

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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Get ready to rodeo with our linemen

The tenth annual Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo will be held on March 30–31, 2012 at the Caroline County Agricultural Fairgrounds in Ruther Glen, Virginia. Admission is free. Don't miss the chance to see the challenging and vital work your SMECO linemen perform on a daily basis. The Gaff 'n' Go Lineman's Rodeo is an opportunity for linemen to test their skills

Rodeo

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In January 1951 the Prince Frederick cooperative employees moved from their old quarters behind the courthouse to the recently completed office building opposite the new Calvert County high school. The office location was described in 1951 as being "about one mile north of town." In 1953, construction began on an additional 2,700 square feet of office space for the Hughesville office.



SMECO
People. Power. Progress.

SMECO
75
YEARS

Rodeo

CONTINUED

against those of their peers and provides an opportunity for members of the community to see what it takes to be a utility lineman—skill, strength, and respect for electricity.

This will be the eighth year that SMECO linemen will compete in the Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo. Each team consists of two Journeymen and a Groundman, and they participate in five mandatory events, including the pole climb, hurt-man rescue, and three mystery events.

Apprentices also compete. They are judged on the pole climb, hurt-man rescue, a written test, and two mystery events. A person is considered an Apprentice for up to four years after he enters the apprenticeship.

SMECO's linemen perform with speed and consistency, and competition between the different utility crews is fierce. In 2011, competition for the day's events was so tight, that in the climbing skills demonstration, 27 competitors achieved a perfect score of 100 points with a time difference of less than 58 seconds between the winner and the twelfth place finish.

The events are judged by utility supervisors and previous rodeo contestants following very strict criteria based on correct work procedures and safety practices. The top three teams and top three apprentices will receive paid entry to the International Lineman's Rodeo to be held October 10–13, 2012, at the National Agricultural Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

Join our linemen at the Tenth Annual Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo, March 31, 2012, at the Caroline County Agricultural Fairgrounds in Ruther Glen, Virginia. If you would like more information on attending the Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo, please visit gaff-n-go.com or call 804-968-4073.



Energy charges to be reduced

SMECO filed an application with the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) on January 31, 2012, to reduce its energy charges.

Our Standard Offer Service (SOS) rate is made up of the energy charge and the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). We filed to reduce the residential winter energy charge from 9.11 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 8.68 cents per kWh, a reduction of 4.7 percent. Winter energy charges appear on bills rendered November through May. Residential energy charges for summer will decrease from 9.75 cents per kWh to 8.92 cents per kWh, a reduction of 8.5 percent. If the filing is approved by the PSC, the reduced charge will appear on customer-members' April 2012 bills.

Lower power supply costs have been reflected in the PCA on SMECO's monthly electric bills and customer-members have received a PCA credit every month since September 2011.

The credit reduces the overall SOS rate. With the PCA credit, the SOS rate for January has, in effect, been reduced from 9.11 cents per kWh to 8.57 cents per kWh. The total SOS rate in April will be the combination of the new reduced energy charge and the PCA, which changes monthly. For an average residential bill for 1,300 kWh, the base SOS rate will be \$5.56 less.

"The co-op does not make a profit on energy charges. We use a portfolio approach to purchasing power, with contracts for base load and peak load and long-term and short-term contracts. The co-op's power portfolio produces stable energy rates and helps to save money for customer-members overall."

*—Austin J. Slater, Jr.
SMECO president and CEO*

The new rates are based on forecasted power costs for April 2012 to March 2013, which are estimated to be less than \$80 per megawatt-hour (MWh) for wholesale power supply. This cost is nearly 11 percent less than the estimated costs the co-op submitted in its last filing in January 2010.

Winners of MATHCOUNTS competition announced

Over 110 students from 21 middle schools in Southern Maryland tested their computation skills at the 18th annual MATHCOUNTS competition, held at Theodore G. Davis Middle School in Waldorf on February 4, 2012.

During the three-hour competition, the middle-school students tackled challenging mathematics problems in a series of exciting rounds. MATHCOUNTS is designed to offer the entertainment level of a sports event and to ignite student interest in the world of numbers.

The local MATHCOUNTS competition is sponsored by SMECO and the Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's county public schools, with the support of the National Society of Professional Engineers. Winners of the Southern Maryland competition will go on to compete in the statewide contest at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. State winners will progress to the national competition held in Orlando, Florida.



The winners of the target, sprint, and countdown rounds.
Left to right: Jamie Scheetz of Esperanza Middle School was the second-place winner of the countdown round, as well as the sprint and target rounds. Logan Cotner of Mattawoman Middle School was the first-place winner in these three categories.



First-place team, Mattawoman Middle School

From left are Justin Arter, James Arter, Logan Carter, Thach-Vu Nguyen, and coach Sean Lloyd.



Second-place team, Northern Middle School

From left are Sydney Feldman, Kirsten Southan, Max Hakun, John Heide, and coach Judy Haines.



Third-place team, Spring Ridge Middle School

From left are Bethany Hoschar, Allison Anderson, Belinda Chiu, Samuel Nam, and coaches Gina Clark and Gary Robinson.



It's spring cleaning time again! Get rid of old, energy-draining home appliances and replace them with ENERGY STAR® qualified ones. We make cleaning house and saving money easy by offering rebates between \$25–\$350 on popular home appliances. We'll even pick up your old refrigerator or freezer for recycling and pay you a \$50 reward! Visit www.smeco.coop/save to learn more.

around **TOWN**

April 7

Point Lookout

Lighthouse Open House

Sponsor: Point Lookout
Lighthouse Preservation Soc.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Scotland, MD

Docents will be on hand
to answer your questions.

No charge to enter the
lighthouse, standard park
entrance fees apply.

301-684-3704

PLLPS.org

April 14

Treasures Sale

Sponsor: All Saints
Episcopal Church

8 a.m. to noon

100 Lower Marlboro Road

Find great buys inside the
Parish Hall. We're at the
intersection of Routes 2
and 4 in Sunderland. Free
admission; free parking.

301-855-4865

April 18

United Way of Charles County Back-to-Back Golf Tournaments

Sponsor: United Way of
Charles County

7 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Swan Point Yacht &
Country Club. Shotgun
start times of 8 a.m.

and 1:30 p.m. Forms are
available on the website
under the special events
tab. **\$ Admission.**

301-609-4844

unitedwaycharles.org

April 22

Spring 2012 Basket Bingo

Sponsor: Auxiliary to the
Benedict Volunteer Fire
Dept. and Rescue Squad

Doors open at 1 p.m.

Games start at 2 p.m.

Benedict VFDRS 18210
Hyatt Ave., Benedict.

Children are welcome
with paid admission and



Visit www.smeco.coop/community/aroundtown for more events.

must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations welcome. **\$ Admission.**

301-848-9028
bvfdrs.com

Concert: Suspicious Cheeselords

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City
6:30 p.m., Chapel
Male a cappella ensemble offers music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

\$ Admission.

240-895-4990
stmaryscity.org/events

April 27

Public Lecture: O'er the Ramparts: Fortifications in the Ches., 1607-1945

Sponsor: Historic SMC
7:30 p.m., Visitor Center
Come learn how, where, and why forts were built.

240-895-4990
stmaryscity.org/events

April 28

4th Annual Calvert County Green Expo

Sponsor: Calvert County Citizen's Green Team, Annemarie Gardens
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Annemarie Gardens,
13480 Dowell Road
Solomons. Door prizes.

410-231-1156
calvertgreenexpo.com

SOMD Women's Show featuring SOMD Kids' Expo

Sponsor: 3 Chicks Promotions
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, 44219 Airport Road, California
Women-friendly businesses of Southern Maryland under one roof for a fun-filled and informative day.

somdwomenshow.com
somedexpos.com

Announcing March's golden ticket prizes

February's golden tickets are all out and Chris Wilson won the big prize in February. Maybe you'll be a winner, too.

Now it's time to start watching for March's golden tickets! The theme for March is appliances and four local businesses have donated fabulous prizes.

Black Belt Academy of Prince Frederick has donated a Keurig Coffee Maker valued at approximately \$150. **Black Belt Academy** of Prince Frederick is located at in the Fox Run Shopping Center on Route 4 in Prince Frederick. Visit their website at www.calvertmartialarts.com.

Addie McBride, a real estate agent with **Franzen Realtors**, has donated a countertop grill valued at \$100. Franzen Realtors is located at 22316 Three Notch Road in Lexington Park. Stop in and see **Addie McBride** for your real estate needs, or visit their website at www.franzenrealtors.com and find Addie under their list of associates.

Glover's Septic has donated a food steamer valued at \$100. **Glover's Septic** is located in Huntingtown and you can find out about their services by visiting www.gloversseptic.com.

Chesapeake Pet Resort & Day Spa has donated an electric juicer valued at \$100. **Chesapeake Pet Resort & Day Spa** is located at 26120 Jones Wharf Road in Hollywood. Visit their website at www.chessiepets.com.

