

# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JUNE 2018

## Meeting the needs of our members

Roughrider Electric linemen are well into the construction season ... building new services, doing substation and system improvements, converting some overhead power lines to underground and more ... to continue giving our members safe, reliable and affordable electric service.



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

**Tanner Goetz,**  
Journeyman Lineman, Hazen

## What's inside:

- **Roughrider employee spearheads the fight against childhood cancer**
- **Thanks for attending your annual meeting!**
- **Power supplier updates**
- **Meetings minutes, and more**

# Remembering and honoring the life of Matt Siegle

## There's still time to register for Fishin' for the Cure

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



*Fishin' for the Cure is partnering with Solving Kids Cancer. Monetary donations are matched 100 percent, and all the money goes directly to research trails for children with the most deadly cancers. For a listing of the clinical trials funded, visit [www.fishinfortheure.com](http://www.fishinfortheure.com). Shown here are Roughrider Lineman **Tyler Schlosser** and wife **Katie**, and one of their sponsor children, **Grace**.*

Many of us have a charity or organization that is near and dear to our hearts. For Tyler Schlosser, journeyman lineman at Roughrider Electric in Dickinson, it's Fishin' for the Cure — an organization that holds an annual fishing tournament to raise money to fund the fight against childhood cancer.

Every year, more than 16,000 infants and children are diagnosed with cancer. It is also the leading cause of death by disease in children under 15 in the United States. Those statistics are more than numbers for Tyler, who lost his best friend and fishing buddy, Matt Siegle, to bone cancer.

Matt was diagnosed with osteosarcoma when he was 17 years old. He traveled to Texas to receive chemotherapy treatment, along with countless other minors who were fighting various forms of the disease.

Seeing cancer's wide reach, and the struggles children and families were facing, prompted Matt to establish Fishin' for the Cure in 2008. It raises awareness of childhood cancer, and raises funds to support childhood

cancer research, clinical trials, and patient and family services.

Though Matt lost his personal battle in August 2010, his legacy lives on through the dedication of his family and friends, who hold a fishing tournament in his honor.

The first Fishin' for the Cure tournament was held in 2014 on Lake Sakakawea's Beulah Bay. Over the past four years, the tournament has raised about \$70,000 in registrations, donations and sponsorships.

This year, Fishin' for the Cure will be held Saturday, June 16, again at Beulah Bay from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Headquarters are Eagle Pavilion. The day will include other activities including jump houses, a live auction, balloon release and barbeque.

Tyler is the tournament coordinator. He receives extensive support from his brothers, sisters, parents, aunts, uncles, godparents, friends, and even his employer, Roughrider Electric. Tyler notes that cooperatives are often referred to as an extension of family.

Fishin' for the Cure is one of few organizations that gives 100 percent of the proceeds to childhood cancer research.

"Every year we also sponsor two kids from North Dakota, and give each about \$2,000. We like to give back what we can," Tyler says.

They also like to remember and honor the life of Matt Siegle.

There is still time to register for this year's event. For information, to register or to donate and show your support, go to [www.fishinfortheure.com](http://www.fishinfortheure.com). You may also call Tyler at 701-290-2415 or email [tyvals@yahoo.com](mailto:tyvals@yahoo.com). ■



PHOTO BY TYLER SCHLOSSER

## Members, thanks for attending YOUR annual meeting!

The Roughrider Electric Cooperative directors, co-general managers and employees thank you, our member-owners, for attending the annual meeting of the membership held June 6 at Hazen High School. This year's theme was, "Aligning for the Future." We appreciate the interest and support you continue to show in your electric cooperative!

Members in attendance enjoyed a roast beef dinner, listened to various cooperative updates, and fulfilled the second cooperative principle — democratic member control — by voting to fill the board positions held Roger Kudrna, Troy Sailer and Darell Herman.

