

SEPTEMBER 2018



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

COOPERATIVES
SEE
THE FUTURE



October is National Co-op Month

Red Lake Electric extends an invitation to our Co-op Members
and Community Members to help us celebrate!

Member Appreciation Lunch!

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018

serving from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
in the warehouse (east doors)

*(Pulled pork, cheesy hashbrowns,
coleslaw, dessert and beverage)*

Red Lake Electric's Headquarters

412 International Drive SW, Red Lake Falls

***Red Lake Electric members can sign up
to win an energy credit to be applied to their account.***

*Stop by and see the
all-electric Chevy Bolt!*



Kaylee Cusak, communications specialist
with Minnkota Power Cooperative, will be
here to explain how it works.



SEPTEMBER 2018 – Vol. 53, No. 10

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 430 • 412 International Drive S.W.

Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430

(USPS 663-400)

Subscription rate: \$2.50 per year

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Published 10 times a year, January through May, July and September through December, by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., in the interest of its members and others. Periodical postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. Email: info@redlakeelectric.com.

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Email: info@redlakeelectric.com

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG 1-800-252-1166 or 811

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Northwest corner of Polk and western Marshall Counties:
Wayne Bergstrom – 701-520-9771

Pennington and eastern Marshall Counties:
Bryan Holmes – 218-686-1413

Red Lake and most of 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 week-day mornings between 7:00 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.



Manager's Comments

by Stephanie Johnson



Harvest safety

During my commute each day between Gatzke and Red Lake Falls, I have what I like to call “me time.” Usually I’m either singing very loudly with my favorite songs or listening to Minnesota Public Radio. Occasionally, I will even turn off the radio and just look around and take in the scenery around me. Lately during this time of quietness, I have been watching the farmers hard at work in the fields, but also (7133008.04 Pierre Uebe) noticing the proximity the farmers must work with our power lines.

During this time of harvest, it is important to be aware of your surroundings and practice safety around overhead power lines. Below are some guidelines to follow to keep you safe during harvest season.

- Before starting work, note the location of overhead power lines.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks.
- Always keep farm equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or too low, call Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Remember, if contact is made with a power line, **STAY ON THE EQUIPMENT.** Make sure to warn others to stay away and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit the equipment is in the event of a fire. If this happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and equipment at the same time. Then, keeping your feet together, hop to safety. Most utility lines are uninsulated, bare wires. Do not let your body become a direct link between the powerline and the ground.

Additionally, do not use equipment with frayed cables and always hire a qualified electrician for any electrical issues.

October is National Cooperative Month

In observance of National Cooperative Month, Wednesday, Oct. 10, we will be hosting a community open house. Please help us celebrate at our headquarters in Red Lake Falls with a lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will serve pulled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, coleslaw, dessert and a beverage. While you are here, Minnkota Power Cooperative will have its Chevy Bolt, a 100 percent electric vehicle, on display. Come and take a look! Learn more by visiting www.energizyourdrive.com. Hope to see you there!

**ALWAYS CALL
BEFORE YOU DIG**





Now is the time for farmers to reap the rewards of a long and often tiring growing season. When it comes to fall harvest, there is a lot to get done in a seemingly short amount of time, as shorter days and cooler weather can create a sense of urgency. These factors, along with today's technology and large farm equipment, can lead to serious accidents.

Overhead electric lines near end rows and along roadways can also be a danger to operators of large, taller farm equipment. Safe Electricity urges farmers to keep equipment – and extensions – at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions and recommends the following tips to keep farmers safe:

- Know where overhead power lines (4429006.01 Vivian Bruggeman) are before you head out to the field and have a plan to stay far from them.
- Use a spotter when raising any equipment such as augers, grain trucks and even ladders. It can be difficult to tell how close you are to overhead power lines.
- Know what to do and have a plan if you come into contact with an overhead power line. Do not leave the vehicle until utility workers have cut off electricity and confirmed that it is safe to exit the vehicle. Know what to do in the rare event the equipment catches fire!
- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level – under 14 feet – before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can make it difficult to control raised equipment.
- Never try to move a power line to clear a path. Power lines start to sag over time, bringing them closer to farmers and others who need to avoid them. Contact your utility to repair sagging power lines.

For more information on electrical farm safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Controlled burns can be costly

If you plan a controlled burn of ditches or other areas, please check for utility poles in the area. Controlled burns can easily burn out of control and could result in damage to our electric poles.

