



March 2014

RURAL  
MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

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Visit us on the Web - [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com)

## It's that time of year again . . .

*Severe weather can strike at any time. Protect yourself with a "Weather Radio"*

Here at Sac Osage Electric, we are accustomed to hazardous weather. Recent tornadoes and severe thunderstorms have brought attention to the importance of an advanced warning.

The Cooperative is pleased to offer its members a product that addresses weather issues.

Sac Osage Electric sells a Midland Weather Radio that continuously monitors local weather forecasts and conditions, hourly temperatures and severe weather watches and warnings. Midland Weather Radios also feature S.A.M.E. (Specific Area Message Encoding) reception for local alerts. "Midland Weather Radios provide peace of mind during storms or tornadoes," says Janna Dody, Communications Coordinator.

An emergency weather radio could be a life saving piece of safety equipment in your home. With a weather radio you will receive continuous and up-to-date weather information broadcast from the National Weather Service. Your weather radio can be programmed to alert you when there is a severe weather watch or warning in your county.

Radios may be purchased in the resale department at Cooperative headquarters.



## Youth Tour Deadline



There is still time if you are a high school junior to enter the 2014 Youth Tour Program.

It is a chance to take a "trip of a lifetime" to our nation's capital this summer. "What is the most important lesson cooperatives should convey to young members?" is the question you will need to answer as you enter the essay contest for an opportunity to travel along with approximately 85 other students from across Missouri to Washington D.C. in June. Deadline for entering is Friday, April 4th. For more information you may visit our website at [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com) or call Janna Dody or Aaron Ash at 417-876-2721.



**Day Light Savings Begins**  
**Don't forget to Spring forward**  
**an hour on Sunday, March 9th.**

## Windy wisdom

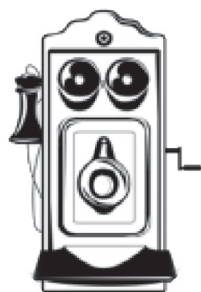
Weather lore says of March, "In like a lion and out like a lamb." This month's winds usher in warmer spring weather to come. In 1805, Adm. Sir Francis Beaufort devised a wind velocity scale, which described a wind between 39 and 46 mph as a "fresh gale." According to the scale (used by



the National Weather Service in a modified form), wind speeds of 73 mph and higher are classified as a hurricane. In between the fresh gale (or gale) and the hurricane are the strong gale (47 to 54 mph), the whole gale, or storm, (55 to 63 mph), and the violent storm (up to 72 mph).

## March messages

On March 7, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received the patent for the device he called the telephone number. Three days later, he transmitted the first complete comprehensible sentence: "Mr. Watson, come here I want to see you." A year later, Thomas Edison chose "Mary had



a little lamb" for his recorded message. By the 20th century, radio offered the chance to wax eloquent at greater length. Just six days into office, on March 12, 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt sat by the White House hearth and began the first of his radio broadcast "fireside chats."

## Love in springtime

The vernal equinox occurs on March 20. In honor of spring, we offer some folklore tips on how to attract and keep the attention of your beloved. Eat tomatoes, potatoes, hot spices, oysters and octopus. Or, put marigolds in your wedding bouquet. Keep

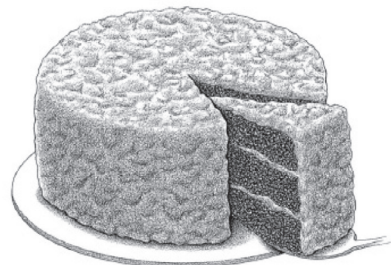


in mind, however, that romance can be hazardous. New World settlers banned public acts of affection. When a sea captain returned to Boston after three years at sea, he kissed his wife in public and was sent to the stocks for "lewd and unseemly behavior."

