


VE "C" Watt's New

Vernon Electric Cooperative

October 2007

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

August Storm Damage Review

We will remember the month of August 2007 for a long time. Vernon Electric Co-op experienced a tremendous amount of damage throughout its service territory and especially in the areas of SW Vernon Co. and NW Crawford Co.

It all started in the late evening hours of Saturday, August 18th with heavy rains and lightning causing poles and underground wires to be washed out. Washed out and flooded roadways hampered restoration efforts throughout the recovery efforts. The worst damage however, happened during the late evening of Tuesday, August 21 when more rain, along with very high winds, hit many areas and especially the areas around Liberty Pole and Red Mound. Crews from several neighboring electric cooperatives came to our aid to help restore power as quickly as possible. By the morning of Saturday, August 25th all Vernon Electric members were restored with power.

This was a trying time for both Vernon Electric members who were sometimes without power for several days,

and also for Vernon Electric employees trying to restore power as efficiently and safely as possible in horrendous conditions and some with damage to their own homes. We would like to thank all the members for their patience, their calls and letters of appreciation and for their help in getting the job done.

At the peak of the disaster nearly 35% of Vernon Electric's members were without power. Vernon Electric received emergency aid from Riverland, Oakdale, Scenic Rivers, Adams-Columbia and Richland Electric Cooperatives.

Damage from the storm to Vernon Electric's distribution system is expected to approach \$1 million.



Introducing E-Billing

The e-bill option at Vernon Electric Cooperative is now available and as an incentive you will receive a \$5 credit on your next billing statement after signing up. E-bill gives you the ability to instantly view information about your bill from your home, office or any place that you have access to the Internet. It also allows you to view your account, and gives you the option to pay your bill online through a secured Web site via the Internet. As has always been the case, Credit Card and E-Check payments will continue to be charged \$4.15 for each \$500 transaction, but the E-bill service and bill presentation is free.

To get started, simply access the e-bill site by visiting Vernon Electric's Web site: www.vernonelectric.org.

- ▲ Have your Vernon Electric account number ready
- ▲ Click on "E-Billing" at the top of the home page
- ▲ Follow the appropriate instructions on the screen and then click on "submit"

It's that easy and you're on your way to accessing your account. Not only can you look at the current bill that would have actually been mailed to you, but you also have the capability of looking back at previous months' bills and payments too.

"Not only do our customers benefit, but it also saves time and money for Vernon Electric by not having to print monthly bills, process payments and for the most obvious of reasons – it eliminates postage costs," said Karla Yanske, Director of Office Services.

Once you decide to sign up, Vernon Electric will e-mail a notification that the bill is ready to view online, along with a link to Vernon Electric's Web site. A bill will no longer be mailed to you after this point.

Upon entering the e-bill site, you will need your e-mail address and password to sign on to the secured site. A helpful suggestion would be to add the site as a favorite to your browser for future access.

"By providing this new billing option, we hope that our members realize Vernon Electric's commitment to bringing them the best services possible," Yanske said.

If you are interested in using the e-bill option, please visit our Web site home page at www.vernonelectric.org, or call 608-634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051 and ask how to get signed up for our e-bill service. You may also contact Karla Yanske at kyanske@vernonelectric.org.

VEC Open House

Friday, October 19

Come help us celebrate Co-op Month at the Vernon Electric Cooperative office in Westby from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Displays and Activities:

- ▶ Slide show of August storm damage.
- ▶ Latest Electric/gas hybrid cars on display from Honda Motorwerks
- ▶ Rural well water screening for nitrates by the Vernon County Land & Water Conservation Dept. From 11 a. m. to 2 p.m. Bring in about a pint of fresh water in a clean glass or plastic container.
- ▶ Blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screening by Vernon Memorial Health Care from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$10 fee for the cholesterol and glucose screening)
- ▶ Electric Grills
- ▶ Surge Protection Equipment
- ▶ Uninterruptible battery backup units for computers
- ▶ Renewable energy displays
- ▶ Door prizes
- ▶ Refreshments

Retreat Member Appreciation Picnic Winners

Roxanna Haakenson	Folding chair
Laverne Dunnum	Pyrex Portables
Ernest Stanek.....	CD/Clock Radio
Nancy Voelker.....	Bird Feeder
Ole Solverson.....	Tool Kit

Kid's Corner



Last month's Kid's Corner winner was Madelyn Quackenbush, age 7, daughter of Victor & Nikki Quackenbush of Viroqua.

Good luck & have fun!

