





2 - Fiber Project improvements underway



2 - Power pole stability comes in the shape of a "C."



3 - Department of Energy to Boost DMEA Solar?



Photograph by: Allison Gerfin



Powerlines

DMEA's New Year's Resolution: Reaching Out to **You**

Newsletter Goes Back to Monthly Publication!

We Listened! This newly re-designed newsletter is our answer to numerous member comments centering on two points: "Tell it to us quick," and "Go back to monthly!"

Well, here it is. We do hope you'll take a moment to glance at these pages and connect with the cooperative that *you own*.

Member Services Commits to Live Answering of Incoming Calls

We've all experienced it... You call a company and a computer answers. You know it won't be able to understand your problem. Your next question is: "How do I get to a human?"

Under the strategic direction of our board to offer more personal service to our members, our Member Services department is personally answering as many as possible of the

over 700 member phone calls DMEA receives each day.



The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system will still be used for taking credit card payments, outage call management, and 24/7 access but, as Department Supervisor, Greg Hobbs says,

"We're member-owned, so we want to be there for our members, *personally*."

More progress on DMEA Fiber Optics

Fiber Project improvements underway

The fiber optic network that DMEA is installing continues to progress with the addition of new and renovated control buildings at the connecting substations.

Much of the fiber optic communications equipment is highly sensitive and several of the substations have lacked a conditioned space to shelter that equipment from the elements. Now, DMEA has hired a local contractor to build the small, but vital structures within the fenced area of these substations in order to provide the needed protection.

“Exterior environments are tough on electronics,” says DMEA Engineering Manager, Kent Davenport. “These buildings will have a metal exterior and will allow us to heat and cool our equipment and give it an optimal environment in which to operate.”

When finished, the communications network will allow DMEA to operate the power grid more safely and reliably. It will also strengthen DMEA's ability to allow you, our members, better access to your own usage information through offerings like SmartHub.



C-ing the Light

Power pole stability comes in a familiar shape

The DMEA Operations Department reports that contract crews have completed c-trussing poles in the Read District. What is “c-trussing?” Basically, it is a method of extending the functional life of power poles.

The c-truss is nothing more than a “c” shaped steel beam that is driven into the ground and tied to the pole. This rot-mitigation method is safe; it’s about a third of the cost of a full replacement and it can extend the life of our power poles by up to 30 years.

DMEA operations crews inspect approximately 3500 poles each year. Of those poles, approximately 2% are typically identified as having “excessive rot.” Because many of these poles show no other deficiencies, c-trussing is a safe, reliable and cost-effective way of providing the strength that keeps our grid stable.

Home Cookin'

Win a small appliance! Submit recipes (submit name & city) to: DMEA Newsletter P.O. Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or communications@dmea.com DMEA does not test nor endorse any recipe.



Sweet & Savory Roast:

- 12 oz. can of cola
- 3-4 lb. boneless chuck roast
- 10¾ oz. can cream of mushroom soup
- 2 onions, thinly sliced

Combine cola and soup together; set aside. Place roast in roasting pan; pour soup mixture on top. Add onions; cover and bake at 325° for 2½ to 3 hours. Serves 8-10. (or) crock pot is even easier for 8 hours. Makes a delicious gravy to spoon over mashed potatoes.

This recipe is so simple & delicious!

- Cheryl Reid, Cedaredge

Apple Rhubarb Crumble:

- 3 c. chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb
- 2 medium apples, peeled and chopped
- 1 egg
- ¾ c. sugar
- ¼ c. maple syrup
- ¼ to ½ tsp. ground nutmeg
- ¼ to ½ tsp. cinnamon
- 1 c. all-purpose flour
- ½ c. packed brown sugar
- Pinch salt
- ½ c. cold butter, cubed

In a bowl. combine the rhubarb, apples, egg, sugar, syrup, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Pour into a greased 2qt. baking dish. In another bowl, combine the flour, brown sugar and salt. Cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs; sprinkle over fruit mixture. Bake at 350° for 45-55 minutes or until bubbling.

- Kathy Larson, Montrose

Bright Future

DOE to Boost DMEA Solar?

