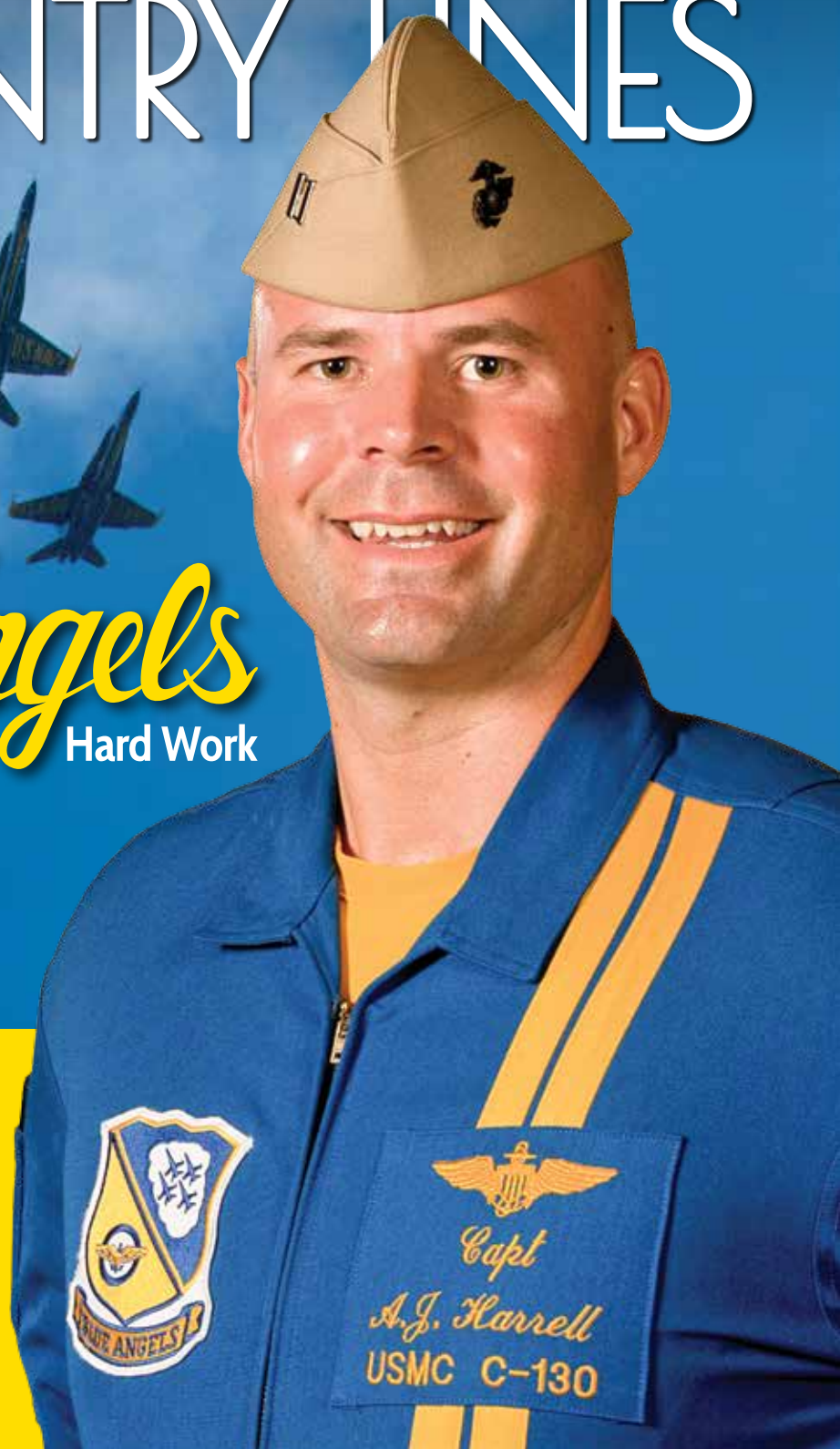


MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Blue Angels
Fly on the Wings of Hard Work

Plus!

- 4 Race From the Front
- 8 School 101: The Lesson of Accountability
- 9 Keep Your Electric Meter Accessible



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



IN THIS ISSUE



6 HOME COOKING
Surviving A Snack Attack
Christin McKamey & Our Readers



7 OUR ENERGY
Make Home Energy Savings Easy
B. Denise Hawkins



10 FEATURE
Blue Angels Fly on the Wings of Hard Work
John Schneider



13 SAFETY
How To Use A Portable Generator Safely



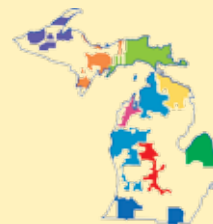
14 READERS' PAGE
Jack's Journal:
Michiganian vs. Michigander,
Mystery Photo

ON THE COVER*

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.



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Race From the Front



Tony Anderson
General Manager

I believe we all strive to get better in many aspects of our lives, such as hobbies and daily jobs. I certainly want to improve my running hobby and also continue to lead Cherryland Electric Cooperative to higher levels of reliability and affordability.

How do we do this? Personally, I look for examples to emulate or learn from. I seek out runners who are stronger, faster and have more experience. I look to other utilities that are respected in the community because of their service, programs and rates.

When I started at CEC in 2003, I quickly discovered that our rates were higher than the local investor-owned utility (IOU), Consumers Energy. Just as quickly, I learned they were large, serving millions of meters throughout the state.

How could we ever beat their rates?

Well, being an avid runner, I knew that you don't get better unless you attempt to run down someone bigger, faster and stronger. So, we collectively leaned into the hill that was our rate disparity and that's what we went about at CEC. We had a runner out in the lead. Our goal was to reel them in or get better trying.

In 2008, we began to close in on this lead runner. In comparing actual monthly bills given to me by customers of Consumers Energy, I knew CEC in any given month of the summer could be 9–20 percent higher than our neighboring IOU. (Power supply adjustments were varying from month to month.) However, in the fall and winter, CEC was the cheaper provider by a 3–7 percent range. We were still in the race, getting stronger and realizing we could run with this guy.

“This past winter, CEC became the low-cost provider by about 6 percent on usage of 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh).”

Over the ensuing years as their rate increases were more frequent and often larger than ours, CEC kept inching even closer. In 2014, it happened. We got on their shoulders and passed them by. This past winter, CEC became the low-cost provider by about 6 percent on usage of 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh). Summer arrived, and we increased the distance to 9 percent on 675 kWh (actual bills—no estimates—“apples to apples”).

Consumers Energy is a great company and a respected community partner. I don't write this to disparage them at all. I write this out of respect and admiration for the work done by all CEC employees and the fiscal oversight provided by your board of directors. For a cooperative of our size that serves predominantly rural areas to achieve

(Continued on page 8)



Annual Meeting Was Fun for Everyone

They knew about the business meeting, prize giveaways and opportunity to talk with company officials one-on-one.

But what many members didn't know about Cherryland Electric Cooperative's 76th annual meeting was how much FUN they were going to have at Incredible Mo's.

"Honestly, I brought some of my grandkids, thinking this was more for them," said several members. "But we ended up having just as much fun as they did."

Those members took a ride 50-feet up in the air in a bucket truck; played arcade games and laser tag, then wound down by having some pizza and a salad while listening to the singing of entertainer Kevin Reeves on Thursday, June 19.

"By having the annual meeting at Incredible Mo's, I didn't feel rushed to do anything," they said. "I had plenty of time—four hours—to do everything at my own pace. I had a great time and learned a lot about my cooperative."

That was the theme of the night as members moved between the inside and outside activities with ease.

Incredible Mo's owners Chris and Sandra Mohrhardt said they made and served over 530 pizzas to the 1,100 people attending the meeting.

Plans are already underway for Incredible Mo's to host the 2015 meeting on Thursday, June 11.

At the business portion of the meeting, which was set up under a big tent, two incumbent directors were re-elected.

Tom Van Pelt ran unopposed for the Leelanau County seat and gathered 1,174 votes, with 16 write-ins.

For an at-large position, Rick Deneweth won re-election with 684 votes. The challengers were David Petrove (344), Brad Jewett (260) and Julie Newcomb (196), with four write-ins. ■



Kids of all ages joined in playing games at Cherryland Electric Co-op's annual meeting.



Cherryland lineworker Andy Bott helped co-op members enjoy bucket truck rides.

Photos: John Russell



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

School 101: The Lesson of Accountability



I'm old-fashioned.

I don't apologize or make excuses for it. In fact, I take pride in it.

In some ways, being old-fashioned means I don't know the names of the most popular bands and I can't name the hottest fashion trends.

But in other ways, being old-fashioned means believing in the values you learned as a kid. And, to me, that never goes out of fashion.

Here's an example. Back in the 1960s, when I attended grade school, the students were held accountable by both teachers and parents. If there was a problem at school, the teacher talked to the parent and they came up with a solution together. In the end, the student learned and benefitted from it, even though he or she might not have liked it at the time.

However, somewhere in the early 1980s, my teacher friends tell me, that started to change. Our culture shifted. Students could cause a disruption in class. If a teacher laid a hand on them, the students would report them. If a teacher sent a note home explaining that Johnny was having a problem, some of the parents were critical of the teachers, not their students.

What really changed wasn't the student or the teacher. It was the parent. It was easier to blame the system than look in the mirror and see where the change in the house had to start.

But, I'm told, that's old-fashioned thinking.

I know that teachers and students have their faults. But, as parents and providers, it is easier to just point a finger and blame someone else. That's the easy way out. But it's certainly not a solution.

That's why, as the school year starts, I'm hoping that old-fashioned accountability starts to make a comeback. Why is it as important today as it was in the 1960s and earlier?

Well, as you get older and get a job you'll be held accountable for what you say and do. There won't be anyone to blame your boss or your company if things go wrong. The sooner a student learns the lesson of accountability, the better off they'll be.

Granted, it's a simple lesson. But I'm surprised in today's world how many people seem to have missed that lesson. My take is that life isn't that difficult if you own up to your actions, work hard and treat people with respect. At least, it seems easier that way.

It also seems old-fashioned to some people. But in my book, that's a good thing. ■



Nick Edson

Politics In Action *(Continued from page 4)*

such a goal is worthy of a little recognition, albeit if only in the pages of our small magazine.

Another reason is obvious—our reputation in the area. Many people don't compare their bills. They simply rely on the tradition that says, "Cherryland is the higher priced utility." Well, with this column, I want to respectfully announce that this tradition is no more.

Can CEC hold the pace and stay ahead of the IOU competition? I believe we can. Will we always be in the lead? The long-range future is tougher to predict but believe me, everyone at CEC will work hard to stay in front for as long as we can. We will refuse to look over our shoulders. Instead, we will run a strong race from the front—focused straight ahead on safety, reliability and affordability. ■

Keeping Your Meter Accessible



Jim Carpenter
Line Superintendent

As a Cherryland Electric Cooperative member, it's your responsibility to allow access to your electric meter.

We rely on accurate and timely meter readings to make sure you are billed correctly for the electricity you use. But sometimes, there are things that get in the way—such as dogs, locked gates, fences, vegetation, vehicles and equipment.

Under Michigan Public Service Commission and Cherryland Electric rules, you're required to provide us with safe access to our facilities at all reasonable times for maintenance and inspection.

You can help, by:

- Keeping your dogs restrained or located away from the meter.
- Keeping the meter clear of vegetation, insects, vehicles and other equipment.
- Having a licensed electrical contractor move your meter box if it becomes inaccessible due to the addition of new fences or building alterations.

