

Cooperative Connections

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New 2020 Programs Highlighted In This Issue

New Year Brings New Programs and Features



Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

The new year brings a lot of changes and we hope the new rebate, the new social media account, and a new feature in this publication will help us serve our members in the best way possible.

Resolutions, goals, and new beginnings often punctuate the first few weeks of the year as we strive to make our lives and communities better. Now that we are a couple weeks into 2020, I would like to highlight the new programs and features that Northern Electric Cooperative is rolling out in the new year. We hope these programs will help us connect and communicate more effectively with our members and the community.

New Rebate

There are a lot of new precision agriculture technologies on the market today and the co-op's new Third-Party Grain Bin Management System Rebate will assist in bringing that new tech to the farm in 2020. Northern Electric Cooperative will give members a \$750 rebate for purchasing a grain bin manager from a third-party company. The grain bin manager must integrate with the current co-op load management system to be eligible for the rebate. This rebate is much like the Third-Party Irrigation Management System Rebate that was made available in 2017. Please, turn to page 14 to learn more about the requirements of this new rebate for bin managers.

New Social Media Account

While you are reading about the new rebate on page 14 you should skim over to page 15 of this issue to learn about Northern Electric Cooperative's new social media account. The co-op launched an Instagram account at the end of 2019. The new social media account will be another avenue for Northern Electric Cooperative to communicate with the community. You could also win a prize if you follow us on Instagram, so be sure to check out all the details on the last page of this publication.

New Feature for Cooperative Connections

One of the stories in this month's issue of *Cooperative Connections* highlights a new business that will be receiving power from Northern Electric in 2020. Allevity Entertainment plans to open its doors in February behind Aberdeen Mall. This story about one of our newest members will also launch the new 'Business & Development Bulletin' which will be a regular feature of *Cooperative Connections* going forward. There are a lot of great businesses located in the Northern Electric service territory and the 'Business & Development Bulletin' will give us an outlet to showcase those local businesses. We hope this section will provide our members with the latest news and information about all the great things happening in our area. If you have an idea for a feature story in the new 'Business & Development Bulletin' please email me at bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop or give me a call at **605-225-0310**.

The new year brings a lot of changes and we hope the new rebate, the new social media account, and a new feature in this publication will help us serve our members in the best way possible. Happy 2020 and thank you for reading.



(USPS 396-040)

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NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held December 19 at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the board approved the November 21, 2019, minutes and November expenditures. The board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management.

Directors viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on the East River Board meeting held December 4, 2019. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported on the SDREA board meeting held December 5-6, 2019, in Pierre. The next SDREA board meeting will be January 15-17, 2020, during the SDREA Annual Meeting which will be held January 16-17, 2020. Directors Mark Sumption, Ronald Kaaz and Francis Esser reported on the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association Annual Meeting, which was held December 9-12, 2019, in Denver, Colorado. Director Ronald Kaaz reported on the South Dakota Wind Energy Association meeting, which was held November 26, 2019, in Pierre. Director Todd Hettich reported on the 2019 Winter School for Directors which was held December 13-18, in Nashville, TN. Director Hettich attended director education courses that are required to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD).

Manager's Report

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Update on development projects.
- Legal and Legislative Report.
- Reviewed attendance plans to the SDREA Annual Meeting in Pierre, Jan. 16-17, 2020.

Board Report

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, January 23, 2020.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$2,661.44.
3. Approved Work Order Inventories #19-11 for \$178,649.93 and #19-11MC for \$77,248.36 to be submitted to RUS for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Approved the fourth quarter estate requests for early capital credit retirements in the amount of \$26,537.28.
5. Authorized board attendance to the 2020 East River Energize Forum, February 5-6, 2020, in Sioux Falls.
6. Authorized Board President to execute the 2020 Fee Schedule Amendment to the Engineering Services Contract with Dalager Engineering.
7. Tabled the Northern Electric 2020 Operating Budget until the January 23, 2020, board meeting.
8. Approved revision to Electric Tariff, Marketing Programs 27.1, Third Party Rebates, to be effective January 1, 2020.

Talk to your director or co-op manager if you have questions on any of these matters.

