

Rural Power

KEC's Hot Line School teaches safety practices

During the month of September, linemen had the chance to experience KEC's two hotline schools held at Pratt and Manhattan Technical Colleges.

About 100 participants from cooperatives, municipals, and vo-techs across the state gathered to learn new skills and review safe methods and work procedures.

"The best thing about this school is that it gives employees and co-workers experience in things they may not get to on their own," said



Above: KEC's Larry Detwiler instructs linemen from Kansas cooperatives, municipalities, and area vo-tech schools on safety issues at the annual Hot Line School. Right: Instructor Kevin Swenson, Bluestem, keeps a close eye on the linemen at the school.

John Burton, an instructor from Kaw Valley Electric Co-op. "We advise them on different methods of hotline work that they may not be used to doing."

For working linemen, the school was a continuing education opportunity that allowed them to



learn how other co-ops and companies fix high voltage lines

differently. The technical colleges provided safe work and practice environments that simulated high voltage lines.

"Continuing education is essential for employees' skill levels and safety knowledge," said Larry Detwiler, KEC's director of loss control, safety and compliance.

Charley Ellis, a lineman from Caney Valley Electric Co-op, said he enjoys the school because it provides an opportunity for linemen to enhance themselves and likes how "there are no repercussions of doing something wrong"

During the three-day school, participants practiced changing out structures, insulators and damaged conductors. The linemen were placed in several different groups and divided by skills allowing each individual to have a meaningful and practical experience.

"This is a very good program, and I am very proud to be a part of it," said Burton.

Loren Ochs Energy Center goes live



Victory board member, Loren Ochs, helped energize a substation bearing his name on Sept. 26. The substation was named after Ochs who has served over 40 years on Victory

Electric's Board of Trustees, and who is also the current Sunflower Board president. The Loren Ochs Energy Center is located just west of Dodge City.



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Governor proclaims Co-op Month in Kansas

Governor Mark Parkinson issued a proclamation recognizing "...the month of October 2010, as Co-op Month in Kansas..." During this month, cooperatives from across Kansas and throughout the US will celebrate co-op achievements, commemorate contributions made to members and communities and promote the unique benefits inherent in the cooperative business model.

KCC UPDATE – 10/1/10

Combined cycle plant opens

The first combined cycle natural gas-fueled power plant in the state of Tennessee is officially operating. The Lagoon Creek Combined Cycle Plant began commercial operation with a generating capacity of 550 megawatts.

Combined cycle plants use combustion turbines to produce electricity. Heat from the turbines' exhaust is then captured to heat water and produce steam that is sent to a steam turbine that generates additional power. Using the excess heat from the engines reduces the fuel use, and therefore, reduces emissions.

TVA – 9/29/10

Future employees are focus of school campaign

With an eye out for the future, an education and recruitment campaign, Consumers Energy will be coming to schools throughout Michigan during October. Employees will visit middle and high schools, as well as recruiting at state colleges. With significant workforce transition expected in coming years, Consumers Energy is alerting students in college and high school to career opportunities, as well as raising awareness with middle school students about energy topics.

CONSUMERSENERGY.COM – 10/1/10

OCTOBER

- 10-13 **NRECA 2010 PowerUp Conference**, Seattle, WA.
- 11 **2nd Kan-Am Electric Challenge**, Kansas Speedway, Kansas City, KS.
- 13-14 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 19 **NRECA Pre-Regional 7 Meeting**, Omni Interlocken Resort, Denver, Colorado.
- 20-21 **NRECA Region 7 Meeting**, Omni Interlocken Resort, Denver, Colorado.
- 20-22 **Kansas Member Services Directors Association Meeting**, Old Town, Wichita.
- 20-22 **Kansas Accountant's Club Meeting**, Clarion Hotel, 530 Richards Drive, Manhattan.
- 28 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.

