

Currents

Your Link to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative



High Voltage. . .



The Early Days of the Cooperative

by Tom Tate

This year, we were fortunate to have the NRECA Executive Vice President for External Affairs, Martin Lowery, as our annual meeting keynote speaker. Having known Dr. Lowery for a number of years, I was expecting an excellent speech and he did not disappoint me. In fact, I learned quite a bit about the early days of electric cooperatives that I had not known before. It was such an enjoyable speech that I asked him for a copy and he graciously agreed.

Rather than give away the "plot" as it were, I have put the speech on the Internet where you can access it and read it in its entirety. One teaser is in order, an early proponent of electric cooperatives has a connection right across the river in Milford, PA and the first cooperative of any type in the United States has a famous founder in Philadelphia.

Be sure to read the speech. I am sure you will find it as enjoyable and informative as I did.

Commentary by the President & CEO



Questions from the Floor

by Jim Siglin
President & CEO

A portion of the annual meeting is devoted to answering questions from members about their cooperative. Last year, I recapped those questions and thought it useful to do so again this year.

The first had to do with the power outages members have experienced with our system. Many of the more recent outages were outside of our control. Some people are surprised to hear the Cooperative relies on the transmission lines of our neighboring utilities to bring power to our system. The easiest way to describe this is think of your cooperative as an island in the overall electrical system of the Northeast. Every utility in the lower 48 states is interconnected to others. Power is often generated at a fair distance from its ultimate destination. In our case, no generation exists within our territory so all our power is delivered through the systems of our neighboring utilities. When these utilities have an issue on their transmission system that connects to one of our delivery points (where their system is tied to ours), we are affected. Because of redundancy in our system, we can reroute a lot of your load to other substations keeping the interruption to a minimum but you'll experience interruptions or outages while that happens. When such incidents occur, we contact the utility involved immediately to make sure we know the specifics of the interruption and get estimated restoration times. We also work regularly with these utilities to keep interruptions to a minimum.

A question came up about how to reach us easily after hours in outage situations or during extensive outages like the ice storm of 2008. We have a

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24-hour outage service that is equipped for just such emergencies. Many members may not have had occasion to use the number or simply do not recall what it is. Besides, the outage usually happens at night making it even more difficult to find the phone number in the dark. A good solution is to have that number programmed into your cell phone or write it in a readily available spot. The number is **877.504.6463**. This is the best way to contact us and will provide the quickest response to your outage. Remember, if you lose power; don't hesitate to call, our system won't alert us to individual outages so do not assume we know you are out.

Your cooperative's stance about renewable energy was a popular topic including "Why don't we buy renewable power systems?" We work closely with any person or company interested in the installation of a renewable energy source. We do not own them because of our power contracts with Allegheny Electric Cooperative, our power supplier. However, Allegheny is very interested in the purchase of renewable energy, and has discussed the possibility of purchasing power from renewable sources. We have been approached by numerous solar farm developers and they have discussed providing the solar energy to our electrical system with Allegheny purchasing the power. In the meantime, we have developed all the necessary documentation, processes and policies to interconnect such a system with ours in a safe and efficient manner.

Because we have been promoting the benefits of our load control program, questions about it were asked. Load control is one of the best tools we have to combat energy cost increases. It is tried and true with more than 20 years of operation here at SREC. Today, we have over 1,300 electric water heaters in the system and during 2009; we saved nearly \$125,000 in power costs. The program works this way. Our power supplier tells us when they are expecting peak demand for electricity. If we keep load off that peak, we save money. And the beauty of the system is you will probably never even know the control has happened. Let's see if we can double participation and save a cool \$250,000. Call us to join.

My thanks to the more than 700 people who came to the meeting and to all our members for their support and participation.

**OUTAGES &
EMERGENCIES**
— CALL —
877.504.6463

Your Cooperative's Offerings...

Standby Generators

Protect your property and your loved ones with an Cummins-Onan generator from SREC Resources. We can tailor a whole house solution to meet your needs and your budget. Our Cummins-Onan 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 2 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.

Amperage	Standard	w/Surge Protection	Labor
30	\$660	\$775	\$160
40	\$780	\$870	\$160

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!

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.



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.

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 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.

Outdoor 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, wend 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

Outdoor 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)

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

Outdoor Lights

e-Bill and Bank Drafts

Watches - Mechanical Marvels

Yes, I am a watch collector. Who'd of guessed? Watches are naturally attractive to gadget guys. They are miniature marvels of mechanical engineering. Before the advent of quartz watches, your timepiece relied upon gears and springs to keep you punctual.

