

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2022



MAILING ADDRESS

2211 Elk River Road
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS SERVICE CENTER

2211 Elk River Road
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487



ph 970-879-1160
tf 888-873-9832
fax 970-879-7270
web yvea.com



CRAIG SERVICE CENTER

3715 East US Highway 40
Craig, CO 81625



ph 970-824-6593
tf 888-873-9832
fax 970-824-7134



facebook.com/
YampaValleyElectricAssociation



@YampaValleyElec



instagram.com/
yampavalleyelectriccoop

Yampa Valley Electric Association

is a cooperative that provides value to its member-owners through technology that delivers safe and reliable electrical service in an environmentally and financially responsible manner.

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

YVEA SPONSORS ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL



All photos by Rory Clow of the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club.

Each town has its own special tradition, and Steamboat's Winter Carnival is one you have to put on your "must-see" list. YVEA is proud to support this amazing event by being the official lighting sponsor of the Winter Carnival. Every year, Main Street closes and you can participate (if you dare) or watch kids being pulled by dads, dogs and horses down the snowy street. If you can't be at the street events, you don't want to miss the Night Extravaganza. Watch Winter Sports Club kids ski down at night and the lighted man shooting off fireworks as he skis down the face of historic Howelsen Hill. No matter which events you get to see or partake in, we hope to see you out there enjoying this amazing annual event.

The Winter Carnival will take place **February 9–13**. For more details on the event schedule, please visit sswsc.org/events/winter-carnival.



LUMINATE: WHAT'S YOUR WI-FI PASSWORD?

All of us at Luminare hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Over the last few months, many of us traveled to visit our friends or relatives across the country. As we travel or have family come to visit our homes, we're getting familiar with the question "What's your Wi-Fi password?"

Now that we are home, we might reflect on the homes of our friends and family visited during our holiday travels. It's hard not to think about the impact made on Wi-Fi networks as users and devices increase exponentially. What's even more interesting is how the various networks hold up. Over the holidays, it is common to visit multiple different homes. It is not uncommon for these homes to have different network providers with internet service via different mediums — **fiber**, **coax**, and **DSL**. These are specifically ranked from best to worst based on performance and efficiency as it relates to speed, throughput, latency and experience. While these measurements don't paint the full picture, it's a reasonably good start.

There are also several other factors to consider when discussing internet service: modems and routers (age, manufacturer, model, features, IEEE/Wi-Fi standards); age of devices (phones, TVs, cameras); home or business construction materials; location of equipment; speed purchased; provider's customer service; local presence; rates and rate changes; and so on. **To keep it simple, let's stick with performance based on the**

quantity of devices and subsequent usage from those devices.

It should come as no surprise that **fiber** service was unmatched with 30-plus people on a symmetrical 250 megabits per second connection (250 Mbps download and upload). However, there are reasons for this and "just being fiber" isn't it. Let's come back to this.

Coax performed pretty well with 30-plus people connected on a 100 Mbps (download) by a 20 Mbps (upload); however, the struggle came into play during the upload process. For those who are curious, the upload speed is needed when your device is sending data to the internet for a specific destination. For instance, if you and Sue are standing right beside one another and you send Sue a picture, you are uploading that picture to the internet and Sue is downloading it. So you want a fast upload speed to get the picture to the destination, but Sue wants a fast download speed so she can retrieve it. This is why both download and upload speeds are important.

Last, but not least, was **DSL** (ADSL, ADSL2+, VDSL). This isn't a shocker nowadays. This technology is outdated and severely limited by distance. While the connection we were on was stable, the 20 Mbps (download) by 1.5 Mbps (upload) was troublesome. Streaming video (commercials, movies, YouTube, TV) was not an option with all the devices connected. We

were limited to basic sharing — text files and some picture content — but that was it. In today's technology-filled world, that is just not enough.

Fiber networks are desired as they typically use future-proof connections between nodes, using newer high-performance links. Another little secret is that every one of the previously mentioned types of providers are working tirelessly to get their own networks to use fiber as quickly as possible — it's the undisputed champion of the industry and you, as a consumer, are on the cutting edge of broadband with the Luminare network. Even the newer spaced-based technology we hear about in the news uses fiber where it "gets off the ground" and interacts with the internet.

