

Mitchell



A Community Partner
for Over 75 Years

EMC

VOL. 51 NO. 2

CAMILLA, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY 2014



*Continuing to grow
toward tomorrow...*

Meeting the changing needs of our members is an important goal for Mitchell EMC. Accomplishment of that goal is an on-going challenge. Fortunately, we have the knowledge and expertise to meet that challenge. We are frequently upgrading equipment and facilities to meet those changing needs and demands. Mitchell EMC's Cotton Substation, located in Mitchell County has recently been replaced by a totally new facility.

The original substation was acquired in 1958 and could handle a load of 6.25 mva of

electricity. That was a lot of light bulbs. Yet, with increasing technologies, like large screen TVs and larger appliances, demanding more and more electricity, updates were required to reduce the risk of members in that area experiencing problems. Today's new substation has the potential to manage 10 mva with that capacity easily doubled without major construction overhauls.

This is just one more example of how Mitchell EMC is continuing to meet the changing needs of our members.





Why Animals and Power Don't Mix

By Megan McKoy-Noe



What do birds, squirrels, and power outages have in common? Animals trigger 11 percent of power outages across the nation.

“Our members sometimes shake their heads in disbelief when I blame a squirrel for an outage,” shares Charles Gilbert, Safety/Loss Coordinator at Mitchell EMC. “We spend nearly \$5,000 every year addressing animal management and removal.”

To ensure safe, reliable power delivery (and healthy wildlife), Mitchell EMC goes to great lengths to keep animals away from electricity.

Animal Attraction

Electricity seeks the fastest route to the ground. Utility pole insulators keep power flowing safely in your neighborhood, but unwitting squirrels offer high-voltage electricity a way around insulators. If a squirrel doesn't jump far enough, a powerful electric current—up to 12,500 volts—makes the squirrel a conduit to the ground. The squirrel does not survive.

If a squirrel's body falls to the ground, the power blinks but stays on. If it falls into equipment, like a transformer, safety measures shut off power. Mitchell EMC sends a lineworker to remove the animal and restore power.

Squirrels are the main culprit, but they're not alone. Opossums, raccoons, foxes, snakes, birds, and other animals trigger outages, too.

Animal attraction to power infrastructure hurts animals and leaves frustrated Mitchell EMC members in the dark. Clean up, recovery, and restoring power costs utilities between \$15 and \$18 million a year, estimates Tyco Electronics, a utility equipment firm.

Grid Guardians

No one wants wildlife hurt. Eighty percent of electric co-ops, public power districts, and public utility districts install animal guards to protect equipment and wayward animals.

Animal guards are not foolproof. But the measures help drive down the number of outages caused by animals. Another option is building habitats to help animals and power safely co-exist.

Causes of Co-op Power Interruptions

Power outages may be caused by car accidents damaging poles or other unknown factors. But bad weather remains the primary cause.

Per number of interruptions:	
Weather	31%
Equipment	14%
Maintenance	12%
Animals	11%
Planned Outages	7%
Other	7%
Power Supply	5%
Public	5%

Source: NRECA



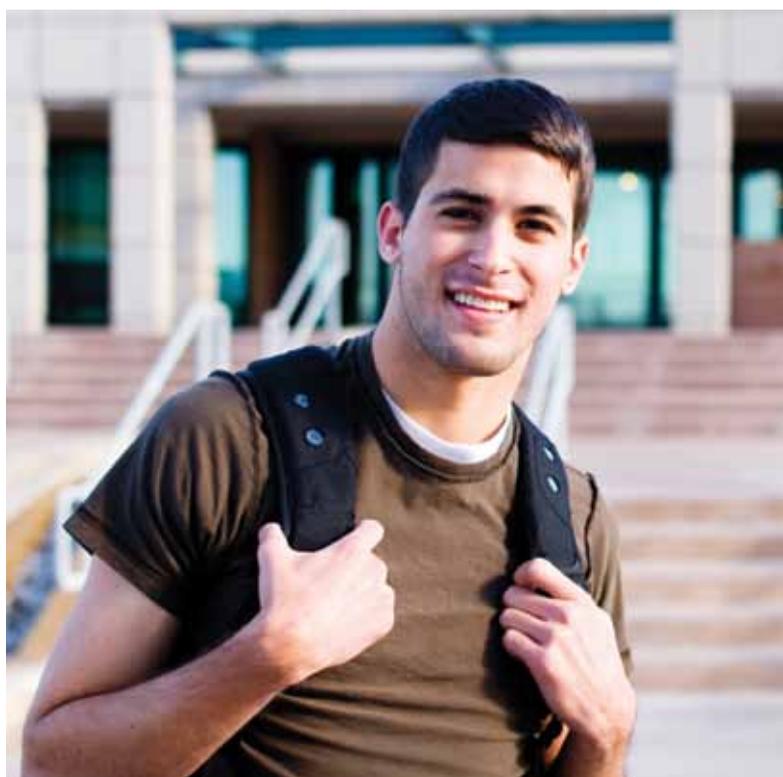
Top Co-op Prevention Plans

Tree Trimming	87%
Lightning arrestors	81%
Line patrol	81%
Animal/squirrel guards	80%
Covered Jumper Wires	64%
Grounding improvement	59%
Consumer education	56%
Converted Overhead to Underground	35%

Source: NRECA



Calling All High School Seniors for Scholarship Opportunities



*W*hat better way to invest in the future than by investing in the outstanding youth of our communities? Mitchell EMC members who enroll in Operation Round UP are doing exactly that by providing scholarships to deserving students. Participating members allow us to round their electric bills up to the nearest whole dollar amount. Though it may not seem like much, those funds added together make a huge positive difference in our local community.

Applications are being accepted through March 1, 2014. For more information, please visit our website at www.mitchellemc.com. Applications are available in the MyCommunity tab under Operation RoundUP Scholarships.

NOW AVAILABLE AT MITCHELL EMC

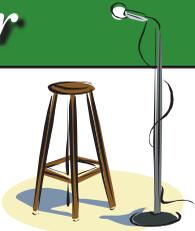
Prepaid metering is a pay-as-you-go alternative to traditional electric service with a monthly bill. Once the account is set up, you can pay as frequently as you like, as much as you like.

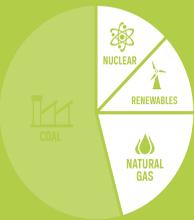
- ★ Eliminate deposits, monthly bills and late fees
- ★ Receive balance notices by email or text message
- ★ Pay what you want, when you want

For more information, please call our office at (229) 336-5221 or email info@mitchellemc.com



Community Calendar

<p>February 28</p>	<p>Pelham's Got Talent, 7 pm, Pelham High School Auditorium. Contact Pelham Chamber at (229) 294-4924 for more info.</p> 
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1. 

ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE ABOVE
The Administration is reversing course: ditching our All-of-the-Above energy strategy for an All-But-One approach that bans new coal plants.

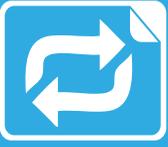
2. 

TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE
New regulations essentially require technology that's **not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive**—leading to higher bills down the line.

TOP 4 FACTS ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

3. 

LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY
By banning new coal plants, Americans forfeit a **236-year domestic source of energy** with a historically stable price.

4. 

HISTORY REPEATS: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK
A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas & forced utilities into coal or nuclear—before common sense prevailed and it was repealed 9 years later.

Mitchell EMC *Recipes*



Lemon Poppy Seed Chicken

Ingredients

- 2 cups uncooked white rice
- 4 1/4 cups water
- 5 tablespoons butter, divided
- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cubed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon poppy seeds
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 whole sleeve round buttery crackers, crushed

Directions

1. In a medium pot combine rice, water and 1 tablespoon of butter, bring to a boil and cover, reduce heat and simmer until all liquid is absorbed, about 20 minutes.
2. Heat olive oil in a large saucepan, sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper and sauté until done.
3. Combine soup, sour cream, milk, poppy seeds and lemon juice.
4. Spread rice in a 9 x 13 baking dish, top with chicken then soup mixture.
5. Melt remaining 4 tablespoons of butter and combine with cracker crumbs, spread on top of casserole.
6. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes or until bubbly.

**Win \$25
Credit!**

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a \$25 credit on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to Sunny Cochran, Mitchell EMC,
P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to
sunny.cochran@mitchellemc.com.