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PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

Looking Out for You

BARC leadership visits legislators

Left: From left, BARC COO Chris Botulinski, CEO Bill Buchanan and Director Jay Lewis meet with Del. Ellen Campbell in her Richmond office. Right: From left, Buchanan, Botulinski and Lewis meet with Del. John Avoli regarding legislation affecting co-op members.

The annual legislative tradition of raising awareness and advocating for co-op principles continued this year as your board of directors and leadership team represented the BARC membership in Richmond.



Director's Perspective

Jay Lewis
Director
BARC Electric Cooperative

Meetings with legislators were highly focused on SB 1029, a bill that would expedite railroad crossings for broadband deployment.

In addition to cooperative leaders, support for the senate bill was also exhibited by representatives from the Virginia Cable and Telecom Association, Verizon, Virginia Association of Counties, All Points Broadband, Agribusiness Council, Americans for Prosperity and various regional technology councils.

In attendance from BARC was Chief Executive Officer Bill Buchanan, Chief Operations Officer Chris Botulinski and myself, representing the BARC board of directors.

I am humbled and excited to be a part of the co-op family!

—Jay Lewis

As I expressed to others during a statewide event years ago when I first joined the BARC board, I am humbled and excited to be a part of the co-op family. That remains true today.

I am continually gratified to experience the time, interest and knowledge our legislators and their respective aides show in response to our positions on specific bills, especially as the electric co-ops work to “turn the lights on” again with fiber to the home.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve my fellow members.

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BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Winter Storm Elliott

Beginning early morning Friday, Dec. 23, the BARC Electric service territory, and most of Virginia, experienced an extreme cold event coupled with significant wind and damaging gusts. This resulted in widespread outages all across the service territory, mainly consisting of trees being snapped or uprooted by the strong winds and falling into the power lines.

BARC personnel worked tirelessly throughout day and night safely restoring power to our members. The weather conditions were very difficult to work outside, up a pole, with some areas experiencing -30 degrees and colder wind chills.

Almost every member's power was restored the night of the 23rd, except for a small number of locations that could not be safely reached in the dark. The BARC team were back at it first thing in the morning on Saturday, Dec. 24, with the few locations that were unable to be restored the previous day and a new barrage of outages caused by the extreme cold and wind.

During the 24th, a new set of issues became apparent as many households started to look to supplemental electric heat to combat the frigid temperature with normal heating systems struggling to keep up. This resulted in a multiple circuits experiencing multiple overloaded protective devices causing momentary power outages aka blinks. BARC, and almost every other utility in the region, made a callout to our members to conserve energy to limit overloads. By 4:30 p.m. on the 24th, we had restored 100% of our members affected by the event and all personnel were sent home to spend Christmas Eve with their families or loved ones.



A BARC crew removes fallen limbs prior to beginning work to restore power during Winter Storm Elliott.



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Reminder SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 12, at 2 a.m. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour Saturday night.



21st Annual Bath Bluegrass Jamboree

The 21st Annual Bath County Bluegrass Jamboree will be Saturday, April 8, at Bath County High School from 6-9 p.m. The Jamboree is part of the spring fundraiser for Allegheny Mountain Radio.

Gates open at 5 p.m. with concessions available at 4:30 p.m. This year's jamboree will feature Southern Rail Express, Blue Ridge Thunder and Lonesome River Band.

Southern Rail Express is led by Allegheny Mountain Radio's own DJ Willie Smith. Southern Rail Express has been the premier Bluegrass Band in the Allegheny Highlands.

Blue Ridge Thunder is coming off one of their biggest years to date. Hailing from the Shenandoah Valley, Blue Ridge Thunder has earned the respect of their fans and peers with their brand of head bobbing, knee slapping and toe tapping bluegrass.

The Jamboree will be headlined by Lonesome River Band. Sammy Shelor joined the Lonesome River Band in 1990 and has since gone on to be a five-time International Bluegrass Music Association Banjo Player of the Year and was elected to the Virginia Country Music Hall of Fame. Lonesome River Band is one of the most respected bands in all of Bluegrass.

Tickets will be available the day of the Jamboree; adults: \$15, ages 13-18: \$5 and children under 12 are free.

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OWNING SOLAR IS NOW EVEN EASIER

BARC Electric Cooperative has teamed up with local solar contractor, Tiger Solar in Staunton, in a first-of-its-kind partnership.

Through Solarize BARC, we now offer both residential and business consumers the opportunity to install their own onsite solar photovoltaic (PV) systems with financing at competitive rates for qualified BARC members, finally making solar accessible!

- Reduces long-term energy costs
- Savings from net metering helps pay for your loan
- Offsets annual CO2 emissions contributing to a more sustainable environment
- Increases property value
- Battery backup available

30% Federal Tax Credit has been extended. Finance rates as low as 2.49% with approve credit (BARC members only).

- ☑ Answer a few questions and BARC will pull your energy use history.
- ☑ BARC will contact Tiger Solar to conduct a remote assessment using satellite imagery.
- ☑ Next, an onsite visit will be scheduled to take measurements and provide you with a free cost estimate.
- ☑ Tiger Solar will create a custom plan for your home or business with detailed proposal.
- ☑ Finance your project through BARC with no upfront costs.



TIGERSOLAR



CONTACT BARC TODAY:

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