

Member News

For Members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

2004 Annual Meeting of Membership

Summary of relevant bylaws

The 64th Annual Meeting of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) will be held on **Thursday, May 6, 2004**, at Glad Tidings Church on Country Club Road in Morehead City, N.C.

Additional information about this year's annual meeting, including details and ballots, if needed, for election of directors, will appear in the April "Member News."

CCEC's service area is divided into nine (9) directorate districts. The terms for the directors from districts 2, 6, and 8 expire this year. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, directors elected in 2004 will serve terms of thirty-one (31) months, taking office at the October meeting of the Board of Directors in the year in which they are elected, rather than thirty-six (36) months. Thereafter all terms will be for three (3) years (or 36 months) or until their successors are elected and take office.

To be eligible to hold the office of director of the cooperative, a member must:

- *have been a member for not less than two years.*
- *receive electrical service from the cooperative at his or her primary residence, which must be located in the directorate district which he or she is to represent.*
- *not be a close relative of an incumbent director or an employee of the cooperative.*
- *not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy, service, or supplies to the cooperative.*
- *not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.*

- *be a citizen of the United States.*
- *be at least 18 years old.*
- *not have been declared mentally incompetent unless competency has been legally restored.*
- *at the time of taking office, not be a close relative of a former member of the Board of Directors who died or resigned from the board within two years next preceding the time of taking office.*
- *not have been employed by the cooperative or have previously been an officer or director of or employed in any policy-making position by an electric, telephone, natural gas or other utility company.*

The Board of Directors has appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of two (2) members each from directorates 2, 6, and 8. The committee will nominate one or more members to run for election from each of these three districts. Nominees may also be nominated by petition of any 50 or more members from their district. The petition must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 5, 2004.

For more information about the nominating committee, contact CCEC Executive Vice President and General Manager Craig Conrad, at our Highway 24 office.

Voting for the above positions, in addition to any other business conducted at the annual meeting, shall be done by those who have been members at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Each member shall have one vote regardless of number of accounts.

A complete set of the CCEC Bylaws is available at our offices at 1300 Highway 24 in Newport (west of Morehead City) or 450 McCotter Boulevard in Havelock.

District descriptions

District 2: Properties west along Highway 24 from Dutch Treat Mobile Home Park, up to and including Bogue Field, and surrounding areas

District 6: Includes Mill Creek, Highway 101, South River and Merrimon.

District 8: An at-large district, can come from any county within the Cooperative's service area.

Work interrupted...

CCEC recommends UPS and surge suppression units to protect work and valuable electronics

If you're in the middle of a project on your computer and the power flickers, you probably utter a word or two, or maybe you stomp around the room, shaking your fist at the power company. Surge protectors and power bars aren't the answer. The only way to ensure that you aren't foiled by the occasional flicker is to buy an uninterrupted power source (UPS). This device keeps your computer up and running even if there is a hiccup in the power to



RANDY CARR
IT Administrator

your home.

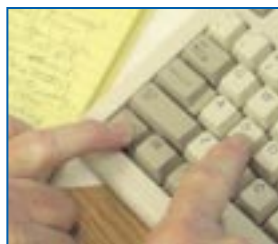
UPS units vary in price and in level of protection. The least expensive unit switches over to battery-power after only a short delay; this is known as "standby UPS." The more expensive units with continuous UPS are constantly running on battery power, and the switchover during a power interruption is a split second.

"You have to trade off economy for better protection," CCEC IT Administrator Randy Carr said, adding that with any UPS unit, the battery will eventually have to be replaced.

Without the battery backup provided by an uninterrupted power source, you should save your work often or cross your fingers in hopes that a shutdown won't occur.

Computers typically reboot after power surges or flickers, leaving you without a copy of any unsaved work in progress. You should get in the habit of saving your work every few minutes. Most pro-

grams will save with a Control-S command (Hold down the control key as you hit the "S" key.) More sophisticated Windows operating systems save work in progress that has not been saved when power flickers, but you must



TWO SIMPLE KEYSTROKES



POWERGUARD UNIT

typically saves a temporary file, but those are typically hidden."

A second level of protection for your home electronics is the cooperative's "PowerGuard" units that suppress damaging power surges and spikes. This heavy-duty surge arrester is installed at the electric meter and protects motors and compressors on large appliances from surge or spike damage.

CCEC offers a two-stage suppression package which includes the meter-base PowerGuard unit and one plug-in suppressor that is designed specifically for sensitive electronic equipment.

Installation is free. The purchase price for a meter base unit is \$209.95 (including tax), or the unit may be leased for \$5.99 per month. The lease rate for a meter base plus one inside suppressor of your choice is \$7.99 per month. If you want to purchase an inside suppressor, the price ranges from about \$61 for a two-outlet unit to \$96 for a more sophisticated eight-outlet unit.

If you buy your own surge protector, be sure you know what you are getting. Many people buy power strips which let you plug in multiple components into one unit. Those are handy, but they may not protect your equipment. Look at the UL (Underwriters Laboratory) label. It

know where your computer stores those files to restore them after a power glitch.

"If you are working on something and the power goes out, you are going to lose data," Carr said. "Windows some-

times saves a temporary file, but those are typically hidden."

A second level of protection for your home electronics is the cooperative's "PowerGuard" units that suppress damaging power surges and spikes. This heavy-duty surge arrester is installed at the electric meter and protects motors and compressors on large appliances from surge or spike damage.



SURGE PROTECTOR

Continued on Page 28

INSIDE-OUT

Severe winter weather brings unique set of hazards

While winters in our area are relatively mild, we are not immune from the occasional winter storm and other dangers that cold weather produces. The National Weather Service (NWS) Office in Newport reminds us that Eastern North Carolina can experience a variety of severe winter weather and that many deaths during winter storms are attributed to house fires, traffic accidents, marine accidents, heart attacks, and hypothermia.

Statistically, the probability of a heavy snowfall (eight inches or more) in any given winter season is between just 5 and 10 percent. But the past few winters have been unusually active. Three major winter storms have occurred, with each depositing 8 inches or more of snow in the eastern part of the state.

With that in mind, it is wise to have a disaster supply kit on hand during the winter months just as you would during hurricane season. Store drinking water, canned/no-cook food, non-electric can opener, first aid kit, battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries where you can get them easily, even in the dark. Also

include winter specific items such as rock salt, sand and other snow removal equipment. Make sure that you have sufficient heating fuel as well as emergency heating equipment in case electricity is cut off.

The cooperative and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), offer the following additional heating safety information and tips:

- **Small space heaters should be checked and cleaned properly. Check for damaged cords, broken elements and other damage that may have occurred during storage. Do not use extension cords with space heaters; plug them directly into the wall outlets.**

- **If you operate a heating system that has a chimney or flue, make sure they are cleaned and checked. Faulty flues can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.**

- **If you use an electric heater in your garage or shop, be sure to remove paint, gas or combustible products from the area.**

- **Under no circumstances should gas-powered generators be used indoors or in**

attached garages.

- **Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid a build-up of toxic fumes. Refuel outside. Keep all heaters at least three feet from flammable objects.**

- **Keep bedding, curtains, furniture and other combustible materials away from heat sources.**

- **Do not use a heater near water or where water could splash on it. Place it so children cannot reach it.**

- **Place electric blankets on top of other bed coverings. Never tuck electric blankets, because this may cause wires to short.**

- **Inspect smoke detectors monthly to insure operation. If you do not have a smoke detector, install one on each level of your home. Also, install carbon monoxide detectors in your homes and inspect regularly.**

- **Place an emergency kit in each car, containing a shovel, windshield scraper, flashlight, battery powered radio, extra batteries, water, snack food, extra clothing, blanket, tow chain or rope, sand, booster cables, emergency flares and fluorescent distress flag.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Under our new billing system your account number has changed. It is important that you use your new account number on all payments or other correspondence.

If you pay online, be sure your financial institution knows your new account number and that it is included on any online payments.

SafeGuard Lights give you peace of mind

Worry about things that go bump in the night?

You can extend your daylight hours and provide safety and security for your family with **SafeGuard Lights** from Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative. The safety and convenience of an automatic security light puts more fun and less fright in your nightlife all year long.

It's the most affordable way

to welcome visitors, work or play outside after dark, protect your property and give you peace of mind.

The monthly fee covers the light, wiring, maintenance, upkeep and even the cost of electricity - it doesn't go through your meter.

You don't have to worry about replacing bulbs or flipping a switch; the light comes on automatically at dusk and

goes off automatically at dawn.

Call us today to find out more about **SafeGuard Lights**. Our representatives will be glad to help you light up your nightlife.

- All prices quoted are for overhead lights on existing poles. Additional poles cost \$2.25 per month and are added to your monthly fee. Underground lights are \$4.75 extra each month.

- Charges include installation, maintenance, and operation of lights including electricity for illumination. Taxes are not included in these prices.

- Two styles of decorative lights are available for a one-time fee of \$150. The monthly fees are the same as for other lights.

| TYPE | COST/MONTH |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 175-watt mercury vapor | \$8. ²⁵ |
| 250-watt metal halide | \$16. ⁰⁰ |
| 400-watt metal halide | \$22. ⁰⁰ |
| 1,000-watt metal halide | \$40. ⁰⁰ |

Work interrupted

Continued from Page 26

should say "transient voltage suppressor." Surge protectors divert the extra electricity into your outlet's grounding wire.

Most people connect power surges to lightning storms, but that is one of the least common causes. More common are surges generated when large appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners switch on and off.

No matter what the source, you should expect to replace the unit after one surge. Surge suppressors typically sacrifice themselves for the sake of the equipment they are protecting. Units with a protection indicator

light will let you know if they are still working to protect your equipment.

When a voltage increase lasts three billionths of a second or more it is called a surge. When voltage only last for one or two billionths of a second, it's called a spike. In either instance, if the surge or spike is high enough it will burn wiring.

Without surge suppression, your electronic equipment may be taking small hits that multiply over time. Those spikes and surges can slowly degrade sensitive circuitry, and your computer or other electronic equipment might work fine when you turn it on for the 100th time, but fail the 101st time. Or, it might just fail after only a few flips of the on-off switch.

carteret-craven electric cooperative



Offices:

1300 Highway 24, Newport
450 McCotter Boulevard, Havelock

Contact

Phone: 252.727.3107 / 1.800.682.2217

Fax: 247.0235

E-mail: information@ccemc.com



On the Web:

<http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop>