



# Texas Lineman's Rodeo Update

**Wayne McKee** | VP, Operations

**Joe Lockhart** | Director, Canyon Lake

August 16, 2019

# PEC Rodeo Committee & Volunteers

*Sponsor:* Wayne McKee

*Committee Chair:* Joe Lockhart

*Administration:* Melissa Nodecker, Sylvia Lenhard, Michael Hansen

*Safety:* Darrell Hall

*Coaches:* Andy Ridge, James Demars, Brian Magott, Eric Bitzko, Rudy Galindo, Kurt Buckner, Josh Hanawalt

*Chief Judges:* Darrell Hall, Eric Bitzko

*Event Judges:* Cody Smith, Jimmy Rios, Craig Wagner, Chris Scott, Gary Parker, Travis Sasko, Josh Hanawalt

*TLRA Advisory Board:* Kurt Buckner



# PEC Rodeo Competitors

## *Journeyman Teams:*

Chris Gerchman  
Nick Morris  
Asuncion Menchaca

Charley Goines  
Derek Morgan  
Jayce Johnson

A.J. Mann  
Clayton Riedel  
Michael Thyberg

## *Apprentices:*

Garrit Afman  
Andrew Baughman  
Evan Bradfield  
Caleb Brodock  
Neil Dodson  
Darren Donhauser  
Josh Herrick  
Neil Jung  
Dillon Moorman



# Journeyman Placement

## **First Place, Cooperative Journeyman Team Division**

Charley Goines

Derek Morgan

Jayce Johnson

## **Third Place, Cooperative Journeyman Team Division**

Chris Gerchman

Nick Morris

Asuncion Menchaca

## **First Place Overall, Journeyman Jumper Event**

Chris Gerchman

Nick Morris

Asuncion Menchaca



### **Top 5 Overall, Apprentice Division**

1<sup>st</sup> – Evan Bradfield

2<sup>nd</sup> – Neil Dodson

3<sup>rd</sup> – Joshua Herrick

### **Apprentice Pole Climb**

1<sup>st</sup> – Caleb Brodock

2<sup>nd</sup> – Garrit Afman

3<sup>rd</sup> – Darren Donhauser

### **Apprentice Written Test**

1<sup>st</sup> – Evan Bradfield

2<sup>nd</sup> – Neil Dodson

3<sup>rd</sup> – Darren Donhouser

### **Apprentice Hurtman Rescue**

1<sup>st</sup> – Garrit Afman

2<sup>nd</sup> – Caleb Brodock

### **Apprentice Photo Cell Changeout**

1<sup>st</sup> – Darren Donhauser

# Apprentice Placement





# BBQ Team Placement

## TLRA Cook Off Grand Champion

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Chicken

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Ribs

### Meat Sweats

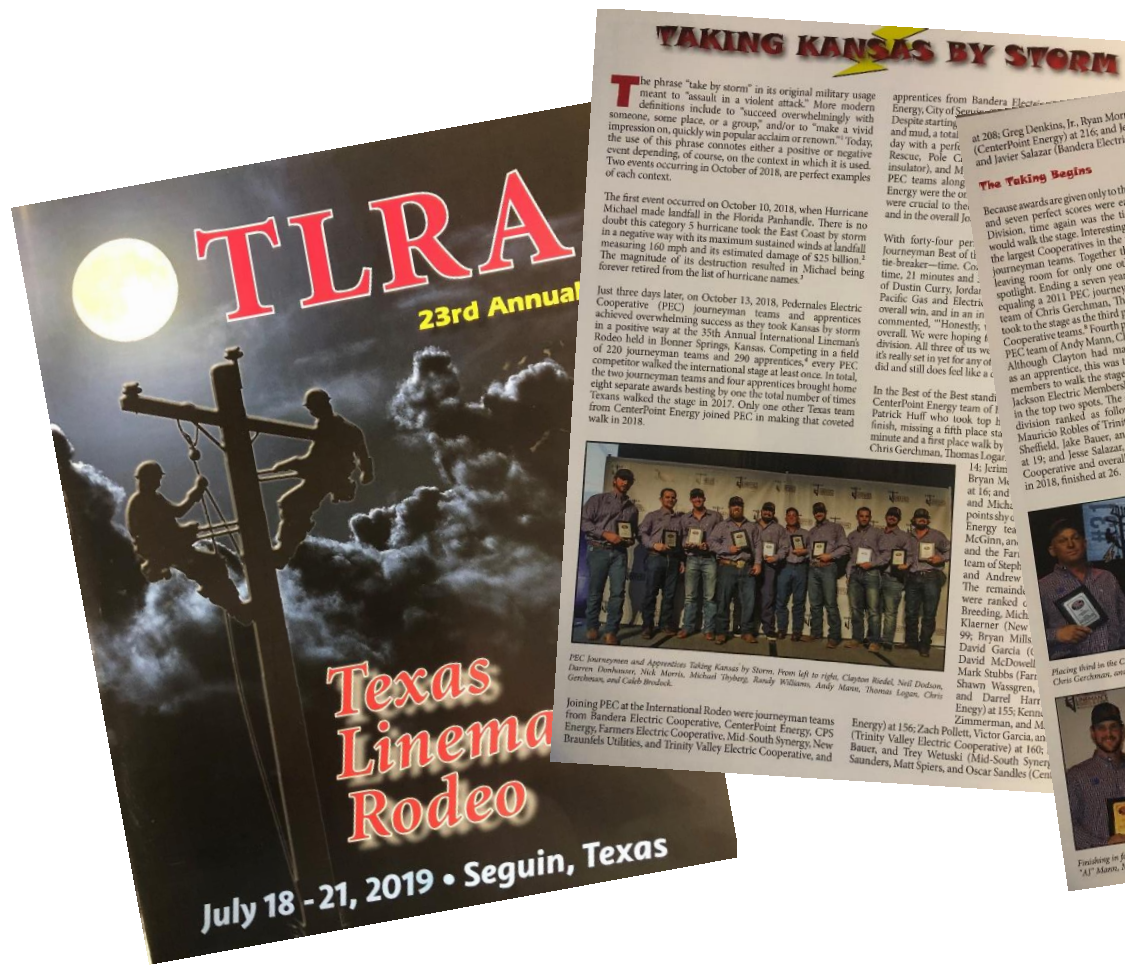
Arron Alvarez

Joshua Valdez

Gilbert Valdez



# Taking Kansas by Storm – International Lineman's Rodeo



## TAKING KANSAS BY STORM

The phrase "take by storm" in its original military usage meant to "assault in a violent attack." More modern definitions include to "succeed overwhelmingly with someone, some place, or a group," and/or to "make a vivid impression on, quickly win popular acclaim or renown." Today, the use of this phrase connotes either a positive or negative event depending, of course, on the context in which it is used. Two events occurring in October of 2018, are perfect examples of each context.

The first event occurred on October 13, 2018, when Hurricane Michael made landfall in the Florida Panhandle. There is no doubt this category 5 hurricane took the East Coast by storm in a negative way with its maximum sustained winds at landfall measuring 160 mph and its estimated damage of \$25 billion. The magnitude of its destruction resulted in Michael being forever retired from the list of hurricane names.

Just three days later, on October 13, 2018, Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) journeyman teams and apprentices in a positive way at the 35th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo held in Hesper Springs, Kansas. Competing in a field of 220 journeyman teams and 200 apprentices, every PEC team and apprentice were able to take the rodeo by storm. Eight separate awards besting by one the total number of times from CenterPoint Energy joined PEC in making that coveted walk in 2018.



PEC Journeyman and Apprentice Teams Taking Kansas by Storm. From left to right: Clayton Riedel, Neil Dodson, Darren Donhauser, Nick Morris, Michael Thyberg, Randy Williams, Andy Mann, Thomas Logan, Chris Gerchman, and Caleb Brodick.

Joining PEC at the International Rodeo were journeyman teams from Bandera Electric Cooperative, CenterPoint Energy, CPS Energy, Farmers Electric Cooperative, Mid-South Synergy, New Braunfels Utilities, and Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, and

apprentices from Bandera Electric Cooperative, CenterPoint Energy, City of Seguin, CPS Energy, Farmers Electric Cooperative, Mid-South Synergy, New Braunfels Utilities, and Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative. At 208, Greg Denkins, Jr., Ryan Morrison, and Luis Ventre Gotti (CenterPoint Energy) at 216, and Jesse Salazar (Bandera Electric Cooperative) at 219.

### The Taking Begins

Because awards are given only to the top five teams in each division and seven perfect scores were earned in the REA/Cooperative Division, time again was the tie breaker in determining who would walk the stage. Interestingly, it was a battle between two of the largest Cooperatives in the nation as each entered only two teams to the stage as the third place finishers among the twenty-six PEC team of Andy Mann, Clayton Riedel, and Michael Thyberg. Although Clayton had made international stage appearances as an apprentice, this was the first time for all of the PEC team members to walk the stage as journeymen. The two teams from Jackson Electric Membership Cooperative in Georgia finished as the top two spots. The other Texas journeyman teams in this division ranked as follows: Zach Pollett, Victor Garcia, and Mauricio Robles of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative at 17; Eli Sheffield, Jake Bauer, and Trey Wetulski of Mid-South Synergy at 19; and Jesse Salazar, Scott Downum, and Javier Salazar (Bandera Electric Cooperative) at 219.



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Competing in the Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) Division, down and were ranked as follows: Zach Pollett, Victor Garcia, and Mauricio Robles of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative at 184; Eli Sheffield, Jake Bauer, and Trey Wetulski of Mid-South Synergy at 186; Brad Saunders, Matt Spiers, and Oscar Sandles Zimmerman, and Matthew Crip of CPS Energy at 199.

Winning the Hartman Rescue with a time just under 1 minute (59.24 seconds to be exact), was a second team representing CenterPoint Energy team of Jeremy Matheny, Mike Luksch, and Bryan Medlin. The fastest among the Texans, at 1 minute and 34.97 seconds, which placed them at 35 out of Hull also of CenterPoint Energy team of Chad Allen, and Gregory Rismas at 82; and Gregory Rismas at 90.

### The Taking Becomes Complete

With the division winners named, the only announcement remaining was the Best of the Best Overall Apprentice. Having placed third in the Best of Overall Apprentice standings in 2017, Nick Morris was again called to the staging area in 2018. After announcing the fifth through third placings, Nick's name was not yet called. Only he and Cory Myers from the Salt River Project remained. Although both Nick and Cory ended the day with a total score of 494, the tie-breaker determined that PEC's Nick Morris would be named second in the BEST OF THE BEST OVERALL APPRENTICE, surpassing 288 other international competitors. In addition, PEC's remaining apprentices led the Texas delegation in their overall rankings.



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PEC's Darren Donhauser who placed the second highest among the Texas apprentices with his 16th place ranking in the Best of the Best followed by 52—Austin Allen of Bandera Electric Cooperative at 37, and Neil Dodson at 30. CenterPoint Energy's apprentices Hayden Moore placed 32 and Nicholas Haney 39. The remaining Texas claimed spots the following Best of the Best Overall rankings: Dustin Ortiz of the City of Seguin at 129; Andre Martinez of New Braunfels Utilities at 134; Jaleel Altkroun of Bandera Electric Cooperative at 149; Tyler Sander of CenterPoint Energy at 152; Bo Green of CPS Energy at 154; Tyler Carrollo of New Braunfels Utilities at 156; Tyler Carrollo of New Braunfels Utilities at 157; Eli Santos of the City of Seguin at 166; Gregory Rismas of CenterPoint Energy at 184; Justin Albarado of Bandera Electric Cooperative at 211; Kenneth Byrom of CPS Energy at 229; Reynaldo Rubio of CPS Energy; and at 238—Bradley Dieter of New Braunfels Utilities.

It was PEC's Darren Donhauser who placed the second highest among the Texas apprentices with his 16th place ranking in the Best of the Best followed by 52—Austin Allen of Bandera Electric Cooperative at 37, and Neil Dodson at 30. CenterPoint Energy's apprentices Hayden Moore placed 32 and Nicholas Haney 39. The remaining Texas claimed spots the following Best of the Best Overall rankings: Dustin Ortiz of the City of Seguin at 129; Andre Martinez of New Braunfels Utilities at 134; Jaleel Altkroun of Bandera Electric Cooperative at 149; Tyler Sander of CenterPoint Energy at 152; Bo Green of CPS Energy at 154; Tyler Carrollo of New Braunfels Utilities at 156; Tyler Carrollo of New Braunfels Utilities at 157; Eli Santos of the City of Seguin at 166; Gregory Rismas of CenterPoint Energy at 184; Justin Albarado of Bandera Electric Cooperative at 211; Kenneth Byrom of CPS Energy at 229; Reynaldo Rubio of CPS Energy; and at 238—Bradley Dieter of New Braunfels Utilities.

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