

MEMBER

From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between

News



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

April 2009

Co-op's 69th Annual Meeting is May 7

The Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, at Glad Tidings Church on Country Club Road in Morehead City.

Registration will begin at 5 p.m. Carteret-Craven's Relay for Life fund-raising team will provide refreshments in the Family Life Center at the church. Broad Creek Middle School's jazz band will entertain in the sanctuary from 5:30 to 6 p.m. East Carteret High School Chorus will perform from 6:10 to 6:50 p.m.

There will be several opportunities for attendees to learn about saving energy, including special presentations by students from Camp Glenn Elementary School, energy efficiency displays and more.

Health screenings will be available from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The screenings include glaucoma, blood sugar, and blood pressure.

The business meeting will be called to order at 7 p.m. The program will include reports from officers and committees as well as the selection of three directors.

The nominations committee has met and placed into nomination the following incumbent directors for three-year terms:

Alice O'Berry, District 1, which includes all of Cape Carteret and Cedar Point, parts of Jones and Onslow counties, including Highway 58 north to Maysville.

Arland Bell, District 3, which includes cooperative service areas in Craven County, including Havelock, Highway 101 and Adams Creek Road; and Lake Road near the Carteret/Craven County line.

William Fred Fulcher, District 4, which includes all of Bogue Banks, including Pine Knoll Shores, Salter Path, Indian Beach and Emerald Isle.

on the web

Learn more about
the updated federal
Energy Tax Credit.

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop



CCEC members who register at the Annual Meeting will be entered into drawings for cash prizes, \$1,000 of free electricity and a retired CCEC fleet pickup truck.

carteret-craven electric cooperative

It's time to get real about energy

There has been a lot of talk about energy lately. The subject is covered in newspapers, on cable news, talk radio and innumerable blogs. It's been the topic of many speeches in Washington, D.C. The remedies, proposed by Congress and the Obama Administration, for our "energy crisis" are coming from all directions.

It's time for us to get real about energy.

I think we can all agree that the country needs a strong energy policy that strives for "energy independence" from foreign sources and is sensitive to environmental concerns. We can also agree the country is experiencing one of the worst economic recessions in recent memory. The American people are having a tough time, and here in North Carolina, we feel it too.

So why has the Obama Administration decided to push an energy strategy that will dramatically raise electric rates maybe as much as 40% in the next 20 years? Frankly, I believe the intent is to jumpstart a new energy policy that pursues reliable energy sources, promotes energy efficiency programs, reduces carbon emissions, and creates badly needed jobs. Additionally, they want to do this right away.

OK, we get that. But what we don't get is raising costs to the point people can't afford electricity. Maybe for some that is the point. They believe if your electric bill is too high, then you will use less electricity. While that may be a response from some, we think there is a better way to formulate a sound national energy policy, while meeting our environmental challenges.

We are in favor of using energy wisely. And we offer our members ways to do that without making undue sacrifices in their lifestyles. For example, we have given away energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs at our annual meetings since 2007, and we have provided energy saving tips at school and civic presentations, in the media, on the web and elsewhere.

A quick "back of the envelope analysis" of legislation Congress is considering today, combining renewable and energy efficiency mandates and costs associated with a carbon tax or carbon cap-and-trade, would amount to the equivalent of *two additional electric bills a year* for North Carolina's electric consumers. In fact, this may be a low estimate; carbon costs may rise considerably more depending on decisions made by the Administration and Congress in the coming months.

The electric cooperatives support a balanced solution that doesn't send all your energy dollars to Washington. We have a smart country. Let's look for lower cost solutions that are sustainable over time and get us to the goal – energy independence and protecting our environment. This isn't about fear, it's about getting this right, and we can do it without breaking the bank.

To share your concerns with, contact your federal lawmakers.

NC Congressional Delegation

Senator Kay Hagan

B40-A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6342
www.hagan.senate.gov

Senator Richard Burr

217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3154
www.burr.senate.gov

Representative Walter Jones Jr.

2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3415
www.jones.house.gov

Representative G.K. Butterfield

413 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3101
www.butterfield.house.gov

The White House

President Barack Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Simple steps to lower lighting costs and energy use at home

Increasing your lighting efficiency is one of the fastest ways to decrease your electricity bills. Here are several low-cost ways you can save.



Turn off the lights in any room you're not using, or consider installing timers or occupancy sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on.

Use task lighting; instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it. For example, use fluorescent under-cabinet

lighting for kitchen sinks and countertops under cabinets.

Consider three-way lamps; they make it easier to keep lighting levels low when brighter light is not necessary.

Finally, use ENERGYSTAR compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs); they are much more efficient than incandescent bulbs and last 6 to 10 times longer. CFLs pay for themselves by saving energy over their lifetime.

If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs.

Quick Takes

Easter Closings

CCEC's offices in Newport, Havelock and Harkers Island will be closed on Good Friday, April 10, for the Easter Holiday.



Our Energy, Our Future

If you haven't visited the Our Energy, Our Future™ Web page in a while, check out the site's new look at www.ourenergy.coop.

There's a new question to ask your elected officials: "Will you please work with the electric cooperatives to be sure public policy meets my need for affordable electricity?"

You can get all the latest about the grassroots campaign to keep electricity affordable on **Facebook**, too. Type "Our Energy, Our Future" in the search box on your Facebook page.

'Equalizer' program helps keep bill payments stabilized

Wouldn't it be nice to know just what your electric bill is going to be each month regardless of the weather or how much company you may have?

With the cooperative's Equalizer Program, your monthly electric bills or the bills at the location are totaled for the year and then divided into twelve equal payments. For new accounts, we estimated monthly usage. Either way, you can have peace of mind in knowing what your electric bill will be each month.

We periodically check the account to make

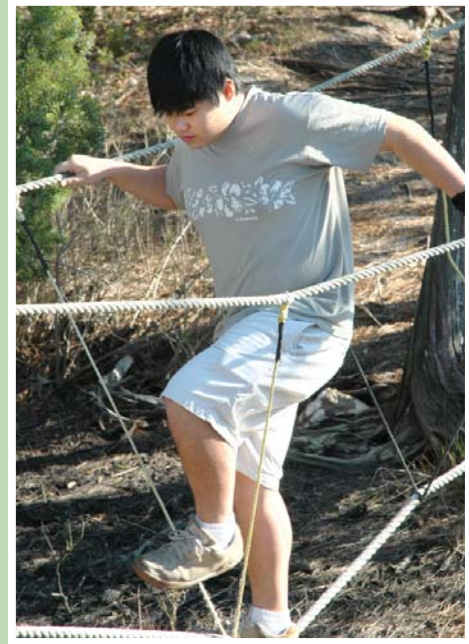
sure the amount you are paying does not differ greatly from your actual usage. If it does, then we will let you know in time to make an adjustment that won't hit you all at once at the end of 12 months.

Another idea is to couple the Equalizer plan with Automatic Bank Draft or Bank Card Payments, either of which will free you from writing checks each month. You'll still get a monthly statement for your records.

To learn more, call 252.247.3107 or visit us on the Web at www.carteretcravenelectric.coop.



Register to win prizes, including a **\$1,000 worth of free electricity** (on bills mailed July-December 2009), a **Ford F-150** pickup truck, and more at the Annual Meeting on May 7 at Glad Tidings Church in Morehead City.



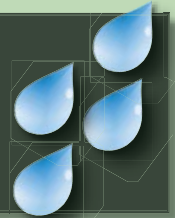
BUILDING YOUNG LEADERS

High school juniors, above left, see just how tall they can make a tower with limited materials during CCEC's annual Youth Leadership Weekend at the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores in early February. At right, leadership participant Fang-Ming Chang of Havelock High School makes his way across a rope bridge during a challenge course. He and 23 students from Havelock, Croatan, East Carteret and West Carteret high schools took part in the action- and information-packed weekend.

NOTICE: Harkers Island Sanitary District Water Customers

The 2007 Drinking Water Quality Report is posted on Carteret-Craven's Website. To view or download the report, go to:

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop



Watch out for overhead power lines while boating



When spending time on your boat, it's easy to forget that power lines cross even large bodies of water. Never assume your boat's mast, antenna or other equipment will clear an overhead power line even if you've traveled under it before. Tides and boat drafts change.

On the water, overhead power lines can appear invisible. A miscalculation can be fatal. When you're moving around a harbor or moving a boat on land, know where overhead power lines are. Never let any part of your mast, aerial or craft get closer than 10 feet from any line. That's not only good boating safety, it is good sense.



carteret-craven electric cooperative 

Offices

1300 Highway 24, Newport
450 McCotter Boulevard, Havelock
849 Island Road, Harkers Island

On the Web

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop

Contact

Phone: 252.247.3107 / 1.800.682.2217
Fax: 252.247.0235
E-mail: customerservice@ccemc.com