



# GCEA NEWS



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2016

THE GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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Corrections and comments are always welcomed. Please contact us at [gcea@gcea.coop](mailto:gcea@gcea.coop) or 800.726.3523.

## “Like us” on Facebook

We are keeping you posted on events at GCEA, providing energy efficiency tips, and much more on our Facebook page.

“Like Us” at Gunnison County Electric Association.

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## Gunnison Car Show

### Gunnison County Electric Association – LEADING THE CHARGE

Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) provides more than electricity for your home and business. We also provide opportunities to support and experience new technology. Last fall, GCEA received a grant through the Colorado Energy Office to assist with the purchase and installation of the electric vehicle (EV) charging station in Crested Butte at the four-way stop. In March of 2016 GCEA purchased a used 2014 Chevrolet Spark EV. *Spark-e* (nicknamed by GCEA employees) is used daily for GCEA work related errands and is also available to GCEA and community members for an EV test-driving experience. GCEA offers demonstration drives because studies suggest that exposure to electric vehicles increases acceptance. Most people who drive an electric vehicle for the first time are very surprised. Electric vehicles are really fun to drive but that shouldn't be the only reason to buy one.

The electric vehicle is a relatively new concept for the world to grasp. Some people are supportive of electric vehicles while others have reservations. Electric vehicles have a lot to offer. With no tailpipe emissions they are environmentally friendly, and even though an initial purchase might be more expensive than traditional combustion engine models, EVs offer low maintenance. An electric motor doesn't need oil changes every 3,000 miles; an electric motor never needs an oil change. It doesn't use any oil. There are also large federal and state tax incentives to help with the cost. Electric vehicles have regenerative braking, which recharges the battery every time the car



slows down. Consequently, electric vehicles get better mileage in town.

Drawbacks to EVs are manageable and include a limited range (typically anywhere between 72-200 miles, depending on the model) and varying, generally lengthy recharge times. But most charging occurs at home where there's more than enough time to charge while the owner sleeps. Increasing availability of publicly accessible charging stations also helps make EVs viable. Electric vehicles are more practical in multi-vehicle homes.

This year GCEA participated in the 2016 **Gunnison Car Show** to bring awareness to the community about electric vehicles. We definitely stood out the entire weekend. We brought a different perspective to the car show. When you think of a car show you think of the classics, for example a 1969 Ford Mustang or a Chevrolet Camaro, not an electric vehicle. Many people attend the car show because it is a walk down memory lane. Well we changed that this year at the Gunnison Car Show with our future on display.

On Friday night, GCEA participated in the cruise-in on Main Street. There was a great turnout at the event. A lot of people stopped by to take a curious look at the Chevrolet Spark EV.

*(continued page 2)*

## Gunnison Car Show (continued from page 1)



GCEA CEO, Mike McBride had the opportunity to conduct about five demo drives that night.

Saturday morning Mike held a workshop on electric vehicles at Jorgensen Park. He discussed the pros and cons of electric vehicles and answered questions from the Car Show audience.

Saturday afternoon Mike gave about 10 demo drives. People were intrigued by what the future has to hold for the automobile industry.

The weekend was great. We were able to bring awareness about electric vehicles to a large group of people. If you are a GCEA member and interested in test driving the Chevrolet Spark EV, please call GCEA at 970-641-3520 or stop by the Gunnison office.

## Electric Vehicle Rally



On Wednesday, September 14 GCEA held an electric vehicle rally and open house for the Crested Butte Charging Station. The charging station has had 106 charging sessions since it was first energized on November 30, 2015. A group of electric vehicle owners met at the Gunnison Charging Station and cruised 28 miles to the Crested Butte Charging Station. Refreshments and snacks were available to community members as they enjoyed conversations about electric vehicles. GCEA had two all electric vehicles on display, a



Community members learn about the Crested Butte Charging Station and electric vehicles at GCEA's electric vehicle rally.

Chevrolet Spark EV and a Fiat 500E, as well as a plug-in Hybrid Ford Fusion. A few community members brought their electric vehicles to be on display which included a Nissan Leaf and a Tesla Model S. Crested Butte Mountain Resort also brought down an electric bike for people to test-drive. **Thank you to everyone who participated.**



Employee of Crested Butte Mountain Resort explains how an electric bike works to Mike McBride, CEO of GCEA at the electric vehicle rally.

## GCEA News Briefs

### Member Appreciation Month

October is National Cooperative Month and to celebrate GCEA is inviting you to our office (Gunnison & Crested Butte) for **ONE LED LANTERN** while supplies last. Stop in the offices during the month of October and let us thank you for making GCEA successful!

**WE APPRECIATE YOU, THE MEMBER!**

### Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 6 (set clocks back)

### GCEA Winter Hours

GCEA offices (headquarters and Crested Butte offices) will be switching to winter hours on Monday, October 31, 2016. Our winter hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Social Media Reminder

Check out our social media outlets for information on events at GCEA, energy efficiency tips, safety tips and much more. "Like us on Facebook at Gunnison County Electric Association or follow us on Twitter at GunnisonREA.

# Welcome New Employee And Board Member



## Robert Summer – Lineman

GCEA would like to introduce Robert Summer, the newest lineman to join the team. Robert works with the Gunnison line crew and reports to Gunnison Headquarters. Robert grew up in Gunnison. GCEA helped him with a Scholarship to attend Western Colorado Community College where he graduated with an Electrical Line worker

Certificate in May 2015. Robert has been working as an Apprentice Lineman in Craig, Colorado for Cromer Contracting for the past year. Robert said he is excited to be working for GCEA and really enjoys working with everyone. When he has free time he enjoys hunting, fishing and camping. GCEA is excited to bring Robert back to Gunnison and to have him on board.



## Michelle Lehmann – Director, District 4

Gunnison County Electric Association would like to welcome Michelle Lehmann to GCEA's Board of Directors. Michelle Lehmann was appointed to serve on the GCEA Board of Directors on July 26, 2016. Her service fulfills a District 4 vacancy

for the remainder of a term due to expire June 2017. Mrs. Lehmann and her family reside and ranch in the Powderhorn Valley. The seat's vacancy was a result of Steven Schechter's July 1, 2016 resignation due to his family's relocation outside the GCEA service territory.

Michelle is proud to say that she is a native of Gunnison County. She is the fourth generation to work on the family cattle ranch in Powderhorn. With the exception of her years in college and a couple after graduating, she has lived in the same house the majority of her life.

Michelle has been lucky enough to raise her family in the same place she grew up. She has been married to her husband, Tim Lehmann for 23 years. Together they have two children. Their son Wyatt is 21 and is currently pursuing a college degree at West Texas A&M. Their daughter Jessica is 17 and a senior at Gunnison High School. "My family is very important to me," she said, "I treasure time with my husband and kids and love to go exploring."

In Michelle's free time she enjoys spending time with her husband and kids. There is nothing better than spending a day with family and friends up in the mountains hiking, camping and fishing in the summer. "I love to fish, especially up in the high country in the small creeks with lots of brook trout," she said. In the winter they enjoy exploring on snowmobiles and cross country skiing.

Michelle attended college at Mesa State College now known as Mesa State University in Grand Junction, Colorado. She received degrees in Accounting and Human Resource Management.

"Electricity is a commodity that is very important in our lives," Michelle said. The people at GCEA take their role in providing this commodity to its members very seriously. They have 40 extremely talented people working hard to make sure the members have the service they need. The office feels like a family environment.

GCEA and the board of directors are excited to have Michelle be a part of the GCEA family. If you see Michelle around please congratulate her on her new opportunity as District Four's director.

## WINTERIZATION

### *Using Energy Wisely*

## THIS FALL & BEYOND

The cool air is upon us and that means households are already turning up the heat. One important factor to remember for fall and winter is how to save energy.

*Don't know how?*

**Don't worry, we are here to help.**

**Here are some energy and money saving tips for this fall and winter.**

- Drain sediment from your water heater. According to the U.S. Bureau of Standards, one-half inch of scale build up requires 70% more fuel to heat your water.
- Run your ceiling fans clockwise during the winter to push warm air from the ceiling to the floor, increasing comfort in your home & decreasing bills.
- Install plastic insulating film over windows. Window insulating film can decrease heat and air loss from your windows by up to 70%! Kits can cost as little as \$5 per window.
- Make sure your weather stripping around windows and doors are in good shape and are creating a tight seal when closed.
- Change furnace filters annually.

# ATTENTION

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### Scholarships

It's the time of year again when we start talking to high school seniors about the importance of a post-high school education. Each year it gets harder and harder to pay for, but GCEA is here to help students pursue their dreams of going to college or trade school. GCEA offers a variety of scholarships to students residing in our service territory. For decades, we have provided scholarship assistance for graduating seniors to pursue an education beyond high school. Funding comes from unclaimed capital credits and generous donations from GCEA's Board of Directors, Operation Round-up®, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Last year, 42 students received awards. This year applications will be available in December and the deadline for submission is Thursday, February 2, 2017.

*"I can't believe that I am sitting out here in California going to college — it's all because of you guys. Thanks, Man!"*

—Quote from student

### 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour JUNE 8-15, 2017

GCEA is excited to offer an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. If you're a high school junior or senior whose family lives in Gunnison County Electric Associations service territory and would like to learn about your country's history and see amazing monuments then the Washington D.C. Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is for you! The tour is June 8-15, 2017.

Candidates enter for a spot on the Washington D.C. Youth Tour, a week-long all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C., sponsored by Gunnison County Electric Association and organized by the Colorado Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Colorado Electric Educational Institute.

#### Activities Include:

- Tour a co-op and learn about electricity
- Tour Colorado State Capitol
- Visit 9/11 memorial
- Tour Martin Luther King Memorial
- Tour the U.S. Capitol
- & SO MUCH MORE!

#### Application process:

- Complete application and return to GCEA headquarters
- 15 minute interview with two GCEA employees

Applications are available at our Gunnison and Crested Butte Offices, at Crested Butte Community School, Gunnison High School, Lake City Community School, and at [www.gcea.coop](http://www.gcea.coop).

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016

### 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp JULY 15-20, 2017

If you're a high school junior or senior whose family lives in Gunnison County Electric Associations service territory and would like to go to an all-expense paid camp where you will learn about the Rural Electric Cooperative way of doing business and build leadership skills that you will use for the rest of your life then the Youth Leadership camp is for you! Youth Camp is July 15-20, 2017 and takes place just north of beautiful Steamboat Springs, Colorado, at Glen Eden Resort.

There are a lot of great activities planned for the 2017 Youth Leadership Camp.

#### Activities include:

- A Miracle of Electricity presentation
- Participate in legislative simulation
- Take a River trip
- Building a power grid
- A tour of the Trapper Mine and Craig Power Plant
- & SO MUCH MORE!

#### Application process:

- Complete application and return to GCEA's headquarters
- 15 minute interview with two GCEA employees

Applications are available at our Gunnison and Crested Butte Offices, at Crested Butte Community School, Gunnison High School, Lake City Community School, and at [www.gcea.coop](http://www.gcea.coop).

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