

A Service of **Cloverland Electric Cooperative**

January/February 2014

# Michigan COUNTRY LINES



## Shaggy's Company Skis to Success

**4** Rate Settlement Approved

**5** Director Nominations

**8** Cash For College

1.



### ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE ABOVE

The Administration is reversing course: ditching our **All-of-the-Above** energy strategy for an **All-But-One** approach that bans new coal plants.

2.



### TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE

New regulations essentially require technology that's **not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive**—leading to higher bills down the line.

# TOP 4 FACTS

ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

3.



### LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY

By banning new coal plants, Americans forfeit a **236-year domestic source of energy** with a historically stable price.

4.



### HISTORY REPEATS: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK

A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas & forced utilities into coal or nuclear—**before common sense prevailed and it was repealed 9 years later.**

**COOPERATIVE**  
  
**ACTION NETWORK**

Visit **ACTION.COOP** today to send a message to the EPA

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# Michigan

## COUNTRY LINES

### IN THIS ISSUE

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#### ON THE COVER

John (L-R), Shari and Jeff Thompson have made over 1,000 pairs of skis at their family shop, Shaggy's Copper Country Skis, in Boyne City. Featured are their "Brockway" model, and the best-selling "Tubby" (red) all-mountain ski. They have also started making skateboards, and are members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative.

Photo - Roger Boettcher, Leavenworth Photographics



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Rate Settlement Approved

On Dec. 19, 2013, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) issued an order approving a 2.4 percent rate increase for Cloverland Electric Cooperative as part of a rate settlement agreement. This increase will amount to \$2 million in revenue instead of the \$4.6 million requested in our August 2013 rate filing.

Guided by a comprehensive cost-of-service study performed in 2012, Cloverland's objectives with our rate filing were to have one set of properly allocated, cost-based rates for the cooperative, reduce the number of rate classes into three basic categories—residential, general service, and large power service—and to change the monthly facility charge so it appropriately recovers the co-op's fixed costs. Cloverland's proposed changes were designed to deliver a simple, fair and responsible rate structure.

Our rate structure needs to be one where we can recover our fixed costs through the facility charge. Fixed costs are those associated with providing electric service from the meter to the substation—poles, wire, transformers, vehicles, property taxes and tree-trimming, for instance. The rate structure also must provide Cloverland with sufficient, stable margins necessary for continually investing in the electrical system while meeting the cooperative's financial obligations.

While the settlement does not permit us to immediately implement one set of rates for the cooperative nor consolidate and simplify our many existing rate classes, as proposed,

this process will happen over time. The 10-year rate realignment schedule approved by the MPSC meets the cost-of-service-based

rate requirements and allows us to gradually adjust our energy charge and increase the facility charge each year so that we can recover more of our fixed costs. Following the end of the 10-year realignment period, Cloverland will have the desired one set of rates for the cooperative in the three primary rate classes: residential, general service and large power.

We continue to have near-term concerns should our financial ratios fail to meet required standards in the coming year. Your cooperative

has important system infrastructure improvements to make on the immediate horizon. As this rate case is based on 2012 and not 2014 financials, we could return with another filing in April to assure that we have the margins required to perform the needed work.

The rate changes agreed to in this recent settlement will go into effect with the January 2014 billing cycles. The revised rate structures and additional information is posted on our website at [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) and also available by calling 800-562-4953.

This was a long and difficult process. While the settlement was not entirely the result we looked for, our commitment is the same as it was at Cloverland's founding 75 years ago—to deliver safe and reliable electricity to you, our members. As we go forward, we will share both the barriers and opportunities the co-op encounters in this challenging rate environment.



**Daniel Dasho**  
President & Chief  
Executive Officer

## Capital Credit Retirement Update

Annually, your electric cooperative allocates margins to its member-consumers as capital credits. The amount allocated to each member's account is based on the amount of electricity purchased. The annual allocation notice printed on your electric bill confirms your share of the margins allocated for the prior year and the unretired capital credits in your account.

Over time, Cloverland retires and returns capital credits to its current and former

members. Before deciding to issue a retirement, your board of directors considers the co-op's current financial condition and future borrowing needs. Adequate margins must be maintained to satisfy the requirements of our lenders. As a result, the board of directors voted in October that it is in the best financial interest of the cooperative that we do not retire capital credits for 2013. You will receive this retirement in future years.

# We Need an All-of-The-Above Energy Strategy

**E**lectric co-ops are disappointed—but not surprised—that last fall the Obama Administration officially abandoned an “all-of-the above” energy strategy. Its new, “all-but-one” approach effectively removes coal from the nation’s fuel mix.

The policy, proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sets stringent limits on carbon dioxide emissions from future coal or natural gas plants. The trouble is that the new standards are impossible to meet with existing technology (see infographic on p. 2).

For several years, co-ops have tested carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology doesn’t make financial sense. It has never been used on a commercial scale at a power plant over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or cost. In a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers estimate it would increase the cost of using coal to produce electricity by 75 percent.

Switching to an all-but-one energy approach would limit Americans’ access to a plentiful, affordable resource, and would be gambling with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation’s economy.

Electric co-op members cannot afford the

significant increases in electric bills that this policy would trigger. Historically, the price of coal remains affordable and relatively stable. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports the United States has 236 years remaining of recoverable coal reserves. Thirty-seven percent of the nation’s electricity is generated from coal and about 36 percent of Cloverland’s purchased power is generated from it, too.

It seems the Administration lets history repeat itself. We saw this all-but-one approach in 1978 when Congress passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act. Never heard of it? Few have, but for several years the government banned natural gas for power generation. Yes, natural

gas—the fuel source being sold to the nation today as a cleaner option. With gas off the table, electric co-ops were forced to choose between building coal or nuclear plants.

Back then, co-ops were in the midst of a major power plant building cycle. With few options, they invested heavily in coal-based plants in the late 1970s and early ‘80s. Thankfully, Congress repealed its mistake, but not for nine years.

Co-ops have always been known for getting done what needs to be done. Let’s not repeat past mistakes. Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop). Tell the EPA we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy to help keep electricity affordable.



## Co-op Director Nominations

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit electric utility that is owned and democratically-controlled by those it serves. As member-owners, you have a voice in the cooperative through the members you elect to serve on the board of directors.

A Cloverland member interested in seeking election to the board of directors must meet the director qualifications outlined in the co-op’s bylaws and file a petition for nomination containing the valid signatures of at least 25 members from his or her district.

Director elections will take place in May. The mail-in ballot and information about director-candidates will be included with the May/June issue of Country Lines. Election results will be presented at the annual meeting of the cooperative’s members in June.

For a nominating petition and information packet, call 906-632-5143. Nominating petitions and supporting documents



must be returned to the cooperative’s administrative office located at 725 E. Portage Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie by 4:30 p.m. on March 7, 2014.

Cloverland Electric’s service area is divided into three membership districts, with each represented by three directors elected by and from the members of that district to serve a three-year term of office.

# Cooking For One

Cooking for one?

These single-serving recipes will help you save time and energy, are easy to prepare, and sized perfectly for just you!

## Burrata Caprese with Balsamic Glaze

1 small loaf of french bread, cut into 1-inch slices, toasted

7-8 grape tomatoes, cut in half

3-4 large basil leaves

1 container burrata (mozzarella filled with cream) or mozzarella cheese

### Balsamic glaze:

1½ c. balsamic vinegar

½ t. honey

On a plate, arrange bread, tomatoes, basil, and burrata. For glaze, bring balsamic vinegar to a boil in a small saucepan. Reduce to a simmer, and cook until thick and syrupy. Remove from heat and stir in honey. Let cool completely before serving (it will thicken as it sets). You can also use store-bought balsamic glaze which is much easier. On each piece of

bread, spread the burrata. Add the balsamic glaze, a piece of basil, and top with 2 tomato halves. This is a quick, healthy meal that is perfect for one person. No cooking required.

Christin McKamey

## Grilled Chicken Nachos

1 oz. baked tortilla chips

¼ c. drained, low sodium black beans, heated

4 oz. grilled lean boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into small cubes

2 T. salsa con queso

3 T. chopped tomato

2 T. thinly sliced jalapeño pepper

Lay chips on plate. Top them evenly with the beans followed by the grilled chicken. Drizzle the salsa evenly over the top. Top with the tomato and jalapeño slices and serve. Serves 1.

Lorraine Green, South Boardman

## Apple Crisp for One

1 T. quick cooking oats

1 T. brown sugar

½ T. flour

dash of cinnamon

dash of nutmeg

dash of salt

½ T. margarine

1 c. sliced, peeled apples

Combine oats, brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Cut in margarine with fork until crumbly. Set aside. Place apples in small microwave-safe dish. Top with oat mixture. Microwave on full power, uncovered, 2-4 minutes or until apples are tender, rotating dish once. Serve with frozen yogurt or ice cream, if desired.

