

Realite

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2019 GEORGIA LINEMAN RODEO First-Year Competitors Join Walton EMC Team

Rookies Tyler Gray and Ryan Garner joined veterans Blaine Ogle and Adrian Mendoza to represent Walton EMC at the 2019 Georgia Lineman Rodeo near Perry.



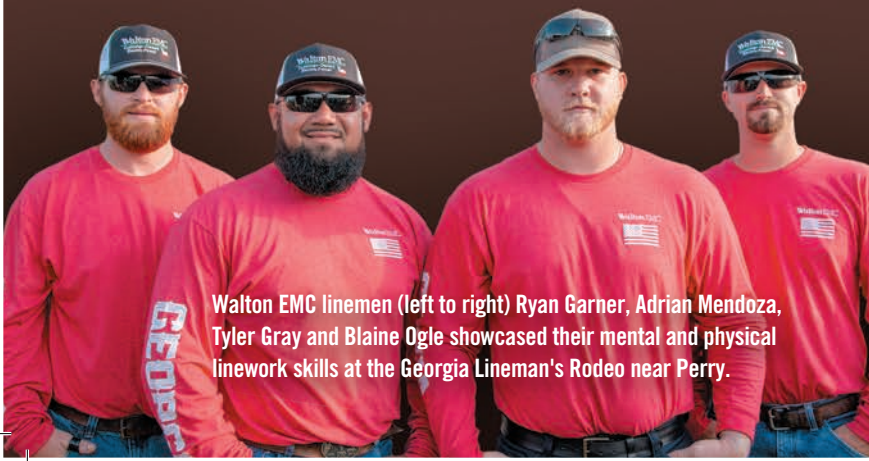
First-year competitors, Tyler Gray (left) and Ryan Garner race up the pole side-by-side in the Hurt Man Rescue event. Contestants are required to simulate the rescue of an unconscious utility worker without the aid of a bucket truck.

The purpose of the rodeo is to encourage line workers throughout the state to maintain a focus on training and safety. Mental and physical electric utility work skills are put to the test.

Contestants begin the day with a multiple-choice written exam to prove their knowledge of proper electrical utility line installation, repair and maintenance.

In addition to the test, all participants are scored on four events (three knowns and one mystery event) that require old-school climbing to complete. No bucket trucks are allowed in the competition.

The goal for every lineman is to finish each event accurately, quickly and safely.



Walton EMC linemen (left to right) Ryan Garner, Adrian Mendoza, Tyler Gray and Blaine Ogle showcased their mental and physical linework skills at the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo near Perry.

Overhead Power Lines Deserve Respect

These energy titans quietly deliver our electricity without much notice. But if a storm, car or something else hinders them, hazards can result.

Because we tend to be outdoors more in warmer weather, keep these safety tips in mind as you go about summer activities.

- Keep tall metal objects, like ladders and antennas, far away from power lines.
- Don't climb trees growing near power lines.
- Fly kites in areas free of power lines. Only use string labeled as kite string.
- Before doing any aerial work close to power lines, call 811 for utility assistance in staying safe.
- Plant only low-growing trees in areas where power lines are located.
- Allow Walton EMC contractors to trim trees on your property that might interfere with power lines.
- Don't nail or attach anything to overhead power poles.

LINEMAN GEAR

Gaffs are the sharp steel spikes that linemen strap to their boots to enable them to climb wooden poles.

THE *Rundown*

inside: summer power use, solar sprint, cca awards, sporting clay shoot
on the back: linemen rodeo, respect overhead power lines

SUMMER ARRIVES BEFORE SUMMER

Who says the first day of summer is June 21?

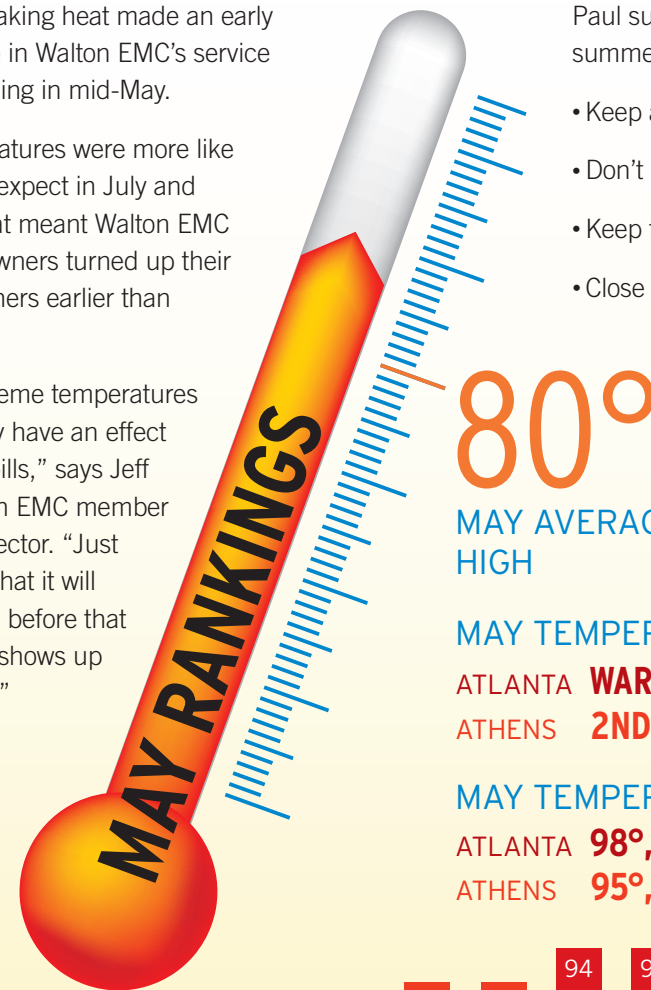
Record-breaking heat made an early appearance in Walton EMC's service area beginning in mid-May.

The temperatures were more like what you'd expect in July and August. That meant Walton EMC customer-owners turned up their air conditioners earlier than usual.

"These extreme temperatures will certainly have an effect on energy bills," says Jeff Paul, Walton EMC member services director. "Just remember that it will take a while before that energy use shows up on your bill."

Paul suggests these steps to keep a handle on summertime power bills:

- Keep air conditioner filters clean.
- Don't block indoor vents.
- Keep the space around the outdoor unit clear.
- Close blinds or drapes to keep sun out.
- Try to limit door openings.
- Make sure insulation in the attic is adequate.
- Sign up for levelized billing to reduce summertime bill peaks.



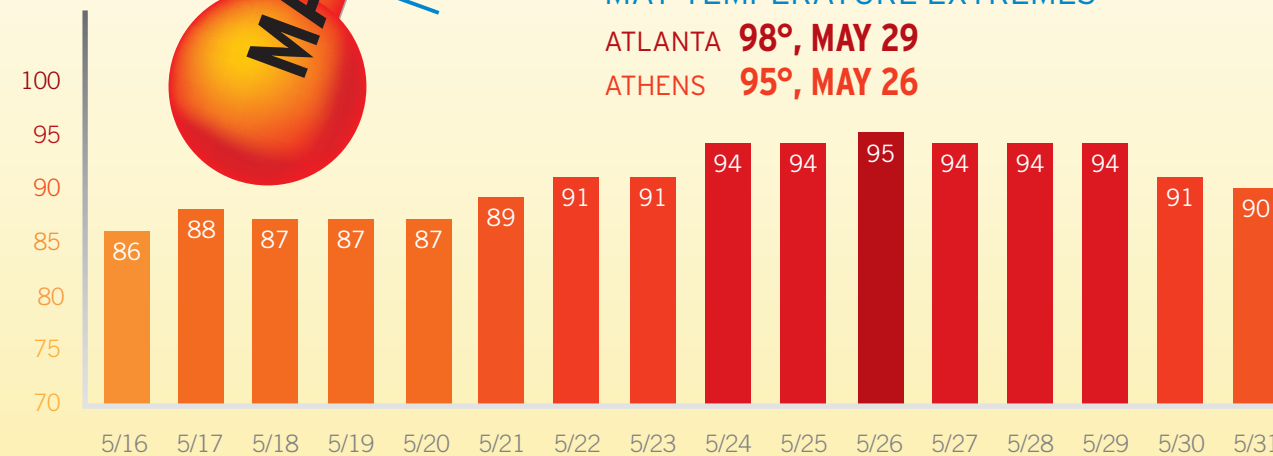
80°
MAY AVERAGE HIGH

MAY TEMPERATURE RECORDS

ATLANTA **WARMEST MAY ON RECORD**
ATHENS **2ND WARMEST MAY ON RECORD**

MAY TEMPERATURE EXTREMES

ATLANTA **98°, MAY 29**
ATHENS **95°, MAY 26**



DAILY HIGH TEMPERATURES, MAY 2019

QUICK GUIDE

IF YOUR POWER IS OUT
770.267.2505
waltonemc.com > Report an Outage

FIND US
Phone 770.267.2505
In person Monroe – 842 US Hwy. 78
Snellville – 3645 Lenora Church Rd.
Watkinsville – 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.
Web waltonemc.com
Facebook facebook.com/waltonemc
YouTube youtube.com/emctv

WHEN WE'RE AVAILABLE
Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7
Contact Center > M-F, 7A-7P
Business Offices > M-F, 8A-5P

EMC LEADERS
CEO Ronnie Lee
Sr. VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong

Sr. VP Engineering & Operations Ron Marshall
Sr. VP Power Supply Robert Rentfrow
Sr. VP Finance Marsha Shumate
VP Walton Energy & External Affairs Jim Bottone
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Community and Public Relations Director Greg Brooks, MCC
Communications Coordinator Savannah Chandler, MCC
Design by mPrint Design Studio

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770.GAS.HEAT > waltongas.com

NEED SECURITY SERVICE?
770.963.0305 > emcsecurity.com

©2019. Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 129,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

DID YOU KNOW?

