

JUNE 2018

3817 23rd Ave. NE Watford City, ND | Outpost - Killdeer, ND | 701-444-9288 | 800-584-9239



MEMBERS – POWER – PURPOSE

FREE ONSITE
CHILDCARE
PROVIDED

73RD ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 19, 2018

\$1,000
CASH PRIZE
GIVEAWAY

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

You are hereby notified that the 73rd annual meeting of McKenzie Electric Cooperative will be held Tuesday, June 19, 2018, at the McKenzie Electric Cooperative headquarters, 3817 23rd Ave. N.E. in Watford City, with the following agenda:

Registration and complimentary meal5 p.m.
Children's activity 5:30 p.m.
Business meeting.....6 p.m.
Invocation
Call to order
National anthem
Appointment of parliamentarian
Approval of minutes
Financial report by audit firm..... Brady Martz & Assoc., P.C.

Board president's report Clayton Monsen
Cooperative update..... John Skurupey
Election of directors
Service awards presentation
Operation Round Up report
Scholarship awards
Youth Tour
Old and new business
Adjournment
Drawing for door prizes

www.mckenzieelectric.com

McKenzie Electric Cooperative

Connections



Ybarra is Maah Daah Hey trailblazer

BY JESSE VEEDER-SCOFIELD

It's not difficult to get caught up with excitement when speaking with Nick Ybarra about the North Dakota Badlands. Even when he's on the phone 2,500 miles away with his family on a beach in Florida, Nick's passion for the North Dakota outdoors transports you to the Maah Daah Hey Trail, a 150-mile, non-motorized single track trail through the buttes and grasslands of the Badlands.

And he makes you feel like one day you might mountain bike the entire stretch, too, just like he did nine years ago. He checked an item off his bucket list and launched him and his family on a mission to celebrate, share and save his beloved trail. It's an effort that won him national recognition and several awards, including the North Dakota Trail Leader Award from the American Trails Association, the

U.S. Forest Service Prairie Grasslands Partnership Award and the latest, the 2018 Trailblazer Award from North Dakota Tourism. And it couldn't be more fitting, because that's exactly what Nick and dozens of volunteers do year after year. They clear a path for adventure with mowers, clippers, weedeaters and saws through brush and ravines in the harsh conditions of the North Dakota badlands.

"It's like Teddy (Roosevelt) said, 'This is where the romance of my life began,' " says Nick, as he recalls the first trip he took with his church friends from Bismarck to the Badlands the summer after he graduated high school. He and a group of a dozen other guys piled into a borrowed church van and headed west to arrive at Magpie Campground at midnight to unpack and set up camp by headlights. The next morning, Nick and his \$150 Schwinn were staring down Devils Pass and a switch flipped in that young man's heart.

"I was athletic, I played team sports, but I was always yearning for that outdoor adventure," recalls Nick of the moment. "I thought this is what I've been looking for my whole life."

And when Nick met Watford City native Lindsey and found out about her shared love of western North Dakota, Nick used the romance of the Badlands to help win her heart on a mountain biking camping trip with friends. The couple married in May 2006 and eventually chose to make their home in Watford City, where Lindsey, along with her sister, Bethany, took over the family business, Roosevelt Inn and Suites, and Nick continued chasing adventure on the trail while working as a roughneck on an oil rig.

"I heard of guys who rode the whole Maah Daah Hey trail in one day," recalls Nick who went on to complete what was then the 107-mile trek in 20 hours in 2009. "It was life-

changing. I wanted other people to experience this.”

And so the couple set out brainstorming ways to host a Maah Daah Hey event, an idea that evolved into the nationally renowned multi-race mountain biking and trail race event that is known as the Maah Daah Hey 100. It was a plan that kicked up a perfect storm for the fate of the trail at a time when the Forest Service was losing the funding necessary to maintain the trail, which was originally built in 1999.

The couple hosted the first Maah Daah Hey 100 race in 2012, and despite their best efforts at trail marking, bikers got lost.

