



# Along the LINE

MAY 2024

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



## Sporting Clay 4-H Fundraiser

Save the date, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will hold our third sporting clays 4-H fundraiser on Sept. 13.

This is a 50-target event. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the tournament. There will be prizes for 1st through 3rd place for individuals and teams. Gun rental is available.

A maximum of 30 teams will be allowed. Shells are not included in registration fee, but will be available for purchase if needed; 7½ size shot or smaller. Eye and ear protection is required.



### Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at:

- Kiosk under the drive-thru canopy
- Calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358
- Placed in the night deposit box
- Online bill-pay by logging on to [ememc.com](http://ememc.com)

**Edgecombe-Martin County EMC  
Sporting Clay Fundraiser**

**WHEN:** Friday, September 13th, 2024

**WHERE:** Rose Hill Sporting Preserve, 3815 Rose Hill Lane, Nashville, NC 27856

**BENEFITS:** Edgecombe County 4-H

**PRICE:** \$500.00 for a 4 person team. \$150.00 for individuals

**TO REGISTER:** Contact Monica Speight at 252-823-2171 or [monicas@ememc.com](mailto:monicas@ememc.com)

# Welcome New Employees

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is delighted to extend a warm welcome to our two newest team members, Klint Price and Clark Thornton. These talented individuals have recently joined us to contribute their skills and dedication to our cooperative.

Klint Price joins us as a First Class Line Technician, bringing with him a wealth of experience and expertise in the electric utility field. With 9 years of valuable experience under his belt, Klint has already made significant contributions to the industry and is poised to excel within our cooperative.

Clark Thornton brings a fresh perspective to our team. He has completed the Line Tech program at Nash Community College and has been actively engaged in the electric utility industry for the past two years. His enthusiasm and commitment to service make him a valuable addition to our workforce.



*Clark Thornton (L) and Klint Price (R)*

Both Klint and Clark are not just professionals in their field; they are also integral members of the communities we proudly serve. Their local ties and familiarity with the area make them uniquely positioned to understand the needs of our members and contribute positively to our cooperative's mission.

Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to Klint Price and Clark Thornton as they embark on this exciting journey with Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. We look forward to witnessing their growth and success within our cooperative family.

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## Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Sponsors 2024 MCAS Cherry Point Air Show

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is a proud sponsor of the 2024 MCAS Cherry Point Air Show, gearing up to enthrall audiences on May 11-12.

Offering free general admission and parking, attendees can download passes from the official website. Premium seating options, ranging from \$20 to \$300, provide various amenities.

Featuring spectacular acts including the renowned Blue Angels, the thrilling F-22 Raptor Demo, the agile Harrier AV-8B Demo, the blazing Hotstreak II Jet Fire Truck, the dynamic Marine Air-Ground Task Force Demo, and much more, this biennial community event promises non-stop excitement.

Join MCAS Cherry Point and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing for a weekend of aerial prowess, camaraderie and unforgettable moments. Don't miss out on this exhilarating showcase! For more information, visit [cherrypointairshow.com](http://cherrypointairshow.com).



Over the past decade, our focus on monitoring and proactively addressing cybersecurity risks has become critical. Collaboration among cooperatives is a vital part of our cyber risk management process. Co-ops routinely collaborate with state and federal government intelligence agencies to address threats, ensuring swift responses to protect members' power and data.

Cyber-attacks can be one of the most expensive risks electric utilities face. Still, the threat to personal and financial data is more significant than to the physical grid itself. Every year, cybercrime costs companies billions of dollars in the U.S. alone. According to Bill West, vice president of underwriting at Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, the average cyber insurance claim costs \$733,000.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC consistently provides staff training to educate employees on identifying potential threats. Technology only provides about 10% of the protection, and humans interacting through the technology are responsible for the other 90%. Often, hackers target people rather than systems through phishing (emails designed to make you click a link) or social engineering (manipulating individuals into divulging confidential information or performing actions that compromise security).

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, our employees go through cybersecurity training annually and are tested through internal emails each month. Over 85% of data breaches involve a human element, with cybercriminals exploiting individuals through tactics like phishing, smishing, and vishing.

It's crucial to exercise caution when handling emails or clicking on links. At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we do not call requesting personal information or financial data from our members, nor will we send out a link requesting such sensitive details. We would send attachments if a member initiates a request for a copy of their bill or specific consumption data. A member may also request information about setting up a new service, and we would email them the information as well.

To enhance the security of your personal information and finances, refrain from sharing sensitive data with unverified individuals, whether online or over the phone. Remember that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC never solicits personal information or payments via telephone or the internet. Additionally, be vigilant when you come



across emails containing suspicious links or attachments (any link or attachment you did not expect to receive), as they could be spoofed or malicious. Always verify the legitimacy of emails before clicking on anything. Furthermore, ensure that you use strong, unique passwords for each account.

Cybersecurity is an ever-evolving challenge, and it requires everyone across the organization to be vigilant. It takes everybody working together to ensure the network is not compromised by simple actions, like clicking on malicious links or downloading viruses or other malware. Taking preventive measures and practicing proper cyber hygiene can decrease the odds of being hacked, preventing lost time and money.

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we are committed to aggressively protecting our member data and maintaining a secure link between cyberspace and our physical systems to ensure the safety of our member's data and our electric grid.

Cooperatively,  
*Ethan Thomas*  
Ethan Thomas

# Congratulations Tyler and Justin

Congratulations to Tyler Perkins and Justin Francis on successfully completing the rigorous Electric Line Constructor Apprenticeship and earning their journeyman line certification!



This program entails a demanding journey of 8,000 hours, balancing classroom sessions with hands-on training. Tyler and Justin's unwavering dedication and hard work have truly paid off. Apprenticeships like these are invaluable, blending paid on-the-job training with essential classroom instruction, paving the way for individuals to embark on highly skilled careers.

By participating in apprenticeship programs, workers like Tyler and Justin gain not only practical skills but also a pathway to further opportunities. Our cooperative benefits from a pipeline of skilled talent, ensuring our workforce remains robust and competitive.

Congratulations to Tyler, Justin, and all those who supported them on this journey! Special thanks to the U.S. Department of Labor for their crucial role in safeguarding the welfare of apprentices and promoting equality of access to these invaluable programs.

## HVAC Service Reminder

The air conditioner is always the hardest working appliance during the summer months.

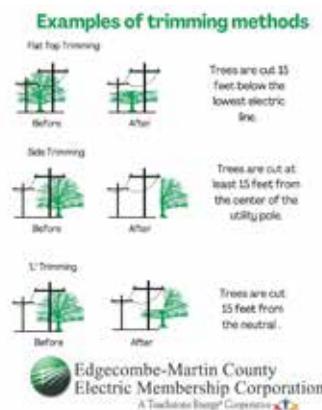
For day-to-day comfort, we rely on our cooling system, be it at home or at the office. For that reason, it's imperative to have your HVAC system serviced before it starts getting too warm and humid.

Most members can expect to see their bills increase during the summer months as their air conditioners run longer and harder to cool the home to their desired temperature. Experts recommend that you keep your thermostat set at 78 degrees when your HVAC system is set to cool in order to keep energy consumption as low as possible.

## May Rights-of-Way Schedule

In order to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management. This requires pruning, removing, and cutting brush to prevent vegetation from interrupting your electric service.

Throughout May, Burford's Tree will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment, in the Conetoe area, and various hotspots on the system.



## Along The LINE

[ememc.com](http://ememc.com)

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