

# 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)

After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:  
406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

*Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.*

FEBRUARY 2012

## Rates set for 2012

By Scott Odegard, General Manager

Primarily due to increasing power supply costs, on Jan. 1, Sun River raised rates for the first time in two years.

Our power supplier, Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative (Central) was forced to raise its wholesale rate to Sun River in October of last year.

The increase was in response to the expiration of a long-term contract with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Central's least expensive supplier.

The Central rate increase was not unexpected. Power supply prices are volatile, and Central contracts with multiple suppliers to avoid price spikes that might occur if Central had only a single supply.

So, what does that mean to us at Sun River? Most of us are residential customers, so I'll handle that first.

Our residential rate is composed of three parts, those being a base charge (charged to all accounts regardless of usage) a distribution charge

(charged based on energy usage), and a purchased power charge (the cost of power that we pass through from Central).

In 2012, the base charge will go from \$27 per month to \$29 per month. The distribution charge stays the same at \$0.0433 per kwh, and the purchased power charge will go from \$0.0412 to \$0.0457 per kwh, which is what we pass through from Central.

The average residential account is about 1,000 kwh per month. With this usage, the monthly cost is \$6.50 more than it was in 2010, or about 22 cents per day.

Other customer classes, such as small commercial and large commercial were handled the same. That is, the base charge increase is \$2 per month, the distribution charge stays the same and the purchased power charge increases to reflect Central's rate to Sun River.

The irrigation tariff was handled slightly differently. The distribution charge stays the same, the purchased power charge will increase to

reflect the wholesale rate change as before, but the base rate stays the same.

For those irrigators on the electronically read rate, the base charge is actually reduced from \$360 per season to \$348 per season.

We now have all irrigation accounts metered electronically, so it is easy to switch from the historic or budget irrigation rate to electronic.

Our research shows that the electronic rate will save a little money based on what your individual use is and many will find it more convenient to pay a monthly bill based on usage.

Security light costs were unchanged. As a reminder, you can still have your old mercury vapor security light changed to a more efficient high pressure sodium fixture. There is no charge for the change-out and you'll actually save money on your bill.

As always, we are here to serve our members. If you should have any questions about the rate changes and the affect on your account, please feel free to call me or our office manager, Leona Huidekoper, at 406-467-2527.

## Annual Meeting set for Fri., Mar. 30, 2012

It is time to inform our membership of our upcoming annual meeting and remind our members that cooperatives are democratic organizations that maintain their strength through member participation.

SREC's annual meeting will be on Friday, March 30, 2012 in the Fairfield Community Hall. We sincerely hope each of you will

mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

This year, the three (3) districts looking for nominations are: District 3 (Brady-Genou-Dutton-Power-Collins), District 4 (Conrad-Valier-Ledger-Dupuyer) and District 5 (Fairfield-Greenfield-Vaughn). The following language is taken directly from the Sun River Electric Bylaws. The first section

explains the procedure for nominating candidates for trustee and the second section specifies the qualifications necessary for a member to be a trustee.

### FROM SUN RIVER ELECTRIC BYLAWS

### ARTICLE III, SECTION 7: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES:

*Continued on page 5*

## Co-op Connections Card Corner *Spotlighting these businesses*

### Hausmann Studio

(Fairfield)

10 percent off price of complete framing package for one art print or photograph. The frame package includes glass, one mat, frame, and fitting.

423 Central Ave.,  
Fairfield, MT, 59436,  
406-467-3432.

email address:

[vinhaus@3rivers.com](mailto:vinhaus@3rivers.com)

### Sue's Therapeutic Massage

(Fairfield)

With a paid visit, the consumer may purchase a gift certificate with a \$5 discount.

145 5th Ln NE,  
Fairfield, MT, 59436,  
406-590-1042

### NAPA - K's Auto

(Fairfield)

5 percent discount on all items that are not special order.

414 Central Ave,  
Fairfield, MT, 59436,  
406-467-3409

*Show your card at  
these businesses for  
valuable discounts.  
Each month we will  
spotlight different  
businesses.*

## Swap Column

**FOR SALE:** 4 Polled Herefords bulls, 18 months old, \$1,600 each; 4 Polled Hereford bulls, 9 months old, \$1,100 each. Jerry Johns, 289-0587. 203421

**FOR SALE:** Vermont Casting Stardance direct vent propane heater, model SDV30 with 15 feet stove pipe with top caps, \$1,500, like new. Katherine Boadle, 750-2198.

**FOR SALE:** 1995 MF8570 combine; 1997 Morris air-drill. Ken Lee, 467-2877.

**FOR SALE:** 2004 Honda Rancher 400AT, 4x4, 1200 miles, \$3,995; 2006 Artic Cat 650 V2, 360 miles, \$5,000. Margaret Huckeba, 890-8305.

**FOR SALE:** 3 registered purebred Dexter heifers for sale, asking \$800/each. Dan Truman, 736-5358.

If you would like to place an advertisement in the Ripples Swap column, please contact Sun River Electric at 1-800-452-7516 OR 467-2527 or email Kathy at [kscott@sunriverelectric.coop](mailto:kscott@sunriverelectric.coop) by the first of the month. Thanks.

## Annual Meeting

*Continued from page 4*

The board of Trustees shall appoint, not less than forty (40) nor more than seventy (70) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than three members from each voting district, in which a trustee is to be elected in accordance with Article IV Section 2. No member of the Board of Trustees may serve on such committee. Each such committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least thirty (30) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for trustee, for their respective district, which shall include one or more candidates. Any fifteen (15) or more members, residing within their respective district, acting together may make other nominations by petition, not less than twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. No member of the Cooperative can be nominated to become a trustee of the Cooperative unless he or she has been a paying member for five consecutive years and a resident and property owner in the district he or she is to represent. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting or separately but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting a statement of the number of trustees to be elected and the names and addresses of candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the committee and the nominations made by the petition, if

any. The ballot to be used at the election shall list the names of the candidates nominated by the committee and the names of the candidates nominated by the petition, if any. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from each respective district from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nominations have been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate. Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from each district. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as trustee.

### ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE:

At the annual meeting of the members for the year 1940, the trustees from districts 3, 4 and 5 shall be elected for a three-year term, trustees from districts 2 and 7 for a two-year term and trustees from districts 1 and 6 for a one-year term. In the years thereafter, beginning with the board members next term all trustees shall be elected for a three-year term. All trustees elected shall hold office during the respective terms for which they were elected and until their successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

- is not a member of the Cooperative and a bona fide resident of the particular district which he is to represent or
- is in any way employed

by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the Cooperative or is an employee of the Cooperative.

- upon establishment of the fact that a trustee is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, it shall immediately become incumbent upon the Board of Trustees to remove such trustees from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Trustees.

## Reminder:

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



## 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**

### Board of Trustees

#### Officers

John Burgmaier, President .....	406-463-2522
Randy Parker, Vice President .....	406-467-2974
Roberta Rohrer, Secretary/Treasurer .....	406-278-5673

#### Trustees

Darell Stott .....	406-466-2504
Leonard Sivumaki .....	406-264-5482
Robert Pasha .....	406-733-2028
Richard Artz .....	406-562-3229
Manager, Scott Odegard .....	406-467-2527