

River Island Ranch

“The Bridge”

Bringing Community Together

August 2026

Edition 3, Volume 8



“Annual Meeting Celebration”

“*Summerfest*,” membership business meeting, Texas BBQ, live music, community fellowship, and another year under review. The fire ban, drought, recent rains, firestorms, and the weather continue to dominate the headlines. Rhythms on the Rio, South Fork Pandemonium events, recent bear activity and review of our annual meeting, all delivered in this month’s edition of The Bridge. The next RIRPOA Board of Director’s meeting is Tuesday, September 1st, at 5:00 P.M. MT.

Annual Membership Meeting

2025 in Numbers and Measures

We ended our year with several noteworthy achievements. Continuing with our self governing approach, RIRPOA was able to bank \$34,000 and organize the community purchase of 3 additional acres on the island. When we act together, we can accomplish great things. Fire mitigation, clearing of dead timber and debris, continuing our riverfront walk were discussed at the annual meeting. The minutes will be posted online after approval at Tuesday's board meeting.

The current board led the meeting, certifying our notice of meeting, satisfying a quorum with attendance by 40 members, ratifying the 2027 budget and electing Dwight Ross to the board, to fill one vacancy, highlighted the meeting. With gratitude, we thank Sam Humphrey for his service last year to the board. New cabin and clubhouse carpeting made for a shiny, new, comfortable, setting for the gathering. Island security camera installation, cabin upgrades, island landscaping were all mentioned in the list of accomplishments. The POA also voted in majority to amend our bylaws to not require an annual election for the Club Executive Committee. In leu of a lack of nominations, the board moved to appoint neighbors to lead the group.

RIRPOA property values continue to rise. Several new neighbors and members were welcomed and a few new homes are under construction. It was quoted in a real estate ad that described RIR as one of the "most desirable communities" in the valley.

New business and goals set for 2027 include prairie dog mitigation, perimeter fencing repair, fire safety and a host of other housekeeping topics including ATV use, and enhanced island perimeter flood protection.

Sam Humphrey led the group through a review of the balance sheet, P&L, and 2027 budget which was majority led to ratification by all. All 2025 end of year financial information is available to all members.

The afternoon continued with live music from "Rivertown Folk" and "The Foggy Memory Boys" from Taos, NM. Smoked brisket, street corn, potato salad, and apple cobbler allowed the crowd to be well fed.



Surprise sticker fun was included with each packet for members.



Extra stickers are available from the board for those not in attendance. One member suggested RIR apparel merchandise be printed and made available. Please contact to board to get the program rolling and determine interest from the community.

Hats, shirts and River Island Ranch logo items would be available for purchase.

HOUSEKEEPING: DUMPSTER

The bear proof dumpster has reached capacity on several occasions this summer. Where this poses a concern is maintaining the bear proof effectiveness and accommodating all refuse from our members visiting, camping, and guests lodging in the cabins.

BREAK DOWN ALL CARDBOARD BOXES

Flatten all cardboard prior to placing in the dumpster, even smaller ones. This will allow more capacity to fit into the dumpster during peak periods. Just Do It.

PERMITTED ITEMS / NON COMPLIANCE

NO PAINT, STAINS OR SOLVENTS ALLOWED. MDS has emailed us in violation of their policies. Construction materials, especially TPOST fencing is also not allowed. The board specifically requests all members to comply and be sure what you are placing in the dumpster is acceptable. Any questions contact Bob Frank, as MDS is directly contacting me with every violation. Please do not create a “dumpster fire” over POA use of the dumpster. We must all comply.

Rio Grande County dump facility is close and easy to use.

Please respect the dumpster.

ATV USE

Safe regulated use on all RIR roadways. Please observe speed limits.

No riding on private property. Use state and county recreation land only. Be kind and respectful to one another. Please advise the board on non member use when discovered.

CAMPING

30 Consecutive days, 60 cumulative annually.

Please adhere to our bylaws. Please do not require the board to enforce this.

Permissible extended use during construction only.

“PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL HABITAT”

The pronghorn and deer have been present all summer long with the pronghorn bedding down regularly in filing three. Please respect their presence and prevent your pets from interfering, and while driving through RIR.



CABINS AND CLUBHOUSE:

The Club Executive Committee recently began a new check in and check out procedure list that has initially showed promise. More members and their guests are beginning to follow the expectations in ensuring our caretaking team can effectively do their jobs well and keep costs down. The board is grateful for your compliance. **PLEASE DO NOT allow any bedding, pillows or clothing to come into contact with the baseboard electrical heating elements. This is extremely important to prevent a fire hazard.** September and October rentals are almost at full occupancy.

COLORS

With September almost here, and fall approaching, a recent horseback riding trip with Paul and Robin Mullinex and Bob and Lis Frank, at Moon Valley at above 9000 feet elevation, started to show golden Aspens in several areas. We may see an early color season and hopes for an EL NINO super accumulation of snow this winter.



SOUTH FORK HOG ROAST - FREE!!!

Save the date, Saturday, October 3rd from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Community Center in South Fork, live music, community and roast pork with all the fixins'.

