off-peak load control program, consumers can also take advantage of an even lower electric rate without any disruption in comfort.

As we enter the winter, Sailer urges those who are a part of the off-peak program to make sure they have adequate backup fuel supply now. When the cooperative runs its load control tests before the peak of the cold season, confirm that all parts of your heating system are running smoothly.

“It’s not just natural gas – it’s propane, it’s all fuel sources that have seen an increase in cost. Which leads to people reliant on their off-peak system,” Sailer said. “Members should be making sure their system works.”

As we prepare for the next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you (28662 Craig J Schneider) and the greater community. On behalf of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright.



# Member Service Department

by Kelli Brateng

As stated in last month’s issue of the “Volts and Jolts”, it is estimated that the hours of control, for long term controlled electric heat, could be around 200 hours throughout the heating season. As of Dec. 12, load control has amounted to 27.5 hours. With these numbers, it is apparent we should experience several more hours of load control throughout the heating season. Be sure you have a dependable backup heat source with an abundant fuel supply.

If you are one of the many that participate in the money saving off-peak program, there is an easy way to see when your electric heat is being controlled. Go to [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com), click on Member Services, then select RLEC Load Management Data.

You will need to know (23061 Rhonda Rowley) your Load Group and Double Order numbers to understand this chart of red and/or green boxes. You can find your Load Group

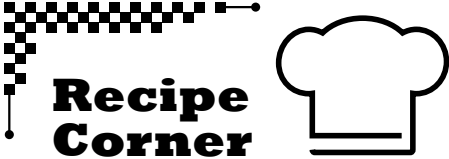
and Double Order numbers on your monthly electric bill, within the Current Service Detail box (*see picture*).

Once you have your numbers, you’ll find your Load Group number on the left and the Double Order number on the top and see where they match up in the chart. If the box is red and says OFF, your electric heat is being controlled. If you are unsure of your load group and order numbers, please give us a call at 800-245-6068.

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Our lives are generally always busy, but they seem to become extra busy this time of year. As you and your loved ones gather for fellowship, friendship and celebrating, remember the reason for (25415 Perry Duden) the season and why we gather and celebrate. On behalf of my fellow employees and myself, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Current Service Detail			
Previous Activity			
Previous Balance		323.46 CR	
Payment Received 11/26/2021		265.00 CR	
<b>Account Balance Before Current Charges</b>		<b>588.46 CR</b>	
Current Activity			
Roundup Amt		0.47	
Usage Charge		887 kWh @ 0.10200	90.47
MPC Renewable Surcharge		3,765 kWh @ 0.00400	15.06
Off-Peak Heat Usage		2,878 kWh @ 0.05600	161.17
Facility Charge (11-25 kVa)		38.00	
Off-Peak Heat Equipment Charge		5.75	
Metered LED Light		7.00	
State Tax		9.08	
<b>Total Current Activity</b>		<b>327.00</b>	
<b>Actual Account Balance</b>		<b>261.46 CR</b>	
Budget Amount Due		265.00	
***Unpaid previous balance subject to 1.5% per month late fee***			
Off Peak Info			
Meter	Group	DO	
145965491	309	13	
145965491	309	15	



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts & Jolts*. Email to [info@redlakeelectric.com](mailto:info@redlakeelectric.com) or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430.

## Orange Cranberry Bread (with Glaze)

**Bread:**

- 2 Cups All-Purpose Flour
- 1 Teaspoon Baking Powder
- 1/2 Teaspoon Salt
- 1 Cup Granulated Sugar
- 1 Tablespoon Orange Zest
- 1/2 Cup Buttermilk
- 1/2 Cup Canola or Vegetable Oil
- 1/2 Cup Orange Juice
- 2 Large Eggs
- 1 Teaspoon Vanilla
- 1 1/2 Cups Fresh Cranberries

**Glaze:**

- 1 Cup Powdered Sugar
- 2-3 Tablespoons Orange Juice

**Instructions:**

**Bread:**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees, and grease a 9x5-inch loaf pan.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt until well combined. Set aside.
3. In a separate small bowl, use a spoon to mix the sugar and orange zest until the sugar becomes light orange in color. Set aside.
4. Take a third large bowl and whisk the buttermilk, oil, orange juice, eggs and vanilla. Add the flour mixture and the orange zest/sugar mixture, and whisk until just combined. Don’t overmix!
5. Next, add the cranberries and use a wooden spoon or spatula to stir until well incorporated.
6. Transfer the batter to the greased loaf pan. Place in the oven and bake for 65-75 minutes. If the bread begins to brown too quickly, place a piece of aluminum foil loosely over the top to prevent burning.
7. The bread is done when a toothpick inserted in the center comes out with a very light crumb. Remove the bread from the oven and allow to cool for 10-15 minutes before transferring from the pan to a cooling rack.

**Glaze:**

1. While the bread cools, make the glaze.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the powdered sugar and orange juice.
3. Whisk or use a hand mixer on low until the glaze is smooth and creamy. Adjust the amount of orange juice to reach desired consistency.
4. After the bread cools completely, drizzle the glaze over the top, slice, and serve.



# Energy Efficiency Incentives

Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Great rebates (20998 Darlene B Olsen) and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers for electric vehicles. Not sure where to start? Check out our rebate list below for heating and cooling options. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

## Electric Heating Rebates

*Must be on off-peak*

### Electric plenum heaters

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.

**Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)**

### Electric thermal storage heaters

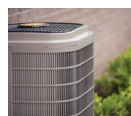
Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

**Rebate of \$60 per kW**

### Air-source heat pumps (including mini-split ductless option)

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.

**Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton**  
**17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$500 per ton**



### Geothermal heat pumps

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.

**Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton**  
**Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton**



### Electric underfloor boiler

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers heat consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

**Rebate of \$50 per kW**

### Other electric heating systems

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

**Rebate of \$25 per kW**

## Electric Water Heater Rebates

*Must be on off-peak*



100 gallon or greater

**\$350 rebate**

56-99 gallon

**\$300 rebate**

55 gallon or less

**\$150 rebate**

### Bonus rebates:

**Add \$250**  
if converting from  
natural gas or propane.

**Add \$100** for new  
building construction.

## Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates

**240V Level 2 Charger**  
*Must be on off-peak*



Residential  
Charger

Commercial  
Charger

Electric vehicle or hybrid

**\$50 per kW**

Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

**\$50 per kW**

**All equipment must be new and installed  
on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.**

**Equipment must be installed on RLEC's off-peak program.**

*Contact Member Services for more details!*

**218-253-2168**

## THINK ELECTRIC

# This Holiday Season

Believe it or not, the holiday season is here and it's time to start gathering gift lists. Whether you're looking for stocking stuffers or the big box under the tree, electric gadgets are always a winner.

While things like TVs, video games, smartphones and computers are obvious electric choices, we've put together a list of emerging products that can (29760 Gary Braun) help your friends and family ditch their old, gas-powered equipment in favor of new electrified technologies. Tools and equipment operated by electricity are often safer, quieter and less costly to operate. **Check out these five electrified gift ideas and feel free to pass the list along to Santa.**

1

### ELECTRIC LAWN CARE TOOLS - AVERAGE PRICE POINT: \$75-200

Have you heard the buzz? Electric lawn care tools – like trimmers, edgers and leaf blowers – are quietly proving to be just as mighty as many of their gas-powered counterparts. These items share the same rechargeable battery, which helps cut the stress out of your yard cleanup activities.

2

### ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER - AVERAGE PRICE POINT: \$150-200

With their lightweight design, quiet operation and low maintenance requirements, an electric pressure washer is a great gift for the DIYer on your list.

3

### ELECTRIC SMOKER - AVERAGE PRICE POINT: \$200-300

Who doesn't want a gift that can produce perfect ribs, chicken, brisket or salmon? An electric smoker is easy and safer (30757 Kolt Wavra) to use compared to its propane and charcoal counterparts. Even heating and clean operation makes cooking the ideal meal a breeze!

