



Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

INTELLI-POLE: Testing new utility technology on Ocracoke Island

Ocracoke represents an ideal environment for manufacturers that want to put utility equipment to the test under extreme conditions. Tideland EMC is also eager to implement new technologies that offer the promise of improved service reliability. That's why Highland Composites and Tideland teamed up for an Intelli-pole installation on the remote barrier island.

Thanks to Intelli-pole's modular construction, allowing on-site



assembly, it can be transported in the back of a pickup truck and hand carried into tight locations. It will not rot, corrode or decay, and is 100% recyclable. Best of all it is rated to withstand winds in excess of 180 miles per hour. Tideland's engineering team chose to install the pole in an area that is most frequently subjected to straight line winds and ocean overwash.

For more information regarding the Intelli-pole see page 24.



Carolina Country Mobile App

The new Carolina Country app is free to all Tideland EMC members! The monthly digital edition brings you:

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Message to our Member-Owners: *Rain, rain, go away*

By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Due to heavy rainfall, tree-trimming activities have fallen behind schedule. Lucas Tree Experts is finishing up trimming on the Rose Bay circuit and should begin work in Manns Harbor during March.

Mowing crews will be working along Straight, Kershaw, Janerio, and Oriental roads and all sideroads in the area.

Please lend your full support to our right-of-way maintenance efforts.

One would be hard-pressed to remember when eastern North Carolina had so much rainfall, especially outside the window of hurricane season. Record precipitation has certainly impacted co-op activities related to both right-of-way maintenance and major construction projects.

On December 15, 2015, we broke ground on the construction of a new substation near North Lake Road in Hyde County. This \$900,000 project is being undertaken to replace the existing Engelhard substation on Highway 264, originally constructed in the 1950s.

Following numerous rain delays, concrete was finally poured for the new substation and by late January Tideland EMC crews were busy erecting the structures necessary for a modern, state-of-the-art substation. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, construction should be complete in May 2016.

Crews are also working to relocate a section of 34.5 kV line that currently feeds through the Boundary Canal



*Engelhard substation construction
Photo by TW Allen*

area of Hyde County. The new line will provide better crew access as it travels through Fairfield and along North Lake Road. The Boundary Canal route has presented numerous challenges over the years due to wet conditions that make it difficult for co-op vehicles to access trouble spots.

Tideland scholar athletes honored during NCSU game

Three local middle-school students were recently recognized during a North Carolina State University women's basketball game. Candace Bailey, Sarabeth Boyd and Macy Radcliffe each earned Touchstone Energy scholarships from Tideland EMC to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp last summer.

Candace is the daughter of Matthew and Laticia Bailey of Washington. Sarabeth is the daughter of Doug and Tammy Boyd of Pinetown, and Macy is the daughter of Reid and Penelope Radcliffe, also of Pinetown.

Tideland EMC is accepting current year camp scholarship applications through March 31, 2016.



A squirrely situation

Photos by Steven Harris

On a beautiful Monday morning the last thing you expect is a major outage. But that's exactly what happened February 1 when 677 members fed from the Dawson Creek circuit out of the Arapahoe substation lost power at 8:35 am. Tideland crews were immediately dispatched from the Grantsboro office, and after several aerial patrols of the line, they were given the all clear to re-energize the line. Following two failed attempts to restore power, crews were able to pinpoint the troublespot to a section of underground line at China Grove. That section of line was isolated so power could be restored to the rest of the Dawson Creek circuit, and 460 members had their power restored at 10:38 am.

After further investigation, crews found a dead squirrel in a section of underground conduit. The squirrel chewed into the primary cable, which resulted in significant damage to all three cables. Crews put a spare overhead cable into service and restored power to the remaining 217 members at 12:32 pm. Crews will be replacing the underground section of line.



Above photo was edited out of respect for both the squirrel and our readers.



This month in Tideland history

March 31, 1936:
Meeting held at Hyde County courthouse to discuss the feasibility of extending electric service to Swan Quarter.

March 13, 1950:
Using Woodstock EMC trucks and crews to build the first telephone lines, sister co-op Tri-County Telephone was established.

March 31, 1950:
Pamlico-Beaufort EMC makes offer to purchase the town of Aurora's electric system. Aurora ultimately sold to Carolina Power & Light.

March 1961:
Pamlico Power & Light petitions the NC Utilities Commission for the right to extend service to East Lake.

March 20, 1973:
Former Pamlico-Beaufort EMC manager Carlos Holton passed away.

March 31, 1975:
Tideland EMC purchases Pamlico Power & Light for \$965,447.

March 5, 1990:
Longtime Ocracoke EMC & Tideland EMC employee Lindsey "Taft" Howard passed away at the age of 81.

March 1998:
Tideland launches www.tidelandemc.com.

LOOK FOR DETAILS! IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF CAROLINA COUNTRY!



In the next issue of Carolina Country:

- Operation RoundUp® Registration
- Information on Drawing for \$1,000 Electric Bill Credit
- Annual Meeting Information



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PROGRAM APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.TIDELANDEMC.COM**



Tideland EMC College Scholarships

Eligible: Graduating high school seniors served by Tideland
Eight \$1,000 non-renewable scholarship for students attending college or community college
Deadline To Apply: March 11, 2016



Youth Tour to Washington, DC

Dates: June 13-19, 2016
Eligible: Rising high school juniors and seniors served by Tideland
All-expense-paid trip to learn about co-ops as well as our nation's history and governance
Deadline To Apply: March 4, 2016



UNC & NC State Summer Basketball Camps

Camp Dates: June 2016
Eligible: Rising sixth, seventh and eighth grades served by Tideland
All-expense-paid trip. Girls attend NC State Camp. Boys attend UNC Roy Williams Camp
Deadline To Apply: March 31, 2016