

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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Jay Lewis – CCD
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*Credentialed Cooperative Director
**Board Leadership Certificate
***Director Gold Certificate

Office Hours

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

From the CEO



2020 annual meeting

By Craig A. Harting

THIS YEAR has been a challenge in many ways. One of the issues we've grappled with is the annual meeting: if, when and how to hold it.

For about 40 years, we held the annual meeting at the courthouse. Then it was held at the school for another 40 years. After the fire at the school last year, we tried to hold it at the Sullivan County Fair, but there wasn't enough time to get it arranged.

This year, we planned on holding the annual meeting at the fair, but then COVID-19 came along and the fair was canceled like all the other major events and meetings this summer. So, we needed a new plan.

Online meeting

The shutdown of schools and businesses earlier this year forced many of us to work from home and required us to have online meetings. We debated long and hard but finally decided to try an online annual meeting this year.

We know this decision will be popular with some and unpopular with others, and we completely understand that. However, with the wide diversity of members that we serve, there really is no one day of the week, time or location that would satisfy all of you.

So we are going to try an online meeting this year and see how it goes. We have all experienced many changes resulting from the pandemic, and future annual meetings may be one of them. Our goal is to keep it simple and easy, yet still allow for your attendance and participation while keeping your safety in mind.

The online annual meeting will be held via Zoom on Sept. 3, 2020, beginning at 2 p.m.


Register

There are two things you need to do in advance to attend the meeting. First, you need to go to www.zoom.us/ download and click on the first blue Download box under "Zoom Client for Meetings" and follow the instructions.

Next you need to register for our meeting by going to: https://bit.ly/screc_annual2020. Here you will register by listing your name and email address. Diane White of our office will follow up with an email verifying your account, and then you will be all set for the meeting.

You should have already received a bill stuffer with this same information in your August bill. In addition, we will be emailing the link and instructions to all the emails we have on file. If you need help or would like the link emailed to you, please contact Diane White at de.white@frontier.com or 570-924-3381.

The meeting format will be Attorney Robert Chappell reporting on the director election, board President Ann Henderson giving her report, and then I will follow with a report. During this time, you will be able to submit questions online. We will then take a little break and answer some questions.

As in prior years, we will summarize the meeting in *Penn Lines*. Please contact us with any questions or suggestions whenever you may have them. We look forward to continuing to serve you. 

Love for guns leads to business

By John Zelewicz
Penn Lines Writer

MANY people enjoy living in rural Pennsylvania and participating in a wide range of activities associated with the region. People enjoy hiking the many trails located in the area, camping, swimming, fishing and hunting.

Growing up in Pennsylvania, like many other young men and women, I looked forward to hunting when the leaves turned russet and a cool wind told us that autumn was at hand. Of course, hunting and firearms aren't for everyone. But one man's love of firearms led him to open a gun shop.

Dave Serbin, owner and operator of Serbin's Gun Shop located at 75 Eby Road just north of Estella, opened his gun shop on May 1, 2015.

"I've been interested in guns my whole life, hunting and loading ammo," he explains. "I've always been around guns. I just love them."

Now, it wasn't just Serbin's love of guns that led him to decide to open a gun shop. He was fortunate enough to have a lifetime of inspiration provided by his Uncle George, who runs George's Reloading Shop in Exeter, Pa.

"My uncle was my inspiration and he gave me wisdom," Serbin says. "As a teenager, I spent a lot of time with him at his gun shop. One of the things he taught me was how to load ammo. He did a lot of loading ammo. People who



GUN SHOP: After years of owning and operating a cabinet-making business, Dave Serbin enjoys a change of professions in opening a gun shop.

shoot competitively want certain loads and bullets. They're very specific about what they want. So they'd come to my uncle to have their ammo loaded the way they wanted."

Before opening the gun shop, Serbin spent 32 years making and installing kitchen cabinets. After spending all those years making cabinets, he decided it was time to retire from that business and he looked for a different occupation.

"I didn't think I could keep on doing construction forever and was looking for something else to do," he says. "Opening a gun shop just seemed to be perfect for me."

A lot to get going

As you can imagine, someone does not simply hang out a gun shop sign and go into business. The first thing Serbin had to do was to remodel the building by converting it from his cabinet-making business into a gun shop.

Once he had the building ready to operate as a gun shop, he applied to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and

Firearms (ATF) for his Federal Firearms License (FFL). Serbin had to have his photo taken, be fingerprinted and scrutinized with background checks (about five of them). Once everything was completed, the ATF sent someone out to interview him.

"They want to make sure you're a legitimate business," he explains. "They don't want to give a license to someone so they can purchase a firearm or two a year for themselves. Anyone can get a license if they meet all the requirements, but the final approval is up to the ATF. It's a lot of work for them so they want to make sure the license is going to someone with a real business."

Once Serbin had the FFL, he then needed to get a license from the state. The state will not issue a license without one from the ATF. The license is good for three years and then needs to be renewed. Did you know there are nine different FFLs? Serbin has two licenses — one is his dealer license and the other is for ammunition manufacturing.

Serbin has a Class 1 dealership, which



SHOP HAS IT ALL: Rifles, pistols, ammo, hunting gear, targets — just about anything you need is available at Serbin's Gun Shop.

means he is allowed to sell firearms often associated with target shooting, hunting, everyday carry and home defense. He is also allowed to make repairs to guns as long as they don't require machining. This could be anything from refinishing to trigger work.

You may have noticed there seems to be fewer and fewer gun shops around. Serbin thinks that may be due to the waning popularity of hunting in recent years.

"You're seeing hunting going by the wayside," he says. "Years ago, you'd see fathers and sons go hunting together. But today, you don't see as many younger people during hunting season, and now most of the time it's just older people. The younger generation just doesn't seem to be as interested in hunting as they used to be."

