



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative  
The power of human connections

# NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

## Manager's Message

Dear Members:

by Marlene Morse



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**November is a month to be thankful. Thankful for family, for friends and for our Veterans.**

Veterans Day–Nov 11th  
Thanksgiving–Nov 26th  
High Plains Power will be closed  
November 26th & 27th.

We are nearing the completion of the Landis & Gyr Advanced Meter Infrastructure installation. We began this project in 2018 with the goal of having it fully deployed in 2020. Much of our old metering equipment has failed and we no longer have support for the antiquated system. We have already seen great cost savings in this new system. Below is what was spent on reading meters because the old system was failing, High Plains Power personnel was required to manually read the Members' meters. I compared January - September because for 2020 I have data through September 2020.

Year	Amount Spent on Meter Reading
Jan - Sept 2016	\$257,400
Jan - Sept 2017	\$227,623
Jan - Sept 2018	\$309,067
Jan - Sept 2019	\$213,849
Jan - Sept 2020	\$82,845

We are in the final stages of preparing the 2021 budget. Tri-State has announced that there will be no wholesale power cost increase. High Plains Power does not foresee a rate increase for 2021 which for the last five (5) years we have had rate stabilization. I don't know of too many goods or services that has not increased in the last five (5) years.

It is often during this Thanksgiving Holiday season that we are reminded to take time to give thanks. This year has been a year like no other, but I still have a great deal to be thankful for-my family, my friends, my health and last my freedom. If not for our veterans, I might not be allowed to be blessed with the freedoms we take for granted.

High Plains Power has a special affinity for veterans. Perhaps because our values are so closely aligned – focusing on service, mission and country. It's because several veterans return to their hometowns following active duty and share their work ethic of teamwork, cooperation and a "get it done" attitude.

For the past several years, High Plains Power has supported the Hunting with Heroes program. This non-profit and charitable organization, formed in 2013, is dedicated to giving back to disabled veterans who served our country and sacrificed to keep us safe. Hunting with Heroes works with state agencies, landowners and volunteers to offer custom programs designed for the unique needs of each disabled veteran. Partnering with the Wyoming Game and Fish, and using

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# HUNTING WITH HEROES

## Jose Maldonado

My name is Jose Maldonado and I was born and raised in the great state of Texas. I served in the United States Army for twenty years as a Military Policeman with several combat deployments to Iraq and other peace keeping operations. Throughout my career I held leadership positions as a team leader, squad leader, and platoon sergeant while in peace time and in combat. I retired as a Sergeant First Class in 2016. My most memorable time in my career was as a squad leader in the 82nd Military Police Company, 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, NC where I served with the best soldiers and leaders in the U.S. Army.



Being part of the Hunting with Heroes Wyoming chapter was a great experience. Our guides Trapper, Brian, and Sean were very knowledgeable and helpful, and it made the hunt a learning experience. They have a great passion for hunting and especially for helping our fellow veterans by volunteering their time to make our hunting adventure come true. I am very grateful to have had a successful hunt with such a great group of people.

Buck Mellon, Brian Tucker, Trapper Bradshaw, and Jose Maldonado



Remember our Veterans and their sacrifices this Veterans Day.



Trapper Bradshaw, Buck Mellon, Jose Maldonado, Larry Phillips, and Jordan Brentlinger

## Bascom "Buck" Lowell Mellon IV

My name is Bascom "Buck" Lowell Mellon IV and I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in March of 2015 as a 0844 Field Artillery Fire Direction Control Specialist and was stationed in Camp Pendleton, California. In December of that year I married my wife Carolyn. We have a daughter, Elodie, born in August of 2017, and a son Bascom, born in December 2018, both at Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital. In May of 2018 I was deployed on the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit onboard the USS Green Bay located in Sasebo, Japan. I retired from the Marine Corps in March 2019 as a Corporal and now live in Colorado. I am attending the Colorado School of Trades and working part time at a gun store in Denver.



## Jordan Brentlinger

My name is Jordan Brentlinger. I am a United States Navy Veteran. I served 5 years from 2010-2015 in various overseas commands involving physical security and protection of assets vital to national security. Early in my career I was an Armorer and Firearms Instructor, and later I was involved with personal protection to high ranking government officials and diplomats, including Secretary of Defense.



I was offered a spot in Hunting with Heroes, who take disabled Veterans (50% or more), to hunt various game in WY. Let me just say this opportunity was one of the most incredible experiences I have ever had in my life. I can whole heartily say that our guides, Trapper and Brian, were crucial in making that experience. The biggest take away from this hunt, was not necessarily even the hunt itself, but the experience of sharing stories, bonding with other Veterans including Trapper and Brian. We laughed, we reminisced on good memories and bad, but ultimately, we became friends. We worked together to learn from each other and to ultimately decompress from the everyday mental war that many of us Veterans are still fighting daily. This experience without a doubt changed my life, and ultimately it could not have happened without Trapper and Brian. I would like to thank you for allowing Trapper to take time to give back to us. It's humbling to think of the generosity, not only Hunting with Heroes, Trapper and Brian, but also your company and the way you give back to us. From the bottom of my

heart, thank you. I will never forget it. I will never forget this experience and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity. Not to mention Trapper is one hell of a guide! As you'll see I was able to bag a monster off of his expertise! Thank you, thank you, thank you! I hope this clearly explains the effect that you, Hunting with Heroes, and Trapper have on all of us that have come home, searching for some normality in life, and longing for experiences like this one and of the freedoms this wonderful country provides all of us.



## Manager's Message

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donated big game licenses, the licenses are reissued to a disabled veteran. Guides, rifles, gear, room and board are provided for these heroes. One of our lineman Trapper Bradshaw, was privileged to serve as guide for four (4) veteran hunters. I received thank you notes from all four gentlemen. Some comments made by them, "Trapper recognized that each one of us were different and worked with us within our limitations; Let me just say this opportunity was one of the most incredible experiences I have ever had in my life; I hope this email clearly explains the effect that you, Hunting with Heroes, and Trapper have on all of us that have come home, searching for some normality in life, and longing for experiences like this one and of the freedoms this wonderful country provides all of us."

If you are interested in donating to this worthy cause visit the Hunting with Heroes Wyoming website.

I would like to wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you for being the great Member/Owners of High Plains Power.



**"For the veteran, thank you for bravely doing what you're called to do so we can safely do what we're free to do" - Unknown**

## Larry Walter Phillips Jr

SFC(R) Larry Walter Phillips Jr is a U.S. Army veteran. He is married to a US Army veteran and between them they have 4 daughters, 9 grandchildren, and 2 dogs.

He served from 17 May 1995 thru 31 Aug 2016 as a Parachute Rigger. After training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and Ft. Lee, Virginia, he was assigned to 1st Special Forces Group(A) at Fort Lewis, Washington from November 1995 thru October 2000. While at Fort Lewis, he attended Static line Jumpmaster Course, Military Freefall Basic Course, and the Military Freefall Jumpmaster Course. Then, after a 1-year tour in Pusan, South Korea, SSG Phillips was selected for assignment to the Military Freefall School in Yuma, Arizona from June 2005 thru October 2009 as a Military Freefall Instructor. There, he instructed over 100 students through the Basic Military Freefall Course. SFC Phillips was then assigned to 10th Special Forces Group(A) at Fort Carson, Colorado in charge of the unit's Parachute Rigger facility. While there, he provided support for over 40 worldwide missions including his own combat tour. As Platoon Sergeant, assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Aviano, Italy from April 2012 thru April 2014, he led the first Airborne operation of a new parachute system. His final tour was back to Yuma, Arizona with the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command from June 2014 thru 31 August 2016, as the Test Parachute Certification Program Manager. He was instrumental in the rewrite of the test parachutists' program and how airborne operations were conducted during testing of new equipment.

Larry states, "The experience I received during this hunting trip with Trapper Bradshaw, Brian Tucker, and Sean Stefan far exceeded my expectations. They each shared with us from a lifetime of knowledge and experience. I spent most of my time on this trip in a group working with Trapper. He spent time with each one of us to help locate animals and then gave us the choice if we wanted to harvest then or wait for another.

There was never any pressure to take an animal, instead Trapper took the time to make sure we were comfortable with taking the shot. His instruction was invaluable. Ultimately, a successful hunt was a bonus. The experience got each of us out of our daily routine and the camaraderie forged between us as a group through out the hunt was the most valuable part of the trip."



Larry Phillips and Trapper Bradshaw

### Local contributors and Guides:

Trapper Bradshaw—High Plains Power  
Sean Steffen – Non-Typical Oil Field Service  
Brian Tucker, Hi Mountain Seasonings  
A Special thanks to Cameron and Jaci Cuttlers for donating the use of their side-by-side!

### Celebrate family and friends this Thanksgiving.

**"Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action."  
- W.J. Cameron**

High Plains Power

# NEWS

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This is a monthly publication made available by High Plains Power, Inc., with the Wyoming Rural Electric News. Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.

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