

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 2023

SAVE THE DATE

Aug. 8

Three-Phase, Padmounted
Transformers

Webinar

Sept. 10–13

NUTSEA Conference

Charlotte, NC

Sept. 12

Harmonics and Effect
on Power Quality

Webinar

Oct. 10

Overhead Conductor
Characteristics

Webinar

Oct. 10–13

Basic Pole Climbing School

Crockett, Houston County EC

Oct. 24–27

Advanced Pole
Climbing School

Kaufman, Trinity Valley EC

Oct. 30–Nov. 3

Staking Technician Training
Seminar—Phase III

Georgetown, TEC

Training Facility

Visit register.texas-ec.orgfor more information about
upcoming schools

ALWAYS THINK SAFETY

Gloves | Grounds | Cover Up

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Use the [TEC Safety and Loss Control discussion list](#) on the TEC member website to share and gather information.Texas Electric
Cooperatives

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION
FROM TEC LOSS CONTROL

Pedernales EC Tops Co-op Teams at Lineman's Rodeo

Expectations surely were high when Pedernales EC's 25 men arrived before sunrise to compete in the 2023 Texas Lineman's Rodeo. Blame the co-op's recent success at Nolte Island Park in Seguin for raising the bar as high as a crossarm.

By the end of that blazing day, July 15, the crossarms were still in place for next year, but PEC's lineworkers hauled 25 trophies off the island and back to Johnson City.

PEC's crew of Darren Donhauser, David Hernandez and Jason Dean took first place among the 54 journeyman teams. Co-workers Caleb Brodock, Garrit Afman and Thomas Logan finished second. Those same crews finished third and first, respectively, in 2022.

"I have always been competitive, and the feeling of success can't be replaced," said Hernandez, who has been involved with the rodeo for 25 years. "To be able to pass my experiences and knowledge to my teammates, as well as our future generations, is what motivates me to perform at such a high level and continue to do this job I love."

Among the apprentices, who compete as individuals, Blaine Preuit led a 1-2-3 finish for PEC, which also claimed the Nos. 6 and 8 spots. Strong showings by CoServ and Bandera EC apprentices gave co-ops seven lineworkers in the top 10 among the 144 apprentices in the competition, which tests lineworkers' skills. Contractors and municipal and investor-owned utilities also were represented.

With Preuit's victory, PEC has taken the overall apprentice title five consecutive times at the Texas rodeo. The co-op's other trophies this year came as its lineworkers took top-five spots in the various events that comprise the overall rankings.

Cherokee County EC's Corbin Renfro won the apprentice pole climb competition. Bluebonnet EC's team of Michael Guajardo, Brandon Johnson and Kenneth Roush finished first in the journeyman senior division for lineworkers 45 years and older.

In all, 16 co-ops competed at the rodeo, including GVEC and Bandera, Bartlett, Deep East Texas, Farmers, Hamilton County, HILCO, MidSouth, Navasota Valley, Rusk County, Trinity Valley and Victoria ECs.

Click [here](#) to see the full results.



ABOVE: Pedernales EC's Darren Donhauser, left, and David Hernandez compete during one of the four events in the journeyman competition. BELOW: From left, Bluebonnet EC's Brandon Johnson, Kenneth Roush and Michael Guajardo were the winners among lineworkers 45 years and older.



PEDERNALES EC

SARAH BEAL | BLUEBONNET EC



A roof protects transformer training from the elements in Livingston.

Sam Houston EC Adds Roof for Training

Students and instructors at Sam Houston EC's training field in Livingston now get a bit of a reprieve from the elements.

The co-op erected a metal roof over the six transformers and transformer banks mounted on short poles. The protection has been in place since the beginning of 2023. TEC Loss Control has eight schools in Livingston on the calendar.

"It'll be cooler. We'll be out of the sun, and we'll be out of the rain," said Danny Williams, TEC's Loss Control manager, who noted he's held transformer schools there in the winter when participants have been pelted with sleet.

Scott Ferguson, director of cooperative services at Sam Houston EC, said getting the roof in place has been a priority for a few years. It will benefit the statewide co-op community for many years. "That's the whole purpose," he said.