Barb Spencer, Petoskey

## Curried Chickpea Stew

1 t. olive oil

1 c. onion, diced

1½ c. carrots, diced

2 cloves garlic, finely dice

1½ -2 T. curry (depending on taste)

1 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes

1 16-oz. can chickpeas

1½ c. water

1 cube chicken or vegetable bouillon

1 whole chicken breast cut into ½-inch pieces

1 T. butter

1 t. sugar

In a 4½-quart stock pot, add ½ c. water, carrots and onions. Simmer until carrots are tender. Add more water if needed, remove carrots and onions. Add olive oil and curry, and heat for 30 seconds or until bubbles appear. Add garlic, remaining water, tomatoes (juice and all), drained chickpeas, chicken



and bouillon cube. Stir until bouillon cube is dissolved. Simmer until chickpeas are tender. Add more water, if needed. Stir vigorously to thicken. Remove from heat, add sugar and butter, stir to dissolve sugar. Garnish with Greek yogurt (optional). This is a delicious, one-pot meal.

Jeff Ullen, Bellaire

Photography by: 831 Creative

## Recipe Contest Winner!



Chris McAfee

Congratulations to Chris McAfee of Pointe Aux Pins on Bois Blanc Island. Her name was drawn from all readers whose recipes we printed in 2013 and *Country Lines* magazine will pay her

January electric bill as a prize.

Chris and her family have been members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op since the co-op brought electricity to the Island in 1964. She loves her piece of paradise with lots of wonderful people, miles of ATV trails, beautiful woods, and the surrounding crystal-clear water of Lake Huron.

**Submit your recipe!** Thanks to all who send in recipes! Please send in your favorite "Easter" recipes by **Jan. 10** and "Hawaiian Luau" recipes by **March 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email [recipes@countrylines.com](mailto:recipes@countrylines.com).

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!



Visit recipe editor Christin McKamey's website, [veggiechick.com](http://veggiechick.com), for healthy, vegetarian recipes and info!

# HYDROPOWER

## TIME-TESTED RENEWABLE ENERGY

This is fifth in a series on how electricity is generated. The first (January) was about coal, the second about new nuclear options (June), the third about wind (July-August), and the fourth about natural gas (October). Watch future issues for stories about other fuel sources.

**E**nergy from flowing water has been harnessed and used for over 2,000 years, beginning with the ancient Greeks using water wheels to grind wheat. In the 1880s, converting a rush of water into electricity became a reality in the United States.

Today, hydropower provides about 80,000 megawatts (MW) of capacity in the United States—enough to power over 25 million average homes—and accounts for about 75 percent of all renewable electricity used by co-ops.

But how does it work? Simply, hydropower converts the natural energy of moving water to mechanical energy, using a turbine that is attached to a generator. With these highly efficient turbine-generators doing the job formerly performed by water wheels, electricity flows in a number of ways:

**Impoundment:** When most people think of hydropower, dams come to mind. By plugging a river and amassing water in a reservoir, its flow (and the resulting electricity) can be better controlled and generated as needed.

**Diversion:** Water is channeled away from a river, typically near natural falls, down to generators at the falls' base. This can be done without any visible impact to a river's natural course. In fact, this kind of generation was used to bring electricity to Buffalo NY, from Niagara Falls in the late 1800s.

**Pumped storage:** This method essentially uses off-peak electricity to make electricity for use during times of high consumption. Two reservoirs are filled, one typically uphill from the other, with an electric pump/

generator in between. At night, when demand is low and electricity less expensive, water from the lower reservoir is pumped uphill. During the day, when demand for power increases, that water is released down through the generator to make electricity.

Over 600 electric co-ops across the country buy power from 134 federally-owned and operated dams, most of which were built between the late 1930s and early '60s. Despite the incredible importance of these resources, maintenance has lagged in recent years and created room for improvement.

Electric co-ops are making efforts to address this problem, advocating that the government set aside funds to repair and maintain the dams and turbines. Researchers are also looking to create more efficient and fish-friendly ways to generate hydropower. Careful studies of aquatic environments have given dam operators a better idea of how to simulate a natural river downstream.

