

Along the LINE

MAY 2023

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



Sporting Clay 4-H Fundraiser

Save the date, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will hold our second sporting clays 4-H fundraiser, Friday, Sept. 8, 2023.

This is a 50-target event. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the tournament. There will be prizes for 1st through 3rd place for individuals and teams. Gun rental is available.

A maximum of 30 teams will be allowed. Shells are not included in registration fee, but will be available for purchase if needed. 7½ size shot or smaller. Eye and ear protection is required.



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the:

- Kiosk under the drive-thru canopy
- Calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358
- Placed in the night deposit box
- Online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Sporting Clay Fundraiser

WHEN: Friday, September 8th, 2023

WHERE: Rose Hill Sporting Preserve, 3815
Rose Hill Lane, Nashville, NC 27856

BENEFITS: Edgecombe County 4-H

PRICE: \$500.00 for a 4 person team. \$150.00
for individuals

TO REGISTER: Contact Monica Speight at
252-823-2171 or monicas@ememc.com

Thank You For Attending our Annual Meeting

Thank you to all that came out for our 86th Annual Meeting held from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, at our headquarters facility.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members continued to break records at the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members.

This year, we had a total of 661 members register, this is 81 more than last year. The numbers speak for themselves, our members have responded well to this new meeting format. The business meeting took place in person in the truck shed this year, the meeting was also available on Facebook Live.

Registered members were entered in a drawing for 10 \$100 bill credits with the drawing held on Friday, March 24. The winners from the drawing were as follows: Janice Shaw, Ora Dickens, Jacquelin Bellamy, Charles Burton, John Jackson, Earlean Davis, Donna Pettaway, Douglas Drake, Delores Parker, and Jerry Bess.

Thank you to our awesome members for your involvement and your continued support.



HVAC Service Reminder

The air conditioner is always the hardest-working appliance during the summer months. For day-to-day comfort, we rely on our cooling system, be it at home or at the office. For that reason, it's imperative to have your HVAC system serviced before it starts getting too warm and humid.

Most members can expect to see their bills increase during the summer months as their air conditioners run longer and harder to cool the home to their desired temperature. Experts recommend that you keep your thermostat set at 78 degrees when your HVAC system is set to cool in order to keep energy

consumption as low as possible.

You should also inspect and replace your return filters monthly if needed. Failing to change your air filters can cause your air conditioner to run longer and become less efficient. An efficient air conditioner means more money in your pocket due to lower electric bills.





Sustaining a Reliable Electric System

We've all heard the phrase, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." This popular adage is often used in conversation or a story when someone is about to do something foolish or risky. If they heed this advice, it means they did not commit to "one basket," but instead hedged their bets with multiple options.

This strategy is how I describe Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's common sense approach to the current energy transition. We know that consumer interest in renewable energy continues to grow.

Over the last few years, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has adjusted our fuel mix by utilizing more renewables. Today, 8% of our fuel mix is comprised of renewable energy, the majority of which is solar. That's an increase of 6% compared to nine years ago. Recent innovations and advances in renewable energy technologies, along with aggressive state and federal tax credits, have led to sharp decreases in costs, which have made renewables more feasible, accessible, and scalable.

Nationally, there is increasing reliance on renewable energy sources at the same time that we're seeing fossil fuel plants taken off-line, often ahead of schedule. Additionally, we're seeing more pressure on the electric grid due to the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events and rising electricity demand.

Competing Pressures

So how do we reconcile these challenges of grid pressure and a changing fuel mix? Solar and wind energy are certainly beneficial for the environment, but they are limited resources because the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. Our primary responsibility is to provide electricity 24/7 to our members. To do this, we need reliable sources of power that will meet all the peaks and valleys of on-demand energy in our connected world.

So where are we netting out? That's where our familiar adage comes into play. While utilization of renewables is increasing, we still need to incorporate other forms of energy in the mix to ensure reliable service. Remember, solar and wind are intermittent power sources. This fact coupled with the growing demand for renewables creates its own challenges.

That's why we spread our eggs into multiple baskets. There is great value in maintaining a diverse mix of fuel sources — nuclear, fossil fuels and renewables to ensure reliability, resiliency and meet the growing demand for electricity.

Reliability also means repairing and replacing utility equipment to prevent wear-and-tear, ensuring our equipment can withstand severe weather. We are laser-focused on providing our Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members with safe, reliable, and affordable energy. That's why fuel diversity or placing our eggs in multiple baskets is essential to reliability.

The Bottom Line

Lowering our carbon footprint in a responsible manner that doesn't sacrifice the safety and reliability of the electric grid is of utmost importance. Existing baseload generation is currently being retired prematurely to meet new carbon reduction initiatives; while new baseload generation is not being built quick enough to meet the growing demand our industry is experiencing. Solar and wind power are an important part of a broader energy portfolio, but they are not available 24/7. In today's ever-connected world, people need power around the clock.

As our nation increasingly depends on electricity to power the economy, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is working to anticipate, plan and respond to market trends. Regulatory and policy shifts must be made in a measured approach to ensure grid reliability now and in the future.

Cooperatively,

Winston Howell

Winston Howell

Providing safe and reliable power begins with a comprehensive right-of-way program.

Trees are a leading cause of power outages, particularly when the wind blows. Right-of-way maintenance is one of our largest annual expenses.

We perform routine maintenance of trees and other vegetation on nearly 400 miles of overhead rights-of-way each year. Our vegetation management activities are essential to maintain safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our members.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC uses various techniques to actively manage our right-of-ways, including cutting, mowing and spraying. Our right-of-ways are cut on a three-year rotation, so we can continually address vegetation growth across our entire distribution and transmission systems.

A large part of our distribution system right-of-way is cut using skytrim and bucket trucks. Bucket trucks are used for trimming around service drops on a member's property. Mowing is also used.

Another method to manage our right-of-ways is the spraying of herbicides. We use herbicides in a very measured approach to manage vegetation in some areas. Contract crews that are licensed and experienced will spray areas to

help reduce the need for cutting and mowing right-of-ways in specific areas.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC recognizes that trees are beneficial in accenting our homes, beautifying our communities, and increasing property values. However, trees growing in the wrong place can also be damaging when they interfere with power lines, compromising the reliability and safety of our electrical system.

Plant large trees at least 35 – 40 feet from the center of the power line. This permits 10 – 15 feet of clearance for mature trees with a branch spread of 40 feet in diameter. New small trees and large shrubs can be planted within 35 feet of power lines, but they should not exceed 15 feet in height. Also, be sure not to plant anything over an underground utility facility because the cable or pipe may require maintenance, which in turn, requires digging (thereby ruining plant roots).

Throughout May, Lucas Tree Experts will be trimming on Highway 124 and Highway 43 in the Pinetops and Old Sparta areas and various hotspots on the system.



Along The LINE

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