



## North to Alaska - On An Even Grander Scale

Join BENCO Electric on a 13-day trip across scenic Alaska - July 11-23, 2011



Next year at this time you could be joining BENCO Electric and Brown County REA on a 13-day trip to Alaska. This once-in-a-lifetime trip begins on July 11 and includes stops at Anchorage - Denali National Park - Fairbanks - College Fjord - Glacier Bay - Skagway - Juneau - Ketchikan - Inside Passage - Vancouver. The itinerary is as follows:

**Day 1 - *Depart for Alaska.*** Motorcoach from BENCO to Twin Cities Airport. Our flight from the Twin Cities is bound for Fairbanks. Overnight hotel in Fairbanks for two nights.

**Day 2 - *Fairbanks.*** Our day in Alaska's "Golden Heart City" includes a visit to the El Dorado Gold Camp, a working gold mine operation where you can pan for gold. You'll also see the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, then enjoy a delightful cruise aboard the sternwheel riverboat *Discovery*. Get acquainted over lunch.

**Day 3 - *Fairbanks/Denali.*** Board the *Midnight Sun Express* and settle into your plushly upholstered chair in the dome lounge. You may purchase coffee or cocktails from the onboard staff, as your guide points out sights along the way. Upon arrival, check in at the charming Denali Princess Lodge. Afternoon will be free for optional rafting, helicopter rides or relaxing in the heated pool. That evening enjoy the "Music of Denali" dinner show.

**Day 4 - *Denali/McKinley.*** Join us for a fascinating full-day Tundra Tour into Denali National Park. After the tour, depart via motorcoach to the Mt. McKinley Wilderness Lodge, where you'll have an evening of leisure.

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### Alaska Trip Informational Meeting

Tuesday, August 31, 2010 - 7:00 pm

BENCO Electric Auditorium

RSVP to Kathy at 387-7963 or 1-888-792-3626 by Tuesday, August 24, 2010.  
Representatives from BENCO, Four Seasons Travel and Princess Cruise Lines will be available.

# North to Alaska

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**Day 5 - McKinley/Anchorage.** Morning at leisure for hiking or relaxing at this wonderful lodge. Afternoon via motorcoach to Anchorage.

**Day 6 - Anchorage/Whittier.** Tour of Anchorage. Travel by motorcoach along the shoreline between the Chugach Mountains and the waters of Turnagain Arm to Whittier, where you will board the *Diamond Princess*, scheduled to sail at 8:30 p.m.

**Day 7 - Cruising Hubbard Glacier.** You'll see the legendary "blue ice" and experience the thunderous roar of an iceberg "calving" as you stand in awe before majestic mountains and fjords created by these massive rivers of ice. It's a sight, sound and feeling you'll never forget.

**Day 8 - Cruising Glacier Bay.** Massive glaciers stretch from the ice-draped St. Elias and Fairweather mountain ranges to sit at the end of majestic fjords. The Muir, John Hopkins and Margerie Glaciers are the most active. A Glacier Bay Ranger naturalist will be on board to make your experience complete.

**Day 9 - Skagway.** A full day to explore this gateway to the gold fields and memories of the gold rush of '98. Step back into history at the Trail of '98 Museum, sightsee along the White Pass rail route to the Yukon, or try sportfishing, mountain biking or flightseeing.

**Day 10 - Juneau.** This is Alaska's capital. Sightsee and shop in town, or choose from a wide array of optional shore excursions.

**Day 11 - Ketchikan.** Southeast Alaska's "First City," Ketchikan is as picturesque as they come. The town is built on piles out over the water and clings to the slopes of Deer Mountain. Native culture abounds at Saxman Village and Totem Bight State Park.

**Day 12 - Inside Passage Cruising.** When you rise this morning, check your copy of the ship's newsletter for a full list of activities that are offered.

**Day 13 - Vancouver.** We arrive in Canada's main west coast seaport this morning. After clearing customs we will have a city tour of Vancouver, including the Stanley Park Flower Gardens, time permitting. The tour will end at the airport, where we will check in for our flight home to the Twin Cities and motorcoach on to Mankato.

# From the Board

Thursday, June 28, 2010  
Blake Meshke Presided

The board reviewed and approved:

- The minutes of the May 27 board meeting.

- Capital Credits to estates totaling \$873.47.

Wade reviewed with the board the selection process for hiring a new office manager.

Dick Hiniker reviewed a proposed agreement with the City of St. Peter to realign service area boundaries and pay for customers each utility is servicing within the other's assigned service area. An agreement will be drawn up to submit to the MN PUC after approvals.

Dick also reviewed a request for a new service to put in a less-than-40 KW wind generator.

Archie Kendall reviewed the weekend storms. In addition to our own crews working all weekend, we had help from six neighboring cooperatives and two contractors.

Wade reviewed plans for the 2010 Strategic Thinking Session.

Chuck gave the legal report and  
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## BENCO ELECTRIC

This newsletter is published monthly by BENCO Electric Cooperative, PO Box 8, Mankato, MN 56002-0008.