Poles that burn through, as shown in the photo, need to be replaced. Even poles that are blackened may need to be replaced. During the intense heat of a grass fire, the preservatives in the pole may boil or seep out. This may cause the pole to be brittle and more prone to wind or ice damage that would lead to an eventual outage.

If a pole is damaged to the point of replacement, the member would be charged the cost of the equipment plus labor. Please exercise caution when doing a controlled burn in the vicinity of utility poles.



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

Pumpkin Spice Monkey Bread

- 3 cans regular sized cinnamon roll dough
- ¼ cup International Delight Pumpkin Pie Spice
- coffee creamer
- ¾ cup cup sugar
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¾ cup butter, melted

For cream cheese glaze:

- 16 oz. container cream cheese frosting
- ¼ cup International Delight Pumpkin Pie Spice
- coffee creamer

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray bundt pan with nonstick spray or lightly grease. Separate cinnamon rolls and cut into quarters (about 1" pieces).

In medium bowl, combine sugar, brown sugar, pumpkin pie spice and cinnamon; set aside. In small bowl, combine cream cheese frosting and ¼ cup pumpkin pie spice creamer until blended; set aside.

Pour ¼ cup International Delight Pumpkin Pie Spice coffee creamer into melted butter. Dip cinnamon roll dough pieces into melted butter mixture followed by coating dough in sugar mixture. Stack dough balls in prepared pan, drizzling with half of cream cheese glaze at halfway point.

Bake 35-45 minutes or until golden brown and no longer doughy (will vary based on oven). Allow to cool in pan for 15 minutes. Invert pan onto serving plate and tap the top to release. Drizzle with remaining pumpkin pie spice cream cheese glaze.

Annual pole inspection almost complete!

Red Lake Electric has contracted RAM Utilities to test poles within our service territory. They will be checking the West Bay out of the Holt Substation. This will include parts of Marsh Grove, Newfolden, New Maine and West Valley in Marshall County. RAM Utilities will use ATVs to travel from pole to pole. These vehicles will be equipped with RLEC signage to make them recognizable. If you have any question concerning this pole inspection, please call the office at 800-245-6068.



Local 4-Hers receive awards from Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Each year, Red Lake Electric Cooperative sponsors awards for 4-H exhibitors at area county fairs. Pictured are 4-Hers who received awards at the Red Lake County Fair held June 21-24, Pennington County Fair held July 18-22 and the Marshall County Fair held July 25-29.



2018 Red Lake County Fair award winners

Top row, left to right: Coby Knott, Top Electric Project; and Hayden Shulstad, Top Robotics Project; *middle row, left to right:* Emma Knott, Top Safety Project; and Grace Smith, Horseless Horse Project, all of Huot Hustlers 4-H Club. *Bottom photo:* Hailey Hanson, Top Poultry Project; and Tanisha Srnsky (not pictured), Top Shop Project of Garnes Go Getters 4-H Club. *Photos courtesy of The Oklee Herald.*





Teagan Domier, Independent 4-H member of Portland, N.D., was the Junior Showmanship Champion in the Beef Division at the Marshall County Fair livestock show held July 27. Teagan is daughter of Bryan Domier and Kelly Fulton-Domier. *Photo courtesy of the Marshall County Extension Office.*



Devin Fulton, Independent 4-H member of Portland, N.D., was the Senior Showmanship Champion in the Beef Division at the Marshall County Fair livestock show held July 27. Devin is the son of Bryan Domier and Kelly Fulton-Domier. *Photo courtesy of the Marshall County Extension Office.*



The Rate of Gain award in beef cattle, sponsored by Red Lake Electric, was presented to Noah Rupprecht of the Silverton 4-H Club. *Photo courtesy of Thief River Falls Times.*



Jacey Larson of Steiner 4-H club won the Red Lake Electric Dairy Top Production award at the Pennington County Fair. *Photo courtesy of Thief River Falls Times.*



Ruby Geiser of the Steiner 4-H Club won the Red Lake Electric Rate of Gain award at the Pennington County Fair with her sheep. *Photo courtesy of Thief River Falls Times.*



The champion breeding ewe at the Pennington County Fair in 4-H was awarded to Kale Geiser of the Steiner 4-H Club. The trophy was sponsored by Red Lake Electric. *Photo courtesy of Thief River Falls Times.*



Eva Hurlburt of the Kratka 4-H club won the Red Lake Electric Dairy Goat Top Production award at the Pennington County Fair. *Photo courtesy of Thief River Falls Times.*

Need help to pay your electric bill? Help is only a phone call away!

Red Lake Electric is prepared to work with members who are in need of assistance paying their electric bills. For more information about the Cold Weather Rule, call Red Lake Electric Cooperative or see MN Statutes, Chapter 216B, which governs disconnection policies of residential heating sources from Oct. 15 through April 15. Here are some common questions:

Can my heat be shut off in the winter?

YES, unless you take steps under the Cold Weather Rule (CWR) to protect yourself. You must contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative to apply for protection from having your heat shut off. This is true for all residential customers, including senior citizens and families with young children.

FEDERAL/STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete, qualification and application information, contact your local county welfare or community/citizen's action council listed below. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

Inter-County Community Council

Oklee, MN
Serves East Polk, Pennington
and Red Lake Counties
218-796-5144
Toll-free: 1-888-778-4008
Fax: 218-796-5175

Northwest Community Action

Badger, MN
Serves East Marshall County
218-528-3258
Toll-free: 1-800-568-5329
Fax: 218-528-3259

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Crookston, MN
Serves West Polk and
West Marshall County
218-281-9080
Toll-free: 1-866-264-3729
Fax: 218-281-0705

Red Lake Community Action Agency

Red Lake, MN
Serves Beltrami County
218-679-1880

Will you disconnect me without my knowledge?

No. RLEC will give you a "Final Disconnection Notice" on your electric bill. This will state the amount you need to pay as well as the date you must contact RLEC to avoid disconnection. If you do not contact us by the disconnect date, we will make an attempt to collect your bill at which time we will leave you a door hanger with a packet of information on how to avoid being disconnected.

How can I keep my heat on or get reconnected if I am already shut off?

You must make and keep a payment plan with Red Lake Electric Cooperative. The payments don't have to be the same amount each month. RLEC will work with you to make suitable (4306010.01 Troy Ellingson) arrangements to help you keep your electricity. Once arrangements are made, you must contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative if you are unable to make a payment or your service may be shut off.

When I contact RLEC to apply for the CWR what happens?

- You will make a CWR payment plan, which you must keep to be protected.
- If you and the utility cannot agree on a payment plan, you have 10 days to appeal to the Public Utilities Commission.
- The Commission will help you set up a payment plan.
- Your service will stay on during the appeal process.

What happens if I can't make my payments as planned?

If you can't make your payments, call

RLEC **immediately** to make a new CWR payment plan. If you do not make your payments, your service may be shut off.

What if I need help reading or understanding notices from my utility?

- The CWR has a "Third-Party Notice" option.
- If you would like help applying for the CWR, you may arrange for another person to get a copy of any disconnection notices or other important information at the same time you receive it. This may be a friend, family member or anyone who is willing to help you understand the notices or set up a CWR payment plan. This person is not responsible for paying your bill. They are only agreeing to help you understand notices from Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

How do I sign up for Third-Party Notices?

Call Red Lake Electric for a sign-up form. The form must be filled out and signed by both you and the person you want to be notified and mailed back to the utility.

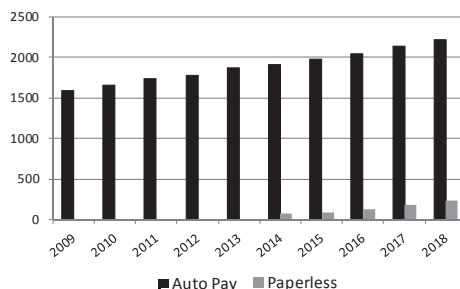
Are military personnel subject to shut off?

Minnesota law protects a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment or a change in duty station if they are (3721006.06 Evans Scrap & Steel Inc.) unable to pay their electric bill. You must call Red Lake Electric to set up a payment plan. For more information see MN Statutes, Chapter 325E.028 Utility Payment Arrangements for Military Personnel.

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Auto Pay and Paperless members eligible for drawing



As the chart shows, more and more Red Lake Electric Cooperative members enjoy the convenience of Auto Pay. Another convenient and mobile way to pay your bill is through Bill4U. To show our appreciation, members who use Auto Pay or are paperless for their monthly bill will automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$100 energy credit or a Kindle Fire. The drawing will be on Oct. 31. For your convenience, an Auto Pay sign up sheet is included in your latest bill and in this issue of *Volts & Jolts*. There are also instructions (6314002.02 Swedes Paradise Farm Inc.) to sign up for paperless billing. Have a question about Auto Pay or going paperless? Give us a call at Red Lake Electric Cooperative today. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.



