



District 5

encompasses those services located in the upper Paradise Valley, roughly from the Pray area south to Tom Miner Creek Rd. The Chico and Dailey substations

operate within this district and provide power to 633 members and 1015 meters. Those members include the residents of Emigrant and Pray as well as Chico Hot Springs Resort, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, owners of vacation properties and the farmers, ranchers and irrigators who remain the back bone of our rural electric cooperative.

Nestled between the Absaroka and Gallatin ranges, this part of the Paradise Valley is an amazing gateway to Yellowstone National Park. The Yellowstone River winds its way north through the valley and provides world class fishing and floating for locals and visitors alike.



This district is also home to Dailey Lake and many unique hunting and hiking opportunities.

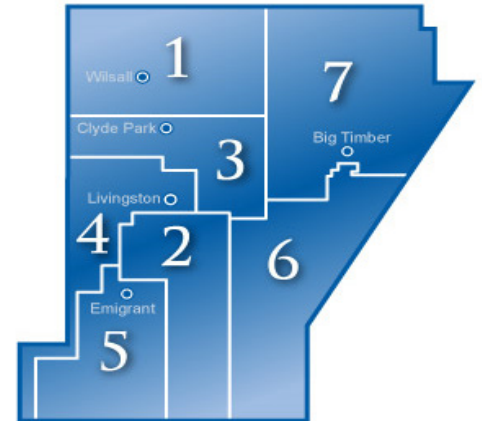
The valley has a rich history filled with mining, trains and cattle. Miners came to the area for gold and silver and discovered



the hot springs at Chico in the 1860's.

Cattle first arrived in the area with the miners, but the cattle business became more prevalent in the 1860's with the arrival of the Story herd from Texas. Many people in the area still remember the train service from Livingston to the Gardiner area which ran from the 1880's to the mid 1950's. Electricity has been flowing to the Paradise Valley since the early 1940's.

The Trustee for District 5 is Bert Otis. Bert and his family have been in the Emigrant area for over 30 years. Many of you know him as the manager/owner of the Emigrant General Store. He has served on the Park Electric board since 2005 and is actively involved in his community. He and his family run the Emigrant store as well as the Paradise Mercantile, Yellowstone Laundry and the J&J car wash. They also have a ranch where they raise beef cattle and various other animals. Bert feels very lucky to live in Montana and is proud to serve the Coop. When asked what his vision for the future of Park Electric was, Bert replied that he would like the Coop to be able to "continue to provide reliable, low cost power to its members."



Manager's Comments

By Tim Stephens

I like numbers so it's Park Electric trivia time. Here are some statistics as of the end of 2016. We provided power for an average of 5,420 residential services during the year. The total usage for those services was 70,594,211 kilowatt-hours (kWh). Another 8,805,505 kWh were used by the 321 irrigation services and 8,008,225 by our commercial accounts. Our industrial rate class contributed another 79,873,165 kWh of sales. The combined total kWh sold was 167,281,106 which generated \$14,151,114 in revenue. Our peak demand for the year was in the month of December at 34,469 kilowatts.

At the end of 2016 we had 1,597.84 miles of power line. The breakdown is about 870 miles of overhead distribution line (less than 50,000 volts). That's about a mile less than in 2015. We ended the year with nearly 684 miles of underground distribution line compared to 672 a year ago. Our miles of transmission line (50,000 volts and higher)

remained the same at a little over 41. Those lines are spread over parts of Gallatin, Park, Meagher and Sweet Grass Counties. This is an average of 3.65 meters per mile of line. We installed 99 new services during the year. That's more than we have installed since 2008. Last spring we added one person to the staff bringing the number of employees to 17. All 17 of us are full time employees that take care of almost everything the coop needs to function efficiently. We contract out a few specialized things, but not much.

By the way, last month I told you December set a new record for residential sales. The total residential kilowatt-hours delivered was 9,482,188. January eclipsed that mark with 9,924,053. That's a bunch! Obviously it has been a very cold winter and most of us have seen it in our Park Electric bills. I'm not complaining about my bill but I am ready for warmer weather.

"Sparking Conversations"

Would you like to learn more about your Cooperative?

Park Electric would like to visit with you and address your questions and concerns.

General Manager, Tim Stephens and District 1 Trustee, Alan Johnstone

will be at

**VAL'S
Friday, March 10th at 9:00 am**

Join us for a cup of coffee and conversation with our Shields Valley members.

We hope to see you there!

We will be scheduling more "Sparking Conversations" over the next several months. Watch for one in your area!

Congratulations to Madison Devoto!



She was selected as the Park Electric representative for the 2017 Youth Tour to Washington, DC! Madison is a home schooled Junior whose family lives in the Shields Valley. She is a 5th generation Montanan and loves to play soccer and spend time outdoors (especially with her pet pig Olivia). She is looking forward to the trip and learning more about our nation's capital.

Thank you to everyone who applied!