

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



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Board Selects Lawless  
As Director

Board Evaluates Value  
Of District Meetings

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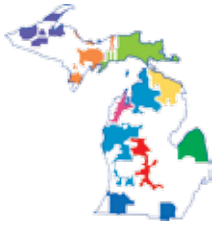
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## ON THE COVER

Negaunee's Lucy Hill is the only full-length natural luge track in the United States. United States athletes train here before traveling to competitions in Europe.

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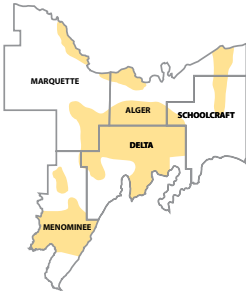
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Once used to describe the three devastating waves that led to the sinking of the Edmond Fitzgerald, Three Sisters is also the name for three tight turns and the most technical part of the Negaunee Lucy Hill luge track. Find Three Sisters Luge Pizza recipe submitted by featured guest chefs from the U.P. Luge Club at [micookitchen.com](http://micookitchen.com), and see the full story on page 14.



# Why I'm Thankful

## Board Of Directors

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## Office Hours

M–F, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (ET)

*Alger Delta Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**[algerdelta.com](http://algerdelta.com)**



**Tom Harrell**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

I'm thankful to be part of Alger Delta Cooperative. It's a humble privilege to serve as the CEO and be part of a great team of people. I can honestly tell you that in my whole career—which is entering its 41st year—this team is one of the best I've worked with. At Alger Delta, we are driven to provide affordable, reliable and safe electric power, as well as improve the quality of life in the areas we serve. It's more of a calling than a job, especially when you understand the history of cooperatives.

Electric co-ops were formed to serve in places where other electric utilities refused to go. That is why we exist.

It's hard to imagine today, but there was a time when vast parts of rural America had no electricity. As late as the 1950s there remained parts of the U.S. where nobody would build power lines to provide electricity to farms and rural consumers.

I'm thankful that Alger Delta is locally owned and operated, and there are no distant shareholders pulling the strings behind the scenes. Members elect members to serve on the board of directors and govern the co-op. We are your neighbors, your friends, and your family.

I'm thankful that Alger Delta is a vibrant force in the local economy. That means Alger Delta is invested in the future of the communities we serve. We work hard to help bring economic development to the central U.P. and support the local economy through Energy Optimization and other programs that help reduce energy consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy development.

I'm thankful that Alger Delta cares. Especially at this time of year, it's important to support local charities like Toys for Tots, the Salvation Army, local food pantries and others, to show we care about the people in the areas we serve.

Finally, I'm thankful for you, our members and faithful readers, because without you, there'd be no Alger Delta.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here at your electric co-op. ■

# Alger Delta Board Selects Lawless To Complete Director Term

At its regular meeting on Sept. 21, the Alger Delta Board of Directors selected Mike Lawless to complete an unexpired term representing the co-op's Grand Marais district.

The vacancy was created when Nancy Gardner-Platt of Grand Marais resigned from the board in August. Gardner-Platt moved out of the area and terminated electric service from Alger Delta. Being an Alger Delta consumer is one of the qualifications for serving on the board.

Members of the district were notified of the vacancy, and four members expressed interest in serving on the board. One of the interested parties subsequently withdrew from consideration. At the September meeting, the board interviewed the remaining three candidates. In a secret ballot, the board selected Lawless, a Grand Marais resident and business owner, to complete the term on the board. The term runs until the cooperative's annual meeting in June 2018.

"Alger Delta's board was fortunate to have several good candidates to choose from," said Tom Harrell Alger Delta's CEO. Each of the candidates brought unique business and work experience, character and reasons for wanting to serve on the board. "All of the candidates interviewed well, and it was a challenge for the board to pick just one. Also, we're grateful for each person who showed interest." Harrell added.



Alger Delta serves about 750 consumers in the Grand Marais district. The district is roughly defined as beginning on M-77 just north of Seney and running north to Grand Marais and includes consumers east and west of Grand Marais. ■

## Cooperative offices will be closed for the holidays on the following dates:

### Thanksgiving

Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24–25

### Christmas

Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 26–27

### New Year's Day

Monday, Jan. 2, 2017

From our families to yours, have a happy and blessed holiday season!



# Home Heating Assistance Programs • 2016–2017 Season

**Program:** Winter Protection Plan  
**Contact:** Your Local Utility Company

# in Household	150% Poverty Guide Maximum Income
1	\$17,820
2	24,030
3	30,240
4	36,450
5	42,660
6	48,870
7	55,095
8	61,335

Add \$6,240 for each additional member.

**Note:** All customers 65+ are eligible regardless of income. Customers are responsible for all electricity and natural gas used. At the end of the protection period, participants must make arrangements with their utility company to pay off any money owed before the next heating season.

The **Winter Protection Plan (WPP)** protects enrolled seniors and low-income customers from service shut-offs and high utility bill payments during the winter months (Nov. 1–March 31). If you are eligible, your utility service will remain on (or restored with the WPP) from Nov. 1 through March 31, if you:

- pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month, and
- make equal monthly payments between the date you apply and the start of the next heating season on any past due bills.

When the protection period ends (March 31), you must begin to pay the full monthly bill, plus part of the amount you owe from the winter months when you did not pay the full bill.

**Participation does not relieve customers from the responsibility of paying for electricity and natural gas usage, but does prevent shut-off during winter months.** You qualify for the plan if you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- are age 65 or older,
- receive Department of Health and Human Services cash assistance, including SSI,
- receive Food Assistance,
- receive Medicaid, or
- household income is at or below the 150% of poverty level shown in the Income Guidelines chart at left.

Senior citizen customers (65 or older) who participate in the WPP are not required to make specific payments to ensure that their service will not be shut off between Nov. 1 and March 31. Service for seniors can be restored without any payments.

**Program:** Home Heating Credit  
**Contact:** Mich. Dept. of Treasury

# Exemp.	Max. Income	# Exemp.	Max. Income
1	\$13,070	4	\$26,756
2	17,642	5	31,299
3	22,185	6	35,842

Add \$4,571 for each exemption over 6.

You can apply for a **Home Heating Credit** for the **2016** tax year if you meet the income guidelines listed at left or you qualify based on alternate guidelines including household income, exemptions, and heating costs. Additional exemptions are available for seniors, disabled claimants, or claimants with 5% or more of their income from unemployment compensation.

If you qualify, you may receive assistance to help pay for your winter heating bills. **Forms are available mid- to late-January wherever tax forms are provided or from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury (517-636-4486, or michigan.gov/treasury).** The Home Heating Credit claim form must be filed with the Michigan Dept. of Treasury **no later than Sept. 30 each year.**

**Program:** Earned Income Credit  
**Contact:** U.S. Treasury Dept., Internal Revenue Service [irs.gov/EITC](http://irs.gov/EITC)  
 Michigan Dept. of Treasury [michigan.gov/treasury](http://michigan.gov/treasury)

The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income, working individuals and families who meet certain requirements and file a tax return. Those who qualify will owe less in taxes and may get a refund. Even a person who does not generally owe income tax may qualify for the EITC, but must file a tax return to do so. If married, you must file jointly to qualify. File Form 1040 or 1040A and attach the EITC.

You may claim a **Michigan earned income tax credit** for tax year **2016** equal to a percentage of the federal earned income tax credit for which you are eligible. Visit the website or see the MI 2016 tax booklet for details.

**Program:** Crisis Assistance Program  
**Contact:** Local Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) [michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://michigan.gov/mdhhs)

**State Emergency Relief Program (SER):** [michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://michigan.gov/mdhhs) You do not have to be a DHHS client to apply for help with a past due bill, shutoff notice or the need for deliverable fuel through the SER. This program, available Nov. 1–May 31, provides most of its utility assistance during this crisis season. However, limited assistance is available outside the crisis season. If you receive a DHHS cash grant, you may vendor part of it towards heat and electric bills. Contact your local DHHS or call the Home Heating Hotline, 855-275-6424.

**Program:** Low-Income Home Weatherization  
**Contact:** Local Community Action Agency

You may be able to receive help with weatherizing your home to reduce energy use if you meet low-income eligibility guidelines (200% of poverty guidelines) and funding is available. **Weatherization** may include caulking, weatherstripping, and insulation. Contact your local Community Action Agency for details. Visit [mcaaa.org](http://mcaaa.org) to find one in your area.

**Program:** United Way  
**Contact:** Call 2-1-1 or [UWmich.org/2-1-1](http://UWmich.org/2-1-1)

2-1-1 is a free phone service operating 24 hours daily to provide information about help that may be available in a particular area with utilities and other needs. Learn more at [UWmich.org/2-1-1](http://UWmich.org/2-1-1).

**Program:** Medical Emergency Protection  
**Contact:** Local Utility Company

You are protected from service shut-off for nonpayment of your natural gas and/or electric bill for up to 21 days, possibly extended to 63 days, if you have a proven **medical emergency**. You must provide written proof from a doctor, public health or social services official that a medical emergency exists. Contact your gas or electric utility for details.

**Program:** Shut-off Protection for Military Active Duty  
**Contact:** Local Utility Company

If you or your spouse has been called into **active military duty** you may apply for shut-off protection from your electric or natural gas service for up to 90 days. You may request extensions. You must still pay, but contact your utility company and they will help you set up a payment plan.

**Program:** Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program  
**Contact:** MI Veterans Trust Fund

The Trust Fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families facing a financial emergency or hardship including the need for energy assistance.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund at 517-284-5299 or [michiganveterans.com](http://michiganveterans.com)

**Program:** MI Energy Assistance Program  
**Contact:** Utility or 2-1-1 in late November

Agency assistance through Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP), includes services that will enable participants to become self-sufficient, including assisting participants in paying their energy bills on time, budgeting for and contributing to their ability to provide for energy expenses, and being energy efficient. Shut-off protection is provided Nov. 1–April 15 for all residential customers.

# Safety During Hunting Season

By Tim Velder



**B**e aware of what's behind that big buck or it might cost big bucks.

Your electric co-op's time and money are spent every year repairing equipment and power lines that have been struck by a stray bullet. As a not-for-profit cooperative, owned by the members, we all share in this expense.

This doesn't even include the inconvenience, damages, and hazards to members down the line that require power for medical equipment or other needs, while a lineman does some hunting of his own looking at spans of line trying to locate the problem.

Hunters and other gun-owners should be cautious not to shoot near or toward power lines, power poles, and substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment, could be deadly to the shooter, and potentially interrupt electric service to large areas.

Sometimes the damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months and is only discovered when an unexplained outage occurs.

Landowners are also encouraged to take note of nonmembers who are hunting on their property and remind them to be aware of power lines.

Shooting near overhead power lines or insulators can result in severe injury or death.

## The main safety points to remember are:

- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and wildfire.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction—and a serious hazard—to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations.
- Avoid the use of lofting poles near overhead power lines. Remember, electricity can jump across a considerable distance. ■

# Easy Ways To Save Energy This Winter

Between cold weather, the holidays and spending more time indoors, energy use and costs can rise for many Michigan residents. However, by taking a few simple actions, the following small adjustments can result in big savings!

**Deck the halls with LED holiday lights.** Light-emitting diode (LED) holiday lights use up to 90 percent less electricity and last up to 10 times longer than standard bulbs. Plus, they produce almost no heat and are nearly impossible to break! Save even more energy by putting your lights on a timer.

**Set your furnace fan to "auto."** Selecting "auto" ensures the fan will operate only when necessary, which can save several hundred dollars per year. Setting the fan to "on" causes it to run constantly and it requires more heat to maintain the desired temperature.

