

# Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.org

March 2010



## Save the Date!

Friday, April 16, is the date of your electric cooperative's annual meeting of the members, and Orange High School in Hillsborough is the place to be!

Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 8 p.m.

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by Cody Shuler and Pine Mountain Railroad.

Three seats on the Cooperative's Board of Directors will be up for election. The seats are currently held by: C. Franklin Murphy of Mebane, Talmadge W. Yancey, Roxboro and Sam T. Woods, Hurdle Mills.

Additional information will be in next month's Carolina Country, including your registration card.

## By the Numbers...

- 840 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of [www.MyUsage.com](http://www.MyUsage.com)
- 315 members are participating in the Pre-Pay Program
- 306 members have turned in receipts for 3,125 CFLs, representing a total of 1,071,875 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 1,811 people have sent cards for "Our Energy, Our Future," and 7,283 people have sent emails—all of which are being forwarded to the elected officials in Piedmont's service area
- 18 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 420 electric water heater wraps sold



## IT WAS 22% COLDER...

These past months have brought extremely cold

temperatures to our area, and the effects are still being felt as you begin receiving the

bills for heating your homes. Piedmont Electric member-consumers set an all time high record for energy

electricity bills.

Degree-days are used by utilities to measure weather changes and this past winter had higher than normal degree days.

Degree-day is a measurement of how much the average daily temperature varies from a standard reference temperature.

Last December and January we had 1,304 degree days while this winter for the same months, we had 1,587 degree days, that's 22% colder.

The 30-year average is 1,462 degree days.

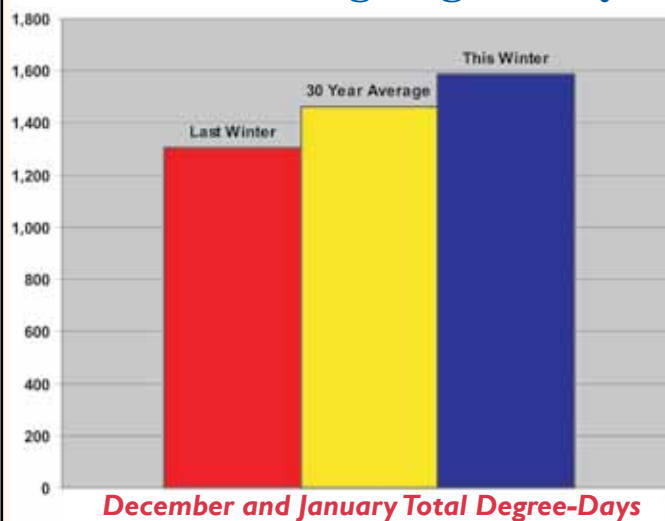
Please consider these significant increases in degree-days when you get your electricity bills over this winter. The bottom line is that the colder temperatures will affect your bills.

Piedmont Electric offers a variety of programs to help you manage your electricity use more efficiently—even in cold weather.

These include:

- On-line Energy Saving Tools —TogetherWeSave.com
- FlexPay Program
- Daily energy use monitoring with MyUsage.com, including email notification
- Free Home Energy Audits
- Rebates on:
  - Compact Fluorescent Lights
  - Energy Efficient Heat Pumps
  - Solar Water Heaters
- Energy-Saving Electric Water Heater Kits
- Time of Day Rates
- Free Heating and Cooling System Technical Advice and Audits
- Energy Efficiency & Renewable Loan Program
- Energy-Saving Brochures

## Winter Heating Degree-Days





From Your President...

## Co-op Stays Focused on Our Mission

**R. G. Brecheisen**  
Chief Executive Officer & President

"To empower and partner with our members to provide energy value and to enhance the quality of life"—This is Piedmont Electric's mission statement, and it encompasses what your electric cooperative strives to do.

These are more than just words on paper. In the past we have focused primarily on what the Co-operative can do for our members.

In today's complex energy environment, it is imperative that Piedmont Electric increasingly focus on partnering with you to get the most value from the energy you use.

To this end, the Cooperative is committed to providing valuable levels of service and energy supply options in partnership with our members, communities and

energy suppliers.

To date we have completed a three-year conversion to "smart" meters which offers members several options for managing their energy use, including a flex payment program for those who want to pay for electricity before it's used.

All members have the capability to check their electricity use through the website [MyUsage.com](http://MyUsage.com).

Currently, data is available up to the previous day's use, and we are investigating options which will allow you to see use in real/current time.

The Cooperative is already ahead of every other electric utility in the state—including investor-owned utilities—in providing smart meters to all of its members.

In keeping with our mission statement, Piedmont Electric is actively working to meet the challenges concerning environmental issues, the need for new electricity generation, the rising cost of fuels for generation and the increasing cost of electricity.

In the last few years, we have worked toward the installation of a solar array field at our Caswell office with MegaWatt Solar, Inc., to help meet our N.C. Senate Bill 3 mandates.

Other renewable energy projects are in the works.

We have become a partner in the government's Energy Star Program to offer members initiatives to manage their energy use more efficiently.

Piedmont Electric has also offered additional programs such as compact fluorescent lights (CFLs)

and solar water heater rebates.

In keeping with our mission, the Cooperative is converting existing mercury vapor security lights to more efficient sodium lights.

Keeping you, our members, informed on all of these programs which will allow you to manage your energy costs more effectively, is of utmost importance.

Further, we are committed to keeping our elected representatives informed about how proposed energy legislation will affect you.

We have been asking you to join our grassroot effort—Our Energy, Our Future—by contacting your elected officials on issues affecting energy concerns.

Your electric cooperative continues to investigate additional tools which will empower you to make wise energy decisions.

With your help Piedmont Electric can meet today's energy challenges and be ready for the challenges of the future.



**Electric Water Heater Wrap Kits are available at our offices. An installed kit can**

**lower water heating costs up to \$100 annually. The price for Piedmont Electric members is \$15, plus tax, for the kit.**



### Member Speak-Out

Do you have a question or comment about Piedmont EMC? If so, we want to hear from you. Questions about specific accounts will be answered personally instead of appearing in the newsletter.

Because of space limitations, Piedmont EMC reserves the right to publish any comments and to edit comments at its discretion.

Send your comments and questions to: Todd Pope, "Member Speak-Out," Piedmont EMC, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, NC 27278-1179. You may also include it with your monthly payment, or send an email to: [todd.pope@pemc.org](mailto:todd.pope@pemc.org).

# Multiple Account Set-up Requires Help

As the number of members taking advantage of the [MyUsage.com](http://MyUsage.com) website increases, we have found that those who want to monitor multiple accounts need help in getting their information.

Members may setup as many accounts as they want, but it would require a different email for each account—unless they contact the Cooperative for assistance.

If the member has only one email address, a Piedmont Electric representative will help setup the additional accounts. Currently the member cannot do it.

[MyUsage.com](http://MyUsage.com), a free service



for members of the Cooperative, allows member-consumers to track how much electricity they have used during the preceding day and beyond.

By monitoring their electricity use, consumers can determine

what factors, such as weather or other high use activities, have on the amount of electricity consumed.

Members who have only one account they want to monitor can set up the account themselves. The account and meter numbers, which are located on the monthly statement, is necessary for setting up entry into [MyUsage.com](http://MyUsage.com).

## A Reminder for Our Students: Deadlines Drawing Near

Piedmont Electric has three opportunities available for our area young people.

These include academic scholarships, a week-long expense paid trip to Washington, DC, and basketball camp scholarships.

The deadlines for each of these opportunities is coming up soon.

The deadline for applications for one of the four \$1,000 academic scholarships for graduating high school seniors is March 30.

March 31 is the deadline for sixth, seventh and eighth graders to apply for the Roy Williams or Kellie Harper basketball camps.

Rising high school seniors may apply for the week-long, expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, by submitting their applications by April 30.

Information about each of these opportunities is on the Piedmont Electric website at: [www.pemc.org](http://www.pemc.org).



## Know What to Do if Car Contacts Power Line

If your car comes in contact with a power line, try to stay calm and follow these tips:

- Remain inside your vehicle.

If you are in your car, you are not part of electricity's path, which always looks for the shortest way to the ground. Honk your horn to alert passersby.

- If someone stops to help, roll down the window and warn them not to touch the car or the power line. Ask them to phone 911 and contact the local electric utility immediately.

- Wait in your car until qualified

electrical workers turn the power off and tell you it's safe to leave the car.

- If you have to leave the car because of fire or other danger, open the door and jump away from the vehicle so no part of your body touches the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Make sure to jump with both feet together so that your feet land on the ground at the same time.

- After you land with both feet together, shuffle away, keeping both feet in contact with the ground constantly.



APPLY TODAY!

### ELECTEL'S COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

THE SCHOLARSHIP IS DESIGNED TO REWARD DESERVING CREDIT UNION MEMBERS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

ONE \$1,000 AWARD WINNER IN NC  
ONE \$1,000 AWARD WINNER IN VA

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.ELECTELCCU.ORG](http://WWW.ELECTELCCU.ORG) OR CALL 1-800-849-5600 TO OBTAIN A COPY OF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.  
APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2010



### Energy Saving Tip of the Month

Use your microwave for cooking whenever possible. They use 50 to 65% less energy than conventional ovens and do not heat up your house in the summer.

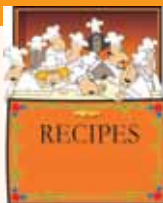


However, conventional ovens may be more appropriate for larger size items when cooking time is increased.

Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

## Pass It On...

This month's recipe for "Sour Cream Pound Cake" comes from Wanda Lloyd of Elon.



If you have a favorite recipe you want to share with other Piedmont EMC 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 it is printed in the newsletter, you will receive a copy of the Cooperative Council of North Carolina's *Sensational Sweets* cookbook. **Please remember to check all ingredients and instructions carefully.**

### Sour Cream Pound Cake

3 cups sugar  
2 sticks margarine  
3 cups cake flour  
1/2 cup Crisco oil  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon vanilla flavoring  
1 teaspoon lemon flavoring  
5 eggs  
1/4 cup milk  
8 ounces sour cream

Do NOT preheat oven.

Mix margarine and oil together. Add sugar. Break eggs in a bowl and beat with a fork until fluffy. Add remaining ingredients. Pour into greased and floured bundt pan. (PAM® for Baking with Flour preferred.)

Bake at 300° to 325° for one hour.



## RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR MARCH

### Durham County

St. Mary's Road  
Bivins Road  
Russell Road  
Willowhaven Subdivision  
(and surrounding area)

## NRECA Leads Efforts to Restore Power in Haiti



After a devastating earthquake left much of Haiti's capital in ruins, a team from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International is helping to restore electricity to hospitals and other facilities critical to the city's recovery.

A damage assessment of Haiti's national electric company's facilities in the Port-au-Prince area found three substations with significant damage, but other parts of the system are in better condition. The transmission and distribution circuits sustained relatively minor damage.

NRECA's team is working with other international and local relief agencies to get emergency power

to key facilities including medical aid and food distribution sites and police stations.

The NRECA Foundation continues to seek donations to its International Haiti Relief Fund.

You can donate by mail. Send checks to the NRECA International Foundation at 4301 Wilson Blvd.; Arlington, VA 22203. Please indicate the donation is for the "Haiti Relief Fund."

You may also donate through the NRECA website at:

[www.nrecfoundation.coop](http://www.nrecfoundation.coop).

All donations are tax-deductible.

Piedmont Electric is a member of NRECA, our national cooperative organization.



## Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation, 2500 N.C. Highway 86 South, P. O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, N.C. 27278

R. G. Brecheisen, President & CEO

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Hillsborough: 919.732.2123 • Caswell County: 336.421.1296

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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

