

Roseau Electric Cooperative

# VOLTS & VIEWS

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

APRIL 2011

*Be sure to attend Roseau Electric Cooperative's*

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, April 2**

Roseau High School Theatre

Registration begins at 9 a.m. – Business meeting at 10 a.m.

Lunch served at 12 noon

*Prizes – Lunch*

*Gym & swim for the kids (age 6 & older)*

### Guest Speaker

The recent wholesale power rate increases have had, and will continue to have, a significant impact on Roseau Electric Cooperative member-owners. Luther will provide background for the reasons of the increased wholesale power costs, look at how the recent economic recession has affected Minnkota's revenue and take a glimpse into how our future energy supply needs will be met.



**Luther Kvernen**  
Vice President - Generation  
Minnkota Power Cooperative



Front row, left to right: Chad Nelson, Stan Weston, Justin Olson, Tim Fevold, Mike Adams, Lori Peppel, Steve Severson, Marlys Gustafson and Tracey Stoll. Second row, left to right: Randy Spicer, Jedd Von Ende, Ralph Landman, Marc Halvorson, Deaun Solom, Pam Lundbohm, Stephanie Johnson, Rebecca Lundgren and Don Brunell. Back row, left to right: Ryan Severson, Chad Gregerson, Mike Millner, Rick Pederson, Devyn Brandt, Alex McMillin, Mark Jennings, Jeremy Lindemann and Ross Nelson.

# What do we get for our money?



**Mark Glaess, Manager, Minnesota Rural Electric Association**

The Interstate highway system stretches more than 48,000 miles. That was funded largely by gas tax. Income and sales tax pay for police, schools, national defense, public radio and whatever else is covered by this country's \$3.6 trillion budget. We may disagree about funding this and that, but at least we know that our tax dollars actually produce something.

Not so with the nearly \$100 billion that has been spent since 1998 on climate change. What, exactly do we get with that enormous sum spent addressing climate change? Has the earth cooled commensurate with the money spent? Has the tons of carbon emissions worldwide decreased with the passage of the 1996 Kyoto Treaty, which would have countries reduce their carbon emissions by 5.2 percent based on what was emitted in 1990? Why that target? Will that reduction actually reduce carbon emissions?

We don't know. Here's what we do know: 192 countries signed the Kyoto Treaty in 1996 (the United States did not). However, 155 countries were not bound by the carbon emission reduction. With a nod to China, these countries (including China) said convincingly we need to use coal, oil and other carbon emitting sources to fuel our economy. Between 1990 to 2010 the use of coal in China increased by 475 percent. More importantly, that country's gross domestic product, an indicator of wealth, soared by 375 percent. About 3.6 billion people have no access or limited access to electricity. Make no mistake, they want the same things this country has enjoyed.

Each year, according to James Fallows, who writes in *The Atlantic*, the world produces 36 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). That will not diminish. Think not? A major terminal is being built in the state of Washington for the

sole purpose of shipping Powder River Basin Coal to developing countries.

Scientists like NASA's Jim Hanson said the "tipping point" for carbon dioxide concentration is 385 parts per million (ppm). Today, again according to Fallows, we stand at 390 ppm with an additional 2 ppm emitted annually. Said another way, the world's production of CO<sub>2</sub> will continue to escalate – not decline. If Hanson is right, there is no righting the climate change due (or not) to carbon emission concentrations.

In 2007, then Governor Pawlenty promoted renewable energy, conservation mandates and a goal to reduce carbon emissions. Four years later every Minnesotan has higher energy rates as a result. We now know that the wind mandate has cost this state close to \$100 million because that breeze occurs when it is least needed. Those costs will only get worse as the renewable mandate increases until we hit 25 percent by 2025. How about the cost to reduce Minnesota's carbon emissions (which in the worldwide scheme does not matter)? According to a research paper authored by Peter Nelson for the "American Experiment," the cost of carbon reduction statewide costs, on average, \$208 per ton. Your electric co-op, which must spend more to meet conservation demand because our loads are largely residential, spends an "average" of \$473 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> – double the state's average. Australia is pushing for a \$25 tax per ton of carbon emissions. How long can the state of Minnesota pay magnitudes more?

Which again raises the question legislators who mandate this and mandate that must ask: What, exactly, are we getting for our money?

