

Before There Was Light:
Wrapping Up Our 75th Anniversary

Keeping Right-of-Way Clear
So Storms Don't Spoil Your Day

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

April 2014



GOOD AND GREEN

Employing Renewable Energy
to Power Our Lives

CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

1938 - 2013
JACKSON EMC
PEOPLE. POWER. PROGRESS.



President/CEO
Randall Pugh

Powering our Lines for the **First Time**

For almost a year, Jackson EMC has been celebrating a milestone anniversary. We began our observance last June because that month marked 75 years since we obtained the charter to organize this electric membership corporation. We conclude our observance this month, which marks 75 years since we switched on electricity to power the farms of rural northeast Georgia.

It was no small feat, bringing power to the countryside of Jackson and surrounding counties, where lack of electricity left families in the dark at night, aside from the glow of a kerosene lamp. No running water meant hoisting water from the well, washing clothes by hand and using a privy.

When local farmers and community leaders banded to bring electricity, their neighbors weren't so sure the dream could become reality. Persuaded by the co-op's first leaders, rural families paid \$5 to become members of the new electric cooperative, a steep price back then for a commodity they couldn't see or touch.

The organizers worked at a brisk pace to provide the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) with project proposals and right-of-way easements and finally, in January 1939, work began on the first 171 miles of lines to serve 664 farms in Jackson, Banks and Madison counties.

The job was strenuous. Men used long-handled shovels to dig holes six feet deep in hard ground. If they hit rock, they tried to bore through; sometimes they had to use dynamite to finish the task. Heavy poles

were set by hand. In an era long before bucket trucks, linemen climbed each pole and depended on each other to get the system built.

In just over three months, the initial project was completed and on April 10, 1939, Jackson EMC energized its first lines. People came from miles around to witness the energizing ceremony, and families that received electricity that day were jubilant. Some held parties to celebrate. One of our first members, J.G. Brown, summed up the historic significance of the day when he wrote:

"I was sitting in my farm home in the Hull community and shall never forget when the Jackson EMC first turned on the electric power. What a thrill! We had lived all our lives on the farm in a dark, cold house. The people in our community were not content to live in the dark...we requested a power line to serve our area, but the requirements were set so high that we could not meet them. Jackson EMC came to our rescue and gladly served us."

Today, we gladly serve more than 212,500 meters on 13,500 miles of wire. We've come a long way, and tribute is due to those men and women who believed they could start a cooperative to help their neighbors – and to the many men and women who have worked at Jackson EMC since then to keep the lights on.

The co-op's history and impact on northeast Georgia is celebrated online through April at www.jacksonemc.com/75. 🏠

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SPRING INTO ACTION WITH **DIY PROJECTS**

Shake off the icy memories of winter weather this spring with do-it-yourself projects aimed at saving energy and energy costs.

Easily located on our website, our DIY energy projects are explained with step-by-step instructions giving easy and inexpensive ways to make improvements to your home. Our videos feature DIY guides on:

- Insulating Attic Access
- Caulking and Sealing
- Weatherstripping
- Attic Insulation
- Insulating Knee Walls
- HVAC Energy Tips
- Energy Efficient Water Heaters
- Lighting and Appliances
- Home Fitness Checkup
- Compact Fluorescent Lights

To get started, visit www.jacksonemc.com and follow the Home Energy Fitness quick link to DIY Energy Projects.





Before There Was Light

We're ending our year-long 75th anniversary celebration at Jackson EMC by revisiting what drove the formation of the cooperative.

Set for Saturday, April 26, at Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm just outside Jefferson, Before There Was Light – an all-day event – is designed to remind members and the community-at-large what life was like before Jackson EMC brought electricity to their homes and farms.

Free of charge, the event focuses on how rural northeast Georgians lived and worked prior to the advent of electricity here.

We began our anniversary celebration last June, exactly 75 years after we received our charter to form as an electric cooperative. And we're concluding our observance this month, 75 years from when we powered our first lines in 1939.

For a generation who has never experienced life without electricity, the event features re-enactors demonstrating how chores and activities were done without electric power. Demonstrations will include milling, soap making, blacksmithing, quilting, crafting split oak baskets and much more. Interactive activities will invite guests to take part by quilting a stitch or two or helping make soap.

The buildings and landscape at Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm make a perfect backdrop for the event. A historically-preserved farm that serves as an educational and interpretative outdoor museum, Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm covers 152 acres and features historic farm buildings.

Farm demonstrations will be on tap, and visitors will learn what it was like to study by the light of a kerosene lamp.

Another step back in time includes re-enactments done by Jackson EMC line crew employees dressed in period costume to demonstrate how power lines were first put up. Leaving their trucks and tools back at the office, linemen will use shovels, spoons and spades to dig holes and put up power poles by hand.

Historic photos chronicling Jackson EMC's history will be on display during the 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. event. Food and crafts will be available for purchase, including homemade ice cream and barbecue and wares produced by the various demonstrators.

Limited handicapped parking is available across the street from the farm; all other visitors are asked to park at Galilee Christian Church, 2191 Galilee Church Road, where you'll take a shuttle bus to the site.

To secure a walking tour of the farm in advance of the event, visit the app store and search for Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm to download an app for your iPhone or Android. 📱

Directions to Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm

From Gwinnett County – Take I-85N to Exit 137 (Gainesville/Athens); turn right onto Hwy 129 Bypass. Follow Hwy 129 Bypass to just past stoplight at intersection of Hwy 11, then turn right onto Galilee Church Road. Park in the church parking lot at 2191 Galilee Church Road and take bus to Farm.

From Hall County – Take Hwy 129E toward Jefferson. Follow Hwy 129 Bypass to just past stop light at intersection of Hwy 11, then turn right onto Galilee Church Road. Park in the church parking lot at 2191 Galilee Church Road and take bus to Farm.

From Clarke County – Take Hwy 129W toward Jefferson. Continue on Hwy 129 Bypass through the Arcade stoplight and turn left 2.2 miles onto Galilee Church Road. Park in the church parking lot at 2191 Galilee Church Road and take bus to Farm.

From Barrow County – Take Hwy 11N towards Jefferson and continue 9 miles. At the stop sign, turn right onto Jackson Trail Road; drive 1.4 miles and bear right onto Galilee Church Road. Park in the church parking lot at 2191 Galilee Church Road and take bus to Farm.

From Banks County – Take I-85S to Exit 137 (Gainesville/Athens) and turn left onto Hwy 129 Bypass. Follow Hwy 129 Bypass to just past stop light at intersection of Hwy 11, then turn right onto Galilee Church Road. Park in the church parking lot at 2191 Galilee Church Road and take bus to Farm.

Handicap Only – A limited number of handicap parking spaces are available across the street from Shields-Ethridge Farm. Turn onto Ethridge Road from the Hwy 129 Bypass and follow it two miles. The handicap parking area will be on the left. Handicap parking plates or stickers will be required.



WE'RE SEEING GREEN

It's Earth Month across the U.S. and in northeast Georgia, we're seeing green – the opportunity to help the environment by using clean, green energy, that is.



PRODUCT CONTENT LABEL

The product is sold in blocks of 150 kilowatt-hours (kWh). The product will be made up of the following renewable resources.

Green-e Energy Certified New ³ Renewables in Jackson EMC Green Power Program	Generation Location		
	2013 ¹	2014 ²	
Biomass	100%	100%	Georgia
Geothermal	0%	0%	
Eligible hydroelectric ⁴	0%	0%	
Solar	0%	0%	
Wind	0%	0%	
TOTAL	100%	100%	

1. The 2013 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending December 31, 2013.

2. The 2014 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased during the preceding year.

3. For energy supplied in 2013, New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 1999. For energy to be supplied in 2014, New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 2000.

4. Eligible hydroelectric facilities are defined in the Green-e Energy National Standard (http://www.green-e.org/getcert_re_stan.shtml) and include facilities certified by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) (www.lowimpacthydro.org); facilities that are run-of-the-river hydropower facilities with a total rated nameplate capacity equal to or less than 5 MW; and facilities comprised of a turbine in a pipeline or a turbine in an irrigation canal.

For comparison, the current average mix of resources supplying Jackson EMC includes: Coal (25.6%), Nuclear (22.4%), Oil (0%), Natural Gas (9.3%), Hydroelectric (1.0%), and Other (41.8%).

The average home in the United States uses 900 kWh per month. [Source: U.S. EPA]

For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Jackson Electric Membership Corporation, (706) 367-5281, <http://www.jacksonemc.com/Green-Power.39.0.html>



Green-e Energy certifies that Jackson Electric Membership Corporation Green Power Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call 1-888-63-GREEN or log on to www.green-e.org.

Since 2001, Jackson EMC has teamed up with Green Power EMC to make available to our members green energy produced from natural, renewable resources. Georgia's first renewable energy initiative, Green Power EMC is now one of the largest renewable energy programs in the Southeast with 38 of Georgia's electric membership corporations as members. Like Jackson EMC, Green Power EMC is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative.

From the time its first renewable energy generation project was launched in 2003, Green Power EMC has generated 125 million kilowatt-hours of green energy, providing the same environmental benefits as taking 125,000 cars off Georgia's roads, or planting 176,000 acres in trees.

Today, Green Power EMC generates green energy from three landfill gas-to-electricity facilities, a wood waste biomass plant, a low-impact hydro facility and two solar projects, including a 115-kilowatt solar photovoltaic array at an industrial building in Athens.

Plans are currently underway for Green Power's largest solar project, a 10-megawatt solar field to consist of several acres of solar panels placed on farmland. The project is expected to be completed in 2015.

"This is a big step for Green Power as we continue to diversify our portfolio of green energy resources," says Green Power EMC Coordinator Marty Myers. "As the first green power utility in the state, we've made green energy available to our members for 13 years and continue to look for new ways to meet their renewable energy needs."


Jackson EMC offers our members the opportunity to purchase green energy as part of your monthly electricity use in 150 kilowatt-hour blocks, on average, about a tenth of household electricity consumed monthly.

"Jackson EMC is being proactive by offering its environmentally-conscious customer base the opportunity to purchase green electricity, to reduce their impact on the environment and to protect the planet by providing sustainable energy," says Myers.

While most who purchase green energy at Jackson EMC are residential members, commercial/industrial customers also have the choice to purchase green power – in 1,000-kilowatt hour per month blocks or as a percentage of their monthly energy provided by Green Power.

"Buying green power produced from renewable resources can be a great part of a strategy to reduce your environmental impact while attracting consumers looking for green companies," says Jackson EMC Commercial/Industrial Engineer Brittany Caison.

Green Power EMC continuously searches for new solar and wind power projects and also offers the Sun Power for Schools program, which enables students at participating schools to study solar power firsthand. Mill Creek High School in Hoschton participates in the Sun Power for Schools program with a 1.25 kilowatt solar array.

Green Power EMC is Green-e certified, signifying it meets environmental and consumer protection standards. 

On average, it costs about **three times less** to drive an electric vehicle.

In Georgia, regular gasoline costs \$3.33 per gallon.

\$3³³



To drive an electric vehicle costs \$1.09 per e-gallon.*

\$1⁰⁹



*E-gallon is the Department of Energy's measure for the cost of fueling a vehicle with electricity compared to a similar but gasoline-fueled vehicle.

Introducing Residential Plug-In Electric Vehicle Rate

In response to members asking about rates for electric vehicle drivers, Jackson EMC now offers a Residential Plug-In Electric Vehicle Rate.

"When we discovered the growing interest of our members, we looked for a way to offer them an extra incentive to minimize their electricity use during peak hours by charging their car at night," says Brittany Caison, commercial/industrial engineer. "Because Jackson EMC has the potential to save by avoiding power usage

during these periods, customers with electric vehicles who help us are now rewarded with a special energy rate for their entire household."

Along with being good for the environment, driving an electric vehicle is easy on the wallet. On average, it costs about three times less to drive an electric vehicle, according to the Department of Energy.

In Georgia, regular unleaded gasoline costs, on average, \$3.33 per gallon. The cost for

driving an electric vehicle averages \$1.09 per e-gallon, the Department of Energy's measure for the cost of fueling a vehicle with electricity compared to a similar but gasoline-fueled vehicle.

As electric vehicle technology improves, and the cost of electric vehicles decreases, more Americans will continue to make the switch to electric. As a result, Jackson EMC offers price breaks to those who drive electric vehicles and are willing to help us by avoiding power usage during peak periods.

The whole-house Residential Plug-In Electric Vehicle Rate is similar to our Residential Time-of-Use rate plan, which encourages the shift of electricity use from peak time periods, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on summer weekdays, to off-peak periods. In addition, those on the Residential Plug-In Electric Vehicle Rate have the added benefit of a Super Off-Peak period during the hours between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when charging their car will result in the greatest savings.

To see the electric vehicle rate, visit www.jacksonemc.com/evrate.

Stitching up smiles with Quilts for Kids



Members of the Northeast Georgia Chapter of Quilts for Kids are convinced there's wisdom to be gained from Peanuts' character Linus when he says, "Happiness is a warm blanket." They've seen that happiness in the smiling faces of kids weak from disease but cheered when presented a colorful, handmade quilt made especially for them.

A volunteer organization whose members machine-sew quilts to provide comfort to children in hospitals and shelters, Quilts for Kids currently has 97 chapters throughout the U.S., including the Northeast Georgia Chapter which was organized in March 2012 in Gainesville. Since forming, the local chapter has recruited almost 200 volunteers across northeast Georgia and has delivered 373 quilts to children at Northeast Georgia Medical Center and 129 quilts and pillowcases to community shelters.

"The quilts are made of kid-friendly prints and accented with bright colored strips or squares," says chapter leader Betty Wright. "Each quilt is filled with hugs by the volunteer quilter to help the recipient during their hospital or shelter stay."


Labels sewn into each quilt identify it as a Quilts for Kids project and ask, "Do you like your quilt? Tell us your story at myquilt@quiltsforkids.org." A mother

of one local quilt recipient reports her tiny son "sleeps in his crib, cuddled up with his quilt."

The Jackson EMC Foundation in February granted \$5,000 to Quilts for Kids, Northeast Georgia Chapter, to purchase fabric to make more quilts. The grant money will fund fabric purchase for half or more of the 1,512 yards of fabric needed to make quilts this year for children at Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Gateway Domestic Violence Shelter in Gainesville, and Family Promise of Hall County.

"Our goal is to provide as many quilts as possible annually to children in need of a comforting blanket," says Wright. "We chose the facilities we did because of the geographic coverage of the hospital (13 counties) and the need to comfort the kids of abuse and homeless situations."

Quilts for Kids volunteers meet monthly to cut fabric and assemble kits to be sewn by other volunteers. Meetings are held at First Baptist Church and Hopewell United Methodist Church, both in Gainesville. Volunteers also have been recruited from the Hall County Quilt Guild and The Spirited Quilters of Duluth.

To find out how you can help bring happiness with a warm quilt, visit www.negaquiltsforkids.org or call Betty Wright at 678-617-9671. 

operationroundup

Jackson EMC Foundation awards more than \$86,000 in grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$86,738 in grants during their February meeting, including \$82,400 to organizations and \$4,338 to individuals.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta's Lawrenceville Unit**, for its Homework Help/Afterschool Program, which uses staff and volunteers to provide club members with homework help, specialized tutoring, and high-yield learning activities.

\$15,000 to the **YMCA Piedmont Brad Akins Branch** for its Summer Day Camp to enable 16 children and 14 teens from economically disadvantaged families to attend an 11-week day camp that provides a safe environment and nurturing quality programs for youth who might otherwise be "latchkey" kids during their schools' summer break.

\$14,400 to **Meet the Need Ministry, Inc.**, a Barrow County non-profit organization that clothes, houses,

feeds and transports men who find themselves homeless, hungry, addicted to drugs or alcohol, or just need a helping hand, to help cover rental expenses for a group home located in Gwinnett County that houses the men as they work toward recovery and self-sufficiency.

\$10,000 to the **American Red Cross - East Georgia**, to train disaster response volunteers and provide disaster relief, including food, shelter and clothing, to families in Jackson, Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties who have lost their home to a fire or natural disaster.

\$10,000 to **Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County**, for its Be GREAT: Graduate program, which helps youth who are at risk for dropping out of school to remain engaged in school

and learning and to develop the academic, emotional and social skills necessary for success.

\$6,000 to the **Pilot Club of Winder**, to help implement Project Lifesaver International, a locating system using personalized tracking bracelets that allow adults with dementia or brain injuries and children with disorders such as autism or Down Syndrome who wander away and become lost to be located by the sheriff's office.

\$5,000 to **Quilts for Kids - Northeast Georgia**, a non-profit organization that uses volunteers to sew comforting quilts that are distributed to children at Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Gateway Domestic Violence Shelter and Family Promise of Hall County, for the purchase of fabric.

\$2,500 to **Gainesville/Hall Community Food Pantry** to purchase food from the Atlanta Community Food Bank and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank.

\$2,500 to **Jefferson First Baptist Food Pantry** to purchase food from the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia.

\$2,000 to **Camp to Belong Georgia**, a free summer camp that reunites brothers and sisters living separately in foster care or other out-of-home care, to strengthen relationships, increase self-esteem and create healthier attitudes and childhood memories.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$3,500 to repair the roof of a **disabled woman**.

\$838 to purchase a lift chair for a **disabled woman**.

Clearing the Path for **Your Power**

An aggressive right-of-way maintenance program at Jackson EMC not only keeps the property under power lines free from hazard; it keeps our members and utility workers safe from potential dangers.

Right-of-way crews work year-round to keep a 30 foot wide path clear under electric power lines, with 15 feet cleared on either side of the line. Trees are trimmed, underbrush is cut back and any trees that could grow into the line are removed or scaled back. Exposed stumps are treated so they won't sprout; and, after cleared, the areas under lines are treated to prevent broadleaf from returning while keeping grasses intact.

