

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

SULLIVAN COUNTY REC

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Karen Beinlich - CCD/BLC

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Ann B. Henderson - CCD/BLC/Gold

Jim Lambert - CCD

Jay Lewis - CCD/BLC/Gold

David R. Rakestraw - CCD

***Credentialed Cooperative Director**

****Board Leadership Certificate**

*****Director Gold Certificate**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The Next Generation of Metering



JOHN LYKENS

DECEMBER MARKED THE INTRODUCTION of a new software platform for Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) employees and our members. Months of preparation and training finally culminated Dec. 9 when SCREC began using NISC's IVUE program as our customer service information system.

SmartHub also launched Dec. 9. Through this platform, members can access their energy use and billing information, sign up for services, such as auto pay and paperless billing, and explore a host of other options.

Currently, members can track their daily energy use through SmartHub. This would not be possible if not for the microprocessor-controlled kilowatt-hour (KWh) meter (electronic meter) on your home. For more than 100 years, electric utilities have used and continue to use electro-mechanical KWh meters to measure consumer energy use. These meters must be read by someone to capture energy consumption over a period of time.

Until 2013, cooperative members read their meters and reported the monthly reading to us for billing. The first automatic meter reading (AMR) meters were introduced to cooperative members in 1999 as a \$2-per-month opt-in program. Members' monthly readings were reported to the co-op through telephone lines.

This first generation of AMR meters communicated in only one direction; however, by 2007, the cooperative began installing the next generation, which was capable of two-way communication. That meant the cooperative could send requests or program changes to the meter, and the meter could send readings to the cooperative.

These new meters used power line carriers (PLC) to communicate, which eliminated the need for a phone line to be connected to the meter. Around this time, these meters took on a new name: "smart meter." They continued to be a \$2-per-month opt-in program until 2013, when all members had a smart meter installed at their SCREC residence.

At that time, the opt-in program was dropped, and members were no longer required to report their meter readings to the cooperative. These meters brought other benefits. They provided SCREC with enhanced outage verification during storms, daily meter readings (including kilowatt demand), and voltage profiles of every account. The system worked well, but had limitations, too.

Distribution power line switching affected communication, low data throughput limited readings to once daily, and the ability to scale and support more robust smart grid functions was severely limited. In response, manufacturers began phasing out PLC technology, which has made our current smart meter platform obsolete.

This is not to say that your cooperative has not prepared for this announcement. In 2020, SCREC began deploying meters that communicated using a radio frequency (RF) mesh system. RF meters can communicate in a variety of ways: meter to meter, meter to repeater, and meter to collector (a gateway back to the main office).

The self-healing capability of this system allows meter communication to stay intact regardless of power line switching. In addition, higher data throughout paves the way for more frequent meter reads that allow members to see their energy use hour by hour. Integration into our outage management system (OMS) and future system control and data acquisition (SCADA) system will also speed outage identification and restoration.

While nearly 1,500 RF meters have been deployed in our service territory, more

Continued on page 18D

Over the Creek and Through the Woods, to Rider Park We Go!

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

LEAVING A LEGACY means something different to everyone. Maybe it's having a scholarship in your name, a building in your honor, or an endowment for your grandchildren. But what about leaving an 867-acre park for your community to enjoy?

Thomas Rider donated the area that later became Rider Park to the citizens of Lycoming County, Sisters of Mercy, and Divine Providence Hospital in 1992. An advisory board was then formed to determine the best way to handle the acquisition. That led to the First Community Foundation Partnership (FCFP).

FCFP works to improve the quality of life for residents of northcentral Pennsylvania, including our cooperative's members, by managing endowments, contributions, and donations through scholarships, nonprofit grants, legacy planning, nonprofit fundraising, and more. The partnership was the perfect choice to manage Rider's contribution and turn it into a useful resource for the community.

Four magnificent vistas

Rider Park opened to the public in 1994. Nestled in the heart of the cooperative's Lycoming County service territory, it's just outside of Warrensville between Caleb's Run and Loyalsock Creek.

Most of the park is on top of a mountain, providing four

magnificent vistas: Katy Jane West Vista, Katy Jane East Vista, Doe Pen Vista, and Loyalsock Creek Vista. To access these views, the park offers more than 15 miles of single- and double-track trails. While they all provide elevation gain, the single-track trails are a little more difficult to navigate because they require more technical footing.

The park permits all passive recreation: walking, hiking, picnics, pedal mountain bikes, and leashed dogs (owners must pick up after their pets). Motorized bikes/ATVs, guns, camping, fishing, horses, and swimming are prohibited.

If hiking isn't your forte, but you still like to spend time outside, Rider Park offers the following:

- ▶ **Bluebird nests:** The park has 26 bluebird nest boxes the Lycoming County Audubon Society monitors each nesting season. The society keeps track of eggs laid, hatched chicks, and fledglings. In 2025, 32 bluebirds and 32 tree swallows were newly fledged thanks to Rider Park.
- ▶ **Tree identification:** Tree markers are placed along the Katy Jane and Meadow trails. Tree identification walks are also held regularly during different seasons.
- ▶ **Rich history:** Rider Park's history goes back before Mr. Rider donated the property in 1992. The Ludwig family pastured and cared for horses that were

QUITE THE SCENES: Rider Park is famous for its four vistas. Lace up your boots and hike out to see the Katy Jane vistas, Doe Pen Vista, and Loyalsock Creek Vista.



traveling with the stagecoach from Williamsport to Roaring Branch in the late 1800s. At Ludwig Meadow, pasture areas and fence rows are still visible. Near the park's maintenance shed, barn and house foundations are visible from the Norman Wheeland potato farm. The Wheeland family lived there from 1930 to 1933, when a fire destroyed the homestead. Signs with photos and information about this history are posted at the park.

- ▶ **Educational events:** Rider Park offers family-friendly classes on everything from nature journaling to stargazing as well as forest walks, women's backpacking, seasonal wreathmaking, tree pruning, and more.
- ▶ **Pavilions:** The larger pavilion, which includes 12 picnic tables and is near the maintenance shed, is only available by reservation for nonprofit organizations. The smaller pavilion, which includes eight picnic tables, is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rider Park, its maintenance, events, signage, mapping, and more are all handled by Park Manager Sara Street. While it's extremely time-consuming, it's also a labor of love, and the park has developed under her care. Volunteers from Lycoming College and AmeriCorps Seniors often lend her a helping hand as well.

The park is open 365 days a year, from dusk to dawn; however, they do reserve the right to close in adverse conditions for public safety. No electricity or running water is available to the public.

For more park information, upcoming events, and maps, visit riderpark.org or contact Sara at SaraS@fcfpartnership.org or 570-321-1500, Ext. 7. Events are advertised through fcfpartnership.org, email blasts, and posters around the park. Parking is available at 1769 Caleb Creek Road, Trout Run, PA 17771.

Rider Rattler Trail Race

Think you have what it takes to compete in a trail race? Rider Park also offers a trail race that is perfect for getting your foot into the world of trail running.

The race took a hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was prolonged during parking lot renovations, but came back in 2025 with 180 runners.

There are two distances available: a 4-miler and an 8-miler. The 4-mile race is primarily double track, with some single track, and has 675 feet of elevation gain. The longer race offers more single track and 1,200 feet of elevation gain. Aid stations are available to replenish runners along the way.

Held rain or shine (or snow!), this year's race will start at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 28. Registration is available on ultrasignup.com by searching "Rider Rattler 4-Miler & 8-Miler." But don't wait; registration closes Monday,



BEAUTIFUL IN ALL SEASONS: You don't have to wait for warm weather to experience breathtaking views. Rider Park is open 365 days a year, from dusk to dawn. Bundle up and enjoy winter's beauty!

March 16. All runners will receive a long-sleeved T-shirt and post-race meal.

Rider Park partners with Pursue Your Happiness to put on this family-friendly event. Pursue Your Happiness is crucial in helping with the registration process, timing, and course flagging, but volunteers are always useful. Help is needed from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on race day to point runners in the right direction at intersections and to help with parking, at aid stations, registration, lunch, and much more. If you are interested in lending a much-needed hand, please reach out to Sara Street.

