

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Hot Air Balloons

**Festival Gains
Popularity**
Pages 8-9

Go-Kart Racing
Pages 12-13

*Photo provided by
Petra Wilson, owner
of Western Horizons
Hot Air Balloons.*

Join us at Upcoming Summer Cooperative Activities



Kelly Brandlee
Editor

SUMMER RECAP

The months of June and July are busy months for Northern Electric staff in the communities we serve. In June we took a group of Northern Electric Cooperative members to North Dakota for a full-on electrical education experience (read more on pages 10 and 11). July found us participating in two Farm Safety events in Aberdeen and Frankfort hosted by the South Dakota Farmers Union. One area student will participate in the Youth Excursion to Bismarck. In addition, we will host an upcoming Pancake Appreciation Breakfast during the Spink County Achievement Days in Redfield.

August and September will have Northern Electric staff out and about at several community events. We are excited to meet up with members and share the exciting things happening at your Co-op!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - AUGUST 1

National Night Out is hosted by the Aberdeen Police Department. It is an opportunity for the public to meet their local law enforcement officers and first responders and have some fun as a community. Northern Electric employees will have the "Power Town" display available to demonstrate the dangers of coming into contact with overhead powerlines. Find us at National Night Out on August 1 at Melgaard Park from 6pm-9pm.

BROWN COUNTY FAIR - AUGUST 17

Northern Electric Cooperative is teaming up several other cooperatives including Lake Region Electric Association, FEM Electric Association, and Agtegra Cooperative to throw a Farm Safety Party at the Brown County Fair.

We are excited to partner with these regional cooperatives again this year to teach families about farm safety. More information about the Farm Safety Party can be found on page 7 of this issue.

ANNUAL MEETING- SEPTEMBER 19

Make plans to join us for the 76th Annual Meeting of Northern Electric Cooperative on Tuesday, September 19. The location will be announced in the next *Cooperative Connections* issue.

A vertical poster with a blue gradient background. At the top, it says "76th ANNUAL MEETING" in large white and yellow text. Below that, "TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023" is written in white. Underneath is the slogan "TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW." in yellow. The Northern Electric Cooperative logo, featuring a stylized 'E' with a lightning bolt, is shown in the center. Below the logo, it says "Northern Electric Cooperative" in white and yellow, and "A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative" in small white text. At the bottom, it says "WATCH FOR THE SEPTEMBER COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS ISSUE FOR LOCATION AND EVENT DETAILS." in white.

76th ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW.

Northern Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

WATCH FOR THE SEPTEMBER COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS ISSUE FOR LOCATION AND EVENT DETAILS.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

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(USPS 396-040)

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Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

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**Northern Electric
Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held virtually June 23, 2023, with all directors present. As the first order of business, the board approved the May 18, 2023, minutes and May expenditures. The board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management. East River Director Kirk Schaunaman reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the June 1, 2023, meeting. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association Board Meeting in Pierre will take place June 29-30, 2023. Directors Kirk Schaunaman and Francis Esser reported on the 2023 CFC Forum held June 19-21 in Seattle, WA. Director William (B.J.) Hansen reported on the 2023 Basin VIP Tour held June 21-22, in Bismarck/Beulah, ND.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund activities.
- Informed the board of the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives (SDAC) Co-op Conference August 6-7, 2023, in Sioux Falls.
- Reminded the board of the 36th American Coalition for Ethanol Conference, August 23-25, 2023, in Omaha, Nebraska.
- Informed the board of the SDREA Co-op Board Leadership Summit,

August 20-21, 2023, in Pierre, SD.

- Informed the board of the Basin Electric Annual Meeting, August 15-17 in Bismarck, ND.
- Informed the board of the 2023 NRECA Regional Meetings, September 12-14 in Des Moines, IA.
- Reminded the board that nominating Northern Electric Director petitions are due to the office August 4, 2023.

