

INDIAN CREEK RANCH

President's Report

OPENINGS

I want to thank **Gilbert Carmona and Bill Wilson** for their work on the committee and welcome **Justin Harrison and Bill Thresher** as our new **Wildlife Committee**.



Caracara

A tropical falcon version of a vulture, the Crested Caracara reaches the United States only in Arizona, Texas, and Florida. It is a bird of open country, where it often is seen at carrion with vultures.

Thank you Gwen Lanning!

By Randy Stephen

“Baby it’s cold out there”. The times I have made it out to the ranch lately it’s been a deep freeze. So if you have not been out since the beginning of January, be sure to check your pipes before you turn on your water. Please check your lines around your property for leaks also. If you find damage to any Association lines/valves please let us know. As many of you may know **David Heft** sold his property and has moved.

“I want to thank David for his years of contributions to the betterment of Indian Creek Ranch. His tireless efforts on the Wildlife Committee and his knowledge as a Wildlife Biologist have greatly improved the ICR wildlife program and the ranch in general. This past summer during Aaron’s absence he was the reason anyone in phase 1 had water. Thanks David, All the Best.”

Speaking of the **Wildlife Committee**, I want to thank **Gilbert Carmona and Bill Wilson** for their work on the committee. Gilbert handled the deer survey and put together the Harvest Recommendation which, from what I have heard were spot on. Let’s hope as owners we did our part this past hunting season. Bill Wilson handled last year’s Elk survey and is in the process of putting together our Harvest report for this season. If you have not sent in your harvest report for this year please do so that we have a good account of the harvest. When ready we will send out and present the report at the Spring Meeting. **Gilbert, Bill thank you both.**

Now for the big announcement! I want to welcome **Justin Harrison and Bill Thresher** as our new **Wildlife Committee**. Justin has agreed to head up the committee. Thanks to you both for stepping up to help. Mike Ashby has taken on the Elk survey. Gwen has sent the results of the survey taken in January.

Mike will conduct another survey in August, hopefully we can have more members to respond and have a better idea of herd size over the entire ranch.

Our water system continues to keep us busy. Luckily so far we have not had any freeze damage like last year. **Phase 1** is holding its own but as soon as the heat returns so will the issues. Our plan to patch the leaking

tank and add storage to the system has hit a snag, contractors don't want to repair tanks, they want to sell new ones. If anyone has any ideas for patching tanks we would love to hear them. We have 3 tanks that are in need of patching from the inside. Outside patches are like a Band-Aid and will probably come off sooner or later.

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Our roads have held up for the most part and we plan on doing some road work later this year using the rock to road process that was used in **Phase 1** which has held up nicely. This process seems to stay on the road longer and we have all the rock we need and should not have to haul material.

Security continues to be an issue. Changing lock combos every month has helped but only slightly. And just recently signs of **poaching** have been reported. Hanging feeders and a makeshift ground blind have been found. **This confirms our thoughts that poaching is going on around the ranch.**

There has been a lot of outside contracting going on within the ranch over the last year that may be the root cause of this activity. Please be aware of any activity out of the ordinary and report it. I had seen a white F150 parked on the side of the road and did not think too much of it until I found out a hanging feeder was found not far away from it. I should have taken down the license plate number just in case but I assumed it was a land owner.

Finally our **Spring Gathering** is just around the corner. The date is **April 21, 2018**, and will be held at the ICR at the hangar. We will start serving food at **1:30 pm** and kick off **meeting at 2:00pm**. As in the past the Association will provide Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, Chips and Drinks. If you would like to bring a side dish or a desert please do so. If you are new to Indian Creek Ranch this would be a great time to meet your neighbors and hear what's been going around the ranch.

The Spring Gathering is April 21, 2018, lunch at 1:30, meeting at 2:00 pm.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Jerry Allen,

The 2017 whitetail hunting season is complete. Hopefully those with wildlife management plans have submitted your annual report for 2017. This year I saw several changes in wildlife patterns. First, the explosion in Axis population was very evident at our place. The 2016 survey estimated an Axis population of 296. The 2017 survey estimated the Axis population was 1,366. Our game cameras supported the over four-fold increase. This impacted our ability to harvest whitetail deer. We saw several instances of whitetail deer leaving or being chased away from feeders by the Axis. I have game camera pictures of 8-10 Axis below the feeder with a whitetail or two in the background not joining in. Our second related observation was that the buck to doe ratio in the annual survey was accurate. The number of Axis at feeders may have displaced the number of whitetail. Of concern is the fact that the Axis herd is just shy of being half the size of the whitetail herd. With the density of the whitetail population over twice the desired population (desired 1,059 and current 2,622) and an Axis herd almost half the size of the whitetail herd, density is an increasing problem. I would recommend that the 2018 wildlife survey again include an Axis count.

