

Inside: Learn How ...

CEC is Keeping the
Lights On

To Save Money with
U\$X Federal Credit
Union

The Load Management
Program Works

“Watts” Inside

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PowerLines

Keeping the Lights On With Reliability Improvement Projects

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

In 2010 we enjoyed a fairly benign storm season that, when combined with our system improvements, resulted in one of the most outage-free years we have ever experienced. Conversely, the spring and summer of 2011 has seen a pretty consistently inconsistent weather pattern. By August we had already exceeded the outage time for the whole year of 2010. We appreciate the patience, understanding and support that our members show our employees while they work through some long hours and often dangerous conditions to restore their service. We understand that these interruptions can be frustrating especially when compared to the relatively outage free previous year.

While the weather is beyond

our control, there are steps that we can and do take that help mitigate weather's impact. Safe, reliable electric service at reasonable rates are Central Electric Cooperative's (CEC's) main goals. We schedule reliability improvement projects on an ongoing basis with one goal in mind: to keep the lights on for our members. This past year our engineering and operating staff has been busy. Clearing, rebuilding and adding capacity to lines, inspecting poles and even painting some of our substations are just some of the things we have been doing.

Every year tree contact and lightning strikes are the two most frequent causes of electric service interruptions in the United States. Since early spring, CEC's contracted line clearing crews have been busy maintaining rights-of-

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ways for electric lines originating from our Prospect, Coaltown and Fredricksburg substations. Line clearing is one of the most effective ways to maintain reliability. Eliminating threats to electric service in the form of trees and tree limbs can save countless hours of outage time. Central

or replaced. This year we targeted the Sherrett area of Armstrong County and the Boyers line and spans of Butler, Venango and Clarion counties for reconstruction. The Sherrett work is completed and line crews have started work on the Boyers line. Members served by the Boyers line have experienced several outages this

School Bus Safety:

1. Check to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing the street.
2. Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb.
3. Make sure to always remain in clear view of the bus driver.
4. Do not move around on the bus.
5. Always board and exit the bus at locations that provide safe access to the bus or to the school building.



clears the lines at two or three of our 18 substations each year. Your cooperation with this work can help to make it much more effective.

Another project that helps us maintain our reliability is replacing old equipment before it becomes unreliable. We budget for lines that need to be rebuilt

year and this work, when complete, will offer some relief and the ability to shorten those weather related outages in the future.

All wooden utility poles are chemically treated for use in-ground and to prevent infestation, but they don't last forever and must be inspected periodically. This year CEC's contractor inspected over 5,000 poles. Poles identified as needing to be replaced are taken care of quickly. Other poles with issues receive special treatment to halt damage and extend their lives. Most of Central's poles that are checked are just fine.

Our substations are the heart of our local distribution system. It is at these substations where very high



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voltage is stepped down to lower voltage that is carried on our lines to members' homes, farms and businesses. Keeping the large transformers in these substations in good working order is crucial to keeping the lights on for members. Substation transformers work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, so we must protect them from the elements.



Starr substation before painting (above) and after (right)

Our Starr, Lucinda and Rimersburg substations all received a fresh coat of paint this year from a contractor who uses special proprietary techniques to safely paint these devices while they are energized.

Maintaining reliability is an ongoing process that we take seriously and invest in heavily. The projects listed above are in addition to other issues that are identified and repaired during the course of normal work, and unscheduled power outages. As a reminder, if you do experience a power outage, please call our outage number, 1-800-282-8610. We make every effort to stop outages before they happen and restore them as quickly as possible when they do happen. Keeping the lights on for our members is the reason we are here, looking out for you.

2011 Youth Tour

Education, training and information to members is one of the Rochdale Principles to which electric cooperatives subscribe. This year CEC sponsored two students for the 2011 Youth Tour. Christopher Znosko and Allyson Olkowski attended the 2011 Youth Tour from June 12 to 17. They spent six days with 87 peers from other Pennsylvania and New Jersey electric cooperatives and visited many important landmarks including the D.C. monuments, Smithsonian museums and Capital Hill.

Youth Tour brings over 1,500 high school students from across America to Washington D.C. The trip allows students the opportunity to experience our nation's capital, sight-see, meet with state legislators and learn about electric cooperatives.

For more information on the 2012 Youth Tour contact Ken Maleski, CEC's youth tour coordinator, at 1-800-521-0570 ext. 2172.



SAFETY

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School Bus Safety

As summer vacation comes to an end, students are preparing for the start of a new school year. As you send your child to school remind them of these school bus safety tips to ensure this year is safe and successful:

- If your child's school bus has lap/shoulder seat belts, make sure your child uses one at all times when on the bus.
- If your child's school bus does not have lap/shoulder belts, encourage the school to buy or lease buses with lap/shoulder belts.



