



Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Monday–Friday

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Mission Statement

The aim of Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc. is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Don't be left in the dark

Efficient lightbulb options and new labels will appear January 2012

JUST AS CARS (as seen on page 5) have become more efficient over time, lightbulbs are getting an overhaul too.



Traditional incandescent bulbs waste 90 percent of their energy by releasing heat, and the bulb's design hasn't been updated since it was created 130 years ago.

In 2007, Congress passed the Energy Independence and Security Act, calling for incandescent bulbs to be at least 28 percent more efficient starting nationally in January 2012. Each household could save \$50 every year with this change, and those savings add up—Americans could save more than \$6 billion annually.

New labels, appearing in January, will help you compare the lumens (light output) from your old bulbs and buy a comparable efficient bulb.

Lots of options

If you don't like too much change from the bulbs you're used to, you have several efficient lightbulb options. Consider halogen incandescent lightbulbs that reduce energy use by about 25 percent and last three times as long as traditional incandescent bulbs.

How are they different? A small capsule holds halogen gas around the filament which boosts the bulb's lifespan and efficiency. But everything else—the shape, color range, and ability to dim—stays the same as the bulbs with which you grew up.

Another distinctive style of bulb should already be familiar—we've promoted the use of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for years. During the Do the Light Switch campaign from 2008 to 2010, Marlboro Electric Cooperative and other co-ops around South Carolina

gave away more than 2 million CFLs.

CFLs are the most common and cost-effective efficient bulb on the market. The trademark swirly style is linked to the concept of efficient lighting, but some manufacturers also encase CFLs to diffuse the light and provide the same look and feel as traditional bulbs. CFLs offer 75 percent energy savings over traditional incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer.

You can learn more at EnergySavers.gov/lighting.

Facts about mercury in CFLs

If you read the fine print on the packaging or find the notice on the base of each bulb, you'll see that it contains mercury, but there's no need to worry.

The amount of mercury inside the glass tubes of an average CFL is about the equivalent of the tip of a ballpoint pen, and smaller than other items around your home. The amount of mercury in a CFL runs about 4–5 milligrams (mg), while a glass fever thermometer contains 500 mg and an old-style thermostat could contain up to 3,000 mg.

CFLs are safe to handle and use in your home, and they release no mercury when in operation. Even if you break a CFL, the amount of mercury that may become airborne poses a very low risk of exposure, says Energy Star.

To learn more about safely cleaning up CFLs, visit EPA.gov/cflcleanup.

Charles R. 'Ricky' Smith
Trustee



CHRISTY OVERSTREET

Marlboro Electric member Bea Ellison found a helpful brochure in our office lobby on EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) recommendations to safely cleaning up CFLs.

Charging stations, electric cars become reality for MEC



IT IS A MATTER of time before electric cars get here. If you use a plug-in car, or own one, a Level 2 charging station is a necessity. It takes 10-12 hours to charge the Chevy Volt from an ordinary 120V outlet, with the Level 2 charger it can be done in 3-4 hours, whereas the Nissan Leaf takes 24 hours to charge from your standard outlet and only 5-6 hours from a Level 2 charger.

MEC's Vice President of Engineering & Operations Troy Coyner and Engineering Technician Lee Lackey check out the electric car that is shared by the South Carolina Cooperatives through Central Electric.

Marlboro Electric installed a charging station in an accessible place for awareness of electric cars. While it is not reasonable to expect that members will come hang out at the cooperative for a few hours while their

car charges, the station and special parking spot will prompt questions and help get people acquainted with the idea of driving electric. These charging spots can also be listed as available public charging spots across South Carolina as part of our affiliation with Plug-In Carolina.

Students win \$50 savings bonds

Eight local students have earned \$50 savings bonds from Marlboro Electric Cooperative and its community outreach organization, WIRE, as part of the Give Us An 'A' program.

