

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

3596 Brumbaugh Road  
P.O. Box 75  
New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075  
814/766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177  
FAX 814/766-3319  
Web site:  
www.newenterpriserec.com

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**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday through Friday**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER**

**814/766-3221**  
**1-800-270-3177**

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

## Electric bill face-lift



**Rick L. Eichelberger**  
General Manager & CEO

**IN 1999** all electric utilities in Pennsylvania were required to “unbundle” the charges on electric bills due to deregulation. At the time, we eliminated the post card bill and replaced it with an 8 ½ by 11-inch bill filled with information from top to bottom. Your December bill has gone through a face-lift due to a billing software change at the cooperative.

The new look for the bill also includes a few useful graphs and charts.

The bill you receive in early February 2008 (for the kilowatt-hours used in January) will no longer show a separate line for the TRANSITION CHARGE — Fixed Cost Recovery Charge. The line disappears from the bill but the amount you pay will not. It will be rolled into the *Generation* line on the bill and sent to Allegheny Electric Cooperative for the cost of power. The required unbundled bill you receive in February will have a *Generation, Distribution and Customer Charge* on the breakout. The bill will look a little less cluttered and the dollar amount of the bill will change slightly. The *Generation Charge* of 4.955 cents/kWh and *Transition Charge* of 1.51 cents/kWh is combined and shown as a *Generation Charge* of 6.5 cents/kWh. This 6.5 cents/kWh is the amount Allegheny Electric Cooperative charges New Enterprise Rural Electric for every kWh you use.

We will actually pay nearly the same, but won't have to look at as many lines of information making up this same price.

### Automatic meter reading devices

Changes are in the wind to replace the existing automatic meter reading devices on the system. Currently, several hundred members are taking advantage of the available meter reading devices installed at their meters and connected to their telephone lines. Technological advances have made it possible to transmit data from your meter to the cooperative office over the power lines rather than using your telephone lines.

We are currently evaluating the various vendors of this equipment and will replace the telephone-based equipment as soon as the vendor is chosen. The first priority will be to replace the existing devices and then install any new requests along the way. Further evaluations will be made as we decide whether to install on all the meters on the system.

### Load management system being considered.

The electric utility industry is facing the need for more generation and more transmission lines to be built. This happens slowly and the process is very expensive. As new infrastructure is built, costs will be passed along to every person using the facilities. This will take years to happen, but it is necessary as additional demand for electricity continues.

Everyone can help the situation. As individuals, we can rely on energy conservation methods to cut back or slow down our demands for more energy. As a cooperative, we can participate in a statewide Coordinated Load Management System that has been in place for more than 20 years with many of the  
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## The humble artist

BY BRAWNA L. SELL

**IT TAKES GREAT** talent to take a pencil or paint brush and create art — art that shows the personality of the person being drawn or painted, or the beauty of the earth and all the creatures living on its surface, or the joy an animal brings to its owner. Chris Newman, son of consumer-members Tom and Maxine Newman of Waterfall, has this special gift of creativity.

According to Chris, he hasn't always believed he was a gifted artist. As a young boy, he was inspired by his older brother. Chris felt his brother was a much better artist than himself. This made Chris want to improve his talent to be as good as his brother.

In 1994 Chris began attending the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. During this time, he learned that, to make his artwork the best it could be, it was necessary to understand the importance of attention to detail. Chris applies this important lesson to all of his artwork.

Over the past 13 years, Chris has done many different types of art. He has done T-shirt design, pencil drawings,



paintings and murals. His favorite subject, however, is the ocean. A mural at the Center United Methodist Church entitled "Show Me Your Glory" features one of these ocean scenes. Knobsville United Methodist had Chris paint a

**FIRST CAR:** "Dad's Fury" has special meaning to Chris.

mural called "In the Beginning." This mural features sea creatures, wildlife and the famous Haley's Comet. The main office of the Community State Bank features drawings of all the branch offices plus one of the main office.

After working for many years on improving his technique, Chris finds it hard to look back at his past works. Although he would prefer his parents take the "old" work down from their walls, they enjoy seeing his past work as well as his present.

