



## LYREC lights Culbertson trail ride



**Hoppy Hopfauf**

You'll hear the rumble of wagon wheels and the clickety-clack of horses' hooves during the Culbertson Saddle Club's annual wagon train and trail ride, which celebrated its 49th year this year.

Longtime Culbertson resident Hoppy Hopfauf has been part of the wagon train/trail ride for the past 30 years. Hoppy smiles and says, "I met my wife, Georgia, my first year on the wagon train/trail ride and we married a year later."

The wagon train/trail ride is an annual event held during Labor Day weekend. The participants range from young to some of the people who formed the event 49 years ago.

This year, Mother Nature brought rain, but there were still 125 people and 14 wagons participating in the weekend event. Over the years, the

wagon train/trail ride has attracted more than 600 participants. The participants come from all over the United States and Canada.

The participants set up camp Friday evening, and the event kicks off Saturday morning with a hearty breakfast. Then the riders hit the trail for their 12- to 15-mile journey. Around noon, the camp cooks meet with the riders for a meal on the trail. After lunch, the riders continue on the trail until meeting back at camp in the evening. On Saturday evening, the campers enjoy refreshments, a delicious dinner and live music. On Sunday, the riders go in the opposite direction and meet back at camp for their final night festivities. On Monday morning, they have breakfast and head home.

The wagon train/trail ride has made a few changes throughout the years, but it has maintained its traditional roots. The trail ride is all about enjoying Montana's beautiful landscape, and unplugging from the rest of the world.

"When I got involved with the trail ride in 1980, people showed up with as little as their horses, a horse trailer and a sleeping bag," Hoppy says. When the wagon train/trail ride began, the entire camp would move along with the trail ride each day. Each evening, the campers would set up camp, eat dinner, listen to music and do a bit of dancing in the cow pasture. In recent years, the camp and the cook station stay in



the same place the entire weekend, and the riders circle back to camp each evening. This has made it more convenient, since now the campers bring a bit more than a sleeping bag and their horses.

Over the years, the campers have also become accustomed to other amenities to make their life simpler when camping – such as electricity. The location of the Culbertson wagon train/trail ride changes each year. So, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative provides a temporary service and donates the electricity each year. The main use of the electricity is for the camp lights and also for the band.

Contact the Culbertson Saddle Club for more information on the wagon train/trail ride. The cost of the tickets for the entire weekend is \$100/person ages 16 and up and \$65/ person under 16. Saturday evening is open camp night, when anyone can stop out and have dinner and enjoy the music for \$15 a plate. These tickets include entertainment for Friday and Saturday night, seven meals, and feed and water for the horses. (Meter No. 22982) ■

# Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

High School Sophomores & Juniors



Write a winning essay and  
win a trip of a  
lifetime:  
All-expense-paid trip to  
Washington, D.C.

CHECK IT OUT AT  
[www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop)

## Contest rules/prizes

- To enter the essay contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school in the fall of 2015.
- You and your parents or guardians must be a current LYREC member.
- The essay is not to exceed two, double-spaced pages on this topic:

Considering your top three consumer needs, how do you believe we, as an electric cooperative, can best communicate our care and concern to the younger members of the cooperative?

An application can be picked up from your guidance counselor, or on our website at [www.lyrec.com](http://www.lyrec.com). Go to "My Community" then "Washington D.C. Youth Tour" for additional information.

- The deadline is Nov. 30, 2015. Emailed entries should be directed to [jamp@lyrec.com](mailto:jamp@lyrec.com), and hard-copy entries mailed to: LYREC, Youth Tour Essay Contest, 3200 W Holly or PO Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270. Make sure to include the application along with the essay.

### 1st Place

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 11-17, 2016
- \$1,000 toward college education
- \$200 bill credit for student's parent

### 2nd Place

- \$500 toward college education
- \$100 bill credit for student's parent

### 3rd Place

- \$100 toward college education
- \$50 bill credit for student's parent

## Operations department hours change

Beginning Monday, Nov. 2, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's operations department will be working from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you need to speak with anyone in this department, you can reach them during business hours at 406-488-1602. The office will remain open until 5 p.m.

