

MEMBER

From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between

News

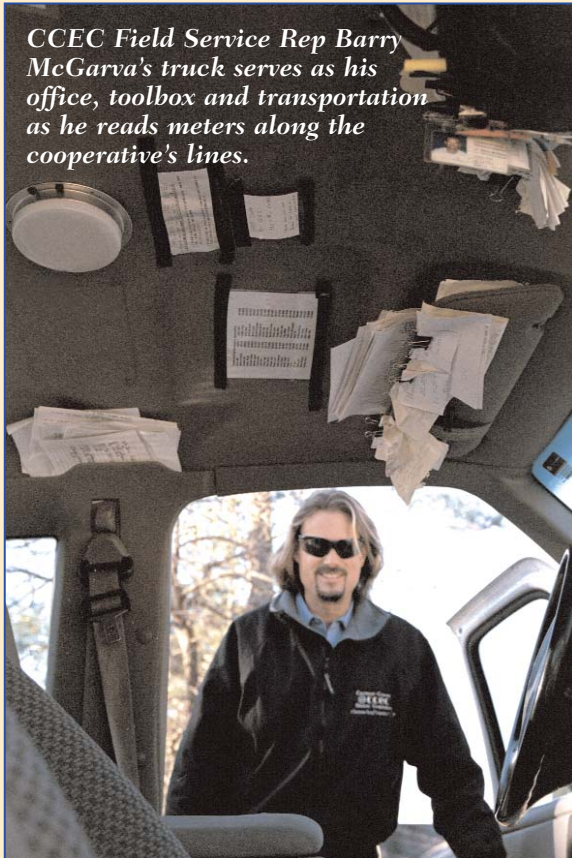


A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

February 2005

carteret-craven electric cooperative

CCEC Field Service Rep Barry McGarva's truck serves as his office, toolbox and transportation as he reads meters along the cooperative's lines.



On the road

Field service reps serve as eyes and ears on co-op's lines

With temperatures outside registering only 22 degrees and the sun just beginning to cast long winter shadows, the cooperative's field service representatives begin their day.

It's 7 a.m. and they have been up for a couple of hours already. On this cold day in December the seven men are reading meters, some 5,000-plus of the 35,000 they read in a month in Carteret and Craven counties and parts of Jones and Onslow counties. They are commonly known as "meter readers," but that doesn't begin to cover the work the field services representatives do.

"Seven men read 35,000-plus meters and handle some 1,000 cutoffs each month, plus look for hazards or perform maintenance, and they are always on the lookout for meter tampering," says Sarah Grider, manager of support services for the cooperative.

The field service reps are equipped with hand-held devices that are programmed with each meter's previous month reading along the route. They have to be speedy but accurate, pleasant, but firm, and ever vigilant for problems on the cooperative's lines.

"We serve as a safety net in finding problems," says field service rep Barry McGarva, as he makes a hop in his truck from one house to another and gets only a few seconds to warm up. "Usually when I get going I warm up pretty quickly, but it's cold today."

His truck is a bit cramped because he has had to make room for a passenger loaded with camera gear and notepad. The vehicle serves as his office, where he keeps paperwork as well as any gear he might need to perform the variety of tasks he might encounter.

"I know where everything is, but I need more office space," McGarva says while referring to a piece of paper taped to the headliner of the truck.

There's no going back to the office to pick up something he might need, especially when his route is along the outer reaches of the

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on the web

It's not too late to apply for a cooperative college scholarship.

Go to:

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop



Field service reps

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cooperative's service area.

"When we are out, we're always checking lines, looking for broken safeguard lights, rusted meter bases and the like," McGarva says.

When they find a problem, they note it. They report the problems that they can't fix and return after taking their readings or doing cutoffs to fix the ones they can. They will interrupt their fast-paced schedule



Field service representative David Harper (foreground) and fellow employees (rear left to right) Jackie Temple, Milton Tripp and Wayne Green meet at the office to fill out time sheets, complete paperwork and gather supplies for a day on the road.

to make a repair if there is an immediate safety problem. They also serve as community watch, occasionally finding and reporting open doors, broken windows and even busted water pipes.

They walk in and out of people's yards, sometimes encountering snakes in the warm season, side-stepping holes, working around prickly shrubs that have grown up around the

meters and making friends or fending off dogs.

Mark Thompson's office shelves are stacked with boxes of dog biscuits, one of the official "service weapons" of the men in the field. He waits until there's a sale at the local grocery store and buys boxes by the dozens, issuing them as needed to bribe kindness out of protective canines.

Some are so accustomed to the meter readers that they anticipate their visits and treats. Others will follow along as the men walk a neighborhood, hoping for more snacks along the way.

They work alone, too, and for that reason, they must know how to deal with all kinds of people.

"Some people go out of their way to be nice,"

McGarva says.

"Others are not so nice. The way I counteract that is to kill them with

kindness. A lot of times they don't know how to deal with that, and they back off."

Cutoff days can be especially trying and long. The field service reps head out with a list of members who haven't paid their bills. Many members will pay on the spot.

Others call in or race

‘We have a great team. We work together really well and are committed to the cooperative and our members.’

to the cooperative's offices to settle up when they return home and find they have no power.

