



Plugged In

to Altamaha EMC

SERVING: TOOMBS, MONTGOMERY, EMANUEL, TREUTLEN, LAURENS, JOHNSON and TATTNALL

SEPTEMBER 2011

Vol. 12, No. 2

Lyons, Georgia

Student Leaders—Motivated and Inspired The 2011 Washington Youth Tour

One hundred four motivated high school students from Georgia, representing 38 electric membership cooperatives (EMCs), answered a call to leadership on the 2011 Washington Youth Tour (WYT), June 9-16. The weeklong, all-expenses-paid tour began in Atlanta, included a visit to the Little White House in Warm Springs and culminated with a trip to Washington, D.C. The journey proved to be a lifetime adventure for the students, who joined more than 1,500 other delegates representing EMCs from 44 states.

Georgia's delegates took the leadership challenge. While in Washington, they met with representatives from Georgia's congressional delegation, including visits with Sens. Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson and U.S. Reps. John Barrow, Paul Broun, Phil

LOUIS TONSMEIRE / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION STEVE JACOBS



From left, Darby Oliver, Jacob Jay and Laura Johnson, all students at Toombs County High School, represented Altamaha EMC on the 2011 Washington Youth Tour.



DANIEL PECK STUDIOS

Students were given the opportunity to talk with 12th District U.S. Rep. John Barrow during their visit to Capitol Hill.

Gingrey, Hank Johnson, John Lewis, Austin Scott, David Scott, Lynn Westmoreland and Rob Woodall.

The students also participated in National Youth Day and visited Washington's numerous places of interest. Each year, the WYT allows delegates to experience national monuments—the Jefferson, Lincoln and FDR memorials, among others—and reflect on the words of leaders who helped make America great. Students soon realize that freedom isn't free after spending time at the World War II, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans memorials, as well as Arlington National Cemetery, where more than 300,000 people are buried.

Since 1964, electric cooperatives across the United States have sent more than 50,000 student delegates on the Washington Youth Tour, providing opportunities for leadership development and inspiring students to become strong, motivated leaders within their communities—and their nation.

Altamaha EMC's Youth Tour Delegates Have Bright Future

A Altamaha EMC's Washington Youth Tour delegates **Laura Johnson, Darby Oliver** and **Jacob Jay** witnessed government at work during the 2011 tour of our nation's capital.

A 2011 graduate of Toombs County High School, Laura was the class valedictorian. In addition to studying, cheerleading and Beta Club were among Laura's high school activities. She is also very involved with the youth group at Rocky Creek Baptist Church and volunteers with the local recreation department. Laura



Darby and Laura enjoyed visiting the FDR Memorial, which honors Franklin D. Roosevelt, the only American president elected to more than two terms in office. On May 11, 1935, FDR issued Executive Order 7037, establishing the Rural Electrification Administration. At that time, electricity was commonplace in cities but largely unavailable in farms, ranches and other rural places. The act provided federal loans for the installation of electrical distribution systems to serve rural areas of the United States.



The World War II Memorial gave the students the opportunity to reflect on the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces during the war, the more than 400,000 who died and the millions who supported the war effort from home.

plans to attend East Georgia College for two years before transferring to Valdosta State University to pursue a degree in speech therapy. Her proud parents are David and Mandy Johnson of Lyons.

Darby, a rising senior at Toombs County High School, is the daughter of Drayton and Lisa Oliver of Lyons. She is a member of Beta Club, Drama Club and the tennis team. Keeping her future options open, Darby is considering a career in the medical field.

Jacob is also a 2011 graduate of Toombs County High School, where he served as President of the senior class. Jacob was a member of the Beta Club and President of the Student Council. He now attends Georgia Southern University and later plans to transfer to the University of Georgia and become a plastic surgeon. Jacob's parents are Rhett and Lynne Jay of Lyons.



The Washington Youth Tour included a stop at Arlington National Cemetery, where more than 300,000 people are buried. Veterans from all the nation's wars are buried in the cemetery, from the American Revolution through the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Pre-Civil War dead were reinterred after 1900. Funerals, including interments and inurnments, average 28 a day. Arlington National Cemetery has the second-largest number of people buried of any national cemetery in the United States. Approximately 6,900 burials are conducted here each year.

Our Marching Orders: Affordable Power

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

After a visit to Washington, D.C., this year, I was impressed by the long-range planning and precision of our nation's military. But no matter how prepared they might be, the military can't make a move without marching orders from the top.

It reminds me of the bind electric cooperatives are in. We excel at long-range planning—most of the power you use today was designed three or four decades ago. We stand at the ready with plans for new infrastructure, power plants and innovative technologies to provide electricity for the next 30 years. But there's a problem—we're waiting on marching orders from our nation's leaders.

