

Indian Creek Ranch

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 & Highway Patrol 830-683-4104

Border Patrol 830-683-2255

Game Warden C. Wardlow 210-416-2513

Game Warden Office 210-348-7375



photo by Jo Roberts

Ranch Contacts

President:	Marcus Wieser	(210) 771-3330, marcussatx@satx.rr.com
Vice President:	Randy Stephen	(713) 823-2785, randy@stephenstephenson.com
Treasurer:	Jo Roberts	(830) 834-0884, jo.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 Chairs:	Ron Itz	(281) 383-2783, cjitz1@gmail.com
	& Ken Wilson	
Security Committee Chairs:	Randy Wood	(830) 683-4537, rw09176997@yahoo.com
	David Heft	(830) 683-3289, dsheft82@swtexas.net
Webmaster:	Philip Nelson	(210) 863-0360, PNelson@newtek.com

Check out the updated website!
<http://www.indian-creek-ranch.org/>

President's Report

By Marcus Wieser

Our annual meeting this year is scheduled for Saturday, October 3 at 11:30am at the airstrip. The plan is to start serving food at 11:30am with the formal meeting starting at 12:00 and lasting approximately two hours. As in years past, the Association will provide meat (burgers and brisket), condiments, and water/sodas and we ask that each member bring either a side dish or a dessert to share with the group. The agenda for the meeting will be distributed, once we get closer to the date.

Since the floods earlier this year the roads have been repaired to be passable again and most sections are accessible without four-wheel drive. We are planning to do much more extensive road work this year, but we had to stop because the roads had become too dry. To successfully improve our roads, we are relying on a certain amount of moisture in the material. Once the road base gets too dry, it will not adhere properly and the work will not hold up. Thanks to the road committee, especially to Ron Itz, Ken Wilson and Randy Wood, for making it happen.

David Heft, our wildlife committee chairman, and Randy Wood are working on the deer census to prepare the harvest recommendations for this deer season. David is also evaluating the results of the elk census, however he has not received many responses as of yet. If you have not done so, please return your census data to David ASAP. Earlier this year a case of CWD (chronic wasting disease) was reported in Texas. David will keep us posted on the status of the outbreak. At the annual meeting there will also be a guest speaker reporting on the Montezuma Quail study, as well as a presentation on prescribed burns by the TPWD regional burn specialist. Thank you, David, for all your work.

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 Wood for maintaining the

system.

I want to remind everyone that the water provided by the association is meant to be a source of supplemental water for wildlife and is to be used exclusively for wildlife purposes. The water is non-potable and is not for any domestic purposes whatsoever. Connecting the association water to cabins is not safe and against association rules. For domestic water use property owners shall drill a well, collect rain water or haul in potable water.

Jo Roberts, our treasurer, has been diligently overseeing the vote on the bylaw change. The final outcome of the vote has been in favor of amending the bylaws to ensure that no tract may be divided which will result in a tract being less than 100 acres. At the annual meeting Jo will give a detailed report. Thank you, Jo.

Many thanks to Gwen Lanning, our secretary, for editing our Ranch Newsletter. If you have any items you would like to list in the classifieds section in future issues, you can submit them to her.

A couple of quick reminders:

Please don't forget to turn off your water valves before you leave.

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.

Mark your calendar: the annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2015.

Please participate in the elk survey and email your results to David Heft at dsheft82@swtexas.net

I want to thank our officers, committee chairs and volunteers for all their hard work and support. All the committee work in our association is done by volunteers and everyone's involvement and hard work is greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you want to get involved or volunteer in the association.

A lot has happened since last year's meeting and since our spring gathering in May was canceled, the annual meeting will be a great opportunity to catch up on what's been going on at the ranch. Hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Marcus Wieser



These two pictures from Bob Pauken provide a perfect illustration for Randy Stephen's report. Bob came up early for the meeting and missed the cancellation message, and was flooded in for a week!

