

# SIERRA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

575-744-5231

[www.sierraelectric.org](http://www.sierraelectric.org)

Member Newsletter

July 2016



*75 Years of Providing High Quality, Reliable Electric Service to Members in Sierra County, and areas of Luna, Socorro, and Catron Counties*

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow. ~ Helen Keller



## Watch for Sierra Electric in the Sky!

On August 27th and 28th, Sierra Electric will participate as a sponsor in the Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta, thanks to the generous involvement of our power supplier, Tri-State G & T. Sierra Electric will be flying in the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives balloon. Touchstone Energy Cooperatives represents a nationwide alliance of more than 750 local and member-owned electric cooperatives in 46 states working to supply reliable, affordable and safe energy for its 32 million members every day.

Touchstone Energy and Sierra Electric will also be donating \$510 each to two local non-profit organizations, Sierra County Cancer Assistance (SCCA) and the Boys and Girls Club of Sierra County. If you see us overhead, give us a wave!

## Phone Scam Warning!

In June, Sierra Electric was notified by several alert members that they had received phone calls from an unfamiliar phone number in which the callers identified themselves as Sierra Electric, threatening the members with disconnection unless they made a payment. Even though Sierra Electric will contact you as a courtesy to remind you about your past due payment prior to disconnection, there are several ways to distinguish the difference between a call from Sierra Electric and a scam phone call.

1. We don't ask you for your account number or any other identifying information; we already have that information.
2. We don't require specific methods of payment, like prepaid gift cards or money cards.
3. We call you from our office in Elephant Butte, with local employees—we don't outsource.

If you receive a suspicious phone call, feel free to hang up and call Sierra Electric at 575-744-5231 to verify if we have tried to contact you regarding payment.

Also, Sierra Electric does not use third party payment sites for online payments.

To pay online, go to [www.sierraelectric.org](http://www.sierraelectric.org) and click on the SmartHub online account access box.

## Pay Your Bill on Time for Good Reason

As a member of Sierra Electric, it is important for you to establish a good payment history in order to avoid late charges.

We offer several ways to make sure your payment is received before the due date. You may apply for an automatic bank draft in our office or access your accounts online and set them up for auto-pay through the SmartHub application. You may also pay at any time before your bill is due.

Visit [www.sierraelectric.org](http://www.sierraelectric.org) and click on the SmartHub online access button and start improving your payment history today!

Not only does paying your bill on time help you avoid late charges on your account, but also establishes a good payment history with the Cooperative to avoid paying a security deposit if you connect new services or re-connect after a disconnect.

## Sierra Electric Hosts Elementary Students

On July 8th, students from T or C and Sierra Elementary schools, in grades Kindergarten to Third, came to visit Sierra Electric on a field trip to learn about electricity and safety. The students watched a safety presentation and the line crew put on several different demonstrations to show them hands on the equipment they use, how they climb poles and the awesome power of electricity. Sierra Electric was thrilled to have the opportunity to host the students, interact with them and teach them about electricity, safety and the cooperative difference.



Students watching a Safety Presentation.



Students experimenting with static electricity.



Students check out Line Crew rubber safety gloves.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



Electric co-ops clear rights-of-way in order to keep power flowing safely to your home.

Trees may seem harmless on a calm, sunny day. But add a bit of wind on a stormy night and those towering pillars may threaten your home's electric supply.



Your electric cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable power, and our right-of-way program is the key to fulfilling that promise.

## Tip of the Month

Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit, and secure with duct tape.



Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

