

# Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner   
The power of human connections



## Definitely not the big yellow truck

While damage brought on by flood waters might not be as widespread as the devastation of an ice storm, certainly it can present some challenges. In attending to one stretch of line, following the area flooding of March 18-19, New-Mac linemen had to trade in their truck for a boat. Pictured, linemen (L-R) Bob Harris, David Sharp and Darren Pierce paddle across a stretch of Elk River, just west of Pineville, to cut a washed-out tree away from an electric pole. In spite of the extreme flooding, New-Mac had few outages.




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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

## Dealing with the dreaded *Delta T*

Yes, it is still cold outside and yes, I am still wearing my shoes when I go out to get the morning paper. But it should start feeling like spring here before you know it.

If you read and implemented the information in some of my other columns, your floors should be warmer and your walls should be more energy efficient, therefore making your whole house more comfortable.



When talking about walls in the last column, I mentioned that certain types of wall insulation perform better than others when it is cold outside and, particularly, when the wind is blowing. When it is 75 degrees outside, no one really worries about wall insulation. In fact, they may open the windows and

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Please play it safe during Kite Month

April is National Kite Month, and as you enjoy this recreation, New-Mac Electric encourages all to keep safety in mind.

The windy days of spring provide ideal kite flying conditions, however these gusts can bring about risks if kite-flyers fail to use sound judgment.

Kite safety begins with the selection of a good location, such as an open field away from power lines. Kites should always be kept a lengthy distance from power lines – since they often stray from their intended course. If your kite does come in contact with power lines, let go of it immediately! Never attempt to retrieve a kite that is tangled in power lines.

However, there's more to kite safety than simply avoiding power lines. Kites should never be flown in stormy weather. Always fly kites made of wood, paper or plastic – never use metal when making a kite, and only use dry string.

Remember, an enjoyable day of kite flying is a safe one.

## Outage reporting

To report an outage, have your location number (found at the top of your bill) ready and call 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.

Another **STOP** on the lines 

# It all started with one buggy

How do you begin to describe a man like Dennis Williams?

Dennis is a buggy maker – as in the horse-drawn variety once commonplace in the early years of this country. That in itself is saying quite a lot. After all, just the wood-working alone ranges from steam-bending to extensive joint work. Then there's the welding (cutting and forming), sewing (from upholstery to wagon covers), painting, and even the wheel making (yet another uncommon skill, thus the term *wheelwright*).

Dennis is a poet. He's put out one book and is featured in an anthology titled *Missouri Cowboy Poetry*.

Dennis is also a cook. However, he's not the type you'd find at some fancy restaurant assembling fine delicacies. You'll find him working over a wood stove and slinging Dutch ovens as he prepares good grub for hardy appetites.

Certainly, he's a craftsman. Yet, the term that truly pulls it all together is cowboy. You can't get use out of a buggy without a horse; his poetry indeed is cowboy poetry; and his cooking is the chuck-wagon kind, just like you'd



**Dennis stands next to his chuck wagon, from which he's fed many hungry cowboys and cowgirls.**

imagine at the end of a big day of driving cattle.

How did Dennis get started in all of these cowboy pursuits?

Well, he's always enjoyed rural living. He grew up in Wisconsin, moved to Missouri in the 1970s, and since 1976, he and his wife Donna have lived about five miles west of Neosho, on the south side of Highway 60, on Oxbow Lane. There, they raised one son, who's married and resides in Joplin.

Also, the Williams have always had horses and enjoyed riding them. However, there was a time when Donna wasn't riding as much, and Dennis thought maybe she'd enjoy riding in a buggy.

So, he searched out some buggy makers and found, with all of them, it was going to be a one to three year wait before they could get him a buggy.

"I thought, well, I'm pretty

handy, so I'd just go ahead and see what I could do as far as making me one," said Dennis.

So he did, and when he was done, he thought maybe it'd be worth pursuing as a business. So, the Williams invested in a building and some equipment, and in a matter of months, he had 33 buggies at his shop in need of various repairs.

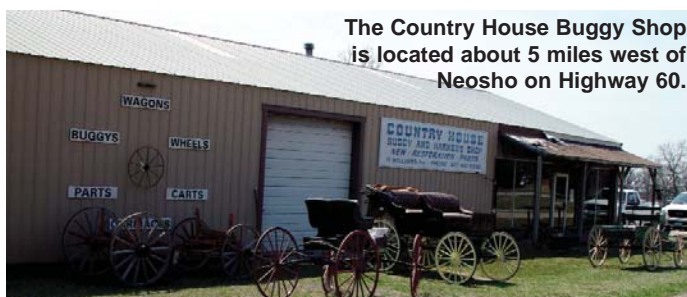
That was just shy of 20 years ago, in May of 1988, when the Country House Buggy Shop came into existence. Since then, hundreds of buggies have left Dennis' shop.

