


News

Barron Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

FOR YOU...

"Barron Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that provides energy, products, and services to improve the quality of life in the area we serve."

February 2008

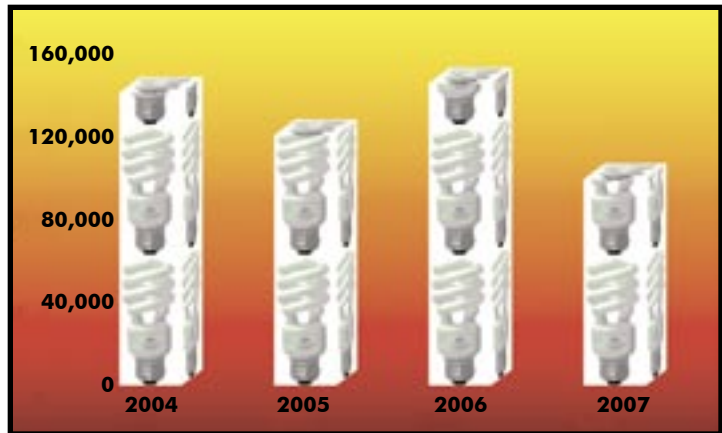
Blinks Decreased Nearly 30% Since 2004

The number of blinks on Barron Electric lines decreased nearly 30% over the previous 3-year average, according to our Turtle® reports. The Right-of-Way tree clearing program, which trims branches and trees near power lines, and utilizing technology like the Turtle® System, infrared camera, bell tester, and sonic tester have helped reduce the number of blinks.

Turtle® System

The Turtle®, an automated meter reading device, is installed on all of Barron Electric Cooperative meters. Blink reports from this system have allowed us to identify problem

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Barron Electric Cooperative's number of blinks has decreased nearly 30% over the previous 3-year average.

Renewables, Efficiency, and Conservation Will Be Focus of 72nd Annual Meeting



Barron Electric's 72nd Annual Meeting is set for Saturday, March 29 at the Barron High School. The theme will be Renewables, Efficiency, and Conservation.

Registration will start at 9:00 a.m. with the business meeting following at 10:00 a.m. Guest speakers include Jeff Springer of Gen~Sys Energy, who will address energy conservation; Perry Baird will give an update from the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association; and Brian Schilling of Bauman Associates will discuss the auditor's report.



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Blinks Decreased Nearly 30%

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areas. An outage report from this same system has allowed Barron Electric crews to make repairs to lines prior to members calling in an outage.

Infrared Camera

This camera indicates the difference in temperatures. The camera can help to avoid costly failures, improve service reliability, and prevent electrical

fires. The camera can also be used in homes to show where heat is lost.

Bell Tester and Sonic Tester

The bell tester is used on suspension insulators and checks for voltage leakage. The

sonic tester will pick up any noise or static on equipment. This will identify failing equipment or loose connections. This equipment is used when patrolling line for potential outage or blink problems.

Annual Meeting

(Continued from cover)



Members will elect directors from Districts 2, 4, and 8 to serve a three-year term. At the conclusion of the business meeting, the following prizes will be awarded:

- ▶ 32" flat-panel high-definition TV
- ▶ 20-\$50 electric bill credits
- ▶ A variety of electric appliances and electronics

A lunch will be provided following the meeting.

Mark your calendars for Barron Electric's 72nd Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, March 29 at the Barron High School.

Shuttle Service Available

A shuttle service will be available to the annual meeting for those members who live in the northern part of our service territory. The shuttle will leave at 8:30 a.m. from Barron Electric's Spooner office. If you are interested in this service, please contact Member Services at 800-322-1008 by **Friday, March 14.**



The infrared camera found this lightning arrester, shown on far left, indicating excess heat. The arrester was taken out of service before it caused an outage. Leadman/Technician Jeff Nelson uses an infrared camera at the Barron Substation to check the temperatures of equipment.

