

# newsletter

*Serving the Members of Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation*

## Ocmulgee EMC's Operation Round Up keeps on giving



**O**peration Round Up continues to receive tremendous support from the membership of Ocmulgee EMC. This allows the Ocmulgee EMC Foundation Board to make a large ongoing impact in the communities served by Ocmulgee EMC. Each member who participates in this program is to be commended and should take great pride in the projects supported by ORU funds.

Operation Round Up was started by the Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina in 1998. Since then, more than 200 electric co-ops, including Ocmulgee EMC, have followed the pattern. Cooperatives have collected and dispensed more than \$45 million to date through this wonderful program. These monies have been donated back to local communities to help fund education, recreation and a wide variety of other community development projects.

Ocmulgee EMC started its ORU program in 2005.



Tom Cranford and Wilbur Garrett of the Ocmulgee EMC Foundation Board present a grant to Matt Walker of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Dodge County in 2006.

Our cooperative has generated and donated back \$352,576.31, as of December 2011. Each participating member donates, on average, approximately \$5.89 annually to this fund.

The program still has its original board members:

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Rivers Alive of Pulaski County receives a grant in 2005 from Patsy Manning, Jimmie Lee Davis, Mary Ellen Wilson and Sharon Williams.



Phyllis Dykes and Sharon Williams deliver a check to the Bleckley County High School Band in 2010.

# How to boost the efficiency of mobile homes

BY BRIAN SLOBODA

**M**anufactured homes, sometimes dubbed mobile homes, often log disproportionately higher energy bills than traditional wood-frame or modular homes. You can take steps to help manage energy costs and increase comfort.

There isn't a magic bullet to lower the energy consumption of a manufactured home. It takes time and hard work to troubleshoot all the possible causes of energy loss. The most common culprits and ways to remedy them are:

- **Belly board problems**—In most manufactured homes, the belly board holds the insulation in place under the floor and serves as a vapor barrier. Plumbing that runs under the floor is on the warm side of the insulation to keep it from freezing in winter. However, the belly board can be damaged by animals, deteriorate over time or become torn, allowing the floor insulation to become moisture laden or fall out, exposing ductwork and dramatically increasing energy losses. Often, there is also long-term water damage from leaky pipes, toilets and showers. Replacing the belly board and repairing leaky plumbing should be first on your to-do list.
- **Air leakage/infiltration**—Infiltration of excessive outside air can be a major concern. Specific problems include deteriorated weather stripping; gaps in the “marriage wall” that joins multiple units making up the home; holes in the ends of ducts; gaps around wall registers and behind washers and dryers; and unsealed backing to the electrical panel. This is a dirty job and will require you to crawl under the home and into the attic looking for gaps. Gaps can be filled with weather stripping and insulation.
- **Crossover ducts**—Sealing the ducts that run under the sections making up your mobile home will result in tremendous energy savings and increased comfort. Crossover ducts are often made of flexible tubing and are, therefore, prone to collapse. Plus, they are easy for animals to chew or claw into. Crossover ducts made of thin sheet metal can leak heated or cooled air to the great outdoors, especially when ductwork connections are made with duct tape. Repairs are generally easy, using either a special duct sealant or metal tape that can be found at most home improvement stores. If you can afford the upgrade, consider replacing a flexible crossover duct with metal ductwork.
- **Lack of insulation**—Insulation levels and associated R-values in walls, floors and ceilings of manufactured homes can be woefully inadequate. If it is

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY



Sealing your manufactured home, or mobile home, may take a few weekends and several hundred dollars, but what you'll save on energy costs will be worth it.

easily accessible, adding additional insulation to ceiling and floors will help. However, adding insulation to walls will be a problem without major renovations that are often not cost justified.

- **Uninsulated ductwork**—Ductwork itself may not be wrapped with insulation, allowing heating and cooling losses. Wrapping ductwork will lead to energy savings. You should be able to find insulation specifically made for ductwork at your local hardware store.
- **Single-glazed windows and uninsulated doors**—Most manufactured homes come with single-glazed windows and uninsulated doors, which have a low R-value. Replacing the windows with double- or triple-glazed windows or adding storm windows will help make the home more comfortable. An insulated door also increases energy efficiency. However, these solutions can be very expensive. At a minimum, you should add weather stripping to doors and windows. Also, a window film kit is an inexpensive, easy-to-install upgrade that will help keep winter winds out of the home.

Savings of up to 50 percent have been reported in manufactured homes that have been properly sealed and had old electric furnaces replaced with new electric heat pumps. The key is to get out there and start hunting for the savings lurking under and inside your manufactured home.

*Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

## Operation Round Up,

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Mary Ellen Wilson, chairman; Wilbur Garrett, vice chairman; Tom Cranford, secretary-treasurer; Jimmie Lee Davis, Patsy Manning, Phyllis Dykes and Sharon Williams. They are very conscientious and judicious in their role as overseers of the program. The Ocmulgee EMC Board of Directors and staff are grateful to this group for the time and energy they give to this cooperative program.

Disbursements for October 2011 included \$4,413.75 to Dodge County High School to purchase calculators and other technology items and \$6,000 to the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Recreation Department to install an irrigation system at their complex in Hartford. The January 2012 awards were \$1,000 to the Heart of Georgia Technical College Foundation, \$2,500 to the Eastman/Dodge Recreation Department and \$1,241.30 to the Dodge County Indian Baseball Club.

As a reminder to groups or organizations wishing to apply for funds, the Operation Round Up Foundation Board meets on the fourth Thursday in January, April, July and October. The deadline to submit an application is the first day of each of those months. The applications are reviewed at the regularly scheduled meetings and applicants are notified as funds are awarded.

Applications are available at the office of Ocmulgee EMC, 5722 Eastman St., Eastman, GA. For more information about the program, call (478) 374-7001 or visit our website at [www.ocmulgeemc.com](http://www.ocmulgeemc.com).

## Employee Recognition

**Rex McRae**

Engineering — 18 years

**Debra Proffitt**

Office Services — 32 years

**Stanley Smith**

Operations — 22 years

**Ricky Jones**

Office Services — 12 years

**Karen Harper**

Engineering — 10 years

**Robbie Peacock**

Operations — 7 years

**Clay Woods**

Operations — 7 years

**Chan Rogers**

Operations — 11 years

**Jane Warnock**

Accounting — 11 years

**Tracy Catoe**

Office Services — 8 years

**Brett Grenade**

Operations — 2 years

**T.J. Nguyen**

Office Services — 2 years

**Chris Brown**

Operations — 1 year

***Thanks for your hard work  
and continued dedication!***



***Holiday closing***

The office of Ocmulgee EMC will be closed on Friday, April 6, 2012, in observance of Good Friday. We will reopen Monday, April 9, 2012, at 8 a.m. Personnel will be on call to handle a power outage or emergency. In the case of a power outage or emergency, call (478) 374-7001 or (800) 342-5509.



## Ocmulgee EMC supports EMC/FFA Career Development Event

The EMC/FFA Career Development Event (CDE) is an annual collaborative competition involving the Georgia EMCs and the Georgia Agriculture Education/Georgia FFA Association. Each of Georgia's six Agriculture Education regions has an area contest, with the top two finishers from each region advancing to the state competition in January at the FFA/FCCLA center in Covington. Ocmulgee is pleased to have great participation year after year in Area III from the three high schools in its service territory: Bleckley County, Dodge County and Hawkinsville.

Local high school agriculture education instructors choose an outstanding student each year from their electrical wiring classes for the EMC/FFA Career Development Event. These instructors work closely with the students to master the three parts of the wiring contest—a wiring problem, a problem-solving portion and a speech demonstration.



Joseph Rozar measures it close.

For this very demanding contest, students must possess the academic knowledge of the code requirements to properly design and size the conductors and devices for the given problem. They must have the practical ability to build a workable problem that encompasses mounting service entrance panels, breakers, switches, receptacles, lights and wire in a set amount of time. Each contestant must also develop the leadership and public-speaking skills to stand before a panel of judges and explain in four to six minutes how to build a complex wiring problem, from start to finish.

The EMC/FFA Wiring Contest, as it was known then, started in the early 1960s. Skip Yow, a Carroll EMC employee, developed plans for a local electrical wiring contest. In 1966, an area contest was held, with the support of five North Georgia EMCs.

The first statewide contest took place at Flint Energies' office in Reynolds in 1968. That year, 350 students from 116 FFA chapters participated on the area level.

Over the years, the program has helped thousands of young men and women learn a skill and trade and improve themselves through the hard work and determination it takes to compete in the EMC/FFA Career Development Event. In addition to gaining knowledge and building character, students are also awarded scholarships for winning at the area and state levels. Area winners receive \$500 for first place and \$300 for second; contestants at the state CDE receive \$1,000 for finishing first, \$750 for second and \$500 for third.

Phil Bearden, member services representative with Ocmulgee EMC, recently presented FFA advisers for chapters at Bleckley County (Walt Parks), Dodge County (Tom Cranford) and Hawkinsville (Philip McKie) high schools with a current copy of the National Electrical Code (see photos below). Bearden states, "These FFA advisers/ag instructors are to be commended for their hard work and dedication in preparing students for the opportunity to be successful at the area contest. This is a difficult, but rewarding, event for the teachers and students."



Eli Belflower works diligently to beat the clock at the Area III contest.

