


Member News

For Members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

LARGE CROWD ENJOYS ANNUAL MEETING

One of the largest crowds in recent memory enjoyed Carteret-Craven's 62nd Annual Meeting of Members held at the Crystal Coast Civic Center on May 2nd. Approximately 1000 people attended the event.

Participants were entertained by the combined Croatan High School and Broad Creek Middle School Jazz Band as well as the exciting floor



show and performance of the Havelock High School Show Choir. Both groups had the crowd tapping their feet and applauding with every number.

Cooperative employees representing Carteret-Craven's Relay For Life team, provided the food for the event and also raised money for the charity by holding a 50/50 raffle.



2002 Scholarship Winners..see page 24

Roger W. Jones, President of the Cooperative's Board of Directors conducted the Official Business meeting. In the election for Board of Directors, incumbent Director, Nellie Garner, defeated challenger Douglas Fulcher in a closely contested election for District #5. Directors David Chadwick in District #7 and Jerome Meadows in District #9 were unopposed. All three were elected to another three-year term.

Member Shirley Miller of Gales Creek



won the Grand Prize truck while member Kenneth Polos of Blue Heron Bay won the six months free electricity.

All-in-all, reviews for the meeting were great and plans are underway for next year's Annual Meeting of Members.

JUNE 2002



“Why do my lights blink?”

*Misinformation creates wrong perception
about reliability.*

- by Lonnie Moore
Vice President Engineering & Operations

Why do my lights blink? This is one of the most frequently asked power quality questions that we receive. These ‘blinks’ are referred to as momentary interruptions in the utility world. You know when you have experienced one because your electronic clocks can reset and flash, the VCR and microwave oven timers may blink, and your personal computer may shut down. All of us have dealt with these inconveniences at times. So why not just eliminate the blinks and avoid the hassle?

The lights blink when there is a problem with the electric power lines. The problem may be in one or more places. A loose connection within the wiring of your home or business, a problem with your individual electric service wires, or a short circuit on the electric lines that serve your entire neighborhood can all result in momentary interruptions of electric service. Each of these represents its own unique set of solutions. However, in the interest of time and space, I will direct my attention to the momentary interruptions caused by problems on the main utility power lines.

Electric utility lines are protected by a circuit breaker like the breaker in the panel box within your home. If a short circuit occurs or a wire is overloaded, the breaker should open and protect you from an electrical shock or fire. When a circuit breaker opens, you must find the problem, fix the problem, and then go to the panel and turn the breaker back on to restore power.

The breaker on the utility electric line performs the same function except that the utility breaker will automatically turn itself back on and test the line to see if the short circuit has cleared itself. This is done because so many of the short circuit conditions on utility power lines are temporary in nature and remove themselves from the lines.

Examples of temporary short circuit conditions on utility power lines include lightning strikes, trees and limbs brushing the lines, public interference

such as a car bumping a pole or someone digging into a buried cable, and animals such as squirrels coming into contact with a line. In the event the problem on the electric line does not clear itself up, the power will go out and stay out after three attempts by the automatic utility breaker to re-energize the line. At this point, service personnel are sent out to clear the problem from the lines and manually turn the breaker back on.

The momentary interruption, or ‘blink’, you experience with a temporary short circuit, as mentioned above, is caused by the utility breaker sensing that something has come into contact with the electric line. The breaker opens up to clear the problem, and quickly re-energizes itself. **Without this feature, all short circuits on the electric lines would cause an extended outage.**

Carteret-Craven EMC performs regularly scheduled maintenance on the electric power lines throughout our service area. This is also why it is so critical to keep trees trimmed away from the lines. Reliable power is of the utmost importance to all of our employees. However, with the many hundreds of miles of exposure to the power lines as they transverse through rural and urban areas, it is simply not possible to eliminate all of the momentary interruptions and outages.

Manufacturers of sensitive electronic devices are finally beginning to respond to the workings of electrical utility systems. There are now devices available for your personal computer called uninterruptible power supplies that will allow the PC to ride through a momentary interruption. Also, clocks and other electronic devices are being manufactured with a battery backup that will also ride through a momentary interruption in electric power. We strongly recommend that you incorporate these features into your next purchase. In the meantime, Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative will continue to work to improve power quality as much as possible.

