I GIVE MY PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN, TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY DEFEND FROM WASTE, THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF MY COUNTRY; ITS AIR, SOILS AND MINERALS, ITS FORESTS, WATERS AND WILDLIFE. I WILL HELP EDUCATE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO BE RESPONSIBLE CARETAKERS OF THE RESOURCES OF AMERICA

 JULY 2015

Volume 70 No. 7

Club Website- <http://rrgclub.tripod.com/clubhome>

Club Facebook Site – [www.Facebook.com/RichlandrodandGunClub](http://www.Facebook.com/RichlandrodandGunClub)

Northwest Game Recipes Web Site – [www.northwestgamerecipes.com](http://www.northwestgamerecipes.com)

2015-2016 Officers

Mike Estes, Pres. 582-2212 Richard Sharp, Vice Pres. 586-4790

Richard Libby, Treas. 947-0498 Frank Scopa, Sec. 375-4748

**MEETINGS AND DEADLINES**

NEXT GENERAL MEETING-7 pm, Tuesday September 1, Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland

BOARD MEETING—7 pm, Tuesday, July 14, Hunter Education Facility at Griggs in Pasco

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE-July 18, Call Frank Scopa at 375-4748 or secretary.rrgc@yahoo.com

**MEMBERSHIP AND DUES: THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL ATTEMPTS BY RRGC LEADERSHIP TO KEEP THE MEMBERSHIP ROLLS COMPLETE AND UP TO DATE. THE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN CURRENCY IS A SIGNIFICANT VOLUNTEER EFFORT. OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, THERE WILL BE AN ADDITION TO THE MEMBERS’ ADDRESSES. THERE WILL BE A SUFFIX ADDED AFTER YOUR NAME TO REFLECT THE YEAR THAT YOUR DUES ARE PAID THROUGH. (EXAMPLE, SMITH (2017)). IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS CONTACT JENNIFER GARDNER IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS. JENNIFER CAN BE REACHED AT “****JEN\_GARDNER11@YAHOO.COM****”. THERE WILL BE A PURGING OF MEMBERS IF YOUR 2015 DUES ARE NOT MADE CURRENT BY SEPTEMBER 2ND. YOUR DUES MUST BE PAID THROUGH MARCH 2016.**

**JULY AND AUGUST MEETINGS:** For July and August there will be no general membership meetings. There will be the following activities to which all members are invited to attend and participate; Camp Lake Fishing Trip, June 24th, RRGC Board Meeting, July 14th at 7:00 PM, Salmon Booth at the Allied Arts Sidewalk Sale on July 24th and 25th, Top Shot on the 31st of July and the RRGC Picnic on the 4th of August. More information will follow below.

**MAY MEETING RECAP:**

There were a total of 56 people present at the April Meeting. 46 were members of RRGC and 8 were visitors that attended their first meeting. Of the eight visitors, 2 were children. Mike Estes brought the meeting to order. The pledge was given and Mr. Estes then requested that visitors identify themselves in order for them to receive their complimentary raffle tickets. The visitors were directed to Jennifer Gardner for a membership application.

VP Richard Sharp informed the meeting that he had put up RRGC signage at the Hanford entrance and that he was starting to receive inquiries regarding RRGC. He also reminded the membership that the Moonlight Catfish Derby would be held on the 19th and 20th of June. He did request additional volunteers to assist with the sign-in on the 19th and the weigh-in on the 20th. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

**MOONLIGHT CATFISH DERBY:** The results of the Moonlight Catfish Derby are as follows; Number of participants, 21. Total poundage of fish caught, 445 pounds, largest catfish caught was 17.1 pounds by Ed Conley and the heaviest top five fish was 54 pounds caught by Alec Merkel. Approximately 54 pounds of catfish fillets were delivered to the Union Gospel Mission. The pot luck fish fry that followed was attended by approximately 38 members and guests.

**CAMP LAKE FISHING TRIP:** Mike Estes informed the membership that there were additional spaces available for the Camp Lake fishing trip on the 24th of June. Boats with trailers would be limited to ten and as of the current date, seven slots had been reserved. Mike was asking for a $25 donation per boat and $10 per head for donation for those using float tubes in order to repay the generosity displayed by Dave Piovesan to RRGC members. Mike can be contacted at (509) 582 2212.

**TOP SHOT:** Dave Myers provided additional information regarding the 3-GunTop Shot Competition to be held on the 31st of July at the Tri-Cities Metallic Silhouette Association Range. It will start at 4:00 PM at the TCMSA range located on the Pasco-Kohlotus Highway. The turn-off from Hwy 12 is located approximately 2 miles and will be on the south side of the road. Firearms will include rifle, handgun and shotgun. Contestants will shoot 10 rounds for both the rifle and handgun and as many as 25 shots for the shotgun. Rifles will be shot at 100 yards, handguns at 15 yards and a “trap/skeet” distance for shotgun. There will be categories for high score and smallest group. This will be for bragging rights in each of the venues plus overall. For additional information contact Dave Myers at 509 438 1277.

