

Sheridan Electric Cooperative

LiveWire

Sheridan Electric Cooperative - Medicine Lake, Mont. 406-789-2231

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Washington, D.C., Youth Tour winners share experiences

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

Sheridan Electric Cooperative's Washington, D.C., Youth Tour winners have returned from a once-in-a-lifetime trip. Salina Carter and Abby Ator both stated they did not know each other before the trip,

but now cannot stop talking with each other about the experience.

I interviewed each of them and look forward to their reports at the annual meeting.

Abby Ator: When I asked Abby about the highlights of the trip, her first words were: "That was incredible!" Her highlights included the National Aquarium, the Holocaust Museum and the veterans memorials. She stated that when she went through the Holocaust Museum, she could feel the theme being represented and the horror of it all.

Salina Carter: Salina was very thankful to the membership for the trip that taught her so much. While talking with Salina, I saw excitement and sadness. She expressed excitement about the experience and sadness for leaving the friends she got to know so well. There were a bunch of "firsts" for Salina on this trip – the



Abby Ator and Salina Carter pose with the Washington Monument in the background.

airplane ride, visiting the U.S. House of Representatives, just missing seeing the president, the museums and more.

Sheridan Electric Cooperative's Facebook page includes several photos of these two in various locations. One photo is of Abby shaking hands with Montana U.S. Sen. Steve Daines.

Both of these young ladies represented your cooperative very well, as stated by the chaperones of the trip. There were many applicants this year, with a meticulous interviewing process that followed. I remember interviewing these young ladies and saw potential in their personalities for future leadership. After the trip, I saw two completely different people. They had matured even further down the path to be the strong, insightful, communicative leaders we will see in the future.

Well-done, ladies. ■



Abby Ator and Salina Carter on a boat tour down the Potomac River with Youth Tour delegates from Arizona, Georgia and New Mexico.



When equipment fails

In early June, Sheridan Electric Cooperative experienced a catastrophic failure of a 3,750-kilovolt-ampere substation transformer at the Dagmar substation. Placed into operation in the late 1980s, this transformer's life should have been at least double, if not triple, the time it was operational. At this point, we are trying to assess what failed with this relatively new piece of equipment.

It was a pleasure to see the planning, and execution, your cooperative exhibited in the identification of the problem, and to its solution. Thankfully, we had a spare on site for these types of unexpected occurrences.

From the removal of the old to the installation of the new, this team went the distance to get the substation back into operation.

These folks even enjoyed ice cream at the end of the hot day they endured.





On the move

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

Sheridan Electric Cooperative Line Superintendent Max Beach has made a decision to become the manager/CEO of the Idaho County Light and Power Cooperative Association, a cooperative located in east central Idaho.

This is a huge accomplishment, as Max has proven himself to be an efficient leader in some of the toughest circumstances.

These circumstances have placed him under tremendous pressure to deliver some of the most monumental tasks that I have ever seen. One claim to fame Max has under his belt is as the overseer and project manager for the \$42 million, 115-mile transmission line and four substations extending from Bainville to Ambrose, N.D. This project took massive amounts of time and organization to complete and still come in at budget.

As we look at the last five years, we see maintenance work completed, outages restored and clear effective communication at the board meetings. He has implemented change, when needed, to further streamline your cooperative to what you see today.

From my perspective, I watched a fine young leader emerge to become the man to lead the Idaho cooperative toward its next journey.

From the start of my tenure at the cooperative, Rick Knick has always talked about training his legacies for the future. He has stated that Sheridan Electric Cooperative is a training ground for the future leaders of tomorrow.

Max is one of those legacies ready for the world outside of Sheridan Electric Cooperative, and ready to create his legacy at Idaho County Light and Power.

We wish you luck, Max, and will miss you from the team. ■



Kory Opp, Medicine Lake Rural Fire Department chief, receives the check for the donation.

CoBank Sharing Success program

Every year, CoBank sends requests to share in its success by matching a donation (up to \$4,000) your cooperative has made during the previous year. In the past, it has been the schools within the service territory, but this year's grant went to Medicine Lake Rural Fire Department.

