

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

WATTS *Current*

For Our Customers • March 2003

YOU ASKED, WE ANSWERED

New Long Distance Service Now Available

Last October, MVEC conducted a random survey and asked members what programs and services they would like the Cooperative to offer. One question specifically asked if there was an interest in long distance service. A second question asked whether the Cooperative should offer long distance service. The results indicated an interest in affordable long distance. Over 48% of our members expressed some or a lot of interest and a strong 46% thought we should offer it.

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative and TransWorld Network Long Distance are working together to provide affordable long distance service.

- NO MONTHLY MINIMUM
- 6.9¢ Per Minute State-to-State Calls
- 8.9¢ Per Minute In-State Calls
- 8.9¢ Per Minute for Personal 800 number
- 12¢ Per Minute Calling Card

How much are you paying for long-distance today? Pull out your last long distance bill and do the math. Be sure to factor in the additional monthly charge you pay now. How does it compare?

Call toll-free 1-877-671-4004 and sign up today.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Will my long-distance bill be added to my electric bill?
No. You will receive a **separate** bill from TransWorld Network and your bill should be paid directly to them.
- Can my friends and family sign up, even if they are not members of the Cooperative?
Yes. Because the service is paid for by those who use it. Simply give them the toll-free number to call (1-877-671-4004).
- Will it cost me to switch from my current long-distance provider?
Maybe. If you are charged for the switch, simply enclose a copy of the charge with your first payment to TransWorld Network and they will issue you a credit.

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WHY IS MY BILL SO HIGH?

We encourage all members to call us whenever they have questions. But it seems this month many of the questions have centered around high bills. Our rates have not changed. You tell us your usage hasn't changed either. So what's wrong?

Many times, members don't understand our billing process and the 'Read and Return' system. Each month we ask you to read your meter and send the reading to us for bill calculation purposes. If you read your meter on January 15th and again on February 15th, the billing you receive in March will reflect a 31-day period. Then if you don't find time to read your meter again until March 31st, your April bill will be for 44 days. This is 13 more days, or almost a half-month of more usage on your bill. Then if you read your meter the next month on the 15th, again, your bill will lessen to only 15 days.

This fluctuation, especially if it is combined with colder or warmer weather, or other changes such as engine or tank heaters, can often raise questions. The best advice we can offer is to pick a day and read your meter that same day each month. You will be surprised how close your bills will be from month to month provided your lifestyle habits remain consistent, too.

If you have additional questions about your bill, we are happy to meet with you to personally review your electrical usage. We can also provide a free energy audit or offer tips on ways you can save energy and lower your bills. We are your Cooperative and we are putting our energy to work for you.

ENERGY SAVER QUICK TIP

Cut Loads of Energy While Doing Laundry

It's easy to cut your energy costs for laundry. About 80-85% of the energy used for washing clothes is used to heat the water. You can reduce this cost by using less water by washing full loads and using cooler water and cold-water detergents - switching the temperature setting from hot to warm cuts a load's energy use in half. You can reduce drying costs as well: clean the lint filter after every load to improve air circulation, and don't over-dry clothes. Use the cool-down cycle to allow clothes to finish drying with residual heat. Also, periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it's not blocked. If you are in the market for a new washer, look for the ENERGY STAR logo and read Energy Guide labels.

For more tips on saving energy at home, visit <http://www.energysavers.gov/>.

WATTS THE ANSWER?

What is the new service we are announcing this month?

List one thing you can do to save energy while doing laundry?

What did KWVL recently install at Cascade Middle School?

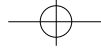
Mail your answers in with your energy bill or email them to pmanuel@mvec.com

Two winners will each receive a \$10.00 credit on their energy bill.

Name:

Address:





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COOPERATIVE TEAMS UP WITH KWWL

New WeatherNet Station Installed in Cascade

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative and KWWL introduced the new WeatherNet system to students, parents and staff at Cascade Jr.-Sr. High School on January 30th. KWWL featured the school live during their 5:00 and 10:00 News. KWWL filmed the crowd and interviewed school personnel and MVEC CEO, Jim Lauzon. According to Lauzon, "By furthering the education of our students, this project demonstrates one more way we are committed to our member's communities." As part of the scheduled live broadcast, MVEC and our power supplier, CIPCO, served pizza and pop to over 100 students.

KWWL WeatherNet is the largest, live local weather network in Eastern Iowa. WeatherNet provides current data such as wind chills, rainfall, temperature, dewpoints and more. The system will be valuable in teaching meteorology and biology. To view Cascade's live weather information, log on to www.chs.w-dubuque.k12.ia.us and click on 'Requested Information'. This is the second WeatherNet project Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative has sponsored. Last Spring we were at Drexler Elementary/Middle School in Farley as their system was launched.

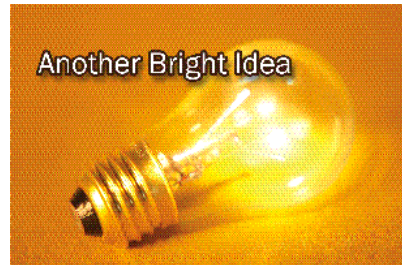


COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

The Iowa Utilities Board issued an order adopting a rule requiring electric cooperatives to inform members of an address and telephone number where a cooperative representative, qualified to assist in resolving a complaint, can be reached. If you have a complaint you can reach a representative by writing to:

Consumer Advocate
Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative
109 North Huber Street, P.O. Box 370
Anamosa, Iowa 52205-0370
Or telephone toll free 800-927-6068

If your complaint is related to Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative service rather than its rates and Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board, 350 Maple Street, Des Moines IA 50319-0069, Toll Free 877-565-4450 or E-mail: iubcustomer@max.state.ia.us.



From YOUR Electric Cooperative.

Now you can sign up for simple, inexpensive Long Distance service from Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative.

WITH OUR LONG DISTANCE PROGRAM YOU WILL RECEIVE:

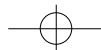
- * No monthly service charges or minimum fees. No cost to join.
- * **6.9¢** per minute for all calls state to state within the US.
- * **8.9¢** per minute for all calls within the state of Iowa.
- * Personal, no fee Toll Free number for **8.9¢** per minute.
- * Calling card benefits for just 12¢ per minute!
- * You don't have to be a current cooperative member to sign up!

Call to sign up and start saving today!



*Based on other utility charges per minute. US calling card rates. Service available in Iowa only. Call for details. © 2003 Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

Call **1-877-671-4004** to sign up





AND – WHAT DID YOU SAY THAT YOU COLLECT?

Grace Zimmerman, Anamosa

People collect all different kinds of things: thimbles, post cards, buttons, tea kettles, or ceramic frogs. But—would you believe riding lawn mowers? If you visit with Lavern and Patsy Goedken, they all have to be the same brand. It's the yellow International Harvester riding lawn mowers which catch Lavern's eye.

When I inquired as to how he got started, his answer was, "Don't know. Son-in-law talked me into it, I guess. We were at Little G's Lawn & Garden Tractor Collector's Club in Dyersville around five years ago. That started me. It's not an expensive hobby. It's fun to drive them in parades. This year we loaded the restored IH riding lawn mowers in the pick-up, unloaded and rode them in parades in Colesburg, Garnavillo and Dyersville."

Patsy Goedken informs me, "The Little G Collectors Club in Dyersville has really become a big event when they have their annual exposition during the first weekend in August. It's all lawnmowers! They come from 33 states, Canada, Alaska and all over. This year the Cubs outnumbered the

green Deere's. When it started out, it was mostly the green Deere lawn mowers."

I questioned Lavern about the color. To me, the IH tractors and machinery were red. But all of Lavern's Cub Cadets are yellow. He explained that's the color they were except for the International Cub Cadet 70 which he painted red and even added a farmer type mower sickle blade mounted on the side. As he drives this one out of the shed for me to see, Patsy tells me that he has even built a shed in which to put the lawnmowers away. This Model 70 is one of his special pride and joys because that's the first year IH numbered its garden tractors.

