

Outlet

May-June 2003
Number 202

Chugach Electric Association

Arborist On Board

Chris O'Brien is Chugach's certified arborist, or specialist in the care and maintenance of trees. His primary role at Chugach is making sure that the cooperative's rights of way are cleared. On a daily basis O'Brien ensures that trees and vegetation do not prevent Chugach's members from receiving reliable electric power.

In addition to being an arborist, O'Brien has a degree in Civil Engineering, a degree in Special Education and is a licensed electrical administrator for outside line work. He started working at Chugach in 1984 as an electrical designer. But his real love lies in trees and plants.

O'Brien uses his love of trees and plants for Chugach and its members in helping them to plant the right tree or shrub in the right place. He is making quite a name for himself and Chugach as he is also willing to help other companies and organizations with planting and community beautification projects, and is willing to go on camera to help put the word out, as you can see from the accompanying photo.

O'Brien is involved in the community and has worked with the Anchorage Creek Clean Up, and continues to volunteer his tree planting expertise to friends and neighbors. In addition, he works at obtaining grant funds to help with Spruce Bark Beetle kill and other line clearing for Chugach.



King Career Center teacher (at left) and student (at right) interview O'Brien for a video for a school natural resources project.

A Shady Subject

Trees enhance the beauty of our lives and provide many benefits, including shade, privacy and cleaner air. When planting a tree, remember to carefully select the planting site. Avoid planting trees beneath or adjacent to overhead utilities. Trees contacting overhead power lines are unsafe and cause power outages. Locate trees away from underground utilities as well and call the Locate Call Center at 278-3121 for utility locates before digging. It can be costly to remove or prune trees planted in conflict with utilities, but with a little planning these costs can be eliminated.

You can find tips on planting your new tree properly in a safe and conflict-free location at Chugach's web site at www.chugachelectric.com.

Chugach has a certified arborist on staff. He can help determine what type of plants and trees should be planted near utility rights of way. To contact him, or obtain a list of recommended trees and shrubs, call 762-7660.



Sparking Interest

Upcoming events and meetings

- Fuel surcharge changed from 1.613 per kilowatt-hour to 1.956 per kwh effective with April 1 bills
- Chugach annual report available online
- Board meetings, third Wednesday of the month

Outage Highlights Need for South Anchorage Substation

When a goose got into the 34.5-kilovolt system at Chugach's University Substation on the morning of May 29, the resulting outage affected approximately 30,000 customers served by seven neighborhood substations.

The 34.5-kv system is the link in the power grid that feeds power from a bulk power substation to neighborhood distribution substations. One reason so many customers lost power is that Chugach has only two bulk power substations in the Anchorage Bowl. Together, Chugach's University Substation in East Anchorage and International Substation in West Anchorage feed power to 18 neighborhood substations that serve customers across the Bowl.

Chugach has purchased land for a new bulk power substation in South Anchorage and is currently working on plans to build a new 138-kv transmission line to energize it. Once the new facility is built, Chugach will be able to reduce the load carried by any one bulk power substation and the number of customers affected by a disruption like the goose-caused outage.

Message from Chugach

Chugach's 2003 annual meeting and election

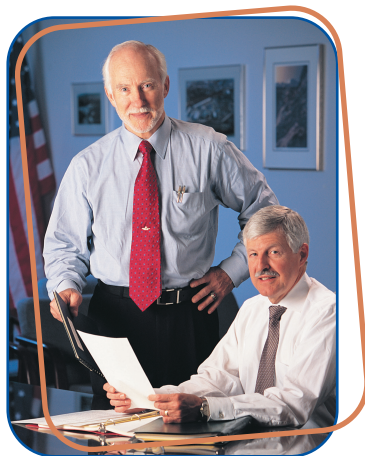
were held April 24 and incumbents Chris Birch and Jeff Lipscomb were re-elected to three-year terms on the board. The membership also voted to pass the three proposed bylaw amendments that dealt with board and staff titles, bonds of officers and director compensation.

Two hundred eight members registered for the meeting that drew a crowd of about 450 people. A total of 13.8 percent of the 60,656 eligible members voted in the 2003 election.

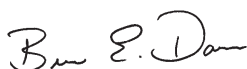
Immediately following the annual meeting the board met to elect officers. For the coming year Bruce Davison will serve as the Chairman of the board, H.A. "Red" Boucher as Vice Chair, Patricia B. "Pat" Jasper as Secretary and Jeff Lipscomb as Treasurer.

For more election information, go to Chugach's web site at www.chugachelectric.com.

Joe Griffith
Chief Executive Officer



Bruce Davison
Chairman of the Board



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Main number	563-7494
Toll free	(800) 478-7494
Customer service	563-7366
Customer service fax	762-4678
Business and commercial	762-7876
Credit	563-5060
Power theft hotline	762-4731
Danger tree hotline	762-7227
Regulatory Commission of Alaska	
(800) 390-2782 or	276-6222

To report a power outage

In Anchorage	762-7888
Outside Anchorage	(800) 478-7494

Board activity

March and April meetings 2003

- Approved a proposed list of projects to submit for consideration for possible federal funding at the request of Senator Stevens' office.
- Tabled a resolution regarding the position of the Chugach board on the issue of grant funds on the Southern Intertie project. At the April meeting, the board subsequently resolved to support the Intertie Participant Group's actions to recover the investment earnings on the Southern Intertie grant.

If you would like to review Board of Director meeting minutes or contact Board members, visit Chugach's web site at www.chugachelectric.com.

Hours

Service center: 5601 Minnesota Dr.

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Switchboard:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.

The Chugach Outlet

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