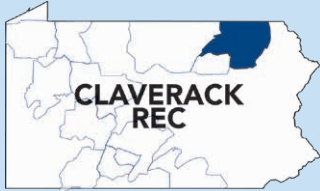


Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

CLAVERACK REC

32750 Route 6
Wysox, PA 18854
570-265-2167
1-800-326-9799

Email: mail@claverack.com
Website: <https://www.claverack.com>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Robert R. Faux, Zone 2

Chairman

570-574-3531

Angela S. Joines, Zone 3

Vice Chairman

570-756-4979

Danise C. Fairchild, Zone 1

Secretary/Treasurer

570-265-3599

Timothy T. Tewksbury, Zone 6

Vice Secretary/Treasurer

570-833-2320

Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7

570-280-8470

Robert W. Fearnley, Zone 5

570-278-2288

Gary L. Hennip, Zone 4

570-250-2200

Charles R. McNamara, Zone 8

570-553-4385

Anthony J. Ventello, Zone 9

607-765-2615

Steve Allabaugh

President & CEO

STAFF

Annette Koder, *Executive Assistant*

Nick Berger, *Sr. Director,*

Engineering and Operations

Kylie Slater, *Interim Director, Finance*

Brian Zeidner, *Director, Member Services*

OFFICE HOURS

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

Jeff Fetzer, *Local Pages Editor*

Call Us to Learn About Energy Assistance Options



WE ARE ALL FEELING the strain from today's rising prices. The cost of just about everything — from groceries and gasoline to eating out and electric service — has gone up significantly over the past year. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, we experienced the largest increase of consumer prices in the past 40 years in 2022.

With these higher costs, I know some of our members will struggle with their electric bills this winter. I also want you to know help is available for those who find themselves getting behind on their bills.

Let me introduce myself. I am Rebecca Allen. I grew up in Bradford County in a home served by Claverack and started my career as a member service representative with the co-op in 2010. In December, I began duties as Claverack's member services supervisor.

Over the years, I have gotten to know many of you through my work in the Member Services Department. I enjoy talking to our members and especially like helping members resolve issues.

In light of rising prices and winter's higher energy costs, I encourage any member experiencing difficulties keeping up with their electric bills to please call the co-op office. Our member service representatives are here to help you figure out a plan, either with a payment arrangement or by seeking financial help from the many agencies and programs available to assist with energy costs.

One option is the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps low-income households with their home energy bills. Another federal program, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, began during the COVID-19 pandemic and provides assistance to households that are unable to pay rent or utilities.

In addition to these government programs, the Claverack H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Pay for Electric) program provides assistance to eligible members. H.O.P.E. is administered by Trehab but is funded by Claverack through its Operation Round-Up program, as well as escheats monies from unclaimed capital credits.

There are other organizations and programs — including Grace Connections, Salvation Army, CEO Housing, Interfaith, and The Bridge — that are ready and willing to assist with energy costs and other living needs. These programs are location specific, so please contact the Claverack office at 800-326-9799 so our member service representatives can direct you to the appropriate program for your area.

As a member-owned co-op, we have an obligation to assist consumers facing economic hardships that impact their ability to pay for electric service. Our member service representatives are here to help. But we can only help if we know you need it.

Please don't wait until you are so far behind on your electric bill you find yourself facing service disconnection. By calling the office ahead of time, we can direct you to appropriate assistance agencies and programs or work with you to set up installment payments to avoid service disconnection.

Options are available, so please reach out and let us know if you need help. 📞

REBECCA ALLEN
MEMBER SERVICES SUPERVISOR

Claverack Member Milling Maple for Major Guitar Manufacturer

JEFF FETZER

WYOMING COUNTY RESIDENT BOYD ROGERS' entry into the music industry came out of the blue.

Rogers was working as a log yard manager for a local sawmill when he was approached by one of the mill's regular customers, Guy Bowers, about taking over Bowers' guitar-parts manufacturing business as he transitioned to retirement. Bowers owns a sawmill in East Berlin, Pa., where he has produced curly maple guitar faces, necks and fret boards for Paul Reed Smith (PRS) Guitars, one of the nation's top guitar manufacturers, for over a decade.

"Guy said he wanted to slow down, but no one in his family wanted the business," Rogers recalls of the conversation. "Then he says, 'Too bad I don't know somebody half my age with a good work ethic who would want to buy the business.'"

The nudge from Bowers, coupled with a desire to work for himself, was all it took for Rogers to jump into the guitar-components business. Well, that, and getting his wife, Jenn, on board with his plan to quit his job and strike out on his own.

There were reasons for Jenn's hesitation. She had just left an employer and was about to begin a new job. And her husband's work experience centered on grading and scaling logs, not milling them into product. To produce parts for a premier musical instrument manufacturer, Rogers would need to build a mill, equip it and learn how to operate it.

That did not deter Rogers, a Claverack member. And once Jenn accepted her husband's plan to construct and operate a sawmill on the couple's property, Rogers says she became fully committed to its success and was instrumental in getting the business off the ground.

"I was a little nervous," he admits. "We didn't have a sawmill. We didn't have a building. We didn't have a plan. I just wanted to quit my job and make guitars.

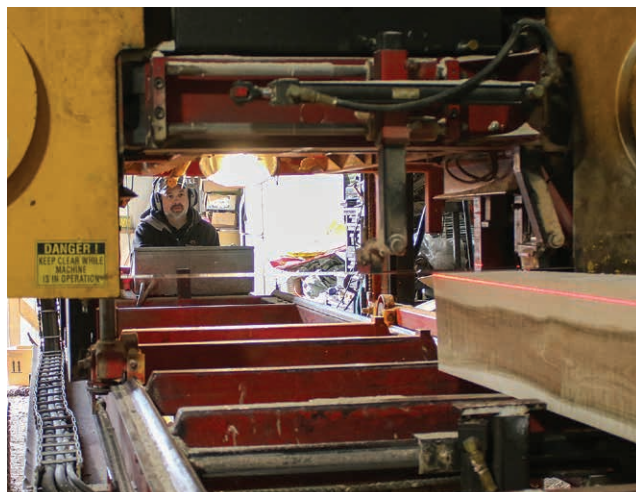
"I had no experience running a sawmill," he adds. "But I knew logs and how to find them."

He also knew he wanted to own his own business and was determined to make that dream a reality.

So in 2020, as the world ground to a near halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Boyd left behind a 15-year career with the local mill, erected an open steel arch building to house a sawmill next to his home in Nicholson, purchased a Heartwood bandsaw, and began learning how to process curly maple logs into guitar components.

Fast forward two-and-one-half years, and Rogers Sawmill LLC is humming, cranking out a steady stream of curly maple lumber destined to become the necks and faces of the high-end electric guitars built at PRS Guitars' Stevensville, Md., manufacturing facility.

When the mill began operations, Rogers says he initially produced only guitar necks. As he gained experience in wood selection and milling procedures, he worked his way up to making the book-matched boards destined to become the flashy faces of PRS guitars.



WOODWORK: Above, Claverack member Boyd Rogers prepares to run a block of curly maple through the Heartwood 310 bandsaw at his sawmill in Nicholson. Each board cut from the block is then ripped to create a book-matched set of boards, which Rogers inspects in photo at right. The book-matched sets are run through a planer and jointer before being shipped to PRS Guitars' manufacturing plant in Maryland, where the matched sets are glued together, shaped into the face of an electric guitar body, stained and top-coated with lacquer.



“It was sink or swim,” he says of his first year as a sawmill operator, “but by the time COVID-19 was getting through, things were picking up and it really took off.”

Today, Rogers says his goal is to produce 100 neck pieces and 100 sets of guitar faces every two weeks. They are the only products made at the mill, and they are produced exclusively for PRS Guitars.

“It can be a challenge to make the goal,” he says. “But as we have improved our equipment and processes, things are getting easier.”

