

Doug Rye *says ...*



Happy New Year! And the winners are ...

Happy New Year everyone and I can't think of a better way to start it off than by listing the winners of my electricity uses contest that began last fall. They are: (1) the gifted and talented class of the Kirby High School located in Kirby, Ark. – LaDonna Ashbrooks, teacher, members of South Central Arkansas Electric Cooperative; (2) the second grade class at Waverly Elementary School in Waverly, S.D.; (3) the sixth, seventh and eighth grade science classes at the Gravette Middle School located in Gravette, Ark. – Allie Wood, teacher, in the Carroll Electric Cooperative district; and (4) Tina Sanders, Huntsville, Ark., a member of Carroll Electric Cooperative. These folks presented the longest lists for ways to use electricity around the house. I was so impressed and unbelievably surprised at the number of people who responded with their lists. As of this date, there were four pages of entries. I think that it is now safe to say that there are many who now consider electricity as a blessing.

I have often said in my seminars that youngsters understand energy efficiency better than us older folks. I am so very proud of the school groups mentioned above. The teachers said that the classes took the challenge very seriously and had a lot of fun with the competition. The teachers seemed to really enjoy the students coming to class each day saying, "I have another way we use electricity!"

Okay, so now we know that electricity is a blessing and it can be used in about 200 different ways in our houses. However, that does not mean that we should waste any of it. As I have mentioned in my columns for many years, there are many ways that all of us can practice conservation and energy efficiency. I think the beginning of a new year is a good time to start. I plan to continue to teach all of our readers just how to do that.

Well, again, Happy New Year to you all, and who knows – I may have another contest to see how many ways you can save and be more energy efficient. See you next time!



Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Saline County and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show, works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video or ask energy efficiency-related questions, call Doug at 1-501-653-7931. More energy-efficiency tips, as well as Doug's columns, can also be found at www.ecark.org