

McLENNAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 357 • McGregor, TX 76657 • www.mclennanelectric.com • (254) 840-2871

Member Photo



Member photo is of Jason Wayne Sowell, son of Laurence and Vickie Sowell of Stephenville and grandson of Wayne and Nell Norman of Crawford. Jason is the apple of his grandparents' eye and really enjoys going over to visit every chance he gets.

Send photos of grandkids, children, military personnel or other interesting subjects to mike@mclennanelectric.com, or mail them to the office at P.O. Box 357, McGregor, TX 76657.

Cut "Meter Seals"

We seal all meter enclosures and bases for several reasons:

1. Sealing the meter base will keep young, prying hands away from energized equipment.
2. The seal is a visual symbol that no one has tampered with or done work inside of the base. There are certain guidelines of the National Safety Code that we must follow and enforce. When the seal is gone or broken, we must find out what kind of work has been done and ensure that it meets our guidelines.
3. Sometimes when the seal is broken or missing, there is evidence of tampering with the meter.

We understand there are times when the seal must be broken: fire, electrical short or damage to home. If you must cut our seal, PLEASE CALL US and let us know.

Right-of-Way Clearing

If you have trees growing under the power lines on your property and would like to have them removed, call MCEC and we will explain our "bulldozing" program to you. Please call (254) 840-2871 and ask for Jimmy Fulp. He will be happy to explain this program to you and make arrangements for you to meet with our contractor to schedule the work.

Upcoming Events

March 2003

McGregor

Central Texas Youth Rodeo Association (CTYRA)
Rodeos: March 4, 5, 6 and 18, 19, 20
Performances: Thursday 7 p.m.
Friday 7:30 p.m. • Saturday 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Walnut Springs

Walnut Springs Rattlesnake Festival
First Saturday in March

Bosque County

County-Wide Clean-Up

Capital Credit Allocations for 2002

McLennan County Electric Cooperative has allocated capital credits to members' accounts for the 2002 calendar year. The allocations for 2002 amounted to \$1,386,667. Each account's equity can be calculated by multiplying the member's total bill, including security light expense but excluding any taxes, services, memberships, deposits or miscellaneous charges, by a factor of .07641584. Capital credits are not refundable at this time, nor can they be applied towards current or outstanding bills. If you have any questions concerning these calculations, please call the co-op office.

(This article is intended to serve as the official notice of allocations of capital credits for members' equity for 2002.)

Spotlight News

A special thanks to those members and friends who sent the many Christmas cards to us. It means a great deal to us to be remembered.

*Thank you:
The MCEC Employees*

Moving Day

Our new office is almost ready!
We are planning on moving one of these dates:
 Closed at noon on Thursday, March 4, and all day Friday, March 5,
 or
 Closed at noon on Thursday, March 11, and all day Friday, March 12
 (Please call to make sure we are open before stopping by!)

Employee Service Awards

30 Years



20 Years



John Green

15 Years



Ricky Steinkamp, Deidre Lauterbach, Randy Westerfield, Tye Freeman and Rick Haile

10 Years

Bobby Ramsey

5 Years

Keith Bearden

Employees of the Year



Linda Zacharias

**200 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO YOU,
MCEC MEMBERS!**

Member News Scholarships and Youth Tour Programs

MCCEC will award three \$1,000 scholarships and one "Youth to Washington" trip to area students this spring. For information on these programs, call Mike Hollingsworth at the office, contact your school counselor, e-mail mike@mclennan-electric.com, or go to our website at mclennanelectric.com. Deadline is April 1, 2004, for both programs.

Operation Round Up Begins June 2004

Mclennan County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) Board of Directors voted to implement a program called "Operation Round Up" effective June 2004. Through Operation Round Up, MCEC members will have the opportunity to help raise funds to support community and charitable organizations such as volunteer fire departments and EMS, along with other worthwhile programs that help our neighbors and members, too.

The funds will come from "rounding up" MCEC bills to the nearest dollar amount. If your metered bill were \$67.40, it would be rounded up to \$68, with the additional 60 cents going to Operation

Round Up. Just a few cents a month can make a big difference in helping support these groups. The average contribution per meter is expected to be only \$6 per year.

A committee representing MCEC's service area will be responsible for deciding where the funds are to be allocated, and will administer the proceeds. Because Operation Round Up is a voluntary program, we will remove your account from the program if you so desire. If you do not want to participate, please contact us and we will make sure your bill is not rounded up. Please call (254) 840-2871 or 1-800-840-2957 to ask to be removed.

Local People Serving You That's the Cooperative Difference.



Stan



Bill



Texas Co-op Power
**Your
HOME TEAM
Advantage**

Taking their job seriously, whether it is connecting meters, working collections, or reading meters, our employees' focus is on the job at hand, serving you, the membership of

McLennan County Electric Cooperative.
Your HOME TEAM Advantage

Member Highlight Texas Camel Corps

Revised from mid-1850s Texas history, the Texas Camel Corps is alive and well just outside Valley Mills in Bosque County. The United States Camel Corps began with 75 to 100 imported camels used by Texas settlers to pack in their supplies. In 1995, owner Doug Baum started the Texas Camel Corps and currently has several camels ranging in age from 1

to 12 years old (a camel's life span is 30 to 40 years).

Camels are amazingly efficient in their ability to adjust their internal body temperature to accommodate outside temperatures of 100 degrees or more. Their water intake allows for this adjusting process, and their efficient use of water allows them long periods without the need for more. Camels can withstand hot, dry places and are surefooted with their leather-pad feet on rocks, in sand and on mountain climbs. Camels have a thick coat in winter that sheds in spring and summer. After shedding, the camel hair is used for spinning and weaving of fabric or yarn, and even artist brushes.

Owner Doug Baum travels to Egypt yearly to continue his learning process on caring for his camels. He works with Texas A&M Veterinary School faculty and students on camel health care, and each semester Texas A&M students visit the camels to study them. Baum recently was contacted to teach a course at Ft. Bragg on the care and maintenance of camels. Military personnel will then teach native people in foreign lands about caring for camels. Locally, the camels have been used in live nativity scenes or in Christmas programs, educational school programs and Vacation Bible School programs. Once used as pack animals, camels are being used on guided tours to ride



through private land in the Big Bend area and at the Monahans Sandhills State Park.

The Texas Camel Corps welcomes visitors to their location at 123 County Road 3360 in Valley Mills. Their website is www.texas-camelcorps.com; the toll-free telephone number is 1-866-6CAMELS (622-6357).

