



BARC Holds 84th Annual Meeting



Manager's Message

Bill Buchanan
CEO, BARC Electric Cooperative

On July 20, the BARC Board and staff gathered at Millboro Elementary School with our members and special guests to hold the cooperative's 84th annual meeting. This being my first as BARC's CEO, I would like to extend a thank you for attending to Brian Mosier, president and CEO of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, and Kirk Johnson, senior vice president of member engagement for Old Dominion Electric Cooperative.

Though my time with BARC has been limited, I have already gained an understanding of the uniqueness of this

cooperative and the area it serves. BARC has joined over 300 other rural electric cooperatives across the country in taking on the initiative to bring broadband to underserved and unserved rural areas, bringing a revival of the cooperative spirit from the 1930s with rural electrification. Our crews have an extremely challenging terrain to work in the dense forestation, rocks, hills and valleys they face not only in right-of-way maintenance, but storm and outage restoration is no easy feat. Coming from Northwestern Electric Cooperative, where all lines are accessible by either bucket truck or track machine, it is amazing to watch our crews navigate inaccessible areas to restore power to our members. Also commendable are the precautions and safety measures they take to ensure their crews and themselves make it home safe. With safety as a top priority at BARC, we are proud to have a safety to help loss prevention coordinator join the team and keep the cooperative accountable.

BARC is pursuing its first battery storage project, a 5-megawatt project in partnership with our power supply cooperative, ODEC, at our Hot Springs substation in Bath County. This project will defer costly and inefficient grid improvements while

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injecting backup power and additional reliability to the members we serve in the Hot Springs area. We are also continuing our dedication to enabling our members' access to renewable energy by installing a new solar array in Rockbridge Baths, which will expand our award-winning community solar program. BARC has also developed innovative new relationships with Davey Resource Group, as our contract foresters, and Asplundh Tree Experts to expand and improve our entire vegetation maintenance program. Our broadband expansion continues; we have over 1,000 miles of construction planned over the next three years with the next year passing 13,000 locations — surpassing our total number of electric meters. This is an astounding accomplishment in just four years of BARConnects being in business.

Despite continuing global pandemic concerns, unstable economic conditions and supply chain shortages, BARC managed to end the year in the black and maintained a stable financial standing. Our staff continues to adapt, improve and innovate new ways to meet the challenges

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BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

barcelectric.com

barconnects.net

Come join us on Facebook

facebook.com/BARCElectricCooperative



Chief Executive Officer
Bill Buchanan

BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Annual Meeting

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of the industry and continue to improve the quality of life for our members. It is an exciting time to be part of the BARC team, and I look forward to adding my own touch to this unique rural cooperative.

BARC had two director seats up for election this year, directors Gary Johnson (District 5) and Michael Sandridge (District 1), both were reelected to serve three-year terms.

A drawing was held for a \$150 prize toward electric credits. Seven member names were drawn from proxy ballots returned from each district. The winners are:

- Joyce Ralston – District 1
- Clinton Conner – District 2
- John Dod, II – District 3
- Larry Melton – District 4
- Doris Hull – District 5
- Rembert Burns – District 6
- Kay Furlong – District 7

BARC would like to thank all members who returned their proxy ballots and/or attended the 2022 annual meeting. I appreciate the hard work of the staff who organized the event as well as the support of the cooperative's board of directors. A special thank you to Millboro Elementary School for hosting the event and Lucas Penix, CPA, with Raetz & Hawkins PC in Lexington for assisting our staff in executing a successful meeting.

Closing Announcement

BARC offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, for Labor Day.



Sen. Warner Discusses Rural Broadband with Local Co-ops and Stakeholders

While visiting the Shenandoah Valley in July, Sen. Mark Warner held an event hosted by Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative in Craig County to discuss rural broadband. Representatives from Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, Botetourt County, BARC Electric Cooperative, elected leaders and community members attended the event to discuss the remaining digital divided areas in Virginia. The discussion focused on remaining areas where a gap in broadband infrastructure exists and current plans to provide universal coverage through use of federal funding made possible through the bipartisan infrastructure law and American Rescue Plan.

During the roundtable conversation, Sen. Warner listened to concerns from cooperatives and community leaders and members regarding some of the issues co-ops face as they work to construct and deploy broadband infrastructure both inside and outside of their electric service areas.

BARC representative, Tish Blackwell, discussed some of the challenges cooperatives face including supply chain issues, high costs for materials and labor, obtaining necessary permits to cross railroads and protected lands and terrain in southwest Virginia. Warner acknowledged these issues and knows every industry is experiencing supply chain challenges and high costs. “This is just one of the reasons I’m working to get our bipartisan innovation bill finally passed through Congress. While it won’t be like flipping a switch, getting this bill done will help us ease some of those bottlenecks and bring down costs across the board,” said Warner.

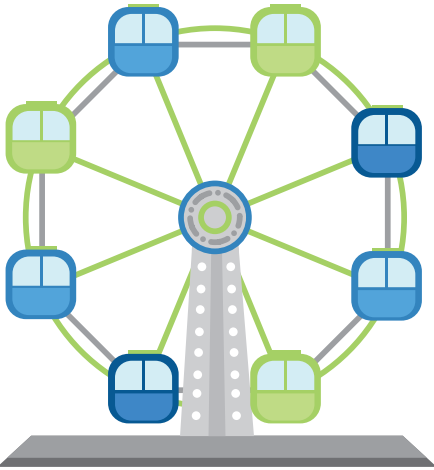
“While it won’t be like flipping a switch, getting this bill done will help us ease some of those bottlenecks and bring down costs across the board.”

–Sen. Mark Warner

Warner’s visit took place on the heels of the June announcement of the American Rescue Plan of \$219.8 million in broadband funding for Virginia, which comes from the \$10 billion Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund authored by Warner and included in the American Rescue Plan.

