

# NEWSLETTER



## 2010 POA Board Election

*\* Nominating period open from 15 October thru 1 December 2010 \**

*\* Election period open from 23 December 2010 thru 20 January 2011 \**

The annual election of RMRPOA Board Members is quickly approaching.

During early October, a letter was mailed to all POA members soliciting nominations for the 2010 Board Election. The nominating period will be open from 15 October through 1 December 2010. The letter also described the process to be followed to submit a nomination either by regular mail or by email. This year we will have three (3) positions that have expiring terms.

After the nominating period is closed on 1 December, the nominees will be screened to ensure that they are eligible to run, i.e., a POA member in "good standing" under the provisions of the Bylaws. The final slate of nominees will then be notified and will be required to submit a standard biographical sketch for inclusion in the ballot.

Under the provisions of the Bylaws, paragraph 2.03, "Each regular member in good standing is entitled to one vote per lot....." If you own more

than one lot then you get more than one vote. Please refer to the RMRPOA Bylaws (website Documents page) for all of the rules that govern the conduct of the Board election. Each property owner has been assigned a "ballot serial number" which is keyed to correlate the proper number of votes for a particular property owner and does not require a signature.

The election will be conducted via regular mail. No email ballots will be accepted. Ballots will be mailed to eligible property owners during the period 23 December 2010 - 2 January 2011. The ballots must be returned NOT LATER THAN 20 January 2011 to be considered valid under the provisions of the Bylaws. The results of the election will be announced at the POA Annual Meeting on 22 January 2011.

Please consider volunteering to run for the POA Board and contribute to the betterment of the River Mountain Ranch community.

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### **DATE SET FOR 2011 ANNUAL RMRPOA MEETING**

The Annual Meeting for the River Mountain Ranch Property Owner's Association (RMRPOA) has been set for Saturday, 22 January 2011, from 10 AM to 12 Noon. The meeting will be held in the Blanco Room at the Wimberley Community Center, located at 14068 Ranch Road 12 (next door to Brookshire Bros. Grocery Store). Formal invitations (postcard style) will be mailed (per the Bylaws) to the entire POA membership during late December 2010.

### 4TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN HAYRIDE & POTLUCK DINNER

The Calkins Family hosted the 4th Annual Halloween Hayride & Pot Luck Dinner on Sunday, October 31. Approximately 25 children and a total of about 50 - 60 people attended the event. We had a safe and fun trick or treat hayride around Winding Trail, back around Windmill Run and up Water Park back to Winding Trail. There were lots of wonderful and kind candy givers, many neighbors had fun catching up and visiting as they handed out candy (the candy givers might have had more fun than the kids), we had a wonderful pot luck dinner back at the barn where we all sat around and visited and ate too much while the kids ran off their over abundance of sugar. All in all it was a GREAT night! We look forward to hosting it again next year.

(Article Submitted by Mardee Calkins)



### ANIMAL CONTROL IS THE ANIMAL OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY!!

The RMRPOA Board is routinely called regarding pets roaming the neighborhood and this topic has been a repeated area of discussion during several of both the Annual and Summer POA Meetings. We have a few members who have pets (especially large dogs) that routinely roam free throughout RMR.



Please note that our Covenants & Restrictions state "Any and all animals, including household pets, require appropriate fencing to confine them to their lot." Furthermore, Hays County law stipulates "Dogs are to be restrained by a leash or fence, unless the owner is on the property and is able to verbally command the animal to stay on his/her property. If the animal is found unrestrained, Hays County Animal Control can either issue a citation to the owner (if the owner is known) or impound the animal at PAWS Animal Shelter in Kyle, Texas."

All RMR residents are reminded to follow the requirements defined in Hays County Animal

Control Ordinance # 20893. A copy of the Ordinance may be viewed or downloaded from the Board page at the RMRPOA website, [www.rivermountainranch.org](http://www.rivermountainranch.org), or at this link: [Animal Control Ordinance](#) if viewing this Newsletter online.

If you walk your dog, please keep it on a leash. If you find a dog running loose, or being a nuisance, please do not call the Board. Hays County has an animal control office:

- Hays County Animal Control (part of the County Sheriff's Department), 512-393-7896.

If you have a serious incident (if you are attacked by a dog for instance) and you call the Sheriff's office, requesting that a citation be issued to the owner (if known) will expedite the process of getting restitution from the owner.

Further information regarding Hays County animal control laws can be found at this link: <http://www.sheriff.co.hays.tx.us/>.

**BOARD PLANNING TO BEGIN USING ON-LINE SURVEYS**

During October 2010, the POA Board participated in a trial survey amongst the members utilizing a “free” service provided by a national survey/polling company. The purpose of the test survey was to familiarize the POA Board with the functionality of the survey tools and to review the usefulness and utility of the output results from the survey.

As a result of this trial survey, the Board has agreed to begin using this tool to survey the POA membership on various topics and to solicit input from the membership to determine important issues/tasks that need to be accomplished and in what priority. Since the survey process will be accomplished on-line, only those members and associate members that allow email communications with the POA Board and that have a current/valid email on file with the POA will be eligible to participate in the surveys.

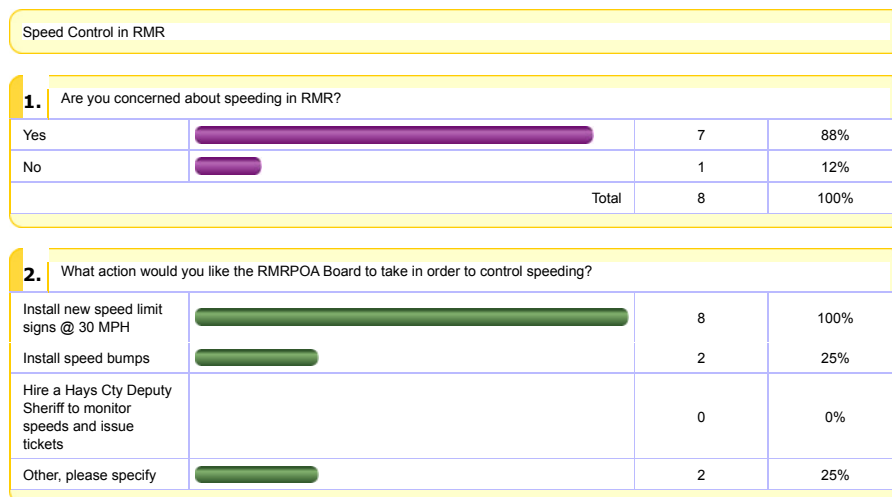
If you do not currently allow email communications with the Board and/or do not

have a current/valid email address on file with the POA and want to take part in these surveys, please contact [communications@rivermountainranch.org](mailto:communications@rivermountainranch.org).

The initial survey of the membership is planned during early late December or early January 2011 with the results discussed during the Annual Meeting on 22 January. Information regarding the survey will be posted on the RMRPOA website Home page a couple of weeks prior to the beginning of the survey. When the survey is released, all participating members will receive an email from RMRPOA Communications providing them with a secure url link. The member can then decide to participate by either clicking on the link or not clicking on the link.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the Board members.

An example of the trial survey questions and results are shown below:



**Results Overview: Open Ended Responses**  
 Filter: No filter applied (2 Response(s) Returned)

[Return to Results Overview](#)

Print | Excel Export

Display  Per Page

Displaying 1-2 of 2 Responses Select Page: [First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#)

#	Response
1	Contact Traffic Div. at the H.C. Sheriff re other passive devices.
2	Ask Sheriff Dept about other passive devices

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

Our second annual Neighborhood Watch's National (Texas) Night Out was a great success! On Tuesday, 5 October 2010, River Mountain Ranch was



among many other neighborhoods in Hays County participating in Texas' National Night Out event, which was also held across the state. Hays County was represented well and our neighbors were greeted by many of our great First Responders who dedicate their lives to helping us live safer lives. Thanks go out to

lemonade, cakes and cookies and popcorn for everyone to enjoy!



representatives from the Hays County Sheriff's Office, Wimberley Volunteer Fire Department and the Texas Forest Service.

At best count, 33 of our neighbors had the opportunity to visit with each other and our First Responders. The success of our event would not have been as great were it not for everyone in attendance but especially for those who volunteered to help set up and make wonderful

The Board would like to thank all those who helped make this event a success and especially Cathy Kubica for organizing and coordinating the RMR NNO 2010 event.

**NOTE:** The Neighborhood Watch Committee has been without a Coordinator since April 2010. No-one has volunteered or stepped forward from the current Block Captains or POA membership to take the leadership position for this Committee. If this position goes unfilled through the Annual POA Meeting on 22 January 2011, the Board will determine whether to keep, dissolve, or combine it with another committee that has a lead person.



#### RMRPOA Email List Subscription Process

Please contact [RMRPOA Communications](#) via email if you own property in River Mountain Ranch and would like to subscribe to the email list. Once you have been verified as a property owner, an invitation to subscribe will be emailed to you. POA members may unsubscribe at any time from the email list. Additionally, this is also a good time to let us know if you have recently changed your email and/or mailing address and wish to start or continue receiving email messages/bulletins/surveys from the POA Board.

**FIREWISE (FW) COMMUNITY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Greetings to all RMR Property Owners. Congratulations on continuing to keep Firewise Principles in mind when you are burning outside, clearing your lots, planting FW friendly vegetation, etc. We have had fewer fires in RMR since becoming a FW Community three years ago. We have been blessed by wonderful rains in the past few months, which resulted in an abundant growth of grasses in our fields. This has resulted in more potential fuel for wildfires, so we must not let our guard down. PLEASE remember to use caution when having any type of outdoor fire once the dry winds begin to blow. Check our "Burn Ban Board" at the entrance to RMR for current bans in place. Please remember the deed restrictions PROHIBIT the use of fireworks in RMR. With Christmas and the New Year around the corner, please do not allow anyone on your property to use fireworks during these, or any other celebrations. If you see or hear this happening, please call a RMR Board Member or the Hays County Sheriff.



I will be completing this year's report to the National Firewise Community as my last responsibility as your FW Community Chairperson. I have enjoyed serving the RMR community and learning a lot about how to protect our homes and neighborhood from fires. I hope you have gained information personally, as well as a result of our committee's efforts to keep RMR a "Firewise" friendly community.

(Article Submitted by Jeanne Martin)

The POA Board would like to thank Jeanne Martin for all of the hard work she has done as the Chairperson of the FW Committee since its beginning in 2008. RMR would not have become a FW Community without her leadership.

**NOTE:** With her departure from the leadership position of this committee, the POA Board is seeking a volunteer to be the next Chairperson. Any POA Member or Associate Member interested in becoming the Chairperson should contact any of the current Board members. Contact information is on the Board page at the RMRPOA website.

**DRIVING SAFELY IN RIVER MOUNTAIN RANCH**

Speeding, tailgating, failure to stay in your lane, and drivers just failing to adjust their speed to road conditions on the private roads within River Mountain Ranch are still a problem.

For example, River Mountain Road is a private road that demands caution and a prudent speed while staying in your lane with all of its twists and turns while going uphill or downhill. Delivery and construction vehicles/trucks should be aware of the steepness of our hills



when delivering heavy items in RMR. Remember, the recommended speed limit on the lower section of River Mountain Road is 20 MPH.

We have also had many a 6 cylinder pickup truck slide backward down the first hill up from the culverts when trying to bring a backhoe loaded on a trailer up the hill. Additionally, our only entry/exit road (River Mountain Road) can be closed for extended periods of time as a result of a bad accident caused by the example cited. Be very careful when following a heavy load up our hills. the most prudent thing to do is to wait until the vehicle with the heavy load crests the hill and then follow slowly.

**How Do You Contact RMRPOA Board Members?**  
Contact information for the current Board Members is listed on the Board page at the RMRPOA website, [www.rivermountainranch.org](http://www.rivermountainranch.org).

**DRIVING SAFELY IN RMR (CONTINUED)**

During May 2010 there were two (2) accidents on River Mountain Road during the recent road repairs. Also, since 2008, there have been three (3) accidents where a vehicle has driven straight off the lower section of River Mountain Road (at the first right turn up the hill) next to the "ARROW Warning Sign" indicating the road went to the right.



The RMRPOA Board asks that all residents and their guests slow down and drive cautiously and prudently throughout RMR.

We will be posting new speed limit signs (maximum speed in RMR is 30 mph) over the next few months (the previous signs showing



26 mph were all stolen).



All residents and guests should also remember that we have children playing, people walking, jogging, and riding horses along the roads, as well as cattle grazing in the open spaces, and many types of wildlife, to include plenty of whitetail deer, that can jump in front of a vehicle without any warning as they run out of the tree-line along our private roads.



Thank you for your cooperation.

**HUNTING, GUNSHOTS, & VIOLATIONS OF THE DEED RESTRICTIONS**

Residents are reminded that hunting (gun or bow) is **NOT PERMITTED** on any lot within River Mountain Ranch that is less than 75 acres. Any resident or guest of a resident found to be hunting on any lot less than 75 acres will place the resident or host in clear violation of the RMR Covenants & Restrictions.

Any resident or guest of a resident found to be hunting (gun or bow) in violation of the Covenants & Restrictions and/or along the roads within RMR (Note: an incident was reported in fall 2009) should be reported to the Hays County Game Wardens (contact numbers are listed on the Services page of the RMRPOA website).

The provisions of the Covenants & Restrictions, that every RMR property owner agrees to follow at the closing of their property purchase, specifically state in Section A, Land Use, Item # 5: "No hunting shall be permitted on any lot of less than seventy five (75) acres..." This

restriction is enforceable regardless of whether a resident has a legal permit to hunt or not.

During the first full week of October, the Board President received a complaint from a RMR resident about hearing gunshots in RMR. The issue was discussed at the Board Meeting held on 14 October 2010. All Board members have heard gunfire on occasion, including gunfire on lots (over 75 acres) where hunting is allowed. During the discussion, it was pointed out that Hays County does not have any restrictions on gunfire in unincorporated areas so long as it is done in a safe and prudent manner and the projectile (arrows included) does not cross property boundaries. This would allow a resident to protect his or her family and/or property from predators such as rattlesnakes, mountain lions, etc.

The consensus of the Board was that it does not have the authority to regulate gunfire and that any complaints regarding gunshots should be reported to the Hays County Sheriff's Office.

## **POA PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

It is hard for me to believe that in just two months my term on the RMR board will be over. It seems like just a few short weeks ago that I was ducking the nominating committee's calls. Not sure why; probably thought I was too busy to serve. As fate would have it, just before the deadline for nominations, I ran into someone who had served on the RMR board a few years earlier. He reminded me that we always make time for what we think is important and he was right, at least for me. I am very glad I said yes.

What I did not expect is how interesting and inspiring it has been for me to be around a group of people who are willing to say "yes, I will do that." There is something very special about people who are too busy helping to have the time to complain. Well, I guess we occasionally did complain—about the people who only had time to complain—but no one is perfect. I've gotten to know a lot of great people: those on the current board, those on earlier boards who were always willing to help, and people who just wanted to contribute to the many worthwhile activities that happen here every year.

It could be that time has flown by because we were all so busy doing the many jobs the board oversees each and every month. You know what they say, time flies when you are having fun. A lot

gets done around here without a lot of fanfare and most of it is really important work. The monthly board meetings are always lively and interesting. We always have a long list of things to discuss and decide. After just a few board meetings, I really got to know this subdivision, many more of my neighbors, and the issues that affect our community.

Don't let me paint too rosy a picture. There were times when, let's say, the discussions got filled with emotion. There were times when we just didn't agree. But the process and a little respect normally allowed things to work out for the best. I call these times "creative tension." I think some of our best work came out of these times.

In short, I've had a grand time but I don't want to hog the stage. If you have any interest in investing in this community and yourself, this could be the job for you. Go for it. It will be nothing less than interesting.

Another reminder, this job is not just for men and if you don't believe me, just ask Margaret.

Thanks,  
David Conway  
President, RMRPOA

### **2011 Member Directory**

If you have not provided permission for release of your contact information to be printed in future revisions to the Directory, please complete the [communications update form](#) and return it to [RMRPOA Communications](#). The information may be sent via email.

The next full Directory issue is planned for release in March 2011. Please contact [RMRPOA Communications](#) as indicated above if you have any questions.

**RMRPOA Board Meetings** are held at 6PM on the second Thursday of every month at the Wimberley Community Center located at 14068 Ranch Road 12 (next door to Brookshire Bros. Grocery Store). All RMRPOA members are welcome to attend. The schedule for the Board meetings is listed on the Calendar page at the RMR website, [www.rivermountainranch.org](http://www.rivermountainranch.org).