

The

# Enlightener



North Star  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



VOLUME 49 NUMBER 7

BAUDETTE, MINNESOTA

JULY 2003

## North Star Electric and Boy Scouts help clean up Zippel Bay



Hard work pays off with some well deserved lunch.



North Star helped make the campground a little bit better by cleaning up some of the trees in Zippel Bay.

On May 17, North Star Electric, Boy Scout Troop Unit 62 and other local volunteers helped clean up Zippel Bay State Park. Together, we planted more than 1,200 seedling pine trees and removed overhead branches, which will make it easier for recreational vehicles to access the park. We also did cleaning around some of the camp sites. Afterwards, we had lunch and some of the boys played frisbee.



Having a little fun after the work was done.

## Customer appreciation days winners



Mary Jo Leiding was the grand prize winner of an electric cart grill at our Customer Appreciation Days in Baudette.



Curt and Marilyn Rudd were the second place winners of a Lock-N-Go Grill at our Customer Appreciation Days in Baudette.

# The Enlightener

July 2003

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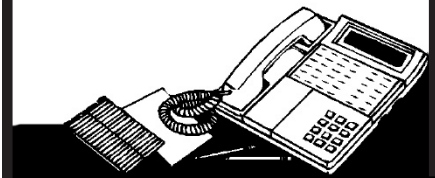
### If calling long distance, call toll-free

Baudette . . . . . 888-634-2202  
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## AFTER HOURS

DirecTV® Problems  
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**Electrical  
After-Hours  
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1-888-6OUTAGE  
(1-888-668-8243)  
634-2603**



## May 2003 Operating Report

Revenue (includes annual seasonal billing) . . . . .	\$ 541,067
Cost of Power . . . . .	\$ 264,561
Operation, Maintenance, Administration . . . . .	\$ 178,514
Depreciation, Interest . . . . .	\$ 120,811
Margin on Operations . . . . .	\$ (22,819)
Average use per Residential . . . . .	1,000
Total kWhs Sold . . . . .	6,349,497

## Are All Of These Benefits Built Into Your Current Heating System?

- Low Operating Costs
- Safety
- Comfort
- Reliability
- Clean
- Convenient
- 100% Efficient
- Stable Prices
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to find out how ETS can provide you with these benefits and reduce your heating bills!

Baudette  
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If not, then Electric  
Thermal Storage  
(ETS) is for you!

**ETS . . . . low cost, all electric, off-peak heating**

Please read your meter on or as near the 25<sup>th</sup> of EACH month as possible. We must have your reading by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the next month to avoid an estimated bill. If a bill consecutively estimates two times, the crew will read the meter and a \$15 fee will be added to the account.

### — Please Note —

*Bills that are past due will be charged a 1.5 percent late payment fee. Bills that are 30 days past due will also be charged a \$2 delinquent notice fee.*



# They are missing and we care

By Dan Hoskins  
General Manager

Who is missing, you ask? Each, and every year, approximately 800,000 children are missing; most of them by either running away or abduction by family members, but about 5,000 are abducted by strangers. 800,000, that is one child every 40 seconds, so by the time you read this article, about three more children are missing.

North Star Electric has joined forces with Touchstone Energy, a national network of rural electric cooperatives, and The American Football Coaches Association, which is the association that started the National Child Identification Program. (654-26-003-01 Ronald Langton) This is the largest child identification program of its kind and has a goal of distributing over 60 million ID kits nationwide.

In our State of Minnesota, we have approximately 860,000 children from grades K through 12, and the goal of the cooperatives of Minnesota is to help ID all of these children. Your Cooperative has decided to do our part by, hopefully, identifying all the children of our service territory. This effort has been started by already doing some fingerprinting at our open houses in May with the assistance of our local law enforcement, and this will continue at the county fairs and our annual meeting. When school goes back into session, we will be visiting each school in our area and will be handing out ID kits for the students to take home.

The ID kits are great tools, also. Do you know that when this program started in 1997, there were only about 2 percent of the parents that had a copy of their child's fingerprints in case of an emergency? Our goal is to provide the parent or guardian with this tool to help change the missing children statistic.

