

# Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.coop

May 2012



## Veteran Director Passes Away

*H. James Kinley, Jr.*

The Cooperative family was saddened to learn of the passing of Henry James Kinley, Jr., who was a member of the Piedmont Electric Board of Directors for more than 38 years.

He was a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Certified Credentialed Director who earned the Board Leadership Certificate from NRECA.

Originally elected to the Board in October 1973, Mr. Kinley served as Treasurer until his passing on March 6.

He lived with his wife, Catherine, in the Hebron community of Orange County, and was retired from Western Electric and AT&T Technology.

Mr. Kinley is survived by his wife, Catherine, and sons, Roger and Randy, and their wives, Debra and Diane, respectively.



**Piedmont EMC & ElecTel CCU will be closed Monday, May**

**28, for Memorial Day.**

**Employees will be on call.**

**Please have a safe holiday.**

## Beat<sup>the</sup>Peak! VOLUNTARY PROGRAM HELPS BOTH CO-OP & MEMBERS

Before you know it, hot weather will be pushing up temperatures—and electricity use. You can help Piedmont Electric reduce wholesale power costs—and save on your energy bill by volunteering to “Beat the Peak!”

As part of the “Beat the Peak” program, we will be asking you to adjust your thermostat, turn off lights and delay the use of major appliances on hot summer weekdays between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

When Piedmont Electric thinks a peak situation is imminent, the Cooperative will send a text message or email to members who volunteer to participate. This information will also be posted on the website at [www.pemc.coop](http://www.pemc.coop).

Members will be asked to adjust their cooling system thermostats by at least three degrees and to limit their electricity use.

To volunteer to receive these alerts, text **BTPEAK** to **85700** to enroll for text alerts, or send an email to [BeatThePeak@pemc.coop](mailto:BeatThePeak@pemc.coop)

*Text BTPEAK to 85700 to enroll for text alerts, or send an email to BeatThePeak@pemc.coop for email notices.*

for email notices, or call the Cooperative at 800.222.3107 to learn more.

Wholesale power is Piedmont Electric’s biggest ex-

pense. A large portion of that cost is determined on peak days, usually hot summer afternoons.

With your help, we will be able to reduce the summer peak load which will benefit the Cooperative and our members with lower wholesale power costs.



*Piedmont Lineman Randy Copeland found this group of “fans” gathered around one of the Cooperative’s trucks at Covington’s Dairy Farm in Alamance County.*



## From Your President...

# Celebrate Electrical Safety Month

*R. G. Brecheisen*

*President & Chief Executive Officer*

Every May, we celebrate Electrical Safety Month. It's a time when we place a spotlight on ways we keep you, our members, safe.

This year, we're focusing on how to keep safe after a storm rolls through.

Many of you may remember last year's outbreak of tornadoes, including one that caused a lot of devastation to our neighboring counties to the south last April.

Already this season there have been deadly tornadoes across the country, bringing death and destruction—and hurricane season will be here before we know it.

Regardless of the type of weather or damage to electrical equipment and infrastructure, member, public and employee safety is our primary concern.

To stay safe after a major storm or natural disaster strikes, Piedmont Electric urges you to develop a family action plan.

Designate a place for everyone to meet after an event. Map out ways to evacuate your home. Create a laminated card with emergency contact names and numbers for each family member.

Consider listing a relative or friend who lives far from your community as the point of contact—if your family gets separated, that person can let others know who is safe.

And don't forget pets in your family action plan—

many rescue shelters will not accept pets after a catastrophe of some sort, so it's important to decide beforehand where Fido or Tabby can take up residence for a while.

It's not hard to understand why safety remains a top priority for Piedmont Electric—working around electricity presents the potential of a dangerous situation every day for many of our employees.

As a result, we work hard to instill a culture of safety that our employees can take home with them and live 24/7.

We also strive to raise safety awareness among the Cooperative's members. Look for safety tips in this newsletter/magazine each month, and check our website at [www.pemc.coop](http://www.pemc.coop) for more information.

Please take time to create an emergency action plan for your family today. And, you can learn more about weathering storms safely at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

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We hope you were able to make it to this year's Annual Meeting of the Members. Because of an early printing deadline, we will include a re-cap of the meeting in next month's newsletter.

## If Your Power Goes Out, Call Us...



If your power goes out, call Piedmont Electric's outage reporting number —**800.449.2667**—to report the outage.

The Cooperative uses your phone number to determine your service location when you use the automated outage reporting system to report a service outage. If, like some folks—you no longer have a land line and use a cellular phone, please make sure to let the Cooperative know. Unless we have your correct phone number(s), we may not be able to pinpoint your outage location as quickly.

Please complete and return the form on your monthly billing statement if your telephone number has changed.

## Tornado Safety Tips

### Practice and Prepare

Know where you'll meet your family during the tornado (and after). Practice a tornado drill annually. Keep a weather radio in your storm shelter, along with safety supplies.

### Seek Shelter

Go to your basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest floor of the house. If you live in a mobile home, get out and look for a stable building. If outside, find low ground—away from trees and cars—and lie face down with your arms protecting your head.

### After the Storm

Stay away from downed power lines, and avoid flooded areas—power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Don't enter seriously damaged buildings and avoid using matches and lighters in case of gas leaks.



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Funnel, Inc.

### Know the Signs

- Look for swirling clouds.
- Watch for quick wind shifts or stark calm after heavy rain.
- Listen for a loud roar or rumble that doesn't fade.

