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

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

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

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



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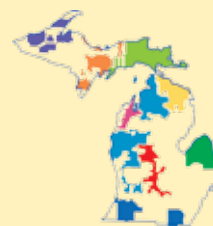
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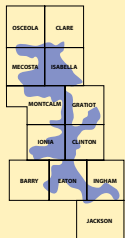
A.J. Harrell says it takes "endless practice" and hard work to become part of the Blue Angels team. He is the son of Alger Delta Electric Co-op CEO Tom Harrell, and performs flight demonstrations at the squadron's air shows.

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

**Some co-op editions have a different cover.*



Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
countrylines.com



Tri-County Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Blanchard office:

3681 Costabella Avenue
Blanchard MI 49310
Open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Portland office:

7973 E. Grand River Avenue
Portland, MI 48875
Open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Electric bill/account questions:

517-647-7554 or 1-800-562-8232

Pay by phone, anytime:

1-877-999-3395

Service questions/outages:

517-647-7554 or 1-800-848-9333
(24 hours for emergency calls)

Tri-County Propane:

1-877-574-2740

High Speed Internet

1-800-668-8413

homeworks.org

E-mail: tricoenergy@homeworks.org

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Editor: Jayne Graham, CCC



Join the conversation at
facebook.com/HomeWorks.org



Calvin Foster (L), pictured with general manager Mark Kappler, was recognized for becoming a journeyman lineman at a recent board meeting.

Changes to Our Co-op Family

Like your family, at HomeWorks Tri-County we mark the big occasions in the lives of our “work family.” This summer, we’ve had several changes within a short time.

- Calvin Foster completed his 7,000-hour line apprenticeship program and is now a journeyman lineman. Calvin has been with HomeWorks for 15 years, having started with our propane subsidiary. Becoming a lineworker requires a dedication to working safely over long hours and in difficult working conditions, and we are fortunate to have Calvin on our team. Congratulations, Calvin!
- Another lineman at Blanchard, Tom Hoffmeyer, had the opportunity to return to his hometown and transferred to our sister co-op, Presque Isle Electric & Gas. We’ll miss his contributions to our team, but we wish Tom and his young family the very best.
- Long-time director Laverne Hansen chose to retire rather than run for re-election to the board this year. Laverne and his wife, Joyce, have been such a big part of our co-op life over the past 27 years that it’s going to be a little bit jarring to look at the board table and see someone else in his seat. We hope to see Laverne stay active with HomeWorks even in his retirement.
- We’ll still see a Hansen in the District 4 board seat, however, as Kimber Hansen won the seat following a dramatic tie vote. Although he’s already familiar with the co-op from being around his dad, Laverne, we’ll all benefit from helping our newest board member learn the ropes.

Changes like these give us interesting new points of view, although they can sometimes be bittersweet. But we believe our culture of “HomeWorks family” is an important asset that helps us provide our member-owners with the reliable and affordable service you expect. ■

D.C. Tour is 'Opportunity of a Lifetime' for Teens



Tiffany Burton (L), of Lake Odessa, and Michaela Clark, of Grand Ledge, enjoyed a tour of Washington, D.C., this summer with over 1,600 other high school students sponsored by electric co-ops from across the country.

Their journey began in April as participants in the Youth Leadership Summit, which is a leadership training event sponsored by Michigan electric co-ops at SpringHill Camp, in Evart. The three-day event helps students develop leadership skills while learning about electric co-op careers and operations.

For the D.C. trip, they joined 17 other Michigan teenagers, to participate in the 50th anniversary of the National Rural Electric Youth Tour. The tour is coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and involves visits to Michigan Congressional representatives in the Capitol building, and historical sites, memorials, and museums.

Many students say this event was "the opportunity of a lifetime" and they made friendships that will "last a lifetime" on this special trip. If you are a student between the ages of 16 and 17 and want to experience this great journey, visit our website at homeworks.org for info on the 2015 camp and D.C. trip. Don't miss it!

Swiler, Hansen Elected to Board

Election Winners



Wayne Swiler

Wayne Swiler of Lake Odessa was re-elected to represent District 2 (Barry and Ionia counties) in this year's elections to the HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative board.

And, after 27 years, District 4 (most of Montcalm County) has a new director, with Laverne Hansen retiring this year from the board seat he was first elected to in 1987.

But the headline doesn't really change, as Kimber Hansen, an Edmore-area farmer and son of Laverne and Joyce Hansen, won the right to represent District 4 after a tie vote.

Kimber Hansen and Chris Rader, of Howard City, split the total votes gathered at the district meeting in May and by absentee ballot. After researching the bylaws and how other co-ops handle tie votes, the district officers suggested a random drawing to the two candidates. They agreed, and Hansen's name was pulled from the hat.