To learn the voting results and meeting highlights, read about Roughrider's annual meeting in the July local community pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine. ■

### Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **APRIL 27, 2018**

**When, where and who:** The Board of Directors met in Hazen on April 27.

**Agenda:** The Board reviewed, added to and approved the meeting agenda.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the March 23, 2018, meeting.

**Co-General Managers' report:** Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the managers' report.

**Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Board meeting and annual meeting:** Mr. Retterath reported on the Upper Missouri Board meeting. He reported on a decision made and resolution passed regarding load monitoring.

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference:** Mr. Kainz provided the Board with a report on this conference. He reported that it was a good conference, and provided helpful forums and education on methods for successful communications with the legislative body. Mr. Kainz met with a Connecticut senator's staff, and also met with North Dakota's representatives.

**NRECA annual meeting:** Mr. Schoch provided a report on the NRECA annual meeting. He stated that a highlight of the meeting was presentations on safety and promoting a safety culture.

**Lance Rambousek – Audit report:** Mr. Rambousek provided the Board with Brady Martz's Independent Auditor's Report.

**Chief Financial Officer report:** Mr. Craigmile provided the Board with a summary of his written report.

**Operations and Construction report:** Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. He provided the Board with an update to his attendance at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seminar. Analysis is underway of the current work plan to ensure that it would be covered by FEMA funds if there is a disaster.

**Legal report:** Ms. Grosz provided the Board with an update on the status of projects addressed in her written report. She noted a development with the City of Medora, and its initial requirement for a Franchise prior to allowing Roughrider to commence a project within its city limits.

**Upcoming meetings:** The next Board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT on May 25, 2018, at Roughrider's office in Dickinson, North Dakota.

**Other business:** The Board entered into Executive Session to address a number of strategic matters. Upon exiting Executive Session, there being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned. ■

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

## A message from Roughrider Electric's power supplier: Upper Missouri Power Cooperative

BY CLAIRE VIGESAA, GENERAL MANAGER



**Claire Vigesaa** (right), General Manager, and **Travis Thompson**, Board President

***(Editor's note: Upper Missouri Power Cooperative supplies 100 percent of the power distributed to Roughrider Electric Cooperative members. That power is generated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration. We asked Claire Vigesaa to update our members on what is happening at Upper Missouri.)***

Upper Missouri Power Cooperative (Upper Missouri) was organized in 1957 to serve the transmission needs of rural electric cooperatives in eastern Montana and western North Dakota. Today, Upper Missouri provides service to 11 distribution cooperatives: six in eastern Montana and five in western North Dakota, including Roughrider Electric Cooperative. The 11 member-systems serve 75,847 meters to farms, ranches, homes and businesses in 37 counties, representing 54,762 square miles. Our service area spans east to west from Hysham, Mont., to the Missouri River near Washburn, and from the Canadian border to the South Dakota/Montana borders; serving an area equal in size to the state of Iowa or state of New York.

Upper Missouri, when formed, served primarily rural farms and ranches. While still serving the legacy members, over the course of history Upper Missouri has enjoyed phenomenal growth. This is due to energy production expansion, including coal development for power plant production, Dakota Gasification Company, and more recently finding our territory in the center of a world-class oil/gas play. Upper Missouri is now a 1,238-megawatt system, requiring generation equal to the output of Antelope Valley Station and one full unit of Leland Olds Station.

Upper Missouri, like Roughrider, is governed by cooperative members. A trustee from each of the 11 member-systems serves on the board. Bill Retterath represents you and serves as the Upper Missouri treasurer. The board of trustees meet monthly to discuss power-supply issues.

Upper Missouri sources power from two major power suppliers including Western Area Power Administration (Western) and Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric). The majority and increasing percentage of power supply is sourced from Basin Electric. In 2017 it was 96 percent.

Upper Missouri has 180 delivery points, serves as the Southwest Power Pool meter agent, and is a transmission owner in Midcontinent Independent System Operator.

The primary function of Upper Missouri is to aggregate power supply on behalf of its 11 member-systems. This requires a sophisticated metering and data-collection system. In addition to securing the meter data for the monthly power billing, meters are read every two seconds to provide data to the regional transmission organization, SPP. SPP uses this data to determine generation needs for every moment of the

day. Upper Missouri, as the meter agent, plays a critical role in providing high value data; enabling efficient power-supply planning and operation across the region; and keeping your electric grid secure and stable.

Upper Missouri owns several joint-use substations in the region, but contracts the maintenance and operations out to Montana-Dakota Utilities. Upper Missouri also coordinates North American Electric Reliability Corporation compliance activities, assuring that assets are in tip-top shape and cyber-secure.

Upper Missouri staff represent and advocate on behalf of its 11 member-systems and their member-owners. Areas of advocacy include power supply; Basin Electric and the Midwest Electric Consumers Association (protecting hydro public power resources). Upper Missouri staff are also involved in advocacy at the Public Service Commission, state Legislature, the U.S. Congress and industry association activities.

Our industry is facing a lot of changes due to farm consolidations, industrial development and technology advances. We don't look like our grandparent's cooperative anymore, and we expect even more significant changes as battery storage and other electric technology matures. While we don't have all the answers today, our cooperatives are diligently positioning themselves to be the premier energy provider for their member-owners. Count on us to keep your electric system affordable and reliable.

On behalf of the Upper Missouri Power Cooperative board of trustees and staff, we congratulate Roughrider on a very good year. ■

## A message from Basin Electric Power Cooperative

BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GENERAL MANAGER PAUL SUKUT AND BOARD PRESIDENT WAYNE PELTIER



COURTESY PHOTOS

*(Editor's note: Basin Electric Power Cooperative generates the majority of the power purchased by Upper Missouri Power Cooperative and transmitted to Roughrider Electric Cooperative members. We asked Paul Sukut and Wayne Peltier to update our members on what is happening at Basin Electric.)*

The bond we build with our membership is our most important asset. Our proudest moments as a cooperative come when we meet with our members. We see our members throughout the year during meetings with member managers, Basin Electric board meetings, industry and statewide meetings, resolutions committee meetings, and, of course, our annual meeting.

These meetings are where the tough conversations happen, where input is gathered, and when our biggest decisions are made.

Our monthly board meeting structure has recently changed to include committee meetings before convening the board meeting. This has provided more detailed information

for the directors and we believe it will enhance our members' representation on the board.

In 2017, we discussed the stiff challenges we face. Dakota Gasification Company, which has provided great value to the membership for years, is challenged by low commodity prices. There's greater fuel competition in the markets. With the volatility of wind generation, there is uncertainty for daily resource operation in the marketplace. We're currently making the case with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the regional transmission organizations to receive proper compensation for our coal baseload generation as it remains on standby when the wind blows.

Rightly, our board of directors and membership are having frank discussions about the path we take forward. We have found the cooperative business model to be one of the best for finding solutions that have end-use consumers in mind. We are owned by our members; we work for them. No decision will be made without considering the impact on each Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D member, and community, homeowner, farm and business.

Our members demand that, and Basin Electric is dedicated to that. We were built to serve their needs.

Basin Electric was first formed to build Leland Olds Station — a giant of a dream on the North Dakota prairie. We are now operating more than 5,000 megawatts of generating capacity and serving more than 3 million consumers.

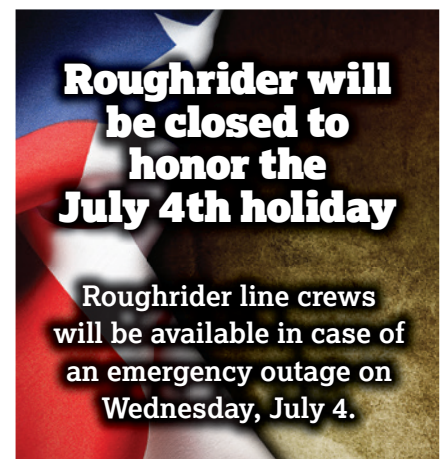
In the last few years we've built and operated assets quickly in response to members' needs. Whether it was explosive membership load growth in the Bakken, urban expansion, or load growth in the agricultural sector, the membership family has been there for each other time and again. We continually band together to do what we need to do.

