

JULY 2011

# Tideland Topics

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

## RECAP: 2011 Annual Meeting

Tideland EMC held its 70th Annual Meeting of Members at Beaufort County Community College on Thursday, May 12. Incumbent directors, Mark Carawan of Scranton, Garry Jordan of Aurora and David Ipock of New Bern were re-elected to the cooperative's board of directors. Each will serve a three year term.

During the event, co-op members had an opportunity to welcome Paul Spruill and his wife Keeley. Spruill will become Tideland's general manager and chief executive officer on July 5.

Interim manager Jill Lee reported on progress being made on several technological

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



**WINNING FAMILY:** Annual meeting grand prize winner, Leroy Stotesbury of Pantego, is photographed with (from left to right) his sister-in-law Lisa Silverthorne, daughter and Tideland scholarship winner Jessica Bagley, wife Sherry and their youngest daughter Ella.

## *Brinson elected NCAEC president*



**J. Douglas Brinson**

J. Douglas Brinson, vice president of Tideland EMC's board of directors, was recently elected president of the board of directors for the North Carolina

Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC). Brinson, a resident of Arapahoe, previously held the position of NCAEC vice president.

NCAEC is a statewide trade association that has worked since 1943 to promote training, safety, education and legislative advocacy on behalf of electric cooperative members. Since 1946, the association has published the award-winning Carolina Country magazine which is mailed monthly to more than 600,000 families, farms and businesses. NCAEC serve the needs of their 26 member cooperatives which serve 2.5 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties.



## Right of Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our right of way. During July they will continue to work in the following areas:

- Hwy 264 from Scranton to the Swan Quarter bypass
- Hodges Rd
- Germantown
- Loop Rd
- Makleyville
- Beulah
- Turnpike Rd
- Hyde Park Canal Rd

The trimming machine will run between the ICW Bridge and Turnpike Rd in Scranton, Sladesville & Germantown.

**Mowing continues in Blounts Creek.**

## Message to our Member-Owners: What Do the Declaration of Independence and Electric Cooperatives Have In Common?

When Benjamin Franklin signed the Declaration of Independence, he is credited with saying, "We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately." That recognition of the need to work together may also be why Franklin, in 1752, founded the first successful cooperative in the United States, the Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire, which still operates today.

The principles behind the Declaration of Independence that form the basis of American democracy also form the basis of cooperatives. A cooperative is owned and democratically controlled by the people who use its services. Each member has one vote regardless of their stake; that is, some members cannot buy more control than anyone else. This stands in stark contrast to investor-owned businesses where only shareholders have a vote in how the business is run; and even among shareholders, some have more votes

than others depending on their shares of stock.

The Declaration of Independence declared the equality of rights of its citizens and that people had the right to organize to secure their futures when their rights were infringed upon. At the time the Declaration was written, democracy was a pretty untested idea — but the founders of our country were determined to make it work.



So when you celebrate the many liberties and rights we enjoy with our families and friends this year, think about those principles that inspired our Founding Fathers. They also inspired the pioneers who established electric cooperatives—folks who were

determined to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power to secure the futures of rural communities.

Tideland EMC has always operated under the principles of democracy, and we are dedicated to fulfilling that promise as we serve members today and in the future.

## Pains Bay Fire

As Tideland Topics went to press, the Pains Bay fire continued to burn in Dare County. Fortunately, the fire had not impacted electric service to Tideland members in Stumpy Point, East Lake or Manns Harbor. For decades those communities received power from a distribution line that still fronts the stretch of Highway 264 between Engelhard and Stumpy Point. Since January 2003 they have been served by a substation in Manns Harbor fed via a connection in Wanchese.

While Tideland continues to maintain the 23 miles of distribution line between Engelhard and Stumpy Point, that section is no longer energized. Nevertheless, the fire did lay claim to three poles on that stretch of line. The unique nature of a peat fire is illustrated in the way the poles burned from the ground up. The "chicken wire" around the top of the pole was installed many years ago to prevent woodpecker damage. (Photo: Robbie Rouse/Tideland EMC)



REPRESENTING CO-OP MEMBERS:

# Directors & staff visit U.S. capital

Nearly 3,000 leaders representing electric cooperatives from around the nation recently attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's legislative conference.

Co-op directors and employees were asked to convey four key messages to elected officials while visiting Washington, D.C.:

1. Maintaining the successful partnership between the Rural Utilities Service and electric cooperatives
2. Providing renewable energy development incentives to co-ops
3. Ensuring the continued beneficial reuse of coal combustion residuals (coal ash), and
4. Ending the anti-trust exemptions for the nation's rail industry



(From left to right) Tideland representatives Doug Brinson, Ray Hamilton, Vernon Howell, Jr., and Clifton Paul listen to long time electric co-op advocate US Rep. Walter Jones, Jr.



Tideland directors Clifton Paul and Ray Hamilton had an opportunity to speak directly with US Senator Kay Hagan. The North Carolina delegation also had an opportunity to hear from the state's senior senator, Richard Burr.

During the conference, NRECA presented US Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina with its Distinguished Service Award. Last year, Clyburn introduced the Rural Energy Savings Program Act. The measure, which passed the House, aimed to create

new investments in energy efficiency by providing loan authority through the USDA's Rural Utilities Service to electric cooperatives to offer low-interest micro-loans to consumers and small businesses for energy efficiency improvements.

## HEAT RELIEF:

# Co-op directors fan out to help

Tideland EMC board members Paul Sasnett, Clifton Paul and David Ipock "fanned out" across 6 counties to distribute box fans for use by the elderly and disabled. The drop off locations included the social services departments in Beaufort, Dare and Washington counties, Mattamuskeet Seniors' Center, the Pamlico County Seniors' Center and Craven County Senior Services. Tideland EMC allows each agency to establish its own criteria for fan distribution. Nearly 100 fans were donated by the co-op.



Tideland director David Ipock (front) delivers box fans to the staff of Craven County Senior Services.



38

AS IN R-38 INSULATION; THAT'S HOW MUCH YOU NEED IN YOUR ATTIC

15

THAT'S THE MINIMUM SEER RATING YOU MUST HAVE TO QUALIFY FOR A CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING TAX CREDIT

78

THE RECOMMENDED INDOOR TEMPERATURE SETTING FOR SUMMER

60

MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED INDOOR RELATIVE HUMIDITY

120

RECOMMENDED WATER HEATER THERMOSTAT SETTING

30

NUMBER OF DAYS BETWEEN HEAT & AIR FILTER CHECKS

# Annual meeting recap

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

fronts including conversion to automated metering infrastructure which eliminates the costs of door to door readings.

Lee reminded co-op members that while Tideland has unique challenges based on geography, low meter density and three-fourths less revenue per mile of line than neighboring utilities, "history has shown that by working harder, working smarter and really caring about the members we serve, our rates remain affordable and competitive." Lee added, "What we can't achieve through rates, we try very hard to achieve through energy education. Our job is to empower our members with energy solutions so each can have the best life possible."



(From left to right) Ja-Von Chance and Johnathon Williams shared prize drawing duties during Tideland's annual meeting.

Lee also touched on the proposed merger between Duke Energy and Progress Energy which would create the nation's largest utility with more than 7 million customers. The state's electric co-ops primarily purchase their power from the two investor-owned utilities while sharing ownership of the Catawba Nuclear Plant with Duke. While it remains to be seen what the merger could mean for co-op power costs, Lee feels the transaction will ultimately be approved by regulators.

Numerous prizes were awarded throughout the evening. The grand prize winner of a \$350 electric bill credit was Leroy Stotesbury of Pantego.

## Tideland Topics

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Sasnett, President  
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President  
Clifton Paul, Secretary  
David Ipock, Treasurer  
Rudy Austin, Leon Bryant,  
Jimmy Burbage, Mark Carawan,  
Ray Hamilton, Garry Jordan,  
& Wayne Sawyer

### EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

### Weekday Member Service

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
252.943.3046  
800.637.1079

### 24 Hour Outage Reporting

& Automated Services  
252.944.2400  
800.882.1001

HOLIDAY CLOSING: TIDELAND OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JULY 4



TAKE YOUR BLENDER OUT FOR A SPIN:

## Beat the heat with cool eats

### Chilled Canteloupe Soup

1 cantaloupe  
2 cups orange juice  
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

- Peel, seed & cube cantaloupe
- Place cantaloupe & 1/2 cup orange juice in blender and process until smooth. Transfer to large bowl. Stir in remaining ingredients. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour. Garnish with mint or berries.

### Creamy Dill Dressing

Compliments of Cuisinart

1 cup buttermilk  
8 ounces sour cream  
1/2 cup light mayonnaise  
2/3 cup packed fresh dill  
1 1/2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
1/2 of a medium sized shallot  
fresh ground black pepper

Put ingredients in blender in order listed. Run on high for 45 seconds. For best flavor, allow to rest at least 30 seconds before serving so flavors develop. Note: Dressing will last up to 1 week in refrigerator.

### Healthy Frost-a-cino

Compliments of Hamilton Beach

1/2 cup strong cold coffee  
1/2 cup skim milk  
2 tablespoons chocolate syrup  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
3 scoops, approx. 1/2 cup each, light vanilla ice cream  
1/2+ cup ice

Place ingredients in blender in order listed. Cover and blend on high speed until smooth.

Serves 2 - 4