

Free Steak Dinner



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

HELLO JERRY THIS IS NOT A SOLAR PROGRAM. That's how my invitation started. In addition to a free steak dinner, I would learn how I could save up to 40% each month on my utility bills! Over the past several years I have received many cards and letters inviting me to have a free meal and learn how to cut my electric bill. Many of you have probably received similar invitations. I know when a bunch of invitations have gone in the mail, from the calls I receive from members wanting to know if it is a scam or if they should go. I went to one of the presentations so I could gather information and share it with you.

Yes, you get a free steak dinner and, depending on the restaurant, some are really good. Expect a casual atmosphere and a speaker/presenter that will have a few good jokes. Most likely you will know some of the other folks, who just like you, are unsure of exactly what to expect.

The primary product demonstration was two layers of Aluminum foil with a thin layer of polyethylene foam as a core between the perforated sheets of foil. This aluminum barrier is supposed to be installed on top of existing attic insulation for the purpose of keeping Radiant Heat out of your house during the hot summer months and the heat inside your home during the cold winter months. The foam core provides a bit of Conductive insulation and adds strength to keep the foil from easily tearing. The idea is your house will stay cooler in the summer and reduce your electric bill.

The confusion seems to start when the discussion turns to a "radiant barrier" reducing the transfer of heat. How could some shiny foil reflect anything in a dark attic? Some basic concepts about heat may help. Heat moves from a warm area to a cool area by a combination of Conduction, Convection and Radiation, but all heat transfer begins with Radiation. Infrared rays or heat waves are radiated in a direct line from the heat source, such as the sun or a fire. The heat waves are absorbed or reflected by anything they come into contact with, such as your roof. Our attic heats up in the summer when the sun's radiant energy heats the roofing material and the heat is transferred to the interior attic space through the roofing materials by Conduction. Another good example of Conduction would be a metal spoon in a cup of coffee conducting heat through its handle to your hand. We typically use fiberglass or cellulose insulation in the attic and walls to reduce this movement of heat.

When the roofing materials heat the air in the attic, the hot air expands and heat moves toward the top of your fiberglass insulation through air currents. Of course, having ridge vents

will help get rid of a lot of this Convection heat.

Radiant heat travels in a straight line away from an object and heats anything solid that absorbs its energy. The most common Radiant Heat Barrier in existence is simply called a shade tree. If tree limbs shade your entire roof from the sun, you don't need any additional barrier for Radiant heat. Most of us don't have that much shade. The leaves on the tree will absorb the radiant heat from the sun. If it's a good shade tree there are enough leaves and branches that don't get hot enough to conduct the heat to the roof. Unlike the tree limbs, your roofing material will absorb heat from the sun and the heat is radiated toward the attic floor. A radiant barrier (Aluminum Foil) installed on the attic floor on top of existing insulation reduces that energy flow by reflecting it back toward the roof. This makes the top surface of your regular fiberglass insulation cooler than it would have been without a radiant barrier and thus reduces the amount of heat that moves through the insulation into the rooms below the ceiling. The radiant barrier does very little to reduce indoor heat loss in the winter. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, "Reflective insulation and radiant barrier products must have an air space adjacent to the reflective material to be effective."

You will hear this technology was developed by NASA and is now available to the general public. NASA certainly perfected the technology but actually a German businessman filed for the patent in 1925. Many of you will remember the thin aluminum film which reflected radiant heat for the Apollo program. The lunar landing module was covered with the reflective metallic looking film. The film was used to protect spacecraft, equipment and astronauts from thermal radiation. In the vacuum of space temperatures can range from 250 degrees F to 400 degrees below zero and heat transfer is only by radiation, so a radiant barrier is much more effective than it is on earth. Of course, your presenter will likely point out how his product was based on the same NASA concept.

So, is it a good or bad thing? Did I buy? If an Aluminum Foil barrier in the attic will reflect radiant heat, why is it not found in all new houses? Probably the best answer is the cost for the product compared to the savings. Some well-known national laboratories have demonstrated that installing a Radiant Barrier in an average home in our area of North Texas with air conditioning ductwork in the attic could reduce your electric bill up to \$100 per year (about \$8 per month). According to the Reflective Insulation Manufacturers Association International (RIMA-I), one of the most common misrepresentations of radi-

ant barrier distributors is exaggerating savings on your energy bill. RIMA-I is a non-profit industry trade association that exists to propagate the knowledge, use and benefits of reflective insulation and radiant barriers. During the presentation, I was told to expect a savings of 20-30 percent on my electric bill, which is simply not realistic.

