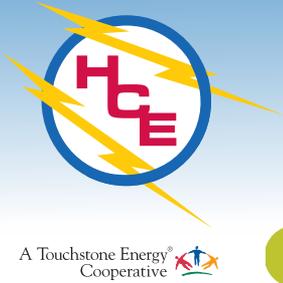


HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC • NEWS & VIEWS

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MAY • 2017

Manager's Message

By Craig Gates, General Manager/CEO



Change is not a bad thing. If rural Americans in the 1930s and 40s had not wanted change, electric cooperatives like Hill County Electric Cooperative (HCE) would not exist. Groups of friends and neighbors banded together to bring electricity to areas other companies would not serve. HCE is proud of our grassroots heritage.

HCE is not just poles and wire, we are part of the communities where we live and work. Our members and employees are volunteer firefighters, blood donors, volunteers, neighbors, family and friends. Unlike the big corporations out there, our members are more than a number with HCE. Cooperative membership means you are an owner of the cooperative.

As an owner of HCE, we hope that you will join us for HCE's 72nd Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, May 13th at the Student Union Building on the campus of MSU-Northern. The official meeting notice has been mailed to all HCE members. The notice includes the meeting agenda and Board elections. Be sure and check your mail. Join us and help make your cooperative better for you and generations to come.

HCE will again be offering four "Luck of the Draw" scholarships to HCE members or member-dependents who will be an undergraduate student enrolled in college for the fall of 2017. We will draw two \$500, one \$300 and one \$200 scholarship winners during the meeting. A scholarship of \$100 will be awarded to each eligible applicant who is not drawn for any of the other scholarships. The student and their parent or guardian must be present to win.

One of our linemen was missed when recognizing HCE's crew for Lineman Appreciation Day. Thanks Jake for all that you do!

**Annual Meeting
of Members**

May 13th • MSUN SUB Ballroom
Registration at 9am | Business Meeting at 10am

Member Powered!

HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

★ HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY ★

HCE will be closed on Monday, May 29th in honor of Memorial Day. Please call 1-877-394-7804 to report any service issues.

Welcome Walker and Howard!

Hill County Electric (HCE) is pleased to announce the hiring of two Apprentice Lineman.

Walker Gruszie is a graduate of the Pre- Apprenticeship Line Program at Montana Tech and has most recently been working for PAR Electrical Contractors.

Howard Miller comes to HCE with experience in the electric field, most recently working for Red Rock Power Company.



Walker Gruszie



Howard Miller

7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

What it means to you: No matter what your situation, the door is open, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

What it means to you: You help call the shots by electing a board of directors. One member equals one vote. This is local democracy in action.

3

MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

What it means to you: Better rates, lower fees and services that benefit the entire cooperative. The more that members participate, the more there is to go around.

4

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

What it means to you: As a cooperative, your electric company is controlled by real members like you, instead of outside shareholders.

5

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

What it means to you: Access to community technology education classes and other educational programs. Cooperatives believe that education contributes to personal growth.

6

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

What it means to you: Your cooperative strengthens the cooperative movement by partnering with organizations that share the same important values.

7

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

What it means to you: Knowing that your day-to-day activities turn into benefits for charities, local businesses and the entire community.

Protect Against Power Surges

Power surges are responsible for millions of dollars of property damage each year, and over time, they can cause cumulative damage while decreasing the lifespan of TVs, computers, stereo equipment and anything else plugged into a wall outlet. Being educated is the key to choosing the best surge protection for your home.

How does a power surge cause damage?

First, what is a surge? A surge is a boost in the electrical charge over a power line. This can be caused by lightning, but it's more commonly caused by motor-driven electrical devices, such as air conditioners and refrigerators, that require a lot of energy for starting and stopping compressors. Some surges can also be caused by faulty wiring.

