

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



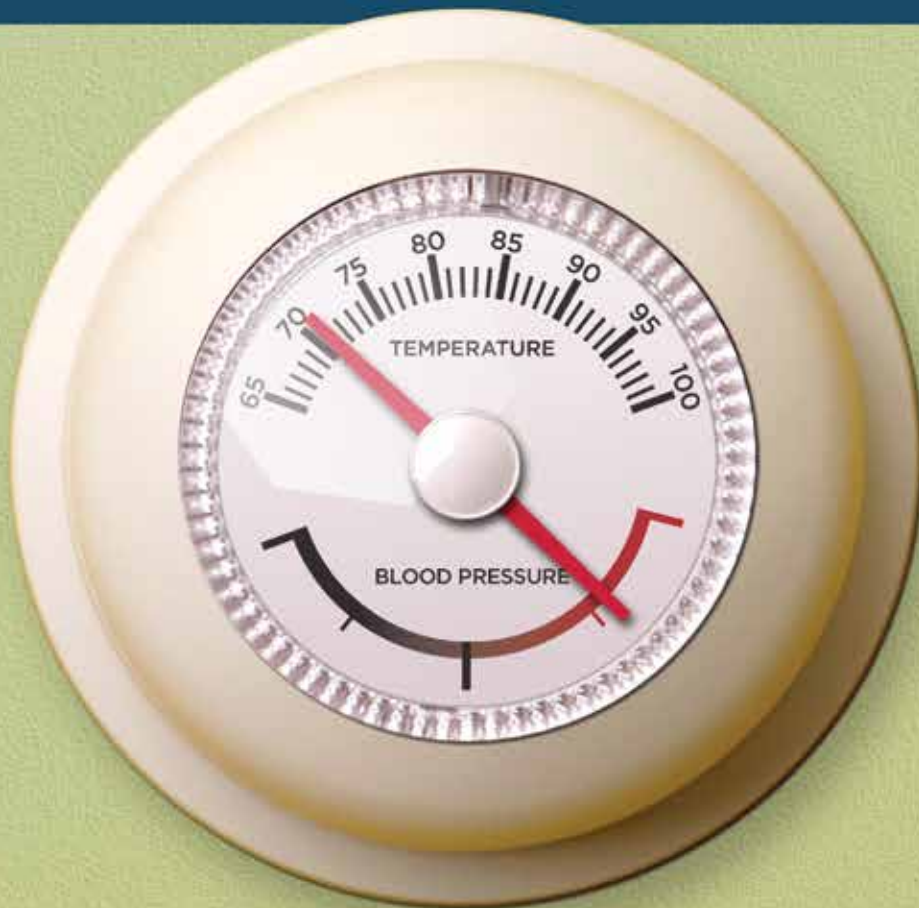
Plus!

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- 9 Alger Delta Supports Youth Leadership Summit

Home Is Where The

Art Is

Local Co-op Artists On ArtPrize



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Executive Editor
Casey Clark

Editors
Christine Dorr
Gail Knudtson

Publisher
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E-mail: cdorr@meca.coop

Association officers are **Robert Schallip**, Cloverland Electric Cooperative, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **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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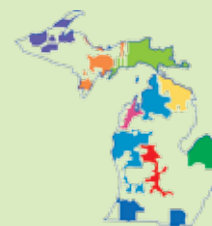
ON THE COVER*

"Trichromatic Spectra," created by Thomas Linder, was a past entry in the ArtPrize competition held annually in Grand Rapids, MI.

Linder's artwork is a kinetic inflatable installation involving thousands of LEDs that are controlled by computer animation.

Photo courtesy of Artprize.

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
countrylines.com



ALGER DELTA

Annual Meeting Highlights

Board Of Directors

District 1

Big Bay

Mike Nason
906-360-1477
mnason9993@charter.net

District 2

Harvey/Deerton

Karen Alholm
906-249-1095
karenalholm@gmail.com

District 3

Grand Marais

Nancy Gardner-Platt
906-494-2772
rlinkgard@jamadots.com

District 4

Cedar River/Palestine

Dave Prestin
906-424-0055
cedarriverplaza@gmail.com

District 5

Gourley/LaBranche/ Cornell

David Anthony
(906) 466-2932
anthony@hannahville.org

District 6

Nathan/White Rapids

Paul Sederquist
906-753-4484
sedergrove@gmail.com

District 7

Stonington/Rapid River

Sue Alexander
906-399-3666
smalexander55@yahoo.com

District 8

Nahma/Isabella

Ray Young
(906) 644-2488
kyoung@uplogon.com

District 9

Hiawatha/Maple Ridge

Ron Oberg
906-573-2551
director9-algerdelta@
jamadots.com

Alger Delta's annual meeting held on June 13, at the U.P. State Fairgrounds was a huge success, thanks to you, our members. There was something for the whole family; food, face painting, carriage rides and lots of prizes. Thank you!