**SALMON BOOTH:** Dale Schielke provided the membership with the following information regarding the Salmon Booth for the Allied Arts Association “Art in the Park”. The dates are the 24th and 25th of July. The booth has to be assembled on the evening of Thursday and the fish has to be prepared also on the evening of Thursday the 23rd of July. Volunteers are needed for Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday shifts as well as the booth tear down on Saturday evening. Please contact Dale at (509) 375 0183 if you can volunteer. Columbia Basin Fly Casters would be the lead in this year’s effort.

**RRGC PICNIC:** Mike Estes informed the meeting that the RRGC picnic location given in the newsletter was in error. The correct park location is the Leslie Groves Park gazebo located east of Harris Avenue on Park Street in Richland. The cooking will start at approximately 4:00 PM with serving starting at approximately 6:00 PM. Volunteers are needed for the food preparation. This will be the usual pot luck format so if your last name begins with “A” through “H”, please bring a side dish. If your last name begins with a “I” through “P”, please bring a salad and if your name begins with “Q” through “Z”, please bring a dessert. If there are changes or there is additional information, it will be presented in the July newsletter.

**HUNTERS EDUCATION:** Ron Ruth reported on the ongoing RRGC Hunters Education classes. The next class will start on the 13th of July. Due to classroom time constraints recommended by WDFW, the number of students will have to be reduced. There are current openings and all registration has to be done through the WDFW website. Additional volunteers are needed in order for the classroom instructor presence to be two adults at all times. Volunteers must now fill out a brief questionnaire for review by WDFW in compliance with WA State Law.

**CONSERVATION:** It was reported that both Larry Martin and Dale Schielke received ALEA grants from WDFW. The grants cover a two year period. Larry’s grant is to assist purchasing materials used in the maintenance and rebuilding of existing water cisterns located in numerous places around our area of the state. Dale’s grant is to assist in the Wood Duck Nesting Box program. Larry’s grant amount was $3,303.69 and Dale’s ALEA grant was for $1,219.50. This is the result of their great and continuing efforts.

Dale Schielke reported that one nesting box with a webcam has a kestrel with a hatched brood. The last wood duck with hatchlings to make the jump occurred on the 17th of June.

Gene Van Liew reported that there has been minimal telemetry information available regarding the released smolt due to low river flows. He also reported that there have been several thank you letters from some of the students regarding the Salmon in the Classroom and the adult dissections.

**CONSERVATION CAMP:** Larry Martin reported that RRGC would be sponsoring five youngsters for this year’s camp. Jerry Zeitler generously sponsored one of the participants who is his granddaughter. There is a late report that a sixth participant has been sponsored but no additional information is available at this time.

**GAME RECOVERY:** Chris Mosher reported that there was one doe recovered for the month. The doe was delivered to Dave Myer’s home and he processed the meat for delivery to the Union Gospel Mission. Approximately 40 pounds of meat was processed. RRGC Game Recovery was notified that a bull elk was hit outside of Burbank but no one from RRGC was able to respond.

**BULLETIN HELP: Frank Scopa**

If you are receiving this bulletin via U.S. Mail and you have an email account, please send an e-mail to Frank Scopa at secretary.rrgc@yahoo.com with your email address. We are now current as to mailing addresses for the hard copies. We are down to 49 members receiving hard copies via the US Mail. New members will be added as the information is received. If you are receiving both a hard copy and an e-mail copy, please let me know. At the present time, mailing hard copies costs RRGC approximately $22 per member on an annual basis. When the annual membership is weighed in vice the mailing costs, RRGC is subsidizing the hard copies and we are taking a hit for the 49 members that still receive hard copies. It is requested that members get an e-mail address. One of the benefits of receiving the newsletter electronically is that the content and form can be expanded to include photos which we cannot do on the hard copies at the present time due to costs. We are down to two e-mail addresses that are going to individual e-mail spam mail boxes or are not deliverable with the e-mail address that we have on hand. I sent out notices to both individuals but I have not receive confirmation.

**NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP:** Jennifer Gardner continues as the Membership Chair. She can be contacted at 509-981-9366 (Spokane number). There were four new members that were voted on at the Board Meeting. The new members are Doyle Hurst and George Rublein of Richland. Marc DeHart of Kennewick and Dana Mueller of Kennewick. Please welcome them to RRGC when you meet them.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**  Richard Libby presented the Treasurer’s Report for May. The report was approved by the Board of Directors at the Board Meeting held on June 16th. The annual audit is in the process of being conducted as required by the RRGC Bylaws. The audit is being conducted by RRGC President Mike Estes. Those results will be made known to the general membership.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** July 14th, 7:00PM, Griggs Hunters’ Education Room, Pasco. All RR&GC members are invited to attend.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** September 1, at the Richland Public Library at 7:00 PM.

