

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



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 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 (29288 Jacob L Sletten).

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.



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

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.



Celebrating Membership

October is National Co-op Month

by Stephanie Johnson

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month. When I say Red Lake Electric Cooperative celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share. Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions – because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

Red Lake Electric works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's composed of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them. We are proud to support local youth through our scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation Round Up® to support area food shelves and other charitable organizations.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together to-

wards a common goal—mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which they live and serve. Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our SmartHub app. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use (24827 Gladys Huot). And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Red Lake Electric is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.



POLE INSPECTIONS TO BEGIN

Red Lake Electric Cooperative has contracted with RAM Utilities to test poles within the cooperative's service area. The inspection began on Oct. 10. Poles to be tested are all circuits out of the Huot substation. This will include the townships of Gentilly, Crookston, Parnell, Lake Pleasant, Louisville, Red Lake Falls, Browns Creek, Wylie, Polk Centre, Black River, Bray, and Sanders. RAM Utilities will use ATV vehicles to travel from pole to pole. These vehicles will be equipped with Red Lake Electric signage to make them recognizable. If you have any questions concerning this pole inspection please call the cooperative's office at 800-245-6068.



Are you ready for winter?

by Kelli Brateng

Last winter was brutal. Countless blizzards and extreme cold weather were made worse by rapid increases in the price of home heating fuels, such as propane, fuel oil and natural gas. With the price of those fuels expected to remain high, it's a good time to consider switching to off-peak electric heating. Off-peak provides your home or business with comfortable, efficient heating, while also protecting you from heating fuel price spikes. The off-peak electric heating rate is remarkably stable in comparison to the alternatives.

So, how does it work? The off-peak program is voluntary for members who allow for their electric heating system to be temporarily controlled and switched to an automated backup resource (like propane or electric storage) during times of peak demand for electricity in the region. In exchange, members receive a discounted electric heat rate, which is about 50% less than the standard electricity rate.

Here are a few things we want you to know before the winter season begins.

1. There's still time to switch to off-peak heating

Call our Member Services Department at 218-253-2168 to discuss your options for adding off-peak electric heating equipment to your home or business. The process is typically simple and straightforward, and your electric cooperative provides great rebates, incentives and other programs to significantly lower installation and equipment costs.

2. There is a potential for earlier-than-normal off-peak load control hours

From now until mid-December,

Minnkota Power Cooperative, your electric cooperative's wholesale power provider, will have its largest power plant offline for scheduled maintenance. With this plant not producing electricity, Minnkota may need to utilize off-peak load control to avoid costly electricity purchases from others on the grid. The savings from this practice are passed on to you through the low off-peak rate.

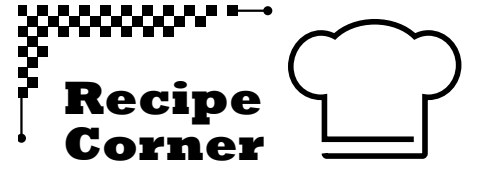
3. Fill your propane or fuel oil tank

Be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil tank as soon as possible, and make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. If your propane tank gets low during extreme cold temperatures, it may not work properly. Remember, prices typically rise as demand increases during the heating season.

4. Check your furnace

Make sure to change your furnace filter regularly. Contact a heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) professional to inspect/maintain your system as needed. Early attention to maintenance can help prevent failures in the heart of heating season.

Members have had to spend more on energy to heat their homes and for transportation this past year, but the good news is that the price you pay for electricity is forecasted to remain stable. If you have questions (26523 Tom Bradford) about how to save on your winter heating bills or are having issues making payments, please contact our offices. We are here to help and can connect you with the right resources, no matter the situation.



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.

Creamy Honey Mustard Chicken

Ingredients

- 2 large chicken breasts cut in half lengthwise
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- Flour for dredging
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 tablespoons butter divided
- 1/3 cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 cup heavy/whipping cream

Instructions

1. Prepare your chicken (cut it in half lengthwise so you have 4 smaller cutlets). Sprinkle them with the garlic powder and salt & pepper and then coat them in the flour.
2. Heat the olive oil and one tablespoon of the butter in a skillet over medium-high heat.
3. Once the pan is hot, add the chicken pieces and cook them for 4-5 minutes/side or until they're golden. If the oil starts to splatter a lot, reduce the heat. Once the chicken is browned, take it out of the pan and set it aside.
4. Take the pan off the heat and add the rest of the butter, the chicken broth, Dijon mustard, and the honey.
5. Return the pan to the stove and adjust the heat to medium. Stir the sauce until the mustard has dissolved (make sure the liquid doesn't reduce completely).
6. Add the cream. Once the sauce is bubbling again, add the chicken back in. Let it cook for 5 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through and the sauce is reduced to your liking.

