

Sheridan Electric Cooperative

LiveWire

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

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- More work to the system
- Electric plenum heater
- Lighting in your homes
- Statistical report

Process of selecting Washington, D.C., Youth Tour participant

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

Every year, Sheridan Electric Cooperative sponsors one or two young people to represent Sheridan Electric on an all-expense-paid trip for a week to our nation's capital.

This program is reserved for members' children only, but we have added a new level to this process to encompass all the students of this age group, whether they are members or not.

The first step we have taken is to ask the schools to incorporate the essay portion into the English curriculum. This will give the schools the ability to grade this "event" as part of their program.

The topic of the essay is this, "Why should I be Sheridan Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour delegate?"

The questions is simple enough for the students to answer, but why stop there?

When completed, we are asking that each essay be submitted to the cooperative for our grading process, separating the members from the non-members. The team at the cooperative will read each of the essays, looking for the best from each group to be graded. (Hint: It is easy to turn out data to answer the question on the essay.

It is tougher to put their personalities and feeling into it. This is what we are

looking for.)

Then the fun starts. We will give each of these young people who turned in essays a professional interview that will prepare them for the real world. This interview will be a "real life" setting before a panel of two to three people. These can be intimidating, but will provide a necessary life skill. Once this is completed, each applicant will receive feedback to become a better candidate in the future. (Another hint: Each applicant should dress in interview attire for this part of the process, and treat this is as an interview for a job).

As part of any professional interview process, all applicants should be ready to answer the following questions:

- What can you tell me about Sheridan Electric Cooperative?
- Tell me three strengths that you posses.
- Tell me three weaknesses you have.
- Why should you be Sheridan Electric's representative on a trip to Washington, D.C.?

These questions will be incorporated into the interview, but with many more questions. This gives us the ability to administer a behavioral-based interview, which is used in many industries. These types of questions are, in most cases, used during any interview they may encounter later in life.

Out of 10 schools, we will be looking for only one to two individuals to represent Sheridan Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C. These will be selected from among members' children.

From the non-member kids who have participated, we will award \$100 to the participant who had the best essay and interview combined from each school.

The structure we have created gives all the students a life skill in interviewing, gives the members' kids the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C., and will place all non-member participating kids in a pool to win \$100.

You may ask why the cooperative spends this much time, and money, to interview up to 100 kids for this program?

This is what cooperatives do across the state. They invest in their communities, they invest in their legacies, and they care about the future. If a cooperative has a talent that will assist in the above mentioned items within its walls, why not use it?

This program is geared toward the professional development of our young people, preparing them for the real world.

We wish luck to all of our applicants. ■

More work to the system

BY SCOTT WESTLUND



November was another month when preventive maintenance was being completed.

Preventive maintenance is defined as scheduled work done to something prior to failure. Much like the oil change in your car, you have a set number of miles you drive before

you change the oil. This disrupts the inevitable failure of your engine if you do nothing.

In all cases, you will have a history to determine your strategy for preventive maintenance. Whether it is time, running hours or miles, the history will tell you when and what to do to prevent downtime.

In an event in early November, we had been informed of blinking lights in the Culbertson area and after investigating, could hear the transformer in the Culbertson Substation growling. Upon further investigation, we found that a switch south of the substation was arcing. This switch was feeding the substation with highs and lows

in voltage, something that the substation was trying to compensate for, thus the growling.

Keeping with the theme of preventive maintenance, Kory Opp's team prepared to not only correct the switch and check the transformer, but also change bushings and replace regulators.

All of these items would have been on a scheduled maintenance list in short order, but the opportunity presented itself for attention.

This wrapped all of these items into one outage versus two, or even three.

Preventive maintenance is critical to a productive maintenance program in any industry. ■

Capital credit addresses sought

Every year, Sheridan Electric Cooperative retires capital credits to its membership based on a 16-year cycle. Although most of these checks, paid to the membership, are cashed by the members, some are returned because the address is no longer correct.

Sheridan Electric Cooperative makes further attempts to find these folks.

So, if anyone may know how to contact a member from the list, please call Sheridan Electric Cooperative at 406-789-2231 and speak to Jamie Ator.

Thank you for your help.

Aberdeen Pet. (USA) Inc.
Andersen, Curtis D.
Bleazard, Ross J. & Laura
Boyd, Eugene
Boyd, George F.
Brooks Exp. Inc.
Bryla, E.S. and Linda R.
Buck Elk, Darice
Burlington Resources
Daarud, La D.
Dahl, Merle
Danelson, Ray
Daniels, Shari

Day, Annette
Dominion Exp. & Prod Inc.
Equitable Resources
Farley, Dave C.
Ferrellgas
Germany Oper. Co.
Guenther, Vern L.
Halvorson, Boyd
Haugland, Larry
Hausol, Mary
Headington Resources Inc.
Hosko, William L.
Hunt, W.H. estate
Intoil Inc.

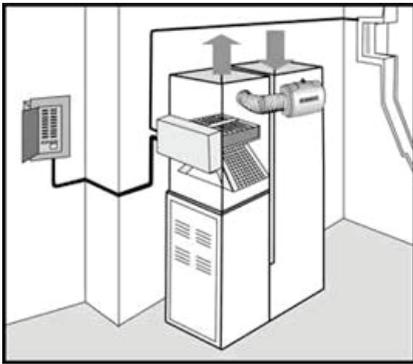
Jacobson, Cody
Johanson, Tracy & Betty
Johnson, Kelly
Kampen, Agnes
Loans Arrow, Shannon
Lyco Opr. Co.
Makoil Inc.
Malovich, Michael & Mary K.
MCII Gen. Partnership
Murphy Exp. & Prod. Co.
O'Connor Oleen M.

O'Connor, Richard
Olson, Ron
Panther Creek Res. LLC
Pederson, Ivan
Perales, Raymond A. & Brenda M.
Petersen, Dennis
Petro Hunt Corp.
Pfliger, William R.
Pinion, David E. & Jane R.
Rierson, George & Adeline
Sandmeier Luft,
Yvonne D./ Rodney

A. Sivertson
Smith, Jodie L.
Taylor, Vermae
Thompson, Ted
Tipperary Oil & Gas Corp.
Trinder, Curtis & Patricia
UMC Pet. Corp.
Wascana Pipeline Inc
Weinberger Donald R.
White, Francis C
Wireless Industries

What is an electric plenum heater?

BY SCOTT WESTLUND



An electric plenum heater can convert your existing natural gas, propane or oil furnace into a “dual-fuel” heating system. An electric plenum heater gives you the ability to take advantage of the

low-cost dual-fuel electric rate and the flexibility to use the most cost-effective heating source at any time.

The plenum heater is inserted into the plenum of your fossil fuel furnace, which is the ductwork just above the furnace, and uses your existing furnace fan to move air across the plenum heater elements to heat your home. Both your fossil fuel furnace and the electric plenum heater utilize the same thermostat and ductwork.

An electric plenum heater can be installed in conjunction with a central air conditioner. When installed with an air-source heat

pump, it will deliver even greater savings.

Sheridan Electric carries these items in its inventory, from 10-kilowatt units to 25-kilowatt units. Although the price of natural gas or propane is down, these are a good second source of heat contained within your own current system. When prices climb on propane and natural gas, electric heat is the next best choice to cover your needs.

Call Sheridan Electric and ask us about the plenum heaters we have in stock, and how best to integrate this into your home, business or shop. ■

Lighting in your homes and shops

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

Most dialogue I hear these days is a question about the right type and amount of lighting. Homes and shops do have an equation that our electrical group uses to calculate the amount needed, and, in some cases, what type.

Light is measured in lumens. Lumens are a description of ambient light coming from a bulb. Lumen output is printed either on the bulb itself or on its packaging. So when upgrading lighting in a building, first determine the amount of light needed to illuminate the area.

We start this process by multiplying the length and width of the area being lit. Next, we multiply that area by the following recommended lumen per square foot guidelines:

Area to be lighted	Lumens per square feet
Machinery storage	1,500-1,750 lumens
Mechanical workshop	2,000-2,500 lumens
Office	3,000 lumens
Detailed mechanical work over bench	4,000-5,000 lumens



Utilize the lumen rating of a fixture or a replacement bulb to determine what supplies to purchase for an upgrade or initial installation. Lumens, not watts, are the true rating of a bulb’s ability to produce light. ■

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! ■

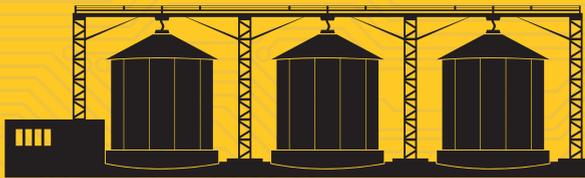
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Account number: _____

*Congratulations to **Joan Ator** for winning this month's light giveaway.*



Sheridan Electric Cooperative STATISTICAL REPORT

	October 2015	October 2016
Total miles of line	2,810	2,833
Consumers billed	3,897	3,086
Kilowatt-hours purchased	10,521,005	10,420,574
Kilowatt-hours sold	9,576,427	9,579,716
Average KWH per residential consumer	959	984
Average bill per residential consumer	\$90.48	\$102.33
Cost of purchased power	\$547,725	\$569,677
Margins year to date	\$1,795,042	\$2,867,412

LINE DEPARTMENT STATS

	October 2015	October 2016
Weather	0	8
Age or deterioration	1	5
Animals and public	2	1
Power supplier	0	0
Equipment	9	1

SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED

	October 2015	October 2016	Year to date
Pole installations	2	2	52
New construction	3,390 ft.	7,178 ft.	54,589 ft.
Miles driven	26,950	22,837	188,367
New accounts	8	11	51
Accounts retired	0	4	27

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
- Jamie Ator Accountant
- Lisa Salvevold Office Assistant
- Torie Waller Work Order Clerk
- Kory Opp Line Superintendent
- Bryan Lenz Line Foreman
- Nick Oelkers Staking Tech
- Tim Ereth Operator/Utilityman
- Josh Johnson Electrical General Foreman
- Tom Hinds Electrical Foreman
- Steve Augustine Line Sub Foreman
- 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