



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC
AUGUST 2023 VOL. 24 NO. 4

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Hot Air Balloons

**Festival Gains
Popularity**

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*Photo provided by
Petra Wilson, owner
of Western Horizons
Hot Air Balloons.*



Southeastern Experimenting With Electric Vehicles

A little over a year ago Southeastern Electric obtained a Nissan Leaf electric vehicle. The purpose of this purchase was to try to learn more about electric vehicles (EV) and the effect that the charging of these vehicles will have on the electric distribution system. We have gained some insight from this vehicle, and we have since added a Ford F-150 Lightning to the fleet as well. The Nissan Leaf is more practical as a commuting vehicle, with a real-world range of about 175 miles, while the Ford F-150 Lightning provides more room and a longer range of about 220 miles. The Ford Lightning does have the option of an extended range battery, however, the one that Southeastern owns is the standard range version.

What we have learned while experimenting with these vehicles with

level 2 charging, is that the power used adds up to about the same amount of electricity as if you were to add an electric clothes dryer or electric range to your home. If you are planning to purchase an electric vehicle, you will want to consult with a licensed electrician to make sure that your home wiring will support the added load. Charging with the normal 120-volt outlet (Level 1 Charging) will work at first, but for more practical use of your electric vehicle, you will eventually want to charge with the level 2 charger at 240 volts. You can read more about home charging on page 10 of this newsletter.

We have taken both vehicles on trips halfway across the state of South Dakota and have quickly assessed that if the electric vehicle industry really takes off, we will need a great deal more level

3 DC fast chargers available to make longer distance travel more achievable. The Tesla DC Fast charging network is much more established in the state of South Dakota, and if you are driving a Tesla electric vehicle you will have access to this network. At this time, the Tesla charging network is not available to non-Tesla vehicles, so when you are planning your longer trips, you will need to make sure that there are DC fast chargers available on your route.

What we have learned when charging at the Level 3 DC fast chargers is that it would be best to charge the vehicles from 20 percent charge to 70 or 80 percent charge, as this is when you get the fastest charging rate. Once the battery is at about 75 percent, the charging rate starts to drop off rapidly. Our experience indicates once you have



reached 75 percent charge it is better to stop and move on to the next DC fast charger. The problem in South Dakota at the present time is that the next charger may be farther away than the range of your vehicle. Again, this is not so much of an issue with Tesla electric vehicles due to the much more robust Tesla charging network.

Extreme heat or cold as well as speed are also factors that greatly affect the range on electric vehicles. Colder temperatures make charging more difficult, and energy used to keep temperatures in the vehicle comfortable takes away from energy the battery would use for driving. Hot temperatures are not good for batteries either and keeping the battery cool is a concern as well. The faster the vehicle is moving; the more energy is used. Slower speeds will greatly increase the range of the electric vehicle.

The cost of operating an electric vehicle is considerably lower than operating a traditional vehicle with an internal combustion engine (ICE). The electric vehicles that are in the Southeastern Electric fleet are getting between 1.75 to 3 miles per kilowatt hour of energy. If you apply this to the Southeastern Electric General service rate you can be in the four to five cents per mile to drive the vehicle. There are many calculators on websites that let you compare the cost of operating an ICE vehicle vs. an EV, and most of these

calculators have proven to be pretty accurate in our real-world testing.

We are continuing to learn more about these highly technical vehicles, and this will help us to develop rates that will incentivize people with electric vehicles to charge the vehicles when there is less demand for electricity on the grid. This is important, because as more people start purchasing electric vehicles, the demand on the grid will become a concern.

The future of electric vehicles looks promising. Automakers are investing heavily in research and development, striving to enhance battery technology, increase charging speeds, and reduce costs. The emergence of solid-state batteries, which offer higher energy density and faster charging capabilities, holds great potential for further advancing the electric vehicle industry. Additionally, the growth of autonomous driving technology and shared mobility services aligns well with electric vehicles, as they provide efficient and sustainable transportation options.

The environmental benefits, energy efficiency, and technological advancements can make them an attractive choice for many of our members at Southeastern Electric. We will continue to study and experiment with them to help us make sure that we can continue to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electricity for all our members into the future.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC

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Working Out in the Heat

Exercising outdoors is a great way to enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather of summer. But you'll need to take some extra precautions to stay safe. Here are some do's and don'ts for working out when temperatures climb.

