

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Cross country skiing is a way to keep moving and maintain physical and mental health during the winter months.

Skiing for fun and health

Nordic skiers find paradise on the snow
Pages 8-9

Car dealers adapt to EV market
Pages 12-13

BOARD REPORT



General Manager/CEO Scott Moore, FEM Board Members Tom Thorpe, Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, and Kelly Melius

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on November 16, 2021, 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. President Gary Bachman welcomed guest employee Chad Dutenhoffer.

Accounting Clerk Angie Sieh was present during 2022 budget presentation.

Changes to the agenda: Revised agenda was given to board before meeting.

Changes/Additions to Minutes from October 19, 2021 meeting: one spelling correction, minutes approved by board with correction

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Tuesday, December 21,

2021 at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve administrative business.

Management and staff presented the 2022 budget for board review. After presenting the budget the board and staff had a lengthy discussion on budget and electric rates along with 2021 declining KWH sales. The board requested the management and staff look at any possible cuts along with develop several options for a rate increase in 2022 to create a positive margin.

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

The board acknowledged reviewing the October Cyber Security Report.

Resolutions, Contracts, and Nominations:

The board acknowledged receipt of SDREA Annual Meeting January 13-14, 2022.

Eric Odenbach nominated Gary Bachman as SDREA Voting Delegate

and Eric Odenbach as Alternate SDREA Voting Delegate; motion seconded by Paula Petersen and unanimous ballot was cast.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve the review of Emergency Standards for the Emergency Response Plan (ERP).

Membership Business: The board acknowledged the following membership business as presented:

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to approve following disconnects, reconnects and line construction contracts.

Disconnects: Virgil & Linda Heinrich, Tolstoy, Pasture Pump; Red River Grain, Breakenridge, MN, Small Commercial; Joy Palmer, Ipswich, Active Farm; Patsy Grau, Etna, OH, Active Farm

Reconnects: Jessica & Terah Heinrich, Bowdle, Pasture Pump; Agronomy Sciences, LLC, Baltic, Small Commercial; David & Carla Palmer, Ipswich, Active Farm; Dylan Weiser, Roscoe, Active Farm

Contracts: Charles & Jamie Belcher, Bowdle, Grain Bin Site; Corey & Jenny Hammrich, Ipswich, New House

Retired Locations: none

Capital Credits:

Estates – November 2021 – Four = \$1,476.78

73 & Older – November 2021 - None

2022 electrical rate increase discussion was held.

The unclaimed property list was included for board review before being advertised in Cooperative Connections and newspapers.

Continued on pg 10

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:

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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.

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Design assistance by SDREA

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opportunity provider and
employer.**



Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

By the time this article hits the kitchen counter, we will be close to closing out 2021 and starting a new and prosperous 2022. Experiencing 40-to-50-degree weather around December 1st is somewhat unusual, but you will not hear us complain as we work to finish our work plan projects. The new underground is energized, and the old overhead is retired. Starting in January crews will move to maintenance and tree trimming if the weather allows.

Operation department, along with electrical department, have experienced some material shortages, but nothing that has stopped current projects. Both departments have been adjusting material orders so projects can be completed on time. Please, if you know you are adding or thinking of adding electrical load in 2022 or 2023, call Rob Vetch or Ryan Holien. The operation department has already placed some orders for material that we will not see until the first quarter of 2023.

The preliminary budget for 2022 was presented to the board of directors at the November 16th board meeting. Due to a mild winter and shortage of yields, FEM Electric has seen

substantial decline in kilowatt hour sales. FEM management and staff will be reviewing an updated budget with some cuts in projects and purchases, and with uncertain sales in 2022 we will be asking the board to approve a rate increase. Cooperatives may be not-for-profit, but we still need to make our banking ratios while being financially responsible to our members and lenders.

As we look to the future, there are many changes and challenges in all industries, including how electricity is generated and transported to your homes and businesses. Sometimes we rely on our state and national organizations to watch and negotiate rules and policies at Pierre and Washington, DC that will have a negative or positive effect on our employees and member's monthly bill. Our goal at the local level is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power to every member in our service territory. Management, staff, and board of directors' goal is to make sure no electrical rate class is subsidized by another rate class.

