

Middle Georgia

Member Newsletter

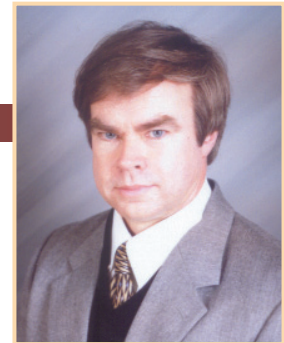
The Official Newsletter of Middle Georgia Electric Membership Corporation

December 2003

P.O. Box 190, Vienna, GA 31092

MANAGER'S *Comments*

By Hugh Richardson



The year in review

As we come to the end of another year, we reflect back on some of the highlights of the past 12 months. In the last year, Middle Georgia EMC:

- assisted Pitt and Greene EMC in North Carolina with Hurricane Isabel restoration;
- was designated a safety-accredited EMC;
- held its 63rd Annual Meeting of Members;
- began permanent service to the new Dooly K-8 school;
- awarded a scholarship to Shelly Thompson;

- featured its Washington Youth Tour delegates Joe Butts Jr., Angela Young and Erica Sampson on the cover of *GEORGIA Magazine*; and
- dodged the 10-year ice storm cycle.

We are in the process of setting goals and a budget for next year, but don't expect any retail rate increases for another year or in the near future. You will be kept informed of any major developments with our cooperative in this newsletter.

What EMCs Do

EMCs are consumer-owned and -operated cooperatives that supply electric service to residential customers as well as commercial/industrial consumers.

Many EMCs are being asked by their consumer-owners to supply more than electricity. These co-ops are responding individually, or in alliances with others, to offer residents of Georgia a diverse collection of other services. From Internet access to satellite television to geothermal heat pumps, if you're searching for electric or telecommunications service, chances are you'll find it at one of Georgia's EMCs.

Georgia's EMCs are integral partners with the

communities they serve. Electric co-ops are designing industrial parks, lighting Little League fields and sponsoring community beautification efforts. Some of us are collecting and delivering food for families in need.

There is hardly a civic club in Georgia whose members don't include at least one EMC employee. We partner with local schools to provide scholarships and youth-development opportunities such as 4-H and FFA.

Georgia EMCs are working closely with the Georgia Department of Industry Trade and

Tourism, Georgia Department of Community Affairs

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What EMCs Do, *continued from page 23*

and local chambers of commerce and development authorities to bring new jobs and capital investments to our state.

Just the Facts

"It's a fact!"

- 1.** Electric Membership Cooperatives are America's most successful public/private partnership.
- 2.** Georgia EMCs are securing new sources of electricity to meet our future needs.
- 3.** Our customers are our owners.
- 4.** Electric cooperatives are working hard to pull Georgia's economic wagon.

EMCs are:

- Private, locally operated electric utility businesses.
- Owned and regulated by their customers.
- Established to provide near-cost electric service.
- Governed by a board of directors elected from the membership—a board that sets policies, procedures and rates to be implemented by the EMC's professional staff.

In Georgia, the 42 electric membership cooperatives:

- Serve more than 3.7 million of the state's 8.1 million residents.
- Cover 73 percent of Georgia's land area.
- Average 10 customers per mile of distribution line, compared with 35 customers per mile for investor-owned electric utilities and 47 customers per mile for municipal electric utilities.
- Employ more than 4,700 workers.
- Operate the largest distribution network in the state by far, with more than 153,000 miles of electric power lines.

1. Electric Membership Cooperatives (EMCs) are America's most successful public/private partnership.

The 42 locally owned EMCs in Georgia provide superior customer service to more than 3.7 million people, and every year, we pay more than \$70 million in taxes.

Because we operate without profit, we have been able to return an average of \$17 million in

capital refunds to our customers each year for the past seven years.

Most Georgia EMCs provide power to their members at a rate 10 to 15 percent below the national average.

2. Georgia EMCs are securing new sources of electricity to meet our future needs, including construction of new generation facilities, new transmission lines and long-term contracts with other energy suppliers.

Since 1999, EMCs have added a 217-megawatt generating plant at the Smarr Energy Facility and four units totaling 492 megawatts at Sewell Creek. Oglethorpe Power Corp., on behalf of participating EMCs, is coordinating the building and operation of a 648-megawatt plant in Talbot County and 500 megawatts of new generating capacity at the Hal B. Wansley plant. Both projects are to be brought online in 2003.

Several EMCs are negotiating with new suppliers and others have already signed long-term contracts to buy electricity at a fixed price. All have the same goal: to ensure the safe, reliable delivery of electricity to our homes and businesses at an affordable price far into the future.

3. Our customers are our owners.

Through an elected board, our consumer-owners decide which products and services we offer and the prices we charge.

Many EMCs are being asked by their consumer-owners to supply more than electricity. These co-ops are responding individually, or in alliances with others, by offering a range of products and services, including telecommunications and home security. None of these new services are funded with loans from the federal government and, in fact, such activity is prohibited by law!

4. Electric cooperatives are working hard to pull Georgia's economic wagon.

EMCs provide a comprehensive statewide economic-development effort that promotes the rural/suburban communities they serve.

In the past three years alone, Georgia's EMCs have helped recruit more than 40 companies that have chosen a Georgia location. These companies have invested millions of dollars in facilities and created thousands of new jobs for Georgians.