Vice-President's Report

By Randy Stephen

In my last report I talked about how in March we had received some nice rains and the ranch was greening up nicely for the wildlife, and how April was just beautiful. Well little did I know that April would turn into May monsoons.

The one thing Marcus asked me to do while he was away was to handle the Spring Meeting and I could not pull it off. The menu was set, shopping list was made, I even had my speech written. I had been out to the ranch mid May and thought I saw a lot of rain then, just about every dry creek was running. Between downpours I traveled around and could see that the roads were starting to be affected by the water flowing over them.

Back in Houston I continued to monitor the weather in Rocksprings, the rains continued to fall. As the week of the Spring Meeting arrived I think it is safe to say if you lived in Texas you were tired of the rain, some more than others. Now it was time to make the call. Do the one job I was given or be known as the guy who canceled the Spring Meeting. On Wednesday not being able to find one weather report not calling for heavy downpours over the weekend I made the call to cancel. Once that was done I

just knew it would be hot and sunny all weekend. All I can say is for once I made a good call, those of you that went anyway know what I mean.

We arrived Friday night to find the road to our place had been cut in half by the rushing waters and we just barely got by. Next morning we filled in the hole only to see that washed away by the next wave of rain, we did that three times over the weekend to get in and out of our place. After the rain started Saturday I do not think anyone was able to get in or out until midday Sunday.

Soon after the rains let up Randy Wood surveyed the damage to our roads and sent a detailed report of the damage to the roads he could access to the board members. It was evident that the roads needed repairs now not later. The board quickly approved additional funds for road repairs and Randy made arrangements to have equipment moved it to get started as soon as we felt the main rain threats had passed.

On my last visit to the ranch I could see the repairs were well underway. Most everyone should be able to access their property without 4

wheel drive. I want to thank Randy for his quick actions in getting the information to the board and securing the equipment before someone else did. I also want to the other board members for quickly approving the additional road funds so the work could begin.

I will say this all the rain has be helpful to the wildlife. What I have seen on game cameras look very healthy and I have watched the animals forage around the feeders and not go to the feeders. Water seems to be the necessity

Randy Stephen

Wildlife Report

By David Heft

Wildlife Committee Report

I call this year on the ranch the tale of 2 worlds. In May and June we couldn't get a dry day and in July and August we've seen very little moisture. A few spots on the ranch have been fortunate enough to see a shower or two but we have dried out substantially. This is actually a normal year climate wise. We are supposed to have wet springs with dry summers and natural lightning fires in the summer months. The big fire (man-caused) in the county seems to have gotten everyone's attention so having the TPWD regional prescribed fire specialist at our fall meeting will be very fortuitous. The graduate student studying quail will also give us an update. We have had a good turkey poult year for the first time in the last three and our quail have done well again.

We have just finished the second of our three annual fall deer surveys. We have a major problem. We failed to aggressively harvest does again last season and our herd has exploded to the second highest numbers we've ever had on the ranch. If our 3rd survey is in line with our first two the estimated population will be over 3,000 whitetails. My harvest recommendations to be presented at the fall meeting shouldn't shock anyone. To give an idea on how our deer population compares to the rest of the state and the region I'll use the numbers TPWD had in last year's hunting forecast. Statewide there was an average density of 39 deer per 1,000 acres. In

right now. Both of my tanks went dry in 2weeks which has never happened before. Once I refilled them I walked the lines looking for the leak but found none so I can only assume the animals are looking for water. My plan is to top off my tanks each visit (making sure to turn off my water before I leave) to ensure the animals have water.

