



Cooperatives Are Still a Good Solution

Our nation is at a crossroads. Presently our governmental leaders are making tough decisions about health-care, the future of energy and the creation of new jobs. Nearly 70 years ago our nation faced similar situations with the looming economic depression of the 1930s.

During this difficult decade, farmers in rural America banded together to form electric cooperatives. Now, over 70 years later, East Mississippi Electric Power Association is the outcome of those tough economic times and hard working Americans.

Cooperatives are founded on seven principles that include operating at a not-for-profit status and a commitment to educating our members and are member-owned associations that provide a service, in this case electricity. The consumers/users of the cooperatives are also its owners. These members elect a board of directors who oversee and govern the organization.

The electric power associations, as they are called in Mississippi, are still committed to those principles and have served as advocates in the recent months, lobbying on your behalf against legislation in Washington D.C. that could impact your electric rates. We've also held energy fairs to remind our members of ways to conserve electricity, save on their bills and prepare for severe weather.

As our Congressional leaders consider legislation on healthcare, job creation and energy, maybe they should remember the electric cooperatives and how they were formed.

Many of the issues that rural farmers faced in the 1930s are similar to

today. High costs of electric service and the need for more jobs are much like rising healthcare costs and the present unemployment. Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote legislation that provided low

interest loans for rural farmers to create electric cooperatives, which improved the quality of life for many rural residents, generated jobs and

funded cooperative projects through the federal government.

The farmers weren't educated in

engineering or business, but they worked together, shared resources and created lasting organizations. Congressional leaders should listen to the American people because we have solved tough problems in the past.

We still have that same ingenuity, work ethic and common sense that we did in 1930s. Our country is facing tough issues, but the cooperative form of business is relevant and beneficial to those using its services.

Let's make sure that our lawmakers provide for our children's future just as our grandparents did when they built electric cooperatives.



General Manager Wayne Henson

"Our country is facing tough issues, but the cooperative form of business is relevant and beneficial to those using its services."



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You'll find ENERGY STAR® efficiency at work in refrigerators, dishwashers, washers and dryers, heating and cooling systems, lighting and home electronics – plus a few more places that might surprise you. In 2007, ENERGY STAR helped Americans save enough energy to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 27 million cars. And they saved \$16 billion on utility bills in the process! Look for ENERGY STAR products the next time you buy.



The lights shone early on Shubuta



Indian settlement and was named after the Choctaw word Shoboti, meaning "Smokey water," although in the past it has mistakenly been interpreted as meaning "sour meal." The town's first post office was established in 1849, and Shubuta was incorporated in November 1855 as a railroad town following the building of Mobile & Ohio Railroad, which opened opportunities for trade and growth of the town's farming and timber industries.

Owner of the local ice plant, Tom Spinks, was creative in his efforts to provide electric power to his plant through gasoline and steam engines, as well as a dam across Shubuta Creek that operated a hydraulic generator providing hydroelectricity. However, during periods of low rainfall throughout the year, the generator did not receive the water flow it needed to provide hydroelectricity to the plant. Spinks eventually moved further into town and opened an ice cream shop. "Shubuta Sure Betta" ice cream was a favorite among local Shubutans growing up in the early 20th century; however, the ice cream shop only lasted between five and six years because of competition from Hudson's Drug Store. Today, Shubuta is still a small, one stop light Southern hometown with a proud past. According to the US Census Bureau's 2007 census, Shubuta now has a population of 638, and its industrial activities have grown into both timber and lumber processing and major oil and gas industries.

Source: My Shubuta: Boyhood Recollections of a Great Small Southern Town (2004) by Dr. Robert C. Weems



Shubuta, Miss. is a small town located in Clarke County on the banks of the Chickasawhay River. Shubuta residents first saw electricity in their homes in the early 20th century. The electricity was produced at Albert Augustus Weems's light plant from a Fairbanks Morse single cylinder diesel engine. The engine was started each afternoon and produced loud backfirings that became a normal occurrence to the people of Shubuta. Electricity was only available in the evenings until approximately 10 p.m. The lights would blink one time as a warning that the electricity would soon be cut off until the next evening. Monthly meter rates were calculated from the number of light bulbs in the home. Two to three bulbs cost \$1.50 per month, three to five was \$2, five to seven was \$2.50 and seven to ten was \$3.

Approximately 40 miles from Meridian, the town derived from an old

AWA RENES

EMEPA holds fourth annual Severe Weather Safety and Energy Efficiency Fair



EMEPA hosted its fourth-annual Severe Weather Safety and Energy Efficiency Days in June. The event included booths and educational materials on preparing for hurricane season, as well as other severe weather occurrences. Live demonstrations related to storm safety, such as proper use of a generator better equip individuals to provide for and protect their family during a severe weather situation. This year, useful tips and information regarding saving on monthly electric bills through practicing energy efficiency in homes and businesses were provided. "This event is a great opportunity for us to provide beneficial tips to our members to help them save money on their monthly power bill and prepare for severe weather occurrences," said EMEPA General Manager Wayne Henson.



