

MEMBER NEWS

A Monthly Magazine For Members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone EnergySM Cooperative 

July 2001

TECHNOLOGY A WAY OF LIFE AT CARTERET-CRAVEN

*Equipment, Hardwork and Planning Lead To Lowest
Outage Hours Ever*

As Lonnie Moore speaks, you can see the pride on his face. He is explaining how Carteret-Craven experienced the lowest outage hours ever. Moore, Vice President of Engineering & Operations attributed the number to dedication and hard work by the Cooperative employees.

“The employees deserve all the credit,” said Moore. “They worked very hard to reach this goal.”

Other factors cited included the Cooperative’s 24/7 policy of answering customer calls anytime 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This enables crews to provide quick response to outages. Tracking begins the moment a call comes in. Many times the dispatcher will know about outages before the call comes from the customer.

“We use a system called SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition),” continued Moore. “This program monitors each substation and not only tells us when an outage occurs to the substation as a whole but also can notify us of possible problems. This certainly allows for quicker response time and hopefully, prevention ahead of time.”

The system is used for other things as well. One is for load control during peak times of energy usage. The various peak reduction devices that operate during load control can all be activated when needed.

The latest technology is not unusual at Carteret-Craven. A computer software program is used to model the system load and growth patterns and help with planning the future. The staff can input growth numbers based on past figures and project what the needs will be for the system. This allows for better budget projections and conversely, a savings to the members.

Employees use the latest technology in CAD (computer assisted drafting) to produce the maps needed to run a system as complex as an electrical distribution system. These tools assist Carteret-Craven employees in their job of bringing affordable yet reliable power to the members.

There’s a lot of return on each dollar we, as customers spend on our electric bill for advanced technology. These are but a few.

TECHNOLOGY A GIVEN AT CO-OP



*Lynn Salter works with
SCADA system*



*Tony Gillespie is involved with
mapping the system.*



*The latest in safety procedures are
used by Carteret-Craven.*



*New substations meet the needs
projected by Engineering personel.*



Your Touchstone EnergySM Cooperative 



Tips From The Staff.....

*Gary Zajac
Vice President,
Marketing & External
Affairs*

CARTERET-CRAVEN HAS LOWEST ELECTRIC RATES IN AREA

The headline is correct. A recent survey of residential electric rates in North Carolina shows that Carteret-Craven has the lowest average monthly rates of any utility provider in our surrounding area. The figures were based on an average home with 1,000 kWh (kilowatt hour) consumption per month without any load management credits. Carteret-Craven customers who take advantage of energy management programs offered by the Cooperative had even lower rates. We are very proud of this. However, in June, you received a bill insert explaining what we hope is a temporary increase in your monthly electric bill. This month's column is a more detailed explanation of that increase.

Your electric bill usually has two parts. The first is the basic charge for service. For single-phase service to a residential dwelling the basic charge is \$9.50. The second charge on your bill is the energy charge. During the winter months of November through May, the rate is 6.96 cents per kWh. During the summer months of June through October the rate is 7.46 cents per kWh.

When needed, a wholesale power adjustment (WPA) may be added to recover purchased power costs from the Cooperative's wholesale power suppliers and to help the financial condition of your Cooperative. This recent WPA charge reflects an increase of wholesale power cost of approximately 3% and is reflected on your bill. For example, a home with an average usage of 1000 kWh will be charged an additional \$2.37. As we said, we hope this will be temporary and as the price for producing electricity stabilizes we expect to be able to remove this charge.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives receive their power from a mix of sources. We collectively buy our electric power from North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), a Raleigh-based cooperative the state's electric co-ops formed back in 1949. Through NCEMC, the cooperatives can buy power as a group and seek advantageous contracts and prices. NCEMC owns a share of the Catawba nuclear power generating station in South Carolina, which can supply approximately 20% of the entire power requirement of the 26 co-ops. NCEMC purchases on the wholesale power market most of the remaining requirement, using short-term and long-term contracts. NCEMC is one of the largest such wholesale power buyers in the United States. NCEMC's contracts with wholesalers, and its ability to buy power on the open market, not only ensures the cooperatives of a steady power supply, but also allows NCEMC to secure the best possible price for that power, even during periods of high energy use.

