



For member service, please call  
800-698-2007 (M-F: 8am-5pm)  
or email [solutions@nhec.com](mailto:solutions@nhec.com)



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April 2026

# STAY CURRENT



## Mount up! It's Rodeo Time!

Back by popular demand, the Co-op is hosting this year's lineworker rodeo which will be held at Loon Mountain Resort in Lincoln from May 11-14.

The event, open to the public and sponsored by the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA), draws First Class lineworkers from NEPPA members, many of which come from New Hampshire as well

as Massachusetts, Vermont and New York. The lineworkers compete in events that resemble the things they do every day as part of their work, including the speed climb, hurt man rescue, changing out transformers and a mystery event. The rodeo has a fair-like festival feel for families and in addition to the competitions, food and retail vendors will be on site.

For more information go to: [neppa.org/2026-rodeo-conference-expo](http://neppa.org/2026-rodeo-conference-expo).

## Working From Home? Safety, Security and Speed

Working from home isn't going anywhere. No longer the exception, it's the rule. The latest data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Robert Half, global recruiting industry leader, shows just how much the landscape has changed for employers and workers. In 2025, 88 percent of U.S. employers reported offering hybrid arrangements, and one quarter of the U.S. workforce now operates within a hybrid model.

That makes reliable, high-speed internet essential for getting work done, especially when family visits and multiple devices are in play during vacation season.

"Fiber is the now and the future for internet service," said Sean Donovan, Broadband Operations Manager for NH Broadband.

Sean said the industry standard for meeting in-home internet needs is now 1 or 2 gig service. That demand will continue to rise as household and business needs evolve.

Fiber's speed and reliability come down to how it's built.

"Our product is fully fiber optic. There is no copper," Sean explained. "The coax cable used by cable companies runs on electricity that pushes the data through the copper lines. Fiber, on the other hand, transmits light through glass. Because of that, the elements do not affect glass the way they do copper. Glass does not corrode or

degrade from moisture the way copper does. No electricity means no corrosion," said Sean.

Fiber also delivers symmetrical upload and download speeds, unlike other internet technologies. So when, for example, your work involves moving large files, video footage or high definition projects, you will particularly notice there is no bottleneck.

"One of the things we do very well at NH Broadband, and this began when we started this project, was our thinking about how to build infrastructure. This whole project was developed to get people in rural areas – especially those in very rural areas with almost no internet options – speed and the ability to work from home seamlessly or enjoy entertainment without the spinning wheel of death," he said. "Now, our members can choose the latest technology in the internet world. Our members can get the same speed as people living in cities with four or five options."

Fiber also differs from cable in how the network is structured. Cable users in a neighborhood share the same line, which can create bottlenecks during periods of heavy traffic. Fiber is dedicated to a single home, so speed and bandwidth are yours alone.

In addition, broadband offers extra protection from hackers, including

built-in encryption that helps prevent data theft. That is one reason fiber is considered the safest option for internet connectivity.

"We haven't really found the limits of fiber," Sean added. ⚡

Read more about WiFi on the following page.



For many people living in the Granite State, working from home part or all of the time is their reality.

Here are some best practices to guard against a cyberattack:

- Use strong, unique passwords and consider a password manager.
- Turn on Multi-Factor Authentication.
- Use a VPN if your company provides one.
- Set up firewalls or parental controls.
- Keep auto-update turned on for the latest security patches.



## FAST FIBER AWAITS YOU AT THE LAKE

Now's the Time to Sign Up

- Plan for a seamless summer — get your Wi-Fi ready for the moment you arrive.
- Work remote without worry
- Stream lakeside all season long
- Summer install slots fill quickly — secure your preferred installation date now!

Go Faster. Stay Local.

VOTED BEST IN THE LAKES REGION BY YOUR NEIGHBORS AND TRUSTED BY THOUSANDS.

## BE READY FOR PEAK DAYS

Summer's hottest days may still be ahead, but now's the time to prepare.

- ✓ Enroll in Peak Days to help manage future power costs for all members.
- ✓ Get a notification from the Co-op before a Peak Event.
- ✓ Voluntarily reduce electricity use for a few hours during high demand periods.
- ✓ Small actions. Big impact.



scan to enroll today  
[nhec.com/peak-days](http://nhec.com/peak-days)  
Free to participate

## What's It All About – Mesh WiFi

The term Mesh WiFi has entered the mainstream, and multi-story households with multiple devices and users are wondering: Do we need this?

When it comes to internet service, a household wants one thing: a strong signal no matter where anyone is in the house. Enter mesh Wi-Fi. No longer a niche product, mesh is today's solution to whole-home networking.

