

Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

June 2020

In this issue...



Sign up for VIBRANT 4



Dreaming of Streaming 6



Bits and Bytes – Answers to your
technical questions 7

Official publication of

Meeker
Cooperative
Light and Power Association

Meeker Co-op is an
Equal Opportunity Provider
and Employer

Richard and Karen Wick received the 1,000th VIBRANT Broadband installation!

Richard and Karen Wick live in what is best described as a “holler”, nestled in a low area northwest of Dassel and northeast of Darwin. If you didn’t know it was there, you’d never think anyone lived “down there.” But despite the descent down a dirt driveway that takes a little bit of time, the destination is worth it. The beautiful three-year-old home has gorgeous views of hills, trees, pasture and a sizable pond that reflects the sky.

Although retired, the Wicks loved the land so much that they had to build a new home on it “at their age” as Richard says. Very energy-minded, the Wicks have a well-insulated “R-50” home that is heated and cooled by the most efficient system there is: a ground source heat pump system.

“We have seven 20-foot loops that go out under the ground from the house,” Richard said. These loops collect heat from the constant temperatures underground and transfer it into the home during the winter. In the summer, the process is reversed, drawing heat from the home and taking it outside to be deposited in the ground.

Richard and Karen Wick *continued on page 3*



Richard Wick sitting at his home office computer desk.



VIBRANT Broadband's Cody Schiroo does a site evaluation to see which way the receiver should point for best line of sight to the fiber-supported tower.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

Due to COVID-19 and the corresponding safety guidelines and restrictions, Meeker Cooperative's Annual Meeting will look very different this year.

There will be NO refreshments, NO meal or snacks, NO prize drawings, BINGO or attendance gifts, NO invited guests and NO speeches. Only essential, required business meeting items will be conducted.

Please see the Official Notice (right) for more information.

Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association Notice of Annual Meeting

Following state-mandated restrictions and CDC guidelines which may include but will not be limited to wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing, Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association will hold its 85th Annual Meeting on June 29 at 9:00 a.m. at Meeker Cooperative, 1725 U.S. Hwy 12 E., Litchfield MN.

The following essential items of business will be conducted as prescribed by Meeker's Bylaws & Articles of Incorporation and state statutes:

1. Acting upon the unapproved minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting
2. Electing directors of the Cooperative to fill the seats of those whose terms expire on June 29 (tallying ballots received)
3. 2019 Financial Report
4. Adjournment

Brad Donnay, Secretary



VIBRANT'S 1,000th Install; Covid Update and Resulting Decisions

VIBRANT Hits 1,000 Installs -

On Wednesday, May 6, VIBRANT Broadband installed a Fixed Wireless Essential service at the Richard and Karen Wick residence (see front page story). This officially was VIBRANT's 1,000th install. VIBRANT started installing systems in July of 2019. So, in just a few days past 10 months, we hit that milestone mark of 1,000. That's an average of 100 installs a month. That is only possible because of loyal members.

For 85 years, we have served our member-owners with safe and reliable electrical service. Thank you for trusting us and allowing us the opportunity to be your high-speed internet provider as well.

I must also recognize the Co-op's employees for their commitment to this project. Since the board made the decision to move ahead with providing high-speed internet service for the unserved and under-served members, they have been steadfast in ensuring the success of VIBRANT Broadband. Countless hours of their time have gone into learning and gaining knowledge about operating an internet system and refining work processes. As with any start-up business, there was a bump or two along the road in our implementation. But the thing I'm most pleased about is the overall rock-solid performance of the "Rip Snort'n Fast" VIBRANT Internet system.

Thank you to all employees and VIBRANT customers.

Covid- 19 Update -

First, I'd like to give a report on the Co-op's situation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. For the most part, the office is quiet. During normal times it would not be. There are no members stopping in as the office remains closed and employees continue working from home. Overall, I would say the spirits of the employees are good. They, like everyone else, want to get back to normal.

The May Board of Director's meeting was the third

month in a row where the meeting was held via teleconference. I liken the teleconference-style meetings to caveman-like communication – a bit primitive versus in-person meetings; even awkward at times. But we all realize this is the way it needs to be and we work through it.