A 2012 report from the U.S. Depart-

ment of Energy (DOE) revealed many of the nation's dams hold untapped power. Roughly 2,500 provide conventional and pumped-storage hydropower in the United States. But the vast majority of dams—some 80,000, ranging from 4 to 770-foot-high—are non-powered. The DOE analyzed 54,391 of them.

Locks and dams on the Ohio, Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas rivers—facilities owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—offer the most untapped potential. The top 10 sites alone could provide about 3,000 MW.

“Many of these dams could be converted to generate electricity with minimal impact to critical species, habitats, parks or wilderness areas,” the DOE report states.

Co-ops' efforts in pushing for increased maintenance and technology development will ensure that hydropower remains a reliable, affordable, renewable resource for decades to come.



Cloverland Electric Cooperative's hydroelectric plant in Sault Ste. Marie generates between 25 and 30 megawatts of electricity. Clean, renewable hydro makes up nearly 35 percent of the co-op's fuel mix. To see a recent chart showing what your electric co-op's fuel mix is, visit [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) and click on the co-op name and then click the Sept. 2013 issue.

Photo Courtesy - Cloverland Electric Co-op

## Co-op Youth Programs

The Michigan Electric Cooperative Association will host its annual Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) on April 23-25 at SpringHill Camp in Evart. Students will participate in a variety of indoor and outdoor team-building exercises, including a high-ropes challenge.

Cloverland Electric will select up to five area high school sophomores or juniors who are 16 or 17 years old to attend this co-op sponsored event (see back cover). The students' parents must be Cloverland members. Applications are available at [miYLS.com](http://miYLS.com).



The YLS is just the first step toward an even more exciting adventure! All YLS participants will be considered for an "once in a lifetime" opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. Cloverland will select one student to represent the cooperative at the National Rural Electric Youth Tour, June 14-19. Over 1,500 students from all across America take part in the Youth Tour of D.C. each year. Students meet with their U.S. representatives and senators, hear from dynamic, inspirational leaders on a special Youth Day, and explore our capital's museums, memorials and monuments.

## Make the Switch—Go Paperless!

Prefer to pay your bills online? Join the growing number of Cloverland Electric Cooperative members that made the switch by having their electric bill delivered to their "Inbox" instead of a traditional mailbox. Our "paperless billing" option is a free service that is both good for the environment and helps your electric co-op reduce expenses.



"Since we're a not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric utility, we're always looking for ways to improve service and reduce costs. Paperless billing is one way our members can help," says Wendy Malaska, director of communications and member services.

Stop by [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) today and click on the "Pay Bill" icon on the home page and you'll be taken to our secure, self-serve site. If it's your first visit, you'll need to enter the Cloverland account number printed on your electric bill, an email address (user name), and a password to register for online access to your account. Before submitting the new user registration form, check the "Discontinue mailing my printed statements" box and you will receive future statements electronically.

Paperless billing is a service that you control. You can start or stop it simply by clicking on the "Start/Stop Print Bill" link located on the account screen. With this fee-free service, you're in the driver's seat.

## Engine Block Heater Timer Rebates

Cloverland Electric's Energy Optimization program now offers a \$20 rebate on engine block heater timers. Using a plug-in timer, you can run your heater for just a few hours instead of hooking it up at night and turning it off in the morning—a savings of energy and money!

A 1,000-watt heater operated for 10 hours uses 10 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a day compared to one operated with a timer which only uses about 2 kWh. You save about 8 kilowatt-hours or about 90 cents a day.

For a limited time, private and commercial farms are eligible to receive a FREE engine block timer on a first-come, first-served basis through the EO Farm Services Program. For more details, call 1-877-296-4319 or email [info@michigan-energy.org](mailto:info@michigan-energy.org).



## CASH FOR COLLEGE

If you are a Cloverland Electric member with a son or daughter graduating from high school this year, contact Wendy Malaska at 906-632-5151 to receive a scholarship application or email your request to [wmalaska@cloverland.com](mailto:wmalaska@cloverland.com). This year, the co-op will award three \$1,500 Power of Excellence Scholarships for use at any university, college or technical/vocational school during the 2014-15 academic year. **Scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 4, 2014.** All required supporting documents must be submitted with the application.



### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Properly installed shades can be one of the most effective ways to improve windows' energy efficiency. Lower them during summer; in winter, raise during the day and lower at night on south-facing windows. Dual shades, with reflective white coating on one side and a heat-absorbing dark color on the other, can be reversed with the seasons and save even more energy. Learn more at [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov).

