



# FACIAL HAIR

## What's the big deal?

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**"O**h, just let it keep growing. I'd like to see it in person." This comment from Miss America surprised me more than a little. We've been married more than 45 years, and one of my promises to her early on is that I would shave every day, just for her. And I have mostly kept that promise.



I'm normally clean-shaven. But this time was a little different. I was calling her from Florida, where I had spent a wonderful week fishing the Keys with our son and a couple grandsons. I'd been away for about eight days and hadn't shaved once.

The mostly white stubble on my ample chin and cheeks was becoming very annoying and itchy, and I was ready to get rid of it. I had called Miss America on Facetime and she surprisingly thought it looked good and told me I should keep it at least until she could see it. Her desire to see her husband with a salt-and-pepper (mostly salt) covering of facial hair was baffling to me. I had never had a real beard.

For my generation, clean-shaven was the way a man should start every day. The antonym of clean, by definition, is dirty. Thence, an unshaven face is.... dirty? Not true, of course. But in my day, that was the social mentality. That has now changed, and stubble on a man's face is the social norm. But not to Miss America and me. We're old school. We love the clean-shaven look, and I have faithfully shaved for many decades. She couldn't possibly want me to sport a beard now. I returned home 12 days after my last shave. I walked in the door, gave her a kiss and stepped back for her review. "I like it," she said without hesitation. "You should keep it."

I was astonished. She really did like

it. Having whiskers was very uncomfortable for me, but I did keep them, for a few more days. Then off they came and I washed them down the sink. Whew! I was still a bit bewildered for a while, but in the weeks since, I think I have discovered why she liked it.

At first, I thought it was so I would look more manly. Nope, not possible. More handsome perhaps. Negative again. Maybe it was so I would look more elegant or in-style, more vogue or modern. Could be, as those terms never have described me. But why would she want me to look different now? She has kept me around all these years without any of these cosmetic fixes. Then I figured it out. I will explain.

We just finished a great holiday season. Miss America has always loved the holidays and getting in the spirit of the season. She has always enjoyed, especially, the Hallmark movies that are so abundant this time of year. I like them, too. So, this year, in the evenings, we would watch them together.

They are all about the same, but enjoyable to be sure. They're always about a couple, usually opposites in nature, falling in love, then ultimately coming together after insurmountable obstacles and ending with a marriage proposal. You could count on that ending every time, and that's very comforting in a world where happy endings seem too few.

To old folks who've been living their own happy ending for many years, these are just good movies. But it's not always the storyline that attracts Miss America so. It's the actors. We watched in awe, some of the most beautiful people on earth. We were amazed that there are people actually allowed to be

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**L**IFE is fast, and it can be hectic, but paying your bill doesn't have to be complicated. With our SmartHub web and mobile app, it won't be. We wanted to take the opportunity to give you some valuable information that will help you prepare for the launch of SmartHub.

## What is SmartHub and what's in it for you?

You may have heard about SmartHub, our innovative tool for account management, but what can it do for you?

SmartHub can help you take control of your account like never before.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, contact customer service and get the latest news.

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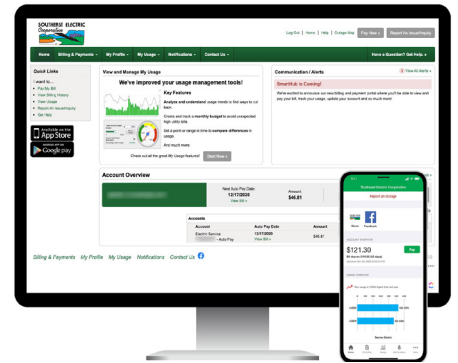
You'll also be able to see important notices with SmartHub. You'll be able to select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging.

## HOW YOU CAN REGISTER

After we launch on April 5, 2021, we will be operating through a new billing and payment system called SmartHub. In order for you to receive an electronic bill, or pay your bill online, you will need to register as a new user through SmartHub.

- When you get to the SmartHub login screen, click New User.
- Signup to access our Self Service Site link at the bottom of the screen.
- Use your account number to register for SmartHub.
- After you have successfully registered with SmartHub, you'll be emailed a temporary password to login for the first time.
- The first time you log in, you'll be asked to create your new password.
- Once you register for your online account, you will need to update your payment options.
- Please note - Auto Pay members will need to enter their debit/credit card information into the new SmartHub system.

At the end of the registration process, we encourage you to select our paperless billing option so you can receive your new bill immediately, no matter where you are at. After we launch, we will be providing detailed information on how to download our free, secure SmartHub app from the Apple or Google Play stores.



**Keeping in touch is easy!** Reporting a service issue is a snap with the SmartHub mobile app. There's no need to call the office, just let us know about the issue with a few clicks. You can also contact us for customer service requests or with any questions you may have.

## Have a question?

If you have any questions or issues with the registration process, you may contact us by sending an email to [info@seecoop.com](mailto:info@seecoop.com) or calling 406-775-8762 or 1-888-485-8762. We will also have answers to frequently asked questions at [www.seecoop.com/smarthub](http://www.seecoop.com/smarthub).

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that gorgeous, that handsome.

It doesn't matter that they all look about the same, the women are slim; usually long, blonde hair; with straight teeth and perfect features. The men are all tall and muscular, with chiseled faces and toned abs. And, almost without exception, the leading men

are sporting a two-weeks growth of facial hair. And that's what led me to understand why Miss America wanted to see me up close with my own two-weeks growth.

Maybe her husband just needed a little extra to look like a movie star. Maybe a little facial hair would cover for the lack of hair on top and the

not-so-chiseled features.

Bottom line, I think I know why she wanted to see me with a beard. I really didn't ask her, it's just my guess. After so many years together, maybe she had just grown a little tired of looking at the same, old face. And after just watching so many Hallmark leading men, I really can't blame her for that.