In late 2015, Sheridan Electric helped the fire department install a generator meant to power the community center and fire department in the event of an emergency. This community center is a central gathering point for the community when in need.

The project came in at \$2,400 in donated materials and labor, thus a matching donation was sent to the fire department by CoBank for that exact amount to match the cooperative's donation.

We want to thank CoBank for its generous donations and engagement in the communities we serve. ■

Lighting to be given away

In the spirit of efficiency, Sheridan Electric Cooperative is giving away compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) each month. Each month's winner will receive 24 new CFL bulbs. A CFL produces the same amount of light for less than half the cost. The bulbs also produce about 75 percent less heat, so they are safer to operate. They can also last up to 10 times longer than the standard incandescent bulb. You could save \$80 a year by switching to CFLs throughout your home!

So this month, take a moment to complete and mail the coupon. Maybe you'll be this month's lucky winner and save on your energy costs. Good luck! ■

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Account number: _____

*Congratulations to **Ebenezer Lutheran Church** for winning this month's light giveaway.*



Sheridan Electric Cooperative STATISTICAL REPORT

| | May 2015 | May 2016 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total miles of line | 2,810 | 2,833 |
| Consumers billed | 3,019 | 3,069 |
| Kilowatt-hours purchased | 9,068,916 | 8,663,510 |
| Kilowatt-hours sold | 8,519,279 | 7,994,201 |
| Average KWH per residential consumer | 857 | 742 |
| Average bill per residential consumer | \$100.74 | \$98.68 |
| Cost of purchased power | \$400,537 | \$413,560 |
| Margins year to date | \$2,034,209 | \$2,049,334 |

LINE DEPARTMENT STATS

| | May 2015 | May 2016 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Weather | 0 | 10 |
| Age or deterioration | 0 | 3 |
| Animals and public | 3 | 7 |
| Power supplier | 0 | 0 |
| Equipment | 7 | 0 |

SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED

| | May 2015 | May 2016 | Year to date |
|--------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Pole installations | 8 | 9 | 72 |
| New construction | 10,386 ft. | 14,949 ft. | 45,369 ft. |
| Miles driven | 27,373 | 22,184 | 89,812 |
| New accounts | 8 | 6 | 28 |
| Accounts retired | 0 | 10 | 24 |

SHERIDAN ELECTRIC CO-OP

Medicine Lake, Mont. 59247
406-789-2231

TRUSTEES

- Wayne Deubner, President..... Brockton, Mont.
- Rod Smith, V. President..... Dagmar, Mont.
- Rob Rust, Sec. Alkabo, N.D.
- Kerrey Heppner, Treas. Plentywood, Mont
- Alan Danelson, Trustee Scobey, Mont.
- Andrew Dethman, Trustee Brockton, Mont.
- Rick A. Hansen, Trustee Froid, Mont.
- Warren Overgaard, Trustee Westby, Mont.
- Harlan Skillingberg, Trustee..... Plentywood, Mont.

EMPLOYEES

- Rick Knick Manager
- Riley Tommerup Office Mgr./Accountant
- Scott Westlund Marketing/Member Service Manager
- Pam Lund Billing Supervisor
- Doris Wivholm Bookkeeper/Billing Specialist
- Jamie Ator Accountant
- Lisa Salvevold Office Assistant
- Torie Waller..... Work Order Clerk
- Max Beach Line Superintendent
- Kory Opp..... Staking Engineer
- Nick Oelkers..... Staking Tech
- Tim Ereth..... Operator/Utilityman
- Josh Johnson..... Electrical General Foreman
- Tom Hinds Electrical Foreman
- Travis Benton Journeyman Electrician
- Tristan Ereth..... Apprentice Electrician
- Ronnie Gillett..... Journeyman Lineman
- Dan Roeder Journeyman Lineman
- Shawn Sansaver..... Journeyman Lineman
- Josh Marottek..... Apprentice Lineman
- Bill Baillie..... Apprentice Lineman
- Josh Ming..... Apprentice Lineman
- Jim Bakken..... Material Specialist
- Vicky Haddix..... Custodian

OUTAGES • CALL 24 HOURS A DAY

406-789-2231

OFFICE HOURS: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative