

VOLTS & VIEWS

JULY 2018

 **Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Milton R. Young Station

Minnkota Power
MPC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**Square Butte
Electric
Cooperative**



BUS TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

This year's power plant bus trip was enjoyed by 24 individuals recently. The weather was pleasantly warm with only threats of a local storm. The hospitality of Minnkota Power (at their new headquarters facility and the dinner banquet in Mandan), Milton R. Young Station, BNI Coal, Triangle Coach Service with their nice new tour bus, and the stops along the way were appreciated by all the participants. And, of course, not having to cook OR drive made it even more relaxing. Members were impressed with the highly informative presentations by each of the individuals sharing in the details of what it takes to provide electric power to your Roseau Electric Cooperative, members, and throughout the region.

More photos on page 6

SEE YOU
AT THE
FAIR!

**Come visit us at our booth
and check out the
all-electric Chevy Bolt!***



**Days and times will vary.*

VOLTS & VIEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

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OUTAGE CALLS: 463-1544;

Toll-Free 1-888-847-8840

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

Kittson, Northwest Angle, Polk and part of Marshall Counties:

Wayne Bergstrom – 701-520-9771

Pennington, Roseau and part of Marshall Counties:

Bryan Holmes – 218-686-1413

Lake of the Woods County:

Curt Collier – 218-966-5070

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. For more information visit dli.mn.gov and go to the electrical page.

Gopher State One Call
1-800-252-1166 or 811
www.gopherstateonecall.org



Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Roseau Electric Cooperative is committed to providing its member-owners low-cost, high-quality, safe and reliable electricity with friendly, efficient and knowledgeable service.

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”



Summer is here

Tracey Stoll, General Manager

Summer storms

So far, this summer, we've avoided any widespread, long-lasting outages. The same cannot be said concerning our closest cooperative neighbors to the south. We've recently sent crews to two different neighbors to aid in the effort of restoring power to their members. This is what cooperatives do – we cooperate! The time will come when the call is made from us to them, and we will gratefully accept their assistance in time of need.

Fiber to the home (FTTH)

A year ago, this month, we were conducting a survey to see what our members thought of us bringing not only electricity, but high-speed internet to their homes. The responses to that survey were overwhelmingly positive – with the question asked multiple times: why aren't you doing that already? Today, much of Roseau County is still underserved or unserved. The near-term statewide goal of 25MB down/3MB up is just a dream. A recent call to my incumbent telephone provider, after receiving a tempting piece of advertising in the mail, resulted in being told that the speed being advertised was not available to me. I think they have to work on their mailing – what a waste of money to mail advertising to someone without a product to back it up!

After receiving and using monies from several different grant resources, as well as input from your cooperative and Roseau County, to conduct a feasibility and high-level engineering study, we stand ready to take part in the latest FCC funding

opportunity – the CAFII (Connect America Fund Phase II) Auction, on Tuesday, July 24. If you have time, Google CAFII to get more details, or go to www.caf2map.com to see some of the areas such funding would cover. If you don't have the time, at least check back here in the future for more updates!

Office moves

With the departure of Stephanie Johnson, we had some holes to fill. I've elected to make that attempt without hiring outside for now. I'm



Alex McMillin
Office Manager

very happy to announce that Alex McMillin has been named to the post of office manager. Alex has been with the cooperative for a little

over 12 years – starting as a lineman, moving to Member Services, becoming a key component of our move to a new metering system and even absorbing some of my old IT duties. Now in the front office, he will oversee day-to-day accounting, billing/metering and customer service areas of the cooperative. Deaun, Rebecca, Peggy Sue and Cassy will also see expansions in their job duties as we reshuffle responsibilities. I am grateful for willing workers. I believe we have a one-of-a-kind place to work and there is pride in daily remembering that we do that work for you, the member.

See you at the fair!

From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



The crops in our area are coming along nicely. The weather has been good for our farmers and Roseau Electric Cooperative. We have had no major storms as of now, and our line construction has been moving in a forward direction. I have crews working at the Northwest Angle for at least four more weeks with several large line change projects to complete up there. We have a few new services left to build and several line changes to complete on our southern project. With that said, things are going great with lots of progress being made.

With our summer going in the right direction, let's keep it going that way. Just a reminder to keep it safe this summer.

1. Be aware of your surroundings, power lines are both under and above ground.
2. Never get out of a piece of equipment that may be in contact with a power line, unless it is on fire, and use a hopping exit with both feet together, so that both feet land in the same potential.

3. Call Gopher State One Call before you shovel, trench, plow drain tile or do any excavation more than a few inches deep. The number to call is 1-800-252-1166 or 811 or online (very user friendly) www.gopherstateone-call.org.
4. Never use a generator to feed your meter box unless it is a "double throw." Without one, you could backfeed high voltage onto our power line, possibly hurting or killing one of my linemen.
5. Never walk up to a downed power line. Report it to us and stay on the scene until we arrive to prevent anyone from coming in contact with the line.
6. Never touch a tree or attempt to cut it down if it is close to the power line. We will gladly come out and remove it safely.

We have been having a nice summer so far, so get out and enjoy it! It will be over before you know it. See you on the lake.

Mike



The "Evenson" barge is loaded and rigged for several line change projects, including replacing underwater cable and plowing in underground (URD) cable in the Northwest Angle territory. Shown here while at Young's Bay are Justin Olson, left, at the helm, Ross Nelson (orange shirt), Chad Gregerson and Austin Gunderson. Additionally, crews will be replacing a two-mile stretch of 40-year-old cable located in the Angle from Pine Acres heading northwest into Monument Bay. Because this area is located in Ontario, the electrical service, including labor and material, is paid for by the individual consumers.



Lineman Chad Nelson works from the bucket during a recent line conversion on REC's project territory.





Air-source heat pumps

A smart choice for your heating and cooling needs

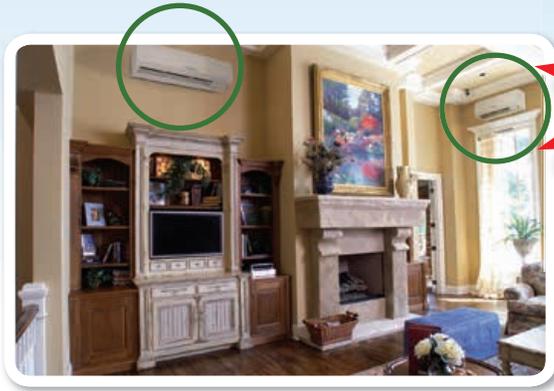
Looking for a way to heat and cool your home more efficiently? The one system that can do both is an air-source heat pump (ASHP).

By providing super-efficient home heating and air conditioning, an ASHP can help members save significantly on their energy bills. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, ASHPs reduce electricity use related to heating and cooling by up to 72 percent. Since heating and cooling account for more than half of the average home's energy usage, switching to an ASHP can make an immediate impact on home energy usage. And with a wide array of rebates available through Roseau Electric Cooperative, there has never been a better time to install a new system.

How do ASHPs work?

Unlike a furnace, an ASHP doesn't burn fuel to make heat. It efficiently uses electricity to move heat from one place to another. Think of an ASHP as a heat transporter constantly moving warm air from one place to another, to where it's needed or not needed, depending on the season.

An ASHP works exactly like a central air conditioner in the summer, transferring heat from the inside to the outside. In the winter, a reversing valve allows



See our mini-split demo at our fair booth!

Mini-split heat pumps are popular for homes without existing ductwork. The indoor units are positioned high on the wall and come in a variety of designs to match your existing decor.

them to transfer heating from the outside to the inside of the home. Some ASHPs can provide heating in temperatures down to 0 degrees Fahrenheit. The result is that homeowners can run their furnaces less and get highly efficient and comfortable heating from the ASHP.

ASHPs can work in tandem with an existing furnace. The system will automatically select the most ideal balance between the two sources to maintain the most efficient heating combination based on your desired temperature. A qualified HVAC contractor can provide sizing and estimates based on your home or business.

What options do I have?

Standard

A standard ASHP is a self-contained unit that uses existing ductwork to both heat and cool. The system has two main components: an outdoor compressor unit and an indoor air handling unit. The two units are linked with refrigerant tubing and a connected electric supply wire.

Mini-split

A mini-split ASHP is an economical and efficient option for homes without an existing ducted system or when adding ductwork may be impractical or too expensive. Similar to a standard ASHP, an outdoor unit is placed outside your home and is connected to an indoor

unit by small cables and a refrigerant line. The indoor unit is typically mounted high on the wall of the room and can be preset to run automatically or be adjusted by a remote control.

Member benefits

Whether you're building a new home, remodeling an existing home, or simply buying a new appliance, your cooperative offers professional advice and a wide array of incentives to ensure you get the most for your energy dollar.

When considering a new ASHP, remember that Roseau Electric Cooperative offers incentives to help with the initial cost of the purchase. The incentive program has certain restrictions and requirements that must be met. Please contact the member services department at 463-1543 for more information.

RESIDENTIAL INCENTIVES FOR AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

Up to 16 SEER:
incentive of \$300 per ton

17 SEER or greater:
incentive of \$500 per ton



Grant Application Deadline Aug. 31, 2018

To be considered at the September 2018 meeting, grant applications must be received by **Aug. 31, 2018**. Grant applications are available at the REC office or by visiting our website at www.roseauelectric.com.

DIGGING SOON?



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident: always call 811 before you dig.

Visit www.call811.com for more information.

COLOR CODING FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

WHITE	Proposed excavation
PINK	Temporary survey markings
RED	Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
YELLOW	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
ORANGE	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
GREEN	Sewer and drain lines

HIGHLIGHTS

BUS TOUR



Collin Jenson, REC director and chairman of Minnkota Power Cooperative's board of directors, explains a line graph on the screen showing the various components of available energy resources and electric demand while visiting the new Minnkota facility in Grand Forks.



This "mobile substation" is capable of delivering 15 megavolt-amperes (MVA) of electric power to assist Minnkota during outage scenarios.



BNI Coal is at work loading a coal hauler at the site of a seam of lignite coal within the mine. The hauler will transport the 240 tons of coal to nearby Milton R. Young Station for electrical generation. In the background, the Big Jake dragline is currently undergoing maintenance, but members were able to get up close to the Liberty dragline a few miles away. The group was able to go inside the cab and get the real feel of the machine.



Lee Hartman from BNI Coal takes a few more minutes with members near the bucket to share more details of the process.



Severe storm preparedness kit checklist

- Water** – fill up bathtubs and containers with water for washing, and also stock up on bottled water for consumption.
- Food** – enough for three to seven days, nonperishable packaged or canned food, juices, foods for infants or the elderly, snack foods, nonelectric can opener, cooking tools, fuel, paper plates and plastic utensils.
- Blankets, pillows and seasonal clothing items**
- First aid kit/medicines/prescription drugs**
- Special items** – for babies and the elderly
- Toiletries/hygiene items/moisture wipes**
- Flashlight/batteries**
- Radio and clock** – Battery operated, also consider purchasing a NOAA weather radio.
- Telephone** – Fully charged cellphone with extra batteries and a traditional (not cordless) landline phone.
- Emergency numbers** – Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers, including the local utility company.
- Cash (with some small bills) and credit cards** – Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods.
- Keys**
- Toys, books and games**
- Important documents** – (in a waterproof container or bag) insurance cards, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, birth certificates.
- Tools** – keep a set with you during the storm. Some items include duct tape, screwdrivers, work gloves, safety goggles, etc.
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- Pet care items** – ample supply of food and water, proper identification, immunization records, medications, a carrier or cage, muzzle and leash.
- Keep family and friends out of flooded basements to avoid electrical shock.**
- Keep family and friends away from all downed power lines during or after a storm.**
- Follow all manufacturers' recommendations** when using a generator to avoid tragedy. Never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring.

For additional safety information, please visit:



ENERGY TIP

Did you know? On average, water heating uses as much energy as all of your appliances combined. That's a lot of hot water! By being a smart water saver, you'll use less energy. Turn off the faucet when the water isn't being used immediately, take short showers instead of baths and look around your home for leaky faucets, indoors and out.

RV SAFETY TIP

It's possible for an RV frame to become electrically charged, a condition known as hot skin. Potential causes are improper wiring or connection, no grounding, reversed polarity and loose or worn outlets. To help prevent it, have the RV's electrical system tested by an electrician. To plug your RV into a campground power pedestal, use a heavy duty, four-wire cord with a grounding wire, not an extension cord. If a campground pedestal appears damaged, don't use it; ask for another spot.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The content of your character is your choice. Day by day, what you choose, what you think and what you do is who you become."

– Heraclitus

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 15-20 – Roseau County Fair
Make fair week vacation week!

