

Steve Lucas, CEO

DON'T LET SUMMER'S HEAT SET YOUR BILL ON FIRE

As we enter what has traditionally been the hottest time of the year in Southwest Wisconsin, we here at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative are interested in assisting you with keeping your bills

low. We have several programs that can help all our members in varying ways. Whether you are looking to use less energy, lower your costs, or even out your month-to-month payments, we have a way to help you.

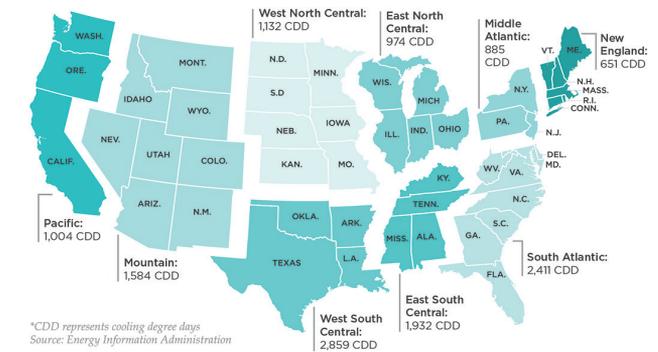
A great habit to utilize is commonly called the Summer Shift. By shifting your electricity usage to after 7 p.m. and prior to 11 a.m. each day, SREC will be able to purchase less power when demand is at its highest. During summer months, electricity demand is highest from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily and therefore power cost is also higher. When we all lower our usage during these hours, we all benefit from lower costs.

There are many ways you can lower your usage each day. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees and higher when no one is home. Wash laundry overnight and hang it out to dry using solar energy the next day. Start your dishwasher in the evening and let the dishes air dry overnight. Enjoy a picnic lunch and/or dinner once a week and avoid using the stove or microwave to prepare your meal. Lastly, close curtains and blinds to cut down on thermal heat rays.

In addition to following these tips, residential members can participate in SREC's load management program, which is a strategy utilized by our wholesale power provider, Dairyland

U.S. COOLING DEGREE DAYS

Cooling degree days measure how hot the outdoor temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. The map below shows measurements of U.S. cooling degree days in 2018 by census region. Extreme outdoor temperatures bring a higher number of degree days, which results in higher energy use.



Power Cooperative, to automatically shift electricity use based on demand. Many households do not notice when a load control event occurs, especially those members who are already using energy conservatively. During high demand, your usage is automatically controlled as clearly outlined in the program. Members receive a lower rate on their monthly bills, which equals real savings for you.

All members should also be aware of the PEAK alert program, which notifies all members that we need to control the load due to high demand. We can reduce our PEAK events by utilizing the Summer Shift and other programs SREC has available. When a PEAK alert event occurs, members are asked to lower their usage.

How Budget Billing Works

SREC also offers budget billing to assist our members by providing them with a fixed billing amount each month for a 12-month period. The budget billing amount is based on an average of the previous 12 months' use. You will pay the "budget amount" for 11 months and in the 12th month you will pay the "actual balance" on your account if you have an amount due. To qualify, service needs to be in your name for at least the past six months and your account balance must be current. For many members this fixed amount can be a great help in their monthly budget planning.

Each 12 months, the budget billing calculation is recalculated to ensure you are being billed the appropriate amount. The month in which your recalculation occurs will be the same month in which you signed up for budget billing. In that month, you may see an increase or a decrease in your monthly amount depending on your actual usage. You may start or stop budget billing at any time by simply contacting us.

If you have questions about budget billing, load control management, or if you want to sign up, please call us at 1-800-236-2141.



MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

This picture of a ruby-throated hummingbird on her nest was the featured photo for July in SREC's 2018 Member Photo Contest. It was taken by Karen Hlavacek of Argyle. There's still time to enter the 2019 Member Photo Contest; please turn to page 18 to learn more.



Father/daughter duo finishes second in national team walleye tournament

Give a man a fish, and he eats for a day; teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime, an old proverb says.

Here's a recent update: Teach a daughter to fish, and she'll win a boat and cash with you at a walleye tournament, all while coming out of her shell.

Kate DeVoss, 18, and her father, Paul DeVoss, placed second at Cabela's National Team Championship in May 2018, and a new Ranger fishing boat was delivered in October.

"She fished her heart out for that boat," Paul DeVoss said. Kate caught four of the five fish that won the boat.

