

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MARCH 2020

Filling bellies and hearts

Emaly Ridl loves her family's cows. She calls all the bulls Ferdinands because they are friendly! Emaly and her sister, Betty Jo, are the daughters of Roughrider Electric Cooperative members Alysha and Rusty Ridl, who are family partners in Ridl Farms Angus west of Dickinson. Emaly and Betty Jo are the fifth generation to live on the farmstead! Rusty is partnered in the registered Black Angus cattle with his parents, Roughrider members Arthur and Cindi Ridl. Alysha says they take a lot of pride in providing quality cattle with great dispositions. They also farm and have a feed lot for butcher steers. To learn more about Ridl Farms Angus, visit www.ridlangus.com. Thank you, members, for sharing your livelihood and joy.

What's inside:

- **Cory Halter extends metering mentorship through MSC**
- **Roughrider receives RESAP certificate at AT&S Conference**
- **Considering serving your cooperative as a director**
- **Annual meeting save the date: June 3 in Hazen**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more**



PHOTO BY JOE VOLK

Now the substation technician for Maintenance Solutions Cooperative, **Cory Halter** will share his metering expertise with Roughrider, Slope, KEM and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperatives.

Halter continues co-op career with Maintenance Solutions Cooperative

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



Cory Halter

Before cyber and physical security were big deals at electric cooperatives across the state and nation, Cory Halter walked the halls of Oliver-Mercer Electric Cooperative in Hazen and West Plains Electric Cooperative in Dickinson, passing time while his dad, Ralph Halter, worked. As a kid, Cory grew up hearing the terms member, high voltage and

power restoration. He never would have guessed that he would work in the electric utility industry, for these very cooperatives, under the consolidated name of Roughrider Electric Cooperative — and that his roots would lead to a 38-year career.

In December, Cory resigned as a meter specialist for Roughrider Electric, and accepted the position of substation technician for Maintenance Solutions Cooperative (MSC) in Bismarck. MSC provides maintenance and technical solutions for the member-cooperatives of Roughrider, Slope, KEM and Mor-Gran-Sou. While we will miss having Cory work full-time for Roughrider, he will still provide guidance from his post with MSC.



Ralph Halter worked as an accountant for Oliver-Mercer Electric Cooperative in Hazen. He moved to Dickinson to work as an accountant for West Plains Electric Cooperative, and was later promoted to office manager and assistant manager. The co-ops merged to consolidate in 2008, becoming Roughrider Electric Cooperative. Ralph retired in 1996.

The son of Ralph and Mariann Halter, Cory was born in Hazen. His family moved to Dickinson when Ralph left his accounting position at Oliver-Mercer to accept the same role at West Plains. He was then promoted to office manager and later assistant manager.

After Cory graduated from high school, he planned to

study the electrical field. Before that could happen, he was offered a job in the oil field, so he moved to Montana and then to Dickinson for work.

When West Plains needed to hire an employee in the metering department, Ralph asked his son to apply. Cory told him no.

“I’d been around the place all my life,” Cory says with a laugh.

After receiving more parental pressure, and wanting to please his dad, he decided to give it a try. Hired as a meter technician, Cory did a lot of driving those first few years, reading meters manually on the co-op’s commercial accounts, apartment buildings and substations.

As he gained experience and knowledge, he was promoted to meter specialist. He helped implement two automatic meter reading systems for Roughrider; first TURTLE, a one-way communication system, and later TWACS, the current two-way communication system. The automated systems eliminated employee drive time and improved the accuracy of the readings.

Jason Bentz, manager of operations for Roughrider, says Cory is passionate about his work, whether it is metering or helping co-workers.

“He goes out and figures things out, and if there is trouble, he fixes it,” he says. “Cory has the knowledge from his training on the multiple metering classes he attended, and he took the initiative to be versed in the line trade, as well. He had enrolled in the apprenticeship program and earned his lineworker certificate, so he could help the line crews when needed.”

In addition to advancing Roughrider’s metering systems, Cory served on a metering training committee in Wahpeton, and helped bring a metering program to the Apprenticeship Training and Safety division within the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

“He is a valuable employee because he understands the trade, and he wants to share his knowledge on how to do things safe,” Bentz says. “He understands high-voltage metering, and works with others in the trade to ensure substation metering is correct.”

