



August 2013

RURAL  
MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

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## Clean, Affordable or Reliable?

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative member-owners had the chance to vote their priorities at Associated Electric Cooperative's CARE exhibit during Sac Osage Electric's 73rd Annual Meeting. Members who stopped by the exhibit received a voting chip to drop into a clear box that corresponds to the aspect of their electricity – clean, affordable or reliable – that is most important to them.

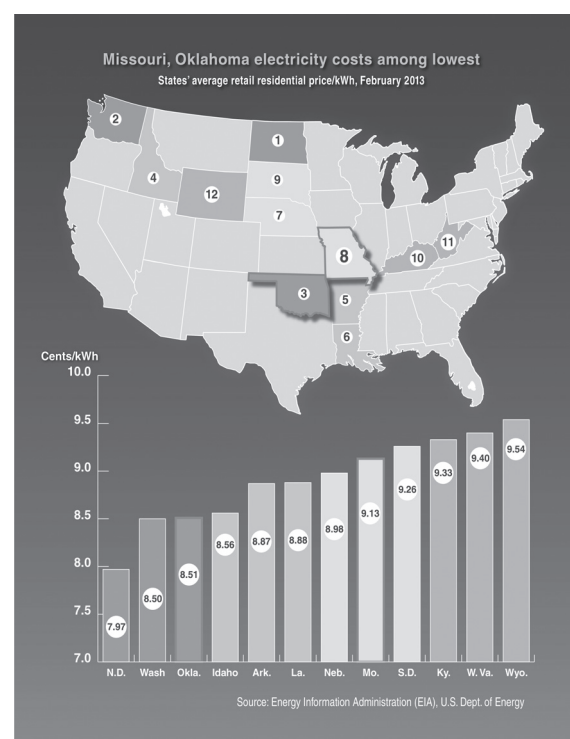
The informal vote gave members a chance to consider the options and express their opinions. It also allowed staff from Associated and Sac Osage Electric to inform members, answer questions about their wholesale power supply and explain how Associated and Sac Osage Electric work together to balance environmental costs while keeping electricity affordable and reliable.

So what was the result? More than 88% of Sac Osage Electric member-owners voted for reliable electricity, while 10% voted for affordability and 2% voted clean electricity.

The "CARE" exhibit, named for the acronym that stands for "Clean, Affordable, Reliable Electricity" was created in 2012 to engage and educate cooperative members. The three choices seem rather simple until you try to balance them every day.

### Missouri Electricity Costs Among Lowest

A recent study released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration ranked Missouri's average retail electricity costs among the lowest. Missouri was ranked eighth for residential rates, fifth for commercial rates and ninth lowest for industrial rates. The average residential rate for Missouri was 9.13 cents per kWh. North Dakota had the lowest average residential rates at 7.97 cents per kWh. SEMO Electric's residential rate – 8.79 cents per kWh – is below the Missouri average.



Be smart. Act safe.



During Sac Osage Electric's annual meeting, AECI's representative, Darryll Lindsey informs members about the "CARE" Clean, Affordable or Reliable Electricity exhibit.



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Heading out of town on vacation? Be sure to unplug all of your electronic devices such as computers, monitors, printers, TVs and cable boxes, DVD players and microwaves. Electronics with digital displays and instant-on features consume energy even if they're not in use.

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## Every dog has its day

Although summer's Dog Days officially end on Aug. 11, some dogs, particularly Dalmatians, are in the "hot seat" all year long. In the 1800s, when fire equipment was horsedrawn, each firehouse had a dog to help direct the horses and to alert pedestrians and vehicles so that the fire



wagon could pass unhindered. Dalmatians were favored for this job because of their size, friendly nature and stamina — and they got along well with the horses. With improved fire engines, they were no longer needed, but they remain a symbol of firefighting.

## An incredible journey

The U.S. Voyager II was launched 36 years ago on Aug. 20, 1977. The unmanned spacecraft transported a 12-inch, gold-plated copper disk into space, a greeting card of sorts, including images, recorded nature sounds, music and salutations in 55 languages. Voyager I was actually launched



after Voyager II, on Sept. 5, 1977, also from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune were among the destinations to be explored. Voyagers I and II continue to travel toward the outer boundary of our solar system, where interstellar space begins, carrying its Earthly greeting.

## Bye, George!

On Aug. 29, 1782, the British vessel *Royal George* unexpectedly sank at her mooring in Portsmouth Harbor, England. The ship was being careened for repairs, a common system of heeling a ship wholly or partly on its side in order to clean, paint or repair the portions of the



hull below the waterline near the keel. In fact, the word careen comes from the Latin, "carina," for keel. Perhaps they should have waited a few days until Sept. 4 to carry out repairs. According to Hesiod, an 8th-century B.C. prophet, the fourth of any month was lucky for ship work.

For recipes, gardening tips and weather forecasts, visit:  
[www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)



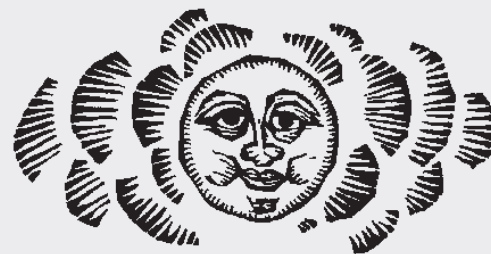
### Recipe for Teriyaki Grilled Fish



1/3 cup tamari soy sauce  
1/3 cup vegetable oil  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tablespoon fresh ginger, grated  
1/4 cup apple juice  
1 tablespoon sugar  
2 pounds fish fillets  
Chopped scallions, for garnish

In a bowl, combine tamari, oil, garlic, ginger, apple juice and sugar. Pour over the fish and chill for at least one hour. Grill the fish, basting occasionally with the marinade, or bake in a greased pan at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Garnish with scallions and serve over rice. Makes four to six servings.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



## WEATHER PROVERBS

**Dry August and warm doth harvest no harm.**

**When it rains in August, it rains honey and wine.**

**Fog in August indicates a severe winter and plenty of snow.**

**At St. Bartholomew there comes cold dew.**

**If many meteors in summer, expect some thunder.**

**If horses stretch out their necks and sniff the air, rain will ensue.**

**The louder the frog, the more the rain.**

**Onion's skin very thin, mild winter coming in; onion's skin thick and tough, coming winter cold and rough.**





## H O M E C O M F O R T

# Insulate your attic access

*That small square of uninsulated ceiling may cost you more than you realize*

Dear Jim: I just had a house built and discovered no insulation on the attic opening cover. Shouldn't the cover be insulated and sealed? If I add folding stairs, how can I insulate them? — Mike M.



by Jim Dulley

**D**ear Mike: Builders don't always insulate and seal the attic access opening cover, but it certainly should be added for energy savings. Most often, just a scrap piece of plywood or drywall is cut somewhat close to the correct size and placed in the opening, resting on a strip of molding. A cover like that has an insulation value less than R-1 — and it leaks air like a sieve.

Because the attic access often is in the ceiling of a bedroom closet or in a hallway, the air leakage and heat loss/gain are seldom noticed.

During summer, attic temperatures can get extremely high, and the air is humid, so you don't want it in your living space. During winter, the heated air in the house (because it is less dense) tends to leak up and out.

The simplest fix is to attach insulation to the top of the cover and weatherstripping underneath where it rests on the lip of the opening. Measure the cover to make sure it fits the opening, with the cover overlapping the molding lip so the weatherstripping seals well. If you have to make a new one, a piece of 1/2-inch-thick drywall works well and is fire-resistant.

The insulation on the top of the cover should be up to the recommended code ceiling R-value for your area. Find out what that is at [www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html](http://www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html). Adding more insulation above this level will not help appreciably. In a well-insulated house, even just several square feet of uninsulated floor can lose a considerable amount of heat.

Before you add weatherstripping to the molding lip, place the cover over it and check whether it's even. The lip often consists of pieces nailed to the sides of the opening and aren't level. You may have to pry a side or two loose and reattach it. If it's uneven, it will be difficult to get a good seal under the cover no matter how compliant the weatherstripping is.

In my own house, I first nailed a piece of 1/2-inch-thick drywall to the plywood cover to give it some additional weight. Next, I glued a few layers of 3/4-inch-thick polyurethane foam sheets on top of it. I added four layers to get three inches of foam insulation. I used foil-faced insulation so it would reflect the heat from the hot roof back up during the summer.

The next step is to attach adhesive-backed foam weatherstripping to the top edge of the lip around the opening. Use as thick a foam as you can find to accommodate any out-of-level edges. The weight of the plywood and drywall should be adequate to compress the foam weatherstripping.

If you plan to go up into your attic often and want to install pull-down stairs or a ladder,



photo courtesy of Attic Tent

A flexible, zippered cover is one means of ensuring that your attic access is properly insulated against heat loss/gain.

or your attic currently has one, buy a special insulated cover for the attic access opening. You could attempt to make one yourself, but its weight may be hazardous to open and manage when you are on the stairs.

One of the least expensive options is basically a three-sided heavy duty cardboard box. It's easy to open and assemble, and then you can attach your own insulation to the top and sides. It's very lightweight and easy to lift and handle when you enter the attic on the stairs.

An efficient option is a lightweight large rigid-foam domed device that covers the folded stairs or ladder from above. It's strong, and the foam provides adequate insulation.

