

# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

## *Then along came* **Michael**

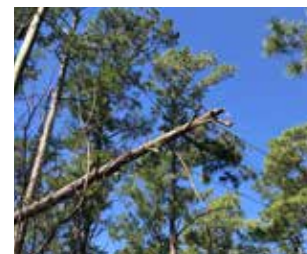
Tideland members and employees were less than a month into the recovery from Hurricane Florence when Michael rapidly formed in the Gulf of Mexico, attaining monster strength by landfall. Hundreds of miles later, in its final death throes, Michael landed a few direct blows to Tideland territory before its eventual demise over cooler ocean waters.

## **Hurricane** *Relief Fundraiser*

The ladies at Tideland are raising funds to assist with hurricane relief efforts. See page D to learn how you can get your Storm Hair T-shirt.



LUCAS TREE BEGINS THE PROCESS OF CLEARING A DOWNED TREE ON THE SIDNEY CIRCUIT ON OCTOBER 12  
ROBBIE ROUSE PHOTO





# All gave some Some gave all

Hurricane Michael claimed 45 lives. Among the lost were four linemen, three of whom were from eastern North Carolina.

On Friday, October 12, James "Michael" Alligood of Chocowinity, passed away as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He worked for River City Construction and was on his way to help restore power in western North Carolina.

On October 24, three linemen were killed by a hit-and-run driver while working to restore power at West Florida Electric Co-operative (WFEC). Two of the linemen were from eastern North Carolina and worked for Tideland's electrical construction contractor, Lee Electrical. The third lineman was a WFEC employee.

WFEC suffered catastrophic damage from Hurricane Michael, with over 8,500 broken poles and more than 4,500 damaged transformers. Over 1,200 personnel traveled to assist the 25,000 member co-op with the rebuilding effort.

The Nash Community College Foundation in Rocky Mount has established the Ryan Barrett Memorial Lineman Scholarship Fund in honor of the youngest of the three linemen killed in Florida. To give online: [nashcc.edu/give](http://nashcc.edu/give) with gift designation being **NCC Foundation Student**

## Move over It's the law

North Carolina's Move Over law, G.S. 20-157 (f), protects law enforcement officers and emergency and utility workers stopped alongside our highways.

Motorists must pull into a lane that is not the lane nearest the parked or standing authorized emergency vehicle or public service vehicle and continue traveling in that lane until safely clear of the authorized emergency vehicle. This applies when the roadway has at least two lanes for traffic proceeding in the direction of the approaching vehicle and if the approaching vehicle may change lanes safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.

If the roadway has only one lane for traffic proceeding in the direction of the approaching vehicle, then you must slow the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for traffic conditions and be prepared to stop until completely past the authorized emergency vehicle or public service vehicle.

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James Ussery  
West Florida  
Electric Cooperative



Ryan Barrett  
Roanoke Rapids, NC  
Lee Electrical



George Cesil  
Colerain, NC  
Lee Electrical

**Scholarship Program** and designation comments **Ryan Barrett Fund**.



# Michael packed a punch

## North side of the Pamlico takes the brunt

Whereas members south of the Pamlico River were hardest hit by Hurricane Florence, the reverse was true when the remnants of Hurricane Michael blew through Tideland territory on October 11. Nearly 8,000 members lost power during the latter event with damage heaviest in Pungo, Sidney, Pamlico Beach, Swan Quarter, Ponzer and Sladesville. High water delayed power restoration to Stumpy Point during the overnight hours.

In preparation for Michael, Tideland pre-staged additional personnel in local hotels on October 10. The extra workforce of tree trimmers and line construction crews consisted of 51 personnel.

Winds began to impact Tideland service areas the following after-

noon, with outages peaking around 10 pm. By 3:30 am, Friday, October 12, the outage total fell to 1,400 as crews worked through the night. By 11 am, fewer than 90 members remained without power. Full power restoration was achieved a few hours later.

After a weekend of rest, Tideland crews returned their attention to Hurricane Florence's long-term recovery efforts. The ongoing work included debris removal, a steady stream of reconnects as flood damaged homes continued to come back on line, and attend to the everyday rigors of utility system maintenance and service. Adding to the daily workload have been continuing failures of underground infrastructure impacted by the salty flood waters of Hurricane Florence.

## *Right-of-way* maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During December, they will be working in the Bath area along Possum Hill Road, Camp Leach Road and in Springdale Village and all other sideroads in these areas.

Remember to support these importance system maintenance operations. Proper tree care leads to greater system reliability.



LUCAS TREE AT WORK IN THE  
WAKE OF HURRICANE MICHAEL  
ROBBIE ROUSE PHOTO



When dry shampoo is your #bff

There's beach hair, river hair and lake hair. But in Tideland territory, we know all too well about storm hair. A few days into storm duty (or without power) and...well, let's just say we're not looking too fresh. Some grab a ball cap. Others opt for dry shampoo. When it gets really gnarly, both will do.

Tideland has a history of producing a T-shirt for employees to commemorate major storms.

They're fairly manly, largely designed with linemen in mind. A few days into the Hurricane Florence response, lead customer service representative Linda Carawan hit on the idea of a ladies' only t-shirt with the theme of "Storm Hair Don't Care."



Ultimately, we created two different designs and decided to

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# Message to members

## 'Tis the season for capital credits

PAUL SPRUILL  
GENERAL MANAGER &  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tideland EMC's board of directors has approved a general retirement of capital credits totaling \$750,000. The refund applies to members served by the co-op during 1991. Active account holders will receive a check this month if their electric account is current at the time of the distribution and if their refund is at least \$50.00. All other active members will receive a credit on their December electric bill.

In the case of inactive members with a capital credit retirement of more than \$50, we will mail a check to their last known address. Checks that are returned or uncashed will be escheated to the NC Department of State Treasurer's unclaimed property division. That's one reason it is a good idea to keep your current address up to date with the co-op if you ever move off our system.

In addition to the general retirement, approximately \$450,000 will be refunded to the estates of deceased members. Therefore, total retirements for the year will total \$1.2 million in capital credits.

*To search for unclaimed cash online visit [nc.gov/unclaimed-property-search](http://nc.gov/unclaimed-property-search)*

If you are the executor of the estate for a deceased member, be sure to complete a capital credit request form and submit to our office along with a copy of the member's death certificate. The form can be found online at [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com).

Thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve you and to be good stewards of your member-owned resources.

## Let's Connect

### Community learning sessions



During large outages, like those that accompanied Hurricane Florence, we often target messaging by substation, circuit and tap. Understanding the path of electricity and how it reaches your home or business can prove helpful during a crisis situation. Therefore, Tideland is embarking on a series of meetings to engage members by substation and circuit to learn how electricity gets to you.

These meetings will kick off in early 2019 with the first being scheduled for members served by our Edward substation and the four substation circuits: Blounts Creek, Bonnerton, Lowland and Craven County. The second meeting will be for members served by newly constructed Fairfield Harbour substation which includes the Cayton Road circuit. Included in the discussion will be how that investment expanded capacity and revamped the path of electricity to area homes. Meeting details will be sent via text message and email.

We look forward to these meetings throughout our six-county service territory. Stay tuned!

# How CAPITAL CREDITS work

Tideland Electric Membership Corporation is a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative. Tideland members share in the ownership, construction, maintenance and prosperity of the co-op.

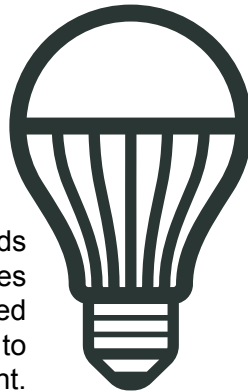


When a person establishes service with us, they become a member and are eligible for capital credits.



Capital credits represent a member's share of the cooperative's margins during the time they have membership.

At the end of each year, any funds (margins) remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated, based on percentage of electricity used, to the member's account.



The allocated funds are used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance.



## ALLOCATION

An allocation is made annually for each member, based on the amount of electricity purchased. An allocation is the member's share of the net margins. The co-op sets this money aside to be used as operating capital for improvements & maintenance over a period of years thus reducing co-op borrowing costs.

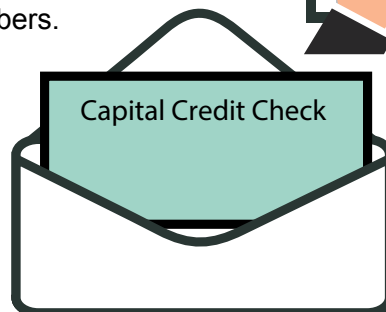


Annually, the board of directors evaluates Tideland's financial condition to determine if we can retire capital credits and if so, what dollar amount. Part of that equation is the amount of capital credits already refunded year-to-date to the estates of deceased members.



When the board elects to retire capital credits, we calculate the amount to pay each member based on a percentage of the member's allocation for the year of service being retired.

