

# Sun River Electric Cooperative

## Ripples

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2527 or 1-800-452-7516  
Web site: [www.sunriverelectric.coop](http://www.sunriverelectric.coop)  
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Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

AUGUST 2011

### Flint — / noun, hard stone – something used for striking fires



Webster's dictionary offered the above meaning of the word flint. The description could well describe rodeo entertainer Flint Rasmussen as Flint tours the country as a Professional Bull Riding funnyman. His role as a rodeo clown is to build a fire under the fans with fun skits, hilarious one-liners, and encourage the fans to support the cowboys. Judging from the string of awards and acknowledgements, he may be one of the best ever to have crawled into the 'barrel'. Check out Flint's responses to a variety of questions directed his way.

Flint Rasmussen, a 1986 graduate of Choteau High School, is a member of Sun River Electric Cooperative and took some time out of his busy schedule to offer these thoughts about his career and accomplishments. Flint and family reside north of Choteau and still love to call Montana home.

**Q. Did you ride/rope before turning to bullfighting and clowning?**

**A.** I roped and steer wrestled on a limited basis in high school, but was very knowledgeable about the



sport from traveling as a child with my dad, Stan, who was a rodeo announcer.

**Q. How did you come to be a rodeo clown?**

**A.** After a dinner-table discussion about how I thought I could be funnier than the clowns I had seen, I worked my first rodeo in Superior, MT in the summer of 1987 at the age of 19. My brother Will was the announcer. I never worked as a bullfighter because I strictly wanted to be the entertainer and comedian.

**Q. What is the difference between the barrel man and the bullfighter?**

**A.** The jobs of clown/barrel man and bullfighter have a history of being combined, but over the years they have become two separate jobs. As a clown I am hired strictly on my entertainment abilities to

entertain during slow spots and during designated times. The barrel is an island of safety in the arena to give the cowboys and bullfighters a place to go in a big arena.

**Q. Give a chronological replay of your career.**

**A.** I started doing Northern Rodeo Association events around Montana and in 1994 felt like my career was ready to take the step to the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. In 2005 I signed an exclusive contract with the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) to work all of the Built Ford Tough Series events, which are the ones seen weekly on national television. I am currently on a break after flying to events for 20 weeks in a row from January thru May.

**Q. You have taken your entertainment act out of the arena to the television audience.**

**A.** The show was actually thought up by rodeo producer Jim Sutton as a late-night show at the Black Hills stock show in Rapid City, SD. He approached me to host it and it seemed like a natural fit. I was then approached to take it to Vegas, and have been doing it there for eight years. At the PBR World Finals and the National Finals Rodeo I host "Outside the Barrel with Flint Rasmussen," a stage

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# Flint

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talk show much like the late-night television talk shows. I use world-class cowboys as the main guests and also use country music stars, TV stars and comedians to entertain the audience. Some who have appeared... Larry the Cable Guy, Bill Engvall, Baxter Black, Taylor Swift, Luke Bryan, Joe Nichols, Jewel, and many world champion cowboys.

**Q. How do you manage your family time?**

**A.** My schedule with the PBR has me travel by plane. People in Montana see rodeo season as strictly in the summer, but I actually get a break in the summer. I start the first of the year and have a grueling schedule for four and a half months. I then get a break in the summer and our season ramps up busy in the fall again. My family picks a couple fun events to go to, but otherwise, they have a good life at home. The cost of travel and a life of hotel rooms and airports are not all that appealing. However, when I am home, I'm home. I do not have another job to go to. My wife and I raise and train quarter horses in Choteau and her and my daughter, Shelby, both compete in rodeos. My wife, Katie, was a Montana Circuit Finals barrel racer this past year, and she actually ran the fast time of the three-day rodeo.

**Q. You have received numerous honors in your career; list your honors and share which honor has meant the most to you.**

**A.** Eight-time PRCA Clown of the Year (1998-2005), eight-time Wrangler National Finals Rodeo Barrelman (1998-2005), seven-time Coors Man in the

Can award (1998-1999, 2001-2005), 13-time Professional Bull Riders World Finals.

Rolling my barrel into the arena in Las Vegas at the National Finals the first time was probably my biggest career thrill. I grew up watching that rodeo on TV with my family and it always seemed to be an unattainable goal. I know my family was as proud as I was.

**Q. Share a typical day on the tour for Flint Rasmussen.**

**A.** A typical day at a PBR event is a little different than anyone might imagine. Our tour goes to major cities like New York, Seattle, Tampa, St. Louis, L.A. and many others. So just maneuvering the city is the first chore. Often times we have media requests or autograph signings to attend in the late morning into the afternoon. I am at the coliseum four hours before the show. We have a catered meal for the crew and everyone on the production staff. We then have a run-thru of the show opening and show content with me, sound, lighting, music coordinator, announcers and sponsor fulfillment personnel. This usually leaves me about two hours to get dressed, ankles taped or any other type of sports medicine treatment, and a little relaxation time before the show. Our shows are about two and a half hours of high energy, so then it's late-night food and back to the hotel.

**Q. Most memorable wreck?**

**A.** A rider named Ross Johnson in Greensboro, N.C. a few years ago got his foot hung up in the flank strap of the bull and drug around the arena for what seemed like minutes. When it was over, several riders were helping



the bullfighters and everyone came out unharmed. It was wild.

**Q. Have you ever had any close calls?**

**A.** I just try to entertain and stay out of the way.

**Q. You spend time giving school presentations, what is your message?**

**A.** I mostly tell kids that there is something out there for everyone, and that we are blessed to live in rural America because it just almost doesn't exist anymore. We live in a small town; we are more creative, energetic and cordial than everyone else, so use that to get ahead in life. Treating people well will get them as far in life as any other quality.

**Q. What are some of your proudest moments?**

**A.** I have provided my family with a quality of life I could have never dreamed of. I make a better living than I ever thought I would, and I think we're raising pretty good kids.

I am being inducted into the prestigious Pendleton Roundup Hall of Fame in Pendleton, OR. It is one of the biggest and most famous rodeos in the country, and they feel my contribution to their rodeo qualifies me for their Hall of Fame. It is a huge honor because, at 43, I feel like I am young enough to enjoy it and share it with my family. It is my all-time favorite rodeo.

**Q. Anything that you would like to share or leave the readers of this article?**



**A.** It is important for me to have people understand that because of my exclusive PBR contract, I do not appear at full rodeos any more. I will be traveling to rodeos around Montana this summer with my wife and daughter, and I love being the driver, but the career move for me was a great move. I have seen things around this country that I never would have seen otherwise.

Thanks, Flint, for sharing this in depth look at your life and your career. Best wishes to you and your family. Keep on making people laugh; it makes this world a better place. If anyone has the chance to catch Flint along the PBR tour or his TV show, do so, you will not be disappointed.

Story by Brad Bauman.

Call  
811

before  
you dig

## Swap Column

**FOR SALE:** Two nice big boer buck kids, born in March, weights are already 42 and 52 lbs, either would make a good breeding buck, pictures available upon request. Bobbie Bink, 264-5762.

**FOR SALE:** 1991 Pace Arrow Class A motorhome, 30 ft, Chevy 454, sleeps 6, microwave, air conditioning, generator, low miles, spotless condition, always shedded. Carol Ostberg, 467-2806.

**FOR SALE:** Jewell scooter, new \$2,800; 8 ft x 12 ft storage building; 9 ft land roller, 8 ft, 3 pnt; back blade 3 pnt, 2 disc plow; 7 ft 3 pnt mower; seven older vehicles, \$875 each; SeaRay boat and trailer, \$1,800; Escort wagon, \$2,800; Escort 5 spd, 2 door car, \$4,800; goats, \$100. Please write to O'Neil at Fort Shaw MT 59443.

