



Brought to you by the Electric Cooperatives of Virginia, Maryland & Delaware

Registration Packet

Make plans now to join us for the **EIGHTH ANNUAL GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN'S RODEO & EXPO** which will be held on April 9 and 10, 2010, at The Meadow Event Park (home of the Virginia State Fair) in Doswell, Virginia.

Today's lineman is a multi-talented professional working in a dangerous environment that requires consistent work practices and a constant focus on safety. The **GAFF-n-GO EXPO** will bring you together with the latest tools, materials, and methods used in the electric industry. From bootlaces to cross arm braces, equipment locks to stringing blocks, and electric drills to professional skills you will find it all.

The **GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN'S RODEO** will provide you the opportunity to compete in a challenging environment demonstrating the skills that are required in your everyday work. Stay ahead of the pack, maintain your physical skills, and keep abreast of the latest technology. Show the world a small part of what today's lineman is all about!

Join us in the heart of central Virginia for the opportunity to meet and compete with the best of the best. Bring the family and enjoy an action-packed weekend. Join us at the **EIGHTH ANNUAL GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN'S RODEO AND EXPO!**

The **GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN'S RODEO** attracts the best linemen from the east coast to compete in traditional lineman tasks. A maximum of 60 Journeyman teams and individual Apprentices from Cooperatives, Investor-Owned Utilities, Municipals and Contractors will fill out the competition.

Teams - A team for the Lineman's Rodeo consists of three participants – two Journeymen and a Groundman. The top three teams will receive paid entry to the International Lineman's Rodeo competition held in Kansas City, MO on October 14-16, 2010. Outstanding individuals and teams will receive awards at the conclusion of the rodeo.

Apprentice Competition - Top Three Apprentices will also receive paid entry to the International Lineman's Rodeo and awards at the conclusion of the rodeo.

Registration

In order to ensure your name is included in the Rodeo Program, please have your entry form and fees returned by March 12, 2010. If you miss the March 12th date, you can still compete, but your name will not be listed in the event program. All entries must be received on or before March 19. We will accept check, VISA, AMEX, or MasterCard for entry fees.

RODEO registration check in will be held in the Virginia Farm Bureau Center of the The Meadow Event Park (home of the Virginia State Fair) in Doswell, Virginia, on Friday, April 9, from 11:00 am. to 3:30 p.m.

All team members must pick up your packets and sign your release forms at the registration desk!

2010 GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN RODEO & ALTEC EQUIPMENT OPERATOR'S RODEO

The Meadow Event Park (Home of the VA State Fair)
Doswell, VA

EVENTS AGENDA

Friday, April 9, 2010

- 10:00 a.m. Altec Rodeo Judges Meeting – VA Farm Bureau Center
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **ALTEC EQUIPMENT OPERATOR'S RODEO** Contestant Registration – VA Farm Bureau Center
- 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **GAFF-n-GO EXPO** – VA Farm Bureau Center
- 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. **GAFF-n-GO RODEO** Registration (contestants and judges) – VA Farm Bureau Center – Team Members and Apprentices must pick up rodeo packets and sign releases. **All three team members must register.**
- 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. **ALTEC EQUIPMENT OPERATOR'S RODEO**
- Noon **GROUP LUNCH** – *Sponsored by Lee Electrical Construction, Inc.*
- Noon – 4:00 P.M. Collectible T-Shirt & Hat Sales – VA Farm Bureau Center
- 4:00 p.m. Gaff-n-Go Apprentice Written Test – Americraft Pavilion
- 5:00 p.m. Gaff-n-Go Judges Meeting (Event Judges and Assistants only) – Americraft Pavilion

Saturday, April 10, 2010

- 7:00 a.m. Contestants arrive at The Meadow Event Park
- 7:45 a.m. Opening ceremony and instructions to participants
- 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **GAFF-n-GO RODEO** Competition
- 5:00 p.m. Cash Bar Social – Virginia Farm Bureau Center
- 6:00 p.m. **DELTA STAR AWARDS BANQUET**
- 7:30 p.m. Rodeo Awards Presentation – Gaff-n-Go & Altec Rodeos
- 8:30 p.m. – 10 p. m. Music & Dancing

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Lineman's Day at Kings Dominion (Discount tickets can be picked up at registration.)

Competitor Descriptions

Teams

Each team will consist of two Journeymen (anyone who has or had the classification can compete), and a Groundman. Scoring is based on correct work procedures and safety. Utility supervisors and past Rodeo contestants are the judges and will follow very strict criteria. Each team participates in five mandatory events. The events will be:

- Pole Climb.
- Hurt Man Rescue.
- Three mystery events.

A Groundman is a non-climbing participant of the team. He will be allowed to climb if one of the climbing linemen should have to drop out for any reason. The Groundman must be a Journeyman to replace a climbing member of the team. If the Groundman were to replace a Journeyman, an alternate, as Groundman, must replace him to keep the team a whole unit.

Apprentices

Apprentices also compete in the Rodeo. They compete as individuals in five events:

- Pole Climb.
- Hurt Man Rescue.
- Two mystery events.
- Written Test (4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 9)

A person is considered an Apprentice up to four years after they enter an Apprenticeship. That definition will be used as the criteria for eligibility in entering the Lineman's Rodeo.

If a person has been an Apprentice over four years they will not be allowed to enter the Apprentice events. If a person who is classified as an Apprentice with one company were to obtain employment with another company in an Apprentice classification, that person will not be permitted to enter the Apprentice event.

If an Apprentice makes Journeyman before August 1, 2009, they will not be permitted to enter the rodeo as an Apprentice. If they make Journeyman after August 1, 2009, they will be permitted to compete as an Apprentice.

Judges

The GAFF-n-GO RODEO is growing so rapidly that we are asking you to volunteer one judge for every three participants sponsored by your organization. If you are or ever were a qualified practicing, working lineman you are eligible to be a judge. When you volunteer to be a judge, it is important to attend the Judges' Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 9. In this meeting, each event is reviewed and final instructions are given so that our judging can be fair and consistent.

The journeyman teams and apprentices participating in the rodeo have spent many hours preparing to compete and deserve dedicated judges interested in fair and consistent judging. Please review the list of items below to see what is expected and needed to participate as a judge.

1. Prior experience in the electrical Lineman trade.
2. Attend the Judges' Meeting on Friday.

3. Wear Hard Hats.
4. Wear Long Pants.
5. Wear Hard Sole Shoes.
6. Foul Weather Gear is not required; however, it is a good idea to be prepared because the rodeo will be held - rain or shine.

Judges will receive lunch on Friday and Saturday, and a ticket for the Saturday Awards Banquet, where they will receive recognition for their contribution.

We need and welcome judges from all participating companies and locals. Please use the Judges Registration Form included in this packet to volunteer for judging. Thank you for your support!!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Where do the linemen have to be employed?

By any operating utility and/or contractor.

How much does it cost to enter?

The Gaff-n-Go Rodeo cost per team is \$350 if paid by March 1 and \$375 after March 1 and Apprentice \$100 if paid by March 1 and \$125 after March 1.

What does my entry fee cover?

Each participant will receive a commemorative Gaff-n-Go T-shirt, hat, lunch on Friday, and a ticket for Saturday night's Awards Banquet. Other shared rodeo expenses are also included.

Will any events be aerial buckets?

No.

Will we have to sign a liability release?

Yes.

A First Aid Station and Paramedic will be on the Rodeo Grounds.

Will there be seating for family members and spectators?

You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs since seating is not available at the rodeo site. There will be no natural shade at The Meadow Event Park.

Concession stands will be set up with soft drinks and food.

All participants should check in on Friday, April 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Virginia Farm Bureau Center of The Meadow Event Park. (All three team members must be present to sign waivers and receive rodeo packet.)

Will video footage be allowed to settle judging disputes?

No.

Do alternates get free admission to the buffet?

No. The standard admission pre-purchase applies.

Unloading tools and parking:

Parking will be available at the Rodeo Grounds. If you need to unload equipment when arriving at the grounds, parking assistants will direct you. You should arrive by 7:00 a.m. to unload equipment and tools.

Who may protest a call?

The team or Apprentice must be the one to protest a call. Help from spectators in a protest will result in the team or Apprentice being disqualified. No team or Apprentice will be allowed to protest another competitor.

SCORING

Scoring will be judged for:

- Safety.
- Work practice.
- Neatness and ability.
- Equipment handling.
- Timely completion of the event.

Time will be used only to break a tie.

Total number of events for each Team and Apprentice: 5

The events must be completed in the order shown on your schedule. Each event must be marked complete by an event judge before you can start the next event.

The winning team or Apprentice will be determined by the total number of deductions. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the total time to complete all events. Bonus points will not be added for winning or placing in an event.

Scoring Verification

Teams are encouraged to verify the scores that are input into the scoring system. The results will be available at the command center after a team completes all their required events. The final score and team or Apprentice standings will not be available at the Rodeo Event. All final scores and event standings will be revealed at the Awards Presentation following the competition.

Tools

Each contestant needs to bring their own hooks, belt, hard hat, safety glasses, cotton or flame-retardant long-sleeved shirt, hand tools, 20KV rubber gloves, protectors, hand lines, hood bag, and line hose bags. Rubber gloves may be inspected in all events, as required. Velcro straps on climbers must be used as manufactured. No modifications, such as cutting the Velcro shorter, are allowed. In general, no tool modifications are allowed.

All teams must use the Bashlin #35 handline hook. The handline (or pulley line) must have a sheave in it and must have an approved “becky” for hanging on the pole. An approved “becky” consists of an eye plaited into the sheave, another eye on the other end to snap back into the sheave, and three loops for adjustment of length.

In all Journeyman events the last person who comes down the pole must be the one to drop the handline.

Any special tools required for the mystery events will be provided and must be used.

Please make sure that your tools are clearly marked with your name for identification.

Each event is worth a total of 100 points. All safety rules are to be observed during the events. See the following list for point deductions:

Infractions – 2 Point Deduction

- Late for event.
- Lose hardhat.
- Wearing hardhat backwards.
- Not wearing safety glasses.
- Improper cover-up – i.e. No rubber on reach, fall or slip.
- Dropping tools.
- Cutouts, burnouts, or slips.
- Hot-dogging – Hot-dogging is defined as a lineman “being out of control.” Examples: both gaffs out of the pole at the same time, drop steps, excessive uncontrolled speed. Maintain one gaff in the pole at all times.
- Operation of hand line while team is climbing.
- Misuse of tools.
- Misuse of rubber.
- Failure of Groundman to wear work gloves.
- Twisted hand line operation.
- Not wearing OSHA approved lineman belt.
- Poor housekeeping.
- Exceeding the mean time to complete an event, except for hurt man rescue and pole climb. The mean time will be given for all mystery events.
- Failure to wear long sleeved shirts. If shirt has buttons on the sleeves, they must be buttoned, not pushed or rolled up.
- Exposed blade on skinning knife.
- Safety strap not being under control. Both snaps of the safety strap must be hooked in a D ring while climbing the pole. The safety strap may be carried on the shoulder, but if it should slide off the shoulder, the contestant will receive a 2-point deduction.
- Hanging tools on phase conductors, neutrals, cross arms or safety straps.

General Rules – 10 Point Deduction

- Accidental contact with phases.
- Working opposite phases at the same time.
- Not using hand line or bucket for sending material up or down pole.
- Second man starts climbing before first man is buckled off.

Disqualification

- Unprofessional behavior.
- Practicing on the Rodeo field prior to the Rodeo.
- Intentional sabotage or tampering with materials, tools or equipment on the Rodeo field.
- Unapproved use of alternates or changing status of team members during the events. See Master Judge for approved use of alternates or changes in team status during Rodeo.
- Protests made by someone other than contestants.
- Modifying rubber gloves in any way.

Journeyman and Apprentice Tool Inspection

Random tool inspections will be done throughout the day to check for safe condition and alterations of tools such as:

- Tape on Straps.
- Tapered cuts on straps.
- Buckles filed.
- Fingers cut out of gloves – Rubber gloves will be inspected at each climbing event for Journeyman. (A team will be disqualified for modifying rubber gloves in any way.)
- Elongated holes in straps and belts.
- Improper gaff length.
- Penalty for altered tools – 2 to 10 points as determined by the judge.

The points will be deducted from the event that the team is competing in at the time the altered tool is discovered.

Event Construction

Journeyman and Apprentice Events:

- **Hurt Man Rescue:** 8' cross arms with wood braces. Brace mountings will be 30" out and 21" down from the arm (gain) hole. 40' class 5 poles.
- **Pole Climb:** 40' class 5 poles with 8' cross arms (no conductor.)
- **Mystery Events:** To be 40' class 5 poles. **All materials and special tools supplied.**

GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN RODEO
TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

April 10, 2010

PLEASE PRINT

Journeyman #1:

Name _____ Title _____ Phone () _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Journeyman #2:

Name _____ Title _____ Phone () _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Groundman #3:

Name _____ Title _____ Phone () _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Employer: _____ Location _____

Contact Person for Rodeo Team _____ Phone () _____

Contact person's address: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address: _____

(All Rodeo Information will be sent to the coordinator unless otherwise requested.)

ENTRY FORM DEADLINE

MARCH 12, 2010

Entry Fee: Team - \$350 if paid by March 1 and \$375 after March 1

**ENTRY FEE MUST BE ENCLOSED WITH ENTRY FORM.
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: VMDAEC Scholarship Foundation**

Please mail completed forms and payment to: GAFF-n-Go RODEO

P O Box 2340

For Information Call

Glen Allen, VA 23058-2340

(804) 968-7154

Attn: Bea Catlett

Payment Information: Check # _____

Credit Card, circle one: VISA M/C AMEX Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ VIN# _____

I understand that all hooks, belts, and hand tools furnished by me will be in a safe operating condition. I have also read all rules outlined in the **GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN'S RODEO** Packet.

SIGNATURE _____

_____ #1

Shirt Size _____

_____ #2

Shirt Size _____

_____ #3

Shirt Size _____

www.gaff-n-go.com

GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN RODEO

APPRENTICE FORM

April 10, 2010

PLEASE PRINT

Apprentice:

Name _____ Title _____ Phone () _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Employer: _____ Location _____

Contact Person for Rodeo Team: _____ Phone () _____

Contact person's address:

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address: _____

(All Rodeo Information will be sent to the coordinator unless otherwise requested.)

ENTRY FORM DEADLINE

MARCH 12, 2010

Entry Fee: Apprentice - \$100 if paid by March 1 and \$125 after March 1

ENTRY FEE MUST BE ENCLOSED WITH ENTRY FORM.
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: VMDAEC Scholarship Foundation

Please mail completed forms and payment to: VMDAEC

GAFF-n-GO RODEO

For Information Call

PO Box 2340

(804) 968-7154

Glen Allen, VA 23058-2340

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Payment Information: Check # _____

Credit Card, circle one: VISA M/C AMEX Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ VIN# _____

I understand that all hooks, belts, and hand tools furnished by me will be in a safe operating condition. I have also read all rules outlined in the **GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN'S RODEO** Packet.

SIGNATURE: _____ (Apprentice)

Shirt Size _____

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE COMPLETED BY APPRENTICE'S INSTRUCTOR:

I certify that I am the instructor of _____ (Apprentice name) and that he/she is qualified to climb electric utility poles.

Name _____ (Please Print)

Signature: _____ Title: _____

Company: _____ Phone () _____

GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN RODEO
JUDGES REGISTRATION FORM
April 10, 2010

COMPANY _____

NAME _____

JOB TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ EXT. _____

E-MAIL _____ FAX (____) _____

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE _____

SHIRT SIZE: (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____

X-Large _____ XX-Large _____ XXX-Large _____

This is to certify that I will serve as an impartial Judge for the **GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN'S RODEO** to be held on April 10, 2010. I understand that I must attend the Judges Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on April 9.

Signature

Date

GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN RODEO

BANQUET TICKETS

(Will Not Be Sold on Site)

PURCHASE ORDER FORM

The AWARDS BANQUET will be held on Saturday, April 10, in the Virginia Farm Bureau Center of The Meadow Event Park beginning at 6:00 p.m. All participants and judges registered for the rodeo will receive one banquet ticket with their registration. Additional Banquet tickets are available for non-participants and other family members who may wish to attend. **BANQUET TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD ON SITE.**

Additional adult banquet tickets and tickets for children age 13 and over are \$30 per person. Children's (age 12 and under) tickets are \$12.00 per person.

So that we may plan for your attendance at the Banquet please order your tickets no later than **Friday, March 19**. Ticket payments can be made by check or by the use of any of the credit cards shown below.

I will need _____ additional adult tickets @ \$30 per ticket = _____ Total.

I will need _____ children's tickets @ \$12 per ticket = _____ Total.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: VMDAEC Scholarship Foundation

Fax credit card orders to (804) 346-3448 to the attention of Bea Catlett or mail completed forms and payment to:

**For Information Call
(804) 968-7154**

**VMDAEC
GAFF-n-GO RODEO
PO Box 2340
Glen Allen, VA 23058-2340
Attn: Bea Catlett**

Payment Information: Check # _____

Credit Card, circle one: VISA M/C AMEX

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ VIN# _____

www.gaff-n-go.com

GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN RODEO
VOLUNTEER FORM
April 9 & 10, 2010

Please indicate below the names of the individuals who wish to volunteer to work the rodeo.

Please Print

1. Name _____ Company _____

Title _____ E-mail Address: _____ Shirt Size _____

2. Name _____ Company _____

Title _____ E-mail Address: _____ Shirt Size _____

3. Name _____ Company _____

Title _____ E-mail Address: _____ Shirt Size _____

4. Name _____ Company _____

Title _____ E-mail Address: _____ Shirt Size _____

5. Name _____ Company _____

Title _____ E-mail Address: _____ Shirt Size _____

6. Name _____ Company _____

Title _____ E-mail Address: _____ Shirt Size _____

Please mail completed forms to: GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN RODEO
Attn: Bea Catlett
P O Box 2340
Glen Allen, VA 23058-2340

GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN RODEO

Other Volunteers

April 10, 2010

For those who are not comfortable judging the events, we also need assistants in:

1. The staging areas
 - a. Setup (Report at 6:30 a.m.)
 - b. Tear Down (Report at 2:30 p.m.)
2. Rigging hurt man rescue
3. Second stopwatch in hurt man rescue and pole climb
4. Checking teams in and out of areas.

Please let us know if you will send someone to help with these:

Name: _____	Title- _____
Phone (___) ___ - _____	Circle Shirt Size: M L XL XXL XXXL
Past work as: _____	Preference:
Line work experience: _____	1a _____
_____	1b _____
_____	2 _____
_____	3 _____
_____	4 _____

Name: _____	Title- _____
Phone (___) ___ - _____	Circle Shirt Size: M L XL XXL XXXL
Past work as: _____	Preference:
Line work experience: _____	1a _____
_____	1b _____
_____	2 _____
_____	3 _____
_____	4 _____

Name: _____	Title- _____
Phone (___) ___ - _____	Circle Shirt Size: M L XL XXL XXXL
Past work as: _____	Preference:
Line work experience: _____	1a _____
_____	1b _____
_____	2 _____
_____	3 _____
_____	4 _____

Please check in with Jim Huggard (cell: 804-314-9240) or C.T. Bryant, Rodeo Coordinators.

Send form to: Bea Catlett
VMDAEC
P. O. Box 2340
Glen Allen, VA 23059

www.gaff-n-go.com