

Mitchell



EMC

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The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Mitchell Electric Membership Corporation

79th Annual Meeting

April 15, 2016

Mitchell EMC Auditorium

475 Cairo Road, Camilla, GA 31730

Registration 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

FREE GIFTS to the first 500 consumers to register

Information Booths 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Entertainment Omega Quartet 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Business Meeting 2:00 p.m.



Door Prizes and Grand Prize immediately following the business meeting.
Registration closes promptly at 2:00 p.m. You must be registered
and present to win a door prize.

The Evolution of Your Electric Meter

By Tom Tate

Aside from the poles and wires, the electric meter is probably the most recognized part of your cooperative's delivery system. This device is an integral part of the objective Mitchell EMC has in providing the highest possible quality electric service at the lowest possible cost. Without the meter, we would be forced to rely on less reliable and less equitable methods of calculating the cost of each member's electric service.

Like all technology, the electric meter has evolved over the years. The original style of meter would make a watchmaker proud. It relies upon an intricate set of gears to accurately measure the amount of electricity used in the same way a mechanical watch relies on its gears to tell time. Many members will recognize the flat spinning dial, its black mark rotating under the glass cover and the set of dial hands moving. So, how does this electro-mechanical type of meter function?

The rotating disk is mounted to a geared vertical shaft set between a pair of electro-magnets. The flow of electricity through the meter causes the magnets to power up, and their interaction makes the disk rotate. The speed of rotation depends on the amount of electricity used at the time. The shaft meshes with the gear train that turns the dial hands. The first dial registers in increments of single kilowatt hours (kWh), the next dial registers 10 kWh, then 100 and so forth up to 10,000 kWh.

Highly accurate and reliable, the drawback to the mechanical meter is that a human must read the consumption and input it into a billing system, a process both time intensive and susceptible to human error.

The next major evolution of the meter came with the introduction of an electronic module. This module is added to the mechanical meter just described. It reads the rotations of the meter's flat dial and captures that data in memory. At regular intervals, this module reports consumption via the power lines or radio signals to the electric co-op's offices where it is automatically entered into the billing system. This advancement eliminates human error and greatly reduces costs for the cooperative.

The all-digital meter reflects the current stage of meter evolution. As the name suggests, there are no longer any gears and rotating disks. Using electronics, the meter measures the use of electricity, stores the data and reports that data in the same manner as the electronic module. In a little homage to the original spinning disk, many digital meters replicate that feature with a series of horizontal bars that march across the face of the display. Depending upon the meter make, the member can use a button to cycle through the display to get basic service data.

So where will meters go from here? It seems that the next step in meter evolution will depend largely upon how far the smart home develops. As ever more appliances, devices and even light bulbs become accessible via the Internet, members may drive the development of a new generation of meters that can also communicate with their smart phone, tablet or PC. Seems like we'll have to wait and see, but it should be interesting. Rest assured, Mitchell EMC will make the best use of available technology to control costs, render accurate bills and keep your service quality high.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

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The Trickle-Up Effect

State regulations often precede federal rules

Several environmental issues stirring national debate that have an impact on electric cooperatives—renewable portfolio standards (RPS) for electric utilities, hydraulic fracturing of shale gas reserves, haze regulations, and more—once had taken on state-level or regional importance before they reached Congress.

For example, legislative and regulatory oversight of hydraulic fracturing (also called fracking) for natural gas found in shale deposits has been primarily a state concern—whether to approve drilling permits and how to alleviate local road and infrastructure damage. Then claims surfaced connecting fracking to groundwater contamination and increased methane emissions. While bills have been introduced in the 112th Congress to promote shale gas extraction, there's now also a push for federal oversight of these operations.

Before (so far unsuccessful) congressional proposals to impose a federal RPS reached a floor debate in Congress a few years ago, 29 states and the District of Columbia had already adopted their own RPS laws that require utilities to add increasing amounts of “clean and green” electricity to their retail power supply mix (ranging from 10 percent to 40 percent) by a certain date (mostly between 2015 and 2030); eight other states have adopted renewable energy goals. Since the economic downturn, congressional debate shifted from an RPS to a broader clean energy standard (CES) that includes renewables (such as wind, solar, and hydro) along with high-efficiency natural gas turbines (when replacing coal-burning power plants), coal-fired stations equipped with carbon capture and stor-

age capabilities, and nuclear power. CES proponents plan to renew their push to get Congress to pass legislation this year.

Of course, state legislation sometimes mimics federal trends. In the wake of congressional debate on the role of clean coal technology, several states enacted bills that provide incentives for clean coal generation. Some states have also required utilities to prepare for the addition of carbon capture and sequestration equipment to coal plants.

In other situations, states may develop more affordable solutions than federal alternatives. A 2011 regulatory battle in North Dakota pitted a state regional haze plan against an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program that would have cost consumers an extra \$800 million with little to show for the investment.

Although North Dakota air quality is consistently within EPA's health-based standards, the agency sought to intervene, despite the fact that the state regional haze program provides a reasonable implementation schedule that has resulted in significant improvements. When Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which generates and delivers power to 135 electric distribution cooperatives in nine states, put its grassroots network into action, EPA backed off efforts aimed at forcing the Roughrider State to impose requirements that would lead to the installation of expensive, but unnecessary, equipment.

No matter where environmental legislation gets its start, it can lead to higher electric bills. Learn about regulatory issues affecting you and find out how your voice can make a difference with lawmakers at www.ourenergy.coop.

COOPERATIVE

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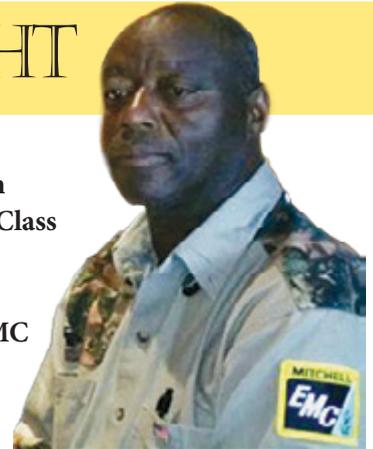
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Employee SPOTLIGHT



Tommy Floyd is Mitchell EMC's March Employee Spotlight. Tommy is a Lineman 1st Class in the Sylvester Office, and has been employed with MEMC for 20 years.

One of my memorable events at Mitchell EMC was being recognized on Veterans Day. "The respect that Mitchell EMC showed



our Veteran employees really made my day," said Tommy.

Tommy served in the Army from 1978 until 1991.

He served as Staff Sargent and completed a tour in Grenada.



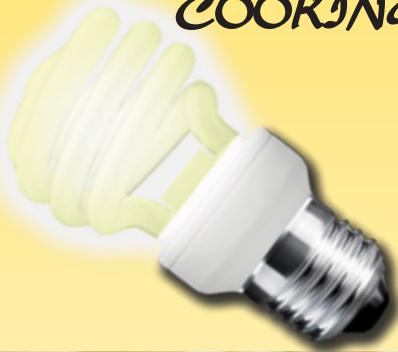
Note: If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status.

M/F/V/DV/D

WATT'S COOKING



Million Dollar Pie

Ingredients:

- 1 can Eagle brand milk
- 1 small can crushed pineapple
- 4 tbsp lemon juice
- 8 oz cool whip
- 1 cup pecans

Combine all ingredients and pour into a graham cracker pie shell. Chill for 1 hour.

Thanks!

to **Bertha Simmons**,
Mitchell County, GA,
for sharing this recipe.

Share & Win!

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 Heather Greene, P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.