A photo of a lawn mower before restoration and one refurbished in

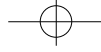
all its glory, parked right beside it, provides only a glimpse of the work necessary to make the completed transformation. In answer to my question as to how long it takes for restoration, Lavern replies, "It takes awhile. You piddle around with them. The biggest thing is to find parts. It has to be original. It can't be cobbled up or nothin'. Most parts we get pretty local. The one which is not yet restored came originally from Minnesota and I got it from the Lawn & Garden Expo in Dyersville. The Cub Cadet is easier to work on than a Deere. It's simpler made. I guess my favorite is the 1961 Cub International Cadet."

Patsy surprised me by adding, "I have one, a Model 73. We were driving up by Strawberry Point.

We didn't see it on the way going up but when we headed home, there it was, sitting in a yard. We drove in and bought it. It belonged to a guy in Arlington."

Lavern is justifiably proud of his collection and will have ten when they are all restored. Besides his hobby, he works at Lumber Specialties in Dyersville. Not only is Lavern deeply involved





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in restoring the cub cadets but Patsy also enjoys the parades and speaks with pride of Lavern's unique hobby. Patsy really keeps busy. She's worked at Mid-mart Truck in Holy Cross as cook and waitress for 15 years. When I look around at the wide expanse of mowed lawn, Patsy tells me, "We can't use our restored mowers to mow but we use regular mowers." She also adds a touch of beauty around the farmyard with the flower gardens

tucked here and there. Plus, she's involved in a quilt group and a craft group, both which meet regularly.

Thus, if you know of an IH Cub Cadet, just sitting around, waiting for someone to provide TLC to restore it to its original condition, call 563-870-3645. Or drive to the Goedken's, just east of Luxemburg on Highway 52 and then south on Kluesner Road where a huge black flower pot greets you at the entrance of 19347 Kluesner Road, Holy Cross, Iowa. It will be an interesting visit!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Senica Fisher



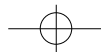
Senica joined the MVEC team in August, 2001 as an Apprentice Lineman. Senica lives in Anamosa and is a volunteer with the Anamosa Area Ambulance. In his free time, Senica enjoys the outdoors including hunting, fishing and camping.

Jim Waterman



Jim began employment with MVEC in August, 1999 and is currently a Journeyman Lineman. He recently purchased a home in Marion and works out of the Anamosa headquarters.

Jim enjoys spending time with friends, golfing, boating and other sports.





Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

Our Energy Working For

HELP US FIND YOUR FORMER NEIGHBORS

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, 109 N. Huber Street, Anamosa, Iowa 52205, has abandoned property that results from patronage dividend checks issued in 1999 and prior years for the following individuals. If this property is not claimed within six months from the date of this newsletter it will be forfeited to Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative according to Iowa law.

Aggrecon, Inc., Marietta, GA
 Allen, Mrs. Gary, Peosta
 Amore, Wesley, Shawnee Mission, KS
 Armstrong, Charles J., Olin
 Arnold, Richard C., Palatine, IL
 Bahnaman, Rick, Dubuque
 Bailey, Jim P., Cedar Rapids
 Bailey, Stephen C., Winnemucca, NV
 Barton, Paula, Maquoketa
 Bauer, Gary M., House Springs, MO
 Beavers, Michael L., Cedar Rapids
 Blake, Donn K., Atlanta, GA
 Bosworth, Brad T., Morrisville, NC
 Boyer, Lawrence A., Dubuque
 Brimeyer, Donald C., Dubuque
 Bromley, James L., Osage
 Brown, Robert A., Ames
 Bryant, Stanley D., Cedar Rapids
 Bunce, Douglas P., Center Junction
 Burkey, Mary, Monmouth
 Burns, Marguerite, Cedar Rapids
 Carlsen, Lavonne M., Fremont, CA
 Carr, Teresa, Cascade, MT
 Clark, Theron N., LaCrosse, WI
 Corey, Carole I., Dubuque
 Cowell, Russell D., New Hampton
 Credille, Bobby J., Baytown, TX
 Davis, Linda Lee, Dubuque
 Dawson, Carol A., Anamosa
 Dohlman, Leann K., Dumont
 Dyas, Sarah, Maquoketa
 Erps, Ralph, Charlotte
 Fryburger, Don E., Peosta
 G. H. Enterprises, Dubuque
 GTE Sprint, Houston, TX
 Gentz, Russel, Cedar Rapids
 Graham, Dixie, Maquoketa
 Hagen, Paul, Independence, KY
 Hamm, Linda, Dubuque
 Hand, Cathy J., APO, NY
 Harrison, Dr. Jerry D., Stockton, CA