"I'd say I averaged 8 to 10 new buggies a year, and probably about that many restorations. But then there's all the repairs, upholstery jobs.... I really don't know how many buggies I've worked on," he said.

Most of his customers have come from quite a distance. "I've gotten inquiries from as far away as Alaska and Germany. I've built one that went to Nicaragua, and one that went to Hawaii."

The styles and uses of his buggies have also been very diverse, ranging from cowboy chuck wagons to one more suited for a wedding.

**The Country House Buggy Shop is located about 5 miles west of Neosho on Highway 60.**



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# ○ Buggy

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“A couple of them I did were show buggies. Five or six of them I’ve done along the way were restorations for museums,” he said.

Dennis used to put out a buggy catalog, and for a time, the shop had a website. But, he’s not hurting for jobs. In fact, the Williams are ready to slow down a bit.

“I used to work 12-14 hours a day, 7 days a week almost. I’ve cut down to maybe, if I’m lucky, I’ll work seven hours a day and only five days a week. The rest of the time is my wife’s and mine to enjoy together somewhere.”

Still, he loves his craft.

“My job, if I had to invent one, couldn’t be any better,” he said. “Because I may get to just sew for two or three days; or the next two or three days after that, I may spend in the wood shop; or I may spend a week welding. I’ve got two items in the paint booth right now. There’s probably about a week’s worth of painting there. Well, then when I’m done, I’ll go back to sewing or this or that.”

Of course, he can always find ways to fill his time, such as writing a poem.

In 1996, he read in *Rural Missouri* magazine about a few fellows trying to start a statewide cowboy poetry organization. So, Dennis contacted them. The last

four years, he has served as the president of the Missouri Cowboy Poets Association.

“We’re a pretty good size organization. Our main goal is to promote the cowboy way and preserve its being, and along the way we have a few fundraisers. We’re non-profit, but we have the fundraisers and then give the money to scholarships at the end of year.”

When asked what it takes to be



a cowboy poet, Dennis joked. “I guess just be windy.”

He continued, “I can’t make up a story. So, I just write about my travels and the things I’ve done. I put them in perspective the way I see them.”

The Missouri Cowboy Poets meet around four times a year. Dennis hosts the March meeting every year.

“Whoever has the meeting usually puts on a big feed, and we’ll sit around afterwards and



**The Country House Buggy Shop showroom (pictured) reflects the cowboy theme. Below, one of Dennis’ many creations.**

have a round robin of poetry and music and everything.”

Naturally, Dennis serves his guests for these get-togethers a whole mess of chuck-wagon style food. He is well practiced at such cooking.

Dennis has done chuck-wagon suppers all across the midwest. There’s even a competition circuit for chuck-wagon cooks.

“Texas, Arizona, New Mexico. It’s real big in those states,” he said.

However, Dennis said he doesn’t compete much, usually he’ll just cook at events and sell to hungry cowboys, as he did recently to the Single-Action Shooting Society in Arkansas.

Dennis has the cowboy way of life covered. After a hard day of working the range, Dennis is ready to serve up the meal from the chuck wagon he built, and then, he can take his turn reciting a poem around the campfire.

*Dennis and Donna are proud to be members of New-Mac Electric Cooperative. You can contact the buggy shop by calling (417) 451-6598.*

## Don’t miss Safe Kids Day

New-Mac Electric invites kids of all ages to attend Neosho’s 12th Annual Safe Kids Day, scheduled for May 2 in the parking lot of the Newton County Health Department.

Businesses, groups and emergency responders from across the area work together to put on this event, focusing on keeping kids safe. Those attending are exposed to a variety of safety education. Plus, they are sure to come away with a number of giveaways. The

event will run from 3-6 p.m.

Each year, New-Mac Electric does its part by teaching kids to respect electricity around the home.

In addition to the safety education, each child can have a photo/fingerprint ID made, participate in a bike rodeo, and play various games.

For more information on Safe Kids Day, contact the Newton County Health Department at (417) 451-3743.