DO: Stay hydrated

Drink plenty of water before, during and after your workout to prevent dehydration and help regulate body temperature. Nicole Thompson of the American Council on Exercise recommends slowly drinking water or sports drinks about four hours before exercising. Aim for 1 ounce for every 11 pounds of body weight – so 10 ounces for a 110-pound person or 20 ounces for a 220-pound person.

Weigh yourself before and after working out to determine how much fluid you need to replace. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recommends drinking 2-3 cups of water for every pound lost.

DON'T: Drink products containing alcohol

Alcohol is a diuretic, so it contributes to dehydration.

DO: Wear lightweight and breathable clothing

Choose light-colored and loose-fitting clothes made of moisture-wicking materials. This'll help keep you cool and dry.

DON'T: Wear dark colors or heavy fabrics

Dark-colored clothing can absorb heat and trap it against your body.

DO: Wear sunscreen

The key number to look for on your sunscreen is the sun protection factor. An SPF of 15 filters out about 93% of UVB rays, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, while an SPF of 30 will filter out around 97%. Look for "broad spectrum" on the label to protect against UVA and UVB rays.

Apply sunscreen 15 or 20 minutes before going out (check the instructions on the label). Reapply every two hours – or more frequently if you're sweating a lot. Don't forget about your ears, lips and any bald spots on your scalp – they need protection, too.

DON'T: Work out during the hottest times of the day

The sun is at its strongest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., so try to schedule workouts for earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Remember, you can always work out inside and in an air-conditioned area if needed.

DO: Know the signs of heat-related illness

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Nausea and dizziness
- Headaches
- Feeling weak

A weak or rapid pulse

Cold, clammy skin

If you experience any sign of heat exhaustion, move to a cool place, loosen your clothing, put cool and wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath, and sip water, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. Get medical help if your symptoms don't go away after an hour, if your symptoms worsen or if you're throwing up.

Symptoms of heatstroke include:

A body temperature of 103° F or higher

Hot, dry, bright red or damp skin

Labored breathing

A fast, strong pulse

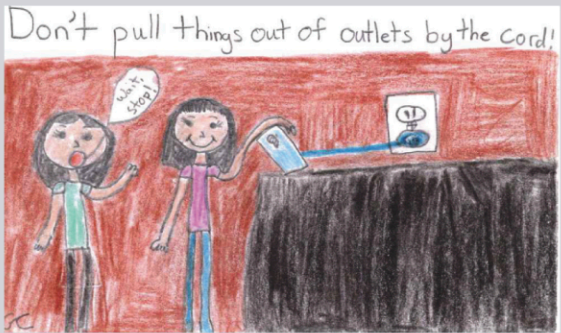
Headache, dizziness, nausea or confusion

Loss of consciousness

Heatstroke is an emergency. If you suspect it, call 911 immediately.

DON'T: Overdo it

Adjust your workout intensity to account for the heat and listen to your body's cues. Shorter workouts are good when temperatures rise. Allow your body to get used to the heat. Then you can gradually increase your time outdoors and exercise intensity.



Don't pull the cord!

Gabrielle Clement, Age 10

Gabrielle Clement advises people it's not safe to pull the cord when disconnecting appliances from an outlet. Gabrielle is the daughter of Dustin and Michelle Clement from Box Elder, S.D., members of West River Electric Association.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Savory Summer SALADS

GRAPE SALAD

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. red seedless grapes
- 2 lbs. green seedless grapes
- 1-8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans

METHOD

Wash and dry grapes. Mix cream cheese and sour cream. Add sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Fold in grapes. Place in 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar and pecans.

Angie Ruitter
Sioux Falls, S.D.

CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt
- 2 tbsp. mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. parsley flakes
- 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
- 1/4 tsp. pure ground black pepper
- 1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion

METHOD

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover.

Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.

mccormick.com

CORN CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:

- 2 cans whole kernel corn (drained)
- 1 cup diced, unpeeled and seeded cucumbers
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tbsp. lime juice
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground cumin

METHOD

Mix corn, cucumber and onion in large bowl. Set aside. Mix remaining ingredients in small bowl until well blended. Add to corn mixture; toss lightly to coat. Cover. Refrigerate 2 hours or until ready to serve.

mccormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Travel With Southeastern Electric Cooperative

Learn more about your cooperative power system

Flip a switch and the lights come on. Behind this simple action is a complex network of people, power plants and transmission lines that work around the clock. Their mission: to ensure safe, affordable, reliable electricity flows to more than 130 member cooperatives in nine states.

