

Middle Georgia

Member Newsletter

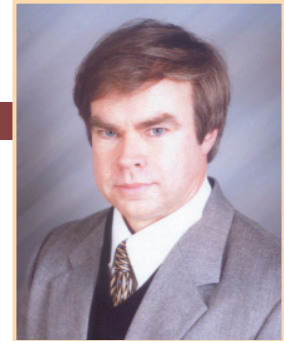
The Official Newsletter of Middle Georgia Electric Membership Corporation

October 2003

P.O. Box 190, Vienna, GA 31092

MANAGER'S *Comments*

By Hugh Richardson



Could a blackout happen to us?

The blackout of 2003: Could that happen to us? This answer is yes, but it is a very remote possibility. Fortunately, Middle

Georgia EMC has pro-

visions in place to

help prevent the “cas-

cade effect” of power

blackouts over such a

wide area. I could get

very technical with an

explanation, but to

make it simple: Middle

Georgia EMC has an

automatic under-frequency load shed plan for

each EMC. If for some reason the power gen-

eration and transmission system were not

adequate for the demand for electricity taking

place at any time, we would shed load to

remove some of that burden. This would not

be a blackout, but

rather the prevention of a widespread one. We

have prioritized our substations to come offline

in any such event,

and probably only

one or two substa-

tions would be

dropped for only a

short duration. We

don't ever anticipate

this happening, but

we are prepared in

the event that it

does and, if possible, we would give advance

notice to members and large commercial

users. But for now, please enjoy the conven-

ience of your electricity while we keep

planning for the future growth and power

demands of all our members.



October is National Co-op Month

Truly family

BY RACHELE MEADERS

More than 120 million Americans enjoy a better life because 48,000 cooperatives offer everything from groceries and preschools to insurance and electricity. Co-ops endure: One of the oldest, established in 1752 by Benjamin Franklin as the “Philadelphia Contributorship for the Insurance of Homes From Loss by Fire,” still exists. And rural Georgia has had electricity since the early 1940s, thanks to electric membership cooperatives (EMCs).

Co-ops are also unique. They operate on a set of *principles*—a word that stands in defiance to avarice, ignorance of operations and everything else that felled Enron. One principle is “democratic control by membership,” which means you elect the co-op’s board of directors, your feedback drives it and you have a vested interest in it. You own it.

Another, concern for community, strikes often. EMC employees out on the road, restoring power (perhaps enduring inclement weather as well), sometimes find themselves dissuading burglars, fighting fires, rescuing children and reviving heart-attack victims. Or tragedy whips EMCs into a heroic frenzy: One EMC replaced an ambulance destroyed in New York on Sept. 11, 2001.

But usually, this community concern is an organized effort—distributing free child-fingerprint-identification kits to parents, mentoring students,



helping save endangered wildlife, cleaning Georgia’s rivers or supporting “outdoor classrooms” (see “Currents,” page 14). Every year, EMC employees tirelessly raise funds to fight cancer or other diseases, even if it means walking for miles or camping out overnight. Georgia’s EMCs pay for students to go to Washington, D.C., to see “what the flag stands for and represents”; help pay for countless college educations; feed, clothe and care for needy families; and support every conceivable club, charity and community organization.

That’s why EMCs are family. Is it surprising to hear that one welcomed home a “Survivor” contestant/local citizen/respected judge by festooning the local courthouse with giant palm trees? Or that another was there to greet, feed and sponsor a homecoming for a prisoner of war rescued from the war in Iraq?

And you, the member, the owner, are part of that family. You make it happen. So happy National Cooperative Month to you.

Does your home need a checkup?

“Audit” is usually an ugly word—unless you’re talking about an energy audit. What’s not to like about something that’s free and saves you money?

Your electric cooperative will send an expert to your home to identify ways you can save money by using your electric appliances—especially the heater and air conditioner—more efficiently. You might be surprised to learn how much energy you’re wasting by letting air slip in and out of the tiny cracks and holes in attics and around windows.



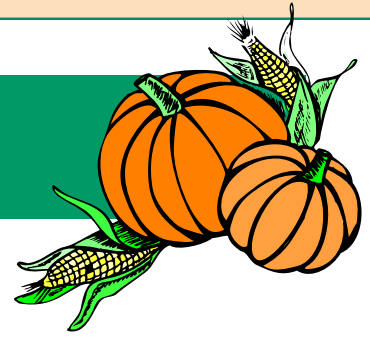
Energy experts say a family can reduce its bills by at least 5 percent and by as much as 30 percent after an audit without changing its lifestyle. Most auditor suggestions are

easy—replacing incandescent bulbs with fluorescent ones, for example, or cleaning or replacing furnace and air conditioner filters monthly.

