

# Michigan

## COUNTRY LINES



## **Fat Tire Biking**

*A New Winter Ride*

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Executive Editor  
Casey Clark

Editor  
Gail Knudtson

Publisher  
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# Michigan

## COUNTRY LINES

### IN THIS ISSUE

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



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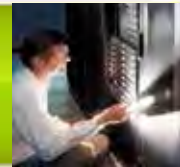
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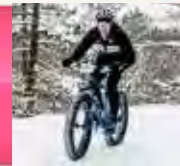
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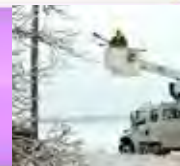
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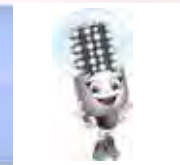
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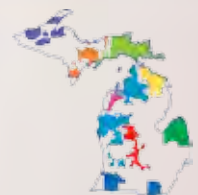
## READERS' PAGE Meet LED Lucy, Low-income Energy Assistance, Help with Affordable Health Care Law



### ON THE COVER

Get used to seeing more people biking through the snow. Snowbiking is gaining popularity in Michigan for commuting, racing and riding, and resorts offering rentals and trails include those served by electric co-ops.

Photo Courtesy - Einstein Cycles, Traverse City, [einsteincycles.com](http://einsteincycles.com)



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386-5234 • tvanpelt@cecelec.com

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929-4526 • rdeneweth@cecelec.com

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Director

947-0463 • bmaciejewski@cecelec.com

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Director

938-1228 • jolson@cecelec.com

### JON ZICKERT

Director

631-1337 • jzickert@cecelec.com

### GENERAL MANAGER

Tony Anderson

### CO-OP EDITOR

Nick Edson

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

231-486-9200 or 1-800-442-8616 (MI)

### ADDRESS

P.O. Box 298, Grawn, MI 49637

### WEBSITE

cherrylandelectric.com

### PAY STATION

Cherryland Electric office  
5930 U.S. 31 South, Grawn

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

# Love YOUR Cooperative

Valentine's Day will soon be here again. When I think of caring for something, my first thought is about family. Naturally, this turns

to thoughts of the co-op family that YOUR cooperative is a part of locally and across the nation. So, in honor of a special February day, I decided to make a list of what I LOVE about electric cooperatives. Here goes:

1) *Electric cooperatives take action.* We partnered in the first commercial wind farm in the state in 2006 and Michigan's first community solar project in 2013. We don't sit on the sideline, point fingers, or toss about "I told you so" repeatedly. Any group wanting to make the world a better place could have done either of these

projects but history tells us they did not – YOUR electric cooperative did.

2) *Electric cooperatives are cleaning up the air we breathe.* Nationally, from 2005 to 2012 (2013 numbers still coming in), electric cooperative CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) emission rates are down 10 percent, SO<sub>2</sub> (sulfur dioxide) emission rates are down 60 percent, and NOx (nitrogen oxide) rates are down

50 percent. Locally, during much of this same time period, YOUR wholesale power supply cooperative spent considerable time and energy attempting to improve these numbers by trying to bring about the Clean Energy Venture in Rogers City and a partnership with an aging plant in Marquette. For reasons already widely published, neither venture will come to fruition. While some claim the environment wins, I maintain the belief that in the long run it is the actual loser.

3) *Electric cooperatives don't quit.* When one solution doesn't evolve, we move on to the next. YOUR cooperative is committed to bringing you affordable and cleaner

energy than we have in the past. We don't get in the mud with our detractors who do little in the way of providing answers. We move forward by seeking long-term solutions while others use rhetoric and misleading statements to simply raise funds but not sustainable solutions.

4) *Electric cooperatives are dedicated.* YOUR cooperative's employees set aside family to restore your power. We maintain a distribution system that serves our supporters and our doubters equally.

5) *Electric cooperatives are realistic.*

We know there is not one solution to our future energy needs. Conservation will not fend off the building of new generation. While some bash coal, protest fracking and fear nuclear energy, YOUR cooperative knows each must have a role in an affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible future. We make no apologies for this belief because this is our business rather than the fundraiser of the day.

6) *Electric co-ops are committed to the communities we serve and have been for over 75 years.* This may be the thing I love the most. Our service doesn't stop when employees punch out for the day. Often, they simply are moving on to volunteer for a worthy cause.

I feel very fortunate to work at an electric co-op. Valentine's Day is about passion, and having a work life that gives one a burning desire to do good things on a daily basis is a blessing. I love YOUR co-op and you should, too.



**Tony Anderson**  
General Manager

**"YOUR cooperative is committed to bringing you affordable and cleaner energy than we have in the past."**





# Cherryland Cares Needs Your Help

When no one is looking...

- There are northern Michigan kids going to school hungry.
- There are students sleeping on couches in the homes of friends or relatives, since there is no “home” for them to go to.
- There are adults struggling to make ends meet, and then their car breaks down or the furnace stops working.

“There are many people in northern Michigan who go without basic needs every day,” said David Abeel of the Benzie Area Christian Neighbors. “That’s where our organization and many others like us come in.”

There are a plethora of nonprofit groups in the Grand Traverse area with the same goal: Help people help themselves.

To that end, Cherryland Electric Cooperative has a long-running program called Operation Round Up. Cherryland members are given the option of rounding-up their bills to the nearest dollar, with the spare change put in a fund to help area nonprofits.

This fund is called Cherryland Cares. Every quarter, a volunteer five-person board made up of Cherryland members meets at the co-op and decides how to distribute the money.

In the early days of Operation Round Up—which started in 1997—money wasn’t a problem. It was an “opt-out” program, meaning that members automatically had their bills rounded up. When Jennifer Granholm, later Michigan’s governor, became attorney general, she ruled that these programs had to be “opt-in.”

So Cherryland, and other programs across the state, had to start from ground zero to rebuild their programs.

Cherryland has over 4,000 members taking part in Operation Round Up to contribute money toward Cherryland Cares. While that sounds impressive, there are 30,000 Cherryland members who are not taking part.

“We realize that many people have their own financial challenges,” said Cherryland General Manager Tony Anderson. “But for a few pennies a month, members can do a lot of good for people who are struggling right now.”

The Cherryland Cares board meets quarterly – in March, June, September and December. At the December meeting six weeks ago, two of the grants went to North-

west Michigan Supportive Housing and Benzie Area Christian Neighbors for basic needs like housing and food.

The Cares board – thanks to Cherryland members – has given each group \$35,000 over the last two years, and over \$300,000 over the 16-year life of Operation Round Up.

“But the needs don’t stop, so neither can the money,” said Anderson.

Emilee Syrewicze, of Northwest Michigan Supportive House, agrees.

“The money we got from Cherryland Cares will go directly toward the sponsorship of one of our tenants,” she said. “The goal of our organization is to help these individuals achieve independent living sooner rather than later. We do that through supportive services like budget counseling, home maintenance assistance, and life skills. The great thing about our program is that it can leverage \$65,000 in supportive services for every \$5,000 we receive.”

Abeel also knows the value of Cherryland Cares money to his organization—Benzie Area Christian Neighbors.

“It helps stock our food pantry; it will help fund an instructor for adult basic education and it gives our volunteers a cheerful place to work and serve others,” he said. “There will always be parts of our community who struggle to make ends meet. That’s why we’re here.”

Abeel said his group receives no federal or state grants, so it relies 100 percent on local gifts from individuals, foundations and businesses.

“Donations like the one from Cherryland Cares,” he said, “is a difference maker.”



At the Benzie Area Christian Neighbors center, you never know who you’ll find around the corner, close to the food items.

## How to Join Cherryland Cares



To sign up for Cherryland Cares, send an e-mail with your name and address to: [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com) or call Nick Edson at 486-9222. Phone messages just require your name and address to make sure you get signed up.

## Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications

Area nonprofit agencies who are seeking financial help can apply for a grant through Cherryland Cares.

Cherryland Cares is a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members, who distribute money from Operation Round Up to area nonprofits. The next quarterly meeting of Cherryland Cares is Monday, March 17.

The application deadline is March 7.

Operation Round Up money comes from Cherryland members who elect to round up their bills to the nearest dollar every month (averages just \$6 per year).

To receive a Cherryland Cares grant application or join Operation Round Up, contact Nick Edson at 486-9222 or e-mail [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com).

# Sweet Stuff



Cookies, pies, muffins, cakes, brownies, and more: Try these heart-warming, homemade recipes, and turn your kitchen into a bakery.

## ◀ Peanut Butter Whirls

- 1 c. shortening
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 c. white sugar
- 1 c. peanut butter
- 2 eggs
- 2 t. vanilla
- 1 t. salt
- 1 t. baking soda
- 2 ½ c. flour
- 4 T. milk
- 12 oz. chocolate chips, melted

Cream shortening, sugar, peanut butter, eggs and vanilla. Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with milk. Roll out cookie dough to rectangle 1/4 inch thick. Spread cooled chocolate on dough; roll dough in jelly roll fashion and chill one-half hour. Slice with sharp knife into thick slices – about 1/8 inch thick. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes. Yields 5-6 dozen. This is an oldie but goody from my mom's cookbook.

*Becky Schlatter, Chippewa Lake*

## Layered Pumpkin Loaf

- 1 c. canned pumpkin
- 1 c. plus 2 T. granulated sugar, divided
- ½ c. packed brown sugar
- 4 egg whites, divided
- ½ c. low fat buttermilk
- ¼ c. canola oil
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 ½ t. baking powder
- ½ t. baking soda
- 2 t. pumpkin pie spice
- 1 t. cinnamon
- ¼ t. salt (optional)
- 1 8-oz. pkg. Neufchatel cream cheese (1/3 reduced fat), softened
- ¼ c. pepitas, chopped (optional)

In a large bowl, stir pumpkin, 1 c. granulated sugar, brown sugar, 3 egg whites, buttermilk and oil, until combined. In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, spices and salt.

Add to pumpkin mixture and fold gently just until moistened. In a small bowl, beat cream cheese, remaining granulated sugar and remaining egg white until well blended. Spoon half the pumpkin batter into a 9x5-inch loaf pan sprayed with cooking spray. Spread the cream cheese mixture in a layer over that batter. Top cream cheese layer with remaining pumpkin batter. Spread the top pumpkin layer a little bit with a silicone spatula, but it is okay if a little cream cheese is still visible. Sprinkle the top layer with chopped pepitas, if desired. It helps to gently pat the pepitas into the batter. Bake at 350° for 60-65 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Loosen bread from sides of pan; cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove from pan to wire rack; cool completely. Yields 1 9x5 loaf (about 16 servings).

*Amy Breimayer, Westphalia*

Photography by: 831 Creative

**Submit your recipe!** Thanks to all who send in recipes! Please send in your favorite "Southern" recipes by **April 10** and "Picnic" recipes by **May 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)!

## Pumpkin Pie Cake

### Crust:

- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix, remove 1 c.
- ½ c. melted butter
- 1 egg

### Filling:

- 1 lg. can pumpkin
- 1/2 t. nutmeg
- 1/2 t. ginger
- 2 t. cinnamon
- 1 c. light brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. whole milk

### Topping:

- 1 c. cake mix
- 1/2 c. softened butter
- 1 c. sugar

Combine crust ingredients and pat into bottom of a 13x9 pan. Pour filling over crust. Mix topping ingredients together and sprinkle over filling. Sprinkle with chopped nuts. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

*Virginia Hosmer, Plymouth*



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



# Tightening the Net

Electric co-ops innovate to secure their members' digital data.

**A**midst continuing cyber threats from crafty computer hackers, electric co-ops are mounting sturdy defenses to safeguard their members' digital data and ensure reliable power delivery.

One way co-ops are bulking up cyber security is with tools from the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), the research arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). CRN's *Guide to Developing a Risk Mitigation and Cyber Security Plan*, released in 2011 with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), helps utilities of all types develop a process to shore up cyber defenses.

Three innovations promise to these security efforts: pattern recognition software, an update of CRN's revolutionary *Guide*, and securing data.

## Cyber Cooperation

Most home and business computer networks use a firewall—a virtual barrier or hardware—to protect linked computers from hackers, viruses and other virtual invaders. Utilities also use firewalls, but sophisticated cyber threats make firewalls an aging technology.

"Firewalls are less able to provide the level of security we require," shares CRN Program Manager Maurice Martin. "We want to make sure that our co-ops have the tools they need to work securely."

To meet the challenge, CRN is developing a way to replace firewalls with a security tool that monitors computer network traffic by memorizing the normal pattern of operation. When the system detects an abnormal pattern (a possible intrusion), it sounds an alarm.

A DOE grant of \$3.6 million, with an additional \$1.1 million from CRN and partner Honeywell Corp., funds the research. Allies such as Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, Carnegie Mellon University, and Cigital Inc. will work with CRN to develop the cyber security tool.

"We'll combine high-level functionality with an easy-to-use platform," predicts Craig Miller, chief CRN scientist. "The system will simplify cyber security management for small utilities with limited resources." All but one of Michigan's nine electric distribution co-ops

falls into the "small utility" category. The largest has over 101,000 members, and the smallest from about 4,000; the others range from 10,000 to 33,000.

## Evolving Guidance

The CRN *Guide*, and an accompanying template, is being used

by utilities of all sizes—across America and in countries such as India and Italy—to craft cyber-security plans. The cooperatively-developed resources are free to any utility and have been downloaded over 8,000 times.

"The content and ideas were important to share," explains Martin. The *Guide* and tools were developed as part of a \$68 million DOE grant three years ago.

But responding to emerging cyber threats is not a one-time effort. It requires constant education, awareness and vigilance. New resources—products, services and educational tools—are on the way. Expected early this year, an updated *Guide* will work in harmony with new DOE cyber security initiatives. The DOE also has a Computational Sciences Center that performs world-class computational science research—a helpful tool for calculating cyber security risks and creating tools to thwart hackers.

## Securing Data

Threats to security—online and to the power grid—are real. Hackers take pride in undermining computer systems and finding a system's Achilles' heel. But thanks to innovative "cloud" computing, utilities are discovering ways of working together to strengthen co-op security and upgrade IT architecture.



Photo - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Electric co-ops have partners and allies in the war on cyber security, including researchers like those at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). In 2013, these PNNL researchers took part in a national cyber security drill.

"NRECA turned to the Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC) for its solid understanding of the smart grid marketplace and how new technologies can be used to benefit the consumer member at the end of the line," explains Martin.

That project aims to shore up technologies that capture, store and secure information, and will benefit both co-ops and their members. The SAIC is also producing a series of reports to help utilities fully implement smart grid technology and evaluate IT developments (cloud computing, new databases, and more) with an eye toward how such developments can support the co-ops and solve their needs. The goal is for SAIC to map out an "IT architecture" to explain how the tools work to maximize reliability, customer service, and cyber security.

All utilities are vulnerable to digital invasions, but a continually evolving set of cyber security resources and innovations should help keep co-ops and their members a step ahead of the "bad guys."

Forget calculators. The U.S. Department of Energy has a Computational Sciences Center that performs world-class computational science research—a helpful tool when calculating cyber security risks and creating tools to thwart would-be hackers.



