



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# RULES

**B**ack in the days when we could walk to and from school, even if it was miraculously uphill in both directions, life was simpler, and for the most part, people seemed to be happy. We didn't need others to tell us the difference between what was right and was wrong; we just seemed to know. Networking involved gathering at the local gas station or community store to discuss current events and tell stories about the past. Most everyone took care of their life's essentials to make sure their family was taken care of. If some "luxury" was desired, then we planned and saved until we could eventually afford to acquire it. Kids got into orneriness without the need to destroy other people's property, and when they had disagreements, they settled them face-to-face and still walked away friends. Yeah, those were the good old days.

Today, we have a lot more rules that have to be in writing and supplemented by other rules to ensure that the rules are not applied uniformly because there is no longer a clear distinction between what is right and what is wrong. Many of us spend way too much time on social media sharing personal information with people we don't even know, and expressing opinions as facts. It seems that far too many have given up on taking care of true essentials and moved toward the belief that we are entitled to have whatever

we may want and others should make allowances for us to attain these "luxuries." The news is far too full of instances where someone doesn't like someone, so they abuse their right to bear arms to settle things in their favor, or they wind up in some courtroom instead of just treating others like they don't matter. It makes us more seasoned veterans worry about what the future may bring for our own kids.



**Terry Stout**  
CEO/General Manager

The cooperative also faces these new unsorted rules from several jurisdictional authorities. Sometimes the rule makers are operating from theory or their own personal agenda and fail to have sufficient real-world knowledge of the subject matter to actually make sensible rules. We have long lived with the foundational principle that if we educate people about the rules – as well as why and how we do things certain ways – they will have a better understanding of the particular subject matter. For this education to be successful, it requires people to be willing to accept learning opportunities when they are provided. The rules also have to make sense on a level that affects and/or benefits the majority, not just a select few. In the old days, this concept was just accepted, while today, it seems to be a concept we are either unable to conceive of or just plain refuse to accept.

## Happy Birthday!

If you see these HREA employees this month, be sure to wish them a very happy birthday!

**Christy Foster**      **June 03**  
**Katrina Ewing**      **June 29**



## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

FROM HARRISON  
RURAL  
ELECTRIFICATION  
ASSOCIATION





## TECHNOLOGY

# CLOUDS REALLY DO HAVE A SILVER LINING

It seems as though if you talk about computers anymore someone will mention “the cloud.” What is the cloud? What can it do for me? Where do I get one for family? Well, let’s answer those questions.

First, I want to reflect back on the cloud concept and how it was born. Back when they invented the internet (yes, I am that old) the average home computer was a slow and largely a standalone device. The only fast computers anyone had took up an entire room and were very expensive. Naturally, the solution would be to have the bigger, faster computers (servers) do the heavy lifting while the slower machines (clients) would wait for the “output”. What could go wrong?

As it turns out, 1994 communications infrastructure was nowhere near ready for what we in the business

**There is a good chance you have been using a cloud infrastructure and not even realized it**

would consider usable speeds. Back then, analog modem technology was used to send signals over a regular telephone line, and unless you were a bank or huge corporation, this was all you had. These were very disconnected times. We end users were busy trying to find the fastest dial-up equipment

available. All of the corporations and schools were busy doing the same thing; meanwhile, software developers were madly trying to come up with the “skinniest” data packets possible. Manufacturers were busy building chipsets to assist the flow problem and speed up the client machine. All and all, everyone eventually had to admit the only way this model would be feasible would be for the communications equipment to become a lot faster. So for 25 years, that has been the plan. Simultaneously, the personal computer industry has been the benefactor of many miniaturization revisions. This has provided really small, fast devices that fit in our hands with wireless

speeds in some cases besting a wired infrastructure. Smaller and faster has set the table for an old idea: the cloud.

Yes, we have waited 25 years for this to come about, and now it’s hitting like a freight train. Cloud computing – server/client – is back and it is here to stay. The concept is to leverage a much larger computer to simplify and speed up tasks. For millions of small and large businesses, the first foray into the cloud will be disaster recovery backups for machines large and small. In fact, there is a good chance you have been using a cloud infrastructure and not even realized it. One of the first ones I remember seeing is known as Dropbox. Now the theme is common place. File backups, sharing, and synchronizing are just part of a business offering. The 25-year wait has given both ends of the equation time to sophisticate. Not only is this a business thing, but the cloud was made for everyone, be it personal, corporate, or governmental. The telecom industry has benefited greatly already; for instance, when you call a business these days, there is a very good chance some part of that call will be handled by the cloud and then distributed by a voice over IP system (VoIP).

Big business is switching to cloud infrastructure to minimize costs of IT spending and create a much more sharing-oriented environment with arguably better security. (This still varies from company to company.) Schools are switching to cloud infrastructure for more flexibility in satellite learning – instantly sharing with huge groups all over the country and teleconferencing guest speakers who would be hard to schedule any other way. Delivery service is using the cloud to nimbly track and more accurately deliver any and everything. I daresay the examples could go on and on.

With these thoughts I will leave one more, clouds really do have a silver lining. In some cases, they have a golden lining.

Till next time @TechCorner



## SAFETY

# If thunder roars, **GO INDOORS!**

Storm tips from the American Red Cross

**W**hen thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes, or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
- Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower, or use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway

and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk and weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



**YOU'RE FOUR TIMES  
IT'S HARD TO  
MORE LIKELY TO HAVE  
CONCENTRATE ON  
A ROAD ACCIDENT  
TWO THINGS  
WHEN YOU'RE ON  
AT THE SAME TIME  
A MOBILE PHONE.**



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

# POP QUIZ

LED bulbs use only about 20 percent of the energy that traditional incandescent bulbs use, but how much longer do they last?

- A** 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs
- B** 15 times longer than incandescent bulbs
- C** 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs

Answer: C

### HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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