

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

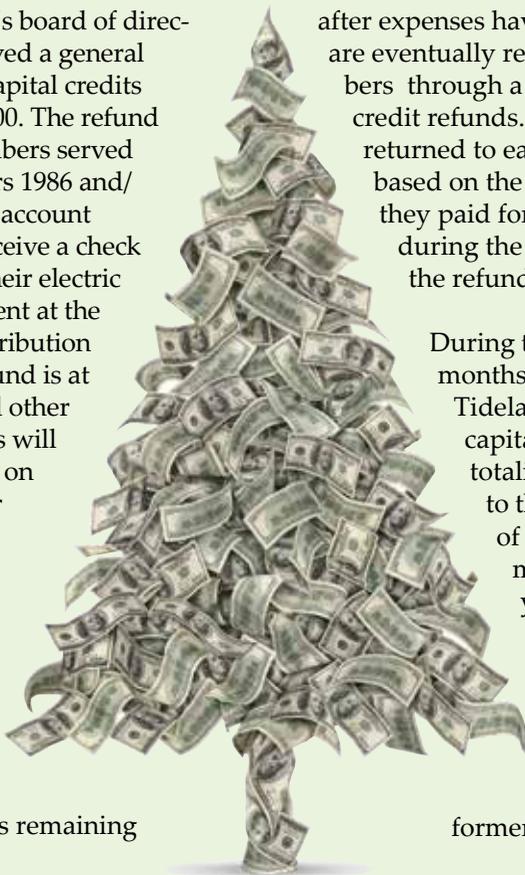
Tideland Topics

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND EMC

MERRY MARGINS: Your capital credit refund is on the way

Tideland EMC's board of directors has approved a general retirement of capital credits totaling \$288,500. The refund applies to members served during the years 1986 and/or 2013. Active account holders will receive a check this month if their electric account is current at the time of the distribution and if their refund is at least \$50.00. All other active members will receive a credit on their December electric bill.

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, Tideland provides service at cost. Any funds remaining



after expenses have been paid are eventually returned to members through a series of capital credit refunds. The amount returned to each member is based on the total amount they paid for electric service during the year for which the refund is made.

During the first 11 months of 2014, Tideland refunded capital credits totaling \$263,555 to the estates of deceased members. So by year end, the co-op will have refunded well over half a million dollars to current and former members.



Co-op Inducted into Hall of Fame

Tideland EMC was recently inducted into the Beaufort County Relay for Life Hall of Fame. Tideland has annually fielded a Relay team in the Beaufort County American Cancer Society event for the last 18 consecutive years.

The Tideland team raised \$3,243 this year for the Beaufort County event. The co-op is in the process of putting together a 2015 team for the next Relay for Life which will be held May 1 and 2.

The co-op and its employees also support Relay for Life events in three other counties.



Message to our Member-Owners: WPCA credit holds steady as winter approaches

By Paul Spruill
Chief Executive Officer
and General Manager

Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During December they will continue working in Pamlico County. They will be finishing up the Dawson Creek area before moving on to the Silverhill substation and working their way north on 306.

Mowing crews will be working along Hwy. 99 North making their way towards Lake Phelps.

Crews will continue work along Ocracoke's Hwy. 12 to replace and refurbish more than 80 poles.

Since January 2013 the co-op has issued a monthly wholesale power cost adjustment credit. This year the credit ranged anywhere between \$8.80 and \$2.23 per 1,000 kWh. The average for the past 24 months has been slightly less than \$5.00.

These consumer-friendly credits have largely been possible due to favorable natural gas prices. In North Carolina, power generators have increasingly embraced the "blue flame" due to high inventories and falling costs.

As we approach the end of our fiscal year, we are cautiously optimistic that the WPCA will remain a credit or zero out through the end of 2015. Nevertheless, we are

RESIDENTIAL RATE 1	Nov-2013	Nov-2014
Kilowatt hours	1,200	1,200
Basic facilities	\$25.00	\$25.00
kWh (winter rates)	132.32	\$126.96
Wholesale power cost adjustment	-\$5.97	-\$3.80
NC REPS	\$0.09	\$0.09
NC sales tax (3% in '13; 7% in '14)	\$4.54	\$10.37
TOTAL	\$155.98	\$158.62
Net Billed Increase		\$2.64

mindful that any number of factors, including weather, can impact natural gas supply and demand and ultimately pricing. Widespread severe winter weather of any significant duration would likely push those prices higher.

