



RURAL  
MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

January 2014

# News

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*All of us at  
Sac Osage Electric Cooperative  
Look Forward to Serving You in the New Year!*



**Sac Osage Electric will be closed  
on Wednesday, January 1, 2014.**

*Happy New Year!*

January 2014

## Dancing out the tree

St. Knut's Day celebrated on Jan. 13 is a Swedish festival day and considered the best day to discard the Christmas tree. It is a formal end to the Yuletide revelry and festivities. Small treats and candies are placed on the tree as incentives



for the young children as they dismantle the decorations and put things away. After their careful work and the "dancing out" of the tree, they toss the tree into a snow bank. Throughout the festivities, the celebrants sing songs dedicated to the event.

## Winding down

Traditionally, Distaff Day, Jan. 7, was the day when women were supposed to return to their spinning following the holidays. One old adage declares, "Partly work and partly play, must ye on St. Distaff's Day." A distaff is a spindle for holding the flax or wool in spinning. In



the glee of Distaff Day, the men would often playfully prevent their wives from starting their work by trying to burn the flax off the distaff. The distaff itself has come to symbolize the domestic sphere, hence the ongoing reference to women as "the distaff side."

## Let the sun shine

St. Vincent's Day, Jan. 22, brings this cheerful advice: "Remember on St. Vincent's Day, if the sun his beams display, 'tis a token bright and clear, of prosperous weather all the year." Heralded for its weather lore, St. Vincent's Day is



still celebrated in many winemaking towns in Spain and France.

A sunny day means that the sap might begin to rise in the branches. Frost on this day presages a delayed crop, whether for wine or rye.

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

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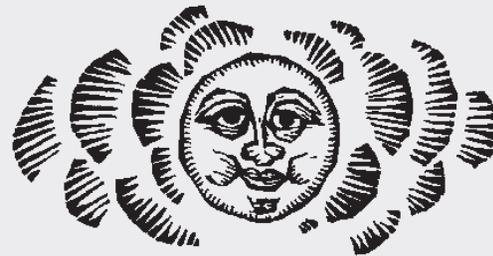
### Recipe for Cheese Fondue



2 tablespoons olive oil  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 pound fontina cheese, shredded  
1/2 pound provolone, shredded  
3 tablespoons flour  
1-1/2 cups dry white wine  
Pepper, to taste  
3 tablespoons kirsch (optional)

Combine olive oil and garlic. Toss cheeses with the flour. Heat the wine in a fondue pot or heavy enamel pan. Do not boil. When the wine is hot, gradually add the cheeses, stirring constantly. Continue to stir and add the oil and garlic, pepper and kirsch. Cook over low heat for 10 minutes. Keep warm over a candle or warming tray and use fondue forks to dip bread cubes into the cheese. Makes 6 servings.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



# WEATHER PROVERBS

**If January calends be summerly gay, it will be winterly weather till the calends of May.**

**On St. Distaff's Day (Jan. 7), neither work nor play.**

**When the North Star twinkles, expect stormy weather.**

**When oak trees bend with snow in January, good crops may be expected.**

**A fair day in winter is the mother of a storm in his eye.**

**A fire hard to kindle indicates bad weather.**

**It will be the same weather for nine weeks as it is on the ninth day after Christmas.**



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

# Hard facts about space heaters

*You can save money with space heaters — if you set your home thermostat lower*

**Dear Jim: I'm considering a small electric space heater for my living room and bedroom. What space heaters are best for these spaces? Will they cut my utility bills as some ads claim? — Greg R.**



by Jim Dulley

**D**ear Greg: Small electric space heaters can reduce your utility bills, but only if you set your central heating system (heat pump or furnace) thermostat lower. They make sense if there are only one or two people living in a house, with no need to keep vacant rooms warm.

