

# 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

Happy 2010 to all ICR landowners ! I hope the hunting season was as successful for all of you as it was for me. Thanks to all of you that have provided harvest information. It is still important to submit harvest information if you haven't done so. It benefits everyone if we can report complete harvest numbers. Randy will update us on results to date in his report.

Unfortunately 2010 has started with a colder than normal January for the area, resulting in water system problems that you have all read about by now, as evidenced by all the recent email traffic. I was out at the ranch at the time and spent several hours two days in a row riding the ranch with Randy re-pressurizing the system after repairs were done. I personally would like

to thank Randy for the tireless work he has, and continues to do, to keep our water system up and running. He is saving the Association (and you) thousands of dollars in repair bills. Having said that, there were still problems this year that Randy alone couldn't address. Our costs in 2009 for water system repair was \$18,000.....more than any other single

## *President's Report*

*(cont.)*

expense (see Robert's Report). We continue to work on ways to reduce this expense to the Association. Dan will talk more about our water system and road maintenance in his report.

In 2009 we delayed road maintenance due to water system expenses. But in early 2010, it will need to have a high priority, especially with all the recent rains. The Board will be working very soon to determine priority areas and develop a road maintenance plan.

Another recent issue that affects each of us individually is the 2009 Annual Report required by the Edwards County Appraisal District. As all of you should know by now, this Annual Report was

requested by ECAD to be submitted by the end of January 2010. However, due to a mailing problem, the deadline has been extended to the end of February. This was announced at the TPWD Wildlife Management Plan seminar held on January 16-17. For those of you that were unable to attend I will shortly be sending out a brief summary of that seminar.

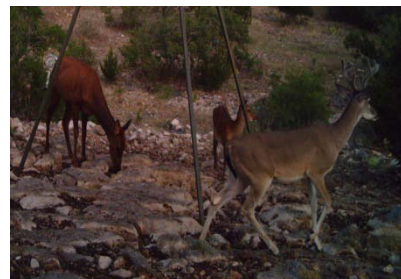
However there are two things you can (and should) access immediately:

1. Guidelines that the ECAD will use in evaluating your Annual Reports are available at [www.trueautomation.com](http://www.trueautomation.com) (select Edwards County in the drop down menu). Read them carefully.

2. A CD was handed out at the seminar by the TPWD. All of the information on this CD is available to ICR landowners on

[www.richworthenterprises.com](http://www.richworthenterprises.com).

There is a tremendous amount of information here, some of which was presented at the Seminar.



Finally, our 2010 Budget will be the same as 2009...roughly \$XX,000. Invoices for Association dues will be going out in February. Please pay them promptly.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email to ensure a quick response.... and send me pictures to include in the newsletter...they will remain anonymous....

Mike

## *Vice President's Report*

Greetings, and happy 2010 - During the period between our last newsletter and this one, there has been an awful lot of activity at Indian Creek Ranches. First, it looks as though the 2009-2010 deer

season was quite successful, with several great bucks taken off ICR. That said, we still have a ways to go to fulfill our management objective of achieving our desired buck to doe ratios.

I've decided to use this space to write to you about the recent

severe weather, and the actions taken on behalf of the entire association to ameliorate the situation as best we can. Over the past month or so, you've receive several emails from me related to the damage that the recent freezing weather has done to our water system. It is really amazing to see solid brass

## Vice Presidents Report (cont.)

valves split open, poly pipe bubbled and ruptured, and ice shrouding various driveways, cabins, and driveways. Randy Wood has been a serious trouper through all of this, working up and down our water system identifying leaks, turning off sections of the system, fixing leaks, turning the system on, finding more leaks, etc. This is not a trivial piece of work, and we all owe Randy a debt of gratitude for the work he does. Overall, we had just under 30 breaks in the system.

The breaks were about evenly split between valve ruptures and ruptures in the transition pieces between the main lines and the landowner valves. We were very fortunate that none of the 2" pipe running around the ranch burst.

There are a couple of things that you should be aware of:

1) The association is responsible, and will repair the primary drops to each property.

2) The association will coordinate, but not cover, the repair of breaks in any single land-owner's second or third 'drop' from the main line. For example, in my case, my main drop was fine after the freeze, but the 2nd line to my tract suffered a burst valve. I am



responsible for the costs to repair that break.

Two things are working in favor of each landowner affected by the weather:

1) Since the association has to bring Emmit King out to fix the primary drops, each individual landowners does not have to

incur the \$350 trip fee associated with each visit Emmit makes to the ranch.

2) We can prorate the labor costs to landowners who have breaks in their 2nd or 3rd 'drops', which will significantly reduce any individual's cost for repairs. If your ranch is thus affected, please expect an invoice (prorated) to fix your extended system.

Finally, we expect that the total cost to the association will be between \$2500 and \$3500. This freeze will have a material impact on our road maintenance budget into 2010. That said, we are laser-focused on sorting out the road issues as they occur (fyi: last week's rain washed out several low-water crossings, as well as several roads on steep grades), and effecting repairs as cost-effectively as we can.

Dan

## Security Report

Over the past quarter, we've seen an increase in security related events. These events are occurring in 1 of 3 categories.

### Category 1: Illegal Alien Traffic

We've had a couple of land-owners report break-ins related to illegal traffic. No major damage, just pilfering of food and water from cabins or trailers. Our recommendation is to provide small supplies of

water and foodstuff outside your dwelling, in order to deter break in. For example, leaving a 1 gallon water jug & a plastic jug of peanuts or mixed nuts may deter break-in. These guys are moving fast, and looking for targets of opportunity - but not to carry

### *Security Report (cont.)*

off property, just to find food and water. Providing nominal sources outside your cabin/trailer may deter these break-ins.

#### Category 2: Trespassers

During hunting season, we've had a number of trespassers caught on game cameras, either wandering around a land-owner's feeders, or driving ATVs onto landowner properties. If you have guests on your ranch, please be sure they know the tract boundaries, and understand the rights of adjacent property owners.

If you intend to press charges against trespassers, please be aware of the property boundary marking requirements specified in Texas statute. For our ranches, each land owner must mark the boundary of his/her

property at 1,000 foot intervals with either signs or purple paint/tape. There are specific requirements for height of tape, and size of tape in order to meet the definition of a properly marked property. The DA will not prosecute any trespass case unless the property in question is properly marked. Having a "No Trespassing" sign at your driveway is not enough.

#### Category 3: New Plant Species

Many of you drive out to ICR through the lower hill-country area. Perhaps you have seen "Salt Willow" in many low-lying areas on your way out to the ranch. Salt Willow is a pervasive, invasive species that, as a byproduct of it's propagation, alkalizes soil to prevent competing species from thriving. Over the past year, we've begun to see Salt Willow around ICR, particularly in low-lying areas, and in areas where water leakage is occurring. Kill Salt Willow. To

quote the great film "Apocalypse Now", "Terminate, with extreme prejudice". If you have any questions about identifying this invasive species. please write me at Dan\_Himmerich@hotmail.com and I'll be happy to send you pictures of Salt Willow plants. Unchecked, these plants are as aggressive as blue juniper (cedar). Kill them all, and let God sort them out. (sorry, just get a bit carried away on this topic).

Dan



### *Wildlife Committee Report*

Another hunting season has come and gone and it looks like many of you were

successful. The harvest data in the record book at the cattle guard along with data submitted via email shows a significant increase from last year.



## *Wildlife Committee Report (cont.)*

### Harvest to date:

- whitetail bucks
- whitetail does
- hogs (down from last year)
- axis
- sika
- aoudad
- turkey
- fallow

I know that there were additional harvests that were not recorded and I would ask that you send me the information if you forgot to enter it in the notebook. You won't get a gold star (ok, you can have one), but with more data we will be able to make a more educated analysis of the census data and try to better manage our collective resource in 2010 and beyond. Additionally, the more complete picture we can present to the Tax office and TPWD, the better our chances are of acceptance without the kinds of aggravation we have experienced in the past.

The notebook shows some great bucks were harvested.

I also heard a rumor that that a XXX inch rack was harvested. One aoudad with XX inch horns, and an axis with XX+ inch antlers was taken. I understand that a good number of trophies will make it to the wall. It would be nice to see some pictures on the web site. The 2009 census indicated that we should harvest more does, but we can see if we did enough when we do the 2010 census.



Now, we need to look ahead. After two months of reduced protein consumption my feeder is getting hit harder each day. Browse availability has been reduced while some forbs are coming along, but the mast is effectively gone. Watch your camera images to track the condition of the deer and gauge when you need to start protein ( if you are not already doing so). Based on the past census data we have over twice the number of deer that the natural habitat will support,

I was very pleased that some of you attended the wildlife management seminar on the 16th. I estimate that more than 200 folks were in attendance. The TPWD folks did a great job of walking us through their guidelines that the Tax Office is supposed to use. We asked a number of specific questions based on past problems with interpretations by the tax office and got great answers from TPWD. However, I don't know how effective we were since a number of our members noted that the appropriate tax office staff were seldom in the room to hear the presentations, the questions, or the answers. The chief appraiser did at the end of the meeting hand out a summary document with the comment that he would be using it as his interpretation of the guidelines (see Mike's report



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

for the website location of these guidelines).

Each member should get a copy and refer to it in the annual report and any plan update.

As a final note, in discussions with two wildlife biologists who are familiar with the ranch, I have been told that this ranch has never had the quality habitat or whitetail herd that we have today.

Randy

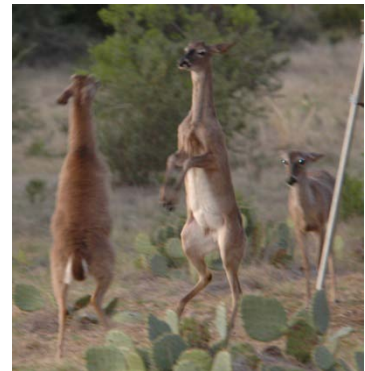


---

### *Treasurer's Report*

As was previously mentioned, water system bills dominated our expenses the last half of 2009. It is extremely important that each landowner take care of your own system...wrap pipes, turn off the water while you are gone, etc. While we have made improvements to the system, \$18,000 of repairs is a major concern.

Look for your invoices for Association dues in the mail soon. You will have 60 days to pay them.



With such a successful hunting season, it would be nice to see pictures of some of those nice bucks you harvested this year.

Robert

## Financial Report

See copy that was sent to you by email

---

## Miscellaneous Business

### CALENDER - Upcoming Events

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

**April ?, 2010 - Spring BBQ (Interest and Timing TBD)**

**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 Philip Nelson know. [Pnelson@newtek.com](mailto:Pnelson@newtek.com)**