

BIG SANDY RURAL ELECTRIC Cooperative Corporation

www.bigsandyrecc.com

504 Eleventh Street
Paintsville, KY 41240
(606) 789-4095
(888) 789-7322
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



DAVID ESTEPP
BIG SANDY RECC
MANAGER

At the core of the Flat River Band is:

- ❖ Chad Sitze—lead singer, guitarist, and songwriter
- ❖ Dennijo Sitze—lead and harmony vocals, electric guitar, mandolin, and harmonica
- ❖ Andy Sitze—lead and harmony vocals, electric and upright bass

Originally from Fredericktown, Missouri, the Sitze brothers began playing music at an early age in their parents' band The Sitze Family. Music was an integral part of their everyday life. They soaked up a variety of musical influences during these years, ranging from bluegrass and gospel to country and southern rock.

Traveling the U.S. performing at

ANNUAL MEETING 2012

THURSDAY, MAY 17

Featuring the

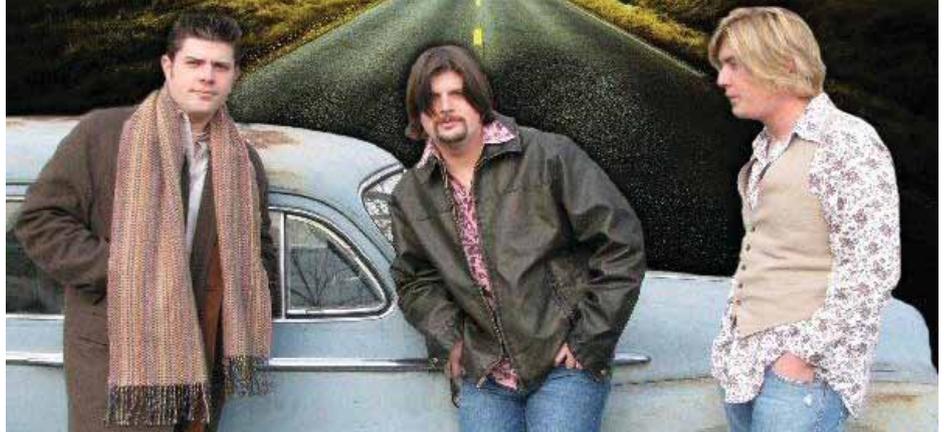
FLAT RIVER BAND

When: Thursday, May 17

Where: Mountain Arts Center, Prestonsburg

Registration: 6:00 p.m.

Business meeting: 7:00 p.m.



places like Dollywood, Silver Dollar City, numerous fairs, festivals, and churches they quickly developed a reputation for great harmonies and musicianship. After many great performances and accolades it was time to move to Nashville and continue their musical journey as the Flat River Band. It wasn't long before their reputation and dynamic performances allowed them to share the stage with veteran Nashville songwriters John Scott Sherrill, Jimmy Stewart, Paul Overstreet, Michael Smotherman, and numerous others.

Today you can hear some of FRB's musical influences, creativity, and signature sibling harmonies in their own music. It is said by many, if you were to

describe the FRB sound you would need to combine the awesome harmonies of the Gatlin Brothers with the smooth southern music of The Marshall Tucker Band and down-home country favorite Alabama: then you would be listening to the soulful country sound known as the Flat River Band.

FRB's latest CD, *High Roller*, tells great stories about love, good times, bad times, despair, and other situations that life throws at us every day. It is these same life experiences we share in our own lives that give the Flat River Band its mass appeal. The just released single from this CD is *I'm Alright, I'm OK*.

Big Sandy RECC messages

Watts new at Big Sandy RECC?

- ◆ Maintain your home's HVAC system to make it operate more efficiently and save money. Learn more at www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ You get efficiency and savings in a heating and cooling system with a high-efficiency heat pump. Go to www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ Big Sandy RECC offers reliable service. If storms hit, co-ops help one another get lights on a.s.a.p. That's the value of membership.
- ◆ Big Sandy RECC's SimpleSaver program puts money in your pocket and helps us manage peak demand. Sign up at www.simplesaver.coop.
- ◆ Compared with an electric furnace, heat pumps offer far greater advantages. Learn more at www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ The cost for a heat pump compared with an electric furnace provides savings year after year. Go to www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ Big Sandy RECC's SimpleSaver program gives you bill credits and helps us manage electric demand. Learn more at www.simplesaver.coop.
- ◆ Big Sandy RECC gives members a voice. We respond to your needs because members elect our board. That's the value of membership.
- ◆ All duct joints that leak conditioned air should be fixed. Apply mastic to every duct seam. Go to www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ Don't use duct tape on duct-work because this material will quickly dry out and will not stick. Go to www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ Dirty coils can seriously reduce the efficiency of your home's HVAC system and cost money. Go to www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ Never use a pressure washer to clean your HVAC system. That will damage your unit. Go to www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ Hire a licensed HVAC technician to clean the coils of your home's heat pump annually. Go to www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ To save money, change your furnace filters, and vacuum your registers and vents. Learn more at www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ Stay on top of the weather and forecasts this spring by clicking FirstAlertDEFENDER at www.wkyt.com/big sandyrecc.
- ◆ Get your central air-conditioning unit maintained this spring before hot weather arrives. Learn more at www.togetherwesaveKY.com.
- ◆ Big Sandy RECC gets power from six renewable power plants. If you're interested in green power, ask about EnviroWatts.
- ◆ Our SimpleSaver program can help keep your monthly electricity affordable. Sign up at www.simplesaver.coop.
- ◆ Big Sandy RECC is locally owned. We respond to member needs because you are our owners. That's the value of membership.



Answers about the Environmental Surcharge



Here are answers to help our members better understand the environmental surcharge on their monthly bills:

Q. What is the environmental surcharge?

A. The surcharge reflects the cost of equipment and other expenses our power supplier incurs as it complies with EPA regulations on power plant emissions. Most major electric utilities in Kentucky have this surcharge on their bills.

Q. What equipment is needed to comply with EPA rules?

A. Our power supplier has installed expensive equipment like scrubbers. The surcharge covers operation and maintenance of this equipment, and other environmental costs.

Q. Is the charge from my co-op?

A. No. The charge is a pass-through from our wholesale energy supplier. Every penny goes directly to our power supplier.

Q. Who decides what my surcharge is?

A. It's based on a formula approved by state regulators. EKPC bills Big Sandy RECC and then those costs are passed through to our members. State regulators make sure that only proper expenses are included.

Q. What goes into the formula?

A. Each month, EKPC calculates the environmental costs that state regulators have authorized EKPC to recover through the surcharge. These costs are divided by the 12-month average revenues EKPC receives from its owner-member co-ops. This produces a surcharge billing factor that is stated as a percentage. EKPC then determines the total charges to its owner-member co-ops and then applies this surcharge billing factor to the wholesale power bill of the co-op.

Q. Why does it go up and down so much from month to month?

A. The surcharge will increase as new pollution control equipment is added. And there are three other reasons the charge varies:

- Operation, maintenance, and compliance costs change monthly.
- 12-month average revenues for Big Sandy RECC change depending on customer usage and weather.
- There is an additional adjustment that takes care of over- or under-collections of the surcharge.

Q. When I compare surcharge dollar amounts on my bills this winter to surcharge amounts in months last year, why is it sometimes two or three times higher so far in 2012?

A. Check electric usage in the months being compared. The surcharge is applied to the total bill less taxes. Higher electric use will generally make the surcharge dollar amount much higher in winter and summer than in most fall or spring months.

Q. Will it ever be taken off the bill?

A. With the EPA tightening regulations, the surcharge will probably be in effect for a long time.

Q. Can I lower the environmental surcharge?

A. The surcharge varies each month, and it is applied to the total bill. One way to contain the amount you pay toward the surcharge is to reduce your electric consumption.

Q. Can the co-op help me at all?

A. Big Sandy RECC can help find ways to conserve power through free energy audits, and provide energy-saving tips. Go to www.togetherwesaveKY.com to learn more.

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Toll Free
(888) 789-7322

Maintaining rights-of-way keeps your lights on

Often you'll see Big Sandy RECC's crews trimming trees and clearing obstacles from around our power lines.

At some point those crews might need to venture onto your property.

We know this can be inconvenient, and for that we apologize. Please understand that we're only there because we're trying to protect you and your neighbors.

During severe weather, overgrown trees and limbs can collapse into power distribution lines. The tree in your yard can knock out electricity to hundreds or even thousands of people. These outages are costly and create hardships for those whose electric service is interrupted.

Besides causing outages, trees that grow too tall or intertwine with power lines can threaten safety. They may become conductors of electricity, which can be dangerous for your family and pets.

That's why Big Sandy RECC maintains rights-of-way for our electric lines. A right-of-way is a strip of land that an electric utility can legally use to construct, maintain, or repair a power line.

The legal easement for a right-of-way allows us to keep the line clear of vegetation, buildings, and other structures that could interfere with line operations.

Big Sandy RECC also obtains easements for access roads, to get to the power lines, or to build new power lines that will carry electricity to communities or neighborhoods where the population and usage have increased.

We try hard to avoid causing unnecessary inconveniences for you, even when we have to work on or near your property. We only do such work if it's necessary.

If we must come onto your land, if possible, we call ahead to tell you we'll be there and explain why. We want you to always be informed about what's going on.

It's never our goal to cause a problem. Our goal is to protect you and bring you the safest, most reliable, and affordable electric service possible. Big Sandy RECC is a locally operated, not-for-profit utility—owned by you, our members. We're here for your benefit.