## Energy Partners’ *Recipe of the Month:*

### OVEN CARAMEL CORN

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Coleen Harrell**

3¾ quarts (15 cups) popped corn	¼ cup light corn syrup
1 cup brown sugar (packed)	½ tsp. salt
½ cup butter or margarine	½ tsp. soda

Heat oven to 200°. Divide popped corn between 2 ungreased 13x9x2” baking pans. Heat sugar, butter, corn syrup and salt, stirring occasionally, until bubbly around edges. Continue cooking over medium heat 5 min. Remove from heat; stir in soda until foamy. Pour on popped corn; stir until corn is coated. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 15 min.

*Send your recipe, along with your name and customer number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or recipes@new-mac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.*

# New rates in effect

Starting this month, the first general rate increase in 17 years is in effect for customers of New-Mac Electric Cooperative – with the first bills reflecting the adjustment coming in May.

Since 1991, New-Mac had successfully managed to avoid the rate increases that were occurring with utilities all across the state and country. New-Mac was one of only two cooperatives out of the 39 in Missouri served by power-supplier Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., (AECI) that had not passed along a general rate increase in the past five years. But after being hit with a wholesale power cost increase for the third straight year from AECI, New-Mac must also pass along an increase to its customers.

New-Mac residential customers will see their rate per kilowatt-hours billed go up by less than a penny – an increase of \$.008. Their service availability fee will go up \$7.50, and the rental light fee will go up \$2.50.

Every effort has been made to lessen the

impact of this rate increase, especially with industry trends being what they are, general rate increases, unfortunately, will become a more common occurrence.

In the pages of this newsletter and for several years at New-Mac's annual meeting, the driving forces behind AECI's increased costs have been detailed. The demand for electricity is only going to grow in our technological society, so suppliers must continue to contend with these rising costs while working to further renewable energy sources. However, developing renewable energies is also a costly undertaking – with a long, long way to go.

With costs and our dependence on electricity increasing, the only logical alternative is to use it more efficiently. In the months ahead, New-Mac will strive to help its customers by offering ways to conserve energy in homes and offices. If we all work to do our part, each household can significantly reduce its energy usage, and together, we'll deal with whatever comes our way.

## Rye

*Continued from page 1*

go fishing. When it is 25 degrees outside, and the wind is blowing, no one wants to go outside, much less go fishing.

You are no doubt aware that the wind chill temperature can be considerably lower than the real temperature. Generally speaking, non-heated moving air is not conducive to comfort in the winter. You may be asking, "What is Doug getting at?" Well, just bear with me, I'm getting there. You probably are aware of wind chill, but you may not be aware of another type of air movement, which we call a "driving force."

This phenomenon occurs when there is a temperature difference between two locations, such as the interior and exterior of a house. That temperature difference is called a Delta T.

In nature, warm air always moves toward cold air. Think of it this way: The hot air is trying to get out of my house in the winter, but in the summer, the hot air is trying to get in my house. The greater the Delta T, the faster the air movement and the greater the driving force.

Here's a good example: When you open an oven door, you can feel the hot air rush

out. You can literally feel the "driving force" of the hot air as it escapes. And, in your house, the greater the driving force, the faster you'll lose the heat, which means your heating system has to work harder.

If there are cold spots on your wall, the warm air goes to those spots and heat is lost as long as the wall remains cold. In other words, you are going to keep losing heat until you fix the problems. If you take steps to make the wall warmer, such as caulking and installing insulation, the Delta T and the driving force are less.

Here's something else to consider. In most cases, the warm air also contains moisture. When that warm air hits a cold spot, such as your window glass, it may well turn to water. It can do the same thing on or in your wall, causing mold or mildew to appear.

Well, I think you understand the problem, so what is the solution? Simply stated, just caulk and insulate the wall and other locations to eliminate cold spots. I have learned through the years that cellulose or foam insulation is best for this purpose. Warming the wall will reduce the driving force by reducing the dreaded Delta T.

*Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home*



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### Services Provided to Members

Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:

**Autowithdrawal Payment**  
**Levelized Billing**  
**Rental Light**  
**Meeting rooms available at both locations**  
**Credit Card Acceptance**  
**Safety Programs (upon request)**  
**Trade-A-Tree Program**  
**Surge Protection**  
**Green Power**

### Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes  
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*Remedies" radio show (as heard on KQYS 1420 AM), works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video, call Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. More energy-efficiency tips can also be found at [www.ecark.org](http://www.ecark.org).*

## IN THE MAIL

In the process of closing our 2007 year end, it was discovered that the 2006 capital credit allocation cards were inadvertently sent out in error. Watch your mail in the future for amended 2006 allocation cards.