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



### Recipe for Mocha Cake



1/2 cup (1 stick) butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 large eggs  
6 tablespoons flour  
7 tablespoons cornstarch  
1-1/2 tablespoons powdered instant coffee  
2 tablespoons brewed coffee

Glaze:  
2 ounces sweet chocolate  
2 tablespoons brewed coffee

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Cream the butter and sugar, then beat in the eggs. Mix together the dry ingredients and add to the butter mixture. Add the coffee and mix. Bake in a greased and floured 8-inch-square pan for 30 minutes. Heat the chocolate and coffee for the glaze in a double boiler. When the cake is cool, pour the warm glaze over the cake.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



## WEATHER PROVERBS

**If it does not freeze on March 10, a fertile year can be expected.**

**When the wind veers against the sun, trust it not, for back 'twill run.**

**When sheep collect and huddle, tomorrow will become a puddle.**

**Dust in March brings grass and foliage.**

**The moon, her face if red be, of water speaks she.**

**Rheumatic pains indicate bad weather.**

**In March much snow, to plants and trees much woe.**

**When everything is eaten at the table, it indicates continued clear weather.**



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

# Brighten outdoor spaces for less

*Entertain and secure your home with efficient outdoor lighting*

Dear Jim: I need to add outdoor lighting for security at my home. I'd also like to use the lights for entertaining. How can I brighten outdoor spaces without driving up my electric bills? — Paul H.



by Jim Dulley

**D**ear Paul: Outdoor lighting can be effective for security, but it can drive up utility bills if done improperly. In addition, security lights are not always best for entertaining and vice versa.

Make your security and entertaining lighting plans independently, then check to see where they overlap. Security lighting is usually on all night; entertainment lighting is not. Choosing the proper security lighting has a greater impact on your utility bills.

Before you consider adding outdoor security lighting, make other low-cost security improvements to your home. Make sure window latches lock securely, install bump-resistant door deadbolts and consider an alarm system.

Once you feel the perimeter of your home is relatively secure, plan your lighting. Walk around your house at night to see where additional lighting might help. Sometimes, there is enough brightness from a neighbor's home to illuminate otherwise dark, suspect areas.

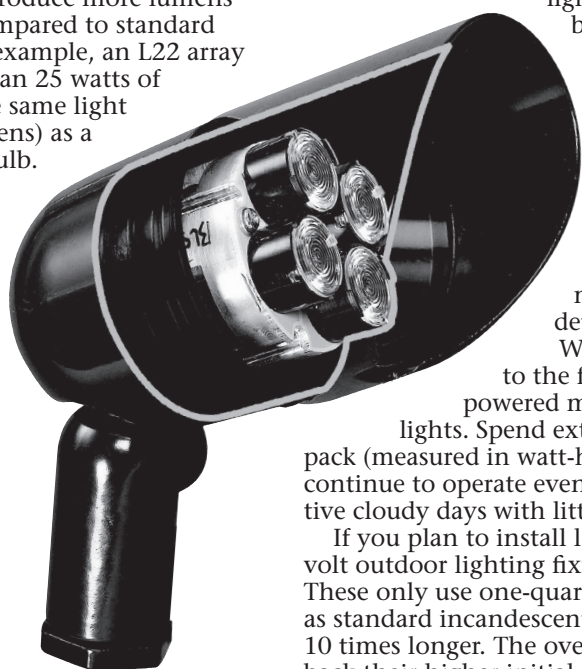
Prioritize lighting need areas. Installing just two 150-watt security lights and keeping them on all night can increase your electric bill by more than \$100 per year.

Keep in mind, the wattage of a light bulb does not determine how much light it produces. Wattage refers to how much electricity a bulb uses. Instead, look for light output — measured in lumens — on bulb packaging.

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light emitting diodes (LEDs) produce more lumens per watt of electricity compared to standard incandescent bulbs. For example, an L22 array LED fixture uses fewer than 25 watts of electricity to produce the same light output (about 1,800 lumens) as a 100-watt incandescent bulb.

When planning outdoor lighting, make an effort to minimize nighttime light pollution. Bright lights create a problem for wildlife and can be annoying to neighbors. If you install floodlighting, mount a directional light shield over it. I can barely see the stars on a clear night due to the

Light from an LED floodlight, such as this model by Hadco, is directional, so they are best for lighting specific targeted areas.



photos courtesy of Hadco

It's best to make your outdoor security and entertainment lighting plans separately, then see where they overlap.

excessive lighting in my subdivision.