Your electric cooperative, through East River Electric Power Cooperative, is a member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative's power supply system. This regional wholesale power supply cooperative has more than 7,200 megawatts of generating capacity and 2,500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines - all managed with you, the member-owner, in mind.

Join Southeastern Electric on a 3-day, 2-night excursion to learn about where your electricity comes from and have some fun along the way!

Manager, Brad Schardin, of Southeastern encourages members to get the inside story of how electricity is made. "Learning about the big energy picture helps us all make smart choices from our households and businesses to the public policy arena," Brad says.

The trip includes stops at the following:

ANTELOPE VALLEY STATION

The tour includes an overview in the model room as well as a guided walking tour of the power plant. The walking tour includes stops at the turbine deck, control room, boiler and observation deck on the 17th floor.

GREAT PLAINS SYNFUELS PLANT

Learn how coal can be refined into natural gas and a variety of other products. The visitor center tour includes a model room tour where a guide walks participants through each step in the coal gasification process and describes the various products that result.

THE COTEAU PROPERTIES COMPANY FREEDOM MINE

Learn how lignite coal is produced at a surface mine and how the land is returned to its original state. A guided drive-through tour will bring you to active mining areas where you can see giant earthmoving equipment in action.

Members can may sign up on our website, www.southeasternelectric.com or email info@southeastern.coop or call **800-333-2859** for more information, or to register.

Board Summary Report

The Board of Directors of Southeastern Electric Cooperative met in Marion on Thursday, June 15, 2023, with all directors present. Also, present were Manager Brad Schardin, Attorney Mike Nadolski and staff members John Euchner and Jon Wunder. Staff member Nelson was absent.

Manager Schardin reviewed with the board the following items:

1. Reviewed the Basin financials, Basin's committee for large crypto mining and data processing loads and Basin's bylaws related to deferred revenue levels.
2. Discussed carbon pipelines, large loads, new EPA rules and regulations and the Sioux Falls office addition.
3. Reviewed the circulation folder and various member-related issues.

CFO Jon Wunder reviewed his written report, including the preliminary financial report, IRS Form 990, KWH tax payments, proposed capital credit retirements and an update on the unclaimed capital credit project.

Manager Schardin reviewed the Member Services and IT report in Todd Nelson's absence. Manager Schardin reviewed the written report, annual meeting, website upgrade, Verizon AMR conversion, disconnects, past due accounts, IT project, cybersecurity and load management.

Operations Manager John Euchner reviewed his written report, which included any close calls, recent safety meetings and outages. He also talked about future services, the construction work plan, the distribution automation task force and the Ford Lightning.

Attorney Nadolski briefed the Board

on the commencement of eminent domain proceedings in certain counties throughout the state and how those proceedings may impact the interests of rural electric cooperatives operating within those counties. The cooperative is looking into initiating crossing agreements to protect the assets of the cooperative.

The board acted on the following motions:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda, along with additions. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to authorize the signature of associated annual meeting documents. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to authorize the president and secretary to execute the Certificate of Change in Principal Office. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to declare the listed property as surplus. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to adopt Board Resolution #2023-03 approving a \$2,800,000 capital credit retirement to retire 100% of 2002-2003 and a percentage of the remaining outstanding capital credits for years 2004-2022. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve work order inventories for loan fund advance to be submitted to RUS. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve a donation to the Union County Fair. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to authorize attorney Nadolski to attend the SDREA and NRECA Legal Seminars. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to authorize Heeren as the cooperative voting delegate for the NRECA Director Election. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to select Terveen as the voting delegate and Kost as the alternate at the Basin Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to select Holmberg as the voting delegate and Kost as the alternate at the East River Annual Meeting. All board members were authorized to attend. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to select Wollmann and Ostraat as the NRECA delegate and alternate and CFC alternate and delegate; respectively. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to set the August board meeting for **Thursday, August 24, 2023, at the Marion office.** Motion carried.

**Next Scheduled Meeting:
August 24th, 2023
Marion Office**



TAKING TO THE SKY

Balloons light up the night during the night glow event of the festival.

Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival Gains Popularity

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

It's a picturesque and dramatic spectacle that's awed most people for several hundred years. Yet, spectators and pilots alike have not tired of the image. Hot air balloons have that quality of enchantment. And what better way to be enchanted than to see dozens of these balloons floating up into the sunrise of a South Dakota sky?