Cards of Thanks

Red Lake Electric reserves the right to edit thank you notes when being published.

Thank you for sponsoring Dairy Goat Top Production award. My goat named Lodi won.

*Eva Hurlburt, Goodridge
(Kratka 4-H Club)*

Thank you for the money you sponsored for my 4-H projects.

*Hailey Hanson, Trail
(Garnes Go Getter 4-H Club)*

Thank you for the business award I got for my potato clock.

*Coby Knott, Red Lake Falls
(Huot Hustlers 4-H Club)*

Thank you for the gift of money for the 4-H Business award and for supporting the 4-H program.

*Hayden Shulstad, Red Lake Falls
(Huot Hustlers 4-H Club)*

Thank you for your donation to the top horseless horse project. It is very much appreciated. Half of the money will be put in the bank for college.

*Grace Smith, Crookston
(Huot Hustlers 4-H Club)*

Thank you for your donation to 4-H. I greatly appreciate it. I was given an award for top safety project.

*Emma Knott, Red Lake Falls
(Huot Hustlers 4-H Club)*

Thank you for sponsoring the Beef Rate of Gain award at the 2018 Pennington County Fair. I received the award with my Hereford Steer named Gerald. I will be taking him down to the state fair

hoping for a grand champion. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thanks again!

*Noah Rupprecht, Thief River Falls
(Silverton 4-H Club)*

Thank you for sponsoring the Champion Breeding Ewe trophy and cash prize. I plan on showing my ewe at the state fair. Also, thanks for sponsoring the Dairy Herdsmanship. I really love working and taking care of my animals at the fair. I really appreciated all your support at the Pennington County Fair.

*Kale Geiser, Thief River Falls
(Steiner 4-H Club)*

Thank you for sponsoring the Top Rate of Gain trophy and cash prize and thank you for (2833005.03 Mitch Hemmesch) sponsoring the 4-H Herdsmanship. I really appreciate you doing so much for the 4-Hers at the Pennington County Fair.

*Ruby Geiser, Thief River Falls
(Steiner 4-H Club)*

Thank you so much for your generous scholarship donations for our seniors. Your continued support and dedication to our school and students is amazing and greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping them as they move into the next chapter of their lives.

Becky Carlson, Goodridge principal

Thank you so much for the scholarship money and the awesome gift. I will be attending Northland for nursing with hopes to one day be a nurse practitioner.

Kathryn Szymanski, Thief River Falls

Is your off-peak heating system

Ready for Winter?

It's hard to believe winter is right around the corner. Since weather conditions and future wholesale power market prices make the amount of load control hours hard to predict, all of our off-peak members are encouraged to have a reliable, automatic dual heating system in place and ready to use.

To ensure your total comfort this winter, (4904005.01 Thomas P. Lewis) consider the following questions about your backup heating system:

1. Is the system sized to heat your entire home or business?
2. Does it maintain an adequate comfort level?
3. Is it reliable?
4. Is it fully automatic?

Check current fuel prices and be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil tank at the beginning of the season. Also, make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. Remember, prices typically rise as demand increases during the heating season. Our member services department is glad to answer any off-peak questions you may have.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard (5535004.01 Don Schirrick) heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the *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.



**Red Lake Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

Win \$100 or a Kindle Fire

***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 for a \$100 energy credit or a Kindle Fire tablet.
- Sign up for paperless billing and your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 energy credit or a Kindle Fire tablet.
- Sign up for both options and you will be entered in each drawing!
- Both drawings will be held Oct. 31, 2018.



Sign up is simple. Go to **www.redlakeelectric.com** and click on **Bill4U**. Sign in or set up an account. You can either make a payment on the day of your choice or click on the set up automatic payments to sign up for Auto Pay (or use the form below) and/or sign up for paperless billing. Auto Pay will withdraw the amount of your electric bill on the 25th of each month.

If you already are an Auto Pay customer, set up an account in Bill4U 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 in to Bill4U and see your statement.

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

**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 # _____

Sign here to authorize _____

☐ Sign me up for paperless billing.

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



**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