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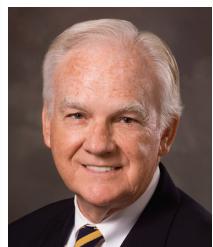
Greenville
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Mission Statement
Blue Ridge will be a competitive, quality provider of energy and other services, maintaining its history of integrity and adapting to the challenges of a changing world. While exercising leadership in the community, the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

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



POWER SAVER IS a program headed up by our engineering folks here at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative. We

initiated Power Saver some time ago as one of the measures we're taking to hold down our wholesale electricity costs.

The essential elements of this program are load-control switches that can be installed on heat pumps and central air conditioners and on electric water heaters. In the case of heat-pump and A/C switches, a radio signal interrupts the unit's compressor for around seven to 12 minutes during an hour of operation. Since the unit's fan would continue to operate throughout, a member would likely never notice that the compressor had been interrupted for that brief period.

Similarly, the heating coils in an electric water heater could be de-energized for about 30 minutes. Because the hot water is stored in a well-insulated tank, it would maintain a high temperature for the entire time span.

Whichever of these appliances is controlled by a switch, the Power Saver action would be implemented on only an occasional basis when a potential system-wide kW peak is anticipated. All these switches working together can significantly reduce the kW-demand charge that is a prominent part of the cooperative's purchased-power expense. Furthermore, participating

members receive a small, monthly financial incentive for each installed switch.

Blue Ridge already has an impressive number of heat-pump/AC and water-heater devices in place at member locations. Those results have been achieved by working on one substation system at a time, and the program is presently in effect on about one-third of our 33 substation systems.

As successful as this approach has been, the cooperative will soon be ready to shift into a higher gear and be offering Power Saver to every interested member. I know there's a host of high-efficiency heat pumps and electric water heaters in operation all across the Blue Ridge network. Some of the thanks for that state of affairs goes to both our heat-pump loan initiative and our H₂O Select water-heater rebates.

In other words, a huge number of you are already well-positioned to take advantage of the financial incentives available through Power Saver. I encourage you to call, email, visit our website (www.blueridge.coop/powersaverrewards/), or stop by your local Blue Ridge office for more information.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Memorial Day closing

All Blue Ridge offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, to celebrate Memorial Day. Emergency crews will be on standby, and dispatchers will be answering the telephones around the clock. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Blue Ridge News

Putting safety first this month—and throughout the year

IT'S MAY—and Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and \$1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

In the kitchen

- ▶ Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- ▶ All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.



FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

- ▶ The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils.

Light the way to safety

- ▶ The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- ▶ Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a

long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be prepared

- ▶ Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- ▶ Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year—or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions.
- ▶ Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route—they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit blueridge.coop.

'Service Second Only to Safety' is the Blue Ridge way

BLUE RIDGE HAS been named the winner of the President's Safety Contest, an award given by the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. Todd Carter, vice president for loss control and training at statewide, presented the award. "Congratulations to every employee that works safely every day," Carter said. "It is such an honor to be named the winner of this award. The competition is tough, and it's always a close race. But your safety record put you at the top, and I commend you for your efforts."

The contest is based on the number of recordable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) accidents each cooperative has in a year. Blue Ridge is in category one, competing with seven other cooperatives in the state that have more than 100 employees. Blue Ridge



LIZA HOLDER

finished in first place in its category with only two recordable accidents and earned a score of 98.59 percent. "Service second only to safety" will continue to be the goal of each Blue Ridge employee.

Rusty Wannamaker and Todd Carter of The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina presented the President's Safety Award to Blue Ridge Cooperative employees at a recent safety meeting. Billy House, Charles Dalton and Jim Lovinggood accepted the award on behalf of all employees.

18th Annual

Blue Ridge FEST

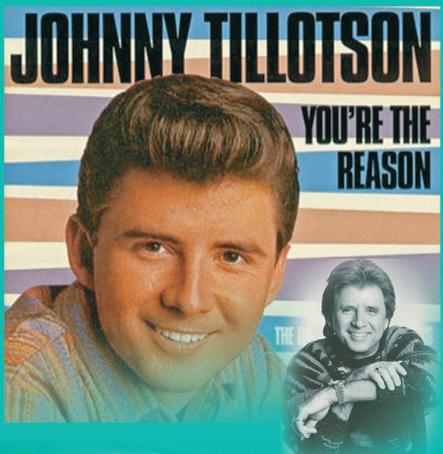


FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2015, 6-10:30 pm

An Evening of Classic Cars, Great Music & Food

featuring

**Johnny Tillotson, Shirley Alston Reeves with The Shirelles Tribute,
and The Swingin' Medallions**



Adults \$25 • Children \$15

(Discounted tickets purchased in advance: Adults \$20 • Children \$12)

Come in a classic car (1979 or older) and \$30 admits a carload of up to four! Line-up begins at noon. Gates open at 2 pm for classic cars. Dash plaques are available for the first 400 cars.

All proceeds benefit Upstate charitable organizations.

Events will take place at Blue Ridge Electric Co-op
734 W. Main Street, Pickens, SC



For more information,
call 1-800-240-3400 or
visit online at blueridgefest.com.