In observation of Veterans Day, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Friday, Nov. 11.

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

AVOID HIGH NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE PRICES WITH OFF-PEAK ELECTRIC HEATING

Minnesota and North Dakota households that relied on natural gas or propane to keep them warm through last year's cold season faced volatile prices that sent their heating bills soaring unexpectedly. One year later, natural gas and propane costs remain high – with the potential to climb higher through the winter.

If the possibility of another price spike has you nervous, there's an easy way to prepare now. Simply incorporate electricity into your heating system and enroll in Red Lake Electric Cooperative's voluntary off-peak program. You'll receive electric heat at nearly half the standard electric rate, which brings your cost for heating well below the cost for natural gas or propane. Plus, the off-peak electric rate has remained stable for nearly a decade, so there are no worries about sudden swings in the market that you didn't work into your budget.

How the valuable off-peak program works:

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members voluntarily sign up for off-peak, which allows Minnkota (your co-op's wholesale power provider) to temporarily turn off electric heating, water heating, vehicle chargers and commercial account service during times of high regional demand. During these "control periods," most consumers are automatically (24101 Larry Nerhus) switched to a backup heating system, generator or stored heat so there is no interruption in comfort.

Electric heat system

An electric heating system on the off-peak program consists of an electric heat source as its main component and a supplemental heating source (such as fuel oil or propane) that will typically operate 250-300 hours per year during times of peak electrical demand in the region. The program can also be utilized in storage heat technologies, in which heat is collected and stored during low-demand times of day and deployed when needed.

Water heater

A water heater on the off-peak program will warm the contents of the tank during lower-demand times of day (often overnight), and that water will remain hot until it is needed in the home.

Popular electric options eligible for the off-peak program:

AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP



- Can be used with a backup fuel source for off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **Up to \$500 per ton rebate**

ELECTRIC PLENUM



- Backup energy source is necessary for the off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **\$50 per kW rebate**

THERMAL STORAGE



- Backup fuel source is not needed for the off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **\$50 per kW rebate**

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER



- Backup fuel source is not needed for the off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **Up to \$350 in rebates**



Learn more about off-peak by scanning this code or call your cooperative at 218-253-2168.

DON'T FALL FOR CYBER SCAMS

For many of us, the fall season is associated with falling leaves, falling temperatures and falling onto a couch with a warm and cozy blanket. But one thing you shouldn't fall for is cyber scams. October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and Red Lake Electric Cooperative wants to share four ways to help protect you from cyber risks. There are several things you can do to be safer online in both your personal and professional life.



WHAT YOU CAN DO to protect yourself from cyber risks

USE TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION	CONSIDER USING A PASSPHRASE	DON'T GET TRICKED BY A LINK	INSTALL SOFTWARE UPDATES
 <p>Adding layers of security to access your online accounts has proven to be one of the best ways to protect yourself from malicious cyber activity. Two-factor or multi-factor authentication allows users to confirm who they really are online. Two-factor authentication may come in many forms, including a confirmation text code, an email or even a separate authenticator app.</p>	 <p>A new practice for creating strong passwords includes using "passphrases." A passphrase is usually longer than a typical password and includes at least 14 characters with spaces between words. An example of a passphrase would be "secure passw0rds w0rk Great!". Since passphrases are longer and composed of more characters, they are stronger than typical passwords.</p>	 <p>Open links and (31905 Jeff S Wengeler) attachments sent to you with caution. If you receive a text message or email that is too good to be true or threatens you if immediate action isn't taken, it is more than likely a scam. If an email comes from a friend or co-worker that seems odd, call the sender and see if they really meant to send the message. Taking the time to verify this information can keep you from being tricked by a link!</p>	 <p>Make sure to complete all software updates promptly. Often the updates include protection against the latest security risks. Remember that updates come from apps and not from emails or social media links. If you get an email saying you have a software update, check the app's website to verify if there is one available.</p>



Operation Round Up® grants total \$12,450



The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 21 grants to area nonprofit and community organizations that totaled \$12,450. Since its inception in 1993, 1,027 Operation Round Up® grants totaling \$636,000 have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money (22926 Corey Teie) for grants from the Operation Round Up® program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Today, 97% of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up® program.

The following two organizations were awarded Operation Round Up® funds to help the disadvantaged:

- Violence Intervention Project of Thief River Falls: \$700 to help supplement the Parenting Time Center and Umbrella Tree programs.
- Red Lake County Victim Services: \$500 to help with expenses for victims of a crime.

Four area grants for the general public:

- Goodridge Lion Tamers Club: \$500 to help purchase an ice maker and water heater in the Goodridge Community Hall.
- Northland Community & Technical College Pioneer 90.1FM KSRQ: \$500 to help fund transition to become a 501(c)(3) organization separate from NCTC.