To me the over-arching tragedy of the Covid-19 pandemic for everyone is that we are not in control of our own economic fate. As businesses were forced to scale back operations, close and even go out of business forever, employees lost jobs through no fault of their own and have become powerless victims.

As the pandemic poses challenges on members financially, we will continue to work with them directly to establish payment plans and direct them to available crisis funds. If you are behind on your electric bill, please contact us to work out a payment arrangement. The last thing any of us wants is to fall so far behind in payments that it becomes impossible to catch up and leads to the disconnection of service.

MAD –

At the May board meeting the board took the step to cancel the Co-op's Member Appreciation event for this year. It was planned for August 14th at the A maze'n Farmyard near Eden Valley. In today's world, with the cancellation of large gatherings including at least 38 county fairs and even the Great Minnesota Get-Together (the Minnesota State Fair) it was the right decision to make. With Covid-19 there just doesn't seem to be any "get-together" possibilities. There were too many unknowns for us to safely conduct it. It may seem a bit early to cancel an event in August, but for us to properly conduct and promote the event, we would have had to start now. When you are planning an event for 1,000-plus people, it is not something that can be put together in a short time-frame.

We are unsure of what social distancing requirements might be in place in August and

how that may affect attendance. Even if the Covid restrictions were lifted by that time, it would be a complete guess at what attendance might be. Would members attend even if no pandemic restrictions were in place or would they stay away as a precaution and still be leery of social interaction? In the end, the unfortunate but best decision for this year was to cancel it.

Essential Business Meeting -

In other action at the May board meeting, the board made the decision to hold the Co-op's 85th Annual Meeting on Monday, June 29, at 9:00 am. Originally scheduled to be held on April 6, we were forced to postpone it due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Once we were forced to cancel it we thought we could hold it in conjunction with MAD in August. However, as you have just read, even that has now been canceled for this year. After kicking around several alternative ideas for conducting the meeting, the board decided the best thing to do, considering the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic, was to hold an essential business only Annual Meeting sooner rather than later.

The board felt the Annual Meeting had been hanging in limbo long enough. Ballots for the director election have been held at the Co-op attorney's office since they were returned prior to the original scheduled Annual Meeting date in the beginning of April. It simply is time to move on with the business of the Co-op.

An essential business agenda means the meeting will consist of the election of directors (counting of ballots for District 5) and a brief financial report for 2019. We will conduct the meeting in our training room here at the office.

Mergen's Message *continued on page 3*

Board of Directors

Karen Becker, President— District 2

Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

Kevin Issendorf, Vice President-District 4

Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

Brad Donnay, Secretary — District 3

Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

Karl Lundin, Treasurer — District 9

North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker

Paul Bugbee — District 1

Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

Stephen Plaisance — District 5

Fairhaven in Stearns; Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker

Mark Larson— District 6

Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville

K. Bruce Krueger — District 7

Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker; Stockholm in Wright; Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod

Larry Huhn — District 8

Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

Chad Felstul — Attorney

Meeker Pioneer

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Editor: Becky Sorenson

The Meeker Pioneer is the official member publication of Meeker Cooperative and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Becky Sorenson at the address above.

Office Hours:

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For 24-hour service call

320-693-3231

Fax: 320-693-2980

Web sites: www.meeker.coop

VIBRANTBB.net

Use the "Contact Us" form on the home page

Meeker Cooperative Mission Statement

"To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative's Members and Customers by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services, while practicing environmental stewardship."

Merger's Message

continued from page 2

There will be no refreshments, no meal or snacks, no prize drawings or attendance gifts, no invited guests and no speeches. I anticipate only a small handful of members, if that, will attend. For those who want to attend, we will require social distancing and may enforce wearing of a mask depending on the health guidelines in place at that time.

Coal Creek Station -

A few weeks ago, Great River Energy announced they would be shutting down their electricity generating plant, Coal Creek Station, at the end of 2022. It has operated for over 40 years near Underwood, North Dakota. During that time, many of you have taken advantage of our annual tour of the plant and the adjacent Falkirk coal mine and have first-hand knowledge of the facility.

Closing Coal Creek Station follows GRE's path in recent years which consisted of exiting a contract for electricity from a coal generating plant in Wisconsin, closing its Stanton Station coal-fired generating plant in North Dakota, and closing the waste-to-energy generating plant in Elk River.

