Macon Speedway is proud to welcome Touchstone Energy Cooperatives from across East Central Illinois to its racing event on Saturday, July 11. The Touchstone Energy Sportsman class will kick off the night’s races.

Macon Speedway is a 1/5 mile high-banked dirt oval located in Macon, Ill.; 9 miles south of Decatur on US Highway 51.

Macon Speedway has been in operation since 1946. The Speedway has recently come under new ownership that includes local promoter Bob Sargent and NASCAR Stars Ken Schrader, Kenny Wallace and Tony Stewart.

Macon Speedway is currently racing 5 action-packed classes every Saturday night: UMP Late Model, UMP Modified, UMP Sportsman, UMP Street Stock and UMP 4-cyl Hornets. Northern All-Star Late Models, UMP Summernationals and Wolfpack Modified Challenge are key events on an action-packed schedule that runs from the end of March through mid-September.

Special NASCAR Nights offer fans the opportunity to meet NASCAR Stars and see them compete side by side with their local favorites.

Present your Touchstone Energy Coop Connections Card any race night at the gate and get $2 off the price of admission.

To see a complete schedule or to learn more about Macon Speedway go to www.maconracing.com.

For more information about Touchstone Energy visit www.touchstoneenergy.coop.

Visit us at the Farm Progress Show in Decatur

Visit the Touchstone Energy exhibit in the Varied Industries Tent at this year’s Farm Progress Show Sept. 1, 2 and 3 in Decatur, Ill. While you’re there learn about energy efficiency measures that will save you money each month on your energy bill.

We will offer a free gift each day as well as the opportunity to win Wal-Mart gift cards. Present your Coop-Connections card for a special gift. Don’t have a Connections card or lost yours? Contact your cooperative office.

Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives along with the Energy Education Council and SafeElectricity.org will also be sponsoring the Live Line Demo, an electrical safety demonstration featuring 7,200 volts of electricity! Great for kids and adults, it’s an experience your family won’t want to miss. Kyle Finley, owner/operator, will have his Live Line Demo just outside the Varied Industries Tent on Junior Lot #450. Visit www.livedinedemo.com.

The Varied Industries Tent runs the length of Fifth and Fourth Progress Street and is in between West Progress and Central Progress Avenue. The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Exhibit will be on the end cap just inside the entrance/exit on Central Progress Avenue.

The Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will also be making an appearance flying the American flag as part of the opening ceremonies each morning. If weather permits the balloon will do a late afternoon flight as well.

Look for more information soon in Prairie Farmer Magazine to learn more about the 2009 Farm Progress Show or visit their Web site www.farmprogressshow.com.

Hope to see you there.
Team High Voltage in High Gear

Get your extra cash handy so you won’t be outbid or out-selected with all the great items Team High Voltage has put together for its Relay for Life Fundraising project.

Team High Voltage is the “Relay for Life” team name for Shelby Electric Cooperative employees who are participating in this great community cause.

Buy tickets for your chance for a hog. Two raffle winners will share the hog and each get obviously ½ the prized pig. Processing from T & L Locker is also included. The two winners will be drawn at the Shelby Electric Cooperative’s office on July 22nd. The cooperative’s office is located on Route 128 & N. 6th Street in Shelbyville.

Other items that will be raffled away include a Man-Duffle bag and a Man-Cooler. Both made by, who else, Mother. There is also a NOAA weather radio and a Portable Generac 3250 Watt Generator. There will be several other raffle items available to buy tickets for. These prizes will be drawn on August 8th the night of Relay. You can see the items on display in the cooperative’s office.

Purchase your tickets from any team member or stop by the cooperative’s office to get your tickets. You can also call 217-774-3986 for more information about these raffle items or how you can purchase your tickets.

You do not have to be present to win any of the Team High Voltage raffle items and many items are now on display at the cooperative’s headquarters in Shelbyville, Ill.

Also mark your calendar for July 18 and a midnight swim. All proceeds benefit Team High Voltage’s total amount raised for Relay for Life and finding a cure for cancer.