Keeping the path under power lines clear provides utility workers quick access to lines when work needs to be done and creates a safer working environment for our line crews – or for anyone else who happens to be near the power lines.

Also, a clear right-of-way often means less damage to your power distribution system after high winds and stormy weather because there's less chance of trees and limbs falling on power lines.

"Since embarking on our aggressive right-of-way maintenance program about eight years ago, Jackson EMC has experienced fewer storm-related outages," says Dwayne Ansley, director of Operation Services.

Right-of-way crews work on a five-year cycle to keep vegetation cleared under all 6,500 miles of overhead line throughout our service territory. If it's apparent that property owners are maintaining the right-of-way and nothing on it is in danger of interfering with power lines, crews will move on to the next property.

Crews working under power lines are typically in trucks identified with Jackson EMC logos. If you question the identity of someone working near power lines, call your local Jackson EMC office where itineraries of each day's right-of-way maintenance schedule are kept.

For information about what trees and plants are best to plant under or near power lines, visit www.jacksonemc.com.





smartconnections


Reduce, Reuse & Recycle


During Earth Month in April, and all throughout the year, Jackson EMC promotes conserving energy along with other ways to protect the environment. By forming new habits, you'll not only save money on your power bill but preserve the earth for your children and grandchildren.


Here are a few of our favorite ways to save energy, along with proactive things you can do to celebrate Earth Month – every month and every day.

 **Use Green Power:** See the story on pages 4-5 to learn how you can purchase electricity created from renewable resources.


 **Reduce energy consumption:** Using less energy reduces your impact on the environment. Use tools we offer at www.jacksonemc.com to reduce your home's energy use, including energy saving tips, the Right Choice™ with ENERGY STAR® Homes program and our Home Energy Fitness Guide.

 **Use water efficiently:** Fix leaking faucets and toilets and consider using plants and landscaping that require less watering.

 **Reduce gasoline use:** Consider fuel-efficient models when buying your next automobile, carpool to work, telecommute, save weekly errands for one trip, keep tires properly inflated and perform routine car maintenance.

 **Recycle:** Making aluminum products from recycled aluminum uses 95 percent less energy than making aluminum from virgin ore, and making paper and boxes from recycled cardboard, newspaper and office paper requires less energy than starting with wood chips. Support recycling by buying products made from recycled materials. And don't forget to recycle your

unbroken compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) at Lowe's and Home Depot.

 **Paperless Billing:** The roughly 200,300 paper bills that Jackson EMC mails each year use 67,300 pounds of paper, the equivalent of 4.8 acres of trees, and produces more than 3,800 household garbage bags of paper waste, according to the Pay it Green Alliance Footprint Calculator. If we can add just 3,000 paperless accounts to the nearly 6,000 accounts already on paperless billing, we'll reduce that footprint by 3,028 pounds of paper, or 9,423 square feet of trees and 172 household garbage bags of paper waste. To sign up for paperless billing, visit www.jacksonemc.com.

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what's cookin'?

Cooperative **Cooking**

Each month *Jemco News* features recipes which represent the people and products of Jackson EMC.

If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Jackson EMC area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to:

Cooperative Cooking
Jackson EMC
P.O. Box 38
Jefferson, GA 30549

Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Jemco News* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.



Springtime Shrimp Cakes

Ingredients:

1 large egg
¼ cup mayonnaise
1 tablespoon
Worcestershire sauce
½ cup plus 2 teaspoons
Dijon mustard, divided

¼ cup minced fresh
Italian parsley
2 tablespoons Old Bay seasoning
2 cups Ritz crackers, crushed into
fine crumbs, divided

2 pounds frozen, peeled, and
cooked shrimp, thawed
½ cup (1 stick) melted butter
1 cup plain yogurt
½ teaspoon white pepper
3 green onions

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In food processor, pulse shrimp until finely chopped, half at a time.

In large bowl, whisk together egg, mayonnaise, Worcestershire, 2 teaspoons mustard, parsley, Old Bay seasoning, and ½ cup of cracker crumbs. Add the chopped shrimp and stir. Form into cakes about ½ inch thick and 2 inches in diameter. Put cakes on baking sheet lined with wax paper and refrigerate for about an hour until firm.

Remove from fridge and dip shrimp cakes into remaining cracker crumbs; place on a baking sheet lined with aluminum foil. Brush cakes with butter and bake 10-12 minutes. Turn cakes and brush other side with butter; bake another 10-12 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve with Mustard Yogurt Sauce. To prepare: In food processor, combine 1 cup plain yogurt, ½ cup Dijon mustard, ½ teaspoon white pepper and 3 green onions, minced. Blend well.