



**WILD RICE
ELECTRIC**

RURAL DELIGHT

May 2021 Volume 81 • Issue 5
News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.
PO Box 438 • Mahanomen, MN 56557
www.wildriceelectric.com

REMEMBER ELECTRICAL SAFETY

As the planting season is under way, Wild Rice Electric reminds you to stay safe as there are many aspects to safety on the farm, but electrical safety is often overlooked. Please keep the following safety tips in mind.



Train Others

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.



Safety First

Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.

Wait to Unfold

Remind workers to fold and unfold extensions when they are well into the field and away from electrical power lines.



Use a Spotter

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.



Do Not Exit your Cab

If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

Stay inside the cab, call for help and keep others away from approaching you.



Call 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. Should this happen, make a solid jump out of the equipment with your feet together and hop away from the area.



STAFF COMMENTS

Director of Operations

AROUND THE CO-OP ...

by Al Brunner



New Services

When the weather turned nice the phone calls for new services and upgrades began. If you have plans to build or add to your existing electric service, get in touch with Wild Rice as soon as possible so we can get you on the schedule.

Some new service take longer than others depending on circumstances.

Winter wrap up

Crews have been changing poles out off and on all winter but with spring approaching we will be concentrating on new services, underground replacements and system improvements.

We have contracted Legacy Power Line to come in and change out the remainder of the poles that are budgeted for 2021. Please allow them the courtesy to get in and out of your property to do so.

Right of way

As mentioned in previous newsletters Wild Rice crews and Carr's Tree Service have been working to reclaim right-of-way which on a single phase line is 20 feet on either-side of the line.

Carr's will be working out of Erie, Richmond, Fosston and Sandhill substations this season. Please allow crews to clear and spray impending vegetation when in your area, this will greatly reduce blinks and outages now and in the future.

Safety

May is Electrical Safety Month, Wild Rice Electric wants to remind everyone if you are working around power poles; trees near power lines; underground switch huts; transformers or guy wires, be very careful. If you have questions or find a problem or hazard, contact us at 1-800-244-5709 so we can get it repaired ASAP. Hazard recognition forms are available by visiting our website at www.wildriceelectric.com and clicking on the 'Safety Info' icon.

Highlights

from the Board Room:

Wild Rice Electric's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on February 19, 2021 at the Wild Rice Electric headquarters. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: overview of the nation-wide cold weather event in February, Safety Committee review, upcoming Strategic Planning session, planned phone outage notification process, future load growth, and annual meeting overview.

A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- **Accepted** Consent agenda reports as presented by department managers including financials, member services/load management, safety/operations department and director compensation as presented by Board Treasurer;
- **Accepted** the 2020 Audit Report as prepared and presented by Eide Bailly LLP;
- **Accepted** the Distributed Generation Annual Report as presented;
- **Approved** adopting the grid access charge methodology effective March 1, 2021 on co-generation accounts from this point forward;
- **Approved** the format of Director Nomination by Petition form for use beginning 2022;
- **Appointed** member advisory couple to fill vacancy on the Member Advisory Committee;
- **Accepted** Minnkota Power, Square Butte and MREA Legislative reports;
- **Approved** director nominees for the Minnkota Power and Square Butte board of directors.

Wild Rice Electric's Board of Directors held its Board Organizational meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting on March 18, 2021 at the Wild Rice Electric headquarters. During the meeting action was taken to name the following officers for the upcoming year: Chair – Jeff Nornes, Vice-Chair – Larry Sollie, Secretary – Mark Habedank, Treasurer – Jim Kaiser.

The May meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

Where YOUR POWER comes from . . .

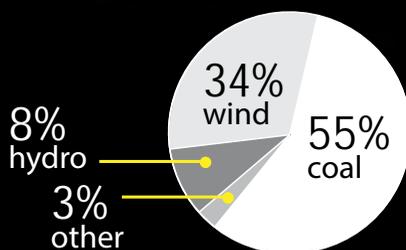
Wild Rice Electric receives its power from Minnkota Power Cooperative, which is a not-for-profit electric generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Grand Forks.

Minnkota Power provides wholesale electric energy to 11 member-owner cooperatives and 12 municipals in a 34,500 square-mile area.

In order to deliver power, 252 substations receive power from the 3,500 miles of transmission lines. One of Minnkota's newer transmission lines travels 250 miles from Center, N.D., to Grand Forks.

In addition to coal-based power plants that provide grid reliability and resiliency, Minnkota also has carbon-free power as part of its generation portfolio through energy purchased from three North Dakota wind farms and hydroelectricity purchased from the Garrison Dam in central North Dakota.