“Once the funding has been allocated, we’ll need to focus on one of the hardest parts of the job, with help from the Department of Housing and Community Development, ensuring funds are spent wisely and that the money does lead to universal broadband in the commonwealth,” Warner stated.

Dr. Tamarah Holmes and Chandler Vaughn with DHCD were also on hand at the event to discuss federal funding being allocated to Virginia and answer questions related to Virginia Telecommunications Initiative grant funds for 2023.



Fair Season is Back

BARC is excited to see the return of county fairs in its service area and is proud to support our community and agricultural heritage. In September, two fairs will be held in Rockbridge and Bath counties.

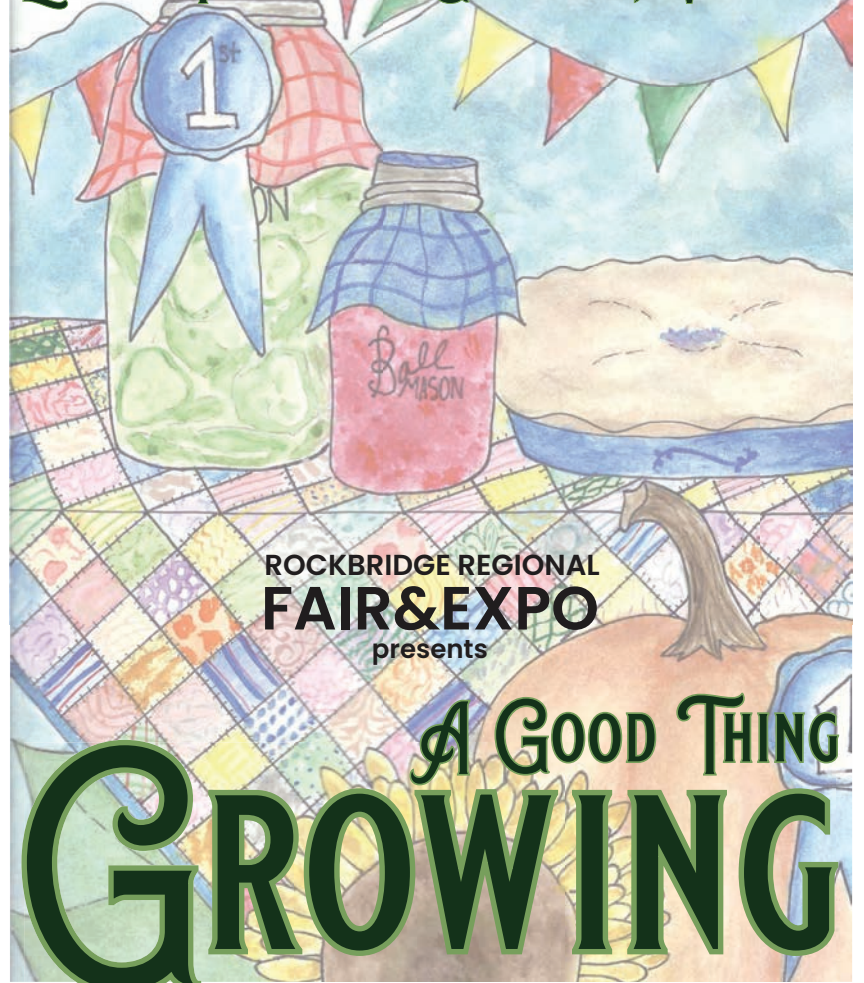
The Rockbridge Regional Fair and Expo combines the traditions of 4-H, quilting and farming with fun activities and entertainment. The Fair and Expo kicks off Thursday, Sept. 8, and continues through Saturday, Sept. 10. Admission is free. For more information, check out the Rockbridge Regional Fair website at rockbridgefairandexpo.org.

The Bath County Fair will have sportsmen contests, archery tournament, car show, and baked and canned goods contest. Fairgoers will also enjoy arts and crafts, photography, flowers and vegetables, along with midway attractions provided by Big Country Amusement. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Make sure to follow their Facebook page for updates and additional information on this year's vendors at facebook.com/BathCountyOneDayFair.

BARC is excited to be present this year at the Rockbridge County Fair with activities for all ages, fun prizes, and maybe an appearance by our mascot, Butch. Come out to enjoy all our community has to offer, and stop by to say hello to our staff. We look forward to seeing you there.

SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2022

LOCHER PAVILION • GLASGOW, VIRGINIA



ROCKBRIDGE REGIONAL
FAIR & EXPO
presents

A GOOD THING GROWING



Artwork by Campbell Bond
rockbridgefairandexpo.org
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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

30% OF A HOME'S HEATING IS LOST THROUGH INEFFICIENT WINDOWS. CAULK AND WEATHER STRIP ALL WINDOWS NOW TO PREPARE FOR COMING COOLER TEMPS.

Source: Dept. Of Energy & NRECA



BATH COUNTY FAIR

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

MILLBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

10AM - 5PM



On Saturday:

CARRIAGE RIDES, SPORTSMAN'S CONTEST, DOG SHOW, MUSIC, GREAT FOOD, INFLATABLES, CARNIVAL GAMES, 4-H POULTRY SHOW & SALE, AG EDUCATION CENTER, BINGO, RAFFLE DRAWINGS, ARCHERY & CORN HOLE TOURNAMENTS

BIERGARTEN

Saturday, 12pm-7pm at the Bath County Fair

For more information, follow us on Facebook; free fair booklets located around the community, MES and the Bath Extension Office

Find us on 



Contest Entry Check-In
Friday evening 2pm-5pm

SPONSORED IN PART BY

Taylor Baker