BOARD REPORT

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Monday, July 31, 2023.
2. Approved Work Order Inventories #23-05 for \$168,849.34 and #23-05MC, \$30,332.46 to be submitted to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
3. Approved 10 estate requests for out of order capital credit retirements totaling \$14,509.20.
4. Authorized director Nolan Wipf to execute the ballot for the 2023 RESCO Director Election.
5. Approved update to Policy P-15E sick leave.
6. Held Executive Session.

Talk to your director or co-op manager if you have questions on these matters.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	May-23	May-22
kWh Sales	18,155,894 kWh	20,244,635 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$1,981,411	\$1,988,905
Total Cost of Service	\$1,832,935	\$1,920,923
Operating Margins.....	\$148,476	\$67,982
Year to Date Margins	\$433,588	\$511,920

RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE MONTHLY USAGE AND BILL

MAY-2023.....	1,293 kWh.....	\$171.48.....	0.1326 per kWh
MAY-2022.....	1,401 kWh.....	\$178.42.....	0.1274 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for **87.5%** of NEC's total cost of service.

Working Out in the Heat

Exercising outdoors is a great way to enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather of summer. But you'll need to take some extra precautions to stay safe. Here are some do's and don'ts for working out when temperatures climb.

DO: Stay hydrated

Drink plenty of water before, during and after your workout to prevent dehydration and help regulate body temperature. Nicole Thompson of the American Council on Exercise recommends slowly drinking water or sports drinks about four hours before exercising. Aim for 1 ounce for every 11 pounds of body weight – so 10 ounces for a 110-pound person or 20 ounces for a 220-pound person.

Weigh yourself before and after working out to determine how much fluid you need to replace. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recommends drinking 2-3 cups of water for every pound lost.

DON'T: Drink products containing alcohol

Alcohol is a diuretic, so it contributes to dehydration.

DO: Wear lightweight and breathable clothing

Choose light-colored and loose-fitting clothes made of moisture-wicking materials. This'll help keep you cool and dry.

DON'T: Wear dark colors or heavy fabrics

Dark-colored clothing can absorb heat and trap it against your body.

DO: Wear sunscreen

The key number to look for on your sunscreen is the sun protection factor. An SPF of 15 filters out about 93% of UVB rays, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, while an SPF of 30 will filter out around 97%. Look for "broad spectrum" on the label to protect against UVA and UVB rays.

Apply sunscreen 15 or 20 minutes before going out (check the instructions on the label). Reapply every two hours – or more frequently if you're sweating a lot. Don't forget about your ears, lips and any bald spots on your scalp – they need protection, too.

DON'T: Work out during the hottest times of the day

The sun is at its strongest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., so try to schedule workouts for earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Remember, you can always work out inside and in an air-conditioned area if needed.

DO: Know the signs of heat-related illness

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Nausea and dizziness
- Headaches
- Feeling weak

A weak or rapid pulse

Cold, clammy skin

If you experience any sign of heat exhaustion, move to a cool place, loosen your clothing, put cool and wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath, and sip water, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. Get medical help if your symptoms don't go away after an hour, if your symptoms worsen or if you're throwing up.

Symptoms of heatstroke include:

A body temperature of 103° F or higher

Hot, dry, bright red or damp skin

Labored breathing

A fast, strong pulse

Headache, dizziness, nausea or confusion

Loss of consciousness

Heatstroke is an emergency. If you suspect it, call 911 immediately.

DON'T: Overdo it

Adjust your workout intensity to account for the heat and listen to your body's cues. Shorter workouts are good when temperatures rise. Allow your body to get used to the heat. Then you can gradually increase your time outdoors and exercise intensity.



Don't pull the cord!

Gabrielle Clement, Age 10

Gabrielle Clement advises people it's not safe to pull the cord when disconnecting appliances from an outlet. Gabrielle is the daughter of Dustin and Michelle Clement from Box Elder, S.D., members of West River Electric Association.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Savory Summer SALADS

GRAPE SALAD

Ingredients:

2 lbs. red seedless grapes
2 lbs. green seedless grapes
1-8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
1 cup sour cream
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans

METHOD

Wash and dry grapes. Mix cream cheese and sour cream. Add sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Fold in grapes. Place in 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar and pecans.