Some fixes are pricier, but worth it in the long run, such as hiring professionals to clean and repair dirty vents and the air-conditioner system yearly.

Your energy auditor will also teach you about alternative payment plans, low promotional rates and buying the most energy-efficient appliances.

Recipes for Fall Fun



Double Layer Pumpkin Pie

Prep time: 20 minutes

Total time: 4 hours 20 minutes

Serves: 8



Ingredients

4 ounces (half of 8-ounce package) Philadelphia Cream Cheese, softened

1 tablespoon milk

1 tablespoon sugar

1 tub (8 ounces) Cool Whip whipped topping, thawed, divided

1 Honey Maid graham cracker piecrust (6 ounces)

1 cup milk

1 can (16 ounces) pumpkin

2 packages (4 serving sizes each) Jell-O Vanilla Flavor Instant Pudding & Pie Filling

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

Preparation

Mix cream cheese, 1 tablespoon milk and sugar in large bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Gently stir in half of whipped topping. Spread into crust.

Pour 1 cup milk into large bowl. Add pumpkin, pudding mixes and spices. Beat with wire whisk 2 minutes or until well blended. (Mixture will be thick.) Spread over cream cheese layer.

Refrigerate 4 hours or until set. Garnish with remaining whipped topping. Store leftover pie in refrigerator.

Tips from the kitchen

How to soften cream cheese: Place completely unwrapped package of cream cheese on microwavable plate. Microwave on high 10-15 seconds or until slightly softened.



This little treat will go great with the Double Layer Pumpkin Pie:

Eggnog Coffee

Prep time: 10 minutes

Total time: 10 minutes

Serves: 4



Ingredients

1/4 cup ground Maxwell House coffee, any variety

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

2 tablespoons sugar

2-1/2 cups cold water

1 cup eggnog, warmed

Thawed Cool Whip whipped topping

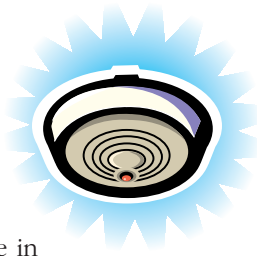
Preparation

Place coffee in filter in brew basket of coffee maker; sprinkle with nutmeg. Place sugar in empty pot of coffee maker. Add water to coffee maker; brew. When brewing is complete, stir in eggnog. Serve immediately.

Top each serving with a dollop of whipped topping; garnish with light sprinkle of additional nutmeg.



Check those smoke alarms!



Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 5-11. Acknowledge it by making sure your home's smoke alarms are in good working order.

Once a smoke alarm goes off in your house, you may have as little as two minutes to escape. Still, having a properly installed alarm cuts in half your chances of dying in a fire.

Follow National Fire Prevention Association guidelines for proper smoke-alarm installation and maintenance:

- Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, including the basement. Make sure there is one near every sleeping area.
- Smoke rises, so mount the alarms high on the walls—but at least 12 inches away from the ceiling. Ceiling-mounted alarms should be at least four inches away from the nearest wall. In homes with pitched ceilings, mount the alarm at the highest point.
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Alarms that are hardwired to your home's electrical system can be connected with each other so that every alarm in the house sounds when one of them detects smoke.
- Don't paint smoke alarms. Paint, stickers or decorations can prevent them from working properly.
- Test all alarms at least once a month following the manufacturer's instructions. Replace batteries at least once a year.
- Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years.

Years of Service Recognition

Here is a list of special employees who are sharing anniversaries here at Middle Georgia EMC in September. Our faithful billing clerk, **Ann Evans**, has been at Middle Georgia EMC for 31 years as of Sept. 5. She has been such an inspiration to our newer employees joining the ranks. **Hugh Richardson**, general manager, has been with the co-op for 27 years and he is a mentor for all of Middle Georgia EMC.

Angela Youngblood has graced us with her presence and wonderful sense of humor for 24 years; she is currently part-time clerical help and always here for us when we need her. And finally, we have **William Smith**, our excellent mechanic. William has survived his first year at Middle Georgia EMC.

Everyone at Middle Georgia EMC appreciates the persistence of these staff members and their dedication to getting the job done right!

Board of Directors

Don Wood	President
Johnny Noble	Vice President
Kay West	Secretary
Johnny Bloodworth	Treasurer
Royce Conner	Director
John David McCall	Director
Ronnie Fleeman	Director
Ronnie Youngblood	Director
David Dunaway	Director
Davis and Forehand	Attorneys

Staff

Hugh Richardson
General Manager

Lisa Laney
**Executive Secretary,
Newsletter Editor**

Randy Kent
Office Manager

Mike McGee
**Manager of Operations
and Engineering**

Rickey Carroll
Purchasing Agent

Vienna Area – (229) 268-2671

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.*