

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 -	Dan Himmerich,		ICRSecurity@gmail.com
	Philip Nelson,	(210) 863-0360,	PNelson@newtek.com

President's Report

Annual Meeting

**October 1, 2011 (first day of
Archery Season)**

11am-2pm

Airstrip

The most important information for all the landowners to know about is our next Annual Meeting. Like last year, our Annual Meeting is scheduled for the first weekend in October, also the first day of the bow

hunt - Saturday October 1. I encourage all of you to participate if possible, as it is always informative and a rare chance to visit with your neighbors. As usual, we will provide meat (brisket, hamburgers, hot dogs), condiments and drinks (water and sodas). The rest is potluck...please bring your favorites side dish or dessert.

The agenda will be issued sometime in mid-September

but some of the major topics will include biannual Board Elections, a wildlife update (including census results and harvest recommendation), and probably some guest speakers. If you have specific topics that you would like to see included in the agenda, or ideas on special guest speakers, please send them to me via email.



Also, if you are interested in running for a Board Member position (President, Vice-president, or Treasurer) please let me or one of our other Board Members know.

Be safe,

Mike



Vice President's Report

It rained. Not much, but it did rain - at least on parts of the ranch. Actually saw standing water on the road! That said, everything Randy describes below about the situation with our water system remains true. It is under extreme stress. One thing all of us can do is to help each other remember to close valves when we leave the ranch. Most tracts now have valves on the road, and if you are driving out and notice your neighbor's valve accidentally left open, please call or write one of the board members



(email addresses and phone numbers on kiosk at ranch entrance). We'll make sure that the landowner is actually not on the property, and then we'll close the valve. It's easy to determine on the newer ball valves which setting is open (handle parallel to the line) or



closed (handle perpendicular to the line). A little vigilance sure beats showing up and having no water available because its leaked out of someone's malfunctioning tank or wildlife system! If you come out and notice lush green grass downhill from your tank or troughs, that's a pretty good

indicator that you have a problem. Please try to fix these problems before reactivating your water system.

On the security front, we've not had much activity. Border crossings are down all along the Rio Grande, mostly due to the poor US economy, increased focus on illegal workers, and the heat. I have not received any reports of damage, vandalism, or illegal alien activity in the past 4 months. Please continue to report security issues to any of the board, or write to ICRSecurity@gmail.com if you spot or experience any crime or illegal traffic.





The oaks on the ranch are under a lot of stress. Please remain vigilant, and avoid bringing any 'off ranch' wood onto ICR. Oak Wilt and the insects and fungus that causes the disease are still rampant through the hill country. Many unscrupulous vendors will happily sell you a cord of wood still infested with fungus spores. Once the burn ban is lifted, it is best to use wood that is cut on-property for any fires.

Although it is still summer, it's not too soon to think about

water system freeze prevention before winter. If you have old-style gate valves, or brass ball valves, we can replace those with carbon-steel ball valves that are freeze-resistant. They cost \$52.00 each, but are an investment well worth making. Randy has some, and I have 10 available that you can purchase and install (1 1/4") on your private systems.

Remember to complete your 2011 planned activity BEFORE the end of the year. Properly documented activities, at appropriate levels of intensity, will help ensure that you retain your Open Space valuation in 2012. If you have any questions about your plan, or the activities you are expecting to complete, please speak with Cotton or Bruce. While any of the board members are happy to provide an opinion, we are neither authorized by our Ranch by-laws to make Wildlife

Management Plan decisions on any land-owner's behalf, nor do we in any way represent any landowner to the county authorities. Plan your work, keep Cotton and Bruce in the loop if you have any questions or issues, and complete your annual reports on time and on the appropriate forms. Again, we are happy to provide an opinion (Mike, Robert or I), but our opinion is just that - an opinion.

Good hunting!

Dan



Wildlife Committee Report

On a positive note (hard to find given the drought), thanks to all who have made the time to stop and record your harvest. Having this

information (which I aggregate) goes a long way in impressing local ranchers, the appraisal office, etc. that Indian Creek Ranch is not a "haven" for predators such as hogs. On an acre for acre basis we harvest at least ten times as many feral hogs as

the government trapper program does with our tax money. Also, harvesting exotic species is especially important given the drought and lack of forage for the deer. Thanks again for the data.



WATER- it is limited, and I spend at least two-three days a week trying to manage (and repair) the system in order to have full reservoir tanks ready for Friday nights. This afternoon I was trying to get water through the main line to the north end of Phase VI and on to Phase IV. These tracts are the highest elevation points on that line and thus have the lowest pressures. When lower elevation valves are opened to fill tanks, this high elevation end gets no water. While this has been an aggravation to those tracts, we can usually solve the problem and eventually get water. However, we are pumping much more water now and the catch-up times seem to have evaporated.

The wells that feed Phases I,II, and III are very limited in production. The Phase I well takes 5 days to fill the

Reservoir tanks. This produces at maximum about 5000 gallons. If 10 properties each fill a 500 gallon tank, the reservoirs are empty. The isolated Phase I/II well is in better shape since it serves only two properties. The Phase III well also has very limited production ability , and these reservoir tanks are also often augmented with flow from one of the Phase VII wells. However, when this augmentation is active, the pressure in VI and IV drops.



The west Phase VII well supplies VII as well as IV, V, and VI in addition to augmenting III. The east Phase VII well serves all of the East and South portion of VII. The Phase VII wells have, so far, not shown limited production.

MORAL of the story, - Please use the water for the wildlife judiciously and remember that the association system is for wildlife use only.



We are still having trouble with leaks that drain the storage tanks and reservoirs. I have repaired hog teeth and porcupine holes in the main lines , and have had a number of reports of porcupine and squirrel chews in small lines. Even though you have done it before, please walk each of your lines under pressure each visit to look for new leaks.

Based on the moon cycle, I am currently planning on conducting spotlight census the weekends of Aug 27/28; Sept 3/4; and Sept24/25. I have had requests to participate from a number of owners. A census crew consists of a driver (me), two spot-lighters, and a recorder (in an old Suzuki). The crew slots will fill on a first come first served basis with first choice given to those who have already asked to participate. Call if this is on your Bucket List.





While some Hill country areas (even Edwards county) have received limited rain, Indian Creek Ranch has not been lucky. Every day I see new areas of cedar, agarita , and mountain laurel dying. The Oaks are virtually leafless. Their survival is unknown. As previously noted, we have far too many animals for the forage available. I don't see how it is possible for us not to lose significant numbers. It is imperative for us to provide that supplemental nutrition (20% protein) that we all promise in our Wildlife Management Plans. The animals need it desperately now , and the "intensity standards" in the rules



provide that it be "provided when needed".

Finally, as a member of the Edwards County Appraisal Review Board, I have in the past, recused myself from all hearings and discussions involving Indian Creek properties. While I am only required to recuse myself if I have discussed the protest with persons outside the hearing, I have taken this conservative position to avoid any appearance of impropriety. I anticipate that in 2012, I will not continue to



follow this practice but will participate in all hearings. Obviously, this means that I cannot have any discussions of possible protest issues and practices with owners. I may continue to provide references to the practices and intensity standards required by the rules adopted by the comptrollers' office, but will not discuss owners activities and application of



these practices. I feel that this change is appropriate so that I can lawfully participate in all protest hearings countywide.

Remember, you are required to file a plan with the appraisal office, submit an annual report by January 31, AND include appropriate documentation on your activities.

Randy





Treasurer's Report

As was previously mentioned, it is very dry at the ranch, so please....no fires...the burn ban is being enforced.

We only have four landowners with outstanding unpaid dues. If

you are one of those, look for the association to lock out your water supply and place a lien on your property. Once this is done, it will be much more expensive for you to correct than just paying the dues in the first place.

Good Luck! Robert



Financial Report

Please see newsletter sent out by email for financial details.



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

October 1, 2011 - Annual Meeting 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)