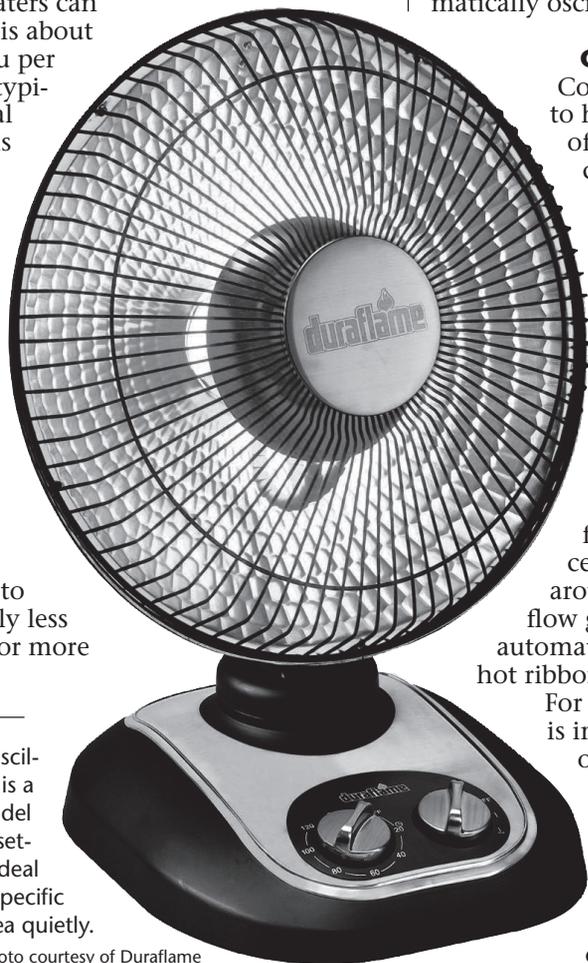
Another common situation is when there is a room or two in a house that do not stay warm enough. Often, a person gets chilly in one of those problem rooms and turns the central thermostat higher. This warms the entire house, and more heat is lost through the walls, windows and ceiling. It is much more efficient to use a small space heater in these rooms.

First, it is important to understand that all electric space heaters are effectively 100 percent efficient. Don't let advertising stating this fact influence your buying decision. This just means all of the electricity it consumes ends up as heat in your house. It does not mean it's less expensive to operate.

Also, the maximum heat most small space heaters can safely produce is about 5,100 Btuh (Btu per hour). Homes typically use central heating systems with a capacity of 50,000 to 100,000 Btuh, so a single space heater cannot heat an entire house. Be wary of advertising stating a small electric space heater can allow your central system to run dramatically less for 50 percent or more savings.

This parabolic oscillating heater is a radiant-style model with two heat settings, making it ideal for heating a specific area quietly.

photo courtesy of Duraflame



Convection-style space heaters are designed to heat the air in a room effectively. This model has a built-in thermostat and multispeed fan to control the heat output.

There's not a "best" electric space heater for every situation. The proper selection depends on the room and how you plan to use the heater. For example, are you looking for quiet heat in a bedroom at night, heat for just one person watching TV, or will there be a group of people in a large room?

Choose between direct radiant and convection (air circulation) space heaters. Both types have advantages. Within each group, there are many comfort features and options that may impact your decision. If you have young children, there also are safety considerations.

### Radiant Space Heaters

Radiant-style heaters heat quickly. These use a red-hot ribbon, long quartz or carbon tubes to produce infrared heat radiation similar to the sun's rays. They primarily heat objects and people directly in front of them. Carbon tubes produce infrared heat that penetrates objects and skin slightly below the surface. This makes for comfortable, effective heat.

Radiant heaters are quiet and ideal for heating a specific spot. For example, I use one across from my computer desk to keep me warm while I am writing. My body and the furniture in its path gradually reradiate the heat, so the room air also heats up slightly. To heat a slightly larger area, select a model that automatically oscillates.

### Convection Space Heaters

Convection heaters are designed to heat the air in the room. This is often done using a built-in fan to circulate room air over the heating elements. Oil-filled, old radiator-style heaters use natural air circulation (hot air rises) to move room air over the heat source, gently warming a room without bursts of heat.

For a living room, often the largest room in a house, consider a convection-style heater. This heats an entire room more effectively. Choose a model with a thermostat and multispeed fan to control the heat output. A ceramic convection heater is safe around young children. If the air flow gets blocked, the heating output automatically drops and there are no red hot ribbons.

