



South River EMC Communicator

GO PLAY OUTSIDE

Wind blows through your hair as you zip along, completely free of thought. Someone might yell, "slow down!", and you do, at least until you're out of sight and then you head on.

You're four wheeling, or maybe dirt biking, but you're having a blast. You see the hill, or the mud, and you go for it! You land your jump, or you come out of that mud completely covered, either way, you had some fun.



Now how awesome would it be if those experiences happened more often? They can, at Deep Creek ATV park in Linden. Owner, Brian Fulcher, as well as his family and employees, are very interested in giving you the riding experience and time outside.

These South River EMC members offer food and entertainment, all while making every patron feel first class.

Continued on page C

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



South River EMC offices will be closed December 24 and 25 in celebration of Christmas.

Service Awards	B
New Director	D
Weather And Energy Use	E
Energy Smarts	G

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF SERVICE IN 2018



(l-r) Marty Williams, 5 years; Wayne Adams, 5 years; Bill Fultz, 5 years.



Ben Beasley, 5 years.

(l-r) Derek Avery, 10 years; Lacy Auman, 25 years; Tom Carter, 15 years; Steve Sampson, 5 years.



(l-r) Andrew Radford, 5 years; Catherine O'Dell, 25 years; Julie McLeod, 10 years; Robert Talton, 15 years; Lisa Bass, 25 years.



Pamela Gilmore, 20 years.

OUTSIDE cont. from page A

"We have 1,722 acres leased and are using only around half of that right now," said Fulcher. "We will be expanding as we go. We hope to have the largest and best park in North Carolina one day."

The park may be familiar to you if you're local to Linden, you might have slipped onto the property to ride at some point. However, now the Fulcher's lease the property, which allows four wheelers, dirt bikes, and side-by-sides, or UTVs.

"It's an equal balance of the four wheelers and side-by-sides to our site," said Fulcher. "The world has gone ATV crazy and with no sign of it slowing down, we saw an opportunity to do something."

So how did an ATV park find its home in Linden?

The property came to mind because this is where many people in Linden go to ride. The Fulchers decided to provide a more controlled environment.

"My wife, Nicole, my boys, Tristan and Brian, and myself are avid riders along with a lot of our friends, and with the development of neighborhoods, land is being bought everywhere," he said. "This is causing limited places to ride all-terrain vehicles, or ATVs, and off-road toys."

This caused the family to consider their options. What could they do to preserve their favorite pastime?

"It has always been hard to find places to ride and it is only getting more difficult," said Fulcher. "We decided to help fix that problem by opening a park open to ATVs, dirt bikes and other small off-road vehicles."

The terrain has streams and rivers, hills, water holes and tons of memories to be made.

The park is open Fridays from 1 to 10 p.m.; Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person for a day.

"Deep Creek ATV offers the best of the best," said Fulcher. "We have a first-class climate-controlled bath house, top notch shaded RV power and water hook-up campsites, and also plenty of areas for tent camping."

You can come and spend the day exploring the well maintained trail system and then spend the night under the stars.

"Most people camping bring their own cookers," said Fulcher. "But we have a concession trailer here that serves hamburgers, hot dogs, barbecue sandwiches, nachos, ice cream sandwiches and more."

Food, fun and camping? Is there a catch? Quiet time begins at 10 p.m., but you can ride as long as you want to as long as you're not noisy.

The park also holds events from time to time, hosting musicians like Colt Ford and more. These events are typically shared on their web site deepcreekatv.com or their Facebook page.



"We have a lot of big events coming in 2019, and hopefully, we can get Charlie Daniels booked for our Spring Creek Fest in May," he said. "We also plan on having at least two events in the summer and the fall, so it's going to be a busy year upcoming at Deep Creek ATV."

As for the rest of that acreage, plans include more trails, as well as trying to obtain some more property. A welcome center, with a drive-thru for ATVs and side-by-sides to order food, adding cabins for rent and maybe even adding a kids splash pad, are all ideas being considered.

"As long as the support is there, we will keep building and making the most awesome outdoor adventure experience around," said Fulcher.

Deep Creek ATV Park is located at 2601 Slocumb Rd; Linden, NC and for more information on the park, please call 910.929.0658

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

South River EMC is offering three scholarships to the class of 2019.

Eligible students can apply for at least one \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships.

Applicants must:

- Live in a home served by South River EMC.
- Be a senior in high school.

- Have a recommendation from either the high school principal, guidance counselor or teacher. Non-traditional students (i.e. home schooled or December graduate) must provide a letter from their work supervisor or community college advisor.

- Apply no later than January 25, 2019.

- Have taken the SAT or ACT and submit

scores with application.

Scholarships are available online at sremc.com/content/scholarships, or by e-mailing connections@sremc.com.

Handwritten applications are not accepted.

For questions, please



contact South River EMC at 910.892.8071 or connections@sremc.com.

NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED



James W. (J.W.) Simmons will fill the unexpired term of Francis Clifton on the South River EMC Board of Directors.

In order to ensure that the best representative serves Cooperative members, the board of directors welcomed applications from members living in District 3 and conducted interviews.

"Mr. Simmons has had a variety of experiences in his professional career as well as in his community involvement that give him an awareness of community and an understanding of the needs of our members," said Dr. E. Sue Godwin-Baker, president, South River EMC Board of Directors.

Simmons has been a member of South River EMC for many years and he has a keen interest in seeing the Cooperative prosper and grow in the interest of all members.

"I am deeply appreciative and aware of the critical infrastructure that rural electric cooperatives represent to

our homes, businesses, and personal wellbeing in the rural landscape of our great state," said Simmons. "Energy is at the very foundation of what we are and what we can achieve. Now is the time to ensure we all have a bright future and the light to see our way clearly."

Simmons lives in the Clinton area with his wife, Betty. He has over 30 years with Sampson County College serving as Director of Adult Education with specific oversight for, Community Services, Small Business Center, Emergency Services, lifelong learning, etc. Additionally, he is producer and host of the weekly talk show "We Should Know..." on

Star Communications Channel 16.

Simmons is actively involved with the community, serving in many capacities including elder and past board chair at Carr Memorial Christian Church; NC Community College Adult Educators Association; State Employees Credit Union advisory board member; chairperson local emergency planning committee; Clinton Sampson County Rotary Club; Sampson County Substance Abuse Coalition board member; Eastern North Carolina Gang Conference planning committee; and N.C. Law Enforcement Officers Training Association member.

HOW DOES WEATHER AFFECT ENERGY USE?

In months of extreme heat and cold, you might notice an upswing in your energy costs. There are several reasons this occurs, many of which you can control.

Consider your time in the house. During those high and low temperatures, you end up inside to cool off or warm up. Because you're inside, the thermostat might be adjusted over time to make you more comfortable faster. Because heating and cooling is the most expensive energy cost each month, this use impacts costs. Also, especially during the winter, you're inside longer because it gets dark earlier, leading to more energy use.

It's time to consider comfort. When you're inside during the winter you want to be toasty, right? If your home isn't insulated correctly, or has high air infiltration, you might find yourself cool, usually leading to a thermostat adjustment. And since you're inside longer, the system works longer to meet your needs. For example, we recommend you set your thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter. However, if

you set it to 74 degrees, that means your heat pump will work harder and longer to keep up the warmth on cold days. Making some improvements might help.

Smart View is for do-it-yourselfers. This program helps you track your energy use daily, by telling you how much energy was used. Checking your use daily can help you figure out how energy costs are affected by actions. Did you try turning back the thermostat and see savings? Yes!

A SmartEnergy Profile. With a SmartEnergy Profile, you input information about your home and your energy use. This includes items like the thermostat setting, how many refrigerators or TVs you have, the number of LED bulbs in your home, etc. You can be as detailed or vague as your like, however the more detailed you are, the more helpful the program can be to you. Using your thermostat settings with



the local temperatures, the program can calculate your daily energy use based on the weather.

The SmartEnergy Forecaster. The Cooperative knows you have an app for the weather, or you asked Alexa, but what about how the weather affects your energy cost? If you complete a SmartEnergy Profile and visit sremc.com, the weather widget on the bottom will show you a daily energy cost estimate for the week, based on the temperatures and your input settings.

You might notice that **your thermostat** is brought in to play a lot when it comes to energy savings.

Because heating and cooling systems use over half the energy in a home each month, and are controlled by a ther-

mostat, it can directly impact energy savings.

So, when it's cold and you're spending all day inside, look at your thermostat, what is it set at? Do you leave it that way all day? If you've set up your SmartEnergy Profile, what does the SmartEnergy Forecaster say your daily cost will be, and when you look the next day, does it match what your SmartView says? This doesn't account for all activities in the home, because the forecaster and profile do not account for how many loads of laundry you washed one day or how many meals were cooked for how long.

Still looking for ways to save energy? Visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 and speak to one of the Advise Guys.



Insulation can help improve comfort and savings.

Keep Your Home Efficient, No Matter What You're Doing

Whether visiting or hosting family, by making a few improvements, you can save energy no matter your plans.

Stopping air infiltration, or the entrance of outside air inside and vice versa, improves comfort and cost.

By caulking and weather strip-

ping, you prevent air infiltration, as well as unnecessary thermostat adjustment. When you're uncomfortable one of the biggest mistakes you can make, is adjusting the thermostat.

Caulk and weather strip so that when you're heating and cooling your home, you can enjoy it, not pay to lose it.

Heat can also escape and enter if there is insufficient or no insulation in your attic or floor. Insulation prevents heat transfer, which includes heat loss and gain.

Visit sremc.com for a list of areas to check, as well as rebates offered. You can also call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

Celebrate More, Worry Less

It's the holiday season and you want to enjoy time with family and friends and not worry about costs. It can be done, but how?

Since the greatest portion of your energy costs is from heating and cooling, start with the system itself. Having an energy efficient system and using it correctly can help you save.

How do you know if it's efficient? Look at the seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER rating, it measures the cooling

efficiency of an HVAC system. The higher the SEER rating, the more efficient the system.

Also important is the type of system. Most common is the air source heat pump, which pulls warm air from the surrounding area. They are the most affordable, but not the most efficient. A mini split system, with an indoor and outdoor unit, and lacking ductwork, is good for spaces not connected to central heating and cooling systems. The geothermal heat

pump is more expensive, but extremely efficient as it pulls heat from the relatively constant ground temperature. Because ground temperature has little fluctuation, a geothermal system can help save money and energy.

Once you decide on a system, make sure to check the rebates offered by South River EMC for those higher SEER models, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

What's In An Appliance?

Just look at Energy Star certified appliances, earning the certification means that the appliance has undergone strict testing and has shown a significant savings to consumers.

Energy Star appliances typically use less energy and water, which means spending less money.

If you're in the market for a clothes washer or dryer, re-

frigerator or dehumidifier, look to Energy Star for savings. You could also be eligible for a rebate from South River EMC. For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Water Heater Compare, Contrast, Repeat

When you're suddenly without hot water, it's priority one.

Don't just purchase on the fly, be prepared. Know what type of system you want, and what energy savings and rebates are available.

Let's start with your standard storage water heater. It's affordable, but not overly efficient, continuously working to keep water warm when not in use. Space required depends on system size.

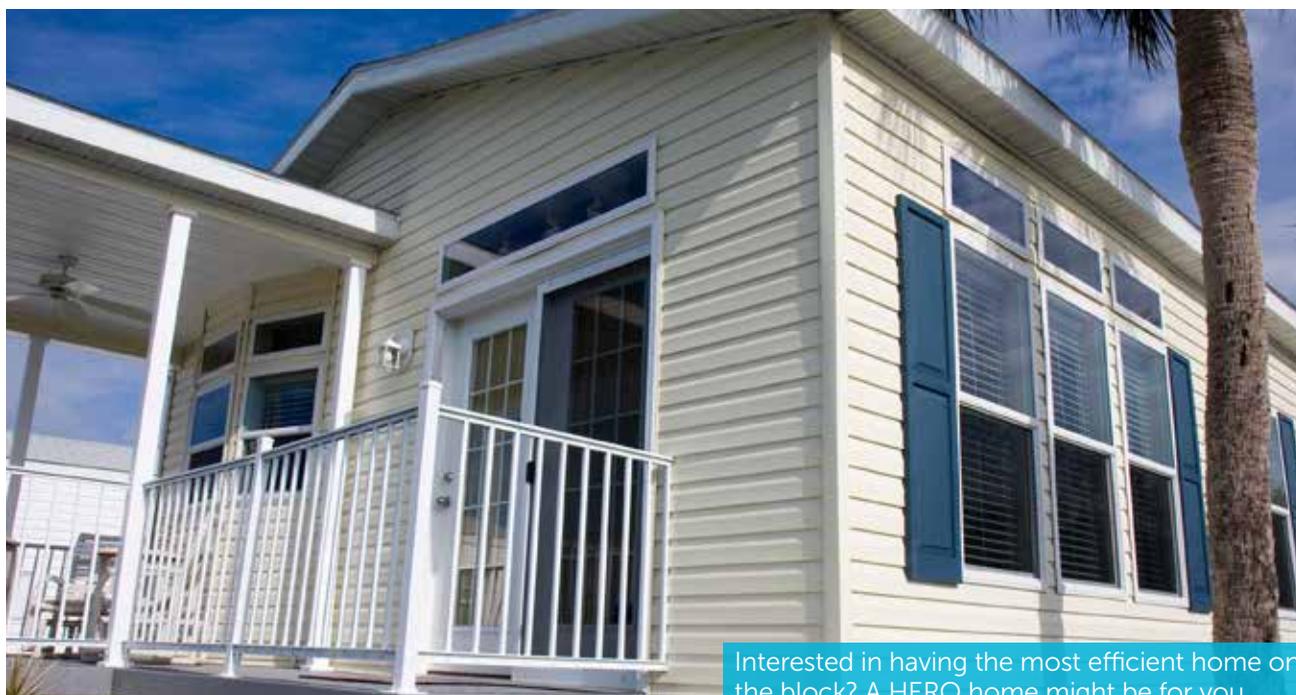
A heat pump water heater, or HPWH, is slightly higher priced than a conventional system, but