Financial Report	November 2019	November 2018
kWh Sales	33,321,668 kWh	29,394,429 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,847,362	\$2,573,868
Total Cost of Service	\$2,663,249	\$2,343,782
Operating Margins	\$184,114	\$230,086
Year To Date Margins	\$584,800	\$621,548

Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill

November 2019	3,516 kWh	\$304.06	.0865 per kWh
November 2018	3,032 kWh	\$265.14	.0874 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 85.0% of NEC's total cost of service.

Space Heater Safety

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States. More than 65,000 home fires are attributed to heating equipment each year. These fires result in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property damage.

Portable electric space heaters can be a convenient source of supplemental heat for your home in cold weather. Unfortunately, they can pose significant fire and electric shock hazards if not used properly. Fire and electrical hazards can be caused by space heaters without adequate safety features, space heaters placed near combustibles, or space heaters that are improperly plugged in.



Safety should always be a top consideration when using space heaters. Here are some tips for keeping your home safe and warm when it's cold outside:

- Make sure your space heater has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Before using any space heater, read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully.
- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas and test them once a month.
- Proper placement of space heaters is critical. Heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.
- Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire. Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater.
- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces. Never place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture, or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.
- Always unplug and safely store the heater when it is not in use.

Source: esfi.org

Getting Involved

The state legislatures of both Minnesota and South Dakota convened in early January. Need to contact your legislator while in Pierre or Saint Paul? Here's how:



Contacting Members of South Dakota's Legislature:

Go to <http://sdlegislature.gov/> From there, you can search your senator or representatives, see the committees which they are assigned and send them an email. Need to reach them by phone? You can call and leave a message with the Senate at 605-773-3821 or with the House of Representatives at 605-773-3851. You can also send a fax to 605-773-6806.

Contacting Minnesota Legislators:

For contact information on Minnesota house members, visit:

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members>

For contact information on Minnesota senators, visit:

<http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members>

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't let anything get near your extension cords!"

Sierra Staufacker, 9 years old

Sierra is the daughter of Cory and Staci Staufacker, Balaton, Minn. They are members of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Tyler, Minn.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Bountiful Brunch

Pineapple-Zucchini Bread

3 eggs	3 cups flour
2 cups sugar	1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. vanilla	1 tsp. soda
1 cup oil	1 cup crushed pineapple, drained
2 cups peeled and grated zucchini	

Beat eggs, sugar, vanilla and oil. Mix in zucchini and dry ingredients; stir well. Fold in pineapple. Bake at 350°F for 1 hour. Makes 2 loaves.

Geraldine Dahlin, Beresford, SD

Apple Pie Breakfast Bake

2 cans refrigerated French bread	1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
1 cup butter, melted	1 tsp. apple pie spice
1 (21 oz.) can apple pie filling	1 tsp. vanilla

Bake loaves as directed on can; cool 20 minutes. Cut 1-1/2 loaves into 1/2-inch cubes to equal 7-1/2 cups. Reserve remaining 1/2 loaf for another use. Increase oven temperature to 375°F. In a 9x13-inch glass baking dish, evenly layer melted butter, apple pie filling and bread cubes. In a medium bowl, stir together milk, apple pie spice and vanilla. Pour over bread, pushing bread down to absorb liquid. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown and bubbly. Cool 15 minutes. Serve warm with maple syrup. (Note: You may also use day-old French bread cut into 1/2-inch cubes.)

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Breakfast Casserole

1 (8 oz.) can crescent rolls	1-1/2 cups shredded cheese
1 (16 oz.) pkg. bulk sausage, cooked and drained	8 eggs, lightly beaten
Diced onion, green pepper and mushrooms, optional	1/2 cup milk
16 to 32 hash brown potatoes, depending on number of servings desired	1 pkg. country-style gravy mix, prepared according to package directions

Press crescent rolls in a lightly greased 9x13-inch pan. Spread with sausage crumbles and veggies. Layer hash browns on top. Sprinkle with cheese. Combine eggs with milk; pour over all. Spread on gravy. Bake at 325°F for 1 hour or until cooked through in the middle.

