



SALT RIVER ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A Monthly Publication For Members Of Salt River Electric

Zachary Epperson, Editor



Always there for our members

Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 54,438 members of the Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation, serving Bullitt, Nelson, Spencer, and Washington County, plus portions of six surrounding counties, since 1937.

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On Our Cover

Lineman Rick Hoops waits atop a bucket truck for work to begin on rebuilding an overhead line across I-65. The crossing had been damaged during a storm earlier in the summer. Photo: Zach Epperson

Tips for a safe harvest



Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.

When practicing farm safety, consider all equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Photo: Lance Cheung/USDA

- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 911 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away with feet touching to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19–25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week, but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.



We are here for you

“Why does Salt River Electric offer buckets, bulbs and other give-away items to encourage members to attend our member appreciation day and annual meeting registration?”

That’s a question I get from time to time, in addition to several others about co-op practices, especially from folks who are not served by an electric cooperative. The whole concept of a cooperative form of business can be difficult for some people to understand. So, let me put it simple: if you receive electric service from Salt River, that makes you a member and an owner of Salt River Electric

That’s why your cooperative works so hard to publicize and encourage you to attend our annual meeting and appreciation day every June. It’s why we share regular updates with you in *Kentucky Living*, on our website and on social media. We want our members, our owners, to be engaged and active with the cooperative. We embrace the cooperative values that guide every decision we make. Our board is elected by you and is accountable to you. All of our board members receive training to make sure they are prepared to understand the complex world of energy and to represent your interests.

As a cooperative, Salt River Electric treats every member equally. Employees and board members pay the same rates as members, and each member has one vote. There are many opinions and critics in the world of electricity, but those don’t

matter: your voice is the one we want and need to hear.

Our members empower Salt River to make necessary and strategic investments in infrastructure and people so that we can continue to fulfill the promises made when we were founded 84 years ago.

We know from your comments that the top request of our members is for Salt River to provide reliable electricity as inexpensively as possible. At the same time members are also paying increased attention to how our energy is generated. While some prioritize the reliability and affordability of coal and natural gas, others want access to renewable energy sources, such as solar power. Here at Salt River Electric, members from both groups can rest easy knowing we have their concerns in mind.

With Cooperative Solar, our members have access to affordable solar power. You can license solar panels at Cooperative Solar Farm One, a 60-acre solar array built for Kentucky’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. You can harness the energy of the sun without the hassle, maintenance and expense of owning private solar panels.



Salt River Electric is also involved in hydroelectric production, forming one half of the Lock 7 Hydro Partners, helping to operate and maintain the historic Lock and Dam 7 on the Kentucky River.

As your cooperative, Salt River Electric encourages you to reach out to us with any questions about your service. We’re here to help our neighbors, just as we’ve done for decades. Thanks for reading, and thanks for your membership.

Professional Pitchin': Philip Haydon and the ACL

It's September in the Bluegrass, which means tailgating season has finally arrived. Football fans from all around the commonwealth will spend just about every Saturday from now until November camped out at their favorite team's stadium, grilling, socializing and most likely pitching cornhole.

But while football fans are tossing cornhole bags around for fun, some, like Washington County's Philip Haydon, do it professionally.

A decade ago, Haydon started this journey, not so different than most.

"I started playing the game in the backyard just like everyone else. It just came natural to me. I've played sports all my life and was always competitive," he says. "The older I got the less I played (other sports), but cornhole was a good fit."



Philip, along with another Kentuckian, Daymon Dennis, got started professionally with the American Cornhole Organization (ACO) in 2011 before transitioning to the American Cornhole League (ACL) in 2016. The pair tried competing in both leagues for a year before deciding it was too costly. Both signed professional contracts with the ACL five years ago. And success has followed Philip since.

"I have won numerous titles in both singles and doubles. My first big title was in 2012 in the ACO in Tunica, Mississippi. I was an amateur in my first season but I won the division at the world event (King of Sling) out of 125 people. That turned me pro and I've never looked back."

To name some accolades, Philip:

- Is a two-time major runner-up in singles;
- Won five major senior singles titles;
- Named Senior Player of the Year; and,
- Won six major titles with Daymon Dennis.

And those are just accolades from his time in the ACO.

With the American Cornhole League, Philip has gone on to win the 2016 doubles title with Dennis, has finished runner-up in three senior singles championships, and has won a national championship in St. Louis in 2019, with more wins and awards under his belt.

As you can imagine, it takes a lot of work for Philip to capture those titles.

