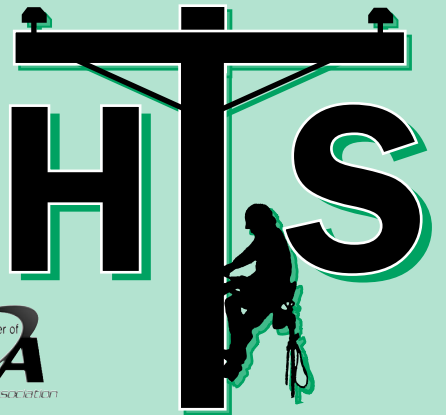


June 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Gunwerks

A Company That Manufactures Long-Range Rifles

In a simple, unassuming building in one of the smaller towns in the Big Horn Basin lays a hidden treasure. Burlington, Wyoming is home to Gunwerks, a company that manufactures long-range rifles. The company was started in January, 2006, by Aaron Davidson. Gunwerks is a sister company of Best of the West, which was started by Jack Peterson in 1999.

Gunwerks entrepreneur Aaron Davidson shows one of the custom long-range rifles.



When asked how the interest in long-range rifles started, Aaron shared, “I went to college for engineering because of my love of cars. After being there a while, I decided cars weren’t in my future, but I got an interest in guns. The science behind the trajectory of the ammo and the challenge of the long-range aspect is exciting.”

Aaron’s love of science helped in designing the “turret”. This small, innocent looking knob is what makes Gunwerks rifles so special. The turret is custom to each rifle – each customer gets this customized to their exact gun. The turret is the “range finder” per se. The hunter dials in the yardage they want, holds their cross-hairs on their target and the rifle is right on to shoot. “It is so easy.

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From the Manager’s Desk

As the summer season is getting under way please be mindful to be safe. Whether your work involves moving irrigation pipe, operating farm and construction equipment, take time to observe and be mindful not to be near overhead power lines.

Summer also seems to be the time when Big Horn has the greatest amount of requests from our customers for a new service, upgrade, or a line change. As a member owned cooperative, one of our responsibilities is to provide our members with quality customer service. Big Horn will meet with our customers on a timely basis to review the job request and provide a written estimate for the project. The estimate is based upon the costs to perform a job in a safe and reliable manner. The costs include such things as material, labor, equipment and overhead (taxes, insurance, etc.). The costs do not include a mark up. A job is only priced at the actual amount to complete the job.

The Board of Directors and employees of Big Horn REA thank all of our members for their patronage. Big Horn will continue providing superior service and not be profit driven.

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Gunwerks

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That's what makes it so amazing," says Davidson.

In addition to production of the turret, Gunwerks manufactures the custom action, the custom stock and the scope. Each rifle is calibrated with technology to shoot long-range. Currently Gunwerks is building about 10 rifles per week and there is a waiting list. This year alone they have produced approximately 200,000 rounds of ammunition. Gunwerks currently has patents pending on their technology.

When asked why he chose Burlington for his company, Davidson replied, "I'm from here. It's very low cost. It was easy!" In addition to the



The turret – the magic behind each long-range rifle built by Gunwerks.

manufacturing shop in Burlington, Best of the West has a storefront on Sheridan Avenue in Cody. "Most of our sales are on-line, though," Davidson adds. Currently there are six employees in Burlington and five in Cody.

Jack Peterson had a background in guiding and hunting and started making videos for sale. In 1999 he started Best of the West, his production company. When Aaron started his Gunwerks company in 2006 the two thought a partnership would be a good fit. In 2003, the Best of the West television show was started. It can be seen on the Outdoor Channel and is seen in approximately 500,000 homes per week. The program is in the top 10 of programs on that channel. The program has been filmed from Mexico to the Northwest Territories of Canada and focuses mainly on hunting in the northwest.

Aaron shared that there are some names associated with the show that a lot of people will recognize. Michael Martin Murphy, country recording artist, was on the show for a year. For those familiar with the rodeo set, Shorty Gorham is on the pro-staff. This spring, there will be a shooting school with George Strait.

Asked who the typical purchaser of his equipment is, Aaron shared, "There are typically two different types of people who buy our guns. The first is the hard-working business owner who has a love of hunt-

ing. The second are the professional hunters. We have people fly-in in their private jets to pick up their rifles."

Davidson currently works 14-hour days, six days per week. When asked how he manages this schedule, he stated, "I've had to cut out some of my own hunting. Actually, bringing on good people is the best way to manage. We have some excellent people working for us. Ryan Kelsey, our machinist, went to school specifically so he could work for us."

When wrapping up the interview, Davidson was asked to name one thing the local people would be surprised by. Davidson, smiling, replied, "Most people in the Basin would be surprised to know we drive the industry in this market. The big companies are following us."

For more information on Gunwerks, please check out their websites. Their gun selection can be found on www.gunwerks.com, for the rifle scope, go to www.huske-maw.com and for other long-range products, be sure to head to www.longrangestore.com.



One of two CNC (computer numeric control) machines in the Burlington manufacturing shop. This machine produces the custom stock for each rifle.

2010 Upcoming Events:

June 5 and 6

Lilac Day, Washington Park, Basin

June 11-13

"Days of '49" - Greybull

June 11-13

Buffalo Round-Up All School Renuin, Greybull

June 19

Big Horn Lake Celebration - Horseshoe Bend

June 21-26

Lovell "Mustang Days"

July 3

Ten Sleep 4th of July Parade Rodeo

July 4

Old Fashioned 4th of July - Greybull City Park

July 10

Byron Day - Byron

July 23-24

Cowley Pioneer Days - Cowley

Summer Safety Sense

It's hard to think of summer without also thinking of fun. Big Horn REA and the Electrical Safety Foundation would like to remind you that whether enjoying outdoor activities, hitting the road on vacation, or relaxing with a good book, take a little time to review summer safety with your family and friends.

Electrical hazards during the summer are often related to storms. Lightning strikes, power outages and electrical hazards in the aftermath of storms are often the causes of death and injury during summer months.



Safety During and After Storms

Take care when stepping into a flooded area, and be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize the water, posing a potential lethal trap.

Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines, and dryers. Electrical parts can become grounded and pose an electric shock hazard, or overheat and cause a fire. A qualified service repair dealer should recondition electrical equipment that has been wet. Certain equipment will require complete replacement, while a trained professional can recondition other devices.

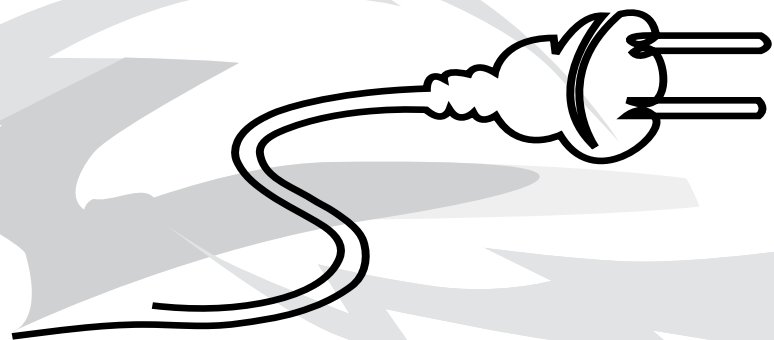
Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or death. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.

The following tips can help you stay safe around downed lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it. The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive

materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.

- Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- Do not drive over downed lines.
- If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle.
- If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the car and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.



REMINDER:

June is the last month to sign up for Budget Billing. Budget Billing allows for members to pay the same amount every month for electric service.

- Sign up for this service during the months of April, May and June
 - Must have a usage history for a period of 12 consecutive months
 - Account for electric service must be current in payments
 - Must complete a Budget Billing Plan Agreement
- Contact Big Horn for details at 568-2419 or 800-564-2419

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Use your microwave for cooking whenever possible. They use 50 to 65 percent less energy than conventional ovens and do not heat up your house in the summer. However, conventional ovens may be more appropriate for larger size items when cooking time is increased.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives.

HIGHLIGHTS

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For Outages or Trouble
Call the office number: **ANYTIME**
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419
After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays
all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).