



South River EMC Communicator

MIST ON THE RIVER

South River EMC member, Greg Adair, is a promoter and a drummer, currently for a band called Rivermist.

His love of music started early, playing at church at six-years-old.

"I played at C & Adams Street Church of God, which is now Praise Fellowship Church of God," he said. "I moved to playing with the adults at 8 or 9-years-old, went full gospel at age 13, and then went into secular music at 19, I've been there ever since."



Music was always a hobby of Adair's and he played with many different groups, including the Malpass Brothers, joking that he was a drummer for hire.

This drummer for hire has been voted "Drummer of the Year" by Carolina Country Music Awards for two straight years, all as a hobby.

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"I worked at Goodyear from 1992-2003, and then managed a cable contractor for Time Warner Cable for many years after," he said. "Went with music full time in February 2017."

Adair had been playing with a band called Fahrenheit from 2011-2013; and after fundraising for member Richard Honeycutt's cancer battle, the band concluded.

Adair and a couple of members from Fahrenheit stayed together and looked for a few more musicians to fill out their sound.

At the time that sound was primarily rock, and it wasn't what everyone was looking to book.

"We spent 2014 to 2016 adding and removing members," he said. "And we were all still working full time."

Finally, the right grouping came together and they took the leap to full-time musicians in 2017. Enter Rivermist.

"We used to play and practice at one member's place on the

river," Adair said. "And so, we knew that we wanted river in the name."

Composed of Adair on drums and backing vocals, Doug Bass on lead and backing vocals as well as keyboards, Cliff Bender on lead guitar, Tony Harrison on bass guitar, and Allen Pier on keyboard, lead and backing vocals. The variety band makeup gave the group more music to work with and into shows.

"There's no limit to what we can do," he said. "And shows are tailored to the audience."

Rivermist has built quite a following, with over 6,000 Facebook followers enjoying their covers. But COVID-19 made life a little harder for the musicians whose joy is found in celebrating with their fans.

"We booked 68 shows in 2019," said Adair. "In 2020, we canceled 43 shows and that's not even counting all those shows we weren't able to book."

However, the pandemic gave the group some creative time and that led to them recording some music of their own.

"Someone was always coming up with a song idea, and most times we would put it on the back burner," he said. "We took that time last year and did some recording."

Two such songs are "Beach Life" and "Black Creek".

"Beach Life" has made it on seven charts across three states. Meanwhile, "Black Creek" has had a line dance created for it and performed by the Double D dance team in Rivermist's video for it on Youtube. The song was also up on the Carolina Country Artist Showdown in September.

"It's humbling, and an honor to have people so invested in this group," said Adair.

Voted the Best Local Band, six years running, these guys are invested in putting on a good show.

"I think that's what really makes us stand out to our fans," said Adair. "The guys are personal and humble, we just love people, and I think they sense that."

They will be fronting for Rick Springfield at the Crown in October, which means a 40-minute set for the group.

If you are interested in checking out Greg and Rivermist, you can do so on their Facebook page or on Youtube, search Rivermist.

And don't forget to visit rivermistband.com for their schedule, because "ain't no party like a #rivermistparty, 'cause a Rivermist party don't stop!"



IT'S A MATTER OF (CO-OP!) PRINCIPLES

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and South River EMC all have something in common: we're cooperatives.

While we may be in different industries, we share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, South River EMC was created out of necessity – to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1940, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that

heritage remain – the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.



Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. South River EMC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on mem-

bers' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of South River EMC. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars – it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

South River EMC is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community," which we'll look at next month.



GET FAMILIAR WITH CYBER BASICS

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

At a time when we are more connected than ever, being “cyber smart” is of the utmost importance. This year has already seen more than a fair share of cyber attacks and breaches, including the high-profile attacks on the Colonial Pipeline and other critical infrastructure. Furthermore, as has been underlined by these recent breaches, cyber attacks are becoming more sophisticated with more evolved bad actors cropping up each day. Luckily, there are several steps that we can take on a daily basis to mitigate risks and stay one step ahead of malefactors. Here are a few quick tips:

Enable multi-factor authentication.

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) adds that necessary second check to verify your identity when logging in to one of your accounts. By requiring multiple methods of authentication, your account is further protected from being compromised, even if a bad actor hijacks your password. In this way, MFAs make it more difficult for password cracking tools to enable attackers to break into accounts.

Use strong passphrases/ password manager.

