



SEC journeyman linemen team earns perfect score at International Lineman's Rodeo

Linemen representing Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) competed in the 33rd annual International Lineman's Rodeo & Expo 2016 in Bonner Springs, Kansas, in October.

The competition tests the skills used by electric utility line workers each day. The rodeo featured apprentice and journeyman linemen competitors from rural electric cooperatives, investor-owned electric companies, contractors, municipalities and the military.

The linemen competed alongside their fellow SEC linemen in the regional qualifying event, the 14th annual Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo, held at the Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Virginia, in April 2016.

"The International Lineman's Rodeo is the World Series of rodeos," Brad Ashwell, line technician supervisor, explains.



The journeyman linemen team of (L-R) Brad Ashwell, Ashley Tuck and Greg Ayers placed 26th out of 206 teams and earned a perfect overall score, a first for the co-op.

Line Technician Ashley Tuck served as the groundsman on the team and says that he enjoys “the adrenaline rush before the event. It’s like deer hunting. But then all your nerves go out the window when you are ready to be judged.”



The journeyman linemen team of Ashwell, Tuck and Greg Ayers placed 26th out of 206 teams and earned a perfect overall score, a first for the co-op. Ashwell, Tuck and Ayers work out of SEC’s Altavista office.

“We came together as a team. It was a really good feeling of accomplishment knowing that we did a good job.” Ashwell adds, “We were very competitive in the transformer event. Other people were clapping for us — and they didn’t even know us. We finished 10th in that event.”

Apprentice Lineman Trevor Duers, from the Dinwiddie office, also attended the competition and placed 10th in the Hurtman Rescue event, competing against 284 individual apprentices.

Line Technician Supervisor Darryl Dinwiddie served as a judge and District Operations Supervisor

Dennis Bell attended the rodeo. Both are based in SEC’s Altavista office.

Be sure to come out and support your SEC linemen at their next regional rodeo competition at the Gaff-n-Go Lineman’s Rodeo on May 19-20, 2017, at the Meadow Event Park in Doswell.

For more information about the International Lineman’s Rodeo, please visit www.linemansrodeokc.com.

— Lauren Irby

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