Mesh uses a main router and interconnected nodes that work like satellites, allowing the equipment to

speak to each other seamlessly. In the past, homes often relied on multiple networks for coverage, and devices had to be on the right one to get the strongest signal.

No longer a niche product, mesh is today's solution to whole-home networking.

Now, depending on the size of the house or barriers like chimneys, beams, or cement walls, a router signal may weaken as it reaches

the second floor or basement. With internet-enabled appliances, smart thermostats, smartphones, gaming, laptops, and video doorbells all in use, mesh lets devices connect to the strongest node while maintaining fast, reliable speeds.

Without mesh, devices farther from the router struggle for signal, which can affect speed throughout the house. And nobody wants that. ⚡

*No longer a niche product, mesh is today's solution to whole-home networking.*

## Privacy and Power Lines

With spring arriving, members may have planting projects in mind.

Pines, cedars, firs, spruces, and hemlocks can provide a beautiful screen for your property. The problem comes when these species grow in or near the right of way and interfere with power lines. Safety and reliability drive everything we do, including our Vegetation Management program. If trees are within the Co-op's right of way — 15 feet on either side of a primary voltage utility pole — they are removed. Occasionally, smaller plants that block access to electrical equipment are also cleared.

It's all about the right tree, right place.

One smart option is *Juniperus chinensis* 'Blue Point,' commonly known as Blue Point Juniper, which offers both privacy and practical planting.

Screen plantings are often found along roads exposed to high salt and higher temperatures from warming asphalt. Blue Point is a tough, adaptable evergreen with high tolerance to salt and drought, strong resistance to deer damage, and a natural shape that requires little maintenance.

Its year-round appeal is not the only reason it stands out. This dense blue-green evergreen matures to 10 to 15 feet tall and can be planted near power lines, away from poles or areas that block access to electrical equipment.

As always, we advise members to **call DigSafe at 8-1-1 so underground lines can be marked.** DigSafe is free and it's the law. ⚡

**For more information visit: [nhec.com/vegetation-management](https://nhec.com/vegetation-management)**

## The Baker Within: Laura McCrea

Growing up in Alton, Co-op Member Solutions Representative Laura McCrea learned to bake in her childhood home, a seven-bedroom Victorian with four floors, massive bedrooms, and a commercial kitchen. She was the youngest of six, with eight and a half years between her and her oldest sister.

"I came to baking with my mother," Laura said, noting that her mother had a few smaller jobs here and there like working in the school cafeteria. "But her big thing was making wedding cakes. She would get calls pretty much from all over New England for her cakes. They were amazing."

Laura always helped her mom, including delivering the cakes and assembling the five-tier creations. "The cakes, the frosting, the flowers — I just loved it," she added.

If she is not helping a Co-op member, Laura is probably baking. From cookies and cakes to banana blueberry loaves and pies, her love of baking knows no bounds. She sells goods at craft fairs and regularly donates cookies, including batches her husband Gary brings along while delivering Meals on Wheels.

*If she is not helping a Co-op member, Laura is probably baking.*

"His clients especially love the oatmeal raisin cookies," she said. So much so that he'll say with a slight edge of nervousness, "Laura, I'm out of cookies."

On days at home, Laura gets up at 5 a.m. and starts baking to keep up. "I'll put in five batches at a time and it's cookies all day," she said, using her own commercial mixer, a gift from Gary that rests its 150 pounds on a wooden table built by her grandfather.

Laura also enjoys watching *Nailed It* and *Is It Cake* on Netflix. But baking, for her, is more than a hobby. Surrounded by her mother's stove, the mixer, and family recipes, it is an act of comfort and memory.

"If I'm having a bad day or something is bothering me, I'll just start baking. If I can't sleep at night, I'll wake up and start baking," Laura said. "I do enjoy it because it takes me away from everything. It's like I'm there with my mom again and that helps me. She was amazing." ⚡



## Did you know?

*You're not only a member, you're an owner*

Because New Hampshire Electric Co-op is a cooperative, our members are also our owners. Each year, when the Co-op has margins, those amounts are allocated to members as Capital Credits. To learn more about Capital Credits and how they are allocated, please visit our web site: [nhec.com/capital-credits](https://nhec.com/capital-credits).

You'll see your 2025 Capital Credit allocation listed on your April or May bill. **Please note, this is not a payment or bill credit — it's a record of your ownership interest in the cooperative.** The Board of Directors periodically reviews Capital Credits and may choose to return a portion to members in future years.