**Find and seal air leaks.** Prevent cold air from seeping in and heated air from escaping outside. The largest air leaks are typically around gaps in plumbing, chimneys, and wiring bypasses, as well as in dropped ceilings and soffits above cabinets.



## **Prep your home before leaving for vacation.**

Unplug as many appliances as possible. Many appliances use some energy even when they are turned off. You can also safely lower your thermostat to 55 degrees and turn your water heater to the lowest setting.

**Take advantage of rebates.** Before ringing in the New Year, claim your Energy Optimization rebates for energy-efficient products, such as lightbulbs, TVs, refrigerators and freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers/dryers and more.

View current incentives at [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call **877.296.4319** for details. ■



## **Save energy and be merry**

**Practice these simple tips to save energy and money this holiday season!**

- Deck the halls with LED holiday lights
- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning
- Turn down the thermostat while entertaining guests
- Use a timer to control tree and outdoor lighting
- Unplug appliances before leaving for a long weekend

ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org)

PHONE: **877.296.4319**



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).





# Board Evaluates District Meeting

**T**he Alger Delta Board of Directors is evaluating whether to continue holding district meetings. The cooperative has nine districts and the main purpose of the meeting is to elect a director to represent the district. “Historically, the district meetings were important. Co-op members would gather at the town hall and elect a director. There was food and cash prizes for those who attended,” says Tom Harrell Alger Delta’s CEO. “These days, members cast their ballots through the mail or electronically over the internet. Families are busy and interest in attending has declined because of the generational turnover in the membership of the cooperative. Turnout at the district meetings is very low,” Harrell added.

Paul Sederquist has been on the Alger Delta Board for more than 27 years. He recalls the party-like atmosphere at the district meetings of years gone by. “People would come from all over the district and have a good time,” says Sederquist. “But now, we need to do something different, possibly not have the meetings or try to make them more meaningful somehow.” Sederquist suggests placing more emphasis on the annual meeting.

In recent years, the cooperative has taken action to vastly improve the annual meeting, including: moving the annual meeting to the U.P. State Fairgrounds, holding it on a Saturday, having a cookout, and offering games and activities to attract families. In 2016, the cooperative had 633 attendees at the annual meeting—the largest turnout in modern history—which demonstrates significant improvement.

Attending a meeting to cast a ballot is no longer necessary, which leaves the board questioning

the value of the district meetings. Sederquist says there are other reasons and other ways to connect with co-op members, and these are worth exploring. “Connecting with members is an ongoing challenge,” Harrell says. “Co-ops all over the country have the same challenge and they search for ways to communicate and reinforce the things that make co-ops different, like voting for your board members. Different generations communicate in diverse ways; most people are busy and are selective about what they can attend. But the personal connection is one of the most important ways to show our members that we care. We’re going to find ways to maintain that,” Harrell added. ■

**Join the conversation!** If you have some thoughts about Alger Delta’s district meetings, feel free to share them. We’d like to know what can we do to make the district meetings more meaningful to you? Some things you might like to comment on include:

- Should they be in the day or in the evening?
- Do prizes really matter?
- What are you most interested in learning or hearing about?
- How frequently should Alger Delta host a meeting in your district?

*You can share these and other thoughts by email to [admin@algerdelta.com](mailto:admin@algerdelta.com).*

# CASSEROLES

These cozy comfort foods can go straight from your oven to your table.



Photos—831 Creative

## Great Chicken Casserole

Mary Ellen Babcock, Thumb Electric

- 3 cups chopped cooked chicken
- 2 cups finely chopped celery
- 1 cup (4 ounces by weight) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 can (4 ounces) water chestnuts, drained and chopped
- 1 can (10- $\frac{3}{4}$  ounces) cream of chicken soup
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup slivered almonds
- 1 can (6 ounces) French-fried onion rings

Preheat oven to 350 F. Coat a 9×13 inch baking dish with cooking spray. In a large bowl, stir together chicken, celery, cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, water chestnuts, soup, and almonds. Spoon into prepared baking dish. Bake, uncovered, for 30 minutes. Sprinkle onion rings evenly over top and bake 5 more minutes, or until bubbly around edges. Let stand 5–10 minutes before serving. Enjoy with a nice tossed salad on the side.

