

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

New-Mac visits county fairs



New-Mac Electric made its annual appearances at both the Newton and McDonald County Fairs this past month, as can be seen in these photos. Those stopping by the co-op's exhibit had the opportunity to walk through a trailer showcasing a number of energy-efficient practices for building or improving a home. Also, visitors came away with items such as fly swatters, frisbees or even a traditional favorite – ice-cold bottled water.

See Fairs, page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Extreme tempspage 1
- 75 years of co-ops.....page 2
- Doug Rye.....page 4



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.

Summer is off to a hot start

2010 appears to be a year of extremes. A few months ago, in this publication, readers were informed that January and February were the coldest first two months experienced in the New-Mac Electric service area in more than 20 years. Based on the weather term “degree-days”, it’s evident that heating systems were being put to steady use in the opening months of 2010.

Well, heating systems are getting a break now, but certainly not air condition-

ers and fans. In June, 2010’s first month of summer, the degree-days total was the highest its been since 1989 – the year New-Mac started recording weather data provided by the Neosho National Fish Hatchery.

As a reminder: Degree-days are a measurement indicating how much the outdoor temperature will affect space heating or cooling based on a standard temperature of 65 degrees. Heating degree-days are

See Degree-days, page 4

Please watch out for school kids

As kids head back to school this month, New-Mac Electric reminds everyone to be careful and keep them safe.

Drivers, please be attentive and look out for children around roadways. Parents, please instruct your kids to look before crossing streets and to stay away from traffic.

Make plans now for New-Mac's annual meeting

Mark your calendars now for New-Mac Electric Cooperative's 2010 Annual Meeting, which will be held October 30 at Crowder College's gymnasium.

Learn about the cooperative's state of affairs, and enjoy the activities, entertainment and lunch that will be provided. Don't miss out on this big day on Oct. 30!

Assistance is available

If you are having a problem paying your New-Mac account, please call us to make arrangements. Please don't disregard paying your bill. There are programs and options (such as budget billing) designed to assist you. So, please give us a call at 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Jasper County417/781-0352
McDonald County...417/845-6011
Newton County.....417/451-2206

Rural electric cooperatives: An exercise in democracy

My parents taught me about the "American Dream." If you work hard, you can make a better life for you and your family, they said. That notion goes back to the founding of this country. The first Americans used hard work to carve a nation out of the wilderness. In the process, they raised the standard of living for each succeeding generation.

The same can be said for electric cooperatives. Through hard work, rural people built their own electric systems even though many said they would fail.

With the first electric co-ops now celebrating their 75th anniversaries, it positively can be stated that electric co-ops are an essential part of the American free enterprise system.

Like our government, electric co-ops are an exercise in democracy. At the annual meeting, we elect directors who will represent us on the co-op board. While electric co-op membership includes everyone from factory workers to teachers to businesses providing jobs, everyone has just one vote in the selection of directors.

This form of governance is the ideal situation for a rural utility. Imagine if those representing you in Congress were elected not by the people who live in this state but by someone with the resources to buy the most votes. It's easy to see they would be motivated by their own self-interest.

To be a director at an electric cooperative, you must be a member of the cooperative and believe in the seven cooperative principles. You must live in the service area, use the cooperative's services and abide by the decisions you make.

The electric co-op directors I have gotten to know over the years take their jobs seriously. They educate themselves on the issues, train to better understand their roles as directors and keep in contact with the members they represent.

When I see a group of directors these days, the first thing they ask about is the status of cap and trade legislation in Washington, D.C. They are greatly concerned about this issue because it has the potential to dramatically increase the rates of every consumer. They see neighbors struggling to make ends meet, and they want to do everything they can to keep the price of electricity affordable. They don't want a drastic rate

increase on their home or business to benefit Wall Street speculators who could make affordable electricity a thing of the past.

The latest news is a setback for rural people. An amendment introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski recently failed to pass in the U.S. Senate by a 53-47 vote. This amendment would have put the brakes on Environmental Protection Agency regulation of carbon dioxide while

allowing Congress to debate legislation without the threat of EPA intervention.

One of the stumbling blocks to its passage was the existing agreement between the auto industry and the administration on vehicle fuel economy standards.

There are other bills in the House and Senate, introduced by members of the Missouri congressional delegation, that could pass. These bills, if passed, wouldn't affect fuel economy standards but would protect electric consumers from EPA intervention.

Electric co-op members have ample opportunity to weigh in on the debate as the Senate is expected to push for passage of an energy bill as early as this month. We will be engaged on any energy bill debate, making sure electric co-op members' interests are heard. Any measure that adds unnecessary costs with you ultimately footing the bill during these difficult times will face stiff opposition from us.

During your co-op's annual meeting, and at other events such as the Missouri State Fair and local festivals, you will have the opportunity to learn more about climate change legislation and how it will affect you. I encourage you to pay attention and join in the effort to keep your electric bill affordable through the Our Energy, Our Future campaign. Go to www.ourenergy.coop and get involved now if you haven't already. Your Missouri congressional representative and Sens. Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill will receive your e-mails.

When the first electric cooperatives were formed, they had two missions. The first was to bring electricity to rural people. The second was to do it at a price people could afford. Neither mission was easy, but rural electric cooperative members worked hard to accomplish both.

