

Used Vehicles for Sale:
Sealed Bids Accepted

Clearing the Way
for Your Power

TERRY WHITWORTH
SHARES HIS ANTIQUE
INSULATORS

JEMICO A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS news

July 2015





President/CEO
Chip Jakins

Chip Jakins

We're Listening

Everyone likes to hear when they are doing something well. I think it is more important that you let people know when there is room for improvement. That information allows us to make important changes.

According to member surveys, you tell us you are pleased with the service we provide. We conduct regular customer service surveys as well as customer satisfaction surveys every other year where you let us know what we are doing well and what needs improvement. We are constantly working to exceed your expectations.

In 1952, we began printing this newsletter, sending important membership information to your homes every month. In those early years, we shared the phone number of the line crew leader you should call if your power was interrupted and news about our rapidly expanding distribution system.

In 1997, we went global on the worldwide web, introducing our members to www.jacksonemc.com. Initially, we were sharing information about products and services. We've changed along the way, looking to our members to guide us. We created a customer service portal that is available 24/7 after website research where you told us you are most interested in coming to the site to pay your bill or receive outage information.

Adapting to lifestyle changes, our site has become a mobile application giving you easy access to pay your bill and report outages from your phone.


We're communicating through social media channels as well. More than 5,000 of you follow our Twitter feed and like our Facebook page.

Our communications staff works to offer you new and innovative ways to receive information, making sure we are sharing the news and information that is most important to you in a way that fits your lifestyle. Along the

way, we've reached out to you for feedback on how you want to communicate with your cooperative and what services you need access to. And you've

provided guidance to help us better serve you. We are asking again.

This month, we are conducting communications research into our use of jacksonemc.com, social media, advertising, bill messages and this monthly newsletter, *Jemco News*. Some of you will be called for your insight and opinion. Some others will be asked to participate in focus groups where we gain even more insight into how to communicate with one another. I ask that you share openly and honestly.

If we don't call you, you can still help our communications and, in turn, our member service. We've developed a short survey to capture your answers. Visit our website for more information. 



JEMCO news

VOL. 64, NO. 7, JULY 2015
(ISSN 1061-5601), IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MEMBER SERVICES DEPT. OF JACKSON ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORP., 461 SWANSON DRIVE, LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30043. SUBSCRIPTION \$3.50 PER YEAR AS PART OF YEARLY MEMBERSHIP. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT LAWRENCEVILLE, GA AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.

April Sorrow, Editor.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Jemco News
461 Swanson Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

NOT ALL SQUARE FEET ARE CREATED EQUAL.

jacksonemc.com | **Right Choice**
Energy Efficient Homes. Guaranteed.

onlinef@cts

Let's Talk

We want to hear from you. Complete the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/JacksonEMC_Survey, telling us what you want to hear about from your cooperative and how we can reach you. Your input helps us tailor our communications and improve your member services. Please fill out the survey by September 1.

For more information about the communications research and to take part in the questionnaire, visit www.jacksonemc.com/survey.

The COLLECTOR

"I BOUGHT THE FIRST ONE ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD ON THE WAY TO GATLINBURG. IT WAS A MICKEY MOUSE," TERRY WHITWORTH SAID OF HIS COLLECTION OF ANTIQUE INSULATORS.

What a hobbyist calls a "Mickey Mouse" insulator is one of the first pin-top power distribution insulators used. Originally developed to insulate telegraph and phone wires, glass insulators were also used on electrical lines to prevent the flow of energy from the line to the ground.

Whitworth's first insulator was a splurge at \$30; most cost a dollar or less.

"I collect these because this is my business, and understanding the history is interesting to me," he said. Whitworth began his career at Jackson EMC in 1979 as a lineman. He now serves as District Operations Superintendent in Gainesville.

His collection includes rare items, like the "Mickey Mouse" insulators he favors, as well as several colored communication insulators, tiny radio antenna insulators and a porcelain insulator dated the year he was married, 1978. He began collecting insulators about 15 years ago. He admits he'd like to have some he and his friends used to throw rocks at when they were just boys.

"They used to be everywhere, just cast aside. We never thought to pick them up," he said. "Now, you

see them mostly in people's old chicken houses, just the ones they picked up and saved."

As the population grew, so did the demand for electricity, and insulators had to be larger to control the voltage running through the power lines. Insulators are still used today, but they look and feel different. The industry transitioned from colored glass to clear glass, to ceramic and now to polymer or plastic. As new lines are built, or older equipment is replaced, the new plastic insulators are used.