# Stay warm this winter!

## Assistance is available

If you or someone you know needs help this heating season, funds are available. If you reside in Montana, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you reside in North Dakota, contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. Montana residents may pick up an application at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Once you submit your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you are finding yourself in a financial bind, please pick up an application today. Below are the income eligibility criteria for 2015-2016.

Number in household	Annual income
1 .....	\$23,540
2 .....	\$31,860
3 .....	\$40,180
4 .....	\$48,500
5 .....	\$56,820
6 .....	\$65,140

For your application to be processed, you will need a copy of your most recent fuel bill, 12 months of income verification for all persons in the household (wages, Social Security/Supplemental Security Income, veterans benefits, child support, unemployment, etc.), proof of current resources (bank statements) and a photo ID for all household members 18 years and older or a birth certificate for children 17 and under. If you are receiving Supplemental Security Income, you will need your SSI award letter.

Failure to provide all requested information and



verification will delay the eligibility determination and may result in application denial.

- If you turn in your application in November 2015, provide verification of income for November 2014 through October 2015.
- If you turn in your application in December 2015, provide verification of income for December 2014 through November 2015.

If you do not fall within these guidelines, but you are still in need of financial assistance, please call LYREC at 406-488-1602 for other referrals. ■



### NOTICE

**The Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative office closed Nov. 26-27 for Thanksgiving.**



### Facebook

If you would like to stay updated on what is happening at your cooperative, join us on Facebook. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative will report on power outages, give energy efficiency tips, keep you updated on all the important news and much more.

# Planned power outage



affected. LYREC makes every effort to plan the outages during regular business hours, to avoid as many inconveniences as possible. LYREC also tries to avoid the planned outages during extreme weather conditions. There are times in which LYREC is unable to contact our members in advance, and would like to take this opportunity to let our members know how much we appreciate their patience.

While planned power outages may be inconvenient, they are actually beneficial to our members. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also critical to maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be replaced, we plan for it, repair or replace it, and this keeps everyone safe. If a tree is in our line, we remove it so that it doesn't become an outage during a wind, ice or snow storm. By taking preventative measures, LYREC crews can have a shorter period of interruption of power and the outage will inevitably be during more favorable weather conditions.

LYREC wants to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So, the next time you hear about a planned power outage, know that is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.

Be sure to update your phone

numbers so LYREC is able to reach you regarding planned power outages. Also, if you rely on electricity for medical reasons, please invest in a generator. To safely operate your generator, get a double-throw switch installed to protect our line crew. LYREC offers a rebate for installing double-throw switches. If you have questions concerning double-throw switches, please call LYREC's office. ■

**H**ave you ever received a notification from Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) informing you of a "planned power outage?" You may have wondered, "Why does LYREC need to have planned power outages?" LYREC has been operating for 75-plus years and keeps the system reliable by replacing, repairing and updating. To keep our crews safe, an interruption to your electric service is necessary at times.

LYREC does its best to inform the members beforehand. If the crew is aware of the interruption of power in advance, LYREC notifies the consumers who will be



3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270  
**Phone: 406-488-1602**  
**Fax: 406-488-6524**  
**Website: www.lyrec.com**

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Richard Tremblay.....	Journeyman Lineman
Aaron Eide.....	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck.....	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell.....	Journeyman Lineman
Dan Gieser.....	Journeyman Lineman/Meter Tech.
Blade Jankovsky.....	Apprentice Lineman
Ryder Peterson.....	Apprentice Lineman
Tanner Roth.....	Apprentice Lineman
Mike Eberling.....	Mechanic
Bodrey Kindopp.....	Staking Technician
Corey Candee.....	Electrical/IT Tech.
Edwin Gatzke.....	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King.....	Warehouse Worker

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## HIDDEN NUMBERS

If you find your meter number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$25 credit on your next statement. The meter number will appear within the four Lower Yellowstone Electric pages. Give us a call during the month your meter is listed, and claim your \$25 bill credit.