

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 2021

Helping communities move forward by giving back



PHOTO BY LANCE PETERSON

On the job for Roughrider Electric, **Russ Goodwin** does monthly substation inspections and breaker settings changes, maintenance of voltage regulators, and general electrical work to keep the shops running efficiently and safely. In this month's local pages, learn how he is working to power local communities — by volunteering with Mercer County Ambulance Service.

What's inside:

- **Employees graduate from industry programs**
- **Save the date for your annual meeting: June 2**
- **Consider serving Roughrider as a board member**
- **Local jobs, local commitment**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more**

Volunteering — a civic duty

Meet Roughrider Electric employee Russ Goodwin; one of many volunteers who help power our local communities

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



COURTESY PHOTO

Russ Goodwin is the electrician foreman for Roughrider Electric Cooperative, and his wife, **Tani**, is an accountant for West River Telephone Cooperative. They have two grown children, Matt and Beth. Russ enjoys deer hunting and spending summers on the lake boating. The couple is waiting for the pandemic to subside so they can continue traveling and exploring the United States.

Roughrider Electric employees are required to participate in CPR training annually, as part of the cooperative's comprehensive safety program. Most employees seem to appreciate having the knowledge and skill they would need to save a life — and hope they never have to use it.

For Russ Goodwin, it's not a matter of if; it's a matter of when.

Russ, an electrician foreman at Roughrider in Hazen, is a volunteer with Mercer County Ambulance Service. He moved from Minot to Hazen in 1990 to work at Roughrider Electric, and started driving for the ambulance squad in 1992. He earned his EMT certificate in 1993 and has been responding to car accidents, medical emergencies and more ever since.

Russ says his time in Boy Scouts as a youth led him to volunteer for the ambulance service.

"I remember doing my first-aid merit badge. It was interesting," he recalls. "Minot had a paid ambulance service. When I moved to Hazen, Mercer County Ambulance needed volunteers. I saw the need and an opportunity to be a part of it."

Russ figures he's performed CPR about 10 times in his 28 years with the squad. Every time he's done it, he says it felt scary and unsettling. Even though he knows what he is doing, it doesn't get easier.

"The biggest thing I've learned is life is fragile. You can be here today and gone tomorrow," he says.

The pandemic has strengthened his resolve not to take things for granted. Like every business including your electric cooperative, the ambulance service ramped up its cleaning efforts in March 2020 due to Covid-19, and supplied additional personal protective equipment to employees and volunteers who provide a vital service.

Russ responds to emergency calls after work and on weekends, and even during work hours on occasion. It doesn't happen often, but when it does, Roughrider is proud to give him the green light to respond and help someone in need.

Russ can't say for sure that he's saved a life, but he has done everything possible trying, and he feels good about his efforts.

Mercer County Ambulance Service is looking for volunteers. If you have a driver's license and desire to provide an essential service, contact Marcy Sailer at 701-748-7370. She can help you train and become certified in CPR.

Volunteering for a sometimes fast-paced, adrenaline-flowing job isn't for everyone. No matter where a person pitches in, every effort makes a difference. In the cooperative spirit of working together for the greater good, if you have the time and desire to be a part of something great, Russ encourages you to give back to the community by volunteering in some way.

"I think of it as my civic duty," he says. "What I do for the ambulance service is my way of paying back the community."

Thank you Russ, for your concern for community. You are a living example of this seventh electric cooperative principle.

Third-generation electrician works to keep shops and substations running efficiently and safely

After he graduated from Minot High School, Russ attended the Bismarck State College lineworker program (formerly known as Bismarck Junior College). His father, Charles Alan, and grandfather, Charles Paul, were electricians so he knew he wanted to pursue a career in the electrical field.

After he graduated from the program, Russ worked one summer for a contractor. When construction work slowed in the fall, he moved back to Minot to work for the same electrical contractor as his father.

Work was steady, so Russ continued to work as an electrician. He began an apprenticeship program in Minot, and earned his journeyman's license and later his master's electrician license.

When a job opened at Oliver-Mercer Electric Cooperative (now Roughrider) in Hazen, Russ applied and was hired. Back then, co-op electricians were available to assist members with wiring projects. Now, they stay busy doing jobs for Roughrider Electric and the Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative family including Mor-Gran-Sou, KEM and Slope Electric Cooperatives.

Russ and Roughrider Electrician Lance Peterson do monthly substation inspections and breaker settings changes, maintenance of voltage regulators, and general electrical work including fixing lights and exhaust fans, and repairing outlets. They also installed and maintain the cooperative family's fire alarm and security systems.