## IN THIS ISSUE ...

- 3** Black Woods Blizzard Tour

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- 4** New leadership

---

- 5** Lignite teachers seminar; GreenTouch

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- 6** 2011 power plant tour; Gopher State One Call

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- 7** Electrical inspectors; Member connection

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- 8** DirecTV

## VOLTS & VIEWS

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### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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**OUTAGE CALLS:** 463-1544; Toll-Free 1-888-847-8840; DirecTV 1-800-301-6904

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Roseau Electric Cooperative is committed to providing its member-owners low-cost, high-quality, safe and reliable electricity with friendly, efficient and knowledgeable service.*

# Black Woods Blizzard Tour

## *A ride to Fight ALS sets new fundraising record*

“The Black Woods Blizzard Tour – A Ride to Fight ALS” is the largest snowmobile fundraising event in the world. It has now raised more than \$3.5 million in its 12-year history. This year, a record 181 snowmobile riders and 54 sponsors participated in this single event, held Feb. 2-5, 2011. Riders drive 370 miles along northern Minnesota snowmobile trails completing a loop that takes them from Proctor to Lake Vermillion, on to two Harbors, and back to Proctor.

After many months of fundraising, The Polaris Team from Roseau was the top fundraiser. The team raised more than \$85,000 through local community events. Jane Evans, representing Polaris, accepted the Polaris 600 IQ Shift snowmobile donated by Polaris Industries. The sled will be used to raise more funds for ALS and the 2012 Black Woods Blizzard Tour. Second place went to Minnesota Twins Manager Ron Gardenhire’s team, who raised \$26,995. Coming in third was Dave Telschow’s team from Savage, Minn., which raised \$21,245. The event raised a record \$650,000, which is \$150,000 more than the goal.

Roseau riders included Rich Fredrickson, Mike Jorget, Dewey Hites, Dana Byfuglien, Jane Evans and Marlys Gustafson. Additional Polaris Team members are: Al Desrosier, Cindy Butler, Blair Johnson, Marie Reid, Janet Hetteen, Jeff Lovold, Richard Lynch and Barb Kotta.

Roseau Electric’s Diversified Services representative Marlys Gustafson was a member of the Polaris Team. She is an avid snowmobiler who was ‘over the top’ when describing the experience of her first ever Blizzard Tour. She’s still all smiles when she talks about the adventure,

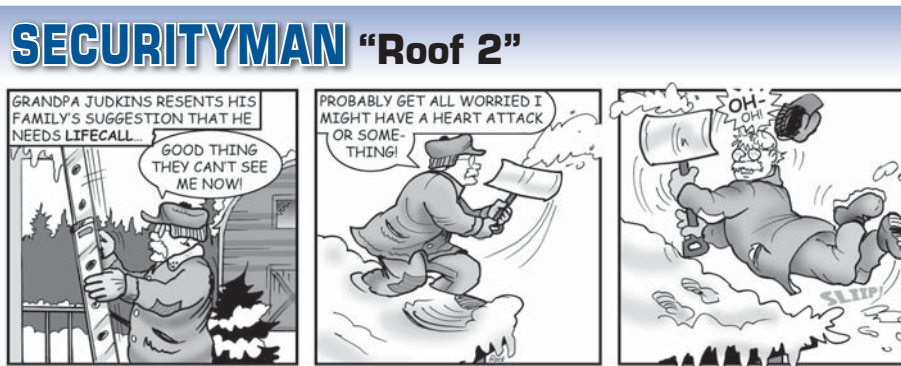


**Black Woods Blizzard “Polaris Team” 2011 riders are left to right: Marlys Gustafson (our own REC employee), Rich Fredrickson, Mike Jorget, Ron Gardenhire, Jane Evans, Dewey Hites. Missing from the photo is Dana Byfuglien.**

and the great people she met on and off the trail. Marlys is already looking forward to next year’s ride and eventually a victory ride when a cure for ALS aka “Lou Gehrig’s disease” is found.

The Polaris Team would like to thank everyone involved in the local fundraising efforts. Without you we could not be as successful. The ALS Association, Minnesota/North Dakota Chapter would like to thank ev-

eryone involved in the Black Woods Blizzard Tour, especially all of the volunteers and those who donated to the event. The ALS Association is the only not-for-profit voluntary health organization dedicated solely to the fight against ALS. Every donation helps people with ALS by providing support to patient services programs and it helps fund research into a cause and a cure for ALS.



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# New leadership

## *McLennan joins Minnkota as CEO*

**A**s president & CEO of Minnkota, Robert “Mac” McLennan says he’s focused on the immediate challenges that matter most in positioning the cooperative for the future.

“I’m very excited to be at Minnkota,” McLennan said. “I look forward to the opportunities and the challenges that this position will present. We have a great number of issues on the horizon that will impact our ability to provide reliable and affordable energy to our member systems. We’re going to have to look at these issues collectively and figure out how we can best work together to address them.”

