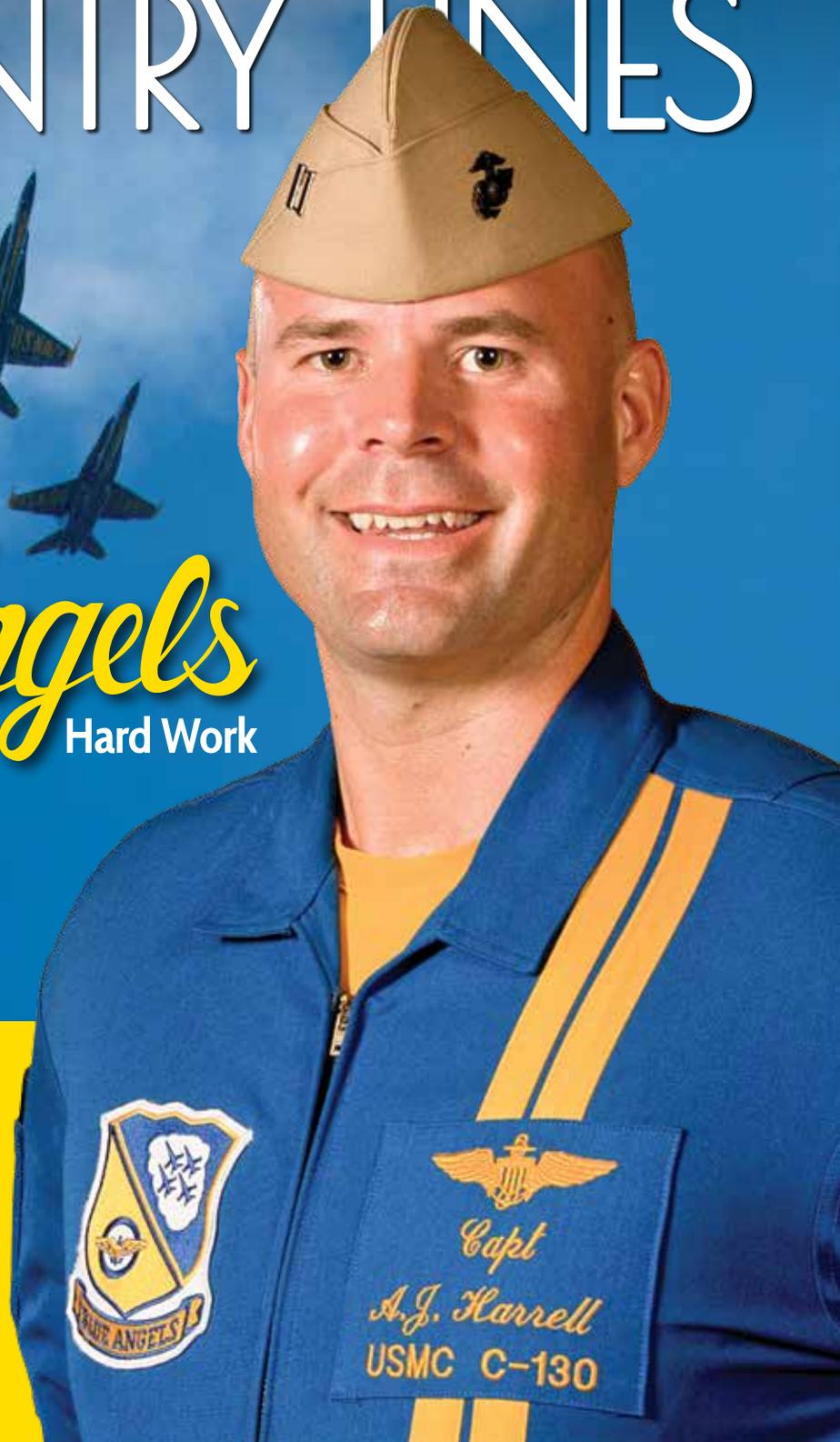


MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Blue Angels
Fly on the Wings of Hard Work

Plus!

