


Norris Electric *News*

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Local Boy Races Toward His Dream

WOW!! What a trip!!

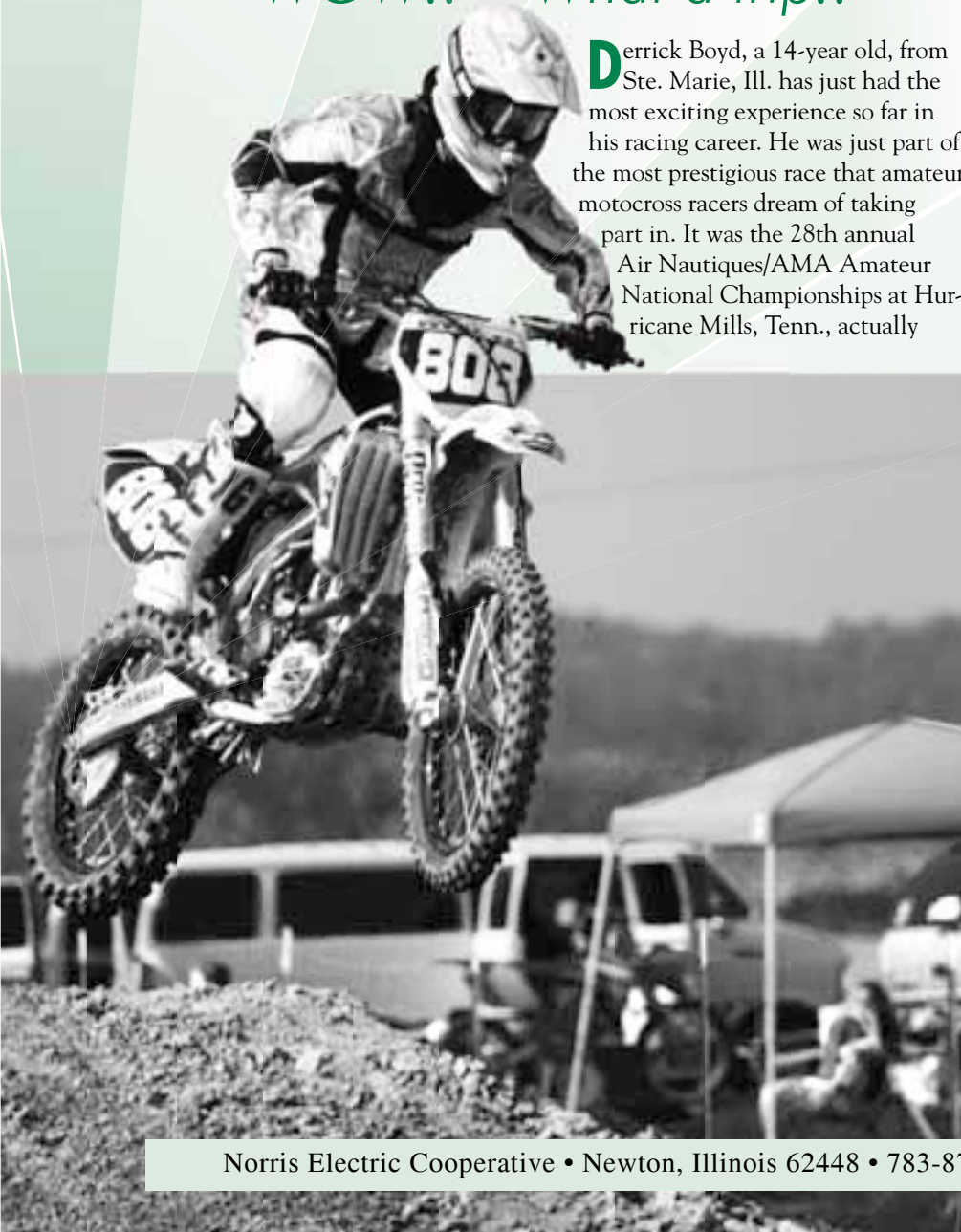
Derrick Boyd, a 14-year old, from Ste. Marie, Ill. has just had the most exciting experience so far in his racing career. He was just part of the most prestigious race that amateur motocross racers dream of taking part in. It was the 28th annual Air Nautiques/AMA Amateur National Championships at Hurricane Mills, Tenn., actually

held at Loretta Lynn's dude ranch. Derrick took on over 20,000 hopefuls from across America to earn one of the 1,286 qualifying positions. Derrick and his parents made the journey the first week of August 2009.

Derrick got the itch to race four years ago after watching his father and older brother race at a local track. He started on a 65 bike, moving up to an YZ85 for the next two years. He was then put on a 250F, which is what he's racing now. His father, also a racer, retired in October 2007 to concentrate on helping his son get faster. Derrick took off on the 250F, winning races and getting "hole shots," which means the first one out of the gate to the first corner. That started the racing career that led to this awesome journey.

He went through a lot to get there. November 2007 was when he decided he was going to try and qualify for the race. To do so, Derrick started training that winter by going down south to practice on tracks. In February 2008, while at a track in Alabama, he suffered a setback – a dislocated shoulder and fractured ribs, which in turn, punctured a lung. He spent four days in the hospital, 11 hours from home. When traveling home, he was sure his dream of Lo-

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retta's was no more.

With help from his father and mother, Derrick was reassured he could do anything he set his mind to with proper rehab and conditioning. He hit a few of the qualifying races he needed to compete in to make it to "the big one." Through hard work and determination, he actually qualified for the second set of qualifying races needed to make it to Loretta's.

Another setback would soon surface. After finally being released from the doctor, riding on a pit bike track at home, he wrecked again reinjuring his shoulder and giving himself a slight concussion. The accident meant there would be no second qualifying race.

When he was back in shape, after more therapy appointments, he was back on his way to picking off the competition. He went through that summer racing as many races as he could to improve his lap times and regain confidence on his bike. In December 2008, he decided he was ready to train harder to qualify again. This time it was off to Texas.

While at a track there, around 11 hours from home, he wrecked again – a serious tumble –breaking his femur and fracturing his wrist. Needless to say, he spent the night at yet another hospital, ending up with a cast and pins in his leg and a cast on his wrist, which meant he was wheelchair bound. After returning home and receiving more therapy, he and his father decided Derrick was OK to race at a local qualifier in March. At this qualifier, in the first race of his first day back racing, he was in a wreck after the first turn. When his mother ran to his side and asked if he was breathing OK or if anything was broken, his reply was that of a true dedicated racer. "I'm



fine, just got the wind knocked out of me ... I'm fine!" He didn't race the next day, which meant no qualifying position at this race. The next race was in a month. He was feeling better and back on the bike and released from the doctor once more. Derrick ended up qualifying at this race, so we knew we were on to the next step for Loretta's.

At the first regional qualifier, he finished seventh in two of the classes, which meant he wasn't in for sure, but there was still hopes, even as an alternate. An alternate spot does not guarantee a spot in the race ... just if someone gets injured or just doesn't show up for some reason.

At the second regional qualifier, he didn't do as well and didn't qualify. So, now his hopes were hanging on the two, seventh-place finishes.

Finally, on July 15, the news came via the MXSports website ... he was "in" for both classes and not as an alternate. He was guaranteed a spot to race for both classes. Although, a long and painful journey, it was worth every bit of it, as the family pulled into the campground at Loretta's, parked the RV and relished in the fact that Derrick had

actually made it!!

It was an exciting week with practice on Monday and races Tuesday through Friday. While Derrick didn't finish as well as he expected due to crashes and first time nerves, he still made everybody proud just to get there and be one of the top 42 riders in the nation. It was a good experience for him to get the first time out of the way, and he is ready to qualify for next year.

Derrick is the son of Keith and Kim Boyd. Kim is a customer service rep at Norris Electric Cooperative in Newton, Ill. He lives in Ste. Marie with his parents and older brother, Zach. He is a freshman at Newton Community High School and is on the cross country/track team. His other interests include fishing, hunting and spending time with family and friends.

Derrick and his parents would like to thank all his sponsors for their help & support throughout this awesome journey: ProAction of Ill. - Matt Borgic, TRAVCO Motorsports, Ideal Machine, Inc., Next Level MX, SIMX, Steel MX, DeCal Works, SixSixOne, TAG, MSR, Sunline, TwinAir, Bliss Clothing and LongShot Racing.

Sealing Means Saving and Comfort

Looking for an easy way to save money and improve your home's comfort? Try sealing your home. By reducing air infiltration – unwanted air that leaks into your house – you can cut your energy costs and make your home more comfortable.

When winter air is able to slip into your house, it reduces the indoor temperature, and creates drafts that make you feel colder. A similar situation happens when warm, humid outside air slips into your air-conditioned home. An improperly sealed home can also invite pests, rodents, and moisture that can lead to mold and mildew.

Besides windows and doors, common locations of air infiltration include:

- Joint of walls and foundation
- Baseboards
- Where electric or telephone wires, gas lines or TV cables enter

- Around outdoor faucets and water pipes
- Electrical outlets
- Anywhere two different materials (such as bricks and wood) meet
- Gaps between sections of ductwork
- Areas around dryer vents and fans

Some homeowners worry that they may seal their homes too tightly. While it's true that you want to ensure that your home receives fresh air, using air leaks for ventilation means you can't control the amount of air that enters.

Our Energy Advisor can help you develop a better understanding of what sealing may do for you. That's just another way we give our members advice when you want it and help when you need it.