Cars and Stars—Blue Ridge Fest will be a night to remember

ON MAY 8, Blue Ridge will welcome three great entertainment acts to the 18th Annual Blue Ridge Fest. President and CEO Charles Dalton believes this year's entertainment will be the best ever. "I think this group of entertainers has more top-10 hits collectively, than any group of talent we've seen here before. The music alone will make it a night to remember."

Headlining this year's event is Johnny Tillotson, one of the new inductees into America's Pop Music Hall of Fame. With a recording career that spans five decades, Tillotson has nine top-10 hits and 15 top-40 hits on the Billboard charts. Known for his songwriting and recording, some of his most popular hits that he will perform include "Poetry in Motion," "Talk Back Trembling Lips," "It Keeps Right On a Hurtin'," and "Send Me the Pillow That You Dream On." Tillotson's endearing personality and stage presence have enabled him to have a successful recording and concert career, entertaining audiences all over the world.

Prior to Tillotson's performance, Shirley Alston Reeves with the Shirelles will entertain with '60s hits "Soldier Boy," "Tonight's the

Johnny Tillotson



Shirley Alston Reeves

Night," and "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow." Released in 1960, "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" went all the way to #1 on the pop chart, making the Shirelles the first all-female group of the rock era to accomplish this feat. This song, along with "Tonight's the Night," were selected by *Rolling Stone* on its list of the greatest songs of all times.

This evening of classic music will begin with The Swingin' Medallions

taking the stage. Based out of Greenwood since the early 1960s, the Medallions are known as "The Party Band of the South." Their recording "Double Shot (of My Baby's Love)" became a million seller in 1966, and has been a party classic for college students for decades. While "She Drives Me Out Of My Mind" and "Hey, Hey, Baby" were top-40 hits in 1966 and 1967, "Double Shot" remains the signature song of the Swingin' Medallions.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of classic cars will line up and take their place at the "Largest Cruise-in In the Upstate." This collection of vintage automobiles sets the perfect stage for those of you who remember when times were a little slower, music was a little easier to understand, and a good day was riding around with your favorite girl or guy. Even if you don't remember those times, join us and get a feel for what you missed. Great Times for Great Causes—Blue Ridge Fest. ☺

For more information or advance tickets, visit blueridgefest.com.



Swingin' Medallions

We say thanks to all Fest Sponsors ...

Each year more than 100 businesses and individuals include Blue Ridge Fest in their plan for annual giving. Hal Ruble of Quality Inspection Services gives because he knows his money will be used locally. "I know that a team of Blue Ridge employees has carefully reviewed applications from a large number of charities and decided who needs funding each year. By giving to Blue Ridge Fest, my donation will be used to meet the needs of thousands of children, adults and families right here. My contribution goes a long way when combined with other sponsors' giving and the money made by this volunteer-sponsored event." Blue Ridge is thankful to the many that have been faithful supporters year after year. Please join us in thanking them when you see their sponsor badge at Blue Ridge Fest or visit their business..

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Each year, sponsors are invited to join volunteers as check presentations are made to Fest charities. This year, the organizations that will receive funding from Blue Ridge Fest are Anderson Interfaith Ministries, Developmental Center for Exceptional Children, Dot's Kitchen, Fair Play Camp School, Hidden Treasure Christian School, North Greenville Food Crisis Ministry, Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund, Rosa Clark Medical Clinic, Samaritan Health Clinic of Pickens County, The Dream Center of Pickens County, The Parenting Place (Prevent Child Abuse of Pickens County) and United Christian Ministries. Blue Ridge Fest has raised more than \$1.8 million and funded 54 charities.

LIZA HOLDER

Students will travel to Washington, D.C.

IN JUNE, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will send three students to Washington, D.C., for the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. There, they will join more than 1,600 high school students from rural areas around the country. Like past years, it is expected that these

young people will have the trip of their lives.

They will meet senators and congressmen, hear from co-op leaders, see the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian Institution museums and meet hundreds of young people just like themselves. We hope

they bring home good memories and the desire to be a better citizen that supports the rural community in which they live. Congratulations to these students who are the 2015 Washington Youth Tour participants from Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative. ☺



Aimee Rodriguez from Westside High School



Meg Leatherwood of Wren High School



Anna White of Hampton Park Christian School

Technology puts you in control

WITH OUR FREE app for smartphones, Blue Ridge members can get a complete picture of monthly usage as well as bill dates, due dates and amounts. You also have the ability to set alerts that can send notifications to your smartphone or email account concerning due dates on your BREC account. Of course, secure bill payment is one of the key features of the Blue Ridge app.

If you have a smartphone, download the free Blue Ridge app and have your account at your fingertips. And don't forget about My Energy Online ... get all the details at blueridge.coop.

We invite you to like us on Facebook and follow us



on Twitter. Get the latest outage information as well as energy tips and community happenings from your local electric cooperative. ☺



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Is the Least We Can Do For Our Members



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- Celebrating 75 Years
- Powering Over 65,000 Households & Businesses
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