

Currents

Your Link to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative



High Voltage...

GENERATOR SAFETY

by Tom Tate

While you are preparing for winter with the tips provided by Barbara Taylor in this issue, don't overlook your generator. Having an emergency generator won't do you much good if it is not ready to run and if it is used improperly. So, here's a quick review.

1. Give it a good tune up and make sure it will run. Put some load on it and fix any issues that may develop. Follow your generator manufacturer's guidelines for this step.
2. While reading about annual maintenance, refresh your memory by reading the manufacturer's recommended operation practices.
3. Check your generator's location. Make sure it is away from windows and doors and other air intakes to your home. The area should be clean and dry. A temporary cover such as a tarp and poles may be needed to protect the generator.
4. Never operate the generator in any enclosed space.
5. Never simply plug the generator into a receptacle in your home - use a properly installed double pole double throw transfer switch or plug appliances and equipment into the generator. As an alternative, consider the GenerLink (see the description elsewhere in this newsletter).
6. If plugging appliances directly into a generator, use a properly sized extension cord.
7. The safest way to use a generator is with an approved interconnection device (GenerLink or transfer switch). Let us help you make the proper connections today.
Hopefully, we won't have occasion to use the generators this winter.

Commentary by the President & CEO



The Third Principle...

Member Economic Participation...*Payback*

by Jim Siglin
President & CEO

From time to time, I like to write about the cooperative difference. There are Seven Principles that form the foundation of the cooperative business model. The third of these is member economic participation. This means that you, our members and owners, share in our economic success. Our guiding principle is to provide the best possible quality of service at the lowest possible cost. We tailor our budgets and manage our operations so that we can achieve this objective while providing enough money to pay for operating costs, long-term debt and have the ability to respond to emergencies. We exercise the third principle when we have a profitable year, meaning we have money in excess of our operating requirements.

To be eligible for a capital credit, you must have been an active member during the year for which credits are being paid. We base the amount of your credit on the total amount you spent with the cooperative in that particular year. We return these margins to our members as a bill credit in November for current active members or in the form of a capital credit check for inactive members in December.



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Every cooperative has its own methodology for the return of capital credits. Your cooperative is working on a twenty-year cycle. By this, I mean we are paying capital credits from profits earned twenty years ago. Over the 70+ years of our existence, this cycle has varied but we are working diligently to stay at this rate. This year, we will distribute \$559,895.07 to members who were active consumers in 1987 and 1988. If a 20-year cycle seems odd, please keep in mind that operating a utility is a capital intensive proposition and it has taken many years to reach a point where we could return capital to our members.

Our guiding principle is to provide the best possible quality of service at the lowest possible cost.

Your Board has tasked us to maintain this cycle and to distribute at least \$500,000 every year where possible. Including the payments made in 2009, your cooperative has returned \$6,523,481 to members. Paying capital credits is a pleasure and economic boost because the money goes to members living in our communities. Contrast this with dividends investor-owned businesses pay. In these cases, most of that money goes to investors outside the immediate area.

2009 has been a challenge for all of us. I want to personally thank you for your patronage, your patience and to recommit to a continued pursuit of the highest possible quality of service at the lowest possible cost in 2010. Many things are in the works in our country and economy that will have an impact on costs. As we get information, we will share it with you. That too is part of the cooperative difference.

Happy Holidays to you and your families and our best wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2010.

Your Cooperative's Offerings...

Emergency & Standby Generators

Protect your property and your loved ones with an Onan-Cummins generator from SREC Resources. Available in portable and permanent configurations, we can tailor a solution to meet your needs and your budget. Our Onan-Cummins line is one of the best and most reliable in the business and our pricing is very competitive.



Have a need for a larger commercial generator? Let us give you a solution. Sizes up to 1 MW are available and rates may apply to help you save money with peak shaving.

GenerLink – Connect your Generator the Safe & Easy Way

A typical generator connection means installing a transfer switch and a sub panel. Expensive and inflexible? What if you want to power something not on the sub panel? No way that's happening.