## Chicken and Rice Casserole

Mary Scodeller, Great Lakes Energy

- 4 chicken breasts
- 2 cups instant rice
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can onion soup
- cooking spray

Preheat oven to 350 F. Blend the three kinds of soup with 2 cups of instant rice. Pour into a casserole dish sprayed with cooking spray. Top with the chicken breasts, and cook for 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Let cool and serve.



## Noodle Cream Cheese Casserole

Jeanie Henrion, Ontonagon

- 1 tablespoon margarine
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 16 ounces tomato sauce
- 8 ounce package of noodles
- 8 ounce package cream cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese



Preheat oven to 350 F. Brown ground beef in margarine. Add garlic, salt, sugar and tomato sauce. Cover and cook slowly for 15–20 minutes. Cook noodles and drain. Combine cream cheese and sour cream.

In a baking dish, layer noodles, cream cheese mixture and half of the sauce. Repeat layers. Spread cheddar cheese over the top. Bake for about 30 minutes (until heated throughout). Serve!

## Uncle Ben's Chicken and Rice

Janice Harvey, Great Lakes Energy

- 6-ounce package Uncle Ben's Long Grain and Wild Rice
- 1 frying chicken or equivalent pieces
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 ½ cups water

Preheat oven to 350 F. Sprinkle rice mix on bottom of buttered 9x13 pan. Combine soup, seasoning packet from rice, and water. Place chicken on top of rice and pour soup mixture over all. Bake for 1 hour, 15 minutes.



# Gather Round The Co-op Kitchen Table

Join our **EXCLUSIVE** online cooking community to submit your recipes and try recipes from other members.

Go to **MICOOPKITCHEN.COM** and register.

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# Unshakeable Devotion Keeps Brownstone Inn

## Thriving For More Than 70 Years

By Yvonne Whitman



Co-owner Deb Molitor standing in the lobby in front of a historic photo montage of the Inn.

It was a typical October day when the earth began to tremble and roll. Thousands of homes on California's central coast were knocked from their foundations, cracked open or destroyed altogether. Dozens of lives were lost. The Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 was centered near Santa Cruz, and its effects on residents would be felt far and wide, reaching all the way to the rustic U.P. town of Au Train.

The present-day owners of Au Train's legendary Brownstone Inn, Deb Molitor and Jeff Van Bremen, were among those in Santa Cruz whose lives were

forever changed. Having grown up on a farm in Michigan's Montcalm County, Deb said, "I knew that the earth takes care of you; it doesn't reach up and knock your house down around you!" Thus, the couple determined to move themselves and their children back to the stable ground of their Midwestern roots.

Jeff, a native of Ohio, worked in the custom freight industry, attending culinary school at night and on weekends. Deb held numerous degrees in special education. While still living in Michigan in the 1970s, Deb took frequent trips to visit friends in Marquette

and arriving at the Au Train Bay was always her cue to slow down and relax. The place had special meaning.

Following the earthquake, Deb and Jeff let it be known they were in search of new opportunities. One day she received a call from her vacationing parents telling them that Au Train's legendary Brownstone Inn was for sale. After several visits to the Inn—and a strong reminder by Deb to Jeff that "We have really BIG winters here," the couple took a leap of faith and became the fifth owners of the Brownstone.

Built in 1946 by retired Detroit police officer, Clark Haskins, the Inn was constructed of locally harvested wood and stone, as well as materials salvaged from the defunct Ford Motor plant in nearby Munising. It is believed that the interior mahogany wainscoting is scrap from a Kingsford veneer mill that used the wood to create gliders for the World War II Allied invasion at Normandy Beach. The Inn's vintage whole-log dining furniture was handcrafted by Rittenhouse of Cheboygan.

The original luster of the place wasn't quite obvious when Deb and Jeff first took possession. "It had been closed for two years. The heat didn't work; the drains didn't drain and the water didn't run." But within four short months, in December 1991, the couple moved themselves and their children into the upstairs living quarters and reopened the doors to the now legendary and historic restaurant.

The Brownstone Inn's menu draws from local ingredients, and the owners pride themselves on fresh, creative flavor combinations. The core menu Jeff created 25 years ago has remained relatively fixed. But it does include changing specials that, as Deb puts it, "allows Jeff to take care of his 'Chef ya ya's.'" Right now, for instance, we're running curry specials." And their most popular dish? Fresh-as-can-be Lake Superior Whitefish supplied by local fisheries.

After 25 years, the business is even more than a family affair. "We have staff that has worked for us since the day we opened. We are blessed to have employed people that truly have the health and welfare of the business in mind. They care for it as their own." Even more, the local community maintains a vital role in the business. "When the tourists aren't here, it's our neighbors who show up to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries," Deb reflected. "I really feel like we've been a part of so many people's lives."

The Brownstone Inn continues standing and thriving more than 70 years after Clark Haskins fled the city to build his dream from scratch. Reflecting upon

their own decision 25 years ago, Deb's sentiment probably echoes that of Brownstone founder Haskins: "We showed up at the edge of the planet and found we had everything we needed." ■



The original fireplace inside the restaurant. The mantle displays more pieces of ruby glass from Deb's collection.

"We showed up at the edge of the planet and found we had everything we needed."



Peaches, the restaurant cat, perches on a stool. Rescued from a shelter, she earns her keep by greeting guests and deterring mice. Her 'customer fan club' often drops off toys.

Photos—Thom Skelding



## U.P. LUGE CLUB COMPETES ON

# WORLD STAGE

By Emily Haines Lloyd

**M**ost Michiganders have had the experience of climbing a snowy hill with a plastic or wooden sled in tow, plopping down at the top and pushing off to feel the cold, stinging air. Regardless of the bumps or wipeouts that follow, most people laugh like maniacs, stand up and brush off the snow, then climb the hill to do it all over again.

Far fewer individuals have the experience of sliding down a 280-foot hill at speeds ranging from 50–80 mph, but that’s just what’s happening in

Negaunee, MI at the Upper Peninsula Luge Club. For more than three decades, beginners with wide eyes and daredevils with years of experience have made the trek up Lucy Hill to make their way down in increments upwards of a half a mile. All of this happens on a luge—which looks similar to an old-fashioned winter sled with metal runners.

“You don’t start fast,” Coach Levi Underwood is quick to explain. “Your first time, it’s just fast enough to get down the hill, and it’s still thrilling.”

The U.P. Luge Club has been holding clinics and open sledding for the public since the mid-80s. It provides local communities and tourists an opportunity to experience something few people ever get to do. Sliding (not “lugging” as you might expect) isn’t available just anywhere, and Lucy Hill is the only natural luge track in the United States.

“Sliding, particularly on a natural track, isn’t something you find in every community,” said Tammy Wills, the current secretary of the luge club, former coach from 2010–2016 and a competitive slider herself since age 13. “Yet, this one-of-a-kind experience is in the middle of the Upper Peninsula and completely accessible and affordable.”



All that is needed are warm clothes, a hat and mittens—the U.P. Luge Club provides the rest. But this is not just for recreational sliders.

The U.P. Luge Club is a feeder club for the luge natural track competitive circuit. As the only natural track in the U.S., young sliders who show both promise and determination are often taken to Europe to compete—where a natural track is both prominent and very competitive.

The U.P. Luge Club President, Fred Anderson, first started sliding when he took his Boy Scout Troop to luge at Lucy Hill.

