



SMPA Takes to the Air



School Fun Run Benefits from Donation



Board Candidates Announced

MAY 2018

ENERGYWISE



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YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ridgway
720 N. Railroad St.
P.O. Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432
(970) 626-5549
Toll Free: 1-800-864-7256

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

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office to reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x212

SAFETY TIPS

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH AND IT'S A GREAT TIME TO RAISE AWARENESS ON HOW TO AVOID THESE POTENTIAL ELECTRICAL HAZARDS:

- Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs, trees, or carry long tools or loads.
- Avoid planting trees underneath power lines or near utility equipment.
- Call 811 at least 3 days before starting any digging or excavating project.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Wind Damage Prompts SMPA to Take to the Air

EVEN IF YOU DON'T PAY PARTICULARLY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE WEATHER, YOU STILL WOULD HAVE NOTICED THE WIND STORMS THAT HIT OUR REGION DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF LAST MONTH. WITH SUSTAINED WINDS OF UP TO 44 MILES PER HOUR, MOTHER NATURE GAVE OUR COMMUNITIES A SOUND REMINDER OF WHO'S BOSS.

Our electric grid received some of the worst of this fury as trees and vegetation slammed into power poles and power lines throughout our service territory. Power outages ranged in size from just a few meters affected to over 400. Through it all, our line crews responded quickly and with determination. A quick gander at SMPA's facebook page will reveal how much appreciation these brave professionals receive from community members. Thanks to all for your patience and support as SMPA battled to keep the lights on in some of the most rugged country under some of the harshest conditions.

Even after the winds subsided, our crews still had plenty to do and, in some of the more difficult locations, it was nice to get a little help. Camp Bird is one of those locations. In this area, a total of nine trees were blown into the power lines. Four power poles were knocked down and three of these were on a rock shelf at an elevation of over 11,000 feet. To bring new power poles to locations like this, SMPA is glad to be able to rely on commercial helicopter companies like family-owned Mountain Blade Runner out of Montrose.

The work is spectacular to observe. After a planning and safety briefing with the work crews, the pilot lifts off and hovers as his assistant attaches the pole to a rope that is suspended from the helicopter. Once the assistant is clear of the area, the helicopter hoists the pole up and carries it high into the air. He flies it to its destination, and with crew guidance via radio and hand signals, he gently lowers it into a hole that is less than two feet in diameter. With the pole detached, the pilot returns to the staging area to get another pole. In about 30 minutes, all four are in place, and line crews begin the arduous task of straightening and setting the poles, and re-mounting the lines.



Mountain Blade Runner Chief Pilot, John Whedon lowers a power pole into position using radio guidance from SMPA crews on the ground. In many cases, the pilot cannot see the hole into which the power pole is being seated. Clear communication with ground crews is essential.



We had almost all of our crew members on site to help with the re-build and I think it's worth noting that not one person complained or said a discouraging word about it. They simply asked where to be and when.

—DUANE OLIVER, SMPA OPERATIONS MANAGER



Re-building a power delivery system after partial destruction is a monumental task. It can take high-tech and impressive machinery but most of all, it takes the strength, skill, problem-solving ability, and cooperation of a variety of professionals bound by a single purpose: to provide power to our communities.

Ridgway Elementary Fun Run Gets a Boost from SMPA & Basin Electric

It's no surprise that schools have needs that aren't covered by their budgets. Sometimes the search for community support can generate fun ideas. When the Ridgway Elementary School needed funds for playground restoration, classroom sound systems and outdoor classroom equipment, the Friends of Ridgway Schools decided to hold a fun run.

Now in its fourth year, the Friends of Ridgway Schools Fun Run will be raising funds for the 2018-2019 school year. "Next year's projects include musical instruments, cross country ski equipment and projection microscopes," says organizer, Bernadette Taylor. Of course the fun

run, itself, has costs and, knowing that San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is a major supporter of community initiatives, Taylor made a donation request.

