

Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
The power of human connections

New rates in effect, as of April 1

As stated by New-Mac CEO/General Manager Mitch McCumber at the cooperative's annual meeting this past October, a rate increase will occur in 2013.

It was thought the increase would likely occur in January, but New-Mac was able to postpone it to April. The unavoidable increase is now in effect, as of April 1, and will be reflected in the bill customers receive in May.

New-Mac residential customers will see their rate per kilowatt-hours billed go up less than half a cent – an increase of \$.004. Their monthly service availability fee (minimum bill) will go up \$5.

In spite of steadily increasing wholesale power costs from suppliers, as well as other costs, New-Mac had managed to hold rates stable since 2009. However,

New-Mac can no longer absorb these increased costs and must pass along a rate change in 2013. Still, this marks only the third general rate increase by New-Mac since 1991 and the first in four years.

While New-Mac customers have seen fewer increases than most Missouri utilities, the industry trend continues to be that of rising costs. New-Mac's suppliers have experienced higher costs for coal and building new power plants. Also, the expense of environmental regulations has been considerable. Since 1994, Associated has spent over \$1 billion to meet these ever-changing standards.

New-Mac encourages its customers to stay informed as legislators discuss and create policy that will affect the reliability

and affordability of electricity. By visiting ourenergy.coop (or clicking on the link from newmac.com), you can be informed of legislation and discussions in Washington that will affect the cost of energy in the future. You can also take action and let your local legislators know the cost of electricity is important to you with just the click of your mouse.

At New-Mac, we remain committed to our members. From constant upgrades, maintenance and right-of-way clearing to online bill payment and energy-efficiency rebates, we strive to provide reliability and service to our members. And perhaps with your help, and that of our national leaders, together we can keep the cost of electricity affordable for generations to come.

New-Mac shows how to be prepared

New-Mac Electric literally had an *eventful* pair of weekends in late March.

The co-op made stops at three trade shows in two weeks, attending both the HBA's Joplin Home Show and Neosho's Business & Industry Review the weekend of March 15-17, and then hit the

McDonald County Business Expo on March 23.

At each event, New-Mac informed attendees how to be prepared for severe weather. The co-op showcased items that would be helpful during storm season, such as a first-aid kit, weather radio and more. Visitors could also learn the process New-Mac uses in restoring power after damaging storms and about generator safety – with a double-throw switch on display and an actual generator provided by Lowe's.

Booth visitors could also see a new LED lighting product designed to come on during an outage. The *ReadyBright* lighting system consists of a plug-in outage detector that turns into a flashlight and sends a signal to mounted lights throughout your house if the power goes out. You can learn more about this product at www.mrbeams.com.



Above, Linda Crosby answers questions at the HBA Home Show. At left, the *ReadyBright* lighting system is inspected by show attendees.

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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

Please play it safe during Kite Month

April is National Kite Month, and as you enjoy this recreation, New-Mac Electric encourages all to keep safety in mind.

The windy days of spring provide ideal kite flying conditions, however these gusts can bring about risks if kite-flyers fail to use sound judgment.

Kite safety begins with the selection of a good location, such as an open field away from power lines. Kites should always be kept a lengthy distance from power lines – since they often stray from their intended course. If your kite does come in contact with power lines, let go of it immediately! Never attempt to retrieve a kite that is tangled in power lines.

However, there's more to kite safety than simply avoiding power lines. Kites should never be flown in stormy weather. Always fly kites made of wood, paper or plastic – never use metal when making a kite, and only use dry string.

Remember, an enjoyable day of kite flying is a safe one.

Mulch available

Just in time for spring landscaping, New-Mac Electric has mulch available for \$5 per scoop. Anyone interested should call the Neosho office (451-1515) and ask for Susan or Tobey so arrangements can be made to assist you.



Darrell Sprenkle's tractors can be seen from Highway 60 in a "V" formation around his pond.

Once-abandoned tractors now a familiar sight on local highway

Sprenkle's collection came from 'keeping eyes open'

The weeds have done a lot for Darrell Sprenkle's tractor collection.

Because of, yes, the weeds many readers of this very newsletter are aware of the aforementioned tractors, although you may not know Sprenkle.

His tractors are hard to miss – on the north side of Highway 60 just a few miles east of Granby. They're the ones spread across the field in a V-pattern around the pond.

Sprenkle says he sees people stopped beside the road all the time taking pictures. In the summer, there are multiple visitors every week that drive up to the house and ask if they can walk out and snap a few pics, and he tells them, "Shoot, yes. That field doesn't get muddy. Just drive out there and take all the pictures you want to take."

The weeds are the reason his tractors are arranged in such fashion. The farm machinery used to just be grouped together out in the field.

"In the summer time, the weeds would get to where you couldn't see the tractors," said Sprenkle. "So, probably five or six years ago, I came up with the idea. We have 40 acres here and don't have any cattle, so I took all the fences out, and I try to keep it mowed like a park. After I built the lake, I just came up with the idea to line them up."

His collection is quite an assortment, including *Allis-Chalmers*, *Ford* and *John Deere* from the 1940s-1960s. He's got 35 around the pond, and about that many in a back pasture. But there are some tractors you won't find in his possession.

"I don't like tractors on steel wheels, and I don't like tractors that you have to crank," he said. "So everything that I have has got a battery and a starter and has got rubber tires on it. I don't have any urge to ride on a steel-wheel tractor, and I don't have an interest at all in any steam engine or anything like that."

Although his tractors are equipped with the typical modern features, Sprenkle's tractors are still not what you'd call common.

"I only collect stuff that ordinarily you don't see when you go to a tractor show."

What you will find is a lot of *firsts*, and he's got

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Darrell stands beside one of the first tractors *Ford* put out with a cab.

○ Tractors

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a story to go with each and every one of them.

He's got the first diesel tractor put out by both *Ford* and *Allis-Chalmers*. He's got the first tractor made with over 100 horsepower and *Allis-Chalmers'* first model with power-steering.

He's got a road grader that *Allis-Chalmers* only made for cities to use. "*Allis Chalmers* built 3,500 of those," he said "That's all they built."

Among his accumulation, you'll also find one of *Ford's* first cabs on a tractor, and *Allis-Chalmers'* first turbo-charged tractor.

Let's not forget *Ford's* first power-shift model, that also happens to be the first sporting the company's distinctive blue and gray colors.

As he finds opportunity, Darrell spends time on one tractor after another out in his shop.

"I love it out here," he said. "This is my home away from home. This is my relaxation, and this is my workhouse."

He's pretty handy with a wrench. He used to run a body shop years ago. Nowadays, he tinkers on his tractors and bulldozers. Both he and Karen have their own dozer, and together they've ran their family bulldozing business since 1992.

"I do all my own mechanic work, even on the dozers," he said.

The dozing business also has factored into his tractor collection. You see, one might think Darrell has travelled far and wide to assemble such an impressive array of antiques, but that's not the case. Once again, the weeds play a big part in this story.

"When I'm dozing for somebody, there will be something sitting out in the weeds or the brush or out behind the barns. That's where most all of this has come from. It's stuff that people have quit using, and I've got an interest in it."

Of course, tractors aren't the only things he's found. Darrell also has "probably 7 or 8" old cars, including a 1951 Chevrolet.

"That's my pride and joy," he said. "It's 6-cylinder and it's got dual exhaust. It will rattle windows like you wouldn't believe."

But there's no doubting his love for tractors. He's also has a collection of around 2,500 toys sold by tractor dealers. He's got antique tools and pop bottles and much more that he's found just by keeping his eyes open.

"I'm just always looking," he said. "I like old cars, and I like old tractors."

It's amazing what you can find in the weeds.



Above, Sprenkle's collection includes this *Allis-Chalmers* road grader that was one of 3,500 made for cities across the country. At left, he tries to keep air in all the tractors' tires, which is a never-ending task with around 70 tractors.

Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

JAZZED UP BOX OF MAC & CHEESE

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Renee Gotviagehya**

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 can cream of mushroom soup | 1 tsp mustard (Dijon is suggested) |
| 1 cup milk | 1 box macaroni and cheese |
| 4 Tbsp butter | pepper (black) to taste |
| 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce | your choice of accompaniments |

This is a sauce that will cover your macaroni as well as your favorite meat or vegetable dish. You can use it on just about anything (e.g., meatballs, Italian sausage, chicken, ground beef, broccoli, green beans). Have your choice dish and macaroni (from box) prepared before you begin. Simmer together soup, milk, butter, Worcestershire and mustard. Add cheese packet from mac-and-cheese box and pepper. Pour over macaroni and accompaniments. Serve hot.

Send your recipe, along with your name and account number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or recipes@new-mac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

Storm season is here

Cooperative carries variety of surge protection options

Unfortunately, in Southwest Missouri, we know spring means storms, and storms can mean lightning.

Lightning strikes to homes or nearby locations are the primary cause of damage to electronics and appliances. However, a properly installed surge-suppression system can significantly reduce the threat to these items in your home.

As a customer service, New-Mac Electric offers a full line of surge protection. Devices are available for customizing protection to fit almost any residential need.

As a starting point of protection, New-Mac can provide members with a suppression device

installed at the meter. This device, known as a surge diverter, provides protection for your home's major appliances, such as refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes washers. The surge diverter is available to New-Mac members for a monthly lease of \$5 (plus a \$25 installation charge). While the surge diverter does cover the home's larger appliances, it does not guard against damage incurred through phone lines, coax connections or any other path lightning may take.

Phone lines and coax connections can be addressed with various surge-suppression strips, available at both New-Mac offices.



Above, the surge diverter, which is installed by New-Mac behind your meter, provides protection to your home's major appliances. Entertainment-center electronics need to be connected to a strip, such as the 4PT, at left.



These strips compliment the surge diverter by guarding against damage coming from other entry points. Or, these plug-in surge strips can offer stand-alone coverage for sensitive electronics, although customers need to make sure to use the proper device for their needs.

Most of the protection devices offered by New-Mac also carry 10-year warranties. So, if damage does occur when an electronic item is properly connected to a suppression device, New-Mac will submit the claim for you to the surge-protection man-



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Office Hours: Neosho — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Anderson — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or visit us on the Web at www.newmac.com.

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Services Provided to Members

Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:
Autowithdrawal Payment
Levelized Billing
Rental Light
Meeting rooms available at both locations
Credit Card Acceptance
Safety Programs (upon request)
Surge Protection
Green Power

Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO
mrakes@newmac.com

ufacturer (Contact our office for more warranty details).

For more information or advice on choosing the right protection, visit with or call New-Mac's consumer-services representatives at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.

Safe Kids Day set May 3 at Newton Co. Health Department

New-Mac Electric invites kids of all ages to attend Neosho's annual Safe Kids Day, scheduled for May 3 from 3-6 p.m. in the parking lot of the Newton County Health Department.

Businesses, groups and emergency responders from across the area work together to put on this event, focusing on keeping kids safe.

Parents will be able to get their children's fingerprints & a photo ID. There will be safety demonstrations, kids games, activities and lots of prizes and freebies. A \$1 donation is requested for the photo ID, but there is no charge for most of the activities.

Each year, New-Mac Electric does its part

by teaching kids to respect electricity around the home. The co-op also brings one of its big yellow bucket trucks, so kids can see what linemen use to restore power.

For more information on Safe Kids Day, contact the Newton County Health Department at (417) 451-3743.