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2014 Annual Report

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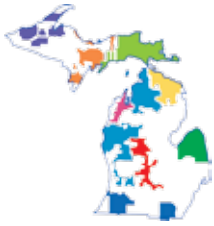
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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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.

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

IN THIS ISSUE

ON THE COVER*

The 4,300-square-mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, located on Lake Huron in Alpena, protects one of America's best-preserved and nationally-significant collections of shipwrecks.

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

Photo courtesy of NOAA Thunder Bay NMS

IN YOUR WORDS

Our new question of the month section of *Michigan Country Lines*. Let us know your answer and it may appear in the next month's issue or on your electric co-op's social media site. Please answer the question in your own words at <http://bit.ly/1Mg17W5>.

Now the question:

What in your life are you most thankful for?

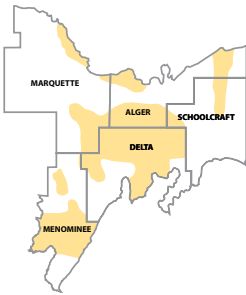
6 **SAFETY**
How To Use A Portable Generator Safely

7 **OUR ENERGY**
Maintain Your Home's Heating System Efficiency
James Dulle

8 **HOME COOKING**
Fresh and Flavorful Seafood Recipes You Will Love!
Christin McKamey & Our Readers

14 **FEATURE**
Sunken Treasure At Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Emily Haines

18 **READERS' PAGE**
Communicating In The Age Of The Emoji
Jack O'Malley
Guess Our New Mystery Photo!



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M–F, 7:30–4:00 (ET)

Alger Delta Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

algerdelta.com

2014 Alger Delta Cooperative ANNUAL REPORT



Tom Harrell
General Manager

This is your cooperative's 78th year of operation and 77th annual report and meeting. Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association was formed in 1937, since then, we have expanded to serve about 10,000 members in six counties. We reach from southwestern Menominee County, throughout Delta County, and as far northeast as Grand Marais, and northwest as Big Bay, both on the shores of beautiful Lake Superior. We are proud to share our 2014 business accomplishments with members.

Financial Performance

Lenders and regulators who monitor Alger Delta's performance are satisfied with our financial position and ability to meet loan and other financial obligations. This is important to members because failure to comply with these financial provisions can result in higher interest rates, financial penalties and rate increases.

The four most important financial measurements are TIER (Times Interest Earned Ratio), Operating TIER, Debt Service Coverage (DSC) and Operating DSC. All these ratios are within the performance ranges expected by the regulatory bodies and financial monitors who oversee our position.

Alger Delta's successful financial performance is the result of several things, including but not limited to, sound management, controlling operation and maintenance costs, good financial planning, increases in energy sales, and good returns on invested capital.

Capital Credits Returned to Members

As a non-profit utility, margins are allocated to members. Margins are also called "capital credits" or "patronage capital" and are paid back to members through a process called "retirement." Most electric co-ops retire capital credits on a regular rotation, which is usually 20, 25 or 30 years. Up until 2014, Alger Delta had 50 years of unretired capital credits. In other words, Alger Delta had not paid you back since 1964.

In 2014, Alger Delta retired about \$380,000 in capital credits for the years 1965–1976, and is on-pace to achieve a 30-year rotation by 2017.

What's noteworthy is that we have accomplished this significant achievement while also increasing the equity, or ownership, in the cooperative.

Power Supply Cost Update

Our wholesale power supply contract with Wisconsin Public Power Inc. (WPPI Energy), provides long-term energy security. WPPI Energy is our partner in providing you affordable, reliable energy, and supplies wholesale power to 51 utilities in Wisconsin, Iowa and the U.P. As a WPPI Energy member, we have advantages over those who are "going it alone" in the energy marketplace. A significant advantage occurred when most U.P. utilities braced for the impact of System Support Resource (SSR) payments due to the planned closing of the Presque Isle Power Plant (PIPP) near Marquette.

Because of our wholesale power supply and related factors, Alger Delta members were spared the severe rate impact that was expected as a result of the SSR payments. Membership in WPPI Energy made our share of the SSR payments smaller and more manageable than they could have been. While other U.P. utilities were facing millions of dollars in increased power

cost, Alger Delta faced no such threat. Eventually, through tireless work by the Snyder administration, the SSR payments were partially reduced or avoided and electricity in the U.P., at least for the near term, will not be subject to the severe rate increases that experts predicted.