**FOR SALE:** 2007 like new Featherlite gooseneck, 4 horse, slant load trailer, carpeted tack room with screened windows and doors, 4 saddle racks, stall dividers, used only 3 times, great for camping with horses,

\$17,000. Leslie Shaw, 467-2268.

**FOR SALE:** Tennessee Walking horses; grass alfalfa, small squares; school bus camper. Eugene Peters, 467-2830.

**FOR SALE:** Older Kenmore 8 stitch sewing machine with cabinet, hardly used, \$100 obo. Vickie Converse, 467-2546.

**FOR SALE:** Brand - R hanging L, left hip for cattle, left shoulder for horses, \$5,000. Peggy Koontz, 264-5358.

**FOR SALE:** 2 kayaks, GT Dagers 7.5 and 8.1, without skirt, \$300 each, \$350 with skirt. Make offer for both. Kirk and Christa Mattingly, 868-7349 or 868-7352.

**FOR SALE:** 1975 John Deere tractor, bad transmission, \$2,000; 132 Trimbal GPS unit, \$200; Raven Cruiser GPS unit, \$800. Keith Smelser, 788-5642.

**FOR SALE:** 1030 Case tractor, good shape, front mounted dozer, tires practically new; 1969 heavy duty Ford pickup, good shape, good tires. Robert Bramlette, 733-2473.

**FOR SALE:** Ping-pong table board (could rest on pool table), \$20; new

Garmin GPS, \$60; Schwinn stationary bike, \$75; HP scanner & printer, \$40; Compaq computer, \$20; 8 ft small windmill for yard, \$20; socket & wrench sets, various sizes. Harold Gaarder, 467-2645.

**FOR SALE:** Tractor, David Brown, front mounted, hydraulic loader, 65 hp, \$5,000; 1996 pickup, F350, cab and chassis only, round bale handler, body rough, mechanics ok, \$5,000; boat, 15 1/2 ft MSD tri-haul, includes single axel trailer, 35 hp Evinrude Lark engine, not running, \$1,000; fence, 6 ft (72 in) x 50 ft chain link, several rolls never used, \$60 per roll. Larry Chiotti, 467-2028.

**FOR SALE:** New Holland 1002 bale wagon, field ready, good condition, pull type with a 56 bale capacity, auto tie. Bud Sather, 467-2647.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AN ADVERTISE-  
MENT IN THE RIPPLES  
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CONTACT SUN RIVER  
ELECTRIC AT 1-800-452-7516  
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KATHY AT kscott@sunriver  
electric.coop, BY THE FIRST  
OF THE MONTH. THANKS.

## Meter change project progressing

The meter change out project for the ACLARA TWACs metering upgrade is progressing well.

The McDermott substation region has been completed 100 percent and the Agawam substation area has the single-phase meters changed, but the three-phase meters will not be changed until after irrigation season is completed.

The next two substations on the list to receive new meters are Pendroy and North Conrad.

The Valier substation will be the final substation area to be changed and that will take place in the fall.

We thank the members for their patience with the small interruptions caused by these change outs.

The new meters will offer benefits to the membership as well as the operations of the cooperative when completed.

**Reminder:** Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.

### Be safe around power lines

Please remember to work safely around power lines this farming season. Be aware of power line heights and locations while moving machinery and know the height of your machinery. A good rule is to stay at least 10 feet from high voltage power lines.

If your piece of equipment or tractor comes in contact with a power line stay inside and call for help. Keep others away as well. If you must leave

don't allow your body to come in contact with the equipment and the ground at the same time, jump as far away as possible. Once you're off don't go back until co-op personnel tells you it's safe to do so.

Do not go near a downed power line. Always assume it is still energized. 217089

Every year in the US approximately 60 farm workers are electrocuted, play it safe, stay away from overhead power lines.

### Hidden numbers

If you find your account number hidden in this issue it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. If the number is not claimed, the credit will increase by \$10 each month until someone finds their number. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer:

**406-467-2527 or 1-800-452-7516**

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