

Update from the CEO: 2017 WAS A BUSY YEAR

2017 was a busy year for Bayfield Electric Cooperative, especially in the operations department. We had 78 new services for the year. With the additional members and lines, we also stayed busy with maintenance.

For the first time, an entire substation has been completely brushed. If you've been in the Pine Lake area, you may have seen our trucks out and about. The crew has been working hard to get problem areas cleared from intrusive trees and brush. By eliminating obstructions to the power lines, we also cut down on power outages.

Another way we've been working to keep your power on is by burying lines. The more lines we bury, the better! When overhead lines are buried, we can avoid many of the things that cause outages such as trees and weather.

Even though outages will never be completely cleared from our system, we will continue to do everything we can to avoid and promptly restore them.



Crews work to install underground line and maintain service areas by clearing them of intrusive trees and brush. Brush-clearing work was completed at the Pine Lake Substation in 2017.



BAYFIELD ELECTRIC COLLECTS DONATIONS

If you recall in our November issue, we announced that Bayfield Electric Cooperative would serve as a drop-off place for toiletries and food items to be donated to The Brick in Ashland. Last month we wrapped up the donation drive and delivered everything to The Brick. Fred Stoll, warehouse maintenance supervisor, can be seen loading up the donations. The Brick will divide the items among their food pantries in Ashland, Mellen, Cable, and Cornucopia. Thank you to all who donated!

BIRKEBEINER DATES ARE SET!

North America's largest cross-country ski race, the Slumberland American Birkebeiner, is scheduled for Saturday, February 24, with the Kortelopet and Prince Haakon races slated for Friday, February 23. Additionally, Fat Bike Birkie, the world's largest fat bike race, is March 10. Visit www.birkie.com for registration and more information.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting, and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

Source: energy.gov



WHAT IS LOAD MANAGEMENT?

Load Management is the reduction of load (demand for electricity), or the shifting of load to off-peak hours of the day, through the use of radio-controlled switches. The Load Management Program helps balance the demand for electricity with the ability to generate and economically purchase electricity.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (BEC's power supplier) estimates that the program reduces demand for electricity by approximately 80 megawatts in the summer and 160 megawatts in the winter, which is equivalent to the size of a small power plant! It does so by reducing the system's total demand during peak use hours—generally between 3 and 9 p.m. People are commonly at home running washers and dryers, dishwashers, and air conditioners during that timeframe. Because of this, during the extremely hot or cold days, it's good for members to shift any flexible use of electric appliances and electronics to earlier or later in the day to reduce our peak energy use. Extremely warm or cold weather also creates an enormous amount of demand on the energy system, with the increase in air conditioner and furnace use.

Why reduce load?

- Keep demand for electricity below our ability to generate or economically buy electricity
- Keep the demand for electricity on all power lines to safe levels
- Reduce or eliminate the need to purchase expensive electricity from other suppliers
- Replace lost generation for a short period of time
- Replace lost purchase of power for a short period of time
- Reduce the impact of rapid changes in demand (peaks)
- Reduce load during system emergencies

What loads are controlled?

- Water heaters
- Interruptible (Dual Fuel) heating systems
- Storage heaters and water heaters
- Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) heating systems
- Dairy water heaters
- Commercial and industrial
- Various loads, with and without backup generation
- Grain dryers
- Irrigation pumps
- Air conditioners

Bayfield Electric Cooperative has a variety of Load Management Programs for the benefit of the cooperative and its members, including Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) heat storage, electric heat (dual fuel) with a backup system, and controlled water heaters. If you have any questions about these programs, please contact Larry at 715-372-4287.



LOOK OUT FOR GALLOPING LINES

High winds and ice can affect power lines in a way that makes them gallop. When ice accumulates on power lines, high winds can cause them to bounce enough to hit another line—potentially damaging the lines, causing power outages, and even making the lines fall to the ground.

“Strong winter winds can cause ice to build up on one side of a power line,” explains Matt Eisenmenger, Safe Electricity Advisory Board member. “When this disproportionate buildup occurs, it changes the flow of air around the line, which can then cause it to start bouncing.”

