

# The NEWS LINE

RUTHERFORD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

www.remc.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Owned By Those We Serve

July 2023

## Pole Patrol

### Attaching Objects to Poles Puts Lives on the Line—And It's a Crime

What do yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes, and birdhouses have in common? They're often found illegally attached to utility poles. But this isn't only a crime of inconvenience. Safety issues caused by unapproved pole attachments place the lives of linemen and the public in peril.

It may seem innocent, but a small nail partially driven into a pole can pierce a lineman's glove, stripping away critical protection from high-voltage electricity.

"Rutherford EMC line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions," explains Colon Saunders, vice president of operations for REMC. "Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples, or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution."

REMC linemen have reported more poles used as community bulletin boards, satellite mounts, and even support legs for deer stands, lights, and carports. Not only do these attachments put line crews at risk—anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized power lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead. It's always wise to keep any structure away from utility poles.

Unauthorized pole attachments violate the National Electric Safety Code. With this danger in mind, many states, including North Carolina, make it a crime to attach any unapproved item to a utility pole. Anyone found guilty of attaching an unauthorized item to a utility pole in North Carolina can

be charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor under General Statute 14-145.

Please help us keep our linemen—and our community—safe. Remove any unauthorized items attached to utility poles. Fixtures not belonging to the cooperative or another utility will be removed by REMC line personnel; the co-op is not responsible for any losses if an item is damaged or destroyed during removal.



## REMC's In-Person Annual Meeting is Back!

We cannot wait to see you!

Rutherford EMC will hold an in-person Annual Meeting this October for the first time in three years!

Be on the lookout for more details over the next few months.



## SWAP SHOP

Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation provides Swap Shop ads as a free service to its members. Guidelines are as follows: Ads are published first-come, first-served. When the space allotted for ads each month is full, remaining ads will be held over for the next issue. Ads will not be run more than once unless re-submitted. Commercial ads will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit, condense or deny publication of any advertisement. Rutherford Electric Membership Corp. assumes no responsibility for the content of any advertisement and does not endorse or warrant any of the goods so advertised. Please include your account number with your ad.

### Mail your ads to:

Newsletter Editor, Rutherford EMC, PO Box 1569,  
Forest City, NC, 28043-1569 or e-mail at [cbailey@remc.com](mailto:cbailey@remc.com).  
No phone calls, please.

## FOR SALE

**Wooden** entertainment center 56" tall x 38" wide x 20" deep, \$75; gas weed trimmer, \$15; 20-volt electric weed trimmer, \$30; wooden executive desk, \$400. 704-489-2518.

**Metal** hospital bed w/electric head & foot movements, bars & siderails, plastic mattress, \$550, call or text, can send pictures upon request, Dallas, NC. 704-813-4870.

**Curt** round bar weight distribution hitch model #17052, rated for 8-10,000 lbs. gross trailer weight, 800 - 1,000 tongue weight, new in box, list new for \$500, asking \$275; pin style trunnion bar weight distribution hitch kit #17423, rated for 10-15,000 lbs. gross trailer weight, new in box, complete with everything needed to tow including a 2 5/16" ball, sway control bars, snap-up brackets, adjustable shank, cast head & trunnion bars, list new for \$650, asking \$325; Anzo LED tail lights, new in box, part #311261, fits Ford F-150 2015 & up year models, \$100; new Jeep CJ Series/Scrambler radiator - part # CVJ583, measures 27.9"x 26.6"x 6.5", \$60. All prices firm. 704-922-7909.

**Cub** Cadet riding mower, 23 hp w/50" cut, \$1,000; metal burning barrels, \$15; 30 & 55 gallon feed barrels, \$20; water totes, \$75; solid or metal \$10 ea., have 100 available; cages for firewood, \$25; oil tank & stand, like new, \$200; Hickory, NC. 828-327-4782.