Customer Service Telephone Hours:

24 Hours A Day/7 Days A Week

1-800-682-2217 or 252-247-3107 For Account Balances: 1-877-677-4362

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative is once again awarding scholarships to students at several area schools. A panel of former educators recently selected five local students to receive the awards which are for \$1000 each and renewable for a total of four years.

Receiving scholarships were Isvar Abraxas Cordova from Havelock High School, David Isaac Hopkins from East Carteret High School, Jenny Teresa Martin from Havelock High School, Jacob William Morton from Croatan High School and Jamie Elaine Smith from West Carteret High School.

To qualify for the scholarships, applicant's parents must have their primary residence on Carteret-Craven's lines. Applicants must be accepted at a 4-year college or university or community college program. Applications were judged on need, academics and extracurricular activities.

Funds for the scholarships were made available through the Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation which administers money received from Operation Round-up. Operation Round-up is a voluntary program that rounds each member's electric bill up monthly to the nearest dollar amount. The funds are placed in the Foundation account and are used to fund worthy projects. The Foundation is run by a volunteer board of directors who select specific projects to fund.

Isvar Abraxas Cordova



Jamie Elaine Smith



Jacob William Morton



Jenny Teresa Martin



David Isaac Hopkins



CAPITAL CREDITS ALLOCATED

One of the benefits of being a member of a cooperative is capital credits. These credits or operating margin, are the amount of money the cooperative earned above and beyond operating expenses. You, the members, allow the cooperative to use these funds to provide solvency and allow upgrades to the facilities. Once the amount of capital credits is determined for a given year, it is then credited to your account based on your usage for that year. After a certain period, a general retirement takes place and these funds are returned to you.

In April of 2002, funds were set aside or allocated for the 2001 Capital Credits. The amount totaled

\$729,629.00 and will be returned to the members when the Board of Directors approves a general retirement of these funds.

If you would like to know the approximate amount of your 2001 allocation you should find the total Year-To-Date usage amount for 2001 and multiply that figure by .016888. For example, if your yearly total was \$1200 then your capital credits would come to \$20.27.

If you have any questions about this allocation or capital credits in general, please contact our accounting department at 252-727-2233 or 1-800-682-2217 and we'll be glad to help you.

WHOLESALE POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

*Adjustment Added Beginning With
May Electric Bills,
Hopefully Temporary*

On the May electric bill, you may have noticed an announcement about a wholesale power adjustment charge. Just what is this and why was it applied?

Today's energy environment comes with fluctuating energy prices even in a traditionally stable electricity market. Here at Carteret-Craven, we are working hard to lessen the impact of rising energy prices. One way is by being a member of a large purchasing group made up of twenty-six other electric cooperatives, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation. This group is the second largest energy and communication cooperative in the nation.

In spite of all our efforts, rising energy prices require us to add a wholesale power adjustment, just as we did in 2001. This adjustment takes the form of 25 cents for every 100 kWh of electricity you use. For an average home electric bill of \$120, this increase will add \$3.75 per month.

We feel this temporary act is better than increasing rates for years to come. This way, if energy costs come down, we can reduce or eliminate the WPA charge just as we did in 2001 (adjustment was removed after only three months).

We realize that you, our member-owner, are our most valuable asset. As a cooperative, our strength relies on our working together toward common goals. Our goal remains to provide you with the best value for your money. Together, we can reach this goal.

Don't forget to visit our website at:

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop

or

www.ccemc.com

**It's that time of the year
again....storm season.**



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Happen To Your
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or

252-247-3107

Hurricane Special To Air

The electric cooperatives of Eastern North Carolina have produced a hurricane preparedness special. The 1/2 hour program will air on WCTI TV-12 on

Saturday, June 29th at 1:00 p.m.

The program discusses preparations prior to an approaching storm, generator safety, storm restoration and what to do after the storm.