Hatfield, Gerald, Davenport
 Heinz, Tom J., Freeport, IL
 Heldt, Ed, Bloomington, IL
 Hicks, Steven D., Dubuque
 Himes, Raymond W., Cedar Rapids
 Hollandbeck, David, Chesterfield, MO
 Howell, R. G., Wooddale, IL
 Hughes, Gene, LeClaire
 Hughes, Raymond L., Zwingle
 Hurtig, Kenneth, Baraboo, WI
 Hutton, Gerald, Cedar Rapids
 Jacobs, Thomas, Burlington
 Johnson, Deanna, Marathon
 Johnson, Richard L., Sr., Cedar Rapids
 Johnson, Wesley, Clinton
 Jones, Gloria E., Des Moines
 Kemp, Gerald A., Seattle, WA
 Knoll, Paul W., Monticello
 Kokemuller, Arnold W., Davenport
 Kortemeyer, Garnetta R., Waterloo
 Kramer, Lyle E., Cincinnati, OH
 Kress, Christopher, Dubuque
 Kucharik, Jan, Bellevue
 Kuhlmann, Byron J., Manchester
 Lange, Kenneth, Dubuque
 Lee, Ronald D., Cedar Rapids
 Leytem, Connie, Rockford, IL
 Logan, Viola M., Glenwood, IL
 Lorenz, John, Dubuque
 Mattingly, Garner, DeWitt
 Mausser, William G., Epworth
 McDermott, Kerry, Altoona
 McIntire, Glen M., Milan, IL
 McLain, Michael G., Kouts, IN
 McLeod, James C., Denver, CO
 McMahan, Robert E., Dubuque
 Meyer, Irvin H., Epworth
 Miller, Carl H., Maquoketa
 Miller, Susan, Dubuque
 Miller, Wanda L., Lowden
 Mittelstadt, Keith A., Rochester, WA

Mohr, Charles M., Maquoketa
 Mohr, Joseph F., Elkader
 Moline, Marc, Joliet, IL
 Moore, Eric L., Leavenworth, KS
 Morales, Stephen, Port Saint Lucie, FL
 Neill, Lenora M., Seattle, WA
 Niday, Mark, Dubuque
 Oberreuter, Dennis, Cedar Rapids
 Ochampaugh, D.E., Englewood, CO
 O'Donnell, William F., Dubuque
 Oldham, Jim D., Fullerton, CA
 Olson, Beulah, Ottumwa
 Owens, Donald R., Palo
 Packard, Glen, Denver, CO
 Piggy Bar Farms, Inc., Maquoketa
 Pleasant, Robert W., Deep River
 Pohly, Elbrege F., Grand Rapids, MI
 Purcell, Kathy, Cincinnati, OH
 Ralston, Paul J., Maquoketa
 Ramaker, Wayne, Dubuque
 Randolph, Alvin, Holden, MO
 Rickles, Barbara, Monticello
 Robey, Pam, Dubuque
 Sass, Albert J., Bettendorf
 Sautter, John, Ossian
 Scheid, Annie, Dubuque
 Schlosser, Jack, Sabula
 Schmidt, Allen R., Toddville
 Schmidt Daryl R., Bellevue
 Schulte, Steven, Dubuque
 Sharp, M. Kent, Atlanta, GA
 Shessel, Ronald, Dubuque
 Sieh, Alfred M., Cedar Rapids
 Smith, Jerry W., Cedar Rapids
 Snyder, Lawrence E., Monticello
 Spechtenhauser, David, St. Paul, MN
 Spelman, James A., Cedar Rapids
 Steinmetz, Larry L., Pensacola, FL
 Swank, Timothy, Muscatine
 Szabo, Linda J., Cedar Rapids
 Taylor, Helen M., Spring Lake, MI



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THIRD PARTY NOTIFICATION

Thies, Dan, Manchester
 Tindell, Beverly, Dubuque
 Vetter, Thomas M., Forreton, IL
 Wagner, Gregory R., Dubuque
 Wall, Raymond, Sabula
 Walton, Robert F., York, PA
 Wandin, Eric, Dubuque
 Weaver, Jerry L., Dubuque
 Webb, Terry L., Cascade
 Weddle, Rene, Newhall
 Weishaar, Amy, Darlington, SC
 White, Edward E., Monticello
 White, James, Mechanicsville
 White, Terry V., Sr., Clarence
 Winders, Wesley J., Cedar Rapids
 Winkler, Donald, Lehigh Acres, FL
 Wisniewski, Craig E.,
 Mechanicsburg, PA
 Wood, James R., Earlville
 Zimmerman, Rocky, Springville

The third party notification is a plan which allows our customers to designate a third party to receive copies of any notices that might be received for discontinuing the electric service.

The purpose of this program is to limit the risk of a customer having the electric service discontinued because of a breakdown in communication. This may happen because a customer missed receiving the notice or received it but didn't understand the implications.

Copies of the notifications may be sent to any third party; a relative, friend, clergyman, physician, landlord, agent or agency, etc. This does not, however, place any obligation on this party to pay the electric bills, nor will it defer or prevent discontinuing the electric service if payment is not made. The third party does serve as an additional communication link with the customer.

Although we will make every effort to provide third party notification, the person making this request agrees that Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative incurs no liability whatsoever for failure to do so for any reason.

If you are interested in the third party notification, contact our Member Support department at 800-927-6068 or email billing@mvec.com and they will send you the necessary form.

Watts Healthy will return next month, but for you good cooks out there, here is a 'green'St. Patrick's Day idea.

Crème De Menthe Cake

1 White Cake Mix
 6 Tablespoons Crème De Menthe (divided)
 1 Jar Fudge flavored ice cream topping
 8 oz. Cool Whip

Mix cake according to directions adding 3 tablespoons Crème De Menthe to batter. When cool, spread fudge topping over the cake. Top with Cool Whip to which the remaining 3 tablespoons of Crème De Menthe has been added.



NEW LONG DISTANCE AVAILABLE

**Dial 1-877-671-4004
and sign up today!**



Visit our Web Site

at www.mvec.coop or
Email direct to the following departments:

- Billing questions: billing@mvec.com
- Product or service questions: memberservice@mvec.com
- Maintenance issues: maintenance@mvec.com



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Anamosa, Iowa 52205-0370

Watts Current...

...is published monthly for the members of
Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative.

109 North Huber Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205
319-462-3541 or 800-927-6068

OFFICE HOURS
Monday thru Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.mvec.coop
e-mail: mvec@mvec.com

After Hours Call Center

800-582-8998

After hours you may also call the service person
in your area to report outages or trouble on the
line.

Anamosa, Dallas Paustian.....	319-462-4848
Cascade, Pete Boffeli	563-852-3180
Dubuque, Rick Olsem.....	563-582-3668
Farley, Jim Lehman.....	563-744-3005
LaMotte, Vernon Konrardy.....	563-773-2309
Manchester, Dan Petersen.....	563-927-6491
Maquoketa, Jerry Streeper.....	563-652-5014

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