

# F E R G U S

## FEATURES

Member Newsletter ♦ Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lewistown, MT ♦ [www.ferguselectric.coop](http://www.ferguselectric.coop)

## Preparing for the rate structure change in the year ahead

**T**HROUGHOUT the last four months, we have worked hard to inform and educate our membership on the new heat-rate credit and the upcoming rate-structure change.

The *Fergus Features* sections of the August, September, October, and November issues of *Rural Montana* magazine were full of information intended to help members understand why we are changing our rate structure, and how this change will impact our members' monthly electric costs. Our goal is to be as transparent and informative as possible.

We have received numerous calls from the membership seeking to better understand the rate structure and how their electric usage will be calculated going forward. I'd like to thank the many members who called our office to inquire more about rates and particulars about their electric usage profile. Each member was courteous and inquisitive as we worked together to understand the implications.

Several members are working with local electricians to take advantage of our new Heat Rate Credit to lower their monthly electric bills throughout the heating season. I encourage all members who heat with electricity to consider the long-term investment of an additional electric meter to separately meter your heat load. Once installed, you'll see a credit on your monthly bill for all energy (kilowatt hours) used. A member, who is a neighbor of mine, had a credit of \$26.77 for the month of October, which had mild weather outside of a



### MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

few days of snow. They are expecting to save hundreds of dollars annually with their new setup. We hope more members choose to take advantage of this offer.

I have been sending personalized letters to our residential and commercial members who will see the greatest impact on their bills under the new rate structure. In some cases, their bill increased on an annual basis and in other cases I was happy to inform members that their bill would be decreasing on an annual basis. Regardless of whether you have received a letter like this, if you have read our articles in *Rural Montana* magazine, and you still have questions about what to expect under the new rate structure, please give our engineering team a call.

Our engineers have done an exceptional job working through the details for those members who have questions. We can analyze electric usage to identify unique instances that may be impacting your monthly bill. Electricity and electric rates are complicated. Don't hesitate to call us and ask for help. From all of us at Fergus Electric Cooperative, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a joyous new year!

RM

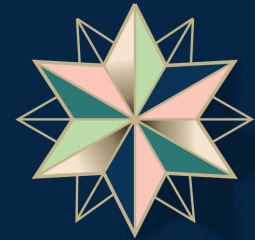
# WHEN SNOW FALLS DUTY CALLS





## FERGUS CREWS HANDLE MAINTENANCE YEAR-ROUND

FERGUS ELECTRIC PHOTOS



FROM OUR FAMILY AT  
**FERGUS ELECTRIC**  
COOPERATIVE TO YOUR  
FAMILY, WISHING YOU

A MERRY  
**CHRISTMAS**

AND A HAPPY  
*New Year*



FERGUS ELECTRIC PHOTO



# Capital credits general retirement checks

**O**UR Board of Directors is pleased to report that based on the financial condition of the cooperative, it authorized the retirement of \$932,484.72 in capital credits (also known as patronage capital), which included the balance of the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 30 percent of 2005.

Office Manager Sally Horacek said that Fergus Electric issued 3,104 capital credit checks in late October, paying approximately \$704,869 in capital credits to current members and approximately \$227,615 to former co-op members who had active accounts during the years being retired.

## Current Address and Phone

Every year hundreds of capital credit checks are returned to Fergus Electric Co-op due to an invalid address or the death of a former member of the co-op. We spend a fair amount of time trying to get an updated address or searching for heirs of deceased, former members. If your phone number changes or if you have plans to move out of the co-op's service area, please contact our billing department, and provide them with your new mailing address, so in the future, your capital credit check will not be among those returned to us as undeliverable or address unknown.

RM

# Co-op Month drawing winners announced

**O**N November 8, Fergus Electric Employees, Melanie Foran, Denise Jennings and Erika Mattaliano were each given the honor of drawing a member's entry form from the 64 forms submitted in the "October is Co-op Month" drawing. The drawing was part of a "Help Celebrate Co-op Month" promotion.

Congratulations to our three

winners: Marvin Antila, Geyser - co-op member since 1968; Paul Morse, Lewistown - co-op member since 1992; and Barbara Guy, Buffalo - co-op member since 2012. Each will receive an electric credit of \$50, which will appear on the next billing statement! Thank you to all the co-op members who entered this year's drawing.

RM

## IDENTIFY ACCOUNT NUMBER\*

### WIN A \$32.50 CREDIT

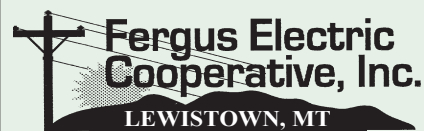
If one of the following account numbers is yours, call Fergus Electric (406-538-3465) and identify yourself and your account number and you will receive a \$32.50 credit on next month's statement.

**Account 397909, Account 397609  
Account 321677, Account 389864  
Account 397076, Account 377502**

### CONGRATULATIONS!

**Blythe Danner** of Lewistown, **Sally McBurney** of Hilger, **Louis Allard** of Roundup and **Doug Cramer** of Lewistown were last month's winners!

\*NUMBERS ARE DRAWN MONTHLY



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## FOR OUTAGES

**First:** Check the fuses or breakers in the building in which the electricity is off.

**Second:** Check the breaker below the meter.

**Third:** If electricity is still out, call a neighbor to see if they have electricity.

**Fourth:** Call 406-538-3465 day or night or:

Dale Rikala .....	406-366-3374
Bret Ophus .....	406-366-7523
Bret Nellerhoe (Roundup).....	406-939-0636
Carson Sweeney .....	406-366-0971
Melanie Foran.....	406-462-5650
Scott Olson.....	406-366-5822
Dan Balster.....	406-366-0975

## FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ferguselectric](http://www.facebook.com/ferguselectric)

**Carson Sweeney.....General Manager**  
**Dale Rikala.....Line Superintendent**  
**Sally Horacek .....Office Manager**  
**Janine Rife Didier.....Editor**

Fergus Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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District 3:	Brad Arntzen, Hilger, 462-5555
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District 6:	Jason Swanz, Sec./Treas., Judith Gap, 473-2462
District 7:	Bob Evans, Jr., Geyser, 735-4476

*Fergus Features is an award-winning newsletter.*

## Holiday closures

FERGUS ELECTRIC'S OFFICES IN LEWISTOWN  
AND ROUNDUP WILL CLOSE DECEMBER 25 AND  
26 FOR CHRISTMAS, AND JANUARY 1 AND 2  
FOR THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY