



More Power to You

Got Power? Thank a Lineman!

Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer

"I want to extend my thanks to the linemen who worked through the storm yesterday. Our power was restored quickly after a phone call. Thanks for all you do, in all weather conditions."

One of our appreciative Rock Energy Cooperative members sent that email this past winter. After storm-related power outages, we generally get a handful of calls or notes from members expressing their gratitude to the line crews for a job well done. It means a lot to our guys when members take time to recognize their hard work and dedication.

On April 18, it wasn't just members who gave linemen a well-deserved pat on the back. The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution recognizing the date as National Lineman Appreciation Day. The resolution notes that linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes. They put their lives on the line every day, working with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines to keep electricity flowing.

Whether it's hot or cold, raining or snowing, these men are out there making sure the power is flowing safely and reliably to members' homes and businesses. On those rare occasions when we do encounter problems, which inevitably happen after their normal workday, these men are out there in the thick of it, making sure our members are inconvenienced as little as possible.

The linemen I know couldn't imagine doing anything else. They love working outside, though some days are better than others. Ask any of them about the summer of 2012, and they'll tell you that the constant heat made it nearly impossible to stay hydrated. Even so, I bet they wouldn't trade their workplace on top of power poles for an air-conditioned office.

Linemen have the satisfaction of seeing the result of their work every day. They provide electricity to the homes of their neighbors. They

keep the lights on at schools, power the tools doctors use, and allow us to do all the simple things that we take for granted—like watching the big game on TV and keeping our food cold.

The caliber of our linemen is top notch. Combined, our 12 linemen and four tree trimmers have 183 years of experience at the co-op. They work day-in and day-out, enduring the constant cold, snow, and ice of winter and the heat, humidity, and storms of summer. Our guys get the job done regardless of the circumstances. They put their lives on the line every day with little recognition from the people they serve.

The U.S. Senate's April 18th resolution recognizing the importance of linemen in this country is truly deserving. So, the next time you flip that switch and the lights come on, pause to remember the Rock linemen who helped make that happen.

While not formally recognized by the Senate, our natural gas technicians in Illinois keep the natural gas flowing safely and in trying weather conditions as well. Their daily contribution to the co-op is truly appreciated.

(Continued on page 16d ▶)



Rock Energy's line crew, from left, front row: Tim Gillitzer, Mike Ferris, Scott Manogue, Jack Slaback, Denny Dolgner; second row: Ron Sowles, John Waddell, Steve White, Matt Meichtry, Bill Carroll; on truck: Brent LaBuy, Matt Mortimer, Kyle Strehlow, Justin Busfield, Jon Benish; not pictured: Bob Dahl.



**Take Me Out
to the
Ballgame!**



Join us Saturday, June 15, for Rock Energy Family Night at the Ballpark

Co-sponsored by Touchstone Energy

Beloit Snappers vs. Clinton LumberKings

- Game starts at 7 p.m.
- Come early for player autographs from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. The first 50 kids win a special gift! (Must be accompanied by adult member.)
- Stay late for a spectacular fireworks show after the game.

Stop at either our Janesville or South Beloit offices to buy game tickets. Tickets are \$2 each (\$7 value) and good for any Snappers home game in 2013.

Rock Energy members can buy food vouchers at the ballpark on Saturday, June 15. Get a hot dog, chips, and soda or pizza and soda for just \$2!

Show your Co-op Connections Card to buy food vouchers at the ballpark. If you don't have one, stop at either Rock Energy office location to get yours free.



Quick as Lightning, You Could Lose Your Life



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Department of Commerce

Lightning strikes the United States millions of times each year, and every strike is a potential killer. To keep your family safe, it is important to know what actions to take during a thunderstorm. There are many myths and old wives tales about lightning. Some of them just might get you killed.

There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. To be as safe as possible, you must seek shelter indoors or in an enclosed metal-topped vehicle when a thunderstorm is in the area.

A safe indoor shelter is defined as a substantial building with a full roof, walls, and a floor. Unsafe structures include covered patios, open garages, picnic shelters, and tents. A safe vehicle is one that is fully enclosed like a hard-topped car, minivan, or truck. Unsafe vehicles include convertibles, motorcycles, golf carts, and any open cab vehicle.

