

# Watts Up?

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Volume 23, No. 8

Ravalli Electric Co-op

Corvallis, Montana



...to all the merchants who donated more than 90 gifts for the co-op's 75th Annual Meeting held June 12. As always, we had a lot of happy folks who received the excellent gifts!

General Pacific, Inc.  
HD Utilities Supply  
Custom Plumbing  
Davison's Service  
Willows & Wool  
The Trail 103.3  
Zam Zuu - 4U  
WESCO  
Towne Mailer  
Corvallis Drug  
Bell McCall Co.  
Victor Steakhouse  
Rocky Knob Lodge  
First Security Bank  
Triple W Equipment

BJ's Family Restaurant  
Professional Computer Systems  
ELM Locating & Utility Services  
Zacha Underground Construction  
Bosch, Kuhr, Dugdale, Martin & Kaze  
Titan Truck Equipment & Accessories  
Harper's Bitterroot Valley Les Schwab  
Mountain Broadcasting-Mountain FM 102.5  
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, Inc.  
Western Glove Distributing, Inc.  
Gail H Goheen, Attorney at Law  
Willow Creek Physical Therapy  
Bell Lumber & Pole Company  
Quivals Family Fun Center  
Office Solutions & Services

Professional Impressions  
Smith Janitorial Service  
Ravalli County Bank  
Corvallis Auto Parts  
McFarland Cascade  
GAP Broadcasting  
Corvallis Subway  
Hamilton's IGA  
Farmers State Bank  
Border States Electric  
HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Cheese Factory Garage  
Heberly and Associates



## \$12,000 Given in Scholarships from REC



Congratulations to the twelve lucky students who were awarded \$1000 scholarships from Ravalli Electric Co-op at our Annual Meeting.

The scholarships are made available from returned capital credit checks for previous members who we are unable to locate. Rather than return the funds to the state of Montana, we use them for educational purposes.

The winning students (listed alphabetically) are: Austin Anderson, Shane Bartschi, Josie Clark, Shelby Gibson, Dillon Murray, Abby Mytty, Lila Severson, Marley Steibel, Tyler Tintzman, Jacqueline Wallace, Mercee Joy Warr, and Amanda Zito.



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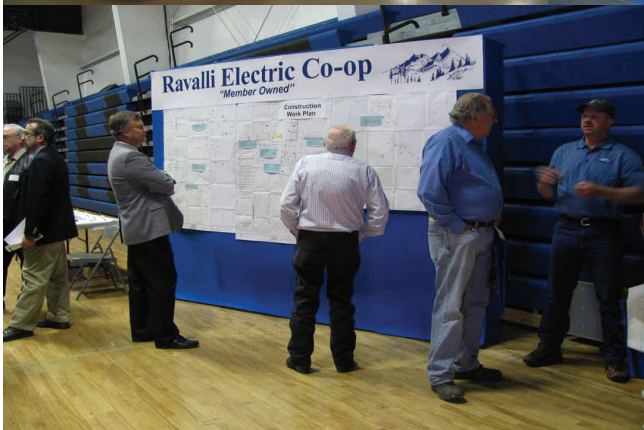
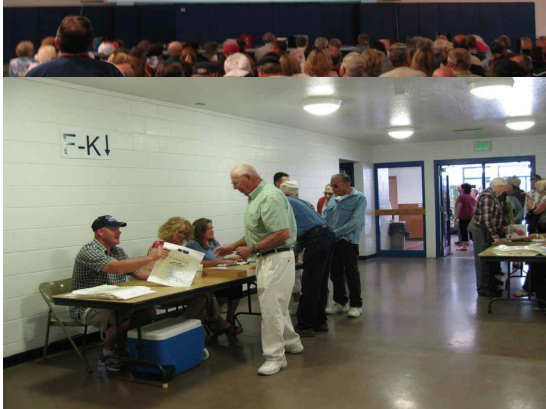
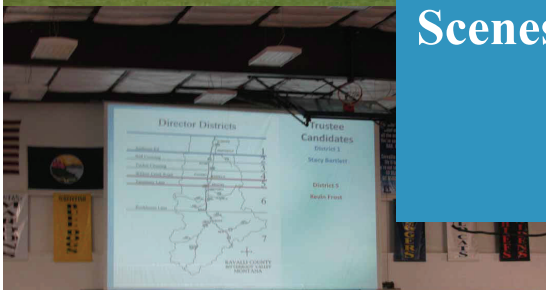
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