Board Elects Leadership

The Alger Delta Cooperative Board of Directors

elects new leadership at its reorganization meeting on June 13, immediately following the cooperative's annual meeting. The board elected Ron Oberg, to the position of board president. Oberg represents District 9—Hiawatha. The board also elected Mike Nason, District 1—Big Bay, to the position of Vice President, and Sue Alexander, District 7—Stonington, to the position of Secretary/Treasurer. ■



Ron Oberg



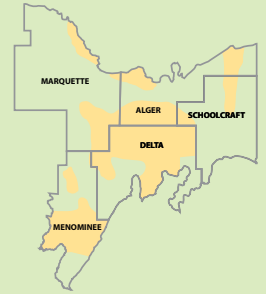
Mike Nason



Sue Alexander



Payton and Daniel were the lucky winners of bicycles.



CEO
Tom Harrell
tharrell@algerdelta.com

Headquarters:
426 N. 9th St
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-428-4141
800-562-0950
Fax: 906-428-3840
admin@algerdelta.com
www.algerdelta.com

Office Hours
M-F, 7:30-4:00 (ET)

Alger Delta Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Alholm Elected



Karen Alholm

Alger Delta members elected **Karen Alholm** to represent District 2—Harvey/Deerton on the cooperative’s board of directors. The election took place by mail ballot votes over a 30-day period prior to the May 12 district meeting. Alholm received 84 percent of the votes.

Alholm is a retired attorney and sits on the Marquette County Board of Commissioners. She is also on the board of directors for Adult Learning Systems and is a volunteer mediator.

Alholm is focused on providing efficient and economical service to cooperative members with particular attention on rates. Alholm’s experience as an attorney will help the board in its analysis of issues and decision making. Alholm was seated on the cooperative’s board at the annual meeting on June 13. ■

Legislation Would Strengthen Tie Between Our Peninsulas



Craig Borr
Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association
President and CEO

The Mackinac Bridge opened to vehicle traffic between the upper and lower peninsulas nearly 60 years ago. To this day, it continues to be a vital commercial link, as well as a symbol of what Michiganders can do when we work together for our state's benefit.

Legislators in Lansing may soon have an opportunity to debate legislation that could be a similar “bridge” for enhanced

flows of electricity between our two peninsulas. But it will take a great deal of determination and willpower to move this legislation forward. There are likely to be many detractors—as there were when we built the “Mighty Mac”.

Legislation was recently introduced in the Michigan Legislature that could result in the development of an additional high-voltage transmission link between the peninsulas. The Senate version of SB 282 was introduced by Sen. Tom Casperson, while the House version, HB 4575, was introduced by Rep. Triston Cole.

Currently, our two peninsulas do not operate as one when it comes to electricity. Michigan policy, utilities and regulators control the Lower Peninsula, while Wisconsin interests and utilities dominate the Upper Peninsula. All too often these competing interests and policies do not align—and customers are caught in the middle.

In addition to creating a more robust electrical tie, the legislation would form one “resource adequacy zone” to include both peninsulas, as well as increase reliability by reducing electrical “congestion” costs involved in the flow of energy between the peninsulas.

These congestion costs are a hidden tax in the cost of electricity. Portions of the northern Lower Peninsula as well as the Upper Peninsula have some of the highest

congestion costs. Residents who live in these congested areas have higher electric costs because of this “hidden tax”. These costs could be dramatically reduced, and in some cases eliminated, if we as a state have the will to invest in a more robust transmission link between the peninsulas.

Since most of Michigan's electric cooperatives are net buyers of wholesale electricity, this legislation could create more competitive markets with additional buyers and sellers of wholesale energy, as well as renewable energy—and that should provide tangible long-term benefits for electric cooperative consumers.