For a bedroom, where quiet operation is important, use an oil-filled radiator or a convection heater with a low-speed setting. Another option is a radiant model facing the bed if you don't mind the red glow. A horizontal shaped one will heat the entire bed area.

The following companies offer electric space heaters:



photo courtesy of Lasko Products

- DeLonghi, 866-528-8323, [www.delonghi.com](http://www.delonghi.com);
- Duraflame, [www.twinstarhome.com/duraflame](http://www.twinstarhome.com/duraflame);
- Holmes Products, 800-546-5637, [www.holmesproducts.com](http://www.holmesproducts.com);
- KAZ/Honeywell, 800-477-0457, [www.kaz.com](http://www.kaz.com);
- Lasko, 800-233-0268, [www.laskoproducts.com](http://www.laskoproducts.com); and
- Slant Fin, 516-484-2600, [www.slantfin.com](http://www.slantfin.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.*



## Operation Round-Up distributes funds to locals

The Board of Directors authorized the Sac Osage Electric Operation Round-Up Committee to distribute funds collected from our members throughout the year to several local and regional projects. The committee members felt that it is during this particular time of year, this gift would be meaningful for each recipient to provide additional resources for families through their organizations.

The Operation Round-up program uses the power of cooperative members who participate to provide these additional funds.

As members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, you can voluntarily choose to have your monthly electric bill “rounded up” to the next whole dollar. The most money individual members would possibly contribute is \$11.88 over a 12 month period. These excess payments are collected in a special account that is used for such special purposes.

“This program is a very easy way for our members to help local and area families who need a little help”, said Tom Killebrew, manager of the cooperative. Please contact our consumer service representatives to set up your account, and start putting your pennies to work.

Together our little change may make a big change for someone else.

The Operations Round-Up committee awarded \$250 to the following organizations:

1. El Dorado Springs Christmas Basket Fund
2. Christmas Fund, Community Outreach, Nevada, MO.
3. Christmas Fund, Senior Center, Osceola, MO.
4. Christmas Fund, Stockton, MO.



Sac Osage Electric’s Board Secretary/Treasurer Jan Neale presents Steve Wiseman a check for the El Dorado Springs Christmas Basket Fund



Sac Osage Electric’s Board President Brad Thompson presents Barbara Long a check for Christmas Fund, Community Outreach



Sac Osage Electric’s Board Director Neale Johnson presents a check to Pat Patterson for the Stockton Christmas Fund



Sac Osage Electric’s Board Director Jim Murray and Board Director Gene Brockus presents a check to Margie Weaver, Senior Center Coordinator and Helen Kidwell, Senior Center Board Chairman for the Christmas Fund, Senior Center.

## Power For Your Life *Portable generator safety*

### What is a portable generator?

Portable generators offer a reliable back-up source of power during electrical power outages, and can provide relief during times of severe weather such as ice or wind storms. However, these helpful devices must be used and maintained properly to avoid very serious health and safety risks. The best way to ensure you and co-op line crews stay safe when you are using a generator is to educate yourself and plan ahead.

### What are the safety risks?

The main risks to be aware of when using a portable generator are electrocution, carbon monoxide poisoning, electrical accidents and fire.

### When should portable generators be used?

A portable generator should only be used when necessary, and only to power essential equipment or appliances. Do not overload

the generator by operating more appliances and equipment than the generator can handle.

### Proper installation is critical

Properly connecting the generator is a critical step for your safety since improper installation or use could be deadly. A licensed electrician should be consulted to determine the best equipment for your needs to be sure it meets local codes.

Never connect a generator directly to your home’s wiring without having an appropriate transfer switch installed. Many electric cooperatives require a double-throw transfer switch, but you should contact your co-op for specific requirements. The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and utility crews from ‘back feed.’ Back feed occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity “back” through the power lines. Nearly 70 percent of deaths caused by portable generators occur at home.1 here is one example of a double-throw transfer switch. It should ONLY be installed by a professional.