Innovation is happening throughout the membership and among our employees at each facility. Every single day, we're planning for the future and adhering to a path of strategic cost management in order to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible. And we strive to do the right thing — both when it is easy, and when it's hard.

Basin Electric was built to serve our membership — the consumer-owners at the end of the line.

We are a co-op of co-ops. It's a unique structure that has proven to work.

And in our bond with our membership, the cooperative difference shines brightest — a light to shine on our flaws in order to repair them, and a light to shine up and out, illuminating our path forward. ■



## A message from Western Area Power Administration

BY JODY SUNSTED, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND UPPER GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL MANAGER



*(Editor's note: Western Area Power Administration also generates power purchased by Upper Missouri Power Cooperative and transmitted to Roughrider Electric Cooperative members. We asked Jody Sunsted to update our members on what is happening at WAPA.)*

### 40 years of serving customers sets foundation for 40 more

On Dec. 21, 2017, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) celebrated 40 years of serving its customers across the West with clean, renewable, reliable, at-cost hydropower and related services. But we, as an organization, are far from over the hill.

In our 40th year, we are focused on promoting and preserving the value of WAPA, from the reliable hydropower energizing rural America, to reinvesting in the expansive critical energy infrastructure that delivers it, to the role we play in protecting the grid from ever-increasing physical security and cybersecurity threats.

Much has changed for over the past four

decades, but our mission remains the same: to help keep the lights on for more than 40 million Americans. It is an enormous responsibility, an enormous privilege and a legacy we are committed to continue far into the future.

In our 40th year, Upper Great Plains (UGP) witnessed some changes. Bob Harris retired as senior vice president and regional manager of UGP after more than 40 years of illustrious service at WAPA. He was one of the final remaining "WAPA originals" who had been with the organization since the beginning. It was an honor to work closely with him and help build the WAPA we know today.

Before being selected as the new regional manager, I was the vice president of Power Marketing for UGP. Over my 32 years at WAPA, I have worked in multiple positions, including power contracts, power rates and finance. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to create a successful and bright future.

Lori Frisk-Thompson succeeded me as vice president of Power Marketing. She joined WAPA in February 2015 as the settlements and power billing manager. Lori has more than 30 years of experience in the wholesale energy industry, including rate and contract analysis and customer relations. She is a great addition to the executive team at UGP.

### 2018 hydropower outlook

The hydropower outlook for 2018 is strong. As of March 2018, our generation was 113 percent of average – a trend we expect to grow through the year. This is due in large part to near-record precipitation in Montana this winter. Snowpack in the mountains above the reservoirs is more than 130 percent of average and run-off will be high.

Greater generation can help keep costs low over time. The hydropower WAPA markets is often less expensive than other forms of generation. Even as electricity prices decline across the country over time, hydropower retains its financial value.

### Drought adder reduced as deferred costs repaid

We will celebrate a major accomplishment this year in keeping rates low: repaying the drought costs incurred during multiple years of drought just after the turn of the 21st century.

Now nine years after the drought, and one year earlier than our goal, we have repaid \$843 million in deferred drought costs thanks to collaboration with our customers to develop the drought adder. The drought adder created a unique way to identify drought costs and ensured a realistic repayment schedule to repay drought costs over time, and it worked exactly as intended.

When we reduced the drought adder to zero in January, we were able to lower the composite power rate by 15 percent, even as the base charge increased slightly. Keeping the drought adder as part of the rate, even at zero, allows us to adjust and respond to the inevitable variability of the hydropower resource.

We are also working to stabilize funding before the next drought. Together with our customers, we have increased our purchase power and wheeling reserve by \$97 million over the past two years. By 2020, we expect a full reserve balance to be capable of funding the first three years of a drought while still allowing us to fund critical capital investments.