Moving forward you will continue to hear about carbon capture, climate change, electric vehicles (EV), along
Continued on pg 7

Statement Mailing Dates

Dec. 30, 2021 for Dec.'s energy
Jan. 27, 2021 for Jan.'s energy
Regardless of the statement
mail out date, payments are
due in the office by the 9th of
the following month.

Crunch the numbers on New Year's savings in your home

If your New Year's resolution to spend less and save more always fizzles out by March, don't fret. With a few simple adjustments in your house, you can save money on your energy bill each month. Here's how:

- Save up to 20 percent on heating by installing a programmable thermostat and setting it to automatically lower the heat when you leave the house for more than five hours and when the family goes to bed for the night.
- Save 1–3 percent on heating costs for each degree you turn the thermostat down. For optimal savings, set the thermostat at 68 degrees while at home and 65 degrees at night and before you leave the house for an extended period.
- Save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling bills by sealing air leaks around doors and windows with caulk and weatherstripping. This inexpensive energy saver will pay for itself within a year.
- Save at least 25 percent on air conditioning when you replace your old, inefficient central AC with one that has a seasonal energy-efficiency ratio of 14 or higher.
- Save up to 40 percent on what you spend to run your refrigerator by replacing an old unit with a new Energy Star-certified model.
- Save more than 50 percent on energy for cooking when you use a microwave oven instead of a conventional oven to heat meals.
- Save more than 10 percent on your water heating bill by lowering the water heater temperature from 140 degrees to 120.
- Save 75 percent or more on energy for lighting by replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs. They also last about 25 times longer. Switching out CFLs for LEDs will reduce lighting costs as much as 50 percent.
- Consistently turning off lights when not in use or when natural light is sufficient can reduce lighting expenses 10–40 percent.
- Enable the power management function on computers and sleep setting on appliances.

CO-OPS IN ACTION



South Dakota's electric cooperatives deliver affordable, reliable power to our members in every corner of the state. But we do so much more!

Visit our Co-op Connections Plus YouTube channel and you'll see co-ops in action at local community events, youth leadership programs and charitable fundraising events like the annual Line Patrol Charity Ride. We've got South Dakota covered!

Simply scan the QR code to the right and be sure to subscribe!



Keep out of power boxes

Trinity Kurtenbach

Trinity knows that those green “power boxes” that are often seen near homes or along roadways contain electrical equipment that can pose a hazard. Trinity is the child of Cory Kurtenbach and Tonya Buchholz-Froehlich of Nunda and attends Sioux Valley Elementary in Volga. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.

SOUPS FOR THE SOUL

SMASHED POTATO SOUP

Ingredients:

1/2 cup coarsely chopped carrot
1/2 cup coarsely chopped celery
1 pkg 14 oz refrigerated mashed potatoes
1 14.5 oz can chicken broth
1/2 cup milk
1 garlic clove pressed
1/4 tsp salt
1/8 tsp pepper
1/2 cup sour cream
2 Tbsp fresh parsley

METHOD

Place mashed potatoes in medium saucepan. Gradually add broth and milk, whisking until mixture is smooth. Stir in carrot, celery, garlic and salt and pepper. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 10 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in sour cream and parsley. Top with desired toppings. 4 servings; 5 cups. Optional toppings: sliced green onion, shredded cheddar cheese, cooked, crumbled bacon.

Becki Hausser, Tripp

CREAMY CHICKEN GNOCCHI SOUP

Ingredients:

6 Tbsp butter
2 Tbsp olive oil
2 cups onion
1 cup diced celery
4 garlic cloves (minced)
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
4 cups half and half
1 (32 oz) container chicken broth (add more for a thinner soup)
1 Tbsp thyme
2 cups carrots
2 cups spinach or kale
3 cups diced, cooked chicken
2 (16 oz) packages potato gnocchi
Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD

Add butter and olive oil to large pot over medium heat. Sauté onions, celery, and garlic until tender. Add flour to create a roux and stir for one minute. Slowly add the half and half and chicken broth. Stir until it thickens. Add the thyme, carrots, spinach, chicken and gnocchi. Cook for 5-10 minutes until gnocchi is cooked and soup thickened. If soup gets too thick just add more chicken broth. Salt and pepper to taste.

