

ARK VALLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

the FLASH

Monthly Readership Drawing

KENT L. MOORE is the winner of our monthly \$25 readership drawing.

Kent, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley Electric before September 30 and give us your account number.

Automatic Bank Draft

No Hassles, No Stamps, No Worries...

Forget the hassle of trying to manage your utility bill along with many other bills you receive each month.

Save a stamp. Never worry about whether you paid your electric bill or not. Enroll in Ark Valley's Automatic Bank Draft Plan today and you will be surprised at how easy and convenient paying your monthly electric bill will be.

All you have to do is fill out a short form and mail it along with a voided check or deposit slip to the address listed on the bottom of the form.

You can pick up a copy of the form at our office located on 10th Street in South Hutchinson or download it on our website, www.arkvalley.com.

Get started today. For more information, please call 620-662-6661.

Holiday Office Closing

Ark Valley Electric office will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 6. If you experience an outage, please call 888-297-9212.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular monthly meeting at the Cooperative's office in South Hutchinson on Monday, July 26, 2010.

The Board was informed that, unfortunately, on Saturday, July 3, 2010, at approximately 2:30 p.m., a one-vehicle accident occurred during an outage call involving an Ark Valley bucket truck.

Truck number 24 slid downhill on Avenue H, west of Little River, due to mud. After the truck slid into the ditch, the truck rolled over onto its side. Luckily, nobody sustained any injuries, but the truck was totaled. Interestingly enough, the sheriff deputy who responded to the scene also slid into the ditch. Although his patrol car was not damaged, he managed to get it stuck. No ticket was issued.

Insurance agreed to pay a reasonable amount for the accident considering the age and depreciation of the vehicle. The cooperative will begin soliciting bids for the replacement of the totaled truck, as well as for another bucket truck that was already scheduled to be

retired next year.

It was also noted during the meeting that Ark Valley will begin taking bids from anyone interested in purchasing the damaged truck.

The Board of Trustees extended an invitation to David Hedrick to make a presentation to the board at next month's meeting to review a study concerning how the FEMA rebuild project and the increased electric rates from KEPCo, the entity that provides wholesale power to Ark Valley, have impacted Ark Valley's revenue.

KEPCo's rates have increased and Ark Valley staff suspects they will continue to increase. Consequently, Ark Valley will be forced to adjust its electric rates or monthly meter charges in order to compensate for its loss of income.

However, before any change is made to existing rates or service charges, Ark Valley will give every customer prior notification of an open meeting at which the Board would discuss possible increase scenarios.

The next regular Board of Trustees meeting will be held Monday, August 30, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Use the moisture sensor feature on your clothes dryer if it has one. This option shuts down the dryer when clothes are dry. In addition, clean the lint filter after each load. This improves air circulation and increases the dryer's efficiency.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Truck For Sale

Nisly Auction Company
Pleasant View, Kansas

- ▶ 2003 Chevy 2500 ¾ Ton
- ▶ Regular Cab
- ▶ 4x4 Pick-Up Truck with Service Body
- ▶ 140,000 miles
- ▶ Tool bed—like new



The truck currently has 140,000 miles.



The tool bed is in excellent condition.



This truck will be available for auction on September 18.

This truck will be sold at the auction on September 18, 2010. For those unable to attend, silent bids must be received prior to September 18 at the following address:

Ark Valley Electric Co-op
PO Box 1246
Hutchinson, KS 67504-1246

Giefer Attends Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

LISA GIEFER joined youth from across Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 17-23, 2010, in Steamboat Springs, CO.

Giefer was selected from a group of high school applicants by Ark Valley Electric Cooperative. To win this trip, students were asked to complete an application and present an essay to a panel of judges.

“Ark Valley is proud to support the Youth Tour program and send our youth to develop essential leadership and teamwork skills,” said Melinda Thomas, Youth Tour Coordinator. “Our hope is that local students gain awareness of how our electric cooperatives work and how important it is for the youth to be involved in our community.”

During their week-long stay in Colorado, the students created a complete candy cooperative. They established a board of trustees and a general manager that held daily membership meetings. When students arrived at camp, they elected the board and manager and paid dues. In the evenings, they marketed their product at the canteen. At the end of the week



Lisa Giefer spent a week in Colorado representing Ark Valley Electric.

the group decided how to handle any profit margins.

The campers also took part in legislative presentations, a light and high voltage display, and a competition to build a transmission line. They explored the Steamboat Village, Old Town Steamboat Springs, went white water rafting, and toured the Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

“The students this year exhibited amazing leadership potential,” Shana Holsteen, Kansas Electric Cooperatives Director of Communications said.

“Throughout the week, campers developed their leadership skills and learned about electric cooperatives through camp activities. It is amazing to see how much the students’ skills grow in just one week.”

Ark Valley sponsors the trip for one student each year. For more information, contact Melinda Thomas at 620-662-6661.



Students from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming learned leadership and teamwork skills at camp.

Please Do Not Remove or Damage Ark Valley's Line Construction Surveyor Stakes

You may have noticed stakes with red ribbons in your area. Ark Valley is rebuilding lines damaged by the December 2007 ice storm. Thanks to the help of a FEMA grant, almost 46 million dollars is being spent on the rebuilding—which will result in better service for our members and lower maintenance costs for the system.

Lower maintenance costs impact rates, so consumers will get a double benefit. Plus, people will also enjoy having fewer outages.