I was proud to join thousands of electric co-op representatives in our nation's capital this spring. We told our elected officials that now, more than ever, we have to plan for a safe, reliable and affordable energy future. To get there, we need to know the rules for power generation—and we need to know now. Rolling blackouts in Texas this year reminded all of us that electricity must be used as quickly as it's produced; we don't have the technology yet to store large amounts of power to fall back on when resources like wind turbines don't work.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we need to make some tough decisions soon—and we need to get them right.

With a flurry of proposed regulations being discussed for power plants (and more to come), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been following its own set of marching orders and deadlines set by the courts. However, what the final regulations will look like remains unclear. Co-ops need



to know the rules—our marching orders—for power generation.

Until the government provides more certainty, we can't enact our plans for the next three decades. As the appetite for electricity grows and threatens to outstrip our nation's generation capacity, we need to build more power plants. But what type of facilities will make the most sense financially?

Altamaha EMC's mission was set by you, our members, 75 years ago. You charged us to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. Where this power comes from affects a sizable portion of your electric bill—over 65 percent of each dollar you pay us goes to buying wholesale power. Bucket trucks, poles and wire, right-of-way trimming, payroll and other operating expenses are covered by the rest.

Although expensive, power plants and expanded transmission systems are an investment in a better future for all of us. We'll keep our ultimate mission at the forefront of our efforts as we work with Congress to get our marching orders and keep the lights on for the next 30 years. It's one more way we're looking out for you.

—Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC CEO



Million Dollar Cookies

- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 4 cups semisweet chocolate morsels
- 1-1/2 cups nuts, chopped
- 1 cup raisins

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, beat together the butter, sugars and vanilla with an electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, until well combined. Stir in the flour mixture until blended. Stir in the chocolate morsels, nuts and raisins. With a medium-size ice cream scooper or a large spoon, scoop the dough onto ungreased baking sheets, placing the mounds about 3 inches apart. Chill in refrigerator for 1 hour.

After dough has properly chilled, bake until the cookies are set and light golden brown—about 35 minutes. Do not burn. Cool cookies on baking rack. *Yields 15 cookies*

—From the kitchen of Anita Shepherd

Each month, our newsletter features recipes submitted by our members. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Altamaha EMC service area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to: Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC, P.O. Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436. Each month, a recipe will be selected for publication. The member who submitted the featured recipe will be given a \$10 credit on their next Altamaha EMC bill. Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Plugged In* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.

Plugged In to Altamaha EMC

The Official Newsletter
of Altamaha Electric
Membership Corporation

P.O. Box 346
Lyons, Georgia 30436
912-526-8181
Toll-free 1-800-822-4563
www.altamahaemc.com

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert E. Youmans
President

Bernard Hart
Vice President

Billy Benton
Secretary/Treasurer

Brandon Braddy
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Drexel Braddy
R. Alex Grindler
Randall Morris
Danny Shepherd
Myron Sweat

STAFF

Romanous Dotson
CEO

Randy Kent
CFO

Carl Gay
Manager, Construction
& Maintenance

Tammye Vaughn, Editor
tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com



*"Live Better
Electrically"*

Altamaha EMC's 2011 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.** at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia. The meeting will be in the Toombs Auditorium. All members are invited.

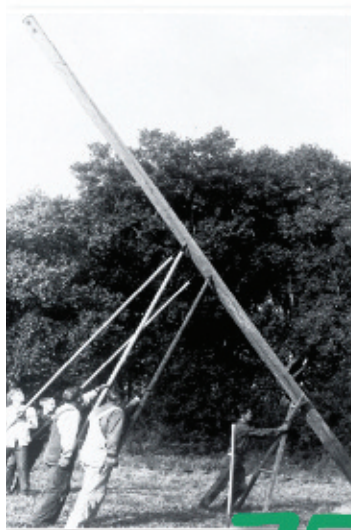
In addition to the annual financial reports, election of three seats on the Board of Directors and the general business session, many prizes will be given away. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

You, as a member-owner of Altamaha EMC, owe it to yourself and the cooperative to attend this very important meeting. Remember, you own the co-op, and you should be involved. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, Nov. 2.

2011 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet at the headquarters office in Lyons on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011. This committee consists of the following members: Bruce Herndon, Melvin McBride, Barry McDonald, Dustin J. Carter, Harold Ricks and Billy G. Holder.

Altamaha



Times have changed, but
one thing that will always
remain the same:

**Our
commitment
to serving
You.**

Celebrating **75** years of dedicated service

| 1936 - 2011 |

912.526.8181 • www.altamahaemc.com • 800.822.4563