So, next time visitors flock to your home and new devices are added, think about what you need in order to have an exceptional online experience and never worry about your internet again.

Check availability for your home or business at luminarebroadband.com. It's fiber and it's what we do best.

Don't forget: All the data and statistics of your network (upload and download speed, devices connected, Wi-Fi password, etc.) mentioned above can be found on the myLuminare app. Call us at 970-870-4320 to learn more.



DID YOU GET YOUR PIECE OF THE PIE?



The yearly capital credit retirement process was completed thanks to the board of directors authorizing the retirement of \$987,821.75 in capital credit allocations from the year 2003. This represents 42% of the remaining association allocations for that year. Anyone who was a member in 2003 will receive a capital credit retirement refund through several possible ways.

Active members:

- Should receive a check if their retirement is over \$50
- Should have received a credit on their December electric bill if their retirement was under \$50

Inactive members:

- Will receive a check once their accumulated capital credit refund reaches \$25

If you have any questions, please call 970-879-1160 or email capitalcredits@yvea.com.



3 REASONS TO APPLY FOR YOUTH TOUR

Hey, high school juniors and seniors!

What are your plans for next summer? Maybe sleep until noon, clean your room or binge-watch your favorite Netflix series? While all that sounds great, we bet you can top that by attending a free trip to Washington, D.C., with 2,000 of your closest co-op friends. Get ready to pack your bags and make monumental memories because your flight departs soon! Don't worry, YVEA has three pretty awesome reasons why you should board that plane.

You can apply today!

Applications can be found online at yvea.com/washington-dc-youth-tour.

Deadline to apply for the 2022 Youth Tour is January 16.

For more information, contact Tammi Strickland at 970-871-2245.



1 IT'S FREE. JUST APPLY.

Yes, you read that right. The Washington D.C. Youth Tour is an all-expenses-paid trip sponsored by national and state-wide associations plus your family here at Yampa Valley Electric Association. FREE airfare, FREE hotels, FREE meals and FREE attractions.



2 IT'S COOL.

You will spend eight days exploring Washington, D.C.'s most historic destinations including the Lincoln Memorial, National Air and Space Museum, the Library of Congress and more! Plus, you get to enjoy an award-winning play at the Kennedy Center.



3 YOU GET TO TRAVEL.

Remember that travel bucket list you made? Check off Washington, D.C., 'cause your dreams are about to come true!

STAY TOASTY AND WARM WHILE

TURNING DOWN THE THERMOSTAT



When the winter winds blow, it is tempting to adjust the thermostat up a few degrees to stay toasty and warm. However, turning to other (FREE!) ways to help keep you warm could help reduce your energy bills.



Each degree you reduce your thermostat saves 1% on your heating bill. No one home during the day? **Adjust your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting to save up to 10% annually.**

Source: Department of Energy

Here are ways to help you stay warm when it is cold outside:



Bundle up by wearing layers and heavy socks

Get your body moving and stay active

Use blankets while sitting still

Caulk windows and door frames that leak air



Replace or update old or ineffective door seals



Make sure your home's heating system is working properly

Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly



Let the sun shine in during the day and close window coverings at night



Reduce how long you use ventilation fans (they transfer warm air outside)



Keep a fireplace damper closed when not in use

Humidify your home to make the air feel warmer



If you use a portable space heater, use it safely and for short amounts of time. Using one for extended periods can cause your energy bill to spike since it draws a lot of power.

Learn more at:



YVEA CHOOSE EV WEBPAGE



YVEA is proud to announce the launch of its Choose EV webpage in partnership with the City of Steamboat Springs. When a member visits yvea.com/yvea-choose-ev, they can learn facts about electric vehicles, use a savings calculator, find nearby chargers and so much more.

REBATES

Have you heard about YVEA's Energy Hero rebates? We offer rebates to help offset the cost of your new electric appliance or device purchase.

If you're switching an oven or clothes dryer to electric, have your eye on a new electric bicycle, or want to upgrade to LED bulbs, visit yvea.com/rebates for more details or to submit a rebate request today!

