



South River EMC Communicator

HUNTING FOR A CAUSE

Hunting has been a way of life for centuries, for food and sport. When you shoot a deer, you track it, retrieve it and clean it, every hunter knows the drill.

Little has changed through the years, when a hunter shoots a deer, he or she is responsible for finding, cleaning and safely disposing of the carcass. In some instances a hunter will have a good season and have a glut of meat. Some hunters just like to hunt for sport. Whatever they case, meat shouldn't go to waste when there are people in the community who can use it.

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation has a local chapter, the South Wake Conservationists, which has a deer donation site outside of Lillington. The program received funding through Operation Round Up recently to help process the donated venison.

Judy and Guy Gardner are involved with Hunters for the Hungry (HFTH), which takes legally harvested deer and donates it to food banks.

"This program helps people in need," said Judy. "It also helps to responsibly manage the deer population, many times you don't realize their impact on areas."

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South River EMC offices will be closed **December 24 & 25** for Christmas, and **January 1** in celebration of the new year.

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MESSAGE FROM CEO CHRIS M. SPEARS

REVIEW OF 2019 – LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

As we review 2019 and recent years, I am reminded of how blessed we are. Our employees have remained safe, the Cooperative has enhanced its distribution and transmission system, we have experienced improvements in reliability and we have gone 6 years without a rate increase. During this time your cooperative absorbed approximately \$9 million in coal ash expense and a \$3.9 million increase in wholesale power expense. In spite of increased expenses, South River EMC was able to issue millions of dollars in member credits and a Power Cost Rebate. At the same time more than \$50 million has been invested in the distribution and transmission system.

Looking ahead to 2020, we hope it will be possible to go another year without a rate increase. In September we learned that we will receive an estimated \$4.5 million decrease in our wholesale power cost for 2020 from our power supplier, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), which will certainly help our financial situation. It should be noted that around 65% of our total expense is

related to the wholesale power purchased on behalf of our members. NCEMC is striving to provide a good value for its member cooperatives, just as South River EMC strives to do the same for you, our member owners.

Next year, NCEMC will be moving forward with a large project that will involve the installation of 29,000 residential smart thermostats and water heater controls. South River EMC and four other electric cooperatives have been selected to participate in the project. The ability to control or limit electric demand during periods of peak demand, using new technology and innovation, when demand costs are high, has created an opportunity to justify the investment being made by NCEMC.

Other projects for 2020 include a number of system improvements, which involve more substation upgrades, preparing for construction of a transmission line between the Cape Fear and Vander substations, a subdivision lighting project, a focus on underground/padmout transformer maintenance, additional reconductoring projects, a continuation of a formal pole inspection program, a furtherance of an aggressive right of way clearance program and more. We also plan to add

a live chat function to the Cooperative's website and participate with NCEMC on a couple of electric vehicle charging stations, one at Raven Rock State Park and the other at a Food Lion located at Colts Crossing in Stedman.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for April 16, 2020, we are planning to hold a couple of smaller Member Meetings at different locations in 2020. These meetings will most likely include a program, an update on your cooperative and a time to ask questions. A number of cooperatives in North Carolina have held Member Meetings for years and they have become popular with the membership. Such meetings provide an informal atmosphere and allow for more interaction with members. Details concerning the Member Meetings have yet to be determined. If there is sufficient interest, more Member Meetings will take place going forward.

As we conclude 2019, on behalf of our Board of Directors and employees, we thank you for the opportunity to serve you. I also want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

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The Process

Hunters interested in donating a deer, must first report their deer either online at ncwildlife.org, or by calling 1.800.IGO.TONE. You'll receive your ID number, which you'll need to have to legally donate your deer.

"Once they report it, they need to call us at 919.250.8441," said Judy. "Then, they can bring the deer in and we'll begin processing it."

Guy says that when a hunter calls in with a donation, they always ask for their authorization, because that number allows the legal transfer of the deer.

Hunters will need to complete a form before leaving the site.

The deer is cleaned and placed in the cooler at the donation site. Since this is a relatively new project, the group is trying to get out the word to area hunters.

The centralized location (4503 Ross Road, Lillington) makes it easier to take donations, and Guy and Judy are both hunters, so they know a thing or two about deer.



Guy shows the first deer donated this season.



Important Information: The Gardners, 919.250.8441
4503 Ross Road, Lillington

After The Donation

"We make a drive to deliver the deer, so we like to have several before we go," said Guy. "The processors get the deer, and the Elk Lodge receives the skin."

The Operation Round Up grant comes into play when the meat is processed. The deer must be processed by North Carolina Department of Agriculture processors, and while they work at a discounted rate, they still have to be paid.