Cooperatives in this part of the state, including Carteret-Craven, have a peak demand of about 1,700 megawatts and are supplied by NCEMC's wholesale power contracts with Carolina Power & Light (now known as Progress Energy), American Electric Power, the Southeastern Power Administration, as well as other wholesalers according to where NCEMC can get the best price. The recent increase of the price of natural gas has caused the wholesale power adjustment cost.

Electric cooperatives have a long history of promoting conservation, from low-energy lighting to energy audits to special rates such as Time-of-Use. Carteret-Craven has been in the forefront of such efforts and this is why we have not had a rate increase since 1989. The efforts of employees as well as building a system with the latest technology has allowed us to continue to provide you with affordable, yet reliable power. Our efforts in these areas will continue.

Be assured the Board of Directors, management and employees of your cooperative will continue to strive to make Carteret-Craven the most affordable utility provider in this area. Our goal is to provide our member-owners with the best possible value while maintaining sound operating practices. In conjunction with the thousands of cooperatives across the nation, we will continue to look at new technologies and for better ways to serve you.

Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation Scholarship Winners

Funds obtained from Operation Round-up allow Foundation to support area youth



Kayla Jeane Harper - East Carteret High School

Kayla is from Beaufort and attended East Carteret High School where she was active in the National Art Honor Society, Beta Club, Health Occupation Students of America, Drama Club and the Yearbook staff. Honors include top 10% of her class all four grades of high school, Advanced Math Award and Graduation Marshall as a Junior. She was active outside of school working as an Intern at Carteret General Hospital Pharmacy, Summer Ventures in Science and Math, Project Christmas Cheer and involvement in her church as an acolyte, youth groups and Bible School. Kayla plans to attend Campbell University where she plans to major in Pharmaceutical Sciences.



Heather Elizabeth Hingley - Havelock High School

Heather is from Havelock and attended Havelock High School where she was active as Sophomore class representative, Junior class secretary and Senior class Vice President. Honors include Who's Who Among American High School Students, American Scholar and U.S. National Band Award. She was active, not only in the band, but also in the Future Business Leaders of America, Drama Club, National Honor Society and her church. Heather plans to attend the University of North Carolina-Greensboro where she plans to major in Education.



Richelle Sandra Hollingshead - West Carteret High School

Richelle is from Newport and attended West Carteret High School where she served as President of the National Honor Society. Honors include Good Patriot Award, Academic Achievement Award, 2nd Place-Algebra II Competition, Centura Scholar Athlete, Top Ten Poem in North and South Carolina published, Park Scholarship semifinalist and Latin Language Award. She participated in Soccer, Marching Band and Concert Band. Richelle was active with Nazarene Youth International, Summer Ventures In Science and Math, National Young Leaders Conference, Governor's School-East, and served as a Vacation Bible School helper at her church. She plans to attend North Carolina State University where she will major in Engineering.



Derek Justus Huppmann - Swansboro High School

Derek is from Emerald Isle and attended Swansboro High School where he was active in the Art Club, Science Club, Inner Club, cross-country track, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Pep Band. Honors include the National Honor Society, Award For Academic Achievement In U.S. History, and Awards For Excellence In 2000 Track season. He was also active with the United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Coastal Beach Sweeps, Habitat For Humanity, Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteer, Eastern Surfing Association and local canned food drives. Derek is attending the United States Coast Guard Academy where he plans to major in Engineering.



Sabrina Elizabeth Spiegel - Croatan High School

Sabrina is from Newport and attended Croatan High School where she served as Treasurer of FTA her Junior year and President her Senior Year. She also participated in the Beta Club and served as Secretary of the Interact Club. Honors include Academic Achievement Award, Who's Who Among American High School Students, and the Outstanding Cougar Award. Sabrina plans to attend East Carolina University where she will major in Secondary Education.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

Carteret-Craven now offers a Community Calendar on its website in hopes of assisting clubs and organization in planning and publicizing their events. The site is updated regularly and offers listings through the entire year.

Information should include the who, what, when and where as well as any other pertinent data. A phone number should be included in case the webmaster has any questions about your listing. Some editing may be required if submission is too long.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO MEET

A meeting of the Nominating Committee will be held on July 12, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cooperative headquarters building on Highway 24 West of Morehead City. This committee meeting is open to any member who would like to discuss a prospective nominee.