

# Indian Creek Ranch

## Emergency Contacts

### Fire

Rocksprings  
(830) 683-4111  
Barksdale  
(830) 234-3473  
Camp Wood  
(830) 597-6100

### Border Patrol

(830) 683-2255

### EMS

Rocksprings  
(830) 683-3305  
Camp Wood  
(830) 597-4200

### Sheriff & Highway Patrol

(830)683-410



## Ranch Contacts

<b>President -</b>	<b>Mike Hoffman,</b>	<b>(713) 301-7088,</b>	<b><a href="mailto:mwh1113@hotmail.com">mwh1113@hotmail.com</a></b>
<b>Vice President -</b>	<b>Dan Himmerich,</b>	<b>(512) 656-4748,</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Dan_Himmerich@hotmail.com">Dan_Himmerich@hotmail.com</a></b>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer- Wildlife Mgmt Committee Chairman –</b>	<b>Robert Lenz,</b>	<b>(512) 657-0854,</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Robert_Lenz@Dell.com">Robert_Lenz@Dell.com</a></b>
<b>Security Committee Chairman -</b>	<b>Randy Wood,</b>	<b>(830) 683-4537,</b>	<b><a href="mailto:rw09176997@yahoo.com">rw09176997@yahoo.com</a></b>
<b>Webmaster/Newsletter Editor -</b>	<b>Dan Himmerich,</b>		<b><a href="mailto:ICRSecurity@gmail.com">ICRSecurity@gmail.com</a></b>
	<b>Philip Nelson,</b>	<b>(210) 863-0360,</b>	<b><a href="mailto:PNelson@newtek.com">PNelson@newtek.com</a></b>

## President's Report

### **End-of Spring Gathering**

**May 23, 2010 11-1pm**

### **Airstrip**

**Bring-your-own-everything**

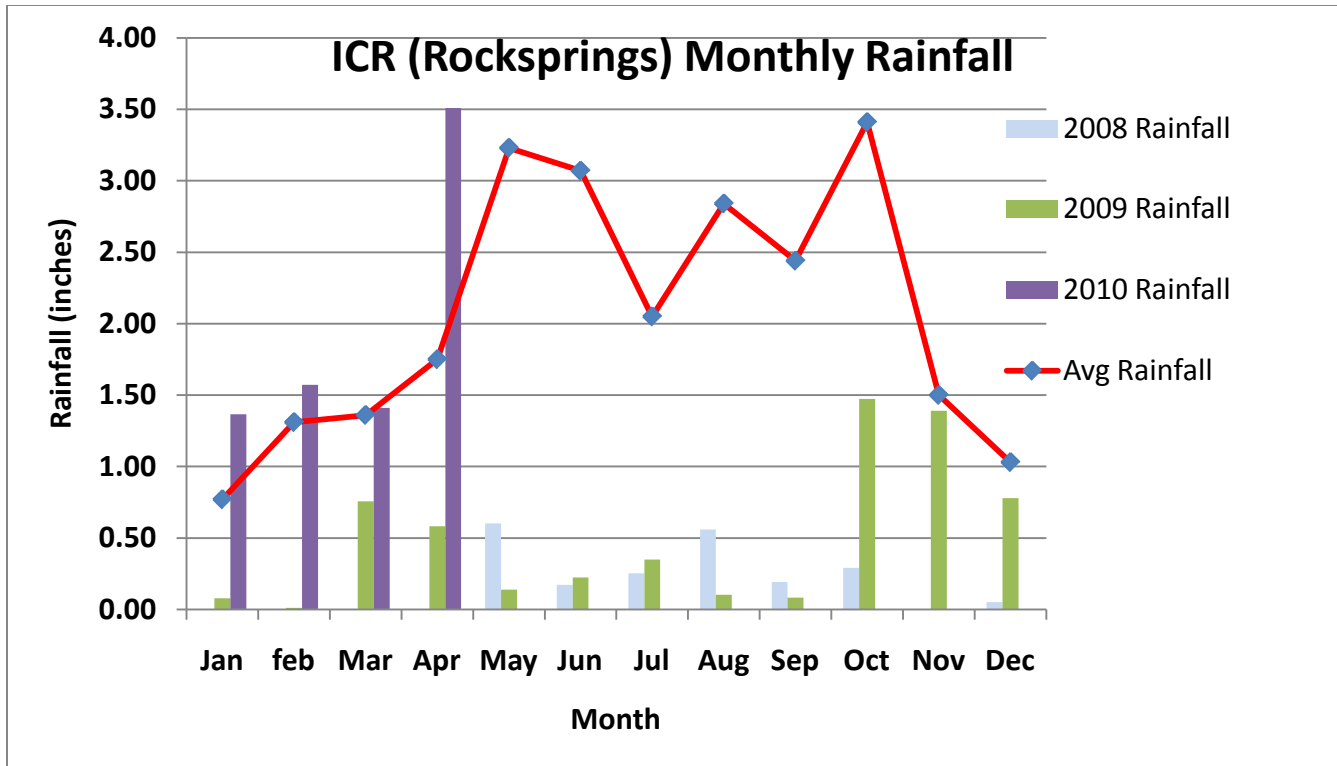
**Hot BBQ grill will be available**

For those of you that hunted turkey, I hope you were successful this spring. I only hunted a few times and had a chance at a nice gobbler, but I watched him just a

little bit longer than I should have. (Don't forget to log your results on the way out of the ranch).

Our main story still seems to be centered around water.. this time rainfall. (You will see a water theme repeated throughout our newsletter this month). As shown in the chart below, our rainfall for the first quarter of 2010 was just about average, but

significantly higher than we had in 2008 or 2009. April, however, was substantially above average. While this bodes well for the turkey population, it has only enhanced our road maintenance problems. In March, Randy Wood and I surveyed the roads in all areas of the ranch. Generally speaking, all areas need work. Phase I and VII were



in decent shape, but the rest of the ranch had areas that require significant work -- both material and grading.

Our road maintenance plan for 2010 is the following:

- in June or July, after the first peak in rainfall for the year has been reached, we will address the majority of the problems with one or two days of material delivery followed by several days of grading

- priority will be given to the main road (since this affects the majority of landowners) but there is enough money in the budget to handle 80-90% of the problem areas of the ranch with this first

pass. We should be able to address all the long-haul hills that have problems in all phases with this pass.

- a second (hopefully just grading) campaign can be done later in the year (or early next year if it interferes with hunting season) after the second rainfall peak has been reached, but with a much smaller work scope (mainly areas that weren't graded in the first pass and any emergency repair areas).

For those of you in the western side of Phase VII, you may have noticed a few minor blackpipe changes if your storage tanks were near the road. Randy and I

pulled the blackpipe up some of the hills to reduce stress points that have developed over the last few years. This will help reduce future maintenance by relieving pressure on some of those T-connections and on your storage tanks, but it also may have pulled up some of the blackpipe that you had buried across your drive-ways. I apologize for this inconvenience.

Dan will talk more about the water system but I do want to say that if we, collectively, do not manage our water use and valve shut-off we may be forced in the future to implement water rationing, association



fee increases (to drill new wells), or fees for extraordinary use of water or all of the above. I am sure none of us want to have to deal with any of these. We are not there yet, but if we don't change our collective



behavior now, we will be faced with exactly that situation.

On a final note, we have received about 85% of our annual dues, but still have 15% outstanding. If you



haven't paid your association dues yet, please do so immediately. Our ability to do road maintenance and water system repairs for the whole year relies on payment of these dues.

Mike

### *Vice President's Report*

We've made it through the freeze season, and as many of you know, we had dozens of line breaks, valve breaks, and other problems with the system. I again want to salute Randy Woods for his tireless work to get our systems back on-line as fast as possible. I remember one afternoon spent tagging along with Randy "Aoudad" Woods as he jumped fences, hiked up and down ridges following water lines until we found breaks. He's a few years (like 25) older than me, and I was toast by the time we were finished!