Now it's our turn to ensure it stays that way for our children and grandchildren who choose to raise their families and work in rural Missouri.



By Barry Hart
*Executive Vice President
of the Association of
Missouri Electric
Cooperatives*

○ Fairs

Continued from page 1



Shown above and left, New-Mac's trailer at the county fairs had numerous energy-efficiency practices on display. Below, New-Mac has always been a sponsor of the county fairs, since they promote our youth and agriculture. Bottom, fair-goers had lots of entertainment options at both events.



Energy Partners' *Recipe of the Month:*

10-MINUTE BREAD & BUTTER PICKLES

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Micki Schach**

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 med. cucumbers | ½ cup apple cider vinegar |
| 3 onions | ½ tsp. mustard seed |
| 1 cup sugar | ¼ tsp. turmeric |

Slice cucumbers and onions into microwavable bowl. Add the rest of ingredients. Place in microwave 5 minutes on high. Remove and stir real good. Place back into microwave for 5 more minutes. Take out and stir. Ready when cold.

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.



○ Degree-days

Continued from page 1

calculated in the winter by averaging the high and low temperatures for a calendar day, then subtracting the result from 65. Cooling degree-days, in the summer, are figured by averaging the high and low temperatures for a calendar day, then subtracting 65 from the average of the high and low temperatures. The higher the degree-days number, the more our heating units are working in the winter and our cooling units in the summer.

According to the National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in Springfield, the Joplin area had a cooling degree-days total of 435 in June of 2010,

which is by far the highest June total that can be found in the weather service's online archives available at www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=climate_index (or by visiting www.newmac.com and clicking on the weather history link).

July was also a hot month, although as of the time of press the final degree-days were not yet available. Still, the record-setting June along with a scorching July means our cooling systems have been working hard to help us beat the heat, and typically the largest percentage of energy usage in a home comes from cooling and/or heating. So, please keep this in mind as you consider your energy usage so far this summer. And, who knows, maybe 2010 will bring us some mild weather ... eventually.

May the force not be with you

As hot as it is now, it is hard to remember just how cold it was six months ago. We had a good old-fashioned winter like we haven't seen in a while, and the utility companies received high bill complaints like they haven't seen in a while either.

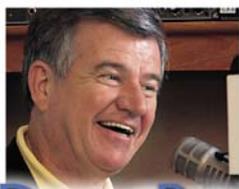
When one receives a high utility bill, there is always a reason, and it is almost never because the meter is wrong. For years, I have spent just about all of my working time teaching folks where their utility dollars go and what they can do to make the situation better. As the summer bills will soon be arriving, I thought it would be a good time to review "Energy Course 101."

The average house energy usage is about 50 percent for heating and cooling, about 20 percent for water heating and about 30 percent for everything else. Since heating and cooling systems are the largest users of energy, let's look at some energy facts. Basically, it is all about heat transfer.

First, heat always moves toward cold. It is an actual force. You could say that there is no such thing as cold, just a lack of heat. In the summer, you don't cool the house, you remove the heat.

Second, the greater the difference between the two temperatures, the greater the force will be. Let's say that your house temperature is 75 degrees and you

heat the kitchen oven to 90 degrees. When you open the oven door you will feel a little force of hot air come out the door. Now heat the oven to 350 degrees, open the door and feel the blast of air — which is a big force — hit you in the face. Again, it is an actual force.



Doug Rye
says ...

So how does this force relate to the utility bill at your house? Well, let's set the house thermostat at 75 degrees. Now, let's enjoy a nice 75-degree spring day. Wow, it is a perfect day. There is no force from nature, no heating or cooling is required and the utility meters hardly move. What a day. Of course you knew it wouldn't last. Today it is sunny, 97 degrees and the heat is forcing

its way into my house at every possible location. Oh no, now it's winter and 20 degrees outside. The heat that I just paid for is now forcing its way out of my house. In fact, I can see the force as it hits my window glass and turns to water. Please help me. What can I do?

Folks, the places in your house that are losing heat in the winter are probably the same places that are gaining heat in the summer. If you can totally seal those places or just make it more difficult for the heat to move through those places, you can help lower your utility bill. Just find those places and fix them.

Continue to read this column, which



P.O. Box 310 — 12105 East Highway 86
Neosho, Missouri 64850
Telephone: 417/451-1515 800/322-3849
Fax: 417/451-9042
Office Hours: Neosho — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Anderson — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or visit us on the Web at
www.newmac.com.

Management

CEO/General Manager Mitch McCumber
Controller David Childers
Manager of Administration Mary Hatfield
System Engineer Stan Irsik
Manager of Operations Alan Loehr
Manager of Marketing Mark K. Rakes
Billing Supervisor Vickie Stuart

Board of Directors

District 1 Martin Youngblood
District 2 Kenneth Daniels
District 3 Bobby Fields
District 4 Beryl Kennedy
District 5 Billy P. White
District 6 Paul Sprenkle
District 7 Maurice Mailes
District 8 Virgil Winchester
District 9 Dewey Allgood

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)
Surge Protection
Green Power

Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO
mrakes@newmac.com

has shown you and will continue to show you how to find and stop those energy hog forces. If you have questions, you may call me at 501-653-7931 and I will be happy to help you. In the meantime, may a good force be with you.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show (as heard on KBTN 1420 AM & KQYX 1450 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.