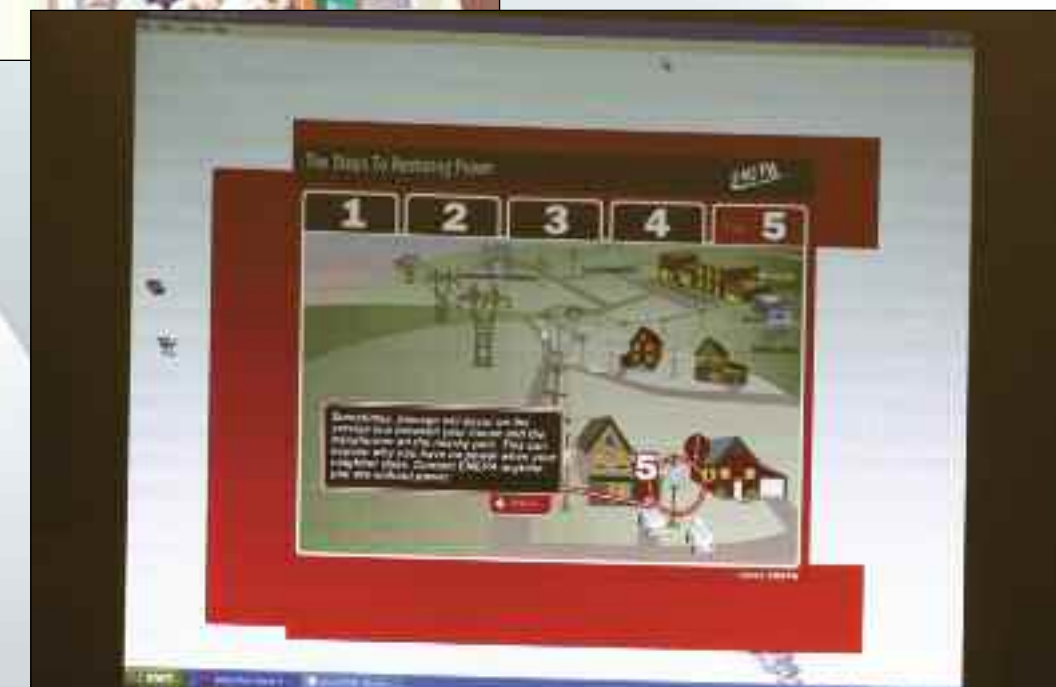
Pictured above and below: Bob Becher from TVA offers energy efficiency tips to EMEPA members.



Pictured above and left: Tim Martin and Julie Walker of EMEPA provided information to members on severe weather safety and tips to prepare for hurricane season to members.



Back row, left to right: Bob Becher, Tennessee Valley Authority; Wayne Henson, EMEPA General Manager; members of the city of Meridian Homeland Security Green Team; Tim Martin. Front row, left to right: Carol Tomkins, Margaret McCay, Julie Walker and Madelyn Helms of EMEPA.



EMEPA members viewed an interactive power restoration model during EMEPA's 4th Annual Severe Weather Safety and Energy Awareness Fair. The model is also available at www.emepa.com <<http://www.emepa.com>> .

EMEPA retirees still serving the members

EMEPA recently held a retiree breakfast meeting in preparation for this year's hurricane season. Each year, a group of dedicated EMEPA retirees offer their time and services to the Association to be used as facilitators during major weather events such as hurricanes.

"They were an invaluable resource during Hurricane Katrina and we prepare them each year to serve in the event there is a need," said EMEPA General Manager Wayne Henson.



EMEPA held a breakfast for a dedicated group of retirees ready to serve during devastating events such as a hurricane.



Thank You All...
for your valuable service!

New Senior Center opens in Kemper County



Kemper County recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in honor of the new Barney B. Brown Senior Citizen Center.

Barney B. Brown Senior Citizen Center celebrated its grand opening in DeKalb on Wednesday, May 27. The building, located in the old Sunflower store just off Main Street, was donated by Bill Brown.

"We've got a lot of plans for revitalizing downtown and we think this is a good keystone project to start," said Kemper County Economic Development Authority Executive Director Brian Henson. "People can see the facility. See how nice it looks and we can start working on other pieces of the downtown."



East Mississippi Electric Power Association
Annual Meeting
 October 3, 2009 • 10 a.m.
 EMEPA Auditorium Highway 39N

Our offices will be closed
Friday, July 3
 in observance of Independence Day.
 We wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday.

For an emergency or to report an outage, contact 1-800-513-8733.


Need help? Put kids on energy patrol



Stop nagging your kids to turn off the lights or TV or water when they're finished with them. Instead, make them official officers in your energy-efficiency "police force." Or soldiers in your "environmental army." Or even kings and queens of the Land of Low Electric Bills. If you want your kids to help you in your quest to save energy, make it fun.

Spend an afternoon decorating badges that declare they are in charge of "Operation: Save Energy." Then take them on a "raid" of the house, looking for ways your family is wasting energy. Explain that when they hold the refrigerator door open or leave the front door ajar when they run outside, they are forcing your appliances or a/c to suck more electricity out of the outlet. Then put them in charge of "policing" others in the family who use energy inefficiently.

- Here are some ways to make it fun to save energy.
- Set up an energy-efficiency obstacle course. Send your kids on a race through the house to find other family members or friends acting out energy-wasting activities. Tell your kids they have to find culprits in each room and correct the energy wasters before they can move on. Time them as they inspect each room and award points each time they correct an offending action.
 - Each week, post a chart on the refrigerator and tally each time a family member gets caught wasting energy. The person with the fewest tallies on Friday night gets to pick the movie.
 - Illustrate the monetary savings of conserving energy by setting up an energy piggy bank. Give your kids a penny each time they do something to help save energy. Take one away each time they leave a light on or leave their video games running. For older kids, give them a small bonus on their allowance each month they help lower the household energy bill.
 - Help your kids find games and other educational sources on the Internet that teach them about energy savings. At www.projectsUPERPOWERS.org, they can select or invent superheroes and help them harness their powers for energy efficiency.
- If you make saving energy a game rather than a chore, you might get your kids excited about your cause. Soon enough, they'll be correcting you when you forget to flip the switch.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Replacing just four 75-W incandescent lightbulbs with four 23-W compact fluorescent equivalents will save almost \$200 over life of the bulbs.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy