

# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

## Beware of utility scams

Every so often we hear from a member who has fallen victim to a scam threatening immediate disconnection of electric service. Most recently, a member paid over \$400 in response to a call demanding payment to Dominion Power. When the member said they had service with Tideland, the scammer said Dominion collects payments for Tideland. The member called us after payment had been made. We advised him to immediately contact his bank. See more on Page B.



## Member meeting

While this year's annual meeting of members wasn't a large gathering, it was a lively one, with great fellowship and plenty of prize winners. Our chief executive officer provides a recap on page D.

For photos of our prize winners, head over to pages F and G.

*Tideland Director Wayne Sawyer (right) presents Pamlico County member Larry Prescott (left) with a gift basket from Howell's Mercantile.*





## Scam Alert

According to the FTC, fraud complaints were received from more than 2.8 million people in 2021, showing a total loss of \$5.8 billion, \$2.3 billion of which were from impostor scams. Many of these scams are utility scams where callers pretend to be representatives of utility companies and demand immediate payment to avoid service disconnects.

### Learn How to Spot a Utility Scam with These Tips

1. Utility companies do not demand payment, or other personal information, over the phone or through email.
2. Utilities do not ask for gift cards, prepaid cards, or money transfers as forms of payment.
3. Utilities will not contact you threatening to disconnect service or ask for immediate payment over the phone or email.
4. Scammers scan fake emails or phone numbers. If you have any questions about your account, contact the utility directly using the phone number or email listed on your bill.
5. Have you noticed a scam? Let your utility know. This can happen to you, your loved ones, and your neighbors.

## Swimming in energy efficiency

Looks like those Summer 2008 staycations are back again due to prices at the gas pump. That generally means an uptick in backyard swimming pool purchases. If you don't plan accordingly, you could also see an unusually high increase in your monthly kilowatt hour consumption.

Install an energy-saving pool pump and operate it efficiently. Using a smaller, higher efficiency pump and operating it less frequently can help lower pool energy costs.



Variable-speed pool pumps operate over a range of speeds and can be "dialed-in" to the specific speeds needed for different functions, such as basic circulation, heating, spa use, etc. These pumps allow homeowners to achieve the ideal filtration flow rate with the least amount of energy consumption.

The cleaner you keep your pool the less filtration you will require. Ideally, your goal should be to filter all the water once daily.

Keep filters clear of debris. Clogged filters force pool pumps to work even harder to circulate water. At first glance, a filter may not seem like an obvious spot to seek energy savings – that's because the filter itself is not the energy guzzler; the culprit is the energy demands the filter makes on your pool pump. With this in mind, your choice of filter and its maintenance makes a difference in your quest for an efficient pool.

| Monthly pool pump operating costs* |               |                |                |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Horsepower                         | 8 hours daily | 16 hours daily | 24 hours daily |
| 3/4 HP                             | \$37.74       | \$75.48        | \$113.22       |
| 1 HP                               | \$51.51       | \$103.03       | \$154.55       |
| 1.5 HP                             | \$64.10       | \$128.19       | \$192.29       |
| 2 HP                               | \$67.39       | \$134.78       | \$202.17       |
| 2.5 HP                             | \$78.47       | \$156.95       | \$235.42       |
| 3 HP                               | \$94.95       | \$189.90       | \$284.84       |

\*Summer residential rate of 12.48¢/kWh does not include WPCA, NC sales tax or the basic facilities fee

Set your pool pump on a timer: We recommend putting pool pumps on timers with run times of 8-10 hours a day, depending on pool size. Also, set your pump and system to run during the late evening/early morning hours. Evening is also the best time of day to add pool chemicals since UV rays from direct sunlight significantly reduce free chlorine levels. Adding chlorine in the evening can cut your chemical costs by as much as 50%.

Want to extend your usable pool season beyond peak summer months? Use a cover when your pool is not in use. Swimming pools lose energy in a number of ways, but evaporation is by far the largest source of energy loss. Covering a pool when it is not in use is an effective way to reduce water loss through evaporation and during cool weather save up to 50%–70% on pool heating costs.

# Fans cool people. Not rooms.

## Used wisely, fans can reduce energy costs

It's true. Fans cool people and have no ability to reduce room temperature. That's why we always recommend fans be turned off whenever you leave a room unattended. Not convinced?