Rogers, who is assisted at the mill by his father-in-law, Claverack member Tim Belcher of Hop Bottom, says he plans to add another building and a kiln to his operation within the next few years so he can begin producing hard maple (sugar maple) fret boards at his shop. Rogers explains that Bowers currently crafts hard maple fret boards for PRS at his East Berlin shop, but, as part of their sales agreement, Rogers will assume that production responsibility when Bowers fully retires in 2025.

Curly maple refers to a rare, beautiful figuring pattern that can occur on any maple tree species but is most commonly found on red maples in our region. The figured wood, also referred to as tiger maple or fiddleback maple, is particularly prized by makers of fine furniture and stringed musical instruments.

To source high-quality curly maple logs, Rogers travels to about eight mills across the Twin Tiers — from Oneonta, N.Y., to the Erie area — one to two times each month. Employees at each mill set aside any maple logs that may have the desired curly figuring for Rogers to inspect and possibly purchase when he visits.

“Most of the time, if you look at 15 logs, you end up buying four of them,” he says. “You are looking for anything that is super curly — curly that really stands out.”

Because of their rarity — Rogers estimates only three or four out of every 1,000 maple logs will contain curly figuring — the cost of those logs tends to be three to 10 times higher than similar-sized logs with no figuring.

The logs Rogers purchases, which are 14 to 34 inches in diameter and 10-12 feet long, are transported to his mill, where they are sawed into dimensional lumber to be used for guitar necks or to create book-matched sets of boards that will be used for the faces of PRS electric guitar bodies.

Rogers’ and Bowers’ mills supply 100% of the curly maple necks used to build PRS guitars at its Maryland plant. PRS also uses West Coast suppliers to provide another type of figured maple, quilted maple, for some of their guitars.

“Curly is their signature, though,” says Rogers. “Paul Reed Smith (the owner of PRS Guitars) likes the curly.”

That’s music to the ears of someone like Rogers, who

has demonstrated an ability to source and process high-grade figured maple.

“I like it when we make the best piece we can make, because I know at the other end they are going to be blown away by it,” he says. “I want them to be like, ‘Wow! Look at this one — private stock!’ And it all starts with getting the right log.”

Rogers says the standard electric guitars made at the PRS plant in Maryland cost \$2,000 to \$3,000. PRS Guitars’ high-end private stock and custom guitars sell for \$10,000 to \$20,000. Noted guitarists who play PRS guitars include Carlos Santana, John Mayer, Rush’s Alex Lifeson and Dave Navarro of Jane’s Addiction.

Rogers admits he never had any interest in guitars until he began his business and became affiliated with PRS.

“I never noticed a guitar until we started doing this,” he says. “Now we’re watching the CMA Awards and I’m like, ‘There’s a PRS! It could have come from Nicholson!’”

He says he has seen guitarists who play with country stars, including Jason Aldean and Luke Bryan, as well as his favorite rock band, Metallica, using PRS guitars. And if the face and neck of the guitar feature curly maple, Rogers may have had a hand in bringing it to life. 🎸

Deadline to Apply for Youth Tour Nears

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS INTERESTED IN competing for a chance to win an all-inclusive trip to Washington, D.C., this summer have until Friday, Feb. 10, to submit an application.

The 2023 Rural Electric Youth Tour, a weeklong sight-seeing excursion to the nation’s capital that mixes fun and education, will take place June 18-23.

Coordinated annually by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association since 1964, Youth Tour draws students from across the nation. While in D.C., students have the opportunity to explore historic sites, visit world-famous museums, make lifelong friends with Youth Tour students from throughout the United States, meet with federal legislators, and learn about electric cooperatives and the cooperative movement.

Youth Tour is open to all high school juniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative. Complete contest rules and an online application form can be accessed by visiting the Claverack website, claverack.com/youth-tour.

For more information about Youth Tour and the 2023 agenda, call Claverack’s Wysox office at 570-265-2167 or 800-326-9799. 🎸

Looking Back with Claverack

BALANCE SHEET			
	June 30, 1954	June 30, 1955	June 30, 1955
ASSETS			
Utility plant, depreciation plant, General plant.			
Reserve for depreciation	\$ 2,201,901.95	\$ 2,388,705.45	\$ 2,388,705.45
Utility plant, net	\$ 142,277.85	\$ 162,795.55	\$ 162,795.55
Current and other assets:			
General cash	\$ 1,707,422.43	\$ 1,790,819.95	\$ 1,790,819.95
Construction fund cash	\$ 100,422.90	\$ 116,138.55	\$ 116,138.55
Investments in U.S. Govt. Securities	\$ 6,358.31	\$ 6,358.31	\$ 6,358.31
Accounts receivable	\$ 255,465.00	\$ 255,465.00	\$ 255,465.00
Material and supplies	\$ 7,184.38	\$ 30,988.00	\$ 30,988.00
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	\$ 78,927.95	\$ 53,986.64	\$ 53,986.64
Other physical property, net	\$ 18,324.25	\$ 78,588.47	\$ 78,588.47
Total current and other assets	\$ 2,880.89	\$ 2,060.63	\$ 2,060.63
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,142,698	\$ 5,378,103	\$ 5,378,103
LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS			
Long term obligations to REA	\$ 10,426.83	\$ 182,264.01	\$ 182,264.01
Current liabilities and accrued expenses	\$ 17,912.84	\$ 6,990.46	\$ 6,990.46
Consumers' prepayments and other credits	\$ 98.07	\$ 5,088.64	\$ 5,088.64
TOTAL LIAB. AND OTHER CREDITS	\$ 21,437.74	\$ 194,343.11	\$ 194,343.11
MEMBER AND PATRON EQUITY			
Membership fees	\$ 265.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 265.00
Donated capital	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Patronage capital subject to assignment	\$ 104,723.00	\$ 104,723.00	\$ 104,723.00
Operating margin for previous years	\$ 75.27	\$ 75.27	\$ 75.27
Operating margin for this year to date	\$ 48.14	\$ 48.14	\$ 48.14
Non operating margins	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL MEMBER AND PATRON EQUITIES	\$ 282,745.68	\$ 302,791.41	\$ 302,791.41
TOTAL LIAB., CREDITS AND EQUITIES	\$ 2,148,849.48	\$ 2,388,705.45	\$ 2,388,705.45



Follow Claverack REC & Revolution on Facebook to see even more historical photos and help us fill in the blanks! New photos are posted on the 21st of each month.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS: Claverack Office Manager A.F. Yard delivers the financial report during the cooperative's 1955 annual meeting. According to the balance sheet Yard is pointing to, the cooperative had \$2.3 million in total assets as of June 30, 1955. Today, the cooperative spends significantly more than that on just its right-of-way management program. The balance sheet published in the August 2022 issue of *Penn Lines* shows the cooperative's assets at the end of 2021 standing at \$106.8 million.

HIGH-SPEED FIBER INTERNET. DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR.



Don't let the Pennsylvania winter weather fool you; Claverack is still hard at work building out a 100% fiber-to-the-home network. What is fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) and how does it benefit you? FTTH means your internet signal is carried from a central point directly to your door — which means a consistent, steady stream of connectivity.

Imagine...

- downloading files in seconds vs. minutes
- streaming movies without constant buffering
- not having to “schedule” time with your family for internet use – you'll have enough bandwidth and speed for everyone
- talking with a medical professional via video chat when you just can't leave the house

With our fiber coming directly to your home, **Revolution Broadband will bring you the best internet technology available – to power your life and connect you to more.** And no other provider can give you the local, personal service we can.

REVOLUTION
BROADBAND

revolutionbroadband.net
570-268-1349

If you are in the Lime Hill and Herrick substation areas and haven't registered your interest, what are you waiting for?

Installations will begin this spring, and we want to be sure you are on the list to get the area's fastest, most reliable internet.

GO TO REVOLUTIONBROADBAND.NET/REGISTER TO GET STARTED.

Revolution internet. Made better by being local.