**Muscovy ducks** - large males & females that are old enough to lay eggs now, \$20 ea., ducklings - 3 for \$10, have 21 left & will sale all for \$50; 2 Cuckoo Maran roosters, 8 months old, \$10 ea. Lincolnton, NC. 704-241-3734.

**Miniature Pinchers** - have black & tan and blues, male & female. 828-334-4257.

**Gas Club Car Carryall II Plus w/cab & dump bed**, \$3,450; 2007 Polaris Sportsman 800 ATV, \$4,750; (4) 12" mag wheels for Polaris side by side. 704-736-5409.

**Yorkie** Poo puppies, 12 weeks old, 1 female & 2 males, will be between 4-8 lbs., shots up to date, wormed, negative worm tests, vet health check, \$1,000, serious inquires only. 828-394-8336.

**Oak** dining room table that measures 34" wide x 72" long, has 6 solid oak chairs, in good cond., all for \$300. McDowell County, NC. 828-652-7840 or 828-442-2172.

**River's** Edge two man ladder stand, \$100; Summit Viper SD climbing tree stand, \$225; Barcelona Red A.R.E. fitted hard cover that fits a Toyota Tacoma double cab truck bed, \$400. 828-803-7930.

**Vesta** dishwasher for camper, \$100; 2 burial plots w/vaults at Burke Memorial Park in Morganton, NC., \$6,500; 12 piece crystal large animal collection, \$500; hand blown pitcher & matching glass, \$40; California King bed frame w/wide side board and basket design, \$150. 828-430-6590.

**Koi** fish - have about 30 of them, various colors including gold and red & black spotted. 704-880-0895.

**Yorkie**, Yorkie Poo & Morkie puppies - White Parti Yorkie, AKC Registered, female \$1,200, male \$1,000; Tiny Toy Yorkipoo's - female \$1,000, male \$800, tails, dewclaws, shots & worming. Kings Mtn, NC. 704-923-5834.

**2007** Seadoo RXP 215 Supercharged w/2002 Triton aluminum trailer, low hours & always dry stored. 704-472-2154.

**2009** Moomba Mobius LSV 325 Indmar engine, bought new in 2010, royal blue & white in color, low hours, 2009 Boat Mate trailer, always dry stored, \$37,500. 704-472-2154.

**Dining** set - solid mahogany oval table w/3 leaves, 6 upholstered chairs & 62" buffet, seats 12, using 3 leaves, table pads included, ex. cond., can email photos, \$500. Morganton, NC. 828-391-1003.

**Kincaid** oak dining table - 54" with 2 extensions, total length of 94", marked as Ducks Unlimited Edition, unique trestle style table legs & surround wood roping, (4) Ethan Allen side armchairs, very good cond., can send pictures. Columbus, NC. 828-447-2373.

**1952** Allis Chalmers Model B tractor; 1953 Oliver Model 77 row crop tractor; KG14 Kalamazoo guitar from 1930's. 843-670-9727.

**Samsung** powered home theatre sub-woofer, 90 watt, no remote, \$25; Technics SB-L51 speaker set, Audiophile 3-way set, 75 watt, \$75; Denon AVR-591, 5.1 channel home theatre receiver w/remote, \$75; 5 gal. plastic gas containers w/easy flow spouts, \$10. 980-429-2201.

**Golden** Retriever puppies - AKC registered, all vet care, born Dec. 14th, \$1,000 if breeding, discount for pet price at \$800. Can send pictures and more info. 704-923-5834.

**AKC** registered female Husky puppies, born March 22nd; CKC registered Labradoodle puppies, born December 22nd, \$150; AKC registered white Standard Poodle, male, 2 years old, \$700; CKC registered female red Labradoodle, 2 years old, \$200; AKC registered male Golden Retriever, 2 years old, \$800. 704-474-4559.

**Split** rail fence - 3 rails, \$700 obo; smoker grill, never used; 5 gal. water cooler & 48-quart cooler, \$70 obo. 828-584-6589.