This may seem obvious, but all too often securing strong passphrases/password managers is overlooked. People spending more time online during the pandemic has certainly contributed to more bad actors prowling for accounts to attack. Using long, complex and unique passwords is a good



way to stop your account from being hacked, and an easy way of keeping track and remembering your passwords is by using a password manager.

Perform software updates.

When a device prompts that it's time to update the software, it may be tempting to simply click postpone, and ignore the message. However, having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system on devices is one of the best defenses against online threats. So, don't wait – update.

Do your research.

Common sense is a crucial part of maintaining good online hygiene, and an intuitive step to stay safe online is to do some research before downloading anything new to your device, such as apps. Before downloading, make sure that it's legitimate by checking who created the app, what the user reviews say, and if there are any articles published online about the app's privacy and security features.

Check your settings.

Be diligent to double check your privacy and security settings and be aware who can access your documents. This extends from Google docs, to Zoom calls, and beyond. For meetings on Zoom, for example, create passwords so only those invited to the session can attend, and restrict who can share their screen or files with the rest of the attendees.

Being cyber smart and maintaining online hygiene is the best way to protect yourself and others from cyber attacks. No single tip is foolproof, but used together they can make a real difference for taking control of your online presence. Following these tips is also easy, and free. By taking preventive measures and making a habit of practicing online safety, you can decrease your odds of being hacked exponentially – and prevent lost time and money, as well as annoyance.

FIELDS OF HONOR

Raise A Flag, Honor A Hero

Fields of Honor is your opportunity to personally salute a member of the military this Veteran's Day.

From November 5-14, 400 American flags will be flown on the lawn at each South River EMC office. Every 3'x5' flag will carry a tag bearing the name, or names, of current, former, or deceased members of the military. We ask that you include a donation in any amount by check, cash or credit card. Proceeds will go to local veterans' organizations.

To sponsor one or more Fields of Honor flags, visit sremc.com/field-honor or call 910.892.8071.

Sponsorships must be made by October 1.

BE PREPARED, NO MATTER THE STORM

Hurricane season isn't over yet, but it's never a bad time to check your emergency preparedness kit. While we recommend one particularly during hurricane season, the kit can carry across the year for all severe weather. However, be sure to check that supplies are in date periodically.

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| Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation) | Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation) | Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes |
| Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food) | Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air) | Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery |
| Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert | Paper and pencil, books, games, puzzles or other activities for children | Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils |
| Flashlight | Whistle (to signal for help) | Fire extinguisher |
| First aid kit | Cash or traveler's checks | Local maps |
| Matches in a waterproof container | Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities) | Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place) |
| Extra batteries | Manual can opener (for food) | Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person |
| Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution | Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream | Pet food and extra water for your pet |
| Prescription medications, as well as, non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, antacids, etc. | Copies of important family documents like insurance policies, identification, bank account records, saved electronically or in a waterproof container | Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items |



Electric appliances contribute to electric use, choose wisely.

Never A Better Time To Shop Pumps

While temperatures may be cooling, there is never a bad time to look for a more efficient pool pump, leftover stock may mean even better pricing than before. A variable or two speed

pool pump is a good choice, because it allows you to tailor electricity and water use to fit the task. But don't delay or you might miss a good deal. If you have a single speed pump

currently, this will definitely help save energy and money. For details, call 910.892.8071 x 2153 or visit [sremc.com/pool-pumps](https://www.sremc.com/pool-pumps).

Appliances For Consideration

When considering a new appliance, consider an Energy Star certified one. Sure, they might have a higher price point, but that cost is made up for in energy savings.

Each appliance has different energy, and water, saving attributes, but with efficient use practices, there is nothing you can do but save. Begin saving today with Energy Star. South River EMC offers rebates on En-

ergy Star certified refrigerators, clothes washers and dryers, and dehumidifiers. For details or an application, call 910.892.8071 x 2153 or visit [sremc.com/energy-star-appliances](https://www.sremc.com/energy-star-appliances).

Making Sure Your Water Is Hot

Many times, the shower is a place where ideas are born. More often than not, it's in the warmth of a hot shower or bath, not a cold soak.

So when your water heater goes out, you need a replacement, fast. Don't replace it with

the same type of unit, try something that might save you a little money. South River EMC offers rebates on solar and heat pump water heaters.

Solar water heaters use the sun to heat water, and have an electric back-up. Heat pump water

heaters pull heat from the air to heat water and are 2-3 times more efficient than standard water heaters.

