

A publication for members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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ALONG THE LINE

Golf Tournament Raises Funds for 4-H Programs

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC helped raise funds to support the Edgecombe County 4-H program on May 15 by hosting the 13th Annual 4-H Golf Tournament. Twenty teams participated in this year's tournament at the Links at Cotton Valley in Tarboro. Lee Electric was the winning team and they will move on to participate in the statewide 4-H tournament later in the year. Through the generous support of local sponsors and tournament participants, the co-op was able to present 4-H with a check totaling \$6,582. Edgecombe County 4-H will use the funds for various 4-H activities during the year.

Jersey Mikes of Tarboro provided lunch before the tournament and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC gave tournament T-shirts away to all participants. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and the Edgecombe County 4-H Program greatly appreciate the support of local organizations and the community in order to make the tournament successful every year.

Next year's tournament will also be held in May, and we hope that you will join us in supporting our local 4-H program.



3 WAYS TO HELP YOU CONSERVE



1. Set thermostat temperatures higher if you will not be home for several days during the summer.

2. Minimize the use of sprinklers in summer to water your lawn.



3. Wash full loads of clothes to conserve water and use cold water for washing.

(Above) Lesa Walton of the Edgecombe County 4-H accepts a check from George Stamper of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC for \$6,582 from the proceeds of the 13th Annual 4-H Golf Tournament. (Right) Tournament participants wait for scores to be posted after the tournament.

Whitehurst to Attend Camp

William Whitehurst was selected by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to attend the 2009 Cooperative Youth Leadership Conference at the White Lake FFA Center on June 22-26.

The camp provides a great opportunity for cooperative members to send youth ages 15-18 to learn how cooperatives work and to consider a future working in cooperatives across the state.

William resides in Tarboro with his parents, Taft and Tina Whitehurst. He is very involved in the Edgecombe County 4-H program and has received several awards for his performance in 4-H competition. William also enjoys playing guitar and singing in his spare time and he has performed at different venues around the county. His singing prowess also landed him a spot at the NC 4-H Centennial event.



William Whitehurst will represent Edgecombe-Martin County EMC at the 2009 Cooperative Youth Leadership Conference.

Calling All Teachers: Send Us Your Bright Idea!



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

Teachers, it's time to submit your Bright Ideas grant before the "Early Bird" deadline closes on August 17. Grants submitted on or before that date will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a \$500 Visa Gift Card.

The Bright Ideas program allows students in our area the opportunity to participate in innovative classroom based projects that help facilitate learning. Teachers can apply by visiting www.ncbrightideas.com and submitting their grant online. Educators in grades K-12 can apply and grants up to \$1,500 will be awarded by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC in September to several deserving teachers. The final deadline

for all grant submissions is September 18, and we encourage all teachers in grades K-12 to apply.

Since 1994, the Bright Ideas program has provided more than 1 million students across North Carolina with the opportunity to learn through exciting, hands-on projects. And, over \$6.5 million has been awarded to fund nearly 5,900 innovative grants to educators across our great state.

Don't let this exciting opportunity pass you and your students by. Apply today!

www.ncbrightideas.com

2008

**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

Bright Ideas on the web:

- Customized on-line and printable applications.
- Complete overview of the Bright Ideas grant program.
- Instructions for making grant requests.

North Carolina's
Electric Cooperatives



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

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Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to www.ememc.com.

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To report a loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

Arc Flashes Can Be Deadly

Since the inception of electric distribution systems, arc flash hazards have been present. The severity of this hazard has increased as the distribution systems have grown in size, complexity and efficiency. With consumer loads demanding higher system voltages, higher delivery voltages and larger, more efficient transformers and electric utilities striving to optimize their systems, the currents levels during faults conditions have steadily increased. The increasing fault currents translate to higher arc flash exposure levels.