This ID kit is made up of a solution that is inkless; that means no mess. This kit also gives parents the oppor-

tunity to collect vital information such as physical characteristics – birthmarks, tattoos or any other identifying marks – but the best thing about this kit is that it stays with the parents in the safety and privacy of your home. No one sees this unless it is needed in an emergency.

North Star Electric Cooperative is proud to be associated with this

great program, and I would like to remind you that if you would like to have a Child ID kit, just stop by one of our offices, either in Baudette or Littlefork, and pick them up. They are easy to use, and you and your child can do it together at home.

So, in closing, I would like to thank you for your time and God Bless our Troops!

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## Visit Us

# at the FAIR

Northern Minnesota District Fair in Littlefork

July 24 - 27

– and –

Lake of the Woods County Fair in Baudette

August 21 - 24



Visit with our employees

Check out the DBS satellite systems, electric grills and smokers

**Register to win great prizes !**



## Strawberry-rhubarb cheesecake bars

- ¾ cup margarine or butter, softened
- ⅓ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1½ cups flour
- ½ cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 2 (8 ounce) pkgs. regular or reduced fat cream cheese, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1¾ cups sugar, divided
- 2 tsps. vanilla
- ¾ pound fresh or frozen rhubarb, coarsely chopped (3 cups)
- 1 cup sliced fresh strawberries (8 medium)
- 4 tsps. cornstarch
- ¼ cup water
- ½ cup finely chopped pecans

Grease 9"x13" inch baking pan. Heat oven to 375°. Combine margarine, brown sugar, flour and coarsely chopped pecans; press on bottom of greased pan. Bake until browned (10 to 12 minutes). Combine cream cheese, eggs, ¾ cup of the sugar and vanilla in bowl; beat until smooth. Pour over crust; return to oven and bake until cheesecake is set (about 20 minutes). In large saucepan, combine rhubarb, remaining 1 cup sugar and strawberries. Dissolve cornstarch in water; stir into fruit mixture. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring constantly, until rhubarb is tender and mixture is thickened (8 to 10 minutes). Cool slightly; spread fruit mixture over cheesecake. Sprinkle top with finely chopped pecans; refrigerate 8 hours or overnight. Cut into squares. 12 to 16 servings.

Submitted by: *Gunder Hallan  
Littlefork, Minn.  
(North Star Electric Director)*



# Office notes

From Ann Ellis, Office Manager

**"As you walk and eat and travel, be where you are. Otherwise you will miss most of your life."**  
—Buddha

## Want more for less?

That's what you get with your electricity dollar when you adjust the price to the CPI (consumer price index). Ten years ago North Star's average price per residential kWh was 6.9 cents/kWh. Today it is the same. Adjust that to the CPI and the equivalent is 5.34 cents/kWh. The cost of your electricity has not kept pace with the cost of living – it's an even better deal now.

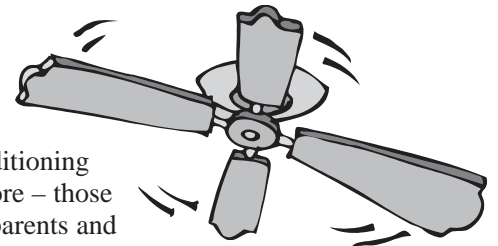
## Annual meeting

As we hit the peak of summer, we start thinking about the annual meeting. The first order of business is to begin the process of director elections that will culminate at the October annual meeting. Nominating committees will be formed by August 6, and these committees will find two candidates to run for the position of board member – your voice in the cooperative. ( 121-13-005-02 Mark T./Tammi L. Otto) If you are a member in District 8 or 9, this year's election will determine your board representation. We hope you'll be planning on attending the annual meeting!

## And who isn't thinking about next winter?

You *should* be if you are an off-peak member with a less-than-adequate backup system. If the load control of last winter was an inconvenience, now is the time to change that. Call our member service reps for ideas on how to make next winter worry-free and still enjoy the stable, low cost of electric off-peak heat. At your service we remain. . .

# Don't forget about fans for beating the heat

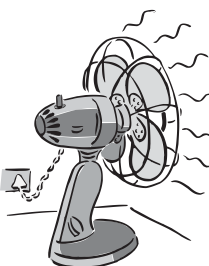


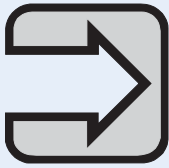
We've become so accustomed to air conditioning that sometimes we forget what came before – those old-fashioned fans that helped keep our parents and grandparents cool during the hot summer months.

Fans haven't outlived their usefulness! Ceiling fans are a popular addition to many homes, providing extra cooling power that makes it possible to be comfortable, even when you set your air conditioning thermostat at a higher temperature. On days when you just need a bit of a breeze instead of a deep freeze or on pleasant nights, a ceiling fan alone can keep you nice and cool.

But ceiling fans aren't the whole story. Small portable fans set at floor level can keep cold air, which sinks, moving up where you need it. Larger window fans can be used to pull cool air inside or draft hot air out, and may provide all the cooling power you need when the humidity is fairly low. And whole-house or attic fans have been around for years, doing an excellent job of cooling entire homes.

So don't overlook the good old-fashioned fan this summer. In combination with your air conditioner or alone, fans can help you save energy and stay cool.





## West End News

By Steve Ellis  
Baudette District Operations Supervisor

Emblom's Midwest Powerline Construction has completed the work project north of Williams. This will increase our ability to deliver power to the members in this growing area. **A big thank you** to all the landowners and farmers who were affected by this project.

The line crew has had a busy summer, so far, building new services and upgrading others; along with summer, come more outages. These are usually caused by storms, trees, animals, birds, airplanes and, yes, people, too! If you are working around power lines, please be careful, and be aware of your surroundings; power lines are in the air and in the ground. Hitting either of these will cause an outage for you and/or your neighbors; also, there is an increased chance of electrical contact, which can cause death or serious injury. If you do hit a power line, contact our office immediately. **Do not, under any circumstances, touch a downed line, as it may still be energized even if it is lying on the ground.**

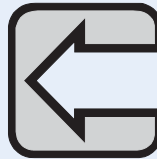
Lakes States will be spraying right of way for us this year. Spraying will mostly be done in the Warroad to Williams area; this is to begin in July. Lakes States will be contacting landowners before spraying. This is a necessary job that needs to be done to help keep cost down from outages and cutting. Thank you for your cooperation in this project, also.

Until next time, stay safe!

**I would also like to mention the new after-hours outage number, which is 634-2603 or toll-free at 1-888-6outage.**

## East End News

By Allan Baumgartner  
Littlefork District Operations Supervisor



New services have been getting built on time by our crews. After getting a few longer ones out of the way, we're on a pretty good pace now. A number of DW&P Railway services came in this summer and we're just finishing them up. We also have some underwater services, a tie-line and a cable replacement to get done up on Rainy Lake later this summer.

Our crews have been very busy cutting down dead or leaning trees. Seems like a lot of big pine and spruce died off over last winter. Lake States Tree Services has been applying herbicide to our rights of way the last few weeks east of Loman; they will be working both in the Baudette and Littlefork areas this year.

Outages have been minimal this year for both May and June; we hope that trend continues throughout the summer.



## Problems paying your electric bill?

*Energy assistance may be available!*

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

- **Lake of the Woods County Community Services**  
P.O. Box G-0200  
Baudette, MN 56623  
Phone: 634-2642
- **Northwest Community Action Council**  
P.O. Box 67  
Badger, MN 56714-0067  
Phone: 1-800-568-5329
- **Koochiching County Community Services**  
1000 5th St.  
International Falls, MN 56649  
Phone: 283-7000
- **Kootasca Community Action, Inc.**  
2232 2nd Ave. E.  
P.O. Box 44  
International Falls, MN 56649  
Phone: 283-9491 or 1-800-559-9491
- **Kootasca Community Action, Inc.**  
1213 SE 2nd Ave.  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984  
Phone: 1-800-422-0312
- **Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency**  
702 3rd Ave. S.  
Virginia, MN 55792-2797  
Phone: 1-800-662-5711

*Share a favorite recipe with your North Country neighbors!*



Send to:  
**North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
Attn: The Enlightener  
P.O. Box 719  
Baudette, MN 56623

# Highlights of the board of directors meeting

June 4, 2003

These are the highlights from the board of directors meeting held on June 4, 2003. Detailed minutes are available at the Cooperative for member review. The next regular board meeting is tentatively set for August 6, 2003. If you wish to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact Manager Dan Hoskins at least one week in advance to be included on the agenda.

All directors were present. They acted upon usual, routine business. In addition they voted to enter into a strategic planning contract, to approve the inventory adjustment, to approve commercial rate C-1, and to offer a limited-control Incremental Pricing Plan to commercial off-peak accounts willing to pay a higher price during the alleviated control time plus the cost of a metering and/or service upgrade.

## Management and operations report

General Manager Hoskins reported on the hiring of temporary summer help, short-handed line crews, line loss, and Minnkota items. He also provided pricing for various strategic planning facilitators, evaluation forms, right-of-way bids, a request for a donation, and work on board policies.

## Office report

Office Manager Ellis provided the financial report and commented on locking in lower interest rates on long-term debt, success and low cost

of the outage reporting number/dispatching, notification of the loan approval, receipt of sizeable capital credit payments/allocations from NRTC, and the creation/ mailing of brochures announcing the coming of Duluth's NBC network on DirecTV for North Star's subscribers east of Border.

## Compliance and member services report

Manager of Compliance and Member Services Haukaas reported on the return of the snowbirds with DirecTV, the sale on phase 3 antennas, marketing of the upcoming availability of Duluth's NBC network at the same price as distant networks, waivers, WildBlue Ka band satellite Internet, summer load control estimates of 170 hours, moving air conditioning loads and other controllable summer loads to control, park-day success, hiring of a summer worker for yard work, and cancellation of the Center Tour.

## Board reports and other discussion

President Arnesen reported on the Washington, D.C. Legislative Rally he attended. Minnkota Delegate Brzoznowski reported on the monthly Minnkota board meeting. Directors also reported on presenting scholarships at local high school graduations.

# Help for people affected by memory loss

Are you or a loved one wondering about memory loss? The Minnesota-Dakotas Chapter of the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Association is there to "stand by you." The mission of the Association is to improve the quality of life through support, research, advocacy and education for families, individuals and caregivers dealing with any type of memory loss.

They offer a 24-hour helpline to answer any questions you might have or to refer you to community resources. They provide education to families, community groups and caregivers. The organization also has support groups to "stand by you" in dealing with the disease. Advocacy, research and care consultation are also a part of the Association.

You do not have to be alone. There is someone who can "stand by you." Call the Alzheimer's Association at 1-800-232-0851.

## Electricity: Use it wisely



Frayed wires are dangerous anywhere. They should be repaired at once, by someone who knows how, or better yet, replaced.

**North Star**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Have you heard the news?

I'm certain that by now, you've received the flyer we recently mailed to all our DBS subscribers in Koochiching and St. Louis counties, or, maybe you've heard your neighbors talking about the news....Finally, after much anticipation, the Duluth Network channels are in the works! **Soon you will be able to watch local news, weather and sports on your DirecTV system!**

## NBC

NBC/KBJR, of Duluth, will be bringing their local services to all subscribers in Koochiching and St. Louis counties in December or possibly sooner! We anticipate the other local Duluth channels will follow suit soon after.

## Equipment needed

To receive this new technology, you may need to upgrade your existing equipment. North Star has decided to help you, the customer, with MOST of these expenses and share these costs. As part of the cost-share program, we will exchange your receiver/antenna and your cost is only **\$49.99 Installed!!**

If your receiver is one of our newer models (only a few years old), you may only need to change out your antenna, and that cost is only **\$29.99 Installed!!**

**ACT NOW TO AVOID THE RUSH!! CALL US TODAY TO HAVE YOUR EQUIPMENT UPGRADED!**

**You will then be up and running and ready to receive the local Duluth stations! It's that easy! Then you can sit back, relax and let us take care of the rest!**

## Notice!

Continue to watch your mail for your new access card! The access card change-out program has been in place for several months now and will continue until everyone has changed out their access card to the new P-4 card. If you haven't received yours yet, please continue to watch the mail. Don't throw away that old card! (674-07-015-05 Dennis Kaushagen) You can help your co-op save money by sending in those old cards for recycling! Thanks in advance for your support!