### Responding to the call

WAPA's value reached new boundaries

helping fellow Americans regain power after 2017's devastating hurricane season. More than 40 lineworkers, including seven from UGP, deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands to rebuild the transmission system on St. John and St. Thomas following Hurricane Irma. For 60 days, our crews worked long hours to restore power after weeks of darkness. This was the first time our crews left the contiguous U.S. for power restoration.

As this effort was funded by emergency

aid through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, no costs of the restoration work was borne by our customers. The service we provided was incalculable for the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our exemplary crews were recognized nationwide for their professionalism, expertise and seamless operations even though our crews work across 11 different states at home.

There are exciting times ahead for WAPA

and UGP, and we stand ready to adapt and evolve in this new energy frontier. At the same time, as much as things change, our core mission remains the same.

As our role as a wholesale power and utility provider morphs to respond to the opportunities presented to us today, we remain committed to working with all our customers to continue providing the same value to you we have for the past 40 years. ■

# HEAD WEST FOR LESS!

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 Roughrider 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

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

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code (Touch2018) at the door.



**Call 1-800-MEDORA-1**

**for reservations and provide the  
discount code Touch2018  
to receive your savings.**

# STAY SAFE ON THE FARM



Overhead power lines are necessary to deliver electricity to hardworking farmers and ranchers, but those same power lines can also be deadly if not treated with respect. While you need to focus on the field and your machinery, Roughrider Electric Cooperative urges you to also watch for electrical hazards around the farm or ranch.

## BE AWARE

Farmers and their equipment should always be 10 feet away from power lines on all sides. Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air. Practice extreme caution and use a spotter to make sure you stay far away from power lines when you use tall equipment.

If you have purchased new equipment, be aware of antennas or other attachments that may pose new hazards. A newer, bigger piece of equipment may no longer clear a line. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year-to-year.

Power lines also may sag over the years. If power lines on your property are sagging, contact Roughrider to repair the lines. Never try to move a power line on your own.

Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call the cooperative to fix it. Don't do it yourself.

## FOLLOW THESE OTHER TIPS:

- Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles. Make sure you, your family and employees know the location of overhead power lines, and use routes to avoid the lines when moving equipment. Do this every year, as equipment sizes and soil conditions may change.
- Be aware of increased heights of equipment, especially new equipment with higher antennas.
- Avoid moving large equipment alone. Have someone watch as you move equipment to ensure you are clear of power lines.
- Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines. ■

## WHAT IF YOU CONTACT A POWER LINE?

Imagine that you are driving a tractor to the field when things come to a screeching halt. You look back to see what's stopping you, only to discover that you're tangled in an overhead power line! What do you do?

- First, DON'T climb out. If your equipment does contact a power line, stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others to stay away and wait until Roughrider Electric Cooperative arrives. Most utility lines are uninsulated, bare wires. Do not let your body become a direct link between the power line and the ground.
- If you must leave the tractor due to immediate danger, such as a fire, jump as far away as you can, making sure that no part of your body touches the tractor and the ground at the same time. Land with both feet together and hop or shuffle your feet a few inches at a time, making sure to never break contact with the ground or cause separation between your feet.
- Once you're off the tractor, do not go back until Roughrider line crews disconnect the power line.



[www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com)

**HAZEN OFFICE**  
**701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533**  
**800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545**  
**7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST Monday-Friday**

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

**DICKINSON OFFICE**  
**701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470**  
**P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.**  
**Dickinson, ND 58602**  
**7 a.m. – 4 p.m. MST Monday-Friday**

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson .....	483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah .....	873-4371
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley .....	948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley .....	983-4222
William Retterath; Center .....	794-8729
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson .....	483-8207
Dan Price; Hensler .....	794-3779
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center .....	548-8122
Callen Schoch; New England .....	579-4395

## MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund .....	Co-GM/CEO
Travis Kupper .....	Co-GM/CEO



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