"We're glad to support the schools as they promote the health of the kids and the community with this event," said SMPA CEO and General Manager, Brad Zaporski. SMPA was also able to secure a matching donation from its cooperative partner, Basin Electric. These funds combined to total \$2000, which Zaporski, along with SMPA Board President, Rube Feliceli, were happy to present to Ridgway Elementary School Principal, Trish Greenwood



We're so grateful to SMPA and Basin for their support," said Greenwood. The Fun Run is scheduled for May 2 at the Elementary School.

— TRISH GREENWOOD, RIDGWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.

2018 SMPA Board Candidates Announced

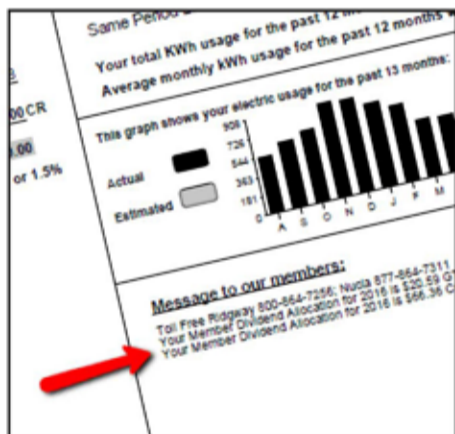
At the April 24th San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Board Meeting, the candidates for the upcoming SMPA board election were announced. In district #3, which includes Norwood, Placerville and Sawpit, the candidates are Joanna Kanow, Allyn Svoboda, and David Alexander. In District #6, which includes Ridgway and the surrounding areas, incumbent director, Debbie Cokes is unopposed and will be deemed re-elected per SMPA bylaws.

Anyone who purchases power from SMPA and resides within the SMPA service territory is a member. SMPA Board members are elected from the membership, by the membership. Members elect their board of directors by secret mail-in ballot or at the Annual Meeting of the Membership, held this year at the SMPA Nucla office (170 W. 10th Avenue, Nucla) on June 7th from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. (Polls close at 5:30 pm.) Ballots will be mailed to members of district #3 on May 15th. Mail-in ballots must be received by June 6th, or members may vote at the Annual Meeting.

NEW HEIGHTS

THE SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION
NEW HEIGHTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 7
SMPA
NUCLA OFFICE
170 WEST 10TH AVENUE
SAVE THE DATE!



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May 18 - June 29, Get 75% Off LED Lightbulbs While Funds Last

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Greenlights is sponsored by EcoAction Partners, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) and the Telluride Foundation

Member Dividend Allocation Explained

SMPA is not-for-profit. Any money it makes over its expenses has to go back to its members. Every year, SMPA divides up this extra money into separate accounts for each member for later distribution. This process is called "allocation." You may notice a note on your bill indicating your allocation. This money will be set aside for you and returned when the board decides to return member dividends for this year.



SMPA Salutes Dave Kelly

Last month, surrounded by friends, System Planner, David Kelly concluded a 45-year career at the coop. He retired with the greatest number of years served in the history of San Miguel Power Association.

He began his employment on April 2nd, 1973 as an Apprentice Lineman. From there, he became a Journeyman Lineman, Foreman, Crew Supervisor, and Operations Manager. Then, embracing the opportunities of new technologies, he transitioned to Manager of Technical Services (1984) and finally into the role of System Planner (1994).

Dave plans to spend his days working on his ranch in Nucla, CO and keeping up with his Granddaughter, Skylar's, college career.

San Miguel Power extends its many thanks to an employee who has devoted his life to the company and served the members well. Congratulations, Dave, and Happy Retirement!

SMPA POWER PLAY

This month's puzzle: Ar u in err? Run. Flic. Itt protect u gud
Hint: You should have one in your bathroom.

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to:

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

Congratulations to last month's winner: Lita Bilotti

Last month's Scramble Answer: Refrigerators

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