




Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

RR 6, Box 502

Clarksburg, WV 26301-0502

304-624-6365

Your Touchstone Energy® Partners 

www.harrisonrea.com

A short update of activities at your Co-op

Your team of professionals at Harrison Rural Electrification continues to strive to produce the highest level of service at the least possible pricing. A few statistics come to mind that may interest you.

One is the ratio of members to employees. As you may or may not know, we currently employ 18 workers, and we serve approximately 6,300 metered accounts. At HREA, our ratio is 350 members per employee. The national average is 268, which suggests that we are applying the most economical strategies available to serve our members while striving to keep our rates low.

Several other activities are under way. We are in the final stages of purchasing property for a new substation in the Chiefton area. We have added new regula-

tors to the Jarvisville area and we have made some changes around the Co-op office.

First, if you have not been to the office recently, you will find that we have installed a new sidewalk leading up to the front door. We replaced the old walkway this past summer in order to make a safer transition from the parking lot to the office for our handicapped members. Our office staff completed the landscaping.

In addition, due to a change in ownership of properties next to our office, we have constructed a new roadway for our line department to exit onto the Sun Valley road.

In other activities, we continue to pick up new sources of members at Charles Pointe. The development is in the process of building approximately 60 new residences that ultimately will add to our growing member base. In addition, this new construction makes this the first time HREA ever has provided service to a franchised motel chain and a banking institution.

Furthermore, since the development's groundbreaking, we are in the process of serving our 11th commercial property within the development, with more opportunities coming.

Additionally, progress continues on the new Salem-Gore Middle School building. We anticipate the additional electric load to the building will be installed by the

Manager's Corner

By
Gary Jackson,
CEO/General
Manager



spring of 2007.

HREA has been offering satellite Internet service for over one year now. We presently have more than 180 customers using this new high-speed service. With a great deal of our customers still using dial-up service and, in many cases, with no access to DSL or cable service, WildBlue users are provided speeds comparable to the other faster services.

The following packages are available to customers in West Virginia: (limitations do exist in regard to satellite capacities.)

- The Value Pak, at \$49.95 per month, offers speeds up to 512 kilobits per second (kbps) download;
- The Select Pak, at \$69.95 per month, brings speeds up to 1 megabyte per second (Mbps);
- And the Pro Pak, at \$79.95 per month, delivers up to 1.5 Mbps.

HREA is offering WildBlue satellite broadband equipment at \$299 plus tax, and installation at \$179 is based on a one-year agreement. With a two-year agreement, the installation cost is waived for a standard installation. Other charges may apply for a nonstandard installation. Anyone interested in satellite-delivered broadband should contact HREA at 304-624-6365.

Board of Directors

James Stuart, Dist. 4President
 Michael Cross, Dist. 7Vice President
 James McMurtry, Dist. 6Secy.-Treas.
 C.B. SharpDist. 1
 Greg RobertsonDist. 2
 Glenn Cox, Jr.Dist. 3
 Ron WatsonDist. 5

Gary L. Jackson, General Manager
 Terry StoutOffice Manager
 Alan CoxOperations Manager
 Richard L. FoxStaking Engineer
 Nada McNemarEditor

Office Hours
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

Deadline draws near for petition nominations


Member Petition Nominations for Board of Directors are due at the Cooperative office by Dec. 21. Director positions up for election are in districts 5, 6 and 7. A petition for each member nominated must list the name, address and account number of the member nominee; must indicate the director position for which the member nominee will run; and must contain the printed names, addresses, phone numbers, account numbers and original signatures of at least 15 members.

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please call or stop by the office. A customer service representative will be happy to assist you.



We won't ask you to vote a certain way on Nov. 7, but we will ask you to vote.

