



South River EMC Communicator

AN EPIC TRIP FOR STUDENTS

Want to score big with your teen? Tell them about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Each summer, South River EMC sends three rising high school juniors or seniors on a week-long, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. (June 20-26, 2020). The best part, it's with kids their own age!

The Youth Tour offers students the highlights of Washington, D.C., including visiting monuments, museums, attending an all-states dance, taking a boat ride down the Potomac, participating in youth day, meeting with members of Congress, and taking in a game or show.

Students who are selected to represent South River EMC on the Youth Tour will also be eligible to receive a \$1,000 college scholarship. Applications are due December 18.

For more information, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071.



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VETERANS CREATING COMMUNITY

Just outside of Fayetteville, off I-95, you can find an unexpected treasure that offers a variety of special events, great food, entertainment, craft beer and community. If you haven't already, it's time to check out Dirtbag Ales.

"Dirtbag Ales was formed in 2013 by two Army veterans," said co-founder, Eric Whealton. "More or less on a whim after years of garage brewing on a homemade system."

According to the website, it was a wonderful meeting of Vernardo Simmons-Valenzuela's, or Tito, as everyone calls him, tasty brews and Whealton's belief in the brews that got this venture started.

But how do you decide you want your brand to carry the name Dirtbag?

"Someone was eavesdropping on a conversation I was having about a 30-pound ale," said Simmons-Valenzuela. "They asked, what a dirtbag ale is, and I thought it is a great name for a beer."

As the story goes, with little capital and even less industry experience, it was decided to

establish a proof-of-concept, which is a pilot program demonstrating that a business proposal is feasible. Ultimately, the team planned to start a brewery in a town not typically known for craft beer, Fayetteville.

"By 2014, we acquired the appropriate licensing and began to contract brew with Railhouse Brewery in Aberdeen," said Whealton. "We made one batch of beer, our Blood Orange Kolsch, and we became the sales team and distributors."

Always trying to convey a professional presence, using their own vehicles for delivering kegs, it wasn't long before Dirtbag Ales built up their client base. With Blood Orange Kolsch as the staple, the team added The IPA and Cold Brew Mocha Porter to their sales.

With proof-of-concept achieved, they worked with the Center for Economic Empowerment and Development (CEED), a local non-profit for business start-ups, to receive their first loan.

With a 4,000-square-foot warehouse behind a gas station and auto shop, equipment was



bought and beer was made. Within about six months that space became part production house and part tap room. That's about the time Dirtbag Ales picked up its third and final partner, Jerry Hall.

Another Army veteran, Hall also has a business background as owner of Hall's Tree Service. As business continued to prosper, they hired Operations Manager Shannon Loper, and they've been going ever since.

"Our little warehouse with a dirt parking lot behind a gas station was suddenly packing out on a regular basis," said Whealton. "In 2017, we raised the most money for the U.S.O. of any brewery or bar across all of North Carolina."

Carrying a "best place to get a beer in Fayetteville" title from the Fayetteville Observer in

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Hours of Operation: Monday, closed; Tuesday, 5–10 p.m.; Wednesday, 5–10 p.m.; Thursday, 5–10 p.m.; Friday, 5–11p.m.; Saturday, 12–11p.m.; Sunday, 10a.m.–5p.m.

2017, it became obvious that it was either time to grow or get out.

Growing brought them to their current location at 5435 Corporation Dr. in Hope Mills, an 8,000-square-foot production and tap room space.

The space comes in handy when they can their products, available in local restaurants, Food Lion, Publix and Harris Teeter.

"We have 20 in-house brewed beers, a dog park, a kids play area, a restaurant, indoor and outdoor seating," Loper said. "We host the farmer's market, have local art, live music, a covered pavilion and a sports field."

And that space is put to use. From spring to fall, the farmer's market benefits the brewery and the restaurant, as they both work with the local vendors for their brews and menus.

The walk-up restaurant, Napkins (@NapkinsRestaurant), helmed by Brian Graybill, often posts their menu on the restau-



Hope Demetris checks on the recipe being mixed.



Come on in and see what's on tap this season.

rant's Facebook page, and is constantly changing based on food availability at the market. Napkins also coordinates food to match the brewery's events. For example, their Oktoberfest celebration brought bratwurst, pommes frites, and soft pretzels with mustard.

