

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC
P.O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522
814/623-5101

Email: support@bedfordrec.com
Website: www.bedfordrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & PREA Director
Owen L. Miller
East St. Clair Twp.

Vice President & Allegheny Director
C. Robert Koontz
Colerain, Snake Spring and South Woodbury Twps.

Secretary
Donald Hoenstine
Kimmel and King Twps.

Treasurer
Reuben R. Lafferty
Juniata Twp., Bedford County, and Allegheny Twp., Somerset County, New Baltimore Boro

Assistant Secretary
Earl W. Garland
East Providence Twp., Bedford County, and Brush Creek Twp., Fulton County

Assistant Treasurer
William Howard Atkinson
Monroe and West Providence Twps., Everett Boro

Wayne M. Hillegass
Napier and Harrison Twps.
John R. Koontz
Bedford and Cumberland Valley Twps.
Ned H. McDonald
West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twps.

John J. Dirienzo Jr.
Attorney

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Season's Greetings



by Brooks Shoemaker
General Manager

Season's Greetings from all of us at Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

Board of Directors: Howard Atkinson Earl Garland Wayne Hillegass Don Hoenstine Bob Koontz John Koontz Reuben Lafferty Ned McDonald Owen Miller

Employees: Dave Allison Scott Bischof Corinna Browell Jim Clark Adam Claycomb Barb Duvall Kathy Gates Ed Hankinson Al Hileman John Karns Brent Kauffman Gary Lafferty Sara Mellott Tim Mellott Wade Mellott Greg Miller Kathy Miller Troy Mock Dawn Mowery Mary Perdeu Mark Rowan Jim Seymour Brooks Shoemaker Timothy Shook Christie Weaverling Cindy Wise Jim Wood

Office Closing

Bedford REC's office will be closed in observance of Christmas Day – Dec. 25 and New Year's Day – Jan. 1

Holiday gift certificates available

Make your gift giving easy this Christmas by purchasing an electricity gift certificate. The gift of electricity would be welcomed by anyone. If you would like to present a relative or fellow member with a gift certificate, just fill out the coupon below and return with payment enclosed to Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative. We can send the certificate to you or if you wish to remain anonymous, we can send the acknowledgement to the member.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 814/623-5101.

To: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to purchase a \$ _____ gift of electricity to be credited to the above person(s) account.

From: _____

I wish to remain anonymous

Phone #: (If we have any questions) _____

Please remember to enclose payment.

Mail To: Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

P. O. Box 335

Bedford, PA 15522

White Sulphur Springs from resort to Christian retreat

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

TUCKED AWAY in the mountains of Milligan's Cove, White Sulphur Springs has long been an oasis for the soul.

The history of this magnificent old place dates to 1770 when a log hotel welcomed visitors traveling from Cumberland to Bedford. According to a book written by Cliff Saxton Jr. that will go on sale over the holiday season, the present White Sulphur Springs officially opened for business on June 17, 1887. In 1888, Michael and Ross



'A SLEIGH RIDE TOGETHER WITH YOU': A decorated sleigh from earlier days of White Sulphur Springs is a "kid magnet" in the winter.

Colvin, nephews of the original constructor, John P. Reed, agreed to manage White Sulphur Springs Hotel. Their sisters, Annie, Ella, Emma, Nina and Phebe Colvin, all helped.

During the next year, a third story was added, as well as a center wing, and indoor sanitary facilities with hot and cold sulphur baths. Second- and third-floor rooms were added over the expanded kitchen area.

The place had so much charm that, in 1910, Patricia Patterson Cochran, at the age of 5, fell in love with it while vis-



iting with her mother. Patricia grew into a lovely and talented young woman who married Paul Cochran. She told him her dream of one day owning White Sulphur Springs.

Wanting to give his wife anything she desired, Paul purchased the property in 1946 and expanded the land holdings to 630 acres. By the early 1970s, the demands of running a resort began to wear on

the Cochrans and Paul's health was failing. There were offers from logging firms to purchase the grounds, but it was not what the couple wanted for this magnificent estate. The answer to their prayers came in March 1978; White Sulphur would become a Christian retreat for the Officers' Christian Fellowship.

The agreement was the fellowship would continue to look after Patricia following Paul's death. Paul died in November of the same year. True to their word, the officers and employees of OCF adopted Pat as one of their own,

seeing that she had constant care until her death in 1995.

The council of the Officers' Christian Fellowship approved the executive director's vision for an eastern conference



AUTUMN AT WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS: Clay Thomas, director, poses on the porch decorated for autumn. He is holding a copy of 'The Story of Pennsylvania's White Sulphur Springs Hotel.'



WINTER WONDERLAND: White Sulphur Springs glows from lights reflected on snow.

center similar to OCF western conference and retreat center at Spring Canyon, Colo. It became Spring Canyon East. The original White Sulphur hotel became known as "Harrison House" in honor of Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison. Harrison was instrumental in ending the Korean War working alongside just-elected President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Retired Navy Cmdr. H. Clay Thomas III is the center director. He describes Harrison as a very humble, godly man who served and loved Christ. His daughter, Evelyn Kent, still lives on the property and serves as a volunteer receptionist at the hotel. This new group expanded the property to 1,100 acres.

Thomas says the desire of OCF is to provide a sanctuary of restoration and reconciliation for military members and their families, as well as numerous church groups from around the eastern United States. The mission is to provide a place apart, a place of the heart, where military members and their families can meet God in a fresh encounter,

receive His direction and make a commitment to obey Him.

There are programs beginning with third- to eighth-graders known as the Caleb Project. There is a teen program, Allegheny Outback, which features a six-day Christian wilderness adventure trip.

"Providing guidance and a good foundation for the families of military personnel reduces stress in the field," Thomas explains.

White Sulphur is aging, and like people, there is a charm that only maturity can provide. But technology, increased activities and lack of space all speak to the need for an update.

On Veterans Day of this year, OCF broke ground for a new Heritage House main lodge. The new 54,000-square-foot building will provide additional rooms for the ever-expanding needs of the organization. There are seven full-time staff members who live in five residences on the property. There are five part-time food handlers, two housekeeping staff members and a maintenance man. The new building will require additional part-time help.

Programs are held year round with summer camping for families, a resurrection retreat over Easter, and weekends for all types of military groups including West Point, Annapolis, the Coast Guard and some from the Merchant Marines.

There is a two-week work period when volunteers come from states as



ELECTRIC WORK UNDER WAY: Gary Lafferty and Al Hileman prepare to splice lines at a junction box as part of the new construction project at White Sulphur Springs.

far away as Florida and Oklahoma to help restore and maintain the numerous outbuildings on the property.

One very special event allows OCF to give back to the community by offering a Christmas open house. Always held the second weekend in December, the event features local entertainment such as the Varsity Singers from Bedford High School. There are plenty of homemade Christmas goodies and tours of the facilities. Decked in Christmas array, it is a nice holiday event and all are welcome to attend.

This year's open house will feature a great \$15 Christmas gift, the new book, "The Story of White Sulphur Springs Hotel," written by Cliff Saxton Jr. 🌟



PREPARING FOR EXPANSION: Gary Lafferty and Al Hileman pull one of the four electric service wires through the woods and over a creek in preparation for the service lines for the new building. There are four lines, one a spare, 485 feet in length. Tim Mellott pulls the wire off the reel at the truck.

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS



Bedford Rural Electric directors and employees are asking members to join in and make donations to the area food banks. Those wishing to donate items should bring

them to the Bedford Rural Electric office on Lincoln Highway before Dec. 22.

Items needed include: canned goods, paper products, soap and other hygiene-related items, food products such as noodles, cake mixes, spaghetti or boxed foods of any kind. The items will be donated to local food banks throughout the county.

Your help and kindness will be appreciated during this holiday season.

Persons making a donation will have their names entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate toward their electric bill.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding three scholarships of \$1,000 each to a senior whose parent's or guardian's primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at www.bedfordrec.com and click on scholarship information. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2010.

Mail application to:

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, Pa 15522

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble ...

First Check your fuses or circuit breakers.

Second Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.

Third **Call 24-hour number, 623-7568
OR call 800/808-2732 during office hours**

(Please help us save money - only use this number if toll charges apply.)

Please give person receiving call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

Alternate numbers ...

Scott Bischof	Week of November 30	839-4640
Gary Lafferty	Week of December 7	842-9925
Scott Shook	Week of December 14	623-2395
John Karns	Week of December 21	623-2630
Troy Mock	Week of December 28	276-9759
Greg Miller	Week of January 4	839-0037

In case you cannot reach any of the above ... Call:

Jim Wood	Bedford	623-6121
James Clark	Everett	652-9791
Mark Rowan	Bedford	623-7890

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures, so you may receive a busy signal. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.

Emergency Power Needs

As a service to our members, Bedford Rural Electric needs to be aware of situations where special needs exist. Please provide the following details:

(Please print clearly)

Account: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Special Needs: Medical Farming/Livestock

Other _____

Each year, our goal is to provide service with no outages. Unfortunately, that is not a realistic expectation. Outages do occur, and especially during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.