

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Incumbents re-elected

At the cooperative's annual meeting of members in May, two incumbents were elected to continue service on Tideland's board of directors. Each will serve an additional three-year term.

District 3 Director Dawson Pugh represents members in mainland Hyde County east of Turnpike Road as well as the village of Stumpy Point.

District 9 Director Doug Brinson represents members in southeastern Pamlico County.



Dawson Pugh



J. Douglas Brinson



Ask Lineman Larry

Why aren't all power lines underground?

After an ice storm in 2002, the State of North Carolina commissioned a study to look into eliminating aerial electric lines. The research team found that burying all lines would cause most people's electric bills to go up by 125%, cost a total of \$41 billion, and take 25 years to complete. Today that cost would be nearly doubled!

Fortunately, overhead infrastructure is increasingly resilient, outage causes are readily identifiable, and repairs are much quicker than for underground infrastructure.

Have a question? Email linemanlarry@tidelandemc.com

KNOW WHAT TO DO



*if in an Auto Accident
with Power Lines*



*If the car you are in hits a
utility pole, your vehicle
and the surrounding
area can become
energized.*

*Even if you do not touch lines
or equipment, you can still be
killed or seriously injured.*



1. Do NOT leave the car,
and warn others to stay away.

2. Call 911 to have
the utility notified.



3. Wait until a utility professional
has told you it is safe.



The **only** reason
to exit the vehicle is
if it's on fire.

**If the car is on fire, jump clear
of the vehicle: with feet together,
and without touching the car and
the ground at the same time.**



Continue to **hop away**
with your **feet together**
as far as you can.



Save while away

Free up some vacation cash this summer by saving energy while you travel.



Raise your air conditioning thermostat to 85°F



Cut off ceiling fans. Make sure your HVAC system is operating in AUTO mode and not ON mode.



Cut your water heater off at the breaker.



Unplug electronics especially those with a clock or remote control. Not only does it save energy, it limits exposure to surge damages.



Close drapes and other window coverings to reduce solar heat gain while you are away.



If you can empty your refrigerator, cut it off and leave the door propped open. If that's not possible, fill it with containers of water to reduce the amount of empty air space.



If you feel the need to leave any lights on or use automatic timers to have them turn on and off, make sure the fixture uses an LED bulb.



Keep track of your energy use while away by logging into the member portal.

Message to members

Report of Tideland's Annual Meeting of Members

PAUL SPRUILL

GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tideland's 84th Annual Meeting of Members was held on May 16 and I wanted to share some of the content from that event, which should be of interest to our member-owners.

Disaster Reimbursements

Tideland territory is increasingly impacted by hurricanes, tropical storms and nor'easters. When major power outages are covered by a federal disaster declaration, Tideland's own financial recovery has been aided by a reimbursement formula whereby FEMA covers 75% of our expenses and NC Emergency Management covers the remaining 25% to make us whole. North Carolina is one of only two states to provide that recovery benefit.

Following Hurricane Irene, that benefit equated to \$125 per Tideland member. FEMA reimbursed the co-op \$1.44 million for Hurricane Florence expenses. NC Emergency Management covered the remaining \$480,000. This funding is important to our ongoing rate stability.

First Base Rate Increase Since March 2020 on the Horizon

Tideland has not implemented a base rate increase since March 2020. That was, in fact, our first rate increase since January 2013, which was preceded by a rate decrease in July 2014.

Following the 2020 rate increase, we implemented a wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credit that we were able to extend through January 2023.

Due to wholesale power cost increases, we implemented a WPCA charge in February 2023. Over time that charge has increased. Our predominant cost pressures arise from wholesale power supply as the nation confronts a significant increase in the need for generation driven by the rapid growth in data centers and blockchain operations.

As a result, we anticipate a base rate increase in early 2026 once we complete a cost of service study.

Remembering Rudy Austin

Board president Doug Brinson recognized our late Director Rudy Austin for his years of service. In his remarks, President Brinson said, "Rudy was an advocate for his Hyde County and Dare County district, but especially Ocracoke. When Rudy asked for an item, you knew the request was coming from a place of integrity. Rudy was diligent and dedicated to his work on behalf of the cooperative as he undertook trips from the island to the mainland to be with us for monthly board meetings. He always advocated for the right solutions for the island and Ocracoke's longevity. Rudy cared deeply about his representation of his Tideland EMC district. He was a strong advocate for infrastructure spending not only on Ocracoke itself, but also the communities on the Dare County and Hyde County mainland."

Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Gunnison Tree Service to trim trees in our rights-of-way.