So knowing what we are powerless to control, we always like to reiterate those actions you can take as an individual to not only manage but reduce your energy costs this winter. The best new tool at your disposal this

year has to be our new "high usage" text and email alerts. Simply set a daily energy cost goal this winter and enroll in one of our free notification services. It's a great way to ensure no high bill surprises this winter.

The chart above illustrates a typical November electric bill. If you do have to invest in new HVAC or water heating equipment we hope you'll keep in mind the long term pricing stability demonstrated by electricity.

Give a H.U.G. this holiday season

Want to brighten the Holiday Season for someone special? Give a H.U.G. A home utility gift!

We'll be glad to credit any Tideland EMC member's account in the gift amount of your choice. Gifts must be paid in full with cash, check or credit card.

We'll also provide you with a special holiday greeting card to notify the recipient of your gift. Call 1.800.637.1079 for details or visit any Tideland office.



JIMMY BURBAGE RETIRES FROM TIDELAND BOARD:

More than three decades of co-op service

Long-time Tideland EMC director Jimmy Burbage of Bath officially retired his seat on the co-op's board at the conclusion of the director's monthly meeting held on Thursday, October 23.

Burbage was first elected to the board on December 4, 1981. During his nearly 33 years as a director, Burbage served as board president for 10 years. He provided crucial leadership through several important transitions that set the stage for service in the modern age of computers and the Internet.

Prior to joining the board, Burbage spent 20 years in the Navy. Retiring to his hometown of Bath he found a second career in the public school system where he taught welding. He put those same skills to use pursuing his family's favorite pastime, building and racing late-model stock cars.

It isn't possible to honor "Mr. Jimmy" without also acknowledging his devoted wife "Miss Fran". She has been equally passionate about the importance of co-op service.

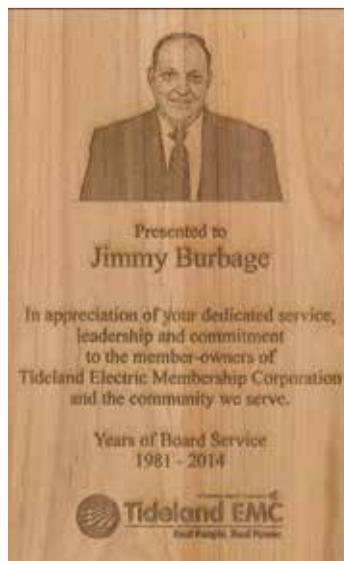
In early November the board presented a retirement plaque to Burbage in honor of his distinguished service as a director. Our warmest wishes are extended to both Mr. Jimmy and Miss Fran in the years ahead.



Jimmy Burbage



In 1998, during his tenure as board president, Burbage presented a replica of Ocracoke's lighthouse to representatives visiting from a Bolivian electric co-op.



12
DAYS OF
SAVINGS

DAY 1

"Gift" wrap hot water lines with pipe insulation

DAY 2

Even Rudolph has switched to CFLs (but his are red)

DAY 3

Deck the halls water heater with an insulating jacket

DAY 4

Sorry Santa, but we really must close that damper when the fireplace isn't in use

DAY 5

A wise man (or woman) will follow the Energy Star when buying electronics

DAY 6

Halloween, get your energy vampires out of our Christmas theme! Unplug cell phone chargers and anything with a remote control when not in use

DAY 7

O' Christmas tree, O' Christmas tree, how lovely are thy LEDs

DAY 8

It's ok to be a Grinch when it comes to the thermostat: 68° is ideal

...continued on page H



Our directors are all in. How about you?

With winter approaching there will be an increased need for heating assistance funds. With federal relief funds and non-profit dollars slashed, we're taking matters into our own hands. Leading by example, Tideland EMC's entire board of directors gives monthly to the co-op's energy assistance program through Operation Round Up. You can join them by having your electric bill rounded up monthly. The average donation is 50¢ per month and is never more than 99¢. Or become an Operation Round Up Plus member and give a monthly fixed amount of your choosing. To enroll call 800.637.1079 or visit www.tidelandemc.com.