can recoup that money through energy savings. An HPWH uses electricity to move heat, rather than produce it, making it 2-3 times more efficient. It must be located in an area of about 1,000 cu. ft., which remains in the 40-90 degree range year-round. It is eligible for a \$200 rebate from South River EMC.

A solar water heater is popular because it uses a free resource to heat water. However, the questions on this system usually revolve around resource and cost. Does your family use enough hot water to make it cost efficient? Is there enough

sun at your home? You might say yes, but you should speak with a solar water heater installer to run projections before deciding. You must also make sure there are no codes to prohibit the placement of solar unit on your roof. Solar water heaters are wonderful energy savers if you have the right pieces. South River EMC offers a \$150 rebate on solar water heaters.

Be sure to speak with installers familiar with each system to find the best fit for your household. For complete rebate details, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 X 2152.



Interested in having the most efficient home on the block? A HERO home might be for you.

Is Your Ductwork Costing You Comfort and Money?

Have you ever noticed that some rooms in your home are more comfortable than others? The difference you feel from room to room could be a direct result of a leaky duct system. A typical home loses 20-30 percent of conditioned air due to holes, leaks and ducts installed incorrectly.

A leaky duct system can be costly and uncomfortable for homeowners and their families. What are some of the negative impacts leaky ducts have on your home? You may notice higher energy bills. When cooled or heated air is lost through leaky ducts, the system will run longer to reach the desired thermostat temperature. The longer the system runs, the higher the bill will be. Flexible ducts that are kinked or tangled can also cause the system to run longer due to airflow restriction. It is important to make sure the duct system is installed properly to prevent this.

Savings, comfort, air quality and safety are a few of the benefits of having a properly sealed duct system. A properly sealed duct system can help reduce the energy wasted in your home. It increases efficiency and helps

lower your bills. You will also notice that your comfort level is improved; all conditioned air that is now able to flow throughout your home. The air quality in your home improves because the system no longer brings in pollutants from the attic or crawlspace.

A leaky duct system can cause pressure issues in the home. When a home has leaky supply ducts, it creates a negative pressure within the home. If the supply ducts are in the crawl space, the system is delivering conditioned air into the crawl space and not the main living space. Outside air will then force its way into the house because of the negative pressure created within the house. The negative pressure could also create a backdraft in homes with a fireplace and/or gas appliances. Installing carbon monoxide detectors and sealing ductwork improves safety. A home that has return duct leakage will do the opposite and create a positive pressure forcing air outside the home.

You can perform a visual inspection of your ductwork to see if it needs attention. Make sure the connections are sealed well. If you have flex ducts,



Advise Guy Eric Gainey

make sure they are straight or have gentle curves. Make sure they are not kinked or tangled. Seal the leaks, holes, and connections with duct sealant or metal-backed tape. Ensure that ducts that are located in unconditioned spaces are wrapped with duct insulation. If you have questions regarding ductwork or insulation, call Eric Gainey at 910.892.8071.

South River EMC
Communicator



Follow Us! [southriveremc](#)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335
910.892.8071
800.338.5530
www.sremc.com