During July, Gunnison Tree will be trimming on the Rose Bay and Pantego circuits.

In the Grantsboro district, Lee Electric, our construction contractor, will continue targeted pole replacements. These replacements are the result of our proactive pole inspection program. The inspections are undertaken by our contractor Osmose.

Be sure to give all utility crews wide berth when approaching them on public roadways.

Cover photo

Chloe, the granddaughter of Alex and Sharon Sosangelis of Belhaven, posed with Lineman Larry at the beach in Kill Devil Hills. Larry also tagged along for a trip to the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island.





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Tideland EMC

Real People. Real Power.

84TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Beaufort County
Community College
MAY 2025

★★★★★
**GRAND
PRIZE
WINNER**
★★★★★



LEIGH TETTERTON • WASHINGTON
\$500 TIDELAND EMC ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT

MEET OUR WINNERS



GARY MARTIN • BLOUNT'S CREEK
MACKEYS FERRY PEANUTS GIFT BOX



DONALD TOLER • ERNUL
PETALS & PRODUCE BASKET



ADAM TETTERTON • WASHINGTON
DUCK DECOY FROM OCRACOKE
YOUNGEST MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE



JERRY PRESCOTT • GRANTSBORO
PAMLICO COUNTY GIFT BASKET



JUDY HOLLARD • WASHINGTON
HOWELL'S MERCANTILE GIFT BASKET



LEIGH TETTERTON • WASHINGTON
JEFFREY JAKUB PRINT: THE COMMUNITY STORE



RALPH SMITH • OCRACOKE
NEBO JUMP-STARTER



PAM HAILEY • WASHINGTON
SHRIMP & SCALLOPS FROM PAMLICO PACKING



CLEVE & BRIDGET GIBBS • FAIRFIELD
COUNTRY HAM FROM ACRE STATION MEAT FARM



TINA SNYDER • WASHINGTON
CERAMIC BIRDHOUSE FROM RIVERVIEW CAFE



JANET SASNETT • WASHINGTON
\$100 GIFT CARD
OLDEST MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE



BRENDA JEFFERSON • PINETOWN
PEACE LILLY



JAMES & BRENDA EVERETT • PINETOWN
LUMP CRAB MEAT FROM COUNTY ROAD SEAFOOD



JOHN & WENDY MARSH • GRANTSBORO
JEFFREY JAKUB ART PRINT

BE READY! **FLOODS**

DURING

Unplug appliances to prevent electrical shock when power comes back on.

Do NOT drive or walk across flooded roads. Cars and people can be swept away.

Gather emergency supplies and follow local radio or TV updates.

WEATHER ALERT!

RECOGNIZE FLOOD RISK



- Identify flood-prone or landslide-prone areas near you.

- Know your community's warning signals, evacuation routes, and emergency shelter locations.

- Know flood evacuation routes near you.

When power lines are down, water is in your home, or before you evacuate, **TURN OFF** gas, power, and water.

Tie down or bring outdoor items inside.

Throw away items that cannot be disinfected, like wall coverings, cloth, rugs, and drywall.

PRACTICE SAFE HYGIENE



Wash hands with soap and water to help prevent germs.



Listen for information from your local officials on how to safely use water to drink, cook, or clean.

AFTER

Use fans, air conditioning units, and dehumidifiers for drying.

For cleanup, wear rubber boots and plastic gloves.

Clean walls, hard floors, and other surfaces with soap and water. Use a mixture of 1 cup bleach and 1 gallon water to disinfect.

Caution! Flood water may contain trash.



For more information visit
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>

Past is prologue: Previous storm lessons leave us better prepared

Past is prologue. It's a phrase from William Shakespeare's play, *The Tempest*. The character Antonio uses it to suggest that all that has happened before leads to the present moment and the choices that need to be made.

That perfectly sums up Tideland's approach to hurricane preparedness. Every storm challenge we tackle becomes an opportunity to learn and better prepare for the next event. And we don't limit "lessons learned" to our own storms. We follow events across the country and learn from other co-ops and communities.

Hurricane Helene was a natural disaster unlike any North Carolina has ever experienced. Helene knocked out communications towers and caused widespread cellular network disruptions in its wake. It also destroyed public safety communications networks in some locales.

AM/FM radio found a renewed purpose as an excellent resource for post-storm communications. Emergency managers in the affected areas went live on air to broadcast information and instructions.

On Sept. 29, commercial wireless providers reported a complete loss of cellular voice and data in 11 western North Carolina counties. That left more than 150,000 people in technological isolation.

