

April 10, 2006

## **Corning High School takes top honors at third Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally**

Little Rock, Ark. — April 10, 2006 — The third time was a charm for students of Corning High School as they took first place overall at the third Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally on April 7 at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds. The annual event was sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

About 50 students from three schools brought four electric vehicles they had constructed to compete in the intensive academic and hands-on driving events.

It was the third year for Corning High School to participate and the first year for the school to take top honors. Berryville High School came in second overall, while Paragould High School placed third.

The event began with technical inspections and rigorous safety inspections of the student vehicles. The participants then moved to the track and strapped on helmets for an acceleration event. An autocross competition followed with many twists and turns. Teams then gave oral presentations and participated in a quiz bowl to test the students' knowledge of science and electric vehicles. Next, the teams returned to the track to test how far the vehicles could go on a single charge. The on-track and pit lane strategies made this event one of the most exciting in the rally.

Nick Manatt, member services manager from Clay County Electric Cooperative in Corning and event co-director, credited the rally's success to the students, teachers, parents and community sponsors of the program. "They put in a lot of time and effort to prepare for the competition and make it happen. With volunteer programs and no budgets, it is the generous support of teachers, sponsors and parents that make this event happen."

The rally was conducted by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. Participating cooperatives included Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation of Little Rock, Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative of Ozark, Carroll Electric Cooperative of Berryville and Clay County Electric Cooperative of Corning.

The Arkansas Electric Vehicle Education Program is an ongoing education program that brings together students from a wide variety of disciplines – including math, auto mechanics, physics, engineering, electronics, and journalism. Throughout the year, students complete a variety of activities, developing presentations and taking part in a wide range of projects. This unique project's highlight is student design and construction of electric vehicles that they can actually drive and enter in statewide competitions.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides various services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric

Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to more than 440,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.

For additional information, contact:

Rob Roedel, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, 501.570.2296 or [rroedel@aeci.com](mailto:rroedel@aeci.com)

[www.ecark.org](http://www.ecark.org)