**Canyon** Cat travel trailer by Palomino - 12' RB, completely self-contained, just like the full-size campers, has heat, air and all, perfect for a couple, can send pictures, \$7,300. Stanley, NC. 704-860-0237.

**Two** grave plots in the Dogwood #1 lot of the Gaston Memorial Cemetery, \$5,000 plus transfer fee. 704-825-3221, leave message and I will return call.

**1978** Marietta 14'x65' mobile home, 2 BR, 2 BA, large closets, some furnishings, needs some work, rubberized roof, underpinning & heat pump, good refurbish project to live in or rent, must be moved, Dallas, NC. 704-263-1027.

**Two** grave plots located in Burke Memorial Park, Morganton, NC, Hillside Garden #2, Lot 106, spaces 1 & 2, \$2,000 for both. 828-448-1052.

**Ford** Slimline cover, grey in color, cost \$2,500 new, asking \$300. 828-430-1034.

**2015** Ducati Scrambler, one owner, recently serviced, 15,000 miles, 803 cc, 62 yellow w/Givi windscreen & saddlebags, Corbin & original seat, no issues with this bike, ready for the street or light dual sport riding, \$6,500; Kobalt 22 gal. digital air compressor w/attachments, used very little, \$125 firm. 704-730-8295.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Stamp** collectors - if you are a serious collector, I will send you FREE stamps. 828-894-6182.

Photo courtesy of  
Simply Grace Farms

All REMC offices will be closed on  
**Tuesday, July 4**  
for Independence Day



# *In Memory of* **CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" D. FERGUSON**



It is with great sadness that Rutherford EMC reports the death of long-time employee, Christopher "Chris" D. Ferguson, age 40, of Rutherfordton, NC. Chris passed away Thursday May 18, 2023, following a courageous battle with cancer. He was a beloved father, son, brother, grandson, uncle, nephew, friend and valued employee, who will be greatly missed.

Chris held various jobs throughout his career at Rutherford EMC. In September of 2003 Chris was hired as a part-time helper. Management quickly realized that that this young man would be a great asset to the company and hired him full-time in February of 2004. He was instrumental in the collection of field data to create the digital GIS service maps that are used daily by all employees as a vital navigation tool. He later obtained his CDL's and completed the truck driver certification school at Isothermal Community College and added another responsibility to his daily duties. After this achievement, he became the "truck driver", and earned the job title, Driver of Specialized Equipment. From that point on, if any heavy construction equipment had to be hauled to or from a job site throughout Rutherford EMC's 10 county service territory, Chris was the man for the job! He hauled everything from track hoes and dozers to large pieces of specialized equipment such as the Giraffe right of way cutters and Rutherford EMC's mobile substation that weighs in at over 100,000 pounds. Chris had a calm and relaxed mannerism that really shined when he was behind the wheel of a road tractor hauling heavy equipment or even backing one of the 53-foot trailers into a tight spot at an energized substation. Not everyone is blessed with that type of ability.

Chris was well known and respected by every employee at the co-op, not only because he often delivered the material and equipment they needed to get the job done right, but he also played a part in updating the GIS service maps. Chris was later promoted to a Mapping Technician and finished his career at Rutherford EMC adding new service locations to our maps while continuing to be the "truck driver" that everyone loved to see on the job site!

Chris was a graduate of RS Central High School and attended Second Baptist Church in Rutherfordton. As stated in a tribute written by one of Chris' life-long friends, Josh Krigbaum, "Chris was a best friend. There are many who will say that and all of them are telling it true. Most people will

recall the fun loving, wild and crazy Chris, but what they may not recall is he always had a job, he always paid his bills, he was generous to his friends, and he had accountability". Everyone recognizes these as great qualities of an individual and Chris displayed all of them, that's what made him such a great man! He was a genuine person and treasured all the friendships that life offered him.

If you knew Chris, there was no doubt that his children and family were the most important part of his life. He enjoyed every minute he had with his daughter Sadie Rose (10) and his son Waylon (8). He was their biggest fan in life! Waylon plays baseball and football and Sadie is a cheerleader. Chris was an avid motocross fan and attended many supercross events, He was so excited to get Waylon on his first dirt bike and teach him how to ride. They didn't just ride in the yard, as you can guess, Waylon was quickly making laps around the local motocross track. Chris never missed ballgames or school events either; as you can see in the photos below, even if it meant showing up with his Rutherford EMC uniform on, he was there! His family and a close-knit group of friends were what really mattered in life for Chris.

"It is hard to come to terms with the fact that Chris is no longer with us," said Dirk Burleson, Rutherford EMC's General Manager. "His stories and memories will forever remain amongst his co-workers. It is simply amazing when you stop and think about how many lives he had influenced at such a young age, I just hope Chris knew how much he was loved and appreciated."

In addition to his precious children Sadie Rose and Waylon, who were obviously the lights of his life, along with his parents David and Denise, he leaves to cherish his memory, an older brother Brannon Ferguson and wife Candice, and a younger sister Brooklyn Whiteside and husband Brian; grandparents Dwight and Brenda Ferguson, Brenda Nelson and Randy Walker; aunts Melisia Hazlip, Stephanie Dellinger and Melissa Williams and husband Galen, along with a number of nieces, nephews, cousins and his Rutherford EMC coworkers.

Rutherford EMC's board of directors, employees, and members extend their heartfelt sympathy to the entire Ferguson family.





## *Listen Up K-12 Educators:*

### **Apply Early for A Bright Ideas Grant and Be Entered to Win \$100**

As the old saying goes, “the early bird gets the worm.” Be an “early bird” and submit your Bright Ideas Education Grant application by Aug. 15 to get “the worm,” or a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards in a statewide drawing.

The final deadline to apply for a Bright Ideas grant of up to \$1,000 from Rutherford EMC is Sept. 15. Rutherford EMC expects to award over \$15,000 in Bright Ideas grants to fund innovative and deserving educators again this year.

To apply K-12 teachers must fill out the on-line application and include a budget; explain the project's implementation, goals, creative elements and evaluation of the project; and of course first and foremost have approval from their schools administration.

The Bright Ideas grant program exemplifies our continued commitment to building a brighter future for the communities we serve. In addition to ensuring the delivery of reliable, affordable and sustainable power, this vision emphasizes the importance of innovation and ongoing community support by benefitting our local educators and students. Learn more at [remc.com](http://remc.com) or apply online at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).



## **Keep Cool and Save Money Too**

Hot days and long afternoons are best spent hanging by the pool with family and friends, but are you paying the price for that backyard summer fun? If your pool pump is not Energy Star Certified there is a way to save yourself some money.

Energy Star certified pool pumps are proven to save you money and potentially pay for themselves through savings in the long run. They use up to 18% less energy than the standard single speed pool pump. This could be a substantial savings in energy costs.

Energy Star certified pumps take advantage of the reliable two-speed or even variable speed pump technology now available. These specialized pumps run quieter and tend to prolong the life of your pools filter and plumbing system as well.

Single speed pumps run only in HIGH speed, regardless of what you are trying to accomplish. Simple water filtration is the main task for a pool pump and this can be accomplished by utilizing half the power needed for vacuuming in the same pool. Two speed models are great for allowing these different tasks to be completed while using only the energy needed. Variable speed models can also be programmed to deliver just the right water flow to accomplish many different tasks.

Energy Star certified pumps can potentially save you thousands of dollars over their lifetime. Statistics show that investing in a certified pump will actually pay for the additional up-front costs in less than two years. Visit [www.energystar.gov/products/pool\\_pumps](http://www.energystar.gov/products/pool_pumps) and click on the pool pump fact sheet link for more details about how you can keep cool and save money too.

**If every pool pump in the U.S. were Energy Star certified, families could save up to \$240 million in energy costs each year and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equal to more than 400,000 cars.**

*Source: [Energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)*