“The trail, as it was, was more enjoyable on horseback than hiking or biking,” said Nick of the trail conditions. “There were parts of the trail that were literally disappearing from erosion or overgrown vegetation.” So Nick decided to take matters into his own hands. He borrowed the Forest Service mowers and got to work.

“I remember him coming in from marking the trail for the first race and he was like, ‘I’m going to have to mow this trail,’ ” Lindsey recalled. “He said, ‘There are a lot of guys coming a long ways and I don’t want them to get lost.’ I just thought this is nuts!”

And it was nuts. Mowing and cutting 100-plus miles of rocky, thorny, brush-laden, steep and dangerous countryside is not a task

for the faint of body or faint of heart. But Nick had a support system in his family and his friends who traveled from Bismarck to help him. When it was time to host their second Maah Daah Hey 100, Nick’s humble crew of eight successfully mowed and groomed the entire trail – 100 miles one way and 100 back again, proving that Nick might actually be the actual embodiment of a trail whose symbol, the turtle, is adopted from the Lakota Sioux Indians for its patience, loyalty, determination, steadfastness, long-life and fortitude.

Five years later, that crew of trailblazers has grown, along with the nationwide popularity and esteem of the race. Now, Nick jokes, each June and July as they prepare for the early August event, he feels like he’s the general of a small Army, coordinating anywhere from 20 to 50 volunteers from all over country and logging more than 5,000 volunteer hours on the trail.

“It’s just so amazing to receive the emails and messages from people who may have never even raced the trail but want to volunteer to come help from all over the country,” said Lindsey.

A trail that was on its way to becoming forgotten before Nick and his family began singing its praises so loud and fervently, it’s hard not to listen.

And in under 10 years, Nick has gone from roughneck to turning his passion for the Badlands into a

career, running the races under their business Legendary Adventures New Discoveries (LAND) and the Save the Maah Daah Hey nonprofit dedicated to maintaining the trail while staying close to home to help raise their two young daughters, Demi and Eden.

“Nick is a treasure for us in the West,” said McKenzie County Tourism Director, Doug Bolken. “He places such a positive spotlight on western North Dakota and the Maah Daah Hey. We’re lucky to have him as part of our community.”

But it’s Nick who feels lucky, taking every chance he can to recognize and thank his family who has helped guide, support and cheer him on through his efforts. And then he goes on to thank his dad for his muscle on the trail, his mom for helping run one of the first-aid stations, his mother-in-law for cooking a spaghetti supper for the racers the first year, his brothers and sisters and in-laws, his community, and the list goes on.

“This has been successful because it’s a family operation and people can feel the passion and the difference,” Nick said.

And because of them, North Dakota’s best-kept secret can continue to live up to its Mandan Hidatsa name: “An area that has been or will be around for a long time.”

Maybe long enough to convince me to take up mountain biking. ■

To learn more:

The Maah Daah Hey is the longest continuous, non-motorized single-track trial in the country. The Maah Daah Hey 100 takes place the first weekend in August each year. The mountain bike race boasts five different distances for different levels of experience, all happening on the same day and ending at the same finish line in Medora. Experience LAND also hosts a gravel battle, a mud run, a trail race, Take a Kid Mountain Biking event and winter races as well.

For more information on how to race or volunteer, visit www.experienceland.org.