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The third observation is that hogs at our location are increasing but not at the level we saw in the 2003-2005 era. We did dispatch several more hogs.

We appreciate all the help in maintaining the wildlife water systems. There were several challenges and many of the members stepped up to help Aaron with this task.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the spring meeting.

Jerry Allen

WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

Justin Harrison and Bill Thresher

WATER AND ROADS COMMITTEE ?

[This is a repeat, but still important information.]

“Regarding water, Aaron Roberts has stepped up to the water issues. Many do not realize the difficulty in keeping our wildlife water systems functioning. A leak or valve replacement involves scouting out the leak, isolating the water flow to drain the piping to the leak or bad valve, making the repair, and then returning the flow of water. . This often requires two or three trips, The distance travelled results in a lengthy process of well over two to three hours. I make the repairs sound easy. In reality, it does require two people to either weld the black pipe or replace a rusty valve. A special thanks to David Heft for all the work he did during the summer and thanks to Bill Wilson for helping with a recent repair. We are always looking for volunteers to help”

SECURITY ISSUES

“Security continues to be an issue. Changing lock combos every month has helped but only slightly. And just recently signs of poaching have been reported. Hanging feeders and a makeshift ground blind have been found. This confirms our thoughts that poaching is going on around the ranch.”

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY’S REPORT

Gwen Lanning

Jo has officially taken over all of the important secretary duties, and I am remaining as the email contact person. If you have a question or need to get a communication to someone, you can send it to me and I will get it to the right person. I can also send an email blast out to the group for you, but I will probably run it by all the board members first, so there may be a short delay in its being sent.

Gwen

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Jo Roberts

Not much to report on ICR finances except that dues invoices were email at the end of December. If you have not received yours, please let me know (jo.roberts@pwc.com). No large expenditures since the November report.

Jo Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer

Income and Expense Report - 2018

The Owners Association at Indian Creek

As of January 1, 2018

	2017	1Q 2018	2Q 2018	3Q 2018	4Q 2018	2018 Total	Budget	Remaining
Balance brought forward from 2017:		\$ 58,385.85						
Income in 2018¹								
Annual Assessments	\$ 34,433.39	\$ 8,795.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,795.02	\$ 31,889.22	\$ 23,094.20
Other Income	\$ 2,725.00	\$ 599.85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 599.85	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 37,158.39	\$ 9,394.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,394.87	\$ 31,889.22	\$ 23,094.20
Expenses in 2018^{2,3}								
Road Work	\$ 2,125.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Water System Maintenance	\$ 339.71	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Water System Reserve ⁴	\$ 5,379.93	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Wildlife Biologist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Bills	\$ 3,208.51	\$ 557.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 557.60	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,942.40
Annual Meeting	\$ 360.36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 264.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Property Taxes	\$ 812.57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Administrative Expenses	\$ 1,110.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Attorney Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Hangar/Tractor	\$ 1,476.76	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Reserve	\$ 1,375.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 16,451.98	\$ 557.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 557.60	\$ 49,600.00	\$ 49,042.40
Current Balance:						\$ 67,223.12		
Emergency Reserve						\$ (28,000.00)		
Amount Still Available for Current Year (with dues received)						\$ 39,223.12		
Amount Available in Total for Current Year (with dues expected)							\$ 62,275.07	

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.

⁴ Water reserve includes replacement items for wells, i.e., bladders, pressure tanks & pressure pumps.



Axis Twins courtesy Gwen Lanning

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Pat Turpin

Please send your wonderful photos (and I know you have 'em) to me so that we can post them in our newsletter!

My email is milligal@aol.com.

Pat Turpin

All photos show why Indian Creek Ranch is a premier wildlife association.



3 Hawks
(I photoshopped it, there was really 1 hawk in 3 shots)
Gwen Lanning



Game Camera Photos curtesy Alan Turpin

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