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Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Heat from sunlight coming through windows and hitting the roof can increase air conditioner use significantly. Use shade trees and shrubs in landscaping design to reduce cooling costs. Block heat in the summer, but let it through in the winter with deciduous trees, which will lose their leaves in the winter.

Source:

U.S. Department of Energy

Office Closed

CHEC's offices will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day. To report a service problem during this time call 800-328-2368

Congratulations

Chandell Dobbs of Stigler is our online survey winner!

Training Today's Youth

▪ Energy Camp builds leadership skills.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative has a continuing history of providing support to local schools through educational programs, student activities, scholarships and more. This year will be no exception; CHEC joined Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and electric cooperatives from across the state in sponsoring students to attend the Youth Power Energy Camp at beautiful Canyon Camp near Hinton, OK.

Youth Power Energy Camp is a program specifically for eighth grade students. While at camp they formed a coke and candy co-op, selected a manager and dispersed dividends. Students also got to enjoy many games, the chance to climb a utility pole, and ride in a bucket truck.



Emily Bedford climbs a utility pole.

This year, Leo Hernandez of Roland, the son of Evelia Hernandez; Justine Strome of Webbers Falls, granddaughter of Pauline Rainey; Emily Bedford of Muldrow, daughter of Lee and Carol Bedford; and Tanner Williamson of Roland, son of Julie Hallum, attended this year's camp with approximately 80 other outstanding students from Oklahoma.

"In my opinion, the most exciting part of the trip was the day at Celebration Station because we all got to hang out together and have fun playing games," said Bedford.



Left to right: Tanner Williamson, Kristie Cash, CHEC Energy Camp Coordinator, Emily Bedford, Leo Hernandez and Justine Strome.

Photo by: Kristie Cash

At the camp, the students attended sessions on energy, electrical safety and rural electric careers. Other special activities of the four-day program included hands-on electrical demonstrations, a 13 low element ropes course and swimming.

When asked to compare this camp to others, Tanner Williamson said, "No comparison, I really enjoyed Energy Camp. I made many new friends and enjoyed the bucket truck ride."



Tanner Williamson enjoying a bucket truck ride.

Photos by: Kristie Cash

Hot Watts

is published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. *Hot Watts* informs members in parts of seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about Cookson Hills' programs and issues. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative continually strives to provide quality electrical service at a reasonable cost for its members.

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Cookson Hills welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to Cookson Hills editing.

Any submissions must be received before the 12th of the month prior to the publication date.

If You Find Your Account Number Hidden in This Issue of *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill

AUTOMATED METER

Automated Meter Reading, usually called AMR, is a process for reading meters from a remote centralized location. This technology of automatically collecting members' electric consumption and other data for billing, is helping Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) better serve its members. We are able to utilize this AMR data for troubleshooting, and analyzing issues.

CHEC currently serves 17,616 meters with 12 substations in areas of seven counties. CHEC started physically changing meters in 2003. CHEC meters were changed within two years of starting the AMR project. The majority of CHEC members now have our new state-of-the-art AMR meters installed. Member's meters are read via the AMR system daily.

This increased capability for CHEC to gather information on energy consumption will help members with energy usage questions as well as help detect meter issues and electric theft. AMR benefits to members include faster access to more information

about their electric account. AMR account information is detailed, accurate and current. CHEC's AMR meters store data for around three years, so this is helpful when creating a member usage profile. Members can get this information through CHEC customer service representatives via telephone or at one of our offices.

"An ancillary benefit of this AMR system is a quicker outage evaluation and restoration confirmation which provides for increased reliability and shorter outage times. The AMR system also helps with trouble shooting problem areas," said Brett Orme, CHEC Director of Engineering.

AMR technology has plenty of potential for future plans and uses, from a more accurate outage management system to offering new billing options. In the future, CHEC is preparing to begin a prepaid metering program, where members will have

Right-of-way Spraying Reminder

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) has contracted with Progressive Solutions LLC, to proceed with our annual brush control program on the right-of-ways associated with the cooperative.

Starting in July 2010, their crews will be selectively spraying the tall growing brush under the electric lines, using products that will stop the growth of grasses and trees in the right-of-way.