As part of its replacement power, GRE will be investing in wind generation, a long duration battery demonstration system and purchases off the energy market. GRE plans to continue to operate its various peaking plants across Minnesota.

The closure benefits GRE and its member co-ops in two ways: first, by reducing its carbon risk and secondly, by reducing its costs of generating electricity. With the purchase from the wind resources and closure of Coal Creek Station, GRE's energy supply resources will be more than 95% carbon dioxide free. Furthermore, GRE anticipates its future overall cost of electricity generation to decrease as well. With Meeker receiving about half its power from GRE, any savings is a net benefit to Meeker's member-owners once all these transactions are completed.

Did You Know -

Since January, 3M has doubled production of N95 respirators to 1.1 billion per year at its global manufacturing facilities, including in the U.S., Asia and Europe. 3M will double its capacity again to 2 billion per year within the next 12 months. (3M's website)

Richard and Karen Wick *continued from page 1*



VIBRANT Installer Deonte Kirkland installed a lightning arrestor to protect the VIBRANT internet service.



The VIBRANT internet service enters the home near other facilities.

All year long, the home is well heated and cooled for less money than any other system. And because the system doesn't create heat or cooling but just transports it, there's very little energy involved in climate control. A ground source heat pump system can operate with as much as 400% efficiency, giving you much more bang for your energy buck.

The Wicks use their heat pump system to provide in-floor heat in their basement and garage. The rest of the home is forced-air.

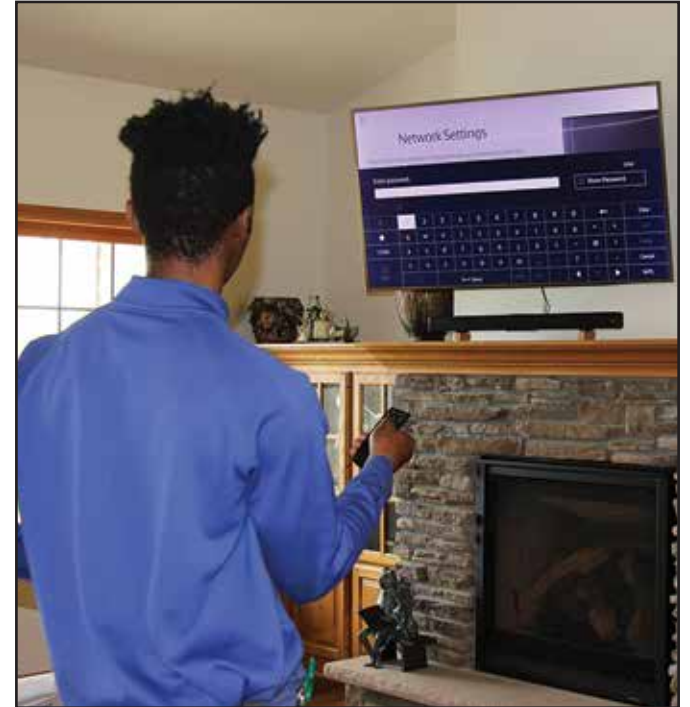
VIBRANT Broadband

There is one big drawback living in the holler, and that is poor internet service.

"We couldn't really watch any movies, it was just too slow," Richard said. So the couple signed up for Direct TV satellite dish, but found the service to be expensive for what they got.

"We got a number of channels, but then found out they counted music stations as channels, and we never listen to music on our TV," Richard said.

"They lied to us," Karen added. "They said if we needed any help with our service, to give the salesman a call, and gave us his card. But we called him many times and never got a call back. We had to figure things out on our own, which took a lot of time. And when we called the 800-number, they didn't know us or how to help us."



Deonte checks everything to make sure it's working.

"I just don't like that I can't call and talk to someone," Richard said.

The Wicks had heard about VIBRANT when it first came available.

"We were about the first ones to call about it," Richard said. "But we couldn't get it until now."

Because of their location, VIBRANT installers had to be creative in bringing a fixed wireless service to the Wick home. In order to receive Fixed Wireless service, there has to be "line of sight" to a nearby VIBRANT tower. After looking at the situation, installers decided to place the receiver on a Meeker Cooperative pole that serves the Wick home. They then ran the wire to another pole in the yard where a lightning arrestor was placed, then trenched it through the yard to the home, where it was brought in through the wall and spliced to serve their computer and two TVs.

The Wicks signed up to receive the VIBRANT Essential package, which allows them to receive 25 mbps download speed and 5 mbps upload speed. That's plenty to use their computer, phones and stream TV channels.

Their service will be local and serviced by people they know and can get hold of easily.

"When I go on my computer and look at auctions now, I don't have to worry about how much time I have left, I can just look at what I want," Richard said.

"Our granddaughter said we can stream Hulu now, too. I can't wait to disconnect my Direct TV."

Installation in the city of Eden Valley highlights the popularity of VIBRANT Broadband in that area

Dan and Katie Richter of Eden Valley had wanted higher speeds than they were receiving from their current DSL provider but the company's top package just couldn't give the Richters what they needed. They approached the company every couple of years, but were put off with "someday" promises. When their daughter Shelby, age 9, started schooling at home, she had trouble with the school videos and other programs that she needed to do her schoolwork. There was significant lagging and sometimes videos would just stop.

So Dan asked a neighbor, who is on the city council, how he liked his VIBRANT Broadband.

"He told me that they love it and we should give it a try," Dan said. So he called Meeker Co-op and signed up.

"There's just a night and day difference," Dan said. "There's much less interruption. We can stream Hulu, Netflix, YouTube, Apple T.V. and Disney Plus with no lagging and the picture is so much better. Shelby has no trouble with her schoolwork now."

On top of that, the Richters were able to go from 25 mbps of DSL from their old provider, to 50 mbps of Fiber to the Home with VIBRANT Broadband for only \$10 more per month than what they were paying.


"Once our old provider saw that, we started getting offers from them for \$10 off per month," Dan said. "But there's no way. They wouldn't give us what we needed before. Plus, everyone with VIBRANT has been so good and easy to work with."



Katie, Shelby and Dan Richter are thrilled with the speed and consistency of VIBRANT.



Now Shelby has no trouble getting the resources she needs to complete her schoolwork.




Powered by Meeker Cooperative


Stop Suffering from Buffering. Start Dreaming of Streaming!

ESSENTIAL	STREAMING	ULTRA	EXTREME
<div>UP TO 25 MBPS DOWNLOADS Starting at \$59.95/mo</div>	<div>UP TO 50 MBPS DOWNLOADS Starting at \$69.95/mo</div>	<div>UP TO 75 MBPS DOWNLOADS Starting at \$74.95/mo</div>	<div>UP TO 100 MBPS DOWNLOADS Starting at \$79.95/mo</div>

Packages also available for Small Office/ Home Office and Business. Call us or visit our website for information. 320-693-3231 • VIBRANTBROADBAND.COM



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MAIL IT,
AND WE'LL
CONTACT
You!



☐ **YES!** I want to know more about **VIBRANT Broadband** high-speed Internet for my home or business.

Name

Address

Property Address

City

Best Way To Contact Me ☐ Phone

Check all that apply

☐ Text

☐ Email

By giving us your phone number or email, you agree to allow us to contact you. We NEVER give out your information to third parties. See our Privacy Policy on our website.

Best Time to Call: ☐ Weekday AM ☐ Weekday PM/Evening ☐ Weekend ☐ Other

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Page 4 • Meeker Pioneer • www.meeker.coop

Bits & BYTES

Answers to your technical questions

A "bit" is a measurable unit of data. A "byte" is 8 bits. When referring to speed of data transfer, it is usually referred to as mbps (mega bits per second) which refers to 1 million bits per second.

What is the difference between Fiber-to-the-Home and Fixed Wireless?

VIBRANT Broadband has two types of services available: Fixed Wireless (FW) and Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH). The service that is selected depends on an evaluation of the premise's location in relation to infrastructure.

A FTTH service directs service through a fiber optic cable trenched directly from the fiber backbone to the premise. The only visible sign of service is where the cable enters the home (usually in the same vicinity as the phone line or other utility line). This type of service is only possible where the premise is located near a main fiber optic "backbone" cable and a junction box. If the premise is within the required distance for standard installation (800 feet) — or the premise owner is willing to pay extra for additional distance, a FTTH service is available. Costs of installation will vary based on distance and other factors. All of these costs will be made available well before installation so there are no surprises. Costs can be rolled into payments over a period of time (see vibrantbroadband.com/installations for more details).

A FW service is more widely available. This service depends on a receiver installed on or near the home that receives signals from one of our 49 120-foot fiber optic supported poles erected throughout Meeker Cooperative's service territory. A bucket truck or drone site evaluation will determine whether a signal could be reached from one of the towers. The towers are erected within six miles of

each other to provide excellent coverage and usually will provide "line-of-sight" for service. The only drawback is trees.

Some locations have so many large trees that a line of sight is not possible to provide a standard installation. In that case, it will be necessary to do a non-standard installation.



Photo 1

FW Standard Installation: Photo-1 shows a standard installation on a rooftop. The receiver is tilted toward the closest pole to receive signal. Standard installations are free.



Photo 2

FW Non-Standard Installation: If trees are too high for a standard FW installation, a tri-pod on the roof (see photo-2) could be used to raise the receiver high enough. If that's still not high enough, a pole (existing or newly installed) can be used. The technician will point the receiver toward the nearest pole to give good, strong signal. We have

found that even during storms, these FW signals remain steady and strong.



Photo 3

A non-standard installation may cost the premise owner who chooses not to sign a contract. Or, the installation may be free with a three-year contract. Those costs will be gone over with the homeowner in advance of any work

done, so there will be no surprises. Costs can be rolled into monthly payments over a period of time (see vibrantbroadband.com/installations for details). Location # 28-26-406

During installation, a technician will be on-site to ensure that the service cable entering the home is properly connected and will connect and test up to 5 of your devices (computer, T.V.s, phones, etc.) to make sure they are connected to the WiFi. If there are any glitches you find after installation, technicians will return to make any minor adjustments needed to ensure you are satisfied. We are committed to excellent and responsive customer service.

For more information and to see the costs involved, please go to: www.vibrantbroadband.com. Click on Residential, then Installation Costs. To speak with a VIBRANT representative, call 320-693-3231.

Do you have a technical question? Send it to rsorenson@meeker.coop and it may be featured in an upcoming Bits & Bytes!

If you're tired of slow Internet or you're suffering from buffering, it's time to consider **VIBRANT Broadband**.

- Speeds starting at 25Mbps
- Prices starting at \$59.95/mo
- Free installation option

VIBRANT Broadband™

Powered by *your* Electric Cooperative

Sign up today!

320-693-3231 • VIBRANTBROADBAND.COM/SIGNUP

Dreaming of Streaming

VIBRANT Broadband allows you to “cut the cable” or “ditch the dish”



In this day and age, we have more entertainment than we have waking hours in the day and it's not slowing down by any means. "Streaming" allows us to take control of our entertainment and watch the shows we love when we have the time. This frees up our schedules and lets us get on with life without the nagging feeling that we're missing our favorite shows.

What is Streaming?

When the Internet as we know it was new, watching a video entailed first downloading it. You could begin watching the video while it was downloading, but it was a slow way to watch a video. As technology got better, so did video delivery. Now with high-speed Internet access and faster servers and devices, video can be delivered nearly the same time it is being watched. This is essentially what streaming is. If you've ever watched a YouTube or Facebook video, you've streamed. When we talk about streaming, we are talking about the ability to watch television shows and movies (basically video) on demand and through your television, smartphone or tablet. These "videos" are stored elsewhere and you don't have to download them to watch them. They are "streamed" from the provider, such as YouTube, to your device.

What it Takes to Stream

The most important part of being able to stream is your Internet connection. It must be reliable, consistent and fast enough to avoid buffering or dropping video. It takes bandwidth to stream. Imagine a water pipe that delivers water to your home. It delivers so much pressure in order for water to flow. If you turn on one faucet (start a stream) the pressure is able to keep up and deliver that water without slowing down. Now open up two or three faucets at the same time. If you don't increase your pressure, each faucet will deliver lower amounts of water at a slower speed. Open enough faucets, and some faucets may not get much water at all. So, having an excellent Internet connection is first and foremost.

VIBRANT Broadband is an excellent service for high-quality streaming enjoyment because of its fiber-optic connection to the World Wide Web. A minimum service of 25 mbps (megabits per second) download speed is essential for smooth streaming with no buffering. The more devices you are using to stream with, or the larger the video resolution, the greater the mbps you will need. VIBRANT Broadband

offers packages from 25 mbps all the way to 100 mbps for clear, smooth and uninterrupted streaming of your favorite shows and movies.

Next, you will then need a home wi-fi router. If you have VIBRANT Broadband, a router was included with your service. This allows you to connect your Smart TV or streaming device to your internet connection.

Of course you'll need a television. This can be an older television or a new Smart TV with wi-fi and streaming capability built in. If you don't have a Smart TV, it has to be new enough to be equipped with an HDMI port. This is how you would connect a streaming device to your television.

If you don't have a Smart TV, you will need a streaming device such as a Roku or Amazon FireTV, for example. These plug into your T.V. through the HDMI port.

The last thing you'll need is an app. This is downloaded to your Smart TV or streaming device. There are paid apps like Netflix, Disney+, HBO Now, Amazon Prime, Hulu, and more. Some are free like CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX, YouTube, Crackle, and others. Some have both free content and paid content for premium shows. Finally, some offer streaming of Live Television and even local channels (see list, right).

Advantages to Streaming

Streaming is often less costly than traditional cable or satellite services depending on which apps you subscribe to. An estimated 1.8 million households have already dropped their cable and satellite services since the beginning of 2020. Some people who have switched to streaming are reporting a monthly savings of \$45 or more. That's over \$500 savings per year on television entertainment alone!

Chances are you've been streaming content in some form or another already. You can take it to the next level by upgrading your Internet service to VIBRANT Broadband. VIBRANT doesn't limit your data connection or throttle your bandwidth. You'll be able to stream all you want. Streaming has a small learning curve, but it's simple and easy to use once you learn how it works. You'll be able to enjoy your newfound freedom and may even save money if you choose to "cut the cable" or "ditch the dish".

Streaming Options with T.V. Channels

Here are some popular streaming services that include Live TV. Some include local broadcasts while others don't. If you would like a great comparison between some of these, visit <https://thestreamable.com/channels>

Hulu with Live TV

Starting at \$55/mo
65+ Channels
Local broadcasts
50 hours of DVR



YouTubeTV

Starting at \$50/mo
70+ channels
Local broadcasts
Unlimited DVR



Philo

Starting at \$20/mo
59 channels
No local broadcasts*
Limited DVR



Fubo TV

Starting at \$55/mo
85+ channels
Limited local broadcasts (no ABC)*
30 hours of DVR



Sling TV

Starting at \$30/mo
50+ channels
No local broadcasts*
10 hours of DVR



AT&T TV Now

Starting at \$55/mo
45+ Channels
Local broadcasts
DVR depends on package



Pluto TV

Free
250+ channels
No local broadcasts*
No DVR



Another option:

*By law, local broadcasting stations must broadcast their networks over the air. You can receive these signals for free by hooking up a digital antenna receiver to your television. Going this route allows you to purchase a cheaper streaming package that doesn't include live local channels, yet gives you the ability to still get the local news and sports that are already being broadcast. For example, if you're paying for a satellite service and it's costing you \$150 per month, you could get VIBRANT Broadband for \$59.95 per month, subscribe to a streaming service like Philo for \$20 per month, and get local channels for free through a digital antenna. You would have access to the world and be able to get as much entertainment as you like for half the amount you're already spending. Location #08-04-114



2020 Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust \$1,000 Scholarship Winners

ACGC Senior High School	Mia Eisenbacher
.....	Nicole Whitcomb
Dassel-Cokato High School	Cole Evjen
.....	Noah Williams
Eden Valley-Watkins High School.....	Taylor Haines
.....	Cory Zimmerman
Hutchinson High School	Travis Kruse
.....	Nikki Schlueter
Kimball Area High School	Cailyn Kuechle
.....	Bailee Schiefelbein
Litchfield Senior High School	Megan Nelson
.....	Cecilia Toenjes
Paynesville High School.....	Allie Kalkbrenner
.....	Caden Spanier
BOLD High School.....	No eligible student



Word of Mouth is the BEST Advertisement Are you VIBRANT yet?