- 4 Your Co-op's 2014 Annual Report
- 5 Meet Your Co-op's New Member Services Representative
- 12 Get A Handle On Hidden Furnace Electric Costs



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Letters to the editor should be sent to Country Lines, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Phone 517-913-3531. Email: gknudtson@meca.coop.

Association officers are Ken Swope, Midwest Energy, chairman; Robert Schallip, Cloverland, 1st vice chairman; Jon Zickert, Cherryland, 2nd vice chairman; Eric Baker, Wolverine Power, secretary-treasurer; and Tony Anderson, Cherryland, past chairman. Craig Borr is president and CEO.

Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcome. Country Lines, however, will not be responsible for their safe keeping or return.

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Change of Address: Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



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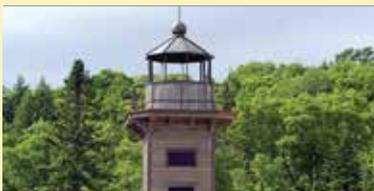
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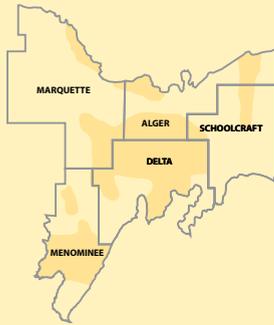
A.J. Harrell says it takes "endless practice" and hard work to become part of the Blue Angels team. He is the son of Alger Delta Electric Co-op CEO Tom Harrell, and performs flight demonstrations at the squadron's air shows.

Photos—U.S. Navy Blue Angels Public Affairs Staff

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
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Your Co-op's 2014 Annual Report



Tom Harrell
General Manager

This year marks Alger Delta's 77th year of operations. To give you a snapshot of your co-op's 2013 business operations and successes in 2014, I'd like to recap my remarks from the annual meeting: Alger Delta is, for the third year in a row, in the BEST financial condition in its history.

- We retired \$380,000 in capital credits in 2014.
- We DID NOT increase rates, fees or the service charge, and there is no plan to do so.

Capital Credits Returned to Members

In 2013, we earned the margins necessary to comply with all our financial covenants and mortgage obligations. Lenders and regulators who monitor our performance are pleased with Alger Delta's financial position and ability to meet our obligations.

As a nonprofit utility, any margins we have left over at the end of each fiscal year are allocated back to our members. These are called "capital credits" or "patronage capital" and are paid back to members through a process called "retirement." Most electric co-ops retire capital credits on a regular rotation, which is usually 20, 25 or 30 years.

Alger Delta has 50 years of unretired capital credits and we're working to change that. In 2013, Alger Delta allocated \$1.4 million in margins back to members and retired, or paid back \$380,000 in capital credits. Your co-op retired capital credits for the years 1965–1976, and is on-pace to achieve a 30-year rotation by 2017.

What is also noteworthy is that equity, or ownership, has increased to over 30 percent for the first time since 2004.

A lot of credit for this financial performance goes to the board for having the courage to make the necessary rate adjustments back in 2010, and to our CFO Amanda Seger for her financial stewardship.

Power Supply Cost Update

Recently, WE Energies announced their intention to close the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette. An organization called MISO, which operates the grid system in several states, including Wisconsin and Michigan, has determined that Presque Isle must remain open and in a state of readiness to support the Upper Midwest region's grid. The cost to keep this plant in readiness is estimated at \$53 million—per year!

This cost is called a System Support Resource (SSR) payment. It will be allocated to consumers through wholesale rates—primarily, the transmission piece of the rate pie. This cost will increase over time, as WE Energies is likely to install pollution control equipment to comply with new EPA clean air requirements. People familiar with the situation believe at least half of these SSR costs will flow to consumers in the U.P.

In 2007, Alger Delta began taking wholesale energy from Wisconsin Public Power Inc. (WPPI), which supplies power to 51 utilities, including seven in the U.P. Because of our wholesale rate structure with

(Continued on page 9)

Alger Delta Co-op 'Hits It Out of the Park' With New Hire



Alger Delta Cooperative is pleased to welcome Margo Gobert-Vargo as its new member services representative. Margo, who began working on June 30, brings over 16 years of progressive office management experience with her. In her new position, she will be responsible for daily office operations such as transfers in service, taking payments, and answering the phone.

