

# THE OAKRIDGE JOURNAL

## ORIA EMPHASIS

The Oakridge Ranch Improvement Association held its annual meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for electing directors, receipt of annual dues, presentation of efforts of ORIA in various departments and oversight areas. The areas discussed were the roads, finances/budget, architectural rules, communication (bulletin boards, e-mail newsletter), long-range planning. In the absence of Director Ray Madden, J.D. Ray, head of the Neighborhood Watch & Security Committee, talked about the role of the section captains in communication of issues to their neighbors in their section. This included illegal acts, flooding at the low-water crossings, speeding, etc.

Most of the questions and discussion centered on the roads, especially Oakridge Road. A request from the attendees led President Doug Jeske to state that the elected ORIA board for 2017-2018 will begin an investigation of determining the process and costs of resurfacing Oakridge Road.

While the community meeting was being held, a committee made up of Diane Ray, Mark & Terrie Prasatik, Earl Fly, and Wayne Zander counted votes and registered dues payments. At the end of the meeting Diane Ray announced that Directors Doug Jeske, Jean Herring and Ray Madden had been re-elected to the ORIA board. Directors Gary LaVergne and Wayne Wolfford have another year remaining on their terms in office.

**If you haven't already done so, please be sure to mail in your ORIA Property Owners' Dues for 2017-2018 to 1904 Oakridge Road, Weimar, TX, 78962.**

*Special thanks from the new Board of Directors to all Oakridge Ranch neighbors who have been mowing the ditches at their property.*

### *Save the Date!*

Neighborhood Night Out  
October 7th, 5 to 7 PM  
Oakridge Ranch Community Center  
Sponsored by ORIA Neighborhood Watch & Security Committee



Coral Honeysuckle, native to North America, growing at Oakridge Ranch  
Scientific name: *Lonicera sempervirens*

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## OAKRIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

There are two seasons in our part of Texas: “*Summer*” & “*Almost Summer*”. With summer comes the peak of grass & brush fire threat. Here are some tips and reminders from your volunteer fire department:

**If you want to burn a brush pile, please contact OVFD first!** We will evaluate your burn site, make recommendations, and provide a fire team to be on site to help initiate the burn in a controlled manner. We will also communicate with Colorado Country Sheriff’s Office Dispatchers to let them know about the burn in order to prevent false calls.

- ◆ Keep your fence line/property perimeter mowed. This creates a fire break should a running grass fire break out.
- ◆ Long grass (dry fuel) can burn as fast as 12 mph (faster than you can run) with only a slight wind. Keep long grass shredded down when possible.
- ◆ Don’t be fooled by recent rainfall. The ground may be wet, but the grass above it can dry quickly. We fought a 300-acre pasture grass fire last year where the ground was so wet at least six brush trucks got stuck, some more than once.
- ◆ Keep clutter/brush away from your dwellings. Should a grass fire approach a structure, clutter/brush is nothing but fuel and in addition, makes fighting a structure more difficult.
- ◆ Common sources of grass/brush fires:
  - ◇ Mower blades striking a rock, creating a source of ignition;
  - ◇ Hot sun focusing on broken glass;
  - ◇ Sparks from electrical lines;
  - ◇ Irresponsible management of burn piles, BBQ pits, fire pits, cigarette butts, vehicle exhaust/catalytic converters, etc.... just to name a few.

**Texas law states that you are responsible for fires that originate on your property.** If fire crosses property lines, you are liable for damages. For more information, contact OVFD or check online, see: <http://www.tidrc.com/resources/Laws/OBR.pdf>.



In ANY emergency, dial **9-1-1**. OVFD Firefighters/EMS First Responders will be dispatched via radio to your location. **Our motto** is not only to “Protect and Serve”, but “***Protect One, Protect All***”. Let’s keep Oakridge Ranch and Colorado County fire free and safe for us all.

[OVFD Facebook](#)

[OVFD Email](#)

[Chief Wolfford Email](#)

[Assistant Chief Ray Email](#)

[Assistant Chief Stewart Email](#)

## OAKRIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Controlled burn on Oakridge Ranch this Spring with Firefighters and Unit 1043 standing by.

### Operation Round Up® by SBEC

*“A program designed by San Bernard Electric Cooperative for members to help members in need and support non-profit organizations in the communities we serve.*

*As a member of the SBEC you have a choice of assisting members who need help. These are most often the elderly or disabled members on a fixed income. In some cases, these members may have had a crisis situation leaving them without the funds to pay their electric bill. Your contribution will also provide support to local non-profit organizations such as fire departments.*

*By participating in Operation Round Up,*

*SBEC will round off the member's bill to the next higher dollar. For example; if your bill is \$126.50 SBEC will round it up to \$127.00. The difference of .50 cents goes directly to the Operation Roundup Fund.”*

*(Above is copied from SBEC website.)*

OVFD has recently been notified by San Bernard Electric Cooperative that it will be contributing \$1500 to our fire department. **A big “Thank You” to our neighbor, Harry Freudenberg, for approaching SBEC on behalf of OVFD! And a big “Thanks” to SBEC for their decision to support our fire department in this way.**

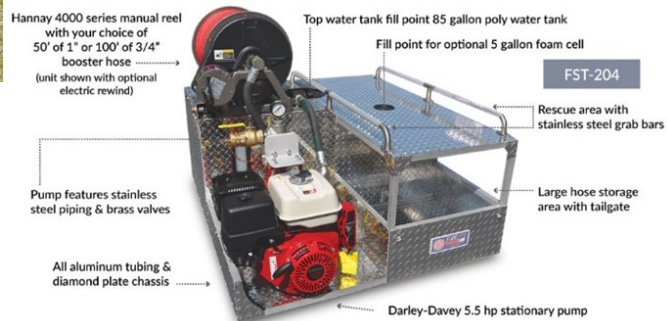
So.... next time you pay your electric bill, please consider being a part of *“Operation Round-Up”*.

## OAKRIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

OVFD recently purchased a Polaris OHV for fighting grass & brush fires (Unit 1073):



To make this unit operational, we need to add the skid unit below:



Although our May fundraiser was successful, we only made enough to just about cover our annual operating costs. We need YOUR help to raise an additional \$10,000.00 to fully outfit the Polaris (Unit 1073).

***Factoid: did you know that approximately 78% of fire-fighters nation-wide are volunteers?***

### **OVFD Auxiliary News**

The OVFD Auxiliary is here to “Support the OVFD Firefighters and Serve Our Community” by:

1. Providing rehab support for the fire department at fire scenes.
2. Raising funds for fire department needs.
3. Community awareness.
4. Encourage community support.
5. Represent OVFD at functions and events.

We are in the process of putting together a calendar of activities for the upcoming year. In addition to our quarterly meetings, events including community service, fundraisers, and educational opportunities will be offered and communicated to you by email.

It is never too late to join. If you would like to be a part of the OVFD Auxiliary, contact [Terri Prasatik](#) or [Diane Ray](#).

***OVFD Mailing Address: 1904A Oakridge Road,  
Weimar, TX, 78962.***

Articles submitted by [Assistant Chief J. D. Ray](#) and OVFD Auxiliary Co-Chairs [Terri Prasatik](#) and [Diane Ray](#) and OVFD Treasurer Gary LaVergne.



Most of us bought our properties to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and to enjoy the outdoors. The Oakridge Wildlife Management Association (ORWMA) is an organization of Oakridge Ranch landowners that is dedicated to education and support for all landowners of Oakridge. ORWMA is not just a “deer hunting club” although white-tailed deer management is a large part of what they do. ORWMA’s purpose is not to tell you how or what to do on your property but to provide the information and support opportunities to maximize your natural experience on your property.

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

ORWMA has several Special Interest Groups (“SIGs”) which cover a variety of topics such as Birding, Habitat Management, White-tailed Deer, Predator Control, Rio Grande Turkey, and Events. Over the past couple of years ORWMA SIGs have provided seminars on such things as grass burr management, pond management, beekeeping, and several other interesting topics.



**PREDATOR CONTROL**

So, you’ve been having problems with hogs rooting up your property? Who do you call? Mr. Douglas Mason is the Predator Control SIG Chairman and stands ready to help you with your hog problem with either traps or hunting them with his highly trained dogs. Give Mr. Mason a call at 979-732-7116. Join us to learn more about how to keep your family, pets and farm animals safe from other predators such as bobcats, coyotes, racoons, etc.

**ORWMA 2017 OFFICERS**

- President – Jack Jetton
- Vice President – David Mitchem
- Secretary/Treasurer – Barbara Mitchem
- Events – Jean Herring
- Birding – Amy Hardy
- Predator Control – Douglas Mason
- Rio Grande Turkey – R.C. Lumpkin
- Habitat Management – Vernon Wallace
- White-tailed Deer – Jack Jetton



**WHITE-TAILED DEER**

At the ice cream social, Jack Jetton, White-tailed Deer SIG Chairman, will be discussing the new deer seasons and regulations/laws for this upcoming hunting season. There are significant changes and all deer hunters are encouraged to attend. All deer hunters should be aware that ORWMA can survive without the White-tailed MLD, but the MLD cannot exist without ORWMA. It takes a lot of effort on the part of the deer checkers & the folks that conduct the annual survey, along with those who provide the mandatory reports to TPWD, in order for you to be able to receive doe permits. Please consider volunteering to assist when the time comes.

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### ORWMA OFFICER ELECTIONS

ORWMA elections are held in October of each year with the newly elected officers taking office in January of the following year. You must be a paid, active member of ORWMA to hold office, but not necessarily a permanent Oakridge Ranch resident to hold office. This year will see some vacancies and we need folks who are interested in supporting landowners managing their properties for wildlife to run for office. Please contact any current officer or SIG Chairman for more information if you are interested.



### ORWMA's Annual Ice Cream Social, July 15th, 5 to 7:30 PM

July is national ice cream month, Y'all!

Bring the family! Join us on **Lynne Bigelow's back deck, 1287 Oakridg Road.**

Bring your favorite flavor of homemade ice cream **already made.** Extra ice & rock salt will be available to continue the hardening process.

If you can't bring ice cream, bring a topping or dessert to share. Iced tea, water & lemonade will be available. Knowing that July can be hot in Texas, Lynne has installed ceiling fans on her back covered patio.

Jack Jetton will be discussing the new White-tailed Deer laws/regulations, as well as bee keeping. This is always a wonderful, relaxing time to visit with your Oakridge Ranch neighbors!