An electricity retailer may arrange for disconnection where a customer fails to provide access. If you've got an access issue, we can help with your options.

Dogs on the Premises

Sometimes dogs can prevent Cherryland employees from entering a property to read electricity meters.

Our meter readers are advised not to enter a property with a dog on the premises unless they are able to confirm that it's safe. This may include checking that the dog is securely restrained or located in a separate area away from the meter box. This doesn't mean your dog is dangerous, but we can't take risks when it comes to safety. If you have a dog on your premises, please consider ways to restrain or relocate the dog, or talk to a licensed electrical contractor about relocating your meter box.

Locked Gates, Doors or Meter Boxes

Your electricity meter must be accessible without the need to climb fences or locked gates, enter through a neighbor's property, or use other lock arrangements such as dual-locking systems, PINs for electronic gates, key boxes to store keys, or access swipe cards. Our meter readers will not carry keys or access swipe cards for private customer locks.

Vegetation, Vehicles, Equipment

Plants, shrubs and other objects that are too close to your meter box can also make it difficult to find and access your meter. Obstacles left lying on the ground in the meter area can also pose a safety risk.

Please cut back trees, bushes and shrubs on your property to allow a clear path to the meter. Clear away rubbish bins, garden equipment, vehicles and machinery, and make sure there are no insects, spiders or snakes in or near your meter box.

New Fences or Building Alterations

Your meter box needs to be near the front of your property, where it can be most easily accessed.

Meters may seem appropriately located and easily accessible until new fences are added or building alterations are made that block accessibility.

When planning any structural changes, please remember to allow for access to your meter. If your meter box can't be reasonably accessed in its current location, talk to a licensed electrical contractor about relocating it.

It will make life easier for both you and your electric cooperative. ■



Coming Up

- Meters will be tested this fall in the Grawn area. An automated phone call will be made to inform you.
- Why are meters inspected when we have Automatic Meter Reading? We are checking to see if meters are damaged or need repairs.



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.



Fuel Mix Report

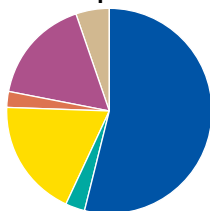
The fuel mix characteristics of Cherryland Electric Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/14.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

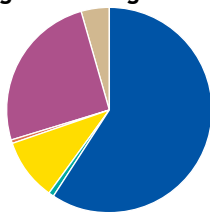
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	54.0%	59.4%
Oil	3.2%	0.6%
Gas	18.4%	9.8%
Hydroelectric	2.7%	0.6%
Nuclear	16.6%	25.4%
Renewable Fuels	5.1%	4.2%
Biofuel	0.4%	0.5%
Biomass	0.1%	0.5%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.0%	0.0%
Wind	4.5%	2.7%
Wood	0.1%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas, and wind includes a long-term renewable purchase power contract in Wolverine's mix.

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	4.9	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,504	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.8	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.

Cherryland Electric Cooperative purchases 100% of its electricity from Wolverine Power Cooperative, which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

Co-op News

Lautner Elected Board President

Terry Lautner has been elected president of Cherryland Electric Cooperative's board of directors.

The action came at the co-op's monthly board meeting in July. Jon Zickert was elected vice-president, while Melinda Lautner and Rick Deneweth were re-elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Drawing Winners Announced

Two Cherryland members won drawings that the cooperative sponsored in conjunction with its 76th annual meeting.

Steve Duddles of Thompsonville won \$500. His name was randomly selected from over 1,200 members who sent in their *Country Lines* election ballots.

Mary Miller of Interlochen won \$100. She visited all four nonprofit group booths at the annual meeting and had her name entered for the drawing.

Cherryland Joins Community Activities

Summer is a busy time for Cherryland Electric Cooperative employees when it comes to helping out in the community.

Cherryland was the main sponsor for the TC Scoops Festival in June to benefit Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Northwest Michigan.

