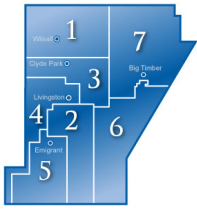


# PARK SPARKS

Park Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

July 2017



## District 7

includes services in the Springdale area, as well as the surrounding areas of Big Timber to approximately two

miles south of Big Timber. The district has 545 meters and while not serving Melville proper it does serve most of the ranches and homes in the vicinity.

Melville was established in 1877 by people of Norwegian decent and named after famed Rear Admiral George Melville, the arctic explorer. In its heyday, Melville was a thriving community with a flour mill, cheese factory, hotel, a handful of saloons, two stores, and a pharmacy. The Post Office was established in 1885 and remains in operation today, taking up a small corner of Bill's Place Diner. The local school, in addition to lessons, was utilized for

church services and other community functions. In 1914 the iconic Melville Lutheran Church was built.



Today this is the oldest Lutheran church in Montana and one of the last remaining original structures in this beautiful little town.

Perry Anderson is the Trustee for District 7. He and his family live on their family homestead, the Billy Creek Ranch which has existed since the 1800s. They have been on Park Electric lines since 1948. Perry is a Gold Credentialed Trustee, an honor bestowed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for his commitment to the cooperative by attending numerous professional electric cooperative education courses. He is very involved in the board and his best wish for the Cooperative going forward is for it to stay strong and viable within the changing electrical industry.

## Know what's below. Call 811 before you dig.

For your information:  
When you call 811, the locate will only mark the utility's line to the meter.

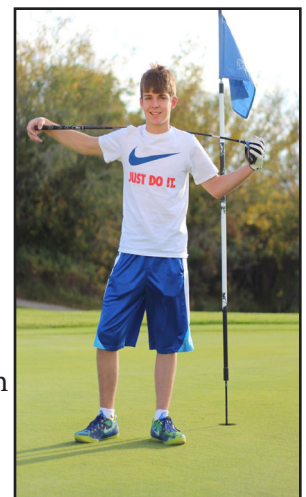
Underground lines beyond the meter or service entrance belong to the property owner and are that person's responsibility to locate.

Private locators are available to provide this service for a fee.

A list of private locators can be found at: [www.montana811.org](http://www.montana811.org)

## Congratulations Bronson Myrstol

Mr. Myrstol is the winner of the 2017 Basin/Park Electric Scholarship. Bronson was born and raised in Clyde Park, Montana. He is a 2016 graduate of Shields Valley High School and is currently attending Montana State University-Bozeman. Bronson is studying pre-med and finance and plans to attend medical school and become a physician. His ultimate goal is to return to the Shields Valley and starting a family of his own with a very special woman. In his spare time Bronson enjoys golfing, pickup basketball, working out and hanging out with friends.



## Manager's Comments

By Tim Stephens

On the evening of May 18th, a devastating Spring storm hit the Park Electric community. At the beginning of the storm, over 25% of our system was without power. Of our ten substations, we lost full power to four, 75% power to a fifth, and partial power to two others.

The absence of wind that evening allowed wet, heavy snow to accumulate on the lines and trees. We lost several poles on the north circuit out of our Livingston substation due to snow load alone. The wet conditions also hampered our ability to get around in the low-lying area near Convict Grade Road NE of Livingston, making pole replacement slow and difficult. Lines not impacted by fallen trees and branches were taken down by the sheer weight of the snow. Every line had to be examined from beginning to end before attempts to re-energize.

As some of you already know, areas of our system received over two feet of snow that night, which made walking the lines to inspect very difficult for the guys. The damage from this storm took over two weeks to repair. In fact, as I was writing this article, a crew was still working to replace the river crossing near Carter's Bridge and one pole on Convict

Grade had yet to be reset.

Our guys slogged through the mess with very little sleep during the nearly 48-hour ordeal. Office personnel stayed busy with high volume phone calls and walk-ins; running food and necessities to the line crews; rounding up material and more help; and constantly monitoring system data.

Cooperation among cooperatives is an amazing thing. We tried getting help from Beartooth Electric in Red Lodge, but they had storm problems of their own. All it took was one more call, this time to Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative in Huntley, and we almost doubled our crew size. They sent as many guys and trucks as they could spare to help get your power restored. Because of their assistance, restoration time was reduced by almost half.

I'd like to extend a huge "THANK YOU" to the folks at Yellowstone Valley that did such a great job for us. We really appreciate the help and are ready to return the favor. Hopefully you will never need it, but you can count on us if you do.

We weren't the only ones struggling. As you would expect, the local investor owned utility also had

problems. In areas where we shared poles, their wires came down on top of ours, creating a very unusual set of problems. Information was conveyed to affected members as accurately as possible, and for the most part, those impacted by the widespread outage were understanding.

Of course, occasionally things didn't go the way they were supposed to. We didn't get the west half of the Wineglass Subdivision on when we thought we would. We didn't get one of the lines out of our Pine Creek Substation on as quickly as we thought. At the same time, Mill Creek and the Boulder came on more quickly than we figured.

I want to thank you, our members, who were so patient and understanding with us; the inside staff of Park Electric for dealing with a barrage of phone calls; our dispatch center for handling after hours calls so our linemen could get a few hours of sleep; the Yellowstone Valley crews who lent their assistance; and especially the Park Electric line crew for digging deep when it mattered. I'm proud of how everyone pitched in to make the 2017 Spring Storm as painless as possible. Great job everyone!

**The Park Electric office will be closed Tuesday, July 4th in celebration of Independence Day.**