To keep from getting bored with his talent, Chris will change the type of artwork he does every so often. His best work happens when he gets an idea in his head and lets his imagination take over. When asked to do a picture, Chris needs two things before starting: the size of the picture and the subject. He enjoys adding small details to personalize the drawing or painting. The surprise on people's faces is part of the thrill he gets from his art.

Chris has done many pictures of family members or family pets. Chris painted a picture of his dad, Tom, and Tom's first car, which was special to Tom. The car had been sold three times but finally



**ANIMAL ART:** Chris' first pet portrait features his sister-in-law's dog.



**DRAWN TO WATER:** Chris enjoys painting ocean scenes most of all.

made its home with its first owner. “Dad’s Fury” features his father, his first car and part of an article from an old magazine written about this special car.

With Christmas just around the corner, fall is his busiest time. Just like anything else, his talent can’t be rushed if the results are to be the best. Chris needs to be in the right frame of mind to work on a picture. There are times when Jody, his wife of six years, doesn’t think he will get the picture done. Although it may be just a week or so before the picture is to be finished, Chris always has the final touches done in time.

Each year, the co-op replaces the linemen’s hard hats for safety purposes. Instead of tossing these hats away, we have decided to have local artists paint

electric scenes on them. The hats will be used to decorate the hallway leading to the Outside Operations Manager and Crew Chief offices, plus the Linemen’s Reporting Center. Chris has agreed to do our first hat.

Chris works full time in addition to creating amazing artwork. If you would like to contact him, you can call 814/386-4435 or email him at [the\\_humble\\_artist@yahoo.com](mailto:the_humble_artist@yahoo.com). His rate is \$15/hour. A typical job is an 8 x 10 and normally includes a simple frame. Chris will do free estimates for larger, custom jobs. Should you be in a rush, there is a 20



**FAMILY ALBUM:** This portrait features Chris’ mother and father-in-law.

percent rate increase.

These wonderful pictures make great gifts for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays or Christmas. Why not give Chris a call and get ready for next year’s gift giving. ☀

# KIDZCORNER

## Chocolate Chip Cookies in a Jar

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1-1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips



Mix the salt and baking soda in with the flour, then layer the ingredients a large jar in the order listed, with the chocolate chips on top. Use scissors to cut a 9-inch-diameter circle from calico. Place over lid and secure with rubber band. Tie on a raffia or ribbon bow to cover rubber band.

Enclose a card with the following mixing and baking directions:

**Chocolate Chip Cookies in a Jar**

contents of this jar

1 cup unsalted butter or margarine  
1 large egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Sift dry ingredients through a colander to separate the chocolate chips from other ingredients. Beat butter in a medium bowl until creamy. Beat sifted ingredients into butter until blended. In a small bowl, beat egg with vanilla. Mix beaten egg mixture into butter mixture until blended. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop teaspoonfuls of batter, spaced well apart, onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake 8 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes 4 dozen.

Note: Store this jar in a cool, dark place for up to 3 months before using.

### FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

(continued from page 12a)

electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania. Through Allegheny Electric Cooperative, the old load management system is being replaced and we feel it is an excellent opportunity for New Enterprise Rural Electric to participate.

This proven system currently being used in Pennsylvania has nearly 50,000 load control receivers installed in the homes of volunteer cooperative members. The device is installed next to a water heater and receives a signal from Allegheny Electric Cooperative in Harrisburg at a time when the peak demand is high and the cost of power is most expensive. The signal delays the water heater from coming on until the peak load period ends, usually a couple of hours. Since the water tank is already warm, there is little or no inconvenience to the member. The benefit to the cooperative is a lower cost of power from Allegheny.

The evaluation of this system will continue over the next year or so, with a good likelihood of participation in the program. It's been a successful option for most cooperative members throughout Pennsylvania who participate in the program. Much of the equipment needed for the Load Management System is compatible with the Automatic Meter Reading System. As soon as a vendor is chosen you will hear more about both of these programs. ☀

## Give the gift of light this Christmas season.

### New Enterprise REC Gift Certificate

Recipient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please circle one)

I wish to remain anonymous

Mail letter to recipient

Mail letter to purchaser