

# Big Skylights



An internal newsletter of the STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

May 31, 2007

## Co-op growth helps in avoiding rate increase

Despite rate uncertainty in utility industry rates, Northern Lights, Inc., enjoyed “significant growth” in 2006, which allowed the cooperative to avoid rate increases for at least the rest of 2007, according to NLI Manager **Jon Shelby**. Shelby reporting to members at the co-op’s 72nd annual meeting May 12 in Sagle, Idaho, also said the NLI board was faced with the problem of purchasing additional power to meet future growth. Both Shelby and NLI President **Orin LaRitchie** advised membership that the co-op was looking at all options, including investing in new generation projects. Both emphasized a board strategy of buying materials such as transformers because of “skyrocketing prices” and long lead times for replacements. In trustee elections, trustees **Eric Anderson**, **Don Vickaryous** and **Vern Hollett** were all re-elected.

## CALENDAR

### June

1	McCone Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Circle, MT
2	Hill County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Havre, MT
6	Lower Yellowstone REA Annual Meeting	Sidney, MT
7	Fergus Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Lewistown, MT
8	Southeast Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Ekalaka, MT
9	Ravalli County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Corvallis, MT
9-15	Youth to Washington Tour	Washington, D.C.
18-20	CFC Forum 2007-05-21	Chicago, Ill.
20	Northern Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Opheim, MT
23	Fall River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Ashton, ID
25-27	Managers Group Summer Meeting	Whitefish, MT

### July

10	Director’s Course – NRECA Course # 999.1: Introduction to Computers and the Internet	Dillon, MT
11	MECA Committee Meetings	Dillon, MT
12	MECA Summer Board Meeting	Dillon, MT
14	Tongue River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Ashland, MT
24-25	OCR School	Heyburn, ID