

The Nodak Neighbor

September-October 2017
Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

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Inside:

**Tractor safety and
off-peak heat rates**

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Is your name on the
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On the cover: Gary Iverson, Mekinock, N.D., harvests edible beans on a hot September afternoon.



October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are joining forces to raise awareness about cybersecurity. Electric co-ops protect the private information of their members and ensure hackers don't tamper with the reliability of the electric grid. But consumers have a lot at stake too – like losing all the photos on your smartphone or having bank or credit card information stolen from your computer.

The team of cybersecurity experts at NRECA suggest thinking of cybersecurity as “cyber hygiene.” Practicing it should become a habit, with some simple tips to protect yourself online:

- Create strong passwords using a mixture of upper and lower case letters and special characters.
- Keep software updated.
- Make sure antivirus software is installed and up to date.
- Have all devices backed up to an external storage system, and remember to back them up every few weeks.
- Set parental controls on hardware and software to keep kids safe while browsing the internet.

To learn more about National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and to view additional cyber-security tips, visit www.staysafeonline.org.



National Cyber Security
Awareness Month

Get involved and become a champion at
STAYSAFEONLINE.ORG/NCSAM/CHAMPIONS



CyberAware

Electric off-peak heat rates begin Oct. 1

Members with subtractive or separately metered off-peak electric heating systems will be charged the applicable off-peak rate for energy usage beginning Oct. 1. The off-peak rates will continue to be charged for energy usage through May 31, 2018. Current off-peak rates are \$0.062/kWh for long-term and \$0.077/kWh for short-term controlled systems (price includes the \$0.004/kWh renewable energy market adjustment charge). It is a good idea to inspect, clean and test your heating system before cold weather arrives. Please check to make sure all of your electric heat circuit breakers are on prior to Oct. 1.

Daily cycling of electric storage heat to begin in late October

Members heating with electric thermal storage, such as thermal storage room units, thermal storage furnaces or slab/in-floor heating, should turn on their heating system prior to Oct. 15 to allow a heat reservoir to build up before daily cycling of loads begins. The actual date cycling begins varies each season. Thermal storage heating is controlled each day from 7 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Cavalier AFS significant link to missile warning/space defense

By Dave Smith, 21st Space Wing Public Affairs staff writer

Cavalier Air Force Station, N.D. – Once a major piece of U.S. nuclear defenses during the Cold War, Cavalier Air Force Station continues to be a significant link in the nation’s missile warning and space defense scheme.

The 10th Space Warning Squadron is a geographically separated unit of the 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. Cavalier Air Force Station, N.D., is about 15 miles south of the Canadian border. The installation initially provided the first and only ballistic missile defense of ICBM fields in the northern U.S. Following the Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty II, that mission was terminated. Soon after, new dual missions of providing missile warning and supporting space surveillance began. The Perimeter Acquisition Radar Attack Characterization System (PARCS) at Cavalier AFS is the only Safeguard component that was not deactivated.

The most prominent structure at Cavalier AFS is the Perimeter Acquisition Radar building, a ground-based Integrated Tactical Warning/Attack Assessment sensor key to the National Military Command System. The building housing the PARCS radar system, often referred to as the second tallest building in North Dakota after the state capitol, is an electromagnetic pulse hardened structure built as part of the Army’s antiballistic missile Safeguard program.

“PARCS’ primary mission is Missile Warning; its secondary mission is Space Situational Awareness,” said Lt. Col. John Koehler, 10th SWS commander. “PARCS is uniquely positioned to view objects approaching the United States and Southern Canada from the north. It has a visibility range of 3,300 kilometers, which is approximately 2,000 miles.” This allows

the world’s most capable radar to provide observations on thousands of earth-orbiting satellites.”

The PARCS provides around-the-clock missile warning data to North American Aerospace Defense Command and space surveillance data to United States Strategic Command. The system monitors and tracks more than half of all earth-orbiting objects to enable space situational awareness. The 10th SWS team provides real-time missile warning data to the secretary of defense and the president to assist in decision making.

“Cavalier AFS is a unique installation with unparalleled personnel,” said Koehler. “The opportunities here rival and exceed what I’ve experienced at previous bases over my 17 years of service. The missions have direct impact on



Cavalier Air Force Station, N.D. – a full view of the Perimeter Acquisition Radar building located at Cavalier Air Force Station in North Dakota. The building houses the Perimeter Acquisition Radar Attack Characterization System, a key piece of the national military command system. (Courtesy photo)

capabilities provided globally, from the farmers in the local area to operations overseas. This is truly the nation’s most capable radar operated and maintained by the most capable team of airmen.”

There are about 130 people working at Cavalier, he said. Most are contractors performing a variety of services like maintenance, custodial services and firefighting. There are about 40 military and five government civilians in the mix. The installation is considered an isolated facility and too small to provide all the functions of a typical base, so some services are made available through other bases.