July 21 – Electric bill is due

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE NUMBER

Toll-free 1-888-847-8840
1-218-463-1544

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

1-800-252-1166 or 811

PAY BY PHONE

1-877-999-3412

SMARTHUB

<https://roseauelectric.smarthub.coop/>

WEBSITE

www.roseauelectric.com



LIKE US ON **FACEBOOK**
TO STAY UP-TO-DATE!

OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Yearly	
	May 2017	May 2018	May 2017	May 2018
Members	6,411	6,469	6,411	6,469
kWh purchased	10,176,919	10,066,178	70,146,881	74,008,971
% change		(1.09%)		5.51%
Revenue	1,313,965	1,328,717	8,008,582	8,499,199
Cost of power	835,080	827,386	5,013,806	5,220,008
Other Expenses	464,606	599,777	2,795,177	3,278,372
Operating margins	14,279	(98,446)	199,599	819
Nonoperating margins	5,156	8,311	40,619	73,764
Patronage dividends	10,078	-	160,919	172,529
Total margins	29,513	(90,135)	401,137	247,113



**COME SEE US
AT THE
FAIR!**

Visit us at our booth
at the fair starting at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, July 17!

Sign up for door prizes
and receive a free gift.

See you there!

2018 EVENTS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JULY 15

7 p.m.: Church Night at the Fair

MONDAY, JULY 16

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Open Class Entry Day
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Official Livestock Check-in
7 p.m.: Open Class Photography Judging

TUESDAY, JULY 17

7 a.m. to Noon: Official Livestock Check-in
9 a.m.: Open Class Judging for: Culinary, Quilting, Pictorial and Decorative Arts
9:30 a.m.: Open Class Household Arts Judging
10:30 a.m.: Open Class Judging for: Crop, Vegetables and Fruit, Flowers and Potted Decorative Plants, Open Horse Halter and Riding Classes
1 p.m.: Open Class Poultry Judging
3 p.m.: Open Class Rabbit Judging
6 p.m.: Midway Opens
5:30 p.m.: Women of Today Parade, Main Street-Roseau
7:30 p.m.: The Overtones & Back Behind the Barn Boys, \$10/ticket

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

10:30 a.m.: Open Horse Driving Class Judging
2 p.m.: Midway Opens
2 p.m.: Pig Races
2 p.m.: Xtreme Ball Opens (south of Midway)
3 p.m.: Open Class Beef Judging
3 p.m.: Mounted Shooting Demo – Horse Arena
3:30 p.m.: Open Class Sheep and Market Goat Judging
4 p.m.: Pig Races

4-6 p.m.: Kids Power Wheels Preliminary Round (near Soybean Pit); No pre-registration required and NO need to bring a car. Please bring HELMET if possible. If your child would like to participate simply attend one of the preliminary Derby Days!

6 p.m.: Pig Races
7 p.m.: Grandstand – Wojo's Rodeo, \$15/ticket

THURSDAY, JULY 19

12 p.m.: Kids Pedal Tractor Pull, (Registration 11am)
1:30 p.m.: Open Class Dairy and Dairy Goat Judging
2 p.m.: Midway Opens
2 p.m.: Pig Races
2 p.m.: Xtreme Ball Opens (south of Midway)
2-4 p.m.: Kids Power Wheels Preliminary Round (near Soybean Pit); No pre-registration required and NO need to bring a car. Please bring HELMET if possible. If your child would like to participate simply attend one of the preliminary Derby Days!
4 p.m.: Pig Races
6 p.m.: Pig Races
7 p.m.: Bush Car Races, \$10/ticket

FRIDAY, JULY 20

1 p.m.: Pig Races
2 p.m.: Midway Opens
2 p.m.: Xtreme Ball Opens (south of Midway)
6 p.m.: Kids Power Races – FINAL (included with Demo ticket)
7 p.m.: Demolition Derby, \$10/ticket
8-10 p.m.: Open Class Exhibits to be picked up at the Magnusson Building
10:15 p.m.: Fireworks, sponsored by POLARIS

Go to www.roseaucountyfair.com for current schedules and information, including the Mini Stage schedule.

Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

Northwest Community Action

PO Box 67

Badger, MN 56714-0067

(218) 528-3258 or 800-568-5329

nwcaa.org

Bi-County Cap, Inc.

6603 Bemidji Ave N

Bemidji, MN 56601-8669

(218) 751-4631



Account management at your fingertips

smart hub

Access SmartHub today at:

<https://roseauelectric.smarthub.coop/>