

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

SCHOLAR DOLLARS: Apply now for Tideland EMC scholarships

Tideland EMC is accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Students must reside in a home served by Tideland EMC.

The co-op will award eight \$1,000 scholarships.

Two of the scholarships will be designated for students who plan to attend community college.

In addition to the official application, scholarship candidates must submit:

1. a letter detailing his/her reasons for applying for the scholarship and their future plans;
2. a letter of recommendation from the high school's principal, guidance counselor or academic advisor;
3. a complete transcript of high school courses and grades; and
4. SAT or ACT scores if applicable.

Students have until Friday, March 4, 2011, to apply. An application may be downloaded at www.tidelandemc.com. For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.



JUNE 11-17:



Win a trip to our nation's capital

Two Tideland area high school students will have an opportunity to take part in this year's Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The event involves more than 1,500 students representing electric cooperatives from across the nation.

The Youth Tour recruiting process is open to high school sophomores and juniors.

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Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our right of way.

In January they will be working in areas in and around Pinetown including:

- Biggs Road
- Beaverdam Road
- Baseline Road
- Long Ridge Road
- Ripp Highway

and all small roads & lanes off of the above listed roads.

Contractors will also be mowing our right of way in the following areas of Hyde County:

- Scranton
- Sladesville
- Germantown
- Rose Bay



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Message to our Member-Owners: A time-out is needed

By Cecil O. Smith, Jr.
General Manager & CEO

If you're a baseball fan, you've probably been upset a time or two by an umpire's decision. Umpires are needed to enforce rules of the game, but they've also been known to blow a few calls.

In many ways, umpire mistakes mirror what's going on with government regulation regarding electric utilities and power generation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) writes the rule book for power suppliers. EPA also serves as an umpire, enforcing the rules of the game.

At Tideland, we're committed to keeping your electric bill affordable. So when we see EPA make bad calls that put pressure on how much you pay for power we are compelled to voice our concern.

Over the past two years, Congress debated, but never passed, a comprehensive climate change bill. Into this void, EPA has stepped forward and is planning to implement new regulations which could greatly impact electric bills by sending costs skyhigh.

Clean Air Transport Rule: This rule kicks in next year and aims to cap power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from

state to state between 31 eastern states, including North Carolina, and the District of Columbia. By 2014, EPA claims the rule, when combined with other state and federal measures, will reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants by 71 percent and nitrogen oxides emissions by 52 percent from 2005 levels, but it will cost utilities \$2.8 billion annually to comply.

Cooling Water Intake Requirements: Power plants use water from lakes or rivers to cool generating equipment. While screens and various components prevent fish and other wildlife from entering water intake pipes, EPA thinks this equipment could be improved. We're expecting a rule proposal next month and the impact could be severe. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the nation's power grid watchdog, claims if this rule is strictly enforced, one-third of U.S. electricity capacity may need to be retired.

Coal Ash: To ensure the safe disposal of fly ash and other residues produced by coal-fired power plants, EPA is considering whether or not to designate the materials—for the first time—as hazardous waste. Complying with this rule could cost

billions and halt recycling efforts. Right now one-third of all fly ash is used as a Portland cement substitute—and for every ton of concrete replaced by fly ash, a ton of greenhouse gas emissions is avoided.

Tideland is committed to keeping you informed about government regulations that will increase the cost of electricity. We're joining co-ops nationally to ask Congress for a much-needed time-out—a two-year moratorium on EPA regulation of carbon dioxide greenhouse gases. A delay would give lawmakers the opportunity to fashion climate change legislation that protects consumers and keeps electric bills affordable.

Looking Out for You: We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain. We're Looking Out for You.

Find out more at www.findabalancedsolution.com

A BUYERS' GUIDE TO ELECTRIC BLANKETS AND MATTRESS PADS

Each year approximately 4.5 million electric blankets and mattress pads are sold in the US. Some use these products to pre-warm their bed before turning in. Others use them to save energy by lowering room thermostats at night without sacrificing a cozy, warm bed. These products also provide a measure of relief for those suffering from sore muscles, arthritis or fibromyalgia.

Electric blankets were once much warmer and operated at higher wattages that in turn lead to safety concerns. Since the late 1980's, electric bedding has been designed to be used all night long at a low wattage which translates into a lower level of heat. Electric mattress pads use even less electricity and are inherently safer from overheating since the pad is fitted to the mattress and generally cannot be balled up as a blanket may become. When a blanket is balled up, there is no place for the heat in the middle of the ball to escape, which can pose a fire or scorching hazard.

What to Look For:

- **UL Listing:** Never purchase an electric blanket or mattress pad that does not specifically state that it conforms to the standards set forth in UL964, the only comprehensive set of electric bedding safety regulations in the US.
- **Warranty:** A good automatic blanket or mattress pad should last 5 to 10 years. Therefore, look for a blanket that offers a multi-year warranty.
- **Ease of Use:** Before making your purchase it's important to know how the blanket will be used. If there are 2 people in the same bed, you may wish to shop for a product with dual heating controls. If you prefer to sleep under a pile of blankets, then an electric mattress pad is more suitable.

Use and Care:

- **Read the Instructions:** Carefully follow the manufacturer's product guidelines.
- **Never run the control cords between the mattress and box springs.**
- **Never pinch the wires or controls.**
- **Do not use electrical bedding with adjustable beds, Murphy beds, pull-out sofas or reclining chairs all of which could lead to pinched heating wires or controls.**
- **Keep pets off electric bedding.** A claw or tooth could puncture the wire insulation.

- Electric bedding should not be used on a water bed.
- Electric blankets and mattress pads are designed for limited, gentle cycle washing and low heat or air dry tumbling. However, none are designed to handle the extreme temperatures of a commercial dryer typical of most laundromats.
- Never dry clean an electric blanket. The chemicals can damage the heater wire insulation.
- Never iron a warming blanket or mattress pad.
- When storing the blanket or mattress pad, roll it up and then wrap the cords loosely. Avoid folding.

Special Considerations:

- Electric blankets are not recommended for children and infants nor anyone who is paralyzed or insensitive to heat such as someone with severe diabetes.



Flashback:
In the 1950s, Pamlico Beaufort EMC, based in Grantsboro, sold electric blankets to co-op members and financed them on the electric bill

10 PLACES TO LOOK FOR AIR LEAKS

1. Windows
2. Doors
3. Fireplace dampers
4. Exterior wall outlets
5. Plumbing & wiring penetrations
6. Clothes dryer vent
7. Recessed lighting
8. Attic access hatch or door
9. Duct work and boot connections
10. Exhaust fans

Local teachers share \$11,500 in Bright Ideas funding



For the 16th consecutive year, Tideland EMC has honored outstanding local teachers with Bright Ideas grants. In a surprise visit to 10 classrooms in Beaufort, Washington, Pamlico and Craven counties, the co-op notified winning teachers of their selection in sharing over \$11,500 to fund creative, educational projects.

West Craven High School

Justin Harris and teammates William Shaw, Anthony Ranieri and Janna Dennis, received funding to construct an electric wiring demonstration wall. Students will draw plans and blueprints and eventually construct a wall that will then be used to practice electrical wiring skills including the installation of switches and receptacles.



Brenda Laughinghouse received funding for her project "Please Fence Me In!" To receive a high school diploma, students with exceptional needs must complete 300 hours of work in a school-based enterprise. WCHS is the only school in the state incorporating animal husbandry and agriculture to meet that requirement. The campus currently houses 15 chickens and 2 lambs and students sell the eggs and wool. With the grant funds, the school's agriculture and construction technology classes will erect more fencing and section off grazing paddocks.



Washington High School

Chemistry teacher Marie Swann received funds to purchase a document camera that can display almost anything placed under its lens, including transparencies, paper documents and three dimensional objects. Swann will use the camera to display laboratory experiments so all students can follow along during the step by step activities.



Ginger Wescott's project, "Unwinding the Mysteries of DNA," will provide hands on learning for students in their exploration of the human genome and careers in biotechnology. One such experiment will involve a taste test of phenylthiocarbamide (PTC), an organic compound that, depending on an individual's genetic makeup, either tastes very bitter or is virtually tasteless.

Arapahoe Charter School

Ginny Vogt received funding for her project "Using Historical Fiction to Integrate Literature and History." Using seven award-winning historical fiction



novels, Vogt's students will study important events in U.S. history from the days of early explorers to September 11, 2001. The 31-week project will include classroom videos, guest speakers and the study of original source documents like the Gettysburg Address.

Snowden Elementary

Joy McCracken and others have teamed up to outfit the school with a web-based weather station and equip the



school's greenhouse with necessary supplies. In a project called "Earth and Sky," the students will collect and analyze weather station data and produce podcasts detailing their progress.

Mary Ellen Stalnaker's project, "Hands On Equations Learning System," will focus on fifth grade mathematical concepts. Using what look like pieces of a Parcheesi game, Hands On Equations provides a fun approach to algebraic learning. The learning method was developed by Pennsylvania educator Dr. Henry Borenson in his attempt to demystify algebra.



Plymouth High School

Teachers Charlene Evans, Patricia Moye, Christi Rogerson and Connie Smith are members of a grant-writing team led by fellow teacher Nicholas McIntosh. They received funds to purchase 16 Texas Instruments TI-84 graphing calculators for classroom use. The calculators will be invaluable to pupils studying algebra, geometry, pre-calculus and advanced functions and modeling. While students would ideally purchase their own graphing calculators, at \$120 per device, cost can be a real obstacle.

John C. Tayloe Elementary

Alida Sawyer received her ninth Bright Ideas award. Her project, "Math: Good Enough to Eat," will incorporate food items to help special needs students comprehend measurements and various mathematical operations.



McIntosh got an extra surprise when he was named grand prize winner during a dinner held in Greenville to honor Bright Ideas recipients from six electric cooperatives.



Pungo Christian Academy

Crystal Swindell received a grant for the purchase of 10 compound light microscopes, 24 preserved specimens and 5 student dissection surveys. Students will examine plant and animal life including various insects, leaves and even local crops like cotton. Students will also dissect 6 different organisms and prepare tissue slides for observation. By viewing life at the cellular level, students will gain an appreciation for the microscopic intricacies that make life possible.



McIntosh will receive an all-expenses-paid scholarship to attend a week-long seminar at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT). With campuses at Ocracoke and Cullowhee, NCCAT provides public school teachers with intensive cross-disciplinary seminars in the sciences, arts, humanities, technology, leadership and communication. The goal of NCCAT is to advance teaching as an art and profession so good educators will be encouraged to continue teaching.

Teachers interested in applying for the next round of Bright Ideas grants may do so online in the spring of 2011 by visiting www.ncbrightideas.com.

What our energy auditors are reading . . .

Energy has become a hot topic in recent years. As a result, many periodicals devote more and more coverage to energy issues. Alongside *Carolina Country*, what magazines will you find on the desks of Tideland's energy auditors? Here are our top picks:

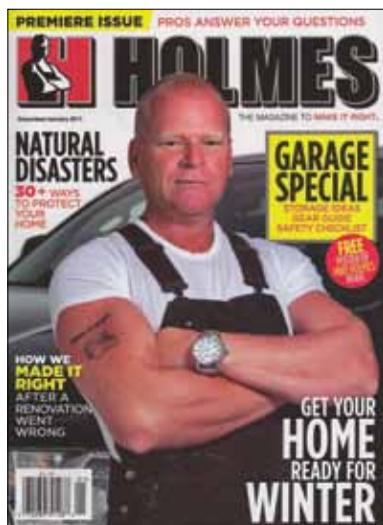
The Family Handyman

You just can't beat the consumer friendly format of this magazine. Geared towards do-it-yourself (DIY) projects, it includes step-by-step illustrations and instructions as well as appropriate safety precautions. While not every issue features a weatherization or energy saving project, when the magazine does publish energy news we find it is amazingly accurate and helpful.



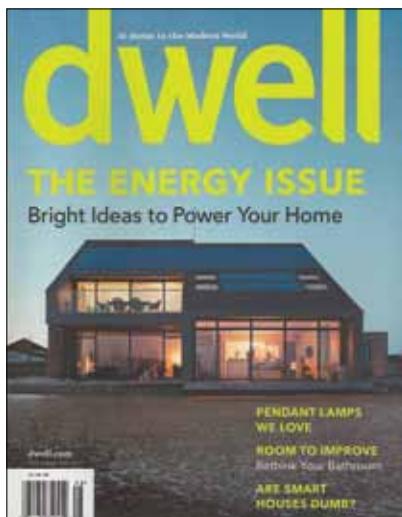
The magazine's companion website is a great resource, with much of the print content available online. Take it for a test drive by visiting www.familyhandyman.com.

Click on "DIY Projects" and take a look at one of our favorite reports: "How to Seal Attic Air Leaks."



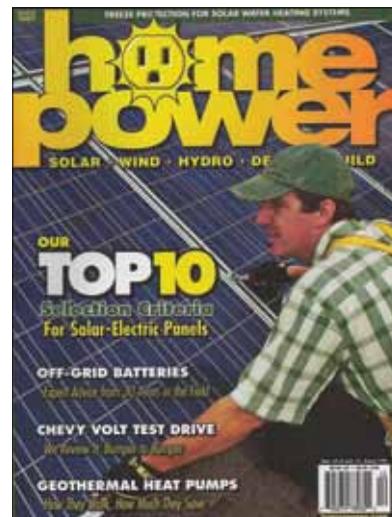
Holmes

Every profession needs a hero. Journalism had Clark Kent. Building specialists have Mike Holmes. Host of the popular television show "Holmes on Homes," his new magazine is published 10 times a year. He's made a career out of fixing other contractor's mistakes and can help you avoid similar pitfalls.



Dwell

Why are we so smitten with a magazine devoted to modern architecture? Because home design and square footage are a big factor in energy consumption. Dwell celebrates the emerging architectural renaissance where form follows function and with good planning, houses aren't necessarily downsized, they are "right sized."



Home Power

Thinking about going solar or erecting your own wind turbine? Subscribe to *Home Power* first. Each issue includes comprehensive, technical coverage of solar, wind, energy efficiency, hot water systems, space heating and cooling, energy efficient building materials and home design. It pays to do your homework in advance.

Youth Tour Details CONTINUED FROM PAGE A

What experiences await Tideland's Youth Tourists?

- Learn more about America's electric cooperatives
- Lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Visit Capitol Hill and meet with North Carolina's Senators and Congressional representatives
- Visit the sites of Washington, D.C. including the Smithsonian, the Newseum, the Kennedy Center and the Holocaust Museum.
- A boat trip down the Potomac
- Attend an All States Dance
- An opportunity to win a college scholarship

North Carolina students establish a Soda Pop Co-op to provide a supply of affordable drinks while in Washington, D.C. Each student pays \$1 to become a member of the cooperative. A board of directors is appointed and they hire a manager and assistant manager. At the end of the trip, the cooperative is dissolved and each student is refunded their membership fee and their capital credits.

To apply, download an application at www.tidelandemc.com. Students must reside in a home served by Tideland. Deadline to apply is February 11, 2011.



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WATER HEATERS



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Call Tideland for details



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Sign up for E-Bill and you could win a year of free movies

Sign up for Tideland EMC's free E-Bill Notification Program by **March 31, 2011**, and you will be automatically entered into our drawing to win a one year subscription to Netflix Online Movie Service. Instantly watch unlimited TV episodes and movies streaming over the Internet to your TV via an Xbox 360, PS3, Wii or any other device that streams from Netflix. You can also watch instantly on your PC or Mac. Plus, get unlimited DVDs by mail, exchanging them as often as you like.

With Tideland EMC's free E-Bill service you continue to receive a paper bill with the added convenience of an email notice that your bill is available for online viewing. Sign up is easy at www.tidelandemc.com. If you're already enrolled in our E-Bill Program don't worry...your name will be included in the drawing.

Wrap up in Savings

Save Energy, Save Water, Save Dollars



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Maximize your efficiency for maximum savings

- A water heater jacket can reduce standby energy loss by 25%–45%, reducing water heating cost 4%–9%*
- Installed kit can lower water heating costs \$80 annually
- Your kit could pay for itself in 3–6 months or less
- Actual savings depend upon the age, efficiency, condition and location of existing water heater



* U.S. Dept. of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Electric Water Heater Blanket & Pipe Insulation

- 3-inch thick insulation w/cap
- Includes tape & instructions
- One size fits all up to 60-gallon tank
- 6 feet of pipe insulation



Give it your best shot

This summer Tideland EMC will provide all-expenses paid scholarships for one girl to attend the NC State Girls Basketball Camp in Raleigh (July 3-6) and one boy to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill (June 18-22). The camps will work closely with attendees to develop fundamental skills to help students both on and off the court.



Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply and Tideland EMC will begin accepting applications on January 3. The deadline to apply is March 31. Applicants will be judged on academics, extra-curricular activities and written essay.

Applications have been mailed to all middle school coaches in Tideland's six county service territory. Students can also download an application at our website: www.tidelandemc.com. For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at Tideland EMC at 252.944.2410.