

Illuminations

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Spirit Lake Casino Addition Hits the Jackpot

The new addition and remodeling at the Spirit Lake Casino in St. Michael, North Dakota was completed in March of 2010 and has greatly enhanced the casino and resort facility. Included in the addition were two 5,000 square foot ballrooms and remodeling of the main lobby & front desk area of the hotel, which included a beauty shop, nail salon, and massage spa. The casino area remodeling added more room for slot machines, as well as a gift shop and poker room.

Bergstrom Electric has completed several large projects for the Spirit Lake Casino in the past decade and was pleased to be included in this latest project at the owner's request. "Keeping the casino and resort fully operational 24 hours a day/seven days a week was a priority for the owner," noted Darin Hall,



Above: the new entrance canopy to the Spirit Lake Casino. Bottom left: One of the new 5,000 square foot ballrooms in the resort portion of the project.

Bergstrom's Project Manager. "We had to add outlets and modify the existing lighting system to allow for the installation of temporary walls to keep the construction area isolated from the Casino guests."

Bergstrom added a 600 amp 480 volt 3 phase panel board, two 225 amp 208 volt 3 phase panels, and a 100 amp 3 phase dimming panel for the ballroom lighting. Most of the fixtures included in the project were special order, including some unique cylinders.

"There were these very large cylinder lights in the resort lobby," remembers Project Foreman Eric Tohm. "Each cylinder was two feet in diameter and five feet long and had nine lamps in it. Each fixture had three of those cylinders and weighed a total of 170 pounds so they were pretty massive."

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Bergstrom had estimated a total of 2,769 man-hours to complete the project, but there were (7) change orders during construction, which added approximately 1,000 hours or about 30% more to the project.

"That's not terribly unusual for a design/build project to have several change

orders," explained Hall. "You are moving quickly through design and construction and sometimes the owner changes their mind partway through. You just have to be flexible - it required good coordination with our home office to make sure we always had the manpower we needed to get the job done."

The project ended up taking 3,666 man-hours with a peak crew of 6 men. The total electrical construction cost was \$431,500.

DSGW Architects was the architect on the project and Construction Engineers was the General Contractor. The total project covered over 22,000 square feet. ♦



Above: The large cylinder light fixtures in the resort lobby are five feet long, two feet in diameter and contain nine lamps each. Photo at left: The entrance to the new beauty salon in the hotel main lobby area.



Spotlight on: Chad Bottem

Born and raised in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, Chad Bottem has worked with Bergstrom Electric for over 15 years. He currently runs Bergstrom's Service Department in Thief River Falls, estimates projects, and works closely with Project Manager Russ Penn. A graduate of Lincoln High School in 1985, Chad attended NDSU Bottineau and NCTC where he studied Marketing and Management. He also attended NDSSS in Wahpeton and studied electrical tech. Chad has been married to his wife, Julie for 15 years and has two stepdaughters - Jenny and Tricia, one granddaughter Elsi, and is awaiting the birth of a grandson in December.

What are some of the projects you are currently working on?

I just estimated a design/build project in

Crookston - Crookston Bean, and the Service Department in TRF has been busy with many projects going on.

What was your most memorable project or experience at Bergstrom Electric?

One of my favorite jobs was a large parking lot project at Marvin Windows in Warroad. There was a lot of outdoor work and they are great people to work for.

Do you have a mentor or a person that inspired you?

I would have to say that my mother inspired me. She taught me that if you work hard you will succeed.

If you couldn't do your current job, what would you do instead?

Something in sales.



What are your hobbies?

My hobbies used to be hunting and fishing. Now they are grandchildren . . . then hunting and fishing.

If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be and why?

Osama BinLaden - because no one else can find him.

What would be your dream vacation?

Deep Sea Fishing. ♦

St. Anne's and Joachim Catholic Church Inspires Congregation

Completed in February of 2010, the Sts. Anne and Joachim Catholic Church addition in Fargo included the construction of 25,800 square feet of space including a new worship area reminiscent of traditional Catholic churches of the past. Bergstrom Electric provided the electrical construction services for the project, which was estimated at a total of \$9 to \$10 million. Total electrical construction cost was \$661,000.

The new nave, or congregational area, seats between 1,100 and 1,200 people and has high arched ceilings and a steeple. The center of the ceiling is 47 feet high. *"That was a little different - working with everything so high in the air,"* noted Steve Mundahl, Bergstrom's Project Manager. The nave also contains an extensive dimming system.

Zerr Berg Architects out of Fargo designed the space, which was actually Phase 2 of a two-phase construction project. The first phase, completed in 2001 included office space, a gathering space, and a social hall, where the congregation had been meeting.

There is a lot of symbolism and detail in the project, including the electrical portion. *"That's one big difference between a church and another project, like a school,"* explained Mundahl, who's completed several church construction projects over the years. *"Everything is detailed, down to the plates on the lightswitches. We had to order special switchplates to match the detailing in the rest of the space."*

All that detail seemed to be worth it as parishioners expressed awe and delight at the special dedication mass in February. *"It looks like a cathedral,"* said one of the members. ♦



An aerial view of the St. Anne's and Joachim Catholic Church above shows the worship area under construction.. The first phase of the project - meeting rooms, a social hall, and a gathering space was completed in 2001.



Interior views of the nave show various phases of construction.



Cliff Notes

Dear Friends

I hope everyone will enjoy what is left of our summer! School is starting soon, and our apprentices begin classes August 23rd in Grand Forks and August 24th in Fargo. Training is being provided by (IEC) Independent Electrical Contractor's, which has been training apprentices along with Bergstrom Electric for the past 18 years here in the Dakota's.

The classes are offered in various locations throughout the state, and all are run concurrently so that no matter where the students are working they can walk into any classroom and be on the same chapter as all of the other students. In addition, the classes are offered on-line for the apprentices in remote locations where classroom instructions are not available, which also run concurrently. On-line instruction provides the ability for students to correspond one-on-one

with the instructors to help them thru any questions or problems that they may encounter. This makes the classes much more accessible and user friendly for all the students.

With the apprentices studying and attending classes and working towards their graduation every May, IEC holds as golf outing for the graduating students to show appreciation for their achievements. This year we had a great turn out for the golf outing held at River's Edge Golf Course in Manvel, ND for the graduates. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great time! Thank you to the local vendors and suppliers who donated prizes for the participants. Everyone appreciates your support.

Family Night at the Races

We held one of our employee appreciation nights with "Race Night" at

the River City Speedway in Grand Forks on August 13th. Employees, spouses and children are all invited to attend, and with approximately 50 adults and 16 children, gifts were given out to the kids and a relaxing meal was provided at a cookout followed up by the races. The evening weather was excellent for races and everyone enjoyed themselves. In addition, Bergstrom Electric gave away



numerous prizes throughout the night and two BMX bikes to one lucky girl and boy. Steve Wasvick (above) presenting the bikes to our lucky winners, have fun with your new bikes.

Cliff Moen, President



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