The National Weather Service separates lightning myth from fact:

- **Myth:** Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.
Fact: Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, NOT the rubber tires. Cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground.

- **Myth:** A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you will be electrocuted.
Fact: The human body does not store electricity. It is safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid.
- **Myth:** If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.
Fact: Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties.
- **Myth:** Structures with metal, or metal on the body (jewelry, cell phones, Mp3 players), attract lightning.
Fact: Height, pointy shape, and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike.
- **Myth:** If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, you should lie flat on the ground.
Fact: Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, keep moving toward a safe shelter.

One good way to stay safe from the threat of lightning is to plan ahead. Listen to the forecast to know if there is a danger of severe weather, and make sure you can get to a safe location if a thunderstorm develops.

Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. It is a good idea to heed the advice of the National Weather Service, "When thunder roars, go indoors." ■

Get Connected

Check out these great deals offered with your Co-op Connections Card.



ABC Fire & Safety Inc., 2407 Riverside Drive, Beloit – (608)

362-1634 – www.abcfireandsafetybeloitwi.com

Sales and service of fire extinguishers.

10% Off All New Fire Extinguishers



Reich Chiropractic Clinic, 1831 Blackhawk Blvd., South Beloit – (815) 389-1492 – www.reichchiropracticclinic.com

Eliminating Pain, Improving Wellness, Changing Lives. Complete family health care specializing in chronic and difficult cases. Free health care talks on the second and fourth Tuesday each month. Special kids program every third Saturday. Wide variety of nutritional supplements and Biofreeze pain-relieving gel available. We're passionate about wellness—your wellness—on a structural, nutritional, and emotional level, so once you're out of pain—whether it's back pain, neck pain, headaches, extremity pain, or other problems—we'll teach you how to stay that way.

Free Consultation and Chiropractic Evaluation Examination



Healthy Savings Discounts

The same program that offers discounts at local merchants and has saved Rock Energy members \$52,000 on prescriptions also provides significant savings on dental, vision, hearing, lab and imaging services, and chiropractic work. To locate providers that participate in the Healthy Savings program, call (800) 800-7616 or go to www.rock.coop, click on the Co-op Connections Card, and look under the Healthy Savings tab. Be sure to have your Co-op Connections Card handy.



Add Up Your Savings!

Tell us how much you have saved by using your Co-op Connections Card. If you have a story you'd like to share, e-mail Barbara Uebelacker at BarbU@rock.coop or call her at (866) 752-4550.



P.O. Box 1758
2815 Kennedy Rd.
Janesville, WI 53547

(608) 752-4550 • (866) 752-4550

Shane Larson, CEO
Barbara Uebelacker,
Editor

P.O. Box 126
15229 Willowbrook Rd.
South Beloit, IL 61080

After-Hours Prepay Fee Notice

For Rock Energy members utilizing the co-op's prepay program, access to account balances is available 24 hours a day for free at www.rock.coop or by calling (855) 201-3304. Due to continued misrepresentation of account balances, members who fail to properly verify their prepaid account balance and engage co-op personnel after regular office hours will be assessed a \$10 fee. ■

More Power to You

(Continued from page 16a)

Capital Credits Distributed

I hope you noticed that the energy bill you received in May included your annual capital credit distribution. This represents your economic participation as a co-op member. Unlike investor-owned utilities, Rock Energy and other co-ops are not-for-profit, cost-of-service providers. We aren't in business to make money. So when there are profits, they go back to you.

In 2013, Rock Energy distributed more than \$700,000 in capital credits to eligible members on their May statements. In its history, the co-op has paid back about \$12 million to past and current members. The return of capital credits is just one reason why it pays to be a member of Rock Energy Cooperative.

Rock Energy Night at the Ballpark

Please join us on Saturday, June 15, for our annual Rock Energy Night at the Ballpark. See page 16b for all the details. The night always provides a great time at a great price, starting with player autographs and ending with a spectacular fireworks show. Tickets are just \$2 each, and for another \$2 you can get a hot dog, chips, and soda or pizza and soda. You can't beat those prices!

As always, I want to thank you for allowing us to be your energy provider. If we can do anything to improve our service, please let us know. ■

Have a Safe and Happy Independence Day!

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Thursday, **July 4**, in observance of Independence Day. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Friday, July 5. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage, please call (608) 752-4550 or toll-free (866) 752-4550.