

# SWAN'S ISLAND ELECTRIC COOP NEWSLETTER

## From the Manager:

For the last few months we have been focused on mustering the field resources we need to keep the system running safely while also making progress on our infrastructure program. We are continuing our search for a full time first class line worker. We reported in October that we had contracted with a first class line worker on an interim basis for 2 days/week to keep up with our routine line work. This contractor was injured (off the job) and is unavailable for the next 4-6 weeks. As an interim measure we have arranged for a first class line crew to work with us 5-6 days/month on an every other week schedule. I want to stress that due to the reduced staffing and the need to place safety first you will be experiencing more outages while we conduct work on de-energized lines. If you are planning electric work on your home that will require SIEC field crew involvement please give us at least 1-2 weeks notice. We ask for your understanding and patience.

In spite of these challenges we have made progress on our infrastructure work. In late November an outside contractor

completed the installation of 21 poles and 27 anchors on Ferry RD, Atlantic RD & Old Valley RD, our engineers prepared base maps for the distribution grid in Frenchboro and conducted a tender for conductor replacement on Atlantic Loop RD, Ferry RD and Atlantic RD, and we obtained an expanded easement from the Maine Ferry System for the main substation on Ferry RD. As a result of limited contractor resources due to the Hurricane Sandy emergency response the bids received for the conductor replacement were very high and therefore were rejected. Our plans for 2013 include: tendering for the installation of new 3-phase conductor from the ferry terminal to the TDS switching station on Atlantic RD, layout of pole & conductor replacement on Frenchboro, reconstruction of the main substation on Ferry RD and completion of pole installations on Atlantic RD from Ferry RD to Red Point RD and on North RD from Harbor RD to Jericho Bay RD. We also plan to complete single phase conductor work on Atlantic Loop RD, North RD and Atlantic RD using the outside contracted line crew mentioned

above.

We are happy to report the launch of our website and we invite you to check it out at <http://swansislandelectric.com/home.html>. See the back side of this newsletter for the Notice of Non-Discrimination which we must send to you annually to comply with our RUS loan requirements. Some of you will receive estimated bills this month courtesy of the snow storm that hit us just before meter reading time. And finally, those of our seasonal residents who wish to change billing address each year please call Jane when you want the address changed – this is not an automatic process.

## From the Board:

When your coop accepted the RUS loan for \$815,000 in early 2012 for critical pole replacements your board knew that this added debt would trigger the need for a rate increase sometime in the next few years. To be prepared we have begun working with CFC (one of our two major lenders) on a Cost of Service Study. This study will evaluate the adequacy and fairness of current rates and, if necessary, the timing for a

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request to the Maine Public Utilities Commission for a rate increase. We expect to be able to report preliminary results at our spring informational meeting tentatively scheduled for late March. We will publish the timing and venue of the information meetings with posters in key town buildings, on the SIEC & Town of Swan's Island websites and via email channels on Frenchboro.

- ELECTRIC CO-OP OFFICE HOURS
  - 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM  
MON - FRI
  - PHONE # 526-4336
  - OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED BETWEEN 11:00 AM AND 12:00 PM FOR LUNCH.
  - OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS.
- EMERGENCY PHONE NOS.  
TOM MCALOON  
207-479-0657  
STEVE GREEN  
207-479-0658  
BONNIE TURNER 526-4282