

# SWANS ISLAND ELECTRIC COOP NEWSLETTER

## From the Manager:

Spring appears to be upon us already and welcome it is! We have started our procurement in support of the infrastructure improvements financed by our new RUS loan. We expect to award a contract for a truckload of utility poles and solicit prices for bigger multi-strand aluminum cable within the week. The aluminum cable will replace our old bare copper wire. Our field infrastructure work at the moment is concentrating on the replacement of poles on Atlantic Loop Road. We are moving the poles to the road right of way wherever possible and changing the feed from the intersection of Atlantic and Atlantic Loop Roads at Saturn Press to the Rose Hill Road at the Atlantic Fire Station. We will begin shortly to survey the poles on Frenchboro to identify those most in need of replacement and start setting up our contracts and logistics to do the work.

Spring also brings the end of the special rules

governing the disconnection of services for non-payment. Effective April 16th normal disconnection rules apply. A reminder on payments – we are able to accept payments over the phone charged to your credit and debit cards.

We are pleased to announce a Safety Workshop on April 17th focused on the risks of working around electricity. SIEC and the Swans Island Fire Department are collaborating on this effort. Our presenter is Mr. Brad Kaherl of Central Maine Power who specializes in electrical safety training. The intended audience includes fire department and SIEC personnel and contractors that work any place near electricity – outside the building or inside. The general public is welcome but due to the nature of the subject, it is not recommended that children attend. We will post the time and location around the islands once we finalize plans.

A note on safety – we have many lines that run through remote sections

of woods. If you are out in the woods on a springtime ramble and you come across a wire lying on the ground – STAY AWAY from it and call SIEC so we can inspect it and take the right corrective action.

## From the Board:

Our Cooperative had a very successful audit last month. The most important benchmark for a rural Cooperative is to meet or exceed a Times-Interest-earned Ratio (TIER) of 1.25. Our Cooperative achieved a TIER of 1.72 – a good sign that all the hard work to get our financial house in order is paying off. The credit goes to Manager Tom McAloon and Bookkeeper Bonnie Turner and several members of the Board including Treasurer Jeffrey Ellison, past Treasurer George Baker, and past-President Jason Matthews.

We have all learned a great deal over the past year and have set our sights on achieving TIER consistently hereafter.

## March 2012

### 2nd Quarterly Community Update Set for April:

The Cooperative is planning our 2nd Community update meetings on Swans Island and Frenchboro during the month of April featuring the results of the Wind Power Feasibility Study which is due for completion at the end of March. Seasonal members will also be briefed on the Study results at Annual Meeting in July, and a summer meeting is also planned for Frenchboro residents on a date to be announced.

- ELECTRIC CO-OP OFFICE HOURS
- PHONE # 526-4336
- 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM MON - FRI
- OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED BETWEEN 11:00 AM AND 12:00 PM FOR LUNCH.
- OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS.

#### AFTER HOUR

#### EMERGENCY

#### NUMBERS:

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