Solve the problem with the GenerLink. This meter-based device makes connection a breeze and allows you full flexibility in what you power – up to the rated capacity of your generator. Need to run a freezer for a while and the generator is at capacity? Flip a breaker on a load you can do without for a while and connect the freezer.

And, when you use the GenerLink, there is no way your generator can back feed into our system. Your neighbors and our linemen are well protected.

Whole House Surge Suppression

Winter storms, lightning strikes, automobile accidents, animals, equipment failure. What do these things have in common? They all can create surges in our lines that can damage appliances and electronics in homes.

Homeowner insurance can cover these losses but why not protect yourself from such incidents to begin with? A whole house surge protector when used with strip devices and proper home grounding gives you the best possible protection.



Easy to install, the TESCO surge protector mounts right behind your meter and provides the first line of defense against surges entering your home by the electric line. Limit your risk today!

Load Control Program

While on the topic of water heaters, consider adding a load control device to that new Marathon. We install the

device before the Marathon leaves our warehouse. Once connected, you receive a one time bill credit and join over 1500 members who help us control our energy costs.

These devices have been on our system for over 20 years. When demand for electricity is high, we control power to the water heater and avoid the purchase of expensive energy. You benefit by lower rates all year.

Already have an electric water heater? Let us install a device and you'll receive a small bill credit for your participation. And, if you have a central air conditioner, we can offer an ongoing credit for your participation.

We designed the program so you never notice it working and there is no cost to you to join.

Marathon Electric Water Heaters

One of the largest users of energy in your home is your water heater. When that heater is part of your furnace it means you run your furnace in warm months just for hot water.

Save money and rest your furnace with a Marathon water heater. Up to 94% efficient and guaranteed for life against leaks. The perfect tank for our area and the last water heater you'll ever need.



Save with

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heat

You read this correctly – save with electric heat. Not too long ago that statement would have generated snickers if not outright laughter. Today, with fossil fuel prices showing wide fluctuation and very high prices, electricity is once again the way to heat your home.

ETS works this way. Bricks contained in well insulated housings are heating during off-peak hours when we can sell our electricity for a much lower rate. When our cost of power increases at times of peak demand, we turn off the power to the heating elements and small fans and pumps circulate air or water over the hot bricks.



You heat your home for less and enjoy greater comfort than with traditional systems.

In use in our area for more than 20 years, the time is right to rethink electric heat.

We'll size the system according to the heating needs of your home and arrange for professional installation. or, you can don your contractor cap and we'll provide you with the details needed to complete the project.

Security Lights

There is one thing to be said about life in a rural environment, it's dark at night. This is preferred by most but there are those who like to see what is going on around their house at night or want a safer driveway or parking area. Then there are those who just like to light up their home for all to see. Whether for landscaping or security reasons, we



offer lights to meet your needs: area, landscape and architectural. For a set monthly fee, we install and maintain the lights. You get the illumination we take care of the rest.

Worried that these lights waste energy? We are looking at high efficiency alternatives. Ask us for more detail.



e-Bill and Bank Drafts

Why pay bills the old-fashioned way? You know, write a check, stuff an envelope, get it to the post office and wait. Let us simplify your life in at least this area – use our on-line bill payment options. The process is easy, send your way to our website and under the "Your Bill" heading click to get started.

You can select from the option of having the bill drafted monthly from your checking account, just like insurance and other services do. Or you can elect to receive a notification and then make your payment.

Already using your bank to pay our bill? Please consider switching. Bank systems actually increase our cost of processing payments, something our system does not.

Ready to get started?

Please use the form to request more information. Fill it out and mail it in. Or, use one of these methods for faster service:

Generators & GenerLink

Phone: 973.875.1365 • Fax: 973.875.2394

e-Mail: creese@sussexrec.com

TESCO Surge, Marathon,

ETS & Load Control

Phone: 973.875.5101 • Fax: 973.875.4114

e-Mail: ttate@sussexrec.com

Security Lights

Phone: 973.875.5101 • Fax: 973.875.4114

e-Mail: dwilliams@sussexrec.com

e-Bill & Bank Draft

Phone: 973.875.5101 • Fax: 973.875.4114

e-Mail: dwilliams@sussexrec.com

Use this handy form to get more information...