For a number of years, mechanical timepieces fell into disfavor as the low cost and geek appeal of battery operation swept around the world. Driven into dark caves in Switzerland to avoid mobs of horologists carrying cudgels and torches, traditional watchmakers kept their skills alive, but just barely. How dare they stick to things mechanical when electronics and batteries made watches affordable and reliable for the masses! Only the wealthy with castles for protection or the eccentrics with their quirks as proof against the mobs dared use such timepieces.



For the last decade or so, these harried bulwarks of mechanical watch making skills have been able to venture back into the full light of day and once again offer mechanical

watches alongside their electronic counterparts. In fact, some quartz movements now feature gears and can actually be rebuilt rather than simply discarded as the traditionalist watch makers have integrated their art with quartz technology.

When asked what is it about watches that fascinates me, I respond with the following, "precision and complexity." The graphic to the right illustrates these two facets of watches that make them so interesting. The mere fact that so many gears, levers and screws can be squeezed into such a tiny package alone is a marvel.

Then there is the gadget side. Mechanical watches satisfy my Luddite streak. High tech versions satisfy the gadget lust. Probably my favorite company for the high tech is Tokyo Flash. Want a different way to tell time or simply a watch with some electronic sizzle? Check them out here: <http://www.tokyoflash.com/en/watches/1/> This will get you your LED and electronic fix in watch form right away! Modern watches can transmit your heart rate to a nearby monitor while exercising, calculate your altitude or plot your course through the wilderness. I hear some even tell time.

So, where are you to find a source for these mechanical and electronic marvels? Do you hit the jewelry or department store? Only if you are interested in paying retail. Let me direct you to my source of supply

by
Tom
Tate



where you can latch onto deals that will make your hard earned money do double and even triple duty, www.shopnbc.com. You can shop online and, if your cable or satellite package includes it, see the watches on the ShopNBC channel several times during the week. While they do not offer every brand they offer dozens and the prices are terrific. My favorites are Invicta and Sturhling.

For those interested in a real iconic watch-buying experience, I recommend the merchants in Chinatown, NYC. For a fraction of what the real McCoy will run, you can get any name brand watch in a knock off. Have a hankering for an Omega Commander or a Panerai Luminor but don't have \$5,000+ to spare? For \$50 - 60 you can get a nice imitation. Be careful not to buy a counterfeit watch as that'll get you some jail time. The imitations have discernible differences to keep them legal. You might even find a guy wearing a trench coat lined with watches for sale. It's almost a Norman Rockwell moment.

In my opinion, you can't be too thin, have too much money, be too good looking or have too many watches. Good one out of four ain't so bad on my part.

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Sussex REC Online

By Barbara Taylor

Many of our members visit our website to pay their monthly bill. It's a safe, fast, convenient option that saves time and money. But there is a lot more to our newly redesigned site.

Energy Conservation

Our online energy audit provides estimates of energy use based on information you input for your home. Calculators show how much you can save by weatherizing, upgrading appliances, switching light bulbs, etc. You can calculate the cost to use a space heater or a new TV, and determine the correct size for a new air conditioner. When you exhaust these resources, there are links to a wealth of related information.

Two offerings we strongly recommend to save on energy costs are electric thermal storage (ETS) systems and Marathon water

heaters. Details about these, as well as our Load Control program, are available online. Rebates and bill credits are available to add to your savings.

Service Requests

Our website contains information and forms you can use when starting or stopping service. Details on contacting us to complete the process are included. There is also information about our outdoor light offerings, as well as detailed drawings for building a service on your home or business to our requirements.

Cummins Onan® Standby Generators

You can find brochures, specifications and a sizing worksheet to assist you in selecting the right generator for your home. Already

have an emergency generator? Make using it safer and easier with GenerLink. Think of this as a transfer switch you mount behind the electric meter. Plug in your generator, turn it on and you are disconnected from the grid. GenerLink allows you to decide what loads to power by using your circuit breakers.

Useful Links

Some of the many links on our site give you easy access to weather forecasts, local events and attractions, and previous issues of our Currents newsletter. You can also participate in the Our Energy, Our Future® campaign by contacting Congress about keeping future electricity costs fair and affordable for all Americans.

There are even games and coloring pages for kids. So check us out at www.sussexrec.com for lots of useful and informative content.

Summer and Fall Celebrations

By Tom Tate

It's been a while since I regaled you with the zany holidays observed here in the good old US of A. So let me make up for it with some for the balance of the summer and early fall.



JULY

NATIONAL BLUEBERRIES MONTH - Eat too many and you'll get blue teeth, like King Harald Bluetooth of Denmark (for whom the technology, Bluetooth, is named).

CELL PHONE COURTESY MONTH - They should make this a daily holiday.

NATIONAL ICE CREAM MONTH - Who needs an excuse to eat ice cream?

NATIONAL GRILLING MONTH - The sweet smell of summer. Try Cowboy Charcoal for your next cook out! Available at fine retailers everywhere.

NATIONAL HORSERADISH MONTH - I get all teary-eyed just thinking about it but at least my sinuses are open...

NATIONAL HOT DOG MONTH - I prefer Nathans. Any challengers?

JUL 3 RED, WHITE & BOOM, COLUMBUS OH - I'm guessing fireworks.

JUL 3-AUG 15 AIR CONDITIONING APPRECIATION DAYS - Dog Days of Summer are bearable with this modern marvel.

JUL 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY - Strike up some John Philip Sousa!

JUL 18 NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY - A month and a day in the same month. Call that a double-dip!

JUL 18-24 NATIONAL INDEPENDENT RETAILERS WEEK - Eschew the big box stores and patronize the local "mom 'n pop".

JUL 23 GORGEOUS GRANDMA DAY - 75 is the new 21? What about handsome grandpas? Where's the respect?

JUL 24 NATIONAL DRIVE-THRU DAY - Stay in the car all day. DO NOT get out for any reason.

JUL 25 PARENTS DAY - Another one deserving more than a day...

AUGUST

NATIONAL PANINI MONTH - An obvious marketing ploy...

AUG 1 GIRLFRIEND'S DAY - She'll not be your girlfriend long if you only celebrate one day a year. Trust me on this one, fellas.

AUG 1 SISTERS' DAY - Okay, nothing witty comes to mind. My sister would pummel me if it did.

AUG 5 NATIONAL UNDERWEAR DAY - Time to change them! How do you celebrate this event? Wear it outside your clothes? Some teenagers seem to celebrate this regularly.

AUG 7 NATIONAL MUSTARD DAY - I recommend combining with a day in July.

AUG 15 BEST FRIEND'S DAY - See August 1. BFF might not last if celebrated one day a year!

AUG 15 NATIONAL RELAXATION DAY - Ahhh!

AUG 20 MEN'S GROOMING DAY - Alright, front and center. Make yourself presentable at least this once!

AUG 21 NATIONAL MEN'S GROOMING DAY - Seems like a pattern is developing. Where was Aug 20 recognized?

AUG 29 MORE HERBS, LESS SALT DAY - My favorite is Rosemary. The ancient Greeks thought it improved memory and students ate some before exams. Maybe their politicians should try it and remember fiscal responsibility.



SEPTEMBER

BACKPACK SAFETY AMERICA MONTH - Wear it properly as medical research is finding skeletal and muscular issues associated with overloaded back pack use. Not kidding here.

BETTER BREAKFAST MONTH - See you at Clove Brook - my favorite breakfast haunt.

GO WILD DURING CALIFORNIA WILD RICE MONTH - Excuse me, but my Mom raised me to be calm around wild rice.

NATIONAL CHICKEN MONTH - Which comes first? National Chicken Month or National Egg Month?

NATIONAL COUPON MONTH - The web is a terrific source of coupons. The WSJ recommends 5 in this article: <http://www.smartmoney.com/spending/deals/5-best-coupon-clipping-web-sites-23634/>

NATIONAL HONEY MONTH - First you bake some fresh bread or biscuits. Butter them while they're hot, add honey and celebrate.

NATIONAL MUSHROOM MONTH - They had been keeping this holiday in the dark...

NATIONAL RICE MONTH - The calm alternative to the California event.

NATIONAL SKIN CARE AWARENESS MONTH - A little late for this summer season! Take care of your skin so it'll look good for years to come.

FALL HAT MONTH - How about a lovely beret for hiking? Find what you want here: <http://www.villagehatshop.com/>

GREAT AMERICAN LOW-CHOLESTEROL, LOW FAT PIZZA BAKE MONTH - I refuse to desecrate the world's most perfect food this way. The very idea! Besides, what kind of slogan is this?

SEP 5-11 NATIONAL WAFFLE WEEK - Leggo my Eggo...

SEP 6 LABOR DAY - Is this a contradiction? We are all off from work so who labors today?

SEP 12 VIDEO GAMES DAY - Okay kids, just this once you can play ALL day... after you finish your vegetables.

SEP 12 NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY - This is the first year I can join this celebration:>)

SEP 18 INT'L. EAT AN APPLE DAY - This will keep the World Health Organization away, at least today.

SEP 20-24 NATIONAL LOVE YOUR FILES WEEK - I'm a wood worker. Is this MY holiday?

SEP 20-26 NATIONAL CLEAN HANDS WEEK - Whoo-boy. Food service workers, make this a year-long celebration.

SEP 26/10-2 NATIONAL KEEP KIDS CREATIVE WEEK - I recommend hiding their allowance and game controllers in unusual places to test the little darlings' deductive skills.

SEP 27 FAMILY DAY - A DAY TO EAT DINNER WITH YOUR CHILDREN - Consider more than one day a year - they really do grow up fast!

Currents

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

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