The midnight swim will be from 10 p.m. until Midnight at the Shelbyville pool located in Forrest Park with admission of $5 per person or $20 for a family of four or more.

OUTAGE REPORT

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Cooperative Welcomes Manship Back

Shelby Electric Cooperative is proud to welcome back Pam Manship to the cooperative family. Pam worked for Shelby DirecTV and Shelby Electric before her husband’s employer, Caterpillar, relocated their family in 2006; first to Peoria and then to North Carolina. Pam replaced Chrissy Grant as Accountant Assistant when Chrissy resigned to help run a recently purchased family business in Findlay. Pam started with the cooperative as a Customer Service Representative with the satellite TV subsidiary in 1995 before moving to the electric side of the business in 2005. “I’m excited to be back at the cooperative and have missed everyone while I was gone,” said Manship. While away, Pam volunteered with school functions as well as with area community organizations. In her spare time she is busy with kid’s activities, scrapbooking and playing golf. We welcome Pam, her husband Kevin and family back to the area and to the cooperative family.

Help Others Beat the Heat
Donate A Fan II

Like last summer Shelby Electric Cooperative is lending a hand to the Shelby County Senior Center by being a collecting point for people who want to donate a new fan. “We see this as a great Community Service project,” said Member Services Representative Marla Eversole. Eversole is also coordinating this project for the cooperative.

“With the rising cost of power and high cooling bills some people can’t afford to run their air conditioners. We want to be able to give any family or individual a free fan to help them keep cool this summer. With this great support from Shelby Electric Cooperative and others in the community we will be able to do great things with our fan project,” said Mary Beth Massey Coordinator at the Senior Center. “We were delighted to have their assistance and gladly accepted when they offered to buy fans and also to be a drop-off spot for us last year,” added Massey.

The Senior Center handed out more than 90 fans last summer, and should receive at least that many requests this year.

Anyone interested in helping out this great cause can either purchase a new fan or bring monetary support to either cooperative location; the cooperative’s headquarters on Route 128 across from Shelbyville High School or their PWR-net building on East Route 16.

Shelby Electric Cooperative will accept fans at either location all summer long and will then deliver the fans throughout the summer to the Shelby County Senior Center. Requests for a fan must be made to the Senior Center.

“If you don’t know what kind of fan to purchase or you don’t have time to buy one you can also donate money to the project, and we will make sure the Senior Center gets the donation,” said Eversole.

“We will only accept new fans. Box fans or fans on stands are the most popular requests, however, we will accept any size or type of fan as long as they are new,” said Massey. “If we end up with more fans then we can distribute we will share them with other organizations,” continued Massey.

Anyone needing a fan should either stop by the Senior Center or call Mary Beth Massey at 217-774-2251. For more information either contact Marla Eversole at the cooperative by calling 800-677-2612 or Mary Beth at the Senior Center.
Electronics in our homes use energy even when they are “off” to power features like clock displays and remote controls. U.S. households spend $100 per year to power devices while they are in this “standby” power mode. Even though each individual item may not use much energy – it adds up quickly when all the electronics in a home are combined. A power strip cord may be an effective solution for completely turning off electronics if you are not using a timer or do not need to reprogram the electronics every time it is turned back on.

Do not forget battery chargers. If the charger for portable devices such as cell phones, portable DVD units, Nintendo DS games and MP3 players are left plugged in – they are still using electricity!

If the words, “Mo-o-o-om, I’m bored …” sound familiar, you might want to find something for the kids to do besides play video games! According to a study by the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sony PS3 Game Console uses an average of 150 watts in Active Mode. The Microsoft Xbox 360 uses an average of 119 watts in Active Mode and the Nintendo Wii is the most energy efficient, using an average of 16 watts in Active Mode.

To save money in your home – power down the system when not actively playing. Some systems have an automatic power-saving feature, but often they are NOT activated. To learn more about activating this feature, visit www.nrdc.org/energy/consoles/contents.asp.

82% of US homes
have more than one television set  
87% of US homes
have a DVD player  
78% of all Americans
have cell phones  
More than 40% of all homes in the United States have at least one video game console.