



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members.

July 2013

Vol. 4

No. 7



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Lighting accounts for about 13 percent of the average household's electric bill—cut costs by choosing new light bulbs that have increased output and longevity. Some cost more up front, but prices are dropping as technology advances. Options include color, brightness, and even dimming and multi-way functions. Combining lights with automatic sensors can cut costs further.

Source: NRECA's Cooperative Research Network

Offices Closed

LREC will be closed Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day!



LREC Relocates Lines for Norwood Hill Road Project

Midwestern Electrical, a contractor hired by Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC), has relocated and reconstructed five and a half miles of power lines on Four Mile Road from 780 Road past Norwood School to County Line Road.

Norwood School to County Line Road was a planned system improvement upgrade. This portion of work was a part of this year's work plan. The relocation of Norwood Hill road was a joint effort with Cherokee County and LREC.

The Norwood Hill road project meant LREC needed to move electric conductors from existing poles to new poles along Four Mile Road so the county could start their work on relocating the road.

This road project will take out the sharp "S" turns on Norwood Hill. LREC has been working with the county, construction contractors, right-of-way contractors, and local landowners in the area. Tree clearing was required for the new right-of-way.

Approximately 100 old poles were removed and 125 new poles have been set. These new poles are a larger class pole, they are stronger than the old poles, making our service safer and more reliable.

Continued on page 2 ▶



Photos by: Larry Mattes

The Month of May Automatic Bank-Draft Contest Winners

Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Automatic Bank-Draft can save members time and money by avoiding the use of checks, stamps, and driving expenses. During the month of May members who signed up for Automatic Bank-Draft were entered into a random drawing for four \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards. Congratulations: Kevin Copeland, James G. White, James Lovell, and Deanna Hardbarger.

A Special Thank You to Our Round-Up Foundation Board

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) would like to thank Jerry Cleghorn for his loyalty and years of service on the Operation Round-Up Foundation Board. Cleghorn has served on the Foundation Board since its inception in 2007. He stepped down at the end of his term this year, due to health reasons.

“Jerry is a good man and has served the Operation

Round-Up very well. We will miss his enthusiasm at the board meetings. I would like to thank him for his service and wish him well,” said Hamid Vahdatipour, LREC CEO.

Kathy Moore of Wagoner was selected by the board to take Cleghorn’s place on the board.

Operation Round-Up is a program where the members of LREC “round up” their electric bills and the spare change collected is used to make grants to the local communities.

LREC Board of Trustees selects local community members to sit on the Operation Round-Up Foundation Board. The Foundation members serve on the nine-member volunteer board without compensation for a period of three years. The board meets four times each year to review donation applications and select the recipients. LREC pays all administrative expenses for the program, which allows all “round up” monies to be used for donations.

If you have any questions about Operation Round-Up, contact LREC at 918-772-2526.



Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here are some tips from Lake Region Electric Cooperative that can give your utility bill a break when you take a break.

Water heater: Turn down the temperature, so it doesn’t keep the water warm while you are away.

Thermostat: With everyone out of the home for a few days, there is no reason to keep the air conditioning running, unless pets will be left at the house. Even with a pet in the home, you should not set the thermostat for 72 when there is no one there to enjoy it.

Lights: Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.

Electronics: Unless you are recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices—computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, or instant-on features will consume energy even if they are not in use.

The nine-member Operation Round-Up Foundation Board consists of:

President:	Jimmy Hall
Vice President:	Sandy Campbell
Sec/Treas:	Janet Perry
Member:	Elaine Henderson
Member:	Kathy Moore
Member:	Fonda Fisher
Member:	Lena Faye Reagan
Member:	Meredith Zehr

LREC Relocates Lines

► *Continued from page 1*

Sometimes LREC and our contractors must park trucks or other equipment in the roadways to make repairs or install new equipment. Workers in these situations are already facing the hazards of dealing with high voltage, and they increase their risk when establishing a work zone in the roadway.

LREC would like to ask our members who drive Four Mile Road to help keep our linemen and contractors safe. Please pay attention to these work zones and drive slow.

YouthPower Energy Camp

Volleyball, Hiking, Swimming, and Pole Climbing

Eighty 8th grade students took advantage of this year's "YouthPower Energy Camp" in Hinton, Oklahoma. This year was the largest camp the cooperatives have had since the program began.

The camp is designed to help students develop leadership skills and learn about the rural electric cooperative industry. Campers engaged in safety demonstrations, climbed poles, and watched a co-op crew in action. Students had the opportunity to work with new friends from across the state to form and run their own cooperative business.

