



# NorVal

## NEWS

February 2021

**YOU are our eyes and ears!**

January's mild weather, coupled with the extreme wind storm, was one for the record books. As our crews worked around-the-clock to make the necessary repairs to restore power, the office staff began to compile a list of smaller concerns for the crew to address once the dust settled.

You may have seen our request for information before, either in our newsletter, or via social media on our Facebook page. Because it is nearly impossible for our crews to travel each mile of line we serve, we rely heavily upon the information from our members to help us find, diagnose, and identify problems. But, what exactly *is* a problem you might encounter? Here is a short list of examples we are looking to hear about:

### 1. Broken Poles

Broken, split or cracked poles pose a risk because the structural integrity of the pole. Each power pole is designed to withstand the weight of the line placed on top of it, as well as any equipment (like transformers) or hardware, like cross arms, that may be installed on it. When a pole is broken, like the one to the left, it is highly concerning and could pose a threat to people or animals nearby.



### 2. Broken Cross Arms

Cross arms are the "T" portion of the high capacity transmission and distribution lines. These are essential to keep the power lines suspended in air, away from each other, to prevent electricity from becoming grounded (and electrifying the ground beneath the pole).



### 3. Floater


Insulators can be found on every pole throughout the NorVal Electric system. These essential devices prevent electricity from traveling down the pole to the ground, electrifying the ground, and putting lives at risk. If you see one "floating" give us a call!



### 4. Debris

High winds have caused random objects to blow into the power line. One of our observant members in Frazer called in to report the plastic sheet wrapped in the line to the right, preventing an outage, or worse, a fire!



If you happen to come across one of these examples while you are driving along a highway or gravel road please call the office right away to report the damage. Our crews and office staff are extremely grateful for the observant members who keep an eye to the sky! Your assistance in finding these problems not only could lessen or prevent outages, but could also save lives! 

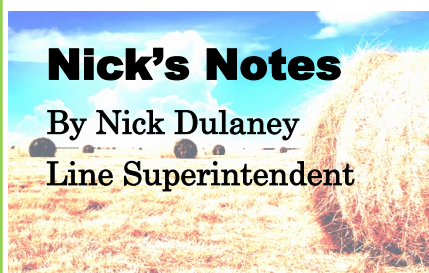
**In Observance of**



**our office will be CLOSED**  
**February 15, 2021**

## Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney  
Line Superintendent




outdoor projects.

The crews have been working on single phase retirements of abandoned services, as well as requested service upgrades. They

The milder weather in December and January made it possible for the line crews to do a lot of projects, where in normal years they would be finishing indoor projects, the weather has been conducive to numerous

will be starting to work on the Montana Highway 13 line move, as requested by the MT Department of Transportation near the Benrud Substation, south of Scobey.

The crews are also working on line conversion from a three phase to a single phase line, as the need for multi-phase power was longer needed. The line conversion is in the Hinsdale and North Glasgow areas.

Finally, we are working on tree trimming and right-of-way clearing. This process is necessary to reduce chances for fires, blinking lights and outage times due to vegetation in the line. If you notice trees that have grown near the power lines, please call the office to report so we can get it added to our list. 



## Recipe of the Month

### Spicy Orange Zest Beef

#### Ingredients

- 1 lb. beef tenderloin, cut into 1/2 in. strips
- 1/4 c. orange juice
- 1/4 c. seasoned rice vinegar
- 2 tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 tbsp. hot chili paste
- 1 tbsp. brown sugar
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 c. water
- 1 tsp. cornstarch
- 2 tbsp. grated orange zest
- 1 bunch green onions, sliced

#### Directions

Combine beef, orange juice, rice vinegar, soy sauce, chili paste, brown sugar and garlic in a large bowl. Cover and refrigerate 1-2 hours. Strain beef in a colander and set over a large bowl, allowing beef to drain thoroughly. Reserve marinade. Stir water and cornstarch into bowl of marinade. Whisk until cornstarch is dissolved. Set aside. Spray skillet with cooking spray and place over high heat. Cook beef 1 minute without stirring; cook and stir for an additional minute. Stir in marinade and green onion tops; cook and stir until beef is no longer pink inside and sauce is reduced and thick, about 2-3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste.



### Remembering Harold Dean Blount

The cooperative mourns the loss of Harold Dean Blount, former Valley Electric Cooperative Director. Dean possessed a strength of character and passion for his community which was unparalleled and his loss will be felt by all who were blessed to have known him.

Retired NorVal employee and long-time friend of Dean, Rick Kinzell, wrote the following poem in his honor. It is our pleasure to share this with you, with permission.

#### Ode to Harold Dean Blount (Canunpa Wakan)

Our hearts are broken with the loss of Dean.  
He was a fearless warrior for his Family, Tribe, and Team!  
The Covid took him, but not without a brave fight.  
And yes, we will miss him as he goes to the light,  
To join the Great Spirit without pain nor plight.  
Dean's pleasant ways and smiling face are a pleasure to recall.  
He had a kind word for everyone and died loved by all.  
Silently we grieve and brush away the tears.  
The memories he left behind will last throughout our years.  
Within our treasured thoughts there will always be,  
The image of Dean working to help his Frazer Community.

Rest In Peace My Friend

By Rick Kinzell



Dean, shown in center.

### HISTORY CORNER



Leo Murr and Bill Franzen stringing wire.  
Circa 1962.

### Utilize Contactless Payment Options

Our doors are still closed to the public. But, we offer a variety of contactless payment options for your safety. There is a payment drop box receptacle on the south side of our office building. You can also use SmartHub's convenient app to make payments electronically! We can't wait for the day we can open the doors and see your smiling faces again. Until that day we are taking every precaution to ensure the safety of our members and our staff.



#### Connect With Us

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- This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

#### NorVal Electric Cooperative Directors

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District 5	Kurt Breigenzer <b>S/T</b>	228-9465
District 6	Ron Reddig <b>President</b>	392-5257
District 7	Rocky Kittleson	367-5366
District 7	Gary Meyer	526-3600

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

