

ENERGY WISE

MAY 2017

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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Both Offices Open:
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www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office. If it is after hours, you will be able to automatically transfer to our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Send your questions or suggestions for the editors of EnergyWise to:
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MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

What would you do if your automobile came in contact with a downed power line?

Read "Safe on the Bus" on the next page to learn how a little knowledge can save lives.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



Strider racing leads children into the sport of BMX racing, a fast-paced and healthy way for kids to exercise and have fun.

Montrose West Recreation Strides Ahead

BMX Track and Strider Racing Program to help bring Business to West End

"My son hopped on the bike and started walking without giving it a second thought... In short order, I could see him 'experimenting' with holding his feet up between steps.... He was actually self-motivated to keep trying to glide further and further each time... with repeated 'Watch me! Watch me!' as he beamed with pride." This description from entrepreneur and creator of the Strider bike, Ryan McFarland will ring true to any parent who

has opted to swap training wheels and skinned knees for the easy-to-learn alternative. Kids across the nation are reaping the rewards.

Nowadays, you can see kids like this striding to victory on the new track in Naturita thanks to Montrose West BMX and its Strider Racing program. Montrose West BMX is a non-profit organization under Montrose West Recreation which is dedicated to improving and expanding existing recreational facilities in the West End of Montrose County.

The program was started by outdoor enthusiast, Lee Geddings. "Striders and BMX racing is a sport that starts off small and goes from there," says Geddings. "Once the track is up and going, it'll bring racers from out of town, and from out of state. That will give back to our community and back to our businesses."

As the strider program enters its next season, Geddings is hard at work constructing the third phase of a USA BMX sanctioned track in order to offer racing opportunities to older bike racers, and bring even more visitors to town.

This work has been made possible through a corporate donation from San Miguel Power Association (SMPA). As a member-owned cooperative, SMPA supports its communities through donations like the \$1000 it recently gave to the BMX program.

"That's what I love about the West End," says Geddings. "The small communities always seem to do a lot better because everyone seems to come together as a team and as a family... We're very grateful to San Miguel Power for their support."



Strider Balance Bikes are the result of 10 years of development, manufacturing improvements, riding, observation, testing, and even racing. It's the newest way for children explore on two wheels.



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The San Miguel Power Association

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

- For over 75 years, and through countless changes, our purpose has been to serve our members.
- We do this by giving our members the final say in how they use their power.
- If you want to take control of your power, come to the annual meeting, and find out how.

THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

JUNE 8, 2017 • SMPA OFFICE, RIDGWAY, COLORADO

4:30 - 5:30 PM - Registration • Voting • Booths • Music • Fun

5:30 - 7:00 PM - Dinner • Meeting • Election Results • Prizes

Four Candidates Declared

Mtn. Village, Ophir, Silverton & Ouray to Elect Board Directors

At the April 25th San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Board Meeting, the candidates for the upcoming SMPA board election were announced. In district #5, which includes Mountain Village and Ophir, the candidates are *Joseph Shults and Rube Felicelli*. In District #7, which includes Silverton and Ouray, the candidates are *Dawn Glanc and Terry Rhoades*.

San Miguel Power members elect their board of directors by secret mail-in ballot or at the Annual Meeting of the Membership, held this year at the SMPA Ridgway office (720 N. Railroad St., Ridgway) on June 8th from 4:30 - 7 pm. (Polls close at 5:30 pm.) Ballots will be mailed to members of districts #5 and #7 on May 15th. Mail-in ballots must be received by June 7th, or members may vote at the Annual Meeting.

San Miguel Power's Annual Meeting is one of the most important events for all SMPA members to attend. It is an opportunity for members of the cooperative to gather and review the activities of the association over the past year.

The theme of this year's meeting is "The Challenge of Change," and at the meeting, members can learn about new SMPA programs that are responding to member desires and the changing electric industry. Members will also be given dinner and a \$10.00 bill credit for their attendance. Other exhibits, gifts, games and prizes will also be there. Board Election results will be announced at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

Learn more at www.smpa.com/content/annual-meeting-election



See if you qualify for discounts of up to 75% off for LED light bulbs.

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TELLURIDE FOUNDATION

Safe on the Bus: A Success Story

May is Electrical Safety Month; Celebrate with this Tale of Courage and See how a Little Knowledge can Save Lives!

On an April morning in 2016, Clint Shults was driving a school bus to take students to an FFA competition in Rangely, Colorado. The team's horse judging coach, Silvia Otabachian-Smith, followed the bus in her car. Heavy, wet snow had been accumulating, and the bus snagged a power line just as it was falling to the ground under the weight of the snow.

"I kind of saw a flash, noticing that the snow had fallen off of one of the power lines," explains Clint. "We started dragging power lines for the next at least 100 yards, and knew we were in pretty tough shape." From behind the bus, Silvia witnessed several bursts of fire.

Fortunately, Clint knew what to do. He brought the bus to a stop so as not to make the situation any worse by bringing down more electrical equipment. "I told my wife to call 911,...and we had everyone remain on the bus," explains Clint. One of the students called Silvia and told her to stay in her car.

"There is such a thing as step voltage, that even though the wire is on the ground as you walk into that scene, you could be stepping into different voltage variations and injure yourself," explains Sheriff Mazzola, first responder on the scene.

Everyone on the bus and first responders waited for a utility employee to arrive and

ensure the downed power line was de-energized before anyone stepped off the bus or onto the accident scene.

Here are the steps to take to stay safe if you are in a vehicle that comes into contact with a downed line or power pole:

1. Stay calm, and stay inside the vehicle.
2. Call 911.
3. Warn others to stay away from the vehicle.
4. Stay seated, and do not exit the vehicle until utility personnel say it is okay to do so.
5. If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or "bunny hop" to safety.

For other chaperones who travel with students and might encounter a downed power line, Clint urges, "Do not tell any young person or any passenger to get off the bus." Frank Sampson, manager of operations at White River Electric adds, "Electricity is invisible, and there is no way to determine visually if a wire is energized."

Learn more, and see the story at www.SafeElectricity.org.

A little birdie told me...

SMPA is on Twitter!

twitter.com/?lang=en@SanMiguelPower



REMINDER

To learn about closures on Ilium Rd & the Galloping Goose Trail, go to:

smpa.com/content/telluridemountain-village-reliability-project

This project will help eliminate long power outages in the area.

...attending the 2017 festival?

MOUNTAINFILM

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smpa.com/content/green-centsgreen-blocks