Summer is approaching, and we're all going to start using water more regularly in our supplemental watering

programs, and there is one critical practice that I have to reinforce. Part of the water system maintenance-improvement program started a couple of years ago was the placing of cut-off valves at the point where a land-owner's line intersects the main line.

This enables us to visually check whether individual land-owner valves are on or off, without having to walk onto anyone's property.

It is each land-owner's responsibility to ensure that his/her cut-off valve is turned OFF when he/she leaves the ranch. Also, walk your lines. The recent freeze may have done more than just damage valves. Our wells are relatively shallow, and take a long time to fill the storage tanks. One

open valve that allows water to run unchecked out of the system (which happens if there's a break in the private tract-owners system, hogs snap off a valve, or illegals puncture a line) will drain that part of the system in less than a day. It will trigger the pumps, they'll run full-time until they burn out.

What I'm getting to is that the enforcement of the "valve off when you leave" policy is critical. Forget this one, and you could cause the association to have to spend thousands of dollars on new pump parts. Turn your valves off. Please.

By now everyone should have filed their A1A Annual Reports. If you've worked in good faith

### *Vice Presidents Report (cont.)*

on your ranch, followed the rules, did 2009 work in 2009, filed on time, and still are denied, we'd like to know.

Please send a brief note to a board member if you've filed and been denied (and for pete's sake, if you have been denied, protest!)

Dan



### *Security Report*

#### Illegal Aliens

With hunting season past, we continue to see an increase in illegal alien traffic on the ranch. Please report all incidents and sightings to the Border Patrol. They might not be able to catch those that move through, but they can identify patterns and may adjust their patrol routes to respond to activity increases in specific areas. It is in everyone's best interest to report activity and help with Ranch security.

#### Contractor Locks

It is still common to drive up to our main entrance gate to find it standing wide open and unlocked. This promotes poaching and vandalism within the ranch. Please lock the gate when entering and leaving,

and if you find it open, shut it and lock it.

As summer approaches, landowners construction activities are increasing. It is important to use combination contractor locks on the gate to allow contractor access without compromising ranch security. There are several rules you should follow when installing contractor locks:

1. Notify a Board Member, giving the approximate time the lock will be on the gate and the combination (the longstanding rule of thumb is to have contractors locks on the gate for less than a month)
2. Install the lock properly and make sure the contractors relock it properly. Install the lock as another link in the chain. Do not bypass any other locks.

#### 3. DO NOT BYPASS THE

ASSOCIATION LOCK. This has happened recently resulting in a landowner being locked out of the ranch. This will result in your lock being cut off and discarded, and some very irritated landowners(as well as contractors). If you have any questions about this, contact a Board Member.



## Wildlife Committee Report

Well, we prayed for rain...

Indian Creek Ranch is as green as we have seen it- including 2007, our 42 inch rainfall year. The bad news is that the road system has taken a hit. Some of the 4+ inches of rain on April 15 came down in a torrent producing flooding conditions. One truck got caught in the first water crossing and had to be pulled out by a neighbor with a tractor. Then, less than a week later we had another 1+ inches including significant hail. The ground was white and lots of leaves were beaten off the trees. One owner experienced holes in his roof.

The good news is that the wildlife have a virtual cafeteria from which to choose. Protein consumption at our free choice feeder is down to



about 10 pounds per day. Deer visitation is also very light.

The wet conditions are also producing lots of bugs--I am not pleased, but it should be great for for the turkey poult crop. Poults require insects as a protein source for the first 2+ weeks after hatch. The last two years were dry and the poult crop was poor. This year looks great.

Some of you know that we found a turkey nest by the road in the first ravine crossing and had monitored it from 3 eggs to 12 eggs. Then came the flood waters to wash the eggs from the nest. I found 6 of the eggs the next morning and returned them to the now bare ground nest. The hen continued to sit on them for about 4 days. Then the eggs totally vanished. Experts tell us that predators would have left bits of eggshell.

Nothing remained. We speculate that someone spotted the nest from the road and took the eggs. We are very disappointed.

Good news--Ron Itz and Mike Ashby have volunteered to join the wildlife committee. As we move forward please feel free to bend their ears on any wildlife issue of importance to you.

On that note the issue of elk management has been on lots of folks radar screen. I have heard from many the suggestion that we should back off on elk harvest until the herd improves significantly. Also, the last session of the legislature revised the definition of "livestock" to include elk. While all of the ramifications of this legislation are not clear, one possibility is that a plan to "manage" elk -ie "livestock" - on the ranch to harvest grass might be a part of our



wildlife management plans. This is a question that I plan to pursue.

### *Wildlife Committee Report (cont.)*

**HOGS-** While they seem to do well all the time, they normally do exceptionally well in wet conditions. We might expect larger litters

and increased survival with the precipitation, so we need to be aggressive in our harvest efforts. One owner recently reported seeing a group of about 15 individuals ranging from 80 to 200 pounds. A 50 cal

machine gun would have been handy.

Please send me, Ron Itz or Mike Ashby any thoughts you have on wildlife management.

Randy

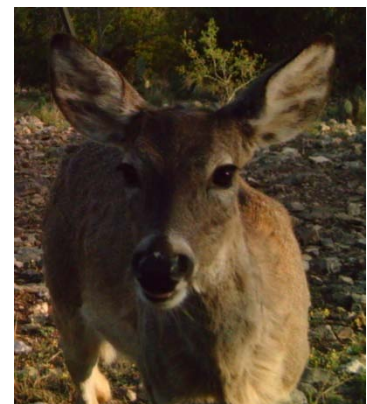
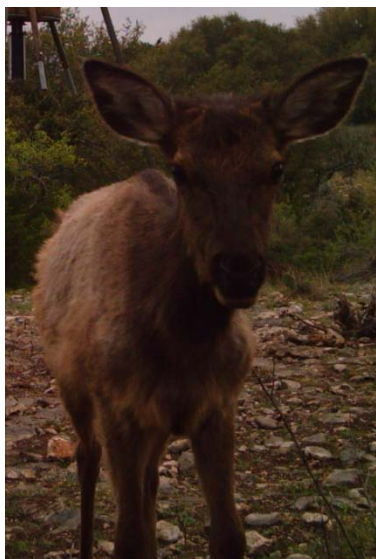


### *Treasurer's Report*

Much of what I had to say has already been covered, so I will just add that I hope everyone had a successful turkey season.

Also, if you haven't sent in your dues yet please do so. At the end of March we had only received 75% of the dues, but we have had some additional payments in April.

Robert



## Financial Report

See report sent out by email.

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## Miscellaneous Business

### CALENDER - Upcoming Events

**February 26, 2010 - Submit Annual Reports to ECAD**

**May 23, 2010 - Spring BBQ (Airstrip, Bring your own food, drink, chairs. BBQ pit with charcoal provided)**

**Please submit calendar items to [pnelson@newtek.com](mailto:pnelson@newtek.com)**

### ICR Website address:

**[www.Indian-Creek-Ranch.org](http://www.Indian-Creek-Ranch.org)**

### What is available on the site?

**Land Owner Info – By-Laws, Newsletters, Ranch Events, etc.**

**Game Cam Photos – We need new pictures! Please send your photos to [Pnelson@newtek.com](mailto:Pnelson@newtek.com)**

**Wild Game Recipes – Please share your favorite recipes for game that can be found out at Indian Creek.**

**If you have any ideas for the site or would like to write an article that would help fellow land owners, please let Mike Hoffman or Philip Nelson know.  
[Pnelson@newtek.com](mailto:Pnelson@newtek.com)**