

Indian Creek Ranch

Emergency Contacts

Fire Rocksprings 830-683-4111

Fire Barksdale 830-234-3473

Fire Camp Wood 830-597-6100

EMS Rocksprings 830-683-3305

EMS Camp Wood 830-597-4200

Sheriff and Highway Patrol 830-683-4104

Border Patrol 830-683-2255

Game Warden 210-416-2513

Game Warden Office 210-348-7375



Ranch Contacts

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--|
| President: | Marcus Wieser | (210) 771-3330, marcussatx@satx.rr.com |
| Vice President: | Mike Hoffman | (713) 301-7088, mwh1113@hotmail.com |
| Treasurer: | Jo Roberts | (830) 834-0884, joanna.m.roberts@us.pwc.com |
| Secretary: | Gwen Lanning | (281) 460-3620, gwenlanning@yahoo.com |
| Ranch Coordinator: | Randy Wood | (830) 683-4537, rw09176997@yahoo.com |
| Wildlife Committee Chair: | David Heft | (830) 683-3289, dsheft82@swtexas.net |
| Water Committee Chair: | Randy Wood | (830) 683-4537, rw09176997@yahoo.com |
| Road Committee Chair: | Ron Itz & Ken Wilson | (281) 383-2783, cjitz1@gmail.com |
| Security Committee Chair: | Dan Himmerich | (512) 656-4748, ICRSecurity@gmail.com |
| Webmaster: | Philip Nelson | (210) 863-0360, PNelson@newtek.com |



President's Report

By Marcus Wieser

Our annual meeting this year is scheduled for Saturday, September 27.

I will send out more details and an agenda once we get closer to the date.

Phase I of the road work has been completed. We concentrated on reworking the main road and a handful of the worst spots on the hills of secondary roads. Besides some minor washouts the work is holding up quite nicely, especially considering that we had up to 14" of rain since May.

The road committee has been evaluating the condition of our secondary and tertiary roads and identified the sections that need the most attention. We will perform the next phase of road work early next year. The scope will depend on the funds left over at the end of the year.

Thanks to the Road committee, especially to Ron Itz and to Randy Wood, for making it happen.

Please remember that the speed limit on the ranch roads is 20 MPH. Please do not speed on our roads, as driving too fast is unsafe and wears the roads out prematurely.

Our water system has been performing well over the summer. Thanks to everyone for turning off the valves after filling your tanks. This greatly reduces the amount of outages and makes it easier to spot leaks. Also, please think about taking steps to protect your valves from freezing. Placing insulated boxes over your valves can help prevent freeze damage.

Many thanks to Randy for keeping our water system up and running.

Randy has replaced several of the association locks, as some of the old ones started to wear.

Please continue to lock the association gates and don't give out the main lock combo. Also, please thoroughly scramble the numbers on the combination locks when you go through the gates.

Earlier this year David Heft, our wildlife committee chairman, has made us aware of an anthrax outbreak in Edwards county. Since we first learned about this, occurrences continued to be reported in and around Edwards county. The outbreak seems to be more than just circumstantial. Several association members have reported potentially affected animals and the occurrences are being investigated. Should you see dead animals, please report them immediately to David. Exercise precaution and do not touch them.

Always remember, if you have any classifieds, please let Gwen Lanning, our secretary and newspaper editor, know and she will be glad to publish them in the next newsletter.

I want to thank our officers, committee chairmen and volunteers for all their hard work and support. Remember, this is your association and you can help to make it great. Please let us know if you want to get involved and volunteer.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Marcus

Wildlife Report

By David Heft

We have continued to receive rain on the ranch since the last newsletter with our range conditions being much better overall than the rest of the county. The county reinstated the county wide burn ban as of August 4 due to dry conditions. We are receiving additional rain as I write this but our total here for the years is still just over 12" so we are below normal. This has been reflected in the heavy supplemental feed use by our deer and elk. Observations and reports from members so far indicate that we have a good fawn crop again this year.



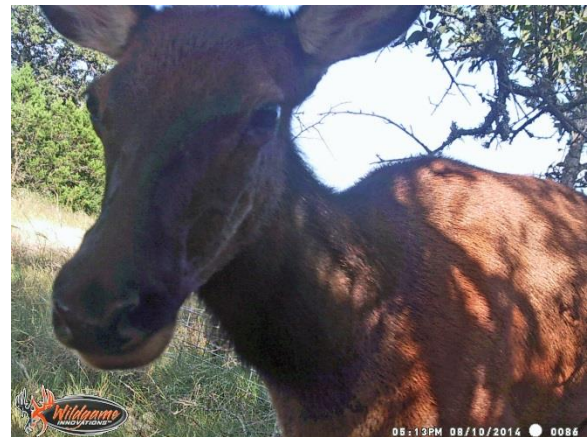
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Our **elk survey** is currently in progress through the month of August. Forms and instructions were sent out to everyone by our president. We currently plan to conduct our spotlight **deer surveys** on August 27th, September 17th, and September 24th. If not using Randy's Suzuki we will be in one of my white Nissan Frontiers. Volunteers are always welcome to help, just email or call me before the surveys.

