

ENERGY WISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION



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Both Offices Open:
M - TH, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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 x212

SAFETY TIPS

February Safety Tip:

Be sure your bathrooms and kitchen
are equipped with Ground Fault
Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) electrical
outlets. These devices detect small
levels of leakage current and work
so fast that serious injury due to
electrocution can be avoided.

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.

Persons 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.

San Juan Skijoring: Reaching New Heights

"Crazy" Sport Beats the Odds & the Weather for Economic Development



Your eyes do not lie. "Skijoring" is a sport in which snow skiers are pulled by horses, dogs or even powered vehicles. Our local event is equestrian and follows strict guidelines for safety.

If you're still asking "What is skijoring?" you may want to get out of the house a bit more often. Thanks to die-hard fans, daring athletes, and passionate sponsors, this formerly 'unheard of' sport is jumping to the top of the 'I gotta see this' list for many local and regional audiences.

The 2nd Annual San Juan Skijoring competition, held at the Ouray County Fairgrounds last month not only brought the crowds, it had to bring the snow. "We're battling Mother Nature," said the Event Chairman, Richard Weber III, facing the record-breaking dry winter. "We are struggling, but cancelling this race is not an option."

The passion represented by Weber's words was apparently contagious, as

major sponsors, like Tri-State Generation and Transmission, San Miguel Power, Basin Electric, and CoBank made substantial contributions in order to help make the event a success. "We're excited to sponsor events like Skijoring," said Tri-State Representative, Amy Rosier who brought an information booth to the event. "It's a true testament of the cooperative spirit."

Local businesses also benefitted from the influx of foot traffic, which revealed Skijoring to be an effective driver of economic development. As a recipient of the 2018 SMPA Sharing Success Grant, San Juan Skijoring successfully converted SMPA, CoBank and Basin Electric sponsorships into local economic activity.



30% of your
electricity comes from
renewables.

Un-Renew-a-Believable!

GENERATE
Possibilities

Three-Zero.
When you
put those
numbers
together,
you get the
percentage
of electricity
you use,
that comes
from
renewable
sources.



TRI-STATE

See the Light. Protect the Dark.

Seven Ways to Join SMPA in Reducing Local Light Pollution

At SMPA, we recognize that the beautiful starry dark skies in our area are a valuable resource for residents, visitors, and even wildlife. That is why we have been working with local communities, businesses, and residents to help install energy efficient lighting fixtures that cause less light pollution.

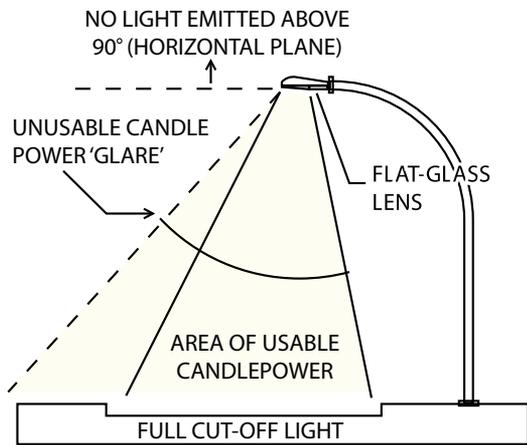
Here are seven simple tips from the International Dark Sky Association that can be used outdoors at your home or place of business to reduce light pollution and protect our gorgeous night skies for future generations:

1. Light only what you need to.
2. Use energy efficient bulbs, and only as bright as you need.
3. Use shielded "full cut-off" fixtures so the light goes down, not out horizontally or up.
4. Choose "soft white" bulbs (burn

at 2700-3000 degrees K) which provide a nice ambiance with a slightly amber hue, avoid using "daylight" bulbs which burn much hotter (5000-5500 K) and produce a harsh, stark, hot blue-white color and increased light pollution.

5. Use light only when you need it. Consider using a timer.
6. Consider using a motion sensor switch instead of dusk-to-dawn lighting if you feel the need for added security and lower electric expense.
7. Close curtains or blinds at night to keep indoor lighting inside.

These are simple ideas that all of us can do to help protect our awe inspiring night skies for residents and visitors.



Approximately 66% of all the outdoor lighting in SMPA service territory has been switched over to full cutoff LEDs. These new lights are saving our members money and energy as well as improving the night sky. Approximately, \$2,275 a month is being saved from the replacements and 213,400 kWh annually.

This energy reduction has a carbon impact reduction of 159 metric tons annually.

There are still many fixtures in the territory that can be replaced. Anyone interested in switching to LED is encouraged to call (970) 626-5549 ext. 207.

SMPA Employee Leads the Way

Sinks Recognized for Caring and Community Involvement



CEO Brad Zaporski presents Mapping Coordinator, Shawna Sinks with the SMPA Employee Recognition Award for her caring and innovation.

Student Shines

Youth Tour Delegate Selected



Nucla High School's Chloe Nelson earned the opportunity to attend the National

Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C. this June. The week-long tour exposes rural youth, nationwide to national monuments, museums and U.S. government institutions. Congratulations, Chloe!

Rate Class: What it is. Why it Matters.

Rate-Making is Equal Parts Art & Science. How Rate Classes Help.

Imagine you run an electric cooperative. You purchase energy from a wholesaler, then sell it to your customers. The energy is delivered over power lines that your customers (or "members") collectively own.

Covering the costs of the energy is easy. You charge your members a small markup over your wholesale energy rate, and you're covered, but what do you do about all the costs of maintaining those power lines?

In theory, all members should share in the cost evenly, so a flat, fixed access fee makes sense. That is, until you realize how differently your members use that infrastructure.

Many consumers, for instance, use a lot of energy sometimes and only a little energy at other times. Since the grid maintenance costs are the same

whether they're using energy or not, this causes a significant amount of "idle" time.

Other power users run equipment all the time. They may use more power, but they rarely have any down time, which makes more consistent use of the grid infrastructure.

Billing these two members in exactly the same way would be inherently unfair, so, you must create groups of members based upon their energy use schedule, or "load profile."

We call these groups "Rate Classes." You can see your rate class at the upper-left of your bill. Jot down the code, and then go to www.smpa.com/content/rates to see how we calculate your bill. As always, you can call (970) 626-5549 with any questions you may have.

★ 2018 ELECTION ★

Two positions on SMPA's Board will be up for election at this year's Annual Meeting, scheduled for June 7, 2018. If you live in Norwood, Placerville, Dunton, Rico, Ridgway, Log Hill, Colona or surrounding areas, you may be eligible to run.

See the insert that accompanies this newsletter for more details.

How to Run for the Board of Directors

- 1) Pick up your petition packet from an SMPA office.
- 2) Get your petition signed by 15 or more registered members from your district.
- 3) Return your petition to SMPA before April 23, 2018.
- 4) Mail-in ballots are sent to members in districts three and six in May.
- 5) Election concludes June 7, 2018 at the Annual Meeting of members.



To be entered into a drawing for a fun prize, send correct answers to:
SCRAMBLE: SHOUT TAIL WORK.
 Hint: We sell electricity in units of...

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