I will end it here. Hope to see everyone at the annual meeting on October 3rd.

the hill country which has the highest density in the state there were 113 deer per 1,000 acres. TPWD considers the hill country (Edwards Plateau) to have a chronic over-population problem. Unfortunately they haven't addressed it over the years. Our estimated density on the ranch last year was 182 deer per 1,000 acres and so far this year the estimate is 287 deer per 1,000 acres. This is not a good situation for our habitat, the deer, or the other wildlife on the ranch. If you don't have a deer license and a rifle buy one. These kind of deer densities are an invitation to major disease issues and die-offs. This leads me to talk about an item of concern to many of our members, the finding of CWD (chronic wasting disease) in whitetails in the state.

The majority of you know by now that CWD was found in a captive deer breeding facility in Medina county. The latest information I have is that TPWD has tested a total of 43 animals from the facility and 4 have been positive for CWD. The TPWD website explains in far more detail than I can the history and progression of the disease.

<http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/>

Before going any farther into this issue I want to state that all the following comments are mine and may not reflect those of the association board. The comments are all made based on the best available scientific information I have.

This disease is extremely political in nature with experts across the board not agreeing on its causes, the best actions to take to combat it, and the potential consequences to deer populations. The most likely scenario for the beginning of CWD is that it originated from a similar disease, scrapie, in infected sheep which crossed into captive elk at an agricultural research facility in Colorado in the late 1960's.

Unlike diseases like anthrax, bluetongue, and EHD, CWD is a chronic disease. It is a disease that normally does not manifest symptoms until an infected animal has had the disease for multiple years. The other diseases kill whitetails usually within a matter of days of infection and run their course in a fairly short defined time frame until the outbreak subsides with long periods before manifesting again. CWD, once it is in a population is there all the time with infected animals. Like anthrax it also contaminates the environment once enough animals in a population have had it for an extended period of time. It is spread both animal to animal and by environmental contamination.

High deer densities are considered by most experts a major factor in its spread. One of the most ironic twists in this is that a self-proclaimed deer expert in Texas has blasted state wildlife agency's mismanagement of deer populations (excessive numbers causing negative habitat effects) but has also written articles pushing for intensive management to increase deer populations above natural carrying capacity. This individual is also one of the expert's fighting against any aggressive action to combat the disease. This deer expert has a commercial interest in artificial propagation of deer and products for deer management. This seems to be a very common thread among those opposing aggressive action to handle the disease.

Currently there is no evidence that the disease is transmissible to humans. All agencies recommend that you do not eat any infected deer which is the normal protocol for any disease. The problem with CWD is that until the animal is more advanced in age it may appear perfectly normal in appearance and behavior. This is the thing that seems to most scare

people. I am attaching the recommended handling procedures for any deer from the TPWD website. [Ed. I attached it separately in your email.] I do have to remind folks that at this time the recommendation to bone meat is not legal until you have the deer at a final processing site. TPWD has never changed this regulation even after mule deer in West Texas were diagnosed with CWD in 2012.

What can we do to help prevent any potential spread of yet another disease in wildlife? The number one thing is to manage our deer herd at the proper density. We need to bring our herd numbers down. Any disease spreads more easily and more rapidly when larger numbers of animals are on the landscape and concentrated in close proximity to each other. My opinion is that the disease will spread in the state due to political and economic pressures to mitigate any aggressive actions taken to combat it. Most but not all experts agree that the disease can have negative population effects at least at the local level.

It is also a very negative influence on both quality and trophy management since it eliminates most infected deer before they reach the older age classes. This has been most evident in both mule deer and whitetail herds in Wyoming where harvested bucks show up to a 40% plus infection rate in some hunting units. Males appear to more susceptible to this disease than females.

At this time there has been no definitive finding as to how the disease first got into the captive herd where it was detected. TPWD has tested thousands of hunter harvested deer over the years and not found it in the wild. Some captive deer breeders are already claiming it is in the wild population and that is how the captive population got it. Due to legal action threats the entire herd has not been euthanized and tested at this time. My professional opinion is that the actions by state wildlife agencies across the nation to allow public wildlife resources to be held as essentially private property and treated as livestock violates the long held principles of public ownership and management of wildlife in this country. It also has opened a virtual Pandora's box of biological, legal, and ethical issues. As an association or as individuals there is little we can do beyond the ranch. On the

ranch we should oppose any further releases of susceptible species onto the ranch, (i.e. deer, elk, sika) reduce the herd to proper carrying capacity, minimize animal concentrations

caused by artificial baiting or feeding, and properly handle carcasses of harvested deer.

Dave

Security Report

By Randy Wood

Security wise the last few months have been relative quiet. Only one break-in that I know about, but a number of instances where owners have found hard evidence that others have trespassed and even occupied hunting stands etc. A word to the wise-- If you think you would prosecute someone for trespass, be sure you know how to properly-legally- post your property. If not properly marked you cannot prosecute. A lot of the efforts to post property on the ranch do not meet the legal requirements. For instance, purple painted rocks on the ground do not meet the legal requirements.

In the wake of the recent fire that burned 18,000 acres and came within approximately 4 miles west of the ranch, the Sheriff has asked all

subdivisions in the county to provide her with keys and lock combinations as well as locations of water tanks, houses, roads, etc. Others in the county have suggested that a better approach would be for the subdivisions to appoint a contact person to provide appropriate assistance in case such was necessary. Given the past experience and concerns regarding security, Tax Assessor activities, poaching, etc. I think we need to discuss this issue at the annual meeting. As Ranch Coordinator, this may fall within my purview but without full Association direction, I am unwilling to agree to do this.

Water Report

By Randy Wood

As usual, through the hot summer months we have had a number of occasions in which booster pumps did not operate or well tanks were emptied because the well pump did not come on automatically. In one case a wasp crawled between the contact points of an electrical pressure switch. An easy fix once you find the problem. We have had a normal number of line repairs and valve replacements. Road grading also snagged water lines a couple of times requiring repairs.

Due to a bad case of Lazy, I have not installed the planned addition of a booster pump system

to the "spare" Phase I Jordy well. Cooler months are ahead so I hope to complete this project to reduce or eliminate occurrences of water shortages in Phase I.

If you experience or see a problem with the water system please call me. I can't address a problem I do not know about. Finally, I have heard a number of tales about owner distribution water line leaks (can you spell Porcupine?) or failed float valves. PLEASE walk your lines and check the operation of all parts of your system. The water you lose may be yours.

Secretary's Report

By Gwen Lanning

First of all, I should have sent out this newsletter back in August, but somehow I got it in my mind that it goes out in September, so I am sorry about that. Nobody called me to ask where it was though, so thank you for your patience!

Jo and I are still working on updating our ranch website. Jo has posted all kinds of important papers such as our deeds and restrictions, so you can have them all in one place. Part of the website is password protected, so email me if you need the password sent to you again. We are also working on pages that will help you identify all the species you might see on your property, with emphases on plants that are good for wildlife, and invasive plants. Here is the website:

<http://www.indian-creek-ranch.org/>

If you can help us out with pictures, please send them to me at gwenlanning@yahoo.com.

As the Edwards County fire was raging, I found these two helpful links: The Texas Interagency Coordination Center map for current fire activity:

<http://ticc.tamu.edu/Response/FireActivity/>

And this link shows all the burn bans by county, so wherever you live, you can check if you are currently under a burn ban, without having to call anybody!

<http://tfsfrp.tamu.edu/wildfires/DecBan.pdf>

It is updated daily.

Remember, due to problems with lock security, we will no longer publish the combinations in the newsletter. I will send separate emails toward the end of the month, and then the combinations will change the first Monday of the month. You might want to program my number into your phone so you can call me if you get out to the ranch and realize you haven't brought the gate code with you. (281-460-3620)

Treasurer's Report

By Jo Roberts

I have received dues from all but one landowner. Thank you.

Great news on the vote. On August 17 I was able to officially file the change to our bylaw. All but 3 of 94 votes were cast, with the landowners overwhelmingly voting to keep the tracts at a minimum of 100 acres in perpetuity. 89 of 91 votes cast were in favor of the change. The

change has been posted to our website in the Landowner files section.

No changes on the financial side to report. We have not had any significant water expenses and the road work (as you may have noticed) has not yet been performed.

Regards,
Jo

Income and Expense Report - 2015

The Owners Association at Indian Creek

As of May 6, 2015

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Balance brought forward from 2014:

\$ 53,923.51

Income in 2015¹

Annual Assessments	\$ 32,614.69	\$ 24,069.09	\$ 7,668.40	\$ 920.32	\$ -	\$ 32,657.81	\$ 32,653.17	\$ 654.22
Special Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 32,614.69	\$ 24,069.09	\$ 7,668.40	\$ 920.32	\$ -	\$ 32,657.81	\$ 32,653.17	\$ 654.22

Expenses in 2015^{2,3}

Road Work	\$ 11,375.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Water System Maintenance	\$ 5,721.12	\$ 131.42	\$ 134.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 266.41	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,733.59
Water System Reserve ⁴	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Wildlife Biologist	\$ 585.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Bills	\$ 2,972.83	\$ 781.45	\$ 853.21	\$ 274.89	\$ -	\$ 1,909.55	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,590.45
Annual Meeting	\$ 52.83	\$ 61.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61.67	\$ 500.00	\$ 438.33
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 394.93	\$ 845.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 845.72	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 654.28
Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 429.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 429.48	\$ 900.00	\$ 470.52
Administrative Expenses	\$ 1,919.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Attorney Fees	\$ 500.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 495.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 870.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (470.00)
General Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 23,520.73	\$ 2,624.74	\$ 1,483.20	\$ 274.89	\$ -	\$ 4,382.83	\$ 59,800.00	\$ 55,417.17

Current Balance:

Emergency Reserve

\$ 82,198.49
\$ (28,000.00)

Amount Available for Current Year (with dues received)

\$ 54,198.49

Amount Available for Current Year (with dues expected)

\$ 58,576.68

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

Lock combination changes will be the first Monday of the month. Emails with the new combinations will be sent out a week before the change, but combinations will not be published in the newsletter.

Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 3, 2015 at the airstrip

If you have classifieds or photos to include in future newsletters, please email them to me at gwenlanning@yahoo.com . Next newsletters – Nov. 15 – or thereabouts.

CLASSIFIEDS:

FOR SALE

28' x 30' hunting cabin. Must be moved. 1 bedroom, with loft, has window air/heat unit, refrigerator, stove, hot water heater. Asking \$10,000.00 or best offer. Contact Ronnie Itz at 281-380-4693.

FOR SALE: All Seasons Protein Feeders, 1 800lbs. \$400,
1 300lbs. \$200, both for \$500
Dave Heft 830-683-3289

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



Top left photo by Jo Roberts, bottom left and top right by Bob Pauken.

FOR SALE:
2009 DUTCHMEN FOUR WINDS TRAVEL TRAILER



2009 Dutchmen Four Winds Travel Trailer (Floor Plan 38BP-DSL). 2 Queen Bedrooms, Pull Out Couch, Sleeps 8. 2 slides outs, dealer installed WineGard Direct TV HD Slimline Automatic Multi-Satellite Antenna. DVD player and Stereo/CD. Dual Propane tanks, 34,000 BTU heater. Full size GE Refrigerator/Freezer, Microwave, 3-burner propane range top and oven. Only 400 miles on new tires. Tire covers, A/C Cover, cleaning supplies, awning deflappers, tie downs, jack stand, Maxx Air Vent Covers, all included with very well maintained travel trailer. Perfect for hunting lease or family vacation.

\$16,500 or Best Offer.

Call Mike at (972) 839-1045 to schedule an appointment.

For additional pictures and information visit www.RVT.com