

Watts New

July, 2020

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager

I hope everyone had a wonderful 4th of July and was able to enjoy Independence Day celebrations. I know you will receive this article after the celebrations, but I hope that as you celebrated and enjoyed the fireworks and festivities, you remembered what the reason for the celebration was truly about, what it has taken to maintain our freedoms; and the sacrifices through the years, be it during war or in peace. We must be diligent to maintain our freedoms. We also must learn from history. It has been said, those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. I hope you had a great Independence Day!

Recently, the REA Board of Directors sent a letter informing members how things have been going during the pandemic. In this letter, it was requested that you make sure we have your current contact information, including the best phone number and email address. Thank you to those that have shared! This contact information is crucial for us to be able to reach you, whenever we have time sensitive information for you. We would really appreciate it if you would notify us when your contact information changes, so we can keep the most current information available.

On the COVID side of things, our lobby is once again open. Please stop in and see us! We love to see you. Serving our members is what we are about!

You have heard my thoughts before on Tri-State being regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) so I hope you appreciate where I am coming from when I say: "I am happy to report that the FERC has accepted Tri-State's withdrawal payment methodology." What this means is that FERC agrees with the methods Tri-State uses to determine costs, should a member decide to buyout of their membership contract with Tri-State. This has been a major point of contention with some members who have disagreed with the methods, and it is the basis for complaints before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and district court in Adams County Colorado. All potential buyouts in the future will follow this approved methodology. In making their decision, and the entire point of becoming FERC jurisdictional, is that FERC can and should take into consideration the good of all members, regardless of the state and political climate of a state. Individual regulatory commissions only look at the more local members, and in the Colorado situation, even other Colorado members were denied the right to be heard before the CPUC. One must wonder about the agenda if your own state agency is denying you the right to speak at a case that impacts you.

The remaining question is what will now happen to the current cases before the CPUC and district court. We are hopeful that the FERC decision will make them go away and we can stop paying legal fees to defend the method. I wish it were that easy. I am sure the other side will attempt to maintain jurisdiction. We will see.

Along the same lines of Tri-State membership, as of June 30, one Colorado Tri-State member is no longer a member. Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) has bought out of their contract obligation and will go their own way. We wish their Association and their members well in their future power procurements.

Like I said, we are here to serve you, our fantastic members of the REA! Please stop in and see us, and let us know how we can better serve you. This is always a fantastic place to be, but especially during the pandemic. While the rest of the world has been in a panic, Wyoming has continued to move forward, albeit limping sometimes, and supporting one another.

Thanks for being such great members and creating the wonderful culture here in the area!



Watts New is a publication of
Wheatland Rural Electric
Association

2154 South St.
Wheatland, WY 82201
www.wheatlandrea.com
(307) 322-2125
(800) 344-3351

Tammy Gonzalez, Editor

REA SUMMER HOURS
Monday - Thursday
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
CLOSED Friday

OUTAGES-OPEN 24/7

OUTAGE PHONE NUMBERS

(307) 322-2125
(800) 344-3351
24 hours a day

STAFF

Donald E. Smith
General Manager

Rhonda Apodaca
Office Manager

Jason Wright
Operations Manager

Al Teel
Member Services
Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Brockman 322-2220
President

Britt Wilson 331-8405
Vice President

Jack Finnerty 331-2100
Secretary/Treasurer

Sandra Hbranchak 322-4393
Director

Candy Geringer 307-351-8716
Director

From the desk of RKA....

Happy 4th of July to all of you! Please be safe on this great holiday. Let us not forget why we celebrate the 4th of July and embrace our freedom and independence in this great nation of ours!

By the time that you receive this magazine, we will have completed our annual audit. The final, extensive report will be given to the Board of Directors sometime in August. Once the Board approves the audit report, I will be able to share any findings or concerns. Every year I state this, but it is very important that we have an annual audit. It is designed to protect you, the member, to make sure that we are keeping accurate records and reports and assuring that the co-op's assets are protected.

