

THE NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative



Blain Decker - Whatever It Takes.

There is a quiet kindness about Blain Decker that makes you quickly realize he is a man of humility, dedication and accountability. Blain has been with the REC for 8 years and came to the organization recognizing it was a good opportunity. He has always been around heavy equipment from the beginning in his dad's trucking company and has never shyed away from hard work. He believes the function of the shop is to keep things up and running, making sure the line crews don't need to worry about their vehicles when they are out in the field, only their task at hand. According to Blain SLVREC has some of the best equipment and facilities around.

Blain believes in finding your happiness in what you do and enjoying that. He is a family man with deep roots in the community. He and his family look to lend a helping hand in charitable causes when they are needed. Blaine believes in doing his part whenever he is needed.

“ *We have one mouth and two ears to listen twice as much as much as we talk.* ”

Blain's calm demeanor is his true outward appearance of taking it all in. In true leadership character, Decker says, “ We have one mouth and two ears to listen twice as much as we talk.” Willingness to listen and understand the needs of other makes Blain a real team player here at San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.

Whether it is in the shop amidst a shower of sparks or on routes reading meters Glen Archuleta does whatever it takes to help the REC in its daily functions. What does this mean to Glen? It means providing helpful knowledge that Glen has gained over the last 22 years of being with SLVREC. He is always willing to answer questions, vet concerns or point members in the right direction for additional information from the our locally staffed customer service center.

Glen Archuleta truly enjoys his time out on the rural routes of the San Luis Valley. He enjoys connecting with members and lending a hand in their metering needs.



THIS ISSUE

Blain Decker & Glen Archuleta

Loren Howard

Cover Story Cont.

Conservation Corner

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Telecom & Fiber Optics Update

Will the service cover the entire Valley eventually?

Service will eventually cover the entire Valley. However, there may be small pockets on the perimeter of the Valley floor that may not be accessible.

Will every REC electric customer ultimately be able to get it?

YES!!! We are taking care of our own!

Will it be available to people who aren't REC members?

YES! Services will be available to the entire Valley.

What areas will get it first? Why were they chosen?

Phase 1 goes through South Fork and up to Creede. This area was chosen as a significant portion of our membership resides in those areas. At SLVREC we TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN.

Will people be able to get just broadband or just phone service from the REC?

Yes. They can get either or both. Currently we are trying to get all of this on one bill, but this is not for sure. However, people WILL be able to pay their fiber optic bill & SLVREC bill on one check.

How is VOIP (Voice over internet protocol) different than the land line I have now?

Historically, telephone has been provided over a completely separate network. Whereas VOIP uses your internet connection to complete phone calls, and provides a clearer connection than traditional copper based service.

Will my internet service be completely wireless?

No. Our fiber will come to the side of your home. At your home there will be a device, an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) that will provide WI-FI (wireless) coverage to your residence. There is also a wired option of the ONT. Your Wi-Fi can be password protected.

Will SLVREC be providing video/t.v service?

No. Although our system could actually provide this service, feasibility studies determined that it was not economically viable. 46% of all traffic on the internet comes from streaming Netflix which is reducing the need for video.

Will you provide seasonal discounts?

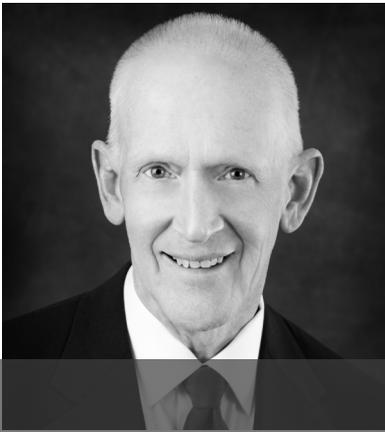
Yes & No. Our prices are extremely competitive in the market. In fact, it is better than bundled prices from competitors. However, seasonal residents can downgrade services in the off months.

Can I bury the line from the pole to my home?

Yes. We have not decided whether there will be additional charges.

Can I keep my same phone number if I switch to SLVREC phone service? YES!

Are there additional "hidden costs" i.e. modem/ONT?
True to our SLVREC roots of doing "Whatever It Takes." for our members. There are no additional costs for equipment. We are the ONLY provider who does this!



LOREN HOWARD

Challenges, Competition & Teamwork

Competition is an interesting human behavior. Well, it is not exclusive to human beings as I cannot think of anything in nature that does not have a competitive element to it. However, thinking just of human beings, competition starts from day one of life and continues until we are gone. A few weeks ago my daughter and I participated in the Rugged Maniac 5k in Denver. As I was running (mostly running) and working my way over the 25 different obstacles on the course, I was struck by the similarities the event had with the work at SLVREC.

