

Power Lines



INSIDE ...

- * Student Wins Trip to Youth Tour
- * PVREA's New Billing Software
- * Attend Summer Camp for Free
- * It's Not Too Late to Winterize
- * Colorado Farm Show

Join Neighbors and Friends for PVREA's Annual Meeting

BY RON CAREY, GENERAL MANAGER

Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association invites you to attend the association's 68th annual meeting March 10, 2007, at the Colorado State University Student Union Center. As a member-owner of the association, you have a personal interest in attending this meeting.



Ron Carey, general manager

In addition to conducting the business portion of the meeting, we will have a brief presentation by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. Its representative will discuss its plans to meet the cooperative's growing demand for more electric power and its

efforts to meet those goals, balancing good economics with environmental responsibilities.

However, don't get the idea that the meeting is all business. We will provide lunch, prizes, a Washington, D.C., youth tour report, and our guest entertainment, *Dakota Blonde*. A quick-paced trio that combines folk, bluegrass and country,

Dakota Blonde will arouse your spirits and bring a smile to your face.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join your friends and neighbors for an informative and entertaining afternoon.

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 272550
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2550

STREET ADDRESS

7649 REA Parkway
Fort Collins, CO 80528

970-226-1234 Phone
800-432-1012 Toll free
970-226-2123 Fax

www.pvrea.com Web
pvrea@pvrea.com Email

NEXT BOARD MEETING
March 29

Don't miss the annual meeting on March 10.

PREPARE NOW FOR SPRING SNOWSTORMS

BY RON CAREY, GENERAL MANAGER

The lingering snow is a reminder of a winter colder than what we've come to expect in recent years. However, the days are growing noticeably longer, and the sun is rising higher in the sky every day. The crocus will soon be making a welcome appearance. The signs are unmistakable. Springtime is approaching rapidly.

The months of March and April can produce wonderful days of warm sunshine followed immediately by horrific blizzards and devastating ice storms. As you know, March is usually our snowiest month.

Our employees make every effort to provide reliable, high-quality service year round. We use top-quality equipment to prevent or minimize service interruptions. We put many lines underground.

However, in spite of taking these precautions to protect your electric service, no utility can

guarantee uninterrupted electric service. Spring ice storms can quickly cripple a utility system.

Ice freezes to the lines and the crosswinds cause the lines to "gallop" with such force that they can snap a pole like a toothpick. Trees with new foliage collect the heavy, wet snow and ice until they can no longer bear the weight. The resulting devastation can put you and the whole system in the dark.

Make preparations for such a catastrophic event. Plan now how you will cook, stay warm and have fresh water when the electricity is off. Consider how you would care for an elderly relative or neighbor, and what kind of transportation you would use to get supplies or emergency help. Don't wait until the storm hits to discover the flashlight feels a little light because the kids used up the batteries in their Christmas toys.

After you've prepared for possible outages, enjoy planning your garden.



Student Wins Trip to Youth Tour

Ashley Greathouse, a junior at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins will be going to Washington, D.C., to represent Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association. Ashley was selected as this year's top candidate for the Youth Tour based on an interview, an essay and a freehand drawing. She will be joined by top candidates from other Colorado co-ops for a weeklong stay in Washington, D.C.



Ashley Greathouse

Ashley, who loves music, plays several musical instruments, including the harp, clarinet, baritone and hand bells. She can be found performing in numerous small ensembles for many functions. She is also in band, orchestra, con brio (choir) and has made it to all-state choir.

Ashley is a member of Riverwatch, a group that samples water from rivers, tests the samples and sends the results to the Colorado Division of Wildlife. She is also involved in Operation Christmas Child, which provides shoe boxes full of goodies to children in Third World countries. Her job with Operation Christmas Child is to work at the distribution center in Denver to sort boxes. She is also the president of the environmental club.

The Colorado delegates for the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour will arrive in Denver on June 7, 2007. The following day the delegates will depart from Denver International Airport for the week-long event, returning June 14. Some of the sights her group will see include the nation's capitol, the White House and the Senate building. Each year, the students meet many of our nation's great leaders, including senators and representatives, to learn about how our government functions, especially on electric utility issues.

Ashley is a high-spirited young lady who loves hiking, biking, running and traveling. The Youth Tour should be right up her alley. Congratulations, Ashley.



Customer service representatives at PVREA learn how to use the new billing software.

PVREA Implements New Billing Software for Enhanced Service

Customer service representatives at Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association are in the process of converting to Daffron, which is a new state-of-the-art software geared toward customer billing inquiries. Daffron software offers several new billing inquiry menus that allow easy access for PVREA's customer service representatives. This, in turn, provides better billing service.

The new look of the billing software is

not only aesthetically pleasing and user-friendly for PVREA's customer service representatives but also offers additional help menus geared toward enhancing customer service with a greater level of detail concerning member accounts. This process makes it easier and faster for the customer service representatives to answer questions regarding billing issues. Daffron went on line January 8, 2007.

DON'T FORGET

Mark your calendar to attend Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association's 68th annual meeting on March 10, 2007. This year's grand prize is a 26-inch Sharp® flat panel LCD/HD television with built-in DVD. Many other valuable prizes will be given away throughout the meeting. Members must be registered and present to win. (Winning Account Name: Dain Brewitt)



Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association

- Registration: 11 a.m.
- Lunch: 12:10 p.m.
- Meeting: 1 p.m.