Grand Forks Air Force Base, 80

miles south, provides security forces personnel and support functions like finance and medical, for example. Emergency services like hazardous waste disposal and explosive ordinance disposal are provided by Minot Air Force Base about 200 miles west.

The site is remote, but Cavalier personnel stay active in the local community, participating in events ranging from parades to providing a color guard at various ceremonies. Volunteering is a big part of the military lifestyle, and there are many opportunities for 10th SWS members to participate. Extracurricular events like zip-lining in Canada, fishing and ice fishing at local lakes and rivers, camping and boating at Icelandic State Park in the summer, and skiing are available year-round. On-site activities like bowling, potlucks and karaoke are available all year at the Community Activity Center, lovingly called the Mangy Moose.

To bring the installation from the look associated with its time as a prominent Cold War site into the 21st century, a number of upgrades took place. A \$4.8 million construction project added 14 new housing units for military families living on station, Koehler said. The project included a new community center and indoor play area aimed for use during cold winter months.

“The project represents a significant increase in the quality of life for base residents,” Koehler said.

A \$20 million High-altitude Electromagnetic Pulse protection project is nearing completion, including 10 major subprojects at the station. Koehler said these projects should ensure Cavalier’s operational relevance far into the future.



*Mylo Einarson
President & CEO*

Perspective

Minnkota Power keeps Nodak Electric connected

You may not have seen Minnkota Power Cooperative's new building in the western part of Grand Forks, but you've probably heard about it. It's going to be a big improvement for them, and it was necessary to address some important compliance issues that would have been too costly to upgrade. At the same time, the process of building this new facility has confirmed something that I've always suspected: most people aren't quite sure what the relationship is between Nodak and Minnkota Power.

How do I know this? Because I get asked about Minnkota Power – a lot. People get especially confused because both Nodak Electric and Minnkota Power have their headquarters in Grand Forks. As a result, everyone from cooperative members to state lawmakers assume that Minnkota Power is (A) a competitor to Nodak Electric; (B) a power plant or (C) the owner of Nodak Electric – or vice versa.

Actually, that last one isn't too far off. And neither is option B for that matter. You see, Minnkota Power is a cooperative – just like Nodak Electric. However, while Nodak Electric is a co-op owned by electricity users, Minnkota Power is a co-op owned by electrical co-ops, so Nodak is actually one of the owners of Minnkota.

I know that sounds a little strange, but there's a good reason for it. In 1940, Nodak Electric and several other co-ops from eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota joined together to create Minnkota Power in order to provide generation and transmission services to its members. Along the way,

Minnkota Power also agreed to supply electricity to 12 nearby municipalities (Park River and Grafton are two in our service area). To best serve its member-owners and its municipal partners, Minnkota Power today owns and operates the Milton R. Young Station power plant near Center, N.D. In addition, its "energy generation portfolio" includes electricity from three area wind farms, the Garrison Dam and the Coyote power plant near Beulah, N.D. To deliver all of this energy, Minnkota Power maintains more than 3,300 miles of transmission line and more than 250 substations! So, in simple terms, Minnkota generates the electricity and delivers it to Nodak's service area over high-voltage transmission lines. Substations then lower the voltage to our distribution level and Nodak brings the power from the substations to our member-owners. You see, Nodak Electric and Minnkota Power are separate entities with the same mission: to give you the safest, most reliable and affordable electricity possible.

You should feel proud to be an owner of both Nodak Electric and Minnkota Power! Together, roughly 150,000 residential and commercial users (across nearly 35,000 square miles) benefit from Minnkota's services. You may not have known you were part of such a powerful team, but that doesn't change the importance of this strong partnership.

Let me know if you have any other questions about Minnkota Power. I'm always happy to explain how the two organizations work together to serve us all.



DEFINED BY PRINCIPLES

There are more than 29,000 co-ops in the U.S. alone. All are guided by the same set of seven cooperative principles.

1. **Voluntary and open membership**
2. **Democratic control**
3. **Members' economic participation**
4. **Autonomy and independence**
5. **Education, training and information**
6. **Cooperation among cooperatives**
7. **Concern for community**

