

Communications Committee Report April 2011

The 2011 Committee currently consists of Chair Dori Ramsay, members Dave Howe, Lisa Bostek, Jerry Brewster, and Randy McLaughlin and Tanya Phillips ex officio. The majority of our time this quarter was getting the committee up and running and defining our priorities. Our first priority was to get a newsletter out. It involved a great deal of time and effort, particularly on Dave Howe's part. He worked tirelessly on the layout of the paper. We are very lucky to have him volunteering for us.

We had to make some changes to TRIPOD in order to use the email portion of it. The changes cost approximately \$400.00, I don't have an exact amount as the bill has not been received yet. These changes will help us overall in TRIPOD as it now allows us to correct email addresses as members give them to us, search by email address and separate out owners with email addresses and those without. Maybe someday we will be able to bill electronically with these changes.

We printed 3,000 copies including 100 for the office and 50 for international mailing. This first newsletter was sent to all owners, regardless of their membership standing.

The newsletters that were emailed have had a number of problems. Our server will only accept 1000 emails per hour-that will be easy to handle next time. We will just break up the names into several batches. We have quite a few bad addresses which Andrea, as our Property Owner Services staff will deal with over time. We have 3 months until our next newsletter and hopefully will have most of the kinks worked out. I've got a sheet in the back of the room, if you received a hard copy of the newsletter and would like an electronic one next time, please fill it out.

We have also made some small changes to the Terlingua Ranch website, updating information and services. We hope over time to do more overhaul on the website.

The Committee has also made the commitment to get all of the old newsletters on the website. Dave Howe took this on as a long term project.

We would like to request reporters for the next newsletter, especially on the local flora and fauna, history of the ranch, etc. A column on weather, plants, animals would be greatly appreciated. Please get hold of me after the meeting if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted for the Communications Committee

Dori Ramsay

Chair