Kim Jost, Agar, SD

Grilled Fruit with Cinnamon Oatmeal Crumble

6 T. butter, softened, divided	2 ripe peaches, halved and pitted
2 T. light brown sugar	2 ripe plums, halved and pitted
1 tsp. cinnamon, ground	
3/4 cup quick-cooking oats	

Mix butter, brown sugar and cinnamon in a medium bowl. Reserve 2 T.; set aside. Add oats to remaining butter mixture, stirring until well blended. Brush fruit with reserved butter mixture. Place cut-side down on grill over medium heat. Tent with foil or close grill lid. Grill 2 minutes or until grill marks appear. Turn fruit cut-side up; spoon oat mixture evenly on top of each piece. Return foil tent or close lid. Grill 3 minutes longer or until fruit is tender and topping is crisp. Serve topped with whipped cream or ice cream, if desired. Cooking over a campfire? Place grill grate over top of campfire. Grill fruit as directed, rearranging hot coals as needed to maintain even direct heat. Makes 4 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 290, Total Fat 18g, Fiber 3g, Cholesterol 45mg, Sodium 137mg, Carbohydrates 29g, Protein 3g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Omelet in a Bag

2 large eggs	Green pepper, diced
Ham or bacon pieces	Mushrooms, chopped
Onion, chopped	Grated cheese
Tomato, diced	

Give each guest a quart-size Ziploc freezer bag and have them write their name on the bag with a permanent marker. Crack 2 eggs into each bag (not more than 2). Shake to combine them. Put out a variety of ingredients and let each guest choose what they want in their omelet. Shake the bag. Zip the bag after making sure to get all the air out. Bring a large kettle of water to a full rolling boil. Place the bags into the water. When the water begins to boil again, boil for exactly 14 minutes. You can usually cook 6 to 8 omelets at a time. For more, make another kettle of boiling water. Open bags and the omelet will roll out easily. Serve with fresh fruit and coffee cake.

Roxanna Streckfuss, Mansfield, SD

Please send your favorite seafood, appetizer and beverage recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

ALL
ENTERTAINMENT
ENTERTAINMENT

Building an

ENTERTAINMENT

Hub in Aberdeen

by: Ben Dunsmoor



Business & Development BULLETIN

Have an idea for a business or development story?

Submit your ideas to editor Ben Dunsmoor at bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop or call 605-225-0310.

Where can you drive bumper cars, play laser tag, or throw axes in Aberdeen without the windchill of winter or the heat and humidity of summer? It can all happen inside Allevity Entertainment behind Aberdeen Mall when the facility opens its doors in February.

The new 20,000 square-foot family entertainment center will include seven indoor attractions and be the latest business to become a member of Northern Electric and receive electricity from the cooperative.

“This should be something where we have something for three-year-olds to 100-year olds,” Allevity Entertainment owner Al Novstrup said.

Al Novstrup and his son David Novstrup have been working to bring the indoor family entertainment center to Aberdeen for the past two years. The Novstrups currently own and manage two Thunder Road locations in Aberdeen and Sioux Falls which are outdoor amusement parks. With South Dakota’s climate, Allevity Entertainment was the ‘natural next step’ for the Novstrups.

“We looked at hundreds of facilities, so we took a little bit of everything,” Al Novstrup said.

Allevity Entertainment has been in development since David Novstrup served on a family entertainment center subcommittee of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA). David said his time on that committee gave him the opportunity to network with other experts and owners of entertainment and amusement facilities and sparked the idea to bring some of the best indoor attractions to Aberdeen.

“Seeing their facilities, we thought we should do something indoors. People (in Aberdeen) kept saying we want something indoors,” David Novstrup said.

Contractors are currently installing the attractions in the new building and Allevity is scheduled to open on time in

February. Families will be able to spend hours at the facility participating in the seven different activities and eating pizza, sliders, and snacks at the on-site cafe. Attractions include mini-bowling, bumper cars, 45 arcade games, a 3,000 square foot laser tag arena, a three-level children’s play area, an interactive climbing wall, and ax throwing.

“There are thousands of things we could have brought into this building and we brought seven, so we had a lot of ideas,” Al Novstrup said.

Allevity has been thoroughly researched according to the Novstrups, and they are including some of the most popular attractions based on research and their industry connections across the country.