Source – U.S. Department of Energy

# Bluegill Bob

There are a lot of ways to make a name for yourself as an angler: catching record fish, winning fishing tournaments, designing productive lures, even writing about the experience.

But Bob Miskowski didn't do it any of those ways. Miskowski became one of Michigan's legendary anglers simply by catching fish.

A 70-year-old retired maintenance man who lives in rural Lenawee County, Miskowski is known statewide by the "Bluegill Bob" moniker that he was given by a Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist over 20 years ago. And though he's carried the nickname around for so long, he's still surprised when another angler pulls up to him on the lake and asks: "Are you Bluegill Bob?"

Miskowski says his first recollections of fishing are as a 6-year-old accompanying his father on the ice. His predilection for

ing for everything from suckers to salmon, Miskowski seems to always gravitate back to bluegills.

"You can always catch bluegills," he explains. "You may not catch a lot of them, but you always catch some—always. With bass or pike or walleye, you can fish all day long sometimes and get skunked, but with bluegills, that just doesn't happen.

"They're fun to catch, too. They fight as well as any fish in the lake. And they're good eating—ask anybody."

Miskowski begins the season as soon



**You can always catch bluegills.  
You may not catch a lot of them, but  
you always catch some—always.**

piscatorial pursuits is in his genes, he says.

"My father taught me everything I know," he says, proudly. "He was a heckuva fisherman, and so were his brothers."

Truth is, Miskowski started picking up tips from other anglers, fishing magazines, and even developed a different style of fishing than the rest of his family while he was still in single digits. He has refined his style over the years, until he established his reputation as one of the best bluegill fishermen anywhere.

First, he said, he started using simple flies instead of the standard hooks and worms used among panfish anglers. Instead of a bobber, he uses a heavier plastic practice plug, which, while still floating, allows him to cast much further distances than a lightweight bobber. As a result, it covers more water and presents his bait to more fish. While the heavier float doesn't submerge like a light cork when a fish bites, he just watches for any unusual motion and then sets the hook.

Although he's spent plenty of time fish-

ing as the ice is off the lake. He concentrates on shallow, dark-bottomed backwaters—often canals off the main lake—where the water warms up fastest. He starts with just the bobber and an unweighted fly, which sinks slowly in the cold water. If it's not working, he adds a tiny bit of bait—usually a spike (fly larva) or wax worm (bee moth larva). As the season progresses and the fish move a little deeper, he adds some lead wire to the chenille body of his hand-tied flies so they'll sink faster and get down to the strike zone more quickly.

Miskowski maintains this same presentation until the bluegills go on the beds, then, when the sunfish become more aggressive, switches from insect larva to red worms—the bait he'll stay with all summer until the water begins to cool again in the fall.

Once ice fishing season arrives, Miskowski is really in his element. He's designed his own lightweight combination seat-and-gear box that has become known as a "Bobby

Box," in which he carries a lantern for keeping his hands warm. Miskowski dislikes ice shanties or shelters—"I want to be out on the ice and be able to pick up and go and where I can move around," he says. That's a big part of his strategy; he begins the day by drilling a number of holes and rarely spends more than a couple of fishless minutes at one before he moves on.

It's a fairly rare day that Miskowski doesn't bring back his limit of fish for the fryer. It used to be a rare day that he didn't fish, too, though he admits that as the aches and pains of advancing age make their presence known, he's down to fishing three or four days a week now—anytime the water is open or the ice isn't unsafe.

"I used to fish every day, and sometimes twice a day, except on Sunday," adds Miskowski, a deeply religious Christian, who signs off on the telephone with "God bless."

"On Sunday," he says, "I go to church."

*Bob Gwizdz is an avid outdoor writer featured in many hunting and fishing publications.*



# Shaggy's Company Skis to Success

Like most kids, Jeff and Jonathon Thompson loved taking things apart and putting them back together, never thinking that their inquisitiveness might lead to a new family business.

They were teenagers when they first built a surfboard with the help of their dad, John. That winter, Jeff wanted to build a "ski bike" by cutting apart an old pair of Dynastar skis to attach to a bike frame. Noticing how

they were built in layers, the boys decided to build a pair of skis, too.

That was 2005, and that first pair of skis was not a successful start.

"We built them in a barn that was about 40 degrees, and discovered that it needs to be warmer for skis to cure in a press. My brother brought them to the U.P. for a race that winter right after they were made, and they de-laminated before we got them on

the slopes," laughs Jeff

Previously, the family had a successful construction business, building as many as 300 homes in some years before the economic downturn. "We had vacationed in the Boyne City area for years, and as the ski business started picking up and the building business slowing down, we decided to make the move from South Lyon, where we had lived for years," John adds. ●●●●●●●●●●



John (L) and Jeff Thompson, of Shaggy's Copper Country Skis, prepare materials that will be pressed into skis, including an ash wood core, Durasurf 4001 base, triaxial fiber glass, damping rubber strips, steel edges, ABS sidewalls, Durasurf tip/tail spacer, and a graphic topsheet.



If you want to demo a pair of Shaggy's skis, the Thompsons and their reps will be visiting Michigan ski areas this winter (check the schedule at [sccskis.com](http://sccskis.com) or call 231-459-4323), or stop by their Boyne City shop.



After stone grinding, Shari Thompson applies hot wax to a new pair of skis. The Thompsons are members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative.

Carving a turn on a Shaggy's dropdeck longboard.



Fast forward to 2013, and you find what started as a hobby is now a full-time business called Shaggy's Copper Country Skis.

"This year we will probably make around 200 pairs of skis," John notes proudly. "We've produced over 1,000 skis since that first mistake."

The Shaggy's company is staffed by Jeff, John and wife Shari, who does the bookkeeping, ordering materials and sales. Brother Jonathon has moved to Colorado in another line of business. John and Shari have been married for nearly 35 years.

"One of the reasons we chose to move up here, in addition to having wonderful testing facilities in nearby Boyne Mountain and Nubs Nob, is that the heart of our ski – ash and beech wood – is milled just down the road at Metalski Lumber," John explains.

Each ski takes eight to 10 hours to construct and fine-tune before it's ready to sell. The company offers 10 different pairs of skis, ranging from \$595 to around \$795.

Jeff, 23, recently graduated from Michigan Tech with a mechanical engineering degree and is applying that knowledge of how a ski performs physically and geometrically to making a top ski for Midwestern and Michigan users. "Our all-mountain ski has a tighter turning radius that works well on our conditions, but it's a great ski for the mountains, too," he says. "The Tubby, one of our best-selling skis, floats well in powder and softer spring snow conditions but provides a good ride on hardpack, as well."

The Shaggy's Copper Country Skis name was Jeff's idea. Their great uncle, Shaggy Lehto, was a blacksmith who lived in the Keweenaw Peninsula and had a hobby building hand-carved skis. "He made a pair for dad's mom that's a family heirloom, and I thought, 'what a great name for the company,'" Jeff recalls. "It's uniquely Michigan."



Besides skis, Shaggy's has started making longboards (skateboards). Here, Jeff Thompson mills out the shape of a longboard deck.

# Energy-saving Resolutions for 2014

**A** new year is an opportunity to assess different aspects of your life and determine how you can make positive changes. Unfortunately, resolutions can be tough to keep. So, why not try a new one this year that's easy and painless? Saving energy is simple and rewarding—and, any amount you save counts. Here are four simple tips from Cloverland Electric Cooperative's Energy Optimization program to help you save energy—now and throughout the year.

## 1. Set, program, relax: Use a programmable thermostat.

A programmable thermostat automatically controls your home's indoor temperature based on your schedule. In the winter, it is not necessary to keep an optimal heating temperature on weekdays when you're away or at work. Just input the time you typically leave and return, set the temperatures accordingly, and your home will be nice and cozy by the time you arrive, saving you energy and money.

### Results:

Save up to 10 percent on your heating and cooling costs per year.

**EO rebate:** \$20 (any model).

## 2. Open up and let the light in.

Window treatments are an unexpected energy saver. In colder months, keep your blinds open during the day. This allows sunlight to enter your home and warm things up. After the sun sets, close your drapes to keep out the cold and hold onto some of the warmth generated during the day.

### Results:

Energy savings will gradually add up over time. Most importantly, your home will feel more comfortable.

## 3. Same features, less energy: Switch to energy-efficient products.

Shop the ENERGY STAR® label for guaranteed product performance and quality. ENERGY STAR products—from refrigerators to TVs and lightbulbs—are backed with third-party testing, have the same features as standard models, and use significantly less energy.

### Results:

Expected energy savings range from 15 to 75 percent per year.