This legislation could also expedite the development of newer, cleaner generating capacity for the Upper Peninsula—an area of our state that recognizes all too well what can happen when there is only one significant generation resource and no meaningful way to access bulk electricity from the Lower Peninsula, where most of Michigan's electrical generating capacity is currently located.

Further development of renewable energy, particularly wind, can also be enhanced with additional connectivity between the peninsulas. The Thumb region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula has been identified as the best region for developing wind energy. A more robust transmission link will allow us to export wind from the Thumb area to the Upper Peninsula—or perhaps export wind from the Great Plains and Upper Midwest to utilities throughout Michigan.

If Michigan legislators have the fortitude to enact this legislation and we eventually fund and construct a new, more robust transmission link between our peninsulas, I believe we will look back someday, like we often do when crossing the “Mighty Mac”, and feel a very real sense of accomplishment that we as Michiganders have done something to benefit many generations.

Time will tell. ■





ALL-AMERICAN FAVORITE BURGERS

Enjoy new twists on well-known favorites.

Bratburger Summertime Sliders



1 pkg. bratwurst
1 lb. 80/20 ground beef
2 pkg. pretzel dinner rolls

Onion Jam

3 T. butter
¼ c. olive oil
2½ lb. sweet onion, sliced thin
¼ c. balsamic vinegar
1 T. fresh thyme leaves (or 1 t. dried)
1 c. pure maple syrup
salt and pepper

Remove bratwurst from casing and mix bratwurst and burger until evenly combined. Make small patties to match the size of your rolls. Salt and pepper to taste and grill or pan fry burgers to taste. Slice rolls, add burgers and top with onion jam and arugula, if desired. To make onion jam, melt butter and olive oil in a dutch oven. Add onions and sauté on low, stirring occasionally for 15–20 minutes. There should not be any “color” or browning; this process will evaporate the extra water in the onions and concentrate the sweet onion flavors. “Low and slow” is the ticket here. When the onions are soft but not quite translucent, add balsamic vinegar, maple syrup and thyme, and cook until liquid is incorporated into onion mixture. Put into 2–3 jars and enjoy! May keep in refrigerator for up to three weeks. Hot water bath or freeze and keep 6 months. Great on grilled fare, pizzas, and omelettes.

Denise Chapel, Gaylord

Bacon Blue Cheeseburger *(pictured)*

½ lb. bacon, cut into ¼ inch slices
2 lb. 90% lean ground hamburger
½ t. garlic powder
½ t. onion powder
salt and pepper, to taste
1½ c. crumbled blue cheese
8 burger buns
lettuce
sliced tomatoes
sliced onions
your choice of condiments

In a large skillet, cook sliced bacon until crispy. Remove from skillet and drain on paper towel; discard fat or save for other use. Mix bacon with the hamburger and add the garlic powder, onion powder, salt and pepper. Divide the burger mixture into 8 portions. Divide each portion in half and flatten into patties ¼-inch thick, using waxed paper. Place 2 T. blue cheese in center of 4 patties and top with another patty. Seal by pressing edges together. Cook in large skillet or grill until medium well, or your choice of doneness. Remove from heat and place onto bottom half of buns, and top with more blue cheese and favorite toppings. Serves 4.

Ann Brown, Niles

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite “Candy” recipes by **Aug. 1** and “Easy Chicken” recipes by **Sept. 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines* Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2015 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner’s January 2016 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Photos—831 Creative

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

It's your money, and we want you to have it!

One of the benefits of being a member of Alger Delta Cooperative is that any revenues beyond expenses (called margins) are allocated and eventually returned to **Alger Delta Cooperative** members in the form of capital credit retirements. The Alger Delta Cooperative Board of Directors is committed to retiring capital credits after considering your co-op's financial health.

We need your help! As part of the retirement process, a portion of capital credits are unclaimed because we are unable to locate certain members. On the following pages we have listed the names of members who are entitled to capital credits that remain unclaimed. Please review the list in case you recognize your name or the name of someone you know.

- If your name is on the list, check the appropriate claim box and fill out section **1** of the form below, then return the completed form to **Alger Delta Cooperative** with your signature.
- If you recognize the name of a deceased member and you are that member's legal heir, check the appropriate claim box and complete sections **1 & 2**, then return the completed form to **Alger Delta Cooperative** with your signature and a copy of the deceased's death certificate.
- If you know someone on this list, please have **them** contact **Alger Delta Cooperative**.



