

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 showcasing ways to save energy, air purifier at local trade shows

New-Mac is officially on the road for area trade shows, displaying ideas for being more energy efficient in the home.

This past month, New-Mac was in attendance at the Home Builders Association of Southwest Missouri's annual Home Show, held Feb. 24th-26th at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Joplin. This month, the co-op will be at Neosho's 20th Annual Business & Industry Review, which will be open to the public March 17th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the high school cafeteria. Then the following weekend, New-Mac will be at the McDonald County Business Expo, which will run from

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the high school in Anderson.

At these shows, New-Mac is exhibiting various means for saving energy, as well as a product that can help you breathe easier around the home.

The *Kill A Watt Wireless* energy monitor is one of the display items that can help by

New-Mac will have (clockwise from right) the *Bye Bye Standby* kit, *Kill A Watt Wireless* energy monitor and *Fresco Air Cleaner* all on display at area trade shows.



costs per day, week or month. The display unit will actually interact with eight sensors simultaneously, allowing you to assess multiple appliances or electronics.

New-Mac will also be showing you how to curb the "phantom load" in your home with a product called *Bye Bye Standby*. This kit enables you, with the touch of a button, to kill power to electronics that

continue to use energy while in standby mode, such as DVD players and video-game systems.

New-Mac will also be showing an item that Doug Rye, the

energy efficiency expert, has talked about many times on his show. While it might not be a cost saver in terms of energy use, it may prove to offer health benefits. This exhibit is the *Fresco Air Cleaner*.

This air purification unit, offered by American Dream Energy Systems, stands one foot tall and features stainless steel construction and solid wood cabinetry. It's designed to reduce mold, mildew, bacteria, chemical gases, dust and odors. Not only can you check it out at the show, its distributor will be offering a show special if you're interested in purchasing one.

These are some but not all of what New-Mac will have on display at the upcoming trade shows. So, come by and learn how to conserve energy, or just stop by to visit. We always enjoy talking with our customers.

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informing you of your energy usage. With this monitor, you plug in any appliance to a sensor which goes into an outlet. The sensor then communicates with a display unit, which shows you how many kilowatt hours the appliance uses and its operating

Please call before you dig

Digging in areas where there may be an underground electric line can be dangerous! So, before any project that requires digging, call the Missouri One Call System at 800-DIG-RITE.

Those who fail to make this call not only face the chance of electric shock; they also will be held responsible for any repairs that may be necessary if a line is accidentally cut or damaged.

Think twice before cutting meter seals

A broken or removed meter seal is viewed as an indicator of meter tampering. Therefore, do not cut a meter seal without authorization from New-Mac. If electrical work needs done, requiring a seal to be broken, such work should be performed by someone with electrical training. Many times, a main breaker switch can simply be flipped to allow for such work.

Help yourself to 'Rural Missouri'

Copies of the latest *Rural Missouri* magazine are always available, free of charge, at either New-Mac office.

Outage reporting

To report an outage, have your **map number** ready and call 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.

Another **STOP** on the lines 

Plentiful streams



Local river, creeks offer wide variety of fish for anglers

Any fishermen out there? Electric cooperatives tend to have customers who prefer the peacefulness and natural surroundings of rural living, so chances are many of those same folk might just enjoy a relaxing day of casting a fishing line into a beautiful, trickling stream.

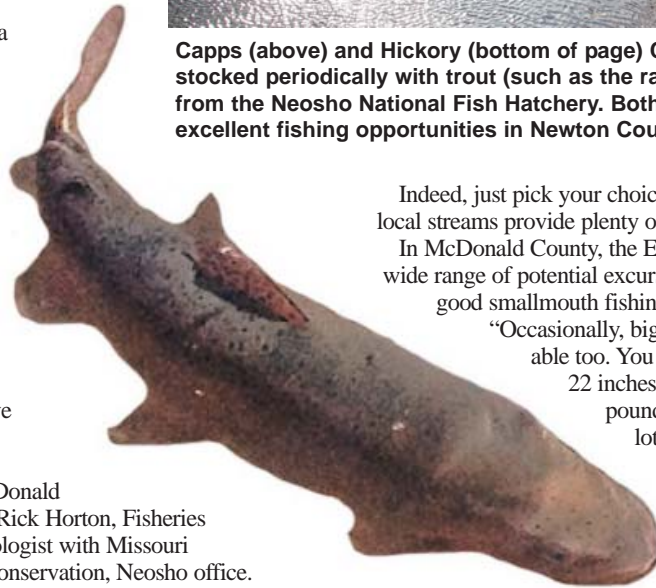
If you're one of those, you don't have to travel far for such a pastime.

"We really have excellent fishing down here (in Newton and McDonald Counties)," said Rick Horton, Fisheries Management Biologist with Missouri Department of Conservation, Neosho office.

"We have a very good variety of sport fish, and sport fish opportunities," he said. "We have a lot of good access points 6-8 miles apart that allow people to go canoeing, floating and fishing, and we don't have a lot of (problems) with private land and public use issues. It seems to be a fairly cordial relationship between the two, for the most part."



Capps (above) and Hickory (bottom of page) Creeks are both stocked periodically with trout (such as the rainbow trout below) from the Neosho National Fish Hatchery. Both streams provide excellent fishing opportunities in Newton County.



Indeed, just pick your choice fish or setting, our local streams provide plenty of options.

In McDonald County, the Elk River system offers a wide range of potential excursions. "It's very, very good smallmouth fishing," said Horton.

"Occasionally, big largemouth are available too. You see those up to about 22 inches and roughly seven pounds in our surveys. And a lot of small mouths are up to about 15 inches or so, with a few up to 18 inches. If you'd like to catch a lot of fish that's a pretty good place to go.

"If you get up the tributaries (Big Sugar, Little Sugar and Indian Creek), they also have very good fishing, and there's multiple access points on most of the tributaries. If you like to catch small mouth or large mouth bass, I'd recommend above Noel.

"Below Noel is really good for channel catfish. I think we get some lake-effect fish population coming up out of Grand Lake. So there's an awful lot of channel catfish, around 12 inches (long) and up to nine pounds."

Horton contends Newton County fish are also worth catching, and the creeks are just

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Fishing

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as accessible.

“Shoal Creek is another stream in the area that has a lot of access on it, and it’s noted for good rock bass fishing,” he said. “I have seen those over 10 inches in Shoal Creek very regularly. That’s a master-angler-quality rock bass that’s available there. Also, the lower parts of the river (from Neosho to Joplin) have a lot of really nice spotted bass in it. Shoal Creek has a lot of variety in it as far as fish species.”

There’s a few creeks in Newton County that even get some help with their fish population from the Neosho National Fish Hatchery. “Capps and Hickory Creeks are trout streams,” said Horton. “Both of those are stocked five times a year with rainbow trout, and Capps Creek is stocked in the fall with brown trout. Both of them provide very good



Elk River (above far right) and its tributaries, including Indian (above far left), Little Sugar (above middle) and Big Sugar (bottom of page) are great streams for fishermen in pursuit of both smallmouth and large-mouth bass.

fishing.”

The Missouri Department of Conservation does remind fishermen to follow bag limits and regulations. A summary of 2012 regulations can be found at <http://mdc.mo.gov/fishing/regulations>.

Horton advised, “The Ozark streams are closed during the smallmouth (bass) spawning time period, usually that’s March, April and into May. There’s no bass harvest from

those streams at that time. It doesn’t mean you can’t fish, you just can’t keep the (bass) fish.”

“Trout is four fish per day, and you would have to have a trout stamp to catch and keep trout,” he said.

Whatever fish you prefer to catch and keep, there’s plenty to choose from in Southwest Missouri. So grab your line, grab your pole, it’s not far to the fishing hole.



Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

MYSTERY FUDGE

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Maxine Stirewalt**

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 lb. cheese spread | 1 cup cocoa |
| 1 lb. oleo | 2 tsp. vanilla |
| 4 lbs. powdered sugar | 1 cup nuts |

Separately melt oleo and cheese over low heat. Sift cocoa with powdered sugar. Add cheese to oleo. Add vanilla. Add nuts. Mix well (it takes awhile). Pour into large buttered pan. Makes 5 lbs. fudge.

Send your recipe, along with your name and account 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.

As promised, how to make your home comfortable in winter

I guess I have finally recovered from the holidays and am looking forward to the arrival of spring. Now, back to work helping you be more comfortable in your homes and have lower utility bills.

SUMMER FIRST: Please read last month's column.

NOW WINTER: As I said last time, I have never had a person tell me that his/her house was too dry in the summer. On the other hand, I have had many folks tell me that their houses were too dry in the winter. Many of us can remember buying an electric humidifier to put in a child's room.

I remember when my mother would place a large pot of water on top of the non-vented gas heater to help add moisture to the air.

Just now, as I am writing this column, a fellow has called me from Kansas City to ask questions about his 16-year-old gas furnace. His house has 1,300 square feet and his HVAC dealer wants to install a new 100,000-BTU gas furnace and a 3-ton cooling system just like he has now. After I talked to him for a few minutes, I told him that that sounded like a pitiful answer to his problem.

I said to him, "Your house can't possibly be comfortable." He said, "It isn't." He told me that they had to use a humidifier all winter and needed a dehumidifier all summer. I asked him why he would let his HVAC dealer install another system that would perform just as lousy as the one he has now. I told him what he should do and he said that he was glad that he called. I said, "Me too."

To continue, I have also had hundreds of folks who have told me that their house was too wet and water was running down the window panes, on the mirrors, dripping out of the exhaust fan, etc. How can this be? Some are too dry and some are too wet.

Say this three times: "This is not rocket science and if it were complicated, Doug Rye couldn't understand it."

If the air in your house is too dry in the winter, you most likely have too much air infiltration and perhaps an oversized heating unit. Fireplace and gas flues also can contribute to the problem. Cold air cannot hold as much moisture as hot air. When you allow a cubic foot of cold air to enter the house and then heat it, it expands and has even less moisture per cubic foot than it had before it was heated.

Remember that you are trying to keep the relative humidity at about 40 percent to 50 percent. Well, when the relative humidity gets below those figures, you will notice it with a scratchy nose and throat. Your skin also will feel dry. If this is your problem, the solution is to implement the energy-efficiency improvements that I have

been writing about for years, such as caulking, caulking and caulking some more.

Seal the ductwork to stop as much leakage as possible. As you make your house tighter, it will retain some of the moisture that the occupant generates. If your house is all electric, try to stop as much outside air as possible from entering your house. If your house has a gas furnace, gas water heater, gas logs or any other gas appliance, consideration must be given for sufficient combustion air and fresh air. In this case you may want to call a trained professional for help, or call me to answer your questions.

If the air in your house is too wet, you must simply reduce the amount of moisture in the house. You should make a list of all the things and places that might provide moisture to your house. If your house has a crawlspace, look there first. If you have non-vented gas logs, that may be the problem. If your bathrooms do not have exhaust fans or if you are not using them, this is part of your problem. Houseplants can add lots of moisture to the air, too. Not using the kitchen exhaust fan when cooking can add to the problem, etc.

I wish that it were possible for me to



Doug Rye
says ...



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

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Questions? Comments?

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visit every reader's house that is either too dry or too wet but obviously that is not possible. So I must just continue to help you by writing this column. If you do what I teach you, you will also be a happy winner in both winter and summer. See you next month when the dogwoods start blooming!

Doug Rye is a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show — heard Saturdays at 9 a.m. on KBTN 1420 AM & KQYX 1450 AM. If you would like advice from Doug, call his office at 501-653-7931. To order Doug's videos, call 1-888-Doug-Rye.