A Gladstone native, Margo, her husband Tom, and six-year-old daughter Lola spend many hours of their summer at the baseball field. A softball player throughout her life, and currently secretary for the Gladstone Little League, she devotes much of her spare time organizing district tournaments. Alger Delta Co-op is happy to now have her batting on their team. ■

Public Act 295: The Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act

2013 Annual Energy Optimization Report Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association MPSC Case Number U-17367

Alger Delta contracted with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) to administer the Energy Optimization efforts in order to comply with PA-295. MECA filed a 4 year Energy Optimization plan with the MPSC on August 1, 2011, as required by PA 295. This EO plan was approved by the MPSC on November 10, 2011, and we began implementing the plan January 1, 2012. The Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC) was selected to implement all Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Programs, and the Energy Optimization website michigan-energy.org. WECC has subcontracted with JACO, Michigan Energy Options, Franklin Energy, Morgan Marketing Partners, and Honeywell to assist with the implementation of the EO Programs. MECA contracted with KEMA as the independent 3rd party evaluation contractor for the certification of kWh savings.

In 2013, Alger Delta collected \$155,648 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$155,303, resulting in an over-collection of \$345 which will be applied towards the 2014 EO Program delivery expenses and goal achievement. For every dollar spent on energy efficiency programs, customers will save \$3 in avoided energy costs. Alger Delta achieved 678 MWh of energy savings in 2013. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile>.

Fuel Mix Report

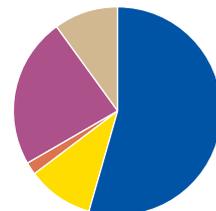
The fuel mix characteristics of Alger Delta Co-op Electric Association as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/14.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

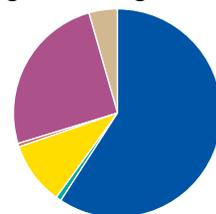
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	54.5%	59.4%
Oil	0.0%	0.6%
Gas	10.3%	9.8%
Hydroelectric	1.9%	0.6%
Nuclear	23.4%	25.4%
Renewable Fuels	9.9%	4.2%
Biofuel	0.0%	0.5%
Biomass	0.2%	0.5%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.4%	0.0%
Wind	8.9%	2.7%
Wood	0.2%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas.

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



Regional Average Fuel Mix



EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	2.0	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,468	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	0.8	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0019	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/13.

Alger Delta purchases 100% of its electricity from WPPI, which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.



SURVIVING A SNACK ATTACK

These recipes will satisfy just about every craving and can be enjoyed at home or on the go.

Toffee Butter Crunch

12 oz. box Crispix® or Corn Chex®
 1 c. butter
 ½ c. dark Karo® or other dark corn syrup
 2 c. pecan halves
 1 c. brown sugar
 ½ t. vanilla extract



Preheat oven to 250°. Coat 9"x13" pan (or a large cookie pan) with cooking spray. In a small saucepan, combine butter, brown sugar and corn syrup. Cook until boiling. Add vanilla. Empty cereal into pan and coat with syrup mixture. Sprinkle with pecans

and toss until evenly coated. Bake for 1 hour, tossing every 15 minutes. Toss until cool. You can store these in jars.

Kathryn Southerland, Hillman

Baked Crab Rangoon

12 oz. flaked crab meat
 8 oz. cream cheese
 ½ c. thinly sliced green onions
 ½ c. mayonnaise
 24 won ton wrappers

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix crab meat, cream cheese, onions and mayonnaise. Spray 24 medium muffin cups with cooking spray. Gently place one won ton wrapper in each cup, allowing edges of wrapper to extend above sides of cups. Fill evenly with crab meat mixture. Bake on lowest rack of oven for 18 to 20 minutes, or until edges are golden brown and filling is heated through. Serve warm. Garnish with chopped green onions, if desired. 24 servings.

Janice Harvey, Charlevoix

Birdseed Bars

2 c. rolled oats
 1 c. sunflower seeds
 1 c. pumpkin seeds
 1 c. sesame seeds
 1 c. dried fruit (I use a combination of dried cherries, dried cranberries, and golden raisins)
 4.25 oz. unsalted butter
 6 T. honey or light corn syrup
 8 T. raw sugar
 ½ c. peanut butter (creamy or crunchy)

Place oats and all seeds on an ungreased 9"x13" cookie sheet. Toast in oven at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. In medium saucepan, combine honey, sugar, butter and peanut butter. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly, for 5 minutes. In large bowl, combine fruit, toasted ingredients and wet ingredients, ensuring all dry ingredients are well-covered by the wet. Press mixture into a greased 9"x13" cookie sheet, cover tightly, and store at room temperature. When ready to serve, cut into bars or squares. Leftovers may be refrigerated, but always serve at room temperature.

Debbie Williams, Rapid City

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Holiday" recipes by **Sept. 15** and your favorite "Ethnic" recipes by **Oct. 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.

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)!

Find more of our readers' recipes at countrylines.com

'Smart' Products Make Saving Energy Easier

Energy savings can be easy with some savvy shopping for power strips, thermostats and residential lighting. These are the most common products you can use to reduce energy costs, and with a little research, choosing and using them correctly is easy, too, says Brian Sloboda, a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network.

Programmable & 'Smart' Thermostats

There are plenty of programmable thermostat brands and types to choose from, but you won't find one that carries the EPA's Energy Star® seal, as it was dropped from these products in 2009. Why?

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$180 a year on heating and cooling, notes ENERGYSTAR.gov, but many customers miss out on savings by failing to install them correctly. "Most people failed to use the programmable capabilities. They didn't know how or didn't want to," Sloboda says. This led to poor EPA consumer surveys, so ratings dropped, and therefore the Energy Star seal for most of them.

Enter "smart" thermostats, which are intended as an easier alternative and come with motion sensors that detect and set a home's temperature. Nest® is one brand. "Sensors will start to turn the thermostat up or down, depending on the season," Sloboda says. In a few days, the unit will learn your schedule, automatically dialing the thermostat back when you're not home.

The addition of phone and iPad apps are other smart features that make temperature control easy. But, he adds, "A thermostat will only save you money if you allow it to program."

Interior Lighting

As of January 2014, a federal phase-out replaced incandescent lightbulbs with more energy efficient options.

Currently, there are only three bulb choices—halogen-incandescents, CFLs and LEDs.

The LEDs are the equivalent of the most widely used 60-watt incandescent, and are more long-lasting and energy-efficient, but Sloboda warns that the brand you buy matters. "There is a whole lot of junk out there. You can buy name-brand LEDs for about \$10 and more expensive



Nest® thermostat
Photos—Nest

ones from not-so-reputable companies." He recommends sticking with long-time brands such as GE® and Sylvania®, but says "don't overlook the lesser-known Cree® products." A 60-watt (800 lumens) Cree costs about \$10 at a big box store and is guaranteed to last 10 years or more.

Transitioning to LEDs is easy if you read the "lighting facts" on the box, which will help narrow your choice by temperature and color, which has nothing to do with wattage, and means you can choose bulbs with a "daylight" or "soft white" glow.

Smart devices are even now in the lightbulb aisle. Manufacturers like LG® and Philips® produce LEDs that can be controlled by your cell phone and change colors to suit your mood. "Today's lighting is really starting to become part of a home's entertainment system," Sloboda says. Many smart lighting units come with software that allows you to create different modes (party, romantic, reading or TV watching) with the flip of a switch.

With the new lightbulb standards, the Department of Energy estimates consumers will save between \$6 billion and \$10 billion a year.

Power Strips

Traditional power strips expand your number of outlets, but waste electricity by drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips are a better choice because they are bigger, color coded, and reduce energy use by shutting down power to products that go into standby mode.

Most feature three outlet colors, each with a unique task. Blue controls heavily-used devices, like a TV. Anything plugged into a red outlets stays on—electricity to these is never cut off—making them perfect for satellite boxes or units needing constant power. The remaining outlets, usually neutral or green, are sensitive to current flowing through the blue one, so turning off the TV or computer also cuts power to them. Some smart power strips (about \$20) even have occupancy sensors and timers that can determine when to cut power to various devices, and you can start to see a payback in about one year. ■



SmartThermostat iPhone

Alger Delta Electric Co-op Financial Statements (audited & approved)

BALANCE SHEET

December 31	2013	2012
ASSETS		
Electric Plant	\$ 31,368,962	\$ 31,049,308
Investments	1,649,183	1,560,286
Current Assets	2,940,989	2,314,139
Deferred Debits	840,311	99,476
Total Assets	\$ 36,799,445	\$ 35,023,209
MARGINS & EQUITIES (NET POSITION)		
Membership & Equities	\$ 99,231	\$ 99,231
Patronage Capital	11,098,035	9,641,731
TOTAL MARGINS & EQUITIES	\$ 11,197,266	\$ 9,740,962
LIABILITIES		
Long-Term Debt, Net	\$ 23,036,466	\$ 22,950,817
Current Liabilities	2,425,689	2,151,041
Deferred Credits	140,024	180,389
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 25,602,179	\$ 25,282,247
TOTAL NET POSITION & LIABILITIES	\$ 36,799,445	\$ 35,023,209

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND PATRONAGE CAPITAL

Year ended December 31	2013	2012
OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 13,282,536	\$ 12,818,491
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Purchased Power	\$ 5,967,648	\$ 6,183,246
Distribution Expense	1,955,883	1,843,425
Consumer & Customer Service Expense	273,593	349,814
Depreciation	1,317,850	1,193,490
Taxes	419,591	391,302
General & Administrative Expense	1,054,469	874,699
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 10,989,034	\$ 10,835,976
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 2,293,502	\$ 1,982,515
Interest Expense	\$ (1,133,458)	\$ (1,132,983)
Interest Income	161,385	129,359
Other Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses), Net	134,875	88,593
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	\$ 1,456,304	\$ 1,067,484

The statements above show the results of the cooperative's electric operations for the calendar year 2013. The Dec. 31, 2013, balance sheet and the related statement of operations for Alger Delta's electric operations were prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of preceding years. The board of directors has accepted these statements. These statements present the financial position of the cooperative's electric operations as of Dec. 31, 2013, and the results of its electric operations for the year under review, according to the information and explanation shown on the records of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association.

Complete, audited financial statements are maintained at the Gladstone office of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association. The independent audit of 2013 financial statements was unqualified, and completed by the certified public accountant (CPA) firm of Joki, Makela, Pollack & Ahonen, PLLC., Ironwood, MI.

Your Co-op's 2014 Annual Report *(Continued from page 4)*

WPPI, any rate impact as a result of the SSR payments will be shared with *all* WPPI members. We'll still pay our fair share, but since our wholesale energy is through WPPI—a joint-action agency—our share will be smaller than it might be in a different supply arrangement.

It is sometimes reported to me that Alger Delta has the highest rates in the U.P. That is not correct. Besides, rates don't tell the whole story. It is more instructive to look at the whole bill—not just the rate.

For example, the average Alger Delta consumer uses about 800 kilowatt-hours (kWh) at a cost of \$152 monthly. This is competitive with similar utilities. By similar, I mean they have few consumers per mile-of-line to share the costs of providing electricity, below average energy consumption, and not much load diversity.

In spite of the challenges we face, Alger Delta's last rate adjustment was four years ago—in October 2010. And, the retail rate outlook for the next 12 months is stable, with no adjustments planned.

Improved, Reliable Service

For the fourth year in a row, we have improved reliability, which is measured by the average duration of a power outage. In 2010, the average duration was 264 minutes, or 4.4 hours. In 2013, that number was reduced to 53 minutes, or about nine-tenths of an hour. That is an 80 percent improvement in reliability. Please keep in mind—these are system-wide averages, and nobody experiences an “average” outage.

What has contributed to this improvement in service reliability are many things, including regular maintenance, better vegetation management, a systematic plan for pole and line inspections, regular substation inspections, rebuilding parts of the system, improved coordination between protective devices, and the use of technology and communication tools that allow us to narrow the scope of outages and respond quicker.

Your Co-op Supports Renewable Energy

Alger Delta has also enjoyed early compliance with Michigan's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). Michigan's RPS is 10 percent, and Alger Delta gets about 14 percent of its power from renewable resources.

Your co-op's Energy Optimization (EO) program is also exceeding expectations. Since 2009, we have invested \$581,000 in renewable energy and efficiency projects with members. In 2013 alone, we had 960 members participate in some type of energy efficiency project, and the combined energy savings last year was about 700,000 kWh. That's a lot of savings—enough to power 74 average homes for a whole year.

Another proud achievement in 2013 is the creation of an advisory committee for efficiency, renewables, and the environment. It is chaired by board member Sam Simonetta (District 2—Harvey/Deerton) and is tasked with developing new ways for Alger Delta to engage with members on energy issues and be more proactive about our own energy consumption.

Let me end with this summary...

- Alger Delta is in great financial shape.
- There are no rate changes planned for the next 12 months—however, we expect incremental upward pressure on rates within the next 12 months.
- We plan to retire capital credits in 2015 through 2017.
- Equity is over 30 percent, and increasing.
- Reliability has improved for the fourth year in a row.

We promise to continue working hard for the benefit of all our members. ■



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

When it's still hot outside, appliances and lighting can actually heat up our homes more than we think. To save energy, minimize the activities that generate additional heat, such as burning open flames, continuously running a computer, or using hot-hair devices like curling irons. This will ultimately keep your house cooler.

But fall is just around the corner, and that means colder months will be here before we know it. Is your home prepared for the drafts that may enter? Tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades are a perfect way to keep the heat in and the cold out.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Blue Angels

Fly on the Wings of Hard Work



AJ. Harrell decided early in life that he didn't want to sit behind a desk.

Strapped into the cockpit of a C-130 aircraft, he now works at executing maneuvers at 400 mph and fighting G-forces that double his bodyweight, which pretty much takes care of that aversion to desks.

But Blue Angels pilot Capt. Harrell sees a mission beyond the roaring engines. "The folks at our shows see that I'm just a guy in the cockpit. I'm from a small town (Frederick, Md.), I went to college in the middle of nowhere (Anderson, Ind.). I'm proof that a job like this is not outside the grasp of the average person."

The Blue Angels, the U.S. Navy's flight demonstration squadron, performed at the 88th National Cherry Festival Air Show in Traverse City, July 5–6. Capt. Harrell, the son of Tom Harrell, CEO of Alger Delta Electric Cooperative in the U.P. town of Gladstone, flew his Marine Corps C-130, known affectionately as "Fat Albert."

Just before heading to Traverse City, Capt. Harrell came down from the clouds to talk to *Country Lines* about the Blue Angels. Like Harrell's achievements, the breathtaking precision of their flight acrobatics is the result, he emphasizes,

of hard work. To air show spectators, it's 48 minutes of magic, but in reality, he notes, "We practice endlessly; talent is not enough."

While the primary mission of Harrell's C-130 is to give the squadron logistical support, the plane is also part of the show. Fat Albert starts the action with an 8½-minute flight demonstration that showcases its tactical capabilities.

Flying in tight formations, the squadron's six Boeing F/A-18 Hornets reach speeds of 700 mph. Fat Albert chugs along at 400 mph. Between shows, the Blue Angels—named after a 1950s New York night club frequented by pilots—don't stand still, either. From mid-March to mid-November they typically travel to 35 U.S. towns, doing 70 shows for 11 million spectators.

Based in Florida, Harrell regrets being away from his wife and children so much. "I'm on the road 300 days a year," he says, but adds that 10 years in the Marines has taught him to accept travel as part of the job.

