

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Valley News

January | February 2010

Volume 67 | Issue 1



WHITE WINDFALL

Amount and quality of snow give Blue Knob its 'best conditions in a decade'

Pages 4-5

Energy efficiency campaign launched

WE'RE EXCITED to spread the word about a new energy efficiency campaign, Together We Save, recently launched by our affiliate, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. It's main objective is to motivate co-op members to take action to save money and energy.

At the heart of this consumer-focused effort is TogetherWeSave.com, a website that demonstrates how taking simple energy-saving steps can lead to real dollar savings.

The campaign's print, TV, radio and billboard ads all encourage consumers to visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out more information about the energy-saving concepts introduced in the ads.

When you arrive at the site, you'll find nine animated, interactive applications, each focusing on a different energy- and money-saving action that, once completed, outputs an actual savings calculation. For example, in the "Lower Your Water Heater Temperature" application, you can change the temperature setting on the water heater dial. The application then displays a savings amount.

You can get an even better idea of potential dollar savings by taking the site's virtual Home Tour. Within each of the home's rooms -- living room, kitchen, laundry room, bedroom, basement and attic -- are at least two energy-saving action items. As visitors move through each room and complete the suggested actions, a digital counter keeps a running total of potential dollar savings, giving a visual representation of how simple changes rack up major savings.

The savings calculations from each individual visit to the Home Tour are funneled into another counter that continuously aggregates national potential savings and tracks the number of visitors to the site. The running national totals are displayed at the top of the landing page at TogetherWeSave.com.

Another unique component of TogetherWeSave.com is the Touchstone Energy TV web portal. This portal is a one-of-a-kind collection of short videos on energy efficiency-themed topics. The collection



Wayne F. Miller
President & Chief Executive Officer

"TogetherWeSave.com is just another tool that your cooperative is using to help you make the wisest energy decisions possible."

includes videos from a variety of sources. The videos are all designed to offer viewers some easy-to-follow tips and techniques to save energy.

Best of all, you know you can trust that the money- and energy-savings advice you get is coming straight from your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, not from a vendor or contractor interested in selling you something.

TogetherWeSave.com is just another tool that Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is using to help you make the wisest energy decisions possible, saving you money and helping to preserve our precious natural resources.

Cooperatively yours,

Wayne F. Miller
President & CEO

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Valley News (USPS 655-940) is published bimonthly by Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., 10700 Fairgrounds Road, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477.

Periodicals postage paid at Huntingdon, PA 16652

Subscription Rate: \$3 per year

Statement of ownership, management and circulation as required by act of Oct. 23, 1963, Section 4369, Title 39

Postmaster: Please send address changes to: Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., 10700 Fairgrounds Road, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477.

Advertising: The deadline for Trading Post ads is the 25th day of the month prior to the issue months. Acceptance of advertising does not imply co-op endorsement of any product or service.

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Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



On the cover ...

Blue Knob All-Seasons Resort in Bedford County is enjoying a little extra boost from Mother Nature this year. In fact, patronage increased by 30-40 percent over the 2009 Christmas holiday alone. For details on what else is going on at Blue Knob, turn to Pages 4-5.

Attention high school juniors and seniors: Experience the wonder of Washington at 2010 Rural Electric Youth Tour

ARE YOU a high school student looking for new experiences and new friends this summer? If so, the 2010 Rural Electric Youth Tour might be for you!

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative will sponsor students from throughout the cooperative's eight-county service territory on an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital June 13-18.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C., every June since the late 1950s. More than 40,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in this unique program.

During youth tour, students



PHOTO BY LUANNE ECKENRODE

ALL SMILES: Valley REC-sponsored students take a break near the Washington Monument during the 2008 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

learn about the important roles electric cooperatives play in their communities. They also gain a personal understanding of American history and their responsibilities as citizens by meeting their representative

and senators and exploring the sights around the nation's capital.

It's not unusual to see a former youth tour participant who is a congressional aide on Capitol Hill. In fact, several former

youth tour students have gone on to serve in the highest ranks of our government, including the U.S. Senate.

Juniors and seniors interested in joining the youth tour delegation should meet the following criteria:

Any high school junior or senior whose parent or guardian is a member or employee of Valley REC is eligible to apply.

Students will be required to submit a transcript along with additional information to the co-op selection committee.

Selections will be based on academic achievement as well as participation in extracurricular activities and/or community service programs.

For details, call 814/643-2650 or toll-free 800/432-0680 or email memberservices@valleyrec.com.

Reserve your seat!

2010 Valley Rural Electric Cooperative District Nominating Meeting Dinners

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| District 7 | 6 p.m. Feb. 1
<i>Hustontown Fire Hall</i> |
| District 8 | 6 p.m. Feb. 2
<i>Shade Gap Fire Co. Ladies Aux. Bldg.</i> |
| District 9 | 6 p.m. Feb. 4
<i>Geeseytown Fire Hall</i> |

Don't miss the opportunity to choose candidates for Valley REC's board of directors and to share a meal with your fellow co-op members.

Return your reservation card today.



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Snow lovers flock to Blue Knob Resort's ... **WINTER PLAYGROUND**

BY SUSAN R. PENNING
Director of Member Services



TAKING IT IN: Although Blue Knob's busy season is winter, its breathtaking location makes it an ideal place for all-season fun. The resort offers catering and lodging for large events such as weddings. Warm weather sportsmen and women can enjoy golf, mountain biking, hunting, fishing and hiking.

BLESSED WITH an abundance of fresh air, miles of winding trails and stunning panoramic views, it's easy to see why winter sports enthusiasts are drawn to Blue Knob All-Seasons Resort.

Located outside Claysburg, Blue Knob Resort stretches into portions of both Blair and Bedford counties.

Boasting the highest skiable mountain with some of the most challenging slopes in Pennsylvania, the Valley Rural Electric-served business offers downhill skiing, groomed Nordic skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing.

This season, thanks to a little help from Mother Nature, the mountain is bustling despite the lagging economy.

"We have had some good snow and great weather so far," says resort General Manager Doug Houck. "We had the best Christmas week that we've had in probably six or seven years. Reservations were up 30 to 40 percent."

Houck, who took the reigns last year, is quick to point out that Mother Nature may not be the only factor contributing to the resort's recent winter windfall.

"I think rather than spending the money to travel to places like Vermont and Colorado, people are staying closer to home; that's helping us. Plus, we've made a lot of improvements over the past year, and I think ... Well, I hope ... those are starting to pay off," Doug says.

Some of the key upgrades that were made in 2009 include renovations to the condominiums and the golf course.

"We have also increased our snow-making capacity by 30 percent," he adds.

Changing the marketing focus and updating the resort's logo and website were a few of the other projects crossed off the list last year.

"It's important that we stay on top of our industry," the new chief stresses. "For example, we know that, right now, the only sector that is growing is snowboarding and free-style skiing. So, we've made sure that the terrain park here offers the jumps, rails -- and even a wall ride -- that will satisfy those thrill-seekers."

Although a lot has been invested in the resort recently, Doug says there are more projects on the horizon.



"We'd like to expand our snow-making pond so we can make more snow faster. And we need to make some energy-efficiency improvements as well."

The energy improvements alone could turn out to be a good investment, considering the amount of electric load the facility requires. To put it in perspective, the resort's most recent monthly electric bill totaled more than \$31,000.

The improvements that have been made so far seem to be putting the resort on the right course going forward.

Some visitors are coming to Blue Knob even when other ski areas are closer.

"A group from Allentown mentioned

ABOVE THE REST: According to information on the resort's website, Blue Knob offers Pennsylvania's highest skiable mountain at 3,146 feet, the longest run at two miles, the truest vertical at 1,072 feet, the best glades runs (with six trails available) and the best double black diamonds. The resort was also voted Visitors Choice for Best Terrain in 2008 and 2009 by OnTheSnow.com, a popular snow sports website.

that they would rather travel farther because, overall, they get shorter lines, longer runs and more ski time," Doug reports. "The bottom line? We have a tremendous mountain here, tremendous skiing. We're going to do what we can to enhance that. We've started by getting the word out."

For more information on Blue Knob All-Seasons Resort, visit www.blueknob.com or call 814/239-5111.

DID YOU KNOW?

Blue Knob All-Seasons Resort employs about 230 people in the winter, and up to 60 throughout the rest of the year. The facility's annual operating budget is around \$3 million.



ABOVE: The resort recently increased its snow-making capacity by 30 percent. Future plans include boosting it more by expanding the snow-making pond.

RIGHT: The snow tubing park is now open seven days a week.



RESORT PHOTO

THE
Trading Post

Classified Advertising



Co-op members may submit ads via e-mail at valleynewsads@valleyrec.com; by phone at 800/432-0680; by fax at 814/643-1678; or by mail at Valley REC, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477. There is no charge for this service. If consumers wish to continue running particular ads, they are required to resubmit the information on a bimonthly basis. The deadline for submission is the 25th day of the month prior to the issue months. Submissions are viewable on the co-op's website at www.valleyrec.com. Items published are printed at the request of our members. The co-op does not endorse, recommend or assume any responsibility for the products or services advertised. The co-op also reserves the right to edit material for content and/or space as necessary.

Events

Power Tool Bingo - Shavers Creek Vol. Fire Co., Co. 11, Mooresville, Huntingdon Co., is sponsoring a special fundraiser w/ the power tool prize announced before each game. Proceeds go to the new firehouse building fund. Sat., March 6. Doors open at 6 p.m., first bingo at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 for 20 games. Located at the Shavers Creek Fireman's Park Community Building, 8707 Fireman's Park Lane, Petersburg. Food & beverage sales at the kitchen window. More information at www.shaverscreekfire.com

Real Estate

House for sale - 2-story country home w/ 4-5 BR, 2 BA, 2-½ car garage, low taxes. All situated on 1+ level acres of land along Clover Creek Road, \$97,500. 814/832-4629.

4 BR brick & masonry home on 4.27 acres. 2 ceramic tile baths, dual wood & oil boilers, 45'x45' garage w/ RV & auto access doors. Extra well & septic system on property. 3-season sun-room, ample closet space, workshop or craft room w/ full cabinetry, birch custom kitchen. Low taxes. RD 3, Box 42, West Loop, Hollidaysburg, \$225,000. 814/695-6130.

Hunting cabin & 36 acres on Nealman Road, Tuscarora Twp., Juniata Co. Property is subdivided into 7 lots ranging from 2 to 6.5 acres. Perk tested for sand mound systems. Cabin sleeps 24 adults & has gas heat & wood stove. Property & cabin listed for \$350,000.

Dick Dehoff, president, Emigsville Rod & Gun Club. 717/633-0282.

For sale by owner - 3 BR, 3 BA ranch home on 6.5 acres. Winchester Road, Barree Township, Huntingdon Co. Borders PSU land. 814/667-3117.

Office/retail rental - Rt. 22 Ardenheim, fronting hwy., 400 sq.' of office space w/ restroom, \$275 per month plus electric. 814/643-3775 or 814/599-4284.

Wanted

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring temporary workers to be census takers and field supervisors for the 2010 Census. Pay ranges from \$11.75-\$14.75 per hour. Part-time and full-time temporary positions are avail. For more information, call 866/861-2010 or visit www.2010censusjobs.com.

Pop-up camper, reasonably priced. 717/734-3275.

Real estate - 5-10 acres for non-profit group. Roaring Spring to Martinsburg location. Send details to PO Box 534, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

House to rent in June 2010 for 2 people. Must allow animals & be a 2 BR. Call 717/414-1397 & leave message.

Autos/Trucks

1977 Pinto motor parts, \$75. 814/695-1264.

2 winter tires, Glacier Grip II, 17" rims, 225-55R17, \$50. 814/695-8710.

Car & SUV tires - 2 Kelly Navigator platinum tires, 50% tread, P215/50R17, \$50. 2 Continental Contitrac tires P235/70R16, 30% tread, \$40. marksipes@yahoo.com or cell 717/372-7118.

2003 Dodge Ram dually, 6-speed, 4-dr., 4x4, extended cab, long bed, engine brake, hook-up for goose neck, very good cond., \$19,500. 814/447-3630.

Recreational

1977 Wellcraft Airlot 16-1/2' bow rider boat, excellent cond., less than 60 hours of use, \$2,500 OBO. 814/542-4965.

1985 Diplomat 30' motor home, sleeps 6. 454 Chevy motor, \$4,000 OBO. Call after 5 p.m. 717/597-4565.

Vacation Rentals

Juniata cabin for rent, sleeps 8. Gas fireplace, nice deck, peaceful & quiet. A great weekend getaway. 717/560-7943.

Huntingdon Co. getaway - 20 min. to State College or Huntingdon, minutes to Whipple's Dam State Park, Greenwood Furnace & Lake Perez. Hunting, fishing, swimming & boating. 50' trailer w/ kitchen, dining room, bedrooms, bath, living room, enclosed porch, fully-furnished, well, septic, 1 acre wooded. Easy access to Rt. 26. 814/944-4482.

Livestock/Pets

Cute bundles of fluff - Kittens are ready now. Kept indoors, litter trained, Alexandria. 814/832-2526.

Appliances

White Enterprise kitchen cook stove, \$425. Call 717/987-3619 after 6 p.m.

Tools/Equipment

7' John Deere #45 snow or scraper blade. Like new cond., \$475. 814/832-9191.

Farmall 460 diesel tractor. Runs, excellent rear tires, needs batteries. International 2-A hay crusher. 814/695-1264.

Miscellaneous

Hot-air oil furnace for garage, works good, will heat large building. Includes 275-gal. oil tank, \$150. 814/667-3681.

LA Spa hot tub. 180 gal., 2 seats, 1 lounge, teal color, 82"x59"x29", very nice, \$500. 814/643-3652.

7' locust posts, \$3 each. 814/696-0831.