Try this: blow very slowly on your wrist. It feels pretty warm, right? That's not surprising since your body is around 98.6°F. Now purse your lips together and blow as fast as you can across your wrist. It feels nice and cool. Your internal temperature is still the same but by creating a wind chill effect and the

evaporative impact across your skin's surface it makes you feel cooler. It makes all the difference during a day at the beach too. Outside temperature of 85°F with no breeze and you are heading back to your hotel room to escape the heat. A nice breeze with the same

outdoor temperature and you can stay outside all day. However, your ice cold soda is still going to turn warm pretty quickly because, wind or no wind, it is still 85°F.

So we've established that ceiling fans cool people and not rooms, but have we actually saved any energy? Not unless we subsequently raise the air-conditioning thermostat. Without doing that all the ceiling fan does is contribute additional load to your household energy use. So if your

air conditioner thermostat is at 76°F, try raising it to 78°F and use your low-wattage fans to increase comfort while in the space.

To get the maximum windchill effect from your ceiling fan make sure it is rotating in a counterclockwise fashion to force airflow down. It also helps to pay attention to the length of the fan downrod, particularly in rooms with tall ceilings. The closer the fan is to you the greater the wind chill effect. So it's usually best to avoid flush mounted models.



Better yet, try a fan that stands or sits on the floor. The more direct the breeze, the cooler you will feel.

Now, two words of caution about relying on fans to keep cool: when heat indexes reach the high 90's, fans cannot protect people from heat-related illnesses and in low-humi-

dity conditions can actually make body temperature rise. So if you lack adequate cooling resources during periods of extreme heat it is imperative that you seek out a local cooling station or other means of relief.

Secondly: don't underestimate the importance of being properly hydrated. The evaporative nature of fans against your skin mean you may not notice the loss of bodily fluids through perspiration. Those bodily fluids must be replenished at regular intervals.

## Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim vegetative growth in our rights-of-way.

During July, Lucas crews will be working in Pinetown and Washington. Exiting our Five Points substation, they will be trimming out the Braddy Road and Duck Creek circuits.

Our contract construction crews with Lee Electrical will continue work on the Dowry Creek circuit out of our Ponzer substation. Work will be concentrated along Hyde Park Canal.

South of the Pamlico River, Lee crews will be working on the Merritt circuit out of our Silver Hill substation. Work will be concentrated in the Maribel community.

Meter safety inspections continue. Our contractor, Bellwether Management Solutions, has now completed site visits for the following substations:

▷ Pantego, Sidney, Ponzer and Plymouth

At press time, inspections were being conducted on Five Points substation-served meters, with Washington substation meters to follow.

Thank you for your support of each of these important maintenance activities, which improve system reliability and promote public safety.

And remember: Give utility crews wide berth when approaching them on public roadways.



## No cost ways to save this summer

1. Hang clothes to dry. Not only will you save on drying costs, you'll negate the need for costly make-up air to replace all the indoor air dumped outdoors during the drying process.
2. Close blinds and shades to reduce solar heat gain.
3. Lower your water heater thermostat to 120°F.
4. Raise your air conditioner/heat pump thermostat to 85°F when you will be away for long periods of time. Going to work for the day? Try 80°F. It simply isn't true that HVAC systems require more energy to cool the home back down when you return.
5. Don't close air registers or interior doors in an attempt to direct cooled air to occupied rooms. This only increases duct leakage and restricts return air flow, increasing energy bills.
6. Close your fireplace damper.
7. Keep lids on pots while cooking.

## Message to members

# Highlights from the annual meeting of members

by **PAUL SPRUILL**  
GENERAL MANAGER &  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This year's annual meeting of members was held on Thursday, May 12, at Beaufort County Community College. In recent years, the primary topic of discussion has centered around the vast number of capital construction projects undertaken as part of our construction work plans. Examples of completed or nearly completed projects include the Five Points to Washington substation subtransmission line, Merritt circuit improvements, and the rebuild of the Lake Phelps circuit.

With the largest projects now complete, this year's meeting allowed us time to go into greater depth about the goal of North Carolina's electric cooperatives to provide the low-cost, low-carbon energy solutions envisioned in House Bill 951 passed by the NC General Assembly last summer.

