

Power Lines



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Next board date: July 31



An Introduction to PVREA's New General Manager

BY BRAD GASKILL, GENERAL MANAGER

I am honored to have been selected by the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association's Board of Directors to serve as the association's next general manager. I look forward to working with the membership, board, management staff and employees to continue the tremendous success and great tradition the association has achieved in the past.



Brad Gaskill
general manager

It is my objective to work together to meet the ever-increasing energy needs and exceed the service expectations of the PVREA membership today and into the future. Working together, we can overcome any and all challenges we will face. We will find solutions that will continue to enhance the quality of life and brighten the future for our membership and those choosing to live in rural America.

I joined PVREA in November 2005 and served as the association's finance and information services manager until being promoted to assistant general manager on April 1, 2007. Prior to joining PVREA, I served as the general manager of Valley Electric Association, Inc., in Pahrump, Nevada, from July 1, 2004, to August 31, 2005. I also served as the general manager of Mountain Parks Electric, headquartered in Granby, from October 1, 1997, to June 4, 2004.

I have over 23 years of experience in the rural electric cooperative program. I hold a bachelor's degree in business

education from the University of Northern Colorado, and I am a 1998 graduate of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association management internship program.

My wife, Vickie, is an account manager for Flood & Peterson Insurance, Inc., in Greeley. Vickie and I have two grown children; daughter Jack-

ie is a cosmetologist in Topeka, Kansas, and son Chad is an electrical engineer in Denver.

In closing, I want to thank the PVREA Board of Directors for the vote of confidence and trust in me it showed by selecting me as its general manager and giving me this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to working with the board to lead this outstanding organization to continued success.

I also want to thank retiring general manager Ron Carey for bringing me to PVREA and giving me the chance to work under his outstanding leadership. I have known Ron for more than 10 years, and I can tell you firsthand that he led the association over the past 25 years with great vision, integrity, professionalism and pride. It has been my privilege and honor to serve under Ron's management.

I wish Ron and his wife, LaVonne, the best of happiness and good health as they start a new chapter of life together in Maine. (Win Mary Ann Maes)

I look forward to visiting with you again.



Poudre Valley REA's office will be closed July Fourth in observance of Independence Day.

Representatives of Poudre Valley Take Electric Co-op Message to Washington, D.C.

Board members from Poudre Valley REA took the electric cooperative message to Washington, D.C., May 6 to 9. They joined more than 100 board members, managers and staff members from Colorado's co-ops who met with Colorado's congressional delegation during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual legislative conference. Also in Washington were more than 3,000 representatives of other electric co-ops from across the country.

PVREA board members Rick Johnson, Keith Croonquist, Thaine Michie, Gail Spencer Hole, Robert Lock and Jim Park, along with PVREA attorney Randy Starr, were in the nation's capitol to remind senators and representatives of how the laws they pass in Washington can have a direct effect on people and business back home. The top five issues this year included funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service, the maintenance of federal hydropower projects and the rates charged for this power, renewable energy bonds, railroad monopolies and funding for additional research on climate change.

Funding for electric co-op programs through RUS was at the top of the list as co-op representatives met with legislators. The Office of Management and Budget is working to eliminate loans that can be used to build generation facilities. This comes at a time when there is a need for more and more electricity. The OMB has also threatened to impose regulations that would limit access to RUS funding



PVREA board member Jim Park, right, explains the co-ops' position that more research funding is needed into greenhouse gas technologies as U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard (R) listens.

to only the most remote parts of the United States. The co-op representatives asked all of the legislators to oppose these proposals that would hurt electric co-ops.

The co-ops also asked legislators to fund work on the country's federal hydropower facilities. Many of these dams have suffered from a lack of maintenance and are not running at peak efficiency. This is wasting a valuable renewable resource at a time when the industry is working to add more renewable resources to the fuel mix. Co-ops also made their congressional representatives aware of a backdoor move by OMB to raise rates for hydropower when 100 percent of the hydropower projects' costs are already recovered through electric rates.