Angie Ruiter

Sioux Falls, S.D.

CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt
2 tbsp. mayonnaise
1 tsp. parsley flakes
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
1/4 tsp. pure ground black pepper
1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
1/4 cup chopped red onion

METHOD

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.
mccormick.com

CORN CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:

2 cans whole kernel corn (drained)
1 cup diced, unpeeled and seeded cucumbers
1/4 cup chopped red onion
1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
2 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp. lime juice
1 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
1/4 tsp. ground cumin

METHOD

Mix corn, cucumber and onion in large bowl. Set aside. Mix remaining ingredients in small bowl until well blended. Add to corn mixture; toss lightly to coat. Cover. Refrigerate 2 hours or until ready to serve.

mccormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



Youth Tour participants Colleen Wipf and Shaylee Peterson pose in front of the White House during their recent trip to Washington, D.C.

YOUTH TOUR PARTICIPANTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE

Kelly Brandlee

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Forty teens representing 20 South Dakota electric cooperatives headed to the Washington, D.C., area June 17-23 for the 2023 Rural Electric Youth Tour. Groton native Shaylee Peterson and Frankfort native Colleen Wipf found themselves amongst the 40 young South Dakotans on the tour.

The program, which can trace its existence back to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson where he

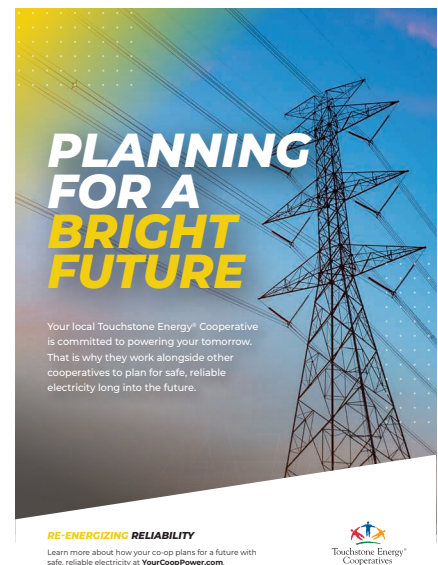
encouraged electric cooperatives to send youth to the nation's capitol so they "can actually see what the flag stands for and represents," encourages teens to engage in their communities and learn about the importance of political involvement.

The group visited many of the regions historic sites, including a Flag Day stop at Baltimore's Fort McHenry. The fort's bombardment in the War of 1812 was captured in Francis Scott Key's poem, which would eventually become the national anthem. Old Glory would play a recurring theme in the

trip as students could see it at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and also hear an inspirational message centered on the flag from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S.A. men's wheelchair basketball.

Students also met with the state's congressional delegation and with Youth Tour participants from across the country while touring many of our nation's historical sites – including the National Archives, Library of Congress, Mount Vernon, U.S. Supreme Court, and many more.

"I had a lot of fun connecting with others from South Dakota as well as other states," commented participant Shaylee Peterson. "I also enjoyed learning more about Washington DC and our government. It was wonderful meeting with our state representatives in Washington and being able to ask them questions," Peterson continued.





Cooperative employees demonstrate electrical safety through the Power Town display at a previous Farm Safety Party.

FARM SAFETY AT THE BROWN COUNTY FAIR

Cooperatives partner to host Farm Safety Party for kids on Thursday August 17

Kelly Brandlee

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Three local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, Northern Electric Cooperative, FEM Electric Association, and Lake Region Electric Association, have partnered with Agtegra Cooperative to bring another Farm Safety Party to the Brown County Fair this year. The event brings an important electrical safety component to the Fair.

While visiting the Farm Safety Party, families can expect to see

several interactive activities for families, including the “Power Town” display. Power Town depicts a rural farm scene to demonstrate the dangers of contacting power lines. Power Town does an excellent job showing visitors the importance of keeping a safe distance from overhead lines.

The Farm Safety Party will be held in the ‘Kid’s Zone’ at the Brown County Fair on the southwest side of the Holum Expo Building. There will also be safety-themed giveaways available for kids and adults. The party starts at

10 a.m. on Thursday, August 17, and will continue until 2 p.m. The event is free and is open to anyone.

FARM SAFETY PARTY



**Thursday, August 17 from
10am - 2pm at the
Brown County Fair**

Presented by:





TAKING TO THE SKY

Balloons light up the night during the night glow event of the festival.

Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival Gains Popularity

Jocelyn Johnson

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It's a picturesque and dramatic spectacle that's awed most people for several hundred years. Yet, spectators and pilots alike have not tired of the image. Hot air balloons have that quality of enchantment. And what better way to be enchanted than to see dozens of these balloons floating up into the sunrise of a South Dakota sky?

The annual Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival is attracting nearly 30 balloons and thousands of spectators on Aug. 25-27, 2023. The event is taking place at the airport outside of Hot Springs, S.D., where it will celebrate its 8th year of growing popularity. Festival sightseers can pack all-day-fun into their festivities by visiting the vendors, obstacle courses,

bouncy houses, and performances in Hot Springs by Magician Jared Furnau and the Wild Blue Band.

Petra Wilson, a local commercial pilot, founded the festival in 2016 before opening her own flying business – Western Horizons Hot Air Balloons.

"The way I got introduced to ballooning is a tale of serendipity," said Wilson. "Almost 20 years ago, my husband and I attended a hot air balloon festival in Peoria, Ill., where we are asked to become crew members for a weekend. On the last flight of the weekend, he asked us if we wanted to go for a ride. The ride was absolutely stunning and from that point on we were hooked."

Wilson became a private pilot in 2014 and a commercial pilot in 2017. In 2015, Wilson and her husband moved to Hot Springs, where she discovered she was the

only hot air balloon pilot flying in the area.

I introduced many different people to ballooning by inviting them out to watch and even crew," Wilson said. "Some of those people became my students and eventually became hot air balloon pilots in the Hot Springs area."

When asked how she started the festival, Wilson replied, "I decided this area was such a beautiful place to fly that I wanted to share it with all my ballooning friends and their friends, as well as locals who might appreciate the beauty of the balloons in the sky, so what better way to do this than having a balloon festival."

The festival started with the partnership between Wilson and Olivia Mears, Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce in Hot Springs.

Mears said, "Folks from South Dakota, California, Nebraska, Colorado, and more attend this festival. We attract private pilots who fly for their own enjoyment and commercial pilots who are licensed to carry passengers."

Tamie Shrum, current balloon-meister for Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, is a commercial pilot overseeing the safety and regulation of the participating balloons. She travels the world to fly, including six countries and 37 states. Shrum owns three of her own balloons and earns her living flying passengers and training students how to fly.

"I like to do long jump flying, which is long distance flying," said Shrum. "My longest distance is 137 miles in a three-hour flight with a top speed of 78 mph."

Shrum explained that a considerable amount of studying goes into the preparation for a long jump flight. Everything matters – the time of year, time of day, location, and weather patterns.

"We work off of a microscopic level," Shrum said. "A regular person might say, 'It's not that windy today,' but a balloon pilot might say, 'It's too windy to fly today.'"

Describing how balloons fly, Shrum said, "In layman's terms, hot air rises and cold air sinks. You put heat in the

envelope, making it hotter than ambient temperatures which allows it to lift the massive weight it's carrying."

We use a burner with regular propane," Shrum continued. "The amount of propane needed changes based upon ambient temperature, altitude of flight, and how much passenger weight is being carried."

Balloons are simplistic in design but can be challenging to fly.

"You don't steer a balloon...while airplanes fly against the wind, balloons fly with the wind, which can be unpredictable," Shrum explained. "Sometimes you land in a park and sometimes you land in main street."