In July, Cherryland sponsored Heroes Day at the National Cherry Festival and helped pass out medals to area veterans and first responders. Also, more than 80 Cherryland employees, directors and their families walked with the company float in the Touchstone Energy Junior Royale Parade.

On Aug. 23, Cherryland General Manager Tony Anderson hosted his annual Big Little Trail Races—15k and 5k races—to benefit Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Cherryland also served meals at Munson Manor during the summer.

Next Member Input Session Is September

The Cherryland Electric Cooperative board of directors is offering another opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board on a quarterly basis. Members will be able to talk to the board next on Sept. 15 at 9 a.m. at the company office in Grawn.

Members are asked to come to the lobby and request to speak to the board, and are asked to keep their comments to 5 minutes. Member attendance at the board meeting is allowed for the public input portion of the meeting only.

Cherryland members are afforded a chance to meet with the board on a quarterly basis during March, June, September and December meetings. ■

You're the Boss



Rachel Johnson
Grassroots Advocate

At Cherryland, we're more than just an electric utility, we're a co-op. That means we work for you, our members.

Literally.

You are an owner in the co-op and like all good employees, we need feedback from our bosses to do our best job for you.

Last year, 24 of your fellow co-op members decided to touch base with us by volunteering for the Member Advisory Committee (MAC). Maybe it's time for you to join them.

Throughout our five meetings, they were able to learn about and offer feedback on our outage restoration policies, long-term energy portfolio, member outreach and education programs, and a lot of other services offered by your co-op.

Our first 2014–2015 MAC meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at our office in Grawn. If you would like to attend, drop me an email at rjohnson@cherrylandelectric.com or call me at (231) 486-9275. ■

2014-2015 Member Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule:

- Wednesday, Sept. 10
- Wednesday, March 11
- Wednesday, Nov. 12
- Wednesday, May 13
- Wednesday, Jan. 14

How To Use A Generator Safely

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

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. ■



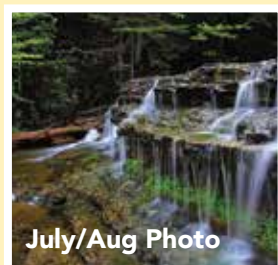
Jack O'Malley



«« 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.



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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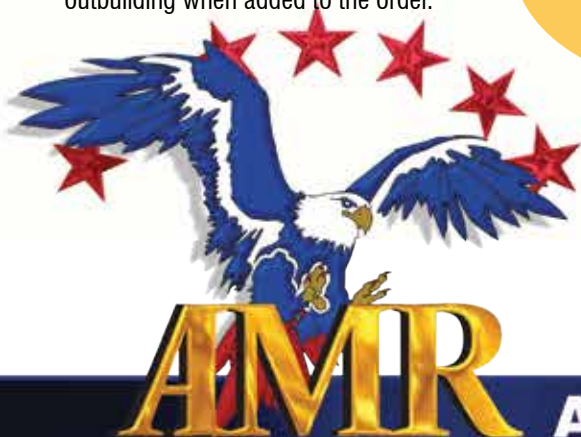
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Get Involved.



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Stay Informed.

Have you ever wondered:

- Why electricity costs keep rising?
- How Cherryland prioritizes outage restoration efforts?
- How Cherryland is affected by energy regulations?

Member Advisory Committee

Join our new Member Advisory Committee (MAC) to find out more about your electric cooperative and to provide valuable feedback on our programs and services. Our MAC will consist of representatives from all of our service areas. You must be a Cherryland member to serve on the MAC. MAC members will serve 2-year terms and are limited to 2 terms of consecutive service.

We will hold the first MAC meeting in September. The committee will meet 5 times—September, October, January, March and May—on the second Wednesday of the month, at 6 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact:

Rachel Johnson — 231-486-9275 — rjohnson@cecelec.com

Visit cecelec.com "Get Involved"