The tournament brought the top 200 teams in the nation to La Crosse. But the only father-daughter team was a favorite.

"Every team wanted us to win" by the last day because they had come so far, he said.

The first day, they caught their limit quickly. But Kate got a little too much sun and wasn't feeling her best on the second day. But she persevered.

"Just the thought of it was crazy to me. I didn't know you could actually win a boat," she said.

They split the cash award of \$10,000, but the boat is hers. They'll take turns at the helm.

"Four years ago, this kid wouldn't say boo in front of anybody," Paul DeVoss said.

Now, she has done television interviews and spoken in front of a crowd of a couple hundred people at the tournament.

It's confidence, she said, but also "not being scared to say something wrong. It's helped a lot with school presentations."

And she's more comfortable with people she doesn't know well. "Before, I'd stand behind him and hold on to his arm," she said.

"Now, it's like 'Get out of the way, Dad,'" he said.

She is a server at the Crooked Oar, a bar near the Mississippi just north of Prairie du Chien that he bought about a year ago, and "here everybody wants to talk to her because they all know how well she did."

Fishing with his own child, doing what they love to do

together, is “a rush,” he said.

“It’s a blast,” Paul DeVoss said of fishing with his daughter. “It’s so much fun. When I fished professionally, I worried about going out there with a guy. With her, it’s just another day of fishing.”

“I like just being with him. I get kind of shy around a lot of people,” but with her dad, it’s comfortable. “We get along really well,” she said.

In the last three years, they’ve had eight top ten finishes and two wins at tournaments. “It’s been a fun year,” he said.

“She’s very patient when she’s fishing, which is good,” Paul said.

Some people “didn’t think that girls can go up to that high a level of fishing,” she said. “Anyone can do it.”

They have fished the Mississippi River from Red Wing, Minnesota, to the Quad Cities in Iowa.

“I like shallow water,” she said. “I love being on the water. I’ve always loved being on a boat. It gives me time to think, and I get away from all the drama.”

“I call it my church,” he said.

And they talk while they’re on the boat.

“We never shut up, either one of us,” while they’re on the boat, he said.

Sometimes she sings, but that was partly because the old boat didn’t have a radio. Kate made sure the new one does.

“She’s still learning how to read the water. She’s getting really good at it. These fish are unseen,” but clues like rock piles lead to good fishing spots, he said.

If the water stays open, they’ll keep fishing out of the boat. If the water freezes, they’ll start ice fishing.

Paul DeVoss plans on getting his captain’s license from

the U.S. Coast Guard and becoming a guide. The license is required to guide on navigable waters like the Mississippi River or the Great Lakes. “People want to learn to fish the river,” he said.

“I build hotels,” he said. “I’ve been doing it for years, from West Virginia to North Dakota. I’m tired of traveling. I’m ready to be home.”

Kate will graduate from River Ridge High School next spring, and plans to continue her education at Western

Technical College in La Crosse. She doesn’t want to go too far from home.

From fishing with her father, she learned “don’t rush things. Don’t overthink it. Normally your first instinct is always right. Take your time. Always have fun,

because if you’re not having fun, it would just be boring.”

“She has taught me a lot of patience. She definitely has more patience than me. That’s why she does well,” he said.

But to each of them, winning isn’t the most important thing about fishing together.

“Whether we win or lose, it’s okay, because I got another day to spend with him,” she said.

That lack of stress might be one reason they do so well in tournaments, he said.

“She’s my best friend when we get in the boat. It doesn’t matter if we win or lose. We’re just together for another day of fishing,” he said.—*Mary Glindinning*

“It doesn’t matter if we win or lose. We’re just together for another day of fishing.”—Paul DeVoss



Paul DeVoss and his daughter, Kate, won more than just trophies at Cabela’s National Team Championships. They also won a new Ranger fishing boat (pictured opposite page) and a cash prize.



MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST



**DEADLINE
APPROACHING**

Your photo could be featured in our 2020 Member Calendar!

Submit your favorite high-resolution photos capturing rural life in SREC's service territory to jmartin@srec.net by **August 23**.

For a complete list of contest rules and criteria as well as downloadable forms, visit our website, www.sre.coop.

**Happy
4TH
of JULY**

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our offices will be closed
Thursday, July 4.
Have a safe and happy holiday!

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:

- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks, including sparklers, which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.



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