

Volts & Jolts

Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK
and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa



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Bonnie Christians

Matt Derosier
Lars Dyrud
Mark Hanson

Colette Kujava
Peter Mosbeck
Krist Olson

Merry CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

From your employees and directors
at Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Service Awards



Mark Hanson
Director

20 years



Colette Kujava
Director

15 years



Sam Olson
Employee

5 years



Holiday Office Hours

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
In case of an electric outage or emergency, please call the after-hours phone number at 218-253-2200.

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Peter Mosbeck
Vice President Bonnie Christians
Secretary-Treasurer Colette Kujava
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Jennifer Benier-Linder, Matt Derosier,
Lars Dyrud, Krist Olson

Interim General Manager
Steve Conely Manager of Electric
System Operations
Kelli Brateng Manager of Member Services
Christie Klipping . . . Manager of Finance & Admin.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (218) 253-2168
Toll-Free: 1-800-245-6068
Fax: (218) 253-2630



**AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS
(218) 253-2200**

Website: www.redlakeelectric.com
Email: info@redlakeelectric.com

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
1-800-252-1166 or 811**

**MINNESOTA STATE
ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS**

Pennington and Marshall Counties:
Ronald Ditsch: (218) 779-6758

Red Lake and Polk Counties:
Todd Knaack: (763) 516-0344

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit www.dli.mn.gov for more information. The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Electric Heat Control Options Determine Off-Peak Rate

Several factors influence how much — and when — load management is needed throughout the year. In November, limited generation capacity played a major role in the amount of load control required. Other contributors include weather, market conditions, transmission constraints and more. When member demand exceeds available energy or when market prices rise too high, load management becomes an essential tool to help relieve pressure on the grid. As of the writing of this column, we have experienced 65.5 hours of long-term control and 15.5 hours of short-term control.

To help members better understand how control strategies affect their off-peak heating rate, here's a review of the three electric heat control (off-peak) options available.

Long-term control (best rate)

Long-term control offers the lowest off-peak heating rate, currently 5.6¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Equipment enrolled under this option is controlled on an as-needed basis and may be interrupted for 24 hours or longer. Because of the potential for extended control times, this option requires a dependable, automatic backup heat source capable of heating the entire home or building. For members who have suitable backup heat, long-term control provides the most cost-effective off-peak rate.

Medium-term control (daily cycling)

Medium-term control, also called daily cycling, applies to select electric heating installations such as underfloor heating cable or panels, and electric boilers supplying floor heat with a sand bed heat sink. This option also provides a 5.6¢ per kWh rate. Heating is controlled every day during the heating season, with two on-periods and two off-periods, totaling roughly 12 hours each day. The heat sink stores thermal energy and helps maintain indoor comfort during control periods.

Short-term control

Short-term control provides members with a higher degree of flexibility and is typically chosen by those with non-automatic or wood backup heating systems. This option yields a current rate of 7.9¢ per kWh. Controlled equipment may be interrupted for four hours at a time, as needed, and this could occur twice within a 24-hour period. Control events most often (23972 Joe Rubischko) take place during early daylight or early evening hours.

Thinking about switching?

Members currently using the short-term option who want to take advantage of the lower long-term rate are welcome to contact us. Before switching, please remember that long-term control requires a reliable, automatic backup heat source.

For questions about your current control option or for help determining which option fits your home or heating system, give us a call — we're here to help.

Headquarters construction update

If you've had a chance to drive by the new headquarters facility, you've likely noticed significant progress. In mid-November, the precast wall panels and roof TT beams arrived and were set into place one by one. In less than 10 days, the shop structure was fully assembled. At the same time, another crew was busy installing the steel framework for the office building.

The shop is now mostly "buttoned up" for the winter, with windows and doors enclosed. The roofing company is still working to get the roof sealed up; this round of snow caused a bit of a delay for them. By the time this newsletter reaches you, construction on the exterior (307441 Brent E Dyrda) walls of the office should be underway or will begin shortly. Soon, both the office and the shop will be enclosed enough to begin heating the buildings to continue working throughout the winter.

**REGISTER
ONLINE AT
MINNKOTA.COM**

For more info about the program, please call **(701) 795-4292** or e-mail any questions to contractortraining@minnkota.com.

**\$85 TO REGISTER
FOR EIGHT CREDITS**

**JAN / FEB
2026**

**ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTOR**

**CONTINUING
EDUCATION
COURSES**

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Red Lake Electric Cooperative and its partners will again provide an opportunity for area electricians to obtain credits for license renewal by attending one of the six continuing education classes being offered throughout eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Instructor Tim Pull will cover the 2026 National Electrical Code (NEC) changes and other important NEC rules. The seminars are approved in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for eight hours of continuing education credit necessary for renewing electrical licenses. The classes will be held at the following locations:

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 Fargo Holiday Inn 3803 13 th Avenue South Fargo, ND	Wednesday, January 7, 2026 Fargo Holiday Inn 3803 13 th Avenue South Fargo, ND	Thursday, January 15, 2026 Bemidji Eagles Club 1270 Neilson Avenue SE Bemidji, MN
Thursday, January 22, 2026 Bigwood Event Center 921 Western Avenue Fergus Falls, MN	Tuesday, February 3, 2026 Minnkota Power Cooperative 5301 32 nd Avenue South Grand Forks, ND	Wednesday, February 4, 2026 Minnkota Power Cooperative 5301 32 nd Avenue South Grand Forks, ND

This marks the 38th year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information on electrical code and practices. Taking the class (28888 Daniel B Levenhagen) on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. **The registration fee is \$85 for eight code credits.** Registration can be done online at minnkota.com and must be completed at least seven days prior to the seminar. For residential building contractor continuing education workshops, contact your local home builders association.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

7:15 - 8 a.m. Registration	8 a.m. - noon Classroom instruction	Noon - 1 p.m. Lunch served	1 - 5 p.m. Classroom instruction
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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jordon Gervais

Family members

Wife: Kelsey
Children: Zoey (19), Clayton (9)

Job title

Journeyman Lineman

Education

High School: Lafayette High School, Red Lake Falls
College: Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Wadena

Years of service

14 ½ years

Family tradition

Spending time at the lake & family cabin

Favorite TV show/movie

Escanaba in Da Moonlight



Pictured from left to right: Kelsey, Clayton, Zoey and Jordon.

Volunteer/member of organizations

Red Lake Falls Fire Department, Red Lake Falls Blue Line Hockey Coach (Squirt team)

Favorite part about working at RLEC

Working outside and having a different task each day and also working beside a good group of guys

Favorite sport (watch or play)

Hockey & golf

How your job has changed while you've worked at RLEC

Equipment is getting bigger. Seems to be a lot more underground vs. overhead.

Favorite food

Ribeye steak

Favorite beverage

Ice-cold can of Pepsi

Favorite restaurant

Blue Moose

Hobbies/interests

Hunting, fishing, golfing

WATCH THE WIRES HOLIDAY TRAVEL SAFETY

In the Upper Midwest, driving during the holiday season can turn treacherous, with icy roads, reduced visibility and unpredictable conditions descending at any moment. When you add the risk of hitting a power pole or a downed power line, knowing what to do can be lifesaving.



IF YOU HIT A POWER POLE

1

STAY IN THE VEHICLE

Unless the car is on fire, the safest place is inside your vehicle. The ground around the car may be energized.

2

CALL 911

Let dispatch know you may be in contact with live electricity. They'll coordinate with the co-op/utility to shut off power before you exit.

3

WARN OTHERS

Warn others to stay away by signaling or shouting to keep bystanders away from the vehicle or any downed lines.

4

ONLY EXIT IN AN EMERGENCY

If you must get out due to smoke or fire, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together, without touching the car and the ground at the same time. Then, shuffle away, keeping both feet on the ground to avoid creating a path for electricity through your body.

GENERAL WINTER TIPS

Always slow down in winter conditions, especially near power poles, intersections or bends.

