

CURRENT CONNECTION

Electrify Your Summer >>>

Throughout the past year, we have introduced you to electric lawn and garden tools and smart home gadgets. This month we want to give you additional insight on electric bikes or commonly known as e-bikes.

E-bikes have been gaining a lot of interest. The uptick in sales most recently can be attributed to a number of factors from fitness to emission conscious commuters, advancements in lithium-ion battery technology, and the isolation of the pandemic.

Most e-bikes have pedal assist, meaning there is some pedaling involved. Sure, regular bikes are going to give you a better workout, but for some e-bike owners they're saying they ride and are outdoors much more than if they just had a conventional bike and therefore, they are improving their cardio vascular systems and overall health.

We asked one couple what they like about the e-bikes they bought last summer. They said as a couple who owns two class 1 e-bikes we like that we are able to stay together on a trail even though we have different strength and ability levels. They take the bikes with them to Florida each year and love being able to use the bikes year round.

The majority of e-bikes cost between \$1,000 and \$4,000 but you can spend triple that amount depending on the manufacturer, battery capacity, and other customized options. There are four different classes of e-bikes that range from true pedal assist powered by the cyclist all the way to a Moped style with a full throttle.

Our research revealed just two e-bike rental locations and a few more places that do e-bike sales in our area. We met with Tim Wagner, owner of UpNorth Bike Rentals in downtown Nisswa. Tim recently made the switch from CPA to small business owner and opened his new shop in May. He has sixteen e-bikes for rent and he can help you



purchase through his manufacturer Electronic Bikes.

When looking to purchase an e-bike he mentioned that you should know where you are typically riding, what is the distance you ride on average, how many amp hours the standard battery holds, and what you are willing to spend.

It was an exciting day, not only did we get to talk with Tim and learn about e-bikes, we actually were able to test one out. From a non-biker perspective, this is what we learned.

- The pedal assist was great to have, like changing gears on your typical ten-speed, you would push a button to get some extra help and adjust as needed for your ability. This ranged from a 1- (80% pedaling/20% assist) to a 4- (10% pedaling/90% assist).
- These bikes can go very fast, up to 28 mph—wear a helmet.
- There is a throttle, meaning you do not have to pedal at all and just push the throttle on the handle to do the work.

Different factors from speed, weight, and ability come into play when you talk about how long the battery can go on a charge. The charge utilizes a traditional electrical outlet. The pedal assist does not do a re-charge, however when the breaks are applied, there is some power regeneration to help conserve the battery.

As with anything new e-bikes might not be the only mode of transportation in the future especially in our harsh Minnesota winters, it certainly provides an option as well as levels the playing field for groups of people that enjoy getting out together to bike.

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Send Us Your Best Scenic Photos

We are conducting another calendar contest. To enter the contest, please submit your scenic photos of Minnesota to us. If your photo is chosen for the 2022 calendar, you will receive a \$25 electric bill credit. We will have a spiral bound calendar produced and available in early December.

See our website at cwpower.com for guidelines and entry information. Deadline for submission(s) is October 1, 2021. To see last year's samples, go to our website at cwpower.com.





A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

Heat Wave Causes Energy Emergency Alerts and High Cost of Power >>>

The recent prolonged heat wave that broke a multitude of heat related records, also triggered a Maximum Generation Emergency Warning from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) our region's grid operator that manages the generation and flow of electricity across high-voltage power lines.

On the afternoon of June 10 we, and other electric MISO member utilities, were asked to issue a plea asking people to curtail their electric use until 10 p.m. We responded, as did our sister cooperatives asking the public and our cooperative members to cut back on their electric use. Simple conservation measures can allow customers to help keep the lights on and avoid blackouts. Conservation appeals are part of MISO's emergency operating procedures that help protect the grid.

Electric generation utilities are required to maintain a 15% reserve of excess power. Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) are required by federal law to issue emergency alerts when excess or reserve electricity falls below 5%. On June 10, the electric reserve margin was predicted at 3.9%.

A reserve margin is a safety net for the grid of spare power plants that are available to generate electricity when supplies are tight.



Crow Wing Power and our power suppliers also implemented all load control or load management systems available to help alleviate the shortage of power. We have approximately 12,000 homes that utilize some sort of load management like controlled interruptible air conditioning, where we cycle participating members central air 15 minutes on and 15 minutes off during controlled times.

In extreme situations, MISO is able to coordinate controlled blackouts to maintain reliability of the bulk electric system. You may recall the February Texas

disaster where controlled blackouts were implemented during the polar vortex. The Texas grid operator that worked the rolling blackouts was from the electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT).

In a public appeal you might ask why should I conserve power when I pay an electric bill to be comfortable? In an extreme situation, everyone can do a little to help keep the lights on. We encourage members to conserve electricity during high demand times for several reasons. Keeping the power on is perhaps the number one reason, but the cost of wholesale power is extremely important as well.

In the right hand column is a chart of the real time cost of wholesale electricity from one of our power suppliers during the past couple of months.

REAL TIME COST OF POWER DURING PEAK ENERGY USE			
Date	MW peak	Temp peak	Real time Cost of Power
May 16	1,461 MW	70°	\$ 24.77/MWh
May 23	1,694 MW	58°	\$ 29.50/MWh
June 8	2,477 MW	94°	\$123.02/MWh
June 9	2,488 MW	91°	\$111.66/MWh
June 10	2,589 MW	99°	\$ 96.43/MWh

MISO ensures the reliable delivery of electricity, at the lowest cost, across high-voltage power lines in 15 U.S. States and the Canadian province of Manitoba. 42 million Americans depend on them to keep the power flowing. MISO also conducts transmission planning and manages the buying and selling of wholesale electricity in one of the world's largest energy markets.

MISO is a not-for-profit, member-based organization that does not own any electric generation or transmission facilities. It strictly manages the generation and flow of electricity across the high-voltage lines within the MISO territory.

I'll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO

Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, May 20, 2021. A quorum of directors was present. President Bob Kangas opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- Finance Committee report

The following actions were taken:

The Board approved:

- May Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the April 15, 2021 regular board meeting
- Application of Crow Wing Power Community Trust Board Member to 3 year term
- Director expense reports for April 2021

Members can review detailed minutes by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website. June minutes will be published after approval in July. The next board meeting is July 15, 2021.

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Annual Meeting is Business Meeting Only This Year – RSVP Required >>>

This year's Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, August 4 at 6:00 p.m., will be strictly a business meeting with no food or prizes. Water will be available. In year's past, the meeting was accompanied by a member appreciation day with breakfast and activities. This year there is no member appreciation event scheduled.

As a member-owned cooperative, Annual Business Meetings provide an opportunity for members to hear reports from officers and directors, receive a financial update, ask questions and learn the results of the director elections.

Filing for three seats on the Board of Directors closed on June 4. Ballots are mailed in mid-July and need to be received by August 4 at 6:15 p.m. when polls close.

To attend, members must RSVP either on our website at cwpower.com or by calling 218-829-2827.

Member confirmation tickets will be issued to those registered. Please RSVP by July 28.

If registering online, the confirmation ticket will be sent electronically. Online registered members must present a printed or electronic version (on a cell phone or tablet) at the time of check-in. Members that call in their RSVP will have their tickets available at registration when we check members in, like a will call process.



In 2018,
**755 people died in
work zone accidents.**

 **Safe
Electricity.org**

**Source: Federal Highway Administration*

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



NORTHLAND KART KOUNTRY

17568 MN-371, Brainerd | 218-454-1602 | www.northlandkartkountry.com

ABOUT: Northland Kart Kountry is a family fun park with something for every age! Our interactive, competitive entertainment facility is your Family's "one stop shop" for summer fun! Our friendly, well trained staff exceeds customer expectations by providing a safe, family friendly environment with superior customer service. Our well-maintained park has something for every aged "kid".

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW: Our 3 great go-kart tracks are designed to appeal to drivers of all skill levels. Junior Karts & Can Am Go-Karts will give your young racer a chance to get in on the action, while our Bullit Karts, and "Indy" Racing Karts are perfect for the older thrill seekers in your family! Adults and children alike will find more fun at our Batting Cages, 18-Hole Mini Golf Course, Jump Shot, Water Wars, Climbing Wall, Bungee Bounce, 9D Virtual Reality and Arcade. The Snack Shack will fuel your fun. Don't miss out on the fun this summer...spend a day at Northland Kart Kountry!

COOPERATIVE MEMBER DISCOUNT: \$1.50 off Mini Golf. \$3 off Tour the Park Pass.

Crow Wing Power's Co-op Connections is powering businesses and providing you with discounts. With over 115 local businesses, visit cwpower.com to explore all the ways to save. We welcome new businesses to participate.



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The power of human connections

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Editor: Char Kinzer

Board meetings are held the third
Thursday of each month beginning at
9:30 a.m.

Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their
telephone numbers:

- Bob Kangas218-587-4453
- Paul Koering.....218-851-9954
- Ric Larson218-546-5781
- Gordon Martin.....218-746-3971
- Bryan McCulloch.....218-820-9708
- Doris Mezzenga218-692-1004
- LuAnn Nelson612-400-4627
- Gert Roggenkamp218-562-4566
- Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

Don't Overlook Rebate Offers >>>

Locally there's been a substantial increase in appliance purchases. We want to make sure members are aware of rebates. When the pandemic hit, it changed everything. According to Karen at Schroeders Appliance, appliance dealers have seen a huge increase in appliance sales, doubling or tripling numbers from previous years.

We have issued 51 refrigerator rebates since the beginning of the year and five freezer rebates. The pandemic drove people to buy freezers to stock up on food and there was a shortage of supply at the same time.

In our region, many people were making their cabins a permanent home. Others were working from home and using their appliances more frequently, or after using and looking at them so much, decided to upgrade. It's possible that stimulus payments played a role.

Similarly we're seeing a demand in the housing market and increased number of new service applications. There's a lot of building activity. Last year we had a 38% increase in new service applications over 2019 and this year there's another 38% increase over that.

Gifting Electric Bill Payments >>>

Occasionally we get calls from people wanting to pay for a friend or relative's electric bill. When the person asks what the bill amount, or balance, electric use or account number is, we cannot give out information relating to any member's account.

We treat members' personal information and electric use data as confidential. That includes members' telephone numbers, social security number, account information, e-mail addresses, payment history and electric use and data received from our metering infrastructure.

2021 Rebates

- Energy Star Air Conditioners:**
.....\$50
- Off-Peak Water Heating:**
.....up to \$400.00
- Off-Peak Heating:
(underfloor cable, brick storage room units
and furnaces)**
.....\$50 per KW
- Dual Fuel:
(Plenum Heater/Boiler)**
.....\$400.00
- Ductless ASHP**\$100.00-\$300.00
- Energy Star Refrigerator or Freezer**
.....\$50.00
- Geothermal Heat Pumps**
.....\$1,500
- Air Source Heat Pumps**
.....\$800
- Energy Star Clothes Washers**\$40
- Energy Star Electric Dryers**.....\$40
- Energy Star Dehumidifiers**\$25
- Air Conditioning Tune Up**
.....\$25 residential
.....\$50 commercial
- Energy Star LED Light Adapters**
.....\$1.00
- Smart Thermostats**
.....\$20.00