McLennan officially began his duties on Jan. 10, joining the cooperative in the midst of some of the most significant projects in its history. In the coming year, Minnkota will continue its major environmental upgrades at the Milton R. Young Station and start construction on the Center to Grand Forks transmission line.

Minnkota Board Chairman Collin Jensen made the announcement of McLennan’s selection by the board of directors in November after a nationwide search. McLennan replaced David Loer, who retired after 43 years as a Minnkota employee and more than 20 years as president & CEO.

“We look forward to working with Mr. McLennan to keep Minnkota a great asset to its member-owners, and a great place to be employed,” Jensen said.

### **Looking to the future**

Over Minnkota’s 70-year history, it’s been rare to see a changing of the guard. Only three men – Andrew Freeman, Lyle Lund and Loer – have



served as president & CEO prior to McLennan.

“One of my goals is to continue the legacy that’s been established at Minnkota,” McLennan said. “We’re in good shape when it comes to resources and we’ve done an excellent job of transmission planning. The challenge lies in how to address market impacts and what is an onslaught of regulations.”

When discussing some of his major concerns, McLennan pointed to the legislative area.

“Environmental and regulatory requirements will continue to be big issues for co-ops, including Minnkota,” McLennan said. “It is vital that we develop and implement a set of

plans to meet the new challenges that are being presented to us.”

Prior to joining Minnkota, McLennan was the senior vice president of external affairs and member relations at Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association based in Westminster, Colo. In that position, he primarily focused on corporate planning, member relations, environmental compliance and development of business strategies.

He has previously worked for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) as director of environmental affairs and was an assistant to the chief of staff for retired Sen. Byron Dorgan. With NRECA, McLennan was directly involved

**“We’re in good shape when it comes to resources and we’ve done an excellent job of transmission planning. The challenge lies in how to address market impacts and what is an onslaught of regulations.”**

– MAC McLENNAN, *president & CEO*  
*Minnkota Power Cooperative*

in lobbying efforts and developing nationwide environmental strategies for cooperatives.

### Rural roots

McLennan is a native of Lander, Wyo., and graduated from Lander Valley High School. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Jamestown College (N.D.) in history, political science and psychology.

His wife, Debbie, grew up on a farm near Milton, N.D., and her family resides in the Devils Lake area. McLennan says his decision to return to North Dakota was as much a lifestyle choice as it was a career opportunity.

“I consider North Dakota home,” McLennan said. “I’ve had ties to this area for the last 20 years. The chance to come back and join a stable G&T within the co-op program is a great opportunity.”

McLennan says he will look to an experienced workforce at Minnkota to help make his transition smooth.

“One of the great things about Minnkota is that there are a lot of very good employees with great institutional knowledge,” McLennan said. “To be successful, we’re all going to have to be on the same page working toward a similar set of goals.”

## You’re Invited!

### Add Your Green Touch to Our State Parks

**WHO:** Roseau Electric Cooperative members who want to lend a hand (all ages welcome)

**WHAT:** Project GreenTouch is a cooperative program to help spruce up our state parks. (Plant trees, clean up trails, help build picnic shelters.)

**WHERE:** Hayes Lake State Park

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 7 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Help beautify Minnesota. This year marks the 12<sup>th</sup> year of a partnership between Minnesota’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and state parks. You have the opportunity to work with our statewide GreenTouch program volunteering with other cooperative members to help spruce up our state parks. Come join us! No park sticker will be needed that day for volunteers! Bring work gloves and a grass rake, if you are able. Lunch will be provided at noon.

**To volunteer, call Member Services at 463-1543 or 888-847-8840**

## Summer seminar offers educators a first-hand look at mines and power plants

The Lignite Energy Council, based in Bismarck, N.D., is sponsoring a teacher seminar titled, “2011 Lignite Teacher Education Seminar: Energy, Economics and Environment” at Bismarck State College, Bismarck, N.D., on June 20-23, 2011.

This seminar is designed to provide teachers with a broader understanding of the lignite coal industry and the important role it plays in providing electricity to consumers. The seminar includes discussions on how lignite coal is mined and converted into energy, and the economic impact of the industry on the region. It also includes a tour of a lignite mine, a lignite-fired power plant, the Great Plains Synfuels Plant (which converts coal into synthetic natural gas and other valuable byproducts), and the Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitor Center, which was constructed with the use of coal combustion byproducts.

Minnkota Power Cooperative is sponsoring 10 teachers from its Minnesota service area by paying the \$60 registration fee, plus round-trip mileage to the seminar in Bismarck. Rooms are provided at Bismarck State College at no charge.

