

# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## BEDFORD REC

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## OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## 10 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration



**BROOKS SHOEMAKER**

**HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED A** video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it often takes a lot more effort and people to make that happen.

We get lots of questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoring power:

- 1. We need you.** When your power goes out, it might just be affecting your home or a small group of neighbors. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out, so always report outages.
- 2. Our employees might be affected.** Because we are locally owned by the members we serve, our employees are local, too. They are your neighbors, friends and community volunteers. When you're without power, our staff might be as well.
- 3. It's a team effort.** Every one of our employees is working to get your power restored as soon as possible. We are taking your calls, surveying damage, clearing hazards, organizing crews and keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.
- 4. We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, so the first thing we do is assess how dangerous an outage may be and what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow to the rest of our members.
- 5. Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back on in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services, like medical facilities. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.
- 6. Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past our vehicles, please do so slowly and give crews plenty of space.)
- 7. Blinking lights are a good thing.** Some folks mistake blinking lights for outages. They are not. These "blinks" are important because it means our protective equipment has successfully prevented an actual outage. That irritating blink (and subsequent reset of your digital clocks) likely saved you

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# The Bloody Run Canoe and Kayak Classic: Back and Better than Ever

**GARY DIEHL**, MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

**IN THE EARLY 1980S**, a group of guys came up with the idea of using the recreational benefits of the water that runs through Everett, which was named after the famous orator Edward Everett in 1873. Before that, however, the town was known as Bloody Run, a moniker it received after a massacre during the French and Indian War turned the stream bloody red.

From that history came the Bloody Run Canoe and Kayak Classic (BRCKC). At the recommendation of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) member and good friend Deanna Weaverling, who also serves on the BRCKC Planning Committee, I set out to learn how the event came to be.

George England, and four friends — Tom Zimmerman, Ned Millward, Dennis Drenning and Rick Shimer — conjured up the idea, which the buddies probably never imagined would still be happening decades later. And while the event went on hiatus in the early 2000s and again during the COVID-19 pandemic, it came back stronger than ever in 2023.

The most recent iteration took place May 18 and was centered around canoe and kayak races on the Raystown

Branch of the Juniata River, beginning at the woolen mill on Lutzville Road and finishing at the Little League fields in Everett. Multiple classes of men, women, and juniors competed, and all races followed the same 5-mile route. Awards were given to the first-, second- and third-place finishers in each class.

## It takes a team

An event like this couldn't happen without many dedicated volunteers, such as the Everett Area Better Business Association, the Bloody Run Social Club, the Everett American Legion, and the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society, whose members were posted along the route to communicate with other organizers and ensure participants stayed safe.

In addition to the competitive atmosphere, the BRCKC also had a festival feel. Local businesses were open from at least 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and running specials, and some even extended their hours. More than 40 vendor tents with crafts, food and activities for children lined Main Street. Members of the Everett High School boys baseball team and girls softball team took turns in a dunk tank, where

children and adults alike could test their pitching skills. There was even a rubber duck race, bringing smiles to the faces of spectators and participants. A band, Shallow 9, performed on the sidewalk under the Everett Theatre mezzanine while a strongman competition — aptly named The Beast of the Bloody Run — captivated audiences for most of the afternoon and evening.

Bedford REC members Jeff and Kayla Hetzel, owners of Black Valley Barbell, oversaw, organized, and sponsored the strength competition. Fourteen competitors — nine men, three women and two teens, ranging in age from 15 to 50 — battled



**BEAST MODE:** The Beast of the Bloody Run participants pose for a group photo. Event sponsors Jeff and Kayla of Black Valley Barbell are shown in the front row on the far left and right, respectively.

it out for up to \$1,000 in prizes, including a cash payout. The competition included a truck pull, where the guys used their inner strength to pull a full-sized Ford dump truck, and the gals pulled a Toyota RAV4. Competitors also lifted weighted sandbags, ranging from 50 to 400 pounds, onto a trailer and participated in a squat event, a dead lift and a tire-flipping contest.

The Beast of the Bloody Run lasted from late afternoon into the evening with many volunteers pitching in to help. Past winner Bryan Nave, who happens to be Kayla's father, was on site to help. Who knows: maybe he encouraged the contestants with some advice along the way!

Andrew Garrison won the heavyweight division and Tyler Wirth won the lightweight division. Kadie Sollenberger won the women's division and Nolan Whisel won the youth division.

This year, proceeds benefited the Everett Little League Field renovation project, and last year, the money raised went toward the Everett Theatre restoration. The 2025 BRCKC is set for Saturday, May 17. Readers and friends

can keep up-to-date by following the BRCKC's Facebook page and Instagram account. The committee and townspeople would like to see everyone come out and support the event and enjoy the festivities. 📍



**KILLER KAYAKING:** Two kayakers paddle down the 5-mile course on the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River during the 2024 Bloody Run Canoe and Kayak Classic.



**GETTING READY:** Bloody Run Canoe and Kayak Classic race competitors are staged and ready to go.



**CANOE COMPANION:** A participant in the Bloody Run Canoe and Kayak Classic brings along his dog to serve as navigator.



**BLOODY BRILLIANT:** Members of the Bloody Run Canoe and Kayak Classic Planning Committee meet to coordinate the festival-style event.

**FROM THE  
GENERAL MANAGER**

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from being without power for a couple of hours until our crews arrived.

8. **You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a backup plan. Remember: We don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you're unsure what to do, call us so we can help you prepare an emergency location.
9. **Our employees have to plan and eat.** If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long, hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.
10. **Sometimes it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the electric grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with the providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid disruptions, but they are inevitable. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. If you experience an outage, please call 814-623-7568.

### Get a head start on holiday savings

The holidays are still a few months away, but now is the perfect time to start on your seasonal savings. By planning and budgeting now, you can reduce some stress that accompanies the gift-giving season.

Start by estimating your expected holiday expenses — gifts, travel, decorations, entertainment and any other anticipated costs. Divide that amount by the total number of months until the holidays to determine how much you need to save each month to reach your goal.

You can automate this process by establishing a separate holiday savings account and scheduling monthly transfers. Even small amounts add up over time; the key is making saving a consistent habit now before the holidays arrive. 🎁

**BROOKS SHOEMAKER,**  
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

## OUTAGE REPORTING

### In case of an outage...

- 1** Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- 2** Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- 3** Call the 24-hour number, 814-623-7568, OR call 800-808-2732\* during office hours.

*\*(Please help us save money – only use this number if toll charges apply.)*

Please give the person receiving the call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number, if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

**To report an outage  
call: 814-623-7568**

*During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures. You may receive a busy signal, or in certain cases, your call may go unanswered. This occurs in after-hours outages when the office is not fully staffed. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.*

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use. Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature, reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: [homesandgardens.com](http://homesandgardens.com)