Frequent, small power surges tend to shorten the life of home appliances and electronics. "Power surges come in all shapes and sizes—the most extreme case being a lightning strike because it can destroy equipment and sometimes set your house on fire," comments Alan Shedd, director of residential & commercial energy programs for Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the national brand for America's electric cooperatives. "But less severe power surges are rooted in hundreds of different causes."

He continues: "The severity of a surge depends not only on the voltage and current involved but how long the event lasts. Most surges are very short in duration. It's important for people to realize that surges can happen through any connection on your equipment. If there is a wire connected to your equipment, then it provides a path for a surge."

How can I protect my property?

A surge protection device mounted at your home's main electrical panel or the base of your electric meter protects equipment inside your house or business from surges coming through "ports of entry," such as an outside electric, telephone, and cable TV or satellite dish line.

HCE's warehouse does carry a 120/240 AC Single Phase Meter Socket Surge Adapter that plugs into the meter base. HCE personnel will need to install the adapter. Contact HCE at 394-7804 for more information about this device and installation.



Point-of-use surge protection devices do not suppress or arrest a surge, but divert it to ground. They're designed to protect your sensitive electronic appliances, like a computer, and resemble a regular plug strip. However, don't assume your plug strip

offers surge protection unless it specifically says so. There are also special electrical outlets that offer surge protection, which can be helpful in places like kitchens.



"My computer is plugged into an uninterruptable power supply with surge protection," Shedd notes. "We had a lightning strike and the surge protector stopped it."

One of the most effective ways to protect your property is a two-tiered approach. A service entrance surge protection device reduces power surges to a lower level that protects large appliances, such as your stove or clothes dryer, while point-of-use surge protectors defend your sensitive electronics.

Remember to be cautious when shopping for surge protection equipment. "Some items claim that they can save energy, and these claims are generally false," Shedd concludes. "Surge protection is a valuable tool for protecting your home or business but not for saving energy."



Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

HALI IS GOING TO WASHINGTON DC!



Congratulations to Hali Kapperud for being selected to represent Hill County Electric on this all-expense paid trip of a lifetime to Washington, DC. Hali will be joining other students served by Electric cooperatives from across the country this June to experience the rich history of our nation's capital. We can't wait to hear all about your trip!



Swap & Shop

SWAP & SHOP is a classified advertising section of the Hill County Electric and Triangle Communications websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To include an ad, go to itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop and complete the online form. Administrators will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will appear on the website. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the HCE & Triangle newsletters printed during that 60 day window. HCE and Triangle reserve the right to abbreviate ads. If the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis.

Announcements

16th Annual Milk River Gospel Jamboree

June 23-25 at the Malta High School Auditorium. The event is free, please visit www.mrgjamboree.org for more information and to check out the groups performing.

Vendors Wanted for Auction

Vendors wanted at Annual Beacon Star Amish Parochial School Consignment Auction on July 15, 2017. Reasonable rates, 10x10 spaces available. Call 406.374.2406 to reserve your space and prepay.

Great Montana Sheep Drive

September 3, 2017 in Reed Point, MT. Starts at 7:00 am with a pancake breakfast at the Fire Hall. Old time country fair with arts & craft and food booths, live auction, parade, sheep shearing demo, lamb cook off, gun fighters, log sawing contest, bale rolling contest, kid's games plus inflatables. Street dance starts at 6:00 P.M. For booth information call 406.326.2293, parade information call 406.780.1074, general information call 406-326-9919.

Agriculture

Plow and Swather For Sale

16 foot plow for sale, asking \$1,500. Early 1950s John Deere swather, asking \$400. Call 406.473.2202 or 406.366.1725.

King Farm Auger

2008 7-36, 18HP Honda engine, electric start, \$3,500. Call 406.945.3666.

Westfield Auger

7 X 41, 7 1/2 HP electric motor. \$1,000. Call 406.945.3666.

Automotive

Chrysler Pacifica

Chrysler Pacifica, AWD, new tires, batteries and brakes. Asking \$4,000. Call 406.667.2302.

