



QUARTERLY

Natural gas: Your best energy value

MINNESOTA BLUE FLAME GAS ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2014

By the Numbers – Gas vs. Electric: The Cost of Heating, 2014

American Gas, June 2014

Annual operating costs of energy-efficient natural gas-fueled space and water heating appliances are about half that of typical electric appliances, according to a recent analysis conducted by AGA.

Advantage #1: Space Heating

A typical homeowner with a high-efficiency natural gas furnace would save \$485 a year compared to a homeowner using an electric heat pump with the minimum required Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF). A homeowner with the minimum-required efficiency natural gas furnace would still save \$315 a year in operating costs. (AFUE stands for Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency.)

- \$544 Annual Cost for 97% AFUE Gas Furnace
- \$714 Annual Cost for 80% AFUE Gas Furnace
- \$1,029 Annual Cost for 7.7 HSPF Electric Heat Pump

Advantage #2: Water Heating

A typical homeowner with a 40-gallon natural gas water heater would save \$301 in a year compared to a homeowner with a 50-gallon electric water heater and a comparable First Hour Rating. The analysis was based on a 2,072-square foot home in St. Louis, which represents a 5,000 Heating Degree Day location (about average for the U.S.) Energy prices used were the representative average unit costs for the U.S., published by the Department of Energy in March.

\$275 Annual Cost – 40-gallon Natural Gas
(First Hour Rating = 74 gallons)
\$576 Annual Cost – 50-gallon Electric
(FHR = 67 gallons)

Historical data going back to 2002 reveal that increases in the price of natural gas caused space heating with electric heat pumps to have lower operating costs than natural gas through much of 2005-2007.



Since 2009, however, natural gas has clearly been the more economical choice for space heating. Water heating using natural gas has been significantly less expensive every year since 2002.

Visit www.aga.org for details and complete article.



Exciting Summer Events

Sign up Now!

Network with other members and customers, promote your products & services!

Blue Flame Lodge at the Minnesota State Fair

Thursday, August 21 – Labor Day, Sept. 1

Limited space is available in the Blue Flame Lodge to promote your natural gas products and services. Sizes and prices vary – request your exhibitor kit now!

Commercial/Industrial Committee's Annual Fall Energy Conservation Conference

Tuesday, September 23

8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Four seminar topics plus two keynote speakers will be presented. Certificates of Completion will be given for those wishing to use the seminars for professional development hours (if applicable). Sponsorships and vendor tabletops will be available.



Minnesota State Fair Blue Flame Lodge-Limited Space Available!

Work a shift and enjoy the fair! Come see us and enjoy AC and ice cold water!

We're less than a month away from the start of the Great Minnesota Get-Together!

Fair dates are Thursday, August 21 – Labor Day, Monday, September 1

Showcase your product at the fair - we have limited space available so contact Diane to get the details!

WANTED: Someone interested in displaying an NGV in front of the Lodge in the landscaping – if anyone is interested, please contact Diane for details.

WANTED: Greeters to work a shift at the Lodge kiosk. Sign up now to work a 4-hour shift at the Blue Flame Lodge greeting visitors! Weeknights and weekends pay \$10/hour. Make some money and then go enjoy the fair!! Contact Diane to see the available shifts and staff schedule.

New this year, we'll be displaying an operational natural gas generator for

fairgoers to come see, hear, and learn more about.

Once again, we'll be featuring Natural Gas Vehicles to help increase awareness, interest and demand for them. Home filling stations will also be on display.

Yardsticks are in the Lodge again – come visit with the folks from Gopher State One Call and get your colored yardstick!

Drawings and Giveaways! – Stop in and register to win prizes and get freebies!

The Lodge is the association's primary vehicle to interact with consumers and get the natural gas message out. It allows us to promote natural gas, natural gas products, educational materials, and provides visibility for the association.