Once galloping starts, there is not much a power company can do to alleviate it until winds die down. This is why many power lines have objects, like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal, attached to the line. These devices are placed on power lines to help reduce the galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

“Stay away from galloping lines. If you see galloping or downed lines, contact your utility as soon as possible,” cautions Eisenmenger.

It is important to keep your distance from downed power lines, as it is impossible to visually assess if the line

is energized. Use caution while driving during adverse weather conditions, and prepare your home for a power outage.

Be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. This kit includes: bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, extra batteries, and toiletries.

To stay warm during an outage, stay inside and dress warm. Close off unneeded rooms and place draft blocks at the bottom of doors to minimize the amount of cold air coming into the house. Cover windows at night.

When the power is restored, there will be a power surge. To protect your circuits and appliances, switch off lights and unplug appliances. Leave one light switched on as a quick reminder that the power is restored.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

NOTICE!

As of February 5, 2018, Associated Bank in Ashland and Hurley will no longer be accepting Bayfield Electric payments. You can still conveniently pay at Moccasin Trail IGA in Odanah and Northern State Bank in Mellen.

WAYS TO PAY YOUR OEC BILL	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	COST OF PAYMENT
SMARTHUB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay your bill • Store payment information • View usage/payment history • Report an outage • Contact our office • Select paperless option • Available 24/7 	FREE
Automatic Bill Payment System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments can be deducted from your checking or savings account • Payments can be deducted from a debit or credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover) • Automatically withdrawn from your account. • Statement will still be mailed or you can choose paperless option 	FREE
Secured Payment by Phone Through bank account or credit card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 1-855-385-9978 • Use your BEC Account Number • Available 24/7 	FREE
By Mail To P.O. Box 68, Iron River, WI 54847	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With check or money order 	Postage
Night Deposit 69460 District Street, Iron River, WI 54847	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in front of the BEC office building • Very secure and payments in the night deposit are processed the next business day • Cash, check, money order 	FREE
In Person At our office, Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. 69460 District Street, Iron River, WI 54847	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through cashier • Cash, check, money order, credit/debit card accepted 	FREE



BOOK ACROSS THE BAY 2018

Book Across the Bay is the upper Midwest's most unique winter event, open to skiers and snowshoers of all ages and ability levels. The 10-kilometer course, which is groomed for both classic-style and skate skiing, starts in Ashland and ends in Washburn, and follows a route not on land, but over the frozen surface of Lake Superior, the world's largest lake. The event is held at night, and the course is lit by the stars above and up to 1,000 candles in ice luminaries that line the entire route. It is scheduled for Saturday, February 17. Please visit www.batb.org for more information.



GET CREATIVE AT THE BAR STOOL RACES!

Head over to Drummond on February 17 to watch the silliest races of the season. Participants decorate their bar stool on skis and go head-to-head in a race down the man-made snow hill. This day is guaranteed to be filled with thrills, chills, and lots of spills! There will be food, drinks, and exciting raffle ticket prizes.

Bar Stool Races and Chili Feed will be held on Brian Miller Hill behind the Black Bear Inn. Races start at noon with check in at 11 a.m.



CONGRATULATIONS, JOSEPH FOLLIS

Joseph Follis (account no. 110438000) is this month's winner of a \$50 credit. Please clip the coupon below and send it in with your payment or call the office by the payment due date. The \$50 will then be credited to your account.

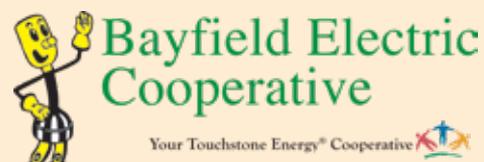
Month of February

Billing date: February 10, 2018
 January usage
 Bills due upon receipt
 Gross due after February 28, 2018
 Disconnect date: March 20, 2018

		ACCOUNT NO. 110438000	
CHECK NUMBER	DATE		
336	02/01/2018		
P AY TO THE ORDER OF		AMOUNT	
Joseph Follis		\$50.00	
Brule, WI 54847		<i>Diane Berweger</i>	
NON-TRANSFERABLE			

Diane Berweger, CEO
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