

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



Happy **THANKSGIVING**

From all of us at Red Lake Electric Cooperative

**Red Lake Electric Cooperative will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving**

*In case of an electrical outage or emergency,
call the after-hours phone number, 218-253-2200.*

Congratulations to Dennis Skjerven of Newfolden!

**Dennis was the lucky winner of a \$100 RLEC Energy Credit for
attending Red Lake Electric's Member Appreciation Lunch.**

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
Email: 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 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.



Growing up co-op

by Stephanie Johnson

I love the feeling of being able to walk into my favorite locally owned shop, restaurant or store knowing that the profit, product and labor can make positive impacts on my community. The spirit of main street is embodied in these local businesses, just like it is in Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Electric cooperatives are as local and community centered as they come. Founded as a way to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest investor-owned utilities (or IOUs), electric cooperatives have been a cornerstone of community and economic (20200 Brian C Trulson) development in rural America and beyond for decades.

That feeling I get when I frequent local businesses in our community is the same feeling I get when I walk into work at the cooperative every day. It is a feeling of pride. I am proud to be a part of an organization that serves the community in which we live, instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territory.

Living on cooperative lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Living on cooperative lines is an investment in our community and its members.

You see, Red Lake Electric is a not-for-profit business. When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably and reliably, we return it back to our members (that's you!) in the form of capital credits. This means (30943 Hailey Halvorson) after all cooperative expenses are paid, any

additional money we earn goes back into our community, instead of going into a shareholder's pocket, which is pretty great!

And because we are owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community is prosperous. We do this by investing in economic development and community service projects and programs such as Operation Round Up®.

I hope that you view Red Lake Electric not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our community. If you are interested in learning more about how we keep the lights on and beyond, please stop by the cooperative or give us a call. We love being a part of this community, and we hope you feel the same way too.

This time of year, I am reminded to take time to count my many blessings, one of which is the opportunity to serve you. I give my thanks to the many men and women who have fought to keep our freedom, and I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving.

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.

A SOLID ENERGY PLAN FOR A VOLATILE WINTER

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members should prepare for increased demand response hours this season

If you're a member enrolled in your co-op's off-peak (or demand response) program, knowing the "why" behind the moments your dual fuel heating is temporarily switched is likely important to you – especially during the long, cold months of winter. Our power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, makes the decision of when to shift off-peak members to their backup heat source for a variety of reasons, but it all comes down to affordability and reliability.

In a typical winter season, Minnkota tries to keep its demand response hours managed to 250 hours. This year, the goal is the same, but there will be unique obstacles to overcome in order to meet it. One of those challenges is a three-month planned maintenance outage on Unit 2 of the Young Station, one of the largest sources of power for Minnkota's members.

"The outage is at beginning of the season, September into December, which is generally a light demand response period for us. The outage has the potential to increase our hours at the beginning of the

season," said Dan Trebil, Minnkota's energy supply manager. "That, combined with the volatile energy market that we're seeing, is going to play a part in how close we are able to manage to that 250-hour level."

When Minnkota needs additional energy to meet the needs of its members (perhaps when there's no wind for the turbines and demand is extremely high), it looks to purchase energy from a regional market. Over the past few months, that market has seen dramatic spikes in price – something Minnkota tries to avoid to protect its membership.

"The biggest things that are playing into the volatility are transmission constraints in our area, as well as the price of natural gas," Trebil explained. "Right now, the price of natural gas is actually the lowest it's been in the past few months. That was somewhat anticipated, but it's also anticipated that it will go back up come December or January."

It's important for members to prepare now for increased demand response this winter.

Individuals with off-peak dual fuel heating systems should check that they have adequate fuel for their backup source (propane, fuel oil, etc.). Off-peak members are sometimes caught by surprise when demand response kicks in for the first time, especially when it's early in the season.

Remember that your co-op's demand response program is a win-win-win for all involved. Enrolled members are thanked with a reduced electric rate (and no interruption in comfort), the co-op can navigate high-demand days while avoiding expensive market purchases, and the (23002 Mike LaSalle) entire regional grid benefits from reduced demand.

"We're in an interconnected system," Trebil said. "When the grid gets into a potentially unstable situation, it's because of tight conditions between generation and demand. So we're able to respond in those situations with our demand response to not only help us and our members, but the grid as a whole. Lowering our demand helps balance the entire footprint."

Electrical contractor continuing education sessions scheduled

January / February 2023

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 six continuing education classes being offered throughout eastern North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

Instructor Tim Pull will be covering the 2023 National Electrical Code (NEC) changes and other important NEC rules. The seminars are approved in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for eight hours of continuing education credit necessary for renewing electrical licenses.

The classes will be held at the following locations:

Wednesday, January 11

Fargo Holiday Inn
3803 13th Ave South
Fargo, ND



Thursday, January 12

Fargo Holiday Inn
3803 13th Ave South
Fargo, ND



Thursday, January 19

Bemidji Eagles Club
1270 Neilson Ave SE
Bemidji, MN

Thursday, January 26

Bigwood Event Center
925 Western Ave
Fergus Falls, MN



Wednesday, February 1

Minnkota Power Cooperative
5301 32nd Ave South
Grand Forks, ND



Thursday, February 2

Minnkota Power Cooperative
5301 32nd Ave South
Grand Forks, ND

This marks the 35th year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information on electrical code and practices. Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. The registration fee is \$80 for eight code credits. Registration can be done online at www.minnkota.com and 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, please call (701) 795-4292 or e-mail any questions to contractortraining@minnkota.com.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| + 7:15 - 8 a.m.
Sign-in | + 8 a.m. - noon
Workshop | + Noon - 1 p.m.
Lunch provided | + 1 - 5 p.m.
Workshop continues |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|

\$80 REGISTRATION FEE

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *Red Lake Electric Cooperative and Minnkota Power Cooperative?*

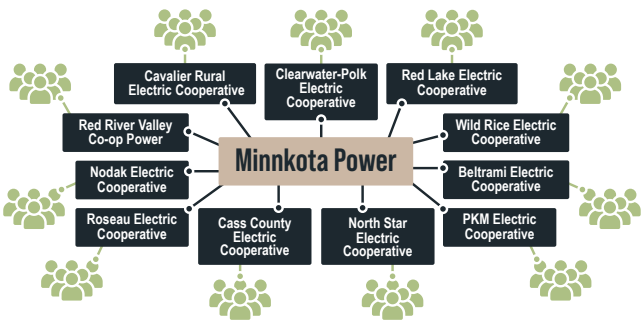
You often hear us talk about Minnkota Power Cooperative in the pages of this newsletter, so we wanted (31451 Nicholas D Olson) to take a moment to explain what makes us partners and what sets us apart.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is one of 11 rural electric cooperatives that purchase electricity generated and delivered to local substations by Minnkota. From the substations, Red Lake Electric Cooperative distributes the electricity to the homes, farms and businesses in our service territory.

So, what are the differences between Minnkota and YOUR co-op?

Ownership

- **Minnkota** – Minnkota is owned by the member cooperatives it serves, like Red Lake Electric Cooperative.
- **Red Lake Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op is owned by YOU, along with all of the other local members to whom we distribute power.



Mission

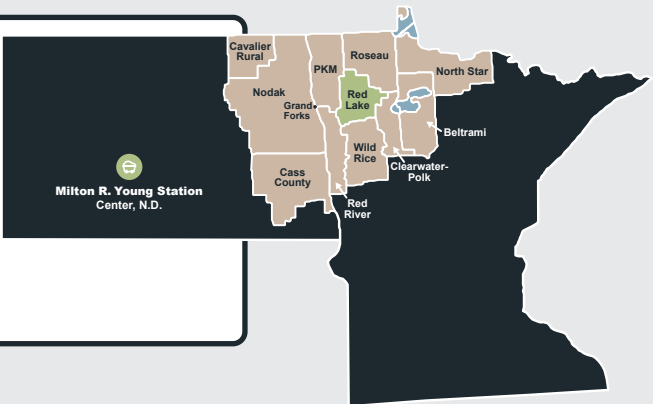
- **Minnkota** – Minnkota's main mission is to generate safe, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity (through coal, wind and hydro sources) and transmit that electricity to its member cooperatives, like Red Lake Electric Cooperative.
- **Red Lake Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op's main mission is to deliver electricity to its member consumers reliably and affordably, no matter the season.