As we continue down the "2020 path", we are still dealing with the COVID19 pandemic. Here in Wyoming, we think that we are less affected by it because of our population density, our wide-open ranges, etc., but here at the co-op, we are feeling some of the effects because of this being nationwide. Materials and supplies that we normally can get in a quick turnaround time are now "Sold Out" for up to several weeks. Meetings and trainings that we normally have during the summer have been cancelled. There were some very important trainings and educational seminars that our employees have taken in the past, which would have been beneficial to the co-op. So, again, as with this pandemic, we have had to "re-invent the wheel" and come up with various plans to get our employees trained. Different organizations that I have worked with are delayed in response time in getting information back to me. It is because there are a lot of people still working at home, and because of the economy, a lot of companies have laid off or cut back employees' hours. Here at the cooperative, we are working hard to make sure that we keep providing the best, reliable service that we can at an affordable price. That is our motto and we continually strive for that.... COVID19 or no COVID19.

At the beginning of this pandemic, we, began waiving the convenience fee for any payment that was made by credit card. Beginning August 1st, we will be reinstating the convenience fee once again. Remember, if you come in to the office and use your credit/debit card, no fee is charged. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Also, as a friendly reminder, our lobby is open. We ask that if you are feeling ill or someone in your family is feeling ill, please stay home. We have tried to work hard during this stressful time in keeping our employees and our members healthy. Thank you!

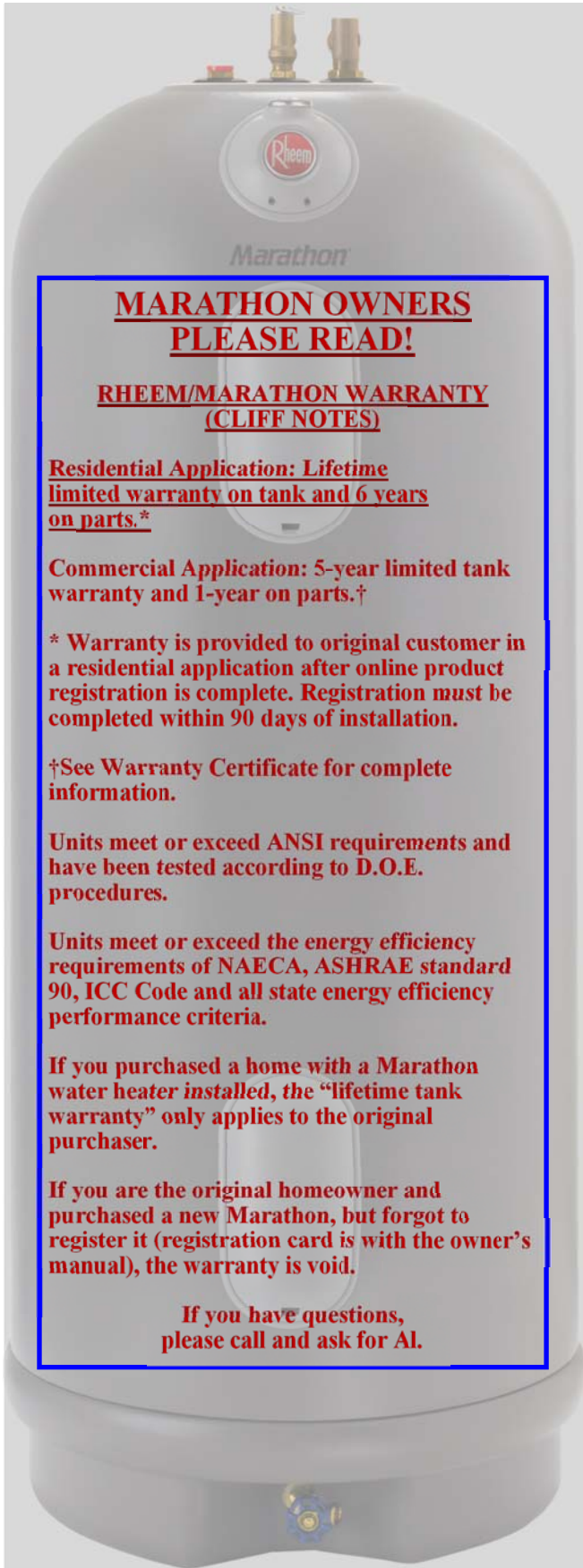
So, fishing season has been a true test of why there are a gazillion lures, bait, plastics, jigs, etc....to use. One day, we may be jigging and the next day is pulling crank baits. I cannot really say that a certain color really works better than another color. But why would I tell you? Don't you know fishermen? Not the most truthful people in the world! LOL! We are working on our backyard and extending our patio. It is not coming as quickly as I would like but it seems that someone else at my house has another extracurricular activity on his mind, besides work. I am also sad to report that our fishing trip to Canada has been cancelled this year because of the COVID19. I was sure looking forward to going up there and having the fish jump into the boat; well not really, but it seemed like that last year.

Until next month.....



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®





**MARATHON OWNERS
PLEASE READ!**

**RHEEM/MARATHON WARRANTY
(CLIFF NOTES)**

**Residential Application: Lifetime
limited warranty on tank and 6 years
on parts.***

**Commercial Application: 5-year limited tank
warranty and 1-year on parts.†**

*** Warranty is provided to original customer in
a residential application after online product
registration is complete. Registration must be
completed within 90 days of installation.**

**†See Warranty Certificate for complete
information.**

**Units meet or exceed ANSI requirements and
have been tested according to D.O.E.
procedures.**

**Units meet or exceed the energy efficiency
requirements of NAECA, ASHRAE standard
90, ICC Code and all state energy efficiency
performance criteria.**

**If you purchased a home with a Marathon
water heater installed, the "lifetime tank
warranty" only applies to the original
purchaser.**

**If you are the original homeowner and
purchased a new Marathon, but forgot to
register it (registration card is with the owner's
manual), the warranty is void.**

**If you have questions,
please call and ask for Al.**



**Marathon water heaters are simply the best on the
market. They boast polybutylene tanks that are
impervious to rust caused by our hard water.**

**They have 4" of Envirofoam insulation which means
savings for you because of lower heat loss.
We have 40 & 50 gallon models in stock.**

GOOD LUCK!

**From Wheatland REA
to this year's FFA
and 4-H participants
at the county fair.**



**SUMMER HOURS 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Monday through Thursday...Closed Friday**

Platte County Fair 2020

JULY 24TH-AUGUST 1ST



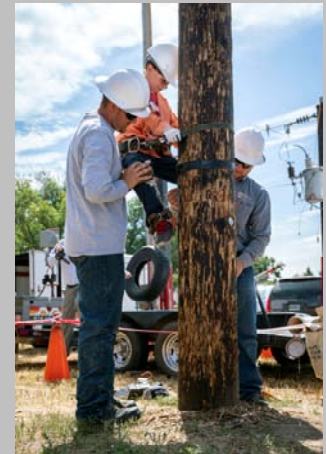
WYOMING STATE FAIR 2020



**AUGUST 11-15
DOUGLAS, WY**

**COME TO THE
FAIR!**

**VISIT US ON
THE MIDWAY!**



==SUMMER HOURS==



7:00 AM TO 5:30 PM

MON. TUE. WED. THU.

CLOSED ON FRIDAY

SAFETY TIP

Stop what you are doing
and go inside during
thunderstorms!

Wyoming ranks #2 in the
nation for lightning
deaths per capita.

Trying to finish that last
bit of work, that last
inning of softball, or one
more minute in the lake,
isn't worth your life!

\$ REBATES \$

Electric Motors

Water Heaters

Heat Pumps

Appliances

Call for details!

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®



www.wheatlandrea.com