



AUGUST ■ 2008



# REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. Tideland Topics

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

## HEAT RELIEF: Co-op directors fan out to deliver assistance

Tideland EMC board members Wayne Sawyer, Mark Carawan, Ed Duetsch and Leon Bryant “fanned out” across 6 counties to distribute box fans intended for the elderly and home bound. The drop off locations included

the Washington, Beaufort and Dare counties departments of social services, Mattamuskeet Seniors’ Center, Craven County Senior Services and the Pamlico County Seniors’ Center. Tideland EMC allows each county agency to estab-

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TIDELAND EMC DIRECTORS MARK CARAWAN AND LEON BRYANT DELIVER FANS TO DARE COUNTY

### REAL NATURE:



### *For Peat’s Sake*

At press time the 41,000 acre peat fire in Hyde County continued to burn. Fortunately the fire has not posed a hazard to the cooperative’s power lines.

Peat is an interesting soil. The rich organic material is often called “black gold” by local farmers.

Early Indians attributed the formation of Lake Mattamuskeet to a peat fire which lasted 13 moons. The lake, measuring 16 miles long, 5 miles wide and an

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**PEAT FEATS**  
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average depth of 4 feet, has all the traits of a peat fired birth.

During the 1970's energy crisis, a peat-fired generating plant was considered in Hyde County. However, peat is essential for local hydrology and ecosystem diversity.

Scotch whiskey gets its smoky flavor or "peatiness" from peat fires used to dry malted barley.

Another interesting peat feat: its ability to mummify. A 2,000-year-old corpse found in a Danish bog in 1950 was originally mistaken for a recent murder victim.

## Message to Our Member-Owners: Longevity speaks volumes

**Tideland EMC seeks to employ skilled, motivated and qualified personnel. Our workforce is the heart and soul of the cooperative. The board of directors charge the general manager with hiring the most qualified candidate in all areas.**

Competent employees are vital in meeting the needs of our membership. Tideland has a competitive wage and salary plan that is reviewed yearly and compared to other local and state businesses. The board of directors strive to keep wages competitive with market value. This not only allows Tideland to attract qualified employees it allows us to retain the labor force we currently have in place.

For example, our Apprentice Lineman training program allows an individual to receive on

the job training and formal lineman training through Nash Community College. By the time an employee is ready to be promoted to lineman the Cooperative has a large investment in their future.

Competitive benefits are an important tool that enables the cooperative to attract and retain talented personnel. The average tenure of our employees is nearly 14 years of service. We currently have employees in the workforce who have 40 years of service. In today's work environment this is something we are very proud of.

We have 26 employees who are eligible to retire in the next 10 years. That represents nearly one-third of our current work force. Clearly the next decade will be a time of mobility and transition. Our employees are



**Myra Beasley**  
Corporate Services  
Manager

encouraged to further their education while with the cooperative. This allows us to utilize the existing talent pool when employees are promoted or retire.

Tideland also actively recruits from within the communities we serve. We frequently attend local job fairs to discuss cooperative employment opportunities.

Continuity is an important element in the provision of reliable electric service. By being a competitive and proactive employer Tideland continues to recruit and retain employees second to none.

## Rudy Austin Joins Tideland EMC Board

Rudy Austin of Ocracoke has joined the board of directors to fill the unexpired term of Vincent O'Neal. Austin retired from the NC Ferry Division after 30 years of service and currently operates Portsmouth Island Boat Tours. President of the Ocracoke Civic and Business Association, Austin has also served on the local planning board.

Austin can proudly claim membership in Tideland since the first day of service to Ocracoke and looks forward to helping the co-op navigate change in the years ahead. He and his wife Pat have two children, Wade and Lena, who also live and work on the island.

Welcome Aboard Captain Rudy!



JAMIE TUNNELL PHOTO

## REAL ENERGY SAVINGS:

# WASTEFUL HABITS COULD BE BURNING A HOLE IN YOUR POCKET

HIGHEST  
ELECTRIC  
CONSUMING  
NATIONS  
PER CAPITA

Cutting back unnecessary energy use is an easy way to save money. Here are some things you can do at home to save in the final weeks of summer.

### TURN UP YOUR THERMOSTAT

Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and even higher when you are away. Use ceiling or room fans to aid in cooling but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. Always take into account health considerations and be sure to drink plenty of fluids in warm weather. (Savings: 1-3% per degree, for each degree the thermostat is set above 72 degrees)

### USE APPLIANCES WISELY

Boost laundry efficiency by using cold water settings for washing and rinsing clothes. (Savings: 4%)

Line dry clothes. (Savings: 5%)

When you need to use the dryer, run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the lint trap after each use. (Savings: 0.5 %)

Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when fully loaded, and turn off the drying cycle. (Savings: 2 %)

### ELIMINATE WASTED ENERGY

Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use. (Savings: 2%)

Unplug electronic devices and chargers when not in use. Most electronics use electricity even when switched "off." Turn computer workstations off at the power strip. (Savings: 1-3%)

Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't need it. This could save you more than \$150 per year!

### INEXPENSIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Replace air conditioner filters monthly. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer, increasing energy use. (Save: 1-2 %)

Plug your home's leaks.

Weather-strip, seal, and caulk leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers. (Savings: up to 4%)

Replace incandescent bulbs with CFLs. (Savings: 1-2%)



## KILOWATT HOUR SALES UP 4% OVER LAST YEAR

As expected, the June heat wave and drought conditions contributed to higher electric sales in June 2008. Tideland's sales were in fact up an additional 1 million kilowatt hours (kWh) compared with June 2007.

Tideland's customer service manager Vernon Howell, Jr. expressed concern for members already coping with rising gasoline prices. "Household budgets are increasingly strained by rising costs," Howell said. "It's more important than ever to look to energy efficiency and conservation to make ends meet."

Howell stressed the importance of not letting account balances climb. "Late fees are necessary to cover the cooperative's costs

of carrying unpaid debt. But when you pay late that's like dealing yourself a 5 percent rate increase," Howell explained. "When the bill arrives consider making several small payments before the due date instead of waiting to scrape together the full amount. If you do need extra time to pay the bill please call us immediately to make payment arrangements and avoid expensive disconnect fees. We're here to help but we can't help unless you call."

### WHICH COUNTRIES ANNUALLY CONSUME THE MOST ELECTRICITY PER CAPITA?

ICELAND  
26,102 kWh

NORWAY  
24,374 kWh

CANADA  
15,645 kWh

FINLAND  
15,422 kWh

SWEDEN  
15,258 kWh

KUWAIT  
14,983 kWh

LUXEMBOURG  
12,785 kWh

QATAR  
12,709 kWh

UNITED STATES  
12,343 kWh

UNITED ARAB  
EMIRATES  
10,362 kWh

# DON'T GENERATE A DEADLY ACCIDENT

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

## Tideland Topics

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Clifton Paul, Secretary  
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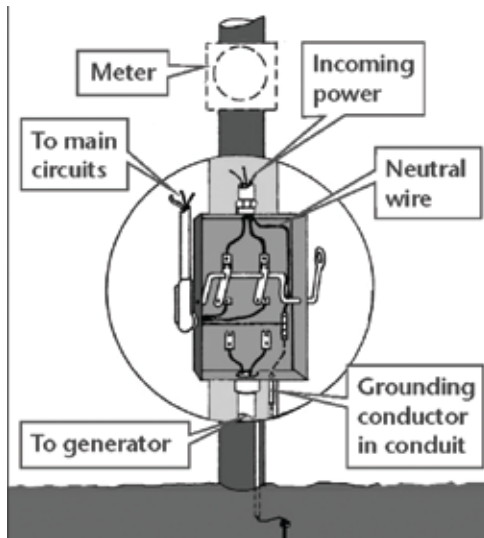
24-Hour Customer Service  
252.943.3046  
800.637.1079  
Outage Reporting &  
Automated Services  
252.944.2400  
800.882.1001

If you connect a portable generator to the main electrical supply coming into your house, the electrical generator could feed back onto the cooperative's electric system and electrocute workers who are repairing power lines.

To avoid back-feeding electricity onto utility systems, have a qualified, licensed electrician install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch (see illustration) between

the generator and utility power in compliance with all state and local electrical codes. A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used.

Remember to operate generators in well ventilated areas. Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide detector in your home if you own a generator. Carbon monoxide poisoning accidents follow-



accounts for most accidents following a hurricane.

VISIT [WWW.ourenergy.coop](http://WWW.ourenergy.coop) TO LEARN WHAT IMPORTANT QUESTIONS WE'RE ASKING ELECTED OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP ELECTRIC RATES AFFORDABLE

## Heat relief

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lish its own criteria for fan distribution. Nearly 100 of the 3 speed fans were delivered by Tideland officials.

"The elderly are particularly susceptible to heat related illnesses," said Tideland board member Mark Carawan. "Many have either inadequate or no air conditioning. Others choose not to run their units due to limited finances. The box fans are inexpensive to operate and greatly diminish health risks on warm days."

The public is reminded that when temperatures exceed 95 degrees air conditioned shelter should be sought. A fan used in such extreme conditions could in fact raise body temperatures and bring about the onset of heat related illness.

"For those trying to keep energy costs to a minimum the fans should allow them to raise their air conditioning thermostat a few degrees," added Tideland director Leon Bryant. "It's practical advice for anyone concerned about utility bills during what has been an unusually hot summer."

