

# Veggie News

PrairieFire BioFuels

## Be The Board!

Attention PrairieFire!

It is time again for a PFBF Board Election!

We are calling for volunteers to help guide the co-op by becoming members of our volunteer board.

This means you!

Because we are a small, independent co-op trying to compete with giant oil companies, we depend on the dedicated efforts of our members to make PFBF the vital, awesome cooperative that we are.

Already, the fact that you are a member is excellent!

You are helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and you support a sustainable, green energy source.

Now, we need you to take the next step.

We would like you to consider running for the board of directors. You can take a more active role in spreading the use of biofuels and in changing how people get their energy.

Being on the board can be hard work, which means that it is not for everybody. However, if you can afford a couple of evenings a month, the co-op could use your help to make a very real difference.

What is involved in being a board member?

The PFBF board meets once a month. We discuss everything from fueling hours, to non-profit

status, membership fees, energy fairs, and beyond. In short, we help set policies and make the decisions that enable our co-op to grow and better serve our members. We need your help.

Right now, we are at an exciting time in the life of the co-op. With the creation of the non-profit arm and recent restructuring, we are ready to greatly expand the scope of what we do and strengthen our position as leaders in the world of alternative fuels.

Typically, each board member takes on a specific area or committee, such as marketing, education, business development, etc. to apply their individual expertise.

Each elected member will serve a three-year term, at which point they can step down or run again in the next election.

How to apply:

Give us your name, address, phone number and email address.

Explain in a page or two why you would like to be elected to the PFBF board of directors. Please be sure to describe any experience you have in business, cooperatives, and skills you would like to contribute.

We will post your application at the PFBF Shop, and on the PFBF website.

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Issue 6

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# Education Foundation Annual Board Elections

It's already been a year since several PFBF members helped form PrairieFire Biofuels Education Foundation. Our first round of 1-year terms ends on the November 23rd, 2009. All four officers seats are open for nominations, and we are looking for more people to get involved with the Coop's sister non-profit.

Please volunteer to help spread the word about non-petroleum-based fuels!

You can email us for more info:  
info@pfbfef.org  
Or give us a call: 608-441-5454

Thanks!  
Carolann Puster  
President, Board of Directors  
PFBFEF

## Stop & Bounce - Your Shop Specials

To help with our new ad campaign--see article below called Look & Listen--we are running two simultaneous specials.

First, we are continuing our brake special, which includes a reduced mark-up on parts that will save you 15-25% on parts. This could equate to \$50 in savings on a two-wheel job. Juan's experience with brake work will ensure your job will be completed quickly and expertly.

Additionally, we are extending the same discount and savings to suspension work. This could also save you a significant amount.

If you haven't used the shop in a while, this is the perfect time to discover the savings, efficiency, and quality we can deliver.

Keep listening, because we will soon unveil our winterization special.

BRAKES

SUSPENSION

GAS CARS

WINTERIZATION

USED ELSBETT KITS

## Our Annual Meeting is Upon Us!

It is time again for our annual membership meeting. This is where we get a chance to all meet up, discuss new developments in the Coop, celebrate another successful year, and most importantly vote for new board members and any by-law changes.

It is especially important that we get as many members as possible at this year's meeting, as a bylaw change is proposed and many board positions are opening up.

We will provide pizza!

The meeting will be held in the lower level of the East-Side Glass Nickel 2916 Atwood Ave Tuesday, September 22nd.

At 6 PM, we will share pizza and a chance to socialize with each other and the candidates.

We will also have a slide show of PFBF activities over the past year.

At 7 PM, we will have a brief presentation by the current board, covering the current state of the Cooperative and the Educational Foundation.

At 7:15 PM, Each new candidate will introduce themselves to the Coop.

We will then cast our votes and elect our new board, with jubilation to follow.

See you there!

## BRAIN Fueling

There have been developments in fueling! We are close! PrairieFire was awarded a grant from the federal government that will be administered through the state's Office of Energy Independence called BRAIN (Biofuels Retailing Availability Improvement Network). The grant offers 50% match on the cost of building infrastructure, up to \$20,000 per project. Our fueling infrastructure at the shop is estimated to cost around \$45,000, which will include 24/7 fueling with a credit card swipe and fuel blends in the winter. So, we are almost halfway there. We also have funds available for two additional stations that could be located at other areas around the city. In addition to this, all necessary paperwork has been submitted to the city and state, and we should have approval this week. The only hurdle left is raising the additional \$25,000 needed. We have some very good leads to acquire that. Stay tuned for more details!