The annual Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival is attracting nearly 30 balloons and thousands of spectators on Aug. 25-27, 2023. The event is taking place at the airport outside of Hot Springs, S.D., where it will celebrate its 8th year of growing popularity. Festival sightseers can pack all-day-fun into their festivities by visiting the vendors, obstacle courses,

bouncy houses, and performances in Hot Springs by Magician Jared Furnau and the Wild Blue Band.

Petra Wilson, a local commercial pilot, founded the festival in 2016 before opening her own flying business – Western Horizons Hot Air Balloons.

“The way I got introduced to ballooning is a tale of serendipity,” said Wilson. “Almost 20 years ago, my husband and I attended a hot air balloon festival in Peoria, Ill., where we are asked to become crew members for a weekend. On the last flight of the weekend, he asked us if we wanted to go for a ride. The ride was absolutely stunning and from that point on we were hooked.”

Wilson became a private pilot in 2014 and a commercial pilot in 2017. In 2015, Wilson and her husband moved to Hot Springs, where she discovered she was the

only hot air balloon pilot flying in the area.

I introduced many different people to ballooning by inviting them out to watch and even crew.” Wilson said. “Some of those people became my students and eventually became hot air balloon pilots in the Hot Springs area.”

When asked how she started the festival, Wilson replied, “I decided this area was such a beautiful place to fly that I wanted to share it with all my ballooning friends and their friends, as well as locals who might appreciate the beauty of the balloons in the sky, so what better way to do this than having a balloon festival.”

The festival started with the partnership between Wilson and Olivia Mears, Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce in Hot Springs.

Mears said, “Folks from South Dakota, California, Nebraska, Colorado, and more attend this festival. We attract private pilots who fly for their own enjoyment and commercial pilots who are licensed to carry passengers.”

HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

Tamie Shrum, current balloon-meister for Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, is a commercial pilot overseeing the safety and regulation of the participating balloons. She travels the world to fly, including six countries and 37 states. Shrum owns three of her own balloons and earns her living flying passengers and training students how to fly.

"I like to do long jump flying, which is long distance flying," said Shrum. "My longest distance is 137 miles in a three-hour flight with a top speed of 78 mph."

Shrum explained that a considerable amount of studying goes into the preparation for a long jump flight. Everything matters – the time of year, time of day, location, and weather patterns.

"We work off of a microscopic level," Shrum said. "A regular person might say, 'It's not that windy today,' but a balloon pilot might say, 'It's too windy to fly today.'"

Describing how balloons fly, Shrum said, "In layman's terms, hot air rises and cold air sinks. You put heat in the

envelope, making it hotter than ambient temperatures which allows it to lift the massive weight it's carrying."

"We use a burner with regular propane," Shrum continued. "The amount of propane needed changes based upon ambient temperature, altitude of flight, and how much passenger weight is being carried."

Balloons are simplistic in design but can be challenging to fly.

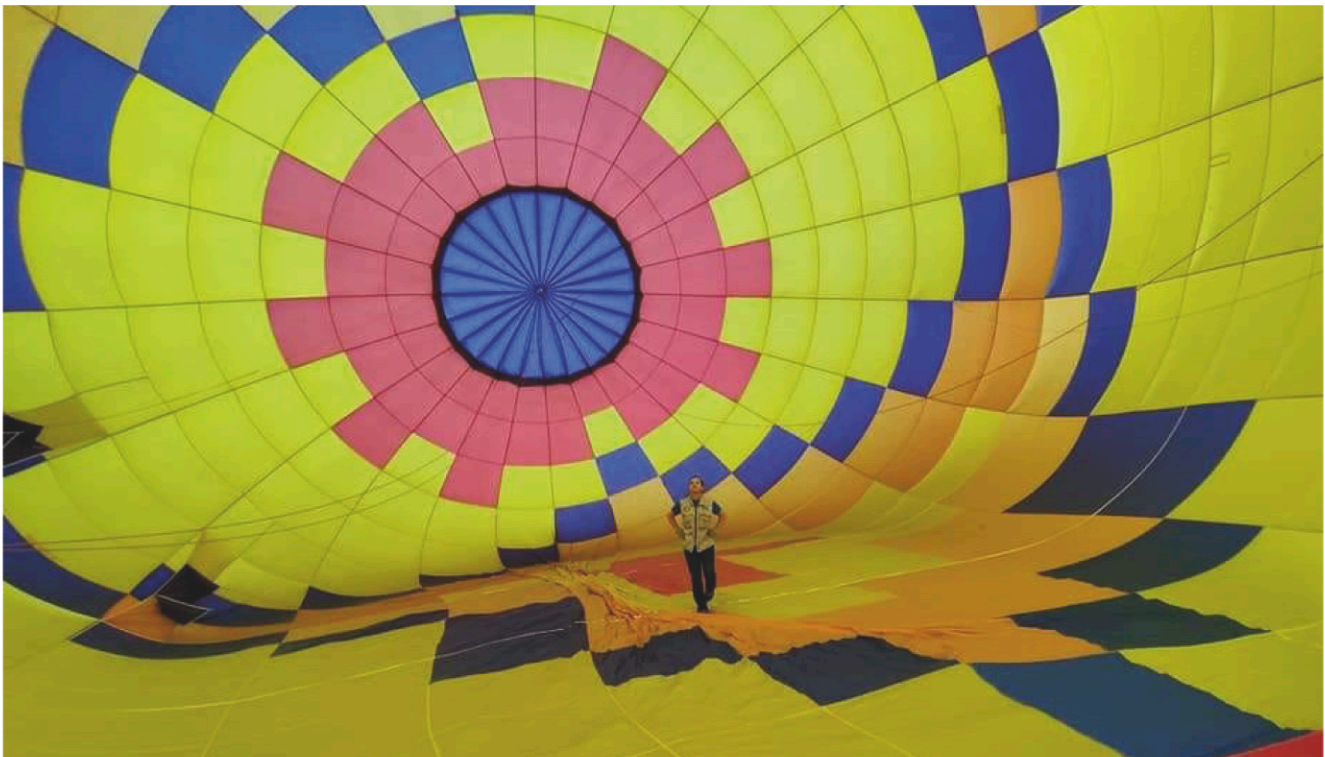
"You don't steer a balloon...while airplanes fly against the wind, balloons fly with the wind, which can be unpredictable," Shrum explained. "Sometimes you land in a park and sometimes you land in main street."

"I've flown over Pikes Peak in Colorado



Commercial Pilot Tamie Shrum looks below on other balloons while flying.

and in Japan along with many other places," Shrum said. "I've been fortunate to sightsee all over the world from 1,000 feet in the air while others are sightseeing from the surface...but South Dakota is one of the most gorgeous places to fly in."



Commercial Pilot Petra Wilson inspects her balloon.

EV Charging Safety Tips

Jennah Denney

Charging is a crucial concern among new electric vehicle (EV) owners, whether plug-in hybrid or full electric. Fear of inconvenience is one of the biggest barriers to widespread adoption of electric vehicles. You might be concerned that there aren't enough public charging stations in the area – and even if there are public charging stations nearby, do you really want to rely on them any time you need to refuel?

An EV charging station at home can solve this challenge of inconvenience. But are EV charging systems at home safe? Absolutely—as long as they're installed correctly.

The first thing EV owners should consider is how they will charge their vehicles. A licensed electrician can evaluate your home's EV charging situation, as well as:

- The vehicle's charging capabilities and requirements, which vary depending on the make, model and type
- The potential location of the panel and vehicle, including the distance from the panel to the garage, the degree of difficulty and whether the garage is attached or detached
- The capacity and overall condition of your home electrical system to identify any concerns or additional work.

There are two common types of home charging options. Level 1 charging is a straightforward plug-in of the EV into any standard 120V electrical outlet. This requires no electrical modification,

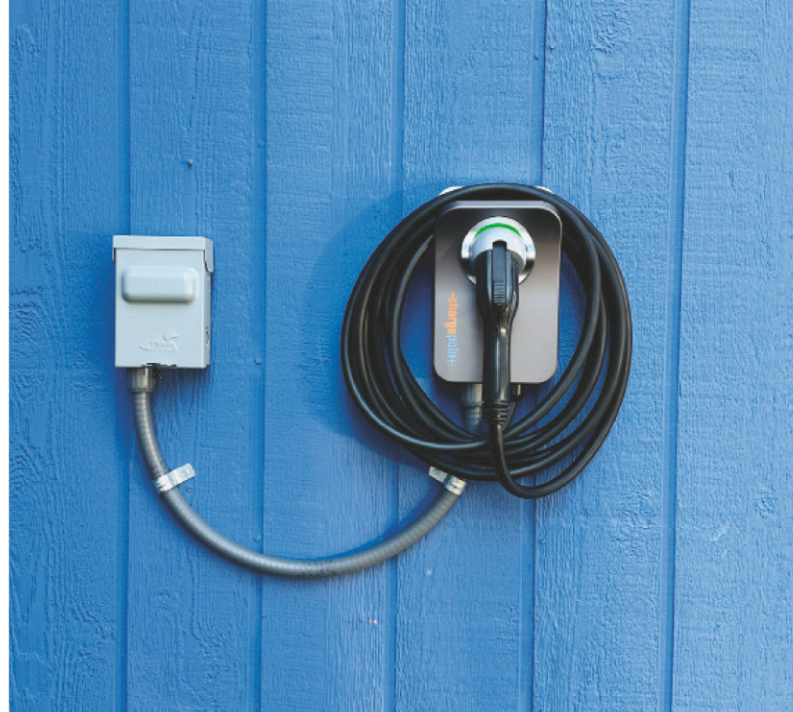
and it normally takes around 14 to 20 hours to fully charge the EV.