NOVEMBER

- 1 **District 1 Meeting**, Flint Oak Lodge, 2639 Quail Road, Fall River.
- 2 **KEC's Youth Tour Coordinators web conference**.
- 3 **District 3 Meeting**, Fox Pavilion, 1202 Main, Hays.
- 4 **District 4 Meeting**, Victory Electric Headquarters, 3230 N. 14th, Dodge City.
- 5 **District 2 Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, 600 SW Corporate View, Topeka.
- 10 **Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting**, Wichita Marriott, Salon D, Wichita.
- 15 **Midwest Energy Annual Meeting**, University Campus, Fort Hays.
- 16-17 **KEC Transformer Workshop**, Kaw Valley.
- 17 **KEPCo Annual Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.
- 18-19 **KEC Meter Workshop**, Kaw Valley.
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.

upcomingtraining

NRECA Region 7 meeting

Cooperative management and board members are asked to help set the official course for NRECA to follow through the membership resolutions process at the Regional 7 meeting, October 19-21 in Denver, CO.

Active attention and involvement is essential during these challenging times. Please visit Cooperative.com/Regionals for more information about the meetings and to register.

KMSDA fall meeting

The Kansas Member Services Directors Association 2010 Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 20-22 in Wichita.

Speakers include CRN's Brian Sloboda who will give an update on Smart Metering and the Smart Grid, and Touchstone Energy's Ann Maggard who will discuss the Balanced Performance Scorecard. Other speakers are Nicole Lee from Efficiency Kansas and KEC's Doug Shepherd.

Email Shana Holsteen, KEC, at sholsteen@kec.org for more information or to register for this meeting.

KEC district meetings

The KEC District Meetings will take place November 1-5. See calendar above for dates and locations. As part of the meeting, CFC's Steve Beck will give an industry update. For more information about the District meetings, email Charlotte Provo-Blenden at cprovo@kec.org.

KEC youth tour coordinators web conference

The annual web conference for all youth tour coordinators is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m. to noon. Dial and log in directions will be sent to all youth tour coordinators.

Touchstone Energy annual membership meeting

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Wichita Marriott's Salon D, on Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. To make a room reservation, call 1-800-610-0673 before Oct. 27 to get the \$91 room rate. Please RSVP your attendance to Shana Holsteen, KEC, before Oct. 27.

Kansas youth prepare for 2nd annual Kan-Am Challenge

High school and college students from across the state are preparing for the second Kan-Am Electric Challenge. The event, sponsored by Touchstone Energy, will be held on Oct. 11, 2010, on the 1.5 mile track at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, KS.

Ten Kansas teams representing schools in Beloit, Clearwater, Dighton, Grainfield, Hays, Hoisington, Olathe, Scott City, Stockton, and Wichita will compete alongside teams from Iowa, Maine, Nebraska, and Washington.

In 2008, 31 teams from six states entered 47 cars in the event. At that race, a new world record was set at 58.2 mph by Team Electrolite from Maine. Cloud Electric Racing from Washington also broke the record with a time of 53.5 mph. The previous record was 53.16 mph set in 2006 by Team Electrolite.

The first Kansas ElectroRally was

held in 1997 at Kansas State University. Races are now held throughout Kansas in the fall and spring.

High school teams design and build single-driver, lightweight, aerodynamic, high efficiency, electric race cars with three or four wheels of 16 inches in diameter or larger. The cars are powered by deep-cycle lead acid battery packs with a maximum weight of 73 pounds.

Based on time and distance, the race is won by the team that completes the most laps in one hour. Strategy is as important as speed – drive fast to do many laps or go slower, conserve battery and last the whole race. These cars can reach speeds in excess of 40 mph and travel a distance of 30 miles in the one hour period.

For more information about the program or the upcoming race, please visit www.kansaselectrorally.org.



High school teams line up their cars at the 2008 Kan-Am Challenge at the Kansas Speedway. The event on Oct. 11 will be the second opportunity for electric vehicles to race on this track.

Co-op linemen deliver safety message at Kansas State Fair

Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas co-sponsored a high-voltage line safety demonstration at the Kansas State Fair, Sept. 13-17.