Each electric co-op, including Tideland, is contributing to that objective with our generation and transmission cooperative, the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) in Raleigh, serving as the overall facilitator and project coordinator. To that end, NCEMC is developing and coordinating resources at the edge of the grid, including renewables, storage and microgrids. Coordination ensures that dispatchable resources work together to deliver the greatest possible value to all co-op members.

Locally, Tideland hosts two NCEMC solar-plus-battery

storage microgrid projects: one at the diesel-generating plant on Ocracoke Island and the other at Rose Acre Farms in Ponzer. The Rose Acre Farms microgrid is scheduled to become fully operational later this month.

Thanks to our investments in construction of the new Fairfield Harbour substation, we will soon be able to actively participate in NCEMC's load control requests during those hours when power purchases are most expensive. We also have hundreds of members already participating in our Ecobee smart thermostat program, which responds to control events initiated by NCEMC during those hours of highest energy demand. So Tidelanders are on the frontlines when it comes to contributing to a low-cost, low-carbon future.

NCEMC's 2030 target is to realize a 50% reduction in CO2 emissions and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. While it may sound like a daunting goal, a look at the change in our generation resource mix from 2005 to 2021 shows great promise. In 2005, 40% of our generating resources were from coal-fired power plants. Today coal represents just 4% of our generating resources. Yes, our use of renewables has more than doubled, but our greatest emission reductions have been made with heavy reliance on nuclear and natural gas generation.

# Expand your membership with ElecTel financing



## Who is ElecTel?

Membership in ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union is open to any Tideland EMC member.

Membership is also open to the employees, directors, and officers of the electric and telephone cooperatives in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

Unlike banks, whose primary goal is to maximize profit for a select group of stockholders, credit unions are owned and governed by members, and everyone has an equal voice.

ElecTel Cooperative FCU exists to serve your financial needs by offering a full range of affordable, easy to obtain services. Their “profits” are returned to you in the form of higher savings rates, lower loan rates, and fewer fees than you’ll find at most other institutions.

Once you join, your membership is good for life!

**CONTACT:**  
Electel.org  
800.849.5600

## Tidelanders can tap into credit union membership for generator financing & more

Tideland EMC is excited to offer you membership in ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union. ElecTel is an ideal source for financing energy-related projects such as backup generators, new HVAC systems and insulation projects.

The first step is to apply for membership online at [electel.org](http://electel.org). An ElecTel member representative will contact you to conduct the “onboarding” process to obtain proof that you are a Tideland EMC member. A copy of your bill will suffice, or if you are a Flex-Pay member, Tideland can provide verification of membership.

Your ElecTel account is opened with as little as a \$1 deposit so you can begin the loan applica-

tion process. Proof of income and the proposal for the energy-related project must be submitted. Once approved, loan documents will be sent for electronic signature or by mail. When loan funds are disbursed they are sent directly to the vendor/contractor.

Loan rates are based on the member’s credit score and financing terms, which is up to 10 years for energy projects. Energy project loans are capped at \$40,000, and require a first or second lien on the member’s home when financing over \$10,000. In the case of manufactured homes, loans can be made if the member owns the land, but lending is capped at \$5,000.