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel.: _____ Best time to call: _____

e-mail: _____

Contact us today for more information

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative • 64 Route 639 • P.O. Box 346 • Sussex, NJ 07461
973.875.5101 or go to our website: <http://www.sussexrec.com>

I Would Like More Information On:

(check all that apply)

- Emergency & Standby Generators
- GenerLink – Connect your Generator the Safe & Easy Way
- Whole House Surge Suppression
- Marathon Electric Water Heaters
- Load Control Program
- Save with Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heat
- Security Lights
- e-Bill and Bank Drafts

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

by Tom Tate

College is a wonderful time; one of learning, growing and spreading wings. A time of realizing dreams. It is also a time of major expense. Books, clothing, room, board, tuition and more mount up and fast. A traditional means of addressing these costs is through winning a scholarship. Your cooper-

ative is pleased to be able to support this tradition with an award of scholarships to children of Sussex REC members. Our scholarships are offered through the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association.

This year, two outstanding Sussex County scholars were awarded scholarships. A brief

biography of each follows. We want to wish them both the best of luck in their academic endeavours and that they may realize their dreams with a little help from their cooperative.

Joseph Baker is attending Fordham University where he is a student in the College of Business Administration, majoring in Finance. A graduate of Vernon Township High School, he was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and Math League. He was also active in sports, including baseball and cross country, and also coached a team of seventh- and eighth-grade players. A resident of Vernon, NJ, his family is a member of Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.



Nicholas Walsh, a resident of Sussex, NJ, is attending Stevens Institute of Technology where he is majoring in electrical engineering. A graduate of Vernon Township High School, he was a member of the Science National Honor Society, a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student and an AP Student with Honor. He was captain of his high school's tennis team and was named to the All League Tennis Team in 2008 and 2009. Additional activities included the high school orchestra and the marching band. His family is a member of Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

By Barbara Taylor

Have you finished raking all of those leaves? Good, because it's time to dust off the snow shovel.

To ensure comfort, and to save money, it makes sense to winterize your home. Even simple fixes can go a long way to keeping you warm this winter.

- Inspect caulking around windows and doors, and replace any that has cracked or separated.

- Seal holes around wires and pipes entering your home. Don't forget the dryer vent. Use caulking or expandable foam to fill the gaps.

- Replace screens in windows and doors with storm windows.

- Clean the last of fall's leaves out of your gutters. Otherwise, water may back up and freeze, causing gutters to crack or tear open.

- Cover all outdoor air-conditioning units to protect them from snow, and to prevent access of cold air into your home.

- Wrap your water heater with an insulated blanket, especially if it is in an unheated area. Marathon owners can skip this step.

- Have your heating system inspected annually. Preventive maintenance now can head off a possible break-down when temperatures drop below freezing. Replace the air filter with a fresh one.

- Have your chimney flue inspected annually, and cleaned if necessary. If you use a fireplace, make sure the damper opens and closes properly.

- Make sure your attic has adequate insulation. Do the same for any crawlspace or unheated basement/garage under your home.

- Consider installing a programmable thermostat. There is a wealth of information about Energy Star rated models at http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=thermostats.pr_thermostats.

- Finally, make sure your smoke alarms/ carbon monoxide detectors are in good working order. If you didn't do it at the switch from Daylight Savings Time back to standard time in November, then install fresh batteries now to last through the winter.

IN MEMORY OF

JIM HENDERSON

Jim Henderson served continuously and with distinction as a member of the Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors since October 19, 1964 and until his retirement on October 30, 2007. Jim passed away October 21, 2009.

Wife's name is Shirley,
three grown children:

James Jr., Robert, Sharlene Kopec.

Worked for the Chester Cable
Division of Cities Service Company in
Chester, NJ as Manager of Production

Was a friend of Babe Ruth.

1987 PREA Man of the Year Award

1990 PREA Distinguished
Service Award

President Allegheny Electric
Cooperative 1978 - 1989

President of the Board
of SREC 1968 - 1998

SREC Representative
on NRECA Board 1991 - 2003

SREC Representative on Continental
Cooperative Services 1991 - 2003

A Knife for a Soldier

by Tom Tate

“Oh *Crocodile, give him what he wants, he has a knife!*” wails the heroine in the first Crocodile Dundee movie. Whipping forth his oversized Bowie, Crocodile rejoins, “*That’s not a knife. This is a knife.*” Perhaps one of my favorite movie scenes of all time along with...no, I’ll stop the movie review here. The gist of this article is in the title, “*A Knife for a Soldier.*” On the surface, it sounds a little redundant, doesn’t it? Don’t soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines get knives as part of their standard issue? Yes, they are typically issued with a combat knife (more properly called the M9 Bayonet). A quick Bing search lead me to this link that corroborated my statement: <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/archive/index.php/t-15663.html> As you see, the M9 is quite handy but just isn’t the sort of knife you can slip in a pocket for those personal everyday emergencies you might encounter.



Having carried a pocketknife for most of my life, I feel awkward without one. From opening packages to cutting off loose threads on clothing, a pocket knife can be a life saver. My favorite example takes place on a cold and stormy night in Minnesota. I was driving home in a snowstorm. I stop at a red light but the car behind me does not so we are “introduced” rather abruptly. Getting out to check for damage, my vintage P1800 Volvo decides to lock itself. An

endearing quirk in nice weather but not at a busy intersection in a snowstorm at night. Since a coat hanger is useless on this model Volvo, I look for a means of accessing the door lever. Ultimately, I use my pocketknife to cut out a small fixed rear window, reach in, open the door and proceed home. Without the knife, I would have been forced to break a window to get in or simply snarl traffic until a scion of AAA could come help.

My request here is to go to Smoky Mountain Knife Works’ website and participate in their “A Knife for a Soldier” campaign: <http://www.eknifeworks.com/webapp/eCommerce/prodlist.jsp?Mode=Brand&Brand=0328> While there, take time to browse their amazing selection. I have had the pleasure of going to their store in Sevierville, TN several times. They claim to be both the largest knife store and the largest online knife store in the world. I’ll vouch for the former and give them the benefit of the doubt on the latter. A pocketknife for a soldier can be a real boon and provide a touch of the comfort of home in a distant land. Thanks for considering the idea.

Walking the Walk

by Tom Tate

Anyone but a first time reader will know where I stand on conservation - I like it and promote it at every turn. Conservation is something anyone can do and, when implemented on a broad scale, can generate real savings for the practitioners and for our environment. On occasion, members have asked what we do around the office to conserve and save so I thought I would put together a list and let you know that we do indeed walk the walk.

- Bins for newspaper, copier paper and cardboard at several places in the office.
- We now use paper cups in lieu of Styrofoam.
- All our overhead fixtures have been retrofitted with T8 lamps (high efficiency) and electronic ballasts.
- Motion detectors on lights in select areas such as break room, line room, bathrooms.
- Recycling bucket for batteries of all types.
- Recycling dumpster for heavy cardboard.
- Recycling point in lobby for members’ rechargeable batteries and cell phones.
- Programmable thermostats throughout the office.
- Cut off switch on garage heaters that turn them off when the overhead doors open.
- Recycling containers for steel and plastic inside.
- Recycling of scrap metal from operations.

Please don’t construe this as bragging. It is simply a demonstration of what can be done with little effort and minimal expense. At home, I have switched over to about 50% CFLs, have a programmable thermostat, recycle paper, cardboard, plastic and glass, compost all kitchen and yard waste and have reduced my landfill contribution to about 1/2 a regular trash can every two weeks. The biggest challenge I now have is getting the trash collectors to actually remember to come get my pittance of a trash pickup. Again, all this required zero expense and a simple modification of my habits.

CONSERVE, RECYCLE AND REUSE AND SAVE.



Currents

is published monthly by

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

64 Route 639 • P.O. Box 346 • Sussex, NJ 07461

973.875.5101 / Fax: 973.875.4114

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

Website: www.sussexrec.com

E-mail: info@sussexrec.com

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973-875-1365

After Hours: 877.504.6463