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www.blueridge.coop

Pickens

P.O. Box 277
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Pickens, SC 29671

Oconee

P.O. Box 329
2328 Sandifer Blvd.
Highway 123
Westminster, SC 29693

Anderson

1212 North Fant St.
Anderson, SC 29622

Greenville

3751 Highway 11
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Mission Statement

Blue Ridge will be a competitive, quality provider of energy and other services, maintaining its history of integrity and adapting to the challenges of a changing world. While exercising leadership in the community, the organization's focus will be on exceeding customer expectations.

Board of Directors

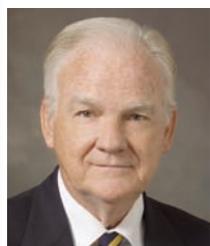
Jimmy Lee Dodgens, *Chairman*
Franklin M. Looper, Jr.,
Vice Chairman
Kenneth G. Southerlin, *Secretary*
J. Mendel Stone, *Treasurer*
J. Bill Barker
Ben G. Bolt
Joel R. Davis
William G. Elrod



A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

Reliable service is our focus

THIS MONTH AND next month, the cooperative's local pages in *South Carolina Living* are to be devoted to those two big May events—the annual meeting of members and our Blue Ridge Fest charity fund-raiser. In reading through the Blue Ridge pages, you'll find information galore about these happenings. Our employee team is busy with preparations for



these dates on the calendar, and we hope you've made note of them as well.

In this report, I want to bring you up to date on a couple of other important matters. First of all, I'm pleased to note that the cooperative is making steady progress on our 2008-12 Engineering Work Plan.

Improvements, maintenance

Capital improvements to the Blue Ridge power-distribution system are under way throughout our service territory. New construction, upgrades, and relocations of power lines are all part of this work plan.

A related facet of these projects is the cooperative's vegetation-management program. Bolstered by a significant budgetary outlay, our crews are performing right-of-way maintenance at multiple geographical locations. These improvements and this attention to right-of-way

maintenance are designed to produce an even better level of service reliability for our members, and I'm excited to see this work going forward.

Secondly, in addition to providing quality service, Blue Ridge prides itself in doing so on an at-cost basis. As a member-owned, not-for-profit utility, the cooperative ultimately returns any earned margins to those members.

\$600,000 capital-credit refund

This month, \$600,000 in capital-credit payments is being mailed to those who were Blue Ridge members in 1984 and/or 1985. Each of those members will receive his or her pro-rata share of these margins.

With this refund, the cooperative will have returned capital credits in each of the last 28 years. Since Blue Ridge began paying patronage-capital dividends, more than \$18.2 million has been refunded.

Dependable service and at-cost service are key elements of the cooperative business model. Blue Ridge is intent upon operating in accordance with those values and principles.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Co-op Connections produces savings



LAST YEAR, CO-OP MEMBERS received their Co-op Connections cards in late May and immediately saw savings in prescription prices and other retail products. At the end of 2009, savings on prescription drugs alone topped \$190,000 and during the first two months of 2010 another \$65,000 in savings has been recorded. The retail participants listed below are partnering with Blue Ridge and offer savings to co-op members each time they make a purchase and present their Co-op Connections card. Shop with these businesses soon and enjoy the savings you receive as a co-op member. For additional travel and entertainment discounts, check out the national list of participants at www.connections.coop.

Local Co-op Connections participants

Anderson

- ▶ **28 Barber Shop** – \$10 haircuts for men and boys
- ▶ **America's Best Value Inn** – 20% off rack rate
- ▶ **Diamonds-n-Gold Direct** – 20% off repair; 10% off regular-price jewelry
- ▶ **Matty's Downtown** – Buy one meal get one-half off
- ▶ **Postage Plus** – \$1 off a book of stamps

Belton

- ▶ **Maynard's Home Furnishings** – \$100 off purchase of \$750 or more

Central

- ▶ **Fresh Bet Home Fragrances** – 10% off select fragrances

- ▶ **Pizza Pro** – Free 8-pc. breadsticks w/regular-price large pizza
- ▶ **Radio Shack** – 10% off; excludes TVs, Ipods, computers
- ▶ **Villa Novella American Trattoria** – 10% off food purchase
- ▶ **Xpress Lube and Car Wash** – Save \$2 on full-service oil change