## Energy Optimization rebates:

\$10-\$50—choose from over 20 high-performing energy-saving products. See [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) for details.

## 4. Dive in: Easy water-saving options.

Whenever you use water, you also use energy to pump and heat the water. Making energy-saving adjustments can be simple: 1) Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. 2) Install water-saving retrofit devices, such as faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads. For recommended models that don't sacrifice water pressure, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).

### Results:

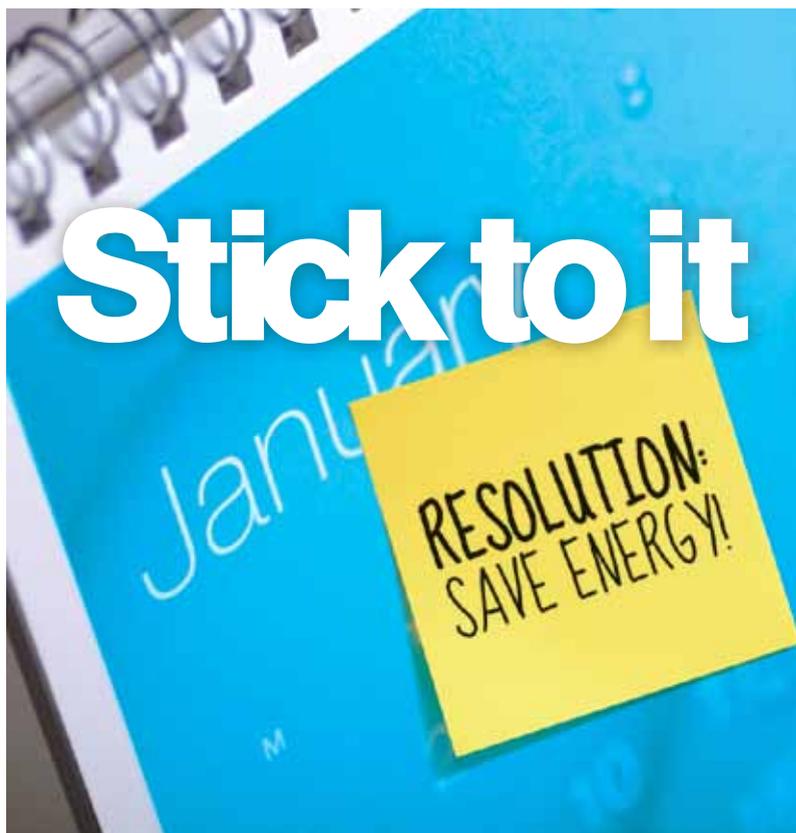
Save energy, and thousands of gallons of water.

## Energy Optimization rebates:

\$10 per low-flow faucet aerator.

### Got the energy-saving bug?

View more energy-saving opportunities and current rebate offers at [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call 877-296-4319 for details.



## Resolve to save energy in 2014

Want a New Year's resolution that's fast and easy? Save more energy at home and at work. Why?

**It's painless, doesn't involve exercise, and still makes you feel good!** With the help of the Energy Optimization program, it's easy to kick-start savings with rebates for energy-efficient lighting, appliances, furnaces, thermostats, and more.

**ENERGY TIP: Take advantage of the sun's heat.** Even in the winter, opening your drapes during the day can allow enough radiant heat into your home to allow you to lower your thermostat settings.

ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).

# Home Safety Calendar



Use this handy calendar to help keep your home safe all year long. Visit <http://virtualhome.esfi.org> to learn more about home electrical safety.

## JANUARY

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Check and replace furnace filters

## FEBRUARY

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Vacuum refrigerator coils

## MARCH

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Replace smoke/CO alarm batteries if not done in the past 12 months

## APRIL

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Check and replace furnace filters

## MAY

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Vacuum refrigerator coils
- Clean air conditioners or schedule annual inspection

## JUNE

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Dust light fixtures and lamps
- Schedule annual inspection of gas-powered dryer

## JULY

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Check and replace air conditioning filters

## AUGUST

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Vacuum refrigerator coils

## SEPTEMBER

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Schedule annual furnace cleaning and inspection

## OCTOBER

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Check and replace furnace filters

## NOVEMBER

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Vacuum refrigerator coils

## DECEMBER

- Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- Test smoke & CO alarms
- Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- Dust light fixtures and lamps

# Embrace Change

Last summer, a dog walked into the Bay Pines Veterinary Clinic, near Harbor Springs. He must have been amazed when the staff knew him by name. "Are you Bandit?" they asked. "THE Bandit?" His Australian Shepherd tailless butt wagged with delight as he hobbled to meet their outstretched hands.

How did they know Bandit? It turns out that everyone in the clinic reads *Michigan Country Lines* and remembered him from a column I wrote over two years ago. That's the kind of community this magazine was meant to build when it began 33 years ago.

Then, every town of decent size had a printer who crafted posters, flyers, school programs, and the weekly newspaper (a local Facebook, Twitter and Craigslist rolled



Sadly, Bandit has been diagnosed with bone cancer, so this will be his last winter.

business because they couldn't adapt to the changes computers have brought to printing and publishing.

But, *Country Lines* is adapting and changing in ways that will pave the way for greater integration between print, online and social

into one). I wrote for those printers, before I became *Country Lines*' first editor.

Many of those printers, including the one in which *Country Lines* was born, no longer exist.

They went out of

media communications. These changes embrace all the ways we communicate today, and will help *Country Lines* build a stronger co-op community.

I'm proud to have been part of this magazine, and I loved working on it. It was never a job. We won a few awards along the way, and it became one of the best-read of similar publications across the country. Thank you for reading it and letting me know what you thought.

Even though this is my last *Country Lines* column, I intend to keep writing, but where I will publish is uncertain. Send me an email at [mike.f.buda@gmail.com](mailto:mike.f.buda@gmail.com) or "friend" me on Facebook if you want to know where to find my ramblings



Mike Buda is the creator and editor emeritus of *Michigan Country Lines*.



## Michigan Heritage Quilt Finds a Permanent Home

Created from 36 winning squares in a *Country Lines* quilt contest held in 2002, the Michigan Heritage Quilt depicts personal memories, traditions and images from across our beautiful state, and the Eastern Upper Peninsula History Consortium has become its permanent home.

The Consortium represents 22 E.U.P. museums, and while the Pickford Area Historical Museum will be the quilt's official caretaker, it will rotate for display among all member museums.

Many thanks to readers who sent in their ideas on where the quilt should live. For more information on the quilt or the E.U.P. Consortium, contact the Pickford Area Historical Society, 175 E. Main St., P.O. Box 572, Pickford, MI 49774, or call 906-647-1372.

Pictured above with the quilt are (L-R) Mary June, Consortium treasurer; Dianne Schmitigal, Pickford Area Historical Society president; and Susan James, vice president of the Chippewa County Historical Society.



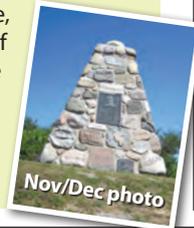
### ◀ DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Feb. 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric cooperative.

**We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone!** Email [mysteryphoto@countrylines.com](mailto:mysteryphoto@countrylines.com); enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com); or send by mail to *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and name of

your co-op. Only those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the March 2014 issue.

The Nov./Dec. 2013 contest winner is Bill Pioszak of St. Johns, who correctly identified the photo as the Cairn Monument on Cairn Hwy, north of Kewadin, marking the 45th parallel.



Nov/Dec photo

## LETTERS

### Raw Egg Recipes

I have been meaning to write and tell you that pasteurized raw eggs can be found in grocery dairy and egg sections. These are safer for recipes calling for raw eggs. Maybe you can pass that along to the lady who wrote about them in the July/Aug. 2013 issue.

I also want to comment on the diabetic recipes (Oct.). Thinking regarding diabetics and sugar has greatly changed. They are no longer limited to sugar-free substitutes for their sweetening choices. The focus is now on balancing diet with assorted proteins, fats and carbs, eating smaller portions throughout the day, and counting carbs.

As a nurse, I try to pass along information people can use. The danger of sugar substitutes is they can make diabetics think such foods are good for them or don't need to be limited or counted. Managing diabetes is a lifelong, critical process that's so much more than removing sugar from the diet.

— Laura Tomell, Tecumseh  
Midwest Energy

### Mystery Photo

The Nov-Dec mystery photo (at left) was built as a WPA project. It has a representative stone from each of Michigan's counties.

My sister-in-law's father (a stone mason in Traverse City) helped build it, so I make sure whenever any of his great-grandchildren are here that they stop to see it.

— Peg Gage, Free Soil  
Great Lakes Energy

If the only thing bigger than your propane bill is your propane tank...



## Switch to a WaterFurnace geothermal comfort system.

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