Christmas Goodies

from the editor

Chocolate Christmas Cherries

Prep time: 30 minutes

Total time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Makes: About 2-1/2 dozen cherries

Ingredients

- 58 Nilla wafers, finely crushed (about 2 cups crumbs)
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped Planters walnuts
- 1/4 cup boiling water
- 2 teaspoon Maxwell House Instant Coffee
- 2 tablespoons margarine or butter
- 1 tablespoon corn syrup
- 30 maraschino cherries with stems, well drained
- 2 packages (6 ounces each) semi-sweet chocolate chips, melted
- Baker's Angel Flake coconut (optional)
- Colored sprinkles (optional)
- Finely chopped Planters nuts

Mix crumbs, sugar and walnuts. Add boiling water to coffee in small bowl; stir until coffee is dissolved. Add margarine and corn syrup; mix until well blended. Add to crumb mixture; mix well.

Shape about 1 rounded teaspoonful crumbs mixture around each cherry, leaving stem of cherry uncoated. Place in shallow pan. Refrigerate, covered, at least 1 hour.

Holding cherries by stems, dip into chocolate, turning to coat completely. Place on wire rack set over wax paper to collect drippings. After about 5 minutes, roll in coconut, colored sprinkles or nuts. Refrigerate until firm.

Kitchen tip: Oreo cookies can be substituted for Nilla Wafers.



A great project to do with children:

Reindeer Cupcakes

Prep time: 45 minutes

Total time: 1 hour 5 minutes

Makes: 24 reindeer cupcakes

Ingredients

- 38 Holiday Oreo chocolate sandwich cookies, divided
- 1 package (2-layer size) white cake mix with pudding in mix
- 1-1/4 cups water
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 egg whites
- 48 miniature pretzel twists
- 4 square Baker's Premium White Baking Chocolate, melted
- Red cinnamon candies, white chocolate chips, miniature semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 can (16 ounces) ready-to-spread chocolate frosting

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Coarsely chop 14 cookies. Beat

cake mix, water, oil and egg whites in large bowl with electric mixer on low speed until moistened. Beat 2 minutes on high speed. Stir in chopped cookies. Spoon batter into 24 paper-lined medium muffin cups.

Bake 20-25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pans. Cool on wire racks.

Cut portion off each remaining cookie to form V-shaped reindeer face. For antlers, attach two pretzel twists to cookies using some melted chocolate. Decorate face using red cinnamon candies and chocolate chips. Refrigerate until set.

Frost cupcakes with chocolate frosting. Stand reindeer faces on edge on each cupcake.



Merry Christmas— and don't get burned



Christmas means toys, which means batteries. And batteries can mean danger.

Every year, about 3,700 people end up in emergency rooms with battery-related chemical burns. Many are children.

So pay attention. Read instructions that come with battery-powered toys and gadgets. And:

- Use the right kind of charger for the type and size of rechargeable batteries you have. (Don't use an automobile battery charger to recharge flashlight batteries.) Never try to recharge disposable batteries, which can result in a chemical burn.
- Don't mix alkaline batteries with carbon-zinc ones in the same device. Always use a complete set of new batteries of the same type when replacing them. Mixing old and new batteries could cause batteries to overheat and rupture.
- Don't let kids replace batteries. Be sure to put the positive and negative ends in the right position in their holders. If you reverse even one, you risk overheating, rupture and chemical burn.

Years of Service Recognition

Years of Service recognition goes out to Middle Georgia EMC's dedicated employees:

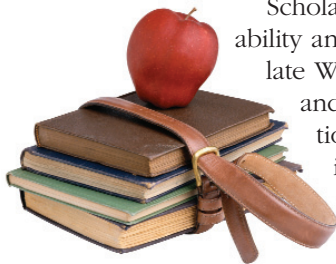
Joe Tripp, line foreman, who has been here since the good old days back in 1972, and **Gary Fowler**, computer technician, who has been our "Jack of All Trades" for 17 years.

These are two great guys who go out of their way every day to help Middle Georgia EMC's employees and consumers.

Walter Harrison Scholarship Applications Available

Middle Georgia EMC is currently accepting applications for the 2004 Georgia EMC Walter Harrison Scholarships.

The scholarships are open to anyone who has not yet completed a bachelor's degree and is attending or planning to attend a two- or four-year accredited university, college or technical school in Georgia within the next two years. There will be a total of seven \$1,000 scholarships awarded to individuals living within the service areas of the 36 participating EMCs, including Middle Georgia EMC.



Scholarships will be awarded based on academic ability and financial need. The scholarships honor the late Walter Harrison, who was known in Georgia and across the nation as "Mr. Rural Electrification" for his pioneering efforts in the electric industry. More than \$79,000 in scholarships has been awarded since the program began in 1985.

Those interested in applying for the scholarship should contact Robert Herman or Lisa Laney at Middle Georgia EMC to receive an application packet: (229) 268-2671. In addition to the application form, applicants will need to submit an autobiography, school transcripts, letters of recommendation and proof of enrollment or acceptance letter.

Applications must be submitted to Middle Georgia EMC no later than Tuesday, Feb. 10. Winners will be announced on or before April 1.



Office Closing

Our offices will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 25, for the Christmas holidays.

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and Engineering**

Rickey Carroll
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Rochelle (Day) – (229) 365-2263
(Night) – 1-800-342-0144

Hawkinsville
(Day) – (478) 892-3436
(Night) – 1-800-342-0144

Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
(Branch offices closed from
12-1 p.m. daily)

Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

*There is a dispatcher on call 24 hours
a day for your convenience.*