Minnkota is leading exploration of carbon capture technology through an effort known as Project Tundra. Innovative technologies are currently being designed to capture 90% of the CO₂ produced from either generator at the coal-based Milton R. Young Station. If Project Tundra moves forward, it will be one of the largest carbon capture projects in the world and remove an amount of CO₂ equivalent to taking 800,000 gasoline-power vehicles off the road.



about **400**
wind turbines help
provide carbon-free power

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations/policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal/retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA; not all bases apply to all programs; remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Gopher State One Call

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

CALL



BEFORE YOU

DIG.

One FREE easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Capital credits

Be sure to see if your name is on the un-cashed capital credit check list.

You may have money waiting for you! Visit www.wildriceelectric.com and click on the Capital Credits link on the Member Advantages Page or feel free to call our office at **1-800-244-5709**.

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

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 info., visit dli.mn.gov and go to the electrical page.

Clearwater County

Davis Smid: 507-227-2772

Polk County

George Stage: 218-284-1083

West Clay County

Rod Schaffer: 701-235-2840

East Becker/ East Polk/ Mahnomen Counties

Terry Lane: 218-237-8467

Norman/ East Clay/ West Becker Counties

Jason Ekholm: 218-844-2542

Area Representative

Lowell Bradbury: 218-342-3345

Ads

For Sale

(2) 12-16.5 R4 Tires \$150 ea, (2) 23 X 8.5-12 R4 tires \$100 ea. Used very little, 218-483 4172.

2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited, v8 engine, 200,000 miles. Leather seats, loaded w/ new tires. Upper & lower ball joints & power steering pump replaced. Towing package, runs great., \$4,000, 218-849-1257.

Jenkins skid steer attachments, dirt buckets, grapples buckets, mowers, pallet forks, tree pullers, stump buckets, receiver hitches & more, 701 261-3574.

Combination wood & fuel oil furnace, Model 434 Heatmore wood fired boiler, extra draft fan included, 218-574-2371.

New 22" table for pontoon boat with 4 drink holders, \$50 OBO, 218-687-5219.

Firewood for sale. Contact Tim @ 218-574-2403, Union Lake.

Registered Red Angus Cow/calf pairs. Top Quality, mostly younger cows. \$3000. 12 to go, 218-841-2688 to see.

Delta Model 36-850 Stock Feeder \$300.00. Goodman 220 Volt Wall Air Conditioner \$100, 218-238-5882 Lake Park.

G&R 3in. Pump 50ft intake & 100ft discharge. Trailer 5 x 8 ft needs new wood floor & sides. JD snowblower G37A attac, 701-330-0419.

1952 Allis-Chalmers CA w/ # 8 Allis-Chalmers loader trip manure bucket, \$1,500. 1949 John Deere A w/ loader trip manure bucket, \$2,000. Ramsey Pro Plus 9000 12-volt electric winch, \$400, 218-280-8862.

Picnic tables & gliders, 218-850-9316.

50x32 foot round roof lowered barn, nice home-made rafter's w/ a metal overhead door (16 1/2 x14ft high), \$200, 938-4318.

15' Trampoline w/ in closure, excellent condition \$150, 701-371-1902.

2 new suitcase, 1 cosmetic case, 3/4 bed w/ Comfort King mattress. Very little entertainment center. Living room chair, very nice, 218-935-1044.

Band duals 16-9-34 hardware. 3 cattle gates 15ft long by 4 1/2 ft high. 218-596-8383 or 218-227-9034.

4 - 225/65R17 Firestone tires - \$50; New Vector 45"X32" white Vector Awning Window - \$100; 28"x15" sliding white window - \$20; & 2 - 26"x 21" white Hurd trapezoid windows - \$20, 218-849-1346.

2 push lawn mowers- fix-up or parts one is lawn boy w/ bagger. Circle saw arbor & belt, 218-584-4603.

Butcher hogs \$150 for whole \$75 for half. Delivered to Ulen Locker May 21 you pay processing, 701-388-2747.

6 bottom, 14 in international plow 18 ft John Deere digger. Round bale 4 wheel wagon, 218-945-6621.

2- Firestone tires 75% thread 235/60 R16, \$60 for the pair, 701-261-2850.

Propane generator, 35kw always been inside and in working condition, \$3,000, 218-779-5133.

Wanted

Barn to move onto our land in Twin Valley. Text pictures or call 701-238-1552. Can be from areas of Ulen, Fertile, Ada, Mahnomen, etc.

John Deere STX Lawn Tractor Running or not w/ good hood, 701-772-3632, Lv message.

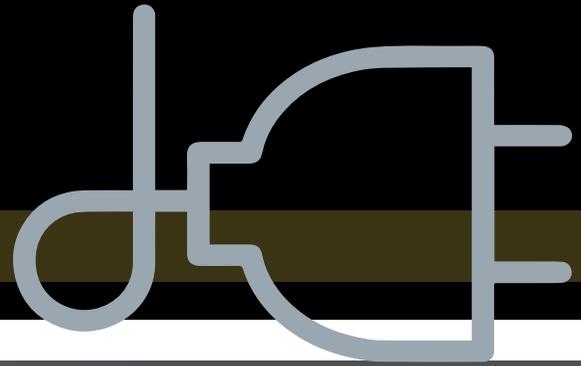
Tire changer, wind shield for a 95 F 150 Ford, 218-584-4603.

Our Ad Policy

- All ads must be 30 words or less.
- Ads will be abbreviated at the coop's discretion.
- No real estate or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads are published for members at no charge as space permits on a first-come, first served basis. Unpublished ads will not be carried over.
- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- Members may submit only one ad per issue.
- Ads must be resubmitted to run an additional month.
- Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- You can submit your ad by mail, email, fax or drop off in office. Phone ads will not be accepted.
- Fax ads to . . . 218-935-2519
- Email ads to . . . info@wildriceelectric.com
- Mail ads to . . . Wild Rice Electric P.O. Box 438 Mahnomen, MN 56557

BE POWERFULLY PROACTIVE FOR

National Electrical Safety Month



May is Electrical Safety Month, and your team at Wild Rice Electric knows you're aware of the big rules of electrical safety – stay away from downed power lines, don't overload an outlet and keep electrical devices away from water. But there may be additional safety precautions you could take to keep your home undamaged and your family safe. We gathered some lesser-known electrical safety tips to get your summer off to a secure start.

Be wise with GFCIs

If you have an older home, it may not be equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) – so get some! These are a vital safety tool for rooms with water sources, like kitchens and bathrooms. A GFCI acts as a split-second circuit breaker to shut off electricity fast in case of a ground fault.

Careful with your cords

Did you know extension cords have different ratings? Some are only rated for indoor use and can cause dangerous issues if they are used outside in the elements. If you are using an outdoors-rated extension cord, also be sure that the electrical source is protected from the weather.

Observe your outlets

If your outlets are warm to the touch, trouble could be around the corner. Heat could mean that the load is too high, the wiring is melting or the electrical work isn't up to code. Also be mindful of how your plugs are fitting – if they feel loose, you may need an outlet replacement. Call an electrician to help.

Be quicker to stop the flicker

If you are noticing flickering lighting in any of your home's rooms, don't assume it is just a bulb starting to burn out. It could indicate you have a damaged electrical panel that needs replacing, or you have too many appliances plugged into a single circuit.

Prepare for pets

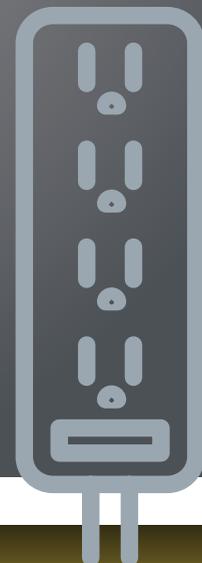
If you've never lived with a playful puppy or a curious kitten, you might not think about electricity when bringing one home. Young pets tend to find things to chew on, including cords. Safely tuck away or bind any cords that may be low and exposed, and don't leave pets unattended until you know their habits.

Protect your power tools

If your shop or garage isn't well-protected from the outside world, be sure to store your electrical tools inside. This will protect them from extreme temperature fluctuations, snow or water that may get into the garage or any gnawing critters that sneak through the cracks.

Fire extinguishers are your friend

The Electrical Safety Foundation International Home says electrical fires account for around 51,000 fires each year, causing an average of \$1.3 billion in damage. Never use water on a fire that may be electrical. Have a fire-retardant chemical fire extinguisher on every level of your home – and know how to use it.





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Wild Rice Electric
Co-op, Inc.

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Phone: Serving you 24
hours a day: 800-244-5709

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Monday- Friday

Website:

www.wildriceelectric.com

Pay bill 24 hours/ 7 days
a week: 833-250-4481

Also download the Wild Rice
Coop app for free at your App
Store of choice, to monitor
usage, pay your bill and more.

Directors:

Randy Bjornson, Mark
Habadank, David Hamre,
Jim Kaiser, Greg LaVoy, Jeff
Nornes, Russ Okeson, Larry
Sollie and Roger Winter.



The Cooperative would like to Congratulate Crystal Askelson whom was named Director of Finance for Wild Rice Electric. Askelson brings over six years of Cooperative experience as she has worked in the Accounting Department at Wild Rice Electric. A sincere welcome to Askelson in her new role with the Cooperative.