- Red Lake County Holiday Gift Program: \$400 to help fund the Christmas Giving Tree and food baskets distributed to those in need during the holiday season.
- Marshall County Social Services, Christmas projects: \$500 help purchase items for the Christmas Giving Tree and Food Basket projects.

Five area emergency service providers were awarded grants:

- Red Lake Falls Volunteer Ambulance Service: \$1,000 to purchase four pagers.
- Plummer Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,000 to purchase turnout gear for volunteers.
- Newfolden Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,000 to purchase turnout gear for volunteers.
- Goodridge Area Fire and Rescue: \$1,000 toward the replacement cost of a firefighting pickup and equipment for it.
- Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse: \$350 to help purchase items for a new mobile command center.

Monies to benefit the youth were awarded to these five organizations:

- Christmas for Pennington County: \$500 to help purchase Christmas gifts for their annual holiday program.
- Pennington & Red Lake County Public Health & Home Care: \$500 to fund free public health nurse visits

with education, baby gifts and support for new parents.

- TRF Chapter of the MN Deer Hunters Association: \$500 to help fund youth event to explore hunting activities.
- Pennington County Sportsmen Club: \$200 to help purchase full-bodied plastic animals for youth to identify at long range distances.
- Little Brother Little Sister of Pennington County: \$800 to help fund programs for area youth and mentors.

Three organizations that provide help and service to area seniors received the following grants:



- LSS Senior Nutrition Program (Red Lake Falls): \$500 to help purchase a new steam table for the Red Lake Falls kitchen.
- Goodridge Senior Citizens Center: \$500 to replace/upgrade restroom sinks to ease access for those with disabilities.
- Tri-Community Living at Home/Block Nurse Program: \$500 to fund volunteer training and volunteer drivers for senior activities.

Two grants were awarded for historical purposes:

- Goodridge Area Historical Society: \$500 to help continue restoration of the log cabin.
- Pennington County Historical Society: \$500 to fix the chinking and roof on two of the historical cabins.

The RLE Trust Board of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are: Diane Kolstoe - President, Oklee; Laura Kasprovicz - Vice-President, Thief River Falls; and Stacy Bierman - Secretary/Treasurer, Thief River Falls. Ex-officio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Stephanie Johnson of Gatzke, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative Office (26699 Irving Christianson) or by visiting their website at www.redlakeelectric.com. The next deadline for Operation Round Up® grant applications is March 1, 2023.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.


1¢
Illuminating the porch for trick-or-treaters?
It's a powerful experience, powered by less than 1 cent of LED lighting.


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.

Don't let controlled burns backfire this fall!

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN PLANNING FOR A CONTROLLED BURN:

- 1 Keep things like the temperature, humidity and wind speed in mind when planning a controlled burn. Check the radar before beginning a fire.
- 2 **DO NOT** start a fire near power poles. Burning poles can cause widespread outages and could be costly for the individual who set the fire.
- 3 Cut grass and weeds, and water areas near any power poles to keep the fire from approaching.
- 4 If a pole does catch fire, call 9-1-1 and Red Lake Electric Cooperative right away. Even if you can put the fire out yourself, the pole could still be burning from the inside and become extremely hazardous.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: *Volts & Jolts*

2. Publication Number: 663400

3. Filing Date: 9/26/2022

4. Issue Frequency: Ten Times Year

5. Annual Subscription Price: \$1.00

6. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): PO Box 430 Red Lake Falls MN 56750-0430

7. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): PO Box 430 Red Lake Falls MN 56750-0430

8. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank): Publisher: Red Lake Electric Cooperative Inc PO Box 430 Red Lake Falls MN 56750-0430 Editor: Kelli Brateng PO Box 430 Red Lake Falls MN 56750-0430 Managing Editor: Kelli Brateng PO Box 430 Red Lake Falls MN 56750-0430

9. Publication Title: *Volts & Jolts*

10. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2022

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: [X] None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one): [X] The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: [] Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months [X] Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title: *Volts & Jolts*

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2022

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run): 4360 b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail): 3534 c. Free or Nominal Rate (By Mail and Outside the Mail): 826

16. Electronic Copy Circulation: a. Paid Electronic Copies: 4370 b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a): 3534 c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16c): 826

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: [X] If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the October 2022 issue of this publication. [] Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Kelli Brateng, Publisher, 9/16/2022

19. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including penalties).

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4) (See instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-01-000-9001 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

Keep yourself and others safe while hunting this fall by staying clear of power lines and other electrical equipment.

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind while hunting:

- Stay clear of all utility equipment.
- Never shoot at or near power lines.
- Be vigilant and know where power lines are before you begin hunting.
- Never place a decoy on or near electrical equipment.
- Never place a deer stand on a utility pole.