That's not all Dirtbag Ale offers.

"The driving factor for Dirtbag Ales is creating a sense of community," said Simmons-Valenzuela. "That and making really good beers."

Their space plays host to events like school sports team practices and ax throwing competitions. Their next event will be a German Christmas Market (Weihnachtsmarkt).

Dirtbag Ales has quite a social presence. If you are interested in what they have to offer, visit their website (dirtbagales.com), Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@DirtbagAles) pages.

Inside, artwork is from local artists and of course, available for sale, the same goes for the tables, made of reclaimed wood and road signs, among other things.

Their pavilion is also made from reclaimed wood; all-in-all, it's a lesson in sustainability. Dirtbag Ales is committed to being good environmental and community stewards.

"We also do fundraisers for local charities on a nearly perpetual basis," said Whealton. "With all that said, we never lose focus on what we are at the core, a locally owned and operated craft brewery."

The team works with many organizations, such as the National Association of Out Professionals (NAOP), Sustainable Sandhills, Kidspeace, Seth's Wish, a running club, a cycling club and more.

If you haven't heard of Dirtbag Ales, take a minute to check it out. You might hit it on a day with a food truck, or a great fundraiser. There's a little something for everyone, they even boast the only female brewer in Cumberland County!

Be sure to check out the calendar on their website to find out what exciting activities are happening.

DIRECTOR RECEIVES CERTIFICATION

District Three Director J.W. Simmons recently received his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) designation and certificate.

The first part of NRECA's three-part Director Education Program, the CCD program consists of five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors.

The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership. Upon completion of all five CCD courses, directors are awarded the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate by NRECA. Once the CCD is completed, participants can then pursue the Board Leadership Certificate.



(l to r) Vice President, Kelly Harrington, District One, presents J.W. Simmons, District Three, with his certificate.

STREET LIGHT Need Repair?

Take these steps:

- 1 Get the pole number from the yellow tag on the light pole.
- 2 Complete the "Street Light Repair" Form found at sremc.com/node/139. Or, call 910.892.8071.
- 3 We will confirm your request and repairs will be scheduled.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

South River EMC is preparing for the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members. At a meeting of the Cooperative board of directors, the nominating committee was appointed in accordance with the Cooperative bylaws.

This committee, made up of a representative from each of the directorate districts, will make recommendations for directors from districts 1, 2 and At-Large.

Anyone interested in running for a seat in any of the districts up for election in 2020 can contact any member of the committee by January 7.

Members can also be placed on the ballot by submitting an authorized petition form 45 business days prior to the annual meeting. The petition must include the full name of the member and the district they wish to represent.

The petition must also contain the printed names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least 150 South River EMC members.

Anyone interested in obtaining an authorized petition form should contact Barbara West-Lee at 910-230-2966 or online at sremc.com/content/annual-meeting.



District 1 - Van Buie, 1680 Buie Rd., Broadway; represents South River EMC service area west of Highway 401 in Harnett County.

District 2 - Raylon Wood, 71 Unity Church Rd., Four Oaks; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 421 and north of Highway 13 in Sampson and Johnston counties.

District 3 - Iris Lucas, 887 Junious Lucas Rd., Faison; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 242 and south of Highway 13 in Sampson County.

District 4 - Johnnie Baggett, 1108 Fayetteville Hwy., Dunn; represents South River EMC service area in Sampson County southwest of Highway 421

and west of Highway 242, east of Dunn Road and Carroll Store Road to Maxwell Rd., east of South River School Rd. and Bluman Rd. to the Harnett-Sampson-Cumberland county lines and north to Highway 421.

District 5 - Anthony "Tony" Warren, 2392 Andrews Chapel Church Rd., Roseboro; represents South River EMC service area south of Maxwell Rd., west of Carroll Store Rd. and Dunn Rd., west of Highway 242 and Highway 411 to Highway 701, northeast of Old Fayetteville Rd. and Turnbull Rd. to the Sampson-Cumberland county line and north to Maxwell Rd.

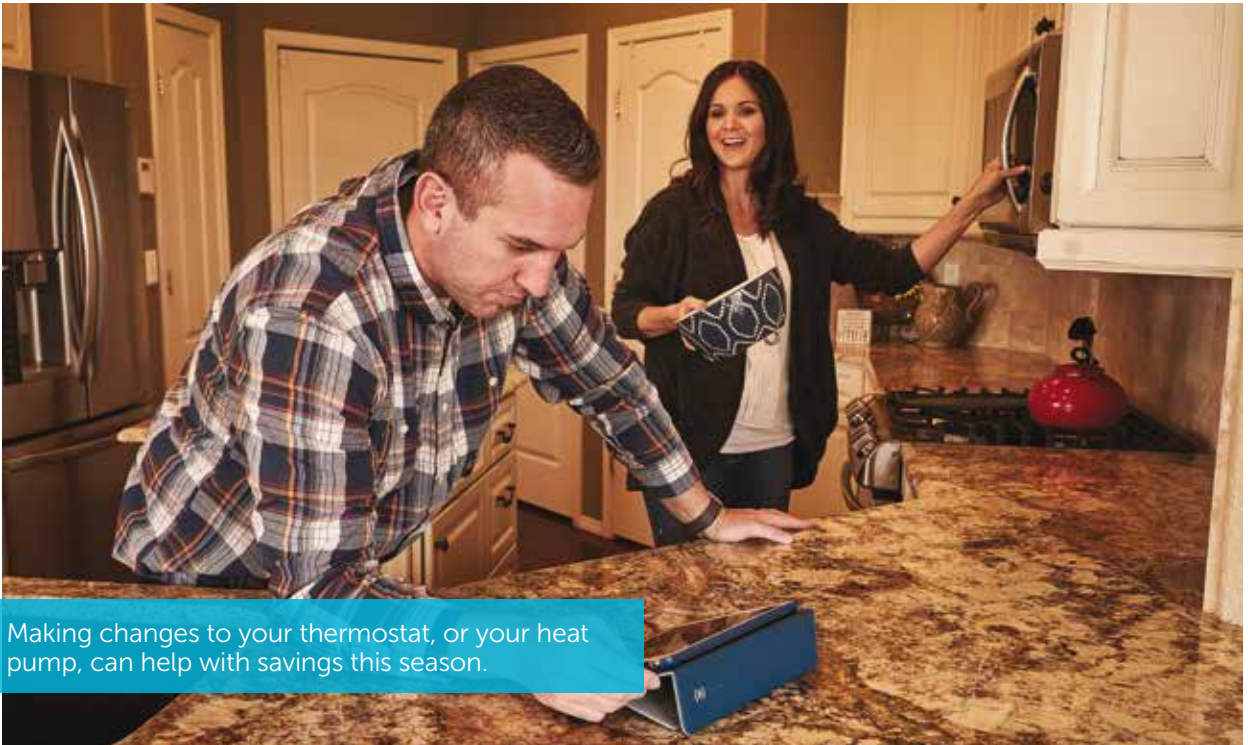
District 6 - Carol Hudson, 3661 Murphy Rd., Fayetteville; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County

north of Highway 24, east of the Cape Fear River, south of the Cumberland-Harnett county line and west of the Cumberland-Sampson county line.

District 7 - Warren Paul Jones, 5280 Loop Rd., Linden; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, west of the Cape Fear River, south of the Cumberland-Harnett county line, and all of Harnett County east of Highway 401.

District 8 - Walter Clark, 1124 Pony Dr., Hope Mills; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland and Bladen counties, south of Highway 53.

At Large - Alexander Drake Eastman, 955 Butler Rd., Samburg; may nominate from any South River EMC district.



Making changes to your thermostat, or your heat pump, can help with savings this season.

Don't Let The Weather Impact Your Costs

Whether you're heating or cooling, it affects your bill. The more you run your heating and cooling equipment, the more energy you use. Then there is the age of the system, and you might wonder why it matters, but it does. The older a unit gets, the less efficient it becomes and the harder it must work to meet demand. That's on top of lower thermostat set-

tings in the summer and higher settings in the winter.

You don't need to replace your heating and cooling system often, in most cases you couldn't afford to do so, but when it does come time to replace, be prepared. If you are replacing a heat pump, select one that is 17 SEER or greater, it might be costlier initially, but that is made up for in energy savings

each year. Be sure to consult a professional to ensure you are installing an appropriately sized unit. South River EMC offers rebates on high-efficiency air-source, mini-split and geothermal heat pumps.

Details on rebates can be found at sremc.com or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2152. Information on these types of units can be found at energy.gov.