Barron Electric to Award \$15,000 in Scholarships

Barron Electric will award \$15,000 in scholarships to fifteen high school seniors.

Eligibility

Graduating seniors are eligible if they attend any of the high schools listed, and whose parents or guardians are current members of Barron Electric. The fifteen high schools include: Barron, Birchwood, Cameron, Chetek, Clayton, Clear Lake, Cumberland, Hayward, New Auburn, Prairie Farm, Rice Lake, Shell Lake, Spooner, Turtle Lake, and Weyerhaeuser. Scholarship winners will be selected in the top 6-25% of their class. Applicants must plan to attend an institution of post-secondary education.

Selection Process

Selection of recipients will be determined by the high schools' scholarship committee based upon Barron Electric's eligibility criteria. **Check with your high school guidance office for their scholarship deadline.** These deadlines can vary by school.

Funds for Scholarships

Funds for scholarships are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust consisting of unclaimed capital credits from former members, and do not have any impact on electric rates. Please contact the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008 if you have questions about this program.

2008 Energy Programs Designed to Save Money

Are you shopping for an energy efficient electric water heater, refrigerator, clothes washer, room air conditioner, or heating and/or cooling system? Check out Barron Electric's Energy Programs to help you save energy and money.

Energy Star Appliance Rebates (New)

Barron Electric is excited to announce a new incentive program on the following Energy Star rated appliances:

Energy Star Refrigerator.....	\$25
Energy Star Clothes Washer	\$50
Energy Star Room Air Conditioner	\$25

(limit of one rebate per item per account)



Conditions do apply. More information on this program is included in this month's bill insert.

Electric Water Heater Load Management Program

Save over \$900*

Shop at Barron Electric Cooperative for an energy efficient, lifetime warranty water heater, which is guaranteed not to leak or rust. Members building a new home will receive a free water heater, saving over \$900. Members with an existing home will pay \$300, saving over \$600. Members must participate in Barron Electric's load management program.* Members have a choice of 50-, 85-, or 105-gallon water heater.



Installation of water heater is not covered by this program.

*Conditions apply.

Central Air Load Management Program

Save \$30 Annually

Receive a \$10 monthly credit for the months of June, July, and August when participating in the load management program for central air.

Off-peak Heating Programs – Save 40% on Heating Costs

Save money with Barron Electric's Dual Fuel and Electric Thermal Storage heating programs, which offer a low off-peak rate. Members considering electric heat on the off-peak meter should contact the Member Services Department before starting their project.

Country Comfort's Propane Programs

Offering Flexible Payment Options

As a Country Comfort partner, we offer propane service and flexible payment options. New Country Comfort customers with a leased tank can receive up to \$100 in Comfort Credits that can be used towards the cost of propane deliveries, tank installation, copper tubing, pressure checks, GAS checks, and more.

**Based on a 105-gallon Marathon water heater*

Energy Cent\$

**Receive a Free Compact
Fluorescent Light Bulb
with Your Energy
Cent\$ Idea!**



Send in your energy cent\$ idea, and if we publish your idea, we will send you a compact fluorescent light bulb.

To save energy and money, air dry clothes inside your house during the winter. This will save energy by not using the dryer and cutting down the running of your humidifier during the winter months. It will also contribute to putting needed moisture into the air to help prevent wood damage to your home.

–Member Glenn Wegner

Barron Electric reserves the right to reject or edit any ideas submitted. E-mail ideas to cbaribeau@barronelectric.com or mail with your electric payment.

**COUNTRY
COMFORT**
PROpane

**Call Country Comfort
for your propane needs at
800-322-1008 or visit
www.countrycomfort.org.**

Director's Notes



Beverly Buckner serves on Barron Electric's Board of Directors representing District 7.

CONDENSED BOARD MINUTES NOVEMBER 28, 2007

- ▲ Director Smith gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Petersen. A report of vouchers for the month was printed as part of the board packet as follows: #73784 thru 73944, and #20059305-319 on First National Bank of Barron were in the amount of \$325,821. Director Smith reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$1,399,612; total receipts by wire, ACH, credit cards - \$505,967; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$1,284,893; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$146,919; power bill due 11/28/07 - \$1,280,132, and capital credits - \$196,590. A membership list was approved as presented.
- ▲ A Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$391,573.62 was approved, and included new services-\$37,867.50; change jobs-\$11,541.81; miscellaneous-\$342,164.31; and 3 retirements.
- ▲ Outages year-to-date stand at 32,050 consumer hours off, which is 4% above 2006 hours of 30,700. Overtime year-to-date is 3,228 hours, which is 2% below 2006 hours of 3,294.

Barron Electric Cooperative

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Published for the members of Barron Electric. If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please e-mail cbaribeau@barronelectric.com



2008 Budget Includes Reliability, Efficiency, and Accountability

Barron Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved the 2008 budget, which includes a full cost of service study, a 20% reduction in construction expenditures, a 30% reduction in momentary blinks on the line, and a 10% increase in ROW expenses. The largest expense is the wholesale power bill, accounting for more than 60% of Barron Electric's expenses. "Barron Electric will continue to monitor how the cooperative's resources are spent and the utmost stewardship of the member's energy dollars," said Barron Electric's General Manager Ken Petersen.



Over \$600,000 will be spent on ROW Clearing.



Barron Electric's Board of Directors and staff review recommendations for the 2008 budget.

For Sale

- ▲ Beautiful brick ranch on 5.7 acres, Haugen area, Rice Lake School District. Huge attached garage plus buildings. Large hill and evergreens, only \$127,900. Call 414-241-9185 for fast sale!
- ▲ Buy a Heatmaster stainless steel outdoor woodstove from Pineview Woodstoves. Excellent design and reasonable prices. Call Randy Koehn at 357-3298.
- ▲ Markie P. Construction for all your remodeling needs. Senior discounts. Free estimates. Call 715-924-3488 or cell 715-642-0078.
- ▲ Paying too much for insurance? Life-Health-Home-Auto-Business-Medicare Supplements-Long Term Care. Korthof Insurance Services. 715-766-2505 or KorthofInsuranceServices@direway.com
- ▲ New paddle boats, top-of-the-line, carpeted deck, padded seats (four), sun-top, aluminum floats, 6' x 11' with walk-around deck. New smaller pontoon boats, 61/2' x 17' full furniture group, sun-top, perfect for smaller lakes, easy to trailer. Kennedy Pontoons, Inc. Centuria, Wisconsin. 715-640-6000 or visit us at www.kennedypontoons.com
- ▲ Country Mobile Home Park, large wood lots, single or double-wide, Prairie Lake Estates. 715-925-2034.
- ▲ Like to travel? Want to save \$\$ when you do? Book your travel/vacations on-line at www.ytbtravel.com/mjacky.
- ▲ Economy - 1989 Plymouth, 4 cylinder 36,600 miles. Auto. Air. 97-year old lady owner. \$2,500. 715-635-7462.
- ▲ Hayward National Golf Course lots and acreages. Wooded, 1 1/2 Acres +. Contract, cash or will consider trades. 608-231-0023.
- ▲ Wanted for 2008 summer. Couple, non-smoking, no pets, to rent completely furnished two bedroom cabin on beautiful Spooner Lake. Private dock, 14 ft. aluminum boat, fish house, and utilities furnished except phone. Deposit required. Call 715-635-6696.
- ▲ Steffes and Stiebel Eltron heat storage repair and install. Water heater repair. Call Handyman Plus at 715-458-2967.
- ▲ Markie P. Construction - for all your kitchen and bathroom remodeling. Save \$\$\$! Free estimates and senior discounts. Call Mark at 715-924-3488 or 715-642-0078.