



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Love of fishing led to new business



Fred Carpenter, retired industrial engineer, creates fishing lures in his Tumbling Shoals shop off Old Highway 25.

Retired industrial engineer Fred Carpenter often may be found in his Tumbling Shoals shop crafting his Fish Dinner Lures. He started out of necessity. When Carpenter retired 19 years ago, he began fishing 200 days a year. “Buying all of those lures was crimping my budget, so I realized I had to start making my own lures or do less fishing,” he said.

Carpenter, 79, never intended to sell his lures to the public.

“One day I was fishing a school of hybrids on Greers Ferry Lake and was catching them one after another,” he said.

A nearby fisherman noticed Carpenter had caught 26 fish while he hadn’t caught any. Curious, the fisherman asked him what type of lure he was using. Once Carpenter said it was an in-line spinner lure he had made, the fisherman offered him \$20 for the two he had with him. Carpenter eventually sold them and ended up with an order for 20 more. Years later, his creations are sold at five retail locations around the lake and his website.

The spinners, spoons and jig heads are produced with components made in the United States. The two most popular lures are his Glitter Spinner and Cindy-K Spinner, which had an interesting beginning.

Carpenter said he was making his wife and her friends novelty earrings that looked like fishing lures. She later asked him to make her a lure that looked like the earrings. He named it in her honor and has since sold more than 3,200.

What started out as a hobby turned into a micro business. Fishermen across the country use Fish Dinner Lures to catch bass, walleye, crappie, hybrids and more.



## Connect generator to home safely

Members wanting a safe, easy way to connect a generator to their home during power outages can purchase a GenerLink™ from First Electric. The device is installed on your electric meter by a First Electric marketing representative.

Once installed, you simply connect the generator to the GenerLink™ with the included cord. Then, use your household main circuit panel to select the circuits and appliances you want to operate based on the generator’s capacity. It prevents risky do-it-yourself solutions that can be hazardous for you, your family and First Electric personnel working to restore power.

For pricing, sizing and compatibility, call 800-489-7405 or look under the “Products & Services” tab at [www.firstelectric.coop](http://www.firstelectric.coop). Qualifying members can pay \$200 down and have the remaining balance included on their bill for the next 12 months.

# Call First Electric to schedule energy audit; learn ways to save money

The goal of First Electric Cooperative's energy audit program is to help you save money by identifying areas where your home's energy efficiency can be improved. We offer diagnostic and walk-through energy audits. Both are performed by First Electric marketing representatives who have been trained and certified through the Building Performance Institute.

## Diagnostic energy audits

A blower door as well as a Duct Blaster and infrared camera are tools that can be used during a diagnostic energy audit. They allow a marketing representative to locate thermal deficiencies, air infiltration and leakage that can cause high energy consumption and an uncomfortable home.

You get a detailed report that includes the measured air tightness of your home, any infrared camera results and recommendations for improvements that could reduce energy usage. They could range from no-cost tips, such as adjusting the thermostat's temperature, to projects that could require an initial investment but could pay off in energy savings, such as adding insulation or having the HVAC system inspected. The diagnostic energy audit costs \$100, but that fee is reimbursed if at least \$100 of recommended repairs are made within six months.

## Walk-through energy audits

Marketing representatives can conduct a free walk-through energy audit. They visually inspect your home and evaluate the energy efficiency of the building, household appliances, heating and cooling system and lighting. You get a list of recommendations showing steps that can be taken to reduce energy costs.

**For more information on an energy audit or to schedule one, please call First Electric at 800-489-7405, email [helpdesk@fecc.coop](mailto:helpdesk@fecc.coop) or stop by a co-op office.**



ANDREYPOPOV/BIGSTOCK.COM

In addition to providing a list of energy efficiency recommendations following an audit, First Electric marketing representatives can advise you on any tax credits you might qualify for if improvements are made.

For example, the 2016 Federal Income Tax Credits are available for home efficiency improvements. These include the purchase of Energy Star-rated heat pumps, water heaters, insulation, windows and doors.

Questions? Call 800-489-7405.



DASY DAISY/BIGSTOCK.COM

## Know how to spot phone scam

A bill payment phone scam regularly is reaching First Electric members at their homes and businesses.

The caller usually will tell the member that his or her electric bill is overdue, and the electricity will be shut off if the member does not pay either over the phone immediately or purchase a prepaid debit card and call back. First Electric does not use either of these payment methods.

Scammers typically stress the need to act quickly. First Electric will not threaten members in this manner. The co-op strongly urges members to protect their credit card and checking account numbers, account user names, passwords and Social Security numbers to avoid theft of money or identity.

Those who want to confirm they are speaking with a First Electric employee are encouraged to hang up and call the co-op's toll-free number at 800-489-7405. Anyone who has been contacted by one of these scammers is asked to notify First Electric.

Members always may pay their bill securely by calling 844-PAY-FECC (844-729-3322) or by using SmartHub at [www.firstelectric.coop](http://www.firstelectric.coop) or the free SmartHub app.