



FALL RIVER FLASHES

July 2011

Providing safe, reliable and renewable power at the lowest possible cost to members.

Visit our NEW website!

We recently updated our website. You can now find more information, tips on how to save energy and money, and pay your bill online. Just point your browser to www.fallriverelectric.com.

The Co-op Connections Card

Your Co-op Connections Card gives you access to discounts at over 100 local and many national businesses, as well as discounts on certain prescription drugs. Find more at www.fallriverelectric.com.



Members Helping Members

Winter is finally behind us, but some members still struggle to pay for essential energy costs. Fall River Helping Hands provides energy assistance to members in need. You can help for only about 50 cents a month. Join the 759 other members who have already enrolled. Sign up by checking the box on your bill remittance form, by visiting our website, or by giving us a call at 208-652-7431/800-632-5726.



Annual Meeting Sets Record (Again)

Over 750 members of all ages came for a pancake breakfast, health and energy expo, and a variety of children's crafts and games at Annual Meeting. Each member who registered also received a water and energy conservation kit.



Just over 630 members voted in the board election to fill three board spots. Those elected included, Jay Hanson (incumbent) for District 2 (area west of Victor); Boyd Bowles (incumbent) for District 3 (area east of Victor/Driggs); and Ralph Burton for District 8 (area of north Island Park).



Highlights of the business meeting included information about patronage capital, The Chester Hydropower Project (see next page), the Smart Metering Project and the future of electric rates.

Those who stuck around for the business meeting also had a chance to win a door prize. Jacob Johnston won the grand prize of the meeting – a \$300 electric credit.



Photos from top to bottom: Jacob Johnston won the meeting's Grand Prize - a \$300 electric credit; members of all ages enjoyed cotton candy and snow cones, along with an obstacle course, a health and energy expo, and a pancake breakfast; Fall River paid for Trail Creek Nursery to give away 300 flowers at the Annual Meeting.

Chester Hydropower Project Nears Completion

As an owner of Fall River, you also own a new hydropower project at the Chester Dam. The Chester Hydropower Project will begin generating enough electricity for 1,200 homes by the end of the year. The project will benefit members for decades to come by stabilizing electric rates and enhancing the fishery of the lower Henry's Fork River.

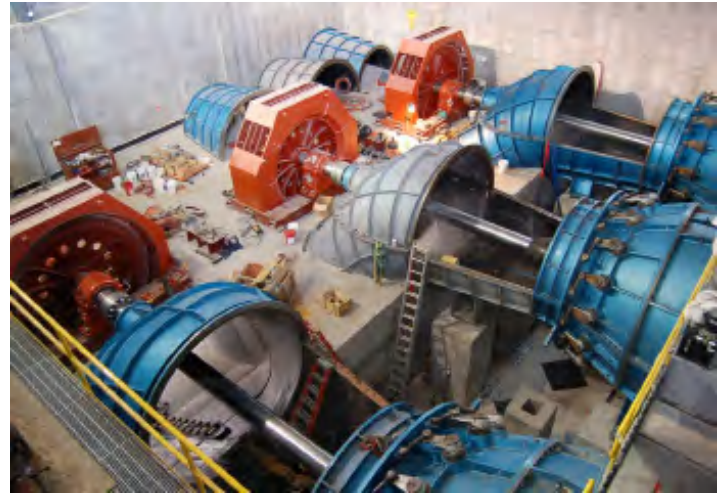
When completed, the project will consist of three hydro turbines, a rubber dam, multiple fish screens on the two canals exiting the Henry's Fork River at the dam, and a fish ladder that will connect the lower and upper reaches of the river for the first time since 1939.

Funding for the fish ladder was secured by the Henry's Fork Foundation, Trout Unlimited and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. Fall River and local conservation groups hope the fish screens and fish ladder will improve the fishery in the lower reaches of the Henry's Fork River.

Once completed, the Cooperative hopes to get the project certified as low-impact. The Buffalo and Island Park projects are already both certified as low-impact by the Low-Impact Hydropower Institute, and were actually the first such projects certified in the State of Idaho.



The Chester Hydropower Project includes a 288 foot fish ladder with a 13 1/2 foot drop. The fish ladder will allow fish to move upstream of the dam for the first time since 1939. Funding for the ladder was secured by the Henry's Fork Foundation, Trout Unlimited and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.



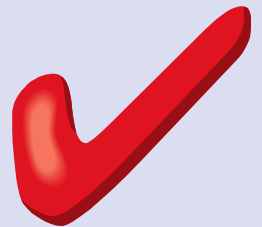
Workers install three turbines at the Chester Hydropower Project. When completed, the turbines will generate enough electricity to power 1,200 homes. Generating power locally will become increasingly important as wholesale power costs rise in the future. You can help us name these turbines by voting on our new website: www.fallriverelectric.com.

Name the Chester Turbines!

The Chester Hydropower Project's three turbines will begin generating power this summer.

This is a monumental accomplishment and Fall River wants to celebrate it by giving the three turbines official names.

Members who attended Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 11th had the chance to submit a group of three names in a contest to Name Those Turbines! You can vote for your favorite names on our **NEW** website, www.fallriverelectric.com, before August 1, 2011. The member who submitted the winning group of names will get \$200. For the official rules, visit our website.





Top photo: The Chester Hydropower Project's powerhouse is complete and three turbines will begin generating energy this summer. The fish ladder can be seen on the left side of the powerhouse.

Middle photo: Fish will be prevented from swimming down the Cross Cut Canal by a series of 11 fish screens.

Bottom photo: A series of four fish screens keep fish out of the Last Chance Canal.

Fall River Welcomes New Board Director

At June's Annual Meeting, members of Fall River elected Ralph Burton from District 8 (north Island Park area). Burton retired as CEO from The Amalgamated Sugar Company after working for 36 years in all aspects of the company.



Ralph Burton
District 8

Burton helped form the Snake River Sugar Company, a cooperative, and has served on the board of directors for many sugar beet organizations.

When asked why he decided to run for District 8, Burton responded: "There are few commodities that have a more significant effect in our lives than electricity. Shareholders need to insure that they have a continued reliable source of electricity at reasonable prices. I feel that my experience in business, relating with government regulatory agencies and experience within the cooperative structure will allow me, as a director, to serve the shareholders by maintaining the effective policies already established and in dealing with the changes that we, as an electric cooperative, will be required to address in the future."

Calling all photographers:

Share the unique beauty of Fall River's service territory with other members. Enter your original photo in the 2012 Calendar Photo Contest for a chance to have your photo featured in Fall River's 2012 calendar and win a credit of \$100 for first prize. Visit www.fallriverelectric.com for more information or to submit a photo.



Photo: Cindy Briggs



Is a Tankless Water Heater Right for Your Home?

The discussion of energy efficiency often leads to the question of tank versus tankless water heaters. As you can imagine, there are pros and cons with each kind. Tankless heaters are small and heat water rapidly. In other words, they don't store hot water, but heat water as it passes through the heat exchanger. This is what leads to many claims of savings. But what are the facts? Here is the REAL story.

Myth: Tankless water heaters use less energy because they don't heat water all the time.

Fact: It depends on what you compare it to and how often you use hot water. An efficient hot water heater will have enough insulation to keep water hot once it is brought up to temperature. Look for an EF coefficient of .91 or higher to prevent standby losses.

Myth: Tankless water heaters are far cheaper.

Fact: Tankless water heaters are often far more expensive. Installation may also require an upgrade to your electrical system. Tankless water heaters require more maintenance and need very pure water or they may prematurely fail. Costs of installation and maintenance may far outweigh the cost of an efficient tank heater.

Fact: Tankless heaters also place more demand on the Cooperative's electric grid during peak use times when wholesale power is more expensive for the Cooperative to buy. This will become increasingly problematic in the future as the demand for power outstrips supply.

Myth: Tankless water heaters deliver an endless supply of hot water.

Fact: Some tankless water heaters may not supply enough hot water for multiple simultaneous tasks like taking a shower and running the dishwasher.

Whether a tankless heater is right for you depends on your specific situation. As with any purchase, do your research to ensure you get the right heater for you.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Ashton, ID 83420

Ashton, Driggs &
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Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS
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WEST YELLOWSTONE
436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Skene
District 1
Rexburg/Rigby

Jay Hanson
District 2
West Victor

Boyd Bowles
District 3 East Victor

Dick Smith
District 4
East Driggs

Chris Ricks
District 5
West Driggs/Tetonia

Sonja Cherry
District 6
Ashton

Ron Dye
District 7
South Island Park

Ralph Burton
District 8
North Island Park

Doug Schmier
District 9
West Yellowstone

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