"These are better for reliability because they are lighter, won't break and they last longer," Whitworth said.

Whitworth may add one of the new plastic insulators to his collection. Who knows, one day we may be collecting those too. ▲



Whitworth has several insulators in his office, well suited to accompany a photo of his father working the lines while serving in the military.

insulators



JACKSON EMC'S Tree Maintenance Program

When trees grow into electrical lines, they can create safety hazards and disrupt service. During high winds, strong thunderstorms or snow or ice storms, limbs and even whole trees can fall on electric lines, tearing down energized lines and equipment. Broken limbs can cause outages just by making contact with electric lines and equipment. The water, sap and chemicals in trees are excellent electricity conductors. If a tree has grown into a power line, electricity can travel through the tree to the ground and create an electrocution hazard. Trees touching power lines can also cause fires.

Jackson EMC maintains the area around the lines, known as the right-of-way, to keep members and employees safe.

These men wield chainsaws, keeping vegetation at bay, clearing the path for your power. During storms they ride the lines, looking for fallen trees that need to be cleared, declaring areas safe for passage by linemen looking to restore power. Right-of-way crews work year-round to remove threats to your power supply and to keep workers safe from potential danger.

Here are the facts about the program from men charged with managing the 6,552 miles

of overhead wire powering the homes and businesses of Jackson EMC's members.

To members about the Tree Maintenance Program:

A lot of people don't understand the voltage on the line and how dangerous it is. We are doing this for safety; for our safety, and theirs. Plus, if we can take the time now to clear it, you won't have to wait for us to make a path after a storm. – *Benton*

Never attempt to trim or remove a tree that has power lines running through it. If you discover trees growing into lines, please call your local Jackson EMC office to report it. – *Mize*

Don't plant Leyland Cypress or Bradford Pear trees under power lines. They grow too tall, too fast. – *Waters*

I own property too. We don't want to tear up your property, just like we don't want ours messed up. – *Pressley*

For reliable service, the lines need to be clean and clear. – *Roberson*

When do crews clear?

Crews work year-round, Monday to Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. We have a lot of miles, so we have to clear all year long. – *Roberson*

One crew can clear three miles a month. In all, our crews clear 1,200 miles each year. We can reach each mile of line about every five to six years. – *Benton*

Who does the work?

Jackson EMC has five supervisors who oversee 32 independent, tree-trimming contractor crews that maintain its right-of-way. The contractors work 40 hours a week and are professionals in the field of utility arboriculture and use proven industry-standard pruning techniques, proper tools and safety practices.

THE MEN MAINTAINING JACKSON EMC'S RIGHT-OF-WAY

CLIFF MIZE



Oversees vegetation management program
@ Jackson EMC 31 years

LARRY ROBERSON



@ Jackson EMC 31 years

DONALD PRESSLEY



@ Jackson EMC 37 years

KEVIN WATERS



@ Jackson EMC 9 years



Gwinnett homeowner Liza Bowden and her grandson Silas Cooper talk to Todd Benton about the tree trimming taking place in the neighborhood.

All contractor crews are supervised by Jackson EMC personnel. When trees are being trimmed, Jackson EMC's supervisors will be in the area, and a notice that the contractor is working for Jackson EMC will be posted on all contractor vehicles. – *Mize*

Is trimming safe for trees?

Great care is taken to ensure limbs that must be cut from trees are done to protect the tree and keep it growing safely away from lines. – *Benton*

Jackson EMC uses directional trimming to maintain clearances between trees and power lines. Directional trimming is recommended by the International Society of Arboriculture, American National Standards Institute and the National Arbor Day Foundation. – *Mize*

How much do you cut?

We only cut what we have to, which is a clearance of 15 feet in each direction of the line: left, right and under. – *Benton*

Trees are trimmed, underbrush is mowed down and trees growing too tall under the lines are taken down or scaled back. – *Waters*

We consider several factors when pruning a tree for line clearance, in priority order: public and right-of-way worker safety, service reliability, correct arboriculture pruning techniques, and finally, aesthetics. – *Mize*

How do you tell members you are coming?

We make an effort to reach each member whose power lines will be cleared. If we don't meet you

at your door, a brochure about the program with contact information is left behind. – *Benton*

I knock on their doors and let them know. I like to talk to them. They will tell you where risks are on their property – like where the septic tank is buried. – *Pressley*


Favorite part of the job:

Gratification of doing the job. It is a very rewarding career, keeping the lights on for people. I like to hear them say 'my lights never go out.' – *Waters*

I like working outside and meeting our customers. – *Roberson*

I enjoy coming to work every day; working with the crews, and I have a good boss. I like talking with customers and hearing about the history of the lines. – *Benton*

It gets hot and it gets cold. But I get to breathe fresh air every day and work outside. – *Pressley*

For more information about Jackson EMC's Tree Maintenance Program, visit www.jacksonemc.com/tree. 

TODD BENTON



@ Jackson EMC 16 years

FOCUS: Camp Hollywood

Camp Hollywood: Where Everyone's a Star is an innovative summer day camp for children with special needs.

"We model the camp on favorite family and children movies, either new movies or classics that families and children love," said Camp Director Joy Trotti.

The 2015 camp will feature activities centered on popular movies: *Dolphin Tale*, *Big Hero Six*, *Cinderella*, *Teen Beach Movie* and *Inspector Gadget*. Activities are designed so that all campers can fully participate. During the "Cooks with Books" activity for *Teen Beach Movie*, for example, kids make ice cream while listening to a book about the treat.

"Parents of children who have significant disabilities or medical issues want their kids to have worthwhile summer experiences that build character, social skills and

friendships. So many of our children don't have other camps to go to," Trotti said. "The nice thing about FOCUS is we don't turn many kids away. We can handle tube feeding and tracheostomy, seizures, medicines, breathing treatments and behavior disorders."

The Jackson EMC Foundation awarded \$5,500 to fund 32 partial scholarships to campers at its May meeting. Thanks to the grant, each camper can attend for \$150, even though the camp costs \$350 each to deliver.

The camp runs for five weeks with each camper attending a five-day session, with a camper-to-counselor ratio of one-to-four. Camp counselors are nurses, therapists and special educators who can care for the special needs of the campers. ▲



operationroundup

Foundation Awards \$73,600 at May meeting

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total of \$73,600 in grants to organizations during its May meeting, including \$70,100 to organizations and \$3,500 to an individual.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

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

\$15,000 to **Lindsay's Legacy Mentoring, Inc.** in Jackson County to help fund the coordinator position for a program that recruits and trains adult mentors to work with students in kindergarten through 12th grade in all three school systems within the county, helping to ensure those young people become healthy, educated and employable.

\$6,500 to **ACTION, Inc.**, for the Full Plate Food Program, which uses staff and volunteers to collect surplus food donated by Athens-area restaurants, then redistribute that food to homeless shelters

and other human service agencies, reducing hunger and the food budgets of those agencies.

\$6,500 to the **Clarke County Mentor Program**, a broad-based, grassroots effort to provide individual support for public school students in 1st through 12th grades, promoting academic and personal success; to recruit, train and support new mentors.

\$5,500 to **Families of Children Under Stress (FOCUS)**, a nonprofit agency serving children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities and their families, to help provide Camp Hollywood in Lawrenceville, a unique summer day camp where children with developmental disabilities can build social skills, self-respect, character and community living skills.

\$5,000 to the **Quinlan Visual Arts Center** in Gainesville to enable about 40 disadvantaged,

but exceptional students with exemplary artistic skills entering 1st through 8th grades at Title I schools in Banks, Hall, Jackson, Gwinnett and Lumpkin counties attend one-week Art Camp sessions.

\$5,000 to the **Side by Side Brain Injury Club**, a Gwinnett nonprofit organization that helps individuals recovering from traumatic brain injury to regain employment and living skills, to provide a month of rehabilitation program fees for six brain-injured adults from Gwinnett and Hall counties.

\$4,000 to **Nuçi's Space in Athens**, a nonprofit organization working to prevent suicide, to enable young people from low-income families to participate in Camp Amped, a summer day camp for northeast Georgia youth ages 11-18 focusing on positive mental health and music education.

\$4,000 to the **Lumpkin County Family Connection** for its Backpack Buddy program, which provides a weekend supply of seven meals each week to children who are food insecure.

\$3,600 to **Barrow Ministry Village**, a community ministry established through a partnership of local churches which provides foster care support, counseling services and food to those in need, to fund a monthly mobile distribution of about 10,000 pounds of food to about 220 people.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$3,500 to make handicapped-accessible modifications to a van for a **teenage girl with cerebral palsy**.

For more information about the Jackson EMC Foundation, or to apply for a grant, visit www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Jackson Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) has corporate offices at 850 Commerce Highway in Jefferson, Ga., with district offices in Gainesville, Lawrenceville, Jefferson and Hull. Jackson EMC is a cooperative providing electric service to 10 northeast Georgia counties – Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe.

The cooperative is governed by a nine-member board of directors geographically representing the service area. Board members serve three-year staggered terms. Three will be elected at Annual Meeting, Thursday, September 17, at the corporate offices in Jefferson.

Nominations are presented by a nominating committee or by a duly processed petition.

Procedures detailing the nominations process are contained in the Jackson EMC bylaws available at any office. At each Annual Meeting of Members, three (3) directors shall be elected, by and from the members, to serve for a term of three years, or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of directors, in the following rotation: one from Hall County or Lumpkin County, one from Barrow County, one from Gwinnett County; one from Clarke County, one from Jackson County, one from Gwinnett County; one from Banks County or Franklin County, one from Jackson County, one from Madison County or Oglethorpe County.

The duly constituted nominating committee for 2015 consists of the following members:

Mrs. Howard McClure, Jr.
Maysville, GA • Banks County

Mr. Clay McDaniel
Bethlehem, GA • Barrow County

Dr. Lu Penn
Athens, GA • Clarke County

Mr. Quillon Butler
Auburn, GA • Gwinnett County

Ms. Alicia Williams
Braselton, GA • Gwinnett County

Mrs. Sherry Rogers
Chestnut Mountain, GA • Hall County

Mr. Tim Booth
Jefferson, GA • Jackson County

Mr. E.R. "Ronnie" Healan
Athens, GA • Jackson County

Mr. Steve Bates
Hull, GA • Madison County

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

"When I tasted this, I immediately became addicted. We go through a bag in about a week. I vary my recipe from time to time, making it spicier or less so."
- Amy Howard, Help Desk Analyst, @ Jackson EMC 16 years

Firecrackers

Ingredients:

1 box soda crackers
1 pkg dry ranch dressing
1 tablespoon Cayenne pepper
1 tablespoon Red Pepper Crushed
1 ¼ cup corn oil (cannot use olive oil; it is too heavy)

Instructions:

Place oil and dry ingredients in a one-gallon bag. Mix well; add all sleeves of crackers into bag. Seal, rotate bag often, then let them set overnight or all day. You can adjust amount of spices. Enjoy.



Submit Recipes to:

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

Granddaddy Carl's Bubbles A RECIPE FOR FUN!

Ingredients:

½ cup Joy dishwashing detergent
2 teaspoons sugar
¼ - ⅓ cup water

Instructions:

Gently mix. You can always add more Joy or water if needed. Be gentle handling the mixture so suds don't form. Fashion a wand from an old wire coat hanger or use a store-bought wand.

"We double or triple this recipe and pour in pie pans and use with large bubble wands that my Daddy made. We have such a fun time."

- Barbara Gooch, Corporate Reception,
@ Jackson EMC 30 years

Jackson EMC Offices

1000 Dawsonville Highway
Gainesville, GA
(770) 536-2415

85 Spratlin Mill Road
Hull, GA
(706) 548-5362

850 Commerce Road
Jefferson, GA
(706) 367-5281

461 Swanson Drive
Lawrenceville, GA
(770) 963-6166

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

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID

www.jacksonemc.com



www.twitter.com/jacksonemc



www.facebook.com/jacksonemc



Jackson EMC has the following equipment for sale to members and employees. Sealed bids will be accepted at Jackson EMC headquarters in Jefferson until 3 p.m., August 28, 2015, after which time bids will no longer be accepted. Jackson EMC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

These vehicles are being sold in "as is" condition with no written warranties. Vehicles may be viewed at the Jackson EMC office in Jefferson, located at 850 Commerce Highway, on Tuesday, August 18, and Thursday, August 20, between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Come by at these dates and times ONLY to view the equipment.

The list below contains the types and approximate quantities of the equipment and vehicles to be sold. All equipment and vehicles are retired from Jackson EMC's fleet and are generally five years or older with odometer readings above 100,000 miles. This list is subject to changes, additions and/or deletions. Standard bid sheets and a complete vehicle list will be provided in our main lobby on viewing dates.

11 Full-Size Pickups
($\frac{1}{2}$ T and $\frac{3}{4}$ T)

9 Mid-Size Pickups

5 Mid-Size Sedans (1 Hybrid)

3 Service Bucket Trucks

2 Derrick Trucks

1 Mini Van

1 SUV

1 Knuckleboom Truck

1 55' Bucket Truck

1 Panel Truck

1 Enclosed Trailer

1 Backup Generator - White engine, 55 kW (propane)