Teachers who attend the four-day seminar and complete a lesson plan are eligible to receive two graduate credits in education, economics or science from one of three North Dakota universities: University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University and Minot State University.

Application materials will be mailed to schools throughout the region or are available at [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com). All applications need to be submitted to Sue Black, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 13200, Grand Forks, N.D. 58208-3200 by **April 15, 2011**.



## Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

**Northwest Community Action**  
312 N. Main  
Badger, MN 56714  
(218) 528-3258 or 800-568-5329

**Bi-County Cap, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 579  
Bemidji, MN 56619  
(218) 751-4631 or 800-332-7161  
(Beltrami & Marshall Counties only)

# Dig Safely.

1-800-252-1166

A reminder for anyone planning a digging or planting project – call at least 48 hours before you dig. It's the law!



The tour begins with a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperative in Grand Forks, N.D., to view the Control Center and tour the diesel generator plant and print shop. You will then ride to the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center for a tour of the newest additions to electric power. From there, you will travel to Mandan, N.D., where you will be treated to a relaxing evening at the Seven Seas Hotel and Waterpark, with a banquet and presentation provided by Minnkota Power Cooperative.

The next morning you will have a guided tour of the Milton R. Young Station coal-fired generating plant near Center, N.D. At the nearby BNI Coal mine, you can take pictures of the Liberty dragline as it strips soil from a coal seam. After lunch at the Square Butte Golf Club, you will begin the trip back home through the beautiful countryside.

Bus fare, meals and motel are included in the \$35 per member fee. Reserve your spot now by returning this form. You may include your payment or send payment with your electric bill (separate check, please).

### 2011 Power Plant Tour Registration Form

Names of Members

Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Customer Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ (All rooms are nonsmoking.)

Drop off or mail to:

**Roseau Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751**

You will be mailed a letter of confirmation with more tour information.

## OPERATING STATISTICS

	Through January (YTD)		Monthly Total	
	2010	2011	Jan. 2010	Jan. 2011
Consumers Served	6,367	6,316	6,367	6,316
kWh Purchased	20,169,902	20,709,627	20,169,902	20,709,627
% Increase (Decrease)	(10.79)%	2.68%	(10.79)%	2.68%
Revenue	1,593,677	1,606,702	1,593,677	1,606,702
Cost of Power	921,515	1,004,367	921,515	1,004,367
Other Expenses	431,423	418,401	431,423	418,401
Operating Margins	240,739	183,934	240,739	183,934
Nonoperating Margins	8,450	4,339	8,450	4,339
Patronage Dividends	0	0	0	0
Total Margins	249,189	188,273	249,189	188,273

# Electric Heating Reminder

## Attention Members and Contractors

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., requires that any resistance space heating (electric heat) on our service over 5 kW (5,000 watts) must be on our load management program. Roseau Electric will furnish the control device for our members. A sufficient backup heating system is **required** during periods when load control is necessary. There are several options to consider when choosing a comfortable, efficient heating system. Please get in touch with your contractor or the Member Services department at 218-463-1543 or 1-888-847-8840 for more information.



### SAFETY TIP

Do not fly kites, model aircraft or balloons near power lines. Power lines are a common sight in rural areas; we barely notice they're up there. For safety's sake, always assume "LETHAL VOLTAGE" near overhead lines and pad mount (on the ground) transformers.

### ENERGY TIP

Within your home or office, where do you use lighting most? By replacing your five most-used light bulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified lamps, you could save \$70 a year.

*Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors."

— AFRICAN PROVERB

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 2** – Annual meeting
- April 22** – Good Friday, office is closed
- April 24** – Happy Easter!
- May 7** – GreenTouch Day
- June 7-8** – Spring bus tour

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Friday**  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE NUMBER

**1-218-463-1544**

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

**1-800-252-1166 or 811**

### PAY BY PHONE

**1-866-466-1371**

### DIRECTV

**1-800-301-6904**

### OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS

**www.roseauelectric.coop**

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Cooperative owned and operated for over 12 years.

## Electrical Inspections

Except for minor repair work, all electrical work you do at your home, cabin or property is required to be inspected by a state electrical inspector. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring can be covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit [www.electricity.state.mn.us](http://www.electricity.state.mn.us) for more information. Inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7 and 8:30 a.m.