# SEVERE WEATHER CAN LEAVE DANGERS BEHIND

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes and flooding can leave more than damage in their wake—they can leave hidden dangers as well. In some cases, more lives are lost after the storm than from the storm itself.

When you're dealing with storm cleanup or flood-damaged property, the prospect of an electrical accident is probably not top of mind, but it's the first thing you should think of before you go outside, step foot into a flooded area or enter a storm-damaged building.

When outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard.

Treat all downed or hanging

power lines as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.

Warn others to stay away—and contact Piedmont Electric.

Do not touch downed power lines, and do not touch objects or puddles of water in contact with those lines. There is no way to know if they are energized.

Encountering these objects can be as hazardous as coming into contact with a downed power line itself.

Make sure children are aware of these hazards as well.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel.

Never drive over a downed line, as it may still be energized and it could pull down poles and other items along its path.

Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off.

Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. Contact the Cooperative to have the power disconnected at the meter.

Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords.

Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from



wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.

Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service.

It may be necessary to replace them. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.

If, after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside.

If you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed, or connect appliances directly to the generator.

This prevents electricity from traveling back through the home to power lines—what is known as “backfeed.” Backfeed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

## IS AN ELECTRIC CAR IN YOUR FUTURE?

Please contact the Cooperative if you plan to buy an electric vehicle that will be charged at your home or business served by Piedmont Electric. We need to ensure the distribution transformer and conductors are adequately sized to serve this added load and that no safety issues exist.



## By the Numbers...

- 1,967 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of [www.MyUsage.com](http://www.MyUsage.com)
- 729 members are participating in the FlexPay Program
- 455 members have turned in receipts for 4,438 CFLs, representing a total of 1,522,234 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 34 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 869 electric water heater wraps sold
- 554 residential members on Time-of-Day Rates
- 791 visits to TogetherWeSave.com for a total calculated savings with the home savings calculator tool of \$284,264.51
- 177 members have signed up to participate in the “Beat the Peak” program

## CHARGES ARE SET FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY RATES

The following N.C. Renewable Energy Rider charges are effective May 1, 2012, and will be in effect for 12 months:

Residential	\$ 0.35/monthly
Commercial	\$ 4.03/monthly
Industrial	\$27.69/monthly

### Replaces:

Residential	\$ 0.32/monthly
Commercial	\$ 1.61/monthly
Industrial	\$16.14/monthly

The following N.C. Energy Efficiency Rider charges are effective May 1, 2012, and will be in effect for 12 months:

Residential	0.0808¢/kWh
Commercial/Ind.	0.0106¢/kWh

### Replaces:

Residential	0.0792¢/kWh
Commercial/Ind.	0.0237¢/kWh

Changes in the riders are due to general costs for purchases and programs being different than forecast and requiring a true-up to reflect actual costs.



## May Right-of-Way Maintenance

### Orange County

Heritage Hills Subdivision  
Ray Road  
BPW Club Road  
Weatherhill Subdivision  
(and surrounding areas)

*Locations are subject to change due to uncontrollable circumstances*



2012  
International  
Year of  
Cooperatives

## Briefly... 'A Co-op-A-Fair' Set for June 2

In celebration of the International Year of the Cooperatives, a child-friendly event with booths from various cooperatives throughout the Triangle is planned for June 2 at the American Tobacco Company Campus in downtown Durham.

The event, "A Co-Op-A-Fair," is planned to celebrate all cooperatives and their various services and goods. Food vendors, free food samples, animals, ice-cream, on-site demonstrations, entertainment and more is planned for the day between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Piedmont Electric will be on-site with its new energy efficiency video, "Today I Don't Feel Like Wasting Energy," and our educational safety demonstration.

### Green Plus Re-Certification

Piedmont Electric is the first Green Plus organization to become re-certified in the Green Plus program by the Institute for Sustainable Development.

For re-certification, the Cooperative submitted a detailed assessment of its sustainability initiatives, including:

- Recycling materials
- Investing in energy efficient equipment

### Bright Ideas Grants

Teachers may now apply for Bright Idea Grants of up to \$1,500 for the 2012-2013 school year.

Grants are available to help area educators finance innovative teaching projects not otherwise financed

by traditional school funding.

The deadline to submit applications is September 21, 2012.

Teachers who submit their application by the early-bird deadline of August 17 will be entered in a drawing to win a \$500 Visa gift card.

This year's online application includes an explanation of the creative project and its potential benefits to students.

To learn more about the program and start an online application, visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com). Also, find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ncbrightideas](http://www.facebook.com/ncbrightideas) for regularly updated information.

## Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

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Hillsborough: **919.732.2123** • Caswell County: **336.421.1296**

Roxboro: **336.599.0151** • Elsewhere in North Carolina: **800.222.3107**

To report an outage 24 hours a day: **800.449.2667\***

To access account information 24 hours a day: **800.548.2105\***

\*Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

Call **BEFORE You Dig: 800.632.4949** or **811**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
Cathy J. Johnson, CCC, Editor

## Please Share Your Favorite Recipe

If you have a favorite recipe you want to share with other Piedmont Electric members, please send it to: Pass It On, c/o Piedmont Connection, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, NC 27278, or you may include it with your monthly payment. If your recipe is printed in the newsletter, you will receive a copy of a cookbook from the Cooperative Council of N.C. Please remember to check all ingredients and cooking directions.