**WILD GAME DINNER:** A Committee was established to recommend a WGD speaker for future dinners. At the present time, Dale Schielke took the lead on this effort. The other committee members are Dave Myers and Frank Scopa. Four speakers were considered. There was one schedule conflict and the Executive Board voted to have Mr. John Clements as our guest speaker. Dale will confirm Mr. Clements availability. Gene Van Liew reported to the Board that the damaged smoker at the Columbia River Trading and Catering Company had been repaired. Costs to RRGC were $200.00. Gene will be present when the smoker is tested to confirm that all issues are resolved. This has been an amicable process but the roll up door of the damaged smoker was completely destroyed.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Jeff Gardner made a presentation on “Trail Cam 101”. Jeff informed the membership that he normally uses 6 trail cams. He will not get a chance to check all of the cams on a regular basis based on remote and distant locations therefore he tries to utilize cams that are efficient as to battery life. Newer trail cams utilize higher efficient systems and battery life is significantly longer in the units utilizing 8 – AA batteries in lieu of units utilizing 4 – D batteries. All of Jeff’s units have infrared capabilities for night time use. He also recommends still photos in lieu of video bursts. Presently trail cams can use 16 GB storage disks. Orientation of the cams in sunny areas is important to improve photo quality so cams should be pointed to the north. Mounting of the cam should take into consideration possible obstructions, such as branches that could trigger the cam due to movement. Branches and grass should be removed to prevent false triggering of the cams. Jeff recommended that the cams be located at pinch points and game trails that show evidence of game in the area. The cams should be firmly attached to trees, posts or other permanent objects. The game will normally sense the trail cams. Jeff feels that some of the game can detect the infrared flash. Jeff recommends that when changing batteries of memory cards that the units be updated for date and time. He also recommends that the cams be camouflaged to make them hard to see. This is based on thefts that he has experienced. He has also used the trail cams to confirm trespass problems and inventory the local wildlife. He again stressed the importance of the infrared capabilities because bucks and bulls can go nocturnal as hunting season approaches. His last bit of advice was that the trail cam was important to chronical what is going on your property or hunting area while you are not present.

Richard Sharp presented “Catfish 101” in preparation for the Moonlight Catfish Tournament. Richard’s first bit of advice was to use squawfish guts for bottom fishing. He also used a short video showing how to make diamond shaped bait out of a squawfish fillet. He recommended using a number 1 or 1/0 hook for catfish. He uses squawfish belly meat for float fishing which he cuts to diamond shape but also tapers the thickness in order to eliminate spinning. He noted that he generally does not get strikes on giant night crawlers or square cut squawfish fillets. He demonstrated his float fishing method which is essentially identical to steelhead bobber fishing with slip bobbers, corkies, depth beads and line stops. When he is fishing the bottom, he uses 3 feet of leader, with no stretch in the line. He uses a rod with a flexible tip in order to set the hook properly. For bobber fishing, he observes the position of the bobber to tell him when his bait is at the bottom and being carried by the current. He said that it normally takes three casts in order to determine the depth of the bottom. When fishing the bottom, he uses 15 pound leader in order to save the rigging when the bait gets hung up. He also recommends pyramid sinkers when bottom fishing without a bobber. The pyramid sinkers do not roll on the bottom. He also recommends that when fishing from a boat to use mono in order to have stretch in the line.

**RAFFLE RESULTS:** The ten raffle gifts were won by the following. Mighty Mite, Pink - Zane Arndtzen, Mighty Mite, Blue - Mike Becker, Okuma Pole - Ben Burdette, Large Plano Tackle Box with Trout and Steelhead Tackle - Chris Mosher, Deluxe Meat Grinder – Tim Irvin, Midland Portable Emergency Weather Alert Radio # 1 – Ben Corriveau, Midland Portable Emergency Weather Alert Radio #2 – Paul Kison, 3 Alex Langers Flying Lures – Omar Romero, 4 Meat Recovery Backpacks – Matt Cummings, Fiskars Meat Saw - Matt Cummings and the Mystery Box (Berkely Fishing Multi-Tool) -Rocky Ross.

**LAST ITEM:** Congratulations to club member Sam Morrison. On the 12th of June, he successfully defended his doctoral thesis. He will be formally known as Samuel Morrison PhD.

**WANT ADS:**

Harvey Huisingh has 45 pounds of 00 buck shot for sale. It is from the National Lead Co. and listed as “Hoyt”. $80 or best offer. Harvey can be reached at 509 943 9326.

**If you have anything that needs to be in the Want Ads section or information that you would like to convey to the general membership, please keep in mind that the cut-off date for inclusion is normally the Sunday after the Executive Board Meeting. Send your information to** **secretary.rrgc@yahoo.com**

**RICHLAND ROD AND GUN CLUB**

 **PO BOX 337**

 **RICHLAND WA 99352-0337**

 **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**