Operation Round Up funds will help to cover the cost for the growing operation, allowing more deer to be processed.

"We have the meat ground because it is the most versatile," said Judy. "The average deer has about 35 pounds of meat, which can make 160-200 meals for a pantry."

The meat is donated to local community food banks and volunteers work at the sites, handing out recipes for the meat.

"Hunters can designate what food pantries we partner with when they bring a deer donation," said Judy. "As long as it is community based."

Overall, venison is a good choice for food insecure individuals. It's lower in fat, and high in protein,

B-12 and iron. It's also free of hormones and antibiotics.

Deer skin collected is used to make gloves, as well as craft kits, for veterans. Hunters can also donate the lymph nodes for study.

In fact, the whole process is beneficial to more people than you might have thought. Hunters get to enjoy the hunt, their skill feeds the community, and benefits veterans and future generations.

The program also helps farmers, who with a heavy deer population, often find their fields decimated. Hunting keeps the population in check.

"This program has brought the community together," said Judy. "Businesses support it, hunting groups come together for their community, kids are encouraged to learn and participate."

There are only two things the group needs: volunteers, they're always welcome; and fine-grain, no additive salt from Tractor Supply.

RECOGNIZING 415 YEARS OF SERVICE



Left:

(back row, l-r): Jeff Carroll, 30 years; Andy Howard, 30 years; Lisa Ulecki, 30 years; Andrew Garris, 15 years; Tucker Martin, 5 years, Chris Spears, 5 years (24 years with cooperatives total).

(front row, l-r): Maribel Gonzalez, 15 years; Kacey Johnson, 15 years; Kim Gonzales, 25 years.

Inset:
Ray Love, 20 years

Right:

(back row): Kevin Hall, 25 years.

(front row, l-r): Robin Jackson, 15 years; Deborah Shride, 20 years.



Left:

(l-r): Tim Tart, 5 years; Craig Jackson, 30 years; Dale McLamb, 35 years; Daniel Purvis, 5 years.

Not pictured: Mike Colleti, 5 years.

Right:

(l-r): Danny McLaurin, 35 years; Gary Tyndall, 15 years; Troy Dailey, 25 years; Nathaniel Lucas, 10 years.



THAT REPORT CARD WON'T SEND ITSELF



It's time to send in your kids' most recent report card for the "Give Us An A" drawing, to be held February 10.

The drawing is held for students achieving at least one A on their report card. Each of the 15 students whose names are drawn

will receive a \$25 gift card.

The program is open to students who are members, or children of members, of South River EMC. Just make a copy of the most recent report card with at least one A, and send it to the Cooperative.

You must include the member's name, South River EMC account number and a day-time telephone number, report cards will not be accepted without this information.

Report cards should be sent to:
South River EMC
"Give Us An A"
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335

Or scanned and e-mailed to connections@sremc.com.

Report cards are due by close of business, February 10.

COOPERATIVE REFUNDS OVER \$7 MILLION

In November, South River EMC refunded \$4,645,972.54 to 61,704 current and past members. These refunds are called capital credits and it is a special advantage of cooperative membership.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, South River EMC doesn't technically earn profits. Instead, any money remaining at the end of the year, called margins, is returned to the members who purchased energy from the Cooperative.

Following is a breakdown of the numbers:

- 17,197 members will receive refund checks totaling \$3,317,444.20
- 23,507 current members had their refund applied to their electric account
- The remaining refunds for inactive members have been applied to outstanding balances or have been moved to a "hold" status because we do not have a valid current address or the amount is less than \$50.

Capital credit allocations are made each year based on the previous year's margins. Total margins are divided among the members based on the amount of electricity they purchased that year.



This year, the Cooperative is returning 20 percent of the amount allocated to members for 2018 as well as remaining allocations from 1999 and 2000. The remaining 2018 amount will be refunded in 19 years, unless a member leaves South River EMC and chooses the early retirement option.

This retirement of capital credits is in addition to bill credits that were given earlier in the year. Members also received bill credits totaling \$3 million in May as a power cost rebate.

Overall, members have received over \$7 million in refunds, all for being a cooperative member.



See what changes you can make to save energy at sremc.com

Learn That Smart Thermostat

Don't let surprises, like substantial changes to your thermostat, affect your electric costs this winter.

Beat thermostat adjusters at their own game.

Smart thermostats are easy to use, and track energy use to let you know if your settings actually benefit you. Not only will they help you save, they are also eligible for a rebate from South River EMC. For details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

If You Must Replace, Do So With Energy Star

Energy Star appliances save energy, and that means saving money.