Please note, that the people spraying on your property are indeed doing work on behalf of CHEC. The contractor crew's vehicles should be identified by a company name or logo on the door of their vehicle.

Right-of-way management is a key component to the operations of CHEC and having safe, dependable electric.



Courtesy Photo

READING



CHEC Line Upgrades South of Whitefield

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative is performing system upgrades in the Beaver Mountain area south of Whitefield.

These upgrades will add capacity to this area as well as improve voltage and increase reliability. This project will convert three miles of two phase line to three phase line.

Many poles will be replaced with larger class poles making the pole line much stronger. The addition of an extra phase will give Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative the ability 89000 to back feed loads during storm and emergency conditions.



Photo by: Larry Mattes

Contractor Gordon Construction working along Beaver Mountain Road south of Whitefield.

capability to monitor electric usage at their home and “pay as they go” on their electric bill.

The AMR system utilized by the cooperative also helps save money with remote disconnect and reconnects. Not having to send out a CHEC employee to disconnect or reconnect a mem-

ber's meter saves on travel expenses and helps employees to better utilize their time. Other cost saving benefits include storm restoration by isolating where the problem is and detecting outage locations quicker which equals shorter outages for members.

Because AMR technology will provide timely, accurate information about how and where power is used, this AMR system will enable CHEC to better plan for future construction and system growth.

For more information, or if you have any questions about CHEC's AMR system, call 1-800-328-2368 or 918-967-4614.

Give your breaker box a workout

Do you exercise your breakers? Unless your electricity suddenly shuts off, it is likely you rarely give a second thought to the health and safety of the breaker box, where your home's electrical switches operate. But to keep them in good shape, you should open it periodically for a tune up.

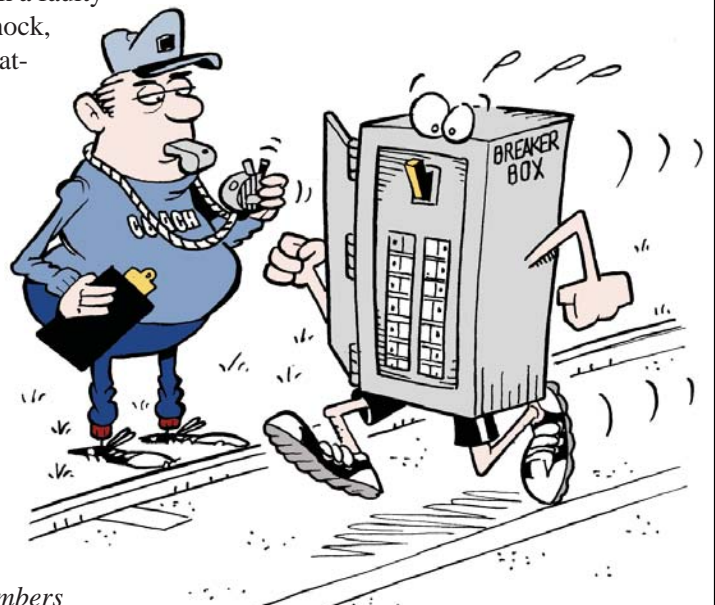
Breakers should be “exercised,” or turned on and off, about once a year to make sure they have not gotten stuck and keep them in good working order.

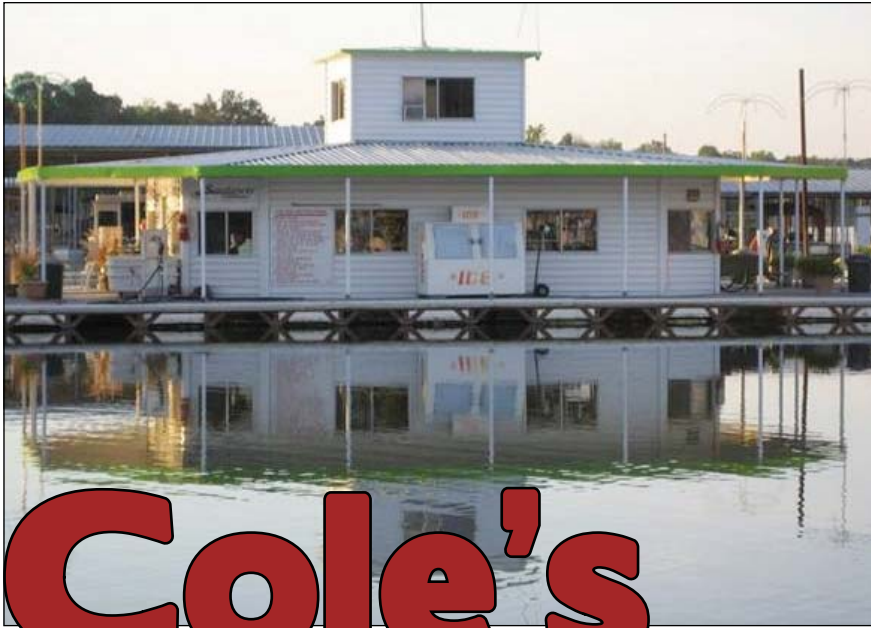
First, turn off the freezer, refrigerator and air conditioner, as their motors can become damaged with frequent power interruptions. Then flip each breaker off and on three times.

If you have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) installed in your breaker box, you should open the box up for testing more frequently, about once a month.

GFCIs are designed to break a faulty circuit and protect you from shock, but they can do so only if operating properly. Because a GFCI does not have an alert if it has become defective, it's important to test yours regularly. To test a GFCI, push the “test” button. The breaker handle should go to the middle or off position.

This means it is working properly. To reset them, move the breaker to the off position, and then to the on position. If the test failed, call a licensed electrician to have the GFCI circuit breaker replaced. *CHEC encourages members to use safety precautions when checking their breaker box.*





Cole's Evergreen Marina

School is out, the summer heat is here, and the lake is the place to be. Lake Eufaula, right here in our own backyard, is considered one of the best lakes in Oklahoma. With over 600 miles of shoreline, it is one of the largest lakes in the state and attracts thousands of visitors from around the country at least eight months out of the year.

Miles of shoreline, cooling off from the Oklahoma heat-humidity, having fun with friends and family are what attract visitors to Lake Eufaula. There is nothing like splashing in the water to cool off from the heat and one place to do this is Cole's Evergreen Marina on Lake Eufaula. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative is very fortunate to serve places like this on co-op lines.

Cole's Evergreen Marina was the first marina built on Lake Eufaula. It was first opened in the mid 1960's by Gene and Faye Cole. The marina is now operated by the second generation, Arly and Tami Hutchison.

Families can enjoy a day full of fun and sun, cruising Lake Eufaula on a pontoon boat rented from Cole's Evergreen Marina. It is always nice to stop the boat and enjoy a swim to cool off on those hot days.



After a long day on the lake, families can enjoy the camp grounds for a cookout or play a round of horseshoes. Cole's Evergreen Marina has 22 full service RV sites which include water, electric, sewage and open camping for tents.

Life jackets, sunscreen, sunglasses, clothes and swimwear, are all available at the marina store. Do not forget about the supply of fresh pizza, ice and cold beverages. Cole's has full service gas and a marina mechanic on site. A vast variety of supplies and services at the marina is what attracts customers to Cole's Evergreen Marina.

Tubes, skis, and other various items "to hang on" to while skipping through the water are for sale at the marina store as well.

Finding a nice fishing spot on Lake Eufaula can add a change to the day. Visitors can fish from the dock, boat, shoreline and the Eufaula dam.

There are many things to do this summer right here in Oklahoma. No boat, no problem, just be sure to call ahead and check availability on Cole's Evergreen Marina's pontoon rentals.

Before a pontoon can be rented, the person must be the age of 25 years old or older. The renters are informed of the boating safety rules to ensure proper safety for themselves and others.



Courtesy Photos

Fourth of July weekend promises to bring a large number of people to the area lakes. Practice safety and have fun. For prices and more information about Cole's Evergreen Marina call 918-799-6113 or log onto their web site at

www.evergreenmarina.com.