Clemson

- ▶ **Comfort Inn** – 20% rack rate; not valid football or graduation weekends
- ▶ **Curves** – 50% off service fee w/12-month check draft for new members
- ▶ **Fiesta Mexican Grill** – 15% off regular-priced items
- ▶ **My Garage by Essex** – Special offers
- ▶ **Ramada Inn** – \$59 rate; excludes football and graduation

Easley

- ▶ **Acme Auto Care** – 10% all repairs
- ▶ **Black Electrical** – 5% discount on total purchase
- ▶ **Chef's Secret Thai and Sushi Bar** – 15% off food order
- ▶ **Comfort Inn** – 10% off regular rate
- ▶ **Days Inn** – 15% off rack rates
- ▶ **Jameson Inn** – \$59.99 rate
- ▶ **Poco Music & More** – Special offers
- ▶ **Quick Copy/Print Center** – 10% off print or copy
- ▶ **Rail and Spike Trains** – 10% off train items; 20% off Thomas the Tank
- ▶ **Steve's Tire and Service Center** – 5% off purchase of any set of 4 tires

Fair Play

- ▶ **Carolina Pizza Company** – 10% off order

Long Creek

- ▶ **Chattooga Whitewater Outfitters** – \$5 off any river trip or equipment rental

Pendleton

- ▶ **Mountain Made** – 10% off one craft item
- ▶ **Timeless Tours and Travel, LLC**

– Call for discounted rates

Pickens

- ▶ **Aunt Sue's Country Corner** – 15% off all purchases
- ▶ **Michael's Restaurant** – Free drink with meat and three
- ▶ **Nestfeathers, Inc.** – 15% off all purchases
- ▶ **Town and Country Florist** – 10% off excluding delivery

Seneca

- ▶ **Athens Restaurant** – Special offers
- ▶ **Blackberry Hollow** – 20% off floral arrangement or wreath
- ▶ **Cheer's Café** – 10% off order
- ▶ **Clemson 4 Wheel Center Inc.** – 5% off excluding labor and shipping
- ▶ **DJ's Pools and Spas** – 10% off chemicals and parts
- ▶ **Jameson Inn** – \$69.99 plus tax per night
- ▶ **Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant** – 5% off full purchase
- ▶ **Rapid Refill Ink** – 10% off all purchases
- ▶ **W.W. Thraves Jewelers** – 1/2 price watch battery

Walhalla

- ▶ **Candle Creations** – 10% off storewide
- ▶ **Peez N Carrots** – 10% off storewide
- ▶ **The Village Framer** – 10% off purchase
- ▶ **Thistle Ridge Soaps** – 10% off in-store purchases
- ▶ **Walhalla Liberty Lodge Restaurant** – 20% off entrees