Tracey Burkett, Olivet

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

Ingredients:

1-1.5 lbs chicken thighs bone in or boneless (skinless)
3 bay leaves
5 peppercorns, whole
1 small whole onion peeled, hairy end intact
3 large garlic cloves
12 cups chicken stock low sodium
2 large carrots diced
2 cups potatoes diced
1 1/2 cups egg noodles or any short pasta
1 1/2 tbsp salt
1 tbsp olive oil
3 tbsp fresh dill, parsley or green onion finely chopped

METHOD

In a large Dutch oven or pot, add chicken thighs, bay leaves, peppercorns, onion, 2 garlic cloves and stock. On high heat, bring soup to a boil covered then move lid to the side a bit to keep soup clear. Cook for 20 minutes, removing foam as it rises to the top with a mesh strainer. Dice potatoes and carrots. Chop dill and grate garlic. Add potatoes and carrots, stir and reduce heat to medium. Cook with half lid open for 5 minutes. Add pasta, stir and cook for another 5 minutes. Discard onion, bay leaves and peppercorns with mesh strainer. Add salt, olive oil, grated garlic clove, dill and ground black pepper to taste. You can also shred chicken right in the pot. Let sit covered for 5 minutes.

ifoodreal.com

Please send your favorite soup 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.

FEM ELECTRIC'S ANNUAL *Pancake & Sausage Breakfast*

January 21st, 2022 - 7:00 am - 10:00 am
North Shop Building
800 5th Ave.
Ipswich, SD 57451

FEM Electric is hosting its annual pancake breakfast in January, and will once again collect donations for local food pantries in Faulk, Edmunds and McPherson Counties. Bring your appetite and a donation to help local people in need. All donations are welcome, however, local food pantries are low on the following essential paper products and cleaning supplies:

Napkins
Cups
Plates
Paper Towels
Tissues

Toilet Paper
Shampoo
Body Wash
Laundry Soap
Diapers

Any donation you bring is appreciated. The annual breakfast is a great time for FEM Electric to visit with our members and to show our appreciation, as well as give back to the communities we serve.

We can't wait to see you and
your family at the
FEM Pancake and
Sausage Breakfast!



Manager's Report Continued from page 3

with solar. All companies and the government are under constant attack from cyber threats. Cyber security is expensive and keeping our members information secure is a top concern. FEM Electric has trained our employees to identify possible threats. We also use a team of IT specialist from East River Electric to monitor and help keep our system safe. Cyber security isn't just one person's responsibility, but it takes the entire team to keep information secure.

In 2022, we are planning for a strong rural economy. With the fall moisture and early harvest, it should be good conditions for a productive 2022, if we get some needed moisture in the spring and summer.

Please be safe and have a happy Christmas and New Year's.



*Spanish Pioneer Village
Spanish, South Dakota*

FEM

Thank you for the basket of kitchen items you donated to the Spanish flower & garden club for the silent auction. The money raised will be used for this year's projects on the pioneer Village.

*Spanish flower & garden club
Patty Kadlec*

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



After 15 years of service, FEM Electric Association wishes to announce that Valette Horst is dipping her toes into retirement where she will spend her free time with her husband Mike and her family.

Valette started her career as an in home daycare provider before transitioning into her position at FEM in 2005. For three years she worked as a custodian before taking the cashier/receptionist position where she has worked ever since.

FEM benefited from Valette's hard work in a number of ways, including her involvement in Commercial Club on FEM's behalf, her coordination of the Pancake Breakfast, and her help planning the annual meeting. Her

customer service left members feeling informed and heard, and her work ethic was to always go above and beyond.

FEM Electric would like to thank Valette for her years of hard work and service to the cooperative. The staff at FEM will miss Valette's wit and charm, and we all hope she finds nothing but joy in retirement.

"My time at FEM has been educational, rewarding, and at times a big learning curve. I did not know this job would fulfill my life like it did. Thank you for being so patient with me. I know I had some good days and some bad days, but I have to say I learned how to work with adults and how to maneuver on a computer. I also learned how to give and take. My working career started out with the younger generation and ended up working with my generation. Thank you for all you did for me. FEM employees will always have a special place in my heart." - Valette Horst



FUN AND FITNESS ON THE SNOW

An estimated 5.2 million Americans participate in cross country skiing while reaping the rewards of being active during the winter months.

Nordic Ski Club promotes the benefits of cross country skiing on mind, body and soul

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Many winter sports enthusiasts are firm in their belief that snow skis are meant to travel in one direction only – downhill.

But members of the Black Hills Nordic Ski Club use their skinny skis to take them wherever the trail may lead.

The club's winter playground is located at Big Hills XC Trails seven miles southwest of Spearfish where its

members have frolicked in the snow since the 1970s. Early prospectors named the area after they encountered steep grades in their pursuit of gold and fortune, but these days people flock to Big Hill for fitness and fun.

With more than 1,200 Facebook followers, the group invites not only cross country skiers to enjoy the 13.6 miles of trails but also skate skiers, fat bikers, snow shoers and even snow man makers.

Immediate past president Josh Wangeman explains there are an

estimated 5.2 million Nordic skiing enthusiasts throughout the country who seek both physical and mental health restoration along the trails.

After spending his day teaching science to his eighth graders at Spearfish Middle School, Wangeman likes to unwind in the woods.

"I've found that it's a good way to escape the crowds and participate in the wonders of nature," he said. "It's a great sport if you're looking to find some solace, enjoy the outdoors and get a good workout at the same time."

Wangeman, who also enjoys swimming and cross country running, fell into the sport after joining the National Guard six years ago. He began training for the biathlon, a competition where skiers travel from check point to check point with a .22 caliber rifle and shoot at targets. He has represented the Guard at competitions in Minnesota, Wyoming, Vermont and Utah.

Like many outdoor activities, cross country skiing has seen a significant surge in interest in the past year. One of the top attractions of the sport is that the cost of entry is relatively small. For instance, a quality mountain bike can cost thousands of dollars and other pastimes require a substantial financial investment for equipment, gear, fees and more.

"You can find some used gear and get everything you need for around \$100, or \$300 for new equipment," he said. "Trail access is free and you'll be outdoors getting some great exercise. As far as learning the technique, it's a straightforward process that's almost as simple as walking."

Wangeman said skiing across the snowy terrain can be a cinch compared to the work that's required to keep the trails maintained. Members of the Nordic Ski Club join forces with the Grooming Alliance of



Cross country skiers receive both the mental and physical health benefits of a sport that's economical to pursue.

Spearfish and log hundreds of hours of labor and donate hundreds of dollars each season to keep the pathways well-groomed for all to share. Some trails are designated for snow shoeing and fat biking only. Volunteers have also built a warming shelter in a meadow that's situated among the five loop trails where skiers can take a break from the wind and cold.

Aside from the Big Hills XC Trails, the Black Hills National Forest area has other sites suitable for cross country skiing. The Eagle Cliff Network is located 15 miles southwest of Lead and offers 20 miles of trails that cross open meadows and meander through Ponderosa pine forests. Half the trails are rated "difficult."

Bear Mountain is situated 10 miles

southwest of Hill City and features rocky ridges, abundant wildlife and scenic overlooks along its 16-mile trail system.

Additional pathways in the area can be found at Beaver Creek, Bear Butte State Park, Custer State Park and portions of the Centennial and Mickelson Trails.

