

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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Join SMECO's linemen at the 11th annual Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo

The 11th annual Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo will be held on April 6, 2013 at the Caroline County Agricultural Fairgrounds in Ruther Glen, Virginia. Admission is free. Come watch your SMECO linemen compete while exhibiting the challenging and vital work they perform

Rodeo

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More than 150 students in Southern Maryland competed in the 19th annual regional MATHCOUNTS competition on February 2, 2013. Read the full story on page 4.



on a daily basis. The Gaff 'n' Go Lineman's Rodeo is an opportunity for linemen to test their skills 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 ninth 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. 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 16–19, 2013, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Join our linemen at the Eleventh Annual Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo. If you would like more information on attending the Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo, please visit gaff-n-go.com or call 804-968-4073.



Above: Lineman preparing for the hurt-man rescue. Below: Lineman competing in the transformer change-out event.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

SMECO is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). Sonja Cox, SMECO Senior Vice President of Financial, Economic and Employee Services, is responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination efforts. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll free 1-866-632-9992 (voice) or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD) or 1-866-377-8642 (relay voice users).

SMECO is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sign up today for the second annual SMECO 75 Bike Ride

Join us for the bike ride, featuring 29-, 47-, and 75-mile routes through scenic Southern Maryland.

Date: June 1, 2013

Time: Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. for packet pick-up/same-day registration

Place: 15035 Burnt Store Rd. Hughesville, Maryland

Cost: Register* by May 1: \$35
May 2–June 1: \$45



* Register by May 1 to guarantee receipt of a commemorative shirt.

For more information, see the insert included in your bill.

www.smeco.coop/SMECO75

Winners of MATHCOUNTS competition announced

More than 150 students from 19 middle schools in Southern Maryland enjoyed a creative and exciting test of their mathematics skills at the 19th annual regional MATHCOUNTS competition, held at Theodore G. Davis Middle School in Waldorf on February 2, 2013.

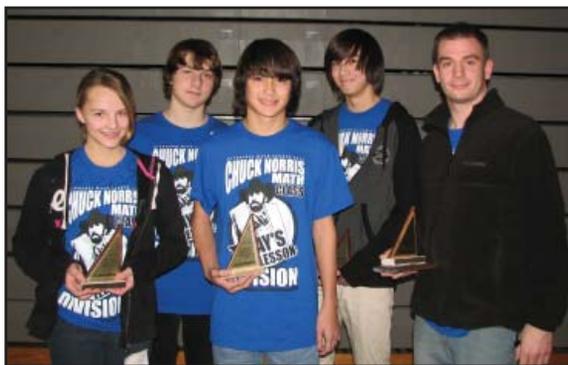
The three-hour competition featured challenging mathematics problems in a series of exciting rounds. MATHCOUNTS is designed to offer the entertainment level of a sports event and to ignite student interest in the world of numbers. There are team and individual winners.

Individual competition was based on combined scores in the target and sprint rounds. Logan Cotner of Mattawoman Middle School in Charles County placed first in the individual competition and Jamie Scheetz of Esperanza Middle School in St. Mary's County placed second. Team winners are pictured at right.

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 Washington, D.C.



Sponsors for the local MATHCOUNTS competition are SMECO and the Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's county public schools, with the support of the National Society of Professional Engineers. Members of the Kiwanis of Charles County and the Westlake Key Club, along with SMECO employees and their families, volunteered their time to help score the tests, as well. Sherri Long of SMECO and Scott Sisolak, Charles County Public Schools, input test scores into a database.



First-place team, Esperanza Middle School

From left are Anna Staats, Jamie Scheetz, Jake Timmer, and Ian Madden with coach Philip Sassaman.



Second-place team, Milton Somers Middle School

From left are Michael Gill, Ethan Walker, Justin Cortez, and Sarah Chen with coach Jen Craigmile.



Third-place team, Margaret Brent Middle School

From left are Jackie Short, Maryann Robinson, Doug Bell, and Seth Barker with coach Kevin Mackall.



You're in luck! Get a pot o' green—rebates up to \$750—to improve the efficiency of your home's heating and cooling system. SMECO is offering rebates to offset the cost of energy-efficient heating and cooling upgrades that can help you reduce energy use, lower energy costs, and improve your home's comfort. Learn more and select a participating contractor to qualify for the rebates at SMECO.coop/save or call 877-818-4094.



around **TOWN**

Visit www.smeco.coop/ourcommunity/aroundtown.aspx for more events.

