



FALL RIVER FLASHES

March 2013

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

FREE Showerheads!

If you heat your residence with electricity, we have a way for you to conserve both power AND water. Fall River Electric's conservation program is giving away free energy-saving showerheads. Just stop by any of our three offices, Ashton, Driggs or West Yellowstone, to pick-up yours! Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

What's the Weather?

Fall River Electric, in conjunction with Local News 8 (KIFI-TV), has installed an official weather station at our Ashton office. Go to www.fallriverelectric.com for the current temperature, wind speed, humidity and even weather data from the past 24 hours. It's available 24/7, anytime you want it! And watch for current temps from Fall River Electric, reported on weather broadcasts from Channel 8.



LAST CALL for Scholarship Applications

If you are a parent of a high school senior *and* an owner-member of Fall River Electric Cooperative, we invite your student to apply for a share in over \$20,000 in college and higher education scholarships now being offered by Fall River.

BUT HURRY: March 22, 2013 is the deadline to submit applications.

Applications are available at www.fallriverelectric.com. Click the home page menu item titled "myCOOPERATIVE" to download an application or to learn more. Selection is based not only on scholastic achievement, but also on financial need, as well as involvement in extracurricular activities.

These scholarships are funded by unclaimed or undeliverable Patronage Capital. When we can no longer find a member to return patronage capital to, the funds are used to help further the education of existing members' children. Applicants will be selected in May and scholarships presented at the Co-op's annual meeting on June 8 in Ashton.

 Fall River Flashes is printed on recycled paper and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Products certified by FSC directly support responsible forest management.

Want your Fall River Flashes faster? Click the E-News link on our home page at fallriverelectric.com or "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fallriverrec

Energy Audit Helps Couple Make Needed Changes

Bruce and Ginny Northcott first visited Teton Valley, Idaho, when he worked as a television reporter for KIFI-TV Channel 8 in Idaho Falls in the early 1970s. When it was time to semi-retire from the communications and market-research industry, the Northcotts purchased a home in Alta, Wyoming, so they could take advantage of the skiing at Grand Targhee and enjoy the beautiful starry summer nights under the Tetons.

As an owner-member of Fall River Electric, Bruce read in the Flashes newsletter about the co-op offering discounted energy audits. As Bruce says, "We were interested in anything we could do to help lower our energy bill, but we also liked the added benefit that an energy audit offered when it came to stopping energy waste. So we jumped on it."

An energy audit was conducted and as Bruce further explains, "The audit gave us some useful information which resulted in us making a couple of significant changes, including insulating an unfinished portion of our basement and replacing a very large picture window in our living room." According to Bruce, the window project alone cost over \$3,000, but they determined that if they were going to make the changes recommended, they were going to get the best glass and insulation, to insure the greatest potential for savings and reduction of energy loss.

"Not only did the audit point out these two major improvements that were needed, but it also noted several smaller things we didn't see before the audit was conducted. We added more weatherstripping, sealed our outside doors, and lowered the temperature on our hot water heater."

And the Northcotts have more improvements planned. "Kendell [the audit professional] said that although our hot water heater was working, because of its age, we should plan to replace it. We also identified another couple of smaller windows we plan to replace." Bruce monitors his progress using Fall River's free service MyMETER. "It's a great tool, and there is so much info you can get from it. I'm watching it and still learning how to best utilize it."

The Northcotts concluded by saying, "We learned what needed to be done, made improvements we would not have made otherwise, and along the way saved a few dollars on our bill each month and reduced our energy waste. Overall, it was a great experience."



The Search Goes On!



As this year marks Fall River Electric's 75th anniversary, we want to recognize our oldest living members. Are you, or is someone in your family, the oldest owner-member of Fall River? Were you, or someone you know in Fall River country, born prior to 1935? If so, we want to know because we plan to honor the oldest owner-member we can find at our annual meeting on June 8.

We'd like to hear what it was like when you first got electricity, and how it changed your life and that of your entire family. To submit your name or the name of someone you know, call Member Services at 800.632.5726, or email memberservices@fallriverelectric.com. We'll update you in a future newsletter as to whom we find!

Congratulations to these Fall River Members

To help our members stop energy waste and potentially lower their monthly energy bill, Fall River Electric's conservation specialist Jan Dean held a random drawing at the end of January to give away 25 free energy audits. An energy audit is conducted by a certified professional who reviews your residence for air leaks around windows and doors; checks insulation levels in your ceiling, floors and walls; and evaluates your appliances. An energy audit has a value of \$200 per residence!

Fifteen members in Teton Valley were drawn, including Lavere Beard, David Bergart, Charles Bomgren, Tammie Clark, Benjamin Hanner, Steve Hochstrasser, Charles Irwin, Lanny Landon, Omar Lazalde, Joy MacConnell, Rex Nelson, Nereida Ortiz, Julie Robinson, David Wells and Duane Williams. Winning members from Island Park and the Upper Valley areas include Karen Cameron, Tom Clawson, Keith Cober, Dave Holbeny, Jason Hymas, Andie Dee Lee, Barry Phillips and Kerry Warnke.



