



News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
April 2020
Photo by Debbie Margotto

The Impact of the Coronavirus *Annual Meeting Postponed*

Barron Electric's top priority is the health and safety of our members and employees. The cooperative has been closely monitoring the developments of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and wants to assure you that we will continue to put our members first as we assess the situation.

Annual Meeting Postponed

Based on the growing risk and local, state, and national orders, as well as recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, Barron Electric postponed their 84th annual meeting. "This is the first time in history that we have had to postpone this event. We will keep members informed as a new date is available," commented General Manager Dallas Sloan.

Changes at Our Barron Office

At this time, our Barron office is closed to everyone from the outside. **Line crews will respond to emergencies and outages.** We encourage members to pay their bills via phone, mail, Smarthub, or sign up for Auto Pay. We also have a dropbox available in our Barron office parking lot. In Spooner, members can use the dropbox located at 410 River Street by Franky's Lanes. Visit our website at barronelectric.com and click on

My Account for more details on payment options.

Watch for Scams

Members should also be on the lookout for suspicious e-mails, phone calls, or persons impersonating business employees or charitable organizations. Unfortunately, scammers take

advantage of opportunities such as this when households are otherwise preoccupied. If you receive a call from someone claiming to represent Barron Electric and they make threats or demand immediate payment, hang up and call Barron Electric at 800-322-1008.



DRIVE ELECTRIC

The average electric vehicle can save a driver who drives 15,000 miles in a year about \$2,000 annually on fuel. All-electric vehicles start to pay for themselves a long time before they reach the end of their expected lifespans, leading to significant savings over time.

Cook's Corner

Sharon Droege Arizona Sunshine Pie

Juice of 1 large lemon or
two smaller lemons
4 eggs
1 stick butter
1 tsp. vanilla
1 ½ c. sugar
1 unbaked pie crust
Whipped cream



In blender or food processor blend together lemon chunks, eggs, butter, vanilla and sugar until mixture is smooth and creamy. It should be fairly runny. Pour into unbaked pie crust. Bake in 350 oven for 40 minutes.

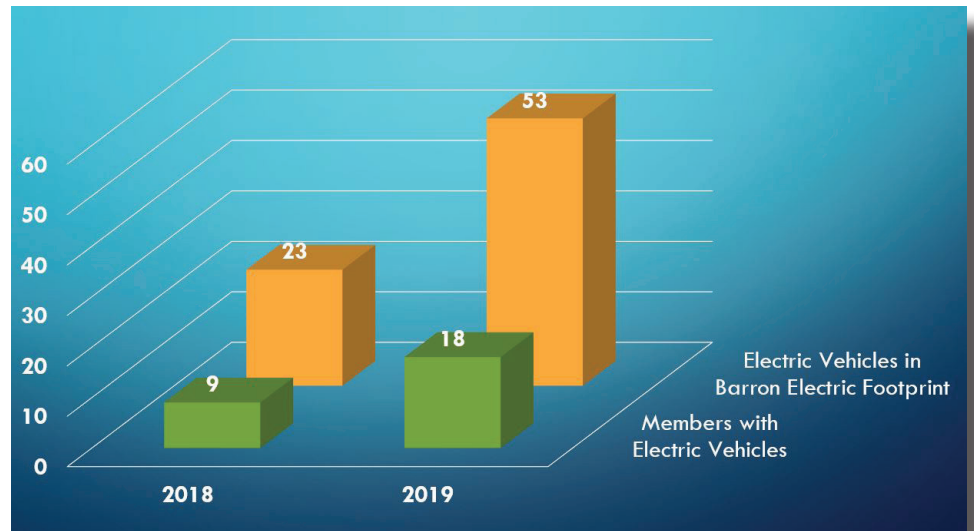
If crust becomes too brown, cover gently with foil and finish baking. Serve with dollop of cream.

Our \$50 Gift to You

Auto Pay is a convenient way to pay your electric bill, saving you time and money. Members who sign up for Auto Pay will have their name entered into a drawing for a \$50 electric bill credit. Sign up for Auto Pay through SmartHub at barronelectric.com or by contacting the billing department at 800-322-1008.



More Electric Cars in Our Area



Barron Electric members with electric vehicles has doubled in the last year. Electric vehicles in our area have also been on the rise, as indicated by the graph above. Nearly 40% of the vehicles were electric; the remaining vehicles were hybrids.

Monthly Photo Contest Memorial Day

E-mail your Memorial Day photos for our photo contest. Winning photos will be used on the cover of the *News for You*, and winners will receive a \$50 credit on their electric bill. Criteria for the photos include:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape).
- Photos must be high resolution, at least 300 dpi.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to memberservices@barronelectric.com by April 5, 2020. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric Cooperative permission to use your photo in a variety of publications and on our website.



The Magic of Monarch Butterflies



Member Cindy Sesolak has been fascinated with the Monarch Butterflies from a young age. In 2019, she raised 52 butterflies and tagged 24. This winter, she had the opportunity to experience the Monarchs in a mountain range west of Mexico City. Cindy remarked, "This was an incredible trip. Seeing hundreds of butterflies flying from the trees, making a soft sound, was amazing." She noted that the participants had to be silent when they found the butterflies.

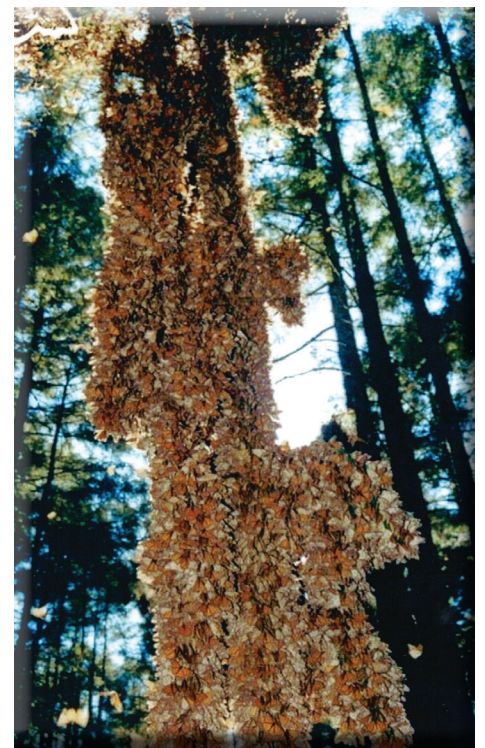
The Migration of the Monarch

The Monarch butterflies look for protein from fall wildflowers, such as goldenrods and asters in preparation for their flight to Mexico. When they arrive in Mexico, the fat that they have left must carry them through nine months. The Monarchs make their home in the Oyamel Fir, where their metabolism slows, and fat is consumed. They do need water, so they travel to small ravines. Once the temperatures warm, the

butterflies mate and head to Texas in search of milkweed.

The Monarch Watch Tagging Program helps understand the Monarch's fall migration and their origins. Cindy commented, "In Mexico, we found Monarchs tagged from Nebraska, Ohio, Ontario, Illinois, Iowa, New York, Kansas, and Wisconsin.

For more information regarding the Monarch butterflies, visit monarchwatch.org.



From left to right: The Monarch butterflies migrate to Mexico, some flying up to 3,000 miles. Member Cindy Sesolak rode horseback and hiked through the mountains of Mexico to view the butterflies. Monarchs make their home in the Oyamel Fir.

Hop into Savings



Buying a new appliance? Check out our website at barronelectric.com for rebates on Energy Star appliances including clothes dryers, clothes washers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, freezers, and refrigerators. Contact the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008 with any questions.



Featuring Director Richard Bol



When former Barron Electric Board Director Glenn Smith moved off the cooperative lines, Richard Bol interviewed for the position and later

received the call that he was appointed to the board. At the 2009 annual meeting, he was elected to the board, representing District 9. He said, "Electricity is very important. I'm thankful for the people that had the foresight to form a cooperative and bring electricity to the rural area." He added, "I have learned a lot about the industry and enjoy working with the directors and employees."

Richard grew up on a small farm. He married his neighborhood friend in 1963. Carol and Richard

established Sugar Bol Farms in 1966. In 1974, they were named the Outstanding Young Dairy Farmers. They have two sons and five grandchildren.

Richard has served on mostly cooperative boards. He also serves on the Pregnancy Help Center Board. He enjoys gardening, mowing lawn, and helping others.



Director Richard Bol helped serve food at the cooperative month event.

*Condensed Board Minutes January 30, 2020

- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Sloan. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #97189 thru #97301 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$209,446 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$34,554. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$3,485,115; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$1,758,117; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$4,675,244; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$282,618 and power bill paid 01/29/2020 in the amount of \$2,457,421.
- A membership list of 55 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$910,451.25 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$20,196.16; change jobs - \$8,252.68; miscellaneous - \$882,002.41 and 4 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 432,670 consumer hours off, which is 884.66% above 2018 hours of 43,941. Overtime year-to-date is 6,051.75 hours, which is 73.78% above 2018 hours of 3,482.50.



* View full board minutes on SmartHub.

News FOR YOU...

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*Published for the members of Barron Electric.
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newsletter, please e-mail
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