



MAY ■ 2008



REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. Tideland Topics

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

CLASS OF 2008: Co-op awards \$4,000 to outstanding students

Continued funding depends on you

The Tideland Electric Care Trust relies on monthly member contributions to fund our college scholarship program. Participating members allow us to round up their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar and the difference goes to our 501c3 non-profit trust. The average contribution is 50 cents per month. To begin round up contributions, please check the participation box found on your electric bill stub or call 1.800.637.1079.

THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Chelsea Roach
Southside HS

Chelsea is the daughter of William and Rosa Roach of Grimesland. She will attend NC State

University, majoring in political science.



Megan Cross
Pamlico County HS

Megan is the daughter of Douglas and Patricia Cross of Bayboro. She will major in pre-med at East Carolina University.

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REAL PLACES:



Go Green

Ahhhhhh.....spring is in the air. So rev up your electric golf cart and enjoy the great outdoors. Tideland serves three golf courses that allow public play.

CYPRESS LANDING Chocowinity • Beaufort County

Semi-Private
18 hole regulation course, 72 par
6,863 yards
Cart and club rentals available
For more information:
www.cypresslandinggolf.com

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MINNESOTA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Arapahoe • Pamlico County
Semi-private
Driving range
18-hole regulation course, 73 par
6,403 yards
Cart rentals available
For more information:
252.249.0813

FAIRFIELD HARBOUR • HARBOUR POINT COURSE
New Bern
Semi-private
18 hole regulation course, 72 par
6,577 yards
Cart rentals available
For more information:
1.800.706.2999

Message to Our Member-Owners: Giving credit where credit is due



Jill Lee
Finance Manager

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Tideland EMC allocates 100% of its operating margins to its members each year.

Patronage is the amount of money you pay the co-op for electric service. The allocation factor is calculated by dividing the operating margins by the total patronage for the year. We multiply this factor times each member's individual patronage for the year. For example, the factor to be used for the 2007 allocation is 6.223%. This multiplied by patronage

received in the amount of \$1,000 would yield an allocation of \$62.23.

In the event of a loss for the year, that loss would be carried forward to the next year and netted against that year's margins before any allocation to our patrons.

Allocation of capital credits is an important business principle that sets Tideland EMC apart from other utilities. Members provide a portion of the capital required to finance facilities through their

rates and in turn receive back a portion of the capital they provided. This is one of the key advantages of cooperative membership. In addition to providing personalized, effective service, we also show through the allocation and eventual return of capital credits that our patrons are truly the owners of Tideland EMC.

2007 Allocation of Operating Margins

Using factor of 6.223%

Electric revenue received by member:	\$1200	\$1800	\$2400
Capital credits allocated to member:	\$74.68	\$112.01	\$155.58



May is Dog Bite Prevention Month

In the past 5 years, 3 Tideland EMC meter readers have been bitten by dogs. That's not a terribly high number when you consider more than 1.32 million meter readings were taken during that time. Nevertheless, that's 3 bites too many as far as the injured meter readers are concerned. Dog owners should consider the following steps to prevent bites:

- Socialize your dog and teach basic commands like "sit" and "stay."
- Have your dog spayed or neutered to reduce aggressive tendencies.
- Post clearly visible signs to warn others about a temperamental pet.
- Never construct a pen around the meter base.

REAL ENERGY AUDIT OBSERVATIONS: RISING COSTS MAGNIFY EXTENT OF EXISTING ENERGY PROBLEMS



In 2007, Tideland performed 61 energy audits. Compare that to February 2008 when the co-op received a record-high 24 energy audit requests. One thing has become apparent: energy problems that have long since existed are even costlier as energy prices increase. Members can no longer afford not to make repairs. Here are some observations from recent audits.

INAPPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES

Due in large part to the internet and stations like HGTV, members are learning about more and more technologies. However, some technologies are not well-suited to eastern North Carolina. Case in point: radiant floor heating. This technology is best suited to slab construction. Few homes in our region are built on slab due to high water tables and frequent flooding. If the home is elevated or has a crawl space much of the radiant heat is lost to the area

below the conditioned living area. A properly sized, high efficiency heat pump is a more affordable way to meet your heating needs.

LEAKY AND DISCONNECTED DUCTS

Out of sight, out of mind. That's the only reason



Damaged ductwork, like this found in a Tideland member's attic, is frequently found to be the cause of high bills. *Larry Johnson/TEMC photo*

we figure Tideland EMC members don't give their ducts the attention they deserve. Hiring a duct cleaning service can make a bad situation worse. The first order of business must be to inspect and properly

repair ducts. And despite its name, duct tape is not the proper material for the job. All connections and repairs should be made using an adhesive paste called mastic.

THE DARK SIDE OF SKYLIGHTS

Skylights often let through much more than light. They can also introduce unwanted solar heat, moisture and unconditioned air into your home.

CO-OP OFFERS LOW-INTEREST FINANCING

Credit worthy members can finance energy improvements at 5% interest through our Energy Resource Conservation Loan program. For more information, call loan officer Karen Heffley at 1-800-637-1079, ext. 1141.

WE FREQUENTLY STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING YOUR HEATING & COOLING SYSTEM ROUTINELY SERVICED. AFTER ALL, YOU WOULDN'T DRIVE YOUR CAR 24,000 MILES AND EXPECT HIGH PERFORMANCE AND FUEL EFFICIENCY. WHY EXPECT LESS FROM YOUR HVAC SYSTEM? BUT SERVICE FEES ARE INCREASING AS HIGHER FUEL PRICES ARE PASSED ALONG TO CONSUMERS. SO VISIT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS AND SEE IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN A SERVICE VISIT ON THE SAME DAY. THEN ASK THE CONTRACTOR TO NEGOTIATE A BETTER PRICE BASED ON SAVINGS THAT WILL BE REALIZED FOR FUEL AND LABOR.



Don't Miss Tideland's Annual Meeting

Friday, May 16, 2008
Beaufort County Community College
Hwy. 264 E • Washington, NC
Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.
Business session begins at 7:00 p.m.

The first 100 registered members receive a pack of compact fluorescent light bulbs and a refrigerator coil cleaning brush.



Jessica Boyd
Southside HS

Jessica is the daughter of Tim Boyd and Harriett Wynne. She will major in secondary math education at ECU.



Maria Avery
West Craven HS

Maria is the daughter of Debora Avery of Ernul. She will major in secondary math education at ECU.



Greg Moye
Pamlico County HS

Greg is the son of Lois Moye of Oriental. He will major in business administration at UNC-Chapel Hill.



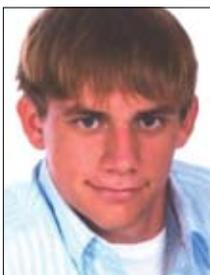
Brooke Modlin
Pungo Christian Academy

Brooke is the daughter of Edward and Cathy Modlin of Bath. She will major in psychology at Pitt Community College.



DaShanda Keyes
Plymouth HS

DaShanda is the daughter of Dina Brown of Plymouth. She will major in political science at North Carolina Central University.



Greg Van Essendelft
Terra Ceia Christian School

Greg is the son of Raymond and Barbara Van Essendelft of Pantego. He will pursue a criminal justice degree at UNC-Wilmington.



Treka Gibbs
Mattamuskeet HS
1st Alternate

Treka is the daughter of Leland and Cynthia Gibbs of Swan Quarter. She will major in biology at UNC-Chapel Hill.

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REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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TO OPEN OR NOT TO OPEN?: BE SMART WHEN OPENING WINDOWS THIS SPRING. KEEP INDOOR HUMIDITY BELOW 60% TO PREVENT MOLD AND MILDEW.



INNOVATIVE IDEAS MAKE THE GRADE

Sponsored by Tideland EMC and the state's electric cooperatives, the Bright Ideas grants program provide funding for a variety of hands-on educational projects. Awards up to \$2,000 are made to K-12 teachers to improve classroom instruction and encourage innovative teaching methods.

Since 1994, the state's electric co-ops have awarded \$5.3 million to fund 5,000 Bright Ideas projects. TidelandEMC applications may be submitted online at www.ncbrightideas.com May 1 - September 26, 2008. For more information, call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or 1.800.637.1079, ext. 1140.