Paperwork, paperwork and more paperwork

As you can imagine, one of the most important and time-consuming jobs of running a gun shop is the paperwork. While some larger shops may be able to submit the paperwork electronically, not every gun shop can do so.

"Smaller shops have to do all the paperwork by hand," Serbin says. "I understand that they want to protect your information. But I normally spend about 2 -2 1/2 hours a day doing paperwork before I open the shop or after I close up for the day. Paperwork is so redundant and boring, and there's a ton of it. I understand the need for it because you're dealing with firearms."

In addition to selling rifles and pis-



GUN SHOP IS OPEN: The gun shop is housed in what was Dave Serbin's cabinet-making business. Located at 75 Eby Road just outside of Estella, the shop is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

tols, Serbin's Gun Shop has just about everything you need from ammo to optics, loading supplies, crossbows, and targets. He has everything you'd find in most gun shops, even Meals Ready to Eat (MREs).

While buying firearms may be what many people are interested in, the time of year can determine whether Serbin sells more rifles or pistols. During the summer, a lot of people are looking to purchase a pistol so they can target practice. Once it gets into hunting season, more people become interested in purchasing hunting rifles.

According to Serbin, purchasing a firearm is a lot like purchasing a vehicle.

"About 75% of people know or have an idea of what they want," he says. "But there are a lot of first-time buyers unsure as to exactly what they want. They may never have even held a gun before. I help them find what's best for them."

Serbin explains that the way a firearm feels when you hold it is important.

"You'll know right away if the gun is right for you, and you'll also know right away if it isn't," he says. "It's like buying a vehicle; you need to look it over and check it out. Once you do, you'll know if it's the right one for you or not."

When purchasing a firearm, one of the biggest things Serbin recommends is reading the manual before you even shoot it. New guns might have oil or metal shavings in the barrel, so you want to break it in properly, an action also known as seasoning the gun. A lot depends upon the manufacturers' recommendations.

"Some manufacturers suggest first cleaning the gun, then shooting 10 rounds, and doing this three times, and then a final cleaning before putting it away," he says.

Another thing to keep in mind is how to take care of a firearm after using it. Some people will use a gun in hunting season, clean it, oil it and put it away until next year. The thing to remember is that most oils will evaporate over time. The best thing to do to keep a firearm from rusting is to oil it three times a year.



GUN REPAIRS: Because Dave Serbin has a Class 1 dealership, he can make repairs to guns as long as they don't require machining. This could be anything from refinishing to working on triggers.

Time to put it away

Years ago, you'd be driving down the road and often see a shotgun or two hanging in the back window of a pickup truck. Many also had a wooden gun case with a glass front proudly placed in the living room or den displaying their firearms. Today, however, many people have gotten away from such display cases and keep their rifles and pistols securely locked away in a metal gun safe. And while locking firearms away can help prevent accidents, Serbin is quick to explain that the best way to help prevent gun accidents is through education.

"A gun safe is not an end-all and it's not a trade-off for education," he says. "Most accidents happen because someone doesn't know how to handle a gun. Dad taught us how to use and respect a rifle. We knew that we were never to touch them when Dad wasn't around. A gun safe helps keep them secure, but people need to be educated on how to handle them safely."

Owning and operating a gun shop is a dream come true for Serbin. And one of the things that makes it so wonderful is the people he gets to meet.

"It's fantastic," he says. "This is a great business to be in. People who appreciate guns and hunting are great to work with."

You can find Serbin's Gun Shop on Facebook or he can be reached by calling his shop at 570-924-3633. The shop is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. ☀

Dog days of summer are here

I THINK most people would agree it's been a strange year. There's been COVID-19, which has made pretty much everyone change the way they work and play. Then there's the weather — one day it's so cool that you need to wear a jacket when wandering outside and then there are days when it's so hot you feel perspiration forming even when all you're doing is breathing.

Yes, we have reached the “dog days” of summer. You may have heard that phrase before, but do you know where it came from? The phrase “dog days of summer” is used to describe the period between July 3 and Aug. 11. It's a time when we normally experience the most oppressive heat during the summer.

That phrase is actually a reference to the time period when the sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius. Sirius is part of the constellation Canis Major, the Great Dog, and rises and sets with the sun. The ancient Romans believed that (due in part to how bright it is) it gave off heat and added to the sun's warmth. The Romans referred to this period as *dies caniculares* or dog days.

But no matter what you call it, the fact remains that it's one of the hottest times of the year. If you're lucky enough, you may have a swimming pool to jump in (even better is to have a nearby friend or family member with a pool).

But what can you do to help stay



cool and save electricity? Here are some tips to help you do that:

- ▶ Keep curtains and blinds closed during the hottest part of the day.
- ▶ Use the clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- ▶ Use bathroom and kitchen fans to remove heat and humidity produced by cooking and bathing.
- ▶ Try to prepare meals that require minimal cooking or try to use a microwave or cook the meal outside on a grill.
- ▶ Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms and unplug unnecessary electronics.
- ▶ If you have a ceiling fan, have it spin counter-clockwise to help push down cooler air.

The dog days of summer will pass before you know it. In the meantime, sit back in a shady spot, hope for a cool breeze and enjoy a nice glass of ice cold lemonade. Heck, before you know it, you'll be pulling out your winter clothing and trying to keep warm during the winter months ahead. ☀

Please send in your ballot

By now you should have received the 2020 Director Election ballot that was sent out in July. Please vote for all three districts and send your ballot back to us by Wednesday, Sept. 2, in the blue envelope that was enclosed with the ballot. Do not include payments or other correspondence.

Election Districts up for election this year are Districts 1, 5 and 7.

Remember: all members vote for all districts.
Thank you for your participation in this important activity.

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.