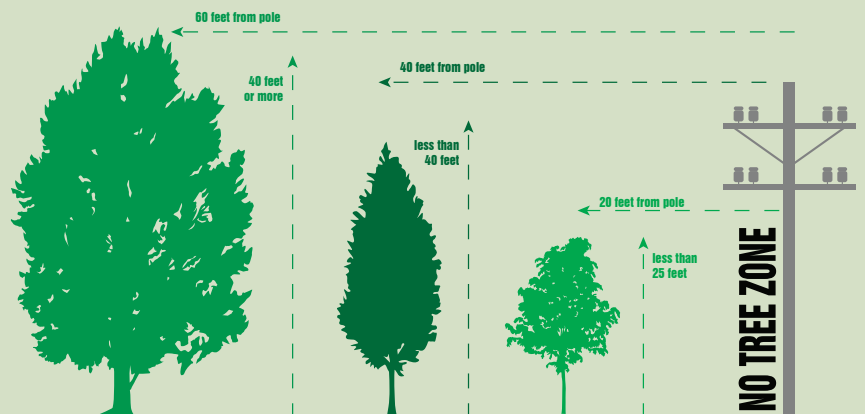
Tree trimming and clearing underway



McKenzie Electric Cooperative (MEC) conducts tree trimming maintenance along the right-of-way of distribution lines to provide safe and reliable electricity. MEC attempts to control overgrowth on primary and secondary power lines at an early stage of development before tree limbs interfere with electrical service. Keeping the trees trimmed will decrease outages and keep members safe.

Please **DO NOT** attempt to trim, prune or cut trees that are near overhead power lines. To report trees interfering with MEC power lines, please call our office at 701-444-9288. ■

TREE TRIMMING keeps power flowing safely



Do you have money waiting for you?


The following people have capital credit checks for which we do not have a current address. Please notify us if you have a current address for any of these people, or if you are entitled to the capital credits in the case of an estate. Information must be received by Nov. 30, 2018, to McKenzie Electric, P.O. Box 649, Watford City, ND 58854 or call toll-free 800-584-9239 or 701-444-9288. In December 2018, checks will be reissued with the updated information for the eligible members.

Amoco Pipeline Trucking
Anderson, Susan
Anheluk, Bob
Astral Co. LLC
Bad Hawk, Emily
Baker, Leonard
Bell, Adrianna
Bellet, Les
Benson, Lois
Blekestad, Twila
Borstad, Jerry
Brown, Jim
Candrian, Kevin
Cartier, Kip
Chapin, Beaulah
Costilla Energy Inc.
Cox, Robert L.
Crutcher, Michael
Dillard, James C.
Dohrmann, Josh
Dubray, Pernell
Dubray, Rhonda
Duckett, Delores
Duvall, Desri
Dvirnak, Elmer
Edwards, Joann

Felix, Hazel
Ferrari, Shaleesha
Fort Berthold
Commodity Prog.
Fort Berthold
Development Corp.
Freeman, Beaulah
Geringer, C.C.
Good Bird, Ann
Goodall, Darleen
Grady, Calvin Sr.
Grady, Marty
Gwin, Alex
Hale, Edward
Halliday Marine Club
Haugen, Kenneth
Heen, Debbie
Hellman, Ben
HUD
Hull, Ken
Iron Hawk-Lew, June
James, Jay
Jensen, Rusty
Johnson Jim D.
Johnson, Barbra
Johnson, Eloise

Johnston, Darren
Kaiser, Christopher
Kerner, Clyde
Kisse, Esther
Kjorstad, Fabian
Koch Service
Kummer, Stanley
Lone Fight, Brenda
Long, Nikki
Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas
Loyas, Jackie
Mandan, Adam
Martin, Monte
Martinez, Kirk
Mead, Robert Jr.
Meredith, Loretta
Methodist Church (Grassy
Butte)
Molzahn, Shannon
Motorola Inc
Nelson, Barbara
Nelson, Glendon
Northrop, Burton
Pelton, Patricia
Phelan, Ambrose
Phonetel Technologies

Portley, Sharon
Precision Cleaning
Reed, Carol
Romero, Katherine
Sage, Joshua
Simon, Dotti
Skolic, Larry
Solis, Christine
Standish, Leroy Sr.
Starr, Mavis
Tarnavsky Brothers
Taylor, Arland
Thrams, Bryan
Tipperary Petroleum Co
Tschetter, Shawn
Union Pacific Res
White Body, Ardis
White Eagle, Wayne
White Owl, Eugene Mrs.
Wilkie, Jennifer
Winters, Glenn
Wolf, Francis
Wolf, Gary
Young Bear, Curtis Sr.



In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, more than 10 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Slope Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

Tickets to the Medora Musical Pitchfork Steak Fondue Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- ✓ Badlands Motel
- ✓ Elkhorn Quarters
- ✓ Rough Riders Hotel

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code (Touch2018) at the door. Advanced reservations are not available.

Hotel rooms book fast, so please reserve your rooms as soon as possible.

Call 1-800-MEDORA-1 for reservations and provide the discount code (Touch2018) to receive your savings.

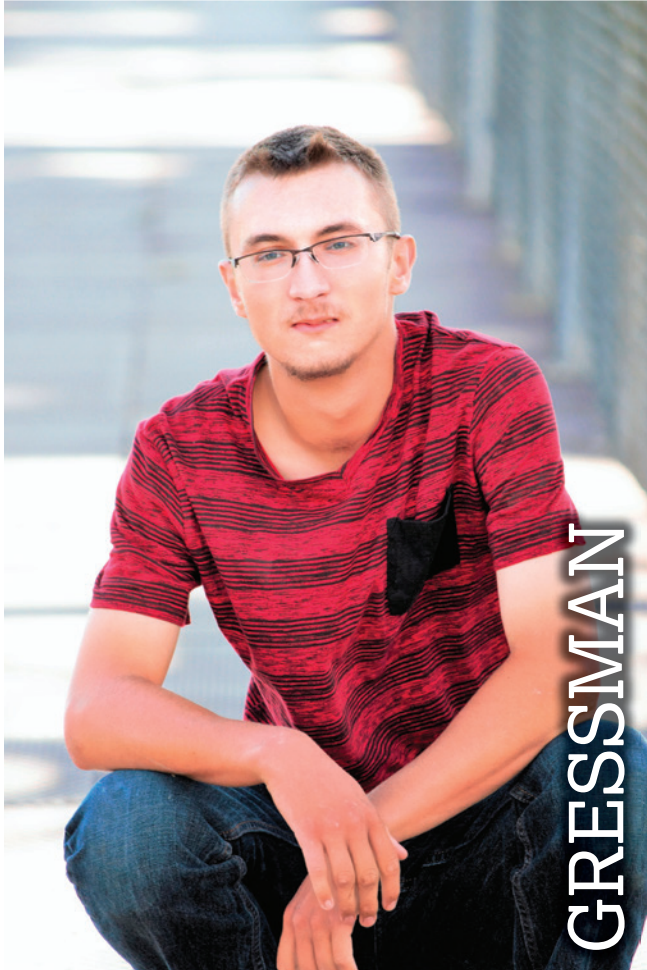


McKenzie Electric will be closed to honor the July 4th holiday

For outages, call 800-584-9239

2017-2018 scholarship winners

McKenzie Electric Cooperative (MEC) would like to recognize the winners of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative and McKenzie Electric Cooperative scholarship awards. Determining the recipients for each scholarship is inevitably a difficult decision and is based on many factors. MEC is honored for the opportunity to play a small part in the education of these young adults. Best wishes and congratulations to all graduates.



Cale Gressman is the 2018 recipient of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative \$1,000 scholarship. Cale is the son of Jason and Andrea Gressman, Watford City. Cale plans to attend the University of North Dakota to pursue a bachelor's degree and study law. Congratulations, Cale!



Avery Sundeen is the 2018 recipient of the McKenzie Electric Cooperative \$500 scholarship. Avery is the daughter of Ross and Tricia Sundeen, Watford City. Avery plans to attend Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., where she will major in accounting and pursue a bachelor's degree in business administration. Congratulations, Avery!

7th annual Pick Up The Patch



McKenzie Electric Cooperative (MEC) employees participated in the seventh annual Pick Up The Patch. MEC employees collected several bags of trash and debris as they worked their way up and down the ditch and shoulders on Highway 1806 from the MEC headquarters to the stoplight on Fourth Ave. N.E.

Watford High School Tours power plant and Freedom Mine



On May 3, McKenzie Electric Cooperative (MEC) employees chaperoned 28 students from Watford City High School at the Dakota Gasification Company Synfuels plant, Antelope Station and Freedom Mine. MEC's main goal is to bring awareness and education about DGC to the classroom.

BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS



Monsen



Thompson



Hanna



Houghton



Wasem



Wahlstrom



Sanford



Tescher



Link

Board report

April 25, 2018

The regular meeting of the McKenzie Electric Board of Directors was held at the Headquarters Building in Watford City, North Dakota. Directors present were: Clayton Monsen, Travis Thompson, Rondee Hanna, Cameron Wahlstrom, Ken Sanford, Chris Link, Glen Houghton, Tim Wasem and Ray Tescher. CEO John Skurupey, Attorney Dennis Johnson and staff personnel of McKenzie Electric were also present.

PRELIMINARIES: The agenda for the meeting and minutes of the previous board meeting were approved by the Board of Directors. Expenses were also approved.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSIONS: The Board and management discussed member concerns which had arisen from their director districts. The Board approved a request by Attorney Johnson regarding legal research expenditures.

ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS: Director Tim Wasem reported on the recent North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) board meeting.

POWER SUPPLY: Director Travis Thompson reported on the Upper Missouri board meeting. Director Ray Tescher indicated there was no Mid-West Electric Consumers Association meeting on which to report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Dennis Johnson discussed a proposed bylaw amendment, easement issues and reported on collection of delinquent accounts and litigation.

CEO REPORT: CEO John Skurupey reported on several items including a recent Upper Missouri managers advisory meeting, Basin agreements and wholesale power issues. The Board approved a budget

deviation for the replacement of the CEO vehicle.

HUMAN RESOURCES: The Board reviewed the written report. Other administrative issues were discussed with the Board.

OFFICE REPORT: Financial and statistical reports for March were reviewed with the Board along with a budget-to-date comparison, the capital projects report and the comparative cash report. The Board approved a general capital credit retirement. The Business Manager reported MEC has seen an increase in damages to electrical facilities in its service area as a result of vehicle accidents.

ENGINEERING REPORT: An update was given on building closeout progress. MEC is a recipient of a grant dollars for cybersecurity training from the SANS Institute. The Board approved a budget deviation for the purchase of Partner Inspection software. Updates were provided on system outages, potential new loads, substations, SCADA, metering, meter data management, harmonics, demand waiver periods and reclosures.

OPERATIONS/CONTRACT MANAGEMENT/SAFETY REPORT: Written reports provided updates on projects currently being worked on by MEC contractors and a work order progress report. MEC crews are also busy working on outages, maintenance projects, work orders, meter changes, cleaning substations, retirements and high loads. The written safety report was reviewed by the Board.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR: An update was given on NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation) compliance activities. MEC is

performing an annual review of the compliance program and associated procedures. An update was also given on Member Service activities including annual meeting details.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date was set for May 30, 2018 at the Watford City Headquarters building.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. ■



3817 23rd Ave. NE
Watford City, N.D. 58854
Phone: 701-444-9288
Toll-free: 800-584-9239

Web page:
<http://www.mckenzieelectric.com>
Email:
mec@mckenzieelectric.com

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

Clayton Monsen, President
Director, District 2B, Arnegard..... 586-3336
Travis Thompson, V. President
Director, District 1C, Charlson..... 675-2373
Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Director
Rondee Hanna, Sec.-Treas.
Director, District 2C, Watford City..... 675-2516
Glen Houghton, Director At Large
Director, District 3B, Grassy Butte..... 863-6606
Tim Wasem, Statewide Director
Director, District 3C, Halliday..... 938-4376
Cameron Wahlstrom
Director, District 1A, Alexander..... 770-6631
Ken Sanford
Director, District 1B, Watford City..... 842-2581
Ray Tescher, Midwest Director
Director, District 3A, Beach..... 565-2342
Chris Link
Director, District 2A, Alexander..... 651-6524

CEO:
John Skurupey
701-570-3542

