



South River EMC Communicator

Lighting The Way In Bolivia

In May, two South River EMC linemen embarked on an adventure of a lifetime. These local men joined 11 linemen from six other North Carolina electric cooperatives to travel to Bolivia for an experience that was life changing for the residents of a small

village and the line workers alike.



Tim Williams and Derek Avery served as part of the Brighter World Initiative team to build infrastructure to connect the village of Laphía to the electric grid. More than

120 people in the mountainous, agricultural community in central Bolivia now have access to improved education and economic opportunities, as well as power for their homes and the local school.

“Bolivia was a great experience,” said Lineman Tim Williams. “The people on the mountain in Laphia were living hard — no electricity, streams of running water down the mountain for washing or

continued on page B



South River EMC offices will be closed Thursday, July 4, in celebration of the holiday.

Outage Texting	C
Summer Pursuits	D
Stay Back, Stay Safe	E
Energy Smarts	F-H

BOLIVIA continued from page A

cooking. They live like we would camp, with bare essentials.”

Lineman Derek Avery added, “The trip was amazing.” He continued, “Bolivia is a beautiful place and the villagers were helpful. They still live and work off the land. This trip made me appreciate what we have (in the United States), technology and our way of life.”

The Brighter World Initiative brought together 13 expert line workers from seven North Carolina electric co-ops to build about five miles of power lines. Most of the work, including pulling long spans of wire and lifting heavy transformers, was done by hand, as access to trucks and machinery was limited. Local villagers worked with the team to help navigate the most challenging terrain, including crossing a 2,000-foot ravine.

“The work was hard and all by hand, but it was a great learning experience,” said Avery. “I enjoyed the opportunity and hope I can go on another trip (in the future).”



South River EMC Linemen Derek Avery (left) and Tim Williams

At the completion of the 18-day project, community members, local leaders and volunteers gathered at the school for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration. Cheers, applause and fireworks rang out when line workers flipped the switch to illuminate lightbulbs throughout the school building for the first time. Each volunteer was given a traditional poncho and knit hat and a necklace of fresh flowers grown in the community as a thank you gift.

“The villagers were very excited to see us, more and more every day, as we built the power lines,” said Williams. “The language was

a barrier, but that didn’t seem to bother them or us.”

South River EMC employees raised over \$500 for the purchase of books and soccer balls for the children. Linemen presented the books to the children, along with school supplies from other cooperatives, during the celebration.

Village leaders told cooperative representatives that having electricity will create new economic and educational opportunities and a stronger community, as young people will be able to stay in the village, rather than moving to the city.

The experience of working with other line workers on such an important project, so far from home, led to a special camaraderie among the volunteers.

“The linemen we worked with were an unbelievable team,” said Avery. “We all got along well and worked hard together. We are all brothers.”

Williams added, “We all worked hard; we laughed, we cried, we shared as if we knew each other

continued on page C



The school is now awash with electric lights.

Don't Be Left In The Dark, Sign-Up For Outage Texting

To sign up, text SREMCTEXT to 888.338.5530 and follow the prompts. You will need your South River EMC account number. Your cell phone number must be on your electric account, as it matches you with your service location.

You can also opt-in with the assistance of a member service representative in the office or over the phone.

Once enrolled, you'll be able to use key words to report an outage (#out), check the status (#status), and be notified once power has been restored.

Opt-out at any time, text STOP to 888.338.5530.

***Data and messaging fees may apply.*



Bolivia continued from page B
the whole time. The other line-
men are my brothers. It didn't
take us any time to become
friends and to look after each
other — just as we do here at
home on storms. It was a great
group from North Carolina.”

More than one billion people live
without electric power around
the world, according to the Inter-
national Energy Agency, and only
66 percent of rural Bolivians had
access to electricity as of 2016.

The Brighter World Initiative was
coordinated through NRECA

International, a national coop-
erative philanthropic group that
has brought electricity to more
than 120 million people in 43
developing countries since 1962.

BASEBALL CAMP DATES STILL OPEN

For young baseball lovers, there's still time to apply for the remaining scholarships offered for SwampDogs day camp July 10 and July 30.

This opportunity, offered by South River EMC and the Fayetteville SwampDogs,

allows four students, between the ages of 5-13, to attend one of the two remaining day camps.

Interested in sending your child? Mail or e-mail the following information to our

office: student's name, address, age, a daytime phone number and the camp dates you want the student entered.

Mail to:
South River EMC
Camp Scholarship
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335

E-mail: connections@sremc.com

Submission deadlines are July 3 and 23.

Scholarships only cover the cost of camp. Parents or guardians are responsible for

transportation to and from the stadium on the camp day, which runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lunch and a snack will be provided. Campers may bring their own equipment, but are not required to do so.

Not selected? Your child can attend camp one day for \$50, or two days for \$90.

You can register your child to attend camp at goswampdogs.com.



