

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



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. 26 and Jan. 2.

*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



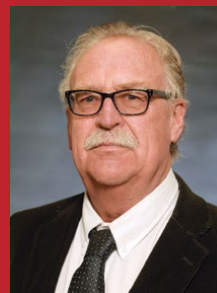
Laurie & Warren Malwitz
20 Years



Christie Klipping
10 Years



Bonnie Christians
20 Years



Steve Linder
20 Years



Peter Mosbeck
15 Years

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 in-
spection 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.*



**Small change
can change lives**

by Stephanie Johnson

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That’s because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It’s a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it’s so important (29202 Kenny L Geiser) to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I’m also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our Operation Round Up® program, your donations help local families and individuals in need by providing assistance to local food shelves, first responders, fire and rescue, violence intervention projects, and senior and youth programs.

When you “round up” your monthly bill from Red Lake Electric and donate to this fund, you’re making a big difference in someone’s life. You are helping to meet an immediate, critical need, but just as importantly, you are telling this person the community cares.

Over the years, our community-focused programs, food donations and other giving projects have aided

historical societies, supported young people, fed hungry families, and so much more.

You’ve likely heard me say that the cooperative principle “concern for community” is part of Red Lake Electric’s DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to this community in 1938, the quality of life improved. But other things also need to be addressed and through the years, this cooperative has been at the forefront of bringing improvements (25716 Janice A Boll) to the quality of life in this community. It’s why we created Operation Round Up®.

To date, with your help, we’ve given over \$630,000 back to local families and individuals through this program. And across the country, more than 350 electric cooperatives have an Operation Round Up® program, and together, we’ve raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric cooperatives like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in this community. We hope you will think of Red Lake Electric Cooperative as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I hope all our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be 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 250 hours throughout the heating season. As of Dec. 11, 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.red-lakeelectric.com, click on Member Services, then select RLEC Load Management Data.

You will need to know 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

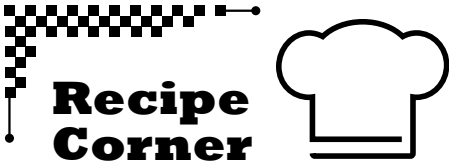
on your monthly electric bill, within the Current Service Detail box (see picture).

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 (31655 Aaron Davy). If the box is red and says OFF, your electric heat is being controlled. If you are unsure of your Load Group and Double 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 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	
Account Balance Before Current Charges			588.46	CR	
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	
Total Current Activity			327.00		
Actual Account Balance			261.46	CR	
Budget Amount Due			265.00		
Unpaid previous balance subject to 1.5% per month late fee					
Off Peak Info					
Meter	Group	DO	Meter	Group	DO
145965491	309	13	145965491	309	15
145965491	309	15			



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.

**Christmas Morning
French Toast Casserole**

Ingredients

- 2 cans cinnamon rolls
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup heavy whipping cream (*half & half works too*)
- 3 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- Icing from cinnamon roll packages

Instructions

1. In a large glass bowl, melt butter with sugar.
2. Beat in eggs, cream, cinnamon, nutmeg and vanilla.
3. Open canned cinnamon rolls, slice each cinnamon roll into fourths. Place cinnamon roll pieces into the bowl of egg mixture and toss to thoroughly coat. Then pour the pieces, coated in egg mixture, into a greased 9×12 casserole dish and spread out evenly. Use any leftover egg mixture to coat the casserole.
4. Sprinkle with pecans and then bake on 350° on a low rack for 35-40 minutes or until brown
5. Remove casserole from oven. Warm icing (29562 Marc M Haugen) from cinnamon rolls in microwave for 15 seconds; pour evenly over bake.

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.

NEW YEAR, NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR 2023

Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Great rebates 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 \$75 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 \$600 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 \$75 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
\$500/unit

56-99 gallon
\$400/unit

55 gallon or less
\$150/unit

New construction (50 gallon)
FREE unit (primary residence only)

Bonus rebates:
Add \$250 if converting from natural gas or propane.
Add \$100 for new building construction (shops, cabins, etc.).

Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates

240V Level 2 Charger
Must be on off-peak

Electric vehicle or hybrid
100% rebate

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

12 DAYS of Energy Efficiency

Red Lake Electric Cooperative wants to spread a little energy efficiency cheer this holiday season. Here are 12 days of energy efficiency tips that will keep the cold out and the savings in!

1. Make sure your home is properly insulated

Having a properly insulated basement can save you up to 20% in energy costs.

2. Turn down your thermostat

Keeping your home at the lowest temperature you are comfortable with can slow the loss of heat throughout your home.

3. Eliminate drafts near doors and windows

Using caulk and weatherstripping to seal off drafty windows and doors will help keep energy costs down this winter.

4. Lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees

Every 10 degrees you lower your water temperature can save you around 5% in energy costs.

5. Let the sun in during the day

Free heat? Say yes!

6. Close window shades at night

Don't let heat escape while you sleep! Close your window shades at night to keep the heat inside.

7. Switch to LED bulbs

LED holiday lights use up to 90% less energy than traditional lights and last for years.

8. Turn off all lights when not in use

A simple way to save on your energy bill is just to turn the lights off when you leave a room.

9. Wash clothes with warm or cold water

Washing your clothes with warm water (25777 James Lessard) can cut your energy use in half, and when using cold water you can save even more.

10. Use a power strip to turn electric appliances completely off

Eliminating this standby electricity loss from home appliances could add up to significant savings on your energy bill.

11. Use your ceiling fan to circulate airflow

When your ceiling fan runs in a clockwise direction, it allows warm air to be pushed down into the rest of your home.

12. Consider installing electric technology in your home

Air-source heat pumps, electric water heaters and so many other electric appliances can save you money each month. Check out your local co-op's rebates and incentive offers for installing electric technology today!

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 13 th Ave South Fargo, ND	Thursday, January 12 Fargo Holiday Inn 3803 13 th 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 32 nd Ave South Grand Forks, ND	Thursday, February 2 Minnkota Power Cooperative 5301 32 nd 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 (26538 Doug K Foldoe) 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
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\$80 REGISTRATION FEE



Lighting the tree through the holidays?

The kids wait 11 months to decorate the tree, but you're just as excited. After stringing the LED lights, you plug in for the reveal – and the “oohs and aahs” that will last all month.

It's a powerful experience, powered by 2 cents of energy.

That's the value of electricity.

2¢



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 _____

Printed Name _____

Signature _____



The power of SmartHub

Use SmartHub on a desktop or mobile app to:

- Pay your bill
- View energy usage
- Compare usage
- Manage account settings

New to the SmartHub mobile app:

- Manage paperless billing settings
- Add additional service providers for multiple accounts



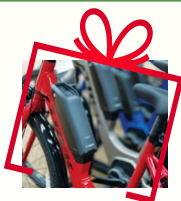
The SmartHub mobile app gives you even more control (28913 Brian Wells) over your electric account right from your smartphone or tablet. Choosing paperless billing is now even easier, with the option to discontinue your printed bill through the app's settings menu.



5 electric holiday gifts

Make the holidays electric this year with a wide variety of electric-powered gifts for everyone's wish lists! Whether you are shopping for the perfect present for a do-it-yourselfer or looking to surprise your teenager with a brand-new ride, the value of electricity supplies you with some crowd-pleasing options. Here are five electric gifts that are sure to receive glowing reviews this holiday season.

1.



ELECTRIC BIKES

E-bikes are the perfect gift for any family member big or small! With a variety of types and styles, you are sure to find an e-bike that fits the needs of even the hardest-to-shop-for person on your list. Pedal assistance (20198 Maynard Lillico) allows you to make a sweat-free commute to work, while also allowing you to work off those well-worth-it holiday treats on your way home.

2.



ELECTRIC SNOWBLOWERS

This time of the year is the best time to upgrade your loved ones' snow removal equipment! Electric snowblowers are quieter than traditional gas-operated models, and you don't have to store gas all winter long to get your equipment running on cold winter mornings. With just a simple push of a button, a dreaded winter task can be done with ease.

3.



ELECTRIC KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Crockpots, pressure cookers, air fryers – oh my! Electric kitchen appliances can cut meal prep time in half. From electric can openers (28216 Travis Torgerson) to electric kettles, these time-saving gadgets are a big hit with first-time homeowners. The list of awesome electric appliances is endless!

4.



BATTERY-OPERATED TOOLS

Do you have a DIYer or a tinkerer in your family? Consider getting them a set of brand-new battery-operated tools this holiday season. Battery-powered tools offer the user greater flexibility and portability without sacrificing any of the power needed to get the job done.

5.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Looking to score some major "cool parent" points? Consider getting the new driver in your family an electric vehicle! Most electric vehicles can be charged fully for about \$8 and if you are already participating in Red Lake Electric Cooperative's off-peak program, you are eligible for some really awesome savings. Check out www.energizeyourdrive.com to get more information about the benefits of electric vehicles.