# What's in a name? Energy S.A.V.E.R.

**SAVE** money and energy

**ANALYSIS** tools to help you understand your energy use

**VALUE** of co-op membership

**EXPERTISE** - advice from our staff

**REBATES** for energy efficiency upgrades

## Energy SAVER Rebate Guide

REBATE TYPE	AMOUNT
Clothes Washer.....	\$15 - \$30
Electric Water Heater.....	\$25
Dishwasher with electric water heater.....	\$15
Dehumidifier (Energy Star).....	\$15
Air Source Heat Pump.....	Up to \$350
Ground Water Heat Pump.....	Up to \$500
Recycling Refrigerator/Freezer.....	\$30
Recycling A/C & Dehumidifer (only during "Clean Up Green Up" event).....	\$15

*Appliances must meet certain efficiency standards. The original receipt is required for all rebates within the calendar year. Some rebates require an application to be completed and other restrictions may apply. For details, contact us at (231) 486-9200.*



**Tammy Squires, Cherryland Electric's energy use advisor, performs a thermal imaging scan of a member's home.**

## Become an Energy SAVER

**W**hy are you still leaving money on the table? Wouldn't you rather have it in your wallet?

As an electric co-op member, you have access to an energy use advisor. If you give me a call, I can do an energy use assessment by phone and provide you with guidance and tips on how to become more energy efficient.

Did you know that heating and cooling can account for over 50 percent of your energy use? Installing a programmable thermostat to lower the temperature while you are at work each day can help control these costs.

Using cold water for laundry or selecting the dishwasher's "air dry" cycle are other easy changes to make that will save you money. Simple behavioral changes can have a bigger impact on your electric bill than you may think.

If the phone assessment does not resolve your usage concern, we can schedule an in-home observational assessment. This assessment will allow me to identify appliances that are operating longer than necessary and therefore costing you additional money.

In some situations, I also use a thermal imaging camera to locate heat loss

along the exterior walls of your home. Making your home more comfortable by sealing air leaks or repairing an appliance will reduce energy use and put money back in your wallet.

Before buying a new appliance or LED lights, call me first. We offer rebates on several appliances and LED lighting when purchasing qualifying Energy Star®-rated items. I can help you maximize your energy savings and rebate.

Educating Cherryland members on how to become "Energy SAVERS" is about more than just handing out rebates and advice, however. This year, we will host educational workshops ranging from "Residential Solar Basics" to "LED Lighting." We are also available to give presentations to local groups, schools or organizations on energy efficiency.

Our Energy SAVER education program goes beyond turning off the lights when you leave a room - it helps you make informed decisions on how and when to use energy efficiently. So, if you are ready to stop losing energy and start saving money, give me a call. — Tammy Squires



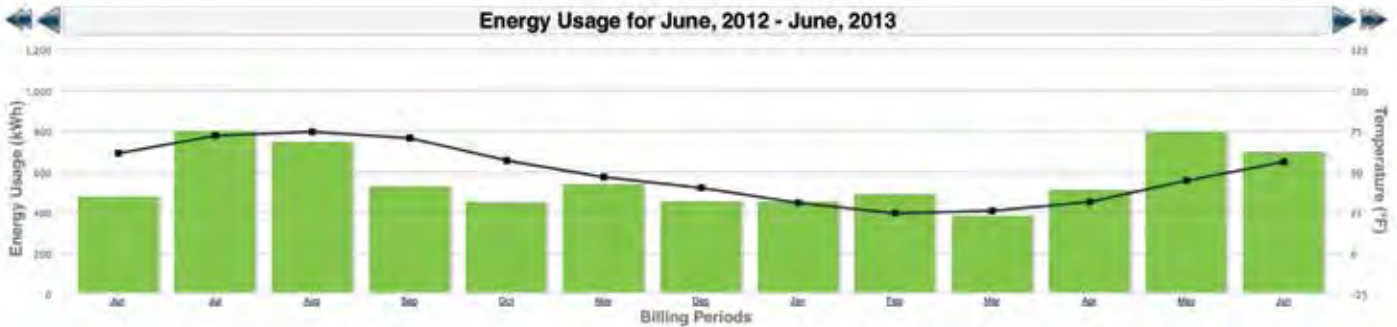
For more energy saving tips, follow Cherryland Electric Cooperative on Facebook.





