

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Blue Angels
Fly on the Wings of Hard Work

Plus!

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September 2014
Vol. 34, No. 8

Executive Editor
Casey Clark

Editor
Gail Knudtson

Publisher
Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association

Design and Layout
Ciesa Design

Michigan Country Lines, USPS-591-710, is published monthly, except August and December, with periodicals postage paid at Okemos, MI, and additional offices. It is the official publication of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864.

Subscriptions are authorized for members of Alger Delta, Cherryland, Cloverland, Great Lakes, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Ontonagon, Presque Isle, and Thumb electric cooperatives by their boards of directors. Subscriptions for nonmembers are \$6 per year.

POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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.

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



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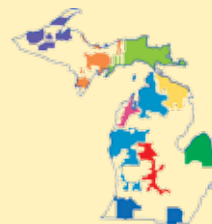
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ON THE COVER*

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.



Michigan's Electric
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Board of Directors

Richard Walsworth *Chairman*
 3701 N. 48th Ave., Mears, MI 49436
 231-873-2418 • rwalsworth@glenergy.com

Mark Carson *Vice-Chairman*
 01950 Anderson Rd., Boyne City, MI 49712
 231-582-0688 • mcarson@glenergy.com

Larry Monshor *Treasurer*
 1541 Thumm Rd., Gaylord, MI 49735
 989-705-1778 • lmonshor@glenergy.com

Paul Byl *Secretary*
 9941 W. Buchanan Rd., Shelby, MI 49455
 231-861-5911 • pbyl@glenergy.com

Richard Evans *Director*
 11195 Essex Rd.
 Ellsworth, MI 49729
 231-588-7114 • revans@glenergy.com

Dale Farrier *Director*
 1561 N. Selkirk Lake Road,
 Kalkaska, MI 49646
 231-564-0853 • dfarrier@glenergy.com

Robert Kran *Director*
 7380 N. Tuttle Rd., Free Soil, MI 49411
 231-464-5889 • bkran@glenergy.com

Paul Schemanski *Director*
 5974 Stolt Rd., Petoskey, MI 49770
 231-439-9079 • paul.schemanski@glenergy.com

Robert Thurow *Director*
 819 W. Chauvez Rd., Scottville, MI 49454
 231-757-3430 • rthurow@glenergy.com

President/CEO: Steve Boeckman
 888-485-2537

Communications
Director/Editor: Dave Guzniczak
 231-487-1316

Boyne City Headquarters:
 1323 Boyne Ave.
 Boyne City, MI 49712
Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. M–F
Phone: 888-485-2537

To report an outage, call:
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Electricity Remains a Good Value



Steve Boeckman
 Great Lakes Energy
 President/CEO

In today's world, you won't find many items that cost under \$5. You can buy a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas or a McDonald's value meal. But did you know that an average day's worth of electricity costs less than \$5?

Even in our country's shifting energy climate, electricity remains a good value.

Electricity is a necessity we take for granted. How many things do you use at home every day that depend on electricity? We expect the lights to come on when we flip the switch, and our phones to get recharged when we plug them in. We need reliable power to keep our food fresh, and to heat and cool our homes. It is nearly impossible for us to think about what our lives would be like without it.

While dramatic increases in propane prices were felt last winter, our electric rates remained stable. It's that stability that sets us apart from other consumer goods, such as medical care, education and heating fuels.

The staff at Great Lakes Energy is committed to making sure that you and your family always have safe, reliable and affordable electric service in your home.

So the next time you're filling up your gas tank, remember the daily value electricity provides and think about what a great deal you're getting for your dollar! ■

THE VALUE OF Electricity
 Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA
 2012 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$107

\$4.62
 average cost of a Big Mac® meal

\$3.58
 average daily cost of electricity

Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material. Source: Statista.com, 2014

Board to Consider Changes to Fees and Billing Rules

Proposed changes in special charges, billing rules and other tariffs will go before the Great Lakes Energy Board of Directors for approval at a special member meeting on Sept. 24. If approved, the changes would go into effect Jan. 1, 2015.

Among the items proposed are changes to some special charges, line extension fees, load management eligibility,

deposit interest, and establishing a new rate that enables eligible members to pre-pay for their electricity use. Instead of receiving monthly bills, members choosing to be on pre-pay would make payments on their own schedule.

Please see related notice on this page for more information about the special meeting and proposed changes. ■

Notice to Members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

**A Special Member Meeting is set for Sept. 24, 11:30 a.m.,
at the cooperative's Boyne City office.**

The board of directors will consider several changes to the cooperative's Billing Rules, Terms and Conditions of Service, and other tariffs at its meeting on Sept. 24, 2014, to be held at the cooperative office at 1323 Boyne Ave., Boyne City, MI. The meeting will start at 11:30 a.m., and is open to all members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative. Members will have an opportunity to address the board on the proposed changes prior to board action.

The following items will be considered for adoption effective Jan. 1, 2015:

1. Revise the cooperative's Contributions-In-Aid-to-Construction (CIAC) fee schedule to better reflect current costs. If approved, these changes will affect member-customers who request electric line extensions to serve a new service location or who request a change in electric service facilities at their current location.
2. Consider changes to load management tariffs for new enrollments.
3. Consider a new rate that would allow eligible members to pre-pay for electric use.
4. Revise special fees to better reflect current costs, including but not limited to Special Service Request, Disconnect/Reconnect, Request for Meter Test, Account Transfer, and Bad Check Handling fees.
5. Revise interest paid on deposits to better reflect current interest rates.
6. Revise Standards and Billing Practices for Residential and Non-Residential Service to simplify relevant tariffs and establish tariff sheets under authority of the board of directors.

Notice of changes or additions to the cooperative's rates or service rules shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by publication in *Michigan Country Lines* at least 30 days prior to their effective date.

Participation: Any interested member may attend and participate. The location of the board meeting site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact Great Lakes Energy at 888-485-2537, ext. 1331, a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Comments may also be made before the meeting date by calling Pat Anzell, Vice President of Rates and Regulatory Affairs at 888-485-2537 or by email to glenergy@glenergy.com.

Notice of the board meeting shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by publication in *Michigan Country Lines*.



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

Attend A Free Energy Seminar



Register now and attend either session:

Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to noon at our GLE office in Boyne City

Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon at our GLE office in Newaygo

Space is limited, so please register by calling 1-888-485-2537, ext. 8958, or email: events@glenergy.com

Two free energy seminars for Great Lakes Energy members will be held this fall. Attend the one nearest to you.

Hear presentations on geothermal and air-source heat pumps, Marathon® electric water heaters, and Energy Optimization (EO) programs that offer incentives to help co-op members

save energy. They include rebates for the purchase of furnaces with ECM blower motors, electric water heaters, refrigerators, lighting, and more. In addition, information on EO programs that offer free appliance recycling and online audits will be provided.

Local heating and cooling companies and Great Lakes Energy

staff members will be on hand to answer questions related to electric heat and electric water heaters.

Co-op members will learn about other incentive programs offered by Great Lakes Energy, too.

Door prizes will be awarded, and the winners will receive energy-saving gifts. ■



SAIDI Says

Reliability Goal Still Within Reach

SAIDI (pronounced SAY-DEE) says Great Lakes Energy finished the second quarter of 2014 with more average outage minutes than for the same time last year. However, we still remain on track to reach our annual goal.

On July 1, 2014, average outage minutes totaled 65.4 minutes compared to 58.5 minutes reported on the same date a year ago.

Our 2014 reliability goal is to not exceed 182.1 average outage minutes. The goal is based on average outage minutes recorded during normal conditions. Typically, outages are due to weather, animals, equipment failures, vehicle accidents, and other causes.

SAIDI is an industry standard index used by GLE to determine the average amount of time a GLE member could be without power in a given year. Since it

represents an average, some members actually experience no outage times while others experience more than the SAIDI number.

Weather-related outage events are factored into the SAIDI calculations, with the exception of major event days (MEDs). Storms that create MEDs occur infrequently and are the most damaging.

Great Lakes Energy will continue working to limit the weather's damaging impact on its distribution system. The addition of more line protection devices, use of new technologies, improvements to major power line circuits, and ongoing vegetation management to limit tree damage to power lines are all helping to get the lights back on safely and more quickly for members during storms.

Watch for SAIDI goal updates in future issues of *Michigan Country Lines*. ■

People Fund Donors Are Winners

In appreciation for your participation, we regularly award \$100 billing credits to Great Lakes Energy members who support the People Fund. Six winners are randomly selected twice a year from our three major service areas.

Several Great Lakes Energy members recently became winners (see list on this page).

Current People Fund supporters and anyone who becomes a People Fund contributor before the next drawing in December are eligible to win.

Winners' gifts are provided by Great Lakes Energy and do not involve the use of any People Fund round-up money.

People Fund contributors allow their cooperative to round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar each month. The rounded-up amounts, which averaged 44 cents monthly in 2013, are used to award grants to food pantries, senior citizen centers, youth programs and other local charities and community groups.

Great Lakes Energy relies solely on your voluntary contributions to support the People Fund. In 2013, People Fund directors awarded \$170,012 in grants to charitable and community organizations throughout our 26-county service area.

Don't miss your chance to be the next winner! Call our office or visit gtlakes.com to sign up today. ■

Recent People Fund Winners

- Dana Holmquist, Hersey
- Michael D. & Sharilyn Shroll, Baldwin
- Larry C. Murray, Alanson
- Kathleen Riley, Gaylord
- Marcia A. Smith, Free Soil
- Richard S. Rinzler, White Cloud



The Catholic Boyne and Little Star of the North youth groups volunteered to help the Otsego County Habitat for Humanity with a home building project. The local habitat chapter received a \$1,000 People Fund grant this year.



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 Great Lakes Energy**.

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 michiganenergy.org.



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

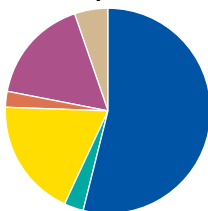
The fuel mix characteristics of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/14.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

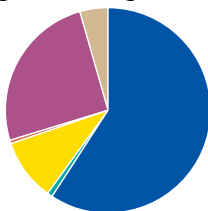
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	54.0%	59.4%
Oil	3.2%	0.6%
Gas	18.4%	9.8%
Hydroelectric	2.7%	0.6%
Nuclear	16.6%	25.4%
Renewable Fuels	5.1%	4.2%
Biofuel	0.4%	0.5%
Biomass	0.1%	0.5%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.0%	0.0%
Wind	4.5%	2.7%
Wood	0.1%	0.5%

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	0.0054	0.0083

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

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

Public Act 295: The Clean Renewable and Efficient Energy Act

2013 Annual Energy Optimization Report Great Lakes Energy Cooperative MPSC Case Number U-17370

Great Lakes Energy 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, Great Lakes Energy collected \$2,541,186 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$2,142,034, resulting in an over-collection of \$399,152 which will be applied towards the 2014 EO Program delivery expenses and goal achievement. Great Lakes Energy achieved 19,479 MWh of energy savings in 2013. For every dollar spent on energy efficiency programs, customers will save \$3 in avoided energy costs. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile>.



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

Three Incumbent Directors Re-elected

Incumbents Ric Evans, of Ellsworth, Larry Monshor, of Gaylord, and Dale Farrier, of Kalkaska, were recently re-elected by Great Lakes Energy members in their district to three-year terms on the electric co-op's board of directors.

Each incumbent defeated challengers in their district (see election summary) to earn another term on the board. Evans (District 3) is an energy-efficiency consultant, instructor and owner of Paradigm Energy Services. Monshor (District 4) is a CPA and engineer-manager. Farrier is office manager for the Antrim County Road Commission and resides in District 5.

Great Lakes Energy members in districts 3, 4 and 5 received their mail-in ballot in the July/August issue of *Michigan Country Lines*. Voters had to return their ballots to a private CPA firm by Aug. 21, and winners were announced Aug. 27 at the co-op's annual business meeting in Boyne City. ■

ELECTION RESULTS SUMMARY



Ric Evans



Larry Monshor



Dale Farrier

District 3 (Antrim County):

Ric Evans, Ellsworth— <i>winner</i>	399
Tom Kiessel, Central Lake	331
C. Sue Robinson, Mancelona	180

District 4 (Otsego, Montmorency, Oscoda, Crawford):

Larry Monshor, Gaylord— <i>winner</i>	695
Ann Berry, Gaylord	485

District 5 (Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford):

Dale Farrier, Kalkaska— <i>winner</i>	392
Edward E. Rice, South Boardman	258
Charles V. Weaver, Kalkaska	174

How To Use A Generator Safely

Keep this card 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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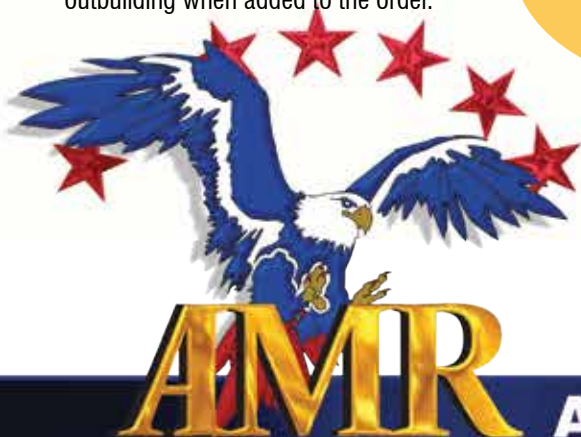
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