Rollaway bed w/out mattress, \$3. L&H electric stove, \$65. Maytag ringer washer w/ tub, \$100. Singer sewing machine in cabinet w/ 1 drawer, \$100. Ab lounge, \$15. 2 oak-finished cheval mirrors, \$20 ea. Floor stand fan, \$5. 2 tabletop fans, \$3 ea. 2 window fans, \$7 ea. Panasonic 600-watt microwave, \$20. Noma 3hp 20" path snow blower, \$50. Compaq FS7600 computer monitor & 2 speakers, \$50. Daewoo home theater system, \$75. Xbox 360 new games, \$15 ea. Material, lace, ribbon, zippers & much more. 814/542-9738.

Berkshire gas heating stove, cast iron & soapstone. Has logs for fireplace effect, glass door on front, flue system included, excellent cond., \$700. 814/667-3706.

Greenlee job box on rollers, 30"x30"x48", 2 avail., kept inside, \$100 ea. or take both for \$175. 814/643-2854. Huntingdon.

Portable band sawmill, electronic set works, Lt 40 Woodmizer. Cost \$50,000 new. 3-phase electric power unit w/ many extras, \$25,000. 717/734-3275 or 994-4806.

8-piece Pennsylvania House solid cherry dining set, exc. cond., \$1,500. Maple dining set, \$1,000. 814/447-3630.

Bullets for sale or trade - I have the following bullets I would prefer to trade w/ someone for calibers I can use: 460-count 9mm bullets, 83-count 303 sierra 180 gr. 311 dia., 200 count hornady 321 dia. 32 cal. 170 gr. fn., 214-count horn 90 gr. 314 dia. 32 cal., 38-count 100 gr. semi-wad cutter lead, Markell manf. Needed are: 22, 243, 270, 30 & 45-cal. bullets. Call 717/372-7118 or email marksipes@yahoo.com

Evenflo infant car seat & base, exc. cond., used only twice, \$30. 717/527-4025.

Metaphysical gifts, jewelry, home decor, Celtic wares, Egyptian items, religious relics from diverse beliefs & customs online at www.ASpiritualOutlet.com or call 814/330-7583.

Day bed, good cond., no mattress, white, \$50. 814/667-2317.

Service

Antique clock repair & restoration. Call Richard Port. 814/643-1582.

Everhart Painting - Interior/exterior painting/staining, power washing, chinking for log homes. More than 15 yrs. exp., fully insured, free estimates. Call 814/667-4427 or email jeff@everhartpainting.com.

Sipes Fence L.L.C. All types of agricultural fence installed. Post driving avail. Call for free est. Scot Sipes. 717/491-7539 or 485-3221.

Oakman's Power Wash - Residential, agricultural pressure washing. Interior/exterior painting. Need your blacktop driveway or parking lot sealcoated? Take 15% off if scheduled by Feb. 15. Call 717/372-7300.

ES Ministries Thrift Shop - Located in the Faith Center, Mooresville United Methodist Church, Charter Oak Road & Rt. 305. Hours are Thurs. & Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m.-3p.m. Shop has clothing, household items, toys & books. We carry items for current holidays. New merchandise added weekly. Weekly 50% off & 50-cent sales. Donations accepted during shop hours.

Classified Ads

Roll-off containers: 10, 15 & 25 yd. avail. Great for cleanups, remodeling projects, shingles & more. Smaller dumpsters also avail. Quarry's Sanitation Service, Mount Union, 814/542-9547 or 542-2570. Family-owned & operated since 1979. Weekly garbage service avail. in most of Huntingdon Co. & Newton Hamilton/Wayne Twp. areas of Mifflin Co.

Reserve our outdoor park pavilions or banquet hall for your next special event. Stone Creek Valley Lions Park, 5303 Cold Springs Road, Huntingdon. For rental information, contact Denny Hall at 814/641-7489.

Buck Hollow Taxidermy - Orbisonia area. Professional taxidermy since 1990. Call Mike at 814/447-3744 or visit www.buckhollowtaxidermy.com

Kenneth W. Reigh Carpentry & Masonry - Decks, landscaping blocks, siding, additions, kitchens & baths, screened-in porch, natural stone, brick, block & concrete. Fully insured, 35 yrs. exp. For estimates, call 814/658-9998.

Book Construction - Excavation, clearing, roads, ponds, septic systems, foundations, prep sites for bldg. Check our prices. Fully insured, free estimates. 814/448-0186 or 599-6262.

Save up to 80% on your home heating and cooling costs, then have 30% of the cost of a new geothermal heating and cooling system paid for by a federal tax credit. Cresswell Heating & Air Conditioning Inc. is a local Climatemaster dealer providing high-efficiency systems. We are factory-trained & a member of the International Ground-Source Heat Pump Association, an industry authority. We have the resources to design & install the most efficient system avail. For more information, contact Craig at 814/448-3654.

Moore Hair - Where looking good is still affordable. 814/667-2221 for appt.

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**WHO KNEW A FRESH LAYER OF
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There was money hiding in my attic. Not anymore. I'm saving \$240 a year just by adding insulation. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM