

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



The success of the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally requires many megawatts of power provided by member-owned electric cooperatives, including lighting the main stage at the Buffalo Chip

Photo by Travel South Dakota

The Rally

Keeping the Sturgis Rally juiced up
Pages 8-9

High-flying fun at Catfish Bay
Pages 12-13



The FEM Board of Directors meets with FEM staff.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on June 21, 2022, pursuant to due call and notice. It being determined that a quorum was present, President Gary Bachman called the meeting to order. Secretary Eric Odenbach kept minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, Kelly Melius, Eric Odenbach, Tom Thorpe, General Manager/CEO Scott Moore, Line Superintendent Rob Vetch, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer.

Ryan Holien was present until his board report was given.

Changes to the agenda: none
Changes/Additions to Minutes from May 17, 2022, meeting: none

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Eric Odenbach, seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to acknowledge manager, staff, and electrical department

reports.

The board acknowledged reviewing the May 2022 Cyber Security Report.

Resolutions, Contracts, and

Nominations: Kelly Melius nominated Tom Thorpe as East River Voting Delegate and Eric Odenbach as Alternate Voting Delegate; motion seconded by Paula Petersen. Motion for nominations to cease and unanimous ballot was cast for Tom Thorpe as East River Voting Delegate and Eric Odenbach as Alternate Voting Delegate.

Board acknowledged receiving notice of NRECA proposed amendments, CFC board position, Federated Annual Meeting and board election, along with WAPA rate increase.

Tom Thorpe nominated Eric Odenbach as East River Resolution Committee Delegate; motion seconded by Kelly Melius. Motion for nominations to cease and unanimous ballot was cast for Eric Odenbach as East River Resolution Committee Delegate.

Membership Business: Board acknowledged membership business. Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Paula Petersen to approve following Service contracts.

New Memberships, Member

Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Mike or Monte Petersen, Ipswich, Shops; Rory Schneider, Aberdeen, Residential; Harlan Krein, Leola, Vacant Farm

Reconnects: Derek & Riley Petersen, Ipswich, Shops; Helen Torrence, Aberdeen, Residential; Dustin Treftz, Leola, Vacant Farm

Contracts: Bruce Perrion, Ipswich, Grain Bin; SD DOT, Aberdeen, 3 lighting services

Retired Locations: Kenneith Heib, Hosmer, Active Farm and Vacant Farm

Capital Credits:

Estates – June 2022 – one = \$882.56
73 & Older – June 2022 – none

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: May 2022 financials and check register for the month of May 2022 contained information on checks #32535 through #32600 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for May 2022 totaling \$482,840.88.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve RUS Loan Advance Transfer FRS #29 in the amount of \$750,000.00.

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Tom Thorpe to approve 2021 Form 990 and Form 990T.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

Legal Update: none

Meeting Report: East River board update was given by Gary Bachman. The board acknowledged the receipt of the May 5, 2022, Safety Meeting Minutes.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

(USPS 189-720)

Board of Directors

Gary Bachman, President
Tom Thorpe, Vice President
Eric Odenbach, Secretary
Paula Petersen, Treasurer
Kelly Melius, Asst. Sec./
Treasurer
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore
info@femelectric.coop

Management Staff

Rob Vetch
Line Superintendent
Rhonda Tuscherer
Director of Finance and
Benefits

Editor's e-mail:

oban@femelectric.coop

FEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., 800 5th Ave., Ipswich, SD 57451.

FEM Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, FEM members devote \$1.00 from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$15 annually. (USPS 189-720) Periodical Postage Paid at Ipswich, SD 57451 and at additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FEM Electric Cooperative Connections, Box 468, Ipswich, SD 57451-0468.

How to contact us:

FEM Electric
PO Box 468
Ipswich, SD 57451
Phone: 1-800-587-5880 or
605-426-6891
e-mail: info@femelectric.coop
Website:
www.femelectric.coop
Design assistance by SDREA

**FEM Electric is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer.**



Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

FEM Electric's 74th annual meeting is completed, and once again, I would like to thank all members who attended. For a cooperative to be successful we need informed and engaged members, not just during rough times, but also during good times. Some of the things we do at the annual meeting are suggestions that have come from our members. Please call if you have suggestion or questions about the information that was presented.

Our area is looking good if we continue to be blessed with some timely rains to keep the crops growing. We continue see activity in new services which is a good sign that our rural economy is still moving in a positive direction. South Dakotans are hardy people and don't swing to the news event of the day. Throughout the state we have seen many wind storms this spring that have caused substantial damage to many farm sites. If mother nature would slow down those storms, I'm sure we would all welcome that relief.

As we move through late summer, our operation department plans

to complete underground projects and retirements and move into pole testing and replacement. We also have about four miles of overhead electric line that we plan to build. During the June 14, 2022, windstorm that rolled through Roscoe and Leola areas FEM Electric lost around twelve poles mostly in yards where there were buildings damaged. These poles have been replaced. If you witness downed powerlines, please stay clear until line crews arrive.

As I stated before FEM Electric is in a good position for electric line replacement. We were fortunate to replace many electric lines when interest rates were down along with lower priced material. We plan to continue some electric line replacement but at a slower rate and concentrate on improving efficiencies of our system.

If you are planning any electrical additions, please call Rob Vetch or Ryan Holien early in the planning. We hope you and your family have had, and continue to have, a safe, enjoyable summer.

Statement Mailing Dates

July 27, 2022 for July's energy

Aug 30, 2022 for Aug's energy

Regardless of the statement mail out date, payments are due in the office by the 9th of the following month.

Electrical safety basics for children

The back-to-school season is a time when parents and school children fall back into the familiar routine of getting up early, getting dressed, grabbing breakfast, preparing lunch and shuffling out the door each day.

It's a time when students return to a learning mindset, ready to take on new ideas, knowledge and information.

Parents should seize the opportunity to teach school-age children a valuable and potentially lifesaving lesson: Respect electricity.

Here are several electrical safety basics every child should know:

- Mixing water and electricity can be deadly. Teach children not to use electric toys or other devices near water or in the rain.
- Plugging multiple devices into a single outlet or power strip can create sparks and even cause a fire if that outlet can't handle the load. Teach kids to plug into surge-protected power strips or to use one device at a time and unplug the rest.

When they unplug those devices, they should grab them by the plug, not the cord. Yanking a cord out of an electrical outlet can damage the appliance, the outlet or the plug.

- Electrical cords can be strangling hazards and might cause electrical burns if they are misused. Make sure youngsters keep cords away from their mouths and necks. It's best to hide cords so they aren't a temptation.

- Electrical outlets are receptacles for electrical plugs only. Children should know from an early age that it's a no-no to put foreign objects or fingers into power plugs. Sticking any other items into an electrical socket can lead to electric shock or death. Use childproofing outlet covers.

- Flying kites and climbing trees are never safe activities near power lines. If a tree has a power line running through it - or if it's even within reach of the line - it's not a safe place to play. If a kite gets caught in a power line, the child should not tug on it to get it loose. The string could conduct electricity and seriously hurt the child.

- Electrical substations are fenced off to keep children and animals out of the area. If a toy or small pet gets inside the fence, the child should inform a parent or teacher, who can call a trained worker to come and retrieve it.

COOPERATIVES HELP OUR MEMBERS SOLVE PROBLEMS



Electric co-op member services personnel focus their attention on making sure co-op members get the power they need when they need it. They help homeowners and businesses solve problems and find solutions to operate more efficiently. A group of co-op representatives recently took a guided tour of the Riverview Dairy near Watertown to learn how the dairy functions and how the local co-op can provide better service to the facility.

You can find out more about the many ways our electric cooperatives serve our members by visiting Cooperative Connections Plus. Simply scan the QR code at right.