IT'S THE PERFECT TIME FOR A BRIGHT IDEA

Not all children learn in the same way. Because of that, teachers are always looking for new ways to reach their students.

However, many of these ways turn out not to be in the school's budget for the year, that's why programs like Bright Ideas are so beneficial to educators.

Bright Ideas is a grant program that offers funding for innovative, classroom ideas. They can be for any subject in the public K-12 school system. Grants

cannot be for professional development.

Grants can be written for any amount up to \$2,500. South River EMC typically funds over \$50,000 a year in grants.

Since 1994, educators statewide have received \$12.2 million to fund 11,699 projects, affecting 2.2 million students.

Applications are now being accepted; educators with applications in by the early bird deadline of August 15, are eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The

final application deadline is September 23.

South River EMC accepts applications online only at ncbrightideas.com.

Interested in learning more? Visit sremc.com or e-mail sremc@sremc.com.



GIVE US THOSE A'S!

South River EMC will be holding a "Give Us An A" drawing July 16.

The drawing is held for students achieving at least one A on their report card.

Grab your child's end-of-the-year report card containing at least one

'A' on it and submit it to:

South River EMC
"Give Us An A"
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335

Or: connections @ sremc.com.

Each of the 15 students whose names

are drawn will receive a \$25 gift card.

You must include the member's name, address, South River EMC account number, and daytime telephone number. Report cards will not be accepted without this information.

The program is open to students who are members, or children of members, of South River EMC.

Don't miss this opportunity to be recognized for good grades and a popular award.

Report cards must be submitted by July 15.

STAY BACK AND STAY SAFE

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for line workers. In fact, USA Today lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for South River EMC, safety is the No. 1 priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety, and that of the community, above all else.

Our mission is to

provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our members. Equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance — and your help!

Distractions can be deadly. While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on the task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to

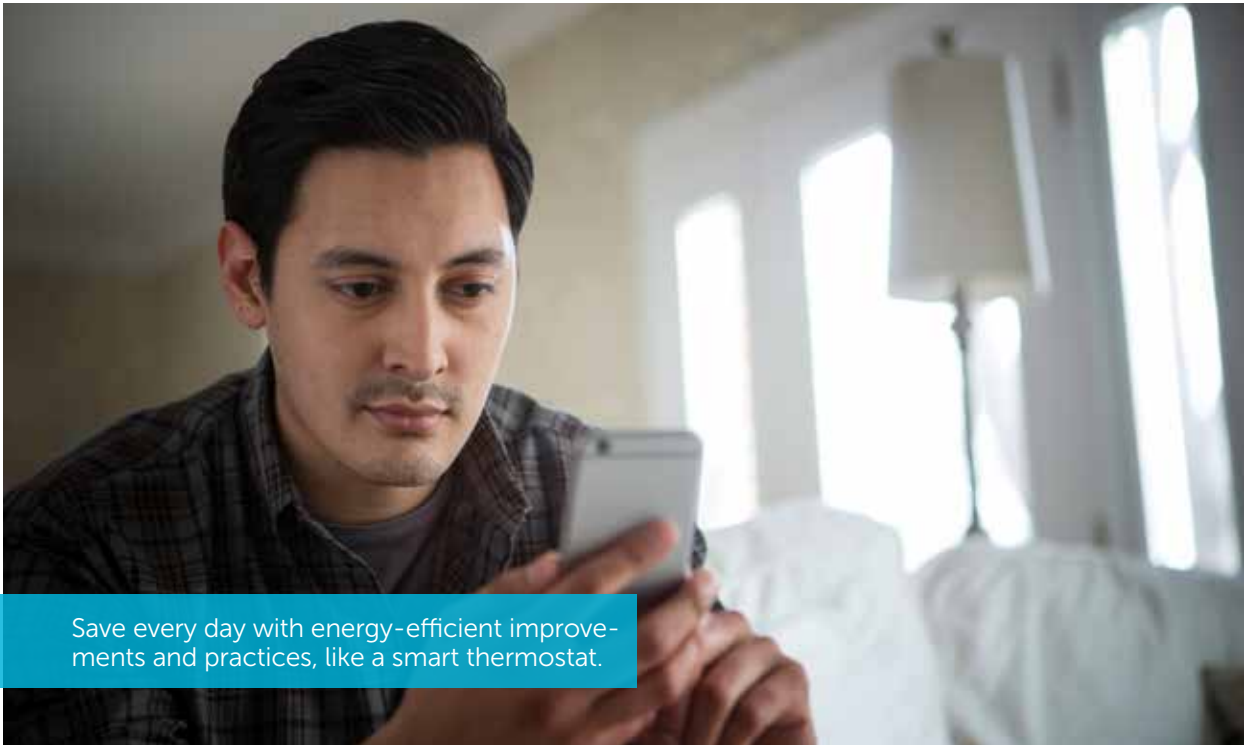
be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a line worker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews — and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while line workers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize South River EMC employees by the logo on their apparel, and the vehicles with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our line workers because they live right here in our local community.