“I was hooked, and I wasn’t the only one,” Anderson explains. “Years later, two scouts from that first trip went on to compete at the Olympics. Wendall Suckow and Chris Thorpe became very successful sliders—Thorpe going on to become the first American to medal in luge at the Olympics. And they both came through this club.”

Remembering his experiences at Lucy Hill, Underwood, who competed for years in Europe and on the Olympic development team, came back to coach.

“I had so many great teachers, Tammy included, who showed me how an athlete could be humble enough to coach,” said Underwood. “And I wanted to give back to this sport that gave so much to me.”

The joy seen on the faces at the U.P. Luge Club comes from all sorts: individuals who have fallen in love with this unexpected sport; novices who are taking their first slide down a track; adrenaline junkies looking for another hit; and that inner child who remembers the freedom and excitement that comes from climbing up a hill, sitting on a sled and just letting go. ■



## Three Sisters Luge Pizza

*Submitted by guest chefs from the U.P. Luge Club.*

Once used to describe the three devastating waves that led to the sinking of the Edmond Fitzgerald, Three Sisters is also the name for three tight turns and the most technical part of the Negaunee luge track.

This “three-turn” pizza is a favorite with club members and goes down as fast as a luge.

### Ingredients

- 1 French Bread, sliced lengthwise
- ½ cup sweet onion, diced
- 3 ounces ham, diced
- 2 ounces pepperoni
- 4 ounces cudighi, cooked
- ½ cup green pepper
- ½ cup red pepper
- ½ cup sliced tomato
- 1 cup cheddar cheese
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese
- 14 ounces pizza sauce

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 450 F. Brown the 4 ounces of cudighi. Cut the French bread lengthwise and toast for 4 minutes at 450 F. Spread pizza sauce on both pieces of toasted French bread.

Then add the following ingredients to the French bread in thirds:

#### Turn one /Step one

First third—ham, green peppers, onions

#### Turn two /Step two

Second third—pepperoni, red peppers, onions

#### Turn three /Step three

Last third—cudighi, tomatoes, onions

Bake for 6–8 minutes and enjoy.

# Country Roads



This is a pretty view in the Daggett area of Menominee county. *By Kim Foos*



A beautiful winter country road.  
*By Andrew Hodges*



An autumn road near Morgan Falls in Marquette County. *By Jim Pennell*



We love living on our country road! *By Rhonda Ingalsbe*



**Submit  
Your Photos**

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*. Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Wild Weather** due **Nov. 15**—January issue, **Holiday Fun** due **Dec. 15**—February issue and **Family** due **Jan. 15**—March issue.

To submit photos, and for details and instructions, go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!



# Meet Director Darryl Small

Alger Delta is governed by a nine-member board of directors who exercise the governance function of the cooperative. Local representation and control allows all members to have a strong voice in how the cooperative is run and how to best meet the needs of the areas where we serve. Darryl Small represents District 1-Big Bay and we recently sat down with Darryl to learn more about him.



## **Q: Please tell us about your background.**

**A:** I was born in Florence, WI, and at the age of 12 my family moved to Marquette where I lived until I was 21. I then moved to Milwaukee, and for the next 18 years, I was involved in the furniture industry, initially selling furniture for Steinhoff's Furniture and later working as a manufacturer's representative traveling throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. After that, I was in the resort industry for 30 years, owning three resorts in Wisconsin, as well as the Thunder Bay Inn for 18 years with my wife, Eileen. For the past 11 years, I have worked part-time for the Huron Mountain Club. I've been married to Eileen for 26 years, have three children and four grandchildren.

## **Q: What made you want to be on the Board of Directors?**

**A:** I love to serve. Whether it is my church or a community endeavor, I just really enjoy and get great personal satisfaction from serving others.

## **Q: Is there a memorable goal or accomplishment that you are particularly proud of?**

**A:** I served on the Alger Delta Board from 2003 to 2014. Early in that time, Alger Delta

had multiple problems and was close to bankruptcy. With the guidance of the board and a new CEO, we were able to turn the company around and make it financially solvent within six years. This was partly due to the knowledge and dedication of the board members who laid the foundation for future success. Education and training on how the utility industry works enriched our service and enabled the board members to work together as a team. I am the only Alger Delta Board Director who has completed all state courses and became credentialed.

Helping to obtain grants for several members who installed solar panels or windmills has also been very rewarding. I helped secure a \$42,000 grant for our local school and a \$32,000 grant for Bay Cliff to upgrade their electrical system.

## **Q: What do you like to do when you're not working?**

**A:** I am an avid Packer fan, and for 55 years have been a season ticket holder. Needless to say, I enjoy football. I am a Commissioned Ruling Elder with First Presbyterian Church, a member of the Big Bay 550 Snowmobile Club, and I am active as a community volunteer in both the Big Bay and Marquette communities.

# Every Vote Counts

By Jack O'Malley

A busy year celebrating Olympians and honoring lost legends like Gordie Howe and David Bowie, 2016 will conclude with one of the most highly debated presidential elections in history. As we prepare ourselves for a new leader, I urge you to do one of two things.

1. Vote
2. Encourage someone you know to vote.

"I don't like the candidates." "My vote doesn't make a difference." "I'm busy." These may be reasonable explanations for the nearly half of Americans who choose not to vote during a presidential election year. To those who understand voting to be a great American privilege, they might sound more like excuses releasing our neighbors of any personal responsibility for the future of our nation.

"Voting is a right, not a duty," non-voters argue. "I have just as much right to exercise my right NOT to vote!" True. American people voluntarily fight (and sometimes die) for you to keep your right to vote—whether used or not. It's a right extended to every American citizen regardless of sex, race or economic standing. It's a right exercised in peace.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court described voting like this: No right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live. Other rights, even the most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined. *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1 (U.S. 1964).

Vital for the democratic process to work, your vote not only counts, but it also serves as a united voice to elected officials regardless of party. Your vote says, "Here I am, I'm paying attention!"



Jack O'Malley

Whether you choose to exercise your right to vote or not, Abraham Lincoln described it best when he said, "Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."

Hope to see you at the polls. ■

## I Remember...

**We invite members to share their fondest memories.** *Country Lines* will pay \$50 for stories we publish.

### Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Only one entry per household, per month
4. *Country Lines* retains reprint rights
5. Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
6. Submit your memories online: [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com)



## «« Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by Nov. 30 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://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 the name of your co-op.


Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the September 2016 issue is Karen Wienke, a HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative member who correctly identified the photo as Black Star Farms in Suttons Bay. Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.



Sept. Photo

# American Metal Roofs

“Winter storms, ice dams, power outages...



We'll help you protect your home against the ravages of a Michigan winter ...”

**Frank Farmer - President, AMERICAN METAL ROOFS**

It's true, our main business is metal roofing, but this time of year we offer products that help protect your home against the damaging effects of our long, icy winters. Products like Heated Shingle<sup>®</sup> and Heated Shingle Ice Dam Cutter<sup>®</sup> are products designed to melt ice buildup on your roof before it can take hold and cause expensive damage.

**Protection for any kind of roof - not just metal.**

We designed our Heated Shingle products to work on asphalt roofs as well as metal. So, if you've got problem ice areas on your roof, one of our Heated Shingle options may be exactly the solution you need.

**Keep the power on through local outages - no worries.**

Imagine. Within seconds of a local power outage, electricity in your home is restored - automatically. A whole house generator system keeps critical systems like heat, well pumps and medical equipment online until power is restored - and you never have to go outside.

**I grew up in the U.P. so I know firsthand what a Michigan winter can do.**

There is no doubt that winter weather can be hard on your home. That's why we offer our Heated Shingle products and whole house generator systems; to help protect your home through the worst of winter. And once the snow clears, we'll be happy to talk with you about one of our Snow Country roofs as well.

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