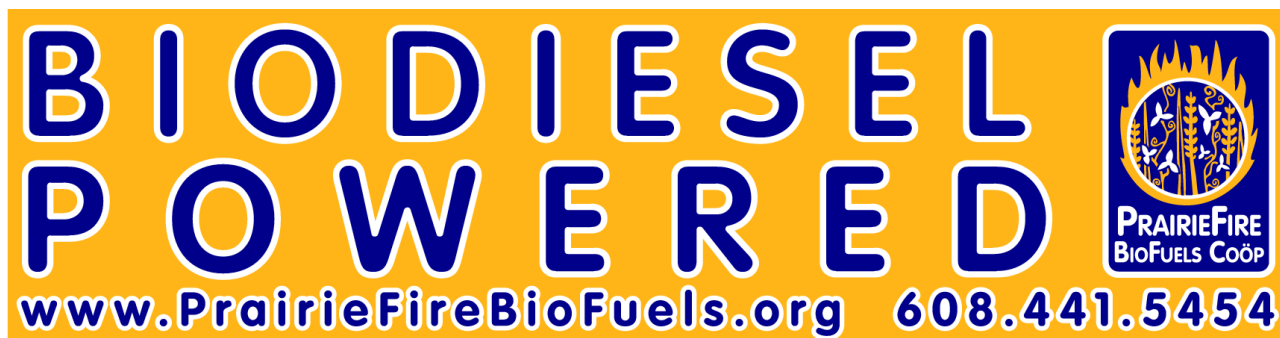
## Where Has Your Diesel Been?

We are starting a new segment in the newsletter!

We want to see where your diesel has been!

Send in pictures of your car in interesting places, preferably touting a PrairieFire BioFuels bumper sticker, and every month we will choose one winner. Their car will be displayed in the newsletter, and the winner will receive a prize!

Start sending your pictures now!



## Spotlight: Piedmont Biofuels By Carolann Puster

Located in Pittsboro, NC, Piedmont Biofuels is a diverse and thriving cooperative. They have grown into an industrial supplier of B99 over the last five years. They also offer a string of services including: R&D; consulting; design-build; oil collection; education and outreach; and internship programs.

Do yourself a favor and visit Piedmont's website – <http://www.biofuels.coop>. It is impressive both in style and content. As well as presenting lots of information in an entertaining way, the writers for this site really convey the energy of the organization. My favorite page is the educational curriculum section: <http://www.biofuels.coop/education/#curriculum>.

Piedmont members designed a 16-week, open-source course on the subject of biofuels. It can be downloaded from the site for non-commercial use, and is also taught at a local community college in NC.

Not only is Piedmont Biofuels doing amazing things for biofuels awareness around the country, they are invigorating sustainable enterprise in their community. Since the time they purchased and renovated an abandoned chemical plant in Pittsboro, green-minded start-ups have joined them on the compound, including: biofarm coops, a greenhouse, vermiculture systems, and even a business that makes bug repellent from tomato juice and biodiesel!

Whether you are looking for a refresher on making biodiesel, or a burst of inspiration – Piedmont Biofuels won't let you down.

## Proposed By-Law Change

As most of you know, PFBF board members currently run for a two year term, with term expiration dates staggered so that approximately half of the board is replaced at each annual meeting. The board would like to propose a change in the by-laws that changes the term length to three years. With this by-law change only one-third of the board will be replaced each year at the annual meeting. This will help greater continuity and ease the transition from one board to another.

Here is the proposed change to the by-laws:

Membership terms for the Board of Directors will be changed from 2- to 3-years and that each board member will be limited to 3 consecutive terms.

The transition from 2- to 3-year terms will be implemented as follows: Board members who are not up for re-election this year will extend their stay on the board by one additional year (therefore serving three years). This includes John Hackney, Kurt Reinhold, Roger Sneath, and Peter Fiala. Of the members up for re-election this year, Shawn Bass and Spencer Schumacher have agreed to extend their terms by one year. Three open seats will be filled at the next election for a three year term.

Check Back Next Month:

A look at one board member for both entities--Kurt Reinhold

Future Expansion--EV kits for gas automobiles, propane-assist, and hydrogen-assist

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## Look & Listen - Advertising

PrairieFire is kicking off its first major advertising campaign! The future of our coop hinges on growing the business to a sustainable size. As you know, we have three mechanics, two lifts, and one large shop now. The shop always has, and will continue to, subsidize our fueling efforts. Fueling alone simply does not create enough revenue to maintain itself. With that in mind, we have developed a new slogan, "Maintaining your car to maintain the Earth."

We are increasing our scope. We are not limiting ourselves to diesel repair anymore. Juan comes with knowledge of gas cars, and Luke and Wajid's skills allow them to easily adapt and learn new engines. We are starting with basic work such as brakes, suspension, alternators, and similar repairs, and we look to broaden our range in the future.

To make the public aware of this change, we released a press release last week, and WKOW's Carl Agnelly did a story on it.  
<http://addins.wkowntv.com/blogs/downtoearth/?p=242>

Starting this week, we will also have a video ad that shows on WKOW's website when visitors click to see a video web story. We are guaranteed it will show 11,500 times.

Additionally, we will have a radio/ internet ad on The Mic narrated by Thom Hartmann that will play during rush hour traffic for the next three weeks.

Finally, we are working with two free-lance writers who are also members to write stories for local publications.

Check out the ads, and bring your diesel AND gas cars in for repair!

*PFBF is a member-owned cooperative creating access and building infrastructure to support viable, sustainable alternative fuels sources and usage.*

*PFBFEF's mission is to encourage environmental stewardship and empower the public with education about the availability and potential of non-petroleum-based fuels.*