Board

- **Minnkota** – Minnkota's board of directors is composed of representatives from the boards of its member cooperatives.
- **Red Lake Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op's board of directors is composed of member-consumers like you, voted onto the board by you.

Location

- **Minnkota** – Minnkota is headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D., with its main generation plant (Milton R. Young Station) located in Center, N.D.
- **Red Lake Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op is headquartered in Red Lake Falls, Minn.



Learn more about our wholesale electricity supplier at minnkota.com.

KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Has your address changed? Do you have a new cellphone number? Did you drop your landline? Then it is time (25466 Mark L Spong) to contact your electric cooperative to verify and/or update the information we have on your account. By keeping your contact information up to date, you can ensure your cooperative is able to reach you regarding billing and account information, outage notifications, capital credits and more.

You can verify and update your information by logging into SmartHub. You may also email info@redlakeelectric.com or call the office at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068 to verify and update your contact information.

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 _____

Win \$100

Sign up for Auto Pay and paperless billing today!

- Sign up to pay your electric bill with Auto Pay and your name will be entered into a drawing to win one of two \$100 energy credits.
- Sign up for paperless billing and your name will be entered into a drawing to win one of two \$100 energy credits.
- Sign up for both options and you will be entered in each drawing!
- Both drawings will be held Nov. 30, 2022.



Signing up is simple. To sign up for Auto Pay without using an electronic device, fill out the form below and submit it (28001 Jeffrey J Brule) with a blank voided check to Red Lake Electric Cooperative. If you prefer to go online, you can sign up by going to www.redlakeelectric.com and clicking on SmartHub. Sign in or set up an account. Click on "set up automatic payments." Auto Pay will withdraw the amount of your electric bill on the 25th of each month.

If you are already an Auto Pay customer, set up an account in SmartHub and sign up for paperless billing. You will receive an email each month when your bill is ready. You will then be able to sign into SmartHub and see your statement.

We also have a free app for your smartphone so you can access your statement wherever you are.

If you have any questions, call 800-245-6068 or email info@redlakeelectric.com

Red Lake Electric Cooperative Auto Pay Sign-up Sheet

I authorize Red Lake Electric Cooperative (R.L.E.C.) and the bank listed below to initiate variable entries to my checking or savings account. This authorization remains in effect until I notify R.L.E.C. in writing to cancel it in such time as to allow R.L.E.C. to act on it.

Name (Print) _____ R.L.E.C. Account # _____

Bank Name _____

Checking or Savings Account # _____ Routing # _____
(Circle one)

Sign here to authorize _____

Please return this sign-up form with a blank voided check to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 430 • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
Phone: 218-253-2168 • Toll Free: 800-245-6068
After hours: 218-253-2200



90¢



Perfected the holiday turkey for the in-laws?

You're cooking Thanksgiving dinner for the in-laws, and now is the moment of truth. After three hours, your turkey comes out browned to perfection – the family is impressed.

It's a powerful experience, powered by 90 cents of oven energy.

That's the value of electricity.



5 ways to be CYBER SMART this Cyber Monday

Every bargain shopper knows Cyber Monday is the best way to score holiday deals without stepping foot into the cold. As the number of online shoppers grows every year, so does the number of online criminals. The Better Business Bureau found that 35% of 2021's fraud reports could be attributed to online scams. Yikes!

Before breaking out that credit card on Cyber Monday, Red Lake Electric wants to remind its members to be on the lookout for scams targeting those in the giving spirit. The following are some ways to help protect yourself.

