

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

JULY 2013

2013 Rural Electric Youth Tour Winners Announced

High-school juniors Moses Romocki of Creedmoor and Hannah Stutts of Youngsville were selected by Wake Electric to attend the 2013 Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C., in June.



Romocki, 17, is a student at Cardinal Gibbons High School. Stutts, 16, attends Franklinton High School. The two will join nearly 1,500 students from across the United States for a one-week, all expenses paid trip to the nation's capital.

Both students will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship in their high school senior year after attending the Youth Tour and upon enrollment in a college or university.

While on the Youth Tour, Romocki and Stutts will learn about electric cooperatives, American history and the United States government. Youth Tour participants will also visit the historic sites of the nation's capital, as well as spend time with their congressional leaders. The trip will be held June 14–21.

For more information on the Rural Electric Youth Tour, visit www.wemc.com/youthtours.aspx.

The Youth Tour is funded through voluntary member and employee donations through the Operation RoundUp program at Wake Electric.

Wholesale Power Cost to be Incorporated into Base Rate

Effective July 1, 2013, the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) line item on your bill of 2.5 cents will be

incorporated into the base rate, thereby lowering the WPCA to \$0.00.

There will be no change to the amount of your electric bill.

This is neither a rate decrease

nor a rate increase and this change in rate structure is revenue neutral to the cooperative. Elimination of the WPCA will not affect your service or the ways in which you conduct business with Wake Electric.

Wake Electric has not modified our base rates since 1997. In lieu of that, the co-op has been using the WPCA factor to recover our increase in costs, largely due to capital costs of new plants and equipment necessary to meet environmental regulations

set forth by the state and federal governments. Now that the WPCA has become somewhat stabilized, we are simply rolling that expense over into

the base rate.

Instead of paying 8.98 cents per kWh and a 2.5 cent WPCA, members on the Residential Service Schedule "R" will now

pay 11.48 cents per kWh. As a result of the WPCA being set to \$0.00, members will not see this line item reflected on the bill. Members may refer to our rate schedules, located on our website at www.wemc.com/resmemservices.aspx, for more details.

If you have any questions about the WPCA, please contact your local Wake Electric office at 1-800-474-6300 or 919-863-6300. Our representatives are available to assist you.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Lighting accounts for about 13 percent of the average household's electric bill—cut costs by choosing new light bulbs that have increased output and longevity. Some cost more up front, but prices are dropping as technology advances. Options include color, brightness, and even dimming and multi-way functions. Combining lights with automatic sensors can cut costs further.

Source: NRECA's Cooperative Research Network



Wake Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Call to report outages: 919.863.6499 or 800.743.3155
Regular office hours: M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Telephone hours: M–F, 7 a.m.–6 p.m., 863.6300 or 800.474.6300
Underground locating service: Call 811
Dedicated pay-by-phone number: 866.999.4593



- ★ If you're in a group, spread out—don't stand close together.
- ★ Indoors, unplug electronics before the storm arrives, and don't use corded phones.
- ★ Avoid plumbing—sinks, bathtubs, faucets.
- ★ Don't forget about your pets. Doghouses are not safe from lightning, and chained animals are easy targets.
- ★ If your home is flooded during a storm, don't turn on appliances or electronics until given the okay by an electrician. If there's laying water, don't go inside. The water could be energized.

When the weather gets hot, we head outdoors for sun and fun. Keep in mind some tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International to make sure everyone has a safe summer.

WATER AND ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Summer is the season for swimming and boating, and awareness of electrical hazards around water can prevent deaths and injuries. Water and electricity don't mix.

- ★ Sailboats often have masts of 30 feet or more, which are dangerous when they come into contact with overhead power lines. Look up as you get close to shore and stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. Coming into contact with an energized power line causes serious and sometimes lethal electric shock.
- ★ Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from the water, and never handle electrical items before you've dried off.
- ★ Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help

prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. These devices interrupt the flow of power when they sense a surge. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

LIGHTNING AND STORMS

Lightning strikes are fatal in 10 percent of victims, and 70 percent suffer serious long-term effects, according to the National Weather Service. Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. If you hear thunder, take cover.

- ★ If weather conditions indicate a storm, stay inside—away from doors and windows—or seek shelter in a low-lying area away from trees and any metal, including sheds, clotheslines, poles, and fences. If you're near water, stay as far away as possible.

WORKING WITH LARGE APPLIANCES

If your air conditioner goes out, keep a few things in mind before you start poking around. Large appliances, such as air conditioners, are responsible for almost 20 percent of consumer-product electrocutions each year.

- ★ Understand your electrical system—know which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light, and outlet.
- ★ Make sure circuits are turned off before starting work and take measures to ensure they're not turned back on while working.
- ★ Use a circuit tester—always test before you touch.

Find more safety tips at esfi.org.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

Independence Day Holiday Closing

Wake Electric's offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, in honor of Independence Day. For emergencies, please contact us at (919) 863-6300 or 1-800-474-6300.



Teachers who apply by August 16 have a chance to win a \$500 gift card!



Bright Ideas Early Bird Deadline

Local teachers can apply for grants of up to \$3,000 through the 2013–2014 Bright Ideas education grant program.

Bright Ideas, sponsored by Wake Electric, strives to improve education in our state's classrooms by awarding grants to public school teachers in grades K–12 for innovative, classroom-based projects that would not otherwise be funded. The Bright Ideas grant program is the only one of its kind in our state, exclusively for North Carolina's K–12 teachers.

The deadline to submit applications for the 2013–2014 school year is September 12. But teachers who submit their application by the early bird deadline on August 16 will be entered in a drawing to win a \$500 Visa gift card.

To learn more and start an online application, visit www.ncbrightideas.com or www.wemc.com/brightideas.aspx.



Last year, one of Wake Electric's Bright Ideas applicants was the Early Bird winner! Darnell Alford (left), business operations specialist from Wake Electric, presented the \$500 Visa gift card to Kathy Brown, media specialist for Wakefield Elementary. Brown was randomly selected out of 426 applicants from across the state who turned in their applications before the Early Bird deadline.

APPLY FOR A CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Don't forget! Local teachers can also apply for a Classroom Technology grant, also due on September 12. Go to www.wemc.com/classawards2.aspx to learn more.



Think lightning can't get into your house and ...

- ⚡ Damage your computer?
- ⚡ Ruin your dimmer switches?
- ⚡ Harm your flat-screen TV?

Think again.

**Protect Your Appliances—
Get Surge Protection Today!**

Today's homes have more appliances and electronics than ever before. Lightning is a dangerous source of raw electricity that can destroy those appliances and electrical equipment in a flash.

Triangle Services Group (TSG) offers Surge Protection that can save your investments by helping to prevent destructive lightning surges from entering your home.

Our surge protection for your whole house includes:

- ⚡ Leased equipment (1 point of entry PEMCO Meter Base Whole House Surge Arrestor)
- ⚡ Cost of only \$5.95 per month added to your electric bill
- ⚡ \$50 installation fee

Are you ready to sign up and start protecting your home now? Call 919.863.6306 or email info@wemc.com.



The Benefits of AMI Meter Technology

In March 2013, Wake Electric concluded the initial portion of its meter exchange project, which included converting 35,000 residential and non-demand metered accounts to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters. During the next few months, the cooperative will develop a plan to replace commercial and demand-metered accounts with similar AMI technology.

Unlike conventional meters, AMI meters store electric use, outage and voltage information, as well as communicate it back to the co-op office through a secure, wireless communication network. The advanced technology utilized by these meters provides numerous benefits to our members, including:

*** Improved Reliability and Outage Management.**

AMI meters are equipped for two-way communication with the utility and record electronic readings at least every hour, improving accuracy and greatly reducing the need for manual meter reads. This information allows the co-op to better understand energy consumption patterns and more closely manage its system to help prevent power outages or other power quality issues. If an outage does occur, the co-op is aware of it more quickly and can take steps to accelerate the restoration of power, providing improved reliability to our members.

*** Better Evaluation and Management of Energy Consumption.**

AMI meters provide data for Wake Electric's Monitor & Manage program, an online energy monitoring system that utilizes the co-



Wake Electric meter technician Grady Perry installs an AMI meter at the home of Wake Electric member.

op's "smart grid" communications network to collect monthly, daily and hourly energy data reports from each home. These reports, which can be viewed online through a member's SmartHub account, provide up-to-date feedback on energy consumption that allows members to better evaluate their energy use and potentially implement energy efficiency measures to reduce consumption and lower their electric bills. A premier version of the Monitor & Manage program is also available to members with AMI meters for a monthly charge of \$9.95. In addition to all the services of the Monitor & Manage program, you'll also receive a home monitoring system that offers energy automation and control. The technology will allow you to eliminate energy consumption created by electric appliances while you are away from your home or when they are not needed.

*** Improved Safety.** The AMI meters installed by Wake Electric are equipped with software that alerts the cooperative if there are conditions in the meter base that cause dangerously high temperatures. Through the meter's two-way communication technology, Wake Electric is immediately notified of an issue and can investigate its cause. Should a problem be identified, Wake Electric will contact the consumer and ensure that proper repairs are made. The co-op also has the authority to remove a meter from operation until a potential safety hazard is addressed.

*** More Versatile Payment Options.** Using the real-time data collected by AMI meters, Wake Electric's billing system can automatically perform a bill calculation each day on its residential members' accounts and offer the flexibility of a prepaid billing option. Known as PowerUp with Prepay, this option allows members to pre-purchase electricity so they can monitor electricity usage more closely and plan their budget accordingly.

Wake Electric is committed to providing safe, affordable and reliable energy and will continue to implement new technologies, such as AMI meters, that offer improved service to our members.

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