Westminster

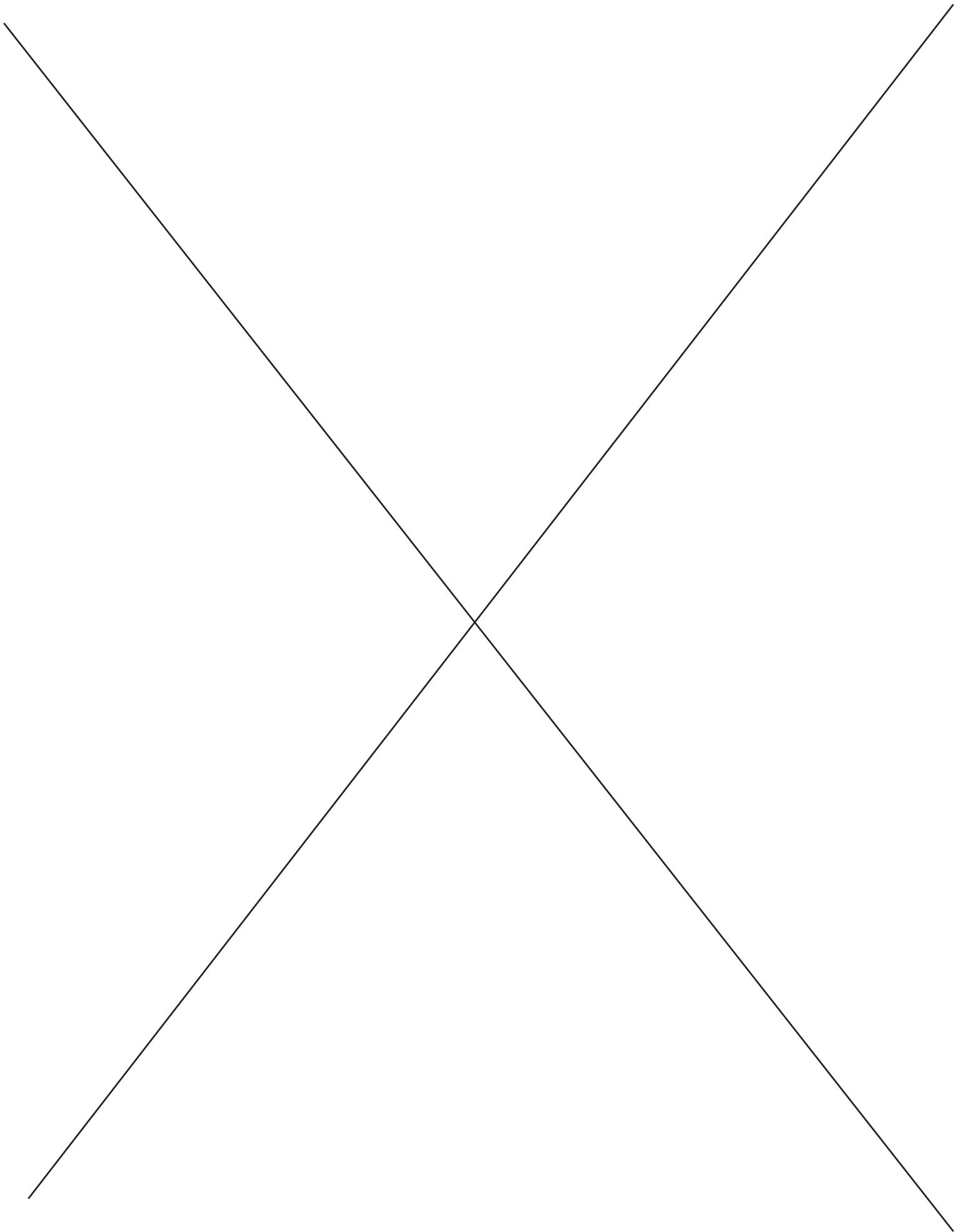
- ▶ **Magnolia Manor Bed and Breakfast** – 10% off lodging or event/wedding packages

West Union

- ▶ **Holcomb's Office Supply** – 20% off purchase

Maggie Valley, NC

- ▶ **Clarketon Motel** – 10% off regular rates; discount packages also available





News EXTRA

Gold City will entertain at co-op annual meeting



Gold City

THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD in Dahlonega, Georgia, in 1828 set off the first major gold rush in America. It also inspired the name for Gold City, one of Christian music's best-known and well-loved entertainers. Gold City continues the tradition set forth by the group's founders in 1980. Their newest album,

"Moment of Truth," reflects the varied influences the group has had in their lives, including gospel, country and blues while maintaining what their fans have come to expect — modern, relevant songs with tight four-part harmonies that lift and inspire the listener.

The quartet has had numerous number-one

radio hits over the years, making songs like "Midnight Cry," "It's Still the Cross," "There Rose a Lamb," and, most recently, "I Cast My Bread Upon the Water," classics in Southern Gospel circles.

Group leader Daniel Riley reflects on the continued success of Gold City, "The most important thing for us throughout the years is that the group has kept the Lord first, and we are no different today. We seek to honor Him in our music and in our lives. I believe that's why Gold City is still here, because we do put Him first in all the music and make Him number one on our priority list."

Earlier in the evening, **Curtis Blackwell and The Dixie Bluegrass**

Boys will take the stage. For the last 40 years, this group has been considered among the most versatile of bluegrass bands. Present members include Bluegrass Hall of Famer Curtis Blackwell, along with Sam Cobb, Charles Wood, Vic Blackwell, and Chuck Nations.

Join us on May 10 at the Blue Ridge Annual Meeting and enjoy a night of great entertainment. ☺



Dixie Bluegrass Boys

Membership has its privileges!

ONCE AGAIN, BLUE RIDGE will be giving money back to its members. Does it sound too good to be true? Capital credit checks totaling \$600,000 will be sent in mid-April to individuals, institutions, and businesses that were co-op customers in 1984. Each check issued represents that customer's pro-rata share of a portion of the margins

earned during that time.

"We are very pleased to be able to return this money to our members," said Blue Ridge President and CEO Charles Dalton. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative is able to return money that's left over after operating expenses. These capital credits give credit where

credit is due — to its members. "Capital credit dividends are a direct benefit of the customer's ownership in the cooperative. Since its inception, the cooperative has returned a total of \$18.2 million to its customers. While members

directly benefit from the refunds, our local economy obviously benefits as well," he added.

Co-op membership has a number of advantages. Capital credits are certainly very tangible proof of this. ☺



Annual financial statement

Balance sheet as of December 2009

Assets

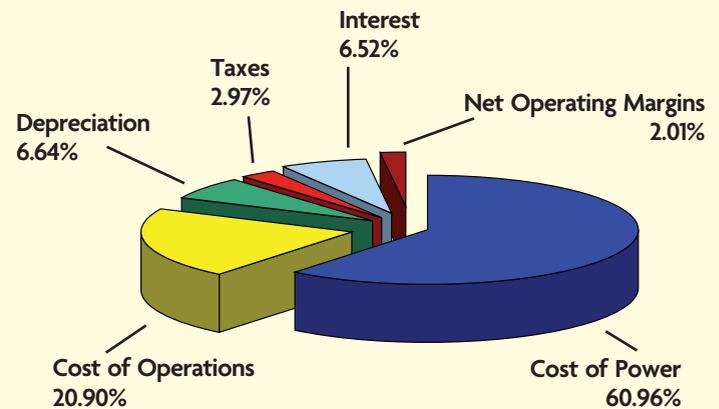
Total Utility Plant	\$268,581,885
Less: Provision for Depreciation	<u>68,700,301</u>
Net Utility Plant	199,881,584
Other Property & Investments	18,420,040
Cash	4,524,563
Notes Receivable	445,820
Accounts Receivable	8,376,142
Materials & Supplies	1,533,363
Other Current Assets	<u>258,835</u>
Total Current & Accrued Assets	<u>15,138,723</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$233,440,347

Liabilities

Membership Fees	\$ 298,899
Patronage Capital	48,569,166
Other Equities	<u>-2,140,908</u>
Total Equities	46,727,157
Long-Term Debt (RUS & CFC)	151,471,314
Other Noncurrent Liabilities	14,620,422
Accounts Payable	7,411,553
Consumer Deposits	1,141,519
Other Liabilities	<u>12,068,382</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>20,621,454</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$233,440,347

Statement of operations for year end 2009

Operating Revenue	\$121,440,730
Expenses:	
Cost of Power	74,032,593
Cost of Operation	25,374,178
Depreciation	8,067,820
Taxes	3,612,000
Interest	<u>7,908,549</u>
Total Operation Expense	<u>118,995,140</u>
Net Operating Margins	2,445,590
Non-Operating Margins	<u>1,149,938</u>
TOTAL MARGINS	\$ 3,595,528



The year in review

IN PREPARATION FOR the year 2009, the Blue Ridge board and management staff collaborated on a new Work Plan and Budget. That document served as our guide for the entire 12 months of operation that ended on December 31. A look back at the accomplishments of 2009 would indicate that the co-op made good progress, despite the severe economic downturn that plagued our service area.