Attend a Weeklong Summer Camp for Free

This summer, Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association will sponsor three delegates attending the Youth Leadership Camp, July 15-20, 2007. They will stay at Glen Eden Resort, 24 miles north of Steamboat Springs.

The purpose of the camp is to show students what a rural electric cooperative is and how it works for its members. It also will acquaint them with the energy picture of the future. Field trips will cover power generation, distribution facilities, safety and more. Fun times are also in the works, including a gondola ride, an evening banquet and lots of sports.

If you are interested in attending this exciting, cost-free event, complete the application form below and return it to Poudre Valley REA, Attn: Leadership Camp, P.O. Box 272550, Fort Collins, CO 80527-2550. PVREA will provide transportation to and from the camp.

You must be at least 16 years old the week of camp, entering 12th grade in the fall and have parents or guardians who are members of PVREA.

Completed applications must be returned to PVREA no later than April 1, 2007.



Campers enjoy beautiful scenery while they have fun and learn about electric co-ops.

2007 YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION

Please print neatly or type.

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent(s) or guardian(s) name(s): _____ PVREA acct. no.: _____

Date of birth: _____ Year in school: _____ School: _____

List special activities in which you have participated: _____

What offices have you held in organizations? What honors have you received? _____

What are your future education plans? _____

What are your hobbies, talents or special interests? _____

Why would you like to participate in the Youth Leadership Camp? _____

It's Not Too Late to Winterize Your Home

Winter is upon us, but it's not too late to think about winterizing your home.

Even if you're on a tight budget, there are plenty of relatively inexpensive things you can do to winterize your home and save energy and money. Here are a few tips to get you started.



- Seal up all cracks on the outside of your home, especially the areas around your windows and outdoor faucets that can let in cold air. Apply standard caulk wherever you see any gaps, cracks or holes. Most caulking tubes can be bought from your local hardware store for an average of \$10 a tube, which is a great investment and a money-saver in the long run.
- Take care of pipes that can freeze by using heat tape. By taping your pipes you can be assured that your pipes will stay warm during extremely cold weather.
- Seal the inside of your home, beginning with any cracks around windows. The same tube of caulk can be used inside. Add or replace worn weather stripping around windows and doors. Because old single pane windows can be drafty and inefficient, and new windows may not be in your budget, use a window insulation kit. These kits are usually around \$15 and make installation easy. Don't forget to winterize basement windows.
- Maximize your heating system. For safety reasons, have a professional inspect your heating system every year to make sure that it is working correctly. Cleaning your air ducts and vents by vacuuming them out and changing your filters at least once a month will allow good airflow to your heating system. Once you have the cover off of your heating system, use a whisk broom or a paintbrush to wipe off the dust that builds up inside.
- Another great way to save money is by using a setback thermostat. Setback thermostats can vary in price, starting from \$40. A setback thermostat allows you to set the temperature of your house for certain times of day. For example, when

you're gone during the day, you could set the heat to drop a little while you are gone. Before you come home, the controls can be set to raise the heat back to a comfortable level. It's a lot less expensive to heat your home back up than it is to keep it at the same temperature all day long.

- Water heaters, on average, make up 14 percent of your overall utility bill. To insure keeping hot water hot and your utility bill a bit lower, a good idea is to buy a water heater insulation blanket and heat tape. Wrap the hot water heater insulation blanket around your water heater tank. Make sure that the insulation blan-

ket does not come in contact with any electrical connections that are on your tank. Next wrap your hot water pipes with heat tape to keep the heat from dissipating. Hot water insulation blankets and heat tape can also be picked up at your local hardware store fairly inexpensively.

- The most effective way to save on heating is proper attic insulation, which will keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. You might ask at your local home improvement center how much insulation is recommended in your particular area. They should be able to explain the different types of insulation that can be added to attic and existing walls. Although this might be a bit costly, you will save all year long for years to come.

For other energy-saving ideas, please call Danny Martinez at PVREA at 970-226-1234, ext. 422.

PVREA PARTICIPATES IN COLORADO FARM SHOW

For 12 years, Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association has participated in the Colorado Farm Show, an annual event held at Island Grove Park in Greeley. This year's show was January 23-25. As in past years, the Farm Show drew nearly 20,000 people during the three-day event, with nearly 400 exhibitors.



Bob Dent often uses this display to help people learn about electricity.

The theme of our display was "Electric Safety and You." We operated a miniature power line nearly nonstop each day. The model is a true-to-scale representation of a real power line, including poles, houses and vehicles. While the tiny power lines carry little amperage, the model does step up the voltage to 12,000 volts. By using different props, the model operator was able to reproduce many of the hazards associated with power lines. Both children and adults at the farm show were fascinated by the display. It is shocking (no pun intended) to talk to so many people who have had a close call with electricity themselves.

We want to thank the organizers of the Colorado Farm Show for allowing us to participate in the event. We also want to thank Steve Mosqueda and Benny Salazar, the PVREA employees who worked the show. A special thanks goes to Bob Dent, a retired employee, who took the time to participate in this year's farm show. We hope to see all of you there next year. In the meantime, if you have a question about electrical safety, please call us at 970-226-1234.