



Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

BEAUFORT COUNTY TORNADOES: Response and recovery

Clouds darkened quickly as an EF2 tornado descended near Pantego Creek in Beaufort County, April 7. In a matter of minutes, 12 family homes were either severely damaged or destroyed. A passing motorist and his son miraculously escaped serious injury when their truck was lifted over nearby power lines, landing 50 yards from the roadway. Less than a mile from the co-op's Pantego office, the tornado's path took direct aim at Tideland's 115 kV transmission line on Beech Ridge Road, but its metal caissons and high-voltage wire held steadfast despite total destruction all around. Tideland crews would later deenergize the



Pantego tornado destruction
Photo: Heather Garrish, Tideland EMC

transmission line to remove metal siding and fencing entangled in the high-voltage wires. While neighbors and first responders descended on the area with chain saws and tarps, Tideland crews from Pantego and Engelhard repaired several spans of downed wire on the Hyde County circuit and removed even more debris from power lines in the Ponzer area. By midnight, power was restored to all homes capable of receiving electric service.

No one could imagine that an even larger, more destructive tornado would

track 21 miles across Beaufort County just 18 days later. In the wake of that EF3 tornado, more

Continued on page H

Check out our new lower rates

As announced in the April issue of Tideland Topics, the co-op is implementing reduced rate schedules beginning July 1, 2014. This rate reduction is intended to help offset some of the effects of a 4% increase in North Carolina sales tax on electricity that will also be implemented on July 1. New rate schedules appear on page G of Tideland Topics.

Cover photo



Photo credit:
Aerial views of a grain bin destroyed by the April 25 tornado on Hwy. 99 north of Pantego.
Photo: Chris Smith & Thomas Burbage
Pilot: Sid Clayton



Message to our Member-Owners: System upgrades full throttle

By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During June they will work in the following areas:

- finishing Merritt circuit
- beginning on the Arapahoe circuit including Dawson Creek & Minnesott Beach

and all adjoining small roads & lanes.

Our contractors will be mowing the rights-of-way between Bayboro and Fairfield Harbour including the Lee Landing area.

Recently I highlighted the major components of the cooperative's four-year work plan. Since that time we've made a great deal of progress while also making revisions and additions to the scope of work.

In January, Ocracoke's electric system took a beating due to a phenomenon known as "galloping lines" caused by extreme icing and a steady northeast wind. The resulting damage requires that we replace 81 poles along Hwy. 12 and reframe an additional 78 poles, outfitting them with new crossarms and attachments. We have revised our work plan to include this project which will cost approximately \$350,000. Work will begin this summer.

We have completed upgrades of our Five Points delivery point substation in Pinetown, equipping it with better protective devices and new smart grid capabilities. Improvements to the circuit serving our Washington substation are complete and we will replace the substation's transformer this summer at a cost of \$400,000. In Washington, River Road circuit improvements are complete, allowing the co-op to better manage load growth in the area.

Tree trimmers finished prepping the Merritt circuit for continued improvements that are in their final two but most intensive stages. With the necessary right-of-way easements now in hand, crews will reroute the Merritt circuit as it exits the co-op's Silverhill substation. The new route allows the co-op to remove a mile of wire from the 20-mile circuit, reducing line

exposure that can impede service reliability. This work will conclude by August. The third and final phase of the project, which aims to move a large portion of the circuit out of farm fields and forested areas, is undergoing engineering review. Nearly \$1 million has been budgeted for Merritt circuit improvements.

Other 2014 Projects

Pantego Creek cable crossing:
Starting July 1, we will begin a \$1 million project to install submarine cable

New Arapahoe circuit:
We will invest \$1 million to construct a new circuit to better manage load growth in Dawson Creek and Minnesott Beach

Hwy 264 Engelhard improvements:
Conductor replacement/upgrades are nearing completion at a cost of \$252,000

Duck Creek (Bath) circuit:
Crews will begin reconducting this summer at a cost of \$340,000

Plymouth substation:
Replace recloser at a cost of \$80,000

2015/2016 Projects

New Fairfield Harbour substation and feeder lines: \$5.9 million

New Engelhard substation: \$900,000



Dawson Pugh

Dawson Pugh joins co-op board

Dawson Pugh of Engelhard has been named to Tideland EMC's board of directors to fill the remaining term of Leon Bryant, who passed away in December. Pugh, a Hyde County native, is a graduate of Mattamuskeet High School and

studied agriculture at North Carolina State University. He is the owner and operator of Middle Creek Farms. Pugh and his wife Bethany have three children: Stephen, 10, Ginny Grace, 8, and Patricia, 3.