The value of joint action with WPPI Energy cannot be overstated. They are our partner in energy supply, economic development, efficiency, renewable energy and much more. They also offer competitive wholesale rates and a variety of wholesale energy services that provide great value to Alger Delta.

Long-Term Rate Outlook

Though we have avoided—for now—the increased costs associated with SSR payments, there are other issues on the horizon that will impact long-term energy costs. The Presque Isle Power Plant is slated to close in the near future and permanent generation and transmission solutions must be implemented. The cost for these permanent solutions will eventually find its way into our rate base.

There are other factors that create upward pressure on rates. While fuel cost is down compared to a year ago, maintenance and operational costs and health insurance and other labor related costs continue to rise.

Your co-op is also facing pressure to “do something” about its building. Significant investment in the existing facility will soon be required, or it may be more cost-effective to build a new facility to house the employees, vehicles and equipment necessary to operate and maintain a modern electric utility.

Reliability

One measure of reliability is a number called SAIDI—System Average Interruption Duration Index. In 2010, our SAIDI was 264 minutes, which meant a member could expect to have one outage that lasted 264 minutes, or 4.4 hours. In 2014, our reliability index increased to 750.6 minutes, or, just over 12 hours.

There were three power outages in early 2014, which drove that number up. The worst outage lasted about 17 hours and affected 2,000 members. That outage occurred on the transmission system that feeds one of our substations and it took American Transmission Company (ATC), the transmission system owner, a long time to secure special equipment and personnel needed to make permanent repairs. Unfortunately, there are no other options—such as re-routing the energy supply—that would have allowed restoration any sooner.

The other two long outages affected the entire Maple Ridge/Trenary areas and lasted about 24 hours. Both were the result of outages on the WE Energies lines that feed our system.

Alger Delta is working on system upgrades that improve reliability and produce a return on investment. Examples are the line rebuilding projects around Cedar River in 2014 and 2015, and the Maple Ridge project that should be completed by the end of 2015.

Construction Work Plans

Alger Delta is in the second year of a four-year, \$7 million construction work plan. This includes projects that replace aging infrastructure, create tie lines between different parts of our system, put some parts of the system underground, and improve system protection and coordination. All projects contribute to system reliability and speedier outage recovery.

Your Co-op Supports Renewable Energy

Alger Delta enjoys exceeding the compliance threshold of Michigan’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). Michigan’s RPS is 10 percent, and Alger Delta gets just over 11 percent of its wholesale power from renewable resources.

Your co-op’s Energy Optimization program is also exceeding expectations. Since 2009, we have invested \$581,000 in renewable energy and efficiency projects with members.

Another recent achievement was the creation of an advisory committee for efficiency, renewables, and the environment. The committee was chaired by former board member Sam Simonetta (District 2—Harvey/Deerton) and is tasked with developing new ways for Alger Delta to engage with members on energy issues and be more proactive about our own energy consumption.

Time doesn’t allow me to address all the other important things that Alger Delta has navigated through recently—some of which we deal with daily—such as employee safety and training, economic development, maintaining our facilities and equipment, professional development, and much more.

Moving forward, let me end with this summary...

Alger Delta is in a very good financial position with no rate changes planned for the next 12 months—however, we expect incremental upward pressure on rates within that same period. Also:

- We plan to retire capital credits again in 2015.
- Equity is over 30 percent and increasing.
- Reliability will improve with the completion of various projects.
- We promise to continue working hard to provide all of our members with reliable, safe and affordable electricity. ■

PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



Always read the Owner's Manual and instructions for your generator. Do NOT cut corners when it comes to safety.

These tips are merely supplemental and are not intended to substitute reading of the Owner's Manual.

Carbon Monoxide and Ventilation

- Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES. Exhaust contains carbon monoxide, a deadly poison gas you cannot see or smell.
- NEVER run a generator indoors or in partly enclosed areas, such as garages.
- ONLY use outdoors and far from windows, doors, vents, crawl spaces and in an area where adequate ventilation is available and will not accumulate deadly exhaust gas.
- Using a fan or opening doors and windows will not provide sufficient ventilation.
- It is recommended that you install battery operated carbon monoxide alarms/detectors indoors according to manufacturer's instructions/recommendations.