From running across rattlesnakes to getting stuck in the snow, Cory has a lot of memories from his time with Roughrider Electric. One experience he’ll never forget was driving in the oil field, and a truck drove up the wrong side of the hill and they collided. Cory says thankfully no one was hurt, but the accident totaled two trucks.

When the oil industry exploded many years ago and required power to retrieve and move the fuel, Cory was instrumental in troubleshooting harmonics, or “noise”

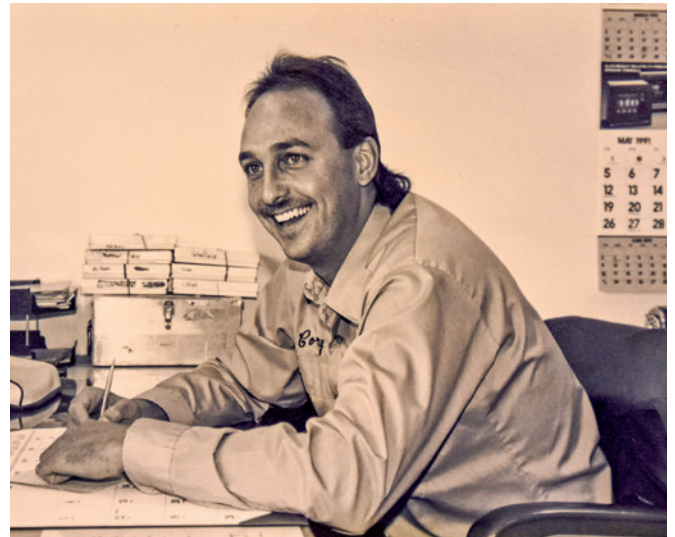
on the power lines, in partnership with the cooperative’s engineers and operations department.

A few years ago, he and his wife, Deb, moved south of Bismarck with their youngest son, who keeps them busy with traveling basketball, football and golf. Cory continued to work for Roughrider, commuting back and forth.

When the position of substation technician opened with Maintenance Solutions Cooperative, Cory evaluated the opportunity and decided it was time to end the windshield time. MSC is quite new, and Cory will help build and maintain the metering systems within substations. While Roughrider was fortunate to have a metering expert in-house, not all co-ops do, and Cory will be the go-to for questions and solutions.

Reflecting on the “kid” who initially said no to working for a cooperative, Cory has this to say about his 38 years on the job for Roughrider Electric Cooperative: The years passed quickly, and his father is still proud.

Thank you, Cory, for 38 years of dedicated service to our members and our cooperative. We look forward to working with you through Maintenance Solutions Cooperative. ■



Ralph’s son, **Cory Halter**, started as a meter technician for West Plains Electric 38 years ago. He advanced the co-op’s metering program with two automatic meter reading systems, one of which the co-op still uses. There are a lot of conspiracy theories about what meters can do. Cory says they can’t spy on a person by seeing or hearing; they only monitor power use. This can be helpful for members who vacate their residence or pump service over the winter, and if there is a problem with their power, the meters are capturing daily readings that can help pinpoint the issue.



PHOTO BY CARMEN DENNEY

As part of the RESAP recertification process, NDAREC Safety Instructor **Brian Lakoduk** (left) toured the Roughrider service area the end of July and beginning of August. He assessed and documented the safety of personnel and infrastructure at the Dickinson and Hazen offices, and at various substations and field sites. Joined by Roughrider Line Superintendent **Tim Ridl** here, Lakoduk photographed a 500 cabinet that houses 500 MCM cables that feed areas in different directions. He checked the labeling and tagging, and ensured the work was clean and correct.

Roughrider receives RESAP certificate at AT&S Conference

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) hosted the 56th annual REC Apprenticeship Training and Safety (AT&S) Conference Jan. 15 to 17 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The conference is sponsored by the NDAREC AT&S program, with cooperation from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship.

The conference drew representatives of NDAREC member-cooperatives, students of the Bismarck State College

lineworker program and the electric industry for classroom sessions, equipment evaluations and awards ceremonies. Training topics included fault locating, self-rescue, reasonable suspicion, personal protective grounding and bonding, 200/600-amp product evolution and application, cutouts, and how safety empowerment is the key to preventing disasters.