What many did not realize at that time was that Apple had recently added texting by satellite with iOS18 for iPhone 14 models and newer. That service expansion built on Apple's "Emergency SOS via satellite" service, released in 2023. These services enable users to connect via satellite when no Wi-Fi or mobile data services are available.

This should not be construed as a backup internet connection for personal use. Satellite connection is slow and limited. However, it is suitable for sharing where you are, what condition you're in, and what help you may need.

Emergency SOS becomes available

when you're in an area without any coverage. You need a clear view of the sky and the horizon. Messages can take 15 seconds to send.

The phone will guide you through the process including moving the phone to stay locked to a satellite. The feature works with other iPhone safety options so you can send emergency responders stored medical identification information from the Health app. So make sure you have populated that information,

including medical conditions and anyone you want to designate as an emergency contact, in advance of a crisis.

You'll first need to try to call 911. If the iPhone finds no network

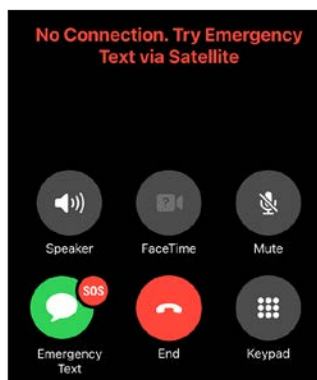
available, the Emergency Text via Satellite option appears. You'll be prompted to answer a few questions about your circumstances. Once complete, you'll be guided to lock onto a passing satellite.

The newer iPhone satellite service for iOS18 or later is activated through the Connection Assistant in the Control Center. Tap the Cellular button on the right. Next tap Satellite and then tap Try Demo to learn how to connect.

Alternatively, you can go to Settings and type in at the top Emergency SOS. Scroll all the way down and select "Try Demo." Do it now before you need it.

(Note: when Apple introduced this feature they made it available at no cost for two years with the activation of an eligible phone. So check with your carrier to determine your terms of access.)

Like the Emergency SOS service, it requires a clearer view of the sky and horizon.



Independence Day!



Our offices will be closed on Friday, July 4.

Crews will be on-call to respond to outages and service emergencies.

Code improvements enhance safety and surge protection

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

The National Electrical Code (NEC) is revised every three years and outlines the minimum requirements for safe electrical installation.

Despite the name, the NEC is not U.S. law. Each state and/or local government determines adoption. In January of this year, North Carolina updated its electrical code for all new installations but implementation has been delayed due to Hurricane Helene impacts.

Many older homes may not have an adequate electrical system to meet the electrical demands of today. If you're renovating your home, make sure to have the following electrical safety devices installed to maintain an electrically safe, code compliant home.

Safety Devices:

Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI):

Available as circuit breakers and receptacles. AFCIs protect against electrical fires from malfunctions. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 50% of home electrical fires can be prevented by proper AFCI protection.

Surge Protective Devices (SPD):

Surge Protective Devices protect against surges that can damage or reduce the lifespan of your electrical system and devices.

Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI):

Available as a circuit breaker and receptacle. GFCIs protect against electric shock and are required in areas where water and electricity may come in contact.

Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRR)

Tamper Resistant Receptacles function like normal receptacles but they include an internal shutter system to prevent foreign objects from being inserted into the outlets.

Renovating?

The following protection is required in these areas:

- Bathrooms
GFCI protection
- Basements & Crawl Spaces
AFCI protection (finished basements)
GFCI protection (crawl space at or below grade)
- Bedrooms and Common Rooms (Family, dining, parlor, libraries, dens, recreation, and similar rooms)
AFCI protection
- Garages
GFCI protection
- Hallways & Closets
AFCI protection
- Kitchens
AFCI protection
GFCI protection (where the receptacles are installed to serve the countertop surfaces or where receptacles are installed within 6 feet of a sink)
- Laundry Area
AFCI protection
GFCI protection
- Outdoor
GFCI protection

Additional Highlights:

- All receptacles in homes, garages, accessory buildings, and common areas of multifamily homes must be protected by TRRs
- New and replaced service equipment are now required to be protected by listed Type 1 or Type 2 Surge Protective Devices
- Outdoor emergency disconnects are required for new construction and homes having their service replaced.



Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Douglas Brinson, President
Clifton Paul, Vice President
Mark Carawan, Secretary
David Ipock, Treasurer
Garry Jordan, Dawson Pugh,
Paul Sasnett, Wayne Sawyer &
Charles Slade

GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

24 Hour Member Service

252.943.3046

24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400

Text OUT to short code 85700

Tideland EMC is an equal
opportunity provider & employer



Hurricane Word Search Answer Key