When temperatures rise, so does electricity use by Walton EMC's typical residential consumer*. Here are some facts about summertime power use.

AUGUST
Month of highest demand

5–7 p.m.
Hours of peak demand

45–50 kWh
Amount of electricity consumed daily

JUNE 19
Hottest day in 2018; average residential consumer used 58 kWh

2x
More electricity consumed on hottest days

*Based on home size of 1,750 square feet.



SOLAR SPRINT

Learning about solar energy can be fascinating, especially for students building solar-powered cars in Michael Finnerty's science classes at Athens Academy.

The Solar Sprint Race program gives students a hands-on approach to solar power exploration. Students learn the basics about solar energy and engineering concepts from building derby-style cars from scratch and then racing each other in a bracket format.



Walton EMC has provided the solar car kits, additional construction materials and trophies for middle school classes since 2009.

"We talk about how that solar energy can be used and stored even in a smaller scale in a residential setting, but it's also becoming a much bigger power usage technology in an industrial setting," says Finnerty.

Participants customize each sun-powered vehicle with brightly colored embellishments and race mottos.

"I had a lot of fun, especially because I want to be an engineer when I grow up," said student Andrew Hill. "Being able to design my own little car in seventh grade was sort of like a dream come true."

Solar Sprint lesson plans seamlessly mix education with entertainment.

"We have kids being introduced to Walton EMC and discovering our company could be a career path for them one day," says Walton EMC Youth and Community Representative Jennifer Broun. "The most important takeaway is that students understand that Walton EMC serves their community and that we're here for more than to just supply their power."

Charlie Hutton, left, poses with his solar powered car "Fireworks" at the Walton EMC-sponsored Solar Sprint Races at Athens Academy.

6 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT SOLAR ENERGY

- Solar energy is the most abundant energy resource on Earth – 173,000 terawatts of solar energy strikes the Earth continuously.
- The first silicon solar cell, the precursor of all solar-powered devices, was built by Bell Laboratories in 1954.
- The space industry was an early adopter of solar technology.
- The amount of solar power installed in the U.S. has increased more than 23 times over the past eight years.
- As prices continue to fall, solar energy is increasingly becoming a viable generation source for electric power.
- California's Mojave Desert is home to Ivanpah Solar Power Facility, the world's largest operating solar thermal energy plant.

CCA NATIONAL COMPETITION

Communicators Make Showing

Walton EMC's Savannah Chandler and Greg Brooks were recognized for their excellence in communicating with Walton EMC's customer-owners at the 2019 Cooperative Communicator Association's (CCA) Annual Institute in Savannah, Georgia.

The two received awards in the organization's communications contest where they competed against major cooperative sectors including agriculture, food, telecommunications, energy and banking.

This year's contest had 571 entries across categories including writing, photography, programs and projects, and publications.

Chandler and Brooks earned these honors:

- Second place, Promotional Video
- Third place, Small Shop Portfolio
- Third place, Newsletter/Magazine/Newspaper/Tabloid
- Third place, Video Series

"I'm especially proud of placing in the Small Shop Portfolio and Newsletter/Magazine/Newspaper/Tabloid categories," said Brooks, community and public relations director. "Being awarded in Small Shop Portfolio shows we can hold our own against co-ops with much larger staffs and budgets. Earning third with the Realite means we pack more information per square inch in our newsletter than other publications with much more room at their disposal."



For their work at Walton EMC, communicators Savannah Chandler and Greg Brooks received four awards in Cooperative Communicators Association Communications Contest.



cooperative communicators association

CONNECT. CREATE. ACHIEVE.

CCA is an organization of 250 professionals who communicate for cooperatives. Through professional development opportunities, association members excel in communications disciplines such as writing, photography, video and publication design. Learn more at communicators.coop.

All proceeds benefit the Georgia 2-Day Breast Cancer Walk.

9TH ANNUAL WALTON EMC SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT

Thursday, August 15

Registration – 7:30 AM
Start – 9 AM

Cherokee Rose Gun Club
Griffin, GA

Registration and Details:
waltonemc.com/charities

- Lewis Class scoring
- Trophies to top teams
- Ladies division
- Door prizes
- Five shotguns given
- Raffles