Keep an emergency kit in your car, including a flashlight, blankets, water and a phone charger.

Familiarize yourself with your co-op's emergency contact number: (218) 253-2200

IF YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE

1

STAY AT LEAST 35 FEET AWAY

Electricity can arc across distances – even the length of a school bus. This is especially true on ice or slush.

2

DO NOT DRIVE OVER THE LINE

Even if it looks harmless, a live wire can energize your car (29610 Barbara J Okland) and the surrounding ground.

3

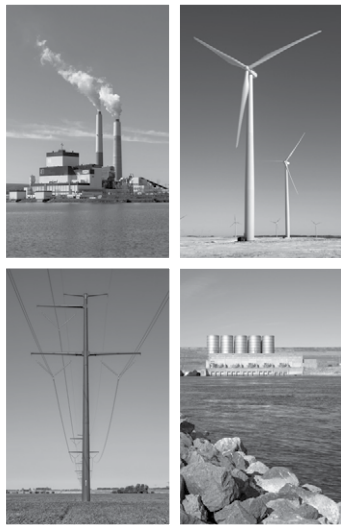
CALL 911 AND YOUR CO-OP/UTILITY

Emergency crews are trained to handle electrical hazards safely.



MEET MINNKOTA!

Within the pages of this newsletter, we often talk about our partners at Minnkota Power Cooperative, who supply us with the wholesale power we deliver to your homes and businesses. We wanted to shed a little light on Minnkota and how they serve Red Lake Electric and our co-op neighbors.

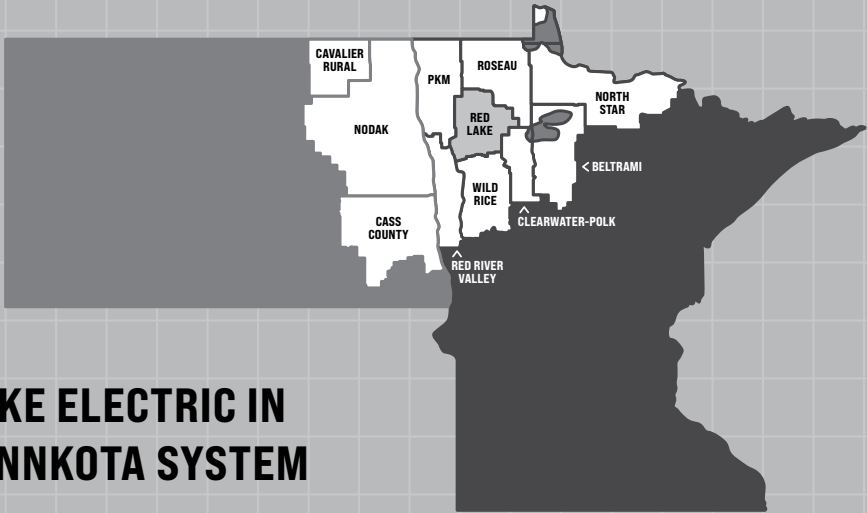


OUR PARTNERSHIP

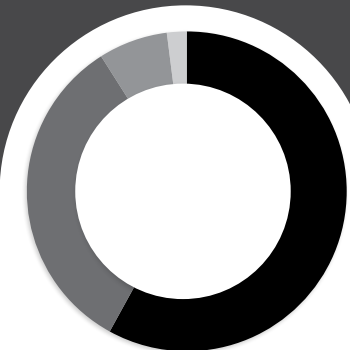
Minnkota is a not-for profit generation and transmission cooperative. That means it generates electricity (with coal, wind and hydro) and transmits it to 11 of its member distribution cooperatives, including Red Lake Electric. Minnkota is headquartered in Grand Forks, North Dakota, but owns generation and transmission equipment throughout North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Minnkota is owned by its member cooperatives. That means all 11 co-ops have representation on Minnkota’s board of directors (31445 Lindsey A Gibson) to make sure every co-op’s voice is heard.

RED LAKE ELECTRIC IN THE MINNKOTA SYSTEM



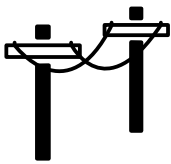
MINNKOTA’S GENERATION CAPACITY



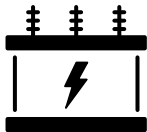
MINNKOTA BY THE NUMBERS



FORMED IN
1940



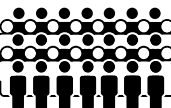
MILES OF LINE
3,388



SUBSTATIONS
265



CARBON-FREE
ENERGY
40%



COOPERATIVE
ACCOUNTS SERVED
153,000



YOU HAVE THE POWER TO...

- View and pay your bills online.
- Go paperless and receive an email notice when your bill is ready to view.
- View daily and monthly energy use.
- Compare energy use to changes in temperature.

SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB:
REDLAKEELECTRIC.COM

For assistance, call us during regular business hours at 218-253-2168 or send an email to info@redlakeelectric.com.

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

Did you know?



\$ FOR A MONTH OF ELECTRICITY = \$ FOR NEW CROSS COUNTRY SKIS



*comparison based on average household energy usage



Submit your recipes to be published in Volts & Jolts. Email to info@redlakeelectric.com or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430.

Rotel Cream Cheese Sausage Balls

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound (450g) ground pork sausage (mild or spicy)
- 1 10oz (283g) can Rotel tomatoes with green chilies, well drained
- 8oz (225g) cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups (200g) shredded cheddar cheese (sharp or mild)
- 1 ½ cups (180g) Bisquick baking mix (or similar biscuit mix)
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder (optional)
- ½ teaspoon onion powder (optional)
- Pinch of black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Preheat oven** – Set your oven to 375°F (190°C). Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. **Mix cream cheese and sausage** – In a large mixing bowl, combine the sausage and softened cream cheese until smooth.
3. **Add Rotel and cheese** – Stir in the drained Rotel and shredded cheddar until evenly incorporated.
4. **Add dry mix** – Gradually add the Bisquick, garlic powder, onion powder and black pepper. Mix until the dough (24946 Sally Boyle) is thick and well combined.
5. **Shape balls** – Using a tablespoon or cookie scoop, roll mixture into 1-inch balls and place them on the prepared baking sheet about 1 inch apart.
6. **Bake** – Bake for 22-25 minutes, or until golden brown and cooked through.
7. **Serve** – Let cool slightly before serving. Enjoy warm as an appetizer (29661 Laura Conneran) or snack.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR 2026

Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers (31750 Michael D Salvesson) for electric vehicles. Not sure where to start? Check out our rebate list below for heating and cooling options. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER REBATES

Must be on off-peak

100 gallon or greater

\$500/unit

56-99 gallon

\$400/unit

55 gallon or less

\$150/unit

New construction (50 gallon)

FREE unit (primary residence only)

BONUS REBATES:

Add \$250
if converting
from natural
gas or propane.

Add \$100
for new building
construction
(shops, cabins, etc.).



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER REBATES

240V LEVEL 2 CHARGER

Must be on off-peak

Electric vehicle or hybrid

100% rebate

Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 per kW (\$750 max)



Residential
Charger

Commercial
Charger

ELECTRIC HEATING REBATES

Must be on off-peak

ELECTRIC PLENUM HEATERS

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.

Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)

ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE HEATERS

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

Rebate of \$75 per kW

AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

(INCLUDING MINI-SPLIT DUCTLESS OPTION)

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.

Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton

17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$600 per ton



GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMPS

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.

Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton

Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton



ELECTRIC UNDERFLOOR BOILER

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers heat consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

Rebate of \$75 per kW

OTHER ELECTRIC HEATING SYSTEMS

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

Rebate of \$25 per kW

All equipment must be new and installed on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.

EQUIPMENT MUST BE INSTALLED ON RLEC'S OFF-PEAK PROGRAM.

Contact Member Services at 218-253-2168 for more details!