Some EV manufacturers and sellers provide inaccurate information on charging, and some will suggest that a standard 120-volt outlet is all you need. Unfortunately, this degree of charging may not always match the driver's daily travel needs.

Level 2 charging units are sold separately from the vehicle. These units must be installed by a licensed electrician because they plug into a 240V outlet and charge much more quickly, typically four to eight hours.

Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind when charging your EV at home:

- Select charging equipment that is certified to meet safety standards. Plug Level I EV chargers directly into an outlet designed to handle the amperage of the charging device. Never use a multi-plug adapter or extension cord. Charging cables are a tripping hazard, so be aware of the cable's location. Purchase a Level 2 charging device that is certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. This means the device has gone through rigorous testing and certification by a third-party company with extensive knowledge and pedigree in certifying EV technologies.
- Check with your electric co-op and a licensed electrician before modifying your electrical system or installing a charging station.



An electrician will need to make sure your home's wiring complies with local, state and national codes, and may need to obtain a permit before installation.

- Place all charging components out of reach of children when not in use.
- Maintain the components of your charging station according to the manufacturer's maintenance guidelines.
- Cover the EV charging station outlet to prevent water exposure. Check the manufacturer's guidelines to make sure it is safe to charge your EV in wet conditions.
- Most charging stations are equipped with safety devices such as GFCIs, which will identify electrical shorts and stop power to the charger to minimize risks. There is a low risk of electric shock, but safeguards are automatically built into the equipment.

EV chargers are thought to be extremely safe, but we recommend following these fundamental guidelines to reduce potential hazards.

Remember to contact your electric co-op before installation. They can answer any questions you have and provide additional information on EV programs and rates.

Proposed Patronage Capital Credit

The Southeastern Board of Directors will be considering management's recommendation to authorize a general refund of patronage capital credits in 2023. If approved, your portion of this patronage refund will appear as a credit on your August electric bill due in September.

By returning patronage capital credits, Southeastern can demonstrate one of the benefits of membership and participation in a "not-for-profit" electric cooperative. If you would like more information on patronage capital credits and cooperative principles and philosophy, please visit our web site at www.southeasternelectric.com.

On behalf of your Board of Directors and the employees, thank you for your patronage and your support of Southeastern.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room.

Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov

GO-KART RACING



RACING FAMILY FUN

Go-kart racers in Aberdeen are placed in divisions by age and skill to keep the races competitive. The track usually hosts races twice a month during the summer months. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

Go-kart Racing at Aberdeen Track is a Family Affair

Scott Waltman

Kevin Horn didn't set out to drive to Aberdeen several times a summer so he could race.

Instead, after seeing races on TV, the Waubay mechanic bought a go-kart for his then-9-year-old daughter. But while she was driving, the kart skidded on some wet grass and she hit the kart trailer. After that, she turned the keys over to Dad.

That was about 11 years ago. Horn took his daughter's number 9 and flipped it to make a 6, and he's been racing ever since.

Like others who race at the Aberdeen Karting Club track at the Brown County Fairgrounds, his story has a tie to family, even if it didn't work out exactly as he thought it would.

Karting, racers and organizers say, is a family affair.

Brody Griffin of Watertown is 10 and started karting three years ago.

He makes the rounds, mostly to the closest tracks in Aberdeen, Brookings and Miller. He races just about every weekend during summer, and the allure is simple. Griffin said he just likes driving.

He was named rookie of the year his first season and finished second in his division his second season in Aberdeen.

But it's not all zipping around the track and trying to pass other drivers. Griffin said he helps work on his kart with his father.

That makes sense to Landon Schott, a 24-year-old racer from Aberdeen who is one of the track's most successful drivers. Now that he's a little older, helps with public relations and social media for the track.

When Schott started racing, he said his father made it clear to him that he would be helping work on the kart and had to keep it clean. Karting can be a big financial investment, and his dad wasn't going to spend heaps of money if his son wasn't going to pitch in and be engaged.

Schott, too, said he appreciates the friendly and family atmosphere of karting.

Sponsorships are critical to both the Aberdeen track and its racers, he said. He wouldn't have been able to travel across the country racing without



Josiah Combellick serves as the event's flagman. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

having sponsors since he started driving in 2006, he said.

The Aberdeen track doesn't have any employees, and the Aberdeen Karting Club is a nonprofit group, so contributions are important, Schott said.

Rick Cartney is the vice president of the Aberdeen Karting Club and has been involved with the track since it was founded in 1996. His first race was in Aberdeen that first year, and now he gets to the track to start prep work around 9 a.m. on race days. Races usually start around 4 p.m. and last into the night.

For Cartney, the payback comes from the smiles on the faces of young racers.

"Mainly, it's for the kids," he said.

They do their best racing when they don't win, but they learn, grow and mature, Cartney said.

The Aberdeen track is between an eighth and a 10th of a mile long and is great for young racers who are just

starting out, he said.

There are races in Aberdeen a couple of times a month during summer, with the schedules of other tracks in the region taken into consideration so drivers can make it to as many races as possible. Generally, there are 30 or 40 drivers in Aberdeen, most of them young people, Cartney said.

Starting at the Aberdeen track has served Schott well. He has advanced to grand national events with both the International Karting Federation and Maxxis Kart Racing, finishing as in the top five, but never quite nabbing a championship. Last December, Schott said, he traveled to Daytona, Fla., and raced with about 70 other drivers, never finishing outside of the top 14.

"I guess maybe I'm just an adrenaline junkie," Schott said.

In 2013, as a junior driver, he won a Maxxis regional championship. The event drew drivers from across the nation and is called the Maxx Daddy, he said.

Schott said that and winning an end-of-season state championship in 2021 on his home track in Aberdeen are, at least to date, two of the highlights of his career.

He also won the state championship in 2015 in Brookings.

The state karting championships used to be in Brookings, but have been in Aberdeen in recent years. They return again this year on Aug. 12.

That event will likely draw about 200 drivers from South Dakota and surrounding states, Cartney said. A heavy bronze trophy in the shape of Mount Rushmore goes to the winner.

It will be yet another chance for the karting community to gather. Both Schott and Horn said they have made friends traveling the karting circuit. It's one of the most enjoyable parts of racing, they said, and Cartney agrees.

"These people are like a second family," he said.



Landon Schott helps prepare a go-kart before the races begin in Aberdeen on Saturday, June 17. Schott is one of the most successful racers from the Aberdeen Karting Klub. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

YOUTH TOUR



Southeastern Electric Cooperative's representatives on the Rural Electric Youth Tour June 17-23 to Washington,

D.C., were Alex Quartier of Beresford, Isaac Marohl of Centerville and Tyrus Bietz of Tripp. They joined Thirty-seven other teens representing 20 South Dakota electric cooperatives.

The Youth Tour is a weeklong trip sponsored in part by Southeastern Electric and coordinated by the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA). The program, which can trace its existence back to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson where he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youth to the nation's capitol so they "can actually see what the flag stands for and represents," encourages teens to engage in their communities and learn about the importance of political involvement. More than 1,300 teens have represented the Rushmore State since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963.

While in Washington, the 2023 group visited many of the historic sites the region has to offer, including a Flag Day stop at Baltimore's Fort McHenry. The fort's bombardment in the War of 1812 was captured in Francis Scott Key's poem, which would eventually become the national anthem. Old Glory would play a recurring

theme in the trip as students could see it at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and hear an inspirational message centered on the flag from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S.A. men's wheelchair basketball.

Students also met with the state's congressional delegation and with Youth Tour participants from across the country while touring the many of our nation's historical sites – including the National Archives, Library of Congress, Mount Vernon, U.S. Supreme Court, and many more.

"The Library of Congress really left an impression. I think it's something that will stick with me," said Sawyer Sandal, who represented West River Electric Association on the trip.

Southeastern Electric realizes it is more vital than ever that today's young people understand and support the rural electrification program, for they are tomorrow's leaders and consumers.

Southeastern provides funding for the trip. Funding includes transportation, room and board, entertainment and sightseeing events. Since 1963, Southeastern Electric has sent more than 100 teens on this trip of a lifetime.

