



PHOTOS BY BILL BUCHANAN

# Lineworker Appreciation

**A**t BARC Electric Cooperative, our entire staff tends to a variety of jobs dedicated to serving our membership. I can't express enough how thankful I am to work with such a dedicated team.

This month, I turn my focus to our line crews. After 2012's Hurricane Sandy, the 113th Congress passed a bill designating April 18 as National Lineworker Appreciation Day, and the bill became law in 2013. For the past ten years, this national day has given us an opportunity to recognize these men and women for the endless work they do keeping our lights on and keeping us connected to friends, family, school and work. When the weather conditions are at their worst, these guys are at their best. They face the elements without hesitation and work safely and swiftly to put the lines back up and restore power to all of us, most of the time going unnoticed.

Here at BARC, we have 22 lineworkers and others who maintain about 2,000 miles of power lines. When they are not responding to system

## Manager's Message



**Bill Buchanan**  
CEO, BARC Electric Cooperative

outages, they are focused on rebuilding aging infrastructure, installing new lines and services, troubleshooting intermittent problems and maintaining equipment. These are tasks that go far beyond expectations to improve BARC's system and reliability for it's members.

I'm especially proud when they volunteer to speak to students about their career. The challenges and rewards of being a lineworker and the help they offer with different community events across our service territory.

I truly appreciate everything our BARC line crews do for the Cooperative and the membership. THANK YOU!

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*BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



# Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



April is National Safe Digging Month.



## Connecting a **Portable Generator** is now **Safe and Easy** with GenerLink™

- The GenerLink™ is a UL listed transfer switch
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# BARC Communities

## Rockbridge County High School Career Fair

On Feb. 22, Rockbridge County High School held a career fair for students. BARC Cooperative and Connects employees Bill Buchanan, Ashley Hash, Jonathan Hines and Alex Nicely were on hand to discuss utility and fiber work.

BARC Human Resources Manager Ashley Hash says, "I enjoy career fairs, as it is my opportunity to share how great the cooperative world is; especially BARC. I am a proud cheerleader for BARC and cooperatives as a whole! It is great meeting someone with certain career interests. After a brief discussion to connect those skills with a specific role within the Cooperative to a position, it becomes an 'ah-ha' moment. The smiles that appear across their faces and the engagement are priceless."



From left, Alex Nicely, Bill Buchanan and Jonathan Hines at Rockbridge County High School.

"I had a great time at the Rockbridge County High School career day showing these young adults what BARC has to offer."  
—Jonathan Hines

### Follow BARC Connects on Facebook



## Beware of Scams

### HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.
- Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information.
- Never wire money to someone you don't know.
- Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts – especially those asking for your account information.
- Most utilities will NOT require their customers to purchase prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid an immediate disconnection.
- If you receive a call that sounds like it may be a scam, or if you believe the call is a scam, hang up, call the police and report the incident to your local utility.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can alert your family members and friends. Share the scammers' tactics described in this article or those you have heard about. You can also help raise awareness and warn others by reposting scam awareness information on social media; use the hashtag #stopscams.

## Attention BARC Connects customers



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The BARC Connects app comes with FREE Wi-Fi protection, parental controls, speed tests and more!

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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

- 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.

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



### CONTACT BARC TODAY:

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