



REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.
Tideland Topics

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

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 \$375,000. The refund applies to members served during the years 1984 and/or 2008. Active account holders will receive a check this month if their electric account was current at the time of the distribution and if their refund totaled at least \$25.00. 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 10 months of 2009, Tideland refunded capital credits totaling \$213,693 to the estates of deceased members. That brings the total refunded to members during 2009 to \$588,693.



Bring Us the Figgy Pudding



Prep Time: 15 minutes
 Cook Time: 1 hour
 Ingredients:
 1/2 cup butter (1 stick), at room temperature
 2 eggs
 1 cup molasses
 2 cups dried figs (about 1 pound), stems removed, chopped fine
 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon peel
 1 cup buttermilk
 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped
 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
 2 teaspoons baking powder

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1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground
cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground
nutmeg

In an electric mixer, cream the butter until fluffy. Add the eggs and molasses and beat again. Add the figs, lemon peel, buttermilk, and walnuts. Blend 1 minute. Add the flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Blend until everything is incorporated.

Grease and flour an 8- by 4-inch souffle dish and pour in the batter. Bake at 325°F for 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Spoon onto plates or cut into wedges. Garnish with whipped cream.

Yield: 12 servings

Message to our Member-Owners: The touchstone of innovation

Editor's Note: This is the final installment of a four-part series by Tideland EMC's board officers discussing the unifying principles of Touchstone Energy cooperatives.

In the 1930s, investor owned utilities charged up to \$3000 to build a mile of rural electric line. That made service cost prohibitive in many areas. By developing high-strength, lightweight wire that permitted longer spans and fewer poles, and other innovative practices, electric cooperatives cut that cost to \$720 per mile of line by 1940.

Innovation has always been a cornerstone of electric cooperative success. Until recently, you may have been minimally aware of innovative co-op practices since much of the work was conducted behind the scenes. But you have certainly reaped the benefits through reductions in outage time and the introduction of

new services like on-line bill payment.

In the next few years, you will have a front row seat to electric utility innovation as Tideland EMC deploys technology that not only changes the way we deliver electricity but has the ability to change the way you think about and use electric service.

On the immediate horizon are smart grid technologies that will enable Tideland to diagnose electric system problems with almost pinpoint accuracy. In many cases, we will actually be able to anticipate system failures before they happen and take preventative actions to avert outages.

As a consumer you will soon have access to ever increasing amounts



Doug Brinson
Vice President

of information regarding your electric service. To make sure you have easy access to such information and a growing menu of energy solutions, Tideland is presently building a new website that will serve as your personal gateway to enhanced utility technology.

Soon you will be able to access a digital version of Carolina Country magazine, receive your monthly bill electronically and verify that electric service is on at your home from anywhere in the world.

The universal symbol for a bright idea has always been a lightbulb. Well, things are getting ready to be a whole lot brighter.

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.



REAL DO-IT-YOURSELF SOLUTIONS:

Keep out the cold with weather stripping

There's no mistaking it: heating season has arrived. Any drafts around doors and windows that went unnoticed on mild days are now downright uncomfortable—and adding to your energy bills.

Weather stripping offers a relatively quick fix for drafty doors and windows. To check for leaks, shut the door or window on a piece of paper. If you can pull the paper out without tearing it, you're losing energy.

There are a variety of weather stripping materials available, each good for fitting different types of door and window frames. Most are made of rubber, foam, metal, vinyl, or a combination of materials. To determine the right item for the job, check the area: if any old, worn material has been previously installed, take a sample to your local hardware store. If no material exists as a guide, make detailed notes about the type of gap and how the door or window is installed—someone at the hardware store should be able to make a recommendation for you.

Once you have the proper materials for the job, consult any instructions that may be on the weather stripping package. Installation techniques range from simple to technical, depending on the type of material being used. If replacing old, worn weather strip-

ping, be sure to note how it was installed as you remove it.

Here are a few basic guidelines:

- Weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces in temperatures above 20°F.
- Measure the area to be weather stripped twice before you cut anything.
- Apply weather stripping snugly against both surfaces. The material should compress when the window or door is shut.

When weather stripping doors:

- Choose the appropriate door sweeps and thresholds.
- Weather strip the entire door jamb.
- Apply one continuous strip along each side.
- Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners.
- Use a thickness that causes the weather stripping to tightly press between the door and the door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

When weather stripping windows:

- Apply weather stripping between the sash and frame.
- The weather stripping shouldn't interfere with the operation of the window.

68°

How much can you reduce heating bills this winter by keeping your thermostat at 68° F?

12%

If usual setting is 70°

24%

If usual setting is 72°

36%

If usual setting is 76°

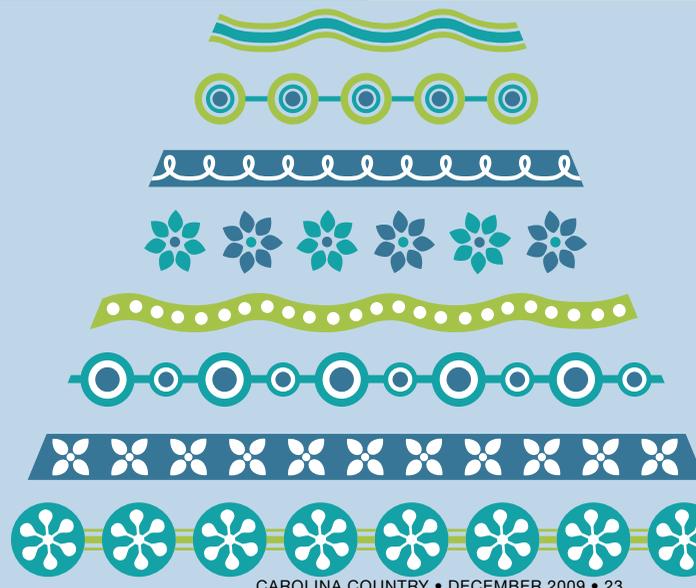
54%

If usual setting is 78°



Bring a new, unwrapped toy to any Tideland EMC office by Thursday, December 10 and we'll make sure it is delivered to a needy child in the local community.

Toy donations are distributed by:
The Salvation Army
and the Department of Social Services in Hyde, Pamlico & Washington counties.



BIG TRUCKS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE:

Linemen visit Northeast Elementary



On October 16, Northeast Elementary held its first "Careers on Wheels Day." Pantego linemen Jacob Hardison and Adam Fyle did a wonderful job explaining the equipment used in their work including the bucket and digger trucks.



SENDING YOU
WARMEST HOLIDAY WISHES



Tideland EMC

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING: THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 AND 25.
OUR 24-HOUR CALL CENTER WILL REMAIN OPEN

Statement of non-discrimination

Tideland Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission

or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Myra Beasley, Manager of Corporate Services. Any individual or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service, Washington, DC 20250.

Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Cecil O. Smith, Jr.
General Manager and CEO
Tideland EMC
Pantego, N.C.

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