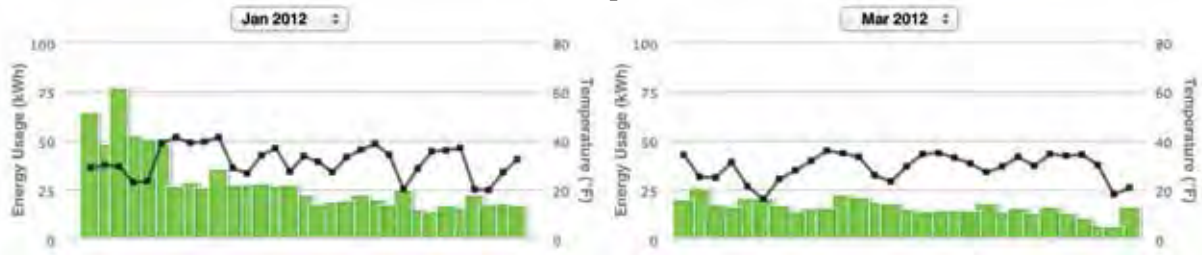
# Energy Saving Tools @ Your Fingertips

## Usage Explorer



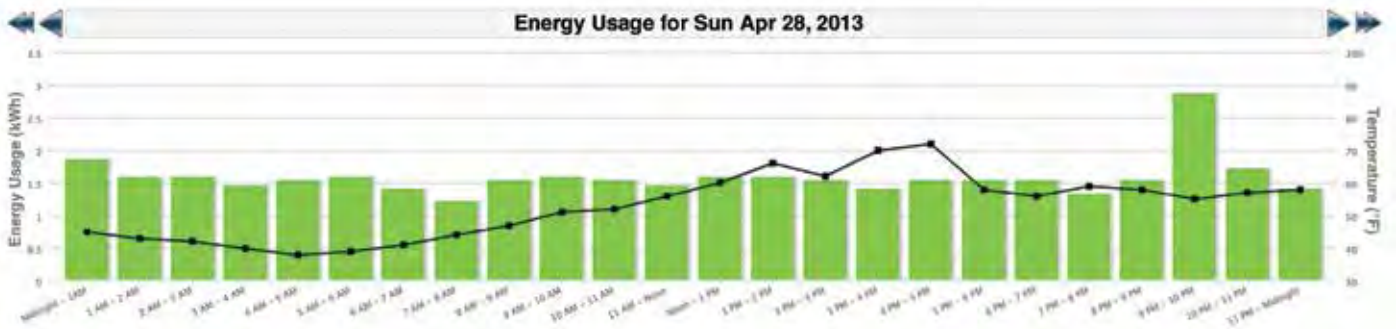
A detailed look at your past and current energy use, all in one place. View your usage and weather trends by the month, day or hour.

## Bill Comparison



Compare two bills worth of energy use history side-by-side. View how your bill varies throughout the season.

## Average Usage



View your typical or average energy use for a selected time period.

To access these tools and more log-on today at: [cecelec.smarthub.coop](http://cecelec.smarthub.coop)





# Fat Tire Biking is a New Winter Ride

**G**et used to seeing more of something unusual this winter – people biking through the snow.

Whether you dub them “fat tire bikes” or “snow bikes,” the popularity of this new winter sport is gaining across Michigan for commuting, racing or just riding.

Fat tire bikes first became popular in Alaska for commuting and recreational use on their many trails and ski pathways. They started showing up in the Lower 48 about three years ago, and have blossomed in popularity over the last few winters.



Photo - Einstein Cycles

Navigating the woods on 4-inch fat tires.

These bikes sell new from around \$1,700 to \$3,000 and typically run on fat tires that are 4 inches wide. The tires use about 8 PSI or less of air pressure for on-snow use, leaving little print on a hard, groomed surface.

Crystal Mountain (Thompsonville), Timber Ridge Nordic Center (Traverse City), and Boyne Highlands (Harbor Springs) are all offering rentals and groomed trails this winter.

Crystal has about 10 groomed miles of both cross-country and single-track trails for fat tire bikes. Renting for about \$10 an hour, you can ride them on portions of the cross-country trail until 10 p.m. nightly since it is lit for night skiing.

At Timber Ridge, Einstein Cycles is handling rentals (about \$25, including a trail pass), and there's about 10 kilometers of groomed trail.

The Highlands offers a five-mile groomed loop. A daily trail pass is \$5, and rentals start at \$30 for two hours.

“We found them to be very popular last year at Crystal Mountain, our first winter,” says Chris Remy, who oversees the resort's program. “We often had a waiting list and have added more bikes for this winter, and more sizes.”

Trails aren't the only place you'll see fat tire bikes, however. Jason Lowetz, owner of Einstein Cycles, sees a market for those dedicated commuters who prefer a bike over a vehicle. “I'm seeing a lot more people using them to commute around town and work during winter,” he explains. “It's the safest bike you can ride this time of year and allows cyclists to commute year-round. The stability of the bike makes it a good choice.”

Traverse City resident Jason Whittaker agrees.

Photo - Marquette Photo





Photo - Crystal Mountain Resort

## Places To Ride On Fat Tires

### Timber Ridge Campground & Nordic Center

Traverse City • 877-978-3866  
timberridgeresort.net

### Crystal Mountain Resort

Thompsonville • 800-968-4676  
crystalmountain.com

### Noquemanon Trail Network

Marquette • 906-235-6861  
noquetrails.org

### Boyne Highlands

Harbor Springs • 231.526.3000  
boyne.com

Among others, Crystal Mountain (above), Boyne Highlands, and Timber Ridge offer fat tire biking this winter. These resorts also get electric service from member-owned co-ops. Boyne is served by Great Lakes Energy and Crystal and Timber Ridge by Cherryland Electric.