Here are a few helpful tips for those who are thinking about taking to the wintry trails:

1. Start your day right with a hot beverage.
2. Pack well, and don't forget gloves, hat and extra socks. Layer, layer, layer.
3. Choose the right place to ski with good grooming and a reasonable and amount of flat terrain.
4. Consider taking lessons to

Cross country skiing sites

These state parks offer trails for cross-country skiers to enjoy:

- Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve
- Beaver Creek Nature Area
- Big Sioux Recreation Area
- George S. Mickelson Trail
- Hartford Beach State Park
- LaFramboise Island Nature Area
- Lake Herman State Park
- Lake Poinsett Recreation Area
- Newton Hills State Park
- Oakwood Lakes State Park
- Pelican Lake Recreation Area
- Richmond Lake Recreation Area
- Sica Hollow State Park
- Walker's Point Recreation Area



Volunteers keep the trails groomed for cross country skiing at Big Hill and also constructed a warming shelter, a popular site on cold and windy winter days.

improve your form.

5. Be prepared to fall. Acquiring balance takes time.

6. Keep your energy up with a ready snack such as a granola bar or an apple.

7. Have fun. Explore a bit and lose yourself in the rhythm of the sport.

8. Don't forget to look around you, and keep an eye out for wildlife or scenic vistas.

9. Reward yourself! You worked hard and did something adventurous.

Continued from pg 2

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: Check register for the month of October 2021 contained information on checks #31977 through #32074 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for October 2021 totaling \$830,802.74.

October 2021 financials were reviewed.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Paula Peterson to approve and sign the transfer of RUS FRS #27 Loan Funds from the Ipswich State Bank (ISB) Special Construction Fund account to the ISB Money Market account in the amount of \$900,000.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

Legal Update: none

Meeting Report: East River board update was given by Gary Bachman. Basin Annual Meeting was given by Gary Bachman, Tom Thorpe, and Paula Petersen. Basin Member only meeting report was given by Gary Bachman and Tom Thorpe.

The board acknowledged the receipt of the Safety Meeting Minutes from October 5, 2021. The board packet also included current accident and near miss reports.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.

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.

STAYING SAFE DURING AN OUTAGE

We work hard to provide the most reliable service possible. Rest assured, if the power is out, we are on it!

The length of time it takes to restore your power depends on several factors, including the:



Extent of the storm's destruction



Severity of utility equipment damage



Number and extent of outages



Accessibility to damaged equipment

STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- If you come across a downed line, immediately call FEM Electric at 605-426-6891 to report it
- Never enter a flooded room; the water could be energized.
- If you are standing in water, do not turn on/off power or flip a switch.



Prepare for a storm by gathering these items:



Bottles of water



Non-perishable food



Portable phone charger



Prescriptions



Battery-operated radio

Flashlights



Extra batteries



Pet supplies



Blankets



Warm clothing



First-aid kit



Hand sanitizer

THANK YOU for your patience during outages. When the lights go off, we are working safely and efficiently to restore power. The safety of our employees, as well as those we serve, is our TOP priority.

 Safe
Electricity.org®

 FEM Electric
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK



FEM Electric and Dakota News Now are pleased to announce that Trevor Beyers was selected as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week and will receive a \$250 scholarship. His story was featured on Dakota News Now the week of December 5th through the 11th, 2022.

In 2002, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives joined with Dakota News Now to recognize area high school seniors for their academic and community achievements. Seniors who are selected for scholarships often excel in the classroom, and are highly involved in extracurriculars inside and outside the school.

Trevor is a senior at Ipswich High School, and has been involved in football, basketball and track. He also participates in band, National Honor Society, FBLA and YPS church group. He is currently taking several AP courses through Northern State University including Sociology, Music Appreciation, Biology, Composition I, Speech and College Algebra.

While Trevor is still undecided on what school he would like to attend after high school, he is considering a major in Business/Finance.

Trevor's parents are Margy and Allen Beyers out of Roscoe, SD.

FEM Electric would like to extend a congratulations to Trevor Beyers for winning Touchstone Energy's Scholar of the Week!

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

ATTENTION MEMBER PARENTS AND STUDENTS!

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative and FEM Electric scholarship application is now available! Graduating seniors or college freshmen can submit ONE application for a chance at THREE different scholarships! Applications are now available at local high school counselor offices, via the FEM Electric website (femelectric.coop), or at the FEM Electric office located at 800 5th Ave. Ipswich, SD 57451.

Scholarships Available:

- \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- \$500 FEM Electric Cooperative
- \$500 FEM Electric Cooperative

The deadline to apply is February 11th, 2022.





CAR DEALERS ADAPT TO EV MARKET

Jesse Johnson of Jan Busse Ford in Highmore keeps customers informed of the latest industry news. *Photo by Billy Gibson.*

Car dealers adapt to emerging EV industry by making new investments and keeping their customers informed

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Keeping up with the emergence of the electric vehicle market is like listening to the hushed intonations of the announcer at the end of a 1960s-style soap opera.

Will a reliable charging network be constructed?

Will EVs become more affordable?

Will drivers ever overcome their range anxiety?

Will the political winds change direction?

Tune in tomorrow. Same time. Same channel.

Scott Shepherd is no fan of soap operas, but he's happy to give you his take on the topic. Shepherd is a career educator who has taken the EV leap and last June invested in Ford's debut model: the Mustang Mach-E. Shepherd recently delivered a presentation

describing his experience and insights to a group of electric cooperative representatives.

Subtitled "The Good, the Kind of Bad, and the Ugly," the presentation was intended to be an unbiased, unvarnished and apolitical analysis of the investment he made last year. Though Shepherd admits to being somewhat of an EVangelist, audience members were eager to hear Shepherd's comments to help them convey useful, accurate information to their electric cooperative consumers back in their respective service areas.

On the positive side, Shepherd said the advanced technology and the instant torque of his Mach-E deliver an exciting driving experience, and he likes doing his part to reduce emissions. His dealer, Jesse Johnson at Jan Busse Ford (Pioneer Garage, Inc.) in Highmore, was knowledgeable and ready to answer all of his questions and concerns. He noted

that factoring in a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500, he was able to save nearly \$1,000 in his first 5,000 miles of travel in the Mach-E.

"There's no gas tank to fill at over \$3 per gallon and no oil to change," he said. "A trip to Sioux Falls cost me \$6 in electricity, compared to \$49 in gas for an ICE (internal combustion engine)."

250
Approximate
number of EV
charging stations
throughout the
Upper Midwest.

On the not-so-good side, Shepherd pointed to the high front-end purchase price, reduced range during the winter months, the lack of Level 2 chargers in homes and the fact that traditional vehicles sometimes block access to public charging stations. He said in the rush to build out a reliable system of charging stations throughout the region,

standardized practices have yet to be developed.

“There can be a lot of inconsistent pricing with public charging stations,” he said. “Some require a connection fee plus a per-minute fee as high as 50 cents per kilowatt hour. The networks and the number of phone apps that are out there can be confusing, and I’ve also run across some charging stations that were malfunctioning.”

He pointed out that electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and investor-owned utilities in South Dakota and Minnesota are working together to create a charging network for public use that will reduce range anxiety for EV drivers. Presently, there are nine Tesla supercharger stations and four non-Tesla chargers in South Dakota, as well as more than 250 throughout the region and dozens more for the use of guests at hotels, campgrounds and other private properties.

Electrify America Fast recently announced the company is planning to install a bank of supercharging stations in Wall sometime in January, and state officials are looking to continue to invest money into light-duty charging stations from the second round of the Volkswagen Electric Vehicle Charging Station Program.

Johnson, Shepherd’s sales agent, said these days he’s getting lots of questions from scores of potential buyers who are ponying up the \$100 refundable



Jesse Johnson is shown adjusting the drive mode in the Ford Mustang Mach-E.

Photo by Billy Gibson.

fee at www.ford.com to get placed on a waiting list for not only the Mach-E but also the new Ford F-150 Lightning, the company’s first electric-powered pick up. In fact, he has a personal spot on the Lightning list along with more than 160,000 others across the country. Tesla, GMC, Rivian and Chevrolet are also introducing their own pick ups.

“We’re getting calls from all kinds of people - retirees, commuting moms and dads, gear heads, collectors, technology buffs, environmentalists, farmers, you name it,” said Johnson, who has already sent two early adopting customers home with the Mustang Mach-E and has a third on his lot.