Roseau, Kittson & Lake of the Woods counties:  
Scott Stenvik  
16409 State Hwy 1 N.W.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
Phone: (218) 689-5406

Beltrami county:  
Mark Smythe  
Phone: (218) 751-0487

Marshall & Pennington counties:  
Glenn Erickson  
Phone: (218) 681-1803



## Dig meeting – coming in late April/early May

*Please look for your invitation coming by mail and RSVP.*



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All offers require 2-year agreement.\*\* Package pricing may vary in certain markets. Free HD requires Auto Bill Pay.<sup>1</sup>

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Authorized DIRECTV Dealer



Offer ends 7/20/2011. Credit card required (except in MA & PA). New approved customers only (lease required). \$19.95 Handling & Delivery fee may apply. Applicable use tax adjustment may apply on the retail value of the installation.

\*BILL CREDIT/PROGRAMMING OFFER: IF BY THE END OF PROMOTIONAL PRICE PERIODS CUSTOMER DOES NOT CONTACT DIRECTV TO CHANGE SERVICE THEN ALL SERVICES WILL AUTOMATICALLY CONTINUE AT THE THEN-PREVALING RATES. Free SHOWTIME for 3 months, a value of \$38.97. Free HBO, Starz, SHOWTIME and Cinemax for 3 months, a value of \$138. LIMIT ONE PROGRAMMING OFFER PER ACCOUNT. Featured package names and prices: CHOICE \$49.99/mo., CHOICE XTRA \$65.99/mo. Prices include a \$36 bill credit for 12 months after rebate, plus an additional \$5 with online rebate and consent to email alerts. Bill credit amount will change to \$16/mo. in months 13-24. Eligibility based on ZIP code. Upon DIRECTV System activation, customer will receive rebate redemption instructions (included in customer's first DIRECTV bill, a separate mailing, or, in the state of New York, from retailer) and must comply with the terms of the instructions. In order to receive \$31 monthly credits, customer must submit rebate online (valid email address required) and consent to email alerts prior to rebate redemption. Rebate begins up to 8 weeks after receipt of rebate submission unless otherwise stated. Duration of promotional price varies based on redemption date. **FREE HD OFFER:** Includes access to HD channels associated with your programming package. To be eligible for free HD you must activate and maintain the CHOICE XTRA Package or higher and enroll in Auto Bill Pay. Also requires at least one (1) HD Receiver and activation of HD Access. Account must be in "good standing" as determined by DIRECTV in its sole discretion to remain eligible for all offers. In certain markets, programming/pricing may vary.

\*\*2-YR. LEASE AGREEMENT: EARLY CANCELLATION WILL RESULT IN A FEE OF \$50/MONTH FOR EACH REMAINING MONTH. Must maintain 24 consecutive months of your DIRECTV programming package. DVR Service \$7/mo. required for DVR and HD DVR lease. HD Access fee \$10/mo. required for HD Receiver and HD DVR. No lease fee for only 1 receiver. Lease for first two receivers \$4/mo. additional receiver leases \$6/mo. each. NON-ACTIVATION CHARGE OF \$150 PER RECEIVER MAY APPLY. ALL EQUIPMENT IS LEASED AND MUST BE RETURNED TO DIRECTV UPON CANCELLATION, OR UNRETURNED EQUIPMENT FEES APPLY. VISIT directv.com OR CALL 1-800-DIRECTV FOR DETAILS. Advanced receiver instant rebate requires activation of the CHOICE XTRA Package or above. HAS ULTRA or above for DVR Receiver, OPTIMO HAS Package or above), judgment, or any qualifying international service benefit, which shall include the PREFERRED CHOICE programming package (included in \$39.99/mo.). Second advanced receiver offer requires activation of an HD DVR in the first free receiver upgrade and subscription to Whole-Home DVR service (\$3/mo.). Additional advanced receiver upgrades available for a charge. **INSTALLATION:** Standard professional installation only. Custom installation extra.

DIRECTV CINEMA: Access to DIRECTV CINEMA programming available at an additional charge is based on package selection. Actual number of TV shows and movies will vary. Some DIRECTV CINEMA content requires an HD DVR (HR20 or later) or DVR (DR27 or later), DIRECTV CINEMA Connection Kit (\$25) and broadband Internet service with speeds of 750 Kbps or higher and a network router with an available Ethernet port are required. DVR Service required for DVR and HD DVR Receivers. HD Access required for HD DVR. Visit directv.com/cinema for details.

Local channels slightly based on service address. Not all networks available in all markets. Programming, pricing, terms and conditions subject to change at any time. Pricing residential. Taxes not included. Receipt of DIRECTV programming subject to DIRECTV Customer Agreement, copy provided at directv.com/legal and in order confirmation. ©2011 DIRECTV, Inc. DIRECTV and the Cyclone Design logo, DIRECTV CINEMA, CHOICE and CHOICE XTRA are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.