"I've flown over Pikes Peak in Colorado



Commercial Pilot Tamie Shrum looks below on other balloons while flying.

and in Japan along with many other places," Shrum said. "I've been fortunate to sightsee all over the world from 1,000 feet in the air while others are sightseeing from the surface...but South Dakota is one of the most gorgeous places to fly in."



Commercial Pilot Petra Wilson inspects her balloon.



From the deep coal strips to the rushing waters, Northern Electric members were able to see how electricity is generated from start to finish during this year's VIP Tour.

Kelly Brandlee

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Delivering electricity is more involved than just flipping the light switch. There is a lot that happens behind the scenes before that switch flip. For reliable energy to reach your home, many steps need to happen, from the initial formation of the power source to the

generation and transportation from the start to the end user. The entire process includes many people and processes.

June brought 38 Northern Electric members to the source of their electricity, Bismarck, North Dakota. The Basin VIP Tour is an exciting opportunity for members to see the entire process of generating power so they can be informed and

educated about their cooperative and the resources needed to deliver reliable electricity.

The VIP Tour began at Basin Electric Power Cooperative headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota. Basin Electric is the generation and transmission cooperative owned by 141 electric cooperatives in nine states. Northern Electric is one of the member co-ops of Basin Electric. Basin Electric operates the power plants and wind turbines that generate electricity for member systems throughout the central United States. VIP Tour participants toured the marketing area of Basin Electric, where they learned about the electricity markets and how the supply and demand of

power is balanced 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Northern Electric members also toured Basin Electric's dispatch center, which answers after-hours calls for Northern Electric and dispatches crews during outages.

The next stop was the Garrison Dam and Powerhouse. Lake Sakakawea, the reservoir created by the Garrison Dam, is the third largest reservoir in the United States. During an average year, the five generating units at the dam have a combined annual output of 2,600,000 megawatt hours of electricity. Hydroelectricity accounts for 5.6% of generation in Basin Electric's generation portfolio.

The tour also took the group to Basin Electric's Antelope Valley Station coal-fired power plant near Beulah, North Dakota. Northern Electric members toured the plant, which can generate enough power for 450,000 average homes. The tour continued at the Freedom Mine, a surface coal mine located next door to the Antelope Valley Station. The group learned how coal is responsibly mined from the North Dakota soil and how the land is reclaimed following all mining activities.

From the deep coal strips to the rushing waters, Northern Electric members were able to see how electricity is generated from start to finish during this year's VIP Tour. We hope more members can make plans to join us on the tour in June 2024. It's an educational experience providing coffee shop conversation for weeks and showcasing how generating electricity is not as easy as turning on a light switch.

FAST FACTS

- Lignite coal is the lowest-cost dependable supply of electricity.
- North Dakota, home to the largest deposit of lignite in the world, has 25 billion tons of lignite reserves - enough to last 800 years at today's rate of use.
- After the mining of coal, lands are restored to agricultural use and wildlife habitat, using the latest conservation techniques at a productivity level that meets or exceeds that which existed prior to mining.
- The Freedom Mine provides coal to the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, the nation's only commercial-scale gasification plant. The plant produces 13 products, including synthetic natural gas, CO₂, anhydrous ammonia, liquid nitrogen, urea, diesel exhaust fluid, and food-grade liquid CO₂.



Tom and Deb Schultz of Tulare, SD check out the view from the top of the Antelope Valley Station near Beulah, North Dakota.



Antelope Valley staff walk VIP participants through the scale model of the location.



RACING FAMILY FUN

Go-kart racers in Aberdeen are placed in divisions by age and skill to keep the races competitive. The track usually hosts races twice a month during the summer months. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

Go-kart Racing at Aberdeen Track is a Family Affair

Scott Waltman

Kevin Horn didn't set out to drive to Aberdeen several times a summer so he could race.

Instead, after seeing races on TV, the Waubay mechanic bought a go-kart for his then-9-year-old daughter. But while she was driving, the kart skidded on some wet grass and she hit the kart trailer. After that, she turned the keys over to Dad.