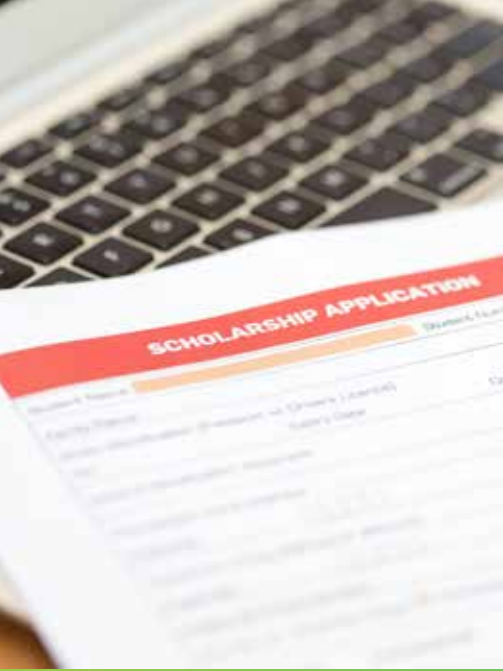
Checks are mailed to members due a retirement of \$50 or more. For amounts less than \$50 or in the case of a delinquent account, the credit is applied to the member's December electric bill.



Capital credits represent an important cooperative principle: **MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION** along with the return of local dollars to our hometown communities.

## RETIREMENT

A retirement is the amount a member receives back as a refund. It is a portion of the total allocation. When capital is no longer needed for operating expenses, it is retired. The amount paid is decided annually by the board of directors based on the financial needs of the cooperative.



# Member care package

It's been a hard couple of months in Tideland territory since Hurricane Florence. We'd like to help lighten the load for so many members struggling to recover. Therefore, the co-op's board of directors has approved a member care package featuring both new and expanded programs intended to aid recovery efforts.

## We're doubling all heat pump rebates

Through April 30, 2019, heat pump rebates will be doubled on any qualifying HVAC system purchased since October 15, 2018. All other program requirements apply so visit [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com) for details and to access the appropriate rebate form.



## Free ecobee® smart thermostat

Members with wifi who are installing a new heat pump qualify for a free ecobee® smart thermostat. By participating in the co-op's peak energy management program, the member will also receive a \$2 monthly bill credit. Prefer to BYOT: bring your own thermostat? We'll issue a \$50 rebate for any existing Nest® or ecobee® thermostat you enroll in the program along with the monthly \$2 credit. See our website for details.

## Water heater sales and financing

Was your water heater flood damaged and do you have wifi? We now offer the most flood-resistant water heater on the market: the Vaughn Featherweight. There's no required maintenance, no anode rod, and top-mount element assembly and access makes this unit flood resistant to a minimum of 36 inches. By agreeing to participate in the co-op's peak energy management program we'll finance the water heater on your electric bill. Payments start at \$25 per month for up to 36 months for a 55-gallon model. Additional information about the Vaughn water heater and financing arrangements can be accessed online at [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com).



## \$1,250 Energy Star manufactured home rebate

Replacing your home? Don't forget about our Energy Star manufactured home rebate, which can be especially powerful when combined with the other offers above. The rebate form is on our website.

## Class of 2019 Time to apply

Tideland EMC is now accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Applicants must be the dependent of a Tideland EMC member.

The co-op will award eight \$1,000 scholarships. Two of the scholarships will be designated for students who plan to attend community college.

Students have until Friday, March 8, 2019, to apply. An application may be downloaded at [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com).

For more information contact program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or [heidismith@tidelandemc.com](mailto:heidismith@tidelandemc.com).

# What you can learn from an Eskimo!

## Energy lessons for non-igloo dwellers

Winter begins December 21, but most Tideland households have long since turned on their heating systems. You might be surprised to know there are important energy lessons to be derived from one of the northernmost structures: an igloo.

It all begins with good insulation. Fresh snow, which is best for igloo building, is light and up to 95% air. Because the air is firmly trapped inside and can't move freely, heat transfer is significantly reduced. The same is true for the insulation in our homes. It isn't designed to entirely stop air flow. It is intended to significantly slow the transfer process. That's why you should never compress attic insulation by setting boxes of Christmas ornaments on top of it. The thicker and fluffier the better.

With the transfer of air slowed, you can take advantage of radiant heat generated inside your

home. Everything from your own body heat to the heat generated by TVs, lights and everyday activities. Don't let indoor humidity fall too low which will make you feel colder, lead to dry and itchy skin, and increases susceptibility to colds and infection. Ideally indoor humidity is between 45-55 percent.