“We’re a one car family with a 20-month-old son. My wife needs the car at home, and the fat-tired bike allows me to safely ride through the snow and slush on the TART (Traverse Area Recreational Trail) to get to work,” he says. “Before they came along I couldn’t ride the trail, which isn’t cleared in the winter. I had to ride my mountain bike on roadways, which weren’t that safe. I also ride on the VASA Pathway on Fridays for fun.”

TART Trails, which spearheads VASA Pathway grooming, is asking riders to buy a \$25 grooming badge. Fridays are set aside as “Fat Tire Friday,” when cyclists and skiers mix on the 25-kilometer trail, and bikes are allowed on TART’s Leelanau Peninsula, from Traverse City up to Suttons Bay, anytime.

There’s a similar trend in the U.P., around Marquette. “We’re seeing more commuter and trail use in our area over the last few years,” notes Nicole Dewald, Noquemanon Trail Network director. “We plan to groom over 20 miles of single track this winter, and ask riders to support the project by purchasing a ‘Support the Groom’ card.”

Other U.P. places to ride include the Keweenaw Peninsula, and Michigan Tech has 15 kilometers of groomed ski

trail and ungroomed single-track where bikes are permitted, and Swedetown Trails permits them after 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Ishpeming’s Al Qual Recreation Area ski trails also permit them anytime. A day pass is required for all three locations.

For racing, Einstein Cycle has organized a Northern Michigan Fat Bike Series with three races. Fat Chance was at Crystal Mountain in January; King VASA is at Timber Ridge, Feb. 8; and Fat Camp, Timber Ridge, March 1. Fun Promotions

in Grand Rapids has also organized races, with the next at Addison Oaks, Feb. 8; Shore Acres in Saugatuck, Feb. 16; and Pando Winter Sports Park, March 2. Pando also offers Fat Tuesday, a race every Tuesday night through February.

Another Traverse area fat tire rider, Eric Polard, says, “Riding on snow has been a great alternative to my other winter love, Nordic skiing. Being able to hop on a snow bike is a great way to mix up winter activities and keep it interesting.” Give it a try?



Photo - Marquette Photo

For competition, practical use, or just for fun, fat tire biking can be found around Michigan.

# Winter Olympics Help Offset Cabin Fever

As TV viewers, we take for granted all the work that goes into producing our favorite shows.

This will be especially true for most of February, when the Winter Olympics comes to us from Sochi, Russia.

The Winter Games will take place from Feb. 7-23, with 98 events in 15 sports. It will be the first Olympics for Russia since the breakup of the Soviet Union, so the world will be watching to see how it all unfolds.

We all have our favorite Olympic events and memories.

My favorite is ski jumping. Maybe it's because I would never have the guts to do it and I admire people who do. I remember Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, the British ski jumper who excelled in finishing last. Last I checked, Eddie had become a lawyer and is still a celebrity in Great Britain because of his reputation as a "heroic failure."

Another event that always bears watching is the bobsled competition. Who can

forget the Jamaican team that gained fame in 1988, and later had a movie made about them called "Cool Runnings"? They were also portrayed as "Loveable Losers" and the world embraced the team.

But the winners have a special spot in our memories, too. That No. 1 ranking is reserved for the 1980 U.S. hockey team which, against all odds, beat mighty Russia in the semifinals and then won the gold medal. Many people call that win over Russia the biggest upset in sports history. It's hard to dispute that, especially after Russia crushed the same U.S. team 10-3 at Madison Square Garden in an exhibition game just two weeks before the Olympic semifinal contest.

The call of the game that day, as the final seconds ticked off the scoreboard, came when Al Michaels yelled – "Do you believe in miracles?" – and will live in Olympic infamy.

The day of that game – Feb. 22, 1980 – my wife and I were on vacation in Montreal. The



By Nick Edson



game was broadcast live in Canada, but tape delayed for the U.S. TV audience. So when I called back after the game to tell my co-workers at the newspaper that the U.S. had upset Russia, they didn't believe me because they thought the U.S. TV feed would be live that night. I should have placed some bets with them.

But beyond the games are the real people involved – that's what makes the Olympics such compelling TV. Twenty years ago, it was Tonya Harding vs. Nancy Kerrigan. This year, other Olympians will steal the spotlight. That's why we watch. Well, that and the fact that baby, it's c-c-cold outside.

## Co-op News

### Cherryland Offers Scholarships

• **High school seniors** whose parents or guardians currently receive electric service from Cherryland and live in our service area may apply for a \$4,000 scholarship (\$1,000 for four years). Selection is based on GPA, extracurricular activities, community involvement and/or after school employment. The minimum required GPA is 2.75. To continue receiving the scholarship, a student must maintain a minimum college course load of 12 credits per term or semester and receive a 2.5 GPA or higher.

• **Post-high school adults** may apply for a \$500 scholarship and must also be Cherryland members. This one-time award goes toward covering the cost of a course or courses taken in a calendar year and is given on the basis of need, grades and community service.

Contact Nick Edson, Cherryland Electric Cooperative, 5930 U.S.-31 South, Grawn, MI 49637; call 486-9222, or email [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com) (include name and

address) to apply. High school seniors may also apply through their school counselor. The deadline is *April 11*.

### You Can Serve On Cherryland Electric's Board

Any qualified Cherryland Electric member can be elected to serve on the board of directors. The term of office is three years, and interested members are invited to visit the co-op's office in Grawn to learn about a director's duties.

To be nominated in 2014, candidates can file a petition with the co-op's human resources administrator starting on March 3 and ending at 4 p.m. on March 31. Official nominating petitions are available at Cherryland's office and must be signed by at least 25 active co-op members in good standing, and all signatures must be obtained within 60 days prior to the date the petition is filed.

The term of office is three years. Two directors will be elected at this year's annual

meeting on June 19 to represent Leelanau County and one at-large position. Nominees must meet the qualifications noted in the bylaws under Section 2 of Article III.

If no qualified candidate is nominated to fill the vacancy of a director whose term expires, the newly-elected board will appoint sufficient directors to fill the vacancies by a majority vote within 60 days of its first meeting. Directors elected this way will serve until the next annual meeting, when members will have an opportunity to fill the balance of the regular three-year term.

## Save the Date: June 19

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's 76th annual meeting will be held Thursday, June 19, at Incredible Mo's from 4-8 p.m.





Presque Isle Power Plant

## Wolverine Ends Generation Projects

Wolverine Power Cooperative recently announced that it is ending the development of two generation projects in northern Michigan.

Construction of a 600-megawatt (MW) power plant and a wind turbine farm near Rogers City was proposed by Wolverine in 2006. An air quality permit was approved in June 2011 for the proposed Wolverine Clean Energy Venture power plant, but the co-op significantly scaled back development of the project in late 2011 with the passing of new emissions rules for new plant construction.

“I am very proud of our efforts on the Wolverine Clean Energy Venture,” said Eric Baker, Wolverine’s president/CEO. “The project team worked diligently to develop a proposed state-of-the-art power plant to serve co-op members efficiently and cost-effectively.”

Wolverine has also brought its joint venture with We Energies (of Milwaukee, WI) at the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette to a close. The companies had proposed joint ownership of the plant in January 2012 in exchange for Wolverine’s investment in an air quality control system.

“We’re disappointed to end the joint venture with We Energies, yet that has become the best option for both parties,” Baker explained. “We believe this joint venture would have brought economic and environmental benefits for the region, along with helping to ensure energy reliability.”

We Energies plans to evaluate long-term options for the plant and may solicit other potential buyers for some or all of its output.

In keeping with its mission to provide outstanding service to its members, Baker noted that Wolverine will continue to seek reliable, competitively priced power supply that encompasses a mix of fuels and business partners.

Wolverine is the power supplier for Cheryland, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Presque Isle Electric & Gas and Wolverine Power Marketing co-ops, and Spartan Renewable Energy.

## Powering Up

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here’s what’s going on if you find yourself in the dark.

### 1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

### 2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

### 3 Main Distribution Lines

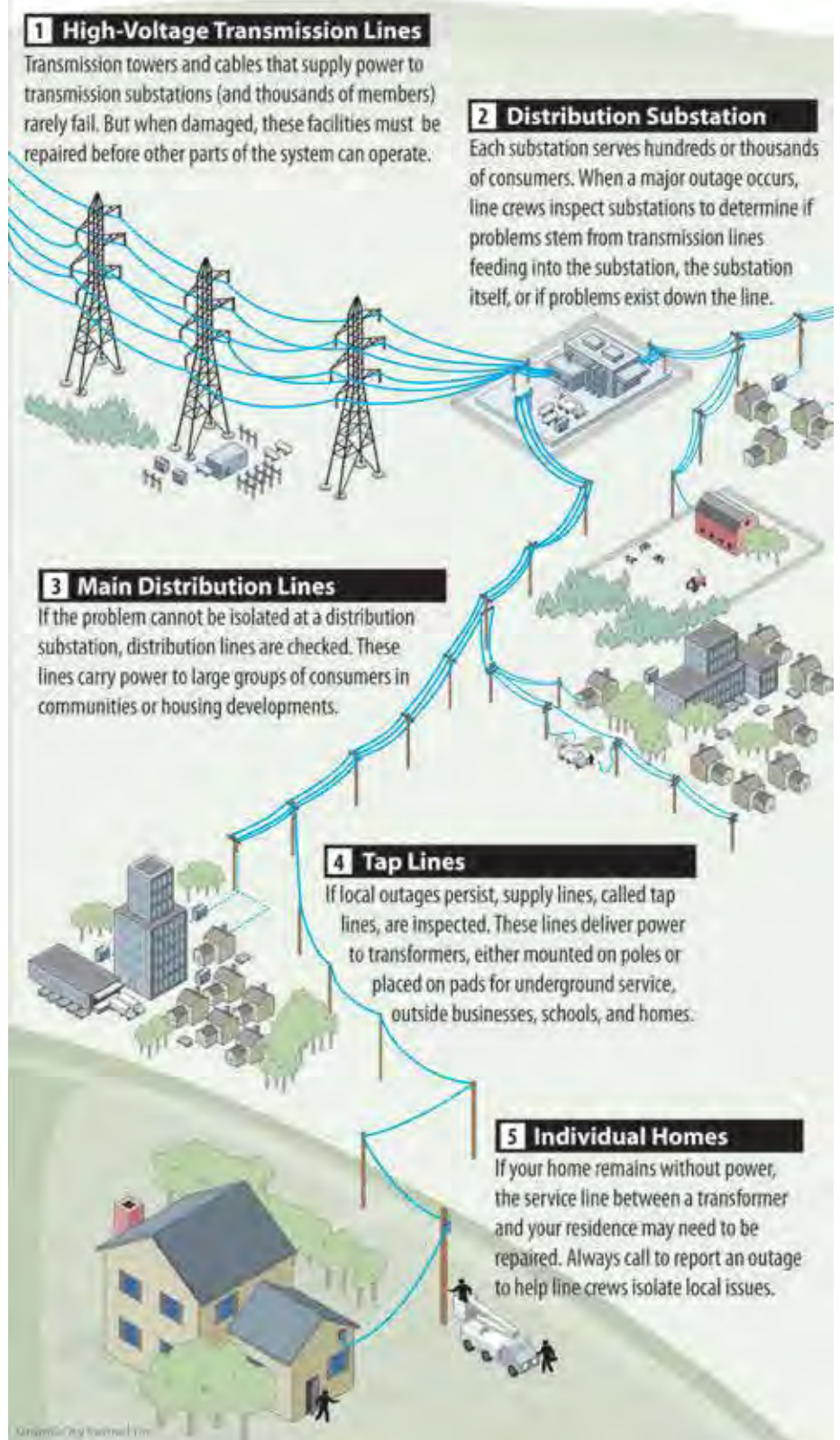
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