Gasoline, Fueling and Burn Safety

- If tank is over-filled, fuel can overflow onto a hot engine and cause fire or explosion.
- Do not overfill the fuel tank. Always allow room for fuel expansion.
- Never add fuel while unit is running or hot. Allow generator and engine to cool entirely before adding fuel.
- Never store a generator with fuel in the tank where gasoline vapors might reach an open flame, spark or pilot light.
- Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you during operation and while the generator is cooling after turning off. Avoid coming into contact with a hot generator.

Electrocution Hazard and Electrical Shock Hazards

- Connecting a portable electric generator directly to your household wiring can be deadly to you and others. A generator that is directly connected to your home's wiring can "back feed" onto the power lines connected to your home and injure neighbors or utility workers.
- Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet.
- Always start or stop the generator only when no electrical loads are connected.
- Overloading your generator can seriously damage your valuable appliances and electronics. Do not overload the generator. Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. Prioritize your needs. A portable electric generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment.
- Use the proper power cords. Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage. Do not use extension cords with exposed wires or worn shielding.
- Do not operate the generator in wet conditions such as rain or snow.
- The generator must be properly grounded. If the generator is not grounded, you run the risk of electrocution. Check and adhere to all applicable federal, state and local regulations relating to grounding.

Generator Placement and Operation

- Allow at least five feet of clearance on all sides of the generator when operating.
- Generators can be used during a wide variety of weather temperatures, but should be protected from the elements when not in use to prevent shorting and rusting.
- Operate the generator only on level surfaces and where it will not be exposed to excessive moisture, dirt, dust or corrosive vapors.
- Inspect the generator regularly.
- Always disconnect the spark plug wire and place the wire where it cannot contact the spark plug to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs to the generator.

Source: American Red Cross with technical advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Fire Protection Association (publisher of the National Electric Code®) and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. ■



Maintain Your Home's Heating System Efficiency

By James Dullely

With the heating season soon upon us, make sure your heating system is running at its maximum efficiency. Doing a simple heating system tune-up yourself improves its efficiency, resulting in significant annual cost savings.

However, don't skip your regular professional maintenance calls just because you have done your own heating system mini-tune-up. There are many areas within a heating system that only a qualified technician can evaluate and adjust properly.

The first items to check are for safety. With a gas or propane furnace, put several drops of soapy water on any gas-line fittings you find. If the water bubbles at all, there are leaks. Leave your house *immediately* and call your gas company to have it repaired. With a heat pump, check to make sure the insulation on all of the external wiring looks correct. You can inspect potential 'bad spots'—damaged or frayed areas—more carefully once you turn the circuit breaker off.

Turn off the electric power to the heating unit at the circuit breaker panel. Remove its side cover to gain access to the blower. Using a vacuum cleaner brush attachment, clean any dust deposits off the blower. You may find bearing oil cups on the blower motor of older systems. Put a drop of oil in each cup.

Find the fan control switch and adjust the temperature setting lower. Common settings are on at 135 degrees and off at 100 degrees. Try using 110 and 90 degrees. This starts the blower sooner and

keeps it running longer as the heat exchanger heats up and then cools down.

Replace the cover and make sure all the cabinet screws are tight. Also, check the tightness of any cabinet screws you can find. Having the cabinet well-sealed improves efficiency by maintaining the proper air flow through the coils or over the heat exchanger surfaces. With a heat pump, also check the cabinet screws on the outdoor condenser unit.

Set up the thermostat so the furnace starts. Hold a stick of lighted incense near all the joints in the ductwork, both return and supply air ducts, to check for air leaks. If you find leaks, wipe dust off the surfaces and use mastic (a gooey, non-hardening material) around the leaking joints.

This is a good time to change your furnace filter or clean a central air cleaner element. Consider installing a more effective filter element than the low-cost fiberglass ones that many systems use. This may not help indoor air quality much, but it can keep the air-flow paths cleaner for more efficient heat transfer.