And while an igloo can be up to 70 degrees warmer than outside conditions, it is still important to dress



appropriately. Layer garments, wear slippers or socks indoors and create personal insulation. Shorts and t-shirts aren't going to cut it during heating season.



## Gift Giving made easy

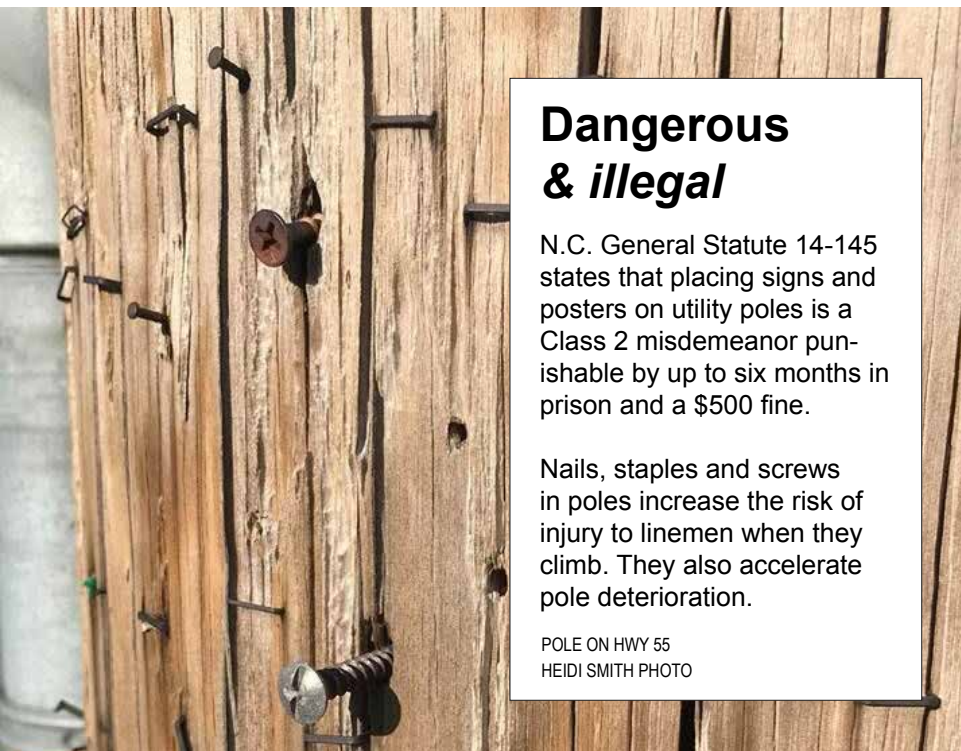
Want to brighten the Christmas Season for someone special?

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 or visit any Tideland office.



### Dangerous & illegal

N.C. General Statute 14-145 states that placing signs and posters on utility poles is a Class 2 misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in prison and a \$500 fine.

Nails, staples and screws in poles increase the risk of injury to linemen when they climb. They also accelerate pole deterioration.

POLE ON HWY 55  
HEIDI SMITH PHOTO



## MoveOver

Continued from Page B

“Public service vehicle” means a vehicle that:

- is being used to assist motorists or law enforcement officers with wrecked or disabled vehicles,
- is being used to install, maintain, or restore utility service, including electric, cable, telephone, communications, and gas,
- is being used in the collection of refuse, solid waste, or recycling, or
- is a highway maintenance vehicle owned and operated by or contracted by the State or a local government.

The vehicle must be operating an amber-colored flashing light.

A violation of the move over law will result in a mandatory fine of \$250.00 plus court costs.

## StormHair

Continued from Page D

make them available to other electric co-ops as a Hurricane Florence relief fundraiser. We ordered extras and they are available for purchase at all Tideland EMC offices.

Proceeds from the T-shirt sales will be disbursed by the Tideland Electric Care Trust once fundraising is complete and community needs have been evaluated.



“We’re hopeful that through the sale of these T-shirts we can show our members just how much we care about them and the communities we serve,” says Carawan. “And we hope all co-op ladies, including line-wives, linemoms and members, feel appreciated for all they contribute to storm relief efforts.”

## Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
  - (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
  - (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

## Tideland Topics

[www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

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252.943.3046  
800.637.1079  
24 Hour Outage Reporting  
& Automated Services  
252.944.2400  
800.882.1001

Tideland EMC is an equal  
opportunity provider & employer



## Holiday Closing

Our offices will be closed December 24 and 25 as well as January 1. Our 24-hour call center will be fully staffed for outage reporting and account management. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

