



# Tideland Topics

## REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

### “A” IS FOR AWESOME: Arthur can’t keep a good crew down

It’s not everyday that a lineman receives an on-the-job ovation, but that was the scene that played out on July 4 when co-op employee Chris Rice responded to a Hurricane Arthur outage at Indian Bluff in Pamlico County. Tideland EMC board member Doug Brinson was among the bystanders watching Rice work and he recounted for fellow co-op members the efforts of Rice and Raymond “PeeWee” Wilson the night before to restore power to the co-op’s Blounts Creek circuit as category 2 Hurricane Arthur approached Tideland territory.

The Blounts Creek circuit was the first to lose power at 8:30 p.m.



Photo by Connie Leinbach/Ocracoke Observer



on July 3 as Arthur’s outer bands began to impact the co-op’s service area. Rice and Wilson were in the process of clearing up a localized outage affecting 28 members at Sparrow Bay on the Bonnerton tap when they got the call about the larger outage affecting 703 members. With weather conditions still deemed favorable, the two rode out the line and soon located a broken tree top that had blown into the circuit. That’s when another outer band began to impact the

area and Rice and Wilson found themselves racing against both the clock and the wind to restore power before seeking shelter for the night.

At 10:05 p.m., power was restored to the Blounts Creek circuit and it never went off again during Arthur’s march across the Pamlico region. Rice and Wilson, along with all Tideland EMC personnel, reported back to work at daybreak on July 4, and by 6 a.m., all hands were on deck to restore power in the wake of Hurricane Arthur.

**story continues on page 28**



## Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. In August they will be working in the Grantsboro District in the Minnesott Beach area.

Mowing crews will be working on River Road in Washington.

## Work Plan Update

Work has now begun to bore in a new power cable underneath Pantego Creek in Belhaven

Crews will be taking the mobile substation out of service at the Washington substation in early August when they complete substation upgrades.

## Message to our Member-Owners:

# Many hands make light work

**By Paul Spruill**

General Manager & CEO

The article that begins on the previous page does an outstanding job highlighting the extraordinary efforts of line crews to restore power following Hurricane Arthur. We simply couldn't have asked for a greater effort by any group of workers than the one put forth July 3-5.

But I want to make sure we also shine a light on the efforts of those you rarely see in a storm: the many support personnel that operate our dispatch and call center; those that prepare and deliver meals to crews in the field; those who keep current information flowing to the media and co-op members; and perhaps one of the biggest challenges of all, keeping the accounting, inventory and record keeping straight in the midst of so much activity. Like our line crews,

these behind-the-scenes personnel also leave their homes and families behind to respond when needed and we appreciate their dedication.

I also want to thank the spouses and families of our co-op employees, many of whom sacrificed holiday plans or tended to personal storm damage alone so their loved ones could answer our call to action.

Finally, I want to thank all the co-op members who sent so many good wishes our way throughout the power restoration process. Your support and encouragement mean the world to the entire Tideland team because you are the reason we do what we do.



Photo by Rachel O'Neal



Shakera Davis

## Hyde County Teen Attends Co-op Youth Tour

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. (June 14-19). Approximately 1,800 students participated from across the country, and Hyde County teen Shakera Davis represented Tideland EMC.

Shakera, the daughter of Anthony and Linda Davis of Scranton, is a rising junior at Mattamuskeet Early College High School. She is active in 4-H and is a member of her high school's softball team. An honor roll student excelling in math and science, Shakera also has a talent for painting and drawing. While attending Youth Tour, Shakera had an opportunity to meet members of North Carolina's congressional delegation and tour numerous sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust and Smithsonian museums, the National Mall and the Newseum.

## Summer school:

# Tideland sends four to basketball camps

Four local middle school students shot hoops and ran drills at basketball camps hosted by two of the state's largest universities, thanks to Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships from Tideland EMC.

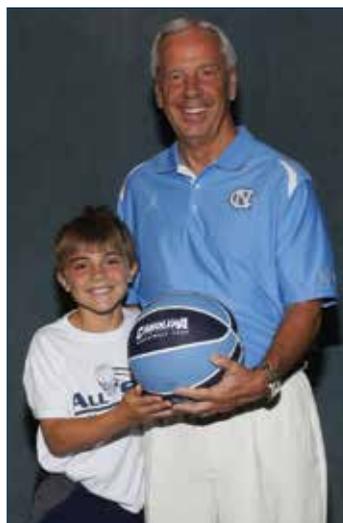
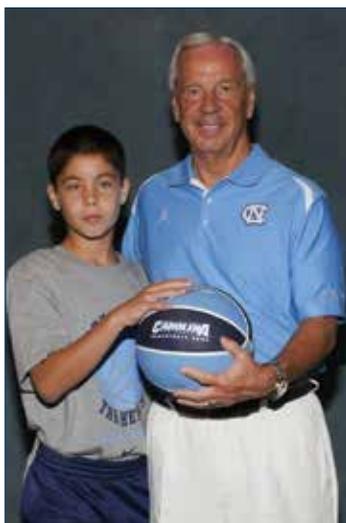
Ashaureah Wall, a student at West Craven Middle School, and Riley Cutler, a student at Pungo Christian Academy, attended the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 23-26 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Ashaureah is the daughter of Rosa and William Burke of Vanceboro. Riley is the daughter of Michael and Mary Ann Cutler of Pantego.

