

New Hampshire Electric Co-op TODAY

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APRIL 2009

Your Electric Co-op's Newsletter



FEATURE ARTICLE:

Annual Meeting 2009

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!

It's been 70 years since the first country homes were lit up by the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative. Back then, one line served all 150 members of the new Co-op! Now, we have more than 80,000 members and we want you to join us for dinner and the 70th Annual Meeting of Members.

This year's Annual Meeting will be held at the Plymouth Senior Center. A spaghetti dinner starts at 5 p.m. A suggested donation of \$5 will support the NHEC Foundation and its mission to support non-profit organizations across the state. You'll have a chance to meet with the Co-op's management and Board of Directors prior to the start of the Annual Meeting itself at 6:30 p.m.

At the Annual Meeting, you'll be able to hear about the performance of your Co-op in 2008 and pose questions to the company's management and Board of Directors. The results of the Board of Directors election will be announced, as will the winner of a Jeep Cherokee being awarded to one lucky member who returns his or her election ballot by the June 4 deadline (see story inside).

We've got door prizes for everyone and a post-meeting raffle, plus get the latest information on Co-op energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Remember - it's your cooperative and your chance to make your voice heard. See you June 10 at the Plymouth Senior Center.

RSVP for Annual Meeting

If you plan to join us for dinner at the Annual Meeting on June 10, 2009, please call Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007 so that we can plan food accordingly. You can also RSVP online by clicking the Annual Meeting 2009 link on the Co-op's web site home page: www.nhec.coop. The deadline to RSVP is Wednesday, May 27, 2009.



A big crowd turned out on December 4, 1939 in Lempster to witness the setting of the New Hampshire Electric Co-op's first pole. Since then, The Co-op has grown to serve more than 80,000 members in 115 New Hampshire communities.

2009 Annual Meeting of Members

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Spaghetti Dinner Starts at 5:00 p.m.

Business Meeting Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Plymouth Regional Senior Center

8 Depot Street, Plymouth, NH

NHEC Lineworker Saves A Life, Receives Award

Rob Lang, First Class Lineworker with New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC), was honored as a life saver for helping his badly injured neighbor last summer.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) presented its Life Saving Award "with appreciation and pride" to Lang (Local No. 1837), who provided first aid and summoned help after a chain saw accident left his neighbor unable to move.

The incident occurred July 18, 2008 in Lang's New Durham neighborhood. Responding to his neighbor's son's calls for help, Lang found the victim collapsed and bleeding from a leg wound. After instructing one child to call 9-1-1 and another to fetch some towels, Lang attempted to stem the man's bleeding by

applying a tourniquet. Paramedics soon arrived and thanks to Lang's help, were able to stabilize the victim before transporting him to a hospital.



NHEC Lineworker Rob Lang was honored Tuesday with the IBEW Life Saving Award. Attending were (from left): Ray Colello, IBEW 1837 President; Tara Hurtado, Rob's fiancé; Rob Lang, Lifesaver Award Recipient; Cynthia Phinney, IBEW 1837 Business Manager; Tom Ryan, IBEW 1837 Assistant Business Manager; Arthur Cornelissen, Jr., IBEW 1837 Chief Steward.

After several days in the hospital and much physical therapy, the victim is on the road to recovery. He thanked Lang personally last month at the new NHEC Alton District building, where IBEW officials and NHEC co-workers gathered to honor Lang in a surprise presentation.

Lang credited his regular First Aid training, which he receives as part of his NHEC lineworker training, with helping him keep his cool in a stressful situation.

New 'Red Flag' Requirements Help Fight Identity Theft

If you've called the Co-op lately you know that we're taking extra steps to safeguard your personal information. You may have been asked for the last four digits of your social security number or other information that will confirm your identity to us and make sure your personal information isn't being used for illegal purposes.

These steps are a result of the so-called Red Flag Rules mandated by the Federal Trade Commission. Identity thieves use personal information to open new accounts and misuse existing accounts, creating havoc for consumers and businesses. Financial institutions and creditors

are now being required to implement a program to detect, prevent, and mitigate instances of identity theft.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we strive to keep your personal information out of the hands of identity thieves.

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Polar Caves Park

Route 25, Plymouth, NH

Buy one get one FREE

Co-op Members – present this coupon and get one free admission when you purchase one at the regular price.

Coupon valid May 9th (Opening Day) through June 19th. Monday through Friday only.

www.polarcaves.com

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center

Route 113, Holderness, NH

\$5 Off Admission

Co-op Members – present this coupon and get \$5 off admission for up to four people.

Discount is valid for the 2009 Trail season (May 1- Nov 1). Coupon good for up to four people.

www.nhnature.org

Owl's Nest Golf Club

Owl Street, Campton, NH

Half-price Golf

Co-op members - present this coupon on Sunday May 10, 2009 for half-price greens fees (including cart) at Owl's Nest Golf Club.

Coupon is good for up to four people. Call ahead for tee time information.

www.owlstnestsngolf.com

Rates Going Down, But Why Not More?

At the time this newsletter went to print, the NHEC Board of Directors was expected to approve a rate decrease, effective April 1, which would result in an overall bill decrease of approximately 7% for the typical residential Co-op member using 500 kWh of electricity per month.

The projected decrease is the result of reductions being considered in two portions of your bill - Co-op Power and Regional Access Charge. It also reflects the seasonal decrease in the cost of natural gas. Wholesale power prices in New England are very closely tied to the cost of natural gas, which is the source of about 40% of electricity generated in New England, and the fuel source that is called upon to generate "the next kilowatt-hour" of electricity in most hours of the year. Traditionally, NHEC has adjusted its power costs in May and October. Those adjustments will now be made on April 1 and November 1 of each year to more accurately reflect the seasonal pricing periods of the natural gas market.