Check the accuracy of the wall thermostat. You may actually be keeping your house warmer than you realize. Tape a bulb thermometer on the wall next to your furnace. Check the thermometer reading when the furnace shuts off and note the difference between it and the thermostat setting. Now you will know where to set the thermostat to get the indoor temperature you desire. If it is inaccurate, replace it with a new electronic setback model. ■



SEAFOOD FAVORITES

Flavorful seafood recipes you will love!

Lobster Mac & Cheese

Doreen Zuznis, Clio

- kosher salt
- vegetable oil
- 1 lb. cavatappi (tubed corkscrew pasta)
- 1 qt. milk
- 8 T. (1 stick) unsalted butter, divided
- ½ c. all-purpose flour
- 12-oz. Gruyere cheese, grated (4 c.)
- 8-oz. extra-sharp cheddar, grated (2 c.)
- ½ t. freshly ground black pepper
- ½ t. nutmeg
- 1½ lb. cooked lobster meat (langostinos)

Preheat oven to 375°. Drizzle oil into a large pot of boiling salted water. Add pasta and cook according to the directions on the package, 6 to 8 minutes. Drain well. Meanwhile, heat the milk in a small saucepan, but don't boil it. In a large pot, melt 6 T. of butter and add the flour. Cook over low heat for 2 minutes, stirring with a whisk. Still whisking, add the hot milk and cook for a minute or two more, until thickened and smooth. Turn off the heat, add the Gruyere, Cheddar, 1 T. salt, the pepper, and nutmeg. Add the cooked macaroni and lobster meat and stir well. Place the mixture in a large casserole dish. Melt the remaining 2 T. of butter, combine them with the fresh bread crumbs, and sprinkle on the top. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until the sauce is bubbly and the macaroni is browned on the top.



Crab Casserole

Virginia Rubingh, Ellsworth

- ½ lb. fresh/frozen crab meat
- ½ c. sour cream
- 1 T. lemon juice
- pinch garlic salt
- 1¼ c. cheddar cheese, divided
- 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2 T. Hellman's® mayonnaise
- 1¼ t. Worcestershire® sauce
- 1 T. milk

Mix all ingredients together in a casserole dish. Sprinkle half of the cheddar cheese on top. Bake at 325° for 25–30 minutes.

Seafood Pasta Salad

Betty Poradek, Stephenson

- 8-oz. pkg. imitation crab meat, cut up
- 8-oz. bag frozen mini shrimp, thawed (optional)
- ½ cup chopped celery
- 1–2 T. chopped green onion (including some tops)
- 1 can water chestnuts, chopped
- 8-oz. frozen peas, thawed
- 1 lb. bag rotini noodles, cooked
- dash dill weed
- 1½ c. Miracle Whip®
- 8-oz. sour cream

Mix all pasta together and chill for several hours. Keeps up to three days in fridge.

Dilly Fish

Gertrude Romanchuk, Traverse City

- fresh pan fish
- dill pickle juice
- instant potato flakes
- peanut oil

Wash fish and dry well with paper towels. Soak fish in dill pickle juice for 15–30 minutes. Roll in potato flakes and fry in peanut oil, turning once. Fry until golden brown. Very tasty!

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Easy Chicken" recipes by **Sept. 10**, "Chili" recipes by **Nov. 1** and "Gluten Free" recipes by **Dec. 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines* Recipes, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. 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)!

Dill Shrimp Salad (pictured)

Mary Babcock, Port Austin

- 4 c. cooked small shells or penne pasta
- 1 lb. cooked fresh shrimp, diced
- 1 c. frozen peas
- 1 c. small diced celery
- ½ c. chopped green onions, including tops
- ¼ c. minced fresh parsley
- 10 oz. plain Greek yogurt
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- ¼ c. fresh lemon juice
- 2 T. snipped fresh dill
- ½ t. salt
- ¼ t. white pepper

In a large bowl combine pasta, tuna, celery, onions, peas and parsley. In a small bowl combine yogurt, mayonnaise, lemon juice, dill, salt and pepper. Pour sauce over pasta, toss gently. Cover and refrigerate at least two hours. Serves 10.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Case No. U-17778

In the matter on the Commission's own motion, regarding the regulatory reviews, revisions, determinations, and/or approvals necessary for Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association to fully comply with Public Act 295 of 2008.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

On November 24, 2014, in Case No. U-17770 et al, the Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) ordered Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association to file an Energy Optimization (EO) Plan on or before August 1, 2015 to comply with the "Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act" (2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001, et seq.). Because August 1, 2015 fell on a Saturday, Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association was allowed to extend the filing deadline to August 3, 2015. On August 3, 2015, Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association filed its Energy Optimization Plan with the Commission.

