SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

PO BOX 369, EKALAKA, MT 59324 • PH 406-775-8762 • WWW.SEECOOP.COM

CAPITAL CREDITS APPROVED

CHECKS TO BE MAILED OUT ON JUNE 4 WITH ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

THE check is in the MAIL! The Southeast Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of 350,000! As a member-owner of Southeast Electric Cooperative, Inc., you get to share in the "profits" the cooperative earns. If you received electric service from the cooperative in 2006 you should receive a capital credit check. Checks will be mailed on June 4 with the 2024 Annual Meeting Notice. Please make sure that you open any mail you receive from Southeast Electric Cooperative, Inc. RM

Southeast Electric adds drone for maintenance

Drones are in the news — a lot. Apart from military uses, commercial applications are growing. When drones were first introduced, Amazon wanted to use them to deliver packages. There was also a rumor that a Northern Minnesota retailer wanted to use them to deliver beer to ice fishermen. Now, farmers are using them for crop management, ranchers use them to check water tanks, and electric cooperatives are using them for assessing storm damage and preventative maintenance.

The first recorded use of drones for warfare occurred on August 22, 1849, when Austria attacked Venice, Italy, using unmanned explosive-laden balloons. Since then, military applications have driven most of the advances. Drones are a perfect solution when you need to access information about areas that are either hard to reach or dangerous.

Drones are more properly known as unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, and are either autonomous or remotely

piloted (RPV). Autonomous models follow a preprogrammed flight plan, whereas a licensed pilot flies the RPV remotely. This remote location can be half a world away in military applications. For commercial use, significantly shorter distances are involved. Regardless of operation type, modern drones are either fixed-wing or rotary models.

During storms, ground access can be blocked by mud, snow, debris or flooding, making a comprehensive assessment of damage time-consuming and dangerous. Flying a drone over the area can capture detailed images of the situation and help the co-op dispatch the right crews with the right materials to the right location. This kind of intelligence gets members' lights back on faster.

The drone can also be equipped with an infrared (IR) camera to search for hot spots on powerlines or inside substations. Many co-ops use handheld IR devices for just such purposes today. With a drone, they could cover far more area at a much lower cost. Problems could be solved before causing an interruption to your service.

Drones have significant potential in preventive maintenance. At Southeast Electric, Adam Kuntz, Dave Loudermilk, Sam Erfman and Trenton Reinhart completed the needed training to become FAA-licensed pilots for UAVs. In conjunction with patrolling lines from the ground using a side-by-side or four-wheeler, we will be able to inspect lines with the drone.

As with all technology, Southeast Electric Cooperative, Inc. will use drones to reduce operating costs and increase reliability. This amazing craft has significant potential to do both. RM

SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 14, 2024

2024

SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC TRUCK SHOP

310 EAST SPEELMON ST.
EKALAKA, MT 59324

REGISTRATION - 4:00 PM
BURGERS -N- BRATS - 5:00 PM
BUSINESS MEETING - 6:00 PM

2 - $500.00
CASH PRIZES

Entertainment by Local Talent
DEAN JARDEE