The cooperative's winners for the first six months of 2011 are:

- ▶ **Jackson Quick**, Marlboro Academy
- ▶ **Brianna Quick**, Bennettsville Primary School
- ▶ **William 'Light' Kinney**, Marlboro Academy
- ▶ **Christopher Hyatt**, McColl Middle School
- ▶ **Tiffany Dwyer**, JV Martin Jr. High School
- ▶ **Luke Powers**, Marlboro Academy
- ▶ **Lisa Dwyer**, Dillon High School
- ▶ **Kellie Crowley**, Marlboro Academy

Congratulations to these students!

Give Us An 'A' rules

Any student in the Marlboro and Dillon County schools who makes an "A" on his/her report card is eligible to participate and has a chance of winning a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. Marlboro Electric Cooperative and Women Involved in Rural Electrification (W.I.R.E.) awards eight savings bonds. All age groups of primary, elementary, middle and high school students will have two winners. We have two drawings on behalf of MEC and WIRE for category grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

The following rules apply

- ▶ Must attend a school in either Marlboro or Dillon County.
- ▶ Must make at least one "A" on your report card (excludes interim reports). You may mail your report card (original

or copy), fax it or come by our office and we will make a copy if you want the original. We will not be responsible for mailing the original report card back to you. Make sure you circle the **A**.

- ▶ Must have your **name, address, phone number, name of school and Social Security number** on report card.
- ▶ **Mail to:** Give Us An "A", Marlboro Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 1057, Bennettsville, SC 29512, or fax to (843) 479-8990.
- ▶ Must have report cards in by deadlines of July 30 and February 1.

If you have any questions, call Christy Overstreet, marketing & communications, at (843) 479-3855 or toll-free (800) 922-9174.



News EXTRA

Build, connect with co-op Savings!

IS YOUR HOME in need of some TLC, 'Tender Loving Care'? Spruce up your home's interior or exterior with home improvement projects this fall and save money the co-op way.

Use your Co-op Connections card for discounts at hundreds of local, regional and national participating businesses. You can find deals locally, in-state, online or by phone, even with shipping costs.

Quicken Loans offer national discount

Needing extra money for home improvements? Considering refinancing your mortgage? The Co-op Connections discount card program now offers a new national discount with Quicken Loans for mortgage benefits.

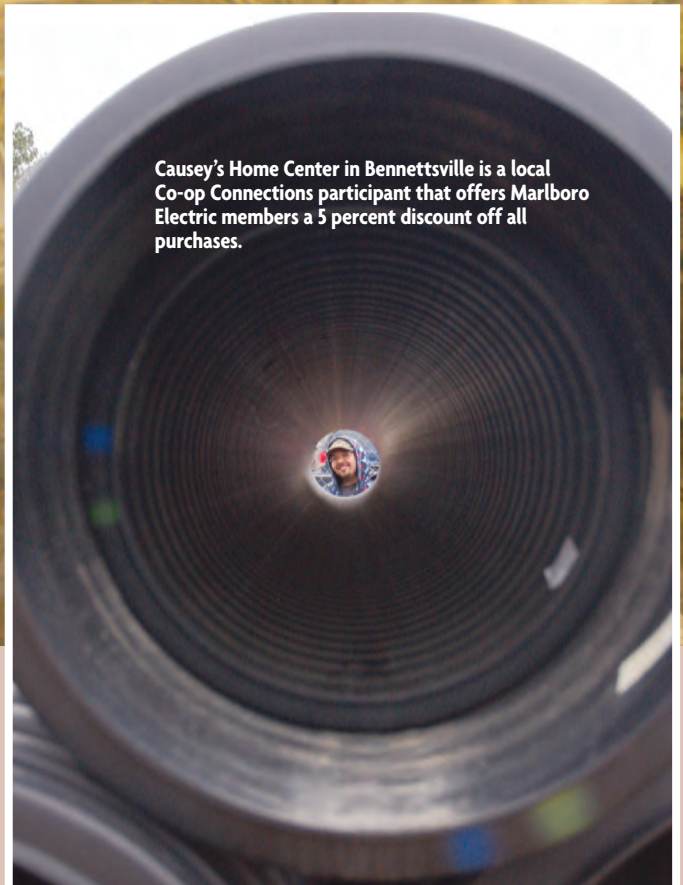
Co-op Connections cardholders can earn cash back or receive other promotional benefits after closing a mortgage with Quicken Loans. To receive these benefits and make this your best mortgage experience yet, call the dedicated Quicken Loans mortgage line at (800) 646-1044.

Co-op Connections now has more than 110 national discount deals, more than 20,000 local businesses nationwide offering discounts to co-op members, in addition to local discounts that help members save money. Marlboro Electric is among 380 Touchstone Energy co-ops participating in the program nationwide.

Members can search through these deals by category, ZIP code, keyword and more on connections.coop. You can access the site through a link at MarlboroElectric.coop.

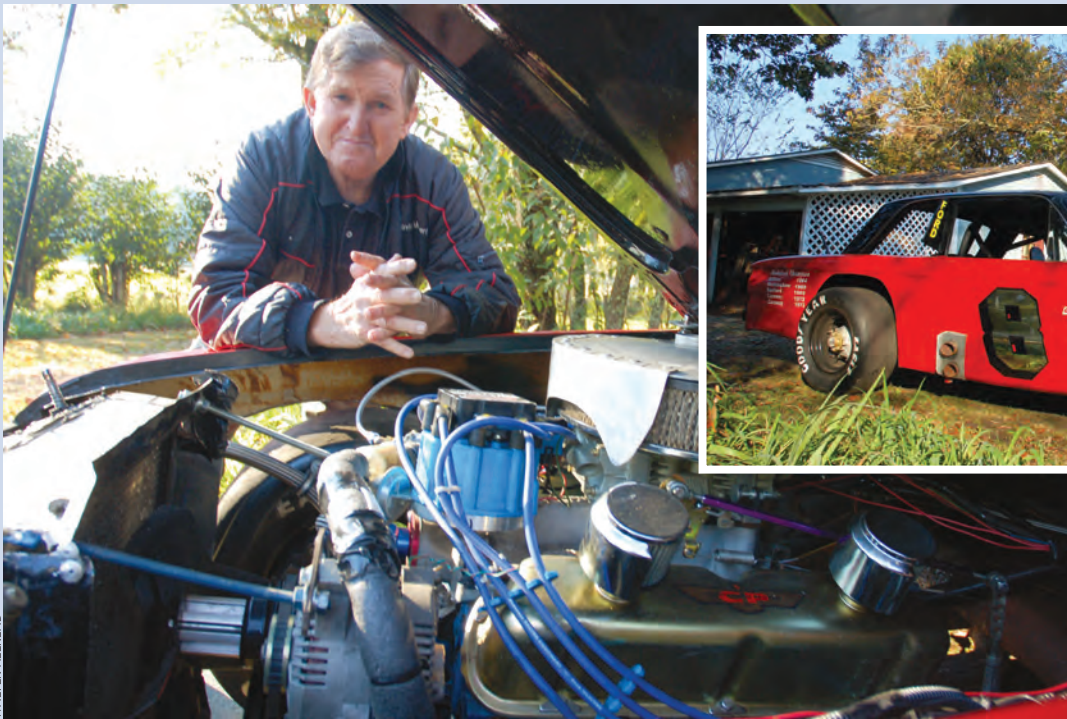


WALTER ALLREAD



Causey's Home Center in Bennettsville is a local Co-op Connections participant that offers Marlboro Electric members a 5 percent discount off all purchases.





▲ David and Avie Munnerlyn reminisce about the 'Good-Ole' racing days at the dirt track.

Munnerlyn admires the restored race car engine on his #8 Ford. He noted that building and racing cars was a popular hobby for many people, even if the parts came from a junkyard and the tracks were dirt.

WALTER ALLREAD

Racing is in his blood

Marlboro Electric member restores vintage cars he used to race

FROM 1962 TO 1972, David Munnerlyn was a daredevil on wheels, tearing up dirt tracks and risking his life while racing against some of the toughest drivers in the Southeast.

Now, after a long retirement from the racing circuit and retirement from the Marlboro County Sheriff's Department, Munnerlyn has rediscovered his love of those classic cars—only this time he brings them out for shows instead of races.

That's probably a good thing, since Munnerlyn, a member of the Marlboro Electric Cooperative since 1972, has done his share of what he calls "hospital time" during his decade-long career.

Running in the modified car

division at tracks such as Rockingham, Dillon, Fayetteville, Myrtle Beach and elsewhere, the rules were "there were no rules," Munnerlyn says. "There were only guidelines."

Munnerlyn's most serious accident occurred only a year after he started racing competitively, and it wasn't even in an actual race.

"My worst one was in 1963 at Dillon on a practice day, a Sunday," Munnerlyn says. "I ran over the wheel of another car, my car went up in the air and came over, and I fractured my skull. I woke up in the hospital a month later and thought it was the same day."

Another accident occurred when an oil line burst in the car during a

race and sprayed him with hot oil, burning him badly from the waist down.

"I couldn't put on my pants for two months without it hurting," Munnerlyn says.

What stands out most from those days, beyond the wins and the races and the track records, Munnerlyn says, are the relationships and the camaraderie that existed between everyone involved.

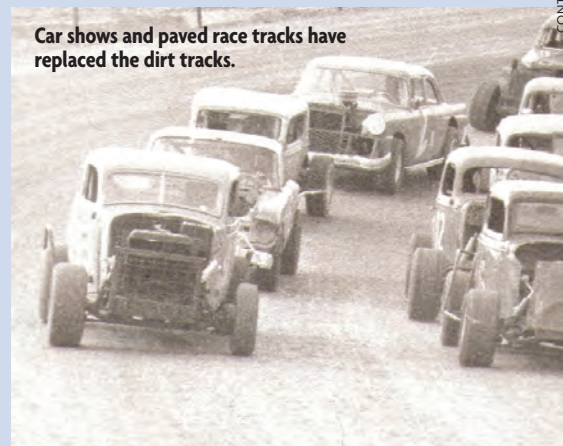
"I think half of Bennettsville would race up in Rockingham," Munnerlyn says. "There were shade-tree mechanics everywhere, and having grown up in junkyards getting parts to work on cars with, building racecars was a very popular hobby in my family and the people I knew."

"We'd race every time we could get enough gas to go up and do it."

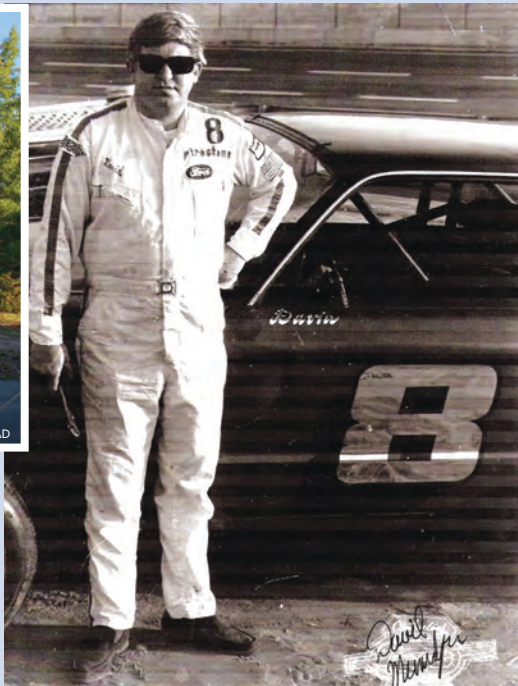
Munnerlyn was a bit of a rebel at the time due to his racing of Fords rather than the far more popular—and faster—Chevrolets. His relationship with technicians, crew chiefs and executives at Ford racing firm Holman-Moody's Charlotte facility



Working on racecars has been a very popular hobby for the Munnerlyn family as they show their support at the 2010 Historic Darlington Weekend.



Car shows and paved race tracks have replaced the dirt tracks.



CONTRIBUTED

David Munnerlyn raced hard from 1962–1972.

meant he was able to get plenty of parts, expertise and even an entire engine built just for him.

“Holman-Moody did all the racing for Ford all over the country; they’re a huge organization,” Munnerlyn says. “I’d go up to visit and we’d talk, and they would load me up with parts. It was a lot of fun.”

For now, car shows have replaced the dirt tracks, though at the 2010 Darlington Historic Racing Festival, Munnerlyn was able to get his old Ford Falcon around the track at a nifty 130 miles per hour. The best part about it for Munnerlyn, though, wasn’t feeling the rush of adrenaline once more.

“I was just glad no parts fell off.” ☺

Racing has progressed tremendously since the 1960s and ’70s.



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Treat power tools with care



CHRISTY OVERSTREET

BY MAGEN HOWARD

BEFORE YOU FIRE UP that power tool for your next do-it-yourself home project, remember these electrical devices must be treated with care. Even though many tools are equipped with safety mechanisms, it’s still important to heed precautions. Keep in mind these tips from the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) when using power tools:

- ▶ Do not carry tools by their cords.
- ▶ Pull the cord out of the outlet by the plug, not by pulling on the cord.
- ▶ Do not use in wet or damp job sites, unless the tool is specifically approved for those conditions. Store it in a dry place when not being used.
- ▶ While carrying a tool, do not touch the switch or trigger that operates it to avoid accidental starts.
- ▶ Ensure your work area is well lit.
- ▶ Unplug tools when cleaning or fixing, while changing parts of the

Along with wearing proper clothing, safety glasses and gloves are recommended to be worn when using power tools as seen here by Robbie Kirk, MEC’s superintendent of operations.

tool such as blades or bits, and when not in use.

- ▶ Ensure that all extension cords are not worn or frayed.
- ▶ Wear proper clothing—no ties, jewelry or other loose items that could get caught.

“Whether you’re on the job or working at home, staying safe around power tools is a must,” says John



John Powers

Powers, safety director for Marlboro Electric Cooperative. “Following a few rules could mean the difference between a successful project and an accident.” ☺

MAGEN HOWARD is a writer with the *National Rural Electric Cooperative Association* in Arlington, Va.

Source: U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration



Plant trees safely, call before you dig

Spring and fall are usually the best times for planting, but before planting a tree, make sure it will grow a safe distance from power lines. A simple checklist of questions and answers to consider:

- ▶ Where do you want to plant a tree?
- ▶ What specific type of tree do you want to plant?
- ▶ How tall will the tree be when it is fully grown? Number of feet?
- ▶ How wide will its branches stretch? Number of feet wide? (Call a local nursery if you are not sure.)
- ▶ Will the tree come within 10 feet of high-voltage power lines when it is fully grown? If yes, consider a smaller tree or a different spot. Trees close to power lines are dangerous.

Before planting your tree or even putting up a fence, make sure you won't contact underground power lines or other buried utilities when you dig. Marlboro Electric and other utilities in South Carolina use the PUPS (Palmetto Utility Protection Service) line-location services. The toll-free PUPS number is 811. PUPS reminds Palmetto State residents: "Call before you dig."



Don't let your TV use energy when you're not watching it



CHRISTY J. OVERSTREET

YOU BOUGHT AN Energy Star-qualified TV to save energy. But there's even more you can do to boost your TV's efficiency. Here's a tip from Marlboro Electric Cooperative that can help you save energy—and money.

TVs are bigger than they used to be. And some of the largest ones can use as much electricity each year as a new, conventional refrigerator. But Energy Star-qualified TVs use roughly 40 percent less energy than standard TVs.

So when your Energy Star TV is turned on, you know it's using energy efficiently. But if the TV is on when no one is watching it, that costs money. So you hit the "off" button. And that's when the "energy vampires" go to work. Although your TV is switched off, it still uses some energy.

Here are a couple of things you can do to stop that power drain. Many high-definition TVs have a quick start option. By turning it off, you'll save energy and add only a few seconds to start-up time. And to stop those "energy vampires," use a power strip as a central "turn off" point. When you're not watching your TV, simply flip the strip's "off" button. But if you have set a timer to record a TV program, you'll

Marlboro Electric's Service Supervisor Charlie Hatcher recommends Energy Star-qualified TVs because they use roughly 40 percent less energy than standard TVs.

need to keep the recorder plugged in and drawing power. ☹

For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit Marlboro Electric's website or Touchstone Energy's energy-saving website. Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