Rider Rattler is a Rockssylvania Trail Series qualifying race in the Sandstone Division. Runners compete in various distance divisions via a points system. The more races you compete in, and the higher you place, the more points you get! Visit patraildogs.com/rocksylvaniaseries for more information and more than 30 other races in the area. 📍



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RIDER PARK

RIDER RATTLER TRAIL RACE: The Rider Rattler 4- and 8-mile trail races are back for 2026. If you're interested in trail running, this is a great entry-level option.

FROM THE CEO

Continued from page 18A

than 4,600 meters still need to be replaced. Because of the high cost, our plan is to deploy 50% of those in 2026 and the remainder in 2027. Members will begin to see the meter exchanges take place in November and conclude by the end of February 2027.

I am sure this will not be the last meter change that occurs. The days of getting more than 20 years out of an electronic meter or smart meter are in the rearview mirror. Our electric grid is becoming more complicated to operate with each year that passes, too. Consumers are purchasing more electric-powered machines and heating and cooling systems than ever before. The demand for electricity has never been higher and the resources to produce it have never been so misaligned.

To reliably manage the growing demand for electricity, meters will need to instantly communicate with the consumer and their appliances and HVAC systems to prevent energy shortfalls and skyrocketing generation costs. This will be the next generation of smart meters.

We all rely on electricity to power our lives. Keeping those costs affordable is becoming more and more difficult as we electrify our world. Future smart meters may be a part of the solution. Semper Fidelis. 🇺🇸

JOHN LYKENS
CEO



smart hub SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative
A Trickle Energy Cooperative

Register for SmartHub to save time and money by managing your account anytime from anywhere.

- Billing & Payments:** Save time with easy payment options to avoid late fees and service interruptions.
- Alerts & Notifications:** Receive the information you need to make the right decisions about your account.
- Usage Monitoring:** With access to this information, you can be in control and make decisions that help reduce your bill.
- Paperless Billing:** Enroll in paperless billing, an eco-friendly way to instantly access your bill.

Visit screc.com/smarthub for more information.

UNCONTESTED 2026 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

DIANE WHITE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

With an uncontested slate of candidates seeking re-election to Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative's (REC) Board of Directors for Districts 1, 5, and 7, the cooperative's Credentials & Elections Committee agreed to dispense with the formal balloting process. Instead, a unanimous ballot will be cast for the sole nominee for each district during the cooperative's annual meeting on May 21.

As a result of the committee's decision, cooperative members will not receive a director election ballot this year. In addition, the three incumbent directors stand elected to serve a new three-year term, effective May 21, the date of the annual meeting.

Candidates who filed petitions to run for board seats are: Ann B. Henderson (District 1), Kathy A. Robbins (District 5), and David R. Rakestraw (District 7). A profile of each candidate follows.

District 1 - Ann B. Henderson *Fox Township, Sullivan County; McNett Township, Lycoming County; and Canton Township, Bradford County*



Ann was first introduced to the cooperative business model by having the opportunity to represent Sullivan County High School (SCHS) on Youth Tour. After graduation from SCHS, Ann attended Gettysburg College where she received a bachelor's degree in business administration with a specialty in accounting. She and her husband Bob operate their family business in Shunk. She has served in several leadership positions in her church and various volunteer organizations. Ann is a Credentialed Cooperative Director and has earned her Board Leadership and Director Gold certifications. She brings visionary thinking and leadership experience to the cooperative board.

District 5 - Kathy A. Robbins *Penn, Franklin, and Jordan townships, Lycoming County; and Shrewsbury and Davidson townships, Sullivan County*



Kathy has been a lifelong resident of Sullivan County and served as Sullivan County treasurer from 1988 until her retirement in December 2019. Kathy has been committed to the community by serving on the Sullivan County REC Board of Directors since 1985. She also serves on the PA/NJ Rural Electric Community Service Network Committee, which raises funds for charities. Being committed to the cooperative, Kathy has earned her Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership, and Director Gold certifications. Kathy is the treasurer for the Muncy Valley Area Volunteer Fire Company and president of the auxiliary. She is also active in many other community organizations.

District 7 - David R. Rakestraw *Upper Fairfield Township, Lycoming County*



Dave has lived in the cooperative service territory his entire life. He graduated from Montoursville High School and attended Penn College, graduating with an associate degree in heavy equipment technology. Dave earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification. He is currently a school bus contractor for the East Lycoming School District and owner/operator of a family farm that produces corn, wheat, and soybeans.