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September 2009

# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

Keeping your tires properly inflated improves gas mileage for the average vehicle by around 3 percent, saving up to 20 gallons of gasoline per year.

—Source: Alliance to Save Energy

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, September 19th at the Sallisaw High School Gym.



Congratulations

Julie Limore of Roland! Julie is Cookson Hills' July online survey winner.

## ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Add 61st Annual Meeting to your Calendar



Left to right: Curtis Eppler, Chad Martin, Allen Hare, Jennifer Daniels, and Nick Worsham at 2008 annual meeting.

When you signed up as a customer of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, you automatically became a member of the cooperative. As a member you have the opportunity to attend Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's 61st Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting will be held at the Sallisaw, High School gymnasium on September 19, 2009. Registration

will open at 10 a.m. and the business meeting will begin at 11 a.m.

There will be entertainment by "The Ritters" who are coming back by popular demand. Registered members will receive a \$20 electric credit, which will be applied to next month's bill. To receive this credit 1765401 your name must be on the membership account and you must be present at the annual meeting. Only one \$20 electric credit will be *Continued on page 2*

**\$20 electric credit and prize drawings at 61st Annual Meeting.**

*In order to claim prizes or \$20 electric credit your name must be on the membership account and you must be present at meeting.*

### Hot Watts

is published monthly by **Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.** *Hot Watts* informs members in parts of seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about Cookson Hills' programs and issues. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative continually strives to provide quality electrical service at a reasonable cost for its members.

**Headquarters:** P.O. Box 539  
Stigler, OK 74462  
Phone: 967-4614

**Branch Office:** P.O. Box 587  
Sallisaw, OK 74955  
Phone: 775-2211

**Toll Free: 1-800-328-2368**

**Home Page:** [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com)  
**E-Mail:** [marketing@cooksonhills.com](mailto:marketing@cooksonhills.com)

#### Cookson Hills Staff

Kendall Beck  
General Manager

Eric Johnson  
Assistant General Manager

Dalen Garner  
Director of Operations

Juli Orme  
Manager of Finance and Administration

Teresa Shaw  
Office Manager

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**Cookson Hills welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to Cookson Hills editing.**

**Any submissions must be received before the 12th of the month prior to the publication date.**

**If You Find Your Account Number Hidden in This Issue of *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill**

# Annual Meeting

*Continued from page 1*



*Cookson Hills employees giving away complimentary gifts at last year's 2008 annual meeting.*

applied to each membership account.

There will be prize drawings for registered members. Please check with your local Cookson Hills office to verify that your

name is on your account. Prize drawings will also be held for children of members present at the meeting, so bring the kids out and enjoy great friends, family and fun at Cookson Hills' 61st annual meeting.

One representative from each membership will receive a complimentary energy efficiency kit while supplies last. Cookson Hills will be providing water, soft drinks and snacks.

**Don't forget to bring your registration you received in the mail to the annual meeting.**

For more information about Annual Meeting contact Donna Rhodes at 1-800-328-2368 or (918) 775-2211

## Attaching Signs to Utility Poles Presents Safety Hazards—And It's Illegal

During the summer months, it is common to see garage sale or yard sale signs attached to utility poles. Although seemingly innocent enough, putting signs or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards. Staples, nails, and tacks used to hang signs—as well as the signs themselves—pose dangers to Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative lineworkers who must climb poles when either restoring power following storms or while performing routine maintenance to ensure system reliability.

Posters or other objects (birdhouses, balloons, flags, and even basketball nets) can create dangerous obstacles. Also, the nails and tacks left behind from signs can snag utility workers' boots or puncture safety clothing, making lineworkers vulnerable to slipping or even electrocution.

In addition to being hazardous, tampering with utility poles can be costly. Posting signs or attaching other objects to utility poles without the electric utility's consent is against the law.



*Image courtesy of Butler Rural Electric Cooperative*

## Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Statement of Nondiscrimination

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's program or activities. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above, or file a written complaint with this organization, or the Secretary, U.S. Department Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

# 61st Annual Meeting Live Entertainment



Left to right: Dale Shipmen, Glen Ritter, Jerald Ritter, Lyn Ritter, and Jeri Ritter

## The Ritters Family Band

Members of every age will enjoy a live performance of the Ritters Family band of Vian at the Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's 61st annual meeting. The meeting will be held at Sallisaw High School gymnasium Saturday September 19, 2009.

There are not many musicians around who can claim they have been in the same group for over 50 years, but three of the Ritter Family members can do just that. Glyn, Lyn, and Jerald have been playing music together since their teenage years.

Now with Jerald's daughter Jeri Lyn as drummer and Dale Shipmen of Bixby on keyboard, the group

is complete with drums, keyboard, fiddle, mandolin, guitars and bass. Each member assists with the vocals for their style of country and southern gospel singing.

The band plays throughout Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas and Missouri. Jerald Ritter also plays with The Les Gilliam Band and entertains at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri every October.

This is your chance to come out and see one of the most talented local bands and be a part of your cooperative at Cookson Hills' 61st annual meeting.

## COOKSON IN THE COMMUNITY Electrical Safety Demonstration

Cookson Hills employees, Marty Huff and Donna Rhodes gave an "electrical safety demonstration" at the boy's ranch north of Gore. The Circle of Care United Methodist Boy's Ranch provides care for young men – ages 13 through high school graduation – who are experiencing problems which prevent them from living at home or in foster care.

The presentation is an informative and entertaining demonstration. Participants learn how electricity works, where electricity is generated, the transmission of electricity, home safety, and how to prevent accidents involving power lines and home appliances.



**COOKSON HILLS**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



## Energy Efficiency Smart Choices

### Let Your Fridge Just Cool It

If we had to choose one appliance we just couldn't live without, many of us would choose our refrigerator, the workhorse of the kitchen. Without a refrigerator, we couldn't keep fresh milk, cheeses, produce, and more. There would be no ice cream treats, ice cubes, or stocking up on meats and frozen pizzas.

On the downside, though, our BFF (best friend fridge) contributes to more than 11 percent of home-energy consumption. According to Energy Star, if you're still storing your food in a fridge that's 10 years or older, you could save hundreds of dollars on your energy bill by replacing it with an energy-efficient model.

For example, a new energy-efficient fridge uses 75 percent less energy than a late 1970s model consumes, and if you replaced a 1980s style fridge with a modern day fridge you could cut over \$100 yearly from your utility bill. While Energy Star products generally cost more up front, the Department of Energy estimates that the payback is 3-5 years because of the reduced energy consumption.

If a new fridge is in your near future, consider a few things before making your purchase:

- \* While convenient, a side-by-side fridge-freezer unit uses up to 20 percent more energy than a top/bottom unit.
- \* Expect a fridge with a water and ice dispenser to consume 15-20 percent more electricity than the exact same model without this feature.



### Four miles of new line near Old Panther



Photo by: Larry Mattes/Communication Specialist

Winsett Electrical Contractors working near Old Panther.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative is in the process of upgrading their facilities in the Old Panther area southwest of McCurtain. Four miles of single phase overhead line is being converted to three phase line.

This upgrade will add additional capacity in this area as well as improve voltage and reliability. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative has contracted with Winsett Electrical Contractors to perform this system upgrade. This project will be finished by early September, weather permitting.

## Payment Options

### Free, Fast, Convenient Ways To Pay

Sign up for the Automatic Bank Draft program or the Automatic Credit Card Draft program and your bill is paid on time every month via automatic draft of your checking or savings account, or your credit/debit card. These payment options are free of charge. You will continue to receive a statement of your monthly usage for your records and your monthly statement will reflect your automatic payments.

### Online E-bill

Go to [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) and you can register to pay your bill online using a debit or credit card. You will be charged a fee of \$3.95 for amounts up to \$500.00 to use this service.

### Pay-by-Phone

Pay by telephone using a credit or debit card. Call 800-328-2368 or (918) 967-4614 24 hours per day. You will be charged a fee of \$3.95 for amounts up to \$500.00 to use this pay-by-phone service.

Cookson Hills Electric no longer accepts electronic check payments through the pay-by-phone system or online via the Cookson Hills website, ([www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com)).