## **Don't miss NFL Sunday Ticket!**

**Call before July 31,  
to get  
Early Bird pricing!!  
4 monthly  
payments of  
only \$49.75!!**

**Tune into channels 200, 201 or 500 to get all the latest updates about equipment, DirecTV movies, pay-per-view events and more!**

## Equipment problems?

If you are having problems with your DirecTV system, please give us a call. We are here to help you.

If your existing system quits working properly, we have an exchange program where we will exchange your unit with one of ours at little or no cost to you. Please call one of our offices for more details.

## DirectTV FREEVIEW events for August

### Tune to channel #103

Tune to DIRECTV channel 103 and enjoy these DIRECTV®FREEVIEW® Events:

- Pink Floyd bassist Roger Waters and an all-star lineup – re-mixed and re-mastered from the original premiere of The Wall: Live in Berlin!
- Academy Award-winning actor Russell Crowe and his 30 Odd Foot of Grunts cross the globe on a tour of performances, recording sessions, and rehearsals.
- Reggae superstar Bob Marley and The Wailers in a newly re-mastered classic 1977 show at the Rainbow Theatre in London.

The events premiere Friday, August 1, on channel 103, and will replay every weekend throughout the month.

We are proud to present this concert to you – at no additional charge – as our way of saying . . .

*“Thanks for allowing us to serve you!”*

## BLOCKBUSTER TICKET

only on DIRECTV  
**Movies ONLY \$3.99 when you order by remote!**



**Gopher State One Call**

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Minnesota Statewide One Call Notification Center

**1-800-252-1166**

# RCA Satellite System & Phase 3 Antenna

(Capable of 4 receivers & local programming – when available)

**Installed for only \$49.99**

(Save over \$350.00 from our regular price.)

<u>ADD UP YOUR SAVINGS:</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>SALE</u>
**RCA System-Antenna	\$259.00	\$ 49.99
Basic Installation	95.00	FREE
Surge Protector	20.00	FREE
1 Month Total Choice Plus	<u>37.99</u>	<u>FREE</u>
	<b>\$411.99</b>	<b>\$ 49.99</b>

- Warranty & damaged equipment exchange program is available to all subscribers.
- \*\*1-year commitment to Total Choice or larger programming package.
- Must be a new DirecTV account & purchase programming from North Star Electric.
- Must reside in USA & North Star Electric's DBS sales territory.
- Activation fees are charged per unit - \$10.00 NSEC members & \$20.00 non-members.
- All sports channels, pay-per-view & additional receivers require a telephone connection.
  
- \*\*1-year commitment to Total Choice or higher programming package required.  
If you downgrade or terminate programming during the 1-year commitment, \$100.00 will be charged to you.

**ADDITIONAL RECEIVERS ONLY \$139.00**

**(Free Basic Installation & Programming is only \$1.95 a month)**

## EMPLOYEE PROFILE

**Maurice Jonson retired July 1 after 13 years  
with North Star Electric**

Maurice started working part-time at North Star in 1988 on the brushing crew. In 1990, he moved to full-time as a groundman and equipment operator with the line crew. Maurice is a lifelong resident of the Littlefork area. Before he started working at North Star, he was a logger. What he enjoyed most about working with North Star was meeting the members and the variety of work he did; no two days were alike.

Maurice and his wife, Sandra, live in Littlefork and have two grown children – Cleo and her husband, Jerry Anderson, and Todd, and his wife, Chris, and five grandchildren all who live in the Littlefork area.

After retirement, Maurice will still be working on small engines and hopes to get some time to ride his motorcycle and also get in some river fishing. He and his wife also plan to do a little traveling.

We wish Maurice good luck in the future. Everyone at North Star will miss him.

