



**Big Flat Electric
Cooperative**
Malta, Montana
654-2040

Big Flat News

March 2016

Meet your new General Manager, Gretchen Boardman

The Big Flat Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Gretchen Boardman has been chosen to serve as the cooperative's new manager as of July 1, 2016. The co-op will operate with Kari Hammond as Interim Manager, with Line Superintendent Darren Demarais' assistance. Here are a few words from Gretchen Boardman:

"I am so thrilled to be coming back to Malta as the General Manager of Big Flat Electric Cooperative. It is an honor and blessing to return to the hi-line and continue my career. Malta has always been "home" to me and I couldn't think of a better place to return to.

After graduating from Malta High School in 1994 I went on to graduate with my BS in Mining Engineering from Montana Tech in Butte, MT.

The summer of 1994 I started working at Zortman Mine and then transferred to Montana Tunnels Mine in Jefferson City, MT where I worked while attending college and after graduation. After 17 years of working at Montana Tunnels I relocated and took a job with Stillwater Mine in Nye, MT. I have been at Stillwater Mine as the cost engineer for the past 4+ years. I have been fortunate to be able to work in the great state of Montana my whole career!

My husband, Jay, who is also originally from Malta, looks forward to going back to raise our kids in such a wonderful community. Jay and I have 2 boys (Cole 16 years and Kasen 23 months) and just welcomed our newborn daughter Kambyr to the family.

As a family we love spending time at Fort Peck and fishing as much as possible. I am also an avid scrapbooker and love all sports!

I look forward to getting to know each of you and working with the people of Phillips, Blaine and Valley Counties."



Gretchen Boardman

In This Issue:

**Don't toy with your safety
Energizing 2016 irrigation services
Bombardier out for bid**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®



*****Bombardier for Bid*****

Bids are being called for on a 1954 Bombardier.

The Bombardier is being sold "As Is" and the buyer must load. Submit sealed bid by March 31, 2016.

Big Flat Electric Co-op., Inc.
PO Box 229 Malta, MT 59538

Contact Big Flat Electric at 654-2040 for further information. We reserve the right to accept or reject any bid.

OUTAGE REPORTING

Call 654-2040

(1-800-242-2040 Saco area)

M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

AFTER HOURS ONLY OUTAGE

654-7400

DARREN DEMARAIS

Line Superintendent...654-7261

BIG FLAT ELECTRIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Alan Wasson, President
Loring/Whitewater/Saco
674-5574

Roger Solberg, Vice Pres. - Malta
658-2106

Betty Campbell, Sec/Treas. - Hays
673-3111

Duane Klindworth - Hogeland
379-2542

Gerald Keller - Turner
379-2228

Patty Quisno - Fort Belknap
673-3132

Clyde Robinson - Missouri River
673-3442

Kid Zone:

Five Easy Ways to Save Energy:

1. Turn off lights, computers, TV and other electrical stuff when you aren't using it.
2. Replace regular light bulbs with energy saving LED bulbs).
3. Don't leave the refrigerator door open. Cold air escapes and this uses a lot of electricity.
4. Taking a short shower instead of a long bath can help save energy.
5. Plant a tree. Trees create shade around your house and help keep it cool.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries – and an ENERGY STAR charger for them – which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source: energy.gov



Don't TOY with your SAFETY

When you are playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.



Flying remote controlled toys are a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.

- Never fly kites, or remote controlled toys near power lines.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- If you get something stuck in a power line, call your electric co-op.
- Never touch or go near a downed power line.

High School Seniors:

Apply for one of the \$250 Big Flat Electric Scholarships.
Applications and Criteria at bigflatelectric.com.

Entries due: April 1, 2016



BIG FLAT ELECTRIC CO-OP.
PO BOX 229
MALTA, MT 59538
ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

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From the Field

Darren Demarais, Line Superintendent

The weather around the system has been like spring, not winter, until I began writing this column and the snow is starting to turn the ground white again. I'm hoping the weather will give us some rain later in the year.

The crew has been busy installing poles for our construction maintenance we have going on. They are retiring some abandoned services as well. When a service has not been in use for over five years, land owners are given the option of paying an abandoned service fee or having the service removed. We are starting to get ramped up for the construction season with the time change coming up.

Irrigators: Schedule your irrigation hook up

With spring just around the corner, we ask the irrigators to let us know when they want to turn on their services. Crews will energize irrigation services on the following dates only:

March 22
March 29
April 5
April 12
April 19
April 26

Please contact the office to get your prepayment in and schedule your irrigation hook up.

Visit us on the web at www.bigflatelectric.com

"Big Flat Electric Co-op. is an equal opportunity provider and employer."