Solar energy is great, but what do you do when the sun isn't shining? The answer is to use batteries to store energy and deploy it when needed.

A Department of Energy (DOE) grant program is seeking teams to see if this can be done economically. DMEA would like to be on one of these teams. To that end, DMEA has applied to partner with NRECA to pursue the grant. NRECA plans to announce partnerships in January.



DMEA's Community Solar Array and its Member Solar Pilot program are examples of how the DMEA Local Power Partnership is looking for ways to leverage renewable energy to save money.

Bright Ideas

Improve Taste:

When cooking turnips, cook an egg-sized potato with them. When done, remove the potato and season the turnips. The bitter taste of turnips will be in the potato. Improves the turnips.

- Letha Shipley, Olathe

Win a small appliance! Submit ideas (with name & city) to: DMEA Newsletter P.O. Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or communications@dmea.com DMEA does not test nor endorse any bright idea.

Operation Round-Up has helped thousands nationwide. Now, as a generous participant of the Round-Up program, you can designate a fixed amount beyond "the next dollar" to contribute. You can even set it up on a monthly automatic basis.



Crisscross

Across

1. it soaks the bitter taste out of turnips.
2. the "R" in "IVR."
6. the new "Powerlines" newsletter will publish every ____.
9. c-trussing costs about a ____ as much as a pole replacement.
10. DMEA receives over 700 of them a day.

Down

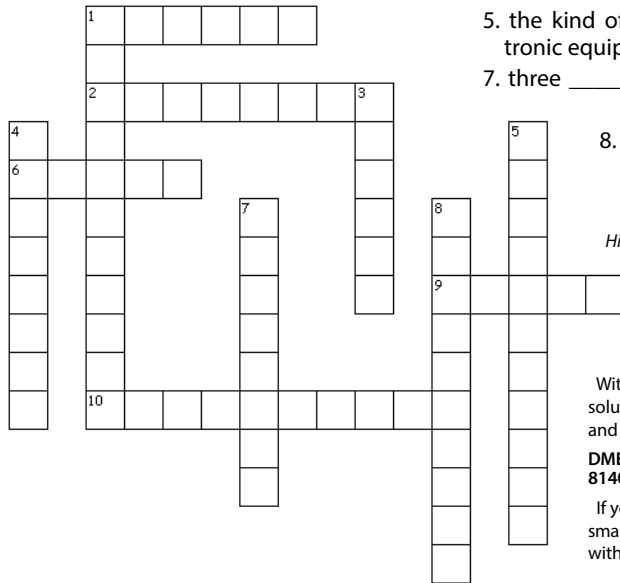
1. Local power _____.
3. the "E" in "DOE."
4. allows DMEA members access to their usage information.
5. the kind of space needed to shelter electronic equipment from the elements.
7. three ____ of a cup of sugar in an Apple Rhubarb Crumble
8. a method of extending the functional life of rotting power poles

Hint: All the answers are in this newsletter.

Within 30 days of this publication, send the solution to this puzzle, (include your name and city) to:

DMEA Newsletter P.O. Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or communications@dmea.com

If your solution is chosen, you may win a small appliance! Winners must claim prizes within 60 days of publication.



DMEA Board Of Directors:

Bill Patterson, *District #1*; Brent Hines, *District #2*; Olen Lund, *District #3*
 Jim Elder, *District #4*; Marshall Collins, *District #5*; Terry Brown, *District #6*
 Mark Eckhart, *District #7*; Tony Prendergast, *South Region*
 John Gavan, *North Region*

DMEA board meetings are open to all members. They are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times and locations.

Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Contact:

1-877-OUR-DMEA
(1-877-687-3632)

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Save Energy

DMEA members now have access to 15 Kill-A-Watt electricity usage monitors through public libraries within the co-op's service territory. The devices can be checked out like other library materials and allow members to plug in their 110-volt home appliances and other electric devices to determine their electrical draw and the resulting cost.

The large LCD display shows consumption by the kilowatt-hour and also displays voltage (V), line current (Hz), current (I) and more.



Meters are available for checkout at the Montrose, Delta, Cedaredge, Hotchkiss, Paonia, and Crawford libraries.