Safety & Training – Regular safety-training and job-training opportunities were made available to the Blue Ridge work force. The result was another year with an outstanding job-safety record. Only a single, minor, lost-time accident was registered in 2009.

Financial goals – Retail electric rates remained stable for the year. Adequate margins were earned, financial targets were met, and the co-op's equity level improved.

Construction & maintenance – As part of the 2008-12 Engineering Work Plan, 20 major line-construction projects were undertaken across the co-op's assigned area. These power-line extensions and conversions addressed growth on the system, as well as service quality.

Service reliability – Almost 850 miles of co-op rights of way were either mechanically cleared or treated with herbicides in 2009. In addition, more than 600 hazard-tree removals were performed. Cutting right of way on a regular cycle is basic to the provision of dependable electric service, and this board strongly supports an adequately funded vegetation-management program.

Economic development – Since 1996, Blue Ridge has been making annual contributions of its Rural Development Act funds to job-creating infrastructure projects within our service area. These local initiatives are helping to position northwestern South Carolina for the commercial and industrial growth that will begin again in earnest, once the economic recession has run its course.

Customer service – Advanced Metering Infrastructure installations were initiated on portions of the Blue Ridge system in 2009. Further progress on this undertaking is expected throughout the current year. This program will bring even greater efficiency to the co-op's operation and will enhance efforts in troubleshooting individual members' service problems. Last year also saw expansion of the menu of online options that are now

available for members.

At-cost operation – After refunding \$500,000 in capital credits to members in 2009, another \$600,000 is scheduled to be returned in this present year. Those members receiving co-op service in 1984 and/or 1985 will benefit from these refunds. Cumulative capital-credit payments through the years have now topped \$18,200,000.

Community service – With \$142,000 in net proceeds, Blue Ridge Fest 2009 was able to give valuable support to 13 local human-assistance organizations. With employee volunteers performing most of the legwork, the charity fund-raiser has earned and distributed \$952,000 in proceeds during its first 12 years of existence. In addition, the introduction of the Co-op Connections Card last May enabled participating Blue Ridge members to realize a total of \$191,219 in savings via pharmacy discounts alone through the end of December. Member benefits from use of the CCC are expected to see even greater growth in 2010.

The Blue Ridge board recognizes that our preeminent responsibility is to the members we serve. Our intention is to build on last year's progress with a goal of offering an even higher level of service to our members in 2010.

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc. directors



Jimmy Lee Dodgens
Chairman



Franklin M. Looper Jr.
Vice-Chairman



Kenneth G. Southerlin
Secretary



J. Mendel Stone
Treasurer



J. Bill Barker



Ben G. Bolt



Joel R. Davis



William G. Elrod

The Temptations to headline Blue Ridge Fest



WITH MAY 14-15 just weeks away, organizers are hard at work to make sure that the 13th Annual Blue Ridge Fest will be the best ever. All festival events will take place on the grounds of the Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative office in Pickens. The Friday agenda includes a Beach Night show and dance along with the Upstate's largest classic-car cruise-in. Saturday's activities revolve around a motorcycle rally and card run, when hundreds of bikers will participate in the "Ride for Charity."

Three live acts will perform on the Blue Ridge Fest stage during Beach Night in the cooperative's spacious equipment facility. Opening the show will be Legends

of Beach, a band that includes five former members of the Embers. Next up will be Jim Quick and Coastline, a high-energy group that has put in regular appearances at Blue Ridge Fest. The world-famous Temptations will top off the evening. These Motown musicians will travel to South Carolina from distant Las Vegas to wow the audience with such classics as "My Girl," "Ain't Too Proud to Beg" and "Since I Lost My Baby."

The cruise-in is expected to attract 600 to 700 vintage vehicles from the tri-state area. Cars from 1979 and older are invited to participate.

Saturday morning's Ride for Charity will start at the Pickens equipment facility. Bikers will leave from there on a 100-mile run that will conclude at Timms Harley-Davidson in Anderson.

In its first 12 years of existence, Blue Ridge Fest has divided \$942,000 among area charitable agencies. Thirteen local charities will benefit from this year's event that should top the \$1,000,000

mark in cumulative giving. They are Foothills Alliance, Golden Corner Food Bank, Haven of Rest, Helping Hands, Mary's House, Miracle Hill, Prevent Child Abuse, Residential Service Parent & Family Club, Rosa Clark Medical Association, Sabrina House Children's Charity, Samaritan Health Clinic, Shriners Hospital for Children and Tamassee DAR School.

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative President and CEO Charles Dalton says there are three main elements that enable Blue Ridge Fest to succeed. "We have great support from the community through attendance on Beach Night and participation in the motorcycle rally. In addition, more than 90 corporate sponsors generously step forward with financial and in-kind gifts. Finally, our work force — including employees from both the co-op and our Blue Ridge Security Systems subsidiary — volunteer their time and energy to conduct the

fest." We hope you'll join us for a weekend of great times for great causes. For more information, visit blueridgefest.com.



FILE

The following sponsors have made early commitments to support 2010 Blue Ridge Fest

Presenting Sponsorship (\$10,000)

Allied Tree Service, Inc.
Quality Inspection Services

Premier Sponsorship (\$7,500)

Martin Printing Company, Inc.
SEDC, Inc.
Sluder Urban Forestry
WYFF-TV 4

Platinum Sponsorship (\$5,000)

AT & T
Chick-fil-A of Seneca
Emergency Recovery Services
Integral Solutions Group
The Cliffs Communities
Timms Harley-Davidson of Anderson

Gold Sponsorship (\$3,000)

AP Design
Carolina Tree
CEE-US, Inc.
McCulloch Utility Services
Payne, McGinn & Cummins, Inc.
Power Delivery Associates, Inc.
Sumter Utilities, Inc.
The Peoples National Bank
102.5 WMY1/92.5 WESC

Silver Sponsorship (\$1,500)

Advanced Underground Specialists
American Services, Inc.
Bargain Exchange

Bountyland Petroleum, Inc.
Davis Electrical & Plumbing, Inc.
Fairway Outdoor Advertising
Frank and Nancy Loopier
Galaxy Control Systems
McCall-Thomas Engineering Co., Inc.
Santee Cooper
Solid Gold & Doris Dalton
TCI of Alabama, LLC
Trehel Corporation
The Westin Poinsett, Greenville
WGOG Radio Station

Bronze Sponsorship (\$1,000)

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BMW Manufacturing Co.
CLD Services, Inc.
CWC Chemical, Inc.
Clinton Electronics Corporation
J. Davis Construction, Inc.
Durham's Automotive
GDS Associates/Hi-Line Engineering
Marion Davis, Inc.
McKinney Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Mazda, Inc.
McNair, McMore, Middlebrooks & Co.
Motorola/Communication Service Center
Oconee Fence
Phillips Tree Service
Pike Electric, Inc.
Systems Distributors, Inc.
The Parkette

Friend Sponsorship (\$500)

Adkins Truck Equipment
Antique Automobile Club of America
Bearden Landscaping
J. Bill Barker
Bill Black Electric Company, Inc.
Booth and Associates
Design South Professionals, Inc.
Foster Used Cars
Hiott Printing
Kevin Whitaker Chevrolet, Cadillac, Inc.
Milsoft Utility Solutions
Rosenfeld Einstein & Associates
Shealy Electric Wholesalers, Inc.
The Okonite Company
Terex Utilities, Inc.
Towe 24 Hour Towing and Crane Service
Uncle James Catering Services
Village Inn

Donor Sponsorship (\$250)

Ace Pole Company, Inc.
Action Automotive
Atlantic Wood Industries, Inc.
Buddy's Chain Saw Service, Inc.
Carolina International Trucks
Global Financial Services Group, Inc.
Greenville Mechanical, LLC
My Garage by Essex
Pace and Reeves BP, Inc.