I have personally observed both bobwhite and Montezuma **quail** with chicks on our property this summer. They seem to have done well again. Many landowners on the ranch have reported bobwhites this year on their properties. **Turkey** production has been poor with few poult reported. I have not observed any

personally this year. We will probably want to be conservative in any hen turkey harvest this fall.

Our species highlight in this newsletter will be on **elk** since we are doing our survey this month and they seem to be of high interest to members. There also seems to be some common misperceptions regarding elk in Texas.



Elk are large members of the deer family which exhibit very different behavior than our whitetail deer. Elk are physically adapted to more open environments and the males gather and defend groups of females during the rut. Female elk may vary in weight from 400-500 pounds with bulls weighing 600-800. Some larger bulls may approach 900-1000 pounds in weight. These weights are for the Rocky Mountain subspecies which is the elk we have on the ranch.

Elk may live to be 10-15 years of age in the wild. One research study on the Vermejo Ranch in northeastern New Mexico reported that maximum antler growth wasn't achieved until bulls were 10 years of age on average.

The best data available for Texas indicates that

2 “subspecies” of elk occurred in Texas historically. Merriams elk occurred in the Trans-Pecos region extending into northern and central Mexico. This population was contiguous with elk populations in New Mexico and Arizona. The Manitoba elk occurred in the northern Texas Panhandle and along the Red River area. These populations constituted the plains elk which also roamed Oklahoma and Kansas into Canada. Eastern elk occurred in Arkansas but no definite records exist for their occurrence in Texas. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on their website state, “Historical evidence indicates that elk may have been present over much of Texas.” Elk were considered extirpated in Texas by the late 1800s. All elk in Texas today are of the Rocky Mountain subspecies from transplant stock tracing back to Yellowstone National Park.

Biologists have debated back and forth for decades whether elk and red deer are the same species. I was always trained that they were since they freely interbreed and produce fertile offspring. However, about 7 years ago they were once again reclassified as separate species. Legally elk are considered to be livestock in Texas at the present time. This is strictly a political designation as they have also been classified as native big game (which they biologically are) and exotics at various times. Currently the neighboring states of New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arkansas have free roaming wild herds which are managed and hunted as native big game animals.

Elk are primarily grazers but will use browse extensively when grass is not available. This is in contrast to our whitetails which are primarily dependent on browse. A good ratio for calculating range carrying capacities would be that 1 elk equals 3 deer. The elk rut occurs in September and October with single calves being born in May and June. Elk are best known for the bugling of the males during the rut. Fights during the rut can be extremely violent with broken antlers and even death often occurring.

Most people are unaware that the cows also bugle but it is much less pronounced than the bulls.

Both sexes have the remnants of tusks in their upper jaws also referred to as the “ivories”. Sika deer which also trace their lineage back to a common ancestor with elk also have these remnant tusks. In some cases sika deer and elk may interbreed but the offspring are sterile. These offspring are referred to as “Silk”. Some game ranches have deliberately interbred them to produce a larger antlered variant of the sika for hunting. Elk are a fairly easy animal to manage. Given sufficient space with some security cover, grass, and ample water they will usually flourish. The only common primary predator they have in our area is man.

Management wise the association has made the decision to manage our elk as a primary grazer in place of livestock on the ranch. Managed properly they can complement our deer herd. Hopefully after we have 3 years of survey data we can refine our management strategy for our elk herd. Currently we are trying to increase the herd so the harvest recommendation has been bulls only with at least 5 antler points on each side. Hopefully the state will one day once again manage elk based on science rather than politics and more public hunting opportunities may become available.

If you have any items pertaining to wildlife you would like addressed at the annual meeting let me know and I'll try to prepare something for the membership.

Addendum August 20: In the past week I have looked at 2 dead whitetails on the ranch for one landowner and had another landowner report a sick disoriented axis buck. Both whitetails were younger (1 and 2 years old) animals. Cause of death for the 2 whitetails was not definitely determined due to severe decomposition but with the sick axis report we may be seeing a disease outbreak. A domestic goat was

confirmed with anthrax south of the ranch earlier this summer. Heavy rains followed by dry periods, especially in the summer, are a causative factor in anthrax outbreaks. We have had heavy rains recently with 4-5 inches on the ranch just this month alone. Wildlife symptoms are fever, rapid debilitation, rapid respiratory or cardiac distress, disorientation, staggering, trembling, collapse, and death.

Do not handle carcasses. Recommendations are to bury the carcass deeply (with equipment) or to burn it on site. **Please report any sick or**

dead animals to me. I just heard from our local TPWD biologist. There have been a significant number of dead deer in the county this summer. The majority have been found to the southeast of the ranch but the Texas Animal Health Commission has not issued any press releases confirming anthrax. One deer in Rocksprings was confirmed with epizootic hemorrhagic disease which is usually of minor concern in southern deer populations. TPWD recommends we not pick up any hides or antlers from dead animals. The meat from any harvested animals should be cooked to a minimum of 160 degrees.

Water Report

by Randy Wood

We have had a tremendous "natural" water summer. David Heft has measured about 14 inches of precipitation since May 1. Unfortunately much of it came in 1"-2" thunderstorms and caused damage to parts of our roadwork. Overall though, it has been positive.

All of our wells are working, and so far as I know meeting the demand. We have had several instances of valves left open with the result that some of our storage tanks have been drained. Each time when the offending valves have been closed, the tanks have filled and pressure restored. If a problem occurs downstream of an owners storage tank, water goes straight through the tank to the problem. Because of the 250 foot elevation relief on the Ranch, we use high pressure (180 psi) low volume (5 gal per min) booster pumps to deliver water to the highest elevations. One open valve can flow all of the pump volume and then some.

As a result one open valve can drain the storage capacity at a well. When that occurs, there is little, if any, water for the rest of the neighbors served by that well.

THE MORAL: Turn your valve off so all may benefit from our water system.

If you unintentionally accidentally leave your valve on call me and I will turn it off.

Luke Jordy has reconfigured the electric power at the spare well in Phase I in preparation for the installation of a booster pump so that the well can supply supplemental water. The Phase I well is not a good producer and is often not able to supply the need on weekends when lots of folks are out. Installation of a booster pump is on our "to do" list.

If you have water problems, let me know.

Randy

Treasurer's Report

By Jo Roberts

The mild temperatures and plenty of rain have made it a good summer to spend out at the ranch. Hope y'all have been able to make it out regularly and enjoy the solitude.

First off, there are still 2 landowners who have not paid their dues if full. You know who you are.

At the end of Q2 (June 30), we were well within our budget for the year except for the electrical bill which, at current rates, will exceed our budget for the year. Perhaps this has something to do with pumping a lot of extra water that is wasted by landowners who neglect to turn off their valves and drain the association's holding tanks on a regular basis.

July and August have increased our spending as we were able to complete much of the planned roadwork and we had the extra expense related to dealing with the appraisal district. Fortunately, we can continue to thank Randy for all his hard work in maintaining the water system and minimizing contractor costs for repairs.

Overall, we remain within budget for the year.

Regards,

Jo



Income and Expense Report - 2014 **The Owners Association at Indian Creek** *As of June 30, 2014*

| | 2013 | 1Q 2014 | 2Q 2014 | 3Q 2014 | 4Q 2014 | 2014 Total | Budget | Remaining |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Balance brought forward from 2013: | | \$ 45,411.94 | | | | | | |
| Income in 2014¹ | | | | | | | | |
| Annual Assessments | \$ 32,342.59 | \$ 23,579.16 | \$ 7,905.01 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 31,484.17 | \$ 32,653.17 | \$ 1,849.58 |
| Special Assessments | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total Income | \$ 32,342.59 | \$ 23,579.16 | \$ 7,905.01 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 31,484.17 | \$ 32,653.17 | \$ 1,849.58 |
| Expenses in 2014^{2,3} | | | | | | | | |
| Road Work | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 6,875.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 6,875.00 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 8,125.00 |
| Water System Maintenance | \$ 39,204.06 | \$ 3,977.46 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,977.46 | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 16,022.54 |
| Wildlife Biologist | \$ - | \$ 585.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 585.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ (85.00) |
| Electric Bills | \$ 2,671.53 | \$ 1,121.23 | \$ 883.86 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,005.09 | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 994.91 |
| Annual Meeting | \$ 167.52 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Grounds Maintenance | \$ 116.65 | \$ - | \$ 243.75 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 243.75 | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 1,256.25 |
| Property Taxes | \$ 472.66 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 900.00 | \$ 900.00 |
| Administrative Expenses | \$ 1,688.26 | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ 400.00 | \$ 300.00 |
| Attorney Fees | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Reserve | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 5,372.52 | \$ 5,372.52 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 44,320.68 | \$ 5,683.69 | \$ 8,102.61 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 13,786.30 | \$ 47,672.52 | \$ 33,886.22 |
| Current Balance: | | | | | | \$ 63,109.81 | | |
| Emergency Reserve | | | | | | \$ (28,000.00) | | |
| Amount Available for Current Year | | | | | | \$ 35,109.81 | | |

¹ Income is considered received when it is deposited in the ICR bank account.

² Expenses for labor, e.g., well services or road work, are accrued in the month the work was performed.

³ Expenses incurred and submitted for reimbursement by Owners, e.g., plumbing supplies, annual meeting expenses, administrative expenses, are considered incurred upon acceptance of invoices/receipts by the Treasurer.

Miscellaneous Business

CALENDAR - Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting – Saturday, Sept. 27, at the airstrip

Contractor Gate Combination Changes for 2014 – August 4 - 5603

Main Gate Combination Change – August 4 – 1492

If you have classifieds or photos to include in future newsletters, please email them to me at gwenlanning@yahoo.com.

CLASSIFIEDS:

Fill your feeders once a month for \$80.00 plus feed

Corn – 50# bags for \$7.50 each

Protein – 50# bag 20% crude for \$10.50 each

Contact Kevin Stephen (713) 203-1075

ICR Website address: <http://www.Indian-Creek-Ranch.org>