4

### ELECTRIC SNOW BLOWER - AVERAGE PRICE POINT: \$500-1,000

Removing snow is part of life in Minnesota. That doesn't mean it needs to be back-breaking work. With an electric snow blower, you don't need to worry about gas, oil or regular maintenance. Instead, you pop in the battery and start it up – making it a great gift for the practical person.

5

### ELECTRIC BICYCLE - AVERAGE PRICE POINT: \$500-1,000

An electric bicycle provides the best of both worlds when it comes to outdoor activities. It can be used as a regular bike, or the rider can use the electric motor to reach speeds north of 20 mph without the need to pedal. There are many popular models for commuting, trail riding and other off-road activities.



+ ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

# CONTINUING EDUCATION SESSIONS

SCHEDULED FOR  
JANUARY, FEBRUARY



Minnkota Power Cooperative, **Red Lake Electric Cooperative** and its partners will again provide an opportunity for area electricians to obtain credits for license renewal by attending one of the seven continuing education classes being offered throughout eastern North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

Tim Pull will instruct the classes, which are (30137 Ryan M Anderson) scheduled to be held in-person throughout the region. Attendees will be alerted by email if changing COVID-19 requirements impact course dates, times or venues.

This marks the 34<sup>th</sup> year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information on electrical code and practices. The classes will be held at the following locations:

**Tuesday, January 4**

Fargo Holiday Inn  
3803 13<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Fargo, ND



**Wednesday, January 5**

Fargo Holiday Inn  
3803 13<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Fargo, ND



**Tuesday, January 11**

Fergus Falls Eagles Club  
120 S Peck Street  
Fergus Falls, MN

**Tuesday, January 18**

Bemidji Eagles Club  
1270 Neilson Ave SE  
Bemidji, MN



**Tuesday, February 1 | Wednesday, February 2 | Thursday, February 3**

Minnkota Power Cooperative  
5301 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave South  
Grand Forks, ND

The registration fee is **\$75 for eight code credits**. Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. Registration can be done online at [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com). Registration must be completed at least seven days prior to the seminar. For residential building contractor continuing education workshops, contact your local home builders association.

For more information about the program, call **(701) 795-4292** or e-mail questions to [contractortraining@minnkota.com](mailto:contractortraining@minnkota.com).

## CLASS SCHEDULE

+ <b>7:15 - 8 a.m.</b> Sign-in	+ <b>8 a.m. - noon</b> Workshop	+ <b>Noon - 1 p.m.</b> Lunch provided	+ <b>1 - 5 p.m.</b> Workshop
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**\$75 REGISTRATION FEE**

**RLEC has For  
Sale on Bids**

All items can be viewed at Red Lake Electric Headquarters located at 412 International Drive SW, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

Please submit bids by 10 a.m. on Jan. 5, 2022, to Red Lake Electric Cooperative Headquarters or mail to P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

Any and all bids may be rejected.



2010 Chevy Silverado 2500 Extended Cab 4X4, 6.0L V8 gas, auto, AC, CC, power windows, locks and mirrors, 6 ½ ft. bed, good tires, 234,XXX miles, runs and drives as it should



2006 Ford F150 Extended Cab 4X4, 4.6L V8 gas, auto, AC, CC, 6 ½ ft. bed, good tires, 210,XXX miles, runs and drives as it should



1500lb Cargo Glide sliding bed for a 6 ½ ft. truck bed



ARE aluminum work truck topper for a 6 ½ ft. truck bed

## ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION

This is to certify that the primary source of heat for my residence is electricity and I am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Law. The primary source is the source that supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 (999999.99 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.



This is hockey territory.

We know the more sticks you have on the ice, the stronger your power play becomes.

That's why we start every season with a deep bench of energy resources.

We're all in on all-of-the-above energy.

**ALL IN**



**ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY**