Which one is for you? Visit [sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating](https://www.sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating) or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

Keeping Heat Where It Needs To Be

Heating and cooling your home accounts for 50 percent of your energy costs each month. This is due to several reasons, one of which is your comfort. If you're too hot or cold, you adjust the thermostat, which impacts en-

ergy costs. What might help are upgrades to your insulation and weatherization. This helps keep the heat where it needs to be, inside during cooler temperatures and outside during hotter temperatures.

Read more about the rebates offered on improvements that will also improve your comfort at sremc.com/insulation-weatherization or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

A Few Days Of Weather Adjustment

As we experience the few days of fall we see each year, it's time to make sure your heating and cooling system is running as efficient as possible. If it is time to replace a system, do so with a high efficiency one that can help you save.

The higher the seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating, the more efficiently a system cools. With the heat dying off, you might wonder what that matters, but the heat will come back, and the more efficient it is for cooling, the more the system will be able to save you.

A 17 SEER or greater system is considered high efficiency.

But once you decide to go efficient, what type of system will you select? There are three high efficiency options that are eligible for rebate.

The air source heat pump, the mini split heat pump, and the geothermal heat pump. Now, each has its pros and cons, like all appliances, but you'll typically replace an existing system with an air source heat pump. Mini splits work for those areas unconnected to the current

conditioning system. Meanwhile, a geothermal system works best in new construction because it requires extensive digging.

Do your research though, and find out what system works for you. For details on rebates offered by the Cooperative, visit sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.



Share those energy-saving habits with your kids.

Base Load: A building block to saving

As autumn nears and the temperature begins to drop, so do our electric bills. The reason for the lower costs is that we are using less energy due to cooler outdoor temperatures. The term base load refers to the energy needed to operate everything in the home, except the heating ventilation and air conditioning, HVAC, system(s).

Shoulder months occur during the fall and spring when the outside air is more moderate and the need for HVAC is reduced. If you look at a yearly energy-use chart you see peaks and valleys. The valley is the shoulder month (October/April) and the peaks are summer and winter. By studying the base load during the shoulder months, we not only gain understanding of energy users in the home, but also how much it costs to heat and cool the home.

Base Load

The base load is more apparent during a shoulder month because the need to condition our living space decreases due to the moderate weather. What makes up the base load? Since base load is everything except HVAC, we need to look at those things first.

A large home with two water heaters, a pool pump that runs all year, or a hot tub will have higher base loads. Also, a home that has a lot of refrigeration and freezers will have a higher baseload. However, the average base load of a residence is about 40 kwh daily.

The largest base load item is typically the water heater. The average home's electric water heater uses about \$40 a month. We recommend turning off the water heater breaker when leaving for extended periods of time. Also, a water heater timer provides a great opportunity to reduce this base load.

Other users are refrigeration, clothes drying, and all other electrical appliances. Anything that is plugged in contributes to the base load.

Shoulder months are a great time to manipulate base load items in the home to determine the daily cost. By signing up for daily use notifications, you can monitor daily electric use. This tool allows you to turn off certain appliances and determine the energy use change that is produced. The run time of the HVAC unit should be reduced greatly since the units do not have to work hard to achieve thermostat set point temperatures. Make sure the HVAC unit fans are set to "auto", not "on", since the on setting will allow the unit fan to run continuously.

Meter Detective

If you suspect something is using more energy than usual, you can shut it off to see the impact. Meter detective is a great tool to use when isolating energy use on a circuit. By locating the breaker, you can see how turning off the breaker affects the meter speed. Go to sremc.com/videos to view the "meter detective" video for more information. Understanding how you



Advise Guy Robby Talton

use power is the first step toward making changes and saving money.

Monitoring use will help you get familiar with the daily usage and base load. When the time arrives for heating and cooling, HVAC use can be monitored more closely to see if there are issues with those systems. Increased HVAC use could be due to poor insulation or air infiltration from outside air penetrations into the living space. If a large daily jump is seen during a shoulder month, a hot water leak could be the culprit.

Remember that when you first switch to heating on your heat pump, make sure the outside fan is working to confirm that the reversal valve operates correctly. If the fan is not working, the unit can only heat with strip heat. This can get expensive and will require professional attention. If you choose to monitor the usage and have questions or concerns, feel free to contact the AdviseGuys@sremc.com.

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