Clean renewable energy bonds were also promoted. Known as CREBs, these relatively new bonds provide incentives for co-ops to invest in renewable energy projects. House members were asked to support HR 1965, which would provide \$1 billion a year in

CREBs through 2010.

Regarding problems with railroads and the high prices they charge co-ops to transport coal, House members were asked to co-sponsor HR 1650 and senators were asked to support S. 772. These would repeal the railroad exemptions from the antitrust and transportation statutes and allow attorneys general to halt anticompetitive conduct. Support was requested for HR 2125 and S. 953, which would help rail customers to obtain more reliable rail service.

Co-op representatives also requested significant new funding for research and development. New technology is needed to give cooperatives and others in the electric utility industry the tools to meet new carbon standards and other requirements connected to climate change. There is a gap now between what people want to happen and the technology available to make it happen. Only funding for research will allow the electric industry to meet these goals, co-op representatives told their legislators.

The trip to Washington is being followed up with letters and background information that is being sent to senators and representatives on behalf of Colorado's electric cooperatives.

THE POWER OF CFLS

According to Energy Star®, if every American home replaced just one incandescent lightbulb with an Energy Star® compact fluorescent lightbulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars.





INSURANCE COSTS AND DOGS THAT BITE

The liability that dog ownership presents is a growing concern to the insurance industry. Dog bite claims continue to rise and, in turn, affect everyone's rates. Once your dog bites someone, it could jeopardize your property insurance.

Nationally, dog bite claims cost policyholders about \$2 billion annually. Dogs bite more than 4 million people in the U.S. each year, and more than 750,000 of the victims require medical treatment. Dog bites account for more emergency room visits than do skateboards, in-line skates, baby walkers and all-terrain vehicles combined.

Your responsibility as a dog owner begins before you bring a puppy or dog home. Selection of an appropriate breed, training and socialization are important parts of dog ownership. Research different dog breeds and select a dog suitable to your family and lifestyle. The first year of a dog's life determines much of its adult behavior. Obedience school can be a valuable experience for both your dog and you. You should be able to control your dog at all times.

Be aware that about 80 percent of dog bites occur in the victim's home or at a friend's home. These "friendly" dog bites account for the majority of treated dog bites. Also, severe dog bites occur almost exclusively to children 10 years of age and younger. Dog bites are safety issues.

Hoyt Retires After 34 Years

Arland Hoyt, or "Big A" as some of us like to call him, has worked for Poudre Valley REA more than 34 years. He started his career with PVREA in September 1973 as a tree trimmer and worked his way up the ranks to his present position of construction supervisor.

Arland retired at the end of June. He plans to enjoy his grandchildren Ariana, Tesha, Orin, Cornella and Rylee now that he is retired. He also plans on playing a lot of golf. Arland is an avid hunter and loves riding his four-wheeler with his wife, Beverly, and their children, Melissa and her husband, Jeff, and Nathan and his wife, Michelle, any chance he gets. He's also been known to play a little guitar, and once in a while you can catch him enjoying a well-earned stogie.

During his time with PVREA, Arland was a tree trimmer, lineman, lead lineman and a working line foreman. He has built a lot of line. He's also seen his share of storms and outages, so he's earned a good rest. However, don't think that Arland plans on just relaxing. He's definitely going to keep busy having fun. The entire staff at Poudre Valley REA will miss him.



Arland "Big A" Hoyt

Ventilate Your Attic Properly

BY DANNY MARTINEZ, MEMBER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Attics should be ventilated year-round to reduce the buildup of heat and moisture. In the summer, proper ventilation reduces roof and ceiling temperatures, thereby lowering cooling costs and extending roof life. Attic heat, which would otherwise intensify and push unwanted heat down through the attic floor into the living area, will escape naturally if a vent area is provided.

An unventilated attic can reach temperatures as high as 140°F. Allowing a path for natural ventilation can lower the temperature to a more manageable 90-100°F. Homes with poorly ventilated attics often have heat trapped in the insulation radiating into the living space late into the evening after the sun has set. If this happens, it becomes a safety issue. Added heat in a living space during the summer can cause discomfort, dehydration and fatigue, as well as possible heat stroke.