Check One: claim request by member claim request on behalf of a deceased member

(1) MEMBER OR HEIR CLAIMING THE REFUND

Member's Name or Heir's Name	_____		
	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME
Service Address	_____		_____
	STREET ADDRESS		CITY
Current Mailing Address	_____		
	STREET ADDRESS AND/OR APT NBR	CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
Telephone	(____) _____	Relationship to deceased member	_____
			i.e., SPOUSE, SON, DAUGHTER, SIBLING

(2) DECEASED MEMBER

Deceased Member's Name	_____		
	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME
Service Address	_____		_____
	STREET ADDRESS		CITY
Signature Required	_____		_____
	SIGNATURE OF PERSON INITIATING THE CLAIM, AND TITLE, IF APPLICABLE FOR BUSINESS		DATE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE REQUESTED BY **ALGER DELTA COOPERATIVE** FROM THE PERSON INITIATING THE CLAIM. CLAIMS FOR REFUNDS WILL BE PAID ONLY AFTER PROPER DOCUMENTATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND VALIDATED BY **ALGER DELTA COOPERATIVE**.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO ALGER DELTA COOPERATIVE, ATTN: CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND, 426 N. 9TH STREET, GLADSTONE, MI 49837.

Moore Attends Youth Leadership Summit

The Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) is a free, chaperoned event for sophomore and junior students who are chosen and sponsored to attend by their electric cooperative. YLS is designed to help attendees grow as leaders, learn how to respond in an emergency situation, explore diverse careers in energy and test decision making skills.

This year, Alger Delta Cooperative chose James (Jimmy) Moore as their representative to attend the annual event held at Spring Hill Camps, near Evart. James, a 17-year-old Junior at Rapid River High School, and the son of Mary and Jeff Moore, spent a jam-packed three days in April attending the YLS program. Program goals are to provide a safe, educational experience for students in a fun, interesting atmosphere. James was joined by 30–40 students also served by electric cooperatives from around the state.

According to James, “I went to YLS not knowing anyone else there. Having to jump into a task and work cooperatively as a team to solve problems really taught me that through teamwork, great things can be accomplished.” In his spare time James enjoys four wheeling, fishing and soccer. When asked about his future plans, James quickly responded “For sure, I really want to be a lineman.” With this can-do attitude, Alger Delta Electric Cooperative looks forward to someday receiving James’ resume. ■



James Moore



Working as a team on the ropes course at Springhill Camps.



Students from all Michigan cooperatives at the Youth Leadership Summit.



Acrylic on canvas of a factory ceiling by John Dempsey.

Home is Where the Art Is

Local Co-op Artists on ArtPrize

Coined the largest open art competition in the world—Grand Rapid’s ArtPrize has made its mark on the art world. It has been covered by the likes of *The New York Times* and *GQ* and lauded as both a great art experiment and lambasted as the art equivalent of a reality TV show.

The art competition opens up to any adult artist with the \$50 entry fee and a venue willing to act as its pop-up gallery for the event. When it launched in 2009, no one knew what to expect, but after the first week local restaurants had run out of food, hotels were booked solid and over 200,000 people came from around the country to check out the phenomenon. The big twist is the two \$200,000 grand prizes and eight category awards, resulting in more than \$500,000 awarded by both the public and a jury of art experts.

Whether you love the artful canvas that Grand Rapids becomes once a year or prefer your art in a climate-controlled museum amongst whispered commentary—ArtPrize has some very real rewards for Michigan artists.

“A large number of people see my work at ArtPrize. It is a large-scale event by any measure,” says John Dempsey, who lives on the Ocqueoc River and is a member of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. “The number of people who come to see ArtPrize is extremely large



Colleen Whittaker’s Michigan map is made from authentic license plates fitted together like a puzzle.



Craig Snook's artwork, created with shredded paper, makes a kaleidoscope of colors that represents the beauty of a Michigan woodland landscape.



Lily Lihting Li Kostrzewa's "urban interweave" artwork is acrylic and mixed media on canvas.

compared to all of the other exhibition opportunities available to the vast majority of contemporary artists."

A Traverse City artist and member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Royce Deans says that with the sheer volume of people having exposure to his artwork, the feedback is immediate and thrilling. "ArtPrize is a good place to try out some new ideas in front of people. It can be a little dangerous."