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operational Support

- Have your child check that no other traffic is coming before crossing the street.
- Children should wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb.
- Make sure your child always remains in clear view of the bus driver.
- Children should not move around on the bus.
- Children should always board and exit the bus at locations that provide safe access to the bus or to the school building.

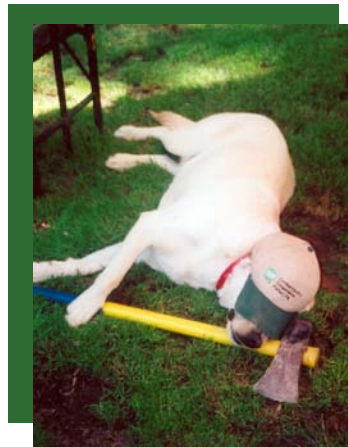
Save Money with U\$X Federal Credit Union

All CEC employees, members and their immediate family members are eligible to join the U\$X Federal Credit Union. Right now Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) is as low as 2.0 annual percentage rate with an introductory rate for 12 months! Unlock the equity in your home with a HELOC from U\$X FCU! Pay off high rate credit cards, purchase a new car, pay college tuition or remodel the kitchen, the choice is yours with this LOW once in a lifetime interest rate!



To get current rate information and learn more about other money saving products and services visit www.usxfc.org or call 1-888-219-3159.

Hard Day at Work!



It sure looks like five-year old Sandy had a hard day at work! This picture was submitted by Phyllis Nesbitt of Emlenton.

If you have a picture you would like to appear in our Power Lines newsletter contact Jessica Brison at jbrison@central.coop or send it to Central Electric Cooperative Attn: Jessica Brison, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049-0329.

Ken's
ilowatt
orner



By **Ken Maleski**
Residential Analyst
& Advisor

www.central.coop
Check it out!



Load Management

stable. Participating members will immediately begin receiving a \$2.50 credit on their electric bill. Make one simple call to 800-521-0570 to join now.

Twitter and Load Control

Members who participate in our Load Management Program (electric heating or an electric water heater) can get up-to-the-minute information on our load control periods. Just visit www.central.coop and click on the "Follow Me On Twitter" logo to learn when appliances are going to be interrupted. Please remember that the message is a prediction and control hours can vary.



Did you know that you can save money while doing something for the environment? CEC members who use an electric water heater can start saving now by signing up for the load management

program. We will install a demand response unit (DRU) on your tank at no charge to you. The device limits power use when electric prices and power plant emissions are at their highest levels. Control periods are designed to work with tank and family size to ensure you have plenty of hot water when you need it. CEC saves an average of over \$300,000 a year, which helps to keep power costs

Install an Rheem® Tank Today!

Carole Wells of Boyers is one of many CEC members with a water heater on Central's Load Management Program. The Rheem® 80 gallon electric tank was installed in June 2011 by John Relihan, owner of Dr. Water Heater, Inc.

Interested members can purchase the Rheem® tank with standard installation for \$377.36 plus tax. For more information please contact us at 1-800-521-0570 or visit our website at www.central.coop.



Recipe of the Month

Crispy Onion Chicken

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup oleo, melted
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (6 ounce) french-fried onions
- 4 boneless chicken breast halves

Directions:

1. In a shallow bowl mix oleo, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, garlic salt and pepper.
2. In another bowl add 1/2 cup of crushed fried onions.
3. Dip chicken in oleo mixture, then coat with onions.
4. Place in greased 9 inch square pan. Top with remaining onions and oleo mixture.
5. Bake uncovered at 350 degree Fahrenheit for 45–60 minutes or until chicken juices run clear.

Recipe submitted by Kathy Guth.

Send Recipes to:

Jessica Brison at jbrison@central.coop or mail to
Central Electric Cooperative, 716 Route 368,
PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

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Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:

James Becker of Tionesta

Read your issue of Central Electric Cooperative's Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading Power Lines and completing the quiz below.

Contest Rules

1. The contest is open to all Central Electric Cooperative members with active accounts as of the drawing date.
2. Only one entry per member is permitted.
3. Employees and directors of Central Electric, along with members of their immediate families, are not eligible.
4. The winning entry will appear as a credit on the member's bill and may not be redeemed for cash.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For a faster entry you may complete the survey online at www.central.coop/quiz.

1. True or False: Tree contact and lightning strikes are the two most frequent causes of electric service interruptions in the United States.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Participating members in our Load Management Program can get instant information on load control periods through Twitter.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Children should move around on the school bus.

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ **Account No:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

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