Arc flash events happen when the voltage potential between two conductors becomes great enough or the conductors get close enough to each other where an arc is created to eliminate the voltage difference. The arc created in this situation emits massive amounts of heat which can start fires, liquefy metal and create numerous other situations which can cause severe injuries to nearby personnel. The heat from an arc flash can be as high as 35,000°F, which is approximately four times the temperature of the surface of the sun. Burns can happen from inches away to more than 10 feet away. This heat will sustain until a protective device, such as a circuit breaker or a fuse has an opportunity to operate. Arc flashes can be caused by the improper use of tools, the breakdown of insulation, equipment failure, or simply getting too close to a voltage source with any type of conductor.

As of January 1, 2009, electric utilities were required by recent changes released in the 2007 edition of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), to evaluate the potential exposure to an arc flash for employees who work on or near energized parts or equipment. If the exposure level is high enough electric utilities are then required to outfit their employees with a clothing system that has the ability to withstand and protect the employee from extensive heat exposure. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has always been willing to protect any employee from preventable dangers within their work environment, and prior to the change in requirements we required the use of arc thermal protection and fire retardant clothing. This new

requirement allowed us the opportunity to re-evaluate our clothing system and protective equipment to ensure we are protecting the employee to the best of our ability.



The re-evaluation brought to light that more can and should be done to protect employees in case such a hazard does occur. In some cases, we changed protective equipment, which helps shorten the duration of an arc flash event. We also outfitted our employees with clothing that allows less heat to pass through and prevents ignition of the clothing if an arc flash event does occur.

Most arc flash hazards can be prevented through proper training and careful consideration of circumstances within every situation; whether it is through the proper use of equipment or tools or through the knowledge of the dangers on electric systems and how to avoid those dangers.

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we make every effort possible to work safely and we ask that our members be conscious of the dangers they may encounter when working on their own electric systems. You may encounter the same dangers within your home or business that our linemen and servicemen are exposed to on a daily basis. Remember to take the proper precautions when working with electricity, and always call a licensed electrician for jobs that are beyond your capability or comfort level.

Cooperatively Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Guerry'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Russell Guerry

Baker Earns Bachelor's Degree

Lisa Baker successfully completed the requirements needed to earn her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from North Carolina Wesleyan College in May 2009. Lisa has been employed with the Cooperative for 18 years and she is currently the Manager of Human Resources. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC applauds the effort Lisa put forth to further her education.



CEO Bob McDuffie and Lisa Baker

TRADING POST

The Trading Post is a free service to advertise non-commercial items for members and employees of the Cooperative. Members are asked to submit a name and account number for each ad. Members and employees are limited to two ads per year. The Cooperative reserves the right to edit, condense or refuse any ad. We do not endorse services advertised and are not responsible for the reliability of services listed. Please submit ads two months in advance. (All phone numbers are 252 area code unless noted)

FOR SALE

Truck

1986 1/2 Ton Chevy Silverado, 5.0 Liter V-8, A.C., 149,835 miles. Asking \$1,200. Call 437-0850.

Generator

Generac Model 01314-0, 5500 Watts, Honda engine with OHV, 240V and 110V outlets, very limited use. Asking \$450, neg. Call 827-5463.

Mobile Home

2000 Fleetwood 28' x 64', 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Has to be moved off property. Asking \$26,000, neg. Call 813-9447 or 752-4060.

Get Prepared for Hurricane Season

Hurricane season is upon us, and it is very important to make sure you are prepared for these devastating storms.

We have compiled an informative "Hurricane Watch" tabloid that is available at our office to help you prepare. It includes a hurricane tracking chart and a lot of other useful information that you should know about regarding hurricanes.

We also have literature available on how to operate your portable generator safely during a power outage. This handy pamphlet provides a reference chart for properly sizing and loading your generator based on the running wattage and starting wattage of various electrical appliances found around your home. It also displays a helpful diagram that shows how to properly connect a generator to your homes electrical system.



ALONG THE LINE

www.ememc.com

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