1962 Ford Falcon

1962 Ford Falcon with 4 doors, manual 3 speed transmission, column shift and inline 6 cylinder. Runs and drives. \$3,000 or best offer. Call 406.770.9934.

2006 Ford Mustang GT

2006 Ford Mustang GT, bright yellow. V8 and automatic with A/C, leather seats, Shaker 1000 stereo. 40,000 miles. Asking \$14,500. Call 406.292.3343 or 406.292.3548.

Chevy Suburban and International Truck

1997 Chevy Suburban with new transmission, asking \$2,500. 1962 International truck, asking \$2,500. Call 406.473.2202 or 406.366.1725.

Miscellaneous For Sale

Furniture

Couch, love seat and rocking chair for sale. \$150 each or \$400 for all three. Call 406.667.2302.

Boat Motor

Like new, low hours, 1999 Honda 15 horse, 4 stroke boat motor with long shaft. Comes with an extra prop and a gas tank for \$1,000. If interested, call 406.357.4282.

Nascar Collectible Cars

1/64th Most cars are from 2000. \$5 each. Includes: #5 Terry Labonte, #6 Mark Martin, #7 Micheal Waltrip, #12 Jeremy Mayfield, #14 Conesco, #21 Citgo, #22 Ward Burton, #26 Jimmy Spencer, #28 Ricky Rudd, #31 Mike Skinner, #33 Oakwood Homes, #44 Kyle Petty, #55 Kenny Wallace, #60 Power Team and #99 Jeff Burton (4 cars-2000, 2001, 2002, 2003). 1/24th cars \$20 each. Includes: #14 Tony Stewart, #42 Kenny Irwin and #43 John Andretti. Call 406.292.3680. (Pictures available at www.itstriangle.com)

Tempur-Pedic Mattress

New Tempur-Pedic Rhapsody Luxe King (mattress only). Regular price is \$4,099. Asking \$2,900. Call 406.265.3139

Palomino Slide In Camper

2002, 8-foot Palomino slide in camper. Asking \$7,500. Call 406.667.2302.

Saxophone, Golf Clubs and more

Barely used Jupiter JAX-767 Saxophone with case, etc. - \$750. Older, good condition golf clubs (10 irons, 4 woods), nice newish bag, cart, 6'1" owner - \$150. Hex dumbbells (1 pr each of 3, 5, 10, 15 lb) and brand new York 69001 stand - \$75. Super Star Antique Waffle Iron, electric - \$5. Call 406.264.5141. (See photo at www.itstriangle.com)

Miscellaneous

1965 PONTIAC Tri-power, all original and complete, w/ linkage, air cleaners. Very rare, \$1,950. REESE Pro model 1200, 5th wheel removable 15,000 lb hitch, \$495. 1950s embossed 7up electric cooler, all complete and original, \$650. CRAFTSMAN pressure washer w/soap system, 2700 PSI-2.3 gal per minute Has Honda motor. Used once, \$275. Cast iron speeder sign, \$275. 5"X37" PONTIAC - 4 Aluminum wheels nice shape, \$200. PONTIAC Trans Am aluminum snowflake wheels, \$200. Call 406.374.2458.

Firewood Malta Area

Firewood for sale in the Malta area. \$100 a pickup load, you load. Contact Doc at 406.654.7313.

Oak Aviary

Includes 17 assorted finch birds. Dimensions are 75 inches high, 51 inches wide and 33 inches deep. \$1,200 or best offer. Call 406.770.9934.

Drapes

Two sets of drapes with sheers and rods. Freshly cleaned, 184x90 and 150x82. Light beige with streaks of light brown and white. Call 406.355.4932.

HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 184 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

Underground faults: 85 **Weather caused: 73**
Equipment/Material failure: 8 **Misc/unknown: 31**

This compares to 112 hours one year ago.