In the past, some isolated

disturbing of the stakes has caused us to have to pay engineers to redo the staking. Costs of vandalism are borne by the consumer, because the consumers own the cooperative.

Ark Valley members have given us wonderful cooperation and help during the storm recovery and rebuilding effort. We truly appreciate that spirit of cooperation. Therefore, everybody should have an interest in making sure those stakes are not removed or damaged, because it ends up costing you—the consumer.

Reminder: Don't Forget Your Payment Stub

10 East 10th Street - Phone: 620-662-6661
Account # _____
Amount Due _____
Amount Due After _____

 **ARK VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP ASSN.**
PO Box 1246
Hutchinson KS 67504-1246

ARK VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP ASSN.
PO Box 1246
Hutchinson KS 67504-1246

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT STATEMENT IS PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT

Send your payment stub with every bill payment.

Please remember to send your payment stub(s) along with your payments to ensure your payments are applied to the correct accounts. If you send us your payment only, you risk having it applied incorrectly.

Do We Have Your Current Phone Number?

To better serve you in case of an outage, your most current phone number must be in our system. Please complete the information below and return it along with your electric payment or contact us at 620-662-6661. Thank you!

Please print the information as it appears on your bill:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account Number: _____

Current Phone Number: _____

Life-Support During an Electrical Outage

For some electric cooperative members, service is more than a convenience; it is a necessity. Your electric cooperative realizes that some homes are equipped with life-sustaining medical equipment that requires a reliable source of power.

Our commitment to you is to provide electric service safely and with as few interruptions as possible. Unfortunately, it is impossible to guarantee uninterrupted power 100 percent of the time. Each year, events—some beyond our control—occur and cause power outages.

If your health or well-being depends on electric supply, we offer the following suggestions and strongly encourage you to implement them:

- ▶ **Obtain a back-up source of power recommended by the manufacturer** of any life sustaining or critical care equipment you may have in your home. For example, battery back-ups or standby generators can provide you with electric power if service from the cooperative is interrupted.
- ▶ **Talk with relatives or friends and devise a plan** whereby the individual who relies on this equipment will have somewhere to stay in the event of a major power outage or even for just a few hours.

The presence of critical medical devices does not exempt service from termination due to non-payment of bill. Anticipated payment delays should be addressed through the cooperative's office.

Notifying the cooperative of your situation does not guarantee uninterrupted electric service, nor does it guarantee immediate attention to your individual service should the area experience a power outage.

Ark Valley Electric is committed to keeping your lights on. We work to get them back on as quickly and safely as possible when there is an interruption and we hope that you can use our suggestions above to make sure your needs are met during those times of interruption.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

It's Time to Examine the Real Meaning of 'Green'

BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

“Some products, like cellulose insulation, score a lot of ‘green’ points.”

Green, green and more green. What does it mean? Folks, have you noticed that the word “green” shows up in more magazines, newspapers and television programs than ever before? It is almost like a new color has been developed.

My first recollection of the color green was that it was one of my six Crayola crayon colors. I soon learned that you used the green crayon to color grass and trees green. I still like green grass and green trees.

My next recollection of the word “green” was when adults would use it to describe a person.

It usually meant that the person was young and inexperienced or, as they also said, “still wet behind the ears.”

As I grew up, there were other things green that evoke fond memories. My first automobile was an emerald green Chevrolet. My next car was dark green Oldsmobile with fender skirts. Wow, what memories.

I also have some bad green memories – like turnip greens, green beans and broccoli.

Anyway, now that I am dry behind the ears, I like all of those green veggies.

At about 18 years of age, I learned that I wouldn't have anything to eat, green or otherwise, if I didn't get a job and bring home the green.

Through time, words often take on additional meanings. Since this column is always about energy efficiency, let's talk about what it means to be green in 2008.

Well, first of all, focusing on energy efficiency is being green. I am happy to say that every Doug Rye house built in the last 20 years would be considered green. Let's take a moment to talk about green construction and what that means.

To qualify as green construction, I think the construction should be both environmentally friendly and save folks money on their energy bills.

The first draft of this column took several pages because I got carried away by listing every

item that is used in the construction of a house and giving it a green score. So instead of doing that, let's just score a couple of items and we'll use a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best. Technically speaking, I should give every product at least one green point because everything is made from the earth.

Some products, however, will score a lot of green points. A great example would be cellulose insulation, which is made from paper that was made from trees, a renewable resource, and then recycled into insulation.

Cellulose insulation saves folks money every day for the entire life of a house. I can't give it a perfect score of 10, however, because some energy was required to harvest the trees, make the paper and manufacture the insulation.

A geothermal heat pump also scores a lot of green points as it uses the earth's Btus for heating, cooling and water heating. These Btus were supplied by the sun, the ultimate renewable energy resource. In fact, I have started calling geothermal, solar thermal. Because most of the energy in houses nationwide is used for heating, cooling and heating water, geothermal systems score a 9, higher than other heating and cooling systems.

Well, instead of taking three more pages, I thought I'd give you a turn. Take a minute to review your house, its construction and your heating and cooling system.

What type of green score does your house get? I hope it is a good one, but if it isn't, just keep reading this column where we'll keep giving you tips on how you can improve it.

P.S. My granddaughter informed me that these days, you must have at least 24 color crayons.

DOUG RYE is a licensed architect and the popular host of the “Home Remedies” radio show. You can contact Doug at 888-Doug-Rye. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.