“Vibrant is going well. It’s just what we needed, plenty of speed!”
Jonathan L., Fixed Wireless Subscriber

“We are very pleased with our service. Your staff were extremely kind and helpful!”
Jolene Z., Fixed Wireless Subscriber

“We have a daughter that is working towards her Bachelor’s degree online and I have been working from home as well. So far so good!”
Michelle J., Fiber to the Home Subscriber

Do you have past Capital Credits coming to you?

If you have ever received power from Meeker Cooperative, you may be entitled to receive past Capital Credits. To check to see if your name is on our list of past members, go to: www.meeker.coop, choose “About Us” from the list of options across the top of the home page, then click on “Capital Credits.” You will find a blue link called “Unclaimed Capital Credits.” Click on that link and you can download the PDF of the complete list. Or you may call our office to have a list sent to you by email.

If your name is on the list, or if you recognize someone else’s name on the list, please contact Alicia at 320-693-3231.

After seven years of unsuccessful attempts to locate members with outstanding Capital Credit balances, the State of Minnesota allows the Co-op to donate these funds to the Operation Round Up program to use for educational purposes.

Your July bill may be higher

With the beginning of Meeker Cooperative’s summer rate of 12.3¢ per kilowatt hour June 1, the energy you used in June will be at this higher rate. This may result in a slightly higher bill in July. Beginning September 1, the rate will return to the fall/winter rate of 10.3¢/kWh.

If you are on an Energy Management program, your summer rate for your heating/cooling will be 6.2¢/kWh in the summer and 5.7¢/kWh the remaining months. For information on how to receive the low Energy Management electric rate, contact us at 320-693-3231.

“Patriotic” Berry Fruit Pizza

Donna Bauer of Paynesville submitted this month’s winning recipe for **Berry Fruit Pizza** (Favorite Berry Recipe). She will have \$10 credited to her account. Congratulations!

Berry Fruit Pizza (Looks patriotic for July 4 picnics!)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 cups flour | 4-oz. pkg. instant vanilla pudding |
| 2 Tbsp. sugar | 1 pint blackberries |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 pint raspberries |
| 2/3 cup canola oil | 1 pint blueberries |
| 2 cups plus 2 Tbsp. milk-divided | 1 pint strawberries |

Preheat oven to 400°. Combine flour, sugar & salt in large bowl. In smaller bowl, whisk the oil & 2 Tbsp. milk. Pour into flour mixture. Using a fork, mix until moistened. Press into a 12-inch pizza pan., Prick edges and bottom of crust with a fork and bake 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool. In medium bowl, whisk the pudding mix & milk until thick. Spread over cooled crust. Start with center of pan and make a circle with the blackberries, then raspberries, then blueberries. Cut strawberries in half and lay around the blueberries with points of strawberries pointing to edge of pan. Put blueberries or blackberries in between points of strawberries. Cool 1-1/2 hours before serving. Yummy and looks patriotic!

For July submit your favorite Recipe using Jell-O to:
Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,
1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355



Need a new central air conditioning unit? An Air Source Heat Pump is your most economical choice. It will both cool your home in the summer and provide supplemental heat in the winter, all at efficiencies up to 300%!

FOR A LIMITED TIME: Rebates up to \$1,200 when you put your ASHP on Energy Management and you receive our low electric rate!

COOL or HOT, you won't want to miss this deal! Call 320-693-3231

Take a few minutes to update your data for our files.

We have been communicating with our members via email and phone recently. However, many of our members don't have valid email addresses or their land lines have been disconnected. This leaves us having to communicate with those members by snail mail. If you want to be updated in the quickest way possible, please complete the form below and mail it in and we will update your data. Thank you so much for your help.

Name _____

Acct. # _____

Email _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone _____

Please mail to:

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assn.
1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

Or email your updates to rsorenson@meeker.coop

Pioneer Ads — Free want ad service for members. Please limit your ad to nine words, one word per line. One phone number please. Use the coupon below or pick one up in our office. Ads will be printed for one month only. Submit again for addtl. months. Three ads per member per month limit. Include your name/address, which will be used for identification purposes. Ads received by **June 30** will be included in the July issue.

Please run this ad in the next Pioneer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355 Attn: Becky Sorenson or email rsorenson@meeker.coop

Please check ad category

____ For Sale, Misc.

____ Agricultural

____ Automotive

____ Wanted

____ Giveaway

____ Services

- For Sale - Miscellaneous
- Maytag commercial tech. washer, 2 yrs old, still under warranty. \$350. 320-583-7103.
 - Rototiller, 5hp, runs good. \$65. 320-275-3196.
 - New crib mattress; must sell, taking up space. \$150. 320-693-7197.

Find your location number

Four location numbers have been hidden within this **Pioneer**. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by June 30, you will have \$10 credited to your account! If you find your number and your information is correct in our system, you'll receive a bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar panel. Good luck!

- Weers 11-ft. pontoon paddle boat w/canopy. \$600. 612-275-1683.
- Carhart jacket, insul. bibs & pants. Gd. to exc. cond. \$15-\$70. 320-275-0120.
- 1982 Honda motorcycle, 500cc, clean, low mi. \$1,200. 320-292-6628.
- Location #11-03-121
- 2016 Sprinter 5th wheel, 30-ft, exc./clean cond. 320-275-4254.
- Milwaukee 1/2" cordless M18 impact & hammer drill/driver kit. \$100. 320-420-2649.

- Air conditioner; 12,000 BTUs, very gd. cond. \$100. 320-492-8050.
- Membership private resort campground. Will sell for reduced price. 507-359-4375.
- Fishing boat, 14-ft. w/trailer, anchor, oars. \$300. 320-275-4170.
- Yard Machine riding lawnmower, 46" deck. \$200. 320-310-1963.
- Medium & large dog carriers, like new, by Star Lake. 641-860-1630.
- Greenhead Gear weighted keel Mallard decoys, by Star Lake. 641-860-1630.
- Sunbeam Mixmaster stand mixer, exc. cond., complete. \$50. 320-295-8125.
- Commercial Strongway remote wench 750/150 lbs., Like new! \$150. 320-583-5384.
- Tracker Pro V16 w/50hp Mercury. Gd. cond. Low hrs. 320-293-5555.
- Solid cement & cinder blocks, cement fence, wire/clips. Make offer. 320-293-5435.
- Hewitt 2400# alum. lift w/canopy & wheels. \$3,300. 507-276-6418.
- 20-ft. Weeres pontoon, 45hp Evinrude, uphols. gd. \$4,000/obo. 320-249-7144.
- 20-ft. Pontoon lift w/cover, 8'6" wide. \$4,000/obo. 320-249-7144.

- Pelican 4-person paddle boat. \$100. 320-249-7144.
- 2014 Harley Heritage, 19,300 mi., Morocco gold pearl. Lk. new. \$11,500. 320-241-8722.
- New and used split rail fence. 320-693-7538.
- Gas grill w/tank. \$30. 320-593-5794.
- 1997 20-ft. Weeres pontoon w/trailer & 60hp Mercury. 612-518-6909.
- Industrial racking 18'x13'x3', \$275; 10'x9'x3-1/2', \$175. 320-485-4408.
- Must sell large lighted curio 12 Dickens Village pieces/access. 320-221-6180.
- Canning jars. 10¢ each. 320-275-3413.

- For Sale - Automotive
- 2014 Harley Heritage, 19,300 mi., Morocco gold pearl. Lk. new. \$11,500. 320-241-8722.

- For Sale - Agricultural
- Ford 800 tractor w/loader & blade. \$2,500. 320-455-7317.
 - 1936 Twin City MM tractor, restored, strong runner. \$2,350. 320-276-8575.

- Wanted
- John Deere snowmobiles and new/old stock parts. 612-685-0731.
 - Jonsered chainsaws for parts, size 820, 920, 1020. 320-275-4217.
 - Good quality dressers, clean bedroom sets, couches, recliners. 320-221-7708.
 - Older horse or livestock trailer. 320-221-5671.

- Give Away
- Frameless wall mirrors w/mount. Hrdw: 74 x42"; 45x36"; 30x40". 612-840-1619.

- Services
- Welding, fabrication, stainless, alum. Shop on site. 320-290-5950.
 - Location #05-32-323
 - Lawn care: resid., comm., cabins, mowing, cutting edge. 320-828-6057.
 - Painting/staining: resid., interior/exterior. Free estimate. 320-583-1165.