"People try to get you to do a lot of things," McGarva says. "That's why it's important to get the right people for this job. We have a great team. We work together really well and are committed to the cooperative and the members."

For those who pay late in the day, the men must return and reconnect service, sometimes until well after midnight.

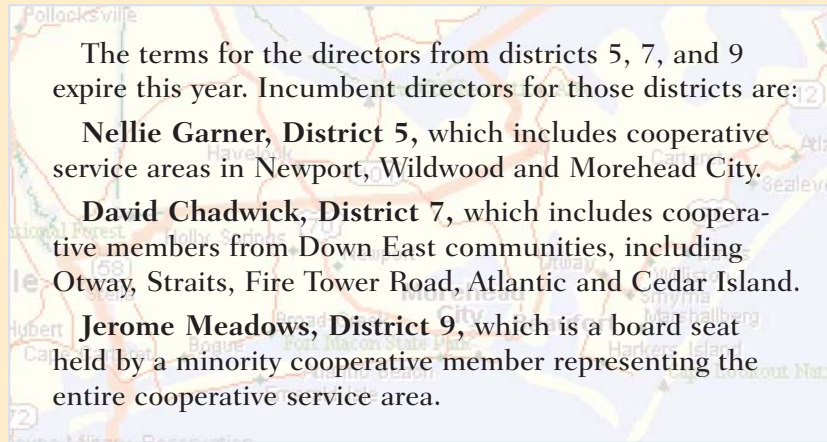
"It usually tapers off around 11 p.m., but when you're on call, you can get called out at 2 a.m. to reconnect," McGarva says. "Just like our linemen, whether it's raining or snowing, we're out there."

"They are truly unsung heroes," Grider adds.



Barry McGarva re-seals a meter after making sure it is working properly.

Cooperative Director District Descriptions



The terms for the directors from districts 5, 7, and 9 expire this year. Incumbent directors for those districts are:

Nellie Garner, District 5, which includes cooperative service areas in Newport, Wildwood and Morehead City.

David Chadwick, District 7, which includes cooperative members from Down East communities, including Otway, Straits, Fire Tower Road, Atlantic and Cedar Island.

Jerome Meadows, District 9, which is a board seat held by a minority cooperative member representing the entire cooperative service area.

Annual meeting bylaws' information summarized

The 65th Annual Meeting of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2005, at Glad Tidings Church on Country Club Road in Morehead City, N.C.

Additional information about this year's annual meeting, including details and ballots, if needed, for election of directors, will appear in the April issue of "Member News."

CCEC's service area is divided into nine (9) directorate districts. The terms for the directors from districts 5, 7, and 9 expire this year. Directors serve three-year terms.

To be eligible to hold the office of director of the cooperative, a member must:

- *have been a member for not less than two years,*
- *receive electrical service from the cooperative at his or her primary residence, which must be in the directorate district which he or she is to represent,*
- *not be a close relative of an incumbent director or an employee of the cooperative,*
- *not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy, service, or supplies to the cooperative,*
- *not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude,*
- *be a citizen of the United States,*
- *be at least 18 years old,*
- *not have been declared mentally incompetent unless competency has been*

legally restored,

- *at the time of taking office, not be a close relative of a former member of the Board of Directors who died or resigned from the board within two years next preceding the time of taking office,*
- *not have been employed by the cooperative or have previously been an officer or director of or employed in any policy-making position by an electric, telephone, natural gas or other utility company.*

The Board of Directors has appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of two members each from directorates 5, 7, and 9. The committee will nominate one or more members to run for election from each of these three districts.

Nominees may also be nominated by petition of any 50 or more members from their district. The petition must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 4, 2005. For more information about the nominating committee, contact CCEC's CEO and General Manager Craig Conrad at our Highway 24 office.

Voting for the above positions, in addition to any other business conducted at the annual meeting, shall be done by those who have been members at least 30 days before the meeting. Each member shall have one vote regardless of number of accounts.

A complete set of bylaws is available at our offices at 1300 Highway 24 in Newport (west of Morehead City) or 450 McCotter Boulevard in Havelock.

Electrical safety in your workspace

Electrical safety is a vital part of keeping any office, home-office or other workplace safe, and the proper use of extension cords should be at the top of your safety checklist.

Look around your office or workspace with these tips in mind:

- Use extension cords only when fixed wiring is not feasible.
- Examine electrical cords routinely for fraying and exposed wiring.
- Pay particular attention to connections behind furniture, since files and bookcases may be pushed tightly against electrical outlets, which severely bends the cord at the plug.
- Never allow extension cords to become kinked, knotted, abraded or cut.
- Place extension cords so that they do not present a tripping or slipping hazard.
- Do not place extension cords through doorways with doors that can be closed; the cord can be damaged.
- Use only extension cords of the grounding, three-prong type.



The cooperative is always happy to help you with safety and efficiency concerns, visit us on the Web at www.carteretcravenelectric.coop.



A CCEC line crew helps hang a new flag outside the Carteret County Sheriff's Office to replace a flag flown since the 9/11 terrorist attacks outside.

You have the power to make a difference.

NC GreenPower works to encourage development of clean renewable energy. To learn more or to sign up, visit www.carteretcravenelectric.coop or www.ncgreenpower.org.

NC GreenPower
It's in your power.

www.ncgreenpower.org



carteret-craven electric cooperative

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