

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Valley News

July | August 2014

Volume 71 | Issue 4



**New building aids
Game Commission's
wildlife, habitat work**

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Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Our members benefit from a cooperative network

It's the strangest weather phenomenon: When summer thunderstorms roll through the region, my email beeps. It's cause and effect.

But it's not high winds and lightning messing with the servers here at the co-op office. And it's not that my computer is controlling the weather. It's the PREA pinging me!

Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association is a service organization representing 14 electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Valley REC's membership in PREA is one of the ways you, as a Valley member, are connected to a network of cooperatives.

And what does that have to do with my email alerts?

When rough weather threatens our region, PREA provides a weather alert and asks each cooperative if they require assistance or have line crews available to lend a hand to sister co-ops that have power outages.

Keeping in close contact with these other co-ops through PREA is one of the ways we can improve communication and efficiency. PREA is there to assist with local training as well as legislative issues affecting us in Harrisburg. And, when we have a severe outage we can call on them to coordinate mutual aid efforts among local co-ops, ensuring your electricity is back on as soon as possible.

This shared effort is one of the ways we live up to our seven cooperative principles, which include "cooperation among cooperatives."

Valley REC is also a member of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, which is co-located with PREA in Harrisburg. This organization secures your power at the wholesale level. Long-term contracts with the New York Power Authority coupled with ownership of the hydroplant at Raystown Lake and part ownership of a nuclear power plant in Berwick enable Allegheny to exercise greater price control over nearly 70 percent of our power supply. Allegheny purchases the balance on the open market.

Valley REC holds a seat on the boards of PREA and Allegheny to best represent your interests.

But your co-op membership doesn't end there. Valley REC (and by extension its consumers) is also a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association that unites electric cooperatives in the 47 states where they operate. NRECA provides important benefits, such as representing our interests with federal lawmakers. NRECA also provides training for board members and employees.

NRECA is a member of both the National Cooperative Business Association and the International Cooperative Alliance, which is made up of a wide range of cooperative businesses in agriculture, banking (credit unions), health care, housing and purchasing from more than 80 countries. Many of these businesses represent some of the best known global brands in the world.

Valley's members truly are connected to a world full of people who believe in cooperative principles and values. That kind of positive connection makes that email "ping" a welcome sound. If there's a storm coming we'll weather it together.

Cooperatively yours,

Doug Roles
Director of Member Services



Doug Roles
Director of Member Services

On the cover ...



One of Valley REC's newest accounts is a 40 x 80-foot building on Tussey Mountain, Blair County, that the Pennsylvania Game Commission is using as a new base for local Food & Cover Corps staff. The building will also be used during hunting season when the commission collects deer tissue samples to track the spread of chronic wasting disease in the Southcentral Region. See story on Page 4.

Equipment inspections contribute to crew safety, truck reliability

By Doug Roles

Director of Member Services

Whether they're responding to an outage or performing routine maintenance, Valley REC line crews rely on their bucket trucks to be safe and reliable, just like the electricity the co-op provides. Periodic inspections ensure the equipment is up to task, especially when the technician tests it as if it's his wellbeing that depends on the gear.

Josh Salyer, a Somerset County resident, is a certified non-destructive testing technician with American Test Center. He visits Valley REC's district offices in the spring and fall to inspect trucks that he says he "knows like the back of my hand."

"I test to code and to real world applications. I'd like the crews to feel like I'd put myself in the truck," Josh said during a mid-April inspection. "I want the user to feel safe. Safety is just one thing you don't skimp on."

Josh has been doing inspection work for 10 years and has done testing for Valley for the past seven. On his spring visit, he conducted dielectric testing (testing of the truck boom's insulated equipment). He also checks the hydraulic hoses and the pedestal that mounts the boom to the bucket truck.

"Any time there is mechanical work done inside the boom or damage done to the boom, it's supposed to be retested," Josh says.

To conduct dielectric testing, a technician connects an energized wire, a "hot lead," to a



It may seem crazy to mix water and electricity, but placing a bucket liner in a tub of water allows technicians to test the integrity of the liner by measuring current on each side.



Josh Salyer (above, right), a certified non-destructive testing technician with American Test Center, and Cory Laib, a technician in training, monitor the testing of insulation in the boom of a bucket truck. Below: Technicians attach electrodes to each end of the boom. Photos by Doug Roles

steel part of the bucket, like the D-ring, and another "jumper" wire runs from the D-ring to the upper boom. The technician then measures, in micro-amps, the amount of current that passes through the insulated upper and lower boom.

The insulated liner of the bucket is also removed from the truck during testing and placed in a makeshift tub of water. Electrified leads are then placed in the water inside the liner and in the tub. The test verifies the insulating strength of the liner by recording the amount of current that passes through the water-filled liner into the surrounding water.

"It has to sustain at 100 kV (kilovolts) for a minute to pass," Josh says.

The minimum requirements vary depending on the type of truck. Salyer says federal regulations require the testing be done once a year. Valley REC has the dielectric testing performed every six months, with the fall inspection also including an acoustic test of the boom.

"Twice a year we do testing on the boom, the insulated portion of the boom," says Todd Ross, Valley REC operations manager. "It ensures the booms aren't breaking down due to age, cracks or damage. Once a year we do acoustic tests, testing for stress on the boom."

Ross says the structural test is important because the boom is used to lift line equipment, such as transformers and switches, as well as the co-op's line personnel.



The non-destructive testing is carried out according to federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) requirements. The preventative maintenance lessens the chance for injuries or downtime.

American Test Center is headquartered in River Falls, Wis. Salyer says the company tests the booms, buckets and control systems of many types of utility trucks, including fire trucks.

"We do anything that is hydraulically driven and lifts personnel."

Valley-served Game Commission building supports dual missions

By Doug Roles

Director of Member Services

One of Valley REC's newest accounts is a structure built recently by the Pennsylvania Game Commission to support the PGC's missions of habitat improvement and monitoring of a fatal whitetail deer disease.

The 40'x80' building is located in North Woodbury Township, Blair County, on the Martinsburg side of Tussey Mountain.

"This building came about because of CWD (chronic wasting disease)," says Land Management Group Supervisor Chris

ton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder and York counties. Chris supervises nine full-time gamelands maintenance workers who operate in Blair and Huntingdon counties and are based in Waterfall, Huntingdon and Martinsburg.

"The food and cover crews do habitat improvement work. They do everything from planting food plots to cutting trees to building gates," Chris explains.

The crews manage habitat for multiple wildlife species. The methods used increasingly include controlled burns, which can jump start forest regeneration, providing

One-half of the building features a three-bay garage, including a drive through bay with overhead doors on each side of the building. The space is ideal for storing and maintaining equipment such as trucks and mowers.

The other half of the building features a one-bay garage, an office space and space for a restroom, shower and washer and dryer. These amenities are important for the work crew because they give the employees the ability to launder clothing on site if herbicide has spilled.

A pad-mounted transformer is located at



Skipper.

While planning the construction of a building in the Southcentral Region for CWD sample collection, the commission decided to make the structure large enough to accommodate the needs of the local food and cover crew, which had outgrown a smaller building in Martinsburg.

"This is going to be our new crew headquarters, for our Martinsburg crew," Chris said of the steel-sided garage and office structure situated on State Gamelands 73. "It will give us a lot more inside storage."

Chris is one of four land managers in the Southcentral Region, which serves Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Ful-

lush areas of new growth where less desirable plant species had grown.

"Fire is a great tool for habitat management. Historically, fire has been part of the landscape," says Chris, explaining that fire burns off what can become a matted layer of leaf litter and thatch.

"We want to make sure we have everything right before we burn," he adds.

Double Tree Structures, New Holland, was the building project contractor. The new building is located in what had been a grassy opening created by the food and cover corps. A deer dump station for PGC staff and contracted roadkill collectors has been set up at the building site.

Above, left: A pad-mounted transformer supplies electric service to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's new building, on Tussey Mountain, Blair County. Above, right: PGC Land Management Group Supervisor Chris Skipper checks out the progress of the building project in April. The building features a three-bay garage that includes a drive through bay with overhead doors on each side of the building. The building also houses an office space. Photos by Doug Roles

CWD Safety Tips

Contact your state game and fish department if you see or harvest an animal that appears sick.

Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing your deer or elk.

Bone out the meat from your animal. Don't saw through bone, and avoid cutting through the brain or spinal cord (backbone).

Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.

Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing.

Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals.



Photo by Doug Roles

Above: Work to place 2,000 feet of underground electric line to the building created what the Game Commission terms a "linear herbaceous opening" through the woods. The power line opening will benefit wildlife. At right: Martinsburg Food & Cover Corps staff who will use the building are, front row from left: Roy Ritchey, WCO Chris Skipper, and Josh McClester. Standing are Terry Horton and Terry Hoenstine.

the southwest end of the building. To supply electric service to the building, an underground line was placed from the site to a utility pole located where Route 164 crosses the mountain top.

"Valley Rural really stepped up and bent over backwards to help us with this project," Chris says.

Valley REC employees Mike Lansberry and Dave Huntsman, from the Huntingdon

District office, were especially helpful, he added.

The food and cover crew will continue to use the existing building in Martinsburg. The new building will be especially busy in the upcoming hunting season when commission staff use the garage space to collect deer tissue samples for CWD testing.

As the disease spread into Pennsylvania's whitetail deer population from neighboring states, the commission began a sampling program with the assistance of the state Department of Agriculture. To date, the South-central Region is the only portion of the state in which CWD has been found in the wild population.

CWD, a brain and nervous system disease, was not detected in any of the samples collected from deer harvested by hunters during the 2013-14 Pennsylvania hunting seasons. However, two deer killed on highways in Bedford County late last fall tested positive for the disease.

Additionally, the disease has turned up at

Member Feature

another captive deer facility in Pennsylvania, and was detected in a free-ranging deer just south of the Pennsylvania border.

All of these recently confirmed cases mean the Game Commission's use of Disease Management Areas with special regulations to manage the disease will occur over a larger area in 2014-15.

The disease is not known to afflict humans, but is always fatal to the deer and elk it infects.

Chris reminds hunters that high-risk parts of deer (such as the head and spinal tissue) are not to be dumped in the woods, but should be sent to a landfill.

Many area residents may know Chris, who formerly worked as a deputy with the Huntingdon County Sheriff's Office. He is a 2008 graduate of Ross Lefler School of Conservation. He served in Lackawana County and Bedford County before returning to Huntingdon County.



Submitted photo

Pole inspection continues

Valley REC has again contracted with Osmose Utilities Service, Inc. to conduct a pole inspection. The survey verifies the stability of utility poles and requires inspectors to access rights-of way. The inspection began in May and runs through the fall. Inspection work has been completed in the Huntingdon District. Work is ongoing in the following areas:

Martinsburg District - Pavia Township, Bedford County; and Allegheny, Juniata and Greenfield townships, Blair County.

Shade Gap District - Belfast and Licking Creek townships, Fulton County.

Work in the Huntingdon District took place in the following locations: Warriors Mark, Franklin, Morris, Spruce Creek and Shirley townships, Huntingdon County; Tyrone Township, Blair County; and Wayne and Oliver townships, Mifflin County.

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. Members submitting ads are asked to provide their member number. 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.

REAL ESTATE

Lg. 2 BR rancher sitting on 3+ acres of ground overlooking Seven Valleys. All new carpet & flooring. All new appliances - refrigerator, stove, stove-top microwave. Well & septic. Installed unbreakable pipes, new water softener & water heater. Can be bought fully furnished if you want. Only used one time. 3-yr.-old wood stove, airtight. Electric heat. Stove sits on ceramic & surrounding walls are ceramic. Very well kept. Clean. Very easy to winterize. One large garage, 2 yrs. old. One smaller garage. Sleeps 8 or more people. 15-20 minutes from Lake Raystown. \$110,000 furnished firm offer. \$105,000 unfurnished firm offer. 856/816-6968.

Remodeled 3 BR, 2 BA home on two acres. Features a new 28' x 48', 3-car garage w/ workshop, attic storage & 100 amp electric service. This would be an excellent opportunity for a home business! Includes a new 15' x 18' master BR, master BA & walk-in closet. New siding, roof, porch, sidewalk & central air/heat pump were added in 2010. It is located in Shade Gap, only 30 min. from Raystown Lake & Juniata College! See Listing 23988821 on ForSaleBy-Owner.com for pictures. Call 814/259-9969 for more information.

2.66-acre building lot w/ view of Raystown Lake. 24' x 36' pole barn w/ 10' walls, fully insulated w/ heating & cooling mini split heat pump. Pole barn has a 14' x 36' carport addition w/ concrete floor. Septic system on site. Level building area for home or cabin. 1.5 miles to James Creek launch. Located in a private development of vacation homes. \$130,000. Call 814/251-1303.

10 acres, Clean & Green (low taxes), wooded lot located near Entriaken, 3 miles from Raystown Lake. Septic approved. Call 814/251-1303.

8-10 acres in Juniata Township, Blair County. Near game lands. Call 814/696-9006 for details.

AUTOS/TRUCKS

Reese hitch, part #36030, off 1996 Ford Explorer, very gd. cond., garage kept. \$40 OBO. 814/643-4728.

Tuft tool box for pickup truck, overall length 5', base depth 52". 814/667-3587.

FOR RENT

Daily, weekly, monthly refrigerated trailer, 7' x 12', 10-50 degrees digital control. Runs on 115 volts, available w/ generator. 814/329-0408 or chilled@iceboxtogo.com

Enclosed garage space for rent. 21' x 37' usable space. Electricity & water available. Northern Huntingdon County. Month-by-month. \$225/month. Call 814/667-3444.

RECREATIONAL

1985 Grady White 20' cuddy cabin w/ 150 HP Mercury motor. Exc. cond. New 5,000 lb. dual wheel trailer. \$4,500 OBO. 814/669-4173.

15' Coleman canoe w/ 3 paddles. \$90 OBO. 732/718-5476.

12' V-boat & oars, life vest. 814/667-3587.

2004 Jayco Granite Ridge motor home, 31' w/ super slide, 1 owner, 22,000 miles, recently inspected, new battery, fairly new tires, no pets or smoking, loaded, \$32,000. 814/695-1221.

1984 Cobia Sportster open bow 18-1/2' boat w/ trailer. Gray w/ navy & maroon stripe, I/O Mercruiser 3.0 L, 140 hp (240 hrs). Fiberglass, motor & outdrive good shape. Gray upholstery useable but could use some freshening. Fresh water use at Raystown Lake. \$2,000 OBO. Call 717/225-3729.

2002 Fleetwood Elkhorn truck camper. Very good shape, queen, full & single beds, full BA. Hydraulic jacks. A/C. Fits 6 to 6-1/2 ft. truck bed. \$5500. 717/899-6607.

2003 Gulfstream 5th wheel camper. 28' 10". Like new, new tires, 1 slide w/ awning, electric from jacks, AC, rubber roof, 20' front awning, electric water heater, 2 swivel rockers, 2 Air Max covers & spare tire w/ cover. \$8,400. 814/448-2648.