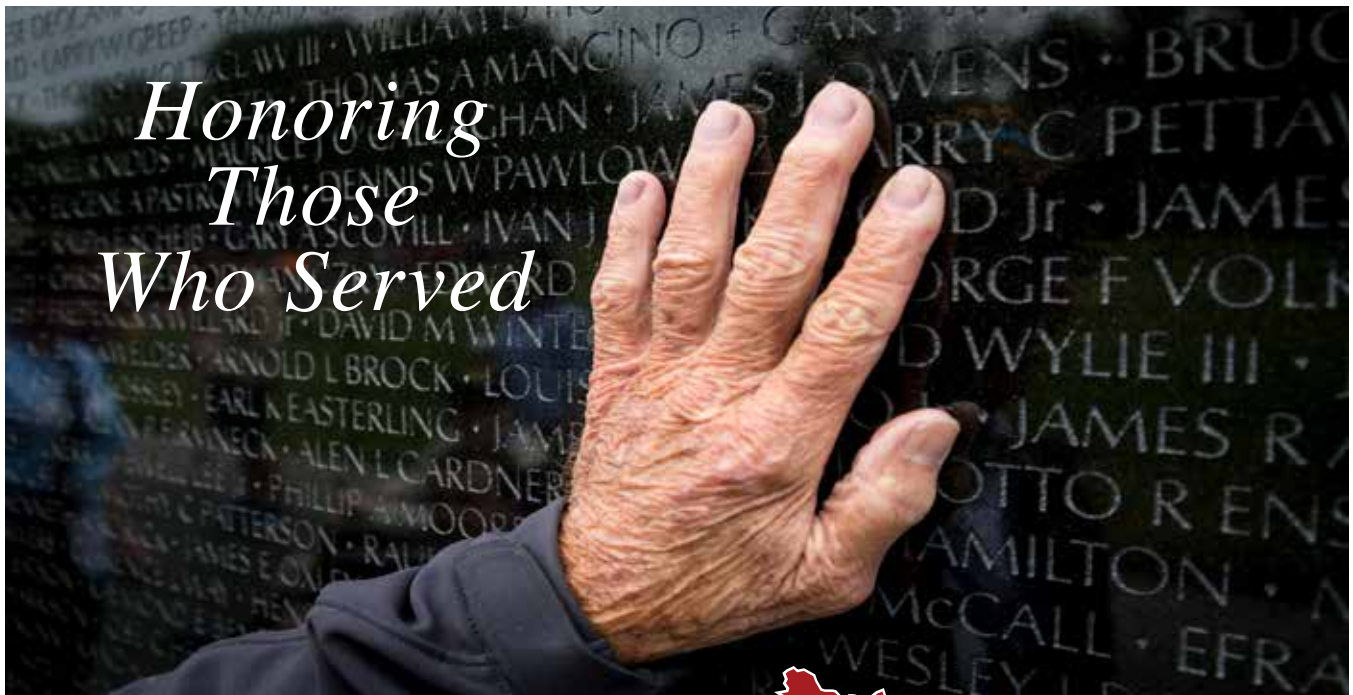
"It's not as easy as it appears, especially if you go to a three- or four-day tournament because you're playing 12–16 hours a day," he explains. "Your body gets worn down. But I really like the competition."

So, some 10 years into his professional cornhole journey, after all the travel, the national TV appearances and the hours of competition, is it still enjoyable for Philip?

Just as enjoyable as it was in the backyard.

"I have made a lot of friends traveling the country pitching bags. My hobby which has turned into a national sport ... has turned into a part-time job, which has been very rewarding."

2021 Honor Flight canceled due to virus concerns



TIM WEBB

HONOR FLIGHT KENTUCKY

Later this month, Salt River Electric and other Kentucky Touchstone Energy Cooperatives were preparing to sponsor veterans from across the state on a trip to Washington, D.C., as part of the annual Honor Flight program.

However, due to developments and concerns with the Delta variant of COVID-19, Honor Flight Kentucky organizers made the decision to cancel this fall's flight.

Though the flights were canceled, we still wanted to highlight and announce the two veterans selected to represent Salt River Electric.

Sammy Spradling of Maysville and Donald Madison of Springfield were selected to join about 70 other Kentucky veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War for the one-day, all-expenses-paid tour of memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifices.

Spradling served in the U.S. Army from 1949 to 1952, earning a Bronze Star during his time in Korea.

Madison, who is a Salt River Electric member, served two tours with the Army in Vietnam from 1967 to 1972, working with transportation and the motor pool before his service ended.

Spradling was to be accompanied by his son, Sam Spradling, and Madison was to be accompanied by his nephew, Eric Shelburne.

This was to be the 10th year that the co-ops have sponsored an Honor Flight. The flights for both 2020 and 2021 have now been canceled due to safety concerns related to the COVID-19 virus.

Though this year's flight did not occur as we all had hoped, we still salute our veterans and honor their service to this country. Thank you, vets, and we look forward to making the 2022 Honor Flight the best that it can be!