It is a misconception that brighter lights provide more security. Lower lighting levels are more effective because it's difficult for the human eye to quickly adjust from a very bright area to darker area. If lighting is less bright, it's easier to see movement in darker areas where someone might be hiding.

Motion-sensor lights are some of the most efficient and effective for security. When the light comes on, a would-be thief assumes he or she has been seen. They also catch neighbors' attention. Select one with two-level lighting. You can switch it on for low-level background lighting; it only switches to full brightness when motion is detected.

Wherever there is access to the full sun, consider solar-powered motion-sensing floodlights. Spend extra for an ample battery pack (measured in watt-hours). These lights continue to operate even after a few consecutive cloudy days with little recharging sunlight.

If you plan to install low-cost standard 120-volt outdoor lighting fixtures, try using CFLs. These only use one-quarter as much electricity as standard incandescent bulbs and last at least 10 times longer. The overall savings will pay back their higher initial cost many times over.

CFLs do not always work well in cold outdoor temperatures and take a little while to reach full brightness. Try one or two first, and read the packaging to see if the bulb is intended for outdoor use.

LEDs, another efficient lighting option, are not affected by the cold. With a bright white light output, LEDs last up to 50,000 hours. Their light output is directional, so they are best for lighting specific targeted areas.

To light a larger area for an entire night, LPS (low-pressure sodium) fixtures are efficient. The fixtures are fairly expensive, and they start up very slowly to reach full brightness. The light quality is monochromatic (yellowish) so they would only be applicable for security and not for entertainment lighting.

The following companies offer efficient outdoor lighting:

- Energy Focus, 888-704-2276, [www.energyfocusinc.com](http://www.energyfocusinc.com);
- Hadco, 800-331-4185, [www.hadcolighting.com](http://www.hadcolighting.com);
- Idaho Wood, 800-635-1100, [www.idahowood.com](http://www.idahowood.com);
- Kim Lighting, 626-968-5666, [www.kimlighting.com](http://www.kimlighting.com); and
- Wave Lighting, 877-870-9283, [www.wavelightingusa.com](http://www.wavelightingusa.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.



# Simplify and go Paperless Billing

At Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, we are always looking to provide services that make things easier and more convenient for our members. For those who like to do everything electronically or just want to receive less mail, we are now offering paperless billing. Just visit [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com) and click on the e-bill button. Use your Sac Osage Electric account number and your choice of password to set up an online bill pay account. Once you have set up an e-bill (online bill-pay) account click on "Online Billing" under the "Member Information" tab and download the paperless billing application form. Fill it out, sign the form, and return it to Sac Osage Electric Cooperative. Upon receiving the signed form we'll set up your account for paperless billing and you will no longer receive a paper statement. You will receive your statement via e-mail each month, and you will be able to see a year's worth of billing statements online. Members who sign up for paperless billing will still receive the Rural Missouri with the Sac Osage News to keep you informed of your Cooperative's happenings.

If you are already signed up for e-bill, you may fill out the Billings/Notice and Release form below and submit it back to the Cooperative's office. Signing up for paperless billing means one less piece of mail in your box every month and a small savings for your Cooperative.



## Request for e-mail billings/notices and release

The undersigned member of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. (the "Cooperative") hereby requests that the Cooperative only submit to the undersigned electronically by e-mail all billings, invoices and other billing and disconnection notices and further requests that the Cooperative no longer mail physical bills, invoices or other written notices (including service termination and disconnection notices) to the undersigned.

In order for the Cooperative to honor this request, the undersigned does further agree and does hereby release the Cooperative, its officers, directors, employees and agents from all claims, demands, suits and/or liabilities arising out of any failure by the undersigned to receive monthly billings and other notices by United States Mail, and Member does further understand that failure to timely pay any billing or other notice sent to the undersigned by the Cooperative electronically shall have the same consequences as far as termination and disconnection of service as if the billing or other notice had been sent to the undersigned by U.S. Mail.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

### Statement of Non Discrimination

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In accordance with Federal Law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Jim Davis, General Manager of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.