Another design uses a flexible zippered insulated cover that is permanently attached to the attic floor for a good airtight seal. The zipper provides a large opening for safe and easy access to the attic.

TogetherWeSave.com, an energy-efficiency website from the nation's electric cooperatives, has two videos on this subject as part of its

Watch & Learn series. Visit <http://energysavings.togetherwesave.com/watch-and-learn> and click on the Sealing & Insulation tab, then scroll down to find how-to videos on insulating attic hatches and attic pull-down stairs.

The following companies offer attic entrance products:

- Atticap, 781-259-9099, [www.draftcap.com](http://www.draftcap.com);
- Attic Tent, 877-660-5640, [www.attictent.com](http://www.attictent.com);
- Battic Door, 508-320-9082, [www.batticdoor.com](http://www.batticdoor.com);
- Calvert Stairs, 866-477-8455, [www.calvertusa.com](http://www.calvertusa.com); and
- Rainbow Attic Stairs, (203) 322-0009, [www.rainbowatticstairs.com](http://www.rainbowatticstairs.com).

*Have an energy-efficiency question for Jim? E-mail him at [contact@dulley.com](mailto:contact@dulley.com) or write to: James Dulley, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com) to read past articles on energy efficiency.*





Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

## Annual Meeting

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative held its 73rd Annual Meeting of the members on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. It was a hot summer evening with over 1,000 members, special guests and friends of the cooperative attended the annual meeting. "Duke Mason Band" entertained the crowd with his amazing talent and charismatic personality. Duke truly is a multitasking and exciting performer as he sings, plays guitar, key board, bass and drums. He is undoubtedly a talented individual that put together a show that had something for everyone as he entertained the crowd with a great mixture of country and rock music while the members finished registering and eating the famous Lion Burgers served by the El Dorado Springs Lions Club and visiting with other members. Members also checked out displays from Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI) and AMEC before the business meeting. Board President, Brad Thompson welcomed the members to the 73rd Annual meeting following a moving rendition of the national anthem sang by Madison Hall followed by a special message from CEO of KAMO Power, Chris Cariker and SOEC General Manager, Tom Killebrew. A number of prizes donated by the cooperative's vendors were given away to attendees, as well as a 43" Flat Screen T.V., Mini Apple iPad, Kindle Fire, NOOK, along with six bicycles and two iTunes card for the youngsters.

Three director candidates ran unopposed to serve on the Board of Directors of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Mr. Tim Minehardt, from rural El Dorado Springs area, Mr. Tony Underwood, from the rural Jerico Springs area and Mr. Don Levi from rural Stockton area.

Following the Cooperative's 73rd Annual Meeting the Board Directors elected officers in their annual re-organizational meeting. Each officer is elected by the directors to serve in these elected capacities until the next re-organizational meeting after the Annual Meeting. The elections were conducted by secret ballot and overseen by the Cooperative's attorney, Chris Hoberock.

Brad Thompson, Walker, was re-elected to the position of President of the Board by his fellow directors.

Jim Murray, Iconium, was elected to the position of Vice-President of the Board by his fellow directors. As the Cooperative's Board Vice President, Jim stands ready to perform the duties of the President if there is an absence of the President.

Don Levi, Stockton, was elected to the position of Assistant Vice-President of the Board by his fellow directors. As the Cooperative's Assistant Vice President, Don stands ready to perform duties of the Vice President if there is an absence of Vice President.

Jan Neale, El Dorado Springs, was elected as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. It is her duty to see that minutes and notices of meetings are properly recorded and executed and to execute approved expenses and deposits within the provisions of the Bylaws of the Cooperative.



## Youth Tour

Hard work and creativity has paid off for one area high school junior. Brooke Bland, El Dorado Springs Christian School represented Sac Osage Electric Cooperative on the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Eighty five high school juniors participated in the Missouri's 50th annual Missouri Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. June 14-20. The six-day tour provides an action-filled week for high school students, offering them opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and today's pressing issues. Highlights included a special session on Capitol Hill with Senators Christopher Bond and Claire McCaskill to discuss the process of government and issues of the day and increasing their knowledge of cooperative electric utilities and American history. The young people also visited with representatives from their congressional districts, toured famous monuments, the Smithsonian Institution's museums and Arlington National Cemetery.

The group also took a sightseeing and dance cruise on the Potomac River one evening with delegates from other states. Other events of the week included participation in the Electric Youth Day, during which a special program coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association brought together over 1,400 Youth Tour delegates from across the United States.

The delegates enjoyed featured speeches by government leaders and motivational speakers, such as Mike Schlappi, an inspiring four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion. Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 40,000 high school juniors and seniors for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grass roots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington. For more information about the AMEC Youth Tour program, please go to [www.amec.org/youth-programs](http://www.amec.org/youth-programs).