Swim safely

Alayna Smith

Alayna, age 10, alerts both the young and old alike to refrain from swimming when any thunderstorms are around. Alayna is the daughter of Myles and Amber Smith and they are members of H-D Electric Cooperative based in Clear Lake.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

TASTY SUMMER SALADS

SHELL MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

1 7-oz. box of shell macaroni,
cooked, rinsed and cooled
2-3 fresh tomatoes, chopped
1/3 green pepper, chopped
3 celery ribs, sliced thinly
1/4 c. chopped onion
1 cucumber, seeded & chopped

Toss ingredients together; set
aside.

Dressing

1/2 c. canola oil
3/4 c. sugar
1/2 c. vinegar
3/4 c. catsup
Dash of lemon juice

METHOD

Mix dressing ingredients well
with wire whip and add to
veggies and macaroni.

Joan Antonen, Arlington

TUNA AND EGG SALAD

Ingredients:

3 6-oz. cans tuna packed in water
3 eggs hard boiled, peeled and
chopped
2 small dill pickles diced
1 large celery rib diced
1/4 cup red onion minced
1 tbsp. lemon juice or red wine
vinegar
2 tsp. garlic powder, optional
1/4 tsp. salt, to taste
Ground black pepper to taste
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt, 2%+
fat
2 tbsp. mayo

METHOD

Drain cans with tuna well by
pressing hard on the lid while
draining. Transfer to a large bowl
and separate into flakes with a
fork. Add chopped and peeled
hard boiled eggs, pickles, celery,
red onion, lemon juice, garlic
powder (if using), salt, pepper,
yogurt and mayo. Stir well with a
fork and refrigerate. Serve cold in
a sandwich or over salad greens.
ifoodreal.com

GARDEN VEGGIES 'N ROTINI

Ingredients:

3/4 c. oil
3/4 c. white vinegar
3/4 c. white sugar
1 tsp. garlic salt
2 tbsp. onion flakes
1 tbsp. mustard
Bring the above ingredients to a
boil and remove from heat.
Cook 4 cups colored rotini noo-
dles. Rinse and chill.
Cut up the following in chunky
pieces:
1 tomato
1 cucumber
assorted peppers
1/2 red onion

METHOD

Stir veggies together with the
rotini and dressing. Chill before
serving.

Ginny Jensen, Volga

NANCY'S MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

Dice:

1 onion
1 green pepper
1-2 carrots
1 cup celery
2 cups Velveeta Cheese

Add:

1 can peas
1 - 16 oz. pkg. macaroni cooked
and drained

Dressing:

1 cup sugar
1 pint mayo
1 cup white vinegar
1 - 14 oz. can evaporated milk

METHOD

Mix together gently and
refrigerate, best overnight. Add
any type of meat, boiled eggs etc.,
as desired.

Nancy Nelson, Mission Hill

Please send your favorite recipes to
your local electric cooperative (address
found on Page 3). Each recipe printed
will be entered into a drawing for a
prize in December 2022. All entries must
include your name, mailing address,
phone number and cooperative name.



ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

FEM Electric's 74th Annual meeting was held Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at the Ipswich School. The weather cooperated providing another lovely evening. 134 members plus guests attended to enjoy meals provided by Gypsy Nosh and the 8th Grade Tiger Basketball group. Dessert was furnished by Anderson Baking Company, a member of FEM.

President Gary Bachman brought the meeting to order, welcoming special guests and retired FEM directors and employees. Kelly Melius presented the invocation, and everyone enjoyed the National Anthem sung by Ipswich's very own Emily Knoll.

The board of directors gave their annual reports while the kids who attended with their parents enjoyed the inflatables, crafts, and treats.

Eric Odenbach and Paula Petersen were reelected as representatives of their districts, and members voted on several bylaw changes.

President Gary Bachman gave the president's report, highlighting the importance of working together, and that FEM staff were doing their best to mitigate increases in costs.

General Manager/CEO Scott Moore thanked everyone for attending, gave an update on projected energy shortages, and spoke about the energy market.

Tom Thorpe presented on member students who won scholarships over the past year, all of whom were unable to attend due to various conflicts.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Eric Olson, son of NaTanya Olson, was the randomly drawn as the winner of the "Young Adults Light the Way" \$500



FEM members, guests and staff enjoy dinner provided by Gypsy Nosh and the 8th Grade Tiger Basketball group.



FEM board director Eric Odenbach presents Eric Olson with the Young Adults Light the Way Scholarship. The scholarship is worth \$500. Congratulations Eric!

Scholarship. The lucky cash winners were: \$250 – Ed and Deborah Gillick, Ipswich; \$100 – Jason and Marion Heintzman, Ipswich; \$100 – Leslie and Donna Simon, Aberdeen; \$50 – Willard Goeschel, Long Lake.

As members exited the meeting, they were encouraged to turn in their identification ticket for the evening to receive a \$40 energy credit, which will show up on their July statement. Ice cream and dessert were offered for their trip home.

FEM Electric would like to extend a special thank you to Gypsy Nosh, the 8th Grade Tiger Basketball group, Anderson Baking Company, the Ipswich Snow Queens, Nate Collins – music teacher at Ipswich School, as well as the Ipswich School for all of the services each provided to make the annual meeting a success.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@FEMElectric on 

@fem_electric on 

@FEMelectric on 

We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.



FEM Director Tom Thorpe presents on FEM member students who have won scholarships.



FEM members listening to annual meeting reports.

LOOKING FOR A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN? GIVE US A CALL!

FEM Electric offers electrical wiring services in Faulk, Edmunds and McPherson counties. Some services include wiring houses, pasture pumps, shops, and grain bins.

Services are provided for cooperative members as well as non-members, so spread the word!

Call us at 605-426-6891 to discuss your electrical needs or upcoming projects. If you have a large project, please plan ahead and call us early. Like much of the world, we are not immune to supply chain delays, and we would like to be able to service your project in a timely manner.

CO-OPS KEEP THE RALLY ROLLING



Electric co-ops are committed to keeping The Rally energized

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The frenetic atmosphere that has come to be associated with the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally can be loud, chaotic and - well let's just say - very colorful.

But behind those vivid scenes are electric cooperative employees working hard to make sure the Rally has the juice required to keep the lights glaring, the amps blaring, the air conditioners humming and the blenders blending.

The three local co-ops that serve the Black Hills and surrounding area are Butte Electric, West River Electric and Black Hills Electric. In conjunction with wholesale supplier Rushmore Electric in Rapid City and power generator Basin Electric based in Bismarck, N.D., the co-ops deliver much of the electricity used by campgrounds, restaurants, shops, concert stages, biker bars and other entertainment venues.

The power providers are diligent about keeping pace with the increasing growth of The Rally, which is rebounding from a temporary drop in attendance brought on by the coronavirus pandemic over the past two years.

Corey Trapp, chief engineering officer at Rushmore Electric, said power demand can increase significantly during The Rally. For instance, he indicated the area north of Sturgis served by Butte Electric that includes Full Throttle and other sites can jump from 1-2 MW to 8-9 MW during the event.

At the Buffalo Chip, West River Electric has nearly 40 meters located across the 600-acre spread serving scores of bars, campgrounds and cabins, as well as the main stage. Power use skyrockets from about 30 KW to more than 4.2 MW.

This year marks the 82nd installment of The Rally. Ten years ago, organizers were concerned about the potential future of the event if younger riders didn't start joining in on the fun. According to data gathered by local government agencies, Mount Rushmore National Park and other sources, attendance is back on the upswing.

An estimated 555,000 riders participated in the Rally last August, up nearly 14 percent from 2020 and an increase of 9.5 percent over the five-year average from 2016 to 2020.

Statistics show that nearly 30 percent of attendees were first-timers in 2021, which is welcomed news for promoters who work year-around to keep The Rally rolling, including

RALLY FACTS

- 🏍️ 555,000 – No. of 2021 participants
- 🏍️ 54 – avg. age in 2019
- 🏍️ 46.5 – avg. age in 2021
- 🏍️ 52% - campground attendees
- 🏍️ 18% - hotel attendees
- 🏍️ \$81,005 - avg. household income
- 🏍️ \$382 - spent per day
- 🏍️ 85% - motorcycle owners
- 🏍️ 81% - Harley owners
- 🏍️ \$1,090,398 - raised for charity

the city of Sturgis, the South Dakota Department of Tourism, the Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association and scores of business owners who depend on the seasonal revenue to sustain their operations.

The increased buzz of activity keeps the V-twin economic engines purring throughout the Black Hills area, but delivering the power has its own set of challenges that may not be apparent to partiers. Electric cooperative officials report that global shortages in materials and supplies make it difficult to meet the increase in power demand, but they're committed to doing everything possible to meet that demand.

"We're seeing delays in equipment necessary for infrastructure upgrades, but we know how important electricity is for The Rally to run successfully," said Brett Fosheim, director of operations at Butte Electric based in Newell. "A lot of visitors and business owners are

An estimated 555,000 visitors enjoyed the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally last year. As attendance climbs, electric cooperatives are committed to delivering the power needed to keep the party going. *Photos by South Dakota Travel*

depending on us, so we're prepared every year to step up to the plate with power that's affordable, reliable and there when everybody needs it."

Fosheim said just as organizers work all year long to plan and promote the 10-day event, electric cooperatives also anticipate the rise in electricity demand and coordinate with their common power generator, Basin Electric, to fill the need and handle peak loads. Butte Electric serves Full Throttle, Days Inn Campground and the Sons of Silence Campground, among other venues.

Because electric cooperatives are created by their members to serve their members, they've been delivering electricity since the early days of The Rally. The annual event traces its roots back to 1938 when a group of Indian Motorcycle enthusiasts led by local franchise owner Clarence "Pappy" Hoel got together to race one another, pull off some riding stunts and party together around a common interest in the brand.

What started as a quaint occasion called the Black Hills Classic with just

nine racers and a sparse crowd has become an international attraction.

Except for the World War II years between 1939 and 1941, The Rally has been a much-anticipated mainstay attracting visitors from across the planet. During the war, organizers suspended the event due to gas restrictions in support of the war effort.



While the current supply shortages mentioned by Fosheim have kept power providers on their toes and doubly prepared for The Rally, he said cooperatives are committed to delivering quality service not only during the event but long after the riders have peeled out of town.

THANK YOU

thank you

Dear Jesse,

Thank you for coming in to give a presentation for our farm safety program. Our FFA chapter is grateful to you + we hope together we have helped our youth be a little safer.

Sincerely,
Simon Bowar

Thank you so VERY much



FEM Electric,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of a \$500 scholarship! I really appreciate it + the money will help cover the cost of books at college. Thank you again!

-Shayna Heitmann

Please do not staple or paperclip.

Comments/Address Change: Kudos for Sending a Crew to help others in time @ need. We never know when we too will be in need!

PAY YOUR BILL 24/7

SMARTHUB: The new FREE online payment system! Access at femelectric.coop or download the application on a compatible mobile device.

BY PHONE: Call 833.699.1827, and use your FEM account number.



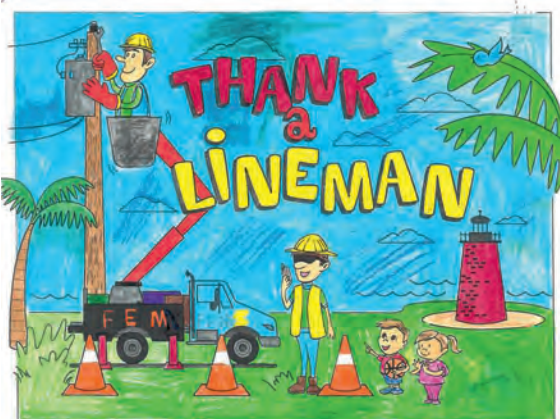
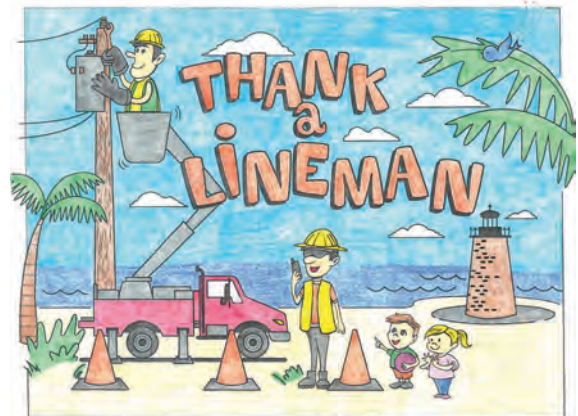
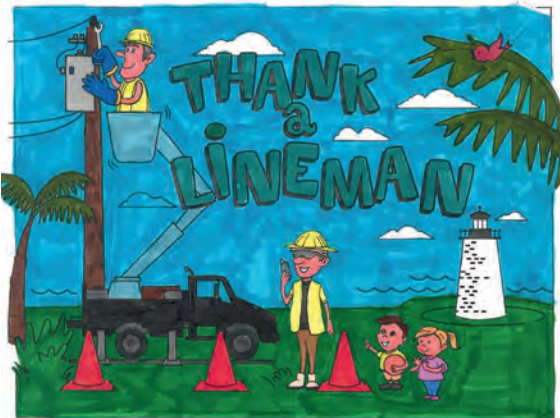
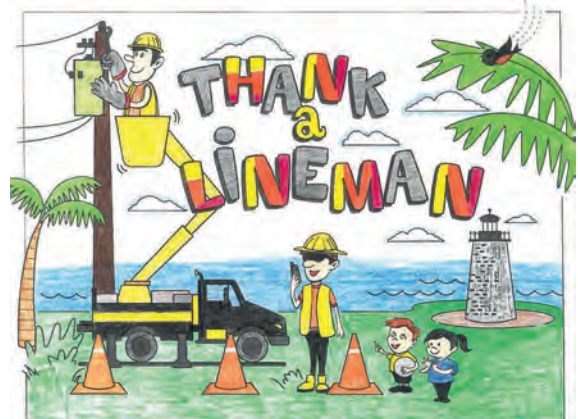
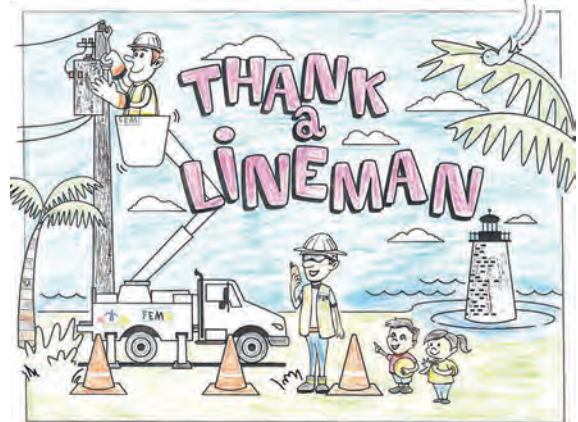
I plan on attending SDSU in the fall to pursue an Animal Science degree.

COLORING CONTEST

In honor of this year's National Linemen Appreciation Day, April 18th, FEM held a coloring contest for 5th graders. Public and colony schools in FEM's service territory participated. Winning entries were displayed at the 74th Annual Meeting, and at the FEM main office. This year's winners are:

Ipswich: 1st Emmy Ptacek; 2nd Brooke Larson
Evergreen: 1st Jaden Kleinsasser; 2nd Johna Hofer
Edmunds Central: 1st Sydney Holmes; 2nd Jory Ulmer
Faulton: 1st Lucia Holsing; 2nd Cain Hogg
Eureka: 1st Rachel Gage; 2nd Maycee Mettler
Thunderbird: 1st Heidi Wollman; 2nd Jasmyn Wurtz

Each winner received a \$10 gift certificate. Thank you to everyone who participated!