True to the card, the steak dinner and presentation was an informational meeting and nothing could be purchased at the meeting. Not a single price was mentioned. A follow up appointment was made so they could measure my home and give a specific quote. After measuring my house, it was determined I needed 2,080 square feet of the Aluminum Barrier. The installed retail price was quoted as over \$6,000, but if I combined the barrier material with a device that will “condition” all the electrical power at my breaker box, the \$12,000 retail value of both products, could be reduced to a total of \$5,100.

I want to be clear. In my opinion, neither of these products are bad., they are simply overpriced. Their savings claims are overstated and the stated warranty is somewhat misleading. There are many companies that produce Aluminum Radiant Barriers. You can locate many of these products on the internet. The radiant barriers are typically in rolls 48 inches wide and 100-250 feet long. You can easily purchase enough rolls for a 2,000 square foot home for about \$400-\$600, depending on the manufacturer.

My salesman told me his product was guaranteed for life against weather, water or aging damage. He even produced a certificate that stated the product is guaranteed for the life of the Structure. When I read the fine print, I discovered the barrier is only guaranteed against a manufacture’s defect. If I happen to discover the manufacturer produced some defective material, they will send me the replacement square footage, with me doing the removal and reinstalling.

You may be wondering about the device that would “condition” all the electric power at my breaker box. It was the typical “power factor correction box” we discussed in the August 2011 issue of Texas Co-op Power. You can read the details by going to www.lamarelectric.coop and click on the picture of the Texas Co-op Power cover in the lower left-hand corner of the Home page; then click on the August 2011 issue. The article is titled: “Scam or Not?” In summary, the presentation is about how the device will cause an electric motor to draw fewer amps. Your electric meter records “real power” not “apparent power” and the device will not reduce your electric bill. The device contains a capacitor and capacitors do help electric motors. That is why all modern appliances such as you’re A/C unit, refrigerator, deep freeze and most every other electric motor in your home comes from the factory with a capacitor built in. The device may serve as a lightening arrester, but otherwise will not serve any practical purpose.

When your invitation arrives, you will have to decide if 2-3 hours of time is a fair exchange for a free steak dinner. There is almost always a bit of truth in all scams, so be wary of exaggerated claims, and overpriced products. No, I did not buy.



Did You Know

Enough sunlight reaches Earth’s surface every minute to satisfy the world’s energy demands for an entire year.

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Member Benefits

- Level billing
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Your Local Pages

This section of *Texas Co-op Power* is produced by LEC each month to provide you with information about current events, safety, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the local office.

CONTACT US

CALL US

(903) 784-4303 local or
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www.lamarelectric.coop



NOTICE OF LAMAR ELECTRIC

MEETING OF MEMBERS

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF LAMAR COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION will be held Saturday, April 22, at Paris Junior High School's Auditorium, 2400 Jefferson Road in Paris.

Registration opens at 9 a.m. The business session begins at 10 a.m. and includes any necessary reports of the officers, board members and committees, as well as the election of board members in districts 1, 8 and 9, each for a three-year term.

Any member who wishes to run for a seat on the cooperative's board of directors must appear in person at the main office of the cooperative and fill out a nomination form not less than 60 days and not more than 90 days before the date of the annual meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected.

The following members have placed their names in nomination at the cooperative headquarters:

- District 1** Michael Williams, 16288 FM 195, Detroit 75436
- District 8** Matthew Albus, 2212 CR 25200, Roxton 75477
- District 9** Lyle Yoder, 13527 FM 905, Pattonville 75468

You do not have to be present at the meeting to vote in the director election. Before the meeting, ballots will be mailed to members who reside in the districts having an election. If you reside in one of those districts, you may either vote by mail or in person at the meeting.

Every member in attendance at the meeting will receive a registration gift, and a drawing for other prizes will be held. You must be present at the time of the drawing to be eligible for other prizes.

Six \$1,000 scholarships will also be awarded at the meeting. Entries must be received at the cooperative office by 5 p.m., April 7.

To be eligible for a scholarship, a candidate:

- ▶ Must live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric; and
- ▶ Be a graduating senior attending a high school or accredited home extended studies program within the counties served by Lamar Electric.

We look forward to your attending. Enjoy your annual meeting.

MICHAEL R. WILLIAMS
Board Secretary

March 30, 2017

Scholarship Deadline April 7



THIS YEAR, LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will award six \$1,000 academic scholarships to students who plan to pursue an academic degree or certification from an accredited university, college, junior college, technical school or other postsecondary educational institution.

Scholarship payment will be made directly to the college, university or school in one lump sum. Scholarships must be used within two years of the award date. Funds can be used for tuition, books, and room and board.

Eligibility Requirements:

To be considered for a Lamar Electric scholarship, an applicant must:

- ▶ Live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric Cooperative; and
- ▶ Be a graduating senior attending a high school or an accredited home extended studies program within the counties served by Lamar Electric.

Six scholarships will be given away at the Lamar Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting, April 22, in a random drawing of qualified students. The winners need not be present.

The entry deadline is April 7. The application can be found below or on the Lamar Electric website, lamarelectric.coop. Once the application is completed, it should be emailed to scholarship@lamarelectric.coop. Applications may also be mailed to: Lamar Electric Cooperative, Attn: Katie Morris, P.O. Box 580, Paris, TX 75461.

LAMAR ELECTRIC 2017 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Name of High School _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Lamar Electric Cooperative Account No. _____

Phone No. _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 7.

Please send completed application to: Lamar Electric Cooperative, Attn: Katie Morris, P.O. Box 580, Paris, TX 75461.



Plant a Tree on Earth Day

ON EARTH DAY—APRIL 22—organizers encourage everyone to plant trees wherever they can, in their neighborhoods or in their own yards.

Although the Texas heat makes autumn the optimal time to plant trees in the state, many varieties of trees still can establish solid root systems in spring before the summer rolls around to tax them.

If you plant a tree in your yard, choose a strategic location—one that will let the full-grown tree avoid contact with power lines or electrical equipment while shading your home from the hot summer sun. As it grows, a well-placed tree can help reduce your air conditioning bills and keep your home more comfortable.

Tips from the Arbor Day Foundation:

- ▶ Trees on the west and northwest sides of your home will shade the building during mid- to late afternoons.
- ▶ Keep branches pruned enough that they don't block your view when you look out of west-facing windows.
- ▶ Shade trees along driveways and patios will protect you from the sun while you're outside. The shade keeps the concrete and your yard cooler.
- ▶ Protect your outdoor air conditioner from weather-related wear and tear by planting a shade tree nearby. The less direct sunlight that hits the unit, the more efficiently it will run all summer.

Youth Tour Winners Announced



SARAH TEUBNER



KYLEA BASDEN

SARAH TEUBNER, a home-schooled junior, the daughter of Rebekah and the late Mike Teubner of Novice, and **Kylea Basden**, a junior at North Lamar High School, the daughter of John and Patricia Basden of Powderly, won the 2017 Government-in-Action Youth Tour essay contest sponsored by Lamar Electric.

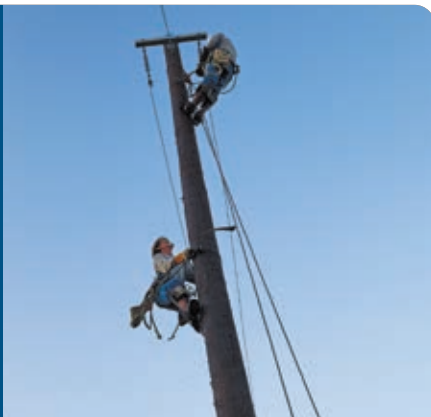
Contestants submitted an essay addressing the topic, “How will electrical needs be met in the future?”

In June, the students will join 145 other students from Texas. Before leaving for Washington, D.C., the students will tour the Texas Capitol and learn about state government in Austin. Then they will fly to Washington for a week of fun and educational events. While there, they will visit their congressional representatives, spend a day on Capitol Hill, and tour the Smithsonian Institution museums and many other popular sites. Selected students from the group will also participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

National Lineman Appreciation Day

APRIL 10

Thank your co-op’s lineworkers for bringing power to you!



DAVE SHAFER



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Counterfeit power adapters can cause electric shock and even death.

Beware of Cheap Phone Chargers

WHEN INSPECTORS FROM Underwriters Laboratories tested iPhone chargers for safety, the results, they said, were “literally shocking.”

UL deems power adapters sold for iPhones but not made by Apple “counterfeit” and warns that they might not have undergone electrical safety tests, and can shock or even kill users.

In 2016, a UL test of 400 counterfeit adapters found that 99 percent of them failed by damaging themselves, harming the phone during charging or leaking current that could shock a user.

Although counterfeit adapters can look just like legitimate Apple chargers, they usually have a few “tells,” UL reports. For example:

UL-certified Apple chargers are white and come in white Apple packaging.

Certification labels on genuine Apple labels do not misspell words or names—like “Abble,” for instance—and say the product was designed by Apple and not by any other organization. The certification symbol is clearly printed without smudging or distortion.

Expect to pay at least \$19 for a properly tested Apple adapter. If you find one for \$1, you can bet that it’s a fake.

If you find a charger loose in a bin of marked-down electronics at a discount store, you can feel 99 percent certain that it’s counterfeit.