Any interested person may review the filed Energy Optimization Plan on the MPSC website under Case No. U-17778 at: www.michigan.gov/mpscdockets, or at the office of the Commission's Executive Secretary, 7109 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or at the offices of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association, 426 North 9th Street, Gladstone Michigan.

Written and electronic comments may be filed with the Commission and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 5, 2015. Written comments should be sent to the: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909, with a copy mailed to: Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association, 426 North 9th Street, Gladstone Michigan 49837. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: mpscdockets@michigan.gov. All comments should reference Case No. U-17778. Comments received in this matter become public information, posted on the Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

The Commission will review the energy optimization plan together with any filed comments and provide a response within 60 days of the filing of the application indicating any revisions that should be made. If the Commission suggests revisions, the Cooperative will file a revised EO plan no later than 75 days after the filing of the application. A Commission order will be issued on or before the 90th day following the filing of the application.



Rake in the Savings!

Did you know that heating and cooling accounts for more than half of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most homes? **Rake in the savings** with these helpful energy savings tips this fall.

- **Install a programmable thermostat**
Through proper use of the pre-programmed settings, a programmable thermostat can save you up to 10 percent on your heating and cooling costs.
- **Clean / Change the air filter**
Lower your heating and cooling energy consumption by up to 15 percent by cleaning or replacing furnace filters.
- **Schedule a tune-up before you need one**
Schedule a tune-up with your heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor. To find a qualified contractor nearest you, visit our website or call.

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.

Talented Members Share "All About Michigan" Photos



1. A beautiful early morning behind the Walmart in Escanaba. By Kim Foos, Cedar River
2. Eagles Nesting, Spring 2015. By Linda McLain, Trenary
3. Rainbow over Green Bay, Fox, MI. By David Hunter, Cedar River

There's A Story In Every Photo

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in Michigan Country Lines during 2015.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: "Sunrises/Sunsets" due Sept. 7 and "**Kids at Play,**" due **Sept. 21**. Upcoming topics for 2016 include "**Best of Selfies,**" due **Nov. 15** and "**Cute Pets,**" due **Dec. 15**. Details and instructions for photo submission—including rules, topic list, publication date, and submission deadlines—can be found at <http://bit.ly/1JX5Afh>.

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

Public Act 295: The Clean Renewable and Efficient Energy Act

2014 Annual Energy Optimization Report, Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association, MPSC Case Number U-17367

Alger Delta 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 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 kWh savings.

In 2014, Alger Delta collected \$157,183 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$150,910 resulting in an over-collection of \$6,273 which will be applied towards the 2015 EO Program delivery expenses and goal achievement. For every dollar spent on energy efficiency programs, customers will save \$3.61 in avoided energy costs. Alger Delta achieved 442 MWh of energy savings in 2014. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile>.

Alger Delta Electric Co-op Financial Statements *(audited)*

BALANCE SHEET

December 31	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Electric Plant	\$ 32,413,381	\$ 31,368,962
Investments	1,784,022	1,649,183
Current Assets	2,231,510	2,940,989
Deferred Debits	524,052	840,311
Total Assets	\$ 36,952,965	\$ 36,799,445
MARGINS & EQUITIES (NET POSITION)		
Membership & Equities	\$ 245,853	\$ 99,231
Patronage Capital	12,042,256	11,098,035
TOTAL MARGINS & EQUITIES	\$ 12,288,109	\$ 11,197,266
LIABILITIES		
Long-Term Debt, Net	\$ 21,930,973	\$ 23,036,466
Current Liabilities	2,662,540	2,425,689
Deferred Credits	71,343	140,024
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 24,664,856	\$ 25,602,179
TOTAL NET POSITION & LIABILITIES	\$ 36,952,965	\$ 36,799,445