CO-OP MONTH | OCTOBER 2017

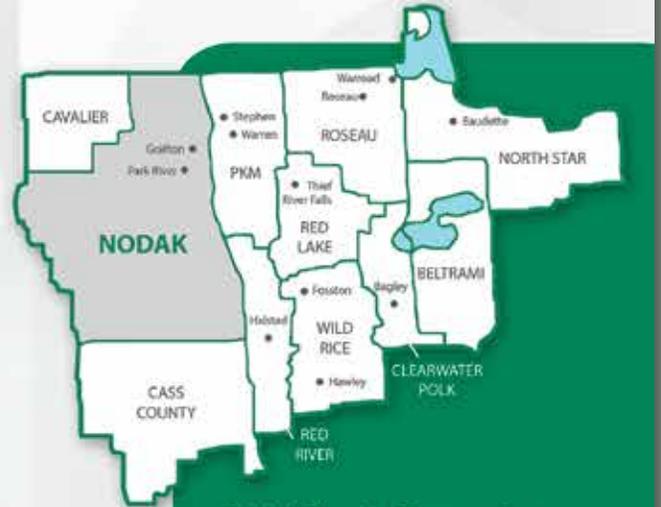
STRONGER TOGETHER

Nodak Electric Cooperative and Minnkota Power partner together to provide affordable energy.



Power Generation/Management

Minnkota Power generates and purchases energy in order to supply the 11 electrical co-ops that own it.



Supportive Partnership

Minnkota Power provides wholesale energy to Nodak Electric Cooperative and the other member-owner cooperatives in North Dakota and Minnesota, as well as cities served through the Northern Municipal Power Agency.

Nodak Electric Cooperative is itself part of another cooperative, one that owns and operates Minnkota Power. That means Nodak's member-owners technically own Minnkota as well!



Reliable Energy

Nodak Electric Cooperative distributes affordable energy to our own 14,000 member-owner customers, helping to power homes, farms, schools and businesses.



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- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Nodak Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Gretchen Schmaltz, Nodak Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-746-4461 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is **Jan. 31, 2018**. Emailed entries should be directed to gschmaltz@nodakelectric.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Nodak Electric Cooperative, 4000 32nd Ave. S., PO Box 13000, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3000.

TOP 3 REASONS

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1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Nodak Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

ESSAY QUESTION:

There are approximately 20 million military veterans in the United States today. How shall fellow U.S. citizens honor and look after these veterans, who have served and sacrificed on our behalf? Describe any special connection you may have to a veteran or active-duty member of the military.



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.ndyouthtour.com



Tractor safety

Modern farm tractors are the workhorses of agriculture and the safety advances made in their construction in recent years make them safer than ever. But, tragic accidents do still occur on a regular basis. According to OSHA, there are 200 tractor-related deaths annually that happen in the U.S. alone, along with many more accidents that result in serious injury.

These accidents don't need to happen. To make sure that you don't become part of these unfortunate statistics, follow these basic guidelines:

- Be familiar with the terrain and work area. Walk the area first to

identify any debris or obstacles that could hinder the ability to drive around the area safely. Use special caution on slopes, slow down for all turns and stay off the highway whenever possible.

- Always keep the power take-off properly shielded. Walk around the tractor and PTO driven implement, never over, through or between the tractor and implement, particularly if either is running.
- Keep hitches low and always on the drawbar. Otherwise, the tractor might flip over backward.
- Never start an engine in a closed shed or garage. Exhaust gas contains carbon monoxide, which is colorless, odorless and deadly.

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- Keep all children off and away from the tractor and its implements at all times. Children are generally attracted to tractors and the work they do.

Source: National Safety Council's Agricultural Division, the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety.

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(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
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(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b(1), (2), (3), and (4))	14550	14598
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	75	75
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
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(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	75	75
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d(1), (2), (3), and (4))	75	75
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	14625	14673
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	10	10
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	14635	14683
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	99	99

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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I certify that 95% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

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 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **Sept/Oct 2017** issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
 Signature: *Blaine Rekken* Date: **Aug 4, 2017**
 Title: **Customer/Energy Service Manager**

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YOUR NODAK NEIGHBORS

The power you get from Nodak Electric Cooperative is so reliable that it can be easy to forget that there are dozens of men and women helping to make it happen. Who are these faces behind the kilowatts? We're your neighbors, and it's time we introduced you to some of the folks who keep Nodak running smoothly.

HEATHER LIZOTTE

Billing Specialist / Member Service Representative

Job: Processes and distributes utility bills and handles inquiries relative to billing, ensuring accuracy and flexibility so that members have affordable power

Year started at Nodak: 2016

Hometown: Minot, ND

Favorite part about North Dakota: The hometown feel where someone would give a helping hand without knowing you

First job: Fireworks sales

Hobbies/Interests: Playing and watching sports, spending time at the lake and traveling

Surprising fact: I love Mexican and Indian food

Biggest strength: I'm great at multitasking and communicating, and I'm known for always putting others first

Favorite quote/advice: If it's meant to be, it's meant to be

Most-liked smell: Food on the grill

Preferred place to eat: Chick-fil-A

Go-to music: R&B and Hip Hop

Favorite sports team: Boston Celtics

Proudest moment: Becoming a mother