A reminder from
Harrison Rural Electrification

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

No- or low-cost ways to save

Here are some no- or low-cost ideas that can help you save energy and money at your home or small business:

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- Air-dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
- Use your microwave instead of a conventional electric range or oven.
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Plug home electronics, such as TVs and VCRs, into power strips and turn power strips off when equipment is not in use.
- Lower the thermostat on your water heater; 115 is comfortable for most uses.
- Take showers instead of baths to reduce hot water use.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy


BIRTHDAY GREETINGS!

This month, we would like to extend birthday wishes to Ron and Debbie Yerkey, as well as John Holt. These three employees have a total of 82 years of service working for your Cooperative. John has 33 years of service, Ron has 26 and Debbie has been here for the last 23 years. So, happy birthday folks, and thanks for hanging in there all these many years.



Harrison Rural Electrification honors America's veterans on their day, Nov. 11.

We will be closed Nov. 10 and 11

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 



These events happened...way back...when...

On Nov. 24, 1750, George Washington acquired his first tract of land in what now is West Virginia. There were many speculators during colonial times who tried to profit from valuable western Virginia land claims. Washington bought the Bullskin Plantation in present-day Jefferson County from Robert Rutherford. He acquired about 65,000 acres in western Virginia, occasionally evicting settlers who had been living on the property. By the end of the 19th century, the coal, oil, gas and timber boom made portions of West Virginia quite valuable, which led to conflicts between out-of-state landowners and West Virginians who actually lived here. Some of these battles were fought in the courtroom, and most of the time the settlers lost. Absentee land ownership today is still a controversial issue because out-of-state corporations control much of West Virginia's privately-owned land.

On Nov. 10, 1817, Kanawha Valley salt manufacturers of the early 19th century banded together to form what has been called this nation's first trust when they formed the Kanawha Salt Company. Early 19th century salt factories in the Kanawha Valley made up the country's largest salt producing area. The industry boomed during the War of 1812 because of a British blockade that prevented the safe transport of salt from other sources. American armies and their Indian allies, who were fighting the British, depended upon the salt from Kanawha Valley producers. Since the salt makers produced more salt than could be consumed, they sought to control its production. Kanawha Valley producers banded together in an output pool whereby manufacturers combined their production and also agreed to reduce their production in order to raise prices in the American West. Their efforts didn't last long, however, because the economy took a downturn and forced the company out of business. It was an innovative move though and did set a precedent for other companies in the years to come.

On Nov. 11, 1861, in the Cabell County town of Guyandotte, Union troops burned the entire business district, and a number of homes as well, in retaliation over a raid pulled off the day before by Confederate cavalry. The town's fate was the result of suspected collaboration with the Confederate raiders, and also its secessionist reputation. Earlier, in the fall of 1861, Guyandotte served as a hostile host to a Union recruit camp. The recruits were n't able to put up much of a fight against the raiders and were taken prisoner and forced to march to Newbern, VA. The march began at a full run with the prisoners tied two-by-two with rope. The march was quite torturous and was exaggerated as a massacre in the Northern press. As a result of the bad publicity, four secessionists were assaulted and three were jailed in the

northern panhandle town of Moundsville. Union men also went to the homes of other secessionists and ordered them to leave town. The *Wheeling Intelligencer* newspaper called Guyandotte the "onaryest place on the Ohio River" and said it ought to have been burned earlier. Guyandotte was rebuilt by 1872.

On Nov. 13, 1944, Junior Spurrier, from Bluefield, WV earned the Congressional Medal of Honor and the French Medal of Honor for single-handedly liberating a small French farming community from the Germans. Spurrier came to be known as "the one-man army" and the "lone ranger of the 134th Infantry". He killed 25 German troops by himself and captured many more. The Germans could not believe that one man had liberated the entire town and basically destroyed a German detachment of the Wehrmacht. Spurrier was one of the most decorated veterans of World War II, surpassed only by Audie Murphy, who earned one more commendation than Spurrier. And while Murphy used his wartime fame as a springboard to Hollywood, Spurrier had trouble readjusting to civilian life and was constantly in trouble for drinking and fighting. He died in 1984 and was buried in the United States Veterans Cemetery in Johnson City, TN.

On Nov. 20, 1968, an explosion tore through Consolidation Coal Company's Number 9 mine in Farmington, WV. Flames and smoke shot out through the mine's Lewellyn and Mod's Run portals. Twenty-one miners were rescued, but 78 others were trapped. After several more explosions and increasing smoke and flames, rescue operations were stalled. After a few days, two rescue teams entered the mine and searched for the trapped miners for several hours but were ordered out of the mine when they encountered enough methane to blow the mine again. Officials made the difficult decision to seal the mine so the fire could be put out, because they were sure the 78 trapped miners were dead. The existence of today's Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration is due, in large part, to the Farmington mine disaster.

On Nov. 4, 1985, floods devastated much of West Virginia. More than 3,500 homes and 180 businesses were wiped out. Hundreds of thousands of farm animals were killed and 123 bridges were destroyed or damaged. Forty-seven West Virginians lost their lives, 28 of whom resided in Pendleton and Grant counties. Thirty-three of West Virginia's 55 counties were declared disaster areas. Damage was estimated at \$570 million. Towns shattered by the flood rebuilt slowly. Unfortunately, severe flooding in 1996 devastated many of these same areas just as they were beginning to fully recover.

For more interesting facts about our beautiful state, visit the West Virginia Division of Culture and History at www.wvculture.org.

Follow safety rules with turkey fryers

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is issuing safety tips for preventing fires and burns when using turkey fryers. Since 1998, CPSC has reports of more than 75 incidents that involved fires, flames or burns associated with turkey fryers. Here are some of the hazard scenarios:

- House fires associated with turkey fryers leading to injuries and property damage.
- Ignition of oil used with turkey fryers. This often was related to oil reaching excess temperatures or oil contacting the open flame of the fryer.
- Splashing of hot oil, causing burns.



The majority of reported incidents occurred while the oil was being heated prior to adding the turkey. For this reason, it is very important consumers monitor the temperature of the oil closely. If any smoke at all is noticed coming from a heating pot of oil, the burner should be turned off immediately because the oil is overheated.

There is a risk of injury resulting from splashing due to the cooking of partially frozen meats. Thoroughly thaw and dry ALL meats before cooking in hot oil. One reported burn incident occurred when partially frozen chicken wings were added to hot oil in a turkey fryer.

CPSC staff is working with industry and voluntary standards organizations to improve the safety standard for turkey fryers.

CPSC staff recommends that consumers who choose to fry turkeys should follow these safety guidelines:

- Keep fryer in FULL VIEW while burner is on.
- Place fryer in an open area AWAY from all walls, fences or other structures.

- Never use IN, ON or UNDER a garage, breezeway, carport, porch or any other structure that can catch fire.
- Raise and lower food SLOWLY to reduce splatter and avoid burns.
- COVER bare skin when adding or removing food.

- Check the oil temperature frequently.
- If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn gas supply OFF.
- If a fire occurs, immediately call 911. DO NOT attempt to extinguish fire with water.

For safest operation, CPSC staff recommends that consumers follow these guidelines as they prepare

to use a turkey fryer:

- Make sure there is at least two feet of space between the liquid propane tank and fryer burner.
- Place the liquid propane gas tank and fryer so that any wind blows the heat of the fryer away from the gas tank.
- Center the pot over the burner on the cooker.
- Completely thaw (USDA says 24 hours for every four to five pounds) and dry turkey before cooking. Partially frozen and/or wet turkeys can produce excessive hot oil splatter when added to the oil.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions to determine the proper amount of oil to add. If those are not available:
 - Place turkey in pot
 - Fill with water until the turkey is covered by about 1/2 inch of water
 - Remove and dry turkey
 - Mark water level. Dump water, dry the pot, and fill with oil to the marked level.

Harrison Rural
Electrification Association will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 23
and Friday, Nov. 24

to allow our employees to give thanks
for this great country we live in.

We'll be back to serve you on Monday, Nov. 27.

