



SEC linemen earn top honors at regional rodeo competition

Electric linemen from Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) took top honors at the 14th Annual Terex Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo, held June 4 at Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Virginia.



The rodeo is named for the gaff — the metal spike that linemen attach to their boots to assist in climbing wooden utility poles.

Competing alongside more than 110 linemen from electric utilities in multiple states, SEC's journeyman division team of Brad Ashwell, Greg Ayers and Ashley Tuck earned the coveted Jimmy Gardner Award for best overall score among electric co-ops. Named for pioneering Virginia lineman Jimmy Gardner and given to the top-placing electric co-op team, the award factors in scores from five separate events that measure the wide range of skills used by electric utility linemen.

The annual "rodeo" competition is the largest of its kind on the East Coast and features a three-person journeyman division and an individual apprentice division. Linemen in both divisions perform a variety of required skills atop 40-foot utility poles. Judges score the competitors' performance based on safety, accuracy and speed.

Two additional SEC teams competed in the journeyman division, joining line personnel from 17 electric utilities in six different states. These teams included Blake Poindexter, Will Southworth and Nick Chumney, along with Brandon Rust, Jason Hinebaugh and Edward Bethel.

SEC apprentice lineman Trevor Duers earned second place out of 47 apprentices in the "Cross Arm Relocation" competition, and placed ninth overall. Also representing SEC in the apprentice division were Stewart Whitmer, Frank Miskovic and Daniel Boney, who participated in five different events, including the "Hurt Man Rescue" and

“Climbing Skills Demonstration.”

“The performance that SEC linemen put forth each year at the rodeo is outstanding, and to cap it off with winning the 2016 Jimmy Gardner Award for best overall co-op just shows how consistently dedicated they truly are,” says SEC President & CEO Jeff Edwards. “Our guys love competing at this event, which is a wonderful showcase of the hard work and professional attitudes they bring to the SEC membership on a regular basis.”



Southside Electric Cooperative’s lineman team received the top honor among electric cooperatives, the Jimmy Gardner Award, at the 14th Annual Gaff-n-Go Lineman’s Rodeo on June 4. Pictured (L-R) are Gaff-n-Go official C. T. Bryant, SEC linemen Brad Ashwell, Ashley Tuck, Greg Ayers and Gaff-n-Go official Maxie Rozell.

Cooperative employees Gary Gibbs, Darryl Dinwiddie and Ricky Hux served on the panel of volunteer judges for the rodeo’s competitive events.

Uniquely named for the gaff, or metal spike, that linemen attach to their boots to assist in climbing wooden utility poles, the regional event determines who will move on to the International Lineman’s Rodeo held every October in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

For event results and photos from the Gaff-n-Go competition, visit www.gaff-n-go.com.

Navigation:

[Back to Newsletter](#)