Johnson said car and truck dealers will have to redouble their efforts to provide service after the sale as the EV industry continues to emerge. He keeps his customers, including the many who are on the purchaser’s waiting list, apprised of any new developments

DEALING WITH EVs

160,000
Number of
reservations made
for the new Ford
Lightning F-150 at
www.ford.com.

in the market. For example, when manufacturers began recommending that owners refrain from exceeding an 80 percent charge - unless going on an extended trip - to extend the car’s battery life, Johnson made sure his customers got the memo.

In preparing for the transportation future, car dealers are having to make significant investments in education for their sales force, training for technicians and new service and maintenance equipment to accommodate EVs.

“EVs are fun to drive with their immediate torque and safe-driving technology,” Johnson said. “These vehicles are an excellent option for those wanting to forget about the price of gas, reduce maintenance and emissions. We understand they may not fit everyone’s lifestyle, but we see a definite place for them in the future.”



Scott Shepherd is shown above talking with students at the Lake Area Technical College Automotive Technology Program about his experience as an EV owner.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

IF YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE PAST MEMBERS OR BUSINESSES, PLEASE HAVE THEM CALL FEM ELECTRIC AT 605-426-6891 OR 800-587-5880 AND ASK FOR ANGIE.

STAYE HOOSE, MGR
ADM ALLIANCE NUTRITION
KIMBERLY A. ALBRIGHT
RENA E. ALLBEE
CALVIN ANDERSEN
ISHMAEL ANTAR
DOUGLAS D. ARCHER
ROBERT L. ARCURI
VINCENT AMATO
FRANK BACH
DAVID BELTZ
ORPHA BENSEN
ALEX BICHLER
BARON OR JANELLE BRAUSEN
BRIDGER TOWER CORP
JODI R. CARRICO
MIKE CASJENS
WENDY CASTLE
DAKOTA GRAIN TRANSFER
CHAD DAVIS
JOHN DEATON
MICHAEL DEVOSS
MARTHA DOCKTER
MIKE DOSCH
EDNA DUNAWAY
GARY A. DUTENHOEFFER
DALE ENG
GINA ESMAY
WESLEY R. EVANS
MARGARET FEHR
WILMA FINLEY
EDWARD FISCHER
LISA FREWALDT
RICKY GEDITZ
LYNELL GOEHRING
GRAVES BROTHERS INC
VERNA GUSTAFSON
OTTO HAGENLOCK
RODERICK HALL
BERNICE HANSEN
VIRGINIA HAPALA
LOUISE HARTMAN
JACK HEACOCK

REGINA HEIFENREICH
DONALD HEILMAN
PETER G. HEILMAN
CLARE HELGELIEN
CLAIR HENDERSON
MARGUERITE HENDERSON
LANCE HOFER
ALAN HUBER
OSCAR E. HUBER
ELIZABETH HUBERS
KURT D. HUBERS
INDUSTRIAL PROCESS TECH, INC.
WILLIAM OR RACHEL ISHEE
FRED JOHNSON
CATHY A. JONES
EUGENE JUNG
KADLEC FARMS
LLOYD KELLER
DR JOSEPH EKOOB
RUSSELL & CAROLINE KRONBERG
L & J PROPERTIES
LEE LANGSTON
HELEN LONG
RAYMOND D. LUNDBERG
DAVID J. LUX
CRAIG MARTINMAAS
KIM MCKITTRICK
JIM MEEHL
DONALD MELIUS
MILLIRON H RANCH
EUGENE L. MITCHELL
MOTOROLA COMMUNICATIONS
HARRIETTE MOWRY
ELMER MULSKE
DALE OAKLEY
DAWN OHNSTAD
JEFF OMLAND
MARLYS PERRY
EDMUND PFEIFLE
MICHELLE PICOTTE
BILLY PIPPIN
EMMA POTTEBAUM
ROBERT PRITCHARD