VACATION RENTALS

South Myrtle Beach, oceanfront. Aug. 17-24. 1 BR, sleeps 4, all amenities, pool, elevator, watch sunrise, beach & waves from your fourth floor balcony. 80 degree + water temps. Myrtle Beach is called the playground of the East Coast w/ much to do. Pictures available on line. Call Bill 610/358-1776. Will sacrifice \$695 for the week.

Membership in Wilderness Presidential Resort in Spotsylvania, Va. Year-round activities for young & old. Two man-

made lakes, camp sites throughout & many more amenities. Just a 2 hr. drive south of Washington, DC. Original purchase price was \$4,000+. Asking \$2,000. Annual dues paid until 4/2015. Call anytime for more information. Don @ 814/931-6774.

South Myrtle Beach year-round vacation rental. 2 BR, 2 BA condo at an ocean-front resort. Fully furnished including linens, towels, cable w/ HBO, wireless internet, AC, 6 pools including a lazy river, lighted tennis courts, saunas, jacuzzis & more. \$450-\$950 weekly. Monthly rates available. Phone 717/263-2717.

Think Penn State Football house rental. Sleeps 11. Lg. great room w/ fireplace, 4 BRs, dining table for 12, central AC, 2 new flat screen satellite TVs, 2 full BAs, 2 half BAs, lg. recreation room, fully equipped kitchen & laundry rooms, screened-in porch, lg. parking area, 1 mile from lake (Snyders Run boat launch). Linens & towels provided. For more information see www.laurelwoodsretreat.com or call Dianne at 814/931-6562.

WANTED

Hunting permission. Small group of professional retired/former police/military seeks ground to hunt in Franklin, Fulton or Huntingdon counties. We are only looking for the first week of rifle season. Please call Pat at 301/474-8048 or email pmcandrew62@yahoo.com.

Looking for a front-end loader for an Massey Ferguson diesel tractor Model 135. Call 814/658-3205, leave msg.

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT

Sears 3' belt sander, \$85; plate/edge joiner, \$115; 10" table saw, \$80; 10" radial arm saw, \$65; 12-1/2" planer, \$150; 4-3/8" joiner, \$85; 10" band saw, \$100; table drill press, \$75. Delta 16-1/2" floor drill press, \$190. Reliant dust collector, \$125. Motorized turning lathe, \$185. Royal drill press stand, \$70. Dovetail joint fixture, \$60. 814/658-3973.

Heavy duty 9' model 120 grader/snow blade w/ dual multi-range hydraulic system from Brush Hog Corp., \$2,100. Heavy duty 28" dirt scoop for 3 pt. hitch, easy dump, \$100. S50, 60" wide Lucknow snowblower by Helm Welding, 3 pt. hitch, exc. performance, \$900. Winco 1800 gas engine electric generator, \$75. 814/695-5912.

2008 Kubota ZD321, 21 hp, commercial, diesel, zero-turn mower. 54" deck. 273 hrs. Well maintained. One owner. Asking \$5,900 OBO. Call 717/953-7369.

8' brush hog/finishing mower. Hydraulic cylinder lifts & lowers deck. Grease fittings all centrally located. Draw bar pull w/ PTO drive. \$800. Located in Huntingdon/McConnellstown area. You pick up & we will help load. Call Rich at 814/644-3529.

MISCELLANEOUS

Kohler, 5 kW, RV generator, electric start, battery & charger, 10 gal. gas tank, muffler & outlets all mounted on hand cart. Great for emergency back-up. \$2,300. 814/667-2291 & leave msg.

Fleetwood portable sewing machine, \$40. AccuSmart treadmill, gd. cond., \$100. Green lounge chair, gd. cond., \$50. Scary movies, DVD & VHS, \$1/each. 717/369-3576.

New weight bench, used 3 times. 814/667-3587.

Currier & Ives dinnerware, blue and white, 32-plus place setting. Extra pieces, teapot, etc. \$250 obo. Treadmill, \$15. Old quilts, late 1800s or early 1900s. 814/793-3112.

Custom-made wrought iron, 3 10'6" x 2'7" rails, 4 4' x 2'7" rails, 1 flat column, 2 corner columns, \$120. Factory wrought iron, 4 54" sections, 49" flat columns all w/ posts and bases, \$20. 2 2 step stainless steel pool ladders, \$50 ea. 1 8' fox pool diving board (fiberglass), \$90. 1 24' round thermal pool cover, sand filter & pump for 24' x 4' above ground pool, \$250. 814/695-5912.

1950's vanity table. 814/447-3735. Used Char-Broil gourmet deluxe offset smoker w/ new steel axle, rubber tires & new smoke gauge. \$110. Used Char-Broil gas water smoker w/smoke gauge. \$90. 814/644-3249.

Handcrafted solid hickory "barn style" door. 79" tall, 34 3/4" wide & 2 1/4" thick, \$175. 11 saddle-cut half log steps. 42" long, 10" wide & 5" deep. 2 extra pieces of half log. \$200. Please call/text 717/443-2214. Pictures available.

White cookstove, \$400. 4 8" I beam columns, 8' long, \$40 ea. 3-phase cut-off wood saw frame, \$30. 8N belt pulley, \$40. 18" exhaust fan, new, \$75. 4-drawer filing cabinet, heavy duty, \$40.

Classified Ads

2 aluminum tool boxes, on side, 4' long, \$75. 717/987-3619.

ITE Pushmatic circuit breakers. \$12.50 & up. 814/695-5127.

SERVICES

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

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Forestry Consultant. Timber sales, appraisals & management. B.S. Forest Management, Penn State 1964. 45 years local forestry experience. Mark Kane, Consulting Forester, 6118 Geisler Run Road, Huntingdon. 814/667-3620.

Keller's Home Improvements. Free estimates. 814/667-2236. Fully insured. Specializing in replacement doors & windows, siding, decks & other home improvements.

Got stuff to get rid of? Before you throw it away, call Kathy, "The Valley Picker", today. Buying new/old bottles, crocks, crafts, tools, baskets, quilts, war items, etc. I pay cash. 814/542-3191.

Will mow small & large lawns & will also do other various lawn jobs. 814/259-3634.

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

Have you tried that crazy wrap thing? Bee Unique now has body wraps & facial wraps to help get you ready for summer. These wraps are fantastic w/ unbelievable results. Call 814/448-4914 to make an appointment or go to my website at beeunique.myitworks.com & you can join as a loyal customer & get my prices. In as little as 45 min. you will notice a change. Bee Unique is located on 17759 Beavertown Road, Todd.

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ES Ministries Thrift Shop, 7603 Shavers Creek Rd., Petersburg, at the Nazarene Church. Open Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Clothing, toys, books, household items. New items weekly. Donations accepted during store hours.

WANTED

Good items for our auction. We sell it all: guns, boats, cars, household items, big items, small items, estates, partial estates & more. YOU BRING IT - WE'LL SELL IT! For more info, Gene's Auction, Fairgrounds Road, Huntingdon. 814/643-2734. Auction every Friday 6 p.m.

Huntingdon Farmers' Market every Thursday, noon- 5 p.m., through end of October in Portstown Park pavilion (across from Laney's Feed Mill). Locally-grown fruits & vegetables, eggs, cheeses, handmade pasta, baked goods, hand-dyed wool & honey. Cash, checks, EBT & credit cards accepted.

Cruise-In For a Cause. Sept. 20. 3-6 p.m. at Thomas All Things Automotive, 21518 Great Cove Rd., McConnellsburg. \$10 donation per registered car, truck or motorcycle. All proceeds to benefit individuals battling cancer in Fulton Co. Food available for purchase from Sipes

Smokehouse BBQ and Rehobeth New Life Church. Bring your car, truck, motorcycle or any vehicle you want to show.

For more information, call 717/485-5495. See you there!

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