



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  Ring Power
Utility Equipment

GAFF-N-GO

LINEMAN'S & EQUIPMENT OPERATOR'S RODEO

2019 GAFF-N-GO LINEMAN'S RODEO

Hosted by the Electric Cooperatives of Virginia, Maryland & Delaware

2019 REGISTRATION PACKET

Make plans now to join us for the **17th ANNUAL GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN'S RODEO & EXPO**, which will be held on May 10 & 11, 2019 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 at our Rodeo.

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 snapshot of what today's lineman is all about!

Join us in the heart of central Virginia to meet and compete with the "best of the best." Bring the family and enjoy an action-packed weekend. Join us at the **17th 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 one Groundman.

The top three teams will receive paid entry to the International Lineman's Rodeo competition held in Kansas City, KS from October 16 - 19, 2019. Outstanding individuals and teams will receive awards at the conclusion of the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo.

If at least 4 Senior Division Teams are entered, the highest scoring Senior Division Team will receive paid entry to the International Lineman's Rodeo Competition held in Kansas City, Kansas from October 16 - 19, 2019. A Senior Team will be a team whose members are all 45 years of age or older. An award will be given to the highest scoring Senior Team for each event, provided at least 4 teams compete.



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APPRENTICE COMPETITION

The highest scoring three Apprentices will receive paid entry to the International Lineman's Rodeo competition and also will receive awards at the conclusion of the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo.

REGISTRATION

In order to ensure your name is included in the Rodeo Program, please have your entry form and fees returned by **April 5, 2019**. If you miss the April 5th cut-off, you may still be able to compete, but your name will not be listed in the event program. We will accept check, VISA, AMEX, or MasterCard for entry fees.

GAFF-N-GO RODEO registration check-in will be at the Meadow Event Park in Doswell on Friday, May 10, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Registration Information:

1. **Photo ID:** All participants must bring a photo ID with them to register. This identification will be needed at registration when you sign your release forms and pick up your packets.
2. **Association Release & Indemnification Agreement:** Please go to www.gaff-n-g.com/participant-forms/ to download forms and re-upload once you have completed.
3. **Emergency Medical and Release Information Form:** Please go to www.gaff-n-g.com/participant-forms/ to download forms and re-upload once you have completed.



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EVENTS AGENDA

Meadow Event Park
Doswell, VA

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019

- 10:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. **Equipment Operators Rodeo Judges Meeting**
- 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. **EQUIPMENT OPERATOR'S RODEO Participant Registration** (No registration before 10 A.M.)
- 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. **GAFF-n-GO EXPO** (Doors Open at 10 A.M. Sharp!)
- 10:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. **LINEMAN'S RODEO Participant Registration** (contestants and judges) – Team Members and Apprentices must pick up rodeo packets and sign releases. **All three team members must register.**
- 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. **Collectible T-shirt & Hat Sales**
- 11:15 A.M. **Equipment Operator's Opening Ceremony**
- 11:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. **EQUIPMENT OPERATOR'S RODEO COMPETITION BEGINS**
- NOON **Expo Lunch** (free to participants and judges; guests may purchase food)
- 4:00 P.M. **Lineman's Rodeo Judges Meeting** (All Judges & Assistants)
- 5:00 P.M. **Linemen's Rodeo Apprentice Written Test** (All Judges)
- 5:45 P.M. **Gaff-n-Grill BBQ Dinner** (Complimentary meal for everyone)

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019

- 7:00 A.M. **Contestants arrive at the Meadow Event Park** (Building opens at 7 A.M.)
- 7:45 A.M. **Lineman's Rodeo Opening Ceremony** (and instructions to participants)
- 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. **LINEMAN'S RODEO COMPETITION**
- 5:00 P.M. **AWARDS BANQUET** – Hilton Hotel and Spa, Glen Allen, Virginia
- 6:45 - 7:30 P.M. **Safety Speaker**
- 7:30 P.M. **Rodeo Awards Presentation** –Gaff-n-Go Lineman's & Equipment Operator's Rodeos
- 8:30 P.M. **Conclusion and Congratulations**



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 names and descriptions of the events will be posted on the homepage of www.gaff-n-go.com, by January 31, 2019.**

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 as a whole unit.

All team members must be sponsored and employed by a cooperative/muni/investor-owned utility/contractor and covered by their employer's workers' compensation insurance.

2019 Senior Division. All 3 team members must be age 45 or older as of May 11, 2019.

APPRENTICES

Apprentices also compete in the Lineman's Rodeo. They compete as individuals in five events.

One of the events will be a written test (5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 10). All questions will be taken from The Lineman's and Cableman's Handbook, 13th Edition.

The names and descriptions of the other four events will be posted on the homepage of www.gaff-n-go.com, by January 31, 2019.

- ! **No cell phones or electronic devices will be allowed in the testing area. Using a cell phone or electronic device during testing will result in disqualification.**

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 a Journeyman with one company was to obtain employment with another company in an Apprentice classification, that person will not be permitted to enter the Apprentice event.



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If an Apprentice makes Journeyman before September 19, 2019, they will not be permitted to enter the rodeo as an Apprentice. If they make Journeyman after September 19, 2019, they will be permitted to compete as an Apprentice.

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All apprentices must be sponsored and employed by a cooperative/muni/investor-owned utility/contractor and covered by their employer's workers' compensation insurance.

JUDGES

The GAFF-n-GO LINEMAN'S RODEO is growing rapidly so 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 4:00 P.M. on Friday, May 10. 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.

- ! Prior experience in the Electrical Lineman Trade
- ! Attend the Judges' Meeting on Friday
- ! Wear Hard Hats
- ! Wear Long Pants
- ! Wear Hard Sole Shoes
- ! Inclement 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 a complimentary lunch on Friday and Saturday, and a ticket for the awards banquet on Saturday evening, where they will receive recognition for their contributions.

We need and welcome judges from all participating utilities and companies. Please use the Judge's 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. **The linemen must be sponsored by their employer and covered by workers' compensation insurance.**

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's Awards Banquet. Other shared rodeo expenses are also included.



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Will fall restraint be required?

Yes

Will any events use aerial buckets?

No.

Will we have to sign a liability release?

Yes.

Will there be a First Aid Station and/or a Paramedic at the Rodeo?

Yes. There will be two EMS units on site.

Will there be seating for family members and spectators?

You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs since seating is limited at the rodeo site. There is little to no natural shade at the Meadow Event Park.

Will there be soft drinks and food to purchase at the Rodeo?

Concession stands will be selling soft drinks and food.

Will video footage be allowed to settle judging disputes?

No.

Do alternates get free admission to the awards banquet?

No. The standard admission pre-purchase applies.

Is parking available to unload tools and equipment?

Parking is available at Meadow Event Park. You should arrive by 7:00 A.M. on Saturday, May 11, to unload equipment and tools.

Who may protest a call?

The Journeyman Team or Apprentice must be the one to protest a call. Involvement by spectators in a protest may 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.



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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 registration building after a competitor completes all required events. The final score and team standings will not be available at the Rodeo Event. All final scores and event standings will be posted on the www.gaff-n-go.com homepage by Monday, May 13th.

TOOLS

All contestants need 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.

1. **Each team must provide a hand line.**
2. **All participants will be required to use the fall restraint device.**

All teams must use the Bashlin #35 hand line 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



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- ! “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 Journeymen. (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:

All Events: To be 40' class-4 poles. All materials and special tools supplied. **Each team must provide their own hand line.**

PARTICIPANT PRICING

APPRENTICE REGISTRATION PRICE:

	<u>Early Bird by 3/1</u>	<u>Regular By 4/5</u>	<u>Late Entries By 4/26</u>
VA, MD, DE Member Co-ops:	\$150	\$185	\$210
All Other Co-ops:	\$170	\$205	\$230
All Other Utilities:	\$190	\$225	\$250

JOURNEYMAN REGISTRATION PRICE:

	<u>Early Bird by 3/1</u>	<u>Regular By 4/5</u>	<u>Late Entries By 4/26</u>
VA, MD, DE Member Co-ops:	\$460	\$500	\$550
All Other Co-ops:	\$485	\$525	\$575
All Other Utilities:	\$510	\$550	\$600

Gaff-n-Go Equipment Operator's Rodeo

- ! 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

INFRACTIONS – 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

Disqualification

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- ! 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

Participant Pricing

Participants in the Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo do not pay an additional fee to take part in the Equipment Operator's Rodeo.

	<u>Early Bird by 3/1</u>	<u>Regular By 4/5</u>	<u>Late Entries By 4/26</u>
VA, MD, DE Member Co-ops:	\$460	\$500	\$550
All Other Co-ops:	\$485	\$525	\$575
All Other Utilities:	\$510	\$550	\$600