“We’ve been able to see and talk to several people and see what has been successful,” David Novstrup said.

The Novstrups are working out details of pricing and passes for the attractions right now and have already had a lot of interest to host birthday parties and post-prom activities in the spring. Allevity Entertainment will be open seven days a week and will only close for major holidays like Christmas and Easter.

The Novstrups are excited to show off the attractions at Allevity to families throughout northeastern South Dakota,

but they are also working hard to take care of all the final details before the facility opens.

“The expectations are high, so we have to make sure we do not disappoint,” Al Novstrup said.



Ax throwing will be one of the attractions at Allevity. (submitted photo)



A rendering of what the three-level Allevity play area will look like. (submitted photo)



The ‘Spin Zone’ bumper cars attraction is already installed at Allevity Entertainment behind Aberdeen Mall.

ENERGIZING COMMUNITIES

We're led by members like you. Which means we're not out to make money. Instead, we're building communities by listening to your needs. We're shaped by the people we serve.

REASONS TO LOVE YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP

Delivering More than Just Electricity

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

From reliable energy to community involvement, there are a lot of reasons why co-op members love their electric cooperatives.

Co-Ops Are Local, Community-Focused Organizations

Co-ops have a rich history of serving their members and are facing the future with innovative ideas to help their members and grow their local communities.

Local people helping out. From billing clerks to line workers and every job in between, the people working at your local electric cooperative are the ones you'll see in your communities. They are serving on volunteer fire departments and as first responders, serving on school boards and county commissions, as ushers at church and as youth sports coaches.

Sioux Valley Energy employees get final instructions before embarking on their meal delivery routes.



Some cooperatives have launched employee community service days where local communities or organizations benefit from a day of service, whether it be a town clean up, restoring a rural cemetery, delivering meals to shut-ins or helping others in need.

Keeping Members Informed

Whether it's through this magazine, which reaches members each month or through social media channels like Facebook and Twitter or mobile apps like SmartHub, cooperatives continually strive to inform their member-owners about events and issues that matter. From a quick post or tweet about why the power may have blinked or celebrating the achievements of area youth, co-ops are communicating with their members and connecting them to their community. As storms approach, co-ops offer helpful tips for preparing for inclement weather and how to deal with the aftermath of storms.

Helping Members Save Money

Co-op demand response and load management programs have helped members save money for decades. And now, with interactive tools like SmartHub, an increasing number of co-op members are accessing information about their home's energy use right from their mobile device or computer. Several co-ops offer energy audits and other ways to reduce energy use.

Appliance rebates, loans for heating and cooling equipment and reduced rates for some energy use

are offered by some co-ops in the state. Check with yours to find out what programs could benefit you.

Diversifying Energy Resources

Cooperatives have a history of using an all-of-the-above approach to meeting members' energy needs. The first utility-scale wind project in South Dakota was built by co-ops and several co-ops have solar demonstration projects to help members learn about solar grid interconnection and other aspects of the resource.

Investing in Youth

When it comes to looking to the future, co-ops have the youth in their communities in mind. Each year, co-ops invest more than \$100,000 in scholarships for students pursuing further education at colleges or

technical schools. Dozens of students have the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C., for the annual rural electric youth tour, courtesy of their local electric cooperative. Several co-ops in the state send students on the four-day Youth Excursion to North Dakota each summer to explore energy careers and cooperatives. And throughout the school year, Co-ops in the Classroom and other safety demonstrations visit schools across the region to help younger students learn about using electricity wisely and how so be safe around it.



Students Can Apply Now For \$1,000 and \$500 Co-op Scholarships

2020 Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

Students of Northern Electric Cooperative members who are currently enrolled in a post-secondary school - or plan to enroll in the fall of 2020 - can now apply for two co-op-sponsored scholarships.

Bismarck-based Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which generates electricity for Northern Electric Cooperative, is awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a student within the Northern Electric service territory. Northern Electric is also awarding a \$500 scholarship to a student of a co-op consumer. Students can apply for both scholarships by filling out one Basin Electric 2020 scholarship application which can be found on the Northern Electric website at www.northernelectric.coop/scholarships. Applications can also be picked up at a Northern Electric office.

