May Your Holiday Season Be Merry and Bright

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities. Right here in our communities of the White Mountains of Arizona and New Mexico, we look forward to annual electric light parades, tree lighting ceremonies, as well as other age old traditional celebrations. We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones.

However, given the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. For all of us at Navopache Electric Cooperative, we are grateful for you, the members of the co-op.

You see, one of our founding principles as a co-op is “Concern for Community.” While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also give back. We want to help our community thrive.

Reflection

In looking back at this past year, I’m grateful that we were able to make a positive impact in the White Mountains communities. Through programs such as Operation RoundUp, where thanks to your contributions, we collected just shy of $5,000. As a result of your generosity, we were able to help many families in our communities with hardships they may have encountered. We have plans to do even more next year with the partnership of our communities. (tWzerozerozerozerozerozerofive)

We were also grateful for the opportunity to partner with local schools to raise awareness of the importance of electrical safety. This year, we put on our live Electrical Safety Demo for students from various local schools, boys and girls clubs, as well as other community events.

In fact, we continue to work closely with our local high schools to award college scholarships. In 2019, we awarded nine $2,500 scholarships to local scholars.

There are other ways we can help the community, whether we're providing information about our Co-Op Connections programs, or helping you find ways to save energy at home, we want you to know we're here to help.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead to 2020, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize that our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you – the members of the co-op – and we depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater White Mountains communities. On behalf of the Navopache Electric Cooperative family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright!
More December Annual Meeting Questions Answered

As promised at the Annual Meeting of NEC Members in September, NEC is answering the remaining questions submitted at the meeting in NEC. We appreciate our members’ input and interest in NEC’s operations. If you didn’t see your specific question published, be on the lookout for a personal letter from me addressing your question as it probably was specific to your unique circumstances rather than something affecting the entire membership.

**We would like someone to discuss solar and wind for electricity – have you investigated and if yes, what are the results?**

We are continually going out on the wholesale power market and purchasing the best blend of power supply resources for our members. We have an existing Wholesale Power Supply Agreement that allows us to utilize renewables as well as traditional resources for electricity, while still maintaining the best value for our members.

**Will our power be affected by the closure of the power plants?**

Potentially our members could be impacted in the long term due to power plant closures in a couple of ways. First, the county and local communities where the power plants are located will be impact by a reduction in revenue from property taxes from the power plants. Secondly, the power plants are base load generation, which means they operate around the clock to provide electric service at any moment it is needed. The power plants provide electricity when renewables are not available. NEC is committed to minimizing the cost and reliability impact to our members by continually “shopping” the power market to find viable, reliable and economical sources of electricity delivered to NEC members.

**Simple question – how come our bills are sent to Prescott, AZ rather than Lakeside, AZ.**

Our management team made the decision to outsource some of the clerical functions of the billing process. In researching options, they found that outsourcing payment processing would be more economical as well as freeing up our team members to be able to focus more on the member care relations and giving members the one on one attention they require. This also helped in the employee satisfaction to where they can truly see how they are making a difference and working directly with our valued members. We have also implemented other payment options such as pay by phone, our SmartHub app, as well as being able to come in and pay in person.

**How does NEC justify restriction of advance owner access to its meeting agenda and topics?**

Regular NEC board meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The agenda is published in each area office at open of business 24 hours prior to the meeting (4th Tuesday of each month).

**How can members provide feedback without access to the governance & staff activities? and Without direct customer (owner) dialogue, how does NEC even know what customers think about NEC positions (at ACC & otherwise)?**

Members can attend the call to members at the beginning of each regular board meeting. If interested, members may call the Administrative Assistant to the CEO, Elizabeth Neal, in the corporate office at 928-368-5118 to request to be added to the call to members on the Board Meeting agenda. Members are also encouraged to discuss topics of interest with their district Board Representative. Members also have the opportunity to attend annual meetings to meet their district Board Representative personally, meet NEC management and staff, as well as voice their concerns, suggestions, questions, and compliments in a variety of ways such as direct conversations, suggestion cards, and question cards. Members are also encouraged to call our Member Care Services department or visit any of our area offices to discuss any topics regarding the Co-Op.
A “Special” Christmas Carol

Here is something to think about and enjoy during this holiday season: what would our homes, our stores, all of our businesses, and our towns do without our local electric co-op? We dug up an old and special Christmas carol dedicated to our Navopache Electric Co-op. Enjoy!

“Twas the night before Christmas and out on the ranch
The pond was froze over and so was the branch.
The snow was piled up belly-deep to a mule!
The kids were all home on vacation from school.

And happier young folks you never did see
Just sprawled around a-watchin’ T.V.
Then suddenly some time around eight o’clock
There came a surprise that gave them a shock.
The power went off, the T.V went dead!
When Grandpa came in from out in the shed.

With an armload of wood, the house was all dark,
“Just what I expected,” they heard him remark.

Those NEC electric wires must be down from the snow
Seems sorter like times on the ranch long ago.”

“I’ll hunt up some candles,” said Mom, “With their light, and the fireplace I reckon we’ll make out all right.”

The teenagers all seemed enveloped in gloom,
Then Grandpa came back from a trip to his room.
He uncased his old fiddle and started to play
That old Christmas song about the bells on a sleigh.

Mom started to sing, and the first thing we knew
Both Pop and the kids were all singing it too!
They sang Christmas carols, they sang “Holy Night,”
Their eyes all a-shine in the ruddy firelight.

They played some charades Mom recalled from her youth
And Pop read a passage from God’s Book of Truth.
They stayed up ‘til midnight and would you believe
Those youngsters agreed ’twas a fine Christmas Eve!

Grandpa arose sometime before dawn,
And when the kids awakened, the current was on.

“Navopache sure got the line repaired quick”
Said Grandpa – and no one suspected his trick!
Last night for the sake of some ol’ fashioned fun
He had pulled the main switch... the ol’ son of a gun!

 Courtesy of Peg Matteson, long time Pinetop resident and Navopache Electric Co-Op Member

Decide Co-Op Business of the Month

Save Up to $190
For information on our Memberships or questions call
Craig Boston • 928-368-3017
Craig.Boston@AirMedCareNetwork.com
Join Online at www.AMCNRep.com/Craig-Boston

Sunrise Air Ambulance welcomes Co-Op Connections card holders to contact us for savings!

Co-Op Connections® Card

To help our members save money wherever they do business, NEC offers valuable savings with our Co-Op Connections® Program.

Visit www.navopache.org for more information

Navopache Electric Cooperative is dedicated to enhancing our members’ quality of life by strengthening the economy throughout our service territory since 1946
Frosted Eggnog Cookies

-2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
-2 teaspoons baking powder
-1/2 teaspoons salt
-1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
-1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
-3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
-1/2 cup granulated sugar
-1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
-2 large egg yolks
-1 teaspoon vanilla
-1/2 teaspoon rum extract
-1/2 cup eggnog

**Frosting:**

- 1/2 cup butter, unsalted
- 1/2 teaspoon rum extract
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 to 5 tablespoons eggnog
- Powdered sugar

**Instructions:**

1. Begin by preheating your oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Then in a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, salt, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Set aside.
3. In the bowl of an electric mixer with a paddle attachment, whip together the butter, sugar and brown sugar until light and fluffy. This will take 3-5 minutes. Next, mix in the egg yolks, one at a time. Then add the vanilla and rum extract and mix until blended.
4. With your mixer on low, slowly add about half of the dry ingredients, then the eggnog, then the rest of the dry ingredients. Mix until just combined.
5. Place heaping tablespoons of the dough about two inches apart on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake for 11-14 minutes. Allow the cookies to rest on the baking sheet several minutes before moving them to a wire rack to cool. After the cookies have cooled completely, frost them with Eggnog Frosting. Sprinkle lightly with cinnamon before the frosting sets.

To make the frosting, in the bowl of an electric mixer with a whisk attachment, whip the butter until light and fluffy. Add the rum extract and about three tablespoons of eggnog. Then, gradually mix in the powdered sugar. Add additional eggnog to reach the desired consistency.

Candy Cane Snowballs

2 cups butter, softened
1 cup confectioners' sugar 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3-1/2 cups all-purpose flour 1 cup chopped pecans
8 ounces white candy coating, melted
1/3 to 1/2 cup crushed peppermint candies

2. Preheat oven to 350°. Shape dough into 1-in. balls. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets.
3. Bake until lightly browned, about 15 minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks; cool completely.

Dip tops of cookies into candy coating, allowing excess to drip off; dip into crushed candies. Let stand until set.

Share Your Favorite Recipes
Navopache Electric Co-op would love to share some of your favorite recipes with our readers. Send in your favorite recipes along with your name and the town you live in (so we can give you credit) to:

Navopache Electric Co-op
Attn: “hiLites” Editor
1878 W. White Mountain Blvd.
Lakeside, AZ 85929
or e-mail it to jwade@navopache.org

Easy Fudge Recipe

This Easy Fudge Recipe, made with only three ingredients, is the creamiest fudge you will ever taste.

14 ounces white chocolate candy melts; 14 ounces milk chocolate candy melts; and 14 ounces creamy peanut butter
- Sugar cake decorations optional

1. Add both candy melts and peanut butter to the top of a double boiler (or to a heatproof glass bowl resting in a saucepan with a couple inches of water in it).
2. Heat the mixture until melted and smooth.
3. Pour the fudge into an 8x8-inch baking pan lined with a sheet of parchment paper. Allow the fudge to set. Do not refrigerate.
4. Once completely set, cut the fudge into squares, and if desired, top with decorative sugar cake decorations. Store in an air-tight container at room temperature.

Energy Efficiency “Tip of the Month”

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You’ll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.