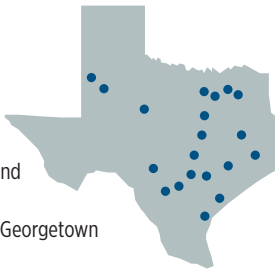
Students learn proper wiring connections for transformers and how to wire meter banks at the facility. Low-voltage power to the transformers allows students to check connections and voltages in a real-world scenario.

"It is awful nice to be in the shade and not have that hot sun bearing down on you while you're trying to learn," Ferguson said.

TEC Loss Control Training School Locations

City of Seguin | Seguin
Farmers EC | Greenville
GVEC | Gonzales
Heart of Texas EC | McGregor
HILCO EC | Itasca
Houston County EC | Crockett
Karnes EC | Pleasanton
Kerrville Public Utility Board | Kerrville
Lyntegar EC | Tahoka
Medina EC | Dilley

Nueces EC | Robstown
Sam Houston EC | Livingston
San Bernard EC | Bellville
South Plains College | Levelland
Taylor EC | Merkel
Texas Electric Cooperatives | Georgetown
Tri-County EC | Azle
Trinity Valley EC | Kaufman
Victoria EC | Victoria
Wood County EC | Quitman



TEC UPDATE

2024 Loss Control Scholarship Applications

The TEC Loss Control Scholarship program supports students in the cooperative and electric utility industry family. High school seniors in the class of 2024 are eligible to apply if they are children of electric cooperative, electric municipal or contractor employees who participate in TEC's Loss Control program, such as organizational safety meetings, schools or the Loss Control Conference. The scholarship application will be available on TEC's website Sept. 1. For more information, email [Tami Knipstein](mailto:Tami.Knipstein).

2024 Loss Control School Registration

Registration opens Oct. 1 for 2024 TEC Loss Control schools. The 2024 school calendar will be available mid-August on TEC's [Event Registration Site](#).

Lifesaving Award and 24/7 Good Samaritan Award Nominations

TEC will begin accepting 2023 Lifesaving and Good Samaritan Award nominations Sept. 1. Complete your organization's 2023 Lifesaving Award and/or 24/7 Good Samaritan Award nominations and return to tknipstein@texas-ec.org or fax to (512) 763-3390 by Dec. 31. The nomination forms will be located on the [Loss Control](#) page of the TEC website mid-August. These awards will be presented at the 2024 TEC Loss Control Conference, March 19–22 in Frisco.

McNeely Joins Loss Control Staff



past 23 years before joining TEC.

Chad McNeely has joined TEC as a Loss Control specialist. McNeely was a lineworker at South Plains EC for 20 years before becoming an instructor with the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service for five years. He was the director of safety and training at Bowie-Cass EC for the

STAFF

Martin Bevins, VP, Comm. & Member Services (512) 486-6249, mbevins@texas-ec.org
Danny Williams, Loss Control Manager (512) 413-0509, dwilliams@texas-ec.org
Curtis Whitt, CLCP, LC Assistant Manager (512) 694-0232, cwhitt@texas-ec.org
Wesley Caldwell, LC Regional Supervisor (512) 942-9351, waldwell@texas-ec.org

Phillip Henricks, CLCP, LC Regional Supervisor (806) 438-0067, phenricks@texas-ec.org
Tami Knipstein, LC Program Coordinator (512) 486-6271, tknipstein@texas-ec.org
Jay Esquivel, Loss Control Specialist (737) 738-4474, jesquivel@texas-ec.org

Mike Finnell, Loss Control Specialist (512) 942-9673, mfinnell@texas-ec.org
Chad McNeely, CLCP, Loss Control Specialist (512) 948-8804, cmcneely@texas-ec.org
David Nance, CLCP, Loss Control Specialist (512) 804-6748, dnance@texas-ec.org

Devery Rosenquist, Loss Control Specialist (325) 668-8626, drosenquist@texas-ec.org
Ronnie Wiggins, CLCP, Loss Control Specialist (512) 709-1177, rwiggins@texas-ec.org
Tom Widlowski, Editor (512) 486-6246, twidlowski@texas-ec.org