In 2019, Alexis Schock of Aberdeen was awarded the \$1,000 Basin Electric scholarship and Taylor Dinger of Hecla was the recipient of the \$500 Northern Electric

scholarship. Schock is attending North Dakota State University this fall and Dinger is a student at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota.

The scholarship application includes information about the student's academic record, ACT/SAT test scores, work experience, an applicant appraisal from an advisor or supervisor, and a one-page essay on the topic: 'Describe how cooperatives can be economic engines for their local communities.' The entire application must be completed and turned into one of the Northern Electric Cooperative offices by the February 14, 2020, deadline.

A committee of cooperative employees will critically evaluate the applications and award both the \$1,000 scholarship and the \$500 scholarship from the pool of applicants. Scholarships will be directly paid to the institution where the recipient is enrolled in the fall of 2020.

How to Apply

• Scholarship Eligibility

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, under the age of 25, and natural or adopted children of Northern Electric Cooperative members. Any applicant must be a student who is enrolled, or planning to enroll, in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.

• How the Selection Process Works

All applications are critically evaluated using a combination of several criteria including: SAT/ACT scores, grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a statement by the student explaining his/her educational and career goals, financial need, and a written recommendation by a third party.

A committee of cooperative employees will evaluate the applications and submit the entry to Basin Electric for scholarship distribution and select the winning entry for the Northern Electric scholarship.

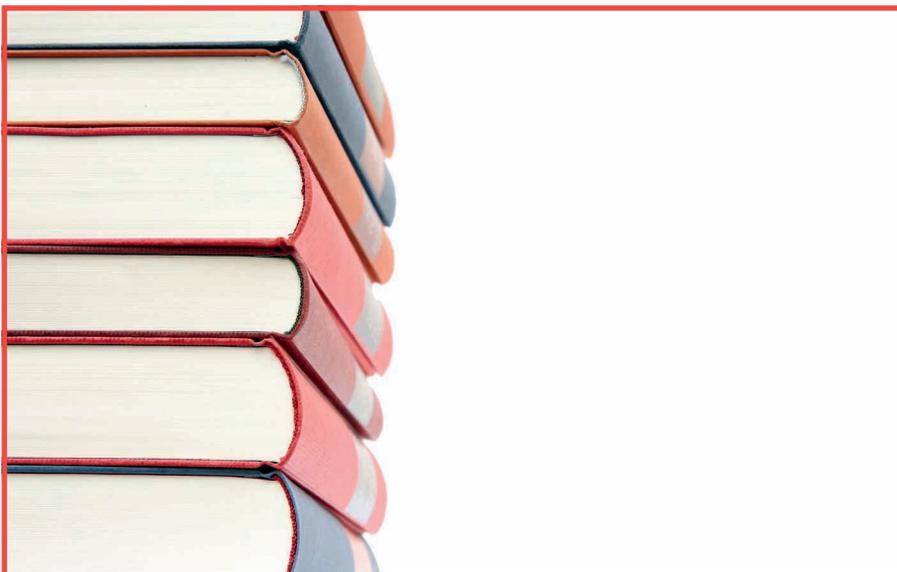
• Application

Applications are available from local high school guidance counselors, on the Northern Electric Cooperative website at www.northernelectric.coop/scholarships, or directly from the Northern Electric offices in Bath or Redfield.

Completed applications MUST BE RETURNED BY FEBRUARY 14, 2020 to:

Northern Electric Cooperative
ATTN: Kay Albrecht
PO Box 457
Bath, SD 57427

For more information contact Kay Albrecht at: **605-225-0310**



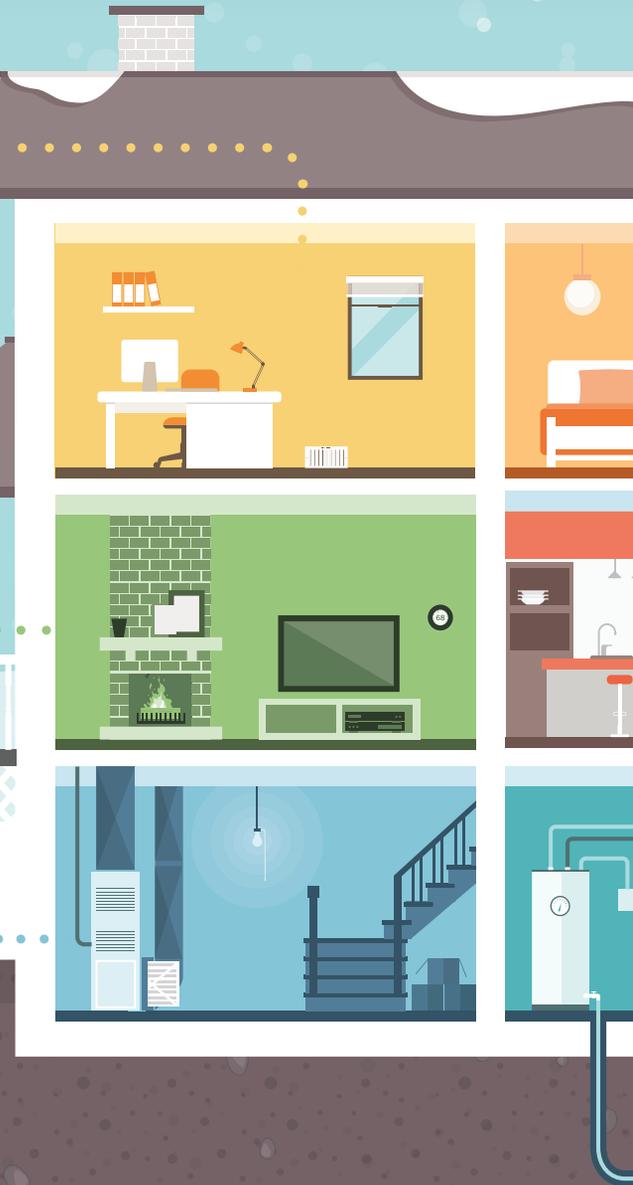
STAY WARM. SAVE MORE.

Here are a few heating tips to help keep both you and your bank account feeling warm and fuzzy this winter.

Open curtains on south-facing windows during the day.

Lower the temperature when away and during the night to save 10-20% with a new smart thermostat.

Keep your furnace working smoothly by changing air filters frequently and hiring a pro for tune-ups.



Together we are
RE-ENERGIZING EFFICIENCY



Northern
Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Nemo 500 Outhouse Races

NAJA Shrine
Transportation
Fund for Kids
Benefits from
Outdoor Event

Brenda Kleinjan

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**We called it the
Nemo 500 because
it sounded good.**

When one thinks of racing, cars, horses or motorcycles likely come to mind. But, in the Black Hills community of Nemo, outhouses – equipped with wheels, skis or both – are the vehicle of choice.

While each outhouse must be equipped with a seat with one hole, there are additional basic requirements in this competition designed to raise funds for the NAJA Shrine Kids Transportation Fund.

First, each outhouse will have a rider. And during the race, that rider will trade places with a teammate.

“There always has to be someone on the throne,” said Ervin “Red” Alspaw, a Shriner with the Oasis of Deadwood and one of the contacts for the race.

The outhouse must be at least five feet tall and the door (if there is one) has to stay open during the race.

The outhouse must have four walls and a roof and the team’s name must be on each of the walls.

“It’s a hoot,” said Alspaw.

Money raised at the event helps Shriners cover the transportation expenses of some 630 children in western South Dakota who seek care at Shriners Hospitals



A team prepares to race their outhouse in the 2017 competition.

nationwide.

“We called it the Nemo 500 because it sounded good,” said Troy Saye, race organizer and owner of the Nemo Guest Ranch where the event is held.

“We stepped it off a few years ago and it’s actually about 970 feet. You start at the restaurant and at midway everyone runs around the outhouse, retrieving a colored roll of toilet paper which must be placed in the correct order on a plunger.

Alliterations, euphemisms and creativity may make for memorable team names, but speed is the name of the game as the fastest team to complete the



Kids compete in the scoop shovel races.