April 6

6th Annual We're Looking for Trouble 5K Run/Walk & Kids' Fun Run

Sponsor: Community Mediation Center of St. Mary's County
9 a.m. to Noon. Three Notch Trail—starts and ends at Northern Senior Center (29655 Charlotte Hall Road) The Kids' Fun Run (10 and under) starts at 8:45 a.m.; 5K starts at 9 a.m. Parking available at race site. Pre-register by April 2, for a chance to win an iPad 2. Rain or shine. **\$ Admission.**
301-475-9118
looking4trouble5k.com

Walking Tour: Unexplored Sites of the First Capital

Sponsor: Historic SMC
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Farthing's Ordinary
Be prepared to walk on rough terrain. Reservation recommended. Rain date: April 13. **\$ Admission.**
240-895-4990
stmaryscity.org

April 13

Animals All Around

Sponsor: Historic SMC
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Historic St. Mary's City. Local 4-H members will bring their livestock to the museum to share what they have learned about their breeds.
\$ Admission.
240-895-4990
stmaryscity.org

April 17

United Way of Charles County 16th Annual Golf Tournament

Sponsor: United Way of Charles County
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Swan Point Yacht and Country Club. Back-to-back tournaments, shotgun starts at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Contests, light breakfast, on-course beverages and snacks, a full meal in the clubhouse following play, and prizes.
\$ Admission.
301-609-4844
unitedwaycharles.org/Golf_Tournament.php

April 20

Discovering Archaeology Day

Sponsor Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. JPPM.
All ages, no fee.
Demonstrations, tours, and activities for budding archaeologists of any age.
410-586-8501
jefpat.org

April 27

SOMD Women's Show and Kids' Expo

Sponsored by 3 Chicks Promotions
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, 44219 Airport Road. Fashion show, fitness demos, healthcare suite, kid's activity rooms, man cave, and a bachelor auction benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project. Admission is free. The first 250 attendees receive a swag bag.
240-317-5277
somedexpos.com

Celebrate La Plata

Sponsor: Town of La Plata
Noon to 4 p.m.
La Plata Town Hall Fun for all ages: face painting, displays, entertainment, refreshments for sale from local favorites, and bed races.
301-934-8421
townoflaplata.org

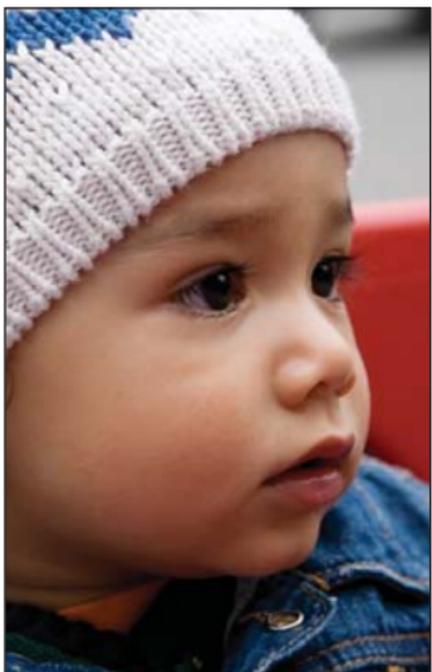
April 28

Spring Guided Hike at Warrior's Rest

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Warrior's Rest Sanctuary, Scientists Cliffs Road. Guided walk to explore Warrior's Rest Sanctuary and Arboretum. Bring binoculars. Registration required. Rain or shine unless thunderstorms develop. Dogs are not permitted on guided tours.
410-414-3400
actweb.org/calendar/calpage.cfm

Helping your neighbor can be rewarding

We know that part of being a good neighbor is to lend a hand when needed, and we know our customer-members share this charitable spirit. For people who have fallen on hard times,



receiving enough money to pay past due electric bills can make a big difference in their lives.

By contributing to Members Helping Members, you can join your neighbors to help keep the lights on.

How do I help?

It's easy! Simply **sign up to add \$1, \$5, or \$10** to your SMECO electric bill every month.

Each month donations are sent to the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, which will administer the funds to those customer-members who seek aid and meet the qualifications.

If you would like to help your neighbors keep their lights on, you can sign up to be a member who helps members in several convenient ways.

- **Call:** 1-888-440-3311
- **Online:** www.smeco.coop/mhm
- **In person** at one of the customer service counters at a SMECO location

Your monetary contribution to Members Helping Members is tax deductible.

"I contribute to help people who are trying to make ends meet. Everyone needs a helping hand now and then."

—Yvonne G., SMECO member