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND PATRONAGE CAPITAL

Year ended December 31	2014	2013
OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 13,991,472	\$ 13,282,536
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Purchased Power	\$ 6,493,317	\$ 5,967,648
Distribution Expense	2,338,943	1,955,883
Consumer & Customer Service Expense	295,629	273,593
Depreciation	1,316,222	1,317,850
Taxes	404,859	419,591
General & Administrative Expense	1,045,947	1,054,469
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 11,894,917	\$ 10,989,034
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 2,096,555	\$ 2,293,502
Interest Expense	\$ (1,182,865)	\$ (1,133,458)
Interest Income	166,893	161,385
Other Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses), Net	242,829	134,875
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	\$ 1,323,412	\$ 1,456,304

The statements above show the results of the cooperative's electric operations for the calendar year 2014. The Dec. 31, 2014, balance sheet and the related statement of operations for Alger Delta's electric operations were prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of preceding years. The board of directors has accepted these statements. These statements present the financial position of the cooperative's electric operations as of Dec. 31, 2014, and the results of its electric operations for the year under review, according to the information and explanation shown on the records of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association.

Complete, audited financial statements are maintained at the Gladstone office of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association. The independent audit of 2014 financial statements was unqualified, and completed by the certified public accountant (CPA) firm of Eide Bailley of Fargo, ND.

Alger Delta Cooperative Prepares for the Future



Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association's CFO Amanda Seger completed an intensive program in electric utility management with the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP), offered by

the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), is one of the most exclusive educational programs in the nation for electric cooperative management. The program provides a series of educational workshops and guides participants through the leadership and management functions necessary in all facets of the electric utility industry, including: finance and rate making, electric operations, legislative and regulatory engagement, and human resources, just to name a few. The program also provides students with a working knowledge of the issues currently affecting energy policy and development. Participants learn to focus on member value as part of their day-to-day decision making. ■

Alger Delta Retires Capital Credits

At its July board meeting, the Alger Delta Cooperative Board of Directors authorized retiring about \$371,000 in "capital credits" or "patronage capital". "This means that some members will be getting checks from Alger Delta," said Amanda Seger, Alger Delta's CFO. Seger noted this is the second year in a row the co-op has retired, or paid back, patronage capital to members. "The checks were in the mail at the end of August," Seger added.

The board approved retiring patronage capital for the years 1977 through 1982. Most Alger Delta consumers who were on the system during those years will get a check. The amount of each check is proportional to the amount of energy consumed. Records indicate that about 4,800 members are due a retirement check and almost 1,900 of those are current members.

Alger Delta is a non-profit utility. The money remaining after all expenses are paid is called margins. Margins are allocated, or assigned, to each member based on how much electricity they used that year. When allocated, the margins are known as patronage capital or capital credits, and are a measure of the members' ownership in the co-op. When the margins for any given year are paid back to members, this is known as "retiring" capital credits. Retiring capital credits sets electric cooperatives apart from other utilities. ■

Fuel Mix Report

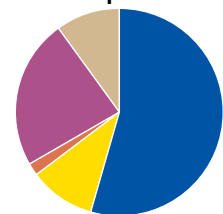
The fuel mix characteristics of Alger Delta Co-op Electric Association as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/15.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

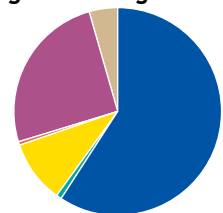
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	57.1%	60.4%
Oil	0.0%	0.7%
Gas	10.0%	8.9%
Hydroelectric	1.9%	0.5%
Nuclear	19.9%	24.6%
Renewable Fuels	9.9%	4.9%
Biofuel	0.00%	0.7%
Biomass	0.34%	0.4%
Solar	0.03%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.47%	0.0%
Wind	10.09%	3.2%
Wood	0.1%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas.

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	1.37	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,547	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	0.61	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.001	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/14.

Alger Delta purchases 100% of its electricity from WPPI, which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

SUNKEN TREASURE

THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

By Emily Haines

The eerie romance of a shipwreck is something that seems saved for epic adventure novels or blockbuster Hollywood movies. But just off the coast of Lake Huron, near unassuming Alpena, MI—is one of the most treacherous stretches of water in the Great Lakes—a place called Thunder Bay.

If the name itself sounds ominous, it's because Thunder Bay offers up unpredictable shifts in weather, alarming gales, fog banks and notoriously rocky shoals that play ghostly host to an area fittingly called—Shipwreck Alley. There lies the remains of over 200 ships, only about 100 that have been physically discovered. While it's difficult to imagine the friendly beaches of the Great Lakes as anything but welcoming, these deep and traitorous waters were once bustling byways for both recreational and business mariners, not all that ended at their intended destination.

"It's easy to stay motivated and excited in your work when you're dealing with such a robust historical landscape," said Stephanie Gandulla, maritime archeologist and media coordinator for Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. "There are so many stories lying just below the surface of the Great Lakes."

Those stories just increased substantially as the marine sanctuary has grown from 448 square miles to a remarkable 4,300 miles as of last September. This means expanding both research and educational programs as well as a multi-year plan to "characterize" every known shipwreck in the sanctuary. Characterizing can mean a variety of informational components including having a site map, photography, data and sonar images, or even knowing the name and vessel information.

"It's no wonder our student programs appeal to our younger visitors," said Gandulla. "You don't have to be able to scuba dive 300 feet to have an interaction with maritime history. We provide and encourage hands-on experiences both in and on the water."

The experiences are anything from a class trip to the sanctuary's impressive Visitor's Center, with over 10,000 feet of exhibits, participating in a program on shipwreck archeology, or building underwater robotics. There are also glass bottom boat tours that allow visitors to view shipwrecks without ever getting their feet wet. Gandulla says it's not uncommon for students who have had a field trip in elementary or high school or invested themselves in a Shipwreck Alley class to later become a volunteer as an adult.



Twisted hull of the German freighter Nordmeer (1954–1966).



The bow of the schooner *E.B. Allen* (1864–1871).



The *Florida* (1889–1897) still sits upright with its package freight still inside.

While all of this is available in our state’s backyard, people from around the world come to marvel at these maritime catacombs, as well.

“Beyond the rich and special maritime history of this area, it’s also a remarkable place to vacation,” said Gandulla. “We have world class recreational opportunities available to us in Michigan and we feel very strongly about sharing them with people from around the globe.” ■



The Monohansett, lies only 18 feet below the water’s surface.

Visit

If you’re interested in a trip to the Visitor’s Center, visit thunderbay.noaa.gov/visit. Or, to book a glass bottom boat tour go to alpenashipwrecktours.com/. For more information call 989-356-8805.

Project Shiphunt

On July 13, 2011, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) announced the discovery of two Great Lakes shipwrecks. The discoveries were part of Project Shiphunt, an exciting archaeological expedition, sponsored by Sony and the Intel Corp, that included five high school students from Saginaw. For more on the project, visit thunderbay.noaa.gov/shiphunt.html

Monohansett Site

For a sneak peek at the kind of discoveries you can expect, take a look at the Monohansett, a ship wrecked in 1907 that lies in three sections just 18 feet below water. thunderbay.noaa.gov/shipwrecks/monohansett.html

Photo below: With the hull broken just forward of the boiler house and the ship listing hard to port, the wreck of the Norman, which claimed the lives of three sailors, is an intense dive experience.

Photos by NOAA, Thunder Bay NMS

MESMERIZING GRAND MARAIS

By Yvonne Whitman



The Fishnet House boutique. Owner and artist Kim Amthor lived in the historic cottage for 20 years before converting it into her shop. "The building had a beautiful spirit to it and a rustic elegance. I fell in love with it."



The Pickle Barrel House Museum, originally built in 1926 as a summer home for cartoonist William Donahey. Purchased in 2003 by the Historical Society, it has been restored to its original condition as a summer cottage of the 1920s and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Matthias Jung and Sarah Sadacharam, from Germany, in front of the Breakwall Bakery and Café. "Grand Marais just has a nice feel to it. Its calm and kind of mesmerizing."

Grand Marais, Michigan, was named by early French explorers who used the word "marais" to mean "harbor of refuge." It lived up to its name, as historically the large, shallow harbor has acted as a lifeline for sailors traveling the dangerous shipwreck coast of Lake Superior.

Nestled on the south shore of Lake Superior, the charming and idyllic Grand Marais now acts as the eastern gateway to the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and a popular tourist destination. With a permanent population of only about 300, the town census ebbs and flows mightily throughout the year as the locale is well known as a four-season destination offering snowmobiling in the winter and biking, swimming, boating, fishing and kayaking in the summer. And while the community is small, its

voice is mighty as was evidenced in 2011, when it gained national attention by becoming the leader in a national contest sponsored by *Reader's Digest*. Visitors to the "We Hear You America" website had the opportunity to "cheer" for any community in order to win recognition and cash prizes. Grand Marais attained 1,281,724 "cheers" and won the top municipal first prize of \$40,000 in the contest, as well as notoriety in a subsequent *Reader's Digest* article.

The town plays host to several events during the popular summer months. In mid-June, the harbor is the site of the annual sea plane fly in, hosted by the Grand Marais Pilots Association on behalf of the National Seaplane Pilots Association. In July, it's home to the Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium, a multi-day event which attracts sea kayakers from

“He had the whole world to choose from,
and he picked Grand Marais.”



A group of Harley riders from the Shelby Township HOG chapter who made a stop at the Bayshore Market for gas and refreshments before heading back on the road to complete a 10 day road trip.



Kim Weaver pictured in front of the Grand Marais community rose garden with her dog, and town mascot, Heikki. Heikki is named after Heikki Lunta, the Finnish snow dog character.



A group from the Lower Peninsula branch of the Civil Air Patrol who were in Grand Marais for training. According to Major Mark Ginnard "We come to this area to train in adverse conditions and get used to them. Grand Marais is a favorite place for us to stop."

around the country. It is billed as “the largest and oldest sea kayaking symposium on the Great Lakes.”

A music and art Festival in August and triathlon in September finish off the summer event calendar. Autumn heralds in the fall color tour season and legions of drivers trek to Grand Marais along H58, a road known for its infamous 194 curves that make it popular with motor enthusiasts. Grand Marais is also a travel town on the North Country Trail (NCT). Created by Congress in 1980, the NCT is the longest National Scenic Trail in the United States (4,600 miles when complete).

While Grand Marais draws visitors who enjoy its beauty for just a few days, it casts a more powerful spell on some individuals who opt to make it a

permanent destination. Such was the case for Kim and Dennis Weaver, who own Grand Marais Outfitters. The Weavers moved to Grand Marais four years ago when Dennis retired from a 23-year career with the U.S. Marines. Frequent visitors to the area over the years, according to Kim, “I asked him where he wanted to retire. I said, the government has been telling you where to go for 23 years and the Marines have been in some pretty miserable places. He had the whole world to choose from, and he picked Grand Marais.” ■

**For more information on Grand Marais visit
grandmaraismichigan.com**

Communicating in the Age of the Emoji

By Jack O'Malley

A few years ago my son stood before a display of old rotary phones in an antique store, puzzled by the seemingly ancient devices. "How did people text with those?" he asked. I chuckled before the thought occurred to me. An entire generation now exists who've never known life without mobile phones, text messages, Google or social media.

In today's world of technology a new digital language based on acronyms and emojis has emerged, allowing people to communicate instantly with little more than a few letters and characters. In the old days, we huddled around the handset during a long-distance call, everyone listening and talking at the same time because the calls were too expensive for everyone to have a separate turn talking. I guess I'm officially an old fogie! LOL

Mobile phones have become such an essential part of our lives, we have a hard time functioning without one. Like an extra appendage, we rely on a cell's convenience, intelligence and sheer ability to do almost anything. Want to play Scrabble? Download the app. Want to enhance a photo? Download an app. Want to check Facebook? Download the app. Want to shop? Download an app. There are apps (short for "applications," programs designed specifically for use on portable devices) for everything. Just ask my wife. She'll tell you. SMH (that's **s**haking **m**y **h**ead for all you rookies out there.)

Our reliance on digital technology can only be ascertained when we forget our cell. Ever reached for your phone to make a quick call or send a text



only to realize you left your cell on the charger at home? Panic ensues. I've actually broken into a sweat and driven an hour round trip just to have my phone on hand! :)



Jack O'Malley

Times have sure changed since I was a lad. These kids might run circles around me when it comes to their smart phones, but I had something they didn't. The most popular rotary phone ever made, an original Fisher-Price Chatter Telephone toy. And let me tell you, it was GR8! ■



«« Where in Michigan is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Oct. 10** will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 electricity credit 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*, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.

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