Do you know of a veteran who would like to travel to D.C. as part of future Honor Flights? Have them sign up today at HonorFlightKY.org!

National Voter Registration Day is September 28

One of the cooperative principles that guides us is democratic member control. Essentially, every member of our co-op has equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

The membership—that's you—of Salt River Electric elects fellow co-op members to serve on the co-op's board of directors. These representatives devote their time and energy to making informed and wise decisions about the co-op. Because they are democratically elected, they are accountable to you, the membership, which ensures that they are looking out for your best interest, and not those of a special interest group or other outside influences.

Those of us here at Salt River are fortunate to be served by a dedicated board who accepts the responsibility to become educated and trained in the complex world of electric service.

Though Salt River is nonpartisan, we support democratic participation in the communities we serve. We are proud to join other electric cooperatives across Kentucky and the country in Co-ops Vote, which highlights key issues and encourages co-op members to vote.

Since 2015, the Co-ops Vote project has helped reverse a downward trend in rural voter turnout. Now, we are working to encourage even more Salt River members to register to vote. According to U.S. Census data from 2020, as many as one in four eligible Americans are not registered to vote.

Later this month is National Voter Registration Day on September 28. It's a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating our democracy. First observed in 2012, it has quickly gained momentum ever since. Nearly 4.5 million voters



have registered to vote on the holiday to date.

You might be relieved to hear that Kentucky does not have any elections this fall. The next time voters head to the polls will be for the primary election in May. The deadline to register online to vote in the 2022 Primary Election is April 18, 2022, at 4 p.m. local time.

To register or to check to make sure your voter registration is up to date, visit www.vote.coop.

Hanging up the headset: Salt River dispatcher retires



Last month, Salt River celebrated the retirement of dispatcher Lawrence Knott from the cooperative. A Bullitt County native, Knott joined the co-op in August 1991 as a meter reader before eventually making his way to senior lineman. In 2005, Knott accepted the position of system operator, which he held until his retirement last month. In his three decades with the co-op, Knott says the biggest change has been the rapid growth of the co-op, which now totals over 54,000 members.

Knott says he plans to enjoy plenty of hunting, fishing and woodworking during his newly acquired free time, among other things. Lineman Steven Hagerdash will succeed Knott as Salt River's system operator.



A Message From Salt River Electric

Fall checklist: Check for safety, maintenance issues



SPATESPHOTO/ADOBESTOCK

The blistering summer heat isn't far behind us, but it won't be long until heating season arrives and the house is full of company for the holidays.

Head off any potential problems by scheduling maintenance and safety checks for your home's heating and electrical devices now. Below are some good starting points:

- **Furnace.** A qualified HVAC technician should do a twice-a-year check of your system: once in the fall for heating and again in the spring for air conditioning. Before you need to turn on the heat, make sure your unit is in good working condition. The tech can spot problems before it causes harm to your system or shuts down when your house is full of company.
- **Thermostats.** If your home doesn't have a programmable thermostat, you could be paying more to heat and cool your home than you have to. Programmable thermostats automatically turn the heat up or down, depending on the times of day when your family is home or away. (Note: Programmable thermostats are not typically recommended for heat pumps.)
- **Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.** If you don't have them near all bedrooms in your home, it's time to install them. Then, check them twice a year to make sure they're still working and that they have fresh batteries.

Generator safety

When properly installed and operated, generators offer a safe and convenient means of powering equipment when electricity is unavailable during a storm outage.

But an improperly installed generator can create dangerous "back feeding" of electricity onto the grid. Below, you'll find a few steps to keep yourself and others safe while using a generator:

- Always read and follow your operator manual and never modify the generator in any way. It's also important to know how to shut a portable generator off quickly in case of an emergency.
- Keep your generator in a well-ventilated, dry area away from air intakes and protected from direct exposure to rain and snow. A generator should not be used inside a home or an attached garage because improper ventilation can result in carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Never plug the generator directly into an interior outlet. This can cause back feeding on nearby lines and threaten the safety to nearby line crews. Be sure to ground the generator according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Always turn off the power at the main circuit breaker before connecting appliances to the generator. Use heavy duty electric cords designed for outdoor use to connect appliances and don't overload the system.
- Follow proper refueling practices by first turning a generator off, and always allow the machine to cool before adding gasoline or diesel.



SIRZ70AD0BE STOCK



Our offices
will be closed
Monday, September 6,
in observance of
Labor Day.

EXPERIENCING A

POWER OUTAGE?

You have 3 ways to report it!

- 1. Call 1-800-221-7465**
- 2. Our smart phone app**
- 3. Srelectric.com, using your username and password**





HONOR FLIGHT KENTUCKY

Helping
Heroes
Fly...



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