

Play It Safe

Be Careful Around Electricity

Introducing **JEMC President**
Chip Jakins

JEMCO A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS news

May 2014



Home Energy
FITNESS CHALLENGE

*Take the Challenge
to Get Your Home Energy Fit*

Introducing JEMC President Chip Jakins

The Jackson EMC Board of Directors has named Ernest A. “Chip” Jakins III the new president/CEO of the electric cooperative.

With 20 years of experience in the power industry, Jakins comes to Jackson EMC from Carroll EMC in Carrollton where he had served as president/CEO since 2002. Prior to that, he served as district manager of electric distribution operations/customer service and retail for SCANA Corporation’s South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G) Company, where he worked earlier as the local manager of electric distribution services.

“Our board is fortunate to have someone like Mr. Jakins who has the background and experience as a CEO in the rural electric industry to lead Jackson EMC into the future,” says Jackson EMC Board Chairman Otis Jones.

Active in various EMC organizations, Jakins serves on Georgia EMC’s Executive Committee, Economic Development Committee and Workers Compensation Fund Executive Committee. He is a director/alternate director of Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Georgia Transmission Corporation, Georgia System Operations Corporation, Georgia EMC and Green Power EMC.



In Carrollton, he served on the board of directors of the University of West Georgia Foundation, West Georgia Technical College and Carroll County Sertoma Club, and was a member of the Carrollton Rotary Club, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce and Georgia Chamber of Commerce. He was named Sertoman of the Year in 2012.

Jakins holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Mississippi State University. In 2012, he completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University.

Jakins succeeds Randall Pugh, who retired March 31 after leading Jackson EMC for almost 30 years. ▲

President/CEO
Chip Jakins

onlinef@cts

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ANSWERED ONLINE!

If you’ve never visited Jackson EMC’s website at www.jacksonemc.com, you’re missing out on a volume of useful information.

Along with details about co-op membership and electricity usage, our interactive website features extensive sections devoted to both residential and commercial customers where questions most frequently asked by our members are conveniently answered in an easy-to-use format.

Have a quick question? Residential members can scroll down the “Customer Service” tab of our “for HOME” section and commercial customers can scroll the “Services and Support” tab of our “for BUSINESS” pages to find quick answers for inquiries like these, and much more:

- Why does Jackson EMC request easement rights?
- What can I do if I think my power bill is too high?
- How do Jackson EMC’s rates compare to other electric utilities?
- How are business electric rates figured?



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PLAY IT SAFE

Around Electricity



What to do when power lines are down:

- **Stay away from downed power lines.** Report downed lines to us as soon as you see them.
- **In case of electrical shock from a fallen power line, do not remove the line or touch the person.** Call 911 for medical help and Jackson EMC to report the downed line.
- **If a downed power line falls across your vehicle, stay in the vehicle until emergency crews arrive.** If your vehicle is on fire and you must get out, do so without touching both the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Jump from your vehicle, landing with your feet together on the ground. Shuffle or hop from the vehicle until you are at least 100 feet away.

Spring is in the air and in just a few weeks, the kids will be out of school, playing in the yard and rollicking through the house. Since May is Electrical Safety Month, we encourage you to be mindful of the dangers of electricity and to share electrical safety tips with your children.

INDOORS

Electrical Outlets. Did you know that more than 1,000 children are treated in hospitals annually for injuries that result from inserting metal objects, like keys or bobby pins, into an electrical outlet? Electric shock may occur, resulting in burned hands and/or fingers. Plastic outlet protectors are made to fit into the outlet, but nimble-fingered toddlers can pry them loose. A safer bet is to invest in electrical outlets designed to remain closed until a plug is inserted or electrical outlet covers with faces that swivel or slide over the outlet holes.

Extension Cords. For electric and extension cords without safety closures, cover the unused outlets with electrical tape or outlet protectors to prevent children from coming in contact with the live circuit. Also, keep loose cords out of children's reach; they run the risk of strangling themselves in loose cords or being seriously burned or electrocuted from chewing on cords.

OUTDOORS

Flying Kites. Make sure your kite has a dry, non-metallic string. Always fly kites in open areas, away from power lines and busy streets. If by chance a kite does get snagged in a tree or power line, let it go. DO NOT try to pull it loose or climb up to retrieve it; call Jackson EMC instead.

Keep Away. Stay away from substation fences, utility poles or electrical equipment. Substations are fenced with locked gates because the high-voltage equipment inside is extremely dangerous.

Climbing Trees. Don't climb trees near electrical wires. Live wires could be touching tree limbs, posing a risk of electrocution to kids climbing trees.

For more electrical safety tips, visit www.jacksonemc.com/home-safety or contact your Jackson EMC office. ⚡



It's time to get

ENERGY FIT



Join the Challenge for a chance to win one of seven iPads to be awarded!

Join the Home Energy Fitness Challenge

Is your home out of shape? Have your HVAC filters gained a few pounds of dust since the last time you changed them? Does your flabby weather stripping need firming up? Put your home on notice: It's time to ***Shape Up!***

Create a Winning Strategy to Get Your Home Energy Fit

1. Concentrate your efforts on the two biggest energy users:
 - a. Air conditioning
 - b. Water heating
2. Discuss the habits and lifestyles of your family and encourage family members to use the following low- or no-cost ways to lower your power bills:
 - a. Raise your air conditioner thermostat setting in the summer. Higher settings than you normally use will lower operating costs for your air conditioning system.
 - b. Change filters monthly (or according to manufacturer recommendations) to keep your HVAC running at top efficiency. Have your unit(s) professionally tuned up. Many contractors participate in Jackson EMC's energy efficient program services; look for the Participating Contractor Network at www.jacksonemc.com/contractors.
 - c. Use fluorescent lights, CFLs and LEDs to add light while saving energy and reducing heat.
 - d. Add weather stripping to doors and windows to keep the cool air inside.
 - e. Run the washer and dishwasher with full loads or smaller load settings. Wash clothes in cold water. Set water heater thermostat at 120 degrees for maximum efficiency.
 - f. Caulk and seal cracks. Seal plumbing penetrations under sinks. Install insulators in electrical outlets on exterior walls.

For more tips, visit www.jacksonemc.com/DIY.

Do just that by joining our first-ever Home Energy Fitness Challenge.

Simply make a plan this summer at www.jacksonemc.com/challenge to reduce your home energy use, and you'll have the chance to win prizes – plus the motivation to start energy-reducing habits to make your home Energy Fit and save money on your power bill.

Jackson EMC members who sign up for the Home Energy Fitness Challenge and create a plan to cut back on energy use will be eligible to win one of seven iPads to be given away at the end of the contest.

For full details about the Challenge, visit www.jacksonemc.com/challenge. For ideas on creating your energy fitness plan, visit

www.jacksonemc.com's *Save Energy and Money* tab where an abundance of helpful tips, services, products and rebates are available to help you meet the Challenge.

"Our online pages are a great resource to get you started on the Home Energy Fitness Challenge," says Residential Marketing Manager Amy Bryan. "Consider them your own personal trainer on your way to helping your home become energy fit."

Whatever game plan you follow to reduce your home's energy use, you're bound to save money – and that's a great reason to take the Home Energy Fitness Challenge! ▲

Here's how it works:

To enter the Home Energy Fitness Challenge, go to www.jacksonemc.com/challenge and:

1. Sign up for Track My Progress.



2. Create your Home Profile at the Home Fitness Monitor for your personal Energy Report.



3. Set energy saving goals to create your own Energy Fitness plan.



When you've completed all three steps, you're automatically entered in the Home Energy Fitness Challenge and eligible for prizes. **The Challenge runs from June 1 through August 31 with an iPad to be awarded to seven eligible members whose names are randomly drawn on or after September 1.**

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2.5 million grandparents across the nation are raising their grandchildren. To assist area grandparents in their efforts, the Jackson EMC Foundation in March provided a \$5,000 grant to the Athens Community Council on Aging for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG), a program that supports grandparents who are primary caregivers for their children's children.

"Grandparents decide to raise their grandchildren for a variety of reasons, including parent substance abuse, incarceration, disability or death," says Paige Powell, GRG program director. "Many grandparents and other caregivers struggle with the financial burden of supporting children with Social Security or other supplemented income."

Taking on the role of parent often increases stress and financial strain on caregivers and their households, according to Powell.

"The overall goal of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program is to maintain a safe and stable family unit," she says. "We meet the caregiver's needs by providing a variety of services."

Those services include monthly home visits, mentoring, childcare, transportation and support

group meetings – support that enhances grandparents' ability to continue providing their grandchildren with a stable family home, according to Powell.

The GRG program currently aids 43 grandparents and 65 grandchildren in six northeast Georgia counties, including Jackson, Madison, Clarke and Barrow. Thirteen families are on a waiting list.

Grant money from the Jackson EMC Foundation will be used to reimburse mileage to University of Georgia interns who conduct home visits while providing transportation to clients and delivering needed materials; to purchase emergency food and personal care supplies; and to support children participating in the 2013-14 afterschool program and 2014 summer programs.

University of Georgia interns are vital to the GRG program, according to Powell who says that, on average, each intern drives 400 miles per month transporting clients, conducting home visits and participating in family activities and support groups.

The Athens Community Council on Aging Inc. is a private, nonprofit, community based agency that works to meet the diverse needs of older persons in Northeast Georgia. ▲

operationroundup

Jackson EMC Foundation awards more than \$83,000 in grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$83,795 in grants during their March meeting, including \$78,700 to organizations and \$5,095 to individuals.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to **Project Adam**, a non-profit focused on the prevention and treatment of alcohol and drug dependency, to help purchase a communications system for the agency's new facilities in the former Barrow County Water & Sewer Authority property that will house its intensive outpatient and adolescent treatment services, risk reduction program and defensive driving course.

\$15,000 to the **Good News Clinics**, a non-profit organization that provides free medical and dental care to the underserved and uninsured residents of Gainesville and Hall County, to replace inefficient and outdated computers in the transition to an Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system.

\$10,000 to the **American Red Cross of Northeast Georgia** to provide disaster relief assistance, including emergency food, shelter, clothing and other needs, to families and individuals in Hall and Lumpkin counties so they can begin the task of rebuilding their lives.

\$10,000 to the **Place of Seven Springs**, a Snellville non-profit which provides food and emergency assistance to Gwinnett County residents in need, to provide funds for emergency housing, water bills, gas cards, food and non-narcotic prescription medicine.

\$8,000 to **The Potters House**, an Atlanta Mission facility, to help feed, house, counsel and provide educational programs such as adult literacy to men who are recovering from

substance abuse through an intensive residential program at this 570-acre working farm in Jefferson.

\$7,500 to **Project Safe**, an Athens agency helping families in the counties Jackson EMC serves who are experiencing domestic violence, for a Transitional Housing Initiative that provides long-term housing and support services to domestic violence survivors who need extra assistance to become emotionally and financially self-sufficient.

\$5,700 to **ACTION, Inc.**, for the Full Plate Food Program, which uses staff and volunteers to collect surplus food donated by Athens area restaurants, which is then redistributed to homeless shelters and other human service agencies, reducing both

hunger and the food budgets of those agencies.

\$5,000 to the **Athens Community Council on Aging** for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, a program that supports grandparents who are primary caregivers for their grandchildren, for UGA intern visits, transportation and needed materials, as well as afterschool and summer programs.

\$2,500 to the **Pantry at Hamilton Mill** to purchase food.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$1,700 to purchase a hospital bed and shower chair for **a disabled man**.

\$3,395 to repair the roof of **a disabled woman**.



Summer Rates: Still a Good Deal

Due to our hot summer months in the South, electricity use increases for Jackson EMC members, but take heart: You'll spend fewer energy dollars than most households in the U.S.

Higher temperatures increase the demand for electricity, but even during increased demand season, Jackson EMC's residential electric rates are 17 percent lower than the national average and 10 percent lower than the average electric rate in Georgia. What's more, Jackson EMC's rates are among the 10 lowest in the whole state, as reported by the U.S. Energy Information Administration and the Georgia Public Service Commission for 2012.

For tips on reducing your summer power bills by making your home energy fit via energy efficiency improvements, visit our website at:

www.jacksonemc.com/energyfit. 

SUMMER RATES

Service Charge: \$13 per month

First 650 kWh: 8.32¢ per kWh

Next 350 kWh: 7.79¢ per kWh

Over 1,000 kWh: 9.36¢ per kWh

smartconnections

Energy Efficiency Makes Cents with HomePlus Loans

Who doesn't want to save money? In these lean times, we all do. One way you can save money - and get your home energy fit - is by cutting back on your energy bill, a goal that's attainable when your home's outdated heat pump, water heater or ductwork are updated with energy efficient models.

Getting your home energy fit has never been so easy, thanks to Jackson EMC's HomePlus Loan Program. We offer low-interest financing for up to \$5,500 for 36 months for energy efficient improvements to your home. Qualification is based on assessment of creditworthiness and the underwriting standards of our partner, GEMC Federal Credit Union. Additional financing of up to \$25,000 may be available at terms that vary with the amount borrowed.

To participate in the loan program, you must use a contractor in the Jackson EMC Participating Contractor Network. Special program procedures must be followed and field verification done prior to loan closing.

You may qualify for our HomePlus Loan. To get started, call your local Jackson EMC office and speak with a marketing represen-

tative or visit www.jacksonemc.com/loans. If you qualify, making the home improvements you've been putting off becomes a cinch this spring!

Examples of ways you can save energy and money with the HomePlus Loan include:

- ENERGY STAR® qualified **heat pump replacement**.
- **Water heater replacement** (Marathon and ENERGY STAR® qualified solar thermal and heat pump water heaters)
- ENERGY STAR® qualified **appliances** (dishwashers, refrigerators, washing machines)
- ENERGY STAR® qualified **windows**
- **Ductwork repair, insulation and air sealing**



Our Offices

Gainesville

P.O. Box 5909
Gainesville, GA 30504
(770) 536-2415

Bill Sanders

District Manager

Gwinnett

461 Swanson Dr.
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
(770) 963-6166

Randy Dellinger

District Manager

EMC Security

55 Satellite Blvd., NW
Suwanee, GA 30024
(770) 963-0305 or
(706) 543-4009

Jefferson

P.O. Box 38
Jefferson, GA 30549
(706) 367-5281

Scott Martin

District Manager

Neese

P.O. Box 85
Hull, GA 30646
(706) 548-5362

Jean Mullis

District Manager

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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.

Mexican Skillet Cornbread

Ingredients:

1 pound lean ground beef	1 cup sweet milk	2 to 3 tablespoons red pepper flakes or minced jalapeño peppers
1 medium Vidalia onion, finely chopped	1 stick butter or margarine, melted	Shredded cheese, optional
1 cup self-rising yellow cornmeal	2 eggs, well beaten	
1 (15-ounce) can cream corn		

Instructions:

Cook beef and onion until beef is no longer pink and the onions are tender; drain and set aside. Combine cornmeal, corn, milk, butter and eggs; thoroughly mix. Pour half of cornmeal batter into a well-greased 10-inch iron skillet. Sprinkle cooked beef over batter. Sprinkle beef with pepper flakes and shredded cheese, if desired. Pour remaining batter over beef. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.