



# POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

MAY 2012

## It's the Season for Nature's Most Violent Storms

Tornadoes... those rotating, funnel-shaped clouds that extend from a thunderstorm to the ground are classified as nature's most dangerous storms. Typically spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and destroy neighborhoods in seconds. With winds as strong as 300 miles per hour and paths in excess of one mile wide and fifty miles long, these storms can cause more damage than any other type of storm in just moments. Oftentimes tornadoes may accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as well.

In the Southern states, tornado peak season is typically from March to May and occurs between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.; however, these vicious storms may come along at any time. You can rest assured that Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative is ready to work if such an event should occur in our territory.

### Be Prepared For Tornadoes

- Take a few minutes with your family to develop a tornado emergency plan. Sketch a floor plan of where you live, or walk through each room and discuss where and how to seek shelter.
- Show a second way to exit from each room or area. If you need special equipment, such as a rope ladder, mark where it is located.
- Mark where your first-aid kit and fire extinguishers are located.
- Mark where the utility switches or valves are located so they can be turned off--if time permits--in an emergency.
- Teach your family how to administer basic first aid, how to use a fire extinguisher, and how and when to turn off water, gas, and electricity in your home.
- Learn the emergency dismissal policy for your child's school.
- Make sure your children know--
  - o What a tornado is
  - o What tornado watches and warnings are
  - o What county or parish they live in (warnings are issued by county or parish)
  - o How to take shelter, whether at home or at school.

Mecklenburg Electric  
Cooperative Offices  
Will Be Closed  
Monday, May 28th, in  
Observance of  
Memorial Day



The story of America's  
quest for freedom is in-  
scribed on her history in  
the blood of her patriots.  
-Randy Vader



## Are You Guilty of Bad Laundry Habits?

Do you have bad laundry habits? A number of small changes in laundry habits can help reduce the amount of energy used. Here are some tips for using your clothes dryer.

- When drying clothes, fill, but do not overfill, the machine.
- Do laundry during off-peak hours.
- Always keep the dryer's lint filter and exhaust duct clean.
- If you are going to iron the clothes, you need only dry the load to damp-dry.
- Dry several loads consecutively to avoid losing the heat and use the dryer's automatic cycles to avoid overdrying.

**Mark  
your  
Calendars!!**

**MEC's  
Annual Meeting of the Members  
will be held June 20th.**



**Be sure to return your proxy cards  
to our office by June 13th  
so that your vote counts!**

## 10th Annual Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo

A three-man team of electric-line workers from Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's Chase City District competed in the tenth-annual Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo March 31 at the Caroline County Agricultural Fairgrounds near Ruther Glen, Va. Utility companies from all over the region sent the best of their best to compete in the event with teams from 14 electric utilities, and one line construction contractor, participating in the two-day event.

In the journeyman category, which represents the most experienced linemen, the MEC team of Jason McKinney, Paul Underwood and Randy Whirley took third-place honors in the "grounding" event of the rodeo and placed fifth overall among all journeyman competitors. While other teams featured two first class linemen and a groundman, MEC competed with a team consisting of one first class lineman (McKinney), a seventh-step apprentice lineman (Underwood), and an equipment operator (Whirley) serving as groundman.

"The primary purpose of the Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo is to promote safe work skills and practices," notes John C. Lee, Jr., the Co-op's president and CEO. "We are particularly pleased that some of our line workers chose to participate in the rodeo, it's an event that sharpens the skills they use on the job every day, where safety has to be the foundation for every task. Our members have come to expect excellence from MEC with regards to outage restoration and we are able to meet that expectation because we have excellent line crews who are committed to their responsibility to ensure the delivery of electric service to our membership."



Team MEC  
Jason McKinney, Randy Whirley & Paul Underwood