

Indian Creek Ranch

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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 & Highway Patrol

(830) 683-4104

Border Patrol

(830) 683-2255

Game Warden

(210) 416-2513

Game Warden Reg. Ofc.

(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

The new board has completed its transition and is excited to welcome our newly appointed secretary, Gwen Lanning. Gwen is also the editor of 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.

Although our new wildlife water well has been producing nicely, we experienced a couple of incidents where the new tanks beside it were completely drained. Randy Wood has been working on remedying the issue with some minor modifications to the piping, integrating the new well into the existing system. In addition, Randy has replaced many breaks in our water system that we experienced throughout this cold winter. Thank you, Randy.

Recently we also had to replace a pressure pump at one of the wells. This major improvement was performed by King Well Service.

Please keep in mind to let Randy or me know immediately if you observe any leaks, so they can be tended to promptly to avoid secondary damages.

David Heft, our wildlife committee chair, has been working with our wildlife biologist, Sylvestre Sorola, preparing the new overarching 5 year Management Plan for ICR. As president, I filed the plan with the county on behalf of ICR. You however, should file your own report with the county, since it may vary from the association's management plan.

The Road Committee has been evaluating the condition of our roads and started to categorize our roads into one of 3 levels: main roads,

secondary roads and tertiary roads. Looking at our budget, the committee has prepared a prioritized approach to scheduling the road improvements. This year we will perform road maintenance in two phases:

Phase I of the road work will begin in a couple of weeks. We will concentrate on the main road and add material and grad it. Some minor work will also be performed on a couple of the worst areas of the secondary roads. Phase II will take place in the fall.

Phase II will concentrate on the secondary roads and address some of the worst areas of the tertiary roads.

The tertiary roads will then be put on a revolving maintenance schedule. This will insure that, eventually, all tertiary roads see maintenance performed on them as well. Phasing the road work this year will have the advantage of not risking the loss all of the investment into our roads in one big rain event.

It also allows us to look at the overall budget towards the end of the year and allocate leftover funds to road work.

Philip Nelson, our webmaster, is working on updating our website. Soon we should have a revised site with a copy of the newsletter available online.

A couple of quick reminders:

- Our treasurer, Joanna Roberts, has sent out the invoices for your **annual dues**. Please pay them promptly, if you have not done so as of yet.

- Please also continue to submit your **harvest data** to David Heft, our wildlife committee chair. You can either use the mailbox at the entrance to the ranch, or email David directly.

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

Upcoming deadline: If your 5 year wildlife management plan has expired, your new 5 year Wildlife Plan for 2014 through 2019 is due to be filed with the county by **April 30, 2014**.

I want to thank officers, committee chairs 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.

Marcus



Water Report

2014 has started out in direct contrast to 2013. Last year we had a really good year for water system problems. This year we have already called Emmitt out for two repairs we could not accomplish ourselves. That said, the Phase VII well on the Bar Mac property is virtually new now--all new electronic control systems, and a new well pump and replacement downhole pipe. Cost to date has been about \$3100.

The new well in Phase IV is operating as expected after a few start-up glitches.

We still have the approved plans to install a pressure pump in the "spare" Phase I well to solve the shortages we experience on a

regular basis in that system. Maybe your water committee will get on the ball and finish this plan.

We still have occasional problems with open valves resulting in drained tanks. Freezing weather has made the problem worse with split piping beyond a valve.

Finally, I have to renew my concern for use of the WILDLIFE water for ANY domestic purposes. I have reported removing dead animals from the system tanks in the past with the attendant health risks. Domestic purposes include washing dishes and showering. Bacteria can be ingested from eating utensils and from wet hands and lips.

As a final point on this concern, I must tell you that the well pump replaced in the Phase VII well had a RAT carcass obstructing the inlet screen. This is possible because all of our wells -except the new one -were constructed prior to current wellhead seal standards, and are not secure from small burrowing animals, or contaminated rainwater draining directly into the well bore.

Please let me know of any water system problems you see or have. I don't drive around looking so I rely on folks as my eyes.

Randy



Wildlife Committee Report

This is will be my first report as your new committee chair. I would like to thank our previous committee chairman Randy Wood for all the work and time he contributed in past years in this position. His efforts have been greatly appreciated. I would also like to solicit any ideas on what the association members would like to see the committee do for them. I can be reached here at home on the ranch at **830-683-3289** or by email at **dsheft82@swtexas.net**.

2013 Whitetail Harvest Summary:

We have had 68 of the 93 properties (73%) report their harvest so far. This is the highest reporting rate of any year to date. We had 181 does and 32 bucks reported harvested. Estimated harvest is 262 does and 46 bucks (308 deer total). This is a 3% increase over last year's harvest. The

harvest was more heavily biased towards does this year with a 24% increase in doe harvest and 47% decrease in buck harvest. Some properties were like us and actually harvested fewer deer this year while some properties harvested up to the full recommended numbers. We also had half a dozen properties report no harvest. I have had some doubts over the years whether members were actually listening to the recommendations but it's obvious this year that most of you are, thank you. During my discussions with our consulting biologist we came to the mutual conclusion that our deer numbers will probably be adjusted by a disease outbreak again. Hopefully by working aggressively to harvest within our annual recommendations we can make that eventual occurrence less devastating. Our axis herd continues to be an under-utilized resource with only 35 reported harvested. Please shoot more.

Overall Plan Update:

Everyone should have received an email copy of the updated overall ranch wildlife plan for the next 5 years from our association president by now. If you did not, contact me and I will send it to you. **Sylvestre Sorola (consulting**

biologist) and I spent a day touring the ranch and discussing the former plan and conditions on the ranch. The updated plan is a melding of our professional opinions on what should be done habitat-wise on the ranch. Sylvestre's experience as a biologist with TPWD can sometimes provide a different perspective than my background as a biologist who spent most of my career with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. I tend to promote a slightly more aggressive vegetation management strategy and longer term viewpoint. The plan is a middle ground between those and should be regarded as a starting point for an individual landowner's plan which could differ significantly.

Montezuma Quail Study

Update: I have been in contact with **Robert Perez of TPWD** regarding the time frame for beginning actual work on this issue. Robert would like to conduct a landowner's workshop at a yet to be determined date this spring. This would be done at the airstrip hangar on the ranch (thank you Randy). According to Robert this would teach landowners the call-count protocol and habitat evaluation. We would go over the calling techniques and then move to a field site

on the ranch to discuss habitat requirements, including soil and vegetation characteristics favorable to quail. I will forward any further information as it becomes available to the membership through our president. We have had very good quail numbers on our property this year and even had a covey of bobwhites show up.

In closing, I would like to say to everyone that I am always available and willing to try to help anyone in the association with any wildlife questions they may have. I have a small personal library of primarily professional journals and research publications, and also more general wildlife publications. By prior arrangement I would be

happy to have anyone come by and try to find an answer to a question they may have. I spent the last 20 years of my career concentrated on habitat management but knowledge is of no use unless it's shared.

Dave

Treasurer's Report

This year, your statement for annual dues was sent out at the end of December 2013. All statements were emailed to the addresses we have on file in our official Membership Roster. If you haven't received your statement, or it's now buried in your emails and you cannot find it, please let me know at joanna.m.roberts@us.pwc.com and I will send the statement to you again. Also, please let me know if we need to update any of your contact information. I have received payment from over a third of Landowners. Thank you, thank you, for your prompt payments. To those who have not yet paid their annual dues, please note that they are due by March 7, 2014.

As always, the dues were put to good use. In 2013,

improvements to our shared water system cost \$40,000, \$31,000 of which was for the much needed well drilled in the latter part of the year. The well is producing well (no pun intended) but we need to remember to respect the water being drawn and turn off our supply valves. Just a few weeks ago we lost 18,000 gallons of water because someone left their valve on and their line froze and split one. To put this in perspective, 18,000 gallons of water is:

- Equivalent to the TOTAL water storage capacity on the Ranch.
- The average household water use of a family of four for six months.
- Over four, 18 wheeler/transport trucks (a gallon weighs approx. 10 pounds, so 180,000

pounds of water or 90 tons; a truck carries around 20 tons).

- It would take our best well over 150 hours (a week) to replace the loss.

This can have costly implications - if a pump burns out it can cost us \$7,000 to replace it. We have limited funds and we all need to make choices on where we want the funds to be spent. As we did not spend any funds on improving roads last year, we hope to make some improvements during 2014. We don't collect enough dues to cover negligent water supply costs AND roadwork. Each of you can help by turning off your water valves.

Jo Roberts

Financial Report

Income and Expense Report - 2013 The Owners Association at Indian Creek As of December 31, 2013

	2012	1Q 2013	2Q 2013	3Q 2013	4Q 2013	2013 Total	Budget	Remaining
Balance brought forward from 2012:		\$ 57,390.03						
Income in 2013¹								
Annual Assessments	\$ 34,145.00	\$ 17,859.70	\$ 9,616.63	\$ 3,714.56	\$ 1,151.70	\$ 32,342.59	\$ 32,672.52	\$ 329.93
Special Assessments		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 34,145.00	\$ 17,859.70	\$ 9,616.63	\$ 3,714.56	\$ 1,151.70	\$ 32,342.59	\$ 32,672.52	\$ 329.93
Expenses in 2013^{2,3}								
Road Work	\$ 19,875.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Water System Maintenance	\$ 3,626.50	\$ 163.34	\$ -	\$ 381.25	\$ 38,659.47	\$ 39,204.06	\$ 20,000.00	\$ (19,204.06)
Wildlife Biologist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Electric Bills	\$ 3,054.54	\$ 480.74	\$ 626.90	\$ 685.56	\$ 878.33	\$ 2,671.53	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 328.47
Annual Meeting	\$ 2,908.51	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75.13	\$ 92.39	\$ 167.52	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 832.48
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 245.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 116.65	\$ 116.65	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,383.35
Property Taxes	\$ 917.38	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 472.66	\$ 472.66	\$ 900.00	\$ 427.34
Administrative Expenses	\$ 98.28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,688.26	\$ 1,688.26	\$ 400.00	\$ (1,288.26)
Attorney Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,372.52	\$ 5,372.52
Total Expenses	\$ 30,726.17	\$ 644.08	\$ 626.90	\$ 1,141.94	\$ 41,907.76	\$ 44,320.68	\$ 47,672.52	\$ 3,351.84
Current Balance:						\$ 45,411.94		
Emergency Reserve						\$ (28,000.00)		
Amount Available for Current Year						\$ 17,411.94		

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.





Some Resources that you may find helpful:

Texas Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife Management Recommendations for Edwards Plateau:

http://tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/agricultural_land/epxt2010/

Contact information for Edwards County Wildlife Biologists:

<http://tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/habitats/hillcountry/regulatory/?county=edwards>

Texas AgriLife Extension Plants of Texas Rangelands Database:

<http://essmextension.tamu.edu/plants/>

Webinars on Wildlife Management from Texas Wildlife Association:

<http://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/webcasts/category/webinars/>

Quail Forever:

<http://quailforever.org/page/1/home.jsp>

Do you know of more resources I should include? Let me know at gwenlanning@yahoo.com

Miscellaneous Business

CALENDER - Upcoming Events

Contractor Gate Combination Changes for 2014 – February 28.

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 Keven Stephen (713) 203-1075

ICR Website address: www.Indian-Creek-Ranch.org