A Tideland Energy Cooperative

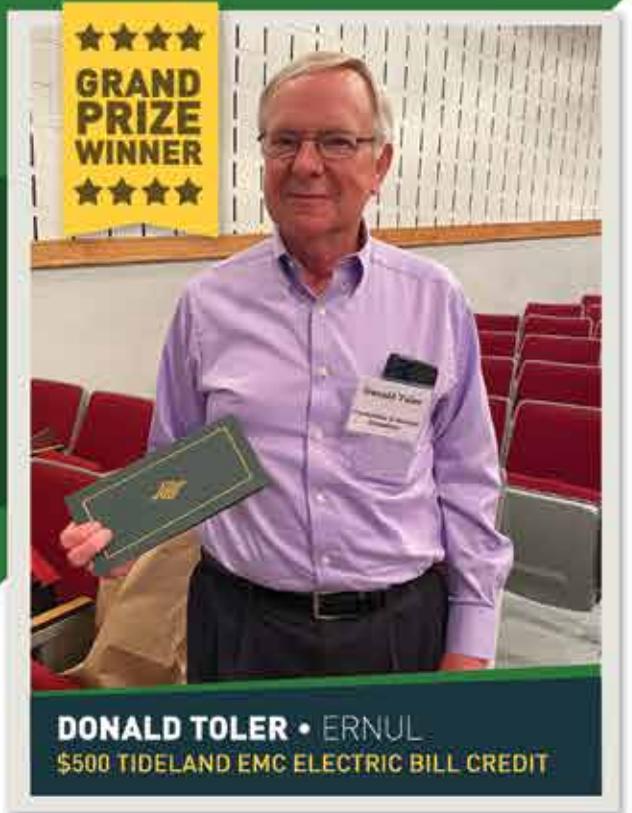
# Tideland EMC

Real People. Real Power.

## 81ST ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

### Beaufort County Community College

### MAY 12, 2022



**DONALD TOLER • ERNUL**  
\$500 TIDELAND EMC ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT

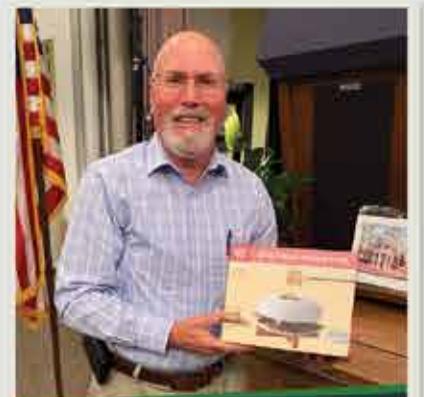
### MEET OUR WINNERS



**DONNIE SULLIVAN • WASHINGTON**  
MACKEY'S FERRY PEANUTS GIFT BOX



**LOUIS VALENTI • WASHINGTON**  
PETALS & PRODUCE VEGETABLE BASKET



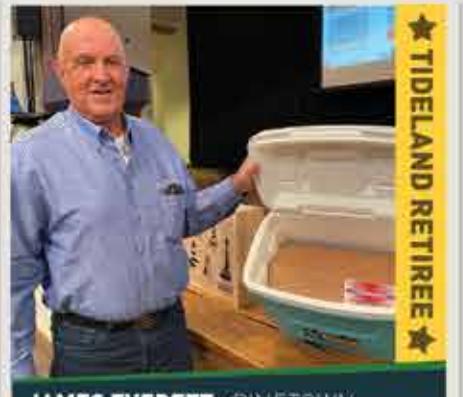
**ROBERT CHOATE • BLOUNTS CREEK**  
S'MORES COOKER FROM LANE BLU



**STEPHEN POOLE III • BELHAVEN**  
GIFT BUCKET FROM COTTAGE JUNKIES



**LUCY SULLIVAN • WASHINGTON**  
DUCK DECOY BY TIDELAND MEMBER  
DAVID O'NEAL OF OCRACOKE



**JAMES EVERETT • PINETOWN**  
MATTAMUSKEET CRAB CAKES AND AN  
ACRE STATION COUNTRY HAM



**LUCY SULLIVAN** • WASHINGTON  
\$100 WALMART GIFT CARD  
OLDEST MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE



★ TIDELAND RETIREE ★

**JOHN MARSH** • NEW BERN  
TURTLE CARVING BY BRANDON LAYELL



**CLINTON TRAVIS MARTIN** • BLOUNTS CREEK  
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY PRINT PAINTED AND DONATED BY  
THE FAMILY OF LATE TIDELAND MEMBER JEFFREY A. JAKUB