If you like the sound of that, when you need to replace an appliance, select an Energy Star certified one. Energy Star appliances undergo rigorous testing to prove their efficiency, which benefits you.

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

Insulating And Weatherizing Make Impact

Keeping comfortable during winter is a joint effort. You've got the thermostat to run your heating and cooling unit and when it's heating your home, you have to keep the heat inside.

But do you find yourself cooler in some spots of your home than others? You might be dealing with one of the following situations:

The weather-stripping needs to be replaced around doors and windows. There could be

a need for caulk around baseboard molding, among other areas. Leaky ductwork could need to be replaced. Heat could be lost due to insufficient insulation. Fixing these areas can improve comfort and cost. It might also make you eligible for a rebate.

Learn about South River EMC's rebates on insulation and weatherization by visiting sremc.com or calling 910.892.8071 x 2222.

Heating And Cooling The Right Way

Keeping your home warm is important, but with cooler temperatures and visitors, it's also difficult.

The SEER, or seasonal energy efficiency ratio, rating measures cooling efficiency, which is important. The higher the rating, the more efficient a system is and the less it will

cost you to run. It will use less energy, and you can save energy by setting your thermostat a little lower this winter.

South River EMC offers rebates on high-efficiency heat pumps, 17 SEER or greater, on air-source, mini-split or geothermal units.

Keep that in mind when you heat your home this season, you might not need it now, but a higher efficiency system is a start.

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

When Showers Turn Cold

Don't worry, but be prepared.

A heat pump water heater uses energy to move heat rather than create it, making it more efficient.

With water heating being the second highest energy cost in your home each month, if you can cut down on the cost, shouldn't you consider options? The heat pump water heater is a little more expensive than a standard water heater, but can help you save.

A solar water heater takes a little more planning, but can also be more efficient than a standard electric water heater. Its fuel is free, however there are many considerations that go into play when looking at such a unit. Water use, sunlight, building codes, and even cost. You don't want to install a system that won't help you save money or even help recoup the cost of it.

You don't have to make any decisions until the time comes, and when it does, make the most efficient choice for your home.

For details on water heating rebates offered by South River EMC, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.



Making smart water heater decisions means more smiles for everyone.

Beneficial Electrification Powers Innovation

Beneficial electrification may sound like a new idea, but the concept has been around a while. It really gets back to the grassroots of where we started by providing electricity to your homes, farms and businesses. The Beneficial Electrification League (BEL) defines beneficial electrification as “the application of electricity to end-uses that would otherwise consume fossil fuels (e.g. natural gas, propane, oil, gasoline) where doing so satisfies at least one of the following conditions, without adversely affecting the others: save consumers money over time; benefit the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; improve product quality or consumer quality of life; or foster a more robust and resilient grid.”

Beneficial electrification opportunities for residential members include electric vehicles (EVs), electric water heaters and all electric heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Electric vehicles are probably the biggest opportunity right now. EVs cost less to drive and maintain than gas/diesel-powered vehicles. An EV costs less per mile than gas/diesel-powered vehicles and they have fewer moving parts and require no oil changes or emissions

inspections. EVs are beneficial to the environment by reducing emissions. Many utilities have adapted to EVs by restructuring their rate schedules. South River EMC currently offers a residential time-of-use rate that is ideal for homeowners with electric vehicles. This rate is not only for EV owners, it’s available to any member that is willing to make necessary changes to their daily routines to shift energy use from on-peak to off-peak times.

Beneficial electrification has taken root and is being deployed in other areas outside of residential dwellings. Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) introduced four new electric buses this past summer to shuttle passengers between terminals and parking lots. They were designed and implemented to create a more comfortable experience for passengers, improve air quality and lower operating costs. Transit agency, GoRaleigh, is also planning to purchase five more electric buses to add to their fleet.

Beneficial electrification can be seen on farms today and studies are being conducted to determine how farm beneficial electrification can become more extensive. The most



Advise Guy Eric Gainey

common example of beneficial electrification on farms is irrigation pumping. Substantial cost savings can occur on a farm when replacing these old inefficient diesel motors with high efficiency electric motors. Along with irrigation pumps, there are several farm beneficial technologies being studied today. Many of the technologies such as electric tractors are still in the infancy stages of development. Some of the other farm beneficial electrification technologies include water heaters, grain dryers, thermal electric storage systems, radiant heaters, heat pumps and heat exchangers.

For more information on electric vehicles or South River EMCs time-of-use rate schedule, visit sremc.com, e-mail adviseguys@sremc.com or call 910.892.8071.

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