

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

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

President's Report

End-of Spring Gathering
May 28, 2011 11-1pm
Airstrip
Bring-your-own-everything
Hot BBQ grill will be available

Well the big news for the first quarter of 2011 has been the weather. We had an even worse freeze event this year than in 2010 and almost no rain for the first

three months of the year. Practically everyone had freeze damage while many had significant damage. Even with insulation in the pump houses, we had to replace the majority of our valves and check-valves.

The big difference between last year and this year has been the expense to fix the damage. This year we bought equipment to effect the

repairs ourselves, so our expenses have gone to replacement material rather than labor. This has saved us thousands of dollars. A big thanks to Randy Wood and Marcus Wieser for the time they spent repairing our water system.

The lack of rainfall at the ranch is getting serious. Randy will talk more about rainfall and its effect on our



wildlife so I won't go into it except to say supplemental food (>16% protein) for the whitetail population should be provided until enough browse is available for our large herd. (Corn is not considered supplemental food as it has very little actual nutritional value.)

Please conserve water.

Once again this year there have been some spirited discussions about agricultural valuation. Some of our landowners have been denied their

agricultural valuation. If you are one of these individuals, I strongly encourage you to visit Bruce at the ECAD office and follow the process of appeal if necessary.

Invoices for 2011

Association dues are now past due. If you have not paid your dues, please do so promptly.

Congratulations to Rick Moon in Phase I for winning the Big Buck Contest ! I will make sure the picture of the winning entry will be posted on our website. A special thanks to Ricky and Sheila Evans for sponsoring this contest !

Since turkey season is now almost closed, I decided to highlight the spring strutting event with a variety of

turkey pictures in this newsletter. If you have pictures you would like to share with other landowners please send them to me and I will include them in future newsletters.

Be safe,

Mike



Vice President's Report



If you've been at the ranch in recent weeks, you've no doubt seen a mix of new foliage, and

pending drought conditions. To this point, the closest wildfire has been about 100 miles north of ICR, but we all need to be extra vigilant in our use of fire - including complying with the county-wide burn ban, and in being extra careful with charcoal fires, cigarettes, cigars, etc. You should also check your brush guards & transmission guards before driving out on the ranch to ensure that no accumulations of grass or last

year's brush poses a fire hazard. We're also in 'cedar cutting' season (at least I am), and extra vigilance when using chainsaws and brush cutters (finding bare places to put the saw down, etc.) can help reduce the chance that a fire will start from the brush clearing activity.

I recommend that all landowners look back at last fall's newsletter and refer to the process for getting a



fire/911 number assigned to your tract. Having this number available and posted at the entrance to your ranch will speed the process of getting local fire and rescue personnel out to ICR, should the need arise. If there is a medical or fire emergency, all you have to do is call 911 (either from your ranch, or from a place where you can get a signal) and tell the authorities your fire/911 number (mine is 1172). That's it, they will have on record the exact coordinates of your ranch, and will be able to coordinate any emergency services necessary to respond to your emergency. Beats trying to explain how many miles down 674 you drive from 377 before you turn left, drive through 3 bump gates, bear to



the right, etc, etc. "come to 1172" is much simpler.

On another point, spring is here, and the warm weather means that different kinds of stress are being applied to our water system. Randy, Mike, and others did a spectacular job of repairing the extensive damage from the February freeze(s), but those repairs do NOT extend to personal



watering systems. I recommend that on your next trip out, you open the valve to your storage tank(s), and then immediately walk the lines and troughs attached to the tank, checking all downstream valves, fittings, etc, for leaks. During the freeze, the float valve inside one of my troughs split, but not enough for me to notice when I walked my lines in early March. Last month, with the expansion-contraction of the warmer weather working on the fittings, I was



able to see that my float valve was almost split through. Once you've walked, and checked your lines, and made any repairs necessary, you'll be at much lower risk of unintentional spills that stress the pumps and common water infrastructure.

Dan



Wildlife Committee Report



Spring seems to have come and gone absent its most important contribution--RAIN. As of May 1, the total rainfall since October 2010 is about 2.6 inches. Needless to say, things here are dry. About 1% of the agarita bushes flowered and will possibly produce fruit. I have not seen one Texas persimmon bloom. In fact, as of today I see small leaves or buds on very few persimmon bushes. Don't know if the February freeze got them, or they are simply waiting on moisture. Green grass is virtually nonexistent. We saw



a few forbs after we had two rains of about 1/2" each within 2 weeks. Those have gone now.

All this means that we have two issues to be concerned about. First, unless we get some significant rain soon, the deer population is in trouble. There will be very little natural nutrition for does to finish the fawning process--much less produce sufficient milk for a good fawn crop.



Second, I have heard of a number of wells in Edwards county that have gone dry. One day you have water; the next there is none. To me this is a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts to conserve water.

Recently, there have been two cases where landowners have opened main valves to their property for the first time since the February Freeze. In both instances,



they did not walk their lines and as a result did not find major breaks. In one case over 3000 gallons of water went on the ground before the break was found. There was less loss in the second case but the loss was unnecessary.

I replaced over 24 valves, "T's", and other fittings as well as at least a dozen line breaks after the freeze. All were on the Association system. Virtually every owner that I have talked to has related significant breaks in cabins, at tanks, etc. Please walk each of your water lines to find and repair any leak. We need to conserve every gallon we have.

Most of us provide supplemental nutrition for the deer as one of our management commitments. Remember that the





provisions of the wildlife management regulations require that at least 16% protein be provided via free choice feeder "year-round when the deer need it". The last phrase of this regulation may be the most important one this year. Based on my assessment of the natural nutrition availability, it looks like the deer need it now and will need it at least well into the summer. The Association recommended an aggressive harvest this last season. Based on our data, we only

harvested about 50% of that recommendation. We have a large deer herd now and we will all need to provide significant supplemental nutrition if a substantial portion of the herd is to make it.

Finally, Ryan Schmidt, TPWD wildlife biologist for Edwards County has indicated his desire to visit with landowners to provide assistance. I intend to have him review my place and practices. Such a review will be a positive for an annual report. Additionally, I intend to use his expertise to recalibrate our "visible acreage" used in our annual census calculation. If you wish his assistance, you may



contact him with your questions and requests. His phone number is 830-703-6808.

I apologize if I sound overly pessimistic, but it is important that you have a straight forward analysis on the conditions at ICR.

Randy





Treasurer's Report

We have made good progress in receiving 2011 dues. We only have 10 outstanding invoices left to collect. If you haven't paid your dues yet you will be

getting phone calls soon (if you haven't already).

I hope your turkey hunting was successful!

Robert



Financial Report

See copy of the newsletter sent out by email for the Financial Report.



*Miscellaneous Business***CALENDER - Upcoming Events**

May 28, 2011 - Spring landowners gathering at the Airstrip !

Please submit calendar items to mwh1113@hotmail.com or pnelson@newtek.com

ICR Website address:

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

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

FOR SALE: ICR Phase I Tract 7 (100.03 acres). \$1400/acre. Has water line, electricity, 1990 Prowler camper (fair condition), 9x9 shed, and 2 feeders.

Call Eddie Lunsford 281-352-7304 (cell)