You have to run the course of the Rugged Maniac if you are going to participate. No one can do it for you, it is up to you. You have to be in the game. As I was running along, sometimes it was my daughter who was encouraging me, sometimes it was the other way around. Some of the obstacles we both could do on our own, some we worked together, some we struggled with and did not make. The challenges, the competition and the teamwork all made for a fun day.

Work is like that – there are certainly challenges. Some of those challenges happen when the power goes out to those SLVREC serves. First there is the challenge of figuring out what caused the outage. In order to restore power, the cause of the outage must be eliminated. Sometimes it is obvious what the problem is – a downed pole or wire, but often it is not apparent why a circuit tripped out. As the linemen work to repair the problem, teamwork is essential and in that teamwork there is a competition. The competition is with the outage – how long will the outage last versus how quickly can the crew get the power back on.

These forces of challenge, competition and teamwork exist everywhere throughout your cooperative. Embracing these forces is what makes for interesting and fun work. Challenges happen outside of the control of each of us, and so they do at the cooperative. If you meet them head-on with a competitive spirit and an attitude of teamwork, solving those challenges can be difficult, frustrating, rewarding and yes – fun.

And challenges at SLVREC don't just occur out in the field – they are just as present in the office. For a variety of sound business reasons, the customer service area has been redesigned and is undergoing a renovation. The customer service department had the challenge of moving out, finding a space that could work to serve members who come to the office and find ways to work in a more confined space. The entire customer service crew pulled together, found solutions, committed to accommodating each other in new ways and are making the temporary setup a success.

Next year, I will again challenge myself in the Rugged Maniac 5k. I expect my daughter will again go with me and together, we will compete with each other and work together to overcome the challenges of the course. We will succeed and most certainly, we will again have fun. Hope to see you there. Check it out – www.ruggedmaniac.com.

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COMPANY NEWS

Glen states, “When we are out in the field, We Are SLVREC. We are the faces they see and know.”

Glen’s service record with the REC shows his dedication to the organization and it’s members. True to the SLVREC mission he is willing to listen and believes that good communication is key a strong work environment.



Glen Archuleta - Whatever It Takes.



CONSERVATION CORNER

Manage Your Thermostat for Extra Savings.



Set your thermostat in winter to 68 degrees or less during the daytime, and 55 degrees before going to sleep (or when you’re away for the day). During the summer, set thermostats to 78 degrees or more.

Use sunlight wisely. During the heating season, leave shades and blinds open on sunny days, but close them at night to reduce the amount of heat lost through windows. Close shades and blinds during the summer or when the air conditioner is in use or will be in use later in the day.

Set the thermostat on your water heater between 120 and 130 degrees. Lower temperatures can save more energy, but you might run out of hot water or end up using extra electricity to boost the hot water temperature in your dishwasher.

<http://www.nrdc.org/air/energy/genenergy.asp>



RECIPES OF THE MONTH

INGREDIENTS

- 4-6 Pork Chops
- Seasoning Rub:
 - 1 1/2 Tbsp Ground Coffee
 - 2 tsp Coarse Salt
 - 2 tsp Garlic Powder
 - 1 Tbsp Brown Sugar
 - 1tsp Chili Powder
- 2-3 Tbsp Olive Oil

GRILLED PORK CHOPS

Rub pork chops with olive oil and set aside. Combine all dry ingredients in a small mix and rub onto both sides of chops. Let sit for 10 minutes to absorb flavors if possible. Grill on pre-heated grill until done with just slight pink in the middle to ensure tender and juiciness.

INGREDIENTS

- 2-3 Ripe Small Apricots
- 1/3 Cup Orange Marmalade
- 1/4 Water
- 1 Tbsp Dry White Wine
- 1 Pinch of salt

APRICOT AND MARMALADE SAUCE

Wash and remove pit of ripe apricots. Dice the apricots into small pieces. In a small sauce pan add marmalade, water, white wine, salt, and diced apricot. Simmer down on low heat stirring frequently. This sauce is an excellent compliment to the grilled pork chops.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 16oz Container of Fresh Strawberries
- 1 Pre-Made Pound Cake (I like Sarah Lee)
- 1/3 Cup of Sugar
- 2 Tbsp Lemon Juice
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 1 Container Whipped Cream
- 4-6 Small Mason Jars

IN THE JAR EASY STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

Wash and remove tops of strawberries. Quarter the strawberries and mix with sugar, lemon juice and cinnamon, set aside. Dice pound cake into spoon size chunks. Begin layering in jars, the pound cake chunks, strawberries, whipped cream and repeat. The jars should be sealed and chilled in the fridge prior to serving. The jars will stay good in the fridge if left sealed for about 3 days.

Keep that Summer feeling going!



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POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's offices are open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
on Monday through Thursday.
Offices are closed Friday through Sunday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)
<http://www.energyoutreach.org>

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting September 30, 9:30 a.m.
The Board of Directors meet the last Tuesday of each
month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider
Thanks to Patrick Jaramillo for photographic content*



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