THE POWER OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE:

Co-op scholarship winners named

COLD,
HARD
FACTS

4



Cheyenne Franks
Northside High School
Cheyenne is the daughter of Petre and Kelley Franks of Bath. She will major in pre-law at East Carolina University.



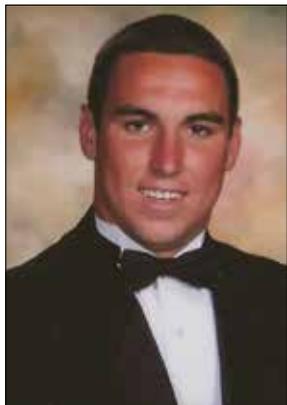
Elizabeth Miller
Washington High School
Elizabeth is the daughter of Donald Miller of Blounts Creek. She will major in biology at UNC-Chapel Hill.



Nicole Edwards
Pamlico County High School
Nicole is the daughter of Jim Edwards and Stephanie Carperos. She will major in international relations UNC-Chapel Hill.



Megan Ehmke
Pamlico County High School
Megan is the daughter of Paul and Rosemarie Ehmke of Grantsboro. She will attend UNC-Chapel Hill to study pharmacy.



Jared Fulcher
West Craven High School
Jared is the son of Keith and Sheila Fulcher of Ernul. He will attend Craven Community College before transferring to East Carolina University.



Amanda Gaskins
Ocracoke High School
The daughter of Earl and Lynn Gaskins of Ocracoke, Amanda will attend East Carolina University. She will major in elementary education.



Jenna Smith
Northside High School
Jenna is the daughter of Joey and Beverly Smith of Belhaven. She will attend Campbell University as a pre-pharmacy major.



Kyajia Mourning
Southside High School
The daughter of Dion and Erica Mourning of Blounts Creek, Kyajia will be a pre-med student at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Continued on
page H

1.

11% OF THE NATION'S RESIDENTIAL ENERGY IS USED TO KEEP FOOD COLD

2.

NEARLY 11 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE 2 OR MORE REFRIGERATORS

3.

WE WOULD SAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO LIGHT 8.1 MILLION HOMES FOR A YEAR IF EVERY AMERICAN HOME REPLACED ITS PRE-1993 REFRIGERATOR WITH AN ENERGY STAR MODEL

4.

A 1970S MODEL REFRIGERATOR COSTS \$259 TO OPERATE ANNUALLY WHILE A NEW ENERGY STAR MODEL TYPICALLY COSTS \$48 TO OPERATE ANNUALLY

FOR MORE INFO:
WWW.RECYCLEMYOLDFRIDGE.COM

Allocation of 2013 member margins

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, Tideland EMC's year-end margins are allocated to each member-owner for future refund. This is in keeping with our mandate to deliver electric service at cost. Margins represent those dollars remaining after all our expenses have been paid. In 2013, Tideland had net operating margins of \$2,160,273.

The total amount allocated to your member account is based on the amount of energy you purchased from the cooperative during 2013. For 2013 margins, the allocation factor is 4.9658¢ per \$1 of revenue received. Sample allocations

based on typical residential energy use as provided in the table below.

Allocated margins appear as an entry on Tideland's permanent financial records and reflect your ownership equity. Margins represent an interest-free loan of operating capital by the membership to the co-op. This helps Tideland keep electric rates low for everyone. As member equity builds we incrementally retire previous years' margins. When margins are retired, a check or electric bill credit is

issued and your equity in Tideland is reduced.

The timing of margin retirements is dictated by the co-op's overall financial picture and capital requirements and is subject to the approval of the federal government's Rural Utilities Service. In 2013, Tideland EMC returned capital credits in excess of \$600,000. To date Tideland EMC has refunded over \$11 million to members and former members of the cooperative.

2013 Member Margins Allocated to Members			
If you paid this much for power in 2013:	\$1200	\$1800	\$2400
Your share of 2013 member margins is:	\$59.59	\$89.38	\$119.18

ENTRY DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2014



Motivation for Classroom Innovation

Tideland EMC is now accepting Bright Ideas grant applications for the 2014-2015 school year. Bright Ideas grants provide funding for a variety

of hands-on educational projects. Awards up to \$2,000 are made to K-12 teachers to improve classroom instruction and encourage innovative teaching methods. Grant proposals that involve the study of energy are highly encouraged, including renewable energy or energy efficiency.