### 4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

### 5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.





# New Bulb on the Block: Meet LED Lucy

There's a new mascot in town. It's LED Lucy, and she's a dazzling, spunky mascot who's lighting the way for even brighter lightbulb savings. She joins CFL Charlie, and both are cartoon mascots for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives®, a national brand for the nation's nonprofit, consumer-owned electric co-ops that helps families become "Super Savers" by switching to energy efficient lightbulbs.

Lighting standards moved away from traditional lightbulbs in 2012, and the mascots want to make sure electric co-op members know about all lighting options.

"I'm older than I look," LED Lucy confides. "The first LED was created in 1927. Since then we've added stylish colors, and

costs have dropped. I love bargains, and LED prices get lower every year!"

Following, the mascots share a few pointers on their energy efficiency namesakes.

## Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

CFL Charlie—and bulbs like him—are the most common and economical efficient lightbulbs on the market. The swirly style is linked to the concept of efficient lighting, but some consumers haven't warmed to the design.

"Not everyone likes to see my swirls," explains Charlie. "That's fine by me—everyone has a different sense of style, but several of my friends are designed to look just like a traditional lightbulb."

CFLs offer 75 percent energy savings over traditional bulbs and pay for themselves in nine months, notes the U.S. Department of Energy.

## Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)

Light emitting diodes (LEDs) have been used for years in cell phones and other electronics, and most are small—about half the size of a pencil eraser. By banding several small diodes together, a bright, dependable light emerges. As popularity




CFL Charlie & LED Lucy

grows, some companies are making light with a single, bright LED chip. New ways to build LEDs will help drive costs down.

"It's going to be fun to watch LED Lucy gain fans," laughs Charlie. "She uses a little less energy than me, and lasts 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs." Lighting adds up to 10 percent of a home's electric bill, so every bulb counts.

Visit [kidsenergyzone.com](http://kidsenergyzone.com) for fun ways to help kids learn about lighting and electrical safety, too.



**Energy Efficiency**  
*Tip of the Month*

Fighting winter chills? A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill. To cool energy costs, keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use. Caulk around the fireplace hearth. Double up on wood-earned warmth by lowering the thermostat setting to between 50 degrees and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at [www.energysaver.gov](http://www.energysaver.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Energy Assistance Available for Low-Income Utility Customers

As extreme weather continues and the promise of more snow puts a strain on utility customers' budgets, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) is urging low-income customers to inquire about heating assistance. "I encourage customers to call 2-1-1 or their utility to inquire about assistance that may be available to them," says MPSC Chairman John D. Quackenbush.

The MPSC reports that \$89,615,000 in grants have been made available to 14 organizations that are now assisting eligible low-income utility customers, including some electric co-ops. Not all utilities participate in the grant-funded programs, but consumers can call 2-1-1 (see map, right), which is a free community health and human services information and referral service for people in need. Nearly all low-income help is

distributed during the "crisis season" that began Nov. 1, 2013, and ends May 31.

By simply dialing 211, available 24/7, callers are connected with a trained, caring professional who will confidentially assess their situation, identify their needs and refer them to local resources for help. Or, visit [uwmich.org/2-1-1](http://uwmich.org/2-1-1) (nationwide, visit [211us.org](http://211us.org)).

Funding for the grants comes from \$50 million collected through a low-income energy assistance funding factor approved by the MPSC; and \$40 million in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Visit [Michigan.gov/BeWinterWise](http://Michigan.gov/BeWinterWise) for more information, including tips for reducing energy use during the heating months, and how to avoid a service shut-off and receive assistance with bills.

**Michigan 2-1-1 Service Areas**  
**By Regional Call Center**  
(as of March 2013)





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