

# Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

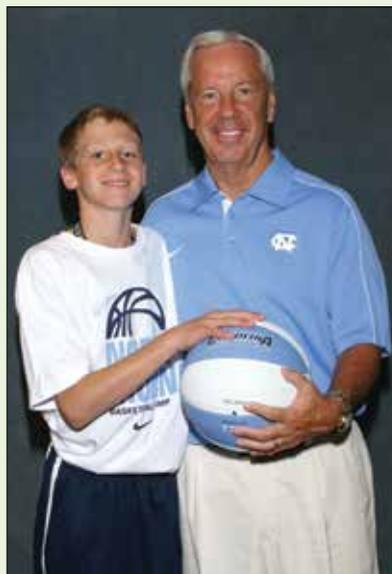
A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

## TIDELAND TAR HEEL: Jack Baltz represents co-op at basketball camp



Jack Baltz, the son of Gary and Sarah Baltz of Washington, represented Tideland EMC at this year's Roy Williams Basketball Camp held on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill. Jack is a seventh grader at Bath Elementary School.

Jack attended the camp courtesy of Tideland EMC and Touchstone Energy. He was selected to receive a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship based on his academic achievements, involvement in extracurricular activities and a written essay detailing he reasons for wanting to attend the camp. At camp, athletes stayed in dorms and worked



*Jack Baltz of Washington with Tar Heel basketball coach Roy Williams*

directly with Coach Williams, his coaching staff, and current and former Tar Heel basketball players.

## WPCA credits nearing \$1 million

Didn't win the \$448 million Powerball jackpot last month? Well, maybe this will cheer you up just a bit. In the first seven months of 2013, Tideland EMC returned nearly \$1 million to members through the wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA). For the first eight months of the year the WPCA has averaged  $-.51\text{¢}$ , which is more than half a cent credit for each and every kilowatt hour (kWh) used by Tideland members.

For the month of August the credit edged upward to a factor of  $-.55\text{¢}$  per kWh. That meant any residential member billed for at least 600 kWh during August 2013 had a lower electric bill than for the same usage billed during August 2012.

Earlier in the year all indications were that the WPCA credit would zero out by late spring however we have continued to benefit from favorable power production expenses thanks to healthy natural gas supplies and a cooler than expected summer.



## Message to our Member-Owners: Safety imperative during harvesting

### Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our rights-of-way. In September they will be working in the Engelhard District:

Boundary Canal: from Hwy 94 to Rock Road to 5th Avenue to Highway 264

Carter Canal: from Boundary Canal to pumps on the ICW

This includes adjoining small roads and lanes in the area.

Mowing crews will be working from Blounts Creek to Bonneron including Old Blounts Creek, Mouth of the Creek, Maules Point, Core Point, Durham Creek and Tuten roads.

### By Paul Spruill

General Manager & CEO

It's mid-August as I write this column and the Tideland landscape is spilling over with an abundance of corn and soybeans, and cotton crops aren't far behind.

That means there will be a flurry of harvesting activity underway and much of that will be in the vicinity of overhead power lines. It is imperative that farmers and their workers take time to plan daily harvesting activities to avoid accidental contact with utility equipment.

Be sure paths from equipment storage areas to the fields and from the fields to the grain storage areas are safe routes. There should be ample clearance for combines, pickers, balers, front end loaders, stackers or any other equipment subject to moving.

If you are operating farm equipment that comes in contact with a power line stay where you are and call for help. Do not allow others to approach you or the equipment until utility crews arrive to cut the power off. Do not exit the vehicle unless it is one fire in which case you should jump as far away from the vehicle as possible, taking care not to touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Never assume that a downed power line is deenergized.

Another area of concern involves stacking bales underneath or in close proximity to power lines. National Electric Safety Code requires minimum ground clearances, which

are compromised when items are placed below power lines. Therefore, nothing should be placed or stored within the utility right-of-way.

Tideland EMC has bumper stickers available that can be placed on farm or business equipment to help workers remember to observe proper

clearances. We also have both Spanish and English visor safety cards.

To obtain free copies of each or to schedule an electrical safety demonstration for your employees, call Tideland safety director Wayne Brackin at 252-514-1188.