Simple Facts About Home Sealing

- By taking steps to reduce air infiltration, you can significantly cut your annual energy costs and make your home more comfortable.
- Air infiltration is unwanted air that leaks into your house through openings, cracks, and other areas that aren't sealed as well as they should be.
- In the winter, cold air can leak into your home, causing drafts and making your furnace or heat pump work harder.
- In summer, warm, humid outside air can slip into your air-conditioned home.
- Improperly sealed homes can also cause problems with pests, rodents, and excessive moisture that can lead to mold and mildew.
- Use weatherstripping or caulk to seal air leaks around your doors, windows or attic access.
- Seal the joint of walls and the foundation, along baseboards, where electric or telephone wires, gas lines, or TV cables enter and anywhere two different materials (such as bricks and wood) meet.
- Gaps between sections of ductwork should also be sealed.
- Don't worry about sealing your home too tightly, because it's better to rely on controlled ventilation to maintain fresh air levels.
- Our Energy Advisor can help you better understand what sealing may do for you.

Clean Lint from Your Clothes Dryer Vent

Lint buildup can make your clothes dryer operate inefficiently. Drying clothes energy efficiently requires the unrestricted airflow from the room through the dryer and to the outdoors. If your dryer takes longer than 40 minutes to dry a heavy load of clothes, poor airflow caused by lint may be the problem. Your dryer uses between 60 and 120 dollars worth of electricity a year, so some simple maintenance can conserve energy and save money.

Your dryer's lint filter is designed to keep lint from building up elsewhere in the ductwork. Clean it after each load to maintain a good airflow.

Some lint will always get by the

screen, however, and find its way into the heating coils and hidden ductwork inside your clothes dryer. This lint will waste energy by restricting airflow, and can cause fires, too. You can clean these hidden areas by unplugging your dryer's electrical connection, pulling it away from the wall, and opening the back. Use a soft brush and vacuum to clean the coils, ducts, and elbows there.

Lint also builds up in the vent pipe or dryer hood outside your home. You can sometimes reach into the hood from outdoors and pull out lint by the handful. You may have to disassemble a fitting or two. Be careful not to cut yourself

on any sharp metal edges.

Flexible ribbed plastic dryer vent may be easy to install, but it reduces airflow even when new, and it tends to collect lint that increases the cost of drying your clothes. Many flexible vents have up to an inch of lint lining their walls. Rather than trying to clean this mass of lint out of the flexible vent, it's better to re-pipe the dryer vent in 4- or 5-inch metal vent pipe, which has considerably less resistance to airflow. A short piece of flexible vent can help to connect the dryer to the rigid metal vent, and allows sufficient flexibility to move the dryer around.

Utility Pole Safety

Posting signs, hanging banners or tying ribbons and balloons onto utility poles can endanger utility workers and often is a violation of local ordinances forbidding placement of anything on poles. Help protect those who work to provide electrical service and other utilities. Remember that anything on a pole can cause power line workers, telecommunications utility personnel and other workers to slip. The clamped, safety boots worn by line workers to climb poles are especially vulnerable to becoming snagged and caught on staples and nails embedded in poles. Foreign

objects can also tear utility workers' clothing or injure workers despite the safety gear they wear to avoid contact with rough surfaces. Such practices endanger more than those who keep the lights on and those who work on cable and telecommunications lines. The paraphernalia on the poles becomes a public safety hazard by distracting people as they drive, a safety hazard for the young and old alike as they walk. Please help utility workers to work safely and refrain from hanging objects to utility poles!

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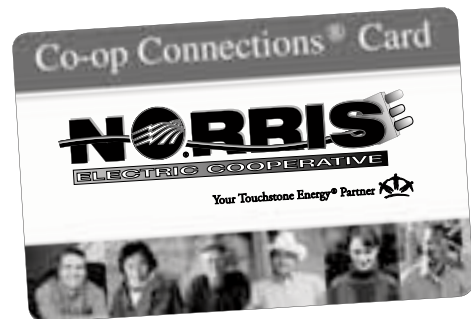
New Mailing Address

Effective immediately, the Norris Electric Cooperative mailing address has changed to our physical location of 8543 N. State Highway 130, Newton, Ill. 62448.

To ensure prompt delivery, please use this new address when mailing your payments or any correspondence.

Co-op Connections Card Saving Members \$\$\$

Norris Electric Cooperative members saved 33.4 percent on prescriptions in July 2009 using their Co-Op Connections card. There were 348 prescriptions filled at 29 different pharmacies for a total savings of \$5,377.



Vegetation Control Schedule

We will have crews performing routine tree trimming or spraying during October in the following areas:

Richland County	Cumberland County	Effingham County	Crawford County
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These areas have been scheduled quite a bit in advance so our plans may change. You should call us if you have any questions relating to a specific area or our vegetation management policies and practices. You may also call us if you wish to make other arrangements for your specific property or to question our vegetation control practices. Our Forestry Department can be reached at 1-877-783-8765 or 618-783-8765 during working hours. Our website is www.norriselectric.com.

Norris Electric Cooperative • Route 130 South • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 618-783-8765
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m