

**South River Electric
Membership Corporation**
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

South River EMC Communicator



RETURNING TO BOLIVIA

When the call came for more help in Bolivia, Linemen Timmy Williams and Derek Avery, along with several others from North Carolina, answered the call. This is the second trip for the South River EMC linemen, but this time it was different, instead of bringing power to a remote village, they were restoring facilities destroyed by the 2019 fires in the Bolivian Amazon.

continued on page B

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



South River EMC offices will be closed Friday, April 10, in observance of Good Friday.

Celebrate Linemen	C
Solar Power	D
Protect Your Home	E
Energy Smarts	F-G
Advise Guys	H

continued from page A

"The first trip was in the mountains, so the elevation was a major problem," said Avery. "This second trip was in the Amazon (rain forest), so everything was lush and green."

A crew was assembled late last year, to include Avery and Williams, to help with restoration efforts related to fires that took place last fall in the Amazon region of La Chiquitania. However, due to unrest in the area following elections in Bolivia, the group was delayed until February.

"I will always remember my brothers that went with us from North Carolina, as well as friendships of the brothers I made over there," said Williams. "In all of this, I think the travel and the sacrifice of leaving my family was hardest to deal with. We travelled through four airports over 22 hours to get to where we worked and, depending on where you were staying, it was four hours by bus or van."

Travel wasn't the only challenge, there was a bit of a communication issue as well.

"Communication was a problem, but Google Translator on our phones was a help," said Avery.

Added Williams, "The language was somewhat of a barrier and we did work through with the technology of translation apps on our phones, to teach them (local linemen) some things to make work better for them. Linemen are all brothers, no matter where you go."

On top of that, technology itself was a bit of an issue, and not just for communication.

"Equipment is very different," said Avery. "They don't have line trucks to dig holes and set the poles, and poles weren't straight, but crooked."

Poles used by electric utilities in the United States go through a rigorous debarking, drying, machining and treating process. There are various inspections along the way to ensure the poles are straight, strong and uniform. The poles in Bolivia are trimmed by hand so they aren't as straight, but they are made of strong solid wood.

South River EMC is on a rotation to check the entirety of our system for damaged poles. Replacement of poles is done using a truck and other equipment, hand digging only as necessary.

"We had to hand-dig holes with post-hole diggers and what we call rock bars to break the ground up to dig," said Williams. "And they use a hard tree called the *cuchi* tree, and if it's not harmed by nature, it can last 100 years without rotting."

And while many linemen here in the United States work out of a bucket, or by climbing a pole, crews in Bolivia work with what they have, sometimes a ladder, or with a handline to lift supplies up to work once they're on the pole.

"They are limited in tools and equipment because of the



expense in getting them over there (to Bolivia)," said Williams. "But, the men over there work hard and are good workers with what they do have."

The eight volunteers oversaw the work of local linemen, as well as providing training and guidance.

"Bolivian people are so hard working and willing to learn your ways and help you," said Avery.

Communication challenges weren't limited to language barriers. The linemen visiting Bolivia couldn't contact home unless they were lucky enough to be somewhere with internet access.

Despite the challenges presented by differences in language, cultures and equipment, the experience was the opportunity of a lifetime that these linemen will cherish forever.

EDUCATORS, LEND ME YOUR EARS!

It's time to begin contemplating those Bright Ideas grant application submissions.

Since the program's inception in 1994, it has spread across the state and been replicated in other states. During that time, statewide alone, schools have received \$12.9 million, which has been used to fund over 12, 359 projects affecting almost 2.5 million students.

Ideas can come from anywhere, however, the projects often require money the school budget and teachers just can't cover.

That's where the Bright Ideas grant program can help. The program awards grants to teachers in certified public K-12 schools, who have innovative, classroom-based ideas.

Each year, South River EMC awards at least \$50,000 in grant funding to teachers in parts of Harnett, Johnston, Sampson and Cumberland counties.



Grants can be written for any amount up to \$2,500, for any subject. Applications for professional development will not be considered.

The application period opens April 1, and any educators with applications in by August 15, are eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The final application deadline is September 15.

South River EMC only accepts applications online at ncbrightideas.com. If you're interested in learning more about this program, visit sremc.com or email sremc@sremc.com.

LINEWORKERS KNOW HOW TO GET THE JOB DONE.

LET'S THANK THEM FOR POWERING OUR LIVES.



Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 13, 2020

CONGRATS TO STUDENTS WITH A'S

The following 15 students received at least one A on his or her most report card and submitted the report card for the "Give Us An A" drawing. Each student selected received a \$25 gift card.

Kelly Batten
Four Oaks Middle

Haley Burch
Hobpton High

Emily Lane
Pine Forest Middle

Taniyah Franklin
Spring Lake Middle

Tara Feimster
Gray's Creek Elementary

Rubekkah Ridgell
Cross Creek Early College

Landis Eller
Harnett Central Middle

Wesley Jernigan
Mac Williams Middle

Wade Ward
Clement Elementary

Sarah Brown
Boone Trail Elementary

Tahdeyah Franklin
Pine Forest High

Haywood Davis
Overhills High

Pei-Lin Nyutu
Howard Hall Elementary

Emma Patterson
Mac Williams Middle

Zackery Beard
Riverside Christian Academy

Congratulations to our lucky students! If you'd like to share your thoughts on what the program means to you, please send them to connectons@sremc.com

Keep up the hard work, we will have another drawing for all those students who receive A's in July.

Look for the due date in future newsletters!

INTERESTED IN SOLAR POWER?

Join Us

*June 11, 6 p.m.-
6491 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville*

A speaker from Advanced Energy will discuss the

benefits of solar, items for consideration, as well as realistic expectations. The Advise Guys will be on hand to answer questions.

If you have questions or plan to attend, call 910.892.8071 x 2152 or email adviseguys@sremc.com.



BEFORE THE STORM

Severe weather week might have passed, but that doesn't mean we're out of the woods when it comes to weather patterns.

Summer storms and hurricane season will be upon us soon. You know what that could mean? Lightning.

Today, our lives revolve around technology, and while new technology and electronic equipment can make our lives easier, they are also at a higher risk for damage from lightning storms and other events.

South River EMC can help protect your home and appliances

through our Strike Guard surge protection program.

The program can virtually eliminate opportunities for a storm-related surge to damage your home, appliances and sensitive electronics.

The first step to protect your home is a special meter base surge protector that installs behind your electric meter. It protects your home 24-hours-a-day, seven days-a-week, capturing surges and sending them to ground...before they can enter your home and cause damage.

The second step in protecting

your home is to install quality plug-in surge protectors with sensitive electronics in your home.

Once the meter base surge protector and plug-in surge protectors are installed, you will experience peace of mind as storms rumble through... knowing that the system is providing 24/7 protection for your home and sensitive electronics.

Don't wait until after you have damage, call 910.892.8071 or go to sremc.com/content/surge-protection to sign up before the next spring storm.

Searching For Peace Of Mind?

South River EMC has partnered with Generac to provide a hassle-free, reliable standby power option.

