



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative employees **Brenda Bond**, **Jami Propp** and **Dan Gieser** pose by the CH-47 Chinook after their ride.

Montana ESGR Boss Lift held for local employers

The Montana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Montana ESGR) hosted a helicopter flight, or “Boss Lift,” for area employers. Approximately 80 employers from northeast Montana took a flight over the Culbertson and Bainville, Mont., areas aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk or a CH-47 Chinook.

Prior to liftoff, participants in the Boss Lift were thanked for their support of National Guard and Reserve service members and briefed on what ESGR does. The ESGR Boss Lift program gives employers an opportunity to see their citizen

soldier on the job when they are away from their civilian occupations.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a U.S. Department of Defense program established in 1972 to develop and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives; recognizes outstanding support; increases awareness of applicable laws; and resolves conflicts between service members and employers. ■

Local employers enjoy the scenery during their flight over the Culbertson, Mont., area.



Budget billing

Sign up through August

Does the anticipation of the unknown of your electric bill cause you to lose sleep at night? We hope not, but Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) may have a solution that can help ease your mind. Budget billing is available to all residential members who are current with their electric bill, have an “A” credit rating, and have established a 12-month history with LYREC. The member can remain on budget billing if the account remains current.

To determine your budget billing amount, LYREC averages your current and last 11 months of bills. Therefore, there will be variations each month, but the change will not be as drastic and will make



budgeting easier.

If you would like to sign up for budget billing, call LYREC’s office to see if you qualify. To sign up, you

will need to turn in your application before Aug. 31. To get a form, stop by the office or go to www.lyrec.com. ■



Planning a trip to Medora this summer?

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of “**Touch 2019**” for a 15 percent discount on any of the following during any night of the season:

Things to do:

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel

LYREC members can also receive 20 percent off admission at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code “Touch 2019.”

Stay back and stay safe

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the United States. That's why safety is the number one priority for Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC). Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance – and your help!

Distractions can be deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand.

Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews – and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize LYREC's employees by their attire and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers



because they live right here in our local community.

Slow down and move over

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us. ■



Call before you dig!

Planting a tree? Installing a fence? Remember to contact Montana One Call first! The first step to any project is safety, and damaging an underground facility while you dig can cause injury or even death.

Numerous utility lines may be buried on your property, ranging from electric and telephone lines to water and sewer lines, but Montana One Call will help you locate these lines before your project begins.

Contact Montana One Call and utility line owners will locate and mark their lines. These locates do not include any lines you may have installed to your private facilities, such as detached garages, wells or yard lights.

Go online at www.montana811.org or call 800-424-5555 or 811.

It's free, it's simple and it's the law. ■



Rubber glove testing

Rubber insulating gloves are one of the most important articles of personal protection for electric lineworkers. To be effective, the rubber gloves must meet the highest standards. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires the rubber gloves to be tested before each use.

Evan Garber, from Mid-America Testing & Supply, gives a refresher course for testing grounds, jumpers, tools, trucks and rubber goods to

several electric cooperatives from eastern Montana. The focus was on rubber glove testing. There are two standard methods of testing the rubber gloves. The first is by using the rollup method. When using the rollup method, the lineworkers trap air in the glove by rolling up the bottom of the glove. This method makes it possible to visually inspect and listen for problem areas in the palm and fingers of the glove. According to Garber, the downfall of the rollup method is that many times the glove is compromised in the gauntlet area (bottom of the glove).

The second testing method is by using a glove inflator. This method allows the lineworkers to inspect the entire glove. It also frees both hands to make inspecting easier and more thorough.

Garber demonstrated several different scenarios with compromised gloves through his demonstration. The smallest scratch, snag, debris or pinhole can be detrimental to our lineworkers. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) recently purchased an air inflator to aid in the safety of employees. ■



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- Allen Thiessen President
- Greg Rauschendorfer Vice President
- John Redman Secretary/Treasurer
- Colin Gartner Trustee
- Dennis Schmierer Trustee
- Dennis Nelson Trustee
- Jim Vitt Trustee

EMPLOYEES

- Jason Brothen General Manager
- Brenda Bond Chief Financial Officer
- Jami Propp Member Service Manager
- Kyle Kavanagh IT Coordinator
- Margo Zadow Billing Coordinator
- Pam Wilcoxon Plant Accountant
- Tiffani Hentges Customer Service Representative
- Melissa Buckley CSR/Staff Assistant
- Chris Hillesland Chief Operations Officer
- Rich Gorde Foreman
- Eric McPherson System Controller
- Kevin Goff Operations Assistant
- Kelly Keyser Operations Manager
- Lee Alvstad Journeyman Lineman
- Aaron Eide Journeyman Lineman
- Bryan Franck Journeyman Lineman
- Jesse Obergfell Journeyman Lineman
- Blade Jankovsky Journeyman Lineman
- Tanner Roth Journeyman Lineman
- Ryder Peterson Journeyman Lineman
- Lee Delp Apprentice Lineman
- Cole Jankovsky Apprentice Lineman
- Brandon Mueller Master Electrician
- Dan Gieser Energy Management Supervisor
- Mike Eberling Mechanic
- Richard Tremblay Service Technician
- Bo Kindopp GIS/Easement Technician
- Corey Candee Chief Information Officer
- Edwin Gatzke Line Locator/Meter Reader
- Justin King Warehouse Supervisor

Operating report

Year to date:	April 2018	April 2019
Total miles energized	2,101	2,103
Total number of meters	6,170	6,143
Kilowatt-hours sold	93,249,965	92,424,609
Revenue	\$9,182,318	\$9,334,673
Total expenses	\$8,797,532	\$9,078,084
Operating margins	\$1,271,316	\$2,564,683

Join us for Co-op Day at the Fair | Aug. 1 | Starting at noon

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative