

# ENERGY WISE

AUGUST 2017

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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**Both Offices Open:**  
M - TH, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com)  
[www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](https://www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower)

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office. If it is after hours, you will be able to automatically transfer to our 24-hour dispatch.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Send your questions or suggestions for the editors of EnergyWise to:  
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## SAFETY TIPS

When you see lightning, use the 30/30 Rule: If you hear thunder within 30 seconds of seeing lightning, the storm is close enough to be dangerous to you. Seek shelter indoors or in a hard top vehicle and remain until you have not heard thunder for 30 minutes.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

## Top of the Pines on Top of the World



Top of the Pines Director, Kelvin Kent peers at the newly renovated pavilion from the front door of the warming hut. Both structures were recently wired for power thanks to the Sharing Success Grant program.

### Sharing Success Grant Helps Program Reach New Heights

Just a few miles up county road 5 outside of Ridgway, sits one of the area's hidden gems. Top of the Pines, or "TOP" as it is affectionately called by its director and advocate, Kelvin Kent, is a unique outdoor recreation / environmental education center and open space preserve located in Ouray County. It's at the foot of the Sneffels mountain Range and offers some of the most beautiful views of the mountains in the whole region.

This property is owned by Ouray county but managed by the TOP organization and its operation relies completely on volunteers and donations. In 2016, Kent applied to the San Miguel Power / CoBank Sharing Success grant program in order to help cover the cost of renovations. A \$2000 grant was awarded and the funds were put to good use. "With the money that we got from [SMPA], we've been able to provide electricity to the pavilion and the warming hut and improve the services for our guests." Said Kent.

TOP offers an array of activities including camping, mountain biking, hiking, a ropes course and groomed cross country skiing in the winter. It hosts group functions, weddings, and educational programs. If you are looking for a quiet, low key venue then check them out at [www.topofthepines.org](http://www.topofthepines.org). We are excited to be "sharing success" with Top of the Pines.



Organizations and businesses may receive up to \$10,000 in \$1,000 increments in dollar-for-dollar matching funds.

Interested parties should email [phora@smpa.com](mailto:phora@smpa.com)

### Qualifying projects should:

- Stimulate job creation in our area
- Promote economic growth
- Create/improve local commerce
- Maintain/strengthen existing businesses
- Enhance regional prosperity
- Offer sustainable progress; set the stage for economic development in the long run
- Build collaboration
- Show off our communities attributes
- Demonstrate ability to leverage funds



Coming Soon!  
**POWER HOURS**

**Learn. Discuss. Take Part.**

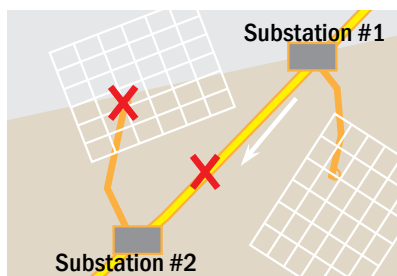
Power Hours is your chance to talk to us directly. Rates, renewables, reliability and more...

When will Power Hours be in your home town? Find out at [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com).

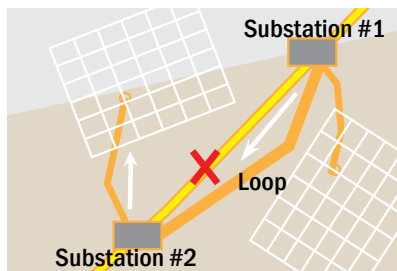
## Telluride/Mtn. Village Reliability

Radial Feed versus Loop Feed - Engineering for the Future

Substations are important to the power grid. Electricity flows from substations through distribution lines and into your meter, lighting up your home. San Miguel Power Association is always working to provide its members with more reliable power, so SMPA is converting the connection between two substations from a radial feed to a loop feed. Loop feeds allow power to be supplied from two different sources, meaning one substation could provide power to the meters of both substations in the case of equipment failure or damage. Once the Reliability Project is complete, outages will be less likely to impact SMPA members of the Telluride and Mountain Village area.



Scenario #1: Circuit Broken: No Power to town until repaired.



Scenario #2: Circuit Broken: Power re-routed through loop feed.

## New Dimension for Anatomy Class



Nucla High School teacher, Christine Harty with her training MANIKEN®. The program motto is "The mind can't forget what the hands have learned."

What do you think of when you hear the term "Back to School?" Well, Nucla High School Anatomy teacher, Christine Harty thinks of human body systems sculpted in clay.

It's part of the new "Anatomy in Clay" learning system that will be offered to NHS students this fall thanks, in part, to a donation from San Miguel Power along with matching funds from electric wholesaler, Basin Electric. The program is part of a larger movement within the West End Public School District to offer a more hands-on education to students across the board. Good luck to Christine and the students as they make their learning 3 - dimensional.

## The Power Grid and Fire Safety

What did SMPA Area Service Technician, Claude Barrett do when he found a ground fire near a tap line on one of his patrol routes? He grabbed a backpack sprayer from his line truck and put it out.

All SMPA trucks are equipped with extra fire suppression gear as part of the Stage One Fire Danger Operating

Procedure which is in effect during times of high fire danger. Conditions like dry grass, brush, and trees combined with low humidity, high temperatures and/or winds can cause fire to spread quickly, so SMPA crews take extra precautions as they repair downed power lines, trees in the lines or other anomalies.

## San Miguel County Fair Pie Contest

The yummiest pies in the County were on display and up for grabs at this year's San Miguel County Fair Best Dessert contest, sponsored by SMPA. Thanks to all who participated!



**Last Chance to claim Member Dividends!**

In July of 2016, the Board of Directors of San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) elected to return over \$1 million in member dividends back to the membership of SMPA.

Each member who had supplied capital during the years for which retirements were made was sent a check for their portion of the margin for those years, based upon their patronage.

Checks were mailed to members at their last known address as shown by the records of the Cooperative. However, not all checks were deposited. Capital that was not received by the designated members is still available for such members to claim until Monday, August 14th. A list of members who may still claim their member dividends is on [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com).

Whichever funds are not claimed by this time, will be labelled "Unclaimed," and may be used by the Cooperative for expenditures associated with the provision of electric service. After this point, members' claim to the funds shall be extinguished and forever barred.

## Poletop Rescue Training

Last month's Pole Top Rescue drill: This helps our linemen practice a life-saving process. It's the kind of skill we hope we never have to use, but don't want to be without.