FAMILY FUN AT CATFISH BAY

Summer fun for the entire family awaits at Catfish Bay Water Ski Park in Sioux Falls. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

Pigs fly and family fun abounds at Catfish Bay Water Ski Park

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

If you stop by Catfish Bay, you probably won't see a single catfish during your stay. But you will definitely see a pig flying, a chicken hurtling through the air and water skis sprouting up from a pocketful of magic seeds.

Catfish Bay Water Ski Park, located just off I-90 in Sioux Falls, is a family entertainment venue where a squad of highly skilled skiers leap and spin and build four-tier human pyramids as they skim across the water's surface.

Billed as "The Greatest Show on H₂O," the event attracts spectators from miles around who show up each Friday evening during the summer months to see the high-flying theatrics reminiscent of Florida's famed Cypress Gardens. The show features ski jumpers dressed as chickens, Hee Haw-inspired corn pone humor and a daredevil in a pig costume elevating 30 feet into the air astride a water-propelled fly board.

The show is the brainchild of Jim

Bruns, an idea that spawned from his mind as "a God thing." While he was a college student in the early '90s, Bruns joined the Sioux Falls Water Ski Club and honed his skills enough to turn pro.

It was during college that he hatched a plan to establish a show similar to those being staged at SeaWorld and other similar sites. First thing he needed was a lake. He found the perfect spot when a contractor dug out a 25-acre borrow pit adjacent to the interstate. He bought the pit and – voila! – one man-made lake...just add water.

Second thing he needed was a performing cast. Bruns gathered some of his fellow skiers of all ages and sizes, pulled together a program and then plowed forward for a few years determined to make the show a success. Just when he began wondering if he was going to be able to keep the labor-intensive venture alive, he experienced another epiphany. He needed to rededicate the program to building youth, strengthening families and developing leaders. He formed a

mission statement: "MV2 – Mission, Vision and Values."

"It was a simple plan from the start," Bruns said just before the start of the season-opening show on Memorial Day. "But in 2007 I hit a wall. I sat down and prayed about it and came up with MV2. Now I have so many stories of kids who have come out here and learned a skill and learned about teamwork and goal-setting. They learn how to overcome obstacles."

One of those youngsters is Beth Bruggeman, who serves as assistant show director. A recent college graduate, she has been involved in the program for 10 years. She was a 13-year-old gymnast and cheerleader when she decided to try out for the ski team and now she's a star in the show with boundless energy, a beaming smile and a scar on her eyebrow as her personal badge of courage and grit.

"One of the things I like about it is there are people who participate of all skill levels who are anywhere from 6 to 60 years old. You don't find groups with that kind of diversity. You get to form different kinds of connections and friendships," she said.

Bruns' own children, James and Amara, are two other stars of the show. Amara, 13, professes to be the more gushingly dramatic. A student at O'Gorman Junior High, Amara has been part of the act since she was 2, riding on her dad's shoulders. Today she barefoots, swivels, climbs the pyramid and charms the crowd with her effervescent smile.

"I like entertaining people and making them feel like they've come to a special place," she said.

Beside Bruns, Jeremiah Newman is another example of the motto: the family that skis together stays together. He and his children, 14-year-old Marissa and 12-year-old Tyler, are involved in all aspects of the show. He's a member of the military and a former international professional skier who still competes around the region and specializes in performing flips and twists on an air chair hydrofoil.

"This is such a family-friendly environment. It's priceless. It keeps me active and it keeps our family close. Instead of sitting on the sidelines watching my kids, I get to be out there with them," he said. "We talk about the importance of making a life-long commitment to fitness and good nutrition and things that will serve them well along the way."

While the skiers are preparing for their next set, attention turns toward the stage area and a charming recurring character named Norman, who always comes up with some crackpot scheme that never fails to fail. Bruns explains that the Norman character stands as a metaphor for anyone who has had a dream and felt the frustration of failure.

"The thing about Norman that makes him different is that he never loses his enthusiasm and keeps on trying," Bruns said. "His motto is to dream big and never give up."

Bruns is living out the dream he had as a younger man. To this point, Norman has never revealed his last name. But it could very well be Bruns.

Below, Catfish Bay performers pull off a "four-stack" configuration. At right, the character known as "Norman" rides a flying pig.





Electric coops team up with Agtegra for Coop Day at the Brown County Fair

As adults, we have learned over the years that safety is an important part of life, including farm life. Safety is why FEM Electric is teaming up with Northern Electric, Lake Region Electric and Agtegra to put on a Farm Safety Party at the Brown County Fair again.

Each cooperative will bring their own aspects to the event, but Northern, Lake Region and FEM will focus on electrical safety on the farm. The 'power town' will be on display and depicts a rural scene including typical farm buildings, tractors and power lines. Demonstrators can show attendees the dangers of coming in contact with energized lines with tractors or trees on a smaller, more relatable scale.

The Farm Safety Party will include



Farm Safety Party attendees receive face painting from cooperative employees at the 2021 event.

other demonstrations including safety gear dress up, simulators, giveaways and is a free event for all ages. To find the Farm Safety Party, head to the Kid's Zone, located southwest of the Odde Ice Arena. Activities will be available from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Thursday, August 18th.



A little boy poses in safety gear at the 2021 Farm Safety Party.



A young man has the opportunity to experience wearing linemen gloves, and working a nut on a screw at the 2021 party. This demonstrates the difficulty some linemen go through daily.

FARM SAFETY PARTY



**Thursday, August 18 at the
Brown County Fair**

Presented by:



REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____

AUGUST 16-18
Dakotafest

Photo Credit: AFBF photo/Philip Gerlach



To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

JULY 25-30
Days of '76 Rodeo and Parades

18 Seventy Six Dr., Deadwood, SD, daysof76.com

JULY 29-31
Badlands Astronomy Festival
Ben Reifel Visitor Center, Interior, SD, 605-433-5243

JULY 29-31
Bruce Honey Days
Various Locations, Bruce, SD, 605-627-5671

JULY 29-31
Paha Sapa Cowboys and Indians Art Festival
Outlaw Square, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

JULY 30
South Dakota Chislic Festival
Prairie Arboretum, Freeman, SD, sdchislicfestival.com

AUGUST 5-6
Foothills Days and Rockin' Ribfest
Citywide, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-539-1929

AUGUST 5-7
Sioux River Folk Festival
Newton Hills State Park, Canton, SD, facebook.com/SDFOTM/

AUGUST 5-13
Sioux Empire Fair
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxempirefair.com

AUGUST 5-14
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Main St., Sturgis, SD, sturgismotorcyclerrally.com

AUGUST 11-13
Clay County Fair
515 High St., Vermillion, SD, claycountyfair.net

AUGUST 12-14
Fort Pierre Trader Days
Various Locations, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-412-8549

AUGUST 15-21
Brown County Fair
400 24th Ave. NW, Aberdeen, SD, browncountysdfair.com

AUGUST 19-21
Black Hills Threshing Bee
13380 Alkali Road, Sturgis, SD, 605-490-2024

AUGUST 19-21
Yankton Riverboat Days
Citywide, Yankton, SD, riverboatdays.com

AUGUST 19-27
Central States Fair and Rodeo
800 San Francisco St., Rapid City, SD, centralstatesfair.com

AUGUST 24-28
Corn Palace Festival
604 N Main St., Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

AUGUST 24-28
Kool Deadwood Nites
Citywide, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

AUGUST 25-28
Prairie Village Steam Threshing Jamboree
45205 SD Hwy. 34, Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

AUGUST 26-27
Hill City Wine, Brew and BBQ
Elm St., Hill City, SD, hillcitywinebrewandbbq.com

AUGUST 26-27
Sizzlin' Summer Nights
Main St., Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-3441

AUGUST 26-28
Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival
Various Locations, Hot Springs, SD, fallriverballoonfest.com

AUG. 30-SEPT. 4
Sturgis Mustang Rally
Thunderdome, Sturgis, SD, sturgismustangrally.com

SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
890 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD, sdstatefair.com

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.