Cooperative linemen from Butler, CMS, Midwest Energy, Sedgwick County, and Wheatland volunteered to help teach the public to stay safe around power lines.

The demonstration, which is part of “Kansas’ Largest Classroom,” incorporated a full-size electric safety demonstration, loaned from Midwest Energy.

“Kansas’ Largest Classroom” is a one-of-a-kind educational event that features various items from crafts to agriculture and animals. The Kansas State Fair is the largest event in the state and attracts over 350,000 people annually.



James Wright, Nathan Styker, and Daniel Hodges, all from Midwest Energy, teach students at the fair how to stay safe around electricity. This is the third year that the Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas have sponsored the high-voltage safety demonstration at the Kansas State Fair.

Melissa Hornbaker joins KEC

Melissa Hornbaker was recently hired by KEC as the new Communications Intern for the fall semester. Hornbaker started on September 17, and will intern until mid December.

Hornbaker was born and raised in a rural community outside of Topeka, but has been living in Lawrence for the past four years. She attends the University of Kansas as a senior and is majoring in journalism with an emphasis in strategic communications and a minor in geography. As an intern, Hornbaker will be assisting the communications staff with tasks involving *Kansas Country Living*, youth programs and other various activities.

“I’m so excited and grateful that KEC has given me this opportunity. I know that this internship will open many doors and help greatly in building my portfolio to give me an edge on competition after graduating,” she said.

Hornbaker is this year’s KU Ad Club president and brings with her experience in writing, photography, editing and design. She also manages and trains lifeguards, coordinates swim lessons and teaches swim lessons at the Lawrence Aquatic Center.

In her free time, Hornbaker enjoys swimming, running, attending dance classes and spending time with her boyfriend of two years, Logan.



Melissa Hornbaker

KEC is on Facebook

If you are a member of the fastest growing social networking site – Facebook, join us in becoming a fan of Kansas Electric Cooperatives. The fan page will keep you up-to-date on happenings at the Kansas statewide. Find our fan pages at www.facebook.com by searching for Kansas Electric Cooperatives.

New KCC Hall of Fame displayed at State Fair

The renovation of the Kansas Cooperative Council Hall of Fame display was completed in time for the 2010 Kansas State Fair.

The display is permanently located in the "Pride of Kansas" building. Its purpose is to inform the public on cooperatives and their impact to Kansas communities.

The new display features a looped slide show on a flat screen TV that played continuously during the fair hours. The slide show featured all 30 inductees.

The new display also featured more of an explanation regarding the KCC Hall of Fame and for the display on the plaque in the upper right hand corner.

If you would like to nominate someone for the KCC Hall of Fame, visit www.kansas-co-op.coop and click on "Hall of Fame". Nominations for 2011 inductees are due December 13, 2010.



The newly renovated Kansas Cooperative Council Hall of Fame display at the Kansas Pride Building at the State Fair.

KEC trustee featured in Successful Farming magazine



Ralph Phillips (back row, second from right), KEC Board secretary and LJEC's Board president, was featured in the September issue of the magazine *Successful Farming*. The article, titled "Farmers for the Future: Financial challenge leads to a firm foundation", focuses on the successful steps Phillips and his family took to survive a cash flow challenge that threatened the existence of their 40-year-old dairy. To read the article, visit http://www.agriculture.com/successful-farming/family/farmers-f-future-fincial-challenge_123-ar9379. (Photo reprinted with permission from *Successful Farming*.)

October is Co-op Month – "Local. Trusted. Serving You."

Each October, cooperatives all across America celebrate the role, accomplishments and contributions of our nation's cooperatives.

The annual celebrations play a key role in promoting cooperatives to our members, the public and policy makers. Through a combination of media outreach, member education, and interaction with

policy makers, co-op month events help raise the visibility of cooperatives, and improve public understanding.

The National Co-op Month Committee has prepared several tools to assist cooperatives in educational and promotional activities. These tools and other resources are available on-line at www.coopmonth.coop.



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