South Central PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
Nelson, Nebraska

Watt's Happening

Keeping you plugged in to what's happening!

OBJECTIVE: To make electricity available at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.

South Central Lineman, Ben Reinke, And Sister Make Hammered Dulcimer

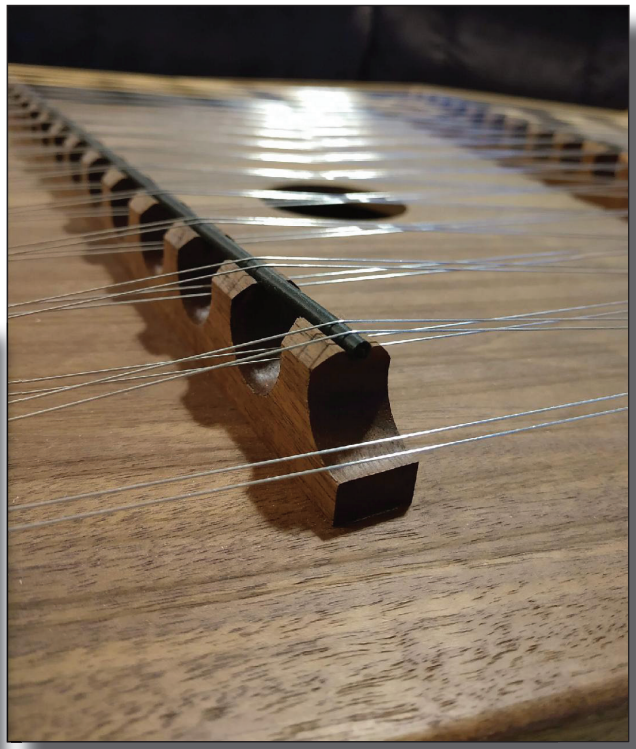
One of South Central PPD Lineman, Ben Reinke's hobbies is woodworking. Recently, Ben, along with his sister, Rachel, completed building a musical instrument called a hammered dulcimer. The dulcimer is a string percussion instrument much like a piano; however, the strings are struck with a mallet or spoon by the musician.

This is a large version of the instrument. The dulcimer comes in various sizes, identified by the number of strings that cross each of the bridges. The Reinke dulcimer is 33 strings, 17 treble and 16 bass. The layout of a dulcimer is opposite that of a piano whereas the bass is to the right and the treble is to the left of the instrument. Notice in the pictures that the dulcimer is constructed somewhat like a guitar in that the strings are stretched over a hollow soundboard with acoustic holes in the surface. Ben and Rachel are both learning to play their dulcimer.

For construction of the instrument, the Reinkes started with a walnut tree. They planed the boards themselves and built everything from scratch. Ben commented that drilling the row of large holes in the bridges was quite nerve wracking because they were concerned about the walnut cracking or splitting in the narrow space between the holes. The long bridges are each just one piece.

A kit was purchased that contained the strings, pegs, brass strips on each side and the pieces that lay across the two bridges. The strings are tuned much like a piano using a tool to adjust square pegs on one end of the strings. The strings of a hammered dulcimer are usually found in pairs, two strings for each note. Each set of strings is tuned in unison and is called a course. As with a piano, the purpose of using multiple strings per course is to make the instrument louder, although as the courses are rarely in unison, a chorus effect usually results like a mandolin.

Ben has worked at South Central since June of 2010. He is involved in staking new line as well as metering, load control and other lineman duties.



South Central Public Power District is looking for volunteers to participate in this Internet Speed Study.

We need a large number of volunteers interested in participating in this study to enable us to gather comprehensive data on the different types and speeds of internet that is currently available in our District. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** If you are interested, please contact our office. 402-225-2351 or email *royce@southcentralppd.com*. Volunteers will be able to log in to a secure site to view a graph of their internet speeds over a one-week testing period.We expect grant money to be available, but first we have to demonstrate the need. **SIGN UP NOW!**

The University of Nebraska-Kearney and Nebraska Public Power District has teamed up with your local public power utility to do an **Internet speed study**. The goal is to gather valuable information that will be used to help improve rural broadband connectivity across the state. **There will be no recording or monitoring of websites visited.** This testing effort complements earlier announced studies by providing more in-depth data.

Help improve Nebraska's rural broadband connectivity.

Volunteer for the Internet speed study.

- Testing device will be provided to volunteers.
- Attaching the device takes just seconds.
- Testing lasts approximately one week.
- Return the device by mail as instructed.

South Central Public Power District

In partnership with the University of Nebraska-Kearney and Nebraska Public Power District.

IRRIGATION

LOAD CONTROL IRRIGATION PARAMETERS

While most of our off-peak irrigators are familiar with our load control program, the following information will serve as a reminder on the parameters of the program.

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) issues a daily notice as to whether or not there will be Load Control for South Central that day and the expected hours of Load Control. This Load Control notice is typically issued by 8:30 a.m.

The status of Load Control as communicated by NPPD can be found on the South Central website, www.southcentralppd.com. Click on the "Load Control" tab at the top of the page, then click on "Control Status" for up-to-date information on South Central's load control status.

A radio announcement on the status of NPPD's Load Control can also be heard Monday through Saturday at 8:29 a.m. on KRVN Radio (AM 880).

We anticipate these Load Control radio announcements will start about June 1st and will continue through September 1st. The announcements will be for several Public Power Districts, so listen specifically for the status of South Central Public Power District for that day.

If a Code Green is announced for the day, it means there will be no load control that day. If a Code Red is announced, it means your irrigation well may be subject to control that day, starting at the time announced. Since 2009, the load control window has been: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. 7 days a week.

Monday through Saturday could see a maximum of 12 hours of control within the 14 hour window. Sundays could see a maximum of 6 hours of control when necessary, with a maximum of 72 control hours for a single calendar week. This means that 6 hours of control on a Sunday would limit the maximum number of control hours to 66 for the rest of the week, Monday through Saturday. Independence Day is no longer a waive day.

Early release of load control will be broadcast in the evenings on KRVN (AM 880) at 4:59, 5:59, 6:59, 7:59, 8:59 and 9:59. Early release before 4:59 pm will be announced at the :29 and :59 of the hour.

On the days when South Central is controlling our peak electric load (which are the Code Red days), we will monitor our power demand throughout the critical hours and control irrigation wells only when necessary.

Irrigation customers that have signed up for one of our Off-Peak irrigation options are assigned to one of several groups of irrigators. Each group can be individually controlled. This allows us to drop our demand for power in small increments until we reach a desired level of usage, leaving as many irrigation wells on as possible.

If you have questions on our irrigation load management system and procedures, please give us a call.

LOAD CONTROL ACTIVATION

A black, rectangular Load Control Receiver (LCR) is installed on each off-peak irrigation service. This control switch is located either on the panel at the road or on the well panel itself. Load Control to this service is activated by a signal we send over the mesh radio system that transmits signals throughout our system.

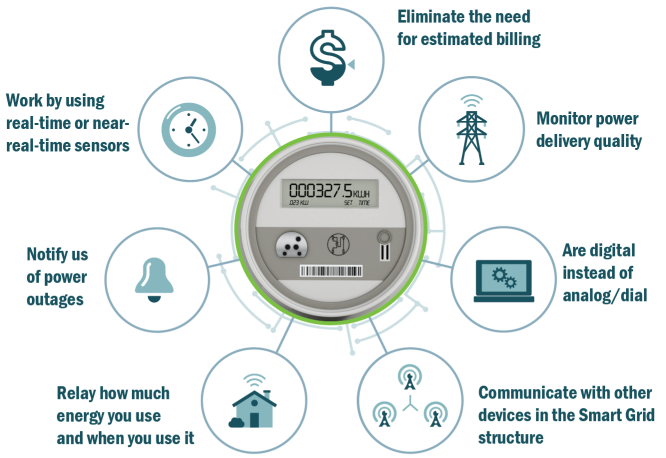
Located on the front of the LCR is a small window that covers 3 LED lights. The green and red lights are the most important. The green light indicates power to the LCR. If it is not on, contact SCPPD. The red light is on when the well is being controlled.

The 3 LED lights on the LCR are located under this window on the front of the LCR.

If the red light is off, but the contactor still does not operate, the irrigator should check the fuses and the voltage on their side of the meter. If you find nothing wrong, and the contactor still does not operate, you should call us for service.

WHAT'S SO SMART ABOUT A SMART METER?

Unlike the older-style electricity meters that are read manually, smart meters use sensors to measure the amount of electricity flowing in and out of your home.



AS OF 2019

SMART METERS* had been installed across the country.

**Includes hourly interval meters and real-time meters that are capable of recording and transmitting instantaneous data.*

88%, or 83.4 million, were residential.

Almost 65% of residential units had a smart meter.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

SafeElectricity.org®

You can track daily energy usage through our SmartHub Application. This information is useful for figuring out when you're using the most energy during the month, and can help track down higher than expected usage. You can also view a temperature graph in conjunction with the energy usage, since heating and cooling systems are usually the biggest users in a house. Call us if you need help accesing SmartHub, or if you are not currently paying your bill online and would like to.

CAROL BUSCHKOETTER
10 YEARS

Carol Buschkoetter began working at South Central Public Power District in June of 2011. She is a clerk in the Engineering Department as well as our Safety Director. Carol's expertise in I.T. is another valuable asset she provides to South Central.

Carol is a 1978 graduate of Blue Hill High School. Employment at Coleman Industries offered Carol the opportunity to continue her education resulting in a degree in Informational Technology at Central Community College in Hastings in 2000.

Carol and her husband, Terry, reside northwest of Nelson and own a farming operation.

Carol and Terry have two children. Their son, Gavyn, works at Chief Ethanol in Hastings. Their daughter, Neika, is enrolled at CCC in Grand Island in their Nursing Program.

WATT'S HAPPENING

Newsletter of the South Central Public Power District
Nelson, Nebraska

NOTICE

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South Central Public Power District is held the third Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. at the District's office in Nelson, Nebraska.

Current Comments Editor: Royce Schott

Nelson *Office* Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
402-225-2351 or 1-800-557-5254
For **Billing Questions**, please call:
(M-F, 8a.m. - 5 p.m.)
402-225-2351 or 1-800-557-5254
For **Power Outages**, please call:
(Any time of day or night)
402-225-2351 or 1-800-557-5254