It takes a team of employees to build and maintain a reliable electric system, and our electricians certainly contribute to providing exceptional service to our members. ■



PHOTO BY BRAD QUENETTE

As a volunteer for Mercer County Ambulance Service, **Russ Goodwin** is an emergency medical technician, or EMT, who responds to vehicle accidents, medical emergencies and more. He is certified to provide critical care in an emergency setting. The scope of duties performed by an EMT depends upon experience and certification levels. Some of the basic non-invasive procedures Russ has performed include controlling bleeding, performing CPR and administering oxygen. Russ doesn't know if he's helped save a life, but he knows he's done everything he could trying.

Giving Hearts Day: Feb. 11



Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour fundraising event for charities in North Dakota and Minnesota. Since the first event in 2008, generous donors have given more than \$90 million. One-hundred percent of which goes directly to participating charities.

This year Giving Hearts Day will be held Thursday, Feb. 11.

Consider volunteering for your

favorite organization! Your time, skills and labor make a difference!

If you prefer to give a financial gift, visit www.givingheartsday.org and click "ways to give" to find some of your favorite organizations. Or, contact your favorite local organization and inquire on ways to give.

Your generosity helps power our local communities! ■

Annual AT&S safety conference cancelled

The 57th annual REC Apprenticeship Training and Safety (AT&S) Conference, scheduled in January, was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Sponsored by the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), with cooperation from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, the conference provides an opportunity to reflect on industry changes and challenges, and to recognize the accomplishments the linemen have made in training and safety throughout the year. ■

Anthony Schaff graduates from Meter Technician program

Roughrider Electric Cooperative employee Anthony Schaff, meter technician, graduated from the Northwest Lineman College meter technician apprenticeship program. The tests are supervised through the NDAREC AT&S program.

To achieve this award, an apprentice must complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job learning and 432 hours of related studies. ■



Anthony Schaff



Russ Goodwin



Lance Peterson

Russ Goodwin and Lance Peterson complete Substation Technician Program

Roughrider employees Russ Goodwin, electrician foreman, and Lance Peterson, electrician, completed the Northwest Lineman College substation technician program. The tests are supervised through the NDAREC AT&S program.

This program expanded their knowledge and skills in the electrical utility industry.

SAFETY@ROUGHRIDERELECTRIC.COM

Roughrider is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others — before, during and after work.

Did you know that members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground. Should you see a power line issue that may need Roughrider's attention, please call the office or send us an email at safety@roughriderelectric.com with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!

Mark your calendars for the 2021 Annual Meeting

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will hold its annual meeting **Wednesday, June 2**, in Dickinson. Look for more information in upcoming issues of *North Dakota Living*.

Vote by mail 2021 Annual Meeting

In 2009, Roughrider Electric Cooperative's board of directors decided to offer the members the option of voting by mail. Ballots and instructions will be mailed prior to the annual meeting. Under the bylaws, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. A qualified member of Roughrider Electric Cooperative may become a candidate for election by being nominated by the Nominating Committee or by a petition submitted not less than 60 days before the meeting.

Mail-in ballots will only be sent to members upon request. To request a ballot, please contact Brad Quenette at 701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533 prior to May 12. You may also contact Brad at: bquenette@roughriderelectric.com

TO: All Members
FROM: Donald A. Franklund and Travis M. Kupper, Alliance Co-General Managers
SUBJECT: Nomination Process

To comply with Rural Utilities Service requirements, we must provide each member with a summary of the bylaws on the nomination process prior to the nomination of candidates for board positions. The following is the bylaw section on nominations:

SECTION 4. Nominations.

- (a) A Nominating Committee shall be selected by the Board of Directors in time for its first meeting to be held before the annual meeting of members in 2009 and for each annual meeting of members thereafter. The Nominating Committee shall consist of an equal number of members from each of the Cooperative's Districts and a minimum of two members from each district shall be selected. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on the Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors shall establish rules for the conduct of and arrange for the meeting of the Nominating Committee. The Secretary shall notify the members of the Nominating Committee in the manner provided by Article II, Section 4 delivered at least fifteen days before the date set for the Committee meeting. From and after 2009, the Nominating Committee shall meet at least sixty days before the annual meeting of members to nominate at least one qualified candidate for each directorship for which there is a vacancy to be filled by a vote of the members. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the Nominating Committee shall cause a list of nominees for Directors to be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative.
- (b) By petition, any fifteen or more members of the same district acting together may make other nominations for each directorship in that district for which there is a vacancy to be filled by a vote of the members, provided the petition is filed with the Secretary not less than sixty days prior to the annual meeting of members. The Secretary shall cause to be posted such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.
- (c) The Secretary shall cause to be mailed, with the notice of the annual meeting of members, or separately but at least fifteen days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the Nominating Committee and also the nominations made by petition, if any.
- (d) Unless voting by mail for directorships has been approved, the President, acting as Chairman of the meeting, shall invite additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until a reasonable time has passed during which no additional nominations have been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate at any single annual meeting of members.