Win a chance for a gift certificate from a local restaurant by completing the following activity and mailing it back to our office by November 7th. You must be 12 or under to enter.



Short Circuits and Fuses

Unscramble the letters in the words shown here to learn about short circuits and fuses.

- Electricity _____ to take shortcuts. If bare wires in a circuit _____ each other, the electricity takes the shortest path back to its starting _____.
- When _____ takes a shortcut, called a short circuit, the circuit heats up. This could cause a _____.
- Fuses or circuit breakers are _____ into our electrical systems to prevent fires.
- Inside a fuse is a delicate piece of _____ that is part of the circuit.
- In a _____, if a short circuit makes the circuit too _____, the tiny strip of metal melts and breaks the circuit.
- A circuit breaker also makes an opening in the _____ when there is a short circuit.
- When the circuit is broken, the electricity stops _____ and the power goes out.

Name _____ Age _____
Parent(s) or Guardian _____ Account # _____

Meet the Power behind the Power

Met Vernon Electric's newest employee Andy Hefel. Andy began working for Vernon Electric this past summer as an apprentice lineman. Not only should Andy be congratulated on his new position here at the co-op, but he also needs to be congratulated on his new marriage. Andy and his wife, Shawna (Clar), were married on September 29th! They both now reside in Hillsboro and Andy will be working out of our Hillsboro office.

Andy is a recent graduate of Northwest Iowa Community College's Powerline Program. While at NICC, Andy did temporary work for Linn County Electric Cooperative

and a factory warehouse. Andy is also a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army from 1992-1996.

In his spare time Andy enjoys riding his Harley, ice fishing, deer hunting and spending time with his wife, Shawna, and his yellow lab, Major. Andy says, "I really enjoy working for Vernon Electric because I love this area. The people here are very friendly and my co-workers are great to work with."

Please join us in welcoming Andy to the Vernon Electric Co-op community!



Local Calendar of Events

- Oct. 8 Trinity UCC **Potato Pancake Supper**, 4-7:30 p.m. in Mormon Coulee next to Hwy. 14/61.
- Oct. 11 New Hope UMC **Lefse Supper**, 4-7 p.m. Adults \$7, Children under 12 \$4 and under 5 free. \$25 max./family. 608-648-2828.
- Oct. 13 Vernon County Habitat for Humanity **Great Harvest Dinner**, featuring a six-course dinner prepared by world-renowned Chef Monique Hooker at Organic Valley in La Farge at 6 p.m. Includes an auction of several items such as autographed footballs. Reservations may be made at wendy.allen@organicvalley.coop or 608-625-2602.
- Oct. 13 The Viroqua Temple Theatre presents **Ensemble Amarcord**, the fabulous singing quintet from Germany, brought back by popular demand. 7:30 p.m. Gen. Admin. \$18. Mail order available at 608-637-2946. www.temple-theatre.com.
- Oct. 13-14 **Civil War Heritage Weekend** at Norskedalen. Experience the lives of the Civil War soldiers; live skirmish each day; living history demonstrations both days. 3 miles north of Coon Valley on Cty. Pl. 608-452-3424, www.norskedalen.org.
- Oct. 20 Valley Community **Fall Craft and Rummage Sale**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 608-489-2998.
- Oct. 20 **Fall Rummage Sale**, First Congregational Church on the corner of Losey Blvd. & Main St., La Crosse. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. 608-784-8137.
- Oct. 20 & 27 The **Viroqua Area Men's Chorus** presents "A Sentimental Journey" at the Coon Valley Community Center (10/20) and the Viroqua Temple Theatre (10/27). The Little Czech Dancers of Hillsboro will also perform. Proceeds to the Vernon County Museum Elevator Fund.
- Oct. 25-26 **Ghoulees in the Coulees** at Norskedalen. Haunted Halloween hike through the woods experiencing the many spook stations; hot cider and treat at the end. Reservations required. 3 miles north of Coon Valley on Cty. Pl. 608-452-3424, www.norskedalen.org.
- Oct. 27 **Pancake & Sausage Supper**, North Coon Prairie Luth. Ch. on Hwy. 27 at Newry. 3-8 p.m. 608-634-3352.

If you know of a local event taking place in late November or early December, we would be happy to advertise it for you, for free, in this newsletter, at our discretion. Please provide us with information before October 12.

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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by David Maxwell, Marketing and Communications. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:

VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
110 North Main; Westby, WI 54667
Call (608) 634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051.

www.vernonelectric.org
E-mail: vec@mwt.net