Benefits in displaying in the Blue Flame Lodge:

1. Prime location – In Carousel Park, by the grandstand, across from the Giant Slide.
2. Leverage your time - the Blue Flame has staff in the lodge 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. so you don't need to be at your booth 12 hours a day for 12 days.
3. Reasonable cost & access to the Mn. State Fair –your membership provides an opportunity to display at the fair. Space at the fair is hard to get.
4. One location for energy information – Fairgoers have come to know the Blue Flame Lodge as a place to come for information on natural gas and natural gas products.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DISPLAYING IN THE LODGE, PLEASE CONTACT DIANE TO GET MORE INFORMATION.

Interested in Joining the Association?

Contact Diane at mnblueflame@aol.com or visit our website at www.blueflame.org Associate memberships are \$200 per year. Join the team now!

Benefits to joining: Networking Opportunities, Industry Contacts, Advertising Opportunities, Member rates (reduced rates) for Association events, seminars, etc., Increased Company Visibility (via a website hotlink to your company from our site, in our Member Directory, etc.), Possible opportunity to display in the Blue Flame Lodge at the Mn. State Fair, Blue Flame events provide a venue for members to take customers to, Companies can leverage their time and financial resources, and you receive the Association Newsletter, to name a few.

Quote of the Quarter

"AGE IS NOT IMPORTANT UNLESS YOU'RE A CHEESE."

Author: Helen Hayes



Fifth Annual Blue Flame Fishing Event – The Wiley Walleye is Elusive!

The Blue Flame’s fifth annual networking/ fishing event on Mille Lacs Lake took place on Tuesday, June 3rd. Thirty-three members and their guests hit the lake to see if they would be the lucky angler to get the winning fish on their line!

New this year, we moved the event to the beginning of June vs. early July like it had been in the past. Normally this would have made for better fishing but...we had a storm front move in the night before and the fishing was tricky!

We also added a launch this year! It was a great addition to the event and gave members and their guests the opportunity to do fishing in a more relaxed style! Fourteen people went out on the launch and had a great time visiting, fishing and grilling on board!

As in the past, we had groups of three (3) paired with a professional walleye

fisherman. All groups departed from Nitti’s Hunter’s Point Resort on the east side of Mille Lacs Lake in the morning and returned from the 6 hour fishing trip in the afternoon. Nitti’s provided a delicious rib & chicken dinner that evening and the winning catches were announced!

Congratulations to Steve Norberg – winner of the Longest Walleye on the boats! (photo) Steve caught a 24 ½” walleye and won a Tony Roach Rod donated by Tony Roach Guide Services.

Congratulations to John Selvestra – winner of the Longest Walleye on the launch! (photo) John caught a 24 ½” walleye and won a rod and reel donated by Minnesota Air.

Special thanks to our event sponsor Mulcahy Company for helping to make this event possible! We’d also like to thank everyone that donated items for prizes!



SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015, MILLE LACS LAKE

Minnesota Blue Flame Golf Event – We’re Not Afraid of a Little Rain!



The annual Blue Flame Golf Event was on Thursday, June 19th at the beautiful Cannon Falls Golf Club in Cannon Falls, Mn. It was a scramble format with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start.

An impressive ninety-seven golfers braved the elements to make it to the course! Blue Flame members are the best and aren’t intimidated by rain!!!

Amid torrential rain, flooding roads, the Cannon River rising threatening

to close the back nine, and a small lake forming on the first fairway, the Blue Flame tournament fought on! Just before the start of the tournament, the skies parted, the rain stopped, and members enjoyed a great game of golf and camaraderie! Half an hour after everyone was in, it started pouring again and continued the rest of the evening!

It was an amazing day and will be remembered as one of the most memorable Blue Flame tournaments ever! “I never prayed so hard as I did that morning driving down to Cannon Falls! Thunder and lightning cracking in the sky and torrential rains flooding the road! I thought to myself, we’re going to need a miracle to pull this tournament off!” stated Executive Director, Diane Swintek. Well, that’s what they got and the tournament was a huge success!

Tournament Results:

1st Place–1st Flight–score=55: Todd Gray, Blake Canham, Marc Reilly, Glen Kroeten

2nd Place–1st Flight–score=57: George Witt, Paul Larson, Trent Petersohn, Monty Woolf

1st Place–2nd flight–score=66: Jay Baars, Jon Wallace, Gary Horns, David Baker

Early Bird Drawing Winner – Blake Canham

Special thanks to all our sponsors, everyone who came out to golf and to everyone who worked so hard to make this tournament happen!!! We couldn’t do it without you! Our golf event is one of the main sources of revenues to help continue the work of the association – THANK YOU!

Save the Date! Thursday, June 18, 2015



Member News:

Ziegler Power Systems – Fairmont Energy Station is Up and Running!

On February 12, the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) dedicated its newest generation facility – the Fairmont Energy Station. It was a four-year project that adds 25 megawatts in four high-efficiency natural gas engines. These four engines are turbocharged, spark-fired, reciprocating internal-combustion engines built by Caterpillar in Kiel, Germany.

The Caterpillar engines are designed to exceed government expectations for pollution control, by reducing up to 90% of nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide.

Wind and other renewable energy sources are part of the solution for minimizing the environmental impact of power generation but they aren't reliable for consistent usage so these engines will be used to backup the wind turbines on quiet days. It takes less than 10 minutes for the new 16-cylinder engines to fire up, be running and online, producing energy for the grid.

Welcome New Member!

NAC Mechanical & Electrical Services
www.nac-hvac.com
(See Member Profile article for contact information)

Residential Science Resources
www.residentialscience.com
Jason Russell
(651) 200-3410
Jason.russell@residentialscience.com

Shane Kadrlik
(651) 200-3400
Shane.kadrlik@residentialscience.com

MEMBER PROFILE:
NAC Mechanical & Electrical Services



NAC Mechanical & Electrical Services is a full service mechanical and electrical contractor providing reliable service, installation and construction for any size project, from \$200 to \$10 million. NAC is a proven performer with expertise in the following areas:

- Ventilation
Heating and Cooling
24 Hour & Emergency Service
Building Automation
Electrical
Energy Efficiency Analysis
Estimation & Design
Boilers
Preventative Maintenance
Project Budgeting
Plumbing
Piping & Sheet Metal Fabrication

NAC Mechanical and Electrical Services has grown from its commercial, mechanical, and construction roots in 1984, into a \$65 million full-service mechanical and electrical contractor. NAC holds master licenses for all mechanical and electrical services. NAC values the safety of its employees and customers and is proud of its safety record and programs.

NAC's construction and design division employs approximately 450 people and realizes the importance of everyone's role on the project team – from project pre-planning to successful project delivery, cost and performance. NAC has built strong working relationships with 3rd party architects, engineers, general contractors, subcontractors and suppliers and is able to successfully coordinate any size project. We are recognized in the industry for implementing the most modern design and estimation technology. Accurate design supports the scheduling, budgeting and cost, ultimate performance and success of every NAC project. NAC's fabrication shops give us the ability to pre-fab and fabricate piping and sheet metal

off site.

A labor force of 80 service technicians and customer service staff supports our service department. Our trained and knowledgeable service technicians and our state-of-the-art dispatching system provide responsive, reliable and efficient service for our customers.

NAC is a local leader in the automation industry with over 35 years of building automation experience. NAC offers a broad range of automation products and has experience working with several automation systems. We have the ability and experience to customize an automation control system for any project size, building type or unique automation need. Our automation division of 75 employees is able to design, install or integrate, and service any automation need.

The majority of the work we perform is funded in part by your electric or gas utility so there is very little out of pocket cost. Please contact us to discuss your specific facility and corporation's goals.

Luke Christiansen is an Account Manager with NAC Mechanical & Electrical Services. Luke describes his role as "I increase the value of commercial properties by increasing tenant comfort while reducing energy costs."

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Have Something to submit?
E-mail change?

If you would like to submit information to be considered for the next member newsletter or have an e-mail change, contact Diane at mnblueflame@aol.com.