The Rules

OUTHOUSE RACE RULES and STRUCTURE

- 1) Outhouse can only be human powered. No electric-, solar- or gas-powered assistance. The outhouse must have four walls, roof, doorway and seat with at least one hole. It may have a door, but the door must remain securely open during the race.
- 2) The outhouse must be a minimum of nine square feet at the base and a maximum overall width not to exceed six feet (including grasping or pushing devices). A minimum height of five feet from the floor to the highest point of the roof.
- 3) Any number and size of wheels or skis may be used.
- 4) Any device for pushing or pulling the outhouse may be used except ropes. All pushing or pulling devices must be secured solid.
- 5) Outhouses may be built from any material but glass and must be structurally sound.
- 6) Each entry must have an outhouse name that is to be displayed on each side of the structure. Sponsors' names may be displayed anywhere on the outside.
- 7) There will be three age divisions. (Age divisions will be determined by average team ages. Add all team members' ages and divide by the number of team members.)
 - Division 1: Ages 12 to 25
 - Division 2: Ages 26 to 45
 - Division 3: Ages 46 and over

Good to know:

Teams consist of two to five people, one of which must ride inside the outhouse.

Safety gear including helmets are required for all members and ice cleats are recommended.

Outhouse passengers must be 12 years old or older. Handles or seatbelts are required for the outhouse passengers.

Teams' dress is to reflect the theme of their entry.

Teams make a mandatory pit stop at mid race for a fire-drill. Each member must run around the outhouse three times and the rider must switch places with one of the pushers. Each team member will be required to place a color-coded roll of toilet paper on a color-coded plunger in order of color scheme provided at race time. The race will be timed from start to finish, the objective is to get the lowest time to win.



The costumed Sesame Streak team poses with their People's Choice outhouse trophy after the 2016 race.

race is the winner.

Winners in each of the age divisions get an outhouse trophy hand-made by Troy and Willie Saye.

The Sayes created the event after a 2006 visit from Willie's cousin, shortly after they bought the Nemo Guest Ranch.

"He said he had to get home for an outhouse race. We didn't know what it was," said Troy. The couple researched the event and found that several other

states held races. They developed their rules for the Nemo event. Early races were held just for fun or to raise money for different organizations. The race has been a benefit for the NAJA Shrine Kids Transportation Fund for the last eight or nine years.

The creative names don't stop at the race team names. It takes a certain fortitude to dip a spoon into some of the entries in the chili cook-off contest where cooks serve up three gallons of chili with names like "Presidential Poopers Chili" and "Dave's Chunky Pork and Beef Chili."

Kids can compete in the Scoop Shovel Races, but competitors must provide their own scoop shovel.

If you're going, check-in for the three divisions is at 10 a.m. and race time is 1 p.m. Preregister your team by Feb. 1 to receive a T-shirt.

If you have a team but don't have

an outhouse to race in, contact the Nemo Guest Ranch to see if theirs is available.

Advice for first-time attendees? Arrive early, dress warm and be prepared for

a bit of a walk (late-comers have had to park a half-mile away from the event.)

Attendance at the event varies with the weather, Saye said. Crowds range from 1,000 people up to 2,400 people when the race time temperature was 53 degrees.

"You have got to see it to really enjoy it," said Saye.

"When we first started, we never imagined it would take off the way it did," said Saye.

Interested? Visit nemo500.com for more information or contact the Nemo Guest Ranch at 605-578-2708.

When we first started, we never imagined it would take off the way it did.



New Rebate Available January 1, 2020

New Third-Party Grain Bin Management Rebate

The \$750 rebate is for any farm which installs a third-party grain bin management system that can replace a co-op load-control receiver.

Northern Electric Cooperative is rolling out a new rebate program for members in 2020. The \$750 rebate is for any farm which installs a third-party grain bin management system that can replace a co-op load-control receiver.

Third-party grain bin management systems are designed to provide data about grain storage and optimize grain drying. These systems can also be integrated with the Northern Electric and East River Electric Power Cooperative load-management system. Farm operators who integrate a grain bin manager with the co-op's load-management system can accept and bypass load-control signals remotely from any device using the bin manager platform. Farms that install a third-party grain bin management system will receive a \$750 rebate for every bin manager that replaces a load-control receiver.

To be eligible for the rebate the grain bin manager must meet these requirements:

- Eliminates the need for an East River load-control receiver.
- Has the ability to ingest automated notices from East River for shed and restore via email, text, or voice.
- Provides less than 15 minutes latency from East River email to load shed/restore time.
- Provides Northern Electric notice of member bypass.

Farm operators who have questions about third-party grain bin management systems and if those systems integrate with the co-op's load-management system should call a Northern Electric Member Services Representative at **605-225-0310**.

Members must pay up to \$750 to reinstall a co-op load-control receiver if they decide to discontinue the use of their bin manager for load control within five years of receiving the rebate.

Northern Electric members must be in good standing with the co-op to receive rebates and incentives.

Win A Gift Bag For Following Northern Electric On Instagram

Northern Electric Cooperative is ringing in the new year with a new social media channel. The co-op has launched an Instagram account as another method to communicate with members and the community.

“Social media continues to be an effective way for organizations to connect with their members and consumers,” Northern Electric Cooperative Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor said. “Instagram is the second-most widely used social network behind Facebook, so it was the natural next step to launch a co-op account on that platform.”

The co-op plans to use its Instagram account to feature unique photos from the field, behind-the-scenes content, outage notifications, and stories from the co-op’s service territory.



Five gift bags will be given away once Northern Electric reaches 100 followers on Instagram. Five more bags will be given away when the co-op’s account reaches 200 followers.

To follow Northern Electric simply search for the co-op’s Instagram handle @northernelectriccooperative in the Instagram app and click the ‘follow’ button. Northern Electric will give away five gift bags full of prizes to five lucky followers once the account reaches 100 followers. Five more gift bags will be given away when the account reaches 200 followers.

“We want to have fun with the new account and encourage our local members to follow us so they can stay updated about everything happening at their cooperative,” Dunsmoor said about the gift bag giveaway.

Northern Electric launched a Facebook page in 2013 and currently has 1,450 likes on its profile. There are links to both of the co-op’s social media accounts at the bottom of the Northern Electric website – www.northernelectric.coop

RECIPES NEEDED FOR

THE COUNTRY COOKIN’ cookbook

Your recipe could be featured in the 36th volume of East River Electric’s Country Cookin’ cookbook!

Help us create another great cookbook by submitting your favorite recipes as well as recipes for the cookbook’s “Light Side” section.

Submit recipes via email to

kstone@eastriver.coop,
fax to 605-256-8057,
or contact your local cooperative for more information.

Submission deadline is
January 27, 2020.

December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

January 24-25

Pro Snocross Races, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

January 25-26

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, National Field Archery Building, Yankton, SD, 701-361-9215

January 31-February 2

12th Annual Winterfest of Wheels, Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-231-3100

January 31-February 2

Winterfest, Lead, SD, 605-584-1100

January 31-February 9

Annual Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

February 1

Lake Hendricks Fishing Derby, Hendricks, MN, 507-828-2113

February 1

Living History Fair, Brookings Renegades, LATI, Watertown, SD, 605-693-4589, dhuebner@itctel.com

February 1-2

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Dakota Event Center, Aberdeen, SD, 701-361-9215

February 8-9

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 701-361-9215

February 10-16

Frost Fest, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6125



Photo courtesy: travelouthdakota.com

February 14

Snow Ball, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

February 15-16

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD, 701-361-9215

February 21

KORN and Breaking Benjamin, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 21-22

Mardi Gras Weekend, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

February 22

Cabin Fever Games, Yankton, SD, 605-665-8994

February 22-23

48th Annual Farm, Home & Sports Show, Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD 605-224-1240

February 26

The Harlem Globetrotters, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Barnett Arena, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 27-March 1

35th Annual SD State Dart Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

March 14-15

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Davison County Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD, 701-361-9215

March 18, June 11, August 13 and October 8

Kids Mystery Dinner Theater, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

March 20-21, 27-28

Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

March 21-22

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Codington County Ag Building, Watertown, SD, 701-361-9215

March 28

Annual Ag Day at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

April 3-4

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876 or 800- 999-1876

April 17-19

First Dakota Classic Archery Tournament, Yankton, SD, 605-260-9282

April 18

Design Challenge, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-731-2348

April 25

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.