Thermostat Changing Can Be Done From Almost Anywhere

Regulate the temperature of your home from your smart device, get energy use information and take advantage of energy-savings when you upgrade to a smart thermostat.

If you have someone who likes to change the thermostat, don't let it affect your costs. With access to Wi-Fi and apps, you can adjust thermostat settings from just about anywhere.

However, with the control offered and the ability to help you learn, why wouldn't you consider a smart thermostat? Especially with the rebate offered by South River EMC.

Why delay? Ask family and friends who have a smart thermostat or read about them online—you might wonder what you've been missing.

If you know someone with a smart thermostat, ask about it. Consumers are usually happy to discuss the positive and negatives of products.

For more information, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

HERO Homes Benefit Many

High efficiency residential options, or HERO homes, help save energy. In doing so, they also improve comfort with slightly better insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment, and lighting packages. These improvements net around

30 percent savings compared to a standard-built home.

What does that mean for you? If you build a HERO-certified home, it means a comfortable home with savings and who doesn't love that?

Builders and buyers can benefit from building or purchasing a HERO-certified home in the South River EMC service area. For details, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

Don't Lose Conditioned Air, Make Repairs Or Improvements

We're reaching that time of year where summer might be a fond memory, but boy did it hang on this year!

Now that you're settling into a cooler season though, you have got to be prepared, because those things that bugged you about cooling during the summer, will continue to bug you into the heating season.

You might say you weren't bothered at all, but did anyone in your house ever say it was

too hot? Was the thermostat adjusted frequently? This could be a sign of air infiltration, or the exit of indoor air outside and vice versa. This is a problem because you're losing the air you paid to heat or cool.

Check around doors and windows, where weather stripping might need to be replaced, or where caulking needs replacing, like around plumbing penetrations and outlet covers. There are quite a few places you can lose heat or air.

You could also be losing or gaining heat where there is insufficient insulation. Measured by its resistance, or R-value, to heat, you could be losing heat in the winter and gaining heat in the summer. Hot areas in the summer and cold areas in the winter need to be checked.

By doing a few small activities here and there, you could improve comfort, as well as being eligible for a rebate. For details, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.



Sharing improvements with our youngest members pays off for everyone in savings.

Two To Three Costs For Appliances

When you're purchasing an appliance, do you look at what it will cost you to run? Appliances have two costs, sometimes three. There's the cost to purchase, the cost to run, and sometimes, the cost for water use by the appliance.

That's why making sure that appliances are Energy Star certified is the first step you should take in selecting a new appliance.

Energy Star certified appliances undergo rigorous testing to show their energy and water savings. And while they might have a higher purchase price, that price can be made up for in savings each month.

South River EMC offers a rebate on Energy Star certified refrigerators, clothes washer and dryers, and dehumidifiers.

You don't have to stop there, see where else you can save by comparing Energy Star to a standard replacement.

For details on the rebate, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Don't Let The Cost Stop You From Water Heater Savings

When your water heater goes out is your first thought, "how much will this cost" or "how soon can this be done?" In most cases it is a time-sensitive decision; however, by considering units before the inevitable happens, you can make a cost efficient and timely decision, which can also be one that helps you save energy and money.

While the tried and true storage water heater is most consumers' go-to replacement, it doesn't have to be, consider a heat pump water heater.

Yes, they are more costly than a storage water heater, but they are two to three times more efficient because they move heat, rather than creating it. They require installation in locations that remain in the 40-90 degree range year-

round and require at least 1,000 cubic feet of space around the water heater.

If you can check all those boxes, this might be the type of unit you need, but maybe it isn't what you want. Solar water heaters are still drawing plenty of interest, and for good reason, they'll help your energy costs, their energy is free.

Though price has come down on them somewhat, you will definitely want to make sure this is a cost-effective option for you. Don't install a system that takes you years to recover the cost of installation. A family of four is more likely to recover the cost of such a unit faster than a family of two due to the amount of water used. You also must make sure you receive enough

sun. While you might believe that you do, check with several installers to give you an idea of the cost as well as the amount of sun you receive.

If you decide on one, there are a lot of options available, passive or active, collector or storage, and several subcategories under those.

If your water heater is getting old, it's time to look for one to help you save.

South River EMC offers a \$200 rebate on the heat pump water heater and \$150 rebate on the solar water heater. For details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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