So why aren't electric rates coming down as low as natural gas and oil prices have these past few months? To prevent against market volatility and the risk it poses to ratepayers and the company, NHEC purchases most of its future power needs at various times

from a variety of suppliers in a variety of forms and for different future time periods. Much of the power you're using now, for instance, was purchased and priced months or sometimes years ago, when fuel prices were higher and on the way up. At the time, it made sense to lock in prices for a portion of our power supply to protect against the possibility fuel prices would continue much higher, as indeed they did in June and July of 2008. Now, fuel prices have nose-dived but we are still obligated to purchase power at the cost negotiated at a time when market conditions and price direction were very different and looking like they would get worse. Co-op Power price changes and direction generally lag behind those in the underlying fuels used to generate the electricity.

Power supply purchases being made now will, over time, incorporate the currently lower prices for natural gas. It is important to note that the Co-op Power portion of your bill includes no margin above actual costs. It is strictly a pass through, with some time delay, of the actual costs of wholesale electricity, the majority of which is obtained through competitive bidding and negotiations with suppliers and individual generators, supplemented with some purchases from the regional spot markets.

Ballots Mailing in May

Return Your Ballot for a Chance to Win a Jeep Cherokee!

Four open seats on the 11-member NHEC Board of Directors will be filled by members this year. Candidates running for election will be profiled in biographies to be included with the ballots mailing to all members in early May. Ballots must be returned to Co-op headquarters no later than June 4, 2009. Results of the Board election will be announced at the Annual Meeting on June 10, 2009 (see front page story), with new directors being sworn-in immediately following the meeting.

As an added incentive to return your ballot, the Co-op will be awarding a 2001 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4x4 with 75,000 miles to one lucky member who returns his or her ballot by the June 4 deadline.

For more information about the NHEC Board of Directors and the election process, visit our website at www.nhec.coop/boardofdirectors.

WATTS HAPPENING!

Board of Directors Meetings

The NHEC Board of Directors meets monthly at dates and locations that are available on the Co-op website at www.nhec.coop/boardofdirectors, or by calling Sharon Yeaton at 603-536-8801.

View Your Bill Online

Coming in April, Co-op members will again be able to view their bills online. To see a current copy of your bill, as well as archived copies of prior months' bills, visit our website at www.nhec.coop.

If you've never used our site, you'll need to register as a new user. Once you've activated your online account, you'll have access to a variety of resources, including two online bill payment options, our powerful home energy calculator and the ability to post free ads in the online Co-op Classifieds.

On The Web

What's the Co-op doing to meet the requirements of New Hampshire's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard? Get the whole story online at www.nhec.coop.



The BACK PAGE

KEEPING IT GREEN!



Your lawn will benefit from adding organic matter to the soil, however, like anything else it should be used in moderation. Choose a lawn care program that balances the needs of your family, your landscape and the environment.

Tips to promote an eco-friendly yard:

- Do not over apply organic products – especially those made from composted animal manures, which are relatively high in phosphorus, a known pollutant.
- Mow regularly and recycle (rather than bagging) grass clippings. This will help keep the nutrients where they belong – in your soil.

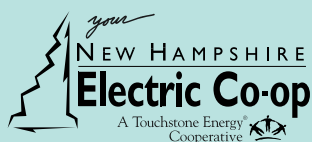
- Keep your mower blades sharp. Clean cuts reduce stress on the grass plant.
- Over watering – lawns need water, but too much can lead to disease problems.
- Water less frequently but for a longer period of time when you do water. This will promote a deeper root system which will make the grass more drought resistant.
- Avoid applying fertilizer where the soil is always wet or on very steep slopes. This will help reduce fertilizer runoff.
- Do not allow clippings and leaves to be blown or raked into roads, ditches or storm water drains where they (and the phosphorus they contain) can easily get in a waterway.
- Have a soil test performed to determine what nutrients your soil does or does not need.

*Information courtesy of Urban Tree Service/
A Tree Health Company, Inc.*



FRED SAID: "Choose a lawn care program that balances the needs of your family, your landscape and the environment."

Who is Fred? He's Fred Anderson, President & CEO of the Co-op and he's big on energy efficiency!



For member service please call
1-800-698-2007
Monday-Friday, 8-5:00
or visit us online at
www.nhec.coop

RESOURCECORNER



**DIG
SMART,
DIG
SAFE®**

By proclamation of the governor, April is Dig Safe® Month in New Hampshire. It's a great time to stress the importance of avoiding underground utilities when you're digging or excavating this summer.

When digging in the ground anywhere near NHEC's underground primary or service lines (or any other utility's lines), call 1-888-DIG-SAFE at least 72 hours prior to digging, even on private land. Participating utilities, including the Co-op, will be notified of your plans and mark underground wires. Dig Safe® is a free service that notifies participating member companies of excavation plans in their service territories. Note: Not all municipalities belong to the Dig Safe® Call Center, so when in doubt, contact your local town services to locate water and sewer lines.

Marking underground service wires beyond the meter is the responsibility of the land owner. You will find a listing of underground locators at the Dig Safe® website: www.digsafe.com.

Not only is Dig Safe® a good idea, it's the law if you're digging within 100 feet of any buried utility line. To learn more about Dig Safe® and smart excavating practices, visit their site online at www.digsafe.com.

To report an outage please call
1-800-343-6432

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