800-632-5726
208-652-7431

ASHTON
1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS
1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE
436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dan Skene
District 1
Rexburg/Rigby

Jay Hanson
District 2
West Victor



Boyd Bowles
District 3
East Victor

Debbie Smith
District 4
East Driggs



Brent Robson
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

Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
General Manager



Need help paying your energy bill this winter?

If you're having a hard time keeping up with your monthly energy bill this winter, there may be help available through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program. Contact your local office:

IDAHO 208.522.5391, 800.632.4813
935 Lincoln Rd, Idaho Falls

WYOMING 307.875.1890, 800.246.4221
115 W Snow King Ave, Jackson

MONTANA 406.587.4486, 800.332.2796
200 Yellowstone Ave, West Yellowstone

Candidates Wanted

If you would like to be considered as a candidate for one of Fall River Electric Cooperative's three Board of Director positions scheduled for election during this year's annual meeting, time is running out! Interested candidates must submit a petition listing the name of the person being nominated and signed by at least 15 members of Fall River Electric Cooperative. Petitions must be **postmarked by April 19, 2013**, to be considered by the Co-op's nominating committee.

Electing our board is essential to the successful operation of the Cooperative, as the board, which meets on a monthly basis, is responsible, according to the by-laws, to manage "the business and affairs" of the Co-op. The term for each of the three positions is three years, commencing immediately after the June election. You, as an owner-member of the Cooperative, have the right to elect your board representatives.

According to the Cooperative's by-laws, to be considered a qualified candidate a member must be a "bona fide resident in the area served," which means their primary residence or business must be located within the district they intend to represent. There are several other qualifications outlined in Article IV, section 3 of the by-laws, which are on www.fallriverelectric.com under the "myCOOPERATIVE" heading.

The geographic areas of Fall River Electric districts where candidate nominations are being sought include:

District #4 is the area that most easily can be described as the northeast portion of Teton Valley. Its boundaries are from the north side of Ski Hill Road in Driggs, continuing straight north past Hatch's Corner and ending at Bitch Creek, then east of State Highway 33 to the eastern extent of the service area at Grand Targhee Resort. This district is currently represented by Debbie Smith.

District #7 is the area described as "southern Island Park" – the boundary starts at the top of the Ashton hill and continues north to the Henry's Fork of the Snake River at Macks Inn, east to the Wyoming border, and west to just past the Fremont/Clark county line. Ron Dye is the current district representative.

District #9 is all of Fall River's service area in the state of Montana, including West Yellowstone and the Hebgen Lake area. This district is currently represented by Doug Schmier.

Mail petitions to:
Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative
Attention: Board Nominations
1150 N 3400 E
Ashton, ID 83420

If you have questions concerning the nominating process or the district boundaries for this year's election, please call a friendly Member Services representative at 800.632.5726.

New Service Helps Members When the Power Goes Out!

When the power is out at your home, business or vacation property, now you can report your outage directly to Fall River Electric via text message. With the proliferation of cell phones, tablets and other wireless devices, this new service from Fall River allows you to use these devices to report an outage. You'll also get a confirmation that your outage message was received AND a return text message when power is restored.

Visit Fall River's website at www.fallriverelectric.com and click on the Text Message Alert to sign up for this service. It's easy to do and no cost to you!

Now members can view a "real time" outage map on our website showing where power outages are occurring and the number of members affected, and you can report outages by text and receive power restoration text messages in return. But remember, we need your most current cell phone number and email address in order to serve you best. Just call a friendly Member Services representative at 800.632.5726 to give us your most current, and accurate data. Its Fall River's way of keeping you connected!



Save the Date

*Fall River Rural
Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting*

Mark the date of **Saturday, June 8, 2013**, on your calendar for Fall River Electric's annual meeting, featuring **free** breakfast, **free** prizes and lots of **fun** for our owner-members and their families. Attendees will also be electing three of the co-op's board of directors. Don't miss it!



Shop and Save with Co-op Connections Card

Fall River Electric's Co-op Connections program is designed to save you hundreds of dollars when you shop with participating local and national businesses that offer discounts for Co-op members. Here are a few of the merchant savings available locally:

- ▶ **The Regional Hearing and Balance Center** in Rexburg offers a 10% discount up to \$500 on the purchase of hearing aids.
- ▶ Gun enthusiasts save 5% on all ammo in stock at **Expedition Firearms** in Rexburg.
- ▶ Visit Yellowstone National Park and receive a 10% discount on your hotel room at the **Holiday Inn** in West Yellowstone, and on your way, stop at the **TroutHunter Bar & Grill** at Last Chance and receive a 10% discount on your meal.

Save on your grocery purchases too with Coupons.com, featuring hundreds of printable coupons good in more than 30,000 stores. These are discounts on top national brands you know and trust. Just go to www.fallriverelectric.com and click on the Co-op Connections "Quick Link" to the right on our home page. Lost your Co-op Connections discount card? You can print a new one right from our website!

Co-op Connections is the easy way we help our owner-members save every day!