Avoid buying from unfamiliar retailers online.

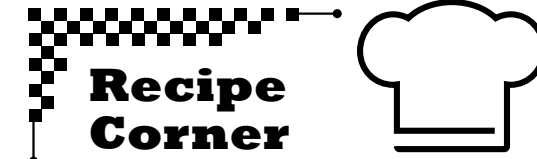
Don't click on sketchy emails that contain attachments.

Stay away from pop-up ads altogether.

Don't use debit cards online – use a credit card.

Avoid shopping on unsecured public Wi-Fi.

Safety and security are top priorities at Red Lake Electric. We wish you a happy (and scam-free) holiday season!



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

Pumpkin Cinnamon Roll Bake

Yield: 8 | Prep time: 10 min. | Cook time: 40 min.

Ingredients

- Two 8-count tubes refrigerated cinnamon roll dough, with icing
- 3 large eggs
- 3/4 cup pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons cream or milk
- Vanilla ice cream or whipped topping, optional for serving

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375F. Line a 9x9-inch pan with foil and spray with cooking spray; set aside.
2. Cut the cinnamon roll dough into 3 even strips, then cut those strips into 3 pieces, making 9 pieces total per cinnamon roll. Scatter in prepared pan, separating the pieces from one another because they stick together if you slice them in stacks; set pan and the icing from the packaging aside.
3. To a medium bowl, add the eggs, pumpkin puree, 1/2 cup milk, brown sugar, granulated sugar, pumpkin pie spice, vanilla, cinnamon, salt, and whisk until smooth.
4. Evenly pour (23432 James L Harder) the mixture over the cinnamon rolls.
5. Evenly drizzle the icing. If the icing is cold, heating it in the microwave for 10 seconds will make drizzling easier.
6. Place pan on a baking sheet (insurance against overflow and highly recommended) and bake for about 40 minutes, or until the top is set in the center and lightly golden brown. Place pan on a wire rack to cool momentarily while you make the frosting.
7. To a medium bowl, add the confectioners' sugar, 2 tablespoons cream or milk, and whisk to combine until smooth.
8. Evenly drizzle the frosting over the rolls and optionally serve with ice cream or whipped topping. Serve immediately.

Storage: Cinnamon rolls are best warm and fresh but will keep airtight at room temp for up to 5 days.

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS

We plan for birthdays, holidays and vacations. We plan our meals, our outfits and our weekends. We don't always remember to plan for power outages that may occur during winter. Whether it is a heavy snow, ice, cold temperatures or storms, it's important to be prepared (31157 Crystal L Hible) in case your power is out for an extended period of time this winter season.

When preparing for an outage, here are five things you should remember:

1 Retain indoor heat as long as possible. Do not open exterior doors unless absolutely necessary, and keep all blinds and curtains closed to preserve heat. Shield windows with additional coverings at night, like tacking a lightweight blanket to block cold air.

2 Heavy snow and ice can damage transmission lines that supply power to homes in your community. If you see a downed power line after a storm, assume the line is energized and do not approach. Lines do not need to be sparking to be energized. If you see a down or sagging power line, contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

3 Having an emergency cold weather kit could make all the difference while crews are working to get your power back on. Your kit should include enough supplies to last every member of your household for at least three days.

4 When using an alternate heating source (like a fireplace or woodstove), make sure you are following the operating instructions. Make sure you are taking precautions to avoid starting a fire and use the proper ventilation. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors.

5 To help prevent your pipes from freezing, keep the faucets slightly on to allow a drip. In case a pipe does burst during a cold weather outage, learn how to turn the water on and off in your home or business.

List of items you should keep in your Winter Emergency Kit:

- Battery-powered radio or TV
- Battery-powered flashlight with a fresh supply of batteries
- A three-day supply of nonperishable food (crackers, cereal, and canned goods are good options)
- Blankets
- Water
- Additional clothing layers
- Optional alternative heating source