

Big Skylights



An internal newsletter of the STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

March 3, 2016

MECA holds orientation session at spring meetings

In conjunction with MECA's spring meetings at the MECA building in Great Falls, MECA will hold an orientation session for electric co-op directors, managers and other co-op staff unfamiliar with the services provided by MECA or wanting a refresher. This session will be held on Tuesday, April 5, from 9 a.m., to 12 noon, at MECA's headquarters building, 501 Bay Drive, Great Falls. During the orientation session, MECA staff will talk about services provided in their areas of responsibility.

The full schedule for the MECA spring meetings is as follows:

Monday, April 4

5:30 p.m., Managers' Group, informal social & dinner.

Tuesday, April 5

9 a.m., MECA Orientation; 12 Noon, Lunch; 1 p.m., Audit Committee; 2 p.m. Distributive Generation Subcommittee; 3 p.m., Legislative Committee; 4 p.m., USB Pool Membership Meeting; 5 p.m., MECA Social Hour; 6 p.m., Dinner.

Wednesday, April 6

8:30 a.m., MECA Board of Directors Meeting.

For those planning to attend the April 5 lunch or dinner, please RSVP to **Beckie Frediani** of our staff by no later than March 25. The phone number is (406) 761-8333. Beckie's email address is: beckie@mtco-ops.com.

Pay-back information available on Tesla battery

Ravalli County Electric's **Jim Maunder** has provided us with a link to an excellent website for helping ascertain the pay-back period on Tesla Power Walls. Among other things, the site provides a spread sheet allowing you to plug in your co-op's rates as part of this calculation.

The link to the Institute for Energy Research's tool on how long it will take to pay off the Tesla Power Wall is: <http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/analysis/payback-on-teslas-powerwall-battery/>.

As Mr. Maunder says, "It'll give a good perspective on the costs, warranty and pay-back on the power wall."

Condolences

We were saddened to hear of the passing away on Feb. 24 of **Kent Wick**. Mr. Wick was a former general manager of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative.

A celebration of life will be held for Mr. Wick at the First United Methodist Church in Moscow, Idaho, on March 4, at 2 p.m. For those wishing to make gifts in Mr. Wick's memory, a fund has been established at the Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building, www.nwswb.edu/donateonline.

Job Market

Journeyman or Experienced Apprentice

Park Electric Cooperative in Livingston is accepting applications for a journeyman lineman or an experienced apprentice lineman. Applicants must have a valid first aid/CPR card and Montana CDL, or be able to obtain one. Journeymen applicants must have a journeyman lineman certification and be able to perform all aspects of line work. Apprentices must be certified in climbing as well as pole-top and bucket rescue, and possess the ability to proficiently operate all equipment associated with line work in order to be considered for the

position. The successful applicant must live within 30 minutes of our office near Livingston and be able to pass a pre-employment physical and drug and alcohol test. Applications are available online at www.parkelectric.coop. Send applications to **Shawn Foss**, Operations Superintendent, Park Electric, P.O. Box 1119, Livingston, MT 59047; email sfoss@parkelectric.coop; phone: 406-222-3100. This position will remain open until filled.

Journeyman Lineman

Big Horn County Electric Cooperative (BHCEC), based in Hardin, Mont., has an opening for a journeyman lineman.

Applicants must have completed a recognized apprenticeship program, be a team player, be on an “on-call” rotation, and have or be able to obtain and maintain a Montana CDL. Other requirements are: Having a positive, safety-minded attitude, ability to operate equipment associated with the trade, physically able to perform all the duties involved with being a journeyman lineman and pass a pre-employment drug screen.

BHCEC is located in southeast Montana in the heart of an outdoor enthusiast’s dream. If you enjoy hunting, fishing, water sports, winter activities and much more, this is a great place to be. The co-op offers a competitive salary and benefit package. For more information, applicants can call the office at (406) 665-2830 to obtain an application. Email resumes to mrussell@bhcec.com.

CALENDAR

March

4	Vigilante Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Dillon, MT
4	Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting	Great Falls, MT
8	Big Horn Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Hardin, MT
10-12	Certified Credentialed Directors Fast Track Course – Part 1	Minot, ND
11	Montana Legislature’s Interim Energy Committee Meeting	Helena, MT
15	Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Hysham, MT
19	Ravalli County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Corvallis, MT
19	Missoula Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Missoula, MT
19	Lincoln Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Eureka, MT
19	Flathead Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Kalispell, MT
22-25	Foreman Leadership Skills Training, Sessions 3 & 4	Missoula, MT
24	Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Huntley, MT
25	Sun River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Fairfield, MT
30-31	Managing Emotions Under Pressure Workshop	Great Falls, MT

April

4	957.1 Director’s Course	Great Falls, MT
5-6	MECA Spring Board and Committee Meetings	Great Falls, MT
7	Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Annual Meeting	Sidney, MT
8	Marias River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Shelby, MT
19-20	MECA-Sponsored Retirement Seminar	Great Falls, MT
26-27	Disaster Response Plans & Working with FEMA Training	Great Falls, MT
30	Glacier Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Cut Bank, MT

May

1-3	NRECA Legislative Conference	Washington, D.C.
7	Northern Lights, Inc. Annual Meeting	Sagle, ID