Slow down and move over. In addition to giving line workers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is the law in North Carolina and it provides an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.





Save every day with energy-efficient improvements and practices, like a smart thermostat.

A Smart Thermostat Can Help You Save

If you're looking for ways to save on these hot days, look no further than your thermostat. Your thermostat controls your HVAC system, when it comes on, and how long it runs, because it sets the temperature.

A smart thermostat looks at your settings and gauges their

efficiency, is it more effective for your cooling system to be on for two hours or three hours before you get home?

Smart thermostats are easy to use, and wi-fi compatible, so if you altered a setting one evening and didn't remember until you were at work the next

morning, as long as you have wi-fi, you can change it back.

If this sounds appealing, listen up, South River EMC offers a rebate on smart thermostats, for details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Improving Comfort And Cost In The Heat

Insulating and weatherizing improves comfort and costs, however it might not be something you think about a lot.

Until you're sitting in your house, looking at your electric bill, wondering how you used this much energy. How much of that energy is actually being wasted?

By allowing air to move in and out of your home unchecked, you could be wasting energy and money. By caulking

non-moving parts, and weather-stripping moving parts, like doors and windows, you prevent air infiltration, or the movement of outdoor air in, and vice versa. This can improve comfort without adjusting the thermostat and costing money.

Adding insulation, which prevents heat loss and gain, is another way to save. By making sure your insulation is the appropriate resistance, or R-value, and that it is fluffy and fully cov-

ering the area, you're blocking heat. Blocked heat means heat blocked out in the summer and kept in during the winter, which tends to lead to more comfortable temperatures.

Making these upgrades can come with a payback as well, South River EMC offers rebates for improvements, such as weatherization and insulation, for details on what is available visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

Energy Star Appliances Can Help Save

When it's time to replace an appliance, replace it with Energy Star, guaranteed to save energy compared to similar models.

And used correctly, you could

garner even more savings. If you use cold water for washing more loads of laundry, savings. Waiting to wash only full loads? Savings.

South River EMC rebates on Energy Star certified clothes washers and dryers, refrigerators and dehumidifiers. For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

The Perfect Time To Replace The Pool Pump

There's never a bad time to replace an inefficient pool pump. A single-speed pump uses the highest power and water level for every task, and that adds up.

A variable or two-speed-pool pump, allows water and energy flow to be more tailored to

pump activities, like filtering.

Cut down on pump run time and see if it saves energy, as pool pumps are often run longer than necessary. If water circulates while chemicals are added, they should remain mixed. Remove debris using a

skimmer or vacuum.

The right pump and practices can keep your pool clean and enjoyable without running up the cost.

For information on pool pump rebates, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.9871 x 2152.

Your Water Heater Matters

You probably don't think too much about your water heater until it goes out and you are stuck taking a cold shower.

Replacing A Unit

Know what type of system you want: solar water heater; standard water heater; or heat pump water heater. With several types of systems, begin by

finding the one best for your home.

Look at pricing. What store has the best price on the system you want? Are there any kind of discounts? Then, start saving. If you save for an expense like this, you'll have it ready when needed.

When your water heater goes out, don't panic, you have a decision made based on price and efficiency, which helps savings.

South River EMC also offers rebates on solar water heaters, \$150, and heat pump water heaters, \$200. For details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.



Solar water heating is just one of the options homeowners have for water heating.

Staying Cool In The Heat

When it's hot you want to be cool, and that often comes with a price, especially if your heating and cooling system is inefficient.

Replacing an older and inefficient unit with one that has a higher seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating, will help improve comfort and cost. A higher SEER rating means a more efficient cooling system for your home.

A more efficient cooling system means less time fiddling with the thermostat.

Because you're uncomfortable, you adjust the thermostat, causing your unit to run longer, and an older, inefficient unit, will use more energy to meet the demand for cooling. It might just be time to replace.

Purchasing a high-efficiency system and using it efficiently is key. If you avoid adjusting the thermostat, you could see savings.

For details on the heating and cooling rebate offered by South



River EMC, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 X 2152.

HERO Homes, Keeping Energy Costs Down When Possible

If you're considering a new home, think HERO. High Efficiency Residential Option, or HERO, homes are 30 percent more efficient than homes built to code.



This is due to complying fully with a list of specific requirements for things like insulation, high-efficiency lighting, window U-factors, whole house tightness and duct leakage testing, among other things. Of course, it's not the only way though.

You could also obtain an energy cost analysis (provided to you by your HERS Rater and signed-off by a Design Professional) as proof that the home you are building will have energy costs that are less than or equal to that

same home built to HERO Code requirements. This does not allow for HVAC or water heating trade-offs to achieve compliance. In other words, higher efficiency equipment will not help you, because the HERO Code is focused solely on improvements in the thermal enclosure.

South River EMC offers several rebates for home buyers and builders for which information can be found at sremc.com or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2153.

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