

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

2018 SREC Calendars



At the Member Appreciations, we will be giving out a calendar to each member. Any remaining calendars will be distributed between each office location.

Thanks to all of our members that submitted pictures for our 2018 Photo Contest! We had a hard time choosing the pictures for our 2018 calendar. Also inside the calendar are pictures of honorable mention. We had a great response and plan to do this again next year! The contest will open again next spring. Like this year, we will be capturing the life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape). So please keep taking pictures!



Member Appreciation Celebrations

October 17th: Lancaster
231 North Sheridan Street

October 18th: Gays Mills
15985 State Hwy 131

October 19th: Darlington
300 Barth Drive

Each celebration will be held from 4 to 7 p.m.

Celebrations will feature:

- A dinner of BBQ Pork Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Cheese Curds and Frosted Brownies.
- Browse through displays to learn what kinds of services SREC offers.
- Learn how Focus on Energy can help you manage your energy costs.
- Bucket Truck Rides
- Door Prizes and Giveaways
- Blood Pressure checks and flu shots (if available)



Are you secure?

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Sony, Target, Home Depot, Yahoo and even the U.S. Office of Personnel Management have all been attacked by cybercriminals. Let's face it: In today's world, the cybersecurity threats facing our nation can seem overwhelming - and downright scary. Cybersecurity, specifically the protection and security of consumer-members' assets and the nation's complex, interconnected network of power plants, transmission lines and distribution facilities is a top priority for electric cooperatives and other segments of the electric power industry.

This October, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is participating in National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM). Since its inception under leadership from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance, NCSAM has grown exponentially, reaching consumers, small and medium-sized businesses, corporations, educational institutions and young people across the nation.

By raising awareness and understanding of basic cybersecurity practices, we can all work together to combat cyberthreats.

You have a role to play in ensuring the security of your personal and professional data. Use the tips below to safeguard your computer:

- Keep all software on internet-connected devices - including PCs, tablets and smartphones - up to date to reduce risk of infection from malware.
- Create long passwords that only you will remember, and change them every six months. Remember, a strong password is at least 12 characters long.

- Avoid the use of thumb drives and other portable memory devices.
- Don't click on weblinks or attached files in emails when you're not certain of who the sender is.
- Keep pace with new ways to stay safe online. Check trusted websites for the latest information. Share security tips with friends, family and colleagues, and encourage them to be web wise.

We hope you will join us in raising cybersecurity awareness. Use and follow #cyberaware on social media to show and share your support. To learn more about NCSAM, visit www.staysafeonline.org.

Alison Kennedy writes on business and technology strategies and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. ■

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall/Winter Energy Tip: When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature - set it and forget it!

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



How long should your password be?

The length and complexity of a password has a direct impact on how difficult it would be to crack.

NUMBER OF CHARACTERS

TIME TO CRACK PASSWORD



.29 milliseconds



Five days



200 years

Solar Panel Safety Precautions for Emergency Responders

Emergency responders are facing unexpected challenges as the use of residential PV (solar energy) systems increases. Rooftop solar panels can present significant hazards for emergency responders if a fire occurs.

Basic safety precautions should be taken into account by all firefighters and other emergency personnel when responding to a fire at a home with a PV system:

- Note the time of day. Fires that occur during the daytime present greater danger because the PV system is generating electricity.
- Inform the IC (incident commander) that a PV system is present.
- Note that securing the main electrical does not necessarily shut down solar modules. If a battery system is present, the home may still be energized even if the main electric service is disconnected.
- Carefully cover all solar modules with 100 percent light-blocking materials to stop electrical generation.
- Never break, remove or walk on solar panels. Treat all wiring and components as energized.



Source: The Fire Protection Research Foundation

*These are basic solar panel safety tips for emergency responders. Emergency personnel should contact the local electric utility for more information.

Recipes

Thank you Rita Kruser (Cuba City) for sharing your Vidalia Onion Pie recipe with our members!

Vidalia Onion Pie

- 1 c. Crushed Saltine Crackers
- 5 Tbsp Butter, melted
- 2-1/2 c. Thinly Sliced Vidalia Onions
- 2 Tbsp Oil
- 2 Eggs
- 3/4 c. Milk
- Salt and Pepper
- 1/4 Pound Grated Swiss Cheese



Combine crackers and butter and press into an 8-inch pie pan. Bake at 350 for 8-10 minutes.

Sauté onions in oil until tender; put in the pie shell. Mix remaining ingredients except cheese and pour over onions. Top with swiss cheese. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes. Serves 8.

Thank you Cathy Skaife (Platteville) for sharing your Pumpkin Lust Cake this month!

Pumpkin Lust Cake

- 1/2 cup Melted Butter
- 1 cup Flour
- 1 cup Chopped Pecans
- 2 Tbsp Sugar
- 8 oz. pkg Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 cup Powdered Sugar
- 16 oz. container Cool Whip
- 2 pkgs (3.4 oz) of jello Instant Pumpkin Spice Pudding
- 3 cups cold Milk
- Nutmeg for sprinkling



Combine butter, flour, pecans and sugar. Press into 13x9 baking dish. Bake 350 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes. Cool completely. Beat cream cheese, powdered sugar and 1 1/2 cups cool whip until smooth. Spread over crust. Mix pudding mixes with cold milk, whisking for several minutes. Set in fridge for 10 minutes to let it thicken. Spread over the cream cheese layer. Top with remaining container of cool whip. Sprinkle with nutmeg. Keep refrigerated.

Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service, Inc. will still be trimming on the Steuben Substation in Crawford County.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.

WATT'S HAPPENING

Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

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