That was about 11 years ago. Horn took his daughter's number 9 and flipped it to make a 6, and he's been racing ever since.

Like others who race at the Aberdeen Karting Club track at the Brown County Fairgrounds, his story has a tie to family, even if it didn't work out exactly as he thought it would.

Karting, racers and organizers say, is a family affair.

Brody Griffin of Watertown is 10 and started karting three years ago.

He makes the rounds, mostly to the closest tracks in Aberdeen, Brookings and Miller. He races just about every weekend during summer, and the allure is simple. Griffin said he just likes driving.

He was named rookie of the year his first season and finished second in his division his second season in Aberdeen.

But it's not all zipping around the track and trying to pass other drivers. Griffin said he helps work on his kart with his father.

That makes sense to Landon Schott, a 24-year-old racer from Aberdeen who is one of the track's most successful drivers. Now that he's a little older, helps with public relations and social media for the track.

When Schott started racing, he said his father made it clear to him that he would be helping work on the kart and had to keep it clean. Karting can be a big financial investment, and his dad wasn't going to spend heaps of money if his son wasn't going to pitch in and be engaged.

Schott, too, said he appreciates the friendly and family atmosphere of karting.

Sponsorships are critical to both the Aberdeen track and its racers, he said. He wouldn't have been able to travel across the country racing without



Josiah Combellick serves as the event's flagman.

Photo by Scott Waltman

having sponsors since he started driving in 2006, he said.

The Aberdeen track doesn't have any employees, and the Aberdeen Karting Club is a nonprofit group, so contributions are important, Schott said.

Rick Cartney is the vice president of the Aberdeen Karting Club and has been involved with the track since it was founded in 1996. His first race was in Aberdeen that first year, and now he gets to the track to start prep work around 9 a.m. on race days. Races usually start around 4 p.m. and last into the night.

For Cartney, the payback comes from the smiles on the faces of young racers.

"Mainly, it's for the kids," he said.

They do their best racing when they don't win, but they learn, grow and mature, Cartney said.

The Aberdeen track is between an eighth and a 10th of a mile long and is great for young racers who are just

starting out, he said.

There are races in Aberdeen a couple of times a month during summer, with the schedules of other tracks in the region taken into consideration so drivers can make it to as many races as possible. Generally, there are 30 or 40 drivers in Aberdeen, most of them young people, Cartney said.

Starting at the Aberdeen track has served Schott well. He has advanced to grand national events with both the International Karting Federation and Maxxis Kart Racing, finishing as in the top five, but never quite nabbing a championship. Last December, Schott said, he traveled to Daytona, Fla., and raced with about 70 other drivers, never finishing outside of the top 14.

"I guess maybe I'm just an adrenaline junkie," Schott said.

In 2013, as a junior driver, he won a Maxxis regional championship. The event drew drivers from across the nation and is called the Maxx Daddy, he said.

Schott said that and winning an end-of-season state championship in 2021 on his home track in Aberdeen are, at least to date, two of the highlights of his career.

He also won the state championship in 2015 in Brookings.

The state karting championships used to be in Brookings, but have been in Aberdeen in recent years. They return again this year on Aug. 12.

That event will likely draw about 200 drivers from South Dakota and surrounding states, Cartney said. A heavy bronze trophy in the shape of Mount Rushmore goes to the winner.

It will be yet another chance for the karting community to gather. Both Schott and Horn said they have made friends traveling the karting circuit. It's one of the most enjoyable parts of racing, they said, and Cartney agrees.

"These people are like a second family," he said.



Landon Schott helps prepare a go-kart before the races begin in Aberdeen on Saturday, June 17. Schott is one of the most successful racers from the Aberdeen Karting Klub. *Photo by Scott Waltman*



HARVESTING HISTORY

The manual labor of past generations of farmers and ranchers is on display each year at the James Valley Threshing Show each September in Andover.
Photo courtesy of James Valley Threshers Association

Andover Threshing Show Focuses on History of Agriculture With an Eye to the Future

Scott Waltman

Most of the time, the population of Andover hovers somewhere around 65 people.

But during the first weekend of September, there's a parade that usually has four times as many entrants as there are residents.

And when a one-of-a-kind tractor is unveiled, well, the number of visitors swells to a tally approaching 10,000.

The annual James Valley Threshing Show is easily the biggest event in the small Day County town each year. And it's not even close.

In fact, organizers can't think of a bigger threshing show in eastern South Dakota or even across the borders into parts of North Dakota and Minnesota.

Tim Olson is president of the James Valley Threshers Association. He said the show has grown considerably since it moved from a farm just outside of Aberdeen. Most years, he estimates,

about 4,500 people attend.

Olson has been working with the show since it arrived in Andover in 1979. The first event near Aberdeen was in 1974, so he and others who are involved are already looking forward to the 50th show in 2024.

In 2018, a Case 150-horsepower steam-powered tractor that was built from scratch debuted at the James Valley Threshing Show. That year, Olson said, there were probably around 8,000 people who attended. And while many showed up for the impressive tractor, the only one of its kind in the world, they found so much more, he said.

Kevin Anderson has also been working with the event since it moved to Andover. He thinks perhaps 10,000 people attended the 2018 show to see the Case 150.

His son, Kory, led the effort to build the machine. In 2008, he started making wooden patterns out of mahogany that were used to create all of the castings for

the engine. And that was after a trip to the Case plant in Racine, Wisconsin, two years earlier where he was given a tour of the archives and paged through steam engine prints, making all the copies he wanted to guide his endeavor.

Fast-forward to last fall, after heaps of planning and building, and the Case 150 was certified as the Guinness world record for largest steam-powered tractor in operation.

Much of the work on the 750,000 behemoth was done at Anderson Industries and Dakota Foundry, both of which are based in Webster.

It can sometimes overshadow other events at the threshing show. But Olson and Kevin Anderson want visitors to know there are plenty more activities on the 65 acres owned by the threshing association.

There's the parade with more than 250 entries, a working saw mill, steam and gas plowing, threshing, a quilt show, a kiddie tractor pull, antique tractors of all kinds, a car show, spinning and weaving, blacksmith demonstrations, a toy and doll show, live music and more.

And while some people might traditionally associate tractors and fieldwork with men, that's not the case, Anderson said.



It took nearly 10 years to build a Case 150-horsepower steam-powered tractor from scratch.
Photo courtesy of Kory Anderson and James Valley Threshers Association

Not with the Ladies of Steam. The program is run by women and offers other women a chance to learn about and ride an old-fashioned steam tractor.

"They don't mind getting greasy," Anderson said of the Ladies of Steam.

The program is a way to attract new and younger members to the association, he said.

Anderson's love of antique tractors, especially steam tractors, is one of the reasons he's remained active in the group through the decades. But the older generation is slowly handing things off to a younger crop of helpers.

Olson agrees. He said he used to be a young buck yelling at the older folks that they didn't know what they were doing. Now, the tables have turned.

The threshing show is a celebration of harvest and history and a chance for friends to gather as summer comes to an end, he said.

"It's a reflection of the past," Olson said. "It's the way all of our ancestors did stuff. Everything was manual labor back then."

Last year, the Case 150 pulled a

50-bottom plow. It's believed to be a world record, though that has yet to be verified.

The tractor will be at this year's show, but there are no plans to attempt more records, Anderson said.

The 2023 James Valley Threshing Show will be Sept. 8, 9 and 10 at Thresherman's Park in Andover. Admission is \$10 a day or \$25 for the entire weekend.

There's a smaller threshing show in Twin Brooks, but some of the other regional shows have faded away.

That's why the Andover event keeps looking to the future.

The association awards a scholarship each year that covers the tuition for a young person to attend the University of Rollag Steam School in Minnesota in spring. And organizers send out invitations to all schools within 100 miles of Andover that offer students free admission on the show's first day.

It's a way to share the history of agriculture and, with luck, plant a seed.

"The future of the show is the young kids," Anderson said.



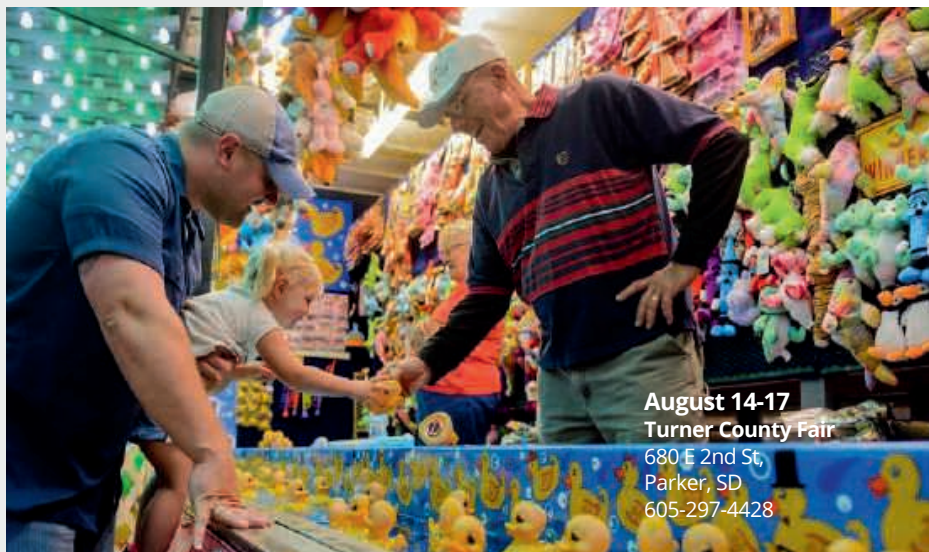
A parade with more than 250 entries each year is one of the most popular events during the James Valley Threshing Show in Andover each September. *Photo courtesy of James Valley Threshers Association*

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August 14-17
Turner County Fair
680 E 2nd St,
Parker, SD
605-297-4428

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

JULY 21-23
Winner Elks 54th Annual Rodeo
Winner, SD
605-842-5830

JULY 22
Richmond Lake Association's Annual Pontoon Poker Run
Richmond Lake
Aberdeen, SD
605-225-0609

JULY 22
20th Annual Make-A-Wish Poker Run
C&S Motorsports
Aberdeen, SD
605-216-6638

JULY 26
Groton Golf Association Fundraiser Lunch
Olive Grove Golf Course
11:30 a.m.
Groton, SD

JULY 28-29
Farley Fest
Lake Farley Park
Milbank, SD
www.farleyfest.com

JULY 28-30
Clear Lake Days
Clear Lake, SD
clearlakedays.com

JULY 29
BBQ Pit Row and Car Show
Winner, SD
605-842-1533

JULY 30
Bergen Threshing Bee
9 a.m.
Bristol, SD
605-237-0310

AUG 4
Wine on Nine
Olive Grove Golf Course
6 a.m.
Groton, SD

AUG 11
3rd Annual GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
10 a.m.
Groton, SD

AUG 13-14
Twin Brooks Threshing Show
Featuring Allis Chalmers
Twin Brooks, SD

SEPT 2
Hidewood Valley Barn Dance
7 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 4
Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show
Steam Whistle Blows
1 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 7-9
Delta Kappa Gamma Used Book Sale
Wylie Park Pavilion
Aberdeen, SD
605-225-6713

SEPT 8-10
James Valley Threshing & Tractor Show
World's Largest Steam Traction Engine
Andover, SD

SEPT 9-OCT 29
Back Forty Beef Corn Maze & Adventure Farm
Every weekend (Sept 9-Oct 29)
10 a.m.
Pierpont, SD

SEPT 16
Hoedown at Spurs Town
4 p.m.
Aberdeen, SD

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.