The automatic spending cuts triggered by the federal budget sequestration in April 2013 grounded the Blue Angels. Harrell's reaction? "Our season got canceled, but we were more concerned about our friends and coworkers in Afghanistan. It's one thing to not have air shows; it's a completely different thing to not have people who, due to budget cuts, are not as prepared as they should be going into combat."

The squadron was flying again in 2014, after Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ruled that outreach is crucial to the military's mission.

Still on Harrell's bucket list: Landing a jet on an aircraft carrier. "I'm holding out hope," he says. ■

Opposite page: Capt. A.J. Harrell, 33, earned his wings in 2006, has flown in Afghanistan and on humanitarian missions, and applied to the Blue Angels in 2011. A Blue Angels pilot generally spends up to three years in the squadron before returning to regular duty.

Below: Capt. A.J. Harrell's C-130 is nicknamed "Fat Albert."

Photos—U.S. Navy Blue Angels Public Affairs Staff



Captain Harrell takes a selfie at Mach 3.



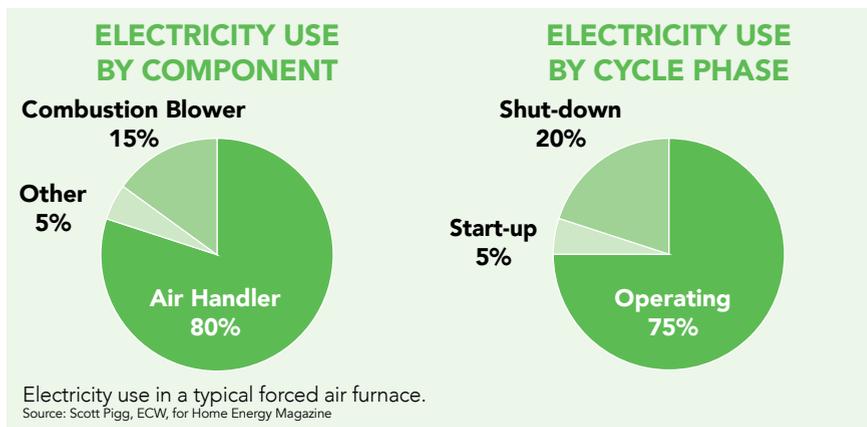
Get a Handle on Your Furnace's Hidden Electric Costs

It's expected that your gas bill will spike in winter due to constant furnace use, but running your furnace can also cause your electric use to increase.

A forced-air furnace typically has two motors: the combustion blower motor that draws air into the combustion chamber and pushes combustion and exhaust air through the ignition chamber; and the blower motor, or air handler, which blows heated air throughout the home. The blower motor uses about 80 percent of the total electricity consumed by the furnace, costing you anywhere between \$33 and \$65 monthly.

Switch to an ECM Furnace

If your furnace is over 10 years old, a staged furnace with an electronically commutated motor (ECM) will help you save energy and money. A staged furnace adjusts the amount of fuel burned in every cycle, from high to low, and some units modulate their output based on the amount of heat needed. An ECM, also called



a "variable speed motor," adjusts its speed as necessary, instead of just running at one speed. This conserves energy, ensures optimal airflow, and uses less electricity.

Get Great Rebates & Save Even More

An ECM furnace can save you about \$80 per year, costing \$11–\$32 less per month than a standard blower motor. You can save even more in gas costs if the new furnace is a higher-efficiency

model. Alger Delta Cooperative will help with the cost of installing an ECM furnace through a \$150 Energy Optimization rebate. Visit michigan-energy.org for details.

For optimal savings, set your thermostat back by at least 8 degrees for 8 hours, twice daily. Also, set the fan switch to "auto" instead of "on," which operates the blower motor only when the thermostat turns the furnace on, instead of running it constantly. ■



Did you wear out your furnace last winter?

With another winter just around the corner, don't wait until the last minute. Purchase a furnace with a high-efficiency motor and get **\$150 back from Alger Delta Electric**. Rebates available at michigan-energy.org.

ENERGY TIP: Don't wait until your furnace stops working—shop now, avoid a rushed decision, and get a great rebate!

ONLINE: 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.

How To Use A Generator Safely

Keep this page in your home's emergency kit or with your generator.



Photo—Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

1. Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet or your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment:
 - Stationary Generator:** An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.
 - Portable Generator:** Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
2. Set up and run your generator in a dry, well-ventilated area *outside* your home, and away from the garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **DEADLY**—install a CO detector in your home and check the batteries regularly.
3. Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.
4. Start the generator **BEFORE** connecting appliances.
5. To avoid a fire, turn off and let the generator cool before refueling.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

Developed jointly by the Energy Education Council & Rural Electricity Resource Council



Are You a Michiganiaan or a Michigander?

Based on the positive feedback on its debut, “Jack’s Journal” looks to be a winner in the eyes of many *Country Lines* readers. So far, so good!

The first column (May 2014) hit a nerve, however, as readers sounded off on my use of the term “Michiganiaan” over “Michigander.” I chose Michiganiaan because words written and spoken infrequently tend to garner a bit more attention than “the usual.” Little did I know just how much debate my choice of words would cause!

“I chose Michiganiaan because words written and spoken infrequently tend to garner a bit more attention than the usual.”

Needless to say, Michiganiaan fans were overjoyed as a serious blow was struck against the villainous Michiganders. To any newcomers, let me explain the apparent identity crisis. A battle of sorts has raged for years about the proper way of referencing folks from here. I remember Michiganiaans debating Michiganders when I was a kid growing up in Detroit. So, what are we? Michiganiaans or Michiganders?

While surveys show Michigander to be the people’s choice, research uncovered some interesting facts. Abraham Lincoln coined the phrase in 1848 while making

a speech as a member of Congress. Abe took a shot at Michigan Gov. Lewis Cass, who was running for president against Lincoln’s Whig Party candidate. In his speech, Lincoln called the governor a “Michigander” in an effort to make the state’s top man appear foolish, like a “goose.” The term seems to have stuck, and the original use seems lost on us...Michiganders.

Before Honest Abe was born, “Michiganiaan” was used as far back as 1805. The Michigan Historical Society has favored it since 1870, when the term first appeared in its publications. Turns out, most women prefer “Michiganiaan” too, saying “Michigander” is a sexist and discriminatory term that essentially leaves women out of the picture by referencing the male goose (gander) only.

I could further muddy the waters by adding to the debate another popular moniker, “Michiganite,” but I’ll save that for a future column. Whether you’re a Yooper or a Troll, hail from the Motor City or somewhere on the Sunrise side or Gold Coast, it’s safe to say we like our nicknames in the Wolverine State, regardless of the name’s bearing.

(Michigan hasn’t seen a wolverine in a long time!)

Until next time, be kind and enjoy the Great Lakes State no matter what you call yourself!

Share a story idea with Jack by email to: jack@countrylines.com or write J. O’Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. ■



Jack O'Malley



«« Do You Know Where This Is?

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

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number, and the name of your co-op. Only those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the Nov/Dec issue.



July/Aug Photo

Photo—Bill Savage

The July/Aug contest winner is Chris Rogers, a Great Lakes Energy Cooperative member from Grand Rapids, who correctly identified the photo as Au Train Falls.

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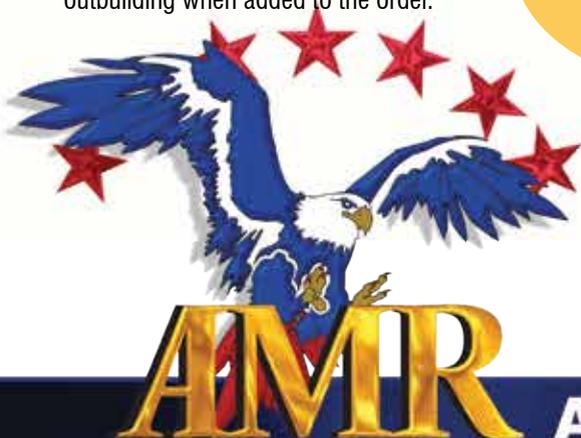
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