SHANNON QUENZER
RAINBOW LODGE
MRS. BENNIE (ERNA) RATH
CARL H. REED
MARK RETTKE
RICHARD RIEBEN
WILLIAM RIEBEN
REINHOLD RITTER
YVONNE RITTERHOUSE
DEVIN ROGERS
RICK ROHRBACH
MAUREEN MILLER
RUBIE'S BAR & GRILL
TED SCEPANIAC
SCOTT OR JESSICA SCHAUER
JACOB SCHILLING
ROGER SCHNABEL
SCHUMACHER PLUMBING & HTG
EDMUND SCHUMACHER
BILL SCHWAB
MICHAEL SCHWINGLER, JR.
TAMY SEHNERT
ROBERT STROMAN
ALAN STUCKLE
JAMES THORSTENSON
LEROY TIPPPIE
TOLSTOY LIVESTOCK YARDS
EVA ULMER
BRUCE VOEGELE
NAOMI VOEGELE
ALAN WALKER
MONTE WARREN
MABEL L. WEBER
WESTERN COMMUNICATIONS
MATT WHELAN
RICHARD WILLIAMS
ALFRED WILLIAMSON
ALBERT WINKELMAN
KINTON G. WITTROCK
HENRY WUGER
VIOLET B. WOLF

REMINDER

If you haven't seen the notice on your statement, or on social media, here's another reminder that starting January 2022 FEM Electric will no longer mail a return envelope with statements.

However, if you would like some return envelopes, please stop by the FEM Electric office at 800 5th Ave., Ipswich, SD 57451 and we will provide you with a pack while supplies last.



61st Annual Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo
January 28-February 5, 2022



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.

DECEMBER 21-25
Fort Sisseton Drive Thru Christmas Light Display
 11907 434th Avenue, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

DECEMBER 23-24
1880 Train Holiday Express
 222 Railroad Avenue, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

DECEMBER 26-31
Christmas Nights of Lights
 Storybook Island, Rapid City, SD, 1-605-342-6357

DECEMBER 26-31
Garden Glow
 McCrory Gardens, Brookings, SD, 605-688-6707

DECEMBER 31
New Year's Eve With The Davis Sisters
 Performing Arts Center of Rapid City, Rapid City, SD, 605-348-4676

JANUARY 1
Winter Wonderland Nature Hike
 Big Sioux Recreation Area, Brandon, SD, 605-594-3824

JANUARY 4-6
Dakota Farm Show
 USD DakotaDome, Vermillion, SD, more info available at dakotafarmshow.com

JANUARY 7
Neal McCoy
 The Dakota Event Center, Aberdeen, SD, 605-725-2641

JANUARY 8
Eric Church
 Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

JANUARY 14-15
Deadwood Red Dirt Festival
 Deadwood Mountain Grand Event Center, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-0386

JANUARY 15
Burning Beetle
 10th Street, Custer, SD, find out more at www.facebook.com/barkbeetleblues

JANUARY 15-16
Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association Gun Show
 Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD, 605-793-2347

JANUARY 16
Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League January Trap Shoot
 5000 N Oakview Place, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-332-9527

JANUARY 16
WWE Supershow
 Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

JANUARY 21-23
That Golden Girls Show
 Orpheum Theater Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

JANUARY 22
Reba McEntire
 Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

JANUARY 28-29
Deadwood Pro Snocross Races
 Days of '76 Rodeo Grounds, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

JANUARY 28-29
27th Annual Dinner Theater
 Reliance Legion Hall, Reliance, SD, call 605-730-0553 for more info and tickets

JANUARY 28-31
Lead Winterfest
 Various Locations, Lead, SD, call 605-584-1100

JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 6
Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo
 Central States Fairgrounds & Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

JANUARY 29-30
Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association Gun Show
 National Field Archery Building, Yankton, SD, 605-731-9154

FEBRUARY 5
Lake Hendricks Improvement Association Ice Fishing Derby
 Hendricks, MN, contact Tim at 507-828-2113 for registration and more information

FEBRUARY 5
Lakota Games on Ice
 3200 Indian Village Road, Mitchell, SD, 605-996-5473

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