Codes and practices vary, but you

should plan on 1 square foot of free vent area for every 150 square feet of attic. A 2-1/4-square-foot gable vent with louvers and screening would have 1 square foot of free vent area. Free vent area can be reduced by half if half of the vents are low-soffit vents and half are at least 3 feet off the attic floor.

One of the most effective ways to ventilate a roof is the combination of a continuous ridge vent along the top of the roof with soffit vents along the sides. This creates plenty of area for the temperature differential to form, allowing warmer air to exit at the highest point in the attic.

Roof vents come in a wide variety of types; some turbine-style vents even spin. Studies show the effectiveness of passive vents is about the same whether they are stationary or moveable. Power vents will draw more air out of the attic, but any energy savings attributable to them must be tempered with the fact that they use energy to operate.

Keep Cooling Costs Down

Summer electric bills are greatly affected by the use of air conditioners or heat pump air conditioners. By following a few, or all, of the tips listed below, you can keep the cooling portion of your electric bill as low as possible.



by 8 percent. The difference between a setting of 78 and 73 degrees is about 50 percent. Consider buying a setback thermostat to control temperature when you are away from home.

- Change your furnace filter.
- Clean the evaporative coils located in the plenum of your furnace. Vacuum the coils gently; be sure not to bend the fins.
- After turning off the power to the unit at the breaker panel, check the outdoor coils inside your air conditioner or heat pump. Clean with a hose. Be sure not to bend the soft metal fins on the coils. If you bend the fins, efficiency will be reduced. Be sure not to puncture the refrigerant coils. Also, if you remove the cover to clean the coils, check the fan motor housing for oil ports. If your model has these ports, add a few drops of SAE 10 oil.
- Set your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature that you can. A difference of only one degree can increase your cost to operate the system

- Run your kitchen and bathroom vent fans when cooking, washing dishes and bathing, but only then.
- Avoid using your oven, and cook outside on a grill as much as possible.
- Check around doors and windows for leaks where cool air can escape. Keep blinds and shades closed when they are exposed to direct sunlight.
- Use ceiling fans to distribute cool air evenly.
- When using your air conditioner, close your chimney damper.
- Close off unused rooms, but be careful not to close too many vents in those rooms, which could impede airflow in the house.

If you have further question about operating your air conditioner or heat pump, please contact Danny Martinez at Poudre Valley REA at 970-226-1234.



Jess Aills



Kirk Heimes

Welcome Two New Employees

Poudre Valley REA welcomes Jess Aills, who began his full-time employment on March 19 as an electrical engineer. Before joining PVREA, Jess worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Jess and his wife, Heather, have two children: daughter Kaelyn, 9, and son Braden, 6. Jess' hobbies are golfing and fishing

Kirk Heimes began work on May 20 as a journeyman lineman. Kirk and his wife, April, recently moved to the Fort Collins area from Lincoln, Nebraska. Kirk's hobbies include hunting, fishing, golfing and bowling. Welcome to PVREA.



PVREA STILL AN "EYES AND EARS" PARTNER

For over 10 years Poudre Valley REA, along with other local utilities and government agencies, has been an "Eyes and Ears" partner. The "Eyes and Ears" program is aimed at providing emergency service via radio-equipped vehicles. The "Eyes and Ears" logo is prominently displayed on all Poudre Valley REA vehicles equipped with a two-way radio.

If you are in need of help while at home or on the road, do not hesitate to ask our employees to radio the appropriate law enforcement or emergency agency. There are few places in the three-county area we serve where we do not have radio access to reach emergency services.

Be sure to tell your children about the "Eyes and Ears" program. You can assure them that Poudre Valley employees are "good strangers" to ask for help. Even small children should be able to recognize the "Eyes and Ears" logo displayed on our vehicles.

FIND YOUR NAME, CLAIM SOME MONEY

If you see your account name in the Poudre Valley insert, you have until the last day of the month that the magazine is dated to claim your reward by calling PVREA at 970-226-1234. More than ever, it pays to keep informed about your electric utility.