NOVEMBER 1-3, 2013 :

## Make plans now to shop the last Energy Star sales tax holiday

North Carolina's last Energy Star sales tax holiday will take place November 1-3. Clothes washers, freezers, refrigerators, central air conditioners, room air conditioners, air source heat pumps, ceiling fans, dehumidifiers, and programmable thermostats will be exempt from State and local sales and use tax when purchased during the sales tax holiday period.

Retailers typically support the sales tax holiday with special deals on many of the qualifying products so be on the lookout for sales circulars as the holiday draws near.

Please note that items purchased for use in a trade or business are not covered by the exemption. An item is eligible for the exemption if the customer pays for the item and the retailer accepts the order and takes an action to fill the order for immediate delivery. The delivery can occur after the holiday period but the customer cannot request delayed shipment or delivery.





# 5 ACCOUNT ALERT OPTIONS

Use our online resources to avoid late payment fees!

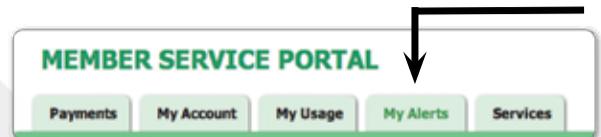
**Step 1:** Go to **tidelandemc.com**  
 Click on **ebill** at the top left to open the Member Portal.



**Step 2:** Click on **My Account** and submit your login info.  
 (If you're a new user, click "Create User ID" from the My Account drop-down menu.)



**Step 3:** At the top menu, select **My Alerts**



**Step 4:** Select the types of alerts and reminders you wish to receive, such as:

- **Due Date Reminder**
- **Past Due Date Reminder**
- **Account Profile Change**
- **Returned Check Alert**
- **Payment Confirmation**

If you wish to receive text message alerts, be sure to provide us with your mobile number and service provider. For email alerts, be sure to provide us with a valid email address.

Select alerts & reminders preferences:  
 Please select preferences for alerts & reminders which can be modified later if required by re-visiting this page.

Alert Type	Description	Text Message	Email
Due Date Reminder	Remind the customer <input type="text" value="Select"/> day(s) before.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Past Due Date Reminder	Alert the customer when due date has passed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Account Profile Change	Alert the customer when the profile is updated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Returned Check Alert	Alert the customer when a check is returned / rejected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Payment Confirmation	Remind the customer when the bill is paid.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**There's no easier way to protect your credit history and avoid unnecessary late payment fees.**

**To enroll off line, call us at 800.637.1079**

**Portal Tip:** *If you are a regular portal user and haven't done so yet, we recommend that you create a "User ID" so you don't have to remember your Tideland account number when logging on.*



## Tideland adds another tool to its communication palette

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

### Tideland Topics

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

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800.637.1079

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800.882.1001



On August 9, Tideland EMC once again broke new ground when we issued our first “tweet” on the social media site Twitter. Building on our success with the world’s most popular social media site Facebook, we’re now utilizing the second most popular social media outlet, but with a more narrow focus.

Tideland will only use its Twitter account to communicate outage and service-related information. Anything Tideland posts on its Twitter account will instantly appear on the co-op’s Facebook page, so you needn’t worry about missing out on any updates if you don’t subscribe to Twitter.

If you don’t subscribe to either social media site, you needn’t worry about being in an information black hole because a public feed is available on the co-op’s website found at [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com).

Keep in mind that neither Facebook nor Twitter are the proper places to report a power outage or service issue because the sites are not monitored by Tideland personnel 24 hours a day. Instead you should phone our automated outage reporting line at 800-882-1001.

So after months of asking you to “Like” us on Facebook we hope many of you will also “Follow” us on Twitter.



**HOLIDAY CLOSING: ALL TIDELAND EMC OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.**

### *Final call for grant applications*



Classroom teachers have until September 20, 2013, to submit Bright Ideas grant applications to Tideland EMC.

Awards up to \$2,000 are made to K-12 teachers to improve classroom instruction and encourage innovative teaching methods.

Grant proposals that involve the study of energy are highly encouraged, including renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Teachers may access the co-op’s online application by visiting [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com). Since 1994, the state’s electric cooperatives have provided North Carolina classrooms with \$8.5 million in Bright Ideas funding. For more information, call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252-944-2410 or 1-800-637-1079, extension 1140.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

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LLAMA  
ANTES DE  
EXCAVAR**