



# GCEA

POWERING POSSIBILITIES

MAY 2023



#### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 180  
Gunnison, CO 81230-0180



#### STREET ADDRESS

37250 West Highway 50  
Gunnison, CO 81230



**ph** 970-641-3520

**tf** 800-726-3523

**fax** 970-641-7333

**web** gcea.coop

**email** gcea@gcea.coop

#### We want to be social with you!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to find out about GCEA events, energy efficiency tips, safety tips and so much more.



facebook.com/  
GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation



@gcea\_news

#### GCEA OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## FACEBOOK SOLAR SCAMS BEWARE!

BY ALLIY SAHAGUN MEMBER RELATIONS SUPERVISOR



ALLIY SAHAGUN

Recently, GCEA has received several concerning phone calls from members who became victims of Facebook ads targeting GCEA members by using our name in their advertising to sell solar panels. The ads will say something like “Gunnison County Electric Assn Customers Getting Solar Panels For \$\$,” or use GCEA’s logo or a picture of GCEA’s headquarters. Members have told us they responded to these ads because they trust GCEA and thought we would install their panels and service their new solar arrays. They were later dismayed with poor service from the installers who ended up coming from the Front Range or other places in Colorado to install, and then failed to communicate the completion of the project and confirm the array was generating power.

Please know that GCEA is not affiliated with these solar companies in any way and does not have any contractual agreements with solar installers. We do support solar, however, by having a solar specialist on staff who can meet with you to discuss your interest and answer questions about your solar installation. He can discuss your current electric usage and any plans to add electric load onto your property to help assess the

adequate system size. He can also explain our net-metering rates and educate you on how future rate changes could affect your investment. And finally, he can walk you through the steps of installation, switch to a net meter, and perform an inspection before energizing the system.

Once your system is energized and generating solar-powered electricity, GCEA staff can help you understand how your bill reflects electric usage from the grid as well as any banked kilowatt hours delivered from your solar array to the grid. GCEA staff can educate you on how to use our SmartHub app to view your net usage on a daily, weekly or monthly basis and identify ways to shift usage to the times when the array is producing.

**GCEA does not install solar**, but we do want to be your trusted resource as you consider solar or other distributed generation systems. Electricity is a precious resource and comes from a variety of energy sources. We are here to support you if you choose to provide your own energy source like solar, as well as provide access to the grid after dark. Whenever you want the lights on, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and responsible energy to power your possibilities.



## IS SOLAR RIGHT FOR MY HOME?



## ROGER LAMBERT RETIRES AFTER 22 YEARS

▲ Roger Lambert, GCEA's retiring warehouseman.

After 22 years of hard work for GCEA, Roger Lambert hung up his hard hat as the GCEA warehouseman on April 27, 2023.

When asked about his time at GCEA, Roger had several memories to share. A big highlight for Roger was the people he had the pleasure of working with. There were many interesting challenges, but the joy of meeting and working through them was a great success. Roger was told years ago “once you think you are ripe, you are rotten.” Roger feels there are always new things to

learn every day both in his work as well as in his personal life.

One memory that always comes to mind was a summer morning in 2019. Roger was preparing to unlock the building when he heard an unusual noise coming from his office. He spotted a furry back behind a bucket. By this time, John Stoeber and Dustin Cadwell arrived. Roger showed them his challenge and the trio devised a plan. Dustin put on leather gloves; Roger grabbed a stick to poke the intruder; and John got a big trash can to catch it. They placed the can

where they thought the critter would run so they could catch it in the can and let it go outside. However, the marmot had another idea. As Roger poked its back, it moved quickly, but instead of running into the strategically placed can, it jumped over it. Dustin caught it midair, then turned and ran out of Roger’s office to let it go out the garage door. It looked like Dustin had caught a pass to win the game; TOUCHDOWN!

Roger had a few different animal encounters at GCEA. Birds flew through the shop when the bay doors were open. A momma duck and her ducklings checked out the shop; deer, raccoons, bear cubs, snakes, salamanders also visited, and the list could go on. At times, Roger thought he could be running a wildlife refuge.


Roger said he has no big plans for retirement other than hoping to wear out his wood lathe turning aspen and making log furniture, more fishing, more golf, and enjoying Gunnison — this great place he calls home.

Roger, we will greatly miss you and appreciate all you have done for GCEA. Best wishes to you as you enjoy your retirement.




**POWER WITH PURPOSE**  
ANNUAL MEETING 2023

Come connect with us at the Gunnison headquarters for a barbecue, displays, door prizes, and more!



Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 5 p.m.



GCEA Headquarters  
37250 W. US Highway 50  
Gunnison, CO 81230



**REBATES**

**OUTDOOR ELECTRIC POWER EQUIPMENT**

Low noise, low maintenance, and zero emissions.  
Batteries in the equipment can last about an hour or longer!

WWW.GCEA.COOP

# GCEA Welcomes New CFO

**M**ark VanderVeer will join GCEA as its chief financial officer this month. Mark has more than 30 years of experience in accounting and finance and has worked in various industries, including healthcare, hi-tech, software and manufacturing. As CFO, Mark will oversee all financial operations, information technology, member/consumer service and human resources.

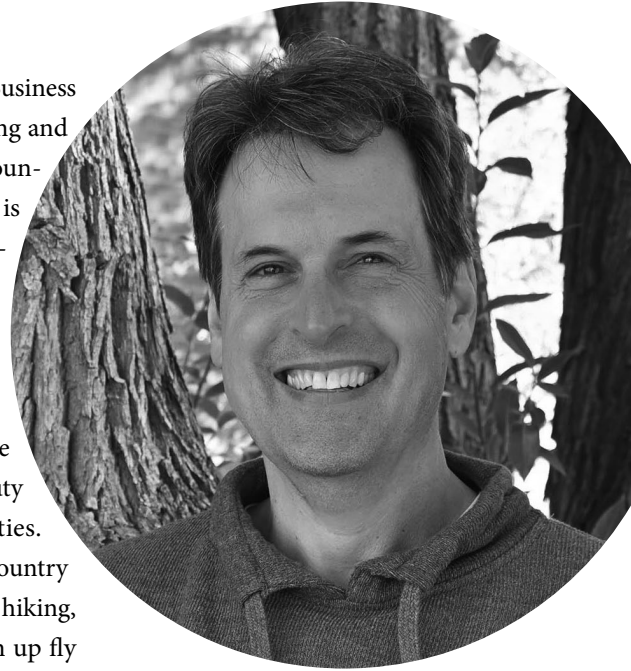
Throughout his career, Mark demonstrated an ability to identify financial risks and opportunities and successfully implemented strategies to maximize profitability and financial performance. Prior to joining GCEA, Mark held senior financial positions at several leading companies, including a publicly traded manufacturing company, a global hi-tech manufacturer, and a rapidly growing software company. Most recently, Mark was the CFO at Gunnison Valley Health.

Mark graduated from Pace University in

New York City with a Bachelor of Business Administration in public accounting and was a licensed certified public accountant for more than 20 years. Mark is looking forward to joining the leadership team at GCEA.

Mark and his wife Amy are active members of the Gunnison community, having moved here with their two children in 2019. They fell in love with the area's stunning natural beauty and abundance of outdoor activities. They enjoy both alpine and cross-country skiing, mountain and road cycling, hiking, and camping. Mark has also taken up fly casting, and although he's yet to catch a fish, he hopes to eventually call himself a fly fisherman.

The family is also involved in the local arts scene. Mark and his son Mitchell participated in the annual Son of a Gun play and the whole family takes art classes at the Gunnison Art Center.



Mark's commitment to his community is reflected not only in his professional career but also in his personal life as an engaged and active member of the Gunnison community. Welcome, Mark — we are excited to have you join our team.

JOIN US FOR

# COFFEE

WITH YOUR CO-OP



FRIDAY, MAY 19  
10:30 AM

DAILY DOSE  
330 Elk Ave Unit C  
Crested Butte, CO 81224

 **GCEA**

**WELCOME  
MATT SCHATZ**

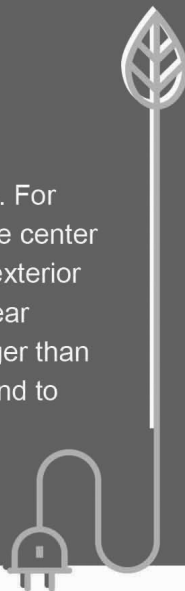
GCEA is excited to welcome Matt Schartz, our new warehouseman. He is a native of Westminster and recently moved to Gunnison with his wife, Jenny, and two daughters, Cooper and Reese. He also has twin daughters, Madi and Kenzie, who graduated high school in 2022.

Matt has about 20 years of experience in hard surface flooring installation and held positions as an installation manager and project manager for Colorado Carpet Distributors. Before moving, Matt was employed by the state as a trades supervisor for the Department of Corrections, helping offenders learn skills before they were released back into the working environment.

Outside of work, Matt loves spending time with his family and friends, watching sports, playing games, and listening to music and sports radio. We are happy to have Matt join our team.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



## STAY



### & Beat the Heat This Summer

Looking to stay cool this summer without breaking the bank? Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea regardless of the time of year), GCEA and Safe Electricity offer the following tips to stay cool:

- Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. About 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home and becomes heat, according to energy.gov.
- Consider changes to your landscaping. Reduce energy costs by planting shade trees and shrubs to insulate the foundation.
- Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- Install window awnings to provide shade from the sun and prevent heat from entering through your windows.
- Consider a professional energy evaluation to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed ductwork.

To schedule an energy evaluation, contact GCEA's Energy Use Advisor at 970-641-3520. For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



# WATT UP Summer

**JUNE 8, 2023**  
**11 AM - 1 PM**

4 WAY STOP CRESTED BUTTE, CO



### COME ENJOY DEMOS OF ALL THINGS ELECTRIC!

- EVs
- E-bikes
- Electric outdoor power equipment



970-641-3520



[www.gcea.coop](http://www.gcea.coop)



## MAY WORK ANNIVERSARIES

**Jeff Hanggi**, Crested Butte  
Working Foreman — 27 years

**Jo Anne Bateman**,  
Accounting Assistant — 13 years

**Logann Long**, Communications and  
Outreach Coordinator — 9 years