Jennifer Dempsey, Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) Director of Member Services, Education and Youth, has directed the camp for 14 years.

"The kids at camp were outstanding – paid close attention to all the speakers, asked terrific questions and played their hearts out during our camp activities," Dempsey said.

Many of the campers were not ready for the week to end.

"Thanks for one of the best weeks of my life," one camper wrote. "I had so much fun that I wish it was two weeks long."

Dempsey said the camp instills confidence in the young adults, and more than 20 adult counselors work to ensure each camper is recognized for their potential.

"We want them to know that electric co-ops offer all kinds of great opportunities for the young people in their communities and once they know that, they will realize the value of being a co-op member extends beyond their electric service," Dempsey said.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) joined Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) in sponsoring three students to attend the YouthPower Energy Camp. The three students who attended are from Hulbert; Rhett Shankle, Walker Cook, and Cole McNiel.

The YouthPower Energy Camp is coordinated by OAEC and LREC. If you would like more information about Energy Camp you can contact the office at 918-772-2526.



Rhett Shankle, Walker Cook, and Cole McNiel



Walker Cook



David Rittenhouse, LREC Safety Coordinator



LREC Gives Electricity Safety Demonstration

Grandview School was visited by employees of Lake Region Electric Cooperative to teach Ms. Bowlin's second grade summer class a lesson in electric safety. David Rittenhouse and Glen Clark explained the dangers of playing with electrical outlets and what to do if a child sees a downed power line, as well as other dangerous situations.

David Rittenhouse demonstrated the power of electricity by burning a hot dog to emphasize the lethal power of electricity. The 22 children were very attentive and enjoyed the safety demonstration.

Photo by: Glen Clark

Photos provided by: OAEC

KAMO Electric Substation Safety Training

Substations are critical parts of Lake Region Electric Cooperative's (LREC) system. Electric substations can be very dangerous places. Only LREC or KAMO employees should be working inside of these substations. Our employees are trained on safety hazards and how to work on substations.

LREC recently joined with KAMO Power, LREC's electric transmission provider, to offer a substation safety training for LREC employees. This training is for employees who may be in a situation where they will have to work inside a substation. These trainings are offered throughout the year at electric cooperatives across the state.

There are many parts of a substation that can cause serious injury and that is one reason LREC linemen are trained to work inside substations. They take careful precautions before even entering these restricted areas. They always wear hard hats, rubber safety gloves, and fire resistant clothing when working inside the substation and they never enter alone.

LREC employees along with KAMO Power's highly skilled and trained employees are the only people authorized to enter our substations. Give us a call at 918-772-2526 or 800-364-LREC if you have any questions or concerns about a substation or see people inside one of LREC's locked substations.



Tom Adams helps change fuse.

Photos by: Larry Mattes

Oklahoma Youth Tour Alumni Invited To Reunion

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) wants to urge all Youth Tour alumni who have not registered for the 50th Youth Tour Reunion to register online at www.oaec.coop.

The reunion is set for Saturday, July 20th at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City. We expect to start the program at 3:00 p.m. and be finished by 4:30 p.m. at the latest. Then the reception will follow from 5:00-7:00 p.m. They will have photo booths and Youth Tour memorabilia available at the reception.

Special guests attending will be, former Lt. Governor Jari Askins, State Senator Corey Brooks and State Senator Tom Ivester, as well as Randy Dwyer, NRECA's Youth Tour Director. Plus, Oklahoma's two long-time bus drivers Joe Willis and James Rodney.

If you have any questions, call Glen Clark, LREC Youth Tour Coordinator, at 918-453-7816.

Board of Trustees

Gary CooperPres.
 Bobby MayfieldVice Pres.
 Jim LoftinSecr.-Treas.
 Jack TeagueAsst Secr.-Treas.
 Randall Shankle Member
 Lynn Lamons Member
 Scott Manes Member

Staff

Hamid VahdatipourCEO
 Ben McCollumDir. of Finance
 Martin WallsDir. of Operations
 Stanley YoungDir. of Marketing
 Larry MattesEditor
 Tina Glory-JordanAttorney

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone

800-364-LREC or
 918-772-2526

Website:

www.lrecok.coop

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
 Tahlequah, OK.

Main Office Address

P.O. Box 127
 Hulbert, OK 74441

Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill.

To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone or mail during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

For more information, call [800-364-LREC](tel:800-364-LREC) or [918-772-2526](tel:918-772-2526)

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.