The Nominating Committee appointed by the board consists of **Gordon Ficek**, Dickinson; **Ivo Schoch**, New England; **Alan Kadrmaz**, Dickinson; **Don Buck**, Zap; **David V. Sadowsky**, Dickinson; **Robert Fitterer**, Golden Valley; **Randy Becker**, Beulah; **Lee Alderin**, Center; and **Robert Schmidt**, Hensler.

Committee meetings will be held Jan. 22 and Feb. 26 via conference call.

If you have questions concerning nominations, feel free to contact anyone on the Nominating Committee or please call our office for information.



Local jobs. Local commitment. National network to make sure issues that affect electricity are decided in your best interests.



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www.roughriderelectric.com

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800-748-5533



Are you learning cooperative and community news?

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www.facebook.com/RoughriderElectric/

 **Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc.** ***
Dec 8 · 🌐

The best part of the December issue of North Dakota Living? This right here. NDL is the state's trade publication that features cooperative and community news. Members, this is your magazine, and there are many ways you can contribute! Wayne, thank you for sharing this beautiful photo and memory. To read the December issue, visit our website www.roughriderelectric.com and scroll down to the magazine.

NDL | co-op country

All I want for **CHRISTMAS** is...



GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

Wayne Schmaltz, a foreman with Roughrider Electric Cooperative, has the precious gift of time with his grandson, Riley, Roughrider Electric Cooperative

 You and 51 others  3 Comments  1 Share 

Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DEC. 18, 2020

When, where and who: A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Roughrider) was held via conference call Dec. 18.

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 Nov. 20, 2020, meeting.

Consent Agenda: The Board reviewed, discussed and approved the Consent Agenda, including proposed membership applications, service connects and assignments, proposed cancellations of membership, and requests for retirement of capital credit accounts.

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

Basin Electric Power Cooperative updates: The Board was referred to the agendas for the Basin Electric board meetings held this week. When available, the summary of these meetings will be circulated to the Board.

National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Organization report: Mr. Craigmile provided the Board with a summary of his written report and an update on the Rural Utilities Service loan application status. He anticipates bringing the loan application paperwork to the Board for its consideration at the January 2021 Board meeting.

Operations and Construction report: Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. The 2020 inventory has been completed.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 8 a.m. MT on Jan. 29, 2021, to be held via video conference.

Other business: There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned. ■

Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCIES INCENTIVES

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2021 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2021. The program for the heat pumps is for new installation or for replacement of a conventional heating system.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative personnel will check the

installation, and get the appropriate documentation and receipts. Once completed and approved, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will send a check directly to the member to help cover the purchase cost.

A maximum dollar amount has been set aside for the incentive program. The program will close when we meet this amount. Roughrider Electric reserves the right to cancel the program without further notice. One rebate allowed per member.

For more information, please contact Brad Quenette, director of member services, at 800-748-5533 or email bquenette@roughriderelectric.com.

Ground-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$150 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$600
CLOSED LOOP: EER >= 14.1 COP >= 3.3
OPEN LOOP: EER >= 16.2 COP >= 3.6

Air-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$100 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$400
HSPF >= 8.2 EER >= 12 SEER >= 14.5



Prepare for tax season with SmartHub!

Print copies of your monthly utility bills for your tax records by logging into SmartHub! Visit www.roughriderelectric.com and click SmartHub, and proceed to your billing history. If you have not signed up for SmartHub, you can set up a new, secure account. Please call 800-748-5533 with questions!

2-1-1 HELPLINE

FirstLink's **2-1-1 helpline** is a free phone service available 24/7 to the public. Call specialists offer supportive, non-judgmental listening ears and information about community programs statewide.

Text your zipcode to 898-211 or **Dial 2-1-1** or **701-235-7335** to get connected to help & hope.

MYFIRSTLINK.ORG



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; Dickinson483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah873-4371
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley983-4222
William Retterath; Center794-8729
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson483-8207
Dan Price; Hensler794-3779
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center548-8122
Callen Schoch; New England290-3836

MANAGEMENT

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

**Holiday closing for Presidents Day:
Monday, Feb. 15**

In observance of Presidents Day, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, Feb. 15. Line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
SUNDAY, FEB. 14

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