

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

From the CEO



Quickly but slowly

By Craig A. Harting

“LIFE GOES BY quickly but slowly” is a quote from Bruce Springsteen in a recent *AARP The Magazine* article. He was talking about aging and life in general, but his quote struck me as a great summary for this past year. 2020 went by quickly but slowly.

A number of things went by quickly. It seemed the calendar went by quickly, but that seems to happen every year as I get older. Not sure what to do about that. Along the same lines, the seasons seemed to change quicker this year, and even the leaves changed earlier.

But the construction season seemed to go fast. We connected a lot of new services, and we replaced over 130 poles. We completed more line inspections and fixed potential problems before they caused outages. Rights-of-way were cleared, and dangerous trees were removed. We continued to upgrade our meter-reading equipment.

Director elections and the annual meeting seemed to go by quickly. We want to thank all of you who voted and participated in this process. We also want to thank those of you who participated in the online annual meeting. Due to the pandemic, we will again be holding our 2021 annual meeting online.

Slowly

But there were several things that seemed to go by very slowly. The election seemed to go on forever. I

can only wonder how many cardstock flyers we received this year. Thank goodness we have a burn barrel. In any event, it feels like elections are never really over, and we are just stuck in endless election cycles.

Of course, we will all remember 2020 as the year of the pandemic and how it seems like this will never end. Obviously, the pandemic has impacted all of us both personally and as a country. It's hard to see it completely disappearing in the future, but I sure hope it does.

Some things will never be completely the same for us, and I'm sure for you as well. We continue to implement procedures here to keep our employees safe, and we ask for your help as well. Continue to avoid contact as much as possible, and remember to use our automated services.

New year

A new year will soon be here, and we are all hoping for a better year next year. Let's hope next year will pass slowly but enjoyably! From all of us here at your cooperative, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 🌟



Love for archery leaves couple a-quiver

By John Zelewicz
Penn Lines Writer

TELEVISION introduced many of those who grew up in the 1950s and 1960s to a world of imagination. You had science fiction, mysteries, westerns and good old swashbuckling tales of adventure.

Looking back, you may remember how much archery played a part in a lot of the earlier television shows and movies. Who can forget Errol Flynn and the various roles he played? One of the most swashbuckling roles played by Flynn was in the 1938 movie “The Adventures of Robin Hood.” In it, his character participates in a contest to determine who is the best archer in the land. Of course, Robin Hood (Flynn) wins the contest by splitting an arrow in half with his arrow using his trusty longbow.

While television and movies may not always depict reality, there are often kernels of truth in them. And one truth is that archery has always been a part of our history since someone first fashioned a crude bow out of whatever materials they had on hand.

Archery can be traced back centu-

ries. It's believed that as far back as 2340 B.C., bows and arrows were the weapons of choice for the Babylonians.

Even now, the love of archery continues with people all across the world, but especially in Sullivan County. The love of archery led Stan and Robin Lentz to open Lentz Archery, located on Karge Road in Sullivan County.

Despite Stan already having his own business, the Lentzes opened their archery shop in November 2018.

“I must be crazy,” Stan says. “I already have a full-time plumbing and heating business. I would never be able to make a living with just the shop, but I enjoy working on archery equipment and working with people. Both of us enjoy being able to help people out.”

Some may remember getting a bow and arrow kit when they were children. Who can forget tearing the paper off your gift one birthday or Christmas and finding a bow and arrow kit? Of course, instead of an actual arrowhead, the arrow had a rubber suction cup attached. Like many others, the love of archery goes way back for Stan.

“I've been into archery since I was just a kid,” he says. “I can still remember my first bow. We were camping on Cook Hill and my father took a stick and a piece of string and made me a bow.”

Lentz Archery carries a wide range of items

Walk into Lentz Archery and you'll find a wide range of items for sale, everything from compound bow arrows, bolts, fletching, string wax, broad heads, face paint, releases, game bags, bow sights and even arrows for bow fishing.



FOR THE LOVE OF ARCHERY: Stan and Robin Lentz love archery so much that they opened Lentz Archery in 2018. Located on Karge Road in Sullivan County, they're happy to help anyone interested in archery.

As you can imagine, it's been hard to find certain items this year because of the pandemic. But the Lentzes planned ahead and purchased a lot of supplies earlier in the year. They knew it might be difficult to get certain archery items later on.

“We don't want to carry too much inventory, but we have most of what people will want or need,” Stan explains “While we don't stock bows, we can order almost any bow, and we can service them.”

People will either drop off or send their bows and arrows to the Lentzes to be worked on. They'll do whatever needs to be done to ensure the archery equipment functions the way it's supposed to.

“We'll tear them apart and do whatever work the customer wants,” Stan says. “We can tune bows for the hunter or the competition shooter. We also have a Hooter Shooter for those who want their arrows shooting the same out of their bow.”

One of the nice things about the



CROSSBOW: Stan Lentz displays a crossbow with a crank mechanism. He notes that while a lot of people use compound bows, the popularity of crossbows continues to grow.

Lentz Archery shop is its location. On one particular Saturday during archery season, an archery hunter had to stop in because he had forgotten his arrows and other archery supplies.

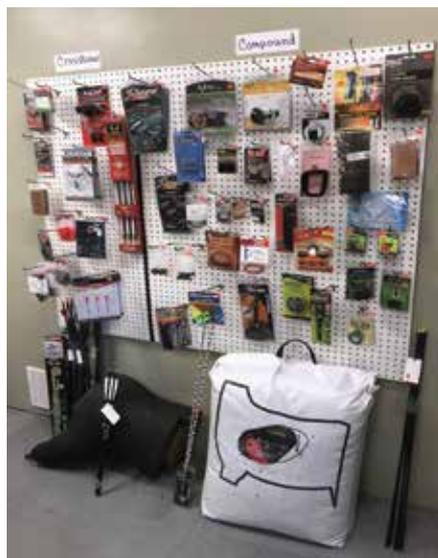
“He looked online and found us, and we were only 6 miles away,” Stan notes “We’re glad that we were able to help him out. Before we opened the shop, I would have had to run an hour to get to an archery shop to get the things I needed.”

Getting started in archery

There are sporting goods stores where anyone can go and get what’s needed to get into archery. You can walk into a store and pick up a bow, some arrows and targets, and head on out, ready to shoot a few arrows into the target.

But according to Stan, one of the biggest mistakes someone makes getting into archery is not having the proper equipment that is suited to them.

“When getting into archery, the first thing you need to do is see what your draw length is and make sure the bow isn’t too hard to pull,” he says. “Sometimes they’ll be given a used bow, which is fine, but if it’s not the right draw length, then they may lose interest. They need to get a bow that fits them, one they can pull back with ease and hold



WIDE VARIETY FOR SALE: Lentz Archery carries a wide range of archery items, including compound bow arrows, bolts, fletching, string wax, broad heads, face paint, releases, game bags, bow sights and more.

until they’re ready to release the arrow.”

Another thing to consider is what type of bow you’d like to use. There are four types of bows used for archery hunting or shooting targets:

Recurve Bow – This type of bow is designed to provide more power. Because of this, the recurve bow is popular when teaching archery.

Traditional Bow (Longbow) – This type of bow is known for its simplicity. They normally do not have arrow rests or sights. Because of this, they are more difficult to aim and don’t have the velocity a recurve or compound bow would have.

Compound Bow – This type of bow first came out in the 1960s. Utilizing an innovative system of cables, pulleys and cams, a compound bow can help the archer holding a heavy draw weight. While the compound bow still requires a good amount of strength to use, its design helps reduce the amount of muscle fatigue an archer might experience.

Crossbow – This type of bow has become very popular recently. Believed to have originated in China and once used in battle, they’ve become very popular for use in hunting and sports. The bowstring is either set by pulling it into position or by using a crank mechanism. In 2009, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners expanded where and when hunters could use crossbows, as well as allowing the use of magnifying scopes.

The type of bow used varies from person to person. But according to Stan, the most important thing is that archery gives people a chance to get outside and enjoy the outdoors.

“A lot of people use compound bows,” he says. “But the fact is a lot of people are getting into using crossbows. With crossbows you don’t have to practice as much, and they’re deadly. One good thing about being able to use crossbows to hunt is that it does bring a lot of people to the woods. I’m happy about that because they’re enjoying being outdoors and hunting.”

Stan and Robin are more than happy to help answer archery questions and even help people get into the sport.



PERFECT GIFT: Looking for a Christmas present for that archer in your family? Why not stop in at Lentz Archery? They have a wide range of archery supplies, archery jewelry and handmade soap. You can also purchase a gift certificate.

“Sometimes women are hesitant to get into archery because they don’t feel comfortable with a man teaching them how,” Robin says. “I’m here to help women if they want to learn how to shoot a bow.”

Archery season may be over for this year, but it’s never too early to pick up what you need to be ready when archery season rolls around again next year. And even when Lentz Archery isn’t open, Stan and Robin are always ready and willing to open for those who need something.

“We have set hours, but if people need something and we’re around, we’re happy to help out. We’re not open year-round, but people can call me, and if we’re available, we’ll help them out.”

If you are looking for an idea for a Christmas present, they have items such as archery jewelry, archery supplies and handmade soap. You can also purchase a gift certificate. Lentz Archery is located at 781 Karge Road, and they can be contacted by calling 570-928-9261 or 570-637-2408. They can also be contacted on their Facebook page.

According to Robin, archery is an activity that can be enjoyed by everyone and not just adults or those who are athletically inclined.

“Archery is something everyone can enjoy, especially kids,” she says. “Kids don’t have to be that athletic to participate in archery. As long as they’re able to pull the bowstring back, they can shoot an arrow.” 🏹

From the Operations Department

By Walter Tubach

I FIND IT hard to believe that we are at the end of the year. Being busy makes the time go faster, and that is where all of us at SCREC have been. We have



Walter Tubach
Manager, Electric
Operations

been sending out letters and emails for right-of-way cutting, trimming and spraying. We have also been replacing poles that were rejected during our annual pole inspection program, inspecting lines for stranded wires, pulling anchors and bad insulators, and changing out circuit breakers. We sent our brushing crews to look over the longer lines for dead and dying trees to reduce the chance of tree-related outages. I feel great about all of the work that has been completed at your cooperative.

The transmission line from the Lycoming Mall needed maintenance, and we found six cracked insulators, six cotter pins that had vibrated out from the holders, and numerous woodpecker holes that needed to be filled. Contractor Hinkels and McCoy was hired to replace the insulators, and our lineworkers used special caulking to fix the woodpecker holes, and reinstalled the loose cotter pins. Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., the power supplier for Pennsylvania co-ops, helped us install five sets of lightning arrestors. This project took days of planning and line feed switching so our other four substations could handle the load while the Mill Creek Substation was shut off. The work was completed without incident, and the substation was back on in three days and fully returned to service in five days. This is a major accomplishment for the cooperative to continue to improve reliability and serve our members the best we can.

Power supply to our Laporte, Dushore and Estella substations was continually jeopardized this summer because Penelec was rebuilding its East Towanda Substation and had only one circuit

feeding into Sullivan County. On May 8, the entire county was without service for 38 minutes because a main transformer opened up the circuit. This occurred again on May 10 for 12 minutes. The feed into our Estella, Dushore and Laporte substations was dropped again on May 27. Penelec was able to backfeed the Dushore and Laporte substations within 24 minutes, but the Estella Substation needed to be backfed from the Dushore Substation. We lost power supply again at the Laporte Substation on July 3 for 20 minutes. The Estella Substation lost power supply on July 12 for seven minutes. Penelec was able to switch feeds to limit the outage length. We lost power supply to the Dushore Substation on Aug. 22 for 55 minutes. On Oct. 23, Penelec dropped our Laporte and Dushore substations again. The Laporte Substation was electronically restored by Penelec in three minutes, but the Dushore Substation was backfed by our lineworkers from the Estella Substation to limit our members' outage to 40 minutes. The capability to backfeed our substations again saved our members an outage of more than two hours.

Intermittent blinks and three-second outages have plagued our Estella, Laporte and Dushore substations all summer due to problems at Penelec, but we finally received word that their projects were completed, and these issues should be resolved.

I had to schedule numerous planned outages in the Huntersville area for replacement of poles and maintenance that requires the line to be de-energized. These outages are a nuisance, but we only do them when absolutely necessary, and I thank everyone for being patient during these planned outages as we continue to upgrade our system.

Fallen trees caused 38 outages over the past few months. Our brushing crews have cut more than 9,524 trees and trimmed 5,921 trees to date, but high winds and bad weather will still take down even the healthiest trees. We will continue to battle this issue.

Unknown causes for an outage happened 15 times, two animals got into the line and two squirrels got into transformer lightning arrestor gaps to cause power failures. Lightning strikes caused five outages, home fires caused two and auto accidents caused two outages.

Our own equipment failures were as follows: seven transformers burned, one pole broke off, one breaker failed, two fuse cutouts cracked/broke, three wire connectors corroded, and two lightning arrestors cracked and caused faults. The system is always a "work in progress," but we will continue to keep it as reliable as possible.

Please remember we are only a phone call away, and remember to be safe! ⚡

Directors Lewis and Hamilton earn Board Leadership Certificate

Jay Lewis and Jeff Hamilton are the newest Sullivan REC directors to earn the Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The Board Leadership Certificate curriculum consists of 10 courses designed to provide essential knowledge required of cooperative directors. Lewis and Hamilton previously achieved the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification by taking the required five courses. Lewis is the board representative from District 6, which includes Shrewsbury Township, Wolf Township and Mill Creek Township in Lycoming County. Hamilton is the board representative from District 4, which includes Laporte Township, Cherry Township, and Laporte Borough in Sullivan County and Albany Township in Bradford County. ⚡



Jay Lewis



Jeff Hamilton