Christina Roemmich, director of safety services for NDAREC, says the AT&S conference provides an opportunity to reflect on current

issues in the industry, and to recognize the accomplishments the linemen have made in training and safety throughout the year.

Roughrider employees who attended this year's conference included Manager of Operations Jason Bentz; General Foreman Jim Block; Working Foreman Billy Kummer; Line Superintendent Tim Ridl; Lead Cable Locator Anthony Schaff; and Lineman Ryan Block, Kaden Ficek, Dion Gefre, Scott Leintz, Tyler Schlosser, Mike Steier and Brock Swensrud.

At the conference awards banquet, Roughrider was one of five distribution cooperatives in North Dakota to be presented with a certificate of safety achievement. They were recognized as successful participants in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program. Founded by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, RESAP aids cooperatives in identifying and applying best practices and focuses on continuous improvement in order to achieve safety excellence. ■



PHOTO BY NDAREC/JOHN KARY

The NDAREC safety services team awarded Roughrider Electric with three-year RESAP recertification at the AT&S banquet. Onstage were NDAREC safety instructors **Brian Lakoduk**, **Jeff Tweten**, Roughrider Line Superintendent **Tim Ridl** and **Mike Koenig**.

Mark your calendars for the 2020 Annual Meeting

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will hold its annual meeting **Wednesday, June 3**, in Hazen. Look for more information in upcoming issues of *North Dakota Living*.

Vote by mail 2020 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 11. 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 Kadrmas**, Dickinson; **Don Buck**, Zap; **David V. Sadowsky**, Dickinson; **Robert Fitterer**, Golden Valley; **John Smith**, Beulah; **Lee Alderin**, Center; **Eric Rosenquist**, Center.

The committee meetings were held Jan. 24 in Dickinson and Feb. 21 in Hazen.

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

TRACTOR TECHNOLOGY DOESN'T ALWAYS EQUAL SAFETY

As farmers use more equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farmers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

North Dakota's electric cooperatives have had accident reports from farmers who are trusting their auto-guidance systems and hitting power poles and other infrastructure.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action if necessary.

Regardless of the technology used on the farm, remember the following electrical safety tips from Roughrider Electric Cooperative:



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. Make sure you, your family and employees know the location of overhead power lines, and use routes to avoid the lines when moving 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 may sag over the years. If power lines on your property are sagging, contact Roughrider Electric Cooperative 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.**

Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS JAN. 31, 2020

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met Jan. 31 in Dickinson.

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 Dec. 20, 2019, meeting.

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

Mr. Kupper provided the Board with a report on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO conference. Part of this conference had an informative legal update presented by Ty Thompson. Capital credit litigation continues to be prevalent in the southeast. The managers also provided an update on employment law developments, including workplace bullying and harassment.

The North Dakota Statewide managers also had their managers' meeting earlier this month.

The SPP membership application process continues.

Chief Financial Officer report: Mr. Craigmile provided the Board with a summary of his written report. He reported that the year ended strong, with revenue being higher-than-budgeted, and costs were lower than what was budgeted. Roughrider's margins are also above what was budgeted, and thus it is exceeding the baselines required for its U.S. Rural Utilities Service ratios.

Legal report: Ms. Grosz provided the Board with an update on the status of projects addressed in her written report.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 10 a.m. CT on Feb. 28, 2020, at the J&L Building in Bismarck, N.D.

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 2020 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020. 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

ROUGH RIDER

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Annual Meeting 2020

June 3, 2020
Hazen, ND

Learn about co-op issues; cast your vote and elect three members to serve on the board of directors; and enjoy a hearty meal.

ROUGH RIDER
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



ROUGH RIDER
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

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



Become a fan of Roughrider Electric Cooperative to learn timely co-op news!
facebook.com/RoughriderElectric
twitter.com/RoughriderCoop



SPRING AHEAD!

ON **SUNDAY, MARCH 8**, DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS. REMEMBER TO SET THOSE CLOCKS FORWARD ON **SATURDAY, MARCH 7**, BEFORE YOU RETIRE FOR THE EVENING.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.