Swiler and Hansen were seated following the annual meeting in August. ■



Kimber Hansen



We're Growing a Brighter Future... Together!

Solar panels are still available. Call HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Co-op today (517-647-7554 or 800-562-8232) to learn how you can get solar power credits on your monthly energy bill.



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

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. ■



Nest® thermostat
Photos—Nest



SmartThermostat iPhone



Hey Centennial Farm Honored

Dale, left, Vivian, and Otto Hey display the Centennial Farm sign earned by their Stanton-area family farm.

The original 80 acres in Douglass Township was purchased by Vivian's grandparents, Raymond and Grace Pintler, who also owned a general store, ice house, and sawmill.

The current Douglass Township Hall was built on the site of the original farmhouse, and some land was sold to the Entrican Bible Church.

Vivian's son Dale and grandson Otto have farmed the remaining 72 acres with cash crops, rotating beans, corn, potatoes and wheat.

Visit michigancentennialfarm.org for more information on how your family farm could qualify for historic designation, such as a Centennial Farm. ■

Helping Out Helping Hands

At their June 18 meeting, the Tri-County Electric People Fund board approved five grants totaling \$5,551.60, including:

- \$1,000 – Helping Hands of Eaton County, Charlotte, for personal care items;
- \$1,000 – Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center, Charlotte, for their back-to-school backpack program;
- \$500 – Adult Handicap Program, Charlotte, for their handicap bowling program;
- \$551.60 – Mecosta County family for a wheelchair ramp; and
- \$2,500 – Mecosta County family for housing expenses.

How You Can Help

Tri-County customers can opt in or out of the voluntary Operation Round Up program at any time. Just enclose a note with your bill payment, call us at 1-800-562-8232, or email tricoenergy@homeworks.org.

How to Apply for a People Fund Grant: Write us at 7973 E. Grand River Avenue, Portland, MI 48875. We'll send you an application form, grant guidelines, and other helpful information. You'll also find information and application forms on our website at homeworks.org.

Note: Applications must be received by Sept. 29 for the October meeting, and by Nov. 10 for the November meeting.

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

2013 Annual Energy Optimization Report HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative – MPSC Case Number U-17373

HomeWorks Tri-County contracted with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) to administer its Energy Optimization efforts in order to comply with PA-295. MECA filed a 4-year Energy Optimization plan with the MPSC on Aug. 1, 2011, as required by PA 295. This EO plan was approved by the MPSC on Nov. 10, 2011, and we began implementing the plan Jan. 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 kilowatt-hour savings.

In 2013, HomeWorks Tri-County collected \$534,638 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$443,333, resulting in an over-collection of \$91,305 which will be applied towards the 2014 EO Program delivery expenses and goal achievement. HomeWorks Tri-County achieved 3,852 megawatt-hours 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>.

Building Mecosta County's Trail of Quilts



Blanchard lineworkers Dan Dexter and Rick Warchuck (shown at left) and crew leader Jon Karcher helped the Remus Area Historical Society install several barn-sized quilt blocks in Mecosta County recently.

According to Char Lenon, trail coordinator, the finished trail will have about 30 quilt blocks in different patterns, from 2'x2' blocks donated to public buildings to the 8'x8' LeMoyne Star shown here.

Visit remus.org for more details on the Mecosta County Quilt Trail.

Notice to Members of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative

**A Special Member Meeting is set for 9 a.m. on Sept. 22,
at the cooperative's Portland office.**

The board of directors will consider several changes to the cooperative's rates and tariffs at its meeting on Sept. 22, 2014, to be held at the cooperative office at 7973 E. Grand River Avenue, Portland, MI. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and is open to all members of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

The session will begin with an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board of directors, without filing a formal request under cooperative policy. Members are asked to come to the lobby by 9 a.m. and request to speak to the board; staff will direct interested members to the meeting room. Time constraints on each member's comments will be at the discretion of the board president, but members are asked to keep comments to less than 5 minutes.

The following items will be considered:

1. Establish the 2015 Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor, to be applied to the cooperative's retail member-customers' monthly kilowatt-hour use. The Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor represents the power supply costs as established by the cooperative in conjunction with Wolverine Power Cooperative. The factor is established annually, and reviewed monthly.
2. Revise the cooperative's Requirements for Pole Attachments tariff sheet from \$14 per attachment point per year to \$16.50 for 2015.
3. Revise the cooperative's miscellaneous billing fees, charges and rates, as needed.

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 HomeWorks Tri-County Electric at 800-562-8232 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Comments may also be made before the meeting date by calling General Manager Mark Kappler at 517-647-1281, or by email at mkappler@homeworks.org.

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



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.



Your Board in Action

Meeting at Portland on June 23, your board of directors:

- Voted to opt the cooperative out of the state's Low Income Energy Assistance Fund for 2014–2015, at a special open member meeting.
- Reviewed, accepted and authorized staff to file the IRS Form 990 tax return.
- Authorized staff to negotiate for purchase of a vacant lot adjacent to the Portland property.
- Heard a final report from the 2014 district meetings, learned results of the two board elections, and discussed the upcoming annual meeting.
- Discussed the May–June safety report, with several public and employee incidents.
- Read and approved “Board Policy 204—Contributions and Donations,” and learned there were no identity theft incidents reported during the past quarter, in a report required by “Board Policy 316—Identity Theft.”

Meeting at Blanchard July 28, your board of directors:



Laverne Hansen

- Honored director Laverne Hansen at his last regular board meeting after 27 years of service on the board of directors.
- Recognized lineman Calvin Foster of Blanchard, who has completed the Great Lakes Apprentice program, earning journeyman status.
- Learned staff was successful in negotiating the purchase of a vacant lot adjacent to the Portland property.
- Reviewed an updated 10-year financial forecast.
- Discussed the June–July safety report, with several public and employee incidents.
- Read and approved the updated “Board Policy 205—Written Hazard Communication Program,” and “Board Policy 206—No Smoking.” ■
- Approved amending the 2014 capital budget to allow for the purchase of a track vehicle to perform line work in remote areas throughout the 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 HomeWorks Tri-County Electric**. Rebates available at michigan-energy.org.

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

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy
Optimization



Tri-County Electric
Cooperative

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

Notice to Members of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative

The HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, at a Special Open Meeting held June 23, 2014, has in accordance with P.A. 95:

1. Elected for the Cooperative not to participate in the 2014-2015 Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund.

For specific details on any HomeWorks tariffs or fees, please call us at 1-800-562-8232 or visit our website at homeworks.org.

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

Fuel Mix Report

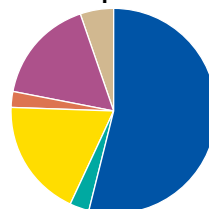
The fuel mix characteristics of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Co-op as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/14.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

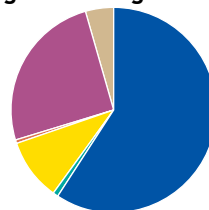
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	54.0%	59.4%
Oil	3.2%	0.6%
Gas	18.4%	9.8%
Hydroelectric	2.7%	0.6%
Nuclear	16.6%	25.4%
Renewable Fuels	5.1%	4.2%
Biofuel	0.4%	0.5%
Biomass	0.1%	0.5%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.0%	0.0%
Wind	4.5%	2.7%
Wood	0.1%	0.5%

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.

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

Are You a Michiganian 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 “Michiganian” over “Michigander.” I chose Michiganian 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 Michiganian because words written and spoken infrequently tend to garner a bit more attention than the usual.”

Needless to say, Michiganian 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 Michiganians debating Michiganders when I was a kid growing up in Detroit. So, what are we? Michiganians 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, “Michiganian” 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 “Michiganian” too, saying “Michigander” is a sexist and discriminatory term that essentially leaves women out of the picture by referencing the male goose (gander) only.

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

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

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

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



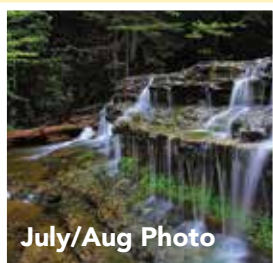
Jack O'Malley



«« Do You Know Where This Is?

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

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



July/Aug Photo

Photo—Bill Savage

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

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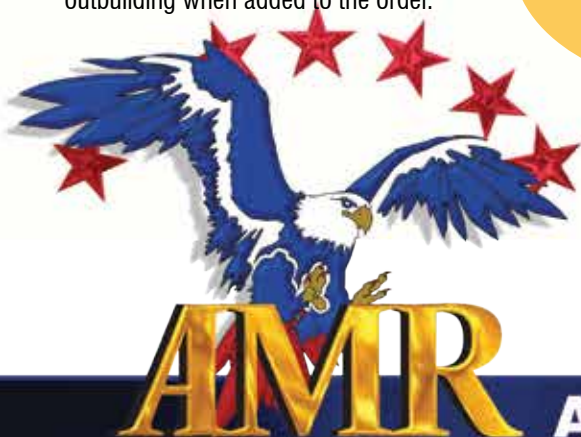
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