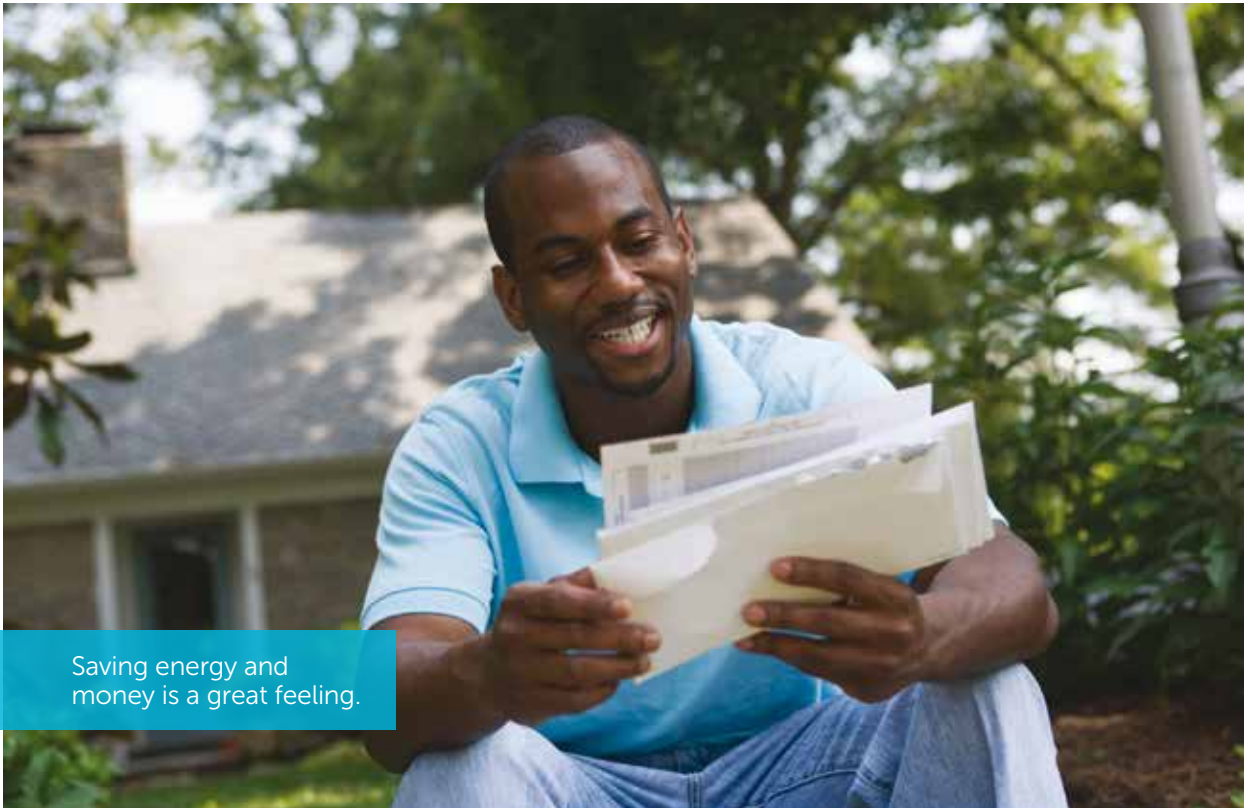


Interested in more information?
Contact the Advise Guys at 910.892.8071 or
email: AdviseGuys@sremc.com

What You Get for Your Investment

- South River EMC members receive a seven-year warranty vs. the standard five-year warranty.
- Special co-op pricing
- Automatic transfer switch
- Turn-key installation
- Access to financing through ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union

* Most installations are 16kw or 22kw



Saving energy and money is a great feeling.

Don't Let Pool Pump Costs Add Up

Pool pumps affect energy costs, especially when you compare a single speed pool pump with a variable or two speed pool pump.

A single speed pump uses one level of speed and water,

typically the highest, to perform all tasks. However, that isn't necessary.

By selecting a pool pump with multiple settings, you can tailor your pump's water and energy levels, to its actions.

South River EMC rebates on variable or two speed pool pumps, so if it helps you save and earns you money, why not give it a try?

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

When Heating And Cooling Needs Considering

When looking to replace your heating and cooling system, selecting the right one can be difficult, with a large array of products, brands and characteristics. Often, we replace an existing system with one of the same type, but there are still many factors to consider.

No matter what type of system you choose, considerations should include: humidity control, thermostat type, home-

owner and contractor maintenance. Keeping these issues in mind helps maximize comfort, safety and durability.

Getting a more efficient system won't automatically save you money, though. Along with efficiency, energy savings depend on how you interact with your thermostat.

If you're unsure of where to start, contact a reputable

heating and cooling contractor. Consider a high efficiency system, for their efficiency, as well as rebate eligibility.

For information on heating and cooling rebates, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Insulation And Weatherization Help Savings

If your home is uncomfortable because of air leaks, insulating and weatherizing can help fix that, which means less thermostat adjustment.

That means your heat pump

won't have to run as long or as hard as it once did.

Start with a tighter home envelope and make improvements from there. Not only could it help you save, it could improve

comfort. Depending on the improvements, you could be eligible for a rebate. For details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

Don't Let Water Heating Get The Best Of You

Do you know how water heating costs add up? Because they can, especially if you have an unwrapped conventional water heater.

When considering a replace-

ment, look for a more efficient option, which could include a heat pump water heater or a solar water heater.

Both units have their benefits, but only you know which is best

for you. Speak with installers for both and read up on the requirements. Information on rebates can be found at sremc.com or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Get The Star, Energy Star

Appliances have two costs, one to purchase and one to run, and one can be lessened if you purchase an Energy Star certified item.

We talk about efficiency, because we know it's important, you like to save money.

When it comes to Energy Star certified appliances, yes, they are more expensive, but for a reason. It's not necessarily because they last longer, though they might, but because they save you money in energy use over their lifespan. Check their EnergyGuide for specifics.

South River EMC rebates on Energy Star certified clothes washers and dryers, refrigerators and dehumidifiers, and some of those save on both energy and water use!

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



Sometimes replacing insulation can improve savings by preventing heat transfer.

Cool Summer Pool Savings

The pool pump seems like such a simple piece of equipment, but looks are deceiving. In fact, the pump is the most important single piece of equipment required for a pool. As an informed homeowner, it pays to understand the benefits of properly sized, energy efficient pool pumps. The pool pump is very important for water quality and hygiene. Having a properly sized pump and a properly designed pump system will improve water quality and efficiency by saving electricity. Once you have done the research and purchased your new pump, you will be on your way to enjoying outdoor time with family and friends, while saving energy.

Circulation of water is vital to your pool's health. As water circulates, it passes through the filter, removing unwanted particles to keep your pool water clear and safe. However, many pool owners do not realize how much energy the pool pump is wasting. Pool pump speeds vary depending on the pool's operation. Filtration, for example, only requires half the flow rate of running a pool's cleaner mode. Running a pool pump on filtration mode uses much less energy. However, a single speed pool pump wastes energy by running a higher flow rate than needed. Besides wasting

energy, running a pump too strong can damage your pool.

To select the size of pump needed for the job properly, you will first need to determine the pool volume and number of gallons it will hold. You also need to know the amount of loss due to piping, fittings, and equipment to understand turnover time. Once these variables are determined, you will be ready to select pump. Even if you are replacing an existing pump, it is best to go through these formulas to make sure you are installing the right pump for the job. There are many local pool-pump providers to help with these calculations.

An Energy Star certified pool pump can run at different speeds and be programmed to match the pool operation with its appropriate pump speed. This can save a lot of energy. For instance, reducing the pump speed by one-half allows the pump to use just one-eighth as much energy. These Energy Star pool pumps use more efficient motors and hydraulic design to maximize efficiency and capacity. Also, these pumps run quieter and more efficiently, which will prolong the life of the pool's filtering system. Typically, these pumps save enough energy to



Advise Guy Robby Talton

allow a two-year payback.

It is likely that your pool pump is the second largest user of electricity at your home behind the heating and cooling system. For instance, a standard 1.5 horse power pool pump will cost approximately \$125 per month to operate, depending on efficiency, while, an Energy Star two-speed or variable-speed pump can use significantly less. Also, a pool-pump timer is a great way to reduce this cost by reducing run time. South River EMC offers a \$50 rebate on a two speed or variable speed pool pump. If you are in the market for a new pool pump, consider an Energy Star certified two-speed or variable-speed pool pump and start saving. To see if your pump qualifies, go to www.energystar.gov and click on pool pumps.

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