Coloring contest & more @ www.tidelandemc.com



Calling all future Tideland EMC members! We've got online games and a coloring contest for children ages 3-10 going on throughout the Christmas season.

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Welcome to Santa's Village where you'll find lots of interactive places to visit including a post office, weather station, toy workshop, reindeer barn, elf academy, train station and even Mrs. Claus' kitchen. So-ho-ho-ho much fun for everyone!



It's our 1st Annual Online Coloring Contest. Enter into one of three age divisions: 3-4, 5-7, and 8-10. Winners will be determined through online voting! Compatible with all mobile phones and tablets. The winner in each category will receive a \$50 Walmart gift card.



MY TIDELAND MOBILE APPS ARE HERE!

To download your free member portal app search MY TIDELAND at the appropriate download site. Your login will be identical to your member portal login. Once logged in you can check your account balance, make payments, manage alerts & reminders, view kWh history & more!

For login assistance call us @ 800.637.1079



68° for comfort & savings



Sunday, December 21, marks the first official day of winter. Last winter we saw record energy consumption, which also meant historically high bills. No one likes those kind of surprises.

Here are some tips to keep your energy bills in check this winter season:

- Your maximum thermostat setting should be 68°. If that doesn't keep you comfortable, look for household air leaks and seal them. Lower storm windows. Remove window AC units. Make sure ductwork hasn't come loose.
- Operate your central system in auto mode, not manual. The notion that using your central system fan to circulate air 24 hours a day will somehow lower energy bills is not correct. In fact, it considerably increases utility costs.
- If you have a heat pump, find the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and then "set it and forget it." Raising a heat pump thermostat more than 2 degrees can activate expensive auxiliary heat. And make sure your thermostat isn't set to auxiliary or emergency heat mode.
- If you have baseboard heat or an electric furnace you can practice thermostat setback to conserve energy. Consider turning it down several degrees while away from home or sleeping.
- Please remember to close dampers when your fireplace isn't in use. Otherwise you are sending your energy dollars up and out the chimney.
- There is no real advantage to running ceiling fans in the winter. If your HVAC system returns have been designed and installed properly then there is no need to use fans to move air. The fans are more likely to make you feel cold by creating drafts.

Join us on Facebook for 12 days of giveaways

Back by popular demand, it's Tideland EMC's 2nd Annual Twelve Days of Christmas contest. Starting December 1 we'll be giving away prizes daily. This year's contest theme is "Twelve Days of Savings."

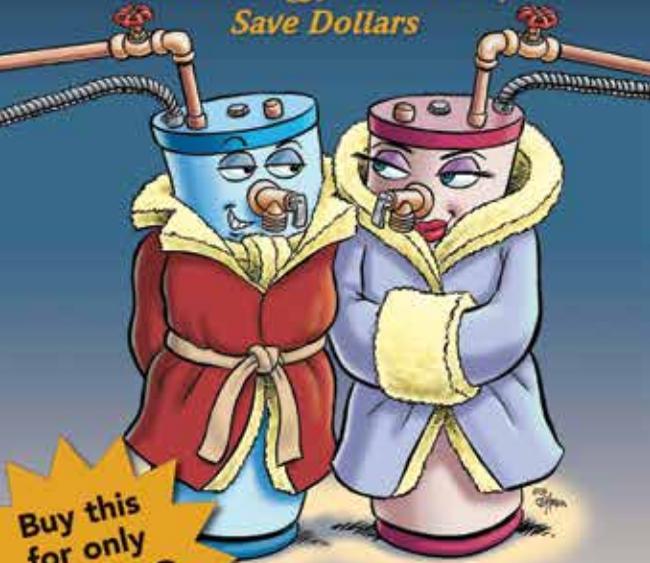
If you're really astute and read this issue of Tideland Topics carefully you'll get a pretty good idea of the types of prizes we'll be awarding. But that's as far as the hints go for now.

So mark your calendar to follow along for all the Facebook fun!



Wrap up in Savings

Save Energy, Save Water,
Save Dollars



Buy this for only **\$14.99** plus tax

Electric Water Heater Blanket & Pipe Insulation

- 3-inch thick insulation w/cap
- Includes tape & instructions
- Wrap is 48 by 87 inches and fits tanks measuring up to 27 inches across the top
- 6 feet of pipe insulation



... and get all this FREE!



Earth Massage Showerhead

- 9-jet turbo massage
- As featured in Good Housekeeping



Kitchen Faucet Aerator

- Easy fingertip on/off feature

Two Bathroom Faucet Aerators



Total Kit Value: **Over \$50!**



Tideland EMC
Real People. Real Power.



Merry Christmas from your co-op employees

Tideland EMC

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Adam Fyle | Kane Cox |
| Amy Midyette | Karen Auth |
| Andy Midyette | Karen Heffley |
| Ben Beagle | Kennith Neal |
| Bill Waters | Kevin McCarvill |
| Bob Collins | Laura Willis |
| Bob Van Der Have | Linda Carawan |
| Bobby O'Neal | Mary Waters |
| Cathy Wallace | Matthew DeVan |
| Chris Rice | Matthew Neal |
| Cindy Hubers | Michael Buckner |
| Connie Ward | Michael Marslender |
| Dana Andrews | Myra Beasley |
| Donna Woolard | Pam Tetterton |
| Eric Barrett | Patrick Best |
| Fred Hackney | Paul Spruill |
| Greg Morris | Phillip Sawyer |
| Heather Garrish | RA Phillips |
| Heidi Jernigan Smith | Rachel O'Neal |
| Hubert Collins | Raymond Wilson |
| Jacob Hardison | Robbie Rouse |
| James Everett | Robert Shively |
| Jason Kitchen | Steven Harris |
| Jennifer Sadler | Timmy Ipock |
| Jill Lee | Tonya Little |
| Jim Chrisman | TW Allen |
| Joe Pugh | Vernon Howell, Jr. |
| Joe Smith | Walter O'Neal |
| John Marsh | Wayne Brackin |
| Joseph Gibbs | William Jefferson |
| Josh Bain | William Waters |
| Justin Boor | |

Check out our Employee Christmas slideshow on



Statement of Non-Discrimination

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov

6TH ANNUAL



Mattamuskeet Decoy & Waterfowl Festival

Tours of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge • Retriever demonstration • Calling and gunning decoy competitions • Doors open at 10 am Sat & 9 am Sun • The Hyde County Waterfowl Association Banquet will be held Fri., Jan 16 • For more information visit www.hydewaterfowl.com

Sunday Dinners At Camp Don Lee

Mark your calendar for Sunday dinners at Camp Don Lee in Arapahoe: Dec. 7 & 14, Jan. 11, 18 & 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, Mar. 1 and 8. You will be treated to a fine dining experience with heaping portions of down home soul! Bring in a current church bulletin and receive a \$1 discount. See upcoming menus at www.donleecenter.org/SundayDinneratDonLee.php



It's all good.®
Camp Don Lee

Claim your rebate

Up to a \$300 electric bill credit when you buy a qualifying unit

Air Source Heat Pump
(SEER 15) \$75

Air Source Heat Pump
(SEER 16 and up) \$150

Geothermal Heat Pump
(EER 19 or greater) \$300

Hybrid Heat Pump Water Heater
(GE Geospring model qualifies)
\$300

1. Must be member's primary residential dwelling; no seasonal or commercial facilities- Limit one rebate per dwelling
2. HVAC rebate claims must include contractor's heat gain/heat loss calculation, final bill of sale and Certificate of Product Rating along with the co-op's rebate application once installation is complete
3. Must be replacing a less efficient system; not applicable for new construction

For more information or to download a copy of the rebate application visit: www.tidelandemc.com/rebatesIncentives.aspx or contact marketing manager Heidi Smith @ 252.944.2410

 **Tideland EMC**
Real People. Real Savings.



REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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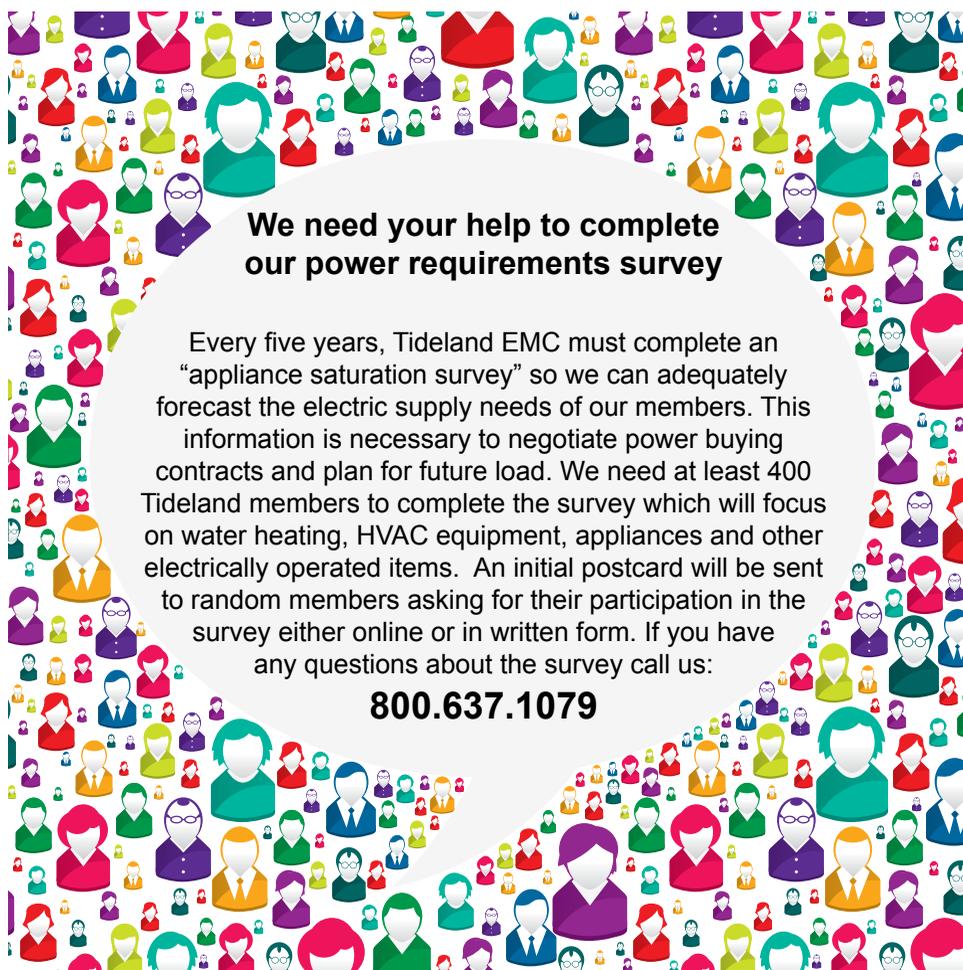
Heidi Jernigan Smith

24 Hour Member Service

252.943.3046
800.637.1079

24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400
800.882.1001



We need your help to complete our power requirements survey

Every five years, Tideland EMC must complete an “appliance saturation survey” so we can adequately forecast the electric supply needs of our members. This information is necessary to negotiate power buying contracts and plan for future load. We need at least 400 Tideland members to complete the survey which will focus on water heating, HVAC equipment, appliances and other electrically operated items. An initial postcard will be sent to random members asking for their participation in the survey either online or in written form. If you have any questions about the survey call us:

800.637.1079

**HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING: WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 25.
FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE OR TO REPORT OUTAGES CALL 1.800.882.1001**

WHEELS ON THE TRUCK GO ‘ROUND AND ‘ROUND:

Careers on Wheels Day in Bath

Tideland had a “wheelie” good time at Bath Elementary’s Careers on Wheels Day. Linemen Jacob Hardison and Donnie McArthur demonstrated several items of equipment essential to their jobs at Tideland.



*Want to book a
co-op guest
speaker or safety
demonstration?*

Contact:
Heidi Smith
252.944.2410
heidismith@
tidelandemc.com

12 Days of Savings

continued from page C

DAY 9

Make an energy savings list...and check it twice!

DAY 10

Seriously, who wouldn't want a can of Great Stuff in their stocking?

DAY 11

Add cellulose insulation to your attic....well, it sort of looks like snow

DAY 12

While visions of clean air filters danced in their heads

**Merry Savings
Ya'!!!**