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November 2011

Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Use motion sensors on your lights to save on your electric bill. These sensors turn on lights automatically when someone enters a room and turns them off after a person leaves.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations

Vince Wilmoth and Freeda Wise are our online survey winners!

Offices Closed

CHEC will be closed November 24th & 25th in observance of Thanksgiving.

Time to Fall Back

Daylight savings time reminder: be sure to set your clocks back one hour on November 6th.

2011 Annual Meeting Highlights

It was a beautiful day for the 63rd Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) Annual Meeting. A total of 1,283 registered members attended this year's annual meeting. The total number of people attending the meeting was estimated to be near 3,000 including family members and guests.

Registration for the meeting was held in front of the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium. Each membership received a free gift bag and a \$20 electric credit. Everyone in attendance enjoyed music by the Ritter's Family Band before the meeting came to order.

Cookson Hills General Manager, Kendall Beck, took a moment to remember Mr. Ellis Sappington, long time trustee, who passed away this year. Mr. Beck then gave a financial update on the cooperative and mentioned that energy sales were up 8.3 percent.

Mr. Beck also spoke about the legislation on generating power that may eventually lead to an increase in electric rates due to new



Members at 63rd Annual Meeting. Photos by: Larry Mattes

regulations. However, he stated that there was no forecasted rate increase for 2012, unless something unexpected happens, of which we have no control.

Thanks to those of you who completed the annual meeting survey. Your feedback is very important to us. We hope to see you next year!

More annual meeting photos available on our website.

Congratulations 2011 Annual Meeting Prize Winners



Gabrielle Collins



Kacie Gibbins, Kala Gibbins and Dena Gibbins



Debbie Cunningham,
Pentecostal Church of God



63rd Annual Meeting Snapshots

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 the *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill



Marty Huff and Cindy Willbanks



Blu Cloud



Dana Davis and Felicia Williams



Donnie Forrester



Juli Orme and Nick Worsham



Left to right: Lindsey Rider, Kim Rider, Denise Cr

Photos by: Larry Mattes

Operation Round-Up Helps Local Fire Department

Each month members of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) join together to help meet the charitable needs of their neighbors by participating in the Operation Round-Up program.

The Cookson Hills Electric Foundation board recently approved a \$1,000 grant to assist the Brent Volunteer Fire Department. This grant will help the fire department purchase a light bar for their brush truck.

The all terrain brush trucks are needed to fight fires in rural areas.

"I would like to thank the members for donating to this program and Cookson Hills Electric Foundation's involvement in helping local fire departments," said Darrell Vix, Brent Fire Chief.

Rural 529904 volunteer fire departments are vital when fire or other emergency services are needed in rural areas. These fire departments cover large territories and require trucks and equipment to be properly working. It



Left to right: Chief Darrell Vix, Fire Fighter Brandi Calhoun, and Lieutenant Loyd Isley

is important to ensure help gets where it is needed as quickly as possible.

The Operation Round-Up program is intended to benefit communities throughout the Haskell, Sequoyah, Muskogee, Cherokee, Adair, Pittsburg and LeFlore counties.

The deadline to apply for a grant is November 10, 2011 and the meeting will be held on December 6, 2011.

To apply for an Operation Round-Up grant, application forms are available at your local CHEC office and can be found on our website at www.cooksonhills.com.

Congratulations to our 63rd Annual Meeting GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

CHILDREN

Gabrielle Collins
Richard Phillips

ADULTS

Edna Dodson
Pat Cherry
Pentecostal Church of God

PRIZE WINNERS

CHILDREN

Angel Blaylock
Rachel Quinalty
Shelli Caughman
Hannah Scoggins
Savanna Richardson

ADULTS

Bobby Johnson
James Johnson
Lloyd Allen
G.W. Coward
Dorothy Smith
Roland Lund
Dalma Merrill
Dena Gibbins
Billie House
Wendell Walton
Johnny Foster
Richard Murphy
Tera Davis
Pat Phillips
Veachel Davis
Set Free Ministries
Charles Arney
Robert Flanagan
Douglas Anderson
Lois Mobley
Janice Nolan
Janie McKeehen
Phyllis Reichert
Watts Church
Brent Community Center
Stephanie Helmer

Thank You Annual Meeting Contributors

Gordon Construction Company, Inc.

Wright Tree Service, Inc.

Wolf Tree, Inc.

Huxford Pole & Timber Company

Double A Diamond Wood

C.H. Guernsey & Company

KAMO Power

Northwest Transformer Company

Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Progressive Solutions

Lois Johnson (In Memory of Steve Johnson)

Sallisaw High School



aiagehead and Reuben Kemp

Thank you for attending the 63rd
Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting!

Co-op employees design new safety shield



While working in the field during routine maintenance in the winter of 2004, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) employee Brian Jackson noticed a safety issue that could be easily avoided with a safety shield. From the ground, Brian noticed his co-worker in the bucket truck coming very close to a dangerous situation. "I alerted him to take notice of his position. He saw the potential danger and took a different approach," said Brian.



Photos Courtesy of Hasting, Inc.

This situation was the catalyst from which the Bucket Barricade was born. Brian says, that he feels this idea was, "inspired by a higher power."

Brian and a fellow co-worker, Wayne Honeycutt, designed the original model of the Bucket Barricade. There were many prototypes built and a lot of research and development done over the years. They then moved forward with hiring an attorney to work on a new product patent.

Brian and Wayne continued to pursue the Bucket Barricade and took the prototype to the president of one of the largest worldwide hot wire safety manufacturers, Hastings, Inc. in Hastings, Michigan. David Baum, Hastings, Inc. President, saw a market for this product and was willing to sell, market and mass-produce the safety shield, now named the Bucket Barricade.

During the negotiation with Hastings, Inc., the first priority for Brian and Wayne was to help keep their co-workers safe, so they request-



Left to right: Wayne Honeycutt and Brian Jackson

Photo by: Donna Rhodes

ed that all the CHEC bucket trucks be equipped with the new Bucket Barricade, at no charge.

The Bucket Barricade is now being mass-produced and sold by Hastings, Inc. Hot Line and Tool Equipment. Brian and Wayne are very happy with the progress of this product. Brian hopes his grandchildren see electric servicemen using his safety product in the field and can say, "My grandfather helped invent that safety shield."

This new product does more than shield from electrical arc and arc flashes. The Bucket Barricade also protects against high wind and bad weather conditions as well as transformer oil sprays. The Bucket Barricade features a built in tool board, accommodates any bucket size, adjusts to four different heights with one-hand deployment, and has an easy to stow design.

"I really enjoy having the Bucket Barricade in my crew's bucket truck. When I have to heat up a lightning arrestor, knowing these can explode and shoot shrapnel, it is a feeling of extra safety having the Bucket Barricade's impact resistant material shield in front of you," said Jason Blalock, CHEC Lineman.

Space Heater Safety

Space heaters can be an attractive way to heat up a room or area when the weather is cold. However, space heaters can be dangerous if used incorrectly. Approximately one-third of all house fires nationwide occur during the cold home-heating season of November through February. Never leave a space heater unattended. Unplug it before leaving the room or going to bed.

Source: safeelectricity.org