



Niobrara Electric Association

23rd year 11th Issue

December 2011

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



NEA will be closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd.



2012 Scholarships



Basin Electric, Tri-State G&T and Niobrara Electric are united in an effort to bring scholarship opportunity to the membership. Awards are granted to graduating high school seniors, College students and Non-traditional students.

This year, applications will again be available through Niobrara and Sioux County high schools, the NEA office and on-line through the NEA website, www.niobrara-electric.org

Applications are available January 3rd and are due February 24th.

If you need help with the application process or have other questions/concerns, please call the NEA office and visit with Twyla.

NEA Safety Demo at the 2011 Niobrara County Health Fair



NEA Lineman, Rick Scott, wowed the crowd with this visual demonstration of fire produced from arching electricity.

Once again Niobrara Electric was present at the Niobrara County Health Fair, educating through display and discussion the power of electricity and the mechanics of safe distribution.

In addition to knowledgeable linemen, to be effective in capturing audience attention and leaving lasting mental images, usable equipment and props (such as the tire burning in the above photo) are useful to work with.

NEA has access to a wonderful display trailer, with it's small scale model of a distribution circuit, through Wheatland Rural Electric. Our neighbor Coop graciously loans out their high voltage demo trailer to other Coops for educational purposes.

See our newsletter as it was meant to be seen, **in color!** The new NEA website will now post the monthly insert to the WREN magazine online.

In addition, Niobrara Electric Association now has a Facebook page. Join us there for real time information, pictures, etc.

According to Line Superintendent, Rick Bridge, NEA system expansion is expected in 2012. Several oil field upgrades are real possibilities and he is currently extremely busy consulting on and exploring other new service agreements.

Said Bridge, "If all the projects I've been working with come to fruition in the next year, NEA could conceivably experience a doubling of load."

The NEA line crews are keeping a healthy pace doing line maintenance and metering projects, and contracted Meter Tech, John Dooley diligently continues his work on AMR metering.

May December snows fall lightly and storms be few - we're a busy bunch already this season at NEA.

Safety is Top Priority!



- Cooler-burning "mini" lights are a better option to the traditional larger bulbs.
- Inspect for damage and discard any broken or frayed strands.
- Use "outdoor" lights outdoors. The packaging will note if the lights are made for indoor or outdoor use.
- DO NOT use tacks or nails to secure outside lights, use insulated holders.
- Turning lights off at night while sleeping and when you are out of the house for an extended period of time is wise.
- DO NOT hang lights on a metal tree, as it may become charged or the tree may short out the lights, causing a fire.

Congratulations to Matt Edwards on his successful Journeyman testing!

Having passed his test, Matt is now a recognized and accredited Journeyman.



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Touchstone EnergySM

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
 7:30 am—5:00 pm
 Fridays 7:30 am—4:00 pm
 Electricians Department
 7:00 am—5:30 pm (M-Th)

Outages1-800-322-0544
 or 307-334-3221
 Phones are answered 24 hours
 a day. Phones will be answered
 by Niobrara Electric Association
 during office hours and the
 Niobrara County Sheriff's office
 will take all other calls and
 dispatch NEA personnel.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>District</u>		
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A longtime NEA member asked me last week, why I hadn't reported on my hunting and fishing exploits in over a year. I replied that I thought that information concerning rates, power usage, safety and NEA events were priority, but I would do my best to recap my less than legendary efforts.

Starting in April 2011, I wiped the dust off my old shotgun and traveled East of Lusk in search of an acceptable turkey. Within a short time I settled down in a small draw, after spotting a flock of about 20 birds with at least five gobblers included. With my thermos cup of hot tea at ready, I started calling and several of the birds moved towards me at an angle, so I had to move, leaving my tea cup where I had been sitting. Just to show me that turkeys are often smarter than people, they changed directions and headed directly to the place I had been sitting - a large one was within just two feet of where I left my tea. I was left with little choice, the bird was either going to drink my tea or run the other way so, I took the shot and ended up with a 21 pound bird and a BB hole in my cup. Shotgun pellets do scatter. Later in the Summer I joined my son, Sean, in Alaska to do some fishing. Our first experience was just off the Matsu River, scoring a few Silver Salmon. They fought admirably and though we did not get our limit, the scenery was beyond compare. The following day we fished for Sea Bass, Halibut, and Salmon once again out on Prince William Sound. My arms were stretched at least two inches longer from pulling in small halibut and releasing them in hopes of getting a large one; no luck. However, the experience of seeing Humpback and Killer Whales was well worth the time and effort.

The final chapter of my outdoor experiences for 2011 came last weekend, when I hunted Elk on Echo Mountain. I was joined by the Natrona County District Attorney and a Child Advocate Attorney from Casper. Two attorneys and a General Manager, with guns, is quite a combination. At any rate, we spotted Elk right at daylight and while debating the best way to stalk, the elk moved off into the timber and up the mountain. Elk hunting does not allow for the deliberation often found in courtrooms. A short time later, I spotted a small herd of about twenty elk with two acceptable bulls included. While taking my last drink of tea, the lid came off my cup and spilled down the front of my coat and pants and warmed up parts that don't need to be warm. (Tea can be dangerous, you know) After getting into position I was able to get a five point, acceptable bull and later in the afternoon the District Attorney made a great shot and landed a trophy six point bull. My outdoor seasons for 2011 were nothing short of wonderful, and though I enjoy giving my attorney friends a hard time, like my son, they are both great hunters and sportsmen and always carry their share of the load.

I hope you have enjoyed your Fall and that Winter will go easy on everyone.

Manager, Sheldon Albertson

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARYS

Levi Clark 12/27/2010
 Lee Potter 01/01/2008

EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

Brandon Arnold 12/04/1975
 Sean Howe 01/19/1978
 Lee Potter 01/25/1966

Boardroom News

October Board Meeting

- Line Superintendent, Rick Bridge, reported on safety training and line building projects.
- NEA Attorney, John Skavdahl, discussed several collection issues and updated the Board on the Manager search and presented information on the execution of a line-of-credit with CoBank.
- Manager Albertson shared information concerning OneOk potential line build. He discussed personnel issues and presented information from Tri-State and possible load control in the NEA system. He also reported the purchase of a new digger truck and a recent EPA inspection that resulted in no recorded violations.