The opportunities that ArtPrize exposes participating artists to can be anything from potential buyers, connections with fellow artists and even future employers. Grand Rapids artist and member of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, Lily Lihting Li Kostrzewa credits her current teaching position at Kendall College of Art and Design to her participation in ArtPrize. Lily's daughter, Isabella Kostrzewa, entered the ArtPrize young filmmaker awards and won second place. Her prize allowed her to purchase video equipment to continue her passion.

While exposure to a massive audience and opportunities is rewarding, many artists have also benefited on a very personal level.



Royce Deans' "kitsch 2 kunst" is a matrix of 36 panels with original paintings.

"I gained a lot of confidence as an artist," says Craig Snook, an artist who splits his time between Saginaw and Lakeview, and is a member of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative. "It was a great learning experience and it is fun being known as an 'ArtPrize artist'."

Colleen Whittaker, a Traverse City artist and member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, says overhearing people comment on her artwork allowed her to capture uncensored opinions from the public. "The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, but the ones I remember are the critical comments—which I keep in mind while creating new work. Feedback from such a wide variety of people is invaluable in my quest to create art that appeals to a wide range of people while still being true to my artistic vision." ■

**ArtPrize 2015 will take place
Sept. 23–Oct. 11. Visit Artprize.org
for more information.**

Four Easy Ways to Reduce Commercial Refrigeration Costs

Commercial refrigeration costs can be one of a business owner's greatest expenses. Check out four easy efficiency upgrades below that can help reduce your commercial refrigeration energy usage by up to 35 percent!

1. Anti-sweat heater controls

The electric heaters in cooler and freezer cases run *all the time*, while they only need to kick in when it's extremely humid.

The fix? Anti-sweat heater controls automatically sense humidity levels and selectively run the heaters as needed.

Energy Optimization rebate: \$100 per door.

2. LED cooler case lighting

Older coolers use fluorescent lights that waste most of their energy generating heat instead of light, forcing the refrigeration system to work harder to remove the excess heat.

The fix? Light-emitting diode (LED) technology literally provides cooler light. LED case lights use significantly less electricity and produce 50 percent less heat.

Energy Optimization rebate: \$30 per door.

3. Occupancy sensors

The lights inside reach-in coolers and freezers are on constantly, whether customers are nearby or not.

The fix? LED occupancy sensors trigger lights to illuminate when a shopper approaches the cooler. Or, they can be programmed to stay on for a set amount of time and then shut off. **Energy Optimization rebate:** \$15 per door.

4. ECM motors

The fans that circulate cold air inside reach-in or walk-in coolers and freezers run non-stop, wasting energy and putting extra wear and tear on the equipment.

The fix? Electronically commutated motors (ECMs) are designed to use electricity sparingly, thereby reducing the load on your refrigerator.

Energy Optimization rebate: \$40–80 per motor.

Check out a full list of incentives at michigan-energy.org or call 877.296.4319 for more information.



Jump In

Cool off with energy savings for your business

"Close the refrigerator!" Remember hearing that as a kid? Luckily, plenty of energy-efficient technologies are available today to help keep the electricity costs of commercial refrigeration low, beyond simply keeping the doors shut:

- LED cooler case lighting and occupancy sensors
- Anti-sweat heater controls
- ECM evaporator fan motors

ENERGY TIP: Energy Optimization Program rebates are available for all of the above commercial refrigeration upgrades and more.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

PHONE: 877.296.4319



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

Check Your Boat, Dock, and the Neighbor's, Too!

Almost one-half of Michigan is comprised of water, so it's easy to see why Michigan boasts a thriving recreational industry and leads the nation with approximately 1 million registered pleasure boats. For boating and water safety, there are items you must legally have on your watercraft—life vests, fire extinguisher, throwable flotation device, and properly working lights—but make sure the boat and the dock are safe, too.

To help prevent accidents, the National Electrical Contractors Association says:

- All installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor.
- All dock receptacles must comply with the National Electrical Code, which mandates a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI measures a circuit's current and senses any imbalance (such as a discharge into the water), which trips the GFCI and cuts off the power.
- Test a GFCI at least monthly. Locate it along the ramp to the dock so it can be easily tested by local fire departments.
- Metal dock frames should have "bonding jumpers" that connect all metal parts to an on-shore

grounding rod. This means any dock part that becomes energized by electrical malfunction will trip the GFCI or circuit breaker.

- Ask neighbors if their dock electrical systems have been inspected and are up to Code.
- Household wire is not suitable for boats.
- *Do not* use wire nuts (these are for solid conductor wire, which should never be on a boat) or splice connectors (can cut wire strands)!
- Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the stereo. If a fuse blows continuously, something else is wrong.
- If you rent a dock or boat, notify the owner of safety violations immediately.
- Have your boat's system (especially with onboard generators) checked at least annually, and when something is added or removed.
- Ropes, string, masts and rigging also conduct electricity—don't be the common ground between water and electricity! ■

See SafeElectricity.org for more tips.

There's A Story In Every Photo



Alger Delta Cooperative is pleased to announce our new "Photo Contest." Co-op members are invited to submit photos now through Sept. 21. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines* during 2015.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: All About Michigan due July 20; Sunrises/Sunsets due Aug. 20 and Kids At Play due Sept. 21. Details and instructions for photo submission—including contest rules, topic list, publication date, and submission deadlines—can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1JX5Afh>.

We look forward to seeing your best shot!

One Last Mission

World War II seems like ancient history to a lot of folks. After all, it ended nearly 70 years ago! Never mind that 16 million Americans served, and over 400,000 lost their lives in a war spanning 61 countries. Despite the staggering statistics, school history books dedicate little more than a page or two to what many today call “The Greatest Generation.”

Recently, I was privileged to join 150 WWII veterans and volunteers as they set off to rewrite a page in history during a “Tour of Honor” thanks to Mid-Michigan Honor Flight. Embarking on a one-day tour of Washington, D.C., that included stops to Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima and of course, the National World War II Memorial, veterans learned first-hand the scope of this country’s gratitude.

Dedicated in 2004, the WWII Memorial serves as a fitting tribute to the magnitude of this global conflict. Set between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, stone architecture, bronze sculptures and water features pay homage to both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. More impressive, though, were the tourists who stopped to salute or shake hands with members of the Honor Flight as they walked by. Hearing young and old alike say “thank you” reminded me that in an era when history might be lost to the archives, there are still many who care.

Averaging 92 years old, many veterans pass before having an opportunity to see the monument built in their honor. Honor Flights transport WWII and terminally ill veterans to Washington, D.C., where they can visit the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice. Paired with an attentive guardian, each vet was personally escorted from one memorial to the next with a volunteer staff of medics on-call in case of emergency. Every effort is made to make this a once-in-a-lifetime experience. From the corridor of flags lining a path to the departure gate at Cherry Capital Airport to the Pin Curl Girls singing us off at Reagan International Airport to the welcome home celebration at the U.S. Coast Guard Base in Traverse City, no detail was overlooked.



And while attention to detail is obviously critical to the enjoyment and safety of those participating in an Honor Flight, the unplanned displays of gratitude were often the most touching. A man walking through Arlington National Cemetery dropping his bags to salute our three-bus motorcade. A group of middle school students stopping to give thanks. A tour guide inviting a veteran to share his story. A veteran commenting softly in front of the Freedom Wall, “I never thought I’d see this.”

Reporting for WTCM Radio, I wasn’t paired with a veteran like most others traveling that day. Still, I had a few sentimental moments of my own. As I silently thanked my dad for his service in the Pacific Theatre as a member of the Fifth Air Force in New Guinea, I had the undeniable feeling he was with me while I paid reverence to a monument he didn’t live to see.

Harry Truman once said, “Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” Within the next five years, most, if not all of our WWII veterans will be gone, and with them, a living piece of history. So the next time you see one, say ‘thanks’. Because we all know freedom isn’t free. And it’s never too late to thank a veteran. ■



Jack O'Malley



Mystery Photo Contest Winner

The May 2015 Mystery Photo contest winner is Michael Mattox, a Midwest Energy Cooperative member who correctly identified the photo as “Turnip Rock” in Port Austin, MI, just off the shore in Lake Huron. The unique shape of the rock-island is the result of thousands of years of erosion by storm waves.

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THANK YOU

Thank you Alger Delta Cooperative members for making our 2015 annual meeting a success!

We appreciate you and your dedication to Alger Delta Cooperative.



There were two TV prizes and Larry Kempher's (right) name was drawn for both! He graciously requested a redraw for the second TV, and David Pearce (left) was glad that he did.



Bob and Bill Hruska, brothers who have been on Alger Delta's lines for over 50 years.