Participants must be a child or dependent of a Southeastern Electric member.



Students representing Southeastern during the 2023 Youth Tour. Top to bottom, Tyrus Bietz, Alex Quartier, Isaac Marohl.

Scholarship Winners

Southeastern Electric Cooperative awarded \$7,500 in scholarships to 10 area teens this spring.

Recipients of \$1,000 scholarships were Sophia Smithback, Worthing; Madelyn Kludt, Menno; Hunter Hagedorn, Chancellor; Morissen Samuels, Harrisburg; Katherine Lopez Perez, Hudson.

Recipients of \$500 scholarships were Alexa Brockmueller, Sioux Falls; Micheal Grismer, Sioux Falls; Macy Quartier, Beresford; Ella Bialas, Tea; Sierra Waltner, Tea.



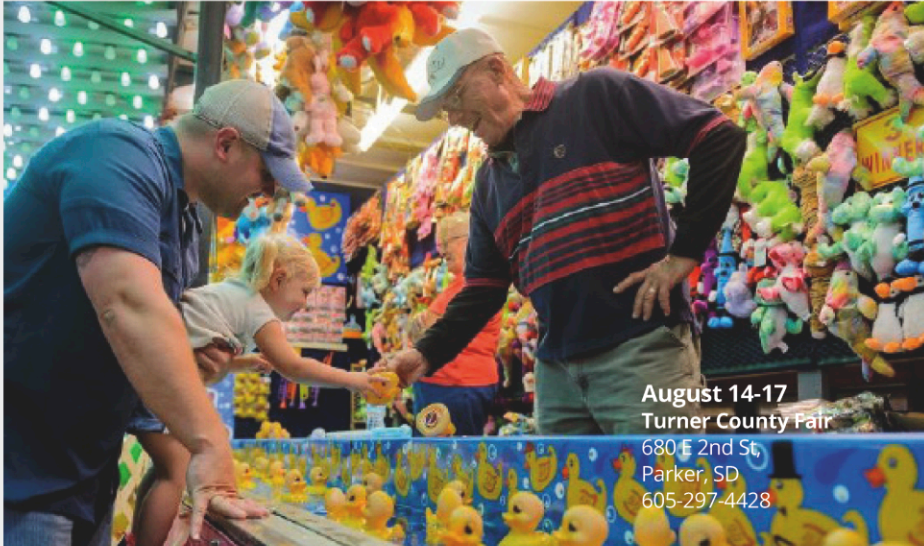
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS Pictured (Left to right, top to bottom): Sophie Smithback, Sierra Waltner, Madelyn Kludt, Micheal Grismer, Morissen Samuels, Hunter Hagedorn, Katherine Lopez Perez, Macy Quartier, Ella Bialas, Alexa Brockmueller.

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



August 14-17
Turner County Fair
680 E 2nd St,
Parker, SD
605-297-4428

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

JULY 21-23
Winner Elks 54th Annual Rodeo
Winner, SD
605-842-5830

JULY 28-29
Farley Fest
Lake Farley Park
Milbank, SD
www.farleyfest.com

JULY 22
SD MCC Relief Sale - Helping Others Round the World
Museum opens 9 a.m., food court at 11 a.m., live auction and silent auction
Pioneer Hall on Freeman Academy Campus
Freeman, SD
605-925-70009

JULY 30-AUG 3
Lincoln County Open Class
4-H Building, North Room
27711 SD Hwy 17
Lennox SD

AUG 5
Taste the Goodness
5 p.m.
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG 6
Sioux Falls American Legion Post 15 Pancake Breakfast
8:30 a.m.
1600 West Russell St at the SD Military Heritage Alliance Building
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG 12
Burke Junior Rodeo
Burke, SD
605-830-2083

AUG 13-14
Twin Brooks Threshing Show
Featuring Allis Chalmers
Twin Brooks, SD

AUG 19
Yankton Extreme Bull Riding
7:30 a.m.
Yankton Rodeo Arena
Yankton, SD
605-760-2153

AUG 21
30th Annual Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament
Minnehaha Country Club and The Country Club of Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls, SD
605-988-3765

SEPT 2
Hidewood Valley Barn Dance
7 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 4
Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show
Steam Whistle Blows
1 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 8-10
James Valley Threshing & Tractor Show
World's Largest Steam Traction Engine
Andover, SD

SEPT 16
Health Connect Festival
11 a.m.
Sioux Falls Arena
Sioux Falls, SD

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival
9 a.m.
Springfield Community Building
Springfield, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.