Tobby Morris and Sam Vansant took to the court June 21-25 at the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Tobby is a student at John Small School and is the son of Tina Woolard of Washington. Sam attends Bath Elementary School and is the son of Ashley and Kristin Vansant of Washington.

Ashaureah, Riley, Tobby and Sam earned scholarships by completing an application that included academics, community involvement and enthusiasm for sports. Only 56 students received Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships from North Carolina's electric cooperatives this year.

During camp, students stayed in dorms on campus and worked directly with coaches and athletes to hone basketball skills and practice working cooperatively with teammates. The staff of the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp included N.C. State women's basketball coach Wes Moore, and his coaching staff and players. Two-time NCAA national champion coach Roy Williams, his staff, and current and past Tar Heel basketball players led the Carolina camp.

This is the 11th year North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have sponsored young women to attend an N.C. State women's basketball camp and the ninth year the cooperatives have sent young men to the Roy Williams camp.



Coach Roy Williams with Tideland participants Toby Morris (left) and Sam Vansant (right).



Coach Wes Moore with Tideland participants Riley Cutler (above) and Ashaureah Wall (below).



## IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT EMERGENCY GENERATORS

1.

**EMERGENCY GENERATORS MUST BE ISOLATED FROM THE UTILITY SYSTEM WITH A DOUBLE-POLE, DOUBLE-THROW SWITCH SO THEY DON'T BACKFEED AND ENERGIZE DOWNED POWER LINES**

2.

**ALWAYS ALLOW A GENERATOR TO COOL DOWN BEFORE REFUELING**

3.

**ALWAYS HAVE A WORKING CARBON MONOXIDE IN YOUR HOME BEFORE USING AN EMERGENCY GENERATOR IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO YOUR HOME**

4.

**MAKE SURE THE GENERATOR IS PROPERLY GROUNDED TO AVOID ELECTROCUTION**

5.

**USE PROPERLY SIZED EXTENSION CORDS WHEN PLUGGING APPLIANCES AND OTHER ITEMS INTO THE GENERATOR**

By the light of day, Arthur had left 8,800 members without power. Initial damage assessments revealed that the mainland was in fairly good shape with outages concentrated in those areas closest to the Pamlico Sound. The co-op immediately announced that power would be fully restored to all 7,500 mainland members by the end of the day. However, Ocracoke, where wind gusts up to 107 mph were recorded, had not fared so well. Heavy winds combined with storm



Pee Dee EMC crews work to restore power at Bell Point Road • TW Allen photo

surge broke 45 Tideland poles along Highway 12, with 5 of those poles located on the south end of Hatteras Island. The mainland had a total of 5 broken poles. At first glance, the best Tideland officials could hope for was to have power restored to Ocracoke's 1,300 members by Sunday night.

In advance of the storm, the co-op had pre-staged additional crews and equipment on both the mainland and Ocracoke. When power restoration activities resumed at 6 a.m. July 4, Tideland's 26 full-time linemen were joined in the field by 86 additional men, more than quadrupling the available workforce. Responding to the call for help were sister co-ops Pee Dee EMC (Rockingham & Wadesboro), Edgecombe-Martin County EMC (Tarboro), Pitt and Greene EMC (Farmville) and Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (Buxton). They were joined by contractors from Lee Electrical, Pike Electric and Lucas Tree Experts.

On the mainland, power restoration moved at a brisk pace and within seven hours of reporting for duty line crews had restored power to all but 1,000 members. By dusk the mainland was fully restored.

In the meantime, additional crews and equipment, including two specialized track vehicles, were loaded on the first post-Arthur ferry to depart Swan Quarter headed for Ocracoke. Officials with North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation scrambled to obtain air clearance for a plane

to fly their technician Paul Flythe to Ocracoke to start the island's peaking generator. The 3-megawatt generator is designed to provide peak shaving power during periods of high

summer demand and is not sized to carry the full island load. However, in extended emergency situations it can be utilized to provide power in rotating cycles to different sections of the island. At 4:30 p.m., the first attempt to provide some power to the island failed when the generator tripped off due to load. Co-op and county



Crossarms ready for delivery to Hatteras Island • Robbie Rouse photo

officials issued calls for strict energy conservation on the island. Residents and visitors alike heeded the plea and by 6:15 p.m. the rotating power delivery schedule was underway. For the next 27 hours islanders alternated between 3 hours of generator power and 3 hours without.

To get materials to Cape Hatteras Electric crews so they could repair the 5 Tideland poles south of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, Tideland hired a local helicopter pilot to fly six crossarms to the Frisco airport the morning of Saturday, July 5. As the day progressed co-op officials grew increasingly optimistic

that power might be restored to Ocracoke a day ahead of schedule and indeed it was. At 9:35 p.m. service was fully restored to Ocracoke less than 48 hours after Arthur had decimated much of the island's power delivery system.

With the job complete, island repair crews headed back to the village in search of a filling meal, a soothing shower and the restorative powers of a good night's sleep. Instead they were greeted by a group of island residents who had turned out to cook the crews a homemade meal as their way of saying "thank you" for a job well done.

Real People.  
Real Power.  
That's the Tideland way.

## Tideland Topics

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