



Severe Summer Storms Cause Damage Throughout BENCO Electric's Service Area

Recent summer storms kept BENCO Electric crews and crews from Brown County REA – Sleepy Eye; Federated Rural Electric – Jackson; South Central Electric Association – St. James; Steele-Waseca – Owatonna; and Redwood Electric Cooperative – Clements, and contractors from Highline Construction and Carrs Tree Service busy for several days as approximately 1,600 BENCO members were without power after severe storms swept through the entire BENCO Electric service area on Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 26.

Crews quickly went to work to restore power to members after Friday night's storm. More crews were called in after another storm went through the area Saturday night. Although the entire service area was hit, the Lake Crystal and Wells areas took the brunt of the storm. Crews were able to restore power to most members by Thursday.

An evening storm also hit the Kiester area on Thursday, June 16, resulting in about 60 members without power. Power was restored to the area Friday morning. Most of these outages were due to a downed transmission line.

As a reminder to all members: if you notice a broken pole or a downed power line, please call the office and report it.



See page 3 for more information on the Alaska Trip.

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.

Going to Farmfest?

The power to make a difference is in your hands.

We can help!

Your electric cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives, will be participating in Farmfest 2010. Bring this coupon to Farmfest (booth #2301 in the Ag Tent) on August 3-5, 2010 and we will give you a FREE compact fluorescent light bulb.

All we ask is that you install it.

BENCO
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Benefits of CFLs go beyond cooler bulbs. A 75-watt incandescent light bulb will burn out after about 100 days of average use, whereas a CFL can keep going for a full year. CFLs require two-thirds less energy than incandescent bulbs, which saves roughly \$30 in energy costs over the bulb's lifetime, according to ENERGY STAR.

Take this coupon to booth #2301 in the Ag Tent to receive a free CFL from BENCO Electric in the Great River Energy booth.

August 3 - 5
Tuesday & Wednesday - 8 am to 5 pm
Thursday - 8 am to 4 pm

Gilfillan Estate - Redwood County

BENCO Electric Attends Legislative Meeting In Washington, D.C.

Representatives from BENCO Electric and other Minnesota cooperatives met with our legislators in Washington, D.C., in May to discuss current issues facing the rural electric industry.

The delegates were asking for federal support on these issues:

- Support of the RUS Electric Loan Program
- Support of the Rural Energy Savings Program Act
- Support of the Rockefeller measure to delay for 2 years EPA's regulation of carbon emissions using the Clean Air Act
- Support for Rail Reform that imposes antitrust statutes on railroads.



Top photo: back row – Wade Hensel - General Manager; front – Representative Michele Bachmann and Peggy & John Wells, and other rural electric managers and directors



Bottom photo: Dave Sunderman - Member Services Manager; Wade Hensel - General Manager; Senator Amy Klobuchar; Peggy Wells; John Wells - BENCO Director

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.

From the Board

Thursday, May 27, 2010
Blake Meshke Presided

The board reviewed and approved:
• The minutes of the April 29 board meeting.

• Capital Credits to estates totaling \$8,478.49.

Wade reviewed plans for department head succession.

The attorney reviewed current legal work for the coop.

Directors' reports were as follows:

Brad reported on the May GRE Board Meeting. The delay of the start-up of Spiritwood was reviewed.

CTV board members reviewed recent improvements. Dave S. reported on the NTA annual meeting.

Harvey reported on MREA activities.

Harlan gave the Cooperative Network report.

Directors attending reported on the NRECA Legislative Conference.

Brad reported on attending a biomass class at the U of M - Morris.

New business:

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve June 28, 2010 for the regular June Board meeting.

PCA Update

Actual PCA for June
\$0.04

Estimated PCA for July
\$0.0372

Estimated PCA for August
\$0.0359

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

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 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.

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 pm.

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 1898. 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 state capital. A fascinating place to explore. 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 Historical 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.



What's Cookin': Red, White & Blueberry Torte
 From the Kitchen of: Cooperative Connections

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3/4 c granulated sugar | 1/4 tsp baking soda |
| 6 T butter or margarine | 1/4 tsp salt |
| 1 T water | 1 (8 oz) pkg cream cheese, softened |
| 1-1/2 c Nestle Toll House Morsels, semi-sweet, divided | 2 T granulated sugar |
| 1 tsp vanilla extract, divided | 4-oz container frozen light whipped topping, thawed |
| 2 large eggs | 2 c sliced strawberries |
| 2/3 c all purpose flour | 1/4 c fresh blueberries |

Line a 9" round cake pan with wax paper; grease paper. Combine 3/4 c sugar, butter and water in a small, heavy-duty saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; remove from heat. Add 3/4 c morsels; stir until smooth. Stir in 1/2 tsp vanilla extract. Add eggs, one at a time, stirring well after each addition. Add flour, baking soda and salt; stir until well blended. Stir in remaining 3/4 c morsels. Pour into prepared cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out slightly sticky. Cool in pan for 15 minutes. Invert torte onto wire rack; remove wax paper. Turn right side up; cool completely. Beat cream cheese, 2 T sugar and remaining 1/2 tsp vanilla extract until creamy. Stir in whipped topping. Spread over torte; top with berries. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

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.

T
 Terry Tesch, Le Sueur
 Sandy Thomas, LuVerne IA
 Burton Thompson, Dragoon AZ
 David Thrun, Trenton MO
 Gladys Thurston, Vernon Center
 Lydia Tonn, Amboy
 Steve Trandahl, North Mankato
 Pamela Treider, Paaulo HI
 John Trog, Shakopee

V
 Ruth Ann Van Holdt, Carver
 Robert Von Holdt, Mankato
 Marianne Vogel, St. Peter
 Steven C. Vogt, Mankato
 Lynette Volkman, Mankato
W
 Jeanene A. Wagner, Mankato
 David Waisanen, West Lakeland
 M. D. Walton, Omaha NE
 Douglas Warinner, Woodridge IL

Scott Weckwerth, Minnesota Lake
 Robert Weiss, Owatonna
 Carla D. Wendt, Waseca
 Gary L. Wenner, St. Peter
 Mark Westby, Blue Earth
 Brad Willmott, Mankato
 Randy J. Wills, North Mankato
 Darla Wilmes, Mankato
 Ronald C. Wilmes, Mankato
 Allen L. Wortman, Mankato