**Office Hours:** 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**Phone:** 387-7963 or 1-888-79BENCO

**Outages/After Hours:** 387-7963 or  
1-888-792-3626

Dave Sunderman - *Member Services Manager*

Kathy Gerber - *Editor*

### Board of Directors:

Blake Meshke - *President - District 6*  
Duane Ehrich - *Vice President - District 8*  
Harvey Hesse - *Secretary - MREA Director - District 5*  
Harlan Lanz - *Treasurer - MAC Director - District 2*  
Garfield Eckberg - *District 1*  
Brad Leiding - *GRE Director - District 3*  
John Wells - *District 4*  
Gary Stenzel - *District 7*  
Scott Johnson - *District 9*  
Wade Hensel - *General Manager*  
John C. (Chuck) Peterson - *Attorney*

**Board Meetings:** The last Thursday of each month - members are welcome to contact directors with items of interest or concerns in advance of the meetings.

## PCA Update

Actual PCA for July  
\$0.0377

Estimated PCA for August  
\$0.0359

Estimated PCA for September  
\$0.0281

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is due to changes in the monthly wholesale rate from our power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE).

# Operation Round Up Donations



Operation Round Up (ORU) Board President Marilyn Lynch handing the check to the Children's Museum President Linda Frost. Also included in the picture L to R – Middle row Children's Museum Board members: Laura Stevens, Karen Wahlstrom, Jean Peterson, Kristee Richards, Deb Kreidermacher  
Back row Children's Museum Board members: Jean Farrow, Kaaren Keohane, Lyle Jacobson, Laura Bowman, Children's Museum Executive Director Peter Olson, Mary Jo Hensel



Operation Round Up also donated money to the Youth Health Conference. Pictured here L to R: Shirley Doering, Kathy Herberg, Barb Sorenson, Pam Aanas, Jennifer Horstmann, Amy Nelson, Amanda Sommers, and Donna Leff

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

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## From the Board

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reviewed the closing of the Faribault County Fair building loan and other recent issues.

Directors' reports were as follows:

Brad reported on the June GRE Board Meeting. A transformer replacement at Coal Creek Station was reviewed. The annual meeting was reviewed by those that attended.

CTV board members reported that the annual meeting is set for July 26.

Harvey reported on MREA activities.

Harlan gave the Cooperative Network report.

Directors attending reviewed the CFC Finance Forum.

New business:

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the following resolution: approval and acceptance of offer to amend power purchase contract.



**What's Cookin': Italian Pasta Salad**  
From the Kitchen of: Patricia Morrow

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2-1/2 c dry spiral pasta          | 2 T olive or canola oil                             |
| 1/2 c fat free Italian dressing   | 2 T white vinegar                                   |
| 1/2 diced onion                   | 1/2 tsp salt  |
| 3 plum tomatoes, sliced           | 1 T sugar   |
| 1/2 green pepper, coarsely sliced | 1/2 - 3/4 tsp Italian seasoning                     |
| 16 black olives, sliced           | 1/2 - 1 whole package pepperoni slices, cut in half |

You can receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill, if you send in your favorite recipe and it gets printed in the newsletter. Send your favorite recipes to:  
Kathy, BENCO Electric  
PO Box 8, Mankato, MN 56002

Bring water in a medium pan to a boil. Add pasta. Bring to a rolling boil again, stirring until a boil occurs. Cover and shut off heat (gas) or remove from burner (electric). Let stand 20 minutes. Check pasta to see if done. Drain. Do not rinse. Return to the pot and stir in the Italian dressing. Cool for 1/2 hour, stirring a couple times to prevent sticking. While pasta is cooling, cut up vegetables. Add to the pasta and mix. In a small bowl, combine the sugar, salt, vinegar, oil and Italian seasoning. Pour over pasta and veggies and mix carefully. Slice the pepperoni rounds in half. Add to pasta; combine carefully. Refrigerate covered at least two to three hours. Stir again before serving.

**Where, Oh Where?**

The following is a list of former BENCO Electric members whose capital credit checks were returned by the post office as undeliverable. Any information you can give us regarding the current whereabouts of these individuals or their relatives would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Dave G. or Jill at 387-7963 or 1-888-79BENCO.

- A**  
Perry Allen, Aiken  
Rosalie Albers, Wells  
Richelle Amundson, Mankato  
Barbara Anderson, North Mankato  
Jada Anderson, Eagle Lake  
Richard Anderson, North Mankato
- B**  
David Babcock, St. Peter  
Anthony Bade, Mankato  
Cheryl L. Baldwin, Princeton

- David L. Bale, Rochester  
Dale Barke, Mankato  
John C. Barrett, Brainerd  
Keith Bastian, Springfield  
Byron Bauman, North Mankato  
Brenda Beck, Nicollet  
Wayne Behnke, North Mankato  
William Benning, Mankato  
Jonathan Berg, Hudson, WI  
Anita Bergemann, Phoenix AZ  
Debra Bina, Hopkins  
Alma Birr, Brainerd

- David A. Brandt, Eagle Lake  
Ross G. Bratlee, Mankato  
William Braunger, St. Peter  
Kathleen & Tom Brielmaier, Mankato  
Dwayne Brown, Waseca  
James A. Burger, North Mankato  
Carla Burnes, North Mankato  
Scott Burrell, Mankato  
Michael B. Urris, North Mankato