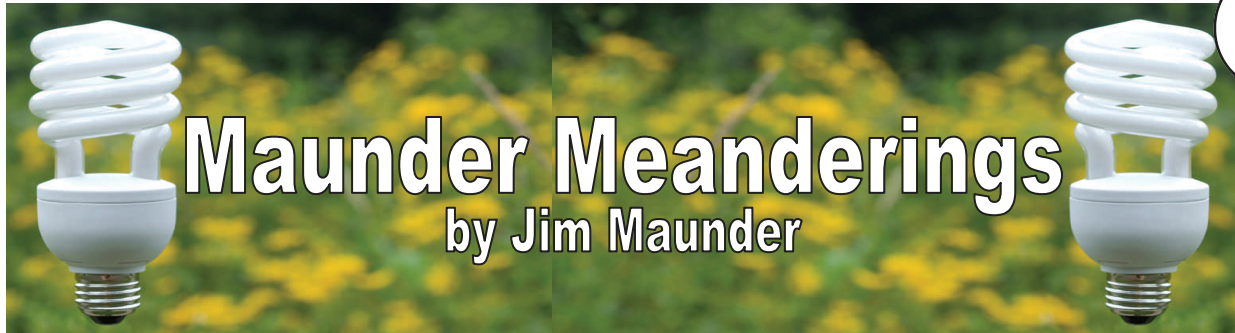
Ravalli Electric Co-op



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Scenes from Ravalli Electric Co-op's 75th Annual Meeting held June 12, 2010





## Maunder Meanderings

by Jim Maunder

### New Program to Improve the Efficiency of Manufactured Home Ductwork

Ravalli Electric Co-op is implementing a program to improve the efficiency of the forced air system ductwork in existing manufactured homes. The program is aimed at helping members with manufactured homes that have **electric forced air heating or electric heat pump systems** to reduce energy and save on their energy bills. The program offers performance testing and duct sealing of the manufactured homes existing ductwork.

If you're interested in participating, please contact the co-op. We will forward your name to the program contractor who will set up an appointment with you. The contractor is trained and certified to perform the diagnostic testing and duct sealing. Each manufactured home's duct system must be tested and certified as a PTCS Duct System by the contractor.



All electrically-heated manufactured homes qualify for the program if PTCS duct testing indicates that duct sealing is required to meet the program specifications. The pre-test must show an existing tested leakage rate of >50 cubic feet per minute (CFM) for single wide homes and >75 CFM leakage for two or more section manufactured homes.

Members of Ravalli Electric Co-op that heat their manufactured homes with fossil fuels (propane or natural gas) may have their ductwork tested by the contractor. They must pay for the testing and sealing prior to the work being performed. Please contact our Member Services Department with questions or information to help you get started in the program. Ravalli Electric Co-op looks forward to helping you be more comfortable in your manufactured home while saving energy and money!



## Know What's Below: Call Before You Dig

Whether it's a dreamed up deck addition or a landscaping masterpiece, summer weather is a great time for outdoor improvement plans to actually play out.

But if your planned projects include digging, like planting a tree or bringing in a backhoe for trench work, you'll have to wait a few more days so the job can be done safely. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a summer project into a disaster.

To find out where utility lines run on your property, dial 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes, and cables with flags or marking paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, the majority don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 33 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance, a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals.

Although light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).

Sources: *Common Ground Alliance, SafeElectricity.org*

**ALWAYS  
CALL  
BEFORE YOU  
DIG**

**811**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:  
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.  
Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.

**811**  
One Call to Mark  
Call before you dig.

U.S. Department of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Energy  
U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Department of Labor  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Environment  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Department of Labor  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Environment  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

### Find the Hidden Number



We will hide three account numbers this month in our "Watts Up?" pages. If you find your account number, call the office at 961-3001 by the 20th of the magazine month and you get a \$30 credit on your electric bill. Good luck!

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