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
- One size fits all up to 60-gallon tank
- 6 feet of pipe insulation

... and get all this FREE!

- Earth Massage showerhead**
 - Adjustable 9-jet turbo massage
 - As featured in Good Housekeeping magazine
- Kitchen Faucet Aerator**
 - Easy fingertip on/off feature
- Two Bathroom Faucet Aerators**

Total Kit Value: Over \$50!

On Sale at all Tideland Offices

Since 1994, the state's electric co-ops have awarded \$7.3 million to fund 7,000 Bright Ideas projects reaching more than 1.3 million students. Tideland applications may be submitted online at www.ncbrightideas.com.

Deadline for entries is September 12.

For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or 1.800.637.1079, extension 1140.

Annual Meeting Report:

Co-op principles: a successful roadmap for service expansion

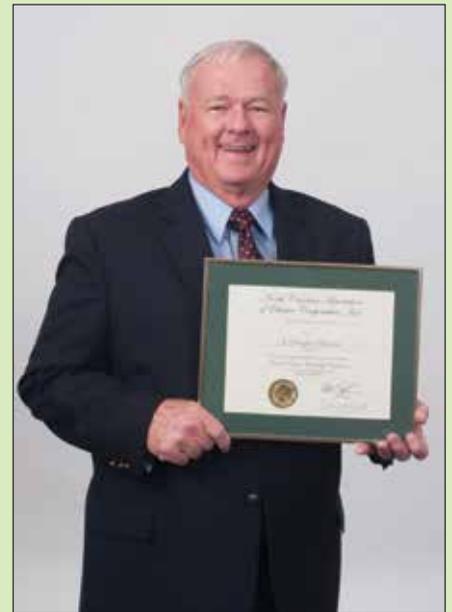
Tideland EMC held its annual meeting of members on Thursday, May 8, at Beaufort County Community College in Washington. Incumbent directors Mark Carawan, Garry Jordan and David Ipock were each re-elected to serve three-year terms in uncontested races. Board president Paul Sasnett introduced the membership to newly appointed director Dawson Pugh, who fills the seat left vacant following the death of long-time director Leon Bryant. While members of the Bryant family were unable to attend the annual meeting, the evening opened and closed with solemn remembrances of "Mr. Leon." In his president's message to members, Sasnett spoke of the recent Beaufort County tornadoes and the incredible effort Tideland employees exhibited during power restoration efforts.

Chief executive officer and general manager Paul Spruill discussed the cooperative's initiatives to engage members via digital technologies as the public becomes more internet dependent. Noting the co-op's success in service-related messaging through social media and text messaging, the next phase is to provide real-time energy management tools that allow members to effectively incorporate smart appliances, intuitive thermostats and electric cars into their daily lives.

Spruill announced that Tideland is working to establish a small community solar project to give members who choose to invest in solar generation direct access to renewables. This provides an option for those members who want to go green while avoiding the steep costs associated with residential installation.

Turning to wholesale power costs and utility industry changes, Spruill noted that 56¢ of every dollar Tideland collects goes directly out the door to pay for wholesale power purchases. Between 2008 and 2014, North Carolina co-ops greatly reduced their dependence on coal fired generation and replaced those purchases with energy from nuclear power and combined cycle plants that use natural gas and fuel oil. In 2008, 37% of our power came from coal. This year, only 13% will come from coal. In that same period of time, the co-ops doubled their use of hydroelectricity and renewables while also doubling the percentage of purchases made on the open market. Over reliance on open market purchases could subject the co-ops to price spikes and supply shortages, making generation asset ownership much more attractive. Therefore, North Carolina's electric cooperatives will own 100 megawatts of a new combined-cycle generating plant that will be jointly operated with Duke Power. The plant is expected to come on line in 2017.

Members attending the annual meeting each received gardening and grill kits. Numerous prize drawings were held throughout the evening and the night's grand prize winner was Donald Miller of Blounts Creek. Miller received a \$350 electric bill credit.

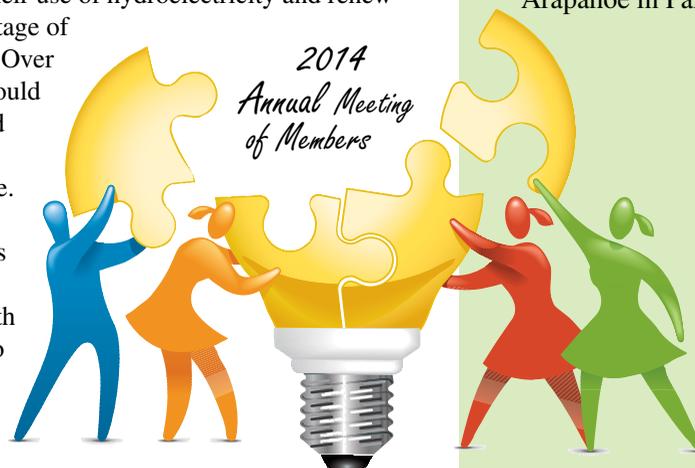


25 years of co-op service

Tideland EMC director J. Douglas Brinson was recently recognized for his 25 years of service as a director for the electric cooperative.

The commendable service award was presented at the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives' (NCAEC) annual meeting on April 2. NCAEC is the trade association for the 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, including Tideland EMC.

From 2011 to 2012 Brinson served as the president of the NCAEC board. He and his wife Annette reside in Arapahoe in Pamlico County.



Response and recovery

Continued from page A

than 100 homes were severely damaged or destroyed and hundreds of mature trees were snapped like twigs with debris raining down neighborhood after neighborhood.

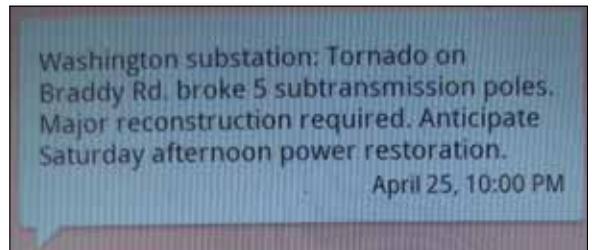
Within minutes, Tideland CEO Paul Spruill and employee Robbie Rouse were surveying the damage reporting that 5 subtransmission poles feeding the Washington substation were snapped in half by winds that the National Weather Service said reached 150 miles per hour. An additional 3 poles were down on the Duck Creek circuit serving Bath and 9 were down between River Road and Asbury Church Road. Making response more challenging were roads rendered nearly impassable by downed trees and building debris. On Highway 99, north of Pantego, the tornado also destroyed a grain bin setting a utility pole on fire. In the tornado's immediate aftermath, 3,238 Tideland members were without power. Within 23 minutes of the event, Tideland issued its first text message advising members of the serious damage inflicted on the electric system. Ninety minutes later, after damage assessments were complete, the co-op issued another update providing power restoration estimates for Washington and Bath. Tideland crews from Pantego and Grantsboro, along with construction contract crews from Lee Electrical, worked throughout the night restoring power to the Duck Creek circuit at 4:45 a.m. By 9:20 a.m. power was restored to the co-op's Washington substation. By 1 p.m., 17 hours after the tornado touched down, power had been restored to all Tideland EMC homes capable of having electric service reactivated.

Tideland's social media efforts proved fruitful during both tornadoes, keeping members and the general public informed about the extent of damages and power restoration progress. Exclusive aerial footage of the tornadoes damage shot by Tideland employee Walter O'Neal went viral, reaching more than 38,252 Facebook users.

And while the disaster response went exceedingly well thanks to the tireless efforts of co-op crews, our communities have a long way to go on the path to recovery.



Tideland crews replaced 17 broken poles following the April 25 event.
Photo: Kenneth Neal, Tideland EMC



One of several text messages sent to Tideland members following the April 25 tornado.



One of many homes destroyed on April 25.
Photo: Chris Smith/Thomas Burbage Pilot: Sid Cayton



Tideland crews work among a sea of damaged trees.
Photo: Chris Smith/Thomas Burbage Pilot: Sid Cayton



Co-op crews make repairs on River Road in Washington.
Photo: Michael Marslender, Tideland EMC

Tideland EMC Electric Service & Outdoor Lighting Rate Schedules

Effective With All Bills Rendered Beginning July 1, 2014

All rates subject to NC State Sales Tax of 7%, Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment and NC REPS

Rates 1 & 3 - Residential

Basic facilities:	
Overhead	\$25.00
Underground	\$27.00
Energy:	
Per kWh Summer (May-Oct)	11.495¢
Per kWh Winter (Nov-Apr)	10.580¢

Minimum bill is \$30.75 overhead, \$32.75 underground.

Rates 2 & 4 - Residential Time-of-Use

Basic facilities:	
Overhead	\$30.00
Underground	\$32.00
On-Peak Demand:	
Per kWd Summer (May-Oct)	\$10.35
Per kWd Winter (Nov-Apr)	\$ 9.40
Energy:	
Per kWh year-round	6.544¢

Minimum bill is \$35.75 overhead; \$37.75 underground.

Rates 5, 6, 7, & 8 - Small Commercial Service

Basic facilities:	
Overhead Single Phase	\$30.00
Overhead Three Phase	\$45.00
Demand:	
First 15 kWd	\$0.00
> 15 kWd	\$4.75
Energy:	
0 - 800 kWhs	12.32¢
Next 1,200 kWhs	11.72¢
Over 2,000 kWhs	8.86¢

Minimum bill is the basic facilities plus \$1.30 per kVA of transformer capacity in excess of 15 kVA and an additional \$2.00 per month if facilities are underground.

NC REPS (renewable energy portfolio standard)

Per residential meter:	9¢ per month
Per small commercial meter:	\$1.15 per month
Per large commercial meter:	\$7.56 per month

Rate 9 - Large Power Service

Basic facilities:	\$185.00
Demand:	
Per kWd	\$9.17
Energy:	
Per kWh	6.231¢
Reactive Demand:	
Per KVAR	\$1.25

Minimum bill is the basic facilities plus \$1.30 per kVA of transformer capacity in excess of 100 kVA.

Rate 19 - Large Power Time-of-Use Service

Basic facilities:	\$275.00
Demand:	
Off Peak kWd	\$7.02
On Peak kWd Summer (May-Oct)	\$18.63
On Peak kWd Winter (Nov-Apr)	\$13.50
Energy:	
On Peak kWh	6.73¢
Off Peak kWh	4.81¢
Reactive Demand:	
Per KVAR	\$1.25

Minimum bill is the basic facilities plus \$1.30 per kVA of transformer capacity in excess of 100 kVA or the amount specified by contract

Outdoor Lighting

175-watt mercury vapor:	\$10.06
400-watt mercury vapor:	\$14.10
100-watt high pressure sodium:	\$10.65
100-watt high pressure sodium*:	\$14.20
150-watt high pressure sodium:	\$16.00
100-watt metal halide*:	\$16.00
400-watt metal halide:	\$14.70
Additional pole charge:	\$2.10

*special order decorative fixture

Tornado Relief for Tideland EMC Members

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rudy Austin, J. Douglas Brinson, Jimmy Burbage, Mark Carawan, David Ipock, Garry Jordan, Clifton Paul, Dawson Pugh, Paul Sasnett and Wayne Sawyer

CEO & GENERAL MANAGER

Paul Spruill

EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

Member Service

252.943.3046

800.637.1079

24 Hour Outage Reporting

& Automated Services

252.944.2400

800.882.1001



Tideland EMC will double its current \$1,250 Energy Star[®] new home rebate for any member replacing their home as a result of damage sustained during the April 2014 tornadoes. The \$2,500 rebate is applicable for new stick built, modular and manufactured homes meeting Energy Star[®] construction standards.

For more information call 252.944.2410
or email gogreen@tidelandemc.com



A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 
Tideland EMC
Real People. Real Power.

TO ENROLL IN OUTAGE TEXT MESSAGING: TEXT TEMC TO SHORT CODE 85700

Scholarship winners Continued from page C



Shannon Scarberry
Mattamuskeet Early College High School
The daughter of Brian and April Seko of Fairfield, Shannon will major in animal science at NC State University.



Hunter Sutton
Pungo Christian Academy
Hunter is the son of Stuart and Bobbie Jo Ricks. He will attend Beaufort County Community College before transferring to East Carolina.



Brittany Copeland
Manteo High School
The daughter of George and Margie Copeland of Manns Harbor, Brittany will study nursing at Barton College.

Don't
SWEAT
Summer Electric
BILLS

As temperatures rise, there's plenty of things you can do to save energy and trim your electric bill.

Raise your thermostat a couple of degrees—78° is the most efficient setting. Ceiling fans cool people not buildings, so remember to turn them off when you leave the room. And you can shade your electric bill by planting trees on the south side of your home.

Don't sweat summer electric bills—check out www.EnergySavers.gov for more ways to save!

Brought to you by



America's Electric
Cooperatives