**DENNIS HUMENIK** • MINNESOTT BEACH  
PEACE LILY



**STACY KEECH** • SCRANTON  
\$100 WALMART GIFT CARD  
YOUNGEST MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE

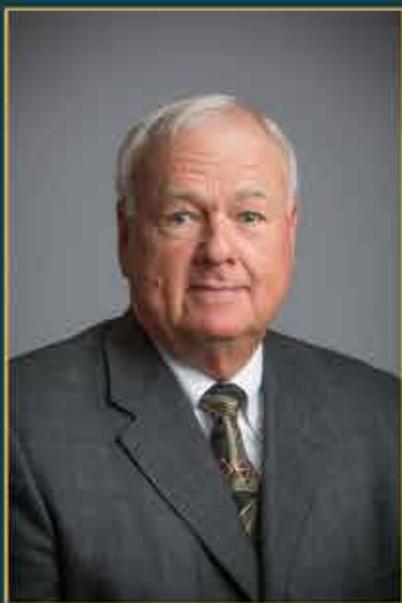


**KAILEY KEECH** • SCRANTON  
TIDELAND EMC SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

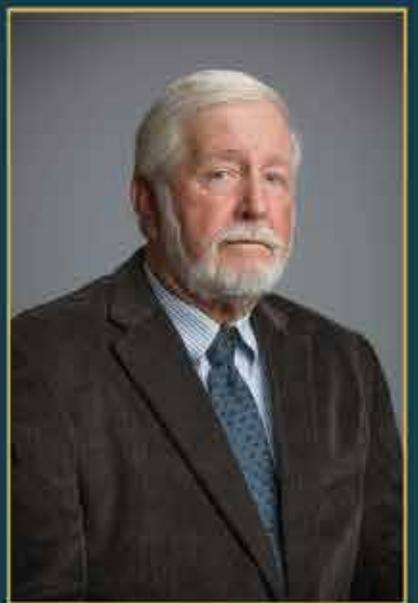
**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**



**DAWSON PUGH**



**DOUG BRINSON**



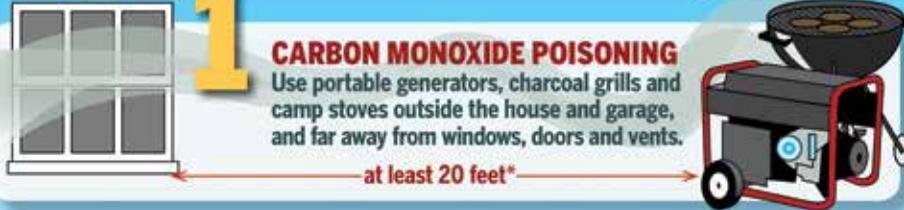
**RUDY AUSTIN**

# STAY ALIVE!

Real People.  
Real Power.

## 4 Deadly Hazards to Avoid After the Storm

**1 CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING**  
Use portable generators, charcoal grills and camp stoves outside the house and garage, and far away from windows, doors and vents.



at least 20 feet\*

**2 ELECTROCUTION**

- Stay away from ALL downed wires and whatever they are touching.
- Avoid standing water that covers electrical outlets or is in contact with electrical equipment.

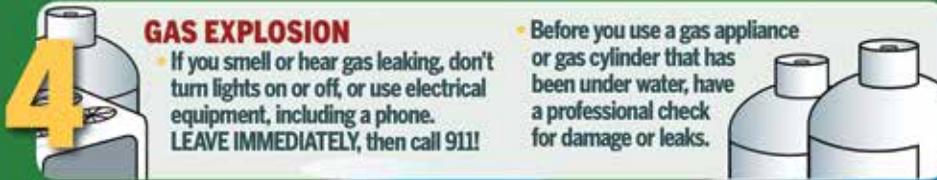
- Use only undamaged, OUTDOOR electrical cables with portable generators.
- Don't operate electrical appliances and equipment that are in water or have been under water. Have a qualified technician clear them for use first.

**3 HOUSE FIRE**  
Use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns instead of candles.



**4 GAS EXPLOSION**

- If you smell or hear gas leaking, don't turn lights on or off, or use electrical equipment, including a phone. LEAVE IMMEDIATELY, then call 911!
- Before you use a gas appliance or gas cylinder that has been under water, have a professional check for damage or leaks.



\*Minimum distance recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Heidi Jernigan Smith

#### Member Service

252.943.3046

800.637.1079

#### 24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400

800.882.1001

Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer



### Holiday Closing

Our offices will be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Our 24-hour member service center will remain open and crews are on standby to respond to outages as needed.



**DON'T SWEAT IT. LEVELIZE IT!**

AVOID THE **HIGHS** & **LOWS** OF SEASONAL ELECTRIC BILL FLUCTUATIONS.



Levelized billing takes much of the guesswork out of electric bill payments. Monthly payments are based on a rolling average so month to month payments fluctuate no more than a few dollars. Your electric bill must be current and remain current to be enrolled in the program.

To enroll, call Tideland EMC at 800.637.1079. Account must have zero balance to activate.