

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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Both Offices Open:
M - TH • 7:00am – 5:30pm

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office to reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x2120

SAFETY TIPS

CELEBRATE SAFELY!

- ✓ Only light fireworks where and when it is legal to do so.
- ✓ Never allow children to handle fireworks, even sparklers.
- ✓ “Duds:” If a firework malfunctions, do not try to re-light it. Soak it with water and dispose of it properly.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

FEATURE STORY

Fire Safety in Small Mountain Towns: Awareness, Hazards and Prevention

In the picturesque landscapes of small mountain towns, life often feels peaceful and close to nature. But for all their charm, these dry, elevated regions carry a hidden and serious risk: fire. The combination of dense vegetation, prolonged drought, limited infrastructure, and rugged terrain creates a perfect storm for fast-moving, destructive wildfires. Residents, visitors, and seasonal homeowners alike must stay alert to the unique hazards these environments present and take proactive steps to mitigate risk.

THE HAZARDS

- Dry Vegetation & Drought Conditions**
Our region has had a low amount of rainfall and therefore we have high risk of fires starting.
- Human Activity & Ignition Sources**
Between holiday celebrations and camping activities, human activity is the largest risk.
- Limited Emergency Response Access**
Narrow roads and tight spaces make responding quickly a difficult task.
- Building Materials & Landscaping**
Older historic homes have more combustible materials.
- Seasonal Population Fluctuations**
Visitors who are not aware of these hazards can inadvertently cause problems.



FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

Create Defensible Space

Maintain a 30-100 foot defensible space around your home by removing flammable vegetation, trimming tree limbs, cleaning gutters, and storing firewood away from buildings.

Harden Your Home

Install ember-resistant vents and cover attic and crawlspace openings with metal mesh. Ensure decks and patios are clear of leaves and flammable debris.

Stay Informed

Know your local fire danger rating and obey all burn bans and restrictions.

Prepare for Evacuation

Create a “go bag” with essentials: medications, important documents, clothing, and supplies for pets. Have a plan for evacuation, including multiple exit routes and a communication plan with family members.

Support Community Efforts

Obey any fire ban or town ordinances. Encourage town councils to prioritize defensible space ordinances, water system improvements, and emergency communication networks.

Fire safety in Western Slope mountain towns is not just the responsibility of fire crews—it's a shared duty. Awareness, preparation, and community-wide effort are critical to protect lives, property, and the beautiful landscapes we call home. By understanding the hazards and taking proactive steps, residents and visitors alike can help ensure that these treasured towns remain safe and resilient in the face of fire.



The 2025 Annual Meeting

The 86th Annual Meeting of the Members of San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) was held in person and online on Thursday, June 5th, 2025. The meeting featured gifts, prizes, booths, a dinner for in-person attendees, and a \$10 bill credit for all member attendees. The overall meeting theme was “Our Home, Our Cooperative, Our Future,” and topic reports included:

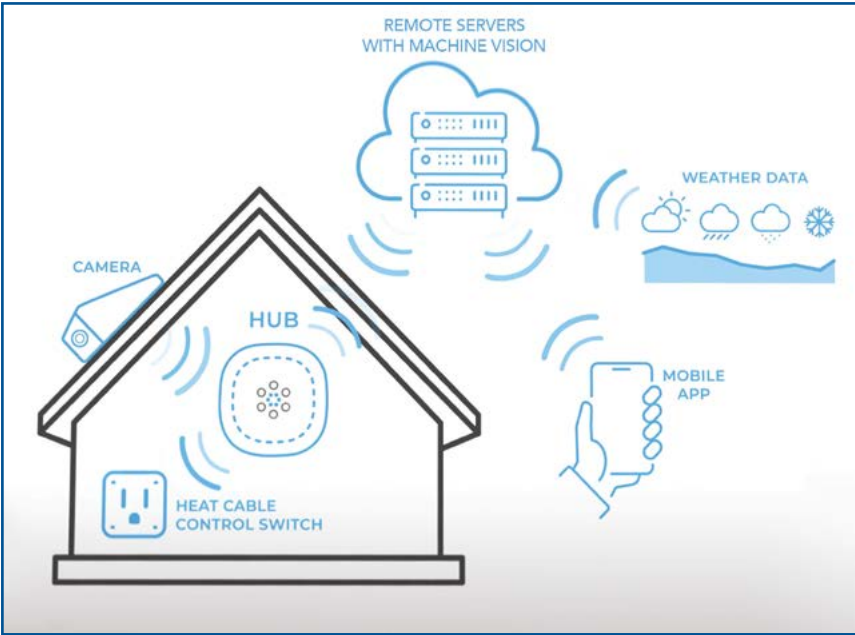
- 2025 Scholarship Presentations
- SMPA’s Power Supply and the revised Wholesale Electric Contract (WESC) with our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission
- The Secretary / Treasurer’s Report
- The new Time-of-Use (TOU) Energy Rates
- Local Microgrid projects
- Announcement of the potential Naturita Solar Project
- Community Donations & Economic Development
- A member Question and Answer period
- The meeting concluded with the reading of results for the 2025 board director elections. In District #5 incumbent, Rube Felicelli ran unopposed, and in District #7, candidate, Jake Kurzweil also ran unopposed. Both candidates were deemed elected, per SMPA Bylaws.



Heat Cable Automation


You wouldn’t let your vehicle idle all day and night when you’re not using it. Well, leaving a snowmelt cable running all winter is extremely wasteful in the same way. Fortunately, a new technology is available that turns your always-on heat cable, into an efficient money-saving system that protects your home and driveway by turning on the heat cable only when it needs to be and only for as long as needed to get the job done.

What’s more is that the system can be programmed to avoid the 4 PM to 9 PM peak period, ensuring that you only use inexpensive off-peak power to run it. We’ll even help you purchase the tech with our Heat Cable Automation Rebate. Check it out at www.smpa.com/energy#berebates.



EASY CHANGES FOR TIME-OF-USE

- Set the delay function on your dishwasher when loading after dinner
- Do laundry during off-peak hours
- Set EVs to charge off-peak (Scheduled charging usually included with EV)
- Take advantage of SMPA’s EV Charging Equipment rebate.
- Charge outdoor power equipment batteries, e-bike batteries off-peak
- Explore SMPA’s time-based-rate-friendly rebates
- Turn off work computer monitors at the end of the work day





Annual Ride & Drive

Saturday August 9
10 AM to 2 PM
Ridgway Town Hall
Test Drive and Learn!

SMPA’s Facebook page isn’t just about Outage Notifications! In the past year, SMPA’s Facebook page has provided followers with:



- Annual Meeting Invitations
- Helpful information on our new two-sided bill format
- Explanations of the new Time-of-Use (TOU) rate and links to tools that can help
- Important Electrical Safety Tips, including where and how to recycle lithium-ion batteries
- Job opportunities
- Links to this newsletter
- Access to the list of Unclaimed Member Dividends - Do you have money coming back to you?

...and much, much more!

If you aren’t following SMPA on Facebook, Now’s your chance to do it!

SMPA

POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH’S PUZZLE: SPICEE BEEF LANDS

Hint...IT’S SAFER HERE

Last Month’s Answer: KILOWATT HOURS
Last Month’s Winner: DAVID HAIGHT, NORWOOD

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to:

EnergyWise
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Ridgway, CO 81432