



Power Source

Southwest Rural Electric Association, Inc.

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On October 2nd, 2018, 100 families in two isolated Guatemalan villages received electricity in their village for the very first time.

This incredible moment was a team effort by fifteen co-op volunteer linemen who partnered with locals to create the infrastructure in just 16 days. One of the team members was Mike Wolfe, a lineman with Southwest Rural Electric Cooperative.

“I’m impressed with how the people live and how happy they are. They don’t know any different and they don’t realize how spoiled we are. At home we put our clothes in a washer and dryer and here I see women scrubbing clothes in water that you would not want to get in. That hit’s me pretty hard,” said Wolfe.

Electric cooperatives have a long-standing tradition of bringing lights where there are none. In a spirit of cooperation, the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) – a service organization representing Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives – and the Colorado Rural Electric Association partnered with NRECA International, the philanthropic arm for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), to electrify these poverty-stricken villages in rural Guatemala.

The project consisted of 130 poles in approximately 4.34 miles of primary line and 3.86 miles of secondary line. The villages are tucked away near a rainforest. Most of the terrain was flat, but about one mile of line will be built in dense rainforest surroundings. The homes received a minimum of four lightbulbs, two light switches and electrical outlets.

A local municipal utility, Empresa Municipal Rural de Electricidad (EMRE), based in Playa Grande, Ixcán, will maintain the powerlines once they are built. The volunteers returned to the United States on October 4, 2018.



See pictures, interviews and video footage from the trip here: bit.ly/OkEnergy

Cooperation among cooperatives.

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



CEO Message



Manager/CEO, Ken Simmons

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Haley Hoover, *SWRE News* editor

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Be grateful for your freedom and your voice—go vote!

While Thanksgiving takes the spotlight for the month of November, I'd like to call your attention to a few other dates that deserve recognition as well: Veteran's Day and Election Day. Have you ever considered that either event would not be possible without the other, and how fitting it is that both fall during the Thanksgiving season, a time of reflection and gratitude?

It is important to exercise and express that appreciation toward the brave men and women who serve our country. Our military members and their families undergo many sacrifices to ensure our safety and freedom. Their mission is a never-ending task. Without them, we might still be without electricity and other modern conveniences, similar to our friends in Guatemala (see page right). In fact, it is your right to freedom that gives you the opportunity to vote for the elected officials whose policy and laws influence and directly impact the electric industry and our electric cooperative.

There is great power in each and every vote, whether on a local or national level. Each vote, combined with other like-minded votes, can reinforce one another to create a movement. Consider how much change is initiated simply by exercising your democratic voice each election day.

For example, the 2016 election rural voter turnout increased by over a half-million! We believe this is due in part to the NRECA program, Co-ops Vote. SWRE is proud to be a five-star member of this national movement that encourages rural electric members to vote in each election. At vote.coop you can find information tailored to your area regarding the upcoming elections.

With all of the new technologies in our constantly changing environment and specifically the energy sector, it's more important than ever to stay educated on what your representatives are posting on your ballot.

This year, I hope you'll join me at the polls on November 6th and utilize your voice of freedom. I also hope you will join me on November 12th to honor those who protect your voice of freedom. For both of these things, let us always be grateful.

Wishing you and your family a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

– Ken Simmons

What do Guatemala and Texhoma have in common?

You may think that indoor plumbing, food refrigeration, electric appliances and electrical outlets are standard means to modern living, but for more than 2 billion people around the globe, these conveniences are not possible. In fact, they wouldn't be possible for your home either if it weren't for the Rural Electrification Act, which was established in the U.S. in 1936. With this act, local rural citizens were able to pool together their resources and form autonomous electric cooperatives. We in the United States, are fortunate to have this modern convenience available at our fingertips in rural places and spaces.



Rural cooperatives were formed in the 1930's as a way to bring electricity to rural America. For-profit companies wouldn't do it because it didn't make financial sense.



Much like America in the 1930's, many countries around the world today do not enjoy the benefits of electricity because electric companies cannot make financial sense out of it.



Over 300 electric cooperatives support the NRECA International program through monetary contributions, material donations, and allowing linemen and employees to help as volunteers.



@SWRE_coop, #cybersecurity

After electrifying our home front, President John F. Kennedy signed the inaugural cooperatives agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1962 which gave the electric cooperatives the freedom to help electrify our international neighbors. Since then, NRECA International has brought electricity to over 126 million people in 43 countries.

During this Thanksgiving season, let us remember to be grateful for the development of electricity in our rural areas. It is easy to forget that so many are still without this luxury.

Fostering an attitude of gratitude

On a similar note, one of the principles instilled in SWRE employees, is that of giving back to those in need. Our employees are involved in community events, drives and donations year-round and they donate out of their own pockets! As a means of supporting co-worker, Mike Wolfe on his international venture, our employees raised \$195 towards water filters that were delivered to each Guatemalan house that received electricity. The filters were made and purchased in Guatemala.

During September, our employees also raised \$240 in funds towards Alzheimer's research. It is this generosity-based mindset that keeps us focused on the heart of the season. Be thankful for everything you have.

This month, SWRE employees are raising funds for the Tillman County Foodbank. If you'd like to support this mission, please contact Haley at 580-667-4413.





Jim's Frito Taco Salad



Ingredients:

1 1/2 heads of lettuce
 1 lb. fried bacon
 2 cans ranch style beans (juice and all)
 1 chopped tomato
 1 bag of Fritos (slightly crushed)
 8 oz. grated cheddar cheese
 Catalina dressing to taste (about 1/2 to 3/4 of the bottle)

Instructions:

1. Chop up the lettuce, bacon and tomato
2. Pour Fritos on a large pan or tray
3. Cover Fritos with lettuce, bacon, tomato and beans
4. Stir in Catalina dressing to taste
5. Sprinkle grated cheese on top

Feeds 6 people.

SWRE Trading Post

*FREE classified non-commercial ads available for SWRE members only. Ads also posted at www.swre.com.
 Mail ads to Haley Hoover at P.O. Box 310 Tipton, OK 73570, email to haleyhoover@swre.com or call 1-800-256-7973.*

For Sale: 2003 Keystone Hornet camper trailer. 31 foot with a 3x12 slide-out. Call (580) 318-4812.

For Sale: Betty Boop dolls for \$10 each, also china dolls for \$5 each. Call 940-552-2010 for inquiries

For Sale: Young Guinea Chicks, \$3 each. Call 580-471-8055.

For Sale: Jack Russell Puppies. Vet checked, first shots, wormed. Located in Blair. 580-301-0253 please no texts.

For Sale: 20-22 mo. Old Polled Hereford Bulls, also 12-24 mo. Angus Bulls. Call 940-852-5181 or 940-839-5551.

For Sale: 1968 Cub Cadet 124, 42" mower deck, good tires, good condition, used very little, includes bulldozer blade and almost new very heavy compost grinder used 2 times. Also selling a 1973 Cub Cadet 1650 hydrostat, 50" mower deck with new blades, needs tires and engine work. Call 580-482-5722.

For Sale: 1987 Cadillac Deville Sedan. One owner, about 110,000 miles. Needs new radiator. Has a fairly new battery. Make offer. Located near Altus. 580-563-2802

For Sale: Certified seed wheat. Bentley, SY Rugged, & Iba in bulk. OK Seed License 08005320. Call 580-482-4607 or 580-465-0564.

For Sale: Flatbed cotton trailers; some need new flooring, one is 20 foot long with very good floor. Most have good tires. Several are full metal flooring with metal sides approximately 12 inches. For more information and pricing please contact 972-814-9842.

For Sale: 1997 New Vision by Sportsman Camper/RV, 31-ft fifth wheel with one slide out. Excellent condition, hasn't been used in several years. \$7500 OBO. Located in Vernon, TX. Call 940-473-